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BIG SPRING

HERALD

MONDAY

JULY 16, 2007



VOLUME 102, NUMBER 198

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Thermals have gliders flying high

Anticipation builds for world championships scheduled in August

By THOMAS JENKINS
Staff Writer

It's a bird, it's a plane... It's the 2007 World Hang Gliding Championships, bringing the top hang gliding pilots from all corners of the planet to Big Spring Aug. 7-19.

According to reports posted on ozreport.com, one of the sport's leading Web sites,

pilots representing countries including the Czech Republic, Spain, Venezuela, France, Ecuador, Sweden, Germany and the United States — just to name a few — are expected to join the action at the Big Spring Airport and McMahon-Wrinkle Airpark.

"The world championship has only been held in the U.S. once in the last 30 years, so it's a real honor to have it coming to Big Spring," said David Glover, one of the organizers and coordinators of the championship effort. "We're expecting more than 150 pilots to come from all over the world to compete."

Glover said Big Spring boasts some of the best hang gliding conditions anywhere, one of the many

reasons pilots from all over the world will be making the trip.

"The consistency of the conditions here means we can fly everyday," said Glover. "We're not winded or weathered out. The sun hits the ground and the ground heats up, so thermal layers of air go up. The base of the clouds are really high, which means we can fly up really high into the air and the thermals are strong, so you don't have to fly around too much before you hit a thermal that pushes you up."

"Our desire is to see how long we can stay up and then fly around a course as quickly as we can. It just has the right combination of meteorology and geography to allow us to fly for a long time and fly fast. The men and women who come here just love the flying. It's excellent."

Competitors can expect plenty to do throughout the world-class contest, with the first team leader briefing slated for Aug. 7 at 8 p.m. at the Big Spring Airport. Each day of the championships is set to

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WATCHFUL EYES ON THE WATER



HERALD photo/Steve Reagan
Lifeguard Whitney Opegard and little Malachi Thomas both appear to be keeping a watchful eye on swimmers at the City Pool.

Quake rocks northwest Japan

By KOJI SASAHARA
Associated Press Writer

KASHIWAZAKI, Japan (AP) — A strong earthquake struck northwestern Japan on Monday, causing a radioactive water leak and fire at one of the world's most powerful nuclear power plants and turning buildings into piles of lumber. At least seven people were killed and hundreds injured.

National broadcaster NHK reported that water containing radioactive material leaked from the plant into the Sea of Japan, but that the radioactivity level was low and posed no environmental danger.

The reactor automatically shut down at the time of the leak, the report said. The quake triggered a fire at an electrical transformer at the plant, but plant operator Tokyo Electric Power Co. said earlier in the day that the reactor



Deadly earthquake causes fire at nuclear power plant
The reactor, which left fissures 3 feet wide in the ground along the

coast, hit shortly after 10 a.m. local time and was centered off Niigata state. Buildings swayed 160 miles away in Tokyo. Sirens wailed in Kashiwazaki, a city of about 90,000, which appeared to be hardest hit.

Japan's Meteorological Agency measured the quake at a 6.8 magnitude. The U.S. Geological Survey, which monitors quakes around the world, said it registered 6.7.

"I was so scared — the violent shaking went on for 20 seconds," Ritei Wakatsuki, who was on her job in a convenience store in Kashiwazaki. "I almost fainted by the fear of shaking."

Flames and billows of black smoke poured from the Kashiwazaki nuclear plant — the world's largest in terms of power output capacity. The fire, at an electrical transformer, was put

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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.

BLOOD DRIVE FRIDAY

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 from 3 p.m. to 10 p.m. Friday, 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.

DICKENS RECEPTION SET

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 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.. For more information call 264-1999.

WORKSHOPS POSTPONED

The Big Spring City Council budget work sessions slated for tonight and Tuesday have been postponed until next week due to ongoing contract negotiations between the municipality and Howard County.

The sessions are set to begin Monday at 5 p.m. and continue Tuesday at 5 p.m., possibly spilling over into Wednesday.

Among the items the council is expected to consider are annexation, hiring a grant writer, a recycling program, improved signs on the north and west entrances to the city and at Comanche Trail Park, seal-coating and merit pay raises, among other issues. The council meets at 307 E. Fourth St.

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Obituaries

Nelva Adams



Services for Nelva L. Adams, 72, of Lubbock will be at 10 a.m. Tuesday, July 17, 2007, at Broadview Baptist Church in Lubbock. Visitation will be from 6 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. Monday, July 16, 2007, at Agape Funeral Chapel. She died Friday, July 13, 2007. She was born January 9, 1935.

She was the widow of the late William Eugene Adams.

Nelva attended college at UTA and UTEP. She worked for 21 years at Abilene ISD as the Employee Benefits Supervisor. She retired in 1995. She was a lifetime member of the Abilene PTA, Epsilon Sigma Alpha and Retired Teachers of Texas - Abilene branch. She was also a member of the Abilene Kiwanis Club and Broadview Baptist Church of Lubbock.

Nelva is survived by her son, John Kiouisis of Lubbock; daughter-in-laws, Melissa Stripling and Denise Hubbard of Lubbock, Gwen Fogg of Lafayette, La., and Jacinda Dieken of Abilene; a son-in-law, Joe Delgado of Tahoka; a sister, Billie Bridges of Lubbock; nephews, Alvin and James Ethridge; and nieces, Patsy MacLeod and Sue O' Bannon, both of Lubbock.

She was the grandmother and "Nana" to George and Voula Kiouisis and numerous other grandchildren. She is preceded in death by her parents; her sisters, Wilma Lee Cole and Luedell Fitz; and a brother, James LaNeal Noland.

The family suggests memorials to Broadview Baptist Church, 1302 Frankford Ave., Lubbock 79416.

Paid obituary

Esther Cathcart

Esther Cathcart, 95, of Big Spring died Saturday, July 14, 2007, in a local nursing home. Graveside funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. Tuesday, July 17, 2007, at the Peace Chapel at Trinity Memorial Park with Rev. Joel Miller, pastor of North Birdwell Lane United Methodist Church, officiating.

She was born Oct. 30, 1911, in Bertrum and married Virgil Anderson Cathcart June 4, 1930, in Roscoe. He preceded her in death May 28, 1980.

Esther was a longtime resident of Howard County. She enjoyed sewing, counted cross stitch, the church quilting group, luncheons at Canterbury and playing bingo at the nursing home. She was a member of North Birdwell Lane United Methodist Church.

Survivors include a daughter, Mary Gressett of Forsan; a son, Robert Cathcart of Big Spring; seven grandchildren; six great grandchildren, and five great great grandchildren.

She was also preceded in death by a daughter, Virginia Patterson, on May 24, 1996; and a sister, Frances King.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorials be made to North Birdwell Lane United Methodist Church, 2702 North Birdwell Lane, Big Spring 79720.

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

Jesse R. Rentfrow Jr.

Jesse R. Rentfrow Jr., 56, of Big Spring died Sunday, July 15, 2007, at Scenic Mountain Medical Center. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Take Note

• **ALON USA IS HOSTING A FAREWELL RECEPTION** for Brenda and Joe Conciene and a welcome to Big Spring reception for Nancy and Dave Foster. The receptions will be held from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. Thursday at the Hall Art Center at Howard College.

• **BIG SPRING ART ASSOCIATION**, A "Summer Special" meeting of the Big Spring Art Association will be held at 7 p.m. Tuesday, at the home of member Kay Smith. There will be no meetings at the Howard County Library during the summer months. Those attending at Kay's home should bring sketchpads and drawing equipment or cameras to work from a live model. These interested are invited to attend this special July summer activity. The August meeting will also be a "Summer Special" event.

• **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 27 at the same location. For more information, call the church at 263-3072.

• **A FUND HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED AT COSDEN CREDIT UNION** to help pay medical expenses for Raul Robles. Any assistance would be appreciated. The account is No. 761882.

• **ST. MARY'S AND FRIENDS OF ST. MARY'S ARE HOLDING A LAP BLANKET DRIVE** to place approximately 400 lap blankets in the hands of every nursing home patient in Big Spring. Blankets can be taken to the church office, 1001 Goliad, between the hours of 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. Monday through Friday or call Connie Fowler at 267-2713. A beginning crochet class is being held at 6 p.m. Wednesday in the church's Parish Hall.

• **CHRIST COMMUNITY FELLOWSHIP IS COLLECTING INFANT CAR SEATS AND CARRIERS.** These are given to new mothers who cannot afford them. To donate your old or new car seats and carriers, call Karen Allen at 263-3517 or leave a message at Christ Community Fellowship, 263-love.

• **ROAD TO RECOVERY**, sponsored by the American Cancer Society, seeks volunteers to drive cancer patients to treatment in Midland. This requires just a few hours commitment each month. To volunteer, or to request a ride for treatment, call Nancy Koger at 267-7809.

Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity between 9 a.m. Saturday and 7 a.m. today:

- **CRYSTAL NELL TEAGUE**, 28, of 601 Linda, was arrested Sunday on a charge of driving while license invalid.
- **FERMIN FLOREZ**, 56, of 3304 W. Highway 80, was arrested Sunday on eight local warrants.
- **ROBERT URIAS**, 17, of Odessa, was arrested Sunday on charges of minor in consumption of an alcoholic beverage and evading arrest.
- **DELMA ZAMORA**, 27, of 1501 E. 11th Place, was arrested Sunday on two local warrants.
- **CHARLENE STEAGALD**, 28, of 2604 Ent, was arrested Sunday on four local warrants.
- **NATHAN CAHOON**, 47, transient, was arrested Sunday on two local warrants and a capias warrant.
- **TOMMY RAYVON**, 51, of 1510 Todd, was arrested Sunday on a charge of public intoxication.
- **ASSAULT CLASS C/FAMILY VIOLENCE** was reported:
 - in the 1000 block of 16th Street.
 - in the 1400 block of Highway 87.
- **CRIMINAL MISCHIEF** was reported in the 100 block of Third Street.
- **DRIVING WHILE LICENSE INVALID** was reported in the 800 block of Fourth Street.
- **EVADING ARREST OR DETENTION** was reported in the 600 block of Linda.
- **UNATTENDED DEATH** was reported in the 1600 block of Martin Luther King.

Fire/EMS

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

- **TRAFFIC ACCIDENT** was reported near Interstate Highway 20 and Moss Lake Road. Service was refused.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 600 block of Aylesford. Service was refused.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 300 block of E. Fifth Street. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 100 block of E. Eighth Street. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 400 block of S. Gregg. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1700 block of Yale. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1900 block of N. Highway 87. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 400 block of Aylesford. One person was transported to the VAMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 500 block of S. 16th Street. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 2300 block of Parkway. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 100 block of E. 15th Street. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **TRAUMA** was reported on Eckard Road. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 500 block of W. 17th Street. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1900 block of E. 25th Street. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1900 block of Johnson. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **DUMPSTER FIRE** was reported in the 900 block of Birdwell. It was extinguished.

Lottery

Results of the Lotto Texas drawing Saturday night: Winning numbers drawn: 10-29-39-45-49-52. Number matching six of six: 0. Estimated jackpot for Wednesday night drawing: \$5 million.

...

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Saturday night: Winning numbers drawn: 2-11-12-20-21. Number matching five of five: 0. Next Cash 5 drawing: Monday night.

...

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Saturday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 5-2-9

Weather

Tonight...Partly cloudy. Lows in the upper 60s. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.

Tuesday...Sunny. Highs in the lower 90s. Light and variable winds becoming east around 10 mph in the afternoon.

Tuesday night...Partly cloudy. Lows around 70. Southeast winds around 10 mph.

Wednesday...Partly cloudy. Highs around 90. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.

Wednesday night...Mostly cloudy. Lows around 70.

Thursday...Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Highs in the lower 90s.

Thursday night...Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Lows around 70.

Friday...Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Highs in the lower 90s.

Friday night...Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Lows in the lower 70s.

Saturday...Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. Highs in the lower 90s. Chance of precipitation 20 percent.

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Bulletin Board

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

MONDAY

- The Big Spring-Howard County Retired Teacher's Association meets in the Cactus Room at Howard College, 1001 Birdwell Lane. Lunch will be served at 11:30 a.m.
- Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) No. 21 meets at 5 p.m. in the Dora Roberts Rehabilitation Center, 306 W. Third, for weigh-in. The meeting begins at 5:30 p.m. Call 1-800-392-8677 or 263-0391 or 263-1758.
- Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) No. TX 1756 meets in the First Christian Church of Big Spring, 911 Goliad. A different program is offered every week. Enter through the south side door off 10th Street. Call 213-1342 for more information. Weigh-in starts at 5 p.m.; meetings begin at 5:30 p.m.
- Evening Lions Club meets at 6:45 p.m. at Dragon China Buffett.
- DAV and Auxiliary Chapter 47 meets at 6:30 p.m. at 610 Abrams St.
- Christian Singles Fellowship meets from 7 p.m. until 9 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church Youth Hall. All singles in the community are invited for an evening of fellowship, food and table games.

Sheriff's report

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

Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 54 inmates at the time of this report.

- **HENRY CLAY HERNANDEZ**, 27, was transferred to the county jail by the BSPD Friday on a motion to revoke probation for evading arrest or detention and driving while license invalid.
- **BOBBY HAROLD DAVIS**, 32, was transferred to the county jail by the BSPD Friday on a charge of failure to appear.
- **MICHAEL STEWART DEAX JR.**, 29, was arrested by DPS Friday on a motion to revoke probation for possession of methamphetamines.
- **ADELAIDO MARTINEZ**, 55, was arrested by the HCSO Friday on a charge of bail jumping, failure to appear and violation of probation for burglary of a building.
- **MARIO SIMENTAL SR.**, 53, was arrested by DPS Friday on a charge of failure to appear for driving while intoxicated and possession of an open container.
- **JUAN RODRIGUEZ**, 29, was arrested by the HCSO Saturday on a charge of driving while license invalid.
- **LYNDELL BURL KNOX**, 56, was arrested by DPS Saturday on a charge of driving while intoxicated.
- **DIONICIO GARCIA**, 23, was arrested by DPS Saturday on a charge of driving while license invalid.
- **ALEJANDRO RAMIREZ**, 58, was arrested by the HCSO Saturday on a charge of public intoxication.
- **MARCUS LEON COLE**, 20, was transferred to the county jail by the BSPD Saturday on a charge driving while license invalid.
- **BENSON NELSON PAYNE**, 45, was transferred to the county jail by the BSPD Sunday on a charge of theft.
- **RANDY JAY YBARRA**, 20, was arrested by the HCSO Sunday on a charge of minor in consumption of an alcoholic beverage.
- **DAVID GRIJALBA MORALES**, 30, was arrested by the HCSO Sunday on a charge of criminal mischief.
- **RICHARD LEE BERNAL**, 22, was arrested by the HCSO Sunday on a charge of public intoxication.
- **JOSEPH PHILIP ANDERSON**, 27, was arrested by the HCSO Sunday on a charge of purchasing/furnishing alcohol to a minor.
- **EZAU JOVVANY MELENDEZ**, 19, was arrested by the HCSO Sunday on a charge of minor in consumption of an alcoholic beverage.
- **CASSIE RENE EMERSON**, 19, was arrested by the HCSO Sunday on a charge of minor in consumption of an alcoholic beverage.
- **ERLINDA EVETTE RIOS**, 19, was arrested by the HCSO Sunday on a charge of minor in consumption of an alcoholic beverage.
- **DONNY JUAREZ**, 24, was arrested by the HCSO Sunday on a charge of forgery of a financial instrument.
- **SHEILA EISENBACH**, 23, was transferred to the county jail by the BSPD Sunday on a charge of terroristic threat.
- **CRYSTAL NELL TEAGUE**, 28, was transferred to the county jail by the BSPD Sunday on a charge of driving while license invalid.
- **ROBERT ESAI URIAS**, 17, was transferred to the county jail by the BSPD Sunday on a charge of evading arrest or detention.
- **MIGUEL ENRIQUE JUAREZ**, 19, was arrested by DPS Sunday on charges of failure to maintain financial responsibility and driving while license invalid.

BIG SPRING HERALD

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The Big Spring Herald is a member of The Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce, Texas Press Association, West Texas Press Association, Texas Daily Newspaper Association, The Associated Press.

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POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, TX 79721. Periodicals postage paid at Big Spring, Texas.

USPS 1431-48 USPS 0055-940 ISSN 0746-6811
BY THE MONTH HOME DELIVERY: \$8.65 monthly; \$93.42 yearly (includes 10% discount). MAIL SUBSCRIPTIONS: \$12.50 monthly Howard & Martin Counties; \$13.25 elsewhere.

QUAKE

Continued from Page 1

out shortly after noon and there was no release of radioactivity or damage to the reactors, Motoyasu Tamaki, a Tokyo Electric Power Co. official, said before the NHK report was released.

Tsunami warnings were issued along the coast of Niigata but later lifted.

A series of smaller aftershocks rattled the area, including one with a 5.8 magnitude.

The Meteorological Agency warned that the aftershocks could continue for a week.

The quake hit on Marine Day, a national holiday in Japan, when most people would have been at home.

Four women and three men — all either in their 70s or 80s — were killed, according to the National

Police Agency in Tokyo and NHK, which reported more than 800 people were hurt.

Nearly 300 homes in Kashiwazaki — a city known mainly for its fishing industry — were destroyed and some 2,000 people evacuated, officials said.

A ceiling collapsed in a gym in Kashiwazaki where about 200 people had gathered for a badminton tournament, and one person was hurt, Kyodo reported. The quake also knocked a train car off the rails while it was stopped at a station. No one was injured.

Several bullet train services linking Tokyo to northern and northwestern Japan were suspended.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe — whose ruling party is trailing in the polls — interrupted a campaign

stop in southern Japan for upcoming parliamentary elections, rushed back to Tokyo and announced he would head to the damaged area. He later arrived in a blue uniform to survey the damage.

“Many people told me they want to return to their normal lives as quickly as possible,” Abe told reporters in Kashiwazaki. “The government will make every effort to help with recovery.”

Japan sits atop four tectonic plates and is one of the world’s most earthquake-prone countries. The last major quake to hit the capital, Tokyo, killed some 142,000 people in 1923, and experts say the capital has a 90 percent chance of suffering a major quake in the next 50 years.

In October 2004, a magnitude-6.8 earthquake hit



MCT photo/Yomiuri Shimbus
A man walks down toward a collapsed road in Nagaoaka, Niigata Prefecture. An earthquake with a preliminary magnitude of 6.8 jolted Niigata and Nagano prefectures at 10:13 a.m. Monday.

Niigata, killing 40 people and damaging more than 6,000 homes. It was the

deadliest to hit Japan since 1995, when a magnitude-7.2 quake killed 6,433

people in the western city of Kobe.

World/Nation briefs

U.N. nuclear watchdog confirms that N.Korea has shut its nuclear reactor

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — U.N. inspectors have verified that North Korea shut down its nuclear reactor, the watchdog agency’s chief said Monday, the first on-the-ground achievement toward scaling back Pyongyang’s nuclear ambitions since the international standoff began in late 2002.

The main U.S. envoy on the issue, meanwhile, said that the United States is looking to build on momentum and will start deliberations on removing North Korea from a list of terrorism-sponsoring states.

North Korea pledged in an international accord in February to shut the reactor at Yongbyon and dismantle its nuclear programs in return for 1 million tons of oil and political concessions. However, it stalled for several months because of a separate, but now-resolved dispute with the U.S. over frozen bank funds.

The shutdown over the weekend was confirmed by a 10-member team of IAEA inspectors, said Mohamed ElBaradei, chief of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

“The process has been going quite well and we have had good cooperation from North Korea. It’s a good step in the right direction,” ElBaradei said, speaking in Bangkok ahead of an event sponsored by Thailand’s Science Ministry.

Bomb attacks in northwest Pakistan leave 73 dead in weekend violence

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (AP) — Authorities on Monday probed suspected links between radicals from the captured Red Mosque and militants in Pakistan’s northwest frontier, where 73 people died in weekend suicide attacks and bombings.

Interior Minister Aftab Khan Sherpao said the government was investigating whether the dramatic escalation of violence in the northwest was related to the Islamabad mosque. Sherpao, speaking to Geo television news, did not elaborate.

However, officials have suggested that the mosque’s radical clerics had connections with militants in the North Waziristan region, a Taliban and al-Qaida stronghold on the Afghan border.

Officials also have said that several foreign militants were among more than 100 killed during an eight-day army siege of the mosque, but have provided no evidence to support that.

The attacks on Saturday and Sunday followed strident calls by extremists to avenge the government’s bloody storming of the mosque and a declaration of jihad, or holy war, by at least one pro-Taliban cleric. Militants in North Waziristan also tore up a peace treaty.

Los Angeles cardinal apologizes to abuse victims as \$660 million settlement reached

LOS ANGELES (AP) — After a whirlwind weekend, the negotiations that produced a landmark \$660 million settlement between the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Los Angeles and more than 500 alleged victims of clergy abuse are moving from the cathedral to the courthouse.

Attorneys from both sides, as well as Cardinal Roger Mahony, are expected in court Monday to enter a formal settlement agreement with Judge Haley Fromholtz. The deal marks the end of more than five years of negotiations and is by far the largest payout by any diocese since the clergy abuse scandal emerged in Boston in 2002.

Mahony, leader of the nation’s largest archdiocese, apologized Sunday to the hundreds of clergy sex abuse victims who will receive a share of the settlement.

“There really is no way to go back and give them that innocence that was taken from them. The one thing I wish I could give the victims ... I cannot,” he said.

“Once again, I apologize to anyone who has been

offended, who has been abused. It should not have happened and should not ever happen again.”

Candidates spend more in 2nd quarter of the year; some outpace their fundraising

WASHINGTON (AP) — It didn’t matter whether they raised more money or not, most presidential candidates certainly boosted their spending in the second quarter of the year.

More on staff. More on travel. More on consultants. Democrats outraised Republicans about \$80 million to \$50 million from April through June. But Republicans kept pace with Democrats on spending — nearly \$50 million spent on both sides.

The Democrats’ money advantage was helped in large part by the extraordinary fundraising of Sens. Barack Obama and Hillary Rodham Clinton. He raised \$32 million for the primary; she raised \$21.5 million.

But even as they raised more money, the better financed Democrats were chary about spending it all.

Democrats keeping pressure on GOP in hopes of winning converts on Iraq pullout

WASHINGTON (AP) — Republican unity on Iraq, strained but so far holding, is coming under still more pressure in the Senate as lawmakers from both parties float proposals to get troops out soon.

Democrats will try again this week to set a deadline for the reduction of U.S. forces in Iraq.

On the GOP side, two moderate Republicans with respected foreign policy credentials have proposed their own hurry-up initiative, winning a polite but clear rejection from the White House.

President Bush’s national security adviser, Stephen Hadley, said “No” when asked Sunday whether Bush could live with the proposal by Sens. John Warner of Virginia and Richard Lugar of Indiana.

He said the administration’s “very orderly process” for reviewing its Iraq plans, keyed on a mid-September appraisal of progress, should be allowed to play out without preconditions.

Lindsay Lohan checks out of rehab, agrees to wear alcohol-detecting ankle bracelet

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Lindsay Lohan has checked out of a Malibu rehab center after a stay of more than six weeks.

The “Mean Girls” star, who turned 21 on July 2, left Promises Malibu Alcohol and Drug Rehab Treatment Facility on Friday, according to a report on People magazine’s Web site Sunday.

She will voluntarily wear an alcohol-detecting ankle bracelet as part of an intensive outpatient program, said her publicist, Leslie Sloane Zelnik, in a statement.

On Saturday, Lohan was reportedly seen partying at Pure Nightclub in Las Vegas with several friends.

“In part she is wearing the bracelet so there are no questions about her sobriety if she chooses to go dancing or dining in a place where alcohol is served,” Zelnik said.

EADS taps France’s Louis Gallois as new president; Tom Enders takes reins at Airbus

TOULOUSE, France (AP) — EADS, the parent of troubled planemaker Airbus, is abandoning its twin-chief executive structure, co-CEO Tom Enders said Monday, with France’s Louis Gallois taking the company’s reins.

“We need to be a normal company,” Enders said, speaking to reporters ahead of a meeting between French President Nicolas Sarkozy and German Chancellor Angela Merkel. Enders said he become CEO of Airbus, which is struggling with losses amid production delays for its superjumbo A380.

Sarkozy — who just two months into the job has unveiled ambitious plans to fix Europe, the French economy, its ailing university system and more besides — has Airbus in his sights. He invited Merkel

to Airbus headquarters in Toulouse on Monday to seek a solution to EADS’ cumbersome dual management structure.

The unusual structure of European Aeronautic Defence & Space Co., run jointly by French and German management, was cited in a report by the French Senate last month as a major reason for Airbus’ troubles.

In an interview with the German daily Handelsblatt, released on Sunday, Merkel insisted that politics must not play a role in the decision-making process at EADS.

Miami terminal briefly evacuated after luggage bomb scare; turned out to be harmless

MIAMI (AP) — A Miami International Airport terminal was briefly evacuated early Monday after authorities found what appeared to be an explosive device but turned out to be harmless.

A watch and other items were spotted in a box that at first appeared to be part of an explosive device, said Transportation Security Administration spokesman Christopher White. The box was in an X-ray machine scanning checked luggage near a United Airlines ticket counter, he said.

“It was a collection of items that, in total, raised our officers’ suspicions to a level of contacting the Miami-Dade (County police) bomb squad,” White said.

Hundreds of passengers milled around on the median outside Terminal F with their luggage from about 5:45 a.m. until police gave the all-clear around 7:30 a.m.

The terminal serves United, AirTran Airways and other carriers.

GLIDING

Continued from Page 1

begin with task committee meetings at 9 a.m. on and after Aug. 9.

Team leader briefings are expected to follow each day at 10 a.m., followed by weather briefings at 11 a.m. Launches are expected to begin at noon, depending on weather conditions.

Glover said the pilots returning to Big Spring from the past national championships are looking forward to the world competition — not just for the hospitality, but for the premier flying conditions.

“It’s an interesting crossroad between community and the flying conditions that keep

bringing the pilots back to Big Spring,” said Glover. “The community support has been so good and the pilots feel so welcome that they really enjoy the time they spend on the ground.”

“Also, the conditions are so special here that people can fly really high up in the air and there are really strong thermals. So they really enjoyed the time they spent in the air as well.”

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

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

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H. Ralph Caffey, 84, Thursday. Funeral Service will be at 10:00 AM Monday at College Baptist Church with burial at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

Jesse R. Rentfrow, Jr., 56, died Sunday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

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Coins: Morgan Dollars slabbed and graded, Mercury Dimes, Uncirculated Roosevelt Silver Dimes, 1878 CC Liberty Seated Quarter, 3 Nickel 3 cent pieces, 1861 O Liberty Seated Half Dollar, Liberty Seated dimes, 1963 \$1.00 Uncirculated Federal Reserve Note, 1935A 1.00 Silver Certificate Hawaii overprint, 1934 \$50.00 Federal Reserve note, 1928 \$20.00 Gold Certificate, 1914 \$20.00 Federal Reserve Note “saddle blanket”.

Firearms: 3 Remington 870 shotguns, 8mm Mauser w sporterized stock, Springfield 87A 22 S&W, JC Higgins and Savage older shotguns, Hopkins & Allen single shot shotgun, S&W 357, Olympic Arms 225 cal. Savage 110 left handed 25-06, Remington 700 270win, DPMS mod AK 225 cal. Barrett 22LR, Dosko Sport Pro 44 Box, Amms.

Tools: Craftsman roll around tool box, Drill press, Tool Washer, Bench grinders on stands, vices 2 1/4 ton floor jack, Ryobi 18” scroll saw, Radial Arm Saw, Honda Pressure Washer/Sprayer, Bosch grinder, Ladders, motors, hand tools, power tools, every tool you can think of, more than we have ever had in one sale-good quality and condition Vehicles: Winnebago.

Other Items of Interest: Vintage Telephone Booth, Inflatable Boat, Air Hockey Table, Fishing Gear, Mountain Climbing Gear, Display Quality Minerals, Lawn Tools, Books impossible to name it all, treasures abound. Amazing variety! Another must see to believe auction.

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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.

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OUR VIEWS

Program needs time and money

When President Bush announced the Millennium Challenge initiative in 2002, it sounded like a promising new approach to foreign aid. The idea was to supply U.S. taxpayer dollars only to governments that could meet strict standards of efficiency and accountability. The proposal would do so based on the countries' own expressed needs, not development fads or political fealty to the United States.

Money would be provided in substantial amounts, over substantial periods, so as to make a genuine impact on poverty. And the whole project would be administered outside the traditional aid bureaucracy, by a congressionally established Millennium Challenge Corp. (MCC).

Typical of the Millennium Challenge approach is the five-year compact signed Friday with Mozambique. It will supply \$507 million to help one of Africa's poorest countries build much-needed roads and improve access to safe drinking water.

It's still a sound concept. But the Millennium Challenge may be approaching an institutional crossroads. Mr. Bush originally said that he hoped to be sending \$5 billion a year to poor countries by 2006, a pledge that never came close to being realized. Congress took two years to pass legislation setting up the program.

Since then, the administration's annual budget requests have never reached \$5 billion, and Congress has consistently shaved them even further. Most of the roughly \$6 billion that has been appropriated so far has been committed to specific countries. But budget-cutters on Capitol Hill note that only about \$71 million has actually been spent. The slow rate is an unfortunate consequence of the MCC's sensible policies: It won't write a check until recipients can document their capacity to use it appropriately, and for many poor countries making reforms and dealing with the MCC's paperwork take time — a lot of time.

Meanwhile, urgent and expensive new U.S. overseas priorities — from securing U.S. embassies to fighting HIV-AIDS — keep coming up.

The administration asked for \$3 billion for the MCC in its fiscal 2008 budget. House appropriators have cut that to \$1.8 billion, about what the MCC got last year, while Senate appropriators have gone even lower, to \$1.2 billion, a figure that the MCC says will cripple its ability to make new agreements with countries that have recently qualified for its programs. One benefit of the Millennium Challenge is that it creates an incentive for poor countries to improve their practices and procedures, but that could be lost if the impression spreads that the United States is pulling the plug.

Given the intense competition for foreign-aid resources, impatience with the Millennium Challenge is understandable and even helpful, if it forces the MCC to fix its sometimes burdensome procedures. But it is too early to start slashing a program that has been in business for only three years and still deserves a chance to show what it can do.

—The Washington Post

LETTER POLICIES

The Herald welcomes letters to the editor.

- Limit your letters to no more than 300 words.
- Sign your letter.
- Provide a daytime telephone number, as well as a street address for verification purposes.
- We reserve the right to edit for style and clarity.
- We reserve the right to limit publication to one letter per 30-day period per author.
- 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

Wrestling with professional wrestling

As a young boy growing up in Sumter, S.C., in the 1980s there were two things revered by all: Twisted Sister and professional wrestling.

OK, so maybe Twisted Sister was only revered in my household — or, more to the point, by me — but let's not star splitting hairs just yet. Besides, I don't remember hearing my parents ever say anything bad about Dee Snider, but that's another story.

I remember the first time my father took me to the civic center in our hometown to see professional wrestling — the National Wrestling Alliance, or NWA as it was better known — for the very first time. It looked so much larger than life on my little black and white television, as I'd sit up late at night watching the Von Erichs take on the Superstar, or the Fabulous Freebirds tie it on with Sgt. Slaughter and some other hapless character that never caught on.

I remember catching a glimpse of Blackjack Mulligan, one of Sweetwater's greatest exports, as he made his way to the ring, and then the Nature Boy Rick Flair, with his flamboyant dress and pomp. It was something for a young boy to behold, long before Hulk Hogan and the Giant, and the years of ever-faking that followed. The blood was real. The pain was real. And the love of the crowd was real, even if the fights and dramatic stare-downs weren't.

I think back on what wrestling was, and then I look at what it has become today, and it honestly breaks my heart.

When word spread that Chris Benoit, one of the few wrestlers of today that I can say I enjoyed hearing about, had killed his wife and son, and then himself, it made my gut wrench. You hear macabre stories such as this twisted murder suicide all the time in the news, but when it's a celebrity, it seems to force the world to sit up and take notice.

And while what happened was certainly shocking — apparently Benoit killed his wife, then his son, and then hanged himself — it's simply another link in a long, ever-growing chain of professional wrestlers dying long before their times.

The very same weekend Benoit killed his family, the body of old tag-team partner Biff Wellington



THOMAS JENKINS

— his real name was Shayne Bower — was found in his bed, dead at 42. A couple of weeks before, former women's champion "Sensational" Sherri Martel passed away at her mother's home in Alabama. She was 49.

Mike Awesome — also known as Michael Lee Alfonso in real life — was found hanged in his Florida home in February, the apparent victim of a suicide at 42. "Bam Bam" Bigelow was 45 when a lethal cocktail of cocaine and benzodiazepine, an anti-anxiety drug, stopped his already ailing heart in January.

Last year, another of Benoit's wrestling buddies, 263-pound Mike Durham, known in the business as Johnny Grunge, died at 39 from complications cause by sleep apnea, a condition that often affects larger people such as wrestlers and football players.

Not to mention Curt "Mr. Perfect" Hennig, Big Boss Man, Hercules, Crash Holly, Davey Boy Smith, Miss Elizabeth, Terry Gordy, "Gentleman" Chris Adams, Yokozuna, "Ravishing" Rick Rude, Owen Hart, Louie Spicolli, Brian Pillman, Eddie Gilbert, Buzz Sawyer, "Quick Draw" Rick McGraw, Gino Hernandez and much of the Von Erich clan.

All dead before they were 50 — and that's just a sampling of an ever-growing list. It doesn't take someone who can distinguish between a full nelson and a sleeper hold to know that's far too many wrestlers dying far too young.

Joe Laurinaitis, the wrestler known as Road Warrior Animal and father of Ohio State football star James Laurinaitis, is one of many long-time wrestlers that has had to watch the people he cared about be torn apart by an industry — notice I didn't say sport — that couldn't care less about the men and women that are its heart and soul.

His friend since childhood and longtime tag partner, Road Warrior Hawk, AKA Michael Hegstrand, died from a heart attack in 2003. Just 46, Hegstrand had battled alcohol and drugs, in addition to using steroids, Laurinaitis said in a recent interview.

"I used to watch him sometimes and just shake my head. I would think, 'Oh my God, what in the world is he doing? Why is he doing that?'" said Laurinaitis. "I saw quite a few guys go down that path."

Steroids and other muscle-building drugs long have been an accepted part of the wrestling cul-

ture, allowing the biggest names to pump up to ungodly proportions that wouldn't be possible through natural means. Granted, nobody comes right out and tells a wrestler he or she should take steroids. But all one has to do is attend a match in person or watch one on TV to realize some of these physiques just aren't plausible without help from a syringe.

"Somebody says you need to put 25 pounds on your upper body," said Larry DeGaris, who teaches sports marketing at the University of Indianapolis and moonlights on the independent wrestling circuit as "The Professor" Larry Brisco. "Well, if you have an athletic background and have been around sports for a while, you know there's only one way to do that. Nobody needs to tell you. It's just a tacit understanding."

Over the years, there are been numerous proposals to put wrestling under some sort of oversight, be it at the state or federal level. Those ideas usually have fallen on deaf ears, largely because the powers-that-be, be it the old-time regional promoters or WWE owner Vince McMahon, the guy who largely controls the sport today, don't want the government telling them how to run their business.

Of course, that's supposing there would be a business left after federal testing wiped out the ranks of wrestlers, leaving them with nobody but the Mookie Brothers (anyone else remember them?) to head to the ring.

Steroids were found in Benoit's home, though investigators haven't determined if they played any role in the brutal killings of his wife, Nancy, and their 7-year-old son. World Wrestling Entertainment, which employed Benoit and holds a virtual monopoly grip on the industry, was quick to point out that this tragedy — apparently carried out over an entire weekend — doesn't come with the classic signs of 'roid rage, the violent, unpredictable outbursts that can be caused by someone who abuses steroids.

However, it doesn't take a genius to understand they certainly played a role in the tragedy, whether McMahon is willing to admit it or not.

"From my 17 years in the business, I know probably 40 to 45 wrestlers who dropped dead before they were 50," said Lance Evers, a semiretired wrestler who goes by "Lance Storm" when he's in the

See JENKINS, Page 12

Some things we don't need to know

It is too late to draw a bright line in politics between the public's right to know and a candidate's right to privacy?

Let's hope there's still time — though after reading last Saturday's front-page New York Times story concerning Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton's faith and her political life, I'm wondering if maybe the clock has run out.

It was one thing to read about Clinton's Methodist upbringing and her role as a church youth-group member and Sunday school teacher. It wasn't even surprising to learn how Clinton's faith and her teaching on forgiveness helped her endure disclosures of her husband's extramarital affairs. She's discussed that before.

The article, however, also took us to ground seldom trod: a quiz about Hillary Clinton's theological views.

I admit, vote-seeking politicians are usually the first to let it be known that they are persons of faith. And as a recent Times poll suggested, voters like their politicians, especially presidential candidates, to have strong religious convictions, even if they don't share the same beliefs. The poll also indicated that beyond knowing whether a candidate is or isn't a person of faith, most voters, while God-fearing, aren't keen on mixing religion and politics.

For those who do care about such things, however, the Clinton interview was a veritable feast.

The story, and a transcript of the

interview that accompanied the article online, revealed the extent of the inquisitiveness. Clinton was asked to respond to such questions as:

— "Tell us a little about that more personal side of your faith — what does it look like today in terms of spiritual habits? Do you read the Bible regularly, do you pray?"

— "Do you believe in this personal relationship with God that some people talk about?"

— "What does that look like for you, and how do you feed that personal relationship with God?"

— "Do you believe that the resurrection of Jesus actually happened, that it actually historically did happen?"

— "And, do you believe on the salvation issue — and this is controversial too — that belief in Christ is needed for going to heaven?"

You get the idea. The amazing thing is that Clinton, after turning down requests for months, granted the half-hour "quiz" into her religious convictions. A "none of your business" answer would have served just as well. The same for the questions put to her.

OK, so maybe Clinton used the interview as an opportunity to do a little pandering of her own; to show off her religious bona fides, especially to folks who think she isn't right with the Lord. But look at what she opened herself — and presumably other candidates — up for.

What's next? Grill Episcopalian office-seekers on their views of a female presiding bishop, the ordination of gay bishops, a potential schism in the Anglican Communion?

Find out where Catholic political candidates stand on Pope Benedict XVI's reassertion of the Catholic Church's primacy over other Christian denominations, or his decision to allow wider use of the Latin Mass?

Probe Jewish candidates on their understanding of the Decalogue, their feelings about the Second Coming and the Virgin Birth?

None of that, in my view, is necessary or important to determining a candidate's fitness for office or stance on key issues. True, a politician's view on public matters may well be informed by religious beliefs. But knowing where a candidate stands ought to be enough; where the candidate sits on the Sabbath is less important.

It's one thing, for instance, to seek a candidate's position on gays in the military, domestic partnerships and same-sex marriage. It's quite another matter, and an intrusion, I submit, to launch a quiz of how the candidate interprets the Scriptures on homosexuality.

You want to know a presidential candidate's views on abortion, stem cell research or assisted suicide? Go ahead and ask. But you can do so without next demanding to know the extent to which those views are influenced by religious affiliation. In fact, the answer to that question may be complicated if not unknowable.

That people of faith express their convictions in the political realm is neither unusual nor inappropriate. But forcing campaigners to jump through hoops to prove their religiosity or — equally offensive — opening up the nation's pulpits for election-year pandering is a manipulation of religion that's bad

A big dipper for starry summer cocktail parties

It's not so long ago that serving chips and dips automatically meant bad news to the health-conscious. Particularly high in fat and sodium, the dips were made with large quantities of sour cream (fat!) and instant powdered soup mixes (salt!). The mere thought of chips and dip was bad for you.

But the marketplace has become more sophisticated in the last several years with the international influences of cuisines from Latin America, the Middle East and Asia. Now we have an array of appetizers to offer guest — from hummus and baba ghanoush to tapas and dim sum.

There's no reason these days not to make dinner out of these healthy little snacks, especially when it's hot outside and people tend to prefer lighter food. Nothing beats a casual gathering of friends over cocktails and appetizers on a balmy summer's eve. With a salsa dip (which



can be served with a variety of foods for dipping—bite-sized pieces of grilled chicken, carrot sticks or pita triangles) and a large, colorful fruit platter, no one will go home hungry for dinner.

This Black Bean and Orange Salsa can be made the day before, so the

hosts aren't scrambling at the last minute. Salsas can be a wholesome substitute for the sauces so often served with meats that are cheese, cream or butter-based. Fruit juices and purees are good bases for salsas and retain their body and texture without sacrificing flavor. (There

are a variety of innovative salsa recipes at www.aicr.org/Recipecorner.) These healthy alternatives not only add to the nutritious value of your dinner, they also eliminate unnecessary calories and saturated fat. Beans add substance and health to any salsa.

They are low in fat and high in dietary fiber, which is especially useful in helping control cholesterol levels in order to lower heart disease risk. They are also filling and help promote weight management by satisfying hunger. In this salsa recipe, the orange (including its zest) combined with the lime juice, chopped scallions and cilantro may remind you of a tropical island. The chopped jalapeño pepper adds the heat.

So gather your friends and enjoy good food and good company with a carefree conscience and a toast to your health.

Black Bean and Orange Salsa

- 1 navel orange
- 1 can (15 oz.) black beans, rinsed and drained
- 1 small yellow bell pepper, seeded and finely chopped
- 1 jalapeño pepper, seeded and finely chopped
- 1/2 cup cilantro leaves (stems removed), finely

- chopped
- 1/2 cup finely chopped scallions, white and green parts
- 1 Tbsp. fresh lime juice
- 1 tsp. canola oil
- Salt and freshly ground black pepper, to taste

Grate 1 teaspoon of zest from the orange, and set aside. Peel and section the orange, holding it over a medium bowl to reserve the juice. Chop the sections and place them, with all the juice collected into the bowl. Add the beans, yellow pepper, jalapeño, cilantro and scallions.

Whisk together the lime juice and oil in a small bowl. Mix it into the salsa, tossing with a fork to combine. Season to taste with salt and pepper.

Mix in the orange zest. Let the salsa stand 30 minutes before serving to allow the flavors to develop and meld.

This salsa keeps for 24 hours, tightly covered, in the refrigerator.

Weight cycling: It's really not so bad after all

A relatively common bit of "folk wisdom" says that repeatedly losing and gaining weight — weight cycling — may lead to some negative health risks, including making it harder to lose weight. This myth is becoming an important concern as excess weight is increasingly identified as a major risk for our most common health problems, including heart disease, diabetes and common forms of cancer.



KAREN COLLINS
MS, RD, CDN

According to the National Institutes of Health, myths that tie weight cycling to greater regain at the waist or to increased difficulties in future weight loss attempts are unfounded.

Research does not support dieting history influencing waistline fat and difficulty losing weight, which both tend to increase with age. Neither does research offer much support to the fear that weight cycling increases a person's tendency to regain weight. In a six-year study of healthy men and women ages 20 to 78, weight gain was not related to weight cycling in men. Women weight cyclers, who gained about one pound a year, showed only a slight tendency to gain more weight than those whose weight did not cycle.

Another study followed almost 2,500 obese men and women in a weight reduction program based on a low calorie diet. The program included 480 patients repeating the program for up to the fourth time. Among the 480 patients, there was no difference in rate of weight loss, blood pressure and blood cholesterol whether it

was the patient's first or fourth time through the program.

Studies have found that excess weight — not weight cycling — strongly increases risk of developing the common Type II diabetes. A study of more than 46,000 women aged 25 to 43 classified women who had intentionally lost at least 20 pounds or at least 10 pounds three or more times in a five-year period as severe or mild weight cyclers, respectively. Women who were more overweight were from 7 to 63 times (depending on degree of overweight) more likely to develop diabetes than the leanest women. After adjusting for weight, weight cycling was not related to development of diabetes. Women who were most overweight were more likely to have been weight cycling. But that doesn't mean that weight cycling caused the higher weight; it is just as possible

that weight cycling was more common among those who were most overweight at the start.

Research has consistently shown that excess weight increases cancer risk; only a few studies suggest weight cycling may increase risk of certain cancers at all. Overweight is a strong risk factor for cancers of the colon, endometrium (uterus), breast (after menopause) and more. In a study of more than 10,000 women ages 50 to 79, the most overweight women were much more likely to develop breast cancer. Weight gain during adulthood increased risk by 8 percent for each 11 pounds gained above the lowest adult weight. Weight cycling was not associated with increased risk.

In another study of more than 3,000 women, higher body mass index (BMI, which is a measure of weight) was linked with greater endometrial can-

cer risk. Women whose BMI was in the top 25 percent had three times the risk of endometrial cancer compared to the leanest women.

Advice to smokers is not to be afraid to try quitting even if earlier attempts were unsuccessful. With excess weight posing so many health risks, the same advice seems appropriate if you want to lose weight, especially if you can learn from past experiences to develop healthy eating and exercise habits you can maintain. Weight cycling is not desirable, but it is not as risky as staying significantly overweight.

AICR's Nutrition Hotline allows you to ask a registered dietitian questions about diet, nutrition and cancer. Access it online at www.aicr.org/hotline or by phone (1-800-843-8114) 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. ET Monday-Friday.

Coffee drinks hook kids, however caffeine, calories concern nutritionists

HACKENSACK, N.J. (MCT) — Like many people, Nicole Rivera uses coffee to survive a long day of hard work.

One cup in the morning, and sometimes a second at lunch for a little pick-me-up. Another cup in the afternoon to avoid a late-day slump. A final mug around 7 p.m. to help her finish the work she's brought home.

"Without coffee, I'm dead to the world," she says.

Rivera may sound like a veteran of the corporate world, but she just finished ninth grade.

With Starbucks and Dunkin' Donuts seemingly around every corner, educators and nutritionists say more and more teens are consuming coffee drinks, from caramel lattes to Coffee Coolattas. But is all that caffeine — not to mention sugar and calories — a good idea for kids whose bodies are still developing?

No definitive studies on the effects of caffeine on children have been done. But while caffeine doesn't stunt one's growth, as one

well-known myth suggests, it is an addictive drug that can have lasting effects — and coffee contains as much as five times the amount of caffeine as soda.

"When I was younger, you didn't drink coffee until you were 16," said nutritionist Jacqueline Baumrind. "Now you have kids 12 or 13 drinking coffee. Sometimes they don't have time to eat breakfast or lunch, and they'll have a cup of coffee to keep their energy up. When you're a growing teenager, you need nutrition."

By itself, caffeine is not particularly harmful, and may even have some health benefits. Some studies have shown caffeine may reduce the risk of Parkinson's disease, diabetes and certain forms of cancer. And studies have proven that caffeine increases both mental acuity and physical performance.

"In general, caffeine has not been proven to be as harmful as many people once thought," said David Schardt, a senior nutri-

tionist. "There's really no health downside to caffeine if you consume it smartly. It has a lot of benefits."

Yet it can cause anxiety, insomnia and a handful of stomach and cardiovascular problems, and doctors recommend that pregnant women avoid it. But the main downside to caffeine is its addictive properties and the effects on the body when one stops ingesting it — effects that may be magnified in the smaller bodies of children.

"Caffeine is the most widely used mood-altering drug in the world," said Professor Roland Griffiths of Johns Hopkins University, who has studied its effects. "We know that caffeine produces physical symptoms, that is, withdrawal symptoms, after abrupt cessation for people that chronically consume caffeine. ... Although extensive research hasn't been done in children and adolescents, there's no reason to suppose these effects aren't identical in adolescents."

Sunscreen – What is right or wrong

Bathing in sunlight must be done with caution; sunscreen myths and errors:

Myth	Reality
• Pre-tanning in solarium protects from sunburn	• Solarium increases skin's UV light damage, aging
• Self-tanning cream protects from sunburn	• Self-tanner colors only upper skin layer, does not influence pigment melanin
• Suntan lotion from last year doesn't work anymore	• Average expiration date of lotion is one year
• Dark-haired people with darker skin can tolerate more sun than light types	• Categories cannot be divided that strictly, watch your own skin's reaction
• No need for sunscreen in the shade	• Yes; reflection of sunlight can also hit the shade
• No need to reapply waterproof cream after swimming	• Waterproof cream does not give full protection; needs to be put on again after swimming
• With protection factor 20 you can stay 20 times longer in the sun	• To get full protection, you have to use lots of cream and renew the cream layer after a short time
• Curd, yogurt on the skin help against sunburn	• No; bacteria in dairy products can cause infections; ask pharmacist
• Use of after-sun products is necessary	• No; skin just needs rich cream; expensive after-sun products are often not necessary

Best to stay out of the sun between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m.

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Sports

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Monday, July 16, 2007

IN BRIEF

Physicals required for some athletes

Big Spring High School is informing all student athletes that a physical is required for all incoming seventh, ninth and 11th graders, as well as any students who are new to the district.

Physicals must be taken care of and on file at the Athletic Training Center before athletes will be allowed to practice, participate or get equipment issued to them.

Call the ATC at 264-3662 with any questions.

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 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.

Lady Steers v-ball team meeting

Big Spring's Lady Steers volleyball team will hold a parent/athlete meeting at 6 p.m. Aug. 2 at Alan and Della Partee's house at 1600 Kiowa.

The meeting will discuss rules and expectations for the upcoming season since two-a-days begin Aug. 6.

A swim party will be held following the meeting. Parents are asked to bring snacks and drinks.

Call Della Partee at 367-4038 or Coach Amanda Whitaker at (325) 864-1467 with any questions.

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.

BSGSA all-star teams raising funds

All four Big Spring

See **BRIEFS**, Page 7

Rangers avoid sweep, top Angels 5-4

The Associated Press

ANAHEIM, Calif. — Mark Teixeira homered leading off the 11th inning and had an RBI double in the eighth, leading the Texas Rangers to a 5-4 victory over the Los Angeles Angels on Sunday.

Angels starter Jered Weaver allowed a pair of unearned runs and four hits in seven innings, struck out six and retired his last 11 batters. But the Rangers tied the score 4-4 in the eighth against Scot Shields with two-out RBI doubles by Teixeira and Marlon Byrd, snapping Shields' scoreless streak at 24 2-3 innings.

Justin Speier (0-1) came on in the 11th and allowed Teixeira's 13th homer on a 3-2 pitch — less than 24 hours after striking out the side in his first game off the disabled list.

C.J. Wilson (1-1) got one out for the win and Eric Gagne, the sixth Texas pitcher, earned his 13th save in 14 attempts.

Chone Figgins was 3-for-4 with a pair of tiebreaking RBI singles. He also stole three bases to break the Angels' record for career steals.

Figgins stole second in the first inning, then swiped third base in the third. He stole second in the fifth, eclipsing the club record of

186 steals that was previously held by current Rangers first base coach Gary Pettis.

After Figgins' achievement was flashed on the video board, Pettis tipped his cap toward second base from the top step of the first base dugout and applauded. Pettis was caught stealing 47 times while playing for the Angels. Figgins has been nabbed 60 times.

Figgins' second clutch hit started a three-run fifth for the AL West leaders. Orlando Cabrera added a sacrifice fly, and Rangers nemesis Vladimir Guerrero beat the shift on the left side of the infield by bounc-

ing an outside pitch several feet to the right of second base for an RBI double.

Brandon McCarthy allowed four runs — three earned — and six hits over six innings with four strikeouts and two walks. The right-hander, who left trailing 4-2, is 0-2 in his last five outings since beating the Astros 14-1 on May 20 at Houston.

For the first time in those five starts, McCarthy's teammates scored while he was in the game — albeit with unearned runs in the third and fourth to give him a short-lived 2-1 lead.

See **RANGERS**, Page 7

Red Sox take City Championship



The Red Sox took claim to the City Championship in the Big Spring Little League Baseball's Majors Division. They defeated the Yankees June 11 in the championship game, 4-3, ending their season with a 11-2 record.

Bottom row (left to right): Roy Gomez, Hunter Hill, Lucas Escovedo, Nick Escovedo, Albert Hernandez, Sagar Patel. Middle row: Blaze Coffman, Jarred Doporto, Brian Valle, Mark Torres, Joseph Morelion. Back row: Coaches Richard Gomez, Jerry Doporto, Stan Parker, Michael Ornales.

Courtesy photo

Stewart claims first cup win of season

By CHRIS JENKINS

AP Sports Writer

JOLIET, Ill. — Yes, Tony Stewart has been known to freak out from time to time. But his recent winless streak wasn't one of those times.

Stewart broke through for his first victory of the season on Sunday, holding off Matt Kenseth at Chicagoland Speedway to break a 20-race victory drought that dated to the end of last season.

But Stewart said he never really worried about being shut out of victory lane for longer than usual, because he had cars capable of winning more often than not this year.

"I haven't been freaking out about it," Stewart said. "I've been happy that we've been in the position that we've been in."

Stewart has been in position to win several races this season, coming up short because of plain old bad luck or occasional poor fuel economy — an ongoing concern for the No. 20 team.

"I think if it was a situation where we couldn't run up front, and there were two or three teams that had stuff figured out and we couldn't compete with them and we were running 20th or 30th every week and couldn't figure out what to do to get into the top-five again, then you would be worried about not winning races," Stewart said.

But as long as the performance

was there, Stewart figured he'd win sooner or later.

"When I've got a car every week where I know I at least have the capability of running up front, you know that you can't have bad luck forever," Stewart said.

Rediscovering victory lane was only one of the two pressing problems Stewart resolved over the weekend, as the two-time champion said he has patched his rift with upstart teammate Denny Hamlin after a lecture from team owner Joe Gibbs on Saturday.

Hamlin and Stewart spent the week trading barbs in the media after the two teammates wrecked at Daytona International Speedway last week. The situation became ugly enough for team owner Joe Gibbs to take a last-minute detour from a planned vacation and come to the track on Saturday to gather Stewart and Hamlin for a hastily arranged meeting.

Gibbs was not present at the track Sunday, but his son, team president J.D. Gibbs, said Stewart and Hamlin got a glimpse of how Gibbs handles his football team instead of the more laid-back demeanor the coach usually carries through the NASCAR garage area.

"He was a little more intense yesterday then he normally is in

See **NASCAR**, Page 7



MCT photo/John Smerciak

Race winner Tony Stewart celebrates in victory lane after winning the USG Sheetrock 400 at Chicagoland Speedway in Joliet, Ill. Sunday.

NASCAR

Continued from Page 6

the racing world," Gibbs said.

Stewart called the meeting "great," praising Gibbs for his ability to get people to work together. He said he and Hamlin worked better together than ever before on the track on Sunday, using hand signals — no, not the R-rated kind — to communicate strategies during the race.

"You know, Denny's a young guy," Stewart said. "As far as teammates, we're only a year and a half into our relationship. And out of a half-hour meeting yesterday, it's probably going to make us stronger than ever."

But Stewart's victory on Sunday had more to do with his strong race car than the pep talk from his team owner — and it certainly didn't hurt that Stewart's strongest com-

petitor, Jimmie Johnson, hit the wall with 45 laps remaining after his tire suddenly went flat.

Johnson walked away without any serious injuries beyond a sore elbow, but it left his car mangled and ruined his chance at a victory.

"We were definitely going to try hard," Johnson said. "We had a good shot at it."

The accident jumbled pit strategies for the race leaders.

Most of them only needed a splash of fuel to make it to the end when they pitted with 40 laps left.

Matt Kenseth pulled side-by-side to challenge Stewart on the restart, but Stewart held him off. Kenseth said that was his only real chance to get past Stewart — but he nearly lost control of his car while making the move and backed off to finish second.

"I had that one shot at him, and I couldn't quite

finish the pass," Kenseth said.

Kenseth couldn't mount a charge on subsequent restarts and held off teammate Carl Edwards to finish second.

Edwards finished third, followed by Kevin Harvick and pole-sitter Casey Mears.

With two cars in the top three on Sunday, it was another step forward in what started off as a down year for the Roush-Fenway team.

"I think we've been working pretty hard, and we've been gaining some ground," Edwards said.

Now that Stewart is back in victory lane, he and the rest of the Cup field seem to be gaining ground on Hendrick.

Hendrick drivers Johnson, Jeff Gordon, Kyle Busch and Mears won 10 of the first 14 races.

But Hendrick now has been shut out of victory lane for the past five races.

Little Leaguers play T-ball at White House

By ANN SANNER

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Little Leaguers wore No. 42 to honor baseball legend Jackie Robinson as they faced off Sunday in a T-ball game on the South Lawn of the White House.

This year marks the 60th anniversary of Robinson's debut with the Brooklyn Dodgers, when he broke the major leagues' long-standing color barrier.

"Jackie Robinson was a pioneer," President Bush said before retiring Robinson's number from South Lawn games.

The two Little League teams — the Inner City Little League Highlanders of Brooklyn and the Wrigley Little League Dodgers of Los Angeles — represented the two home cities of the Dodgers franchise. Both teams are part of the Little League's

Urban Initiative, which seeks to promote the game among inner-city kids.

Per South Lawn rules, there were no outs and no strikes in the one-inning game. Each player got a chance to bat a ball placed on a tee and round the bases. ESPN announcer Karl Ravech called the game's play-by-play action.

The players were cheered on by base coaches Tommy Lasorda and Don Newcombe, Robinson's former teammates.

Robinson was a great competitor, Lasorda told reporters.

"I never saw a guy that wanted to beat you like he did," he said. "He could beat you with his glove. He could beat you with his legs. He could beat you with the bat."

Lasorda remembered Robinson as a team player. "He didn't play for the

name on the back of the shirt. He played for the name of the front of the shirt," he said.

The steamy temperatures didn't stop the crowd from showing their support for the athletes, who ranged in age from 5 to 8. First lady Laura Bush, Attorney General Alberto Gonzales, Interior Secretary Dirk Kempthorne, Sen. John Warner, R-Va., and Alphonso Jackson, secretary of housing and urban development, watched the matchup.

Hall of Famer Frank Robinson, the first black manager of a major league team, served as the game's honorary commissioner.

Bush, once owner of the Texas Rangers baseball team, started the White House T-ball game in 2001 to promote interest in baseball and foster a spirit of teamwork and service.

RANGERS

Continued from page 1B

The errors that led to the runs were committed by Figgins and Reggie Willits — both of whom were playing out of position at second base and right field, respectively. Figgins started at second for the second time this season in place of injured Howie Kendrick. Willits made his ninth start in right field while Guerrero was the DH.

Notes: The Angels loaded the bases in the eighth against Ron Mahay, but the left-hander got out of it by retiring pinch-hitter Maicer Izturis and Jeff Mathis on popups. ... Izturis lost his bat while swinging at a pitch and it went flying toward the Rangers' dugout, where Pettis used his quick feet one more time to get out of harm's way. ... In his previous

four starts, McCarthy left the game with the Rangers trailing 4-0, 1-0, 3-0 and 2-0. ... Angels closer Francisco Rodriguez pitched two perfect innings. It was the fourth time he went longer than one inning, including a two-inning appearance May 6 against the White Sox.

Twins 4, Athletics 3

The Minnesota Twins are finding their form from last season when they made an unlikely playoff run. Second-half success for the Oakland A's, meanwhile, has yet to be found.

Joe Mauer singled home the winning run in the ninth inning after Justin Morneau hit a tying homer in the eighth, and the Twins completed a four-game sweep of the slumping Athletics with a 4-3 victory Sunday.

"It's kind of feelings of last year at this time,"

Minnesota third baseman Nick Punto said. "Guys were coming up with big hits with a guy on base, and I kind of see signs of last year. Hopefully we can get on some kind of roll like we did last year."

Eric Chavez homered for the A's, who have lost seven in a row — their longest skid since also dropping seven straight in late May last season. They have scored three runs or fewer in 10 consecutive games, matching a team record set in September 1978.

Luis Castillo led off the ninth with a triple against reliever Joe Kennedy (2-8) and trotted home on Mauer's third hit of the game, which bounced through a drawn-in infield.

Castillo, who normally rests his aching legs on day games after night games, dashed around the bases to set up the winning run.

Morneau tied the score

at 3 with his 25th home run, a shot into the right-field upper deck off reliever Santiago Casilla. Minnesota earned its fifth series sweep this season and first four-game sweep since taking four in a row against Kansas City from Aug. 3-6, 2006.

The Twins hope to show the rest of the AL that they're capable of turning it on the way they did last season. Minnesota won 71 of its final 104 games in 2006 and captured the AL Central crown on the season's final day.

"These guys are rejuvenated, ready to go," All-Star center fielder Torii Hunter said. "We know what we did last year. We can kind of build off of that."

Pat Neshek (4-1) worked one inning of relief for the win, striking out two.

Tigers 11, Mariners 7

Justin Verlander earned his 11th win and Marcus

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.gotrosevolleyballcamps.com.

Texas Tech schedules camps

Tech's High Altitude Cross Country Camp will be held Aug. 6-10 in Cloudfcroft, N.M.

For more information, call Jon Murray at (806)742-3355 or e-mail him at jonathan.murray@ttu.edu.

Visit TexasTech.com for more information.

Thames hit a three-run homer off Jeff Weaver, helping Detroit gain a four-game split with host Seattle in an entertaining series between surging teams.

Verlander (11-3) allowed four runs and eight hits in seven innings, reaching 100 mph with his overpowering fastball.

Weaver (2-7), who beat Detroit to clinch the World Series title for St. Louis last year, gave up seven runs and 10 hits in five-plus innings. He was 2-0 with a 1.67 ERA in his previous six starts.

Blue Jays 2, Red Sox 1

Jesse Litsch held Boston to one run in 6 2-3 innings, and Lyle Overbay had three hits off All-Star game winner Josh Beckett to lead Toronto past host Boston.

A 22-year-old rookie making his sixth career start, Litsch (2-3) allowed nine hits and a walk while striking out two. Jeremy Accardo pitched the ninth for his 12th save.

Beckett (12-3) yielded two runs on seven hits and two walks, striking out eight over eight innings in his first start since earning a win with two scoreless innings in the All-Star game.

Yankees 7, Devil Rays 6

Derek Jeter hit a two-run homer, Andy Phillips

snapped an eighth-inning tie with an RBI single and visiting New York rallied past Tampa Bay to climb above .500 for the first time in more than three weeks.

New York (45-44) moved above .500 for the first time since June 22.

Robinson Cano made it 5-all in the eighth with a sacrifice fly off Casey Fossum (5-8), and Jeter put the Yankees up 7-5 with an RBI infield single later in the inning.

Luis Vizcaino (5-2) retired the only batter he faced and got the win.

Indians 5, Royals 3

Travis Hafner had three hits, including a long two-run homer, to help Fausto Carmona and host Cleveland defeat Kansas City.

Carmona (11-4) improved to 8-0 with a 1.98 ERA in nine daytime starts. The Indians improved baseball's best home record to 33-13 with their seventh victory in eight games at Jacobs Field.

Hafner's 15th homer after a walk to Victor Martinez made it 2-0 in the first inning against Jorge De La Rosa (7-10).

Orioles 5, White Sox 3

Brian Roberts and Corey Patterson homered and Garrett Olson earned his first major league win.

BRIEFS

Continued from Page 1B

Girls Softball Association All-Star teams are raising funds for expenses for the tournaments on the UTPB campus in Odessa. Each team will begin play Friday and will continue through Sunday.

All-star teams need to raise \$1,400 each.

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

Wal-Mart, HEB playing for charity

Employees of HEB and Wal-Mart have scheduled a charity softball game at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday at Cotton Mize field in Comanche Trail Park.

Admission is free and all proceeds made from the concession stands will

be donated to charity.

Wal-Mart will be playing for the Boys Club and Relay for Life, while HEB is playing for The United Way.

O.H. Ivie opening hunting to public

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

Permits will be limited. A public drawing for the 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 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 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. each day.

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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

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

Contract Bridge
By Steve Becker
Famous Hand

East dealer. North-South vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ J 10 5
♥ 7 5 2
♦ A Q 10
♣ K Q 6 2

WEST
♠ K 9
♥ K Q 8 4
♦ J 7 6 3 2
♣ J 4

EAST
♠ 7 3
♥ 9 6 3
♦ 9 5 4
♣ 10 8 7 5 3

SOUTH
♠ A Q 8 6 4 2
♥ A J 10
♦ K 8
♣ A 9

The bidding:
East South West North
Pass 1♠ Pass 2♠
Pass 2♦ Pass 4♦
Pass 4NT Pass 5♦
Pass 5NT Pass 6♦
Pass 6♠

Opening lead — king of hearts.

The 1984 World Team Olympiad was won by Poland, which decisively defeated France in a 96-deal final. This deal occurred early in the match and resulted in a gain of 17 international match points for the Poles.

Both teams arrived at six spades, and both Wests found the only lead to give declarer a problem, the king of hearts.

At the table where a French pair held the North-South cards, declarer won the heart lead and immediately played the A-K-Q of clubs, discarding a heart. Had the third round of clubs survived, declarer would next have cashed three diamonds, discarding his last heart to secure the contract.

But as it was, the Polish West trumped the third club and cashed the queen of hearts to set the slam. South later tried a spade finesse and lost to the king to finish down two.

At the other table, Tomasz Przybora of Poland found a better way to try to make the slam. After taking the ace of hearts, he cashed the K-A-Q of diamonds, discarding a heart. Then came a key move — he cashed the ace of spades before playing the three top clubs, discarding his last heart on the third club.

It now did not matter that West had started with only two clubs, because when he trumped the third club, he had to do so with the king of spades. Przybora then scored the rest of the tricks and his slam. This, combined with the result at the other table, gave Poland a gain of 1,630 points, and put it well on the road to the world title.

This same hand also produced a big swing — and yet another variation in the play — in the U.S.-Great Britain women's final. That story will appear in this space tomorrow.

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DRIVERS BE HOME DAILY. Coastal Transport is a leader in transport of LPG Asphalt & Petroleum Products. Coastal serves high profile accounts & needs dedicated professionals to join our growing team in Big Spring. Qualify 23 with class A & One year driving experience. Inquire about Sign-on Bonus up to \$4000. Call Russell at 888-527-7221.

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DRIVERS WANTED. Find out why our average length of driver employment is 9 years. Reagent Chemical, a family owned company is dedicated to providing great service to our customers and taking care of our employees, is currently hiring professional drivers in Stanton, Texas. There is \$1000.00 Sign On Bonus for Qualified Drivers. Requirements include Class A CDL with Tank and Hazmat endorsements. Minimum of 2 years driving or 1 year tanker experience. Paid weekly by check or direct deposit. Benefits include family health & dental insurance with no premium contribution by the employee. 401K with company match plus profit sharing. Company paid life insurance, short and long term disability, additional life and disability is available thru group coverage. Up to 10 days vacation starting first year plus 10 paid holidays. Uniforms provided. Call 432-458-3446 or 432-661-4079.

DUNCAN DISPOSAL - Now hiring a driver for the Coahoma area. Need at least a Class B CDL. Experience Preferred for a driver's position. Monday-Thursday 2p-4p and on Fridays 1p-3p to apply in person. Must be able to pass mandatory DOT and corporate drug testing requirements. The job includes 40+ hours weekly Mon.-Fri.; with some Sat. mornings. An hourly rate with benefits package is available. Call 432-563-5060. Equal Opportunity Employer.

GROWING Home Health Agency needs a Full Time LVN to cover Big Spring and Surrounding Areas, great benefits and paid time off. Please apply at 1714 Gregg Street or call 432-263-3800 for Applications. EOE.

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Apply in person at 605 North Benton Big Spring, Texas EOE/AA employer

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IMMEDIATE OPENINGS for Backhoe Operators, Dump truck drivers, motorgrader with CDL. Great Pay and end of the month bonuses. Also need Roustabouts helpers. Apply at Rusty's Oilfield Service in Stanton. 1 Mile West of Stanton on North Service Road of 1-20 Monday thru Friday 8-5. (432)756-2821.

Help Wanted

INFANT CAREGIVER - apply at Jack & Jill Child Care, 1708 Nolan.

Job Fair -

Wednesday, July 25th. D.H. Blattner & Sons, Inc. will be hosting a job fair for our Stanton, TX Wind Turbine Project. We are looking for the following safety conscience, experienced personnel: Secretary General Laborers Water Truck Drivers (with CDL) Roller Operators Excavator Operators Blade Operators Dozer Operators Interested parties are encouraged to stop by the Martin County Community Center, 301 North St. Theresa, Stanton, TX from 9am-2pm on Wednesday, July 25th.

If you are not able to attend the job fair please stop by the Work Force Center at 3510 N. Avenue A. Building A, Midland, TX; fill out an application on-line at www.dhblattner.com or call 1-888-356-2307 to request an application.

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NOW HIRING Bartenders and Cocktail waitresses. Must be 18. Call the San Franciscan Bar & Grill at (432)267-1767 or 213-0946.

NOW SEEKING Full time position for Martin County Home Health. Full time LVN with full benefits. Also seeking position for PRN CNA. If interested in any of these positions please contact Allison Williams, RN @ (432)756-3259 or fax resume to (432)756-4510.

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PART-TIME POSITION- apply at Jack & Jill Child Care, 1708 Nolan.

PAUL'S PLACE liquor Bar is now seeking Bartenders, part-time. Will train, must have good attitude. For application call 432-263-6292.

PIZZA INN NOW HIRING FOR ALL POSITIONS. APPLY IN PERSON AT 1702 GREGG. NO PHONE CALLS.

BASIC ENERGY Services is accepting applications for The Industrial Sand Blasting & Coating Divisions. Must have valid drivers license. Experience preferred but will train. Must be drug free. Call 432-556-9475 or 213-6641.

POLLARD CHEVROLET Parts Department has a full-time position open. Computer knowledge & experience in automotive preferred. Some heavy lifting. Benefits: Health & Life insurance, 401(k). 1501 East 4th St.

PARKVIEW NURSING & Rehabilitation Center Now accepting applications for Quality Assurance Nurse/ Assistant Director of Nursing * Both RN and LVN's will be considered
* Good People skills a must
* Long Term Care experience preferred
* Must be flexible with daily duties
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* Flexible work schedule
* Every other weekend off
Apply in person at 3200 Parkway Rd.

STATE LICENSED JOURNEYMEN ELECTRICIANS and HELPERS

Local Company Seeks Qualified applicants for LOCAL work. Paid holidays, Vacation and Sick Time. Weekends Off. All interested applicants, please phone (432)263-3939.

TAKING APPLICATIONS: Counter Person with computer and tire knowledge. Excellent pay for experience. Apply in person only. No phone calls. **Don's Tire & Truck Service Inc.**

South Service Rd. I-20 Exit 178 Big Spring, Texas

TAKING APPLICATIONS: Experienced only Diesel/ Gasoline Mechanic. Must have valid Driver License. Excellent pay plus commission for experienced person. **Tire Tech.** Pay according to experience. Must be 21 or older. **Apply in person only. Don's Tire & Truck Service Inc., South Service Rd. I-20 Exit 178, Big Spring. No Phone Calls!**

THE CITY of Big Spring is hiring for the following positions....

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Jailer Animal Control Officer EXCELLENT BENEFITS including 100% paid Employee Health Ins. and FREE admission to the Comanche Trail Park pool and Moss Creek Lake.

Call (432)264-2346 or go to www.ci.big-spring.tx.us EOE/Smoke & Drug Free Workplace

WANTED EXPERIENCED cashier, must be able to work Saturdays. Hours 9:30am-6:30pm. Apply in person only at Bargain Mart, 403 Runnels.

WHITTEN INN now hiring the following positions: **Housekeepers, Maintenance, Desk Clerks. Apply in person, on I-20 next to TA Truck Stop.**

Help Wanted

TRUCK DRIVER Helena Chemical Company, a national agricultural-chemical company, has an immediate opening for an experienced truck driver. This position will make deliveries, load and unload product, utilize a forklift, and perform general warehouse duties. Requires high school diploma or equivalent, CDL with HAZMAT endorsement. We offer an excellent working environment and outstanding compensation and benefits package. For consideration, please apply in person: Helena Chemical Company 100 S. St. Peter Stanton, Tx 79782 Pre-employment drug screen required. EOE M/F/V/H

Items for Sale

97 EMERALD 4 seat sport boat- \$1,295.00. Also have 2 seat fishing boat- \$550.00. Call (432)270-1438.

Lost and Found

LOST MINIATURE Dachshund (black & tan) in the Sand Springs area. Child's pet please call 432-213-5247.

Miscellaneous

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KING MATTRESS 3 pc set and Hollywood frame, must sell fast. Never used, can deliver. \$295. 806-549-3110.

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FOR SALE, 1999 4WD Chevrolet Tracker. Good condition. \$3,500. Call (432)213-5722.

Legals

PUBLIC NOTICE ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS The Big Spring Independent School District shall receive sealed bid proposals for the following areas:

Career & Applied Technology Education -- Supplies & Equipment and Supplemental Instructional -- Supplies & Equipment

These bids will form a multi-vendor list for instructional personnel to be securing supplies, equipment, and contracted services. Specifications and bid documents may be secured from the school district's Business Office, 708 East 11th Place, Big Spring, Texas 79720-4648, phone number (432)264-3620, or from the district's website, www.bsisd.esc18.net. The school district will begin opening bids on July 23, 2007, in the Business Office of the Big Spring Independent School District. The Business Office will continue to receive and open bids through 2:00 pm, August 7, 2007. All bids must be received by 2:00 pm, August 7, 2007. Bids will be presented for consideration to the Board of Trustees on August 16, 2007, at 5:15 p.m. at their regularly scheduled board meeting. The Big Spring Independent School District reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids. #5427 July 9 & 16, 2007

Legals

SECTION 00020 ADVERTISEMENT AND INVITATIONS FOR BIDS

The City of Coahoma, Texas will receive bids for Sewer Improvements Surplus Funds, TCDP Project #725060 until 5:00 PM, Local Time, August 21, 2007 at Coahoma City Hall, P.O. Box L, 122 N. 1st St., Coahoma, Texas 79511.

The Principal items of work for this project are set forth in specific detail in each proposal section of the specifications. However, the principal work items may be generally described as follows: furnish and install a duplex pump fiber glass lift station, rehab a existing sewer manhole, replace three (3) pumps at the Wastewater Treatment Plant, new side roll to be used for effluent irrigation and miscellaneous appurtenances.

Immediately following the closing time for receipt of bids, proposals will be publicly opened and read aloud at the 7:00 PM Council Meeting at City Hall. Any bid received after closing time will be returned unopened. Bids will be tabulated and presented to the City Council for award at a later date.

Bidders must submit a Cashier's or Certified Check issued by a bank satisfactory to the Owner, or a Proposal Bond from a reliable Surety Company, payable without recourse to the order of the City of Coahoma, Texas, in an amount not less than five percent (5%) of the bid submitted as a guaranty that the Bidder will enter into a contract and execute bonds in the forms provided within fifteen (15) days after notice of award of contract to him. Bids without the required check of Proposal Bond will not be considered.

The successful Bidder will be required to furnish a Performance Bond and a Payment Bond, each in the amount of the contract, written by a responsible Surety Company, authorized to do business in the State of Texas, and satisfactory to the Owner, as required by Article 5160, V.A.T.C.S., as amended by H.B.344, passed by the 56th Legislature, Regular Session 1959.

Bidders are expected to inspect the site of the work and to inform themselves regarding all local conditions.

Information for bidders, proposal forms, specifications and plans are on file in the office of the Mayor, City Hall, City of Coahoma, Texas, and at the office of Parkhill, Smith & Cooper, Inc., Consulting Engineers, 5030 E. University, Ste C-104, Odessa, TX 79762.

Copies of the plans, specifications and contract documents may be secured at the office of Parkhill, Smith & Cooper, Inc., Consulting Engineers, 5030 E. University, Ste C-104, Odessa, TX 79762 (Phone (432)520-2110) for a price of THIRTY DOLLARS (\$30.00) for each set of plans and specifications. The deposit is NON-REFUNDABLE.

Attention is called to the fact that not less than the federally determined prevailing (Davis-Bacon) wage rate, as issued by the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs and contained in the contract documents must be paid on this project. 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.

Bids may be held by the City of Coahoma, Texas for a period not to exceed sixty (60) days from the date of the bid opening for the purpose of reviewing the bids and investigating the Bidder's qualifications prior to the contract award.

The City of Coahoma, Texas reserves the right to reject any or all bids or to waive any informalities in the bidding.

All contractors/subcontractors which debarred, suspended or otherwise excluded from or ineligible for participation on federal assistance programs may not undertake any activity in part or in full under this project.

CITY OF COAHOMA, TEXAS Bill Read, Mayor #5428 July 9 & 16, 2007

su|do|ku Puzzles by Pappocoom ANSWERS 4 2 5 8 1 7 9 3 6 8 1 7 3 9 6 5 2 4 9 3 6 4 5 2 7 1 8 5 7 8 1 6 3 4 9 2 2 6 1 5 4 9 3 8 7 3 9 4 2 7 8 6 5 1 7 4 3 9 2 1 8 6 5 6 8 2 7 3 5 1 4 9 1 5 9 6 8 4 2 7 3

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Tomorrow's Horoscope

BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

The sun in Cancer has a plan, but her every attempt is thwarted by the elements. Maybe it's a boondoggle!

If you've ever seen a dog digging a hole in the sand, you understand the meaning of boondoggle. The sand folds right back in!

While futile strategies reveal themselves today, others show promise of working ... eventually.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Can you be sorry you did something and still be willing to do it again? Not really. The action in question fills a deep need. The saving grace is that this need can be filled in more ways than one.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Stonecutters sometimes hammer away at a rock a hundred times without seeing so much as a crack. Then, on whack number 101, it all comes apart. Keep pounding away; you're about to break this thing open.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You're rolling in a high-stakes game now, but it's remarkably similar to when you were playing for pennies. Do what has to be done without a worry as to the cost.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). The stars align to amplify your social charms. It's like you can cast a spell on anyone you choose to enchant. Flirt your way through a traffic jam or out of a sticky situation at work.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You tend to think of love

as something that is destined, something that just happens — chalk it up to chemistry, magic, luck. Well, today, it's a lot more like hard work. But you're up for it.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Today shows you doing something that, if done right, you'll never have to do again. Bring your A-game and your supportive team members — Capricorn and Leo people.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). The game has changed. So when you feel mystified as to what's going on, know that you're not alone. Rub your eyes, and then refocus.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Your communication style is direct and cutting edge. By just being yourself, you may intimidate someone whose style is more diplomatic and old-fashioned.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). There's no more capable problem solver than you. Even if it seems like overkill, use the sharpest tool in your kit to fix what needs fixing. Tonight, turn in early — tomorrow is a big day.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Why settle for being continually disgruntled? A new mental picture will energize your love life. Be optimistic. A loved one is willing to accommodate your needs.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Everybody wants you. Keeping busy won't be a problem. Relaxing might be. Affirm the following: "Help is all around, and I accept it freely. I deserve

to relax." PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Your star quality attracts new opportunities — in fact, more opportunity than you're ready to take on. Ask your loved ones to share the load, and then actually let them do this.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS: "My birthday is Sept. 5, 1980. I was born in Boston at 6:45 p.m. My spouse was born Oct. 26, 1979. We're in a rough patch, and I feel like I'm at a dead end. We've been together for seven years, married for less than one, and it isn't getting any easier. There are a lot of issues going on with anger, and my feelings are constantly being disregarded and hurt. I feel raw toward the one I love. Can we make our relationship work? If so, how?"

He's extremely sensitive to your anger. When you express your anger, he recoils — from everything you do and say in those heated moments. You both have Scorpio in your respective charts, so resentments and grudges don't really die until you make a conscious choice not to bring them up ever again. You need to hold yourselves to the following rules: Don't bring up past arguments or old wounds. When you need to feel heard, he agrees to listen without interrupting until you're finished. In the heat of the moment, hold this in your hearts: The point isn't to win the argument; the point is to restore your loving connection, which, for you two, is written in the stars.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Will Ferrell, a medium? Cancer folks clue in to

Annie's Mailbox

Dear Annie: I'm a 59-year-old woman. My husband had a terrible childhood with a mentally abusive mother. She is so nasty that his other siblings have no contact with her, but my husband still treats her extremely well. She lives far away, but we have sent her money the entire 25 years we have been married, even though all the other siblings make a lot more money than we do.

My husband says his mother is mentally ill. I say she is just mean. I cannot understand why my husband is willing to take such garbage from the person who hurt him so much. He would not take this abuse from anyone else.

I finally gave up dealing with her. I used to call her and then cry for days from the horrible things she'd say to me, but I don't call her anymore. I would be entirely rid of her if I divorced my husband, and I'm almost ready to do it. I'm so tired of being hurt. Does that sound awful of me? I want my husband to tell her that the money train stops if she continues to be mean to me. — Sad in Shreveport, La.

Dear Sad: You do not have to have any contact with your mother-in-law if she treats you with disrespect, but it is not a good idea to dictate to your husband how he should deal with his mother. Let him know you will no longer speak to her in person or on the telephone, since she is so hurtful, but allow him to treat her in whatever way brings him peace of mind.

Dear Annie: I have a good friend of many years, "Irma," who has a heart of gold. She



KATHY MITCHELL MARCY SUGAR

recently had a group of friends at her home for a barbecue. The meal was OK. However, the kitchen sink, refrigerator and countertops were absolutely a disgrace. They were so dirty! I am not a clean freak, but I have never seen a restroom at any public facility as filthy as her bathroom, especially around the commode.

I don't want to offend Irma, but I am hesitant to ever eat at her place again. I would be happy to ask my cleaning lady to clean Irma's kitchen and bathroom. Should I offer? — A Friend

Dear Friend: You can offer, provided you don't tie it to the condition of her house. First, ask your cleaning lady if she would be willing to do this, or knows someone who would. Then you can approach Irma and say, "By the way, my cleaning lady is looking for some extra work (or she has a friend who is). Would you be interested?"

Dear Annie: I enjoy reading your column, and I think your advice is terrific! In response to "L," about co-workers who ignored her, I couldn't help thinking of a situation I'm currently dealing with at my office.

I have a co-worker who complains regularly about being left out or not told what is going on, but it simply isn't true. For some reason, she's decided to take the role of martyr, and it's frustrating to everyone. We include "Nancy" in all the planning, she is informed of meetings or lunches and so forth, but inevitably, I hear the whine, "Nobody tells me anything! I don't know what's going on."

Nancy has become so annoying with her complaining that, unfortunately, we are starting to leave her out of discussions. I've tried talking to her directly. I've tried sending her e-mail reminders about things she claims not to know about. She doesn't respond most of the time, or just says, "Oh."

I don't think there's much any of us can do to make her feel happy or included. She's excluded herself. — Frustrated Co-worker in Texas

Dear Texas: Nancy sounds like she has some problems with her memory and attention. If your e-mail program allows you to request a "return receipt," you should use that feature so you know Nancy has seen your messages, and you have a record. Beyond that, it's up to her to keep abreast of what's going on.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to anniesmailbox@comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, P.O. Box 118190, Chicago, IL 60611.

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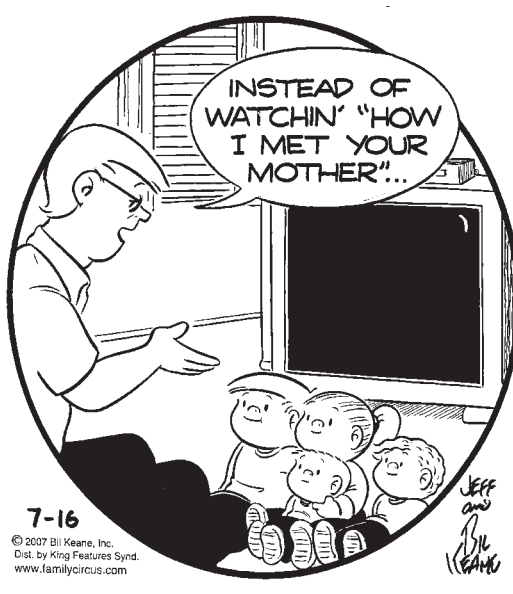
Table with 24 columns (WFAA, KMID, UNI, KPEJ, KOSA, KTLT, KWES, WTBS, KMLM, KPBT, DISC, AMC, SPIKE, TNT, BET, DISN, ESPN2, ESPN, SCIFI) and 7 rows (6:30, 7:00, 8:00, 9:00, 10:00, 11:00, 12:30) listing various TV programs and their channels.

DENNIS THE MENACE



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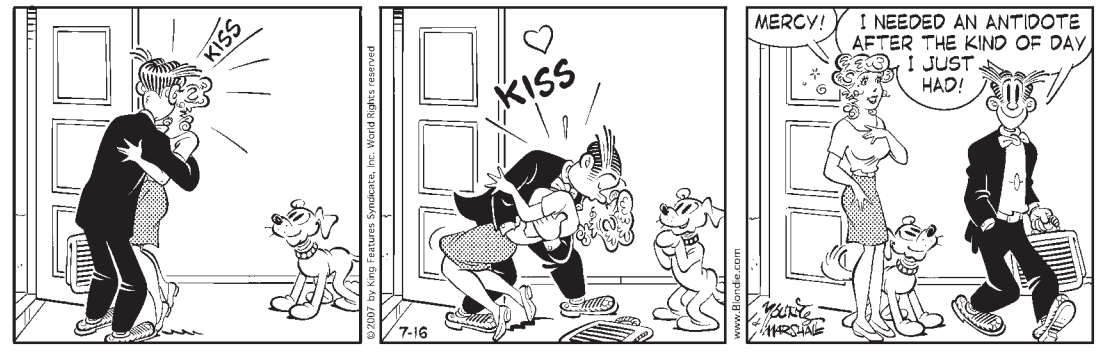
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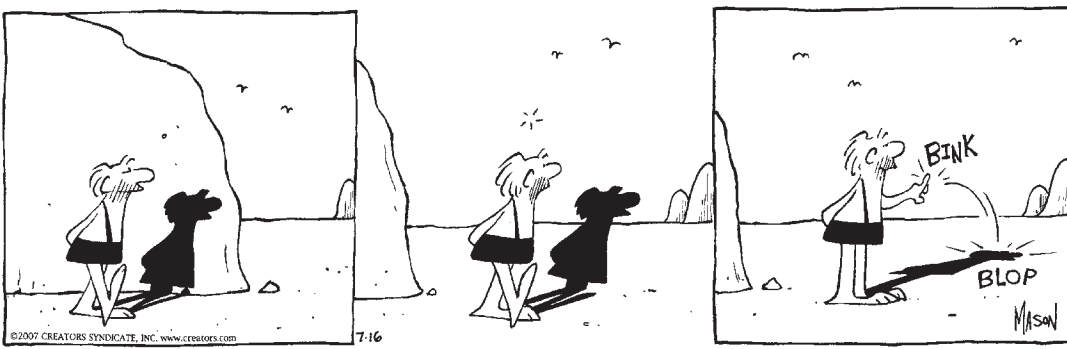
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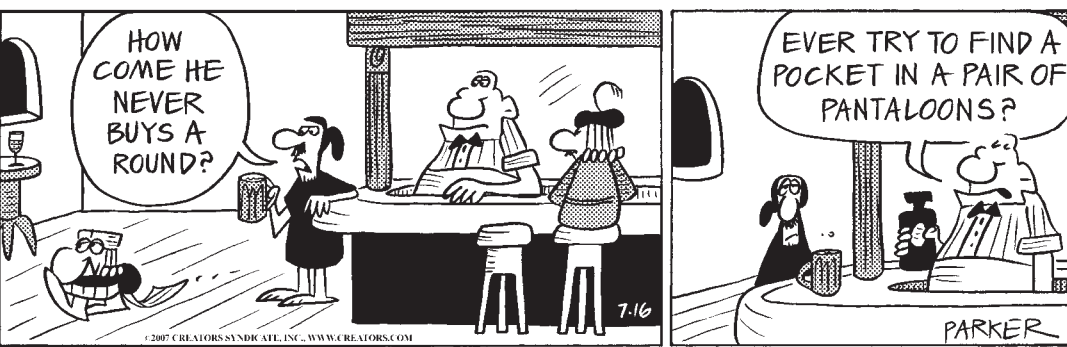
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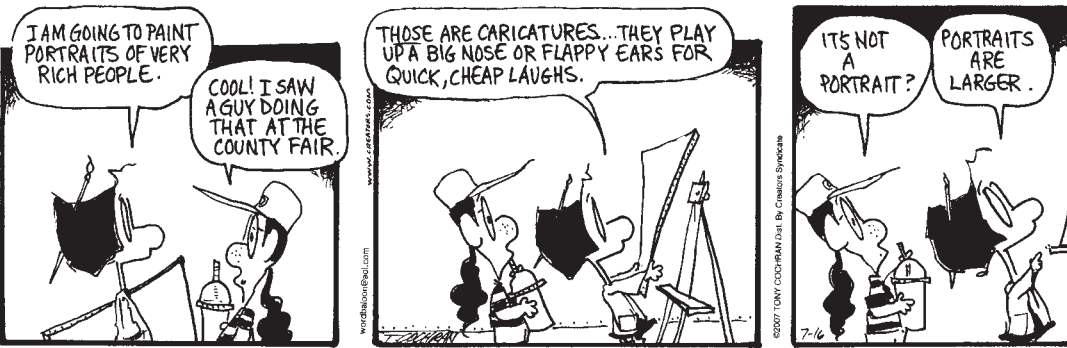
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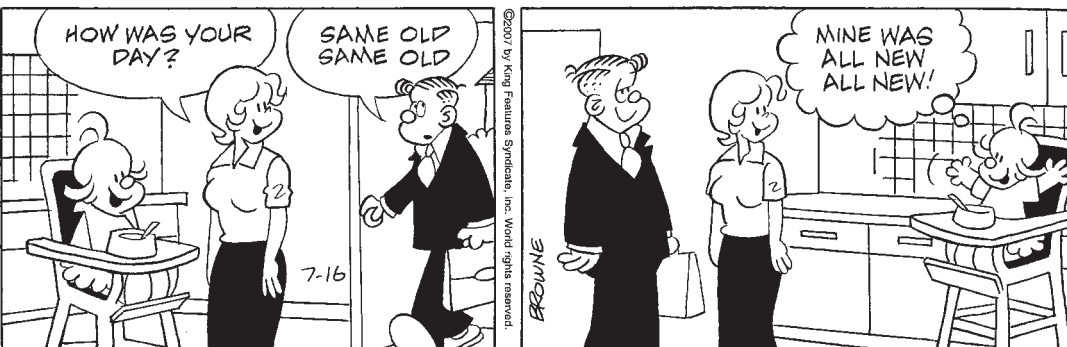
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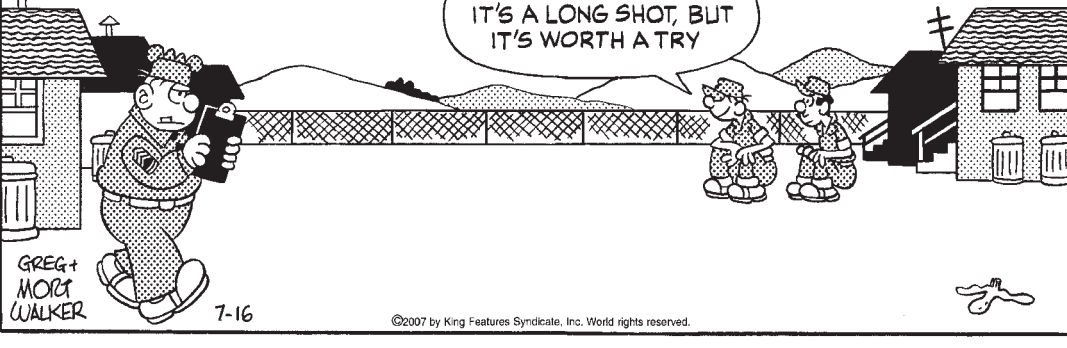
THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BETLE BAILEY



This Date In History

Today is Monday, July 16, the 197th day of 2007. There are 168 days left in the year. Today's Highlight in History: On July 16, 1945, the United States exploded its first experimental atomic bomb...

born in Brazil, Ind. In 1957, Marine Maj. John Glenn set a transcontinental speed record by flying a jet from California to New York in three hours, 23 minutes and eight seconds.

In 1999, John F. Kennedy Jr., his wife, Carolyn, and her sister, Lauren Bessette, died when their single-engine plane, piloted by Kennedy, plunged into the Atlantic Ocean near Martha's Vineyard, Mass.

Newsday Crossword

- ACROSS 1 Glowing coal 6 Computer junk mail 10 Stinging remark 14 Auto-club suggestion 15 Make a duplicate 16 Spiny houseplant 17 "I Can't Stop Loving You" singer 19 Doily material 20 Urban roads: Abbr. 21 Israeli airline 22 Word of appreciation 24 Item on an end table 25 Connery or Penn 26 First appearances 29 Fruit with a pit 32 Baldwin and Guinness 33 Pottery material 34 British nobleman 36 Necktie fabric 37 Ignited 38 French cheese 39 Sacred 40 Socks parts 41 Looks for 42 Experimental trial 44 Digging tools 45 Frog relative 46 Limerick, for one 47 Find out about 50 Carton sealer 51 Feel poorly 54 High point 55 '83 film featuring "What a Feelin'"

A LITTLE LIGHT by Gail Grabowski Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

- 7 Opinion collection 8 King Kong, for example 9 Agatha Christie offering 10 Gymnastics rail 11 Actor Alda 12 Boulder 13 Spelling competitions 18 Charitable gifts 23 "Bali _" 24 Run of good fortune 25 Petty quarrels 26 Move rapidly 27 Author T.S. 28 Gal at a ball 29 Sci-fi character 30 Rowed 31 Tot's three-wheeler 33 Puffy sky sight 35 Not as much 40 Rush-hour woe 41 One risking a ticket 43 In addition 44 Second-year student, for short 46 Out of style 47 Corned-beef concoction 48 Sound in a cave 49 Congregation's response 50 Armored vehicle 51 Prefix for freeze 52 Computer image 53 Late-night TV host 56 Baseball great Gehrig 57 Sound of satisfaction

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-63 indicating starting positions for clues.

State news at a glance

Woman found incompetent to stand trial in chase death

CLEBURNE (AP) — A woman accused of leading authorities on a high-speed chase that ended with her infant daughter's death has been found incompetent to stand trial for murder.

A psychologist who examined Aimee Andrea Fisher-Riza this month found she was agitated, has impaired judgment, illogical thought processes and was uncooperative and hostile. Fisher-Riza suffers from bipolar disorder and has psychotic features, according to a report by forensic psychologist J. Randall Price.

She "does not have the sufficient present ability to consult with her lawyer with a reasonable degree of rational understanding, nor does she have a rational as well as factual understanding of the proceedings against her," Price wrote.

Fisher-Riza led authorities from Somervell and Johnson counties on a high speed chase in April that ended when the sport utility vehicle she was driving crashed into a concrete median and rolled several times in Alvarado. Her daughter, Alexxus Andrea Riza, had been in the SUV unrestrained and died after being ejected from the car during the crash.

Washout halts trips on Texas State Railroad

RUSK (AP) — Rain and flooding in East Texas have halted train rides on the Texas State Railroad.

All scheduled trains have been suspended on a week-to-week basis until repairs to a damaged track are completed.

Severe flooding damaged a portion of the tracks between Maydelle and Rusk last week. An embankment supporting the track near County Road 2108 was washed out, state railroad officials said.

The Texas State Railroad will contact those with paid reservations if their date has been canceled.

The railroad travels between Palestine and Rusk, where recent rains dropped more than 7 inches of rain last week.

Parents will have access to child's juvenile record

CORPUS CHRISTI (AP) — Parents and guardians will have access to their children's juvenile law enforcement records starting in September.

A new law signed Sunday by Gov. Rick Perry gives minors 16 and younger, along with their parents or legal guardians, a chance to obtain their records from law enforcement. It goes into effect Sept. 1.

Texas law had limited providing juvenile records only to government agencies or for court proceedings.

"You would assume parents would have a right to get this information, but it wasn't the case," said Rep. Solomon Ortiz Jr., who authored a bill making the change.

With the change, minors can check their record before submitting employment or college applications, Ortiz said.

Names of other juveniles in the reports would be redacted from the copies provided.

Procession carries Lady Bird to burial

STONEWALL (AP) — Lady Bird Johnson's role as the dedicated wife of a president and a tenacious crusader for the environment were only part of her life.

To her grandchildren, she was someone who had the gift of making them all feel special.

On Sunday, they and other family members and friends said one last goodbye to the former first lady as she was laid to rest in an oak-shaded family cemetery near the banks of the Pedernales River on the LBJ Ranch.

Her flower-topped casket was placed next to the grave of her husband, the late President Lyndon B. Johnson, who died in 1973.

Lady Bird Johnson enjoyed taking her grandchildren on hiking and camping trips or visiting with them riding around the ranch or simply playing cards, said grandson Lyndon Nugent.

"You were a great friend to us all," he said, to his grandmother. "Take care, dear friend."

His mother, Luci Baines Johnson, reminded her children for more than three decades that it was important to spend as much time as possible with their grandmother, whom they called "Nini," because "she might not be here tomorrow," Nugent said.

"Sadly, tomorrow has arrived," he said.

Johnson died Wednesday at age 94 of natural causes. In weekend memorial ceremonies, she has been remembered as a devoted wife, an astute businesswoman and a tireless worker for the preservation of

wildflowers and native plants.

Treated sewage dumping could resume near West Texas border town

SIERRA BLANCA (AP) — Residents in this West Texas border town are worried that the area might once again become a dumping ground for treated sewage after the state agreed to lease a large swath of land to a group that wants to resume spreading sludge.

From 1992 to 2001, New York-based Merco Joint Ventures spread treated New York City sewage on about 18,000 acres of the Mile High Ranch outside Sierra Blanca, 80 miles southeast of El Paso. The company went bankrupt in 2002, and Texas has since bought nearly 100,000 acres from Merco's former owners, according to documents obtained by the El Paso Times under the state's Public Information Act.

In 2005, the state leased some of the land to the Texas Southwest Range and Wildlife Foundation, a group whose members were heavily involved in the project that first brought sludge to Sierra Blanca.

Foundation lawyer and lobbyist Susan Potts, who also represented Merco, said sludge dumping could create jobs and is recycling "in its truest form."

"That is something that we plan on doing in the future," she said in a story in Sunday's editions of the newspaper.

But some residents worry the sewage will hurt the environment and could make people sick.

"I can tell you right now the town doesn't want that," Hudspeth County Sheriff Arvin West said. "We

already had about (enough) with that stinking stuff."

Jim Sudyam, a spokesman for the Texas Land Commissioner's office, said the land is under consideration for another sludge project, though one has not yet been identified.

Zookeeper upgraded to stable condition after tiger attack

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — A zookeeper who was attacked by a male Sumatran tiger at the San Antonio Zoo was upgraded to stable condition on Sunday, a hospital official said.

Jeff Tierney, 28, who specializes in large cats and has worked at the zoo for five years, was attacked about 2:30 p.m. Saturday afternoon, zoo spokeswoman Dawn Campos said. Tierney was airlifted to University Hospital, where he remained in the intensive care unit Sunday.

Campos said she didn't have details on where Tierney was injured.

Tierney was alone in the tiger exhibit with the animal named Berani when the attack occurred, Campos said. The exhibit is in an enclosed area separated from visitors by a moat and bars. Several people witnessed the attack.

The zoo, open every day of the year, was closed after the attack, but reopened on Sunday.

Berani is about 5 years old, and has been at the zoo for three years, Campos said. He is one of two Sumatran tigers at the zoo. The other is female. She said nothing would be done to Berani.



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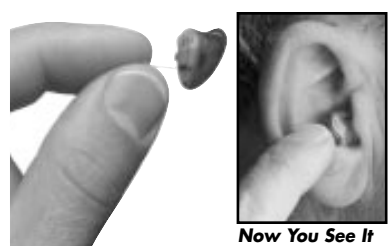
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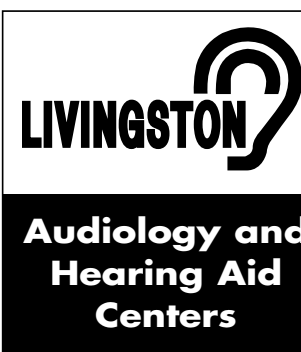


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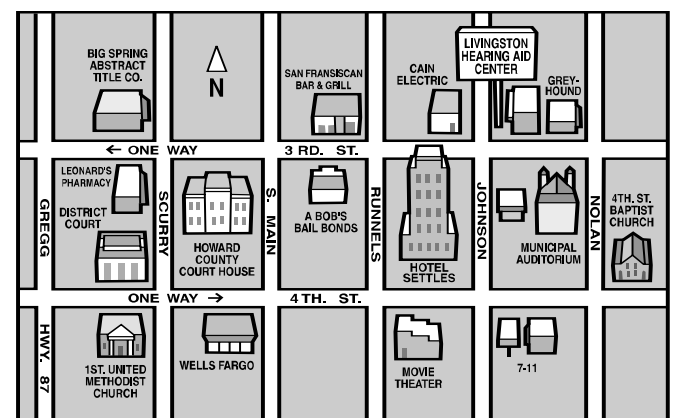
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JENKINS

Continued from Page 6

ring. "It's an astronomical number."

Then, he added in a voice tinged with anger and sadness, "I'm sick and tired of it."

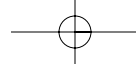
Meanwhile, I watch 12-year-old kids run around in shirts adorned with Triple-H and Batista, along with other larger-than-life wrestlers, and we all just turn a blind eye to it. If you honestly believe these guys are pumping the steroids into their body at a break-neck pace, then I'd say you're disillusioned, at best.


In the end, I fear it's just another sign of the times, a symptom of a world that doesn't care about who dies and who kills as long as the profit margins are large and the tribute videos keep selling. Have we, the American people, fallen so far out of touch with our moral centers that we'll allow this to go on, and on, and on? Where does it stop?

I remember, when I was a child, arguing with my best friends over who was going to be Road Warrior Hawk as we set up our imaginary wrestling ring and prepared to ring an imaginary bell. He died at 46, nothing more than collateral damage from an industry that doesn't care about human beings and what kind of damage they do to themselves or others.

I think I'll pass, and just be plain old Thomas this time around. I'd rather see my daughter graduate.

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