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WEDNESDAY

JULY 11, 2007



BIG SPRING HERALD

VOLUME 102, NUMBER 194

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Standoff ends in suicide

Attempts to talk with 26-year-old man were unsuccessful, PD says

By **STEVE REAGAN**

Staff Writer

A two-hour standoff involving more than a dozen area law enforcement officials ended with the apparent suicide of a Big Spring man Tuesday afternoon.

Michael Kilmer, 26, died of a single self-inflicted gunshot wound to the head, said Justice of the Peace Kathryn Wiseman.

Police were initially called to the 1000 block of Goliad Street in response to an armed subject call at 10:38 a.m. There, they found a woman who had fled the house, claiming there was an armed man inside the residence.

Big Spring Police Department Public Information Officer Tony Everett said police, assisted by deputies from the Howard County Sheriff's Office, quickly cordoned off the 1000 block of Goliad and established a perimeter around the house. More than a dozen law enforcement officials — including members of the BSPD Special Operations Response

See **STANDOFF**, Page 3A



Big Spring Police Department officers with the Special Operations Response Team surround a home in the 1000 block of Goliad Tuesday morning after receiving a report of an armed man inside.

HERALD photos/Thomas Jenkins



Not guilty

Jury acquits area man in sex assault of child trial

By **STEVE REAGAN**

Staff Writer

A Howard County jury took less than two hours to find a Coahoma man not guilty of aggravated sexual assault of a child in 118th District Court Tuesday.

The 10-man, two-woman jury deliberated for about 90 minutes before returning the not guilty verdict against Simon Chavez, 29.

The verdict was greeted by cheers and applause by friends and family of the accused. Their outburst also earned the celebrants a stern glare from District Judge Robert H. Moore III, who paused for several seconds before accepting the jury's verdict.

Chavez had been accused of forcing his then 6-year-old daughter to perform oral sex on him on or about Aug. 27, 2006. If convicted, he could have faced a term of between five and 99

See **TRIAL**, Page 3A



Orr

City tables transit tax law to gather more info

By **THOMAS JENKINS**

Staff Writer

The Big Spring City Council decided Tuesday night to pass over an ordinance that would essentially revoke a new state law concerning the taxation of personal property in transit in hopes of gathering more information on the matter.

Shortly after holding a public hearing concerning the new legislation — the hearing drew no public response — the council agreed to hold off on taking action to revoke the law, which according to City Finance Director Peggy Walker, comes with a local kill switch.

"Originally, House Bill 621



Walker

was only intended for the El Paso area," Walker told the council. "However, at the last minute an amendment was added to it that made it statewide. That amendment also gave taxing entities,

such as the city of Big Spring and Howard County, the ability to revoke it."

According to Walker, the new legislation allows the owners of taxable properties exemption on property that is in transit, such as being shipped or on property not directly linked to the owner.

Walker said the new law creates a taxing loophole that shouldn't necessarily cause immediate alarm, but could have long reaching effects if not revoked by the city.

"It creates a loophole. If they don't have the property on land

See **COUNCIL**, Page 3A

INDEX

Classified 3-5B
 Features 6A
 Obituaries 2A
 Opinion 4A
 Sports 1-2B

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www.bigspringherald.com

To reach us:
 Please call 263-7331. Office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. If you miss your paper, please call (432) 263-7335 before 7 p.m. weekdays and noon Sunday.



CALLING ALL AGGIES

Calling all Aggies.
 The Howard County A&M Club will hold its annual Scholarship Auction Saturday at the Big Spring Country Club.
 The event starts with hors d' oeuvres at 5:30 p.m., with the auction scheduled to begin around 6:30 p.m. Auction items include autographed photos of sports figures and entertainers.
 The auction will help raise money to fund scholarships for Howard County students attending classes at A&M. Currently, 15 such students receive financial aid from the club.
 For more information, contact Diana Newton at 263-4204.

BLOOD DRIVE COMING

In an effort to stock hospital shelves with blood, NewsWest 9 has invited United Blood Services to join them for their annual Under West Texas Skies event on Friday, July 20, from 3 p.m. to 10 p.m. at Heart of the City Park in downtown Big Spring.
 Those 21 and older who donate will be entered to receive a trip for two to Las Vegas with hotel stay and airfare included.
 Blood donors will also receive free cholesterol testing on blood donations, and special T-shirts while supplies last.
 To sign up for an appointment, visit online at www.unitedbloodservices.org.

VETERAN OF THE MONTH

Elmer Dickens, Bronze Star recipient, has been named Hangar 25 Air Museum Veteran of the Month for July.
 Dickens is a veteran of World War II. A reception in his honor will be held at 7 p.m. Thursday, July 19, in the museum briefing room. Refreshments will be served.
 "Please take an hour of your evening to join us in recognizing this man's efforts towards the greater cause of freedom," said Heather Wallace, museum director. The sacrifices these veterans have made a difference in our lives."
 Dickens served with the 86th Black Hawk Infantry Division.

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CALL FOR COMPETITIVE QUOTES

Sports

BIG SPRING HERALD

Do you have an interesting sports item or story idea? Call Jonathan Hull at 263-7331, Ext. 237. Email results to: sports@bigspringherald.com

Page 1B
Tuesday, July 10, 2007

IN BRIEF

BSGSA all-star teams raising funds

All four Big Spring Girls Softball Association All-Star teams are raising funds for expenses for the tournaments on the UTPB campus in Odessa each team will participate in on July 20-22. Each team needs to raise \$1,400.

Any person, group or business willing to donate can visit www.bigspringsoftball.com for contact information.

Steers season ticket sales have begun

Big Spring High School have made 2007 Steer football season tickets available for previous season ticket holders at the Athletic Training Center.

Previous holders can purchase their tickets Monday through Thursday from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. until July 24.

Season tickets will be made available to the general public Aug. 8 through Aug. 22 from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Thursday.

Call Kay Cook at 264-3662 with any questions.

Country club holding golf classic

The Big Spring Country Club is holding the Crossroads of West Texas Gold Classic sponsored by the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce Saturday and Sunday.

The classic is a 2-man scramble format and is limited to the first 100 paid teams.

The entry fee is \$180 per team with all entries to be paid in advance.

Entry fee includes a barbecue lunch for both days, free beverages, a Friday afternoon shoot-out and the ATMOS Hospitality Tent.

Call the country club at 267-5354 or the chamber at 263-7641, for more information.

No-tap benefit bowling tourney set

Big Spring Bowlarama will hold a second No-Tap Singles Tournament to benefit Mary Grace Jackson Saturday and Sunday at 2:30 p.m. each day.

Jackson is seeking funds to help with expenses for her pending kidney and pancreas transplant.

There will be a men's, women's and junior's division. The cost is \$15 for the men's and women's division and \$12 for the junior's division.

Three mulligans can be bought at the time of registration at the cost of \$5.

Anyone wanting to participate, but can't attend the dates of the tournament can arrange a prebowl by calling Debbie Burrow at 263-8952 or Jimmie Wood at 267-8676.

Howard County Golf Championship set

The 2007 Howard County Championship golf tournament has been set to take place July 27-29 at the Big Spring Country Club.

The format is 54-holes

See BRIEFS, Page 2B

A&M's Law ready to prove his point

By CHARLES ODUM

AP Sports Writer

ATLANTA — Only minutes after signing his first NBA contract on Monday, Acie Law was eager to call home with the big news.

Atlanta Hawks coach Mike Woodson had other plans. Point guards must worry about calling plays before calling moms.

"It's funny," Law said. "As soon as I signed, I went into the locker room to call my mom and tell her and Coach Woodson came right behind me and said 'What are you doing? We're waiting on you to start practice.'"

The big news about the contract could wait. In his first practice Monday, followed by two more workouts on Tuesday, Law had his first opportunity to prove he can be an NBA point guard and not just another shooting guard who will pretend to play the point.

Law, the No. 11 pick in last month's draft, asks that he not be judged by short-lived experiments in recent years to move shooting guards Joe Johnson and Salim Stoudamire to point guard.

Law (6-3, 195) says critics shouldn't assume that his ability to score — he ranked fifth in the Big 12 with his average of 18.1

points per game for Texas A&M last season — means that he's not a point guard. He was third in the conference with 5.0 assists per game.

"I'm going to do whatever it takes my team to win," Law said Tuesday. "I don't get caught up in what people say about being a pure point guard or a shooting guard trying to play point guard. When I was at Texas A&M, my team was successful. That's what I'm trying to bring here — be a point guard and be a leader and a winner. That silences everything."

Law, fellow first-round pick Al Horford and second-year for-

wards Sheldon Williams and Solomon Jones will lead the Hawks' summer league team in the Rocky Mountain Review, which begins Friday in Salt Lake City.

Law and a rookie free agent, Derek Raivio of Gonzaga, likely will be the primary point guards in Salt Lake City, but Law won't have to immediately handle the starting job next season. Veterans Speedy Claxton, Anthony Johnson and Tyrone Lue are expected to return.

"Acie is going to be fine," Woodson said. "He's going to be

See LAW, Page 2B



Four Big Spring summer track athletes qualified in multiple events for the State Track Meet to be held July 26-28 in Round Rock, following their performances at the regional meet held Saturday in San Angelo. From left: Faith Roberson, Tobyn Tannehill, Devin Roberson and Julianna Rodriguez.

Big Spring youth track athletes headed to state

Herald Staff Report

SAN ANGELO — Usually, when an individual or team is representing this area in a state tournament or meet, they come from the high school level. That's not the case this time, as four members of the Big Spring Independent School District's Summer Track & Field Camp for boys and girls going into first through sixth grades advanced to

the State Track Meet to be held July 26-28 in Round Rock.

Devin Roberson, Faith Roberson, Tobyn Tannehill and Julianna Rodriguez advanced following their strong performances Saturday at the regional track meet in San Angelo.

Faith Roberson qualified for four events, taking second place in the 50 meters, 100 meters and 200 meters races along with the long jump competition.

Her brother, Devin, will represent Big Spring in three events. He placed third in the 80-meter hurdles and 400-meters race. Devin raced to a second place finish in the 200-meters race, qualifying him for three races at state.

Tannehill qualified for two field events, finishing second in the high jump and third in the long jump. He also took a third-place qualifying finish in the 100 meters.

Julianna Rodriguez finished third in the 100 and 400-meters races, giving Big Spring its fourth qualifier for the state meet.

The team has been practicing on the track at Blankenship Field since May 30 and are coached by Mitchell Woodard and Cliff Thompson. They have competed in four meets, plus regionals, in the past month.

AL wins 10th consecutive All-Star game

By RONALD BLUM

AP Baseball Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — On a night of tricky hops, Ichiro Suzuki and the American League also bounced back to win.

Instead of a Barry Bonds splash shot, the defining hit at Tuesday's All-Star game was Suzuki's inside-the-park home run, the first in the game's history.

Suzuki lined a go-ahead, two-run drive off the right-field wall in the fifth inning, Carl Crawford and Victor Martinez later hit conventional shots and the Americans made it 10 straight over Nationals, holding on for a 5-4 victory.

After Alfonso Soriano's two-out, two-run homer in the ninth, the NL loaded the bases. Angels closer Francisco Rodriguez then retired Aaron Rowand on a routine fly to right for a save.

Willie Mays, Bonds' godfather, was honored with a touching tribute before the game. In the Say Hey Kid's day, the NL ruled All-Star games but not anymore. The AL closed to 40-36-2 and

improved to 5-0 since the All-Star winner received homefield advantage in the World Series.

In a decade of dominance, the notorious 2002 tie at Milwaukee was all that interrupted the AL's run. The only longer streak was when the NL took 11 in a row from 1972-82.

Soriano made it close with his homer off J.J. Putz. After the Seattle closer walked J.J. Hardy, Rodriguez relieved and walked Derrek Lee on a full count — AL manager Jim Leyland screamed at first-base umpire Charlie Reliford about a check swing.

Orlando Hudson also walked, loading the bases before Rowand's fly ended it.

Suzuki, on the verge of a large contract extension from the Mariners, got three hits and was the game's MVP.

Fans waited in kayaks out in McCovey Cove beyond right field in vain for some shots into the water — no souvenirs found their way into the chilly bay.

Bonds, the center of attention in the days before the game, had

See MLB, Page 2B



American League pitcher Dan Haren of the Oakland Athletics delivers a throw during the All-Star baseball game Tuesday at AT&T Park in San Francisco. The AL defeated the NL, 5-4.

MCT photo/Jose Luis Villegas

Obituaries

Charlotte Sue Hoggard

On Monday, July 9, 2007, Charlotte Sue Hoggard passed away at home, surrounded by her loving family. Graveside funeral services will be at 2 p.m. Thursday, July 12, 2007, at the Benbrook Cemetery in Benbrook.

Charlotte was born Feb. 20, 1938, in Fort Worth to Pauline Pearson. As her family, we are exceptionally grateful to have loved and been loved by her. Her tenacious attitude and gentle, loving nature will be missed. She was our greatest gift.

Charlotte is survived by her husband, Jimmy Ray; a sister, Roxie Westmoreland; a brother, Gayle Pearson; her children, Deborah Lynn Massingill and husband, Wayne, William Rex Hoggard and Tammie Sue McCullough; five grandchildren, Cassandra, Kristen, Laci, Ricky and Kelsey; four great-grandchildren; other family members and close friends.

She was preceded in death by her mother, Pauline Pearson; her grandmother, Susie Bryant; and her father, Gayle Pearson.

The family suggests memorials to Susan G. Komen for the Cure, 5005 LBJ Fwy., Ste. 250, Dallas 75244.

Arrangements under the direction of Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring. Online condolences can be made at: www.npwelch.com.

Paid obituary

Ricardo 'Ricky' Torres



Ricardo "Ricky" Torres, 48, of Big Spring, died Monday, July 9, 2007, at his residence. Funeral services will be held Friday, July 13, 2007, at 10:30 a.m. at Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church with Rev. Richard Regan, pastor, officiating. Interment will follow at Mt. Olive Memorial Park. A rosary will be held Thursday at 7 p.m. at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel.

Ricky was born June 21, 1959, in Ft. Polk, La. He came to Big Spring in 1975 with his family and graduated in 1979 from Big Spring High School. He received his associates degree from Howard College and then attended Southwest Texas State in San Marcos. Ricky married Gianna Sanchez on June 15, 1995, in Big Spring. Ricky was a member of Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church.

Survivors include his wife, Gianna Torres of Big Spring; a son, Seve Watson of Lubbock; three daughters, Ashley Hodge, Mirella Torres and Gabriella Torres, all of Big Spring; three brothers, Marco Torres of Eagle Pass, Rocky Torres of Big Spring and Valentin Torres III of Marshfield, Mass.; a sister, Debra Molina of Big Spring; a grandson; and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Valentin Torres Jr. and Amelia Ochotorena Torres.

Arrangements are under the direction of Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring. Online condolences can be made at: www.npwelch.com

Ethel Fehler

Ethel Fehler of McGregor died Sunday afternoon in Austin at the age of 96. Funeral services will be 2 p.m. Wednesday, July 11, 2007, at Zion Lutheran Church in McGregor with the Rev. Olin Knudsen, pastor, officiating. Interment will be at 3 p.m. Thursday, July 12, 2007, at Peace Chapel at Trinity Memorial Park in Big Spring. Visitation will be from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Wednesday at Cole Funeral Home in McGregor.

Mrs. Fehler was born Oct. 4, 1910, in Big Spring, the daughter of the late Walter Eugene and Lula Mae (Hodnett) Long, where she attended school. On April 5, 1931, she married Henry August Fehler in Big Spring. He preceded her in death Feb. 2, 1985. From 1946 to 1949, she was employed by J.C. Penney as a salesclerk in Big Spring.

She was a Christian. In 1960, she and Henry moved to McGregor where she became a member of Zion Lutheran Church. She was member of the Naomi Circle. For seven years she was a practical nurse.

Also preceding her in death were three brothers, Billy Long, Cecil Long and Jim Long, a twin sister, Essie Long Bishop, and sisters Lone Bishop and Ireba Long Griffin.

Survivors include two sons, Gerral H. Fehler and wife, Ann, of Houston and Tommy R. Fehler and wife, Kathy, of Lorena; a daughter, Geneva Mae Mensing and husband, Carl, of Austin; two sisters, Marie Samanie and husband, Don, of Fort Worth and Frankie Miller of Deming, N.M.; a sister-in-law, Marjorie Long of Waco; nine grandchildren; and 15 great-grandchildren.

For those desiring, the family has suggested Zion Lutheran Church, 503 South Tyler, McGregor 76657, for memorial contributions.

Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity between 7 a.m. Tuesday and 7 a.m. today:

- **MARK LEE SMITH**, 47, of 912 Culp, was arrested Tuesday on four local warrants.
- **CLINT ARNOLD HUFFMAN**, 37, of 2607 Chanute, was arrested Tuesday on a local citation.
- **ERIK JOSEPH BEARD**, 21, of 2606 Dow, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of driving while license invalid.
- **FRANCISCO NIETO**, 28, of 1901 Hilltop, was arrested Tuesday on a local warrant.
- **ASSAULT CAUSING BODILY INJURY** was reported in the 1000 block of Lamar.
- **CRIMINAL MISCHIEF** was reported:
 - in the 500 block of Westover.
 - in the 1200 block of 16th Street.
- **CRIMINAL TRESPASS** was reported:
 - in the 1000 block of Birdwell.
 - in the 1500 block of Fourth Street.
- **DRIVING WHILE LICENSE INVALID** was reported:
 - in the 100 block of Whipkey.
 - in the 4100 block of F.M. 700.
 - in the 100 block of 11th Street.
- **OVERDOSE** was reported in the 2900 block of Highway 80.
- **RESISTING ARREST, SEARCH OR TRANSPORTATION** was reported in the 2600 block of Ent.
- **SUICIDE** was reported in the 1000 block of Goliad.
- **SUICIDE ATTEMPT** was reported in the 2000 block of Alabama.
- **THEFT** was reported:
 - in the 1100 block of Lamesa.
 - in the 2100 block of Main.

Sheriff's report

The Howard County Sheriff's Office reported the following activity:

- Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 63 inmates at the time of this report.
- **ALISSA RENEE RODRIGUEZ**, 24, was transferred to the county jail by the BSPD Tuesday on a charge of resisting arrest, search or transportation.
- **MARIA GARZA**, 33, was transferred to the county jail by the BSPD on a charge of driving while license invalid.
- **JOE SILVA JR.**, 35, was transferred to the county jail by the BSPD Tuesday on charges of speeding, violation of a promise to appear, expired motor vehicle inspection certification and driving while license invalid.
- **RICKEY RAY WINTERS JR.**, 21, was arrested by the HCSO Tuesday on a charge of delivery of controlled substance.
- **ROY DON SMITH**, 54, was arrested by the HCSO Tuesday on a charge of issuance of a bad check.

Fire/EMS

The Big Spring Fire Department and Emergency Medical Services reported the following activity:

- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 2000 block of Alabama. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 2300 block of W. Highway 80. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 2700 block of S. Gregg. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1800 block of N. Highway 80. One person was transported to the VAMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 2400 block of Alabama. One person was transported to the VAMC.

Weather

Tonight...Partly cloudy. Lows around 70. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.

Thursday...Sunny. Highs in the mid 90s. South winds 10 to 15 mph.

Thursday night...Partly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. Lows in the lower 70s. South winds 10 to 15 mph.

Friday...Mostly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Highs in the lower 90s. Southeast winds around 10 mph shifting to the northeast in the afternoon.

Friday night...Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Lows in the upper 60s.

Saturday...Partly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. Highs in the mid 80s.

Saturday night...Partly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. Lows in the upper 60s.

Sunday...Partly cloudy. Highs around 90.

Sunday night...Mostly cloudy. Lows in the upper 60s.

Monday...Mostly cloudy. Highs in the lower 90s.

Bulletin Board

If you have items for the Bulletin board, contact the Herald news room at 263-7331 or email editor@bigspringherald.com

TODAY
• Duplicate Bridge Club meets at 1 p.m. in the Big Spring Country Club.

• League of Latin American Citizens LULAC Chapter 4791 meets at 5:30 p.m. at the Northside Community Center. For more information, contact John Ybarra at 264-1628. The public is invited.
• Eagles Lodge Ladies Auxiliary meets at 7 p.m. in the Eagles Lodge, 703 W. Third.

THURSDAY
• Gideon International Big Spring Camp U42060 meets at 7 a.m. in Herman's Restaurant.

• Kiwanis Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane. Call 267-6479.

• Friends of the Library meets at noon in the Howard County Library, 500 S. Main.

• Big Spring Main Street meets at noon in the Railroad Museum located at Second and Main streets.

• American Legion Auxiliary meets at 6 p.m. at 3203 W. Highway 80.

• The Prospector's Club meets at 7:30 p.m. at 606 E. Third St. The public is invited to these meetings. For more information contact Lola Lamb at 263-3340 or Doyle and Virginia McClain at 263-8407.

• Neighbors and Newcomers Club meets. New members are welcome. Call 263-2005 for more information.

• Staked Plains Lodge No. 598 meets at 6:30 p.m. at 221 Main. Meal served. Meeting at 7 p.m.

FRIDAY

• Signal Mountain Quilting Guild meets from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. at 1019 Nolan St. Call 267-1037 or 267-7281.

• AMBUCS meet at noon in La Posada Restaurant.

• Greater Big Spring Rotary Club meets at noon at the Big Spring Country Club.

• Spring City Senior Citizen's Center country and western dance from 7:30 p.m. until 10:30 p.m. featuring Monroe Casey and the Prowlers. All area senior citizens are invited.

Lottery

ATLANTA (AP) — The jackpot in the multistate Mega Millions lottery drawing grew to \$17 million Wednesday.

None of the tickets sold for Tuesday's \$12 million drawing matched all five lotto numbers and the Mega Ball. The next drawing will be Friday.

The winning numbers from Tuesday's drawing were: 19, 24, 30, 34 and 56. The Mega Ball number was 19.

AUSTIN (AP) — Results of the Cash 5 drawing Tuesday night:

Winning numbers drawn: 5-10-24-28-37.
Number matching five of five: none.

AUSTIN (AP) — The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Tuesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 2-5-0.

Take Note

• **HOWARD COUNTY COURT**, under Judge Mark J. Barr, has canceled the jury panel for 9 a.m. Friday.

• **SNO CONES FOR SALE**, a fund-raiser for Cornerstone Church, is set for 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. Friday at the west doors of Wal-Mart. Sno cones will also be available 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. July 20 and 27 at the same location. For more information, call the church at 263-3072.

• **THE LAST DAY TO PLACE ANGEL FOOD FOOD ORDERS IS FRIDAY.** Orders may be placed from 11 a.m. until 6 p.m. at North Birdwell United Methodist Church, 2702 N. Birdwell. Call 267-2203 for more information.

• **AN OPEN HOUSE CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF SERVICE** will be held all day Monday, July 16, at the offices of Dr. D.H. McGonagill Inc., 109 E. Third St. It is a come-and-go reception. Everyone is invited.

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LAW

Continued from Page 1B

able to play point like we thought and be able to make plays.

It's going to be a learning curve as we go along, but once he gets under Speedy's and Lue's umbrella as veteran guys, that will probably speed the process up even more."

Law played four years at Texas A&M and Horford left Florida after his junior season. Woodson said he noticed immediately the two are more developed in their first practices than were Josh Smith, who entered

the league out of high school, and Marvin Williams, who played only one year at North Carolina.

"They're so far ahead of the game because they've had coaching in three or four years of college," Woodson said. "That really helps me from a coaching standpoint. They pick up things a lot faster than the young guys we've had in the last few years."

Law is wearing No. 4 to reflect his name — Acie Law IV. He says his father, Acie Law III, also was a point guard.

"He put the ball in my hand as a small child and that's where it's been all along," Law said.

BRIEFS

Continued from Page 1B

individual stroke play and all participants must have been a Howard County resident prior to Jan. 1, 2007.

Entry fee \$75 per player plus a \$30 cart fee. Prizes will be given for gross and net scores with the field being pre-flighted based on handicap. The championship flight will break into two flights after the first round

A senior division will be made for those over 70. The lowest score for a country club member will

be club champion.

Tea times will be set for Friday and Saturday with a 1 p.m. shotgun on Sunday. A barbecue lunch will be served Saturday.

To enter or for other information, call the country club at 267-5354.

O.H. Ivie opening hunting to public

Application for public hunting permits on the O.H. Ivie Rervoir Wildlife Management Areas will be accepted by mail only beginning Monday and ending Aug. 17.

Permits will be limited. A public drawing for the

MLB

Continued from Page 1B

a quiet night. He flied to right field in the first, hit an opposite-field shot to the left-field warning track in the third, then departed at the top of the fourth.

He received a huge ovation after he came out on the red carpet during the pregame introductions and bowed three times to his adoring hometown fans.

Hitting in the No. 2 spot — his last regular-season appearance in that slot was 20 years ago — he even faked a bunt on the first pitch of his second at-bat.

2007 hunting season will be held at 1 p.m. Sept. 14 at the O.H. Ivie Reservoir Field Office located near the north end of the dam. All applicants are welcome to attend, if they desire.

Requests for information and application packets should be made by calling the Colorado River Municipal Water District (CRMWD) at 267-6341.

Or write to CRMWD, P.O. Box 869, Big Spring, Texas, 79721 with attention to public hunting.

Magers-Powell camp scheduled

Rose Magers-Powell, the

"There's too many emotions to be able to explain it," he said. "This is my family who I grew up for a lot of years. All I can do is say thank you."

His chase for Hank Aaron's home-run record resumes later this week, and the scrutiny will return.

But for a night, the swirl of steroids speculation lifted along with the San Francisco fog.

Ken Griffey Jr., perhaps the closest to a latter-day Mays baseball has seen, drove in two runs for the NL with a first-inning single and a sixth-inning sacrifice fly.

AT&T Park, which opened in 2000, is the most picturesque park in Big Spring High School Hall of Fame volleyball star and 1984 Olympian, will again be conducting a volleyball camp at BSHS this summer.

The camp is scheduled for July 30-Aug. 1 with sessions for middle school players from 9 a.m. to noon.

The high school players' session is from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. each day.

The fee will be \$125 per player.

Players can register online and get additional information on the camp by going to Magers-Powell's website, www.gotrosevolleyball-camps.com.

the majors. With asymmetrical dimensions, uneven walls and sometimes difficult winds, it can be a difficult place to play.

On this night, there was even an infield double by the Mets' Jose Reyes, a ball that hit the lip of the grass and veered away from Alex Rodriguez at third.

Boston's Josh Beckett got the win, and San Diego's Chris Young — who gave up Suzuki's homer — was the loser.

Young entered to start the fifth and walked his first batter, Brian Roberts. One out later, Suzuki reached down and golfed a ball to right-center field. It hit off an All-Star ad in an area known as the arcade and instead of bouncing straight back, it kicked toward right field.

Suzuki was at third by the time Griffey got to the ball and easily sped home for the first inside-the-park homer of his major league career — since joining the majors in 2001, he had never hit one in the regular season or playoffs.

"Man, that was fun," Cleveland pitcher C.C. Sabathia said.

Suzuki, an All-Star every season he's played in the majors, put the AL ahead 2-1.

Before a ballpark record

crowd of 43,965 on an overcast evening, Mays was honored for being perhaps the greatest five-tool player in the sport's history. After the All-Stars were introduced, he walked in from center field, flanked by Bonds and Derek Jeter, between two rows of the assembled players.

The tribute was similar — but less emotional — than 1999's ceremony honoring Ted Williams at Boston's Fenway Park.

With a picture of his famous 1954 World Series catch projected behind him on the center-field "batter's eye," Bonds acknowledged the cheers and threw a ceremonial first pitch to Reyes. Mays got in a pink 1958 Cadillac Eldorado convertible near second base, then did a loop past first base, behind the plate and on to third base, throwing baseballs into the stands. Mays, now 76, appeared in a record-tying 24 All-Star games and bridged the move of the Giants franchise from New York to the West Coast.

Reyes, whose 46 steals lead the majors, opened the bottom of the first with a single up the middle, stole second on Dan Haren's second pitch to Bonds and came around when Griffey lined a two-out pitch high off the mound and into center.

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BUSINESS SPACE for lease inside the Big Spring Mall. Contact Danielle Ramirez at 432-267-3853 or Erik Johnson at 325-698-5661.

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7	6	5	8	2	3	9	4	1
2	3	1	4	5	9	6	8	7
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4	7	8	9	3	1	2	6	5
6	1	9	2	4	5	8	7	3
3	5	2	7	6	8	4	1	9

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BIG SPRING HERALD

Tomorrow's Horoscope

BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

The moon in Gemini creates a feeling of freedom. Simply put, it feels good to move our thoughts around, reorder them or send them far "out there." When we feel like checking out of the traffic jam or a tiring meeting, thoughts create the opportunity for mini-journeys of the mind. Then it's, "Oh, where was I?" Luckily, it's a quick trip back.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). There's a definite goal you'd like to accomplish by the end of the day. So stay away from bored people who are trying to kill time. Of all the things to do with time, killing it is your least favorite.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). What was your mind unraveling last night? Do you remember? Your dreams provide a sneak preview of what's to come. You have control over all outcomes, so if you don't like the dream, change something now.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You have an exuberant idea. It would be a shame to get distracted from your efforts to follow through on it. Make absolutely certain you close off any loops you start.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You meet deadlines — at least the ones you know about. But someone may fail to communicate their full expectation of you. Make a pre-emptive move by checking in with others to say, "Is there anything I'm missing?"

Vehicles

1996 TOYOTA Corolla- 4 door, black, with chrome wheels, automatic, AC, AM/FM/DBD, cruise control. 126,400 miles. \$3000. Call (432)213-1642.

Legals

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS for **PHASE 7: HOWARD COLLEGE, WEST TEXAS TRAINING CENTER, INTERIOR DESIGN FOR NEW LECTURE HALLS, LABS AND OFFICES**

Separate sealed bids for the PHASE 7: HOWARD COLLEGE, WEST TEXAS TRAINING CENTER, INTERIOR DESIGN FOR NEW LECTURE HALLS, LABS AND OFFICES will be received until July 26, 2007; 2:00 PM at Kinney Architects AIA, 528 Orient, San Angelo, Texas 76903 and then at said location publicly opened and read aloud. Pre-bid conference will be held at 10:00 AM on July 12, 2007 at the West Texas Training Center Conference Hall.

This project is located at the West Texas Training Center and involves interior build-out with MEP work. Elements include new lecture halls/classrooms, labs, offices, storage, etc.

The Contract Documents, consist of Advertisement for Bids, Information for Bidders, Bid Proposal, Bid Bond, Contract, Performance and Payment Bonds, General Conditions, Notice of Award, Notice to Proceed, Plans, Specifications, Addenda (if any). Provisions may be examined at the following location: **KINNEY ARCHITECTS AIA**, 528 Orient, San Angelo, Texas 76903

Bids will not be received from contractors who have not obtained original plans and specifications from Kinney Architects AIA. Bids shall be submitted on original documents and the entire specification book must be returned with bid. No faxes or copies of bid sheets will be accepted.

The Owner reserves the right to waive any informalities and to reject any or all bids. Bids may be held by the Owner for a period not to exceed 45 days from the date from the date of bid opening for the purpose of reviewing the bids and investigating the qualifications of Bidders prior to awarding of the contract.

Copies of the Contract Documents may be obtained from Kinney Architects AIA, 528 Orient, San Angelo, Texas 76903 (325.653.2900), upon payment of \$50.00 (refundable) for each set. Checks will not be cashed until 30 days after receipt of bids (if plans and specs have not been returned).

A certified check or bank draft, payable to the order of Howard College, negotiable U.S. Government bonds (at par value) or a satisfactory Bid Bond executed by the Bidder and an acceptable surety in an amount equal to five percent (5%) of the total bid shall be submitted with each bid.

In addition, the successful bidder must ensure that employees and applicants for employment are not discriminated against because of their race, color, religion, sex or national origin. #5426 July 6 & 11, 2007

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). If you look around and see a few obvious problems, consider yourself lucky. Life is about solving problems. If they're noticeable, you won't have to go through the trouble of figuring out what to fix next.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). It's a day to wake up — to force yourself beyond the limits of your normal pattern. By giving yourself a little shake and pinch on the cheek, you'll relieve the universe of having to do it for you.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You may be slightly preoccupied because you're wondering how you're doing. Self-assessment is better left for after the fact — and perhaps better left to someone else. For now, keep telling yourself you're doing great.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You're cool under pressure. Does it even count as pressure if you don't feel it? You handle what others would consider a tricky situation with ease and think, "What would they do without me?" Now ask for a raise.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). So, you don't have firsthand knowledge of the job you need to do now. But when has that ever stopped you before? Besides, you know plenty of experienced people you can call if you get in a bind.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Engage in activities that power your imagination. Your mind, once full of creative fuel, goes on a brainstorming rampage. A moneymaking idea seizes you when you least expect it.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Why settle for getting approximately what you want, when

you can have exactly what you want? Sale racks practically throw bargains at you. Tonight, people fight for your attention.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). It's easy to be overly critical of yourself, but everyone makes mistakes — get over it. The afternoon brings silliness and strange entertainment. Someone weird will make a terrific new friend.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS: "I'm a Scorpio, born Nov. 2, 1963. Will I find someone special to share my life with soon? I meet guys, but haven't really met anyone with the same interests or with a personality I can relax and really feel comfortable with."

Uh-oh. It's easy for you to disenchant yourself from a perfectly good love prospect. You quickly find something you don't like about him and shoot him down before he can get past the polite conversation. You hardly let your guard down, either, because you're wearing the kind of impenetrable Scorpion armor that's bionic. It'll take a stack of dynamite to get through your defenses. Of course you're uncomfortable — you can barely move. Your defenses, pride and too-high expectations for love keep you from a deeper truth: You're afraid of being unlovable and having your trust betrayed. Use this summer to focus on clearing this relationship block. Try saying, "I deserve love. It's my birthright." People who fall in love feel this in their bones before they meet their soul mate.

When you feel this way, the timing will be right for the man of your dreams to enter.

Annie's Mailbox

Dear Annie: My husband's cousin, "Monica," is a very dear friend, but lately I've left family gatherings with knots in my stomach.

Monica has an 18-month-old daughter and insists that all the other children, including my 4-year-old and 6-year-old, limit their activities to accommodate her child. The other day, at Grandpa's, the older children went to play in the basement and the toddler wanted to go as well. Monica took her toddler down and left my 6-year-old in charge. Of course, five minutes later, the child was halfway back up the stairs, which made Monica so furious that she abruptly turned off the lights and ordered all the children upstairs. Throughout the evening, every game was systematically ended if Monica couldn't see the action from where she was sitting.

I know having a toddler is exhausting, but I spent the better part of four years following my own kids around when they wanted to participate with the older kids. I don't think it's fair that the other kids must bring their fun down to the toddler level. Am I wrong? How can I approach Monica without causing a fight? — Advocate for My Kids' Right to Play

Dear Advocate: Stop humoring Monica, or she will think this is acceptable behavior. It is the parents' job to supervise their children, not only because there are activities the child should not participate in, but also to prevent injuries and accidents.

The next time the family gets together, tell Monica the children will include her child when possible, but it won't be all the time. Sympathize with how draining it is to watch a toddler, and if she has to step away from the "adult table," you might offer to keep her company now and then.

Dear Annie: I'm 74 and have been retired for four years from a lifelong nursing career. I enjoy my solitary life. I garden, paint, quilt, read and do many things I never had time for while working and raising a family.

My friends and my son think I have become a recluse. They can't understand why I leave home so seldom. I don't like the noisy, hectic city traffic, and we have a high crime rate, which makes me uneasy. Why should I go into the city to shop for things I don't need or want?

I keep in weekly phone contact with several school friends. I don't think my lifestyle is unhealthy for me, but I'd like your input. — Watching the Birds in Vermont

Dear Vermont: The question is whether you are staying home because you prefer solitude or because you are afraid of going out. Staying in can become so habitual that it increases your fear and becomes isolating. It is better for your mental health to get out once in a while, even if it's just to walk around the block. And we certainly hope you accept the occasional invitation to attend a concert or have dinner with your friends and family members. If so, you have nothing to worry about.



HERALD photo/Thomas Jenkins

Big Spring Police Department officers with the Special Operations Response Team shield themselves with a police cruiser as they approach a home in the 1000 block of Goliad Tuesday afternoon.

STANDOFF

Continued from Page 1A

Team — were soon on the scene, eyewitnesses said.

Everett said officers along the perimeter attempted to commu-

nicate with Kilmer on more than one instance. The suspect did come to the back door of the residence twice, both times holding a gun to his head, but refused to talk with the officers, Everett noted.

At about noon, officers heard a single gunshot and immediately

attempted to contact Kilmer by telephone and bullhorn. When those efforts were not successful, SORT officers entered the residence, where they found him dead from the self-inflicted wound.

Wiseman declared Kilmer dead at the scene at 12:31 p.m. and

ordered an autopsy, which was scheduled this morning in Lubbock.

Contact Staff Writer Steve Reagan at 263-7331, ext. 234 or by e-mail at reporter@bigspringherald.com.

COUNCIL

Continued from Page 1A

that's directly linked to them, they cannot be taxed," said Walker. "This really doesn't have any implications today. However, in the future, it could certainly have an impact. There's nothing illegal about exploiting a loophole in the tax law."

And while the consequences of either accepting the new legislation or revoking it were unclear, Mayor Russ McEwen said the most important part of the law — it's intended purpose — was even more unclear.

"I'm interested in knowing what the logic is behind the legislation," said McEwen. "It was obviously important enough to be signed into law, but why?"

Council member Troy Tompkins said he's interested in knowing how the law — or lack of it — may effect economic development.

"We simply don't have enough information on this to make an educated decision," Tompkins told the council. "We need more information on both sides of the issue."

The council also received a healthy donation in its fight against vandalism at Comanche Trail Park and the historic spring Tuesday night, as Keep Big Spring Beautiful and the organizers of the annual Comanche Trail Festival of Lights chipped in a combined total of \$2,000 to fund motion-activated cameras.

The announcement was made by KBSB President Kathryn Wiseman and festival organizer Pat Simmons, who said the funds will accompany efforts by the city already under way.

"We are aware the city plans to purchase a motion-activated camera for the area overlooking the spring," said Wiseman. "However, we thought it would be a good idea to have another camera pointed in the direction of the parking

lot to catch license plate numbers. We want to see this kind of vandalism stopped just as much as the city does."

Also during the meeting, the council approved:

- Final reading of approval of the preliminary/final plat of Avalon Subdivision.
- Final reading of a resolution authorizing routine agreements between the city and other parties for short term rental or use of city facilities.

- Final reading of a resolution authorizing a subscription agreement between the city and LexisNexis for online legal research.
- Emergency reading of a resolution authorizing an agreement with MTD Environmental LLP for grinding and mulching services.
- Emergency reading of a resolution authorizing an agreement with the medical director of

- Emergency Medical Services.
- First reading of an ordinance amending Chapter 1, Article 1 of the City Code entitled "In General" by amending Section 1 - 19 entitled "City Attorney Authorized to Settle Claims" to increase the city attorney's settlement authority to cover any claim up to \$15,000 when acting alone or greater than \$15,000 up to \$25,000 with the concurrence of the city manager.

Contact Staff Writer Thomas Jenkins at 263-7331 ext. 232 or by e-mail at citydesk@bigspringherald.com

TRIAL

Continued from Page 1A

years or life in prison. Chavez still faces four other felony indictments alleging either aggravated sexual assault or indecency with a child, but no timetable has been established to hear those cases, officials said.

Big Spring defense attorney Don Richard expressed relief more than anything in the wake of the verdict.

"There's nothing more pressure-filled than representing someone you truly believe is innocent," Richard said. "There was just not a case against Simon Chavez."

Richard believed the case swung on the testimonies of the victim and her mother. While he said the statements "conflicted" with each other, Assistant District Attorney Robin D. Orr disagreed.

"I thought their testimonies were coherent and easy to follow," Orr said. "Their testimonies were very consistent with each other."

"In that sense, I thought that part of our case went very well," Orr added. "As for the verdict, I'm disappointed ... and I don't understand it, but I'm not in the shoes of the jury, either."

Orr said he and District Attorney Hardy L. Wilkerson will review the other pending cases against Chavez in the near future before deciding on a course of action.

Contact Staff Writer Steve Reagan at 263-7331, ext. 234 or by e-mail at reporter@bigspringherald.com.

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Any Questions Contact Danielle Ramirez - 267-3853

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EDITORIAL

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."

-FIRST AMENDMENT

Opinions expressed on this page are those of the Editorial Board of the Big Spring Herald unless otherwise indicated.

Ron Midkiff
Publisher

John A. Moseley
Managing Editor

Bill McClellan
News Editor

OUR VIEWS

Time to make Family of Year nominations

Do you know a family in our community that deserves to be considered for Family of the Year honors? If you do, the Samaritan Counseling Center of West Texas wants to hear all about them.

Churches, civic groups and individuals are eligible to nominate a local family.

The counseling center, according to Liz Rose, a member of the committee that selects each year's recipient, wants to know about for families that are involved in their community and their churches.

The award is meant to recognize families who have a healthy relationship with each other and contribute to the community. Families where parents are raising healthy children and are guiding them into positive futures.

The center honors one family from each of its primary service areas — Big Spring, Midland and Odessa — at an annual banquet on Tuesday, Oct. 16.

Past Family of the Year recipients from the Big Spring area have included Rocky and Barbara Harris, Henry and Patsy Sanchez, Richard and Pam Steel. Last year's Big Spring recipient was the family of the Rev. Ken and Elesha McMeans.

Applications forms can be obtained by calling Samaritan Counseling Center at 432-563-4144 or 1-800-329-4144. The are also available at the center's website www.samaritancnc.wtx.org.

The deadline to return nomination forms is Friday, Aug. 3. Nominations can be sent to: Samaritan Counseling Center of West Texas Inc., P.O. Box 60312, Midland 79711-0312 or faxed to 432-561-8611.

Take a few minutes to consider friends and relatives here in Big Spring you believe are deserving. Then call the counseling center and get the process started.

A narrowing field of candidates

For Latino voters, especially those fed up with the anti-immigrant climate that has created storms of intolerance across the nation, the field of presidential candidates is rapidly shrinking.

As they appeal to the worst xenophobic instincts of many Americans, we keep scratching them off the list.

Gone are the chances of practically any Republican to win significant support from a bloc of voters who has made a considerable shift toward the GOP in the last few presidential elections.

Only Sen. John McCain and Rudy Giuliani could expect to receive significant support from Latinos, and even Giuliani's chances are rapidly vanishing.

While the former New York mayor has been a moderate on immigration for most of his political career, he has tried to remain silent on that issue lately, obviously due to his desperate efforts to appeal to GOP conservatives.

At the Republican presidential debate in New Hampshire last month, only McCain had the guts to "do the hard things" — as he puts it — and support a comprehensive immigration reform package that included a path to legalization for the 12 million illegal immigrants in the country.

Giuliani, who supposedly supports a legalization path as well, kept repeating that the bill before Congress was a mess, without offering a better idea or telling us which side he is on. In fact, it was obvious that he was trying to make his position as vague as possible, as if to make both sides believe that he is their ally.

The other GOP contenders, especially Rep. Tom Tancredo and former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney, have little chance of drawing votes from Latinos. Tancredo is running for president only because he needed a bigger platform from which to bash

immigrants, and Romney has hardened his position on immigration only because of political expediency.

At this early stage of the campaign season, it is becoming obvious that only McCain can save some of the gains the GOP had made in the Hispanic community.

McCain has been citing the contributions of Latinos and other immigrants as eloquently as some Democratic candidates. But he gets even more credit because he does it in the lion's den.

"We know what we're talking about is the latest wave of migrants into this country," McCain said. "We have to stop the illegal immigration, but we've had waves throughout our history. Hispanics is what we're talking about, a different culture, a different language, which has enriched my state, where Spanish was spoken before English was."

Moments after some of the other GOP candidates had shown absolutely no compassion for illegal immigrants and Tancredo had proposed curbing even legal immigration, McCain stood by his principles.

"My friends, I want you the next time you're down in Washington, D.C. to go to the Vietnam War Memorial and look at the names engraved in black granite," he said. "You'll find a whole lot of Hispanic names."

"When you go to Iraq or Afghanistan today, you're going to see a whole lot of people who are of Hispanic background," McCain added. "You're even going to meet some of the few thousand that are still green card holders who are not even citizens of this country, who love this country so much that they're willing to risk their lives in its service in order to accelerate their path to citizenship and enjoy the bountiful, blessed nation. So let's from time to time remember that these are God's children. They must come into our country legally, but they have enriched our culture and our nation as every generation of immigrants before them."

When the Republican candidates

were asked to raise their hands if they don't believe English should be the official language, again, McCain was the lone ranger, eloquently explaining why there is no need to make English official.

"Everybody knows that English has to be learned if anyone ever wants to move up the economic ladder — that is obvious," he said. "And part of our (immigration reform) legislation, by the way, is a requirement to learn English."

"And by the way, 30 percent of the people who are in this country illegally never came across our borders, my friends," McCain added. "They overstayed their visas. That's why it has to be a comprehensive approach."

A couple nights earlier, in a debate between the Democratic candidates, only one Democrat said English should be the official language. In fact, Democrats like Sen. Hillary Clinton explained what making English official would only serve the interest of those who want to ban bilingual documents and ballots to disenfranchise the Hispanic community.

That quick poll of the candidates at the two debates was indeed very telling. It showed not only how most Republicans candidates feel about bilingualism and about Latinos, but also how Latinos are likely to vote against them in the 2008 election.

Of course, most Republicans are realistic enough to know that with the anti-immigrant climate created by GOP conservatives, their party has lost the Latino vote for quite some time. In fact, most are not even trying to campaign among Latinos. All but one, Rep. Duncan Hunter, snubbed the nation's largest gathering of Hispanic elected officials at Disney World two weeks ago.

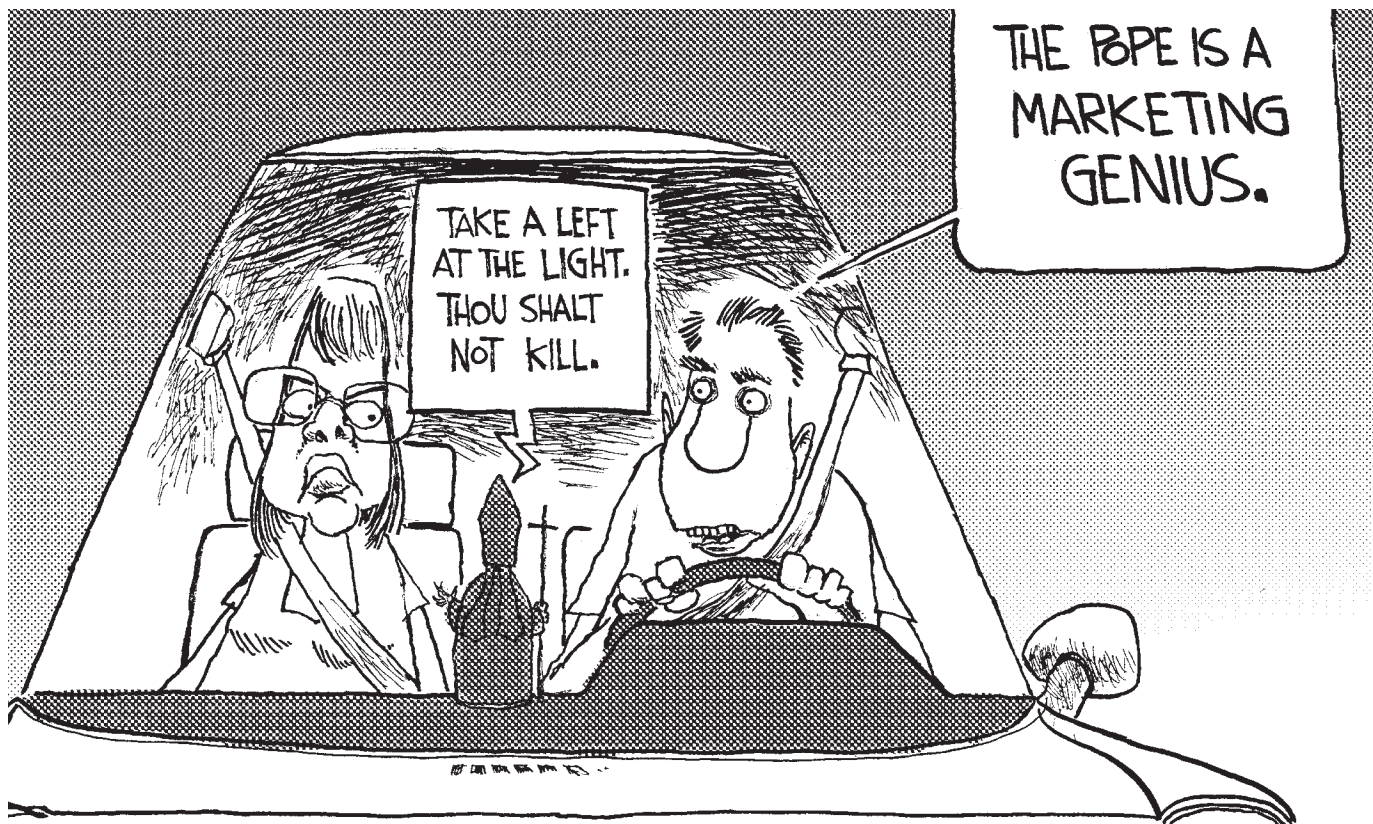
Again, with the Democrats, it was the other way around. They lined up to try to woo Latinos there. What they had to say is worth examining, in another column.

Stay tuned.

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MIGUEL PEREZ



GPS ENHANCED 10 COMMANDMENTS FOR DRIVERS

Getting around in Las Vegas

We hadn't been in Vegas for a couple of years. Last month I mentioned we went there to see my college roommate make his debut at a comedy club. When we landed at the airport after a two-hour flight, we took a shuttle to our hotel. It cost \$11 for a couple, the same as cab fare.

The monorail is a good way to get around in the entertainment capital of the world. You can get two rides for \$9. A slower, less glamorous way to go from one place to another is by double-decker bus. It's also cheaper. For \$5 you can get an all-day pass and ride as much as you want. If you prefer, you can take a single ride for \$2. The bus goes from one end of Las Vegas Boulevard to the other, from the strip to downtown. The bus is fun. You see all types of people enjoying themselves. One bus driver we had named Al. He sang and made jokes all the

time we were on his bus, which he named Al's Double-Decker With Cheese. When we passed the fancy water and dancing fountains at the Bellagio, Al announced they had changed the name to Al's cat-fish pond.

At night the bus is really fun if you ride on the top deck and get the front seat. It's like seeing the lights of Vegas from a picture window.

We could not believe all the changes that had been made since we were there last. New hotels stood on the sites of old ones which had been torn down to keep the glitter glowing. Las Vegas seems to get things done in a hurry. During sunset at the Wynn, while enjoying the lake and a drink, we watched workmen building a high rise a couple of blocks away. They worked all night. Even the workmen don't sleep in Vegas. No wonder they get a lot done in a short amount of time. Las Vegas has nearly 150,000 hotel rooms. The hotels are huge and guests usually have to stand in line to register.

We spent most of our time on the strip going to our favorite

places (Paris, New York, Venetian, Wynn). We took a bus downtown and didn't spend a lot of time there. At the first stop downtown a man was using the restroom on the sidewalk.

All of our trips to Vegas have been to see entertainers or shows. The night after we saw my college roommate, we went to Spamalat, the Monty Python spoof of Camelot.

I've never seen such elaborate scenery and scene changes. The digital world is alive and well in theater.

John O'Hurley (Seinfeld, Dancing with the Stars, Family Feud) played the part of King Arthur. Funny man. Like most entertainers, he has a solid background of accomplishment. He has starred on Broadway, written a best-selling book and composed a piano piece that reached the Billboard charts. After the performance, we had dinner at a restaurant across from the theater. O'Hurley was there, dining with his family.

When we told him we enjoyed the show, he said, "You were a wonderful audience."



TUMBLEWEED SMITH

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The Herald is always interested in our readers' opinions. In order that we might better serve your needs, we offer several ways in which you may contact us:

- In person at 710 Scurry St.
- By telephone at 263-7331
- By fax at 264-7205
- By e-mail Managing Editor John A. Moseley at editor@bigspringherald.com or News Editor Bill McClellan at newsdesk@bigspringherald.com.
- By mail at P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721

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- Provide a daytime telephone number, as well as a street address for verification purposes.
- We reserve the right to edit for style and clarity.
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- Letters that are unsigned or do not include a telephone number or address will not be considered.
- Letters should be submitted to Editor, Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721. They can also be e-mailed to editor@bigspringherald.com

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

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Amen

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Why not check this out? At the library

It is already the nearly the middle of July; can the dog days of summer be soon approaching? Check out some "fluff" to read while chilling out indoors out of the heat.

Summer Reads
• **"The Proud and the Fire"** by Janet Dailey; **Angel** by Barbara Taylor Bradford; **"Yesterday,"** by Fern Michael; and **"Balancing in High Heels,"** by Eileen Rendahl. Rendahl is a new author and she writes sassy, spunky novels about love. It is from Red Dress Ink.

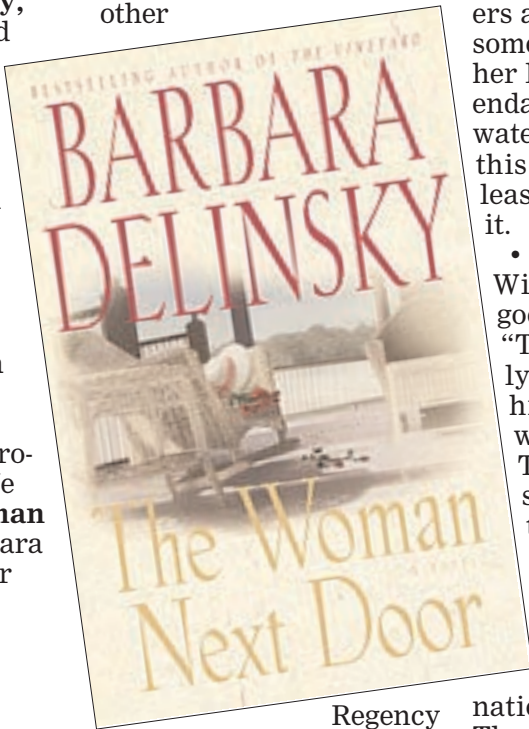
Another Red Dress book is **"As Seen on TV"** by Sarah Mlynowski. (no, I don't know how to pronounce it, either). We also have **"The Woman Next Door"** by Barbara Delinsky and another Janet Dailey book, **"Calder Promise."** New York Time Bestseller

• **"Austenland"** is Shannon Hale's new book which has been on the *New York Times* best-seller list for some time. Reviewed by Booklist, "Austenland" is about, surprisingly enough, Jane Austen.

Suppose you're a huge fan of Jane Austen, and in particular *Pride and Prejudice* and in particular Colin Firth's portrayal of Mr. Darcy in the BBC adaptation, and nothing in real life quite measures up.



HOLLIS MCCRIGHT



Regency

amusements while sorting out whether the attentions of a Darcyesque Mr. Nobley, not to mention a good-looking gardener, are sincere or part of the show. This is a clever confection for fans of contemporary Austen knockoffs.

Now for some books that aren't quite as frothy.

Thrillers

• **"Whitewash."** Alex Kava has also had sever-

al books to be perched on the *New York Times* best-seller list. "Whitewash" is a fine topical thriller involving terrorism, government cover-ups and toxic waste. Sabrina Galloway, a young Chicago professor, becomes a hands-on scientist in Florida with EcoEnergy, a company that specializes in TCP — a process that converts refuse and other waste material into oil. EcoEnergy's CEO is angling for a \$140 million military government contract, but after Sabrina's boss mysteriously disappears and Sabrina discovers a reactor processing something it shouldn't, her life becomes as endangered as Florida's waterways. Well, I guess this is "frothy" but at least it has excitement in it.

• **"The Quest."** Wilbur Smith is always good for a thriller. In "The Quest," an eagerly awaited sequel in his Egyptian series, he writes of the warlock Taita. Egypt has been struck by a series of terrible plagues; killing both its people and its crops. Now the mighty Nile River has gone dry, leaving the nation with no water. The Pharaoh send Taita to the headwaters of the Nile to find out what has happened. However, not even Taita is prepared for what befalls.

The Library does have **"River God," "The Seventh Scroll"** and **"Warlock,"** volumes that precede "The Quest." See, now you have *even more* reason to check out Wilbur Smith's Egyptian

series.

Nonfiction
• **"Way Off the Road: Discovering the Peculiar Charms of Small-Town America"** (973.924 GEI B) is a delightful book by Bill Geist.

Geist is the roving correspondent for CBS News Sunday Morning and has just written this rollicking look at small town America. On page 153 is the chapter that talks about roadkill, "the man" and other gourmands. In Lawrence, Kan., the Alferd Packer Memorial String Band plays at the post office every April 15th to brighten the spirits of late-filing taxpayers. Outside the post office is chef Michael Coffman, also known as "Roadkill." Yes, you guessed it — he cooks roadkill. He offers sage advice to those who wish to emulate him, "all you have to do is beat the flies to it." That is his



pledge and commitment to you, the consumer. Now that you have been grossed out, the book is full of neat stories that Bill and his road crew have experienced.

• **"Project Everlasting: Two Bachelors Discover the Secrets of America's Greatest Marriages"** (306.85 BOG M), is another charming

book written by two bachelors.

Matthew Boggs and Jason Miller became fired up to discover the secret to great marriages when Matthew chauffeured his grandparents (married 68 years) around to the grocery store, doctor and the like. Great stories of how couples met, married and stayed in love and in a committed marriage. A super book.

Howard County Library hours are 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday to Friday and is closed Saturdays during July and August. The Internet/Video room closes 12 hour before closing. The Library is located at 500 S. Main St. Our phone number is 264-2260. The Web site is www.howard-county.lib.tx.us

Hollis McCright is director of the Howard County Library.



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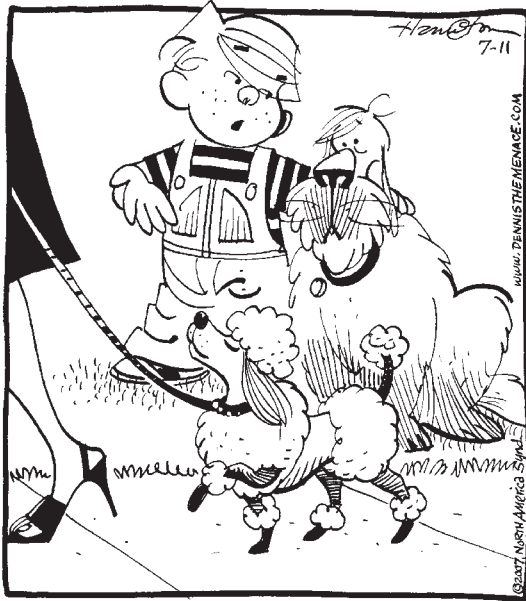
authorized agent

More of what you want from your wireless company.

WEDNESDAY

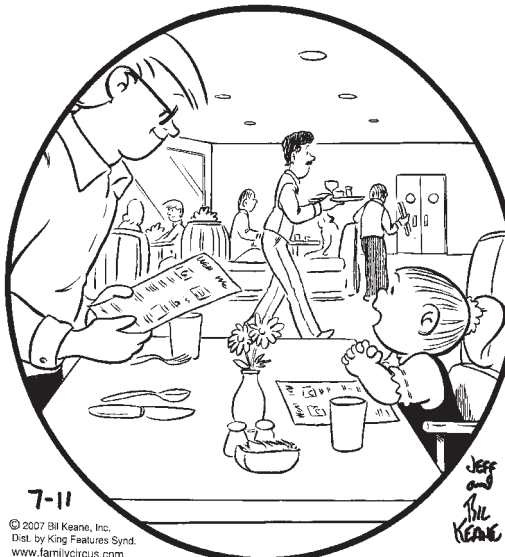
	WFDA (2) Dallas	KMID (3) Midland	UNI (4) Spanish	KPEJ (5) Odessa	KOSA (7) Odessa	KTLE (8) Telemundo	KWES (9) Midland	WTBS (11) Atlanta	KMLM (12) Odessa	KPBT (13) Odessa	DISC (20) Discovery	AMC (21) Classics	SPIKE (22) Spike TV	TNT (23) Atlanta	BET (26) Black Ent.	DISN (27) Disney	ESPN2 (28) Sports	ESPN (29) Sports	SCIFI (64) Science Fic.
6 :PM :30	News (CC) Entertainment	News Wheel-Fortune	Yo Amo a Juan	King of the Hill The Simpsons	News Entertainment	Dame Chocolate	News Be a Millionaire	Raymond Raymond	Dr. Swallow John Hagee	News-Lehrer	How It's Made How It's Made		CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn. (CC) (DVS)	Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	Live (CC) Hell Date	Han. Montana Zack & Cody	Interruption Minor League	MLB Baseball: 2007 Home	Ghost Hunters (CC)
7 :PM :30	Next Best Thing	Next Best Thing	Copa America Copa America	So You Think You Can	King King	Madre Luna	Outrageous Singing Bee	Raymond Raymond	Update/Israel Curt Landry	Synchronized Swimming	MythBusters (CC)	Movie: U.S. Marshals	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn. (CC) (DVS)	Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	Access Baldwin Hills	Movie: Model Behavior	Baseball: AAA All-Star	Run Derby (CC)	Ghost Hunters (CC)
8 :PM :30	American Inventor	American Inventor	Semifinal	Dance (CC) Don't Forget	Criminal Minds (CC)	Zorro - La Es- pada y la Rosa	America's Got Talent (CC)	House-Payne House-Payne	Light of the Southwest	American Masters (CC)	MythBusters (CC)		CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn. (CC) (DVS)	Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	Baldwin Hills Girlfriends	(CC)	Game	Softball	Ghost Hunters (CC)
9 :PM :30	Traveler (CC)	Traveler (CC)		Becker (CC) Friends (CC)	CSI: NY (CC)	La Esclava Isaura	Last Comic Standing	Raymond Raymond		Garden Insects	Cash Cab Cash Cab		CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn. (CC) (DVS)	Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	Girlfriends Girlfriends	That's-Raven Life Derek	Boxing	The Bronx Is Burning (CC)	Destination Truth (CC)
10 :PM :30	News (CC) Nightline	News Nightline	Primer Impacto Noticiero Univ.	70s Show Raymond	News Late Show-	Noticias 12 Corazones	News Tonight Show	King King	The Hour of Healing	Charlie Rose (CC)	MythBusters (CC)	Movie: Patriot Games	CSI: NY (CC)	Heartland (CC)	Take the Cake Han. Montana	Zack & Cody Han. Montana	Boxing: Wednesday	SportsCenter (CC)	Ghost Hunters (CC)
11 :PM :30	The Insider Jimmy Kimmel Live (CC)	Jimmy Kimmel Live (CC)	Bus.-Timbriche Hora de-Risa	King of the Hill Malcolm-Mid.	Letterman Late Late	¡Al Rojo Vivo!	Late Night-	Movie: Species	CCM Ministries Charles Scott	Sign Off	MythBusters (CC)		CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn. (CC) (DVS)	Las Vegas (CC)	The Five Jamie Foxx	Replacements Kim Possible	Night Fights	The Bronx Is Burning (CC)	Destination Truth (CC)
12 :AM :30	Live (CC) News (CC)	Extra (CC) Basco	El Privilegio de Amar	Malcolm-Mid. My Wife-Kids	Show The Insider	Programa	Conan O'Brien News		Update/Israel Del Sanchez		MythBusters (CC)	Movie: The	Star Trek: Voyager	Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	Comicview (CC)	Emperor New American Drgn	NASCAR Now NFL Live	SportsCenter (CC)	Twilight Zone Twilight Zone

DENNIS THE MENACE



"DON'T TAKE IT SO HARD, BOY... SHE'S NOT THE ONLY DOG IN THE KENNEL."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

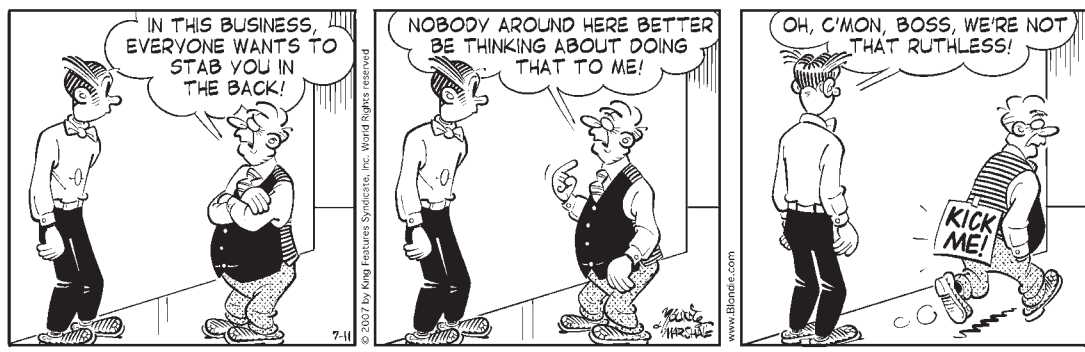


"Is this what it's like to be on a date, Daddy?"

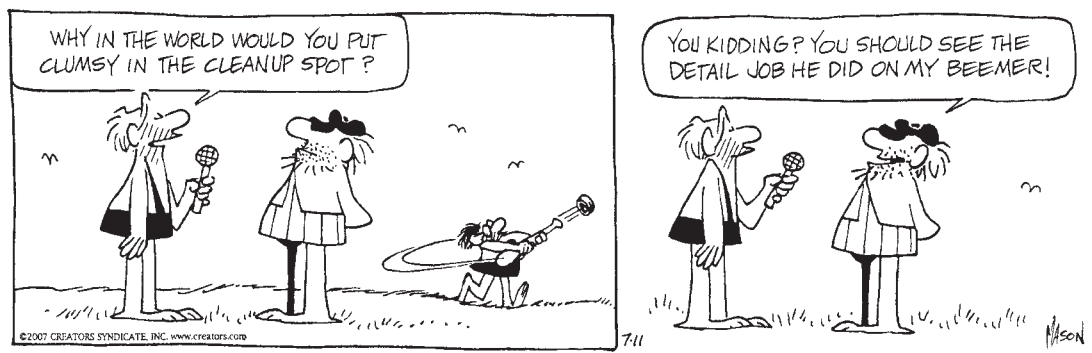
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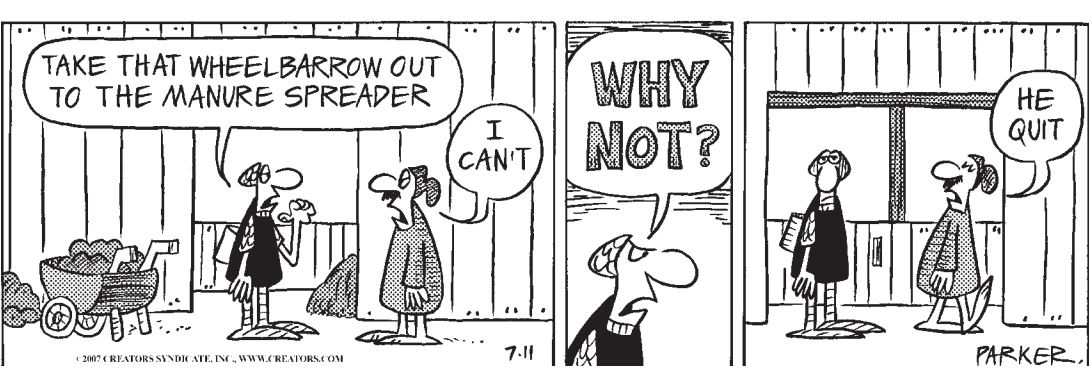
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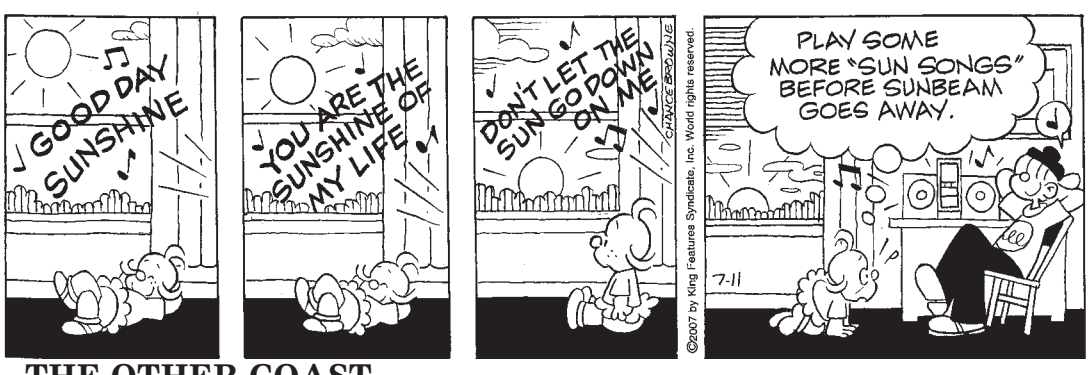
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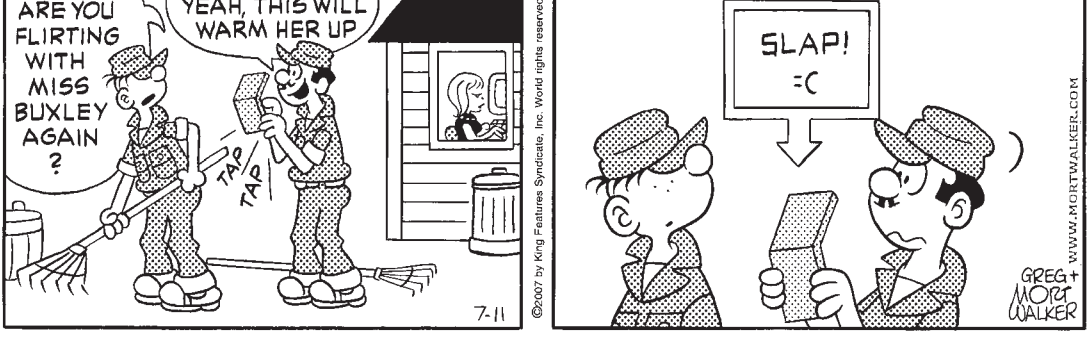
THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BETLE BAILEY



This Date In History

Today is Wednesday, July 11, the 192nd day of 2007. There are 173 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On July 11, 1804, Vice President Aaron Burr mortally wounded former Treasury Secretary Alexander Hamilton during a pistol duel in Weehawken, N.J.

On this date: In 1767, John Quincy Adams, the sixth president of the United States, was born in Braintree, Mass.

In 1798, the U.S. Marine Corps was formally re-established by a congressional act that also created the U.S. Marine Band.

In 1864, Confederate forces led by Gen. Jubal Early began an abortive invasion of Washington, turning back the next day.

In 1934, President Franklin D. Roosevelt

became the first incumbent chief executive to travel through the Panama Canal.

In 1952, the Republican National Convention, meeting in Chicago, nominated Dwight D. Eisenhower for president and Richard M. Nixon for vice president.

In 1955, the U.S. Air Force Academy swore in its first class of cadets at its temporary quarters, Lowry Air Force Base in Colorado.

In 1977, the Medal of Freedom was awarded posthumously to the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.

In 1979, the abandoned U.S. space station Skylab made a spectacular return to Earth, burning up in the atmosphere and showering debris over the Indian Ocean and Australia.

In 1980, American hostage Richard I. Queen, freed by Iran after eight months of captivity because of poor health, left Tehran for Switzerland.

In 1995, the United States normalized relations with Vietnam.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Brett Somers is 83. Actor Tab Hunter is 76. Actress

Susan Seaforth Hayes is 64. Singer Jeff Hanna (Nitty Gritty Dirt Band) is 60. Ventriloquist-actor Jay Johnson is 58. Actor Bruce McGill is 57. Singer Bonnie Pointer is 57. Actor Stephen Lang is 55. Actress Mindy Sterling is 54. Actress Sela Ward is 51. Reggae singer Michael Rose (Black Uhuru) is 50. Singer Peter Murphy is 50. Actor Mark Lester is 49. Jazz musician Kirk Whalum is 49. Singer Suzanne Vega is 48. Rock guitarist Richie Sambora (Bon Jovi) is 48. Actress Lisa Rinna is 44. Rock musician Scott Shriner (Weezer) is 42.

Answer to previous puzzle
TEAR BIBLE ACTS
HARE IDEAS GORE
ACES SEEMS ARIA
WHATSHAPPENING
AOL NUN
SPEDUP DUCT HAS
PINED TAPE TAME
ITSNICETOSEYOU
TAUT OXEN VEERS
ESE ANTS LENSES
ABC EAR
HOWEVERYTHING
ROMA PADRE ASIA
APER TIGER RANG
MEND SLEDS DYES

Newsday Crossword

- ACROSS
- 1 Mine passage
- 6 Winter footwear
- 11 Sault Marie, MI
- 14 South Pacific island group
- 15 Choreographer
- 16 Faux
- 17 Parmesan or Romano
- 19 Drs' orders
- 20 Longest-serving
- 21 Draw forth
- 23 Comic Carvey
- 26 Pyramid bottom
- 27 Scout's job, for short
- 28 Slanted type
- 30 Tricky pool shot
- 32 Spoiled, with "on"
- 33 Santa's landing spot
- 35 Composer Stravinsky
- 38 Toronto's loc.
- 39 Prism bands
- 42 Bullring cheer
- 43 Answer sheets
- 45 Place to build
- 46 Chip away at
- 48 Get going
- 50 Wiped away
- 51 Not so crooked
- 53 Play the lead
- 56 Sawbucks
- 57 St. Pete neighbor
- 58 Pick-me-ups
- 60 "Alley"
- 61 Clever sort
- 66 One in a litter
- 67 Prefix meaning "stone"
- 68 Inn patron
- 69 -mo replay
- 70 Dutch painter Jan
- 71 Prized violin, informally
- DOWN
- 1 Draft org.
- 2 "That's a laugh!"
- 3 Drs' org.
- 4 On the market
- 5 Sheet repairer
- 6 Brazilian state
- 7 Dairy-aisle products
- 8 Really ham it up
- 9 "the season ..."
- 10 Villainous looks
- 11 Hughes' wooden plane
- 12 Mexican silverworks city
- 13 German industrial center
- 18 Power Lunch channel
- 22 Lucie Arnaz's dad
- 23 Performed satisfactorily
- 24 Make amends
- 25 The Deerslayer hero
- 29 Proofs of age
- 31 Chad's cont.
- 33 Put back on the job
- 34 Beer-festival mo.
- 36 Bygone
- 37 Orchestra section
- 40 Air-pump letters
- 41 Lingus
- 44 Flow slowly
- 47 Tells on
- 49 Gets a grip on
- 50 Novelist Ambler
- 51 Sporty car roofs
- 52 Diplomat Wallenberg
- 54 Yankee manager
- 55 Composer Bruckner
- 59 Gear teeth
- 62 Bumped into
- 63 Plop or flop lead-in
- 64 "... penny earned"
- 65 Likely takeoff hr.

LOOKING TIDY by Fred Piscop
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
14					15						16		
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News in brief

White House official heads to Capitol Hill to shore up GOP support for Iraq war

WASHINGTON (AP) — As the Senate debates taking a new course in Iraq, President Bush's national security adviser scheduled a meeting with more than a dozen Republican senators in a bid to shore up eroding support for the war.

Stephen Hadley was to visit Capitol Hill on Wednesday — one of many such forays in recent days — as the White House finalized a 23-page progress report on Iraq that concludes the government in Baghdad has made little progress in meeting reform goals laid down by Bush and Congress.

Iraq's inability to pass laws considered key to national cohesion and economic recovery or achieve other major milestones has prompted a backlash by Bush's one-time staunch political defenders.

At least 10 Republicans in recent weeks have said the U.S. should start reducing the military's role in Iraq, with the latest challenge to the president's Iraq strategy coming Tuesday from Sen. Elizabeth Dole.

"Simply put, our troops have been doing a great job, but the Iraqi government has not," Dole, R-N.C., said. "Our commitment in Iraq is not indefinite, nor should the Iraqi government perceive it to be. It is my firm hope and belief that we can start bringing our troops home in 2008."

Pakistani troops comb mosque for holdouts, day after storming stronghold, killing cleric

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP) — Pakistani troops cornered the last remaining militants and combed the warren-like Red Mosque complex for booby traps Wednesday after assaulting the compound and killing its pro-Taliban cleric, the army spokesman said.

"The final phase is going on," Maj. Gen. Waheed Arshad told the private Geo television network. He said three of the remaining die-hard defenders had been killed overnight, and that troops were meeting resistance in just "one or two places" of the sprawling compound in the heart of the Pakistani capital.

More than 50 militants and nine soldiers were killed since the assault began in the early hours of Tuesday, including the mosque's pro-Taliban cleric Abdul Rashid Ghazi, the army said.

Commandos went in after unsuccessful attempts to get the mosque's militants to surrender to a weeklong siege mounted by the government following deadly street clashes with armed supporters of the mosque on July 3.

The extremists had been using the mosque as a base to send out radicalized students to enforce their version of Islamic morality, including abducting alleged prostitutes and trying to "re-educate" them at the com-

pound.

Bush's ex-political director to tell Senate she won't answer questions on prosecutor firings

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush's former political director says she intends to follow his directive and not answer questions about her role in the administration's firing of federal prosecutors — unless a court directs her to defy her former boss.

"While I may be unable to answer certain questions today, I will answer those questions if the courts rule that this committee's need for the information outweighs the president's assertion of executive privilege," Sara M. Taylor, who left her White House job two months ago, said in remarks prepared for presentation to the Senate Judiciary Committee on Wednesday.

"Thanks for understanding," she added in the statement, made available in advance of the midmorning hearing.

Democrats insist that there are plenty about the firings that Taylor can discuss — and is compelled to reveal under a subpoena — that are not covered by Bush's executive privilege claim.

Her lawyer was expected to advise her as the hearing progressed on which questions she could or could not answer under the president's directive.

Death sentence upheld for medical workers in Libya, but could be overturned by council

TRIPOLI, Libya (AP) — Libya's Supreme Court on Wednesday upheld the death sentences of five Bulgarian nurses and a Palestinian doctor convicted of infecting more than 400 children with the AIDS virus. But the verdict may not be the final word in the case.

Libya's Supreme Judicial Council, which is headed by the minister of justice, could approve or reject the convictions or set lighter sentences.

"The court has accepted the appeal in principal but rejects its content, therefore the court decided to uphold the verdict against them," Judge Fathi Dahan told the courtroom. The five nurses and the Palestinian doctor were not present in the court for the appeal hearing.

In announcing the verdict, the judge mentioned nothing about a settlement announced Tuesday by a foundation headed by the Libyan leader's son.

su | do | ku

© Puzzles by Pappocom

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9 with no repeats. That means no number is repeated in any row, column or box. Solution, tips and computer program at www.sudoku.com

		5		3				
2		1		9			8	
	8						3	2
		3					9	6
			1	6				
5	9				1			
4	7						6	
	1	2			8		3	
		7			4			

Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

A Realistic Assumption

North dealer. Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ K Q J 10
♥ A K
♦ 9 3
♣ A K 7 5 2

WEST
♠ 3
♥ 10 5 4
♦ A 10 7 6 4 2
♣ 9 8 3

EAST
♠ A 8 7 6 5 2
♥ 7 3
♦ Q J 5
♣ 10 4

SOUTH
♠ 9 4
♥ Q J 9 8 6 2
♦ K 8
♣ Q J 6

The bidding:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♥ Pass
2 ♠ Pass 3 ♥ Pass
4 ♥

Opening lead — three of spades.
You can't do well in bridge if you maintain a defeatist attitude. If you're declarer, you must proceed on the basis that there is some way to make the contract, and if you're a defender, a way to defeat the contract.

Consider this deal where East missed his opportunity to defeat four hearts because he was not thinking correctly at the critical moment. West

led a spade, and East had no trouble diagnosing the lead as a singleton. So he won with the ace and returned a spade, ruffed by West. West thereupon cashed the ace of diamonds — he would have lost it if he hadn't — and South made four hearts.

It is easy to see that East could have stopped the contract by shifting to the queen of diamonds at trick two. Whether or not South covered, West would get his spade ruff, and the defense would collect the first four tricks.

The question is whether East should have known to lead the queen of diamonds rather than give West a spade ruff at trick two. The answer is yes. East should proceed on the assumption that the contract can be defeated, and this presupposes that West has the ace of diamonds. If East is not prepared to make that assumption, he might just as well fold up his cards and concede the contract.


It is true that if South has the ace of diamonds, East might cost his side a trick by failing to return a spade. But this would simply be an over-trick, an inconsequential loss compared with what can be lost by allowing the opponents to make a vulnerable game that could have been defeated.

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In Sunday's Big Spring Herald



Self-expression to go
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News in brief

Hitman in San Antonio murder-for-hire plot avoids execution

HUNTSVILLE (AP) — Condemned prisoner Rolando Ruiz won a late reprieve that kept him from the Texas death chamber.

Attorneys for the 35-year-old convicted murderer obtained a stay of execution from the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans about an hour after he could have received a dose of lethal drugs Tuesday evening.

"I didn't think I was going to get a stay," a stunned Ruiz told prison officials. "I guess you could say I'm happy."

Ruiz had collected \$2,000 to gun down Theresa Rodriguez at the request of her husband and brother-in-law, who stood to collect at least a quarter-million dollars in insurance benefits from the 29-year-old San Antonio woman's death.

"You get yourself ready to see something that's difficult to deal with, and then it's called off because of reasons that are unclear," said Rodriguez's sister, Leticia Sanchez, who planned to watch Ruiz die. "It seems like a lot of smoke and mirrors going on and a lot of games being played by attorneys and I think we're wasting tax dollars and our time."

Space shuttle moves to launch pad for second mission of the year

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — For the first time in almost five years, space shuttle Endeavour began moving to the launch pad Tuesday in preparation for a flight which will deliver teacher-turned-astronaut Barbara Morgan and her six crew mates to the international space station.

The 3.4 mile journey aboard the massive crawler-transporter started at 8:10 p.m. EDT and was expected to last seven hours.

Endeavour is scheduled to launch on Aug. 7 on the second space shuttle flight of the year, a mission which a NASA manager said "has a little bit of everything."

The last time Endeavour was at the launch pad was in November 2002 before its launch on a construction mission to the space station. It was the last space shuttle flight before the Columbia disaster killed seven astronauts several months later and grounded the space shuttle program for 2 1/2 years.

Endeavour has since undergone a major tune-up. The shuttle's structure was inspected for corrosion. Filter and seals were replaced. More than 1,900 thermal blankets were examined. Two windows were

replaced with thicker panes.

Endeavour also has a new system which allows power from the space station to be transferred to the shuttle while docked. If the new system works properly, the 11-day mission will be extended by an extra three days.

During the mission, astronauts will deliver a new truss segment, 5,000 pounds of cargo and fix a gyroscope which helps control the station's position.

Officer advises against trial for Marine

SAN DIEGO (AP) — An investigating officer has recommended dismissing murder charges against a Marine accused in the slayings of three Iraqi men in a squad action that killed 24 civilians in Haditha, according to a report released Tuesday.

The government's theory that Lance Cpl. Justin L. Sharratt had executed the three men was "incredible" and relied on contradictory statements by Iraqis, Lt. Col. Paul Ware said in the report, released by Sharratt's defense attorneys.

Defense attorneys James Culp and Gary Myers said in a statement that he was pleased with the report and that it "reflected the value of the calm of a courtroom and the adversarial process."

Man told to stop lighting cigarettes before explosion

CLEBURNE (AP) — A man whose wife died after their home exploded had been told not to light any more cigarettes nearly an hour before the blast, according to a city fire marshal's report.

After calling the Cleburne Fire Department's non-emergency number on May 29, David Pawlick told the fire inspector that "every time my wife lights a cigarette, a blue flame shoots up to the ceiling." Fire inspector Scott Oesch said he would check the problem and told Pawlick not to light any more matches, according to a memo written by Oesch two days later.

Oesch did not tell the family to leave the home — where authorities later discovered natural gas had seeped in but gone undetected, officials reported.

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