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HERALD

MONDAY

JULY 23, 2007



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Big Spring native to be featured in concert

Special to the Herald

SWEETWATER — Internationally acclaimed clarinetist Rebecca Chappell continues a summer of music at the historic Sweetwater Municipal Auditorium with a lively concert of jazz, classical and Texas swing at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday.

Chappell will perform with area and national musicians in a special "3 B's" concert: "Bach, Bob Wills, and Benny Goodman." The special musical event will raise funds for the Sweetwater Municipal Band. Admission is free, but donations are encouraged.

The Sweetwater Municipal Band performs many free concerts and free special musical performances in Sweetwater and Nolan County throughout the year, including the Community Christmas Concert, Memorial Day performances at the WASP Museum and Blackwell, July 4 at Newman Park and special events during the Christmas and Valentine's seasons, as well as many other activities.

"This benefit concert is a way for the community to give back to the talented and dedicated musicians of the Municipal Band," said Mayor Greg

Wortham. "The Municipal Band can always use more funds for music, supplies, and travel expenses, so I hope everyone will come out on July 24 to enjoy some amazing music and show their support for the Municipal Band."

For the Bach portion of the show, Chappell will be joined by pianist Faith Feaster of Roscoe. Feaster won the talent competition in the 2006 Miss Texas pageant as a pianist and serves as a special musical ambassador for Hardin-Simmons University.

The Sweetwater Municipal Band will join Chappell on stage for the Benny

Goodman big band segment of the concert. Several Sweetwater musicians will be featured in the jazz and swing numbers.

Renowned guitarist Johnny James will join Chappell for the Bob Wills Texas swing part of the concert. Chappell is no stranger to Bob Wills music. Her parents played in the Bob Wills band and with other Texas swing groups.

Chappell, a Big Spring native, is professor of clarinet and music business at

See **CONCERT**, Page 3A

Getting off the ground

Local pilots have formed flying club

By STEVE REAGAN

Staff Writer

Flying is serious business, but that doesn't mean you can't have some fun at it, too.

That's the approach taken by members of the newly formed Phlock Phlying Club, a 15-person organization that has been in operation since about March at McMahon-Wrinkle Airport.

The club is open to both experienced pilots and students. And if you want to bring your own plane, that's fine, too — but not mandatory.

"There's been a need in Big Spring for a good flying school for quite some time, now," said Stephen Anglin, the senior aviator and lead flying instructor of the club. "All of us like to hang out together, so we thought we'd form a flying club."

"It all started as a bunch of us sitting down over dinner and drinks, talking about it," added Ron Broadrick, club vice president. "The next thing you know — voila! — we've got a flying club."

The club started with one Cessna 150 airplane at its hanger adjacent to



Stephen Anglin, left, and Ron Broadrick, members of the newly formed Phlock Phlying Club at McMahon-Wrinkle Airport, go over some paperwork Friday. The club, organized in March, has attracted flying enthusiasts from across this area.

the airport's main office. Since then, members have added two more planes and have plans for more.

"We're still getting everything in place," Anglin said.

As one might guess

from the club name, members believe in having fun — "We're not out to impress anybody; we're pretty low key," Broadrick said — but that doesn't mean they don't take flying seriously.

Anglin, for instance,

learned to fly in the military and has logged more than 16,000 flying hours in a variety of aircraft.

As a fully-rated flight instructor, he can coach students toward obtaining their licenses in visual or instrument ratings.

"And soon, we're going to be a testing center," he added. "That means, you can take the written (pilot's) test right here." Obtaining a pilot's license isn't cheap —

See **PILOTS**, Page 3A

Routine agenda before council

By THOMAS JENKINS

Staff Writer

The Big Spring City Council is set to meet Tuesday evening with several routine items on the agenda.

Among the items slated to be discussed are:

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

- Final reading of an ordinance amending Chapter 6, Article 3 of the code of ordinances amending Section 6-46 and 6-47; changing rental fees and cleaning deposits for Dora Roberts Community Center, adding and deleting fees.

- Final reading of a resolution approving amendments to the investment policy.

- Final reading of a resolution authorizing the public works director to

See **COUNCIL**, Page 3A

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Large item pick up set in District 4

By THOMAS JENKINS

Staff Writer

Area residents in Big Spring's District 4 are encouraged to think big, as city crews prepare to clean up cumbersome trash items as part of the monthly large item pick up program.

The fourth in six scheduled pick up days, Friday's effort in the local war on cumbersome trash will target the portion of the city represented by Big Spring City Councilwoman Gloria McDonald.

Todd Darden, director of public works

for the city, said there's no charge to use the program, which is designed to help area residents dispose of items too large to otherwise be moved.

"There's no charge to use the program," said Darden. "Some of the more typical items we pick up are tree branches, appliances that don't work anymore, couches and mattresses. Those are the kind of things that we can take to our landfill and we're allowed to pick up. We can't pick up any household hazardous waste. That means any kind of chemicals including lawn chemicals, car batteries and tires and things of that

nature.

"We're seeing more participation from the citizens this year," he added, "which is very encouraging for the city. We want to do everything we can to make Big Spring a city to be proud of, and it takes help from the people to make that happen."

Darden said the program is part of the city's ongoing "clean and green" effort.

"It's a widely used program," said Darden. "We're trying to target people who are elderly, handicapped or other-

See **PICK UP**, Page 3A



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Sports

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

Page 1B
Monday, July 23, 2007

IN BRIEF

Garden City hosting two all-star games

Glasscock County Independent School District will be hosting a basketball and a football all-star game.

The Small School Shootout will take place Friday at Dorothy Garrett Coliseum. The girls game will occur at 6 p.m. with the boys taking the court at 8 p.m.

The Texas Bowl is a 6-man all-star football game scheduled for 7:30 p.m. Saturday in Garden City. The game will feature Division I all-stars pitted against Division II all-stars.

Several area athletes from Garden City, Sands and Grady will be participating in both events.

Big Spring QB Club meeting today

The Big Spring Quarterback Club will hold a meeting at 6 p.m. Monday in the Athletic Training Center to continue work on the 100-year commemorative program for the 2007 Steer football season.

Regular meetings will start being held every Monday at 7 p.m. in the ATC July 30.

Call Frank Stiles at 270-3041 for more details.

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 Friday through Sunday 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.

Tee 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.

Big Spring Youth Soccer meeting

Big Spring Youth Soccer Association will

See **BRIEFS**, Page 2B

Garcia falters, Harrington claims first major

By **DOUG FERGUSON**

AP Golf Writer

CARNOUSTIE, Scotland — Anywhere else, Padraig Harrington might have walked off the 18th green knowing his two shots that found the bottom of Barry Burn for double bogey had cost him the British Open.

Not at Carnoustie, where calamity can strike at any second and did during Sunday's final round.

One shot crashed off the stone

wall of the burn and ricocheted 50 yards across the wrong fairway and out-of-bounds. Another bounced across a tiny bridge until it plunged over the side on the last hop. Still another looked like a hole-in-one until it smacked the base of the pin and caromed 18 feet away.

The final hour was golf theater at its best.

In a nail-biter that stirred memories of Jean Van de Velde's famous collapse in 1999, Harrington delivered the fitting

finish to a day that kept everyone guessing. He took a two-shot lead to the final hole of a playoff, and still had to sweat out a 3-foot bogey putt to beat Sergio Garcia.

"I know it was only a short putt, but the emotions of it," Harrington said. "I couldn't believe it as it was rolling in from right in the middle of the hole, and I'm thinking, 'The Open champion.' A huge amount of it was genuine shock."

It was equally shocking to Garcia.

He was poised to capture his first major championship until he blew a three-shot lead in the final round. Harrington gave him one more chance with that double bogey on the 18th hole in regulation. Needing a par to win, Garcia hit into a bunker and missed a 10-foot par putt.

"Now, if Sergio parred the last and I did lose, I think I would have struggled to come back out and be a competitive golfer,"

See **GOLF**, Page 2B

Rain forces early end to softball tournament

Herald Staff Report

ODESSA — Whether the teams came out as winners or losers, it was the weather that claimed the ultimate victory Saturday at the West Texas Softball Tournament on the University of Texas-Permian Basin's campus in Odessa.

All 12 softball fields felt the wrath of a downpour around 2 p.m. Saturday and the rest of the tournament was called off, leaving the four Big Spring Girls Softball Association all-star teams with an unsatisfying ending to their season.

The 14-under and 8-under teams were in the middle of playing their second bracket games when the rain started.

The 14U team, or the Big Spring Lady Hawks, found themselves down 7-1 in the bottom of the fourth inning against the Lubbock Red All-Stars. The Red All-Stars found a groove at the plate in the second inning, scoring all seven of their runs.

The Lady Hawks fought back defensively, shutting down their opponents' potent bats until the game was called a final because of the downpour.

The Lady Hawks had just come off of a 5-3 victory in their first bracket game over Midland's all-star representative Friday night.

In their two pool games before bracket play began Friday, Big Spring tied Andrews, 5-5, and lost to Lubbock Blue, 8-2.

The 8U All-Stars also found their second bracket game called off early. They were going up to bat in the bottom of the fifth inning, when the umpire canceled the game immediately once the downpour began. The unex-

pected end left them with a 9-6 defeat.

Big Spring had won its first pool game, 2-1, Friday against Lamesa. The victory was a complete turnaround, according to Coach Mike Mata, from a Monday scrimmage that featured the two teams, when Lamesa tattooed the 8U All-Stars. The early victory game then confidence heading into their second pool game.

However, they would drop two very close games, losing to Big Bend, 10-9, and Seminole, 2-0.

The 10U and 12U all-star teams had the good fortune of playing early enough Saturday to complete a full four games of tournament play.

The 10U All-Stars went 1-1 in pool and bracket play. The started their pool play off Friday, losing to Lubbock Blue 14-0. However, they would bounce back to win their second pool game, 6-2, over Fort Stockton.

Bracket play went in a similar fashion for the 10U All-Stars. They dropped their first bracket game, 15-5, to Lubbock Gold, but rebounded to win their second game over, 10-1, over Eldorado. They were scheduled to face Odessa Green at 5:30 Saturday, but never got the opportunity.

The 12U All-Stars also closed out the abrupt end of their season with a victory over Kermit, 13-8. It was the teams first win of the tournament as they overcame three straight losses to Lubbock Blue, Midland Triple Threat and Lubbock Red.

The tournament will not schedule any make-up dates and will refund some of the entrance fees that each team paid.



Mariah Cervantes takes a cut at a pitch for the 8U All-Stars in action from this weekend's West Texas All-Star Tournament at the University of Texas-Permian Basin's campus in Odessa.

Courtesy photo

Tejeda continues to struggle as Indians top Rangers

By **DAVID JIMENEZ**

Associated Press Writer

ARLINGTON — All seems to be well with the Cleveland Indians one night after their All-Star catcher had an argument with a starting pitcher.

Victor Martinez, Josh Barfield and Jason Michaels drove in two runs apiece to help the Indians beat the Texas Rangers 8-3 Sunday night.

Barfield went 3-for-4 and scored two runs and Casey Blake also had three hits for Cleveland, which bounced back one night after Martinez and teammate Cliff Lee had an animated discussion during an 8-5 loss to Texas. The Indians also held a closed-door meeting after Saturday night's game.

Martinez did not comment on any disagreement with Lee.

"It was nothing," Martinez said of the meeting. "Nothing to worry about. We try to play hard every day. It was just nice to win."

Martinez, an All-Star catcher, made just his 15th start of the season at first base. His RBI single in the fifth put Cleveland ahead 3-0 and ignited a three-run inning. He added a sacrifice fly in the eighth.

Cleveland won three of four against the Rangers and moved within a game of first-place Detroit in the American League Central.

Indians starter Paul Byrd (8-4) did not allow a hit until Marlon Byrd tripled with two outs in the fourth. He allowed two runs and three hits in 5 2-3 innings.

Byrd had lost his past four

starts on the road against the Rangers. He also had a 9.45 ERA in those outings.

"I didn't really shake the trouble in this park," Byrd said. "I walked three and ran into a lot of trouble. I'm very glad we got the win but I'm a little frustrated with the finish, but we picked up a game on Detroit and I'm fired up about that."

Robinson Tejeda (5-9) allowed five runs, three earned, and five hits in five innings for Texas. Since going 3-1 in April, Tejeda is 2-8 with a 7.93 ERA.

Tejeda acknowledged he's having problems repeating his pitching motion.

"It's hard right now because I'm not getting deep in the game," Tejeda said. "My confidence is still good. The only thing bothering me is the walks. It seems like every time I walk someone they score."

Before the game, Cleveland manager Eric Wedge downplayed Saturday night's players-only meeting. When asked about possible tension between Martinez and Lee, he said: "They had a discussion during the game, but nothing beyond that."

Wedge said Saturday's meeting was good for his team.

"I think it's important for the guys to get together," Wedge said. "They're such a close group anyway. They wanted to get together (Saturday) and that's a good thing. I encourage that."

Texas slugger Sammy Sosa was not in the starting lineup after getting hit in the head by a pitch

See **RANGERS**, Page 2B



MCT photo/Khampha Bouaphanh/Fort Worth Star-Telegram

Texas Rangers' Marlon Byrd catches a fly ball by Cleveland Indians' Trot Nixon in the first inning in Arlington Sunday. The Indians defeated the Rangers 8-3.

Mets top Dodgers in extra innings

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Mets manager Willie Randolph leaned over to bench coach Jerry Manuel and let him in on a hunch: Chip Ambres was about to make his trip back to the majors memorable.

Ambres got his first hit for the Mets in the most opportune spot, singling home the go-ahead run in the 10th inning on Sunday and sending the NL East leaders to a 5-4 victory over the NL West-leading Dodgers in Los Angeles.

"I get those feelings sometimes," Randolph said, "and sure enough, the next pitch he got a hit on. So I'm happy for him because he's been in Triple-A and he's been around a while."

"That was awesome," Randolph said. "I was talking to the kid before the series started about how excited he was about being up here and how proud his dad was of him."

"I said to Jerry, 'He's going to get a hit here."

He's going to come through and do it for his dad."

Lastings Milledge singled with one out in the 10th against D.J. Houlton (0-1). Carlos Beltran singled and David Wright grounded to third, just beating the relay throw to avoid a double play. Ambres, who was recalled earlier in the week from Triple-A, then grounded a single past third baseman Nomar Garciaparra, who was playing in on the edge of the grass with two outs.

"I just wanted to put the ball in play and get that man in from third base," Ambres said. "I had faced Houlton in Triple-A, and Marlon Anderson reminded me of the pitches that he had. He said Houlton likes to get ahead with the fastball and then comes back with the curve ball."

It was Ambres' first hit since Oct. 2, 2005, for the Kansas City Royals at Toronto.

"Being able to come through in the clutch like

that and help out the team, it's one that I'll always remember," Ambres said. "It's unbelievable. I'm on Cloud 9."

Jonathan Broxton, who saved Saturday's 8-6 Dodgers victory, was summoned again in the ninth because Takashi Saito was sitting out his fourth straight game because of tightness in his right shoulder. But the Mets tied it when Matt Kemp allowed Shawn Green's fly to short right to fall for an error as pinch-runner Anderson Hernandez came home from third.

"It's definitely not fun to play right field here during the day," said Green, who plays the same position for the Mets and also played right field for the Dodgers. "It can be really tough. It's hard see the ball off the bat, and you also have to deal with the sun."

Pedro Feliciano (2-1) pitched a perfect ninth for the win after two perfect

innings by Aaron Heilman.

Billy Wagner worked the 10th for his 22nd save in 23 attempts, striking out three after allowing the potential tying and winning runs to get into scoring position on a wild pitch.

"It's an outstanding win on the road, a great gutsy win by the club," Randolph said. "This is the kind of game that you might look back on at the end of the season and say this might have been a big turning point for us."

Cardinals 7, Braves 2, 10 innings

At Atlanta, Skip Schumaker hit a two-run home run and Scott Rolen added a three-run drive in the 10th inning for St. Louis.

Schumaker, who entered the game in the eighth inning as a pinch hitter, drove a pitch from Tyler Yates (2-2) over the right-field fence for his second homer.

Byrd struck out Metcalf and induced Kenny Lofton's double-play grounder.

"That was a big missed opportunity," Washington said. "Byrd is not known for walking people. We just couldn't cash in."

Texas got within 6-3 in the sixth inning on RBI doubles from Frank Catalanotto and Melhuse, and a run-scoring single from Brad Wilkerson.

Notes: Cleveland 1B Ryan Garko, who has a 15-game hitting streak, did not play. ... Marlon Byrd had three hits.

Yankees 21, Devil Rays 4

The New York Yankees spent the weekend taking what appeared to be extended batting practice against Tampa Bay pitchers.

The Yankees had 25 hits, reaching 20 in consecutive games for the first time in more than 100 years in a 21-4 rout of the Devil Rays on Sunday. On Saturday, the Yankees had 20 hits in a 17-5 win that finished off a day-night doubleheader sweep.

"I've never seen anything like it," Yankees manager Joe Torre said. "Even in batting practice you don't get hits every time you swing the bat."

Recently called up rookie Shelley Duncan homered twice, including a

three-run drive that capped a 10-run fourth inning, and Alex Rodriguez, batting with sunglasses on a sunny afternoon, hit his major league-leading 34th homer and No. 498 of his career.

Hideki Matsui, Bobby Abreu and Robinson Cano also homered to give the Yankees six home runs in a game for the first time in two years.

Matsui tied his regular-season high with five hits, and every Yankees starter had a hit, a run and an RBI.

"I think after a doubleheader it was impressive," Rodriguez said. "After a doubleheader, I was wondering how we were going to respond."

The Yankees, a season-best five games over .500 and 7 1/2 games behind AL East-leading Boston, took three of four from the Devil Rays, hitting .408 in the series with 49 runs, 62 hits and 11 homers. According to the Elias Sports Bureau, the Yankees franchise last had back-to-back 20-hit games on Aug. 23 and 25, 1902, when the team was playing in Baltimore.

"When you have a big day like this, you can't feel content," Duncan said.

New York is 9-3 since the All-Star break, playing two series with Tampa Bay around one with Toronto, and is

scheduled for 16 more games against teams with losing records before a trip to Cleveland on Aug. 10.

With the score 3-all, New York broke open the game with 10 runs in the fourth. Cano tripled leading off, and the Yankees made it 10-3 on six RBI singles and a throwing error by catcher Dioner Navarro.

Duncan's first homer came off reliever Casey Fossum and made it 13-3, and his second was a lead-off drive off Shawn Camp in the sixth. Music from "The Natural" played as Duncan rounded the bases.

"It's a crazy experience," Duncan said. "You kind of get frozen in the moment."

When he came to bat with two outs in the bottom of the eighth, he was greeted with chants of "Shel-ley! Shel-ley!"

Andy Pettitte (6-6) won his 12th straight decision against the Devil Rays, improving to 13-1 against Tampa Bay.

James Shields (8-6) lost for the sixth time in nine starts, allowing 10 runs, 10 hits and four walks in 3 1-3 innings. Eleven of his final 14 batters reached base.

"It's embarrassing. It's absolutely embarrassing," Shields said. "This wasn't us this weekend. We're better than that."

GOLF

Continued from Page 1B

Harrington said. "It meant that much to me. But I never let it sink into me that I had just thrown away the Open championship."

He became the first Irishman in 60 years with his name on the claret jug, and Harrington ended Europe's eight-year drought in the majors. The victory moved him up to No. 6 in the world, part of the elite.

All because of a double bogey on the 72nd hole.

Harrington looked as though he might get the break of a lifetime when his tee shot dribbled across the bridge, a yard away from safety until it dove over the railing. After taking a penalty drop, he hung his head when his 5-iron bounced into the burn.

It was a sick feeling, the same one Van de Velde surely felt when he hit into the same stream.

Harrington gave no thought to removing his shoes and stepping into the burn. Instead, he figured out how to get up and down for double bogey. He pitched to 5 feet behind the hole and made perhaps the biggest putt of the round.

"That was probably the most pressure-filled putt I had of the day," Harrington. "If I missed it, it was the end of it. And to hole it was a great boost to me. That was a moment that I thought, 'Now maybe things are going to go my way.'"

He never gave Garcia another chance.

Harrington hit 7-iron into 6 feet for birdie on the first of four playoff holes, while Garcia dumped his shot into a bunker and couldn't get up and down to fall two shots behind. Garcia must have known it was over with two holes remaining when, on the next hole, his 3-iron at the 248-yard 16th hopped twice and appeared to be going in until the pin knocked it away.

"You know what's the saddest thing about it? It's not the first time. It's not the first time, unfortunately," Garcia said. "I don't know. I'm playing against a lot of guys out there, more than the field."

The guy should really have been moaning was Andres Romero, a 26-year-old Argentine who looked as if he might be the next unlikely champion at Carnoustie. He made 10 birdies, including four in a row to give himself a two-shot lead, when the pressure caught up to him and a bad break followed.

From the right rough on the 17th, his 2-iron was headed for the burn when it ricocheted off the stone walls and shot out-of-bounds, just beyond the fence on the other side of

the 18th fairway. He did well to make double bogey, and his 12-foot par putt on the final hole hit the back of the cup and spun away.

"I did it on 17, not 18," Romero said when asked if he would be linked to Van de Velde. "But I could be put into that category by some. I certainly wasn't thinking about Jean Van de Velde at that moment."

As it all wrapped up, a rainbow stretched over the course by the North Sea, capping another magical day on perhaps the toughest links in golf. Like the last Open at Carnoustie, there was chaos in the end.

Only this time, it involved more than one player.

Van de Velde self-destructed all on his own in 1999, blowing a three-shot lead on the final hole with a shot that caromed off a tiny railing in the grandstand, another one into the burn, another in the bunker.

Eight years later, the bad luck belonged to Romero, the bad bounce went to Harrington. That left only bad timing for Garcia.

It was his third time to play in the final group of a major, this time with Tiger Woods out of the picture early. But the 27-year-old Spaniard couldn't buy a putt, and he couldn't get a break.

He closed with a 73, joining Harrington in the playoff at 7-under 277. The winning score was 13 shots lower than it was the last time at Carnoustie, but everything else — especially the final holes — was eerily similar.

Almost lost in the crazy finish was the end of Woods' two-year reign at the British Open. Trying to become the first player in 51 years to win the claret jug three straight times, he was never a factor. He finished with a 70, shots behind in a tie for 12th.

"I wasn't as sharp as I needed to be," Woods said.

Romero shot a 67 in the final round and was the only player to shoot par or better all four days. He had a 34 on the back nine, despite two double bogeys that kept him from joining Angel Cabrera as a major champion from Argentina.

Richard Green of Australia matched the British Open record at Carnoustie with a 64 and finished at 279 with Ernie Els (69). Hunter Mahan made the cut on the number and tied for sixth with a 69-65 weekend.

Garcia was distraught the last time he played Carnoustie, making his professional debut in the majors with rounds of 89-83 that left him crying in his mother's arms. He had so many chances to win this time, especially at the end.

RANGERS

Continued from Page 1B

Saturday. Sosa said before the game that he was fine, and manager Ron Washington said he plans to have Sosa back in the lineup Monday night against the Seattle Mariners.

Rangers catcher Gerald Laird left the game in the second inning with a bruised left hand after he was hit on an inside pitch from Byrd. Preliminary X-rays were negative and Laird's status is day to day.

Adam Melhuse replaced Laird behind the plate.

Third baseman Travis Metcalf's error in the fourth inning put runners on second and third for Barfield, who hit a two-out, two-run single to left to put Cleveland ahead 2-0.

Blake led off the fifth with a double, and Martinez followed with an RBI single to center.

Jhonny Peralta walked one out later. After a groundout, Michaels lined a two-run single to left to give the Indians a 5-0 lead.

Cleveland added another run in the sixth when Barfield scored on a wild pitch.

Byrd escaped trouble in the fifth when he walked the first three batters. But

BRIEFS

Continued from Page 1B

be holding an organizational meeting at 2 p.m. Saturday at College Baptist Fellowship Hall.

New officers will be elected for the 2007 season.

For more information, contact Jamie Scott at 264-0001 or Robert Smith at 263-3333.

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 dis-

cuss 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 Tuesday.

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 Thursdays.

Call Kay Cook at 264-3662 with any questions.

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.

The fee will be \$125 per player.

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

Texas Tech schedules camps

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

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FCI EMPLOYEES RECOGNIZED



Courtesy photo

FCI Big Spring recognized staff members during its monthly recognition award program. Among those honored, from left, were: Dr. Janet Byrd, Karen Williams (Employee of the Month for June), Jill Alsobrooks and Dr. Anne Tubb (Supervisor of the Quarter).

Halliburton income for second quarter reportedly doubles

By **JOHN PORRETTO**

AP Business Writer

HOUSTON — Halliburton Co. said Monday second-quarter net income more than doubled to \$1.5 billion, lifted largely by a \$933 million gain from the separation of its former subsidiary, KBR Inc.

The result for the April-June period, which amounted to \$1.62 per share, compared with income of \$591 million, or 55 cents a share, in the year-ago period.

Revenue in the quarter rose 20 percent to \$3.7 billion from \$3.1 billion a year ago. The oilfield services conglomerate said sales rose worldwide, particularly in the Eastern Hemisphere.

Excluding the gain from the KBR split, Halliburton said income from continuing operations in the quarter was \$595 million, or 63 cents a share, up from \$498 million, or 47 cents a share, in the second quarter of 2006.

Wall Street analysts polled by Thomson Financial had forecast earnings of 56 cents a

share on revenue of \$3.5 billion. The Thomson forecast typically excludes one-time items.

Shares jumped \$1.34, or 3.66 percent, to \$37.91 at the open of trading Monday.

Last week, Halliburton's larger competitor, Schlumberger Ltd., said its second-quarter profit jumped 47 percent because of an active world market for oil and gas, despite weakness in Canada.

Halliburton, once led by Vice President Dick Cheney, split from KBR, the military contractor and engineering company, in April. Halliburton has said the separation allows it to focus solely on providing expertise, services and equipment to companies working in the global oilfield.

Halliburton chairman and chief executive Dave Lesar said revenue rose 14 percent in the Eastern Hemisphere in the quarter, and income margins rose to nearly 22 percent.

Terrorism fears help shape jury

By **DAVID KOENIG**

Associated Press Writer

DALLAS — Of the first 26 people interviewed for jury duty in the case of Muslim charity officials accused of financing Hamas terrorists, three said they feared for their safety, including one man who said he wouldn't put anything past the Middle Eastern militants.

None of the three made it on the jury that was picked last week to hear the case against Holy Land Foundation for Relief and Development and five of its former officials. Opening statements are scheduled for

Tuesday.

But former prosecutors and jury-selection experts say the fact that some people expressed fear underscores the difficulty of ensuring a fair trial for the defendants, all Muslim men originally from the Middle East.

"If three say, 'I'm afraid of Hamas tracking me down,' it might actually be a much higher number who are fearful," said Philip K. Anthony, chief executive of DecisionQuest, a jury-selection consulting firm.

The federal judge in the case, A. Joe Smith, took steps to produce an unbiased jury. He summoned

750 people for the jury pool. They filled out questionnaires and were quizzed by prosecutors and defense lawyers about their knowledge of the case, whether they could be fair, and even whether they knew any Muslims — most didn't.

The court declined to release the names of potential jurors, although they were addressed by last name in open court. The pool was whittled to 12 jurors and six alternates by Friday.

The trial could last several months.

Tom Melsheimer, a former federal prosecutor in Dallas, said the defen-

dants would get "the fairest trial possible," but added it would be "very hard to get a fair trial in a climate like this with accusations like this. There is tremendous fear of terrorism and of Muslim groups."

Melsheimer recently defended a Dallas businessman who was also accused of helping Hamas. The man was never charged, but he was deported to Jordan on immigration violations that Melsheimer didn't dispute.

PICK UP

Continued from Page 1A

wise don't have the means to get these large items to our landfill. This is a service the city is going to provide as a courtesy to those people and give them the opportunity to get things off of their property they might not be able to otherwise."

All items must be by the curb in the city's right-of-way no sooner than 24 hours before the scheduled pick up. Items need to be separated as much

as possible for its trip to the municipal landfill.

Darden said customers need to be aware of gas, water and electricity meters and lines when they put their large items out to be picked up in an effort to protect their services and the city employees helping with the program.

"The reason we need people to be cognizant of where those meters are is because a lot of time we have to bring in equipment to pick those large items up," he said. "If you cover the meters up, it's hard for us to know

where they are. Using the equipment makes the pick up go quicker and we want to make sure our employees are safe while they are picking these things up."

For more information on the Large Item Pick Up program and maps of the six city districts, visit the city of Big Spring Website at www.ci.big-spring.tx.us, or contact the city at 264-2504.

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

COUNCIL

Continued from Page 1A

execute a performance guarantee agreement with the owner of the new Avalon subdivision.

- Final reading of an ordinance amending chapter 18 of the Code of Ordinances by amending Article 5, entitled "Stop Intersections," by adding Section 18-1 33, stop at Warren yielding to Connally, repealing previous Ordinance 11-2006.

- Final reading of an ordinance amending Chapter 18 of the Code of Ordinances by amending

Article 5, Entitled "Stop Intersections," adding Section 18-133, entitled "One Way Stop Intersections," installation of a stop sign at Carl Street yielding to Connally.

- Final reading of an ordinance amending Chapter 18 of the Code of Ordinances by amending Article 5, entitled "Stop Intersections," by adding Section 18-1 33, entitled "One Way Stop Intersections," stop at Wilson Street yielding to Bilger.

- Presentation of the Howard County 911 District's audit for fiscal

year ending Sept. 30, 2006, and the district's proposed budget for 2007-2008.

There is also expected to be discussion concerning security of alleyways behind private property presented by Councilwoman Jo Ann Staulcup.

The meeting is slated for 5:30 p.m. Tuesday in the City Council Chambers, located at 307 E. Fourth Street.

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

PILOTS

Continued from Page 1A

earning a visual rating will cost approximately

\$5,000, Anglin said — but he and other club members promise you'll have a good time in the process.

For more information, contact Anglin at 816-

3673.

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

CONCERT

Continued from Page 1A

Anderson University in Indiana. She has recorded for composer John Williams, Rogers and Hammerstein, MGM Studios and other high-profile opportunities. She

has performed in touring orchestras for "The Music of Andrew Lloyd Webber" and the "Pavarotti World Tour." Her solo performances have taken throughout the U.S., Canada, Europe, and the Middle East, including a special concert for the Prime Minister of Israel.

"We're very honored that Becky has agreed to perform in Sweetwater to help us raise funds for the Municipal Band," said Jan Smith of Maryneal. Smith is a member of the Municipal Auditorium Board and was a classmate of Chappell's at Big Spring High School.

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

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Ruth Pior, 90, died Thursday. Funeral services were at 10 a.m. Saturday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Graveside services were at 2 p.m. Monday at Murray Cemetery in Binger, Oklahoma.

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BABYSITTER NEEDED in our home for a two year old and occasionally a six year old. Must have references. Call (432)816-3950 or (432)349-7162.

GILLIHAN PAINT and Body needs a body technician. Must have own tools. Apply in person, 821 West 4th (432)264-6528.

Help Wanted

BIG SPRING Country Club hiring all positions: Cook, Dishwasher & Waitstaff. Apply in person, Tuesday thru Saturday or at Texas Workforce Network.

COMMERCIAL

Construction Company Now hiring Steel erectors, finish carpenters and concrete workers. Drug Test and Pre-Employment physical required. Must be willing to travel and have good transportation. Apply at 2800 Windecker, Midland Airport or call (432)638-2920
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MIDLAND, TX 79711

EXPERIENCED KITCHEN HELP needed. Apply in person Monday thru Wednesday, 8:00-12:00. SWCID Cafeteria.

DENTAL ASSISTANT needed for our progressive dental office. Previous experience in dentistry is preferred, but training is available for the right person. We value warmth, maturity, and a non-smoking health centered lifestyle. Personally submit a resume to 307-D W. 16th. Street.

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.

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.

ELECTRONIC TECH POSITION AVAILABLE
The Colorado River Municipal Water District has an opening for an Electronics Technician. Will work out of Big Spring, TX. Electronic experience and training required. District benefits include paid vacation and holidays, sick leave, retirement plan, and group insurance. EOE. Applications are required to be considered for employment and are available at the District's office, 400 East 24th Street, Big Spring, Texas or by calling (432)267-6341.

FIRST BANK of West Texas, Coahoma, Texas, has an immediate opening for a Trust Officer, and Internal Auditor in our Big Spring location. Prefer a BBA in accounting, will accept a BBA in finance. Fax resume to: Shirley Greenfield at (432)394-4061 or e-mail to sgreenfield@fbwt.net.

Help Wanted

ENERGY COMPANY located at a 1000 MW Combined Cycle Power Plant in Odessa, TX is currently seeking a Plant Engineer. Qualified candidate must have a Bachelor's degree in Engineering or Engineering Technology. Minimum of 4 yrs. Power generation or related experience required. We offer an excellent competitive salary, benefits pkg., and 401(k) plan. EOE. Only qualified candidates will be contacted. Please submit resume and salary requirements to resume @tielp.com or mail to Odessa-Ector Power Partners, 2200 East I-20 Service Rd. South, Odessa, TX 79766.

Full & Part-time Kitchen help & Cashiers needed at **Howard College Cafeteria**, 1001 Birdwell Lane. Apply in person, Monday-Wednesday, 8:00-12:00. No Phone Calls Please.

FURR'S FAMILY Dining has all positions available. Apply in person, 2503 S. Gregg.

HIRING MIXER DRIVERS Class A or B CDL license and a good driving record required. Starting wage is \$12.00 and \$12.50 with Mixer experience. We offer an excellent benefits package including, medical, dental, and 401k profit sharing. Employment will include a 40 hour wage guarantee and quarterly bonus plan. Apply in person at 605 North Benton Big Spring, Texas EOE/AA employer

IMMEDIATE OPENING for part-time Laundry attendant. Work 7 days- 7 days off. Must have own car. Apply 1208 Gregg Street or 208 11th Place.

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. Equal Opportunity Employer

PARKVIEW NURSING & Rehabilitation Now hiring for the following positions: LVN - Charge Nurse 6-2 & 10-6 Shift Certified Nursing Assistant Great working environment and competitive salary. Please apply in person at 3200 Parkway Rd.,

M&M GENERAL Contractors is now hiring heavy equipment operators and Class A CLD truck drivers. Good pay and good hours. Please apply in person at 4205 N. Hwy 87, Big Spring, TX from 8-5.

NATIONAL OILWELL Varco has an immediate need for a full time warehouse/delivery position. Competitive pay, benefits include 401k, insurance, retirement. Please pick up applications at 2801 W. FM 700. NOV is an equal opportunity employer.

StarTek
Now hiring English & Bilingual Customer Care Representative. StarTek is offering Great NEW pay rates and benefits. Come by 501 Birdwell Lane, Suite 30 or call 432-264-2700

PAUL'S PLACE liquor Bar now hiring experienced Bartenders. For application call 432-263-6292.

Help Wanted

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

NOW HIRING COMMERCIAL CONSTRUCTION JOB SUPERINTENDENT must be professional and experienced in all phases of construction. Drug test, pre-employment physical and travel required. Mail resume to: GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT PO BOX 60708 MIDLAND, TX 79711

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.

OFFICE MANAGER - WesTex Auto Parts is currently accepting applications for a full time office manager. Duties include basic accounting, reception, and clerk tasks. Must be trustworthy and dependable and able to multi-task. Criminal history background check and drug tests are performed. Please mail resume to 606 Mathews, Big Spring, TX.

OPERATOR POSITION AVAILABLE

The Colorado River Municipal Water District has an opening for a Central Control Operator in Big Spring. This position involves shift work. District benefits include paid vacation and holidays, sick leave, retirement plan, and group insurance. EOE. Applications are required to be considered for employment and are available at the District's office, 400 East 24th Street, Big Spring, Texas or by calling (432)267-6341.

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

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.

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RED MESA Grill has openings for Full/Part Time, Day & Evening. Wait Staff, Kitchen Staff, and Dishwasher available. Apply 2401 S. Gregg.

RMA, LVN, & Receptionist needed for busy pediatric office. Bi-lingual a plus, must love kid's. Monday thru Friday, 8:30 to 5:30 P.M. Fax resume to (432)714-4703 or pick up application at 1501 West 11th Place, Ste. 205.

SHOP AND field welders needed. Experience a must. Please pick up application at 704 West 3rd or call (432)264-1411.

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TEXASTONE QUARRIES is hiring full time laborers to work in the plant and also in the quarry. Benefits available. Apply in person 1400 Sherrod Rd, Garden City or call (432)354-2569.

TRUCK DRIVING instructor for Howard College. Part Time. 3 years experience. Call Action Career Training, 1-800-725-6465.

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

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EDITORIAL

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

Ron Midkiff
Publisher

John A. Moseley
Managing Editor

Bill McClellan
News Editor

OUR VIEWS

Salvation Army's newest program fills definite need

With local Salvation Army officials already pleased with the success of their Boys and Girls Club of America summer program — participation has far exceeded expectations with more than 100 youngsters participating on a daily basis — it appears nothing but good things are in store for the program that is now in its second year.

That's because the Big Spring Boys and Girls Club of America isn't just a summer activity, it is a year-round program designed to provide activities that will keep young people off the streets and out of trouble.

More importantly, the program is designed for both boys and girls ages 6 to 18.

While the Boys Club of Big Spring has long been a source of stability for many boys in our community, there has been no similar program with girls. And, as we have noted in the past, in today's world, it's clear that many girls in our community and those throughout the nation need direction and a safe haven during the times they're not in school or being supervised at home by their parents.

The program will run throughout the summer school holiday with services offered between 7:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, according to Capt. Linda Keeney.

What's more, the Salvation Army has kept the cost of participating in the program to a minimum — charging \$1 per month for membership.

Once the summer break is over, the Boys and Girls Club of America will be offering services throughout the school year, operating from 3:30 p.m. until 6 p.m., Monday through Friday.

That means the community will now have a program that serves both boys and girls that need some place to be and activities to do during the hours between the end of the school day and the time their parents get off work.

For more information on the program, contact Capt. Russ and Linda Keeney or Program Director Sheila Sparrow at 264-0455.

We here at the *Herald* hope parents will make the most of this opportunity to provide their children with the safe, structured program provided by the Boys and Girls Club, not only this summer, but once classes resume at local schools.

And, as always, we encourage those in our community who have the financial ability, to support this program and the others provided by the Salvation Army with their monetary donations.

We have no doubt we'll all be the better for it.

How To Contact Us

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

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

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- 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

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

The beauty of Your love, Lord, makes our hearts shout with joy.

Amen

Free the Border Patrol Two

When President Bush commuted the sentence of Scooter Libby — the former top aide to Veep Dick Cheney convicted for perjury and obstructing justice in a federal probe on the leak of the identity of a CIA operative — he explained that he respected “the jury’s verdict, but I have concluded that the prison sentence given to Mr. Libby is excessive.” Bush commuted Libby’s 30-month prison sentence, but allowed a \$250,000 fine and two years of probation to stand. By that standard, Bush also should commute the sentences of former Border Patrol agents Ignacio Ramos and Jose Compean.

Last year, the agents were sentenced to 11 years and 12 years, respectively, for shooting at and wounding a fleeing suspect who was smuggling 743 pounds of marijuana over the border in 2005, covering up the shooting and denying the smuggler of his rights. On Tuesday, the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee held a fact-finding hearing on their case. On Wednesday, Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., and Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas, sent a letter to Bush that said the agents’ sentences were “excessive and they deserve the immediate exercise of your executive clemency powers.”

Bush should heed their advice and commute these sentences. Ramos, 37, and Compean, 28, are not criminals. I’ve read the trial transcript. At worst, it shows two agents who made a bad split-second decision — then wrongly covered it up because they realized they were wrong to fire their guns toward the fleeing Osvaldo Aldrete Davila, hitting him in the but-

tocks. At best, it shows, as the defense credibly argued, that the two agents thought Aldrete — who is now suing the federal government for \$5 million — was armed. They also thought the smuggler (who walked away after the shooting and fled the scene in a car that picked him up) was uninjured. So they decided not to report the shooting.

Feinstein wondered why authorities did not punish the agents administratively — maybe fire them — and why prosecutors failed to force Aldrete to name more drug-ring associates. She also asked why the transactional immunity offered to Aldrete did not require him to waive his civil lawsuit.

The agents’ case has been made stronger by the fact that Aldrete was implicated in a second marijuana (753 pounds this time) smuggling while he had documents — thanks to his immunity deal — that allowed him to cross the border freely. Feinstein said she had a hard time understanding why someone known to have trafficked “in large amounts of narcotics” was “free to come and go from the United States.” U.S. Attorney Johnny Sutton testified that the document deal was “very regrettable.”

The episode certainly undermines Aldrete’s credibility.

Another issue: The feds’ decision to charge the agents for committing a crime with a firearm — a 924(c) violation — meant a 10-year mandatory minimum sentence on that one charge alone. Hence the very harsh sentences for men who served their country in the military and at the border.

Sen. Jeff Sessions, R-Ala., a former U.S. attorney, observed that the federal firearms law “is designed to deal with criminals who carry firearms in the commis-

sion of felonies and crimes of violence.” Whereas, “These officers came to work with no criminal intent, no mindset to commit any crime.”

Asked Wednesday whether Bush will grant clemency, White House spokesman Tony Snow explained that the Libby commutation is special because there are disputes in legal circles about Libby’s sentence. Well, there are disputes as to whether the federal firearms charge should have been used against law enforcement officers who are required to carry guns to do their jobs and did not premeditate shooting a fleeing drug smuggler.

Snow also noted that the Libby pardon let stand the “significant punishment” of probation and a six-figure fine.

Try this for “significant punishment”: Ramos and Compean have spent six months in prison — that’s no picnic in that they are serving time among the very types of criminals they once helped put away.

In February, Latino gang members attacked Ramos in Yazoo City Federal Correctional Complex in Mississippi.

Since then, officials have had to put both men — Compean is in a different prison — in solitary confinement for their protection.

If Ramos and Compean were crooked agents, they would deserve hard time. But at worst, they fired their guns in the heat of pursuit, when they should not have.

If Bush wants to show Americans that he stands for true justice — and not justice for his inner circle only — he should set Ramos and Compean free.

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Playing defense in the PR war

Guess whom Eric Edelman — the undersecretary of defense who publicly attacked Sen. Hillary Clinton in response to her reasonable and responsible questions about how we would accomplish a withdrawal from Iraq — used to work for.

You’ve had 10 seconds. It’s the lead. He’s Cheney’s man.

If you can’t win the real war, try the PR war. If Iraq can’t meet the goals we’ve set for political reform, if the greater terrorist threat is from Pakistan and not Iraq, if we’re no safer today than we were when this team took over, and if your top aide would be residing in a federal pen were it not for the fact that this president has the freedom that comes from nothing left to lose, why wouldn’t you try to change the subject by launching a broadside at the woman who may be the next president of the United States?

And quite a broadside it was. Hillary Clinton, a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee — the committee charged with oversight of the Department of Defense — raised the question, two months ago, of whether we were any better prepared for leaving Iraq than entering it. And she isn’t the only one who has raised that concern.

Sen. Richard Lugar, a Republican widely respected on

both sides for his knowledge on defense issues, raised the very same concern. At a hearing last week, he called for planning for the withdrawal of troops and equipment, noting that if military leaders and Congress “are not prepared for these contingencies, they may be executed poorly, especially in an atmosphere in which public demands for troop withdrawals could compel action on a political timetable.”

But Edelman didn’t accuse the senior Republican of giving comfort to the enemy. He wouldn’t dare play politics with someone who is, technically at least, a member of his own team. He reserved that for the woman Republicans fear most.

In his much-delayed and curiously timed response (it took him two months to come up with this?) to Sen. Clinton’s questions, he wrote: “Premature and public discussion of the withdrawal of U.S. forces from Iraq reinforces enemy propaganda that the United States will abandon its allies in Iraq, much as we are perceived to have done in Vietnam, Lebanon and Somalia. Ö Such talk understandably unnerves the very same Iraqi allies we are asking to assume enormous personal risks.”

Reinforcing enemy propaganda? Unnerving the allies who say they don’t care if we stay or go, the representatives who take vacation rather than trying to work together, who have failed to meet every single benchmark for political change that we have too patiently set for them?

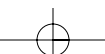
It isn’t “enemy propaganda” that we aren’t winning this war, have no strategy for doing so, and will continue to lose the lives of brave Americans and throw money down the toilet in the administration’s increasingly lonely effort to save face. It’s the judgment of respected military and diplomatic experts, and a majority of the Congress and the country — even if it isn’t a large enough one to stop a Republican Senate filibuster and force a vote.

Are we all the enemy in the Edelman-Cheney book? Is the lesson of Vietnam really that we should have stayed longer rather than leaving sooner? What planet does this man live on?

The answer, of course, is that he lives on the same planet as Dick Cheney, who continues to claim Iraqi connections to 9/11 that have been proved false by everyone, who continues to believe in weapons of mass destruction that weren’t there, and who is so unpopular right now that it’s no joke to say that his approval ratings — in the teens at best — mean that he’s basically down to immediate family, including the likes of his former aide, Eric Edelman.

Don’t forget that it was Dick Cheney who, in the last campaign, warned of a terrorist attack if he and George Bush weren’t re-elected. Too bad he didn’t warn us what would happen if they were.

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Fish is great protein source without usual drawbacks

We all know we should eat more fish. It's an excellent source of protein without the usual drawbacks. That is, it has far less saturated fat than meat and more benevolent omega 3 fats. Furthermore, a piece of fish is likely to have fewer calories than an equivalent sized piece of meat. Cooked with a medley of vegetables or a vegetable-based sauce, your fish dish will be low-cal, full of health benefits and delicious.

So why don't more of us prepare fish for dinner? For most Americans the reason is simple: we don't because we don't. We simply aren't accustomed to buying fish and cooking it. This recipe is a good place to start. Don't be shy. At the fish counter, ask for four filets of catfish totaling about 1 lb. (In this case, farmed catfish is preferable.)

Then buy your vegetables, and when you get home simply follow the directions in the recipe. You will probably end up spending more time on the vegetables than the fish. It's worth the effort. Colorful roasted tomatoes,



red peppers and Spanish onion drizzled with sherry vinegar enhance the look and mild flavor of

the fish. In addition, each of the vegetables brings you phytochemicals your body needs to fight dis-

ease. Serve the fish with a green vegetable and a whole grain like brown

rice, bulgur or kasha, and you've got a delicious, healthy summer meal.

Roasted Catfish with Tomatoes and Red Pepper

- 4 medium tomatoes, halved crosswise
- 1 medium red bell pepper, seeded and cut into 1/2-inch strips
- 1 medium Spanish onion, cut in 1/2-inch wedges.
- 3 peeled garlic cloves
- 1 Tbsp. extra virgin olive oil
- Salt and white pepper, to taste
- Canola oil spray
- 4 catfish filets, about 4 ounces each
- 1/2 cup sherry vinegar
- 1 Tbsp. sugar

Preheat the oven to 375 degrees. In a bowl, coat the tomato halves, red pepper, onion, and garlic clove with the oil. Arrange them in one layer on a baking sheet with tomatoes cut-side up. Lightly sprinkle with salt and white pepper. Roast the vegetables 15 minutes. Transfer the tomatoes to a cutting board to cool. Roast the remaining vegetables 15 minutes longer, until tender but still firm. Set aside, leaving the

oven on.

Coat a large baking dish with cooking spray. Spray the fish with the oil and season with salt and white pepper. Place the skillet in the oven and bake the fish 20-25 minutes, or until opaque in the center.

Meanwhile, coarsely chop the tomatoes. Place in a sieve and let them drain for a minute. Then place in a bowl. Chop the remaining vegetables and add to the tomatoes. Boil the vinegar and sugar in a small pan over high heat until syrupy, like a sauce, about 2-3 minutes.

Place the roasted veggies equally on each of four dinner plates. Top with a serving of catfish. Drizzle with the vinegar sauce and serve immediately.

Serves 4 (2 1/2 cups veggies plus 4 servings of fish).

Per serving: 211 calories, 7 g. total fat (less than 2 g. saturated fat), 41 g. carbohydrate, 5 g. protein, 4 g. dietary fiber.

—The American Institute for Cancer Research

Nutrition Wise: Body mass index, tofu and fruit in yogurt

Q: Why is there a lower limit set for a healthy body mass index (BMI)? Isn't the lowest possible weight the healthiest?

A: Excess weight raises risk of cancer, diabetes and heart disease, but weight that is too low can be unhealthy also. Severely restricted eating, associated with a BMI less than 18.5,



KAREN COLLINS
MS, RD, CDN

usually means that nutritional needs are not met. Weight this low is also tied to eating disorders. In some cases, excessively low weight may not cause

poor health, but may be a sign of poor health, as in some respiratory and other chronic illnesses. Studies consistently link low BMI with osteoporosis and low bone mineral density. Examples of low weights associated with unhealthy BMIs are someone who is 5 feet 5 inches tall and weighs 105 pounds or less, and someone who is 5 feet 9 inches tall and weighs 120 pounds or less. Note that standard cut-offs defining healthy and unhealthy BMIs do not apply to children, teenagers, athletes, and pregnant women.

Q: Is it true that tofu is a good source of calcium?

A: The calcium content of tofu depends on how it is

made. Tofu is made by curdling soymilk, just as cheese is produced by curdling dairy milk. If calcium sulfate is used to make tofu it can be a good source of calcium, with at least 400 milligrams (mg) in a four-ounce serving (about one-half cup). That's even more than you'd find in a cup of milk (which has about 300 mg). The recommended daily total of calcium is 1,000 mg for most adults (1,200 mg for those over age 50). Tofu made using nigari (magnesium chloride) provides only a small amount of calcium, and tofu made with a combination of calcium sulfate and nigari provides some calcium, but not as much as a cup of milk. If you are looking for tofu with calcium, make

sure you check the label.

Q: Does the fruit in yogurt count as a serving of fruit?

A: Most commercial fruit yogurts contain about two tablespoons of fruit preserves per serving, too little to be considered a fruit serving. One serving of fresh, canned or frozen fruit is a half-cup. A quarter-cup of dried fruit (such as raisins) is also considered a serving. For a more nutritious fruit yogurt that includes a serving of fruit, spoon some plain yogurt into a bowl and add a half-cup of one or more of your favorite fruits. You can flavor your yogurt with a little vanilla and a teaspoon of sugar, or simply start with vanilla yogurt. Your home pre-

pared fruit yogurt will be higher in fiber and vitamins, and fresher tasting. It may also be lower in calories and less expensive. According to the American Institute for Cancer Research, eating an abundance of fruits and vegetables each day is one of the most important steps we can take to lower our risk of cancer. Finding ways to add an extra serving or two of fruit to our diets is worth the effort.

AICR's Nutrition Hotline is a free service that 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.

Entrepreneur battles Gehrig's disease, but not just for himself

By **JAN NORMAN**

Orange County Register

SANTA ANA, Calif. — It is a cloudless July morning, and Augie Nieto can see sunbathers filling the sand below his four-story house built into the cliffs of Corona del Mar, Calif.

He woke up excited, as he says he does every morning. Life is as beautiful as the Pacific Ocean view from his bedroom balcony.

Nieto, 49, who built a fitness equipment empire, cannot use his arms. He needs help to stand and to walk. He speaks with a measured cadence, each word carefully enunciated in order to be understood.

Augie Nieto has amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, more commonly called Lou Gehrig's disease, which is progressively destroying the nerve connections between his brain and muscles. His mind and senses are unaffected.

He smiles at the view. "Wow!" he says with slow, exaggerated clarity.

Nieto is best known for his entrepreneurial history, turning his chubby teen years into Life Fitness Inc., one of the

world's largest fitness equipment makers, which he sold for \$310 million in 1997. The Ernst & Young accounting firm twice has honored his entrepreneurial successes, most



MCT photo/Chas Metivier
Augie Nieto

recently with the presentation of an extraordinary "Spirit of Leadership Award" in June.

When Nieto was diagnosed with ALS in March 2005, he moved from denial through anger and self-pity to acceptance. It seemed an eternity to his wife, Lynne, but it took about two months. When life expectancy is three to five years, prolonged depression is an unaffordable luxury.

With acceptance came

determination to move beyond a life of success into a life of significance.

"I don't mourn what I can't do; I celebrate what I can do," he said, lounging at his kitchen table, his bare foot gently stroking his yellow Labrador, Hazel. "I redefine normal every day."

Nieto and his wife are busier now than before the diagnosis. They have established Augie's Quest to raise money to find treatment and a cure for ALS, partnering with the Muscular Dystrophy Association to minimize overhead costs and leverage an existing nationwide fundraising machine. One of the funding beneficiaries is a new ALS research center at UCI Medical Center in Orange, Calif.

The Nietos travel about half the time for fundraising and public speaking, "because I won't be able to travel as easily in the future," Nieto explained.

He is chairman of Octane Fitness, an adviser to North Castle Partners and is on the boards of several companies. He just finished, with Tom Pearson, the

book "Augie's Quest," which will be published in October. All proceeds will go to his organization.

And he spends as much time as possible with his four grown children.

For years, Nieto was a model of physical fitness. Now he is an encouraging model of living with physical limitations.

"Most important, I can give others hope," he said.

"Let me show you what I'm doing so I can continue to communicate," he said, turning with his feet to the computer behind him.

Wirelessly, he called his friend Bryan Andrus in San Diego. They each have webcams so they can see each other as they talk.

"I can talk to anyone around the world with this," Nieto said.

On a separate flat-screen monitor, letters and colored boxes began to scroll up. Nieto moved the computer mouse with his feet. As he selected letters and phrases, they moved to the left until whole sentences appear.

"I can type 45 words a

minute after just two months" of practice, he said.

Then his assistant placed a quarter-inch-square, wireless mouse on the bridge of his glasses, and Nieto continued "typing."

"I-can-do-this-almost-as-fast-as-with-my-feet," he said as the sentence formed on the monitor.

"When I can no longer move my head, I have a retina scanner that will pick up eye movement, and when I can no longer move my eyes, I can have a chip in my brain where I can move the cursor like you saw," he continued.

He has a wheelchair with three gyroscopes for stability that enables it to climb stairs and to raise him to 6 feet in the air so he can talk with people face to face.

Nieto shares these discoveries with others. "I receive validation from people all over the world, like the husband whose wife has ALS and he e-mailed me, 'I owe you my life,'" Nieto said. "Wow!"

Nieto gives public speeches to raise awareness and money for Augie's Quest. He knows

the effect he has on his audiences, such as those attending June's

Entrepreneur of the Year banquet in Irvine, where Ernst & Young honored Nieto and gave him \$10,000 for Augie's Quest.

They couldn't lift him onto the stage, so he spoke from his table, his image projected onto two giant screens. He was allotted a couple of minutes to speak after a video showed him and his quest.

The event organizers "had no idea what would happen, but I knew," Nieto said. "My message was simple: You have a gift of being entrepreneurs. What a pity it would be if you only use it for business. Why not use that skill with your community, with your family?"

All 688 successful entrepreneurs, their families and colleagues stood and applauded for several minutes. Many wiped away tears.

Then Nieto said, "Wow!"

Augie's Quest
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Tomorrow's Horoscope

Scorpions and Lions have always been associated with royalty — you can see them on royal crests and coats of arms. As the confluence of the heady Scorpio moon and Leo sun energies meet, they command respect. When emotions get demanding, rise to the occasion with the personal nobility, courage and kindness of royalty.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Hidden needs peek out of secret places, surprising you. It may be the first time you've admitted or even known that you wanted something. But you'll be surprised how quickly the need can be met once you embrace it.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). How you function in a relationship is a choice — one that you sometimes make unconsciously. But today, give it real attention. Once you've boarded the train, there's no getting

off until the next stop. **GEMINI** (May 21-June 21). Your quirky personality just won't let you bore anyone. As much as you try to be clear, you're still a riddle. Sagittarius and Aquarius people are the most likely to figure you out.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You're too smart to use your head all of the time. Your heart is the best at comprehending the universal signals now. When the wind whispers to you, you understand.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Someone is trying to convince you — not an easy task. Take it as a sign that your opinion matters, and that your support is valuable. In the end, a lot more is said than done.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). This is no "the more the merrier" situation. The more people you involve in your collaboration, the more compromising you'll have to do. Are you really willing?

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You're in fine form, which is why it's such a fabulous day to mingle and be seen. Letting others know what you're up to is your ticket to friendship and power, provided you're up to something others can relate to.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Answers come at an irritatingly slow rate. Your response is to do something impulsive. This will, at the very least, let others know how serious you are about getting things done.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-

Dec. 21). It's not too much to ask that people do as they said they would. Gentle reminders from you will keep things on track. Tonight is comfortable. Accept the happiness you find. Don't overanalyze it.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You're eager to learn everything you can about the new characters in your personal play. This could make those you're quite familiar with just a little bit jealous!

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Being well-informed, you'll make fortuitous arrangements. The best information you get will initially seem as though it falls under the category of "frivolous" or even "useless."

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). In the morning you take one opinion, but the evening brings you to a different conclusion entirely. Don't worry. Inconsistency is the mark of an open mind.

ASTROLOGICAL TOPICS: The Astrology of Fun. Remember your inner child? Ah, it's been so long. The sun in Leo remembers the kid in you who likes orange creamsicles, the thrill of roller skating and riding your bike for the very first time. As adults, we can forget what it was like to play — a tragedy!

The sun in Leo insists that your sun sign's best qualities always appear in the midst of play. **ARIES:** You communicate your love for life with your spontaneity and excitement, drawing others toward you. Maybe it's the way you latch on to your latest curiosity

and run with it full-speed ahead. You've always sensed a spotlight following wherever you go, spurring on your more dare-devilish adventures. Leo activities for you: theater, plays, rock concerts. **TAURUS:** Hanging with family is fun, charging you up with magnificent energy. You take pride in your roots and your home — your home is your castle. Lavish your loving attention on both, and your heart expands. Your leadership skills really shine as head of the family. Fun activities for you: decorating your home with your signature flair, organizing a family picnic, dinner parties. Come back for Gemini and Cancer!

CELEBRITY PROFILES: That lovable Lion, he's such a sucker for praise and attention from his friends that he can seem gullible. Remember how Woody Harrelson's friends were always pulling one over on his naive "Cheers" character? The "Cheers" Woody was a devoted friend to the end, a wonderful Leo trait. Real-life Woody has Jupiter in Aquarius. Harrelson's friends are as generous with him as he is with them.

If you would like to write to Holiday Mathis, please go to www.creators.com and click on "Write the Author" on the Holiday Mathis page, or you may send her a postcard in the mail.

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An Unfortunate Confluence of Events

Dear Margo: A little over a year ago, I was sexually assaulted by my boss at work. I no longer work there because of it. I tried to hire an attorney to sue him but could find no takers.

Let me back up a bit. We had a party to welcome me to the motel that I was going to manage, again. This would be the second time I worked for him. There were friends there as well, and we were all drinking and having a good time.

I became quite inebriated and decided to go to bed. (We were, after all, at a motel.) The assault occurred while I was in a deep sleep. By the way, we are both men. Since then I have not been in a relationship with anyone. I can't seem to keep a job for very long, I trust no one, and I have nightmares about being subjected to that kind of behavior again.

I am at the end of my rope about what to do. I have tried to seek counseling, but because I live in a part of the country that doesn't put much stock in psychological help, I can find no help. What should I do? — Deeply Tormented

Dear Dee: You were raped and are now suffering the traumatic aftereffects. I would guess there have to be some mental health services somewhere near your town, if not in it. If you cannot find any kind of therapist, ask your local hospital how they deal with rape cases.

You might also try to go online for rape support groups. You definitely need to talk this out. You might also want to moderate your drinking so you're aware of what is going on around you. Passing out is never a good idea. (You perhaps are feeling a little guilty on this score.)

I promise you that you can come out of this fearful, disturbed state and feel like yourself again with the support of others or talk therapy. — Margo, healingly

An Old Story
Dear Margo: I became involved with a man in my complex. He was new to the neighborhood and introduced his daughter to mine. The children developed a friendship, while he and I were interested (I thought) in something more.

He sent me flowers, called me every day, text messaged and "dropped by" most evenings. Between the adult dates and play dates, we were in each other's company often. I was very careful not to be demonstrative about my feelings in front of the children, but often he and I would sneak a kiss.

Once our relationship became physical, he completely withdrew. The phone calls and visits stopped, and he would not even look at me when I bumped into him in the street. Play dates between our children ceased. After asking for an explanation, all he could say was, "I thought I was ready for a relationship, but I am not."

Now, after much time has passed, he is seeing another woman who is at his house all the time. It's been more than one and a half years, and my heart sinks every time I see her car. I feel angry and sad and . . . dirty. I'm

seriously considering moving. What is your advice? — Dropped and Hurting

Dear Drop: Something scared him, or didn't feel quite right. He changed his mind and handled it badly. Try to accept that, for whatever reason, it didn't work out, and that he didn't explain it because he couldn't or wouldn't.

If it doesn't up-end your life, move if that will give you comfort. Do try to let it go, because some things simply have no answer. — Margo, supportively

Sometimes Life Is Complicated

Dear Margo: My situation has me hornsogged. When I was in fifth grade, I met my "best friend for life." We were both freckled, red-haired non-conformists. We hit it off right away and remained very close for decades . . . through marriage, children, death of parents, etc.

When her marriage went AWOL, I invited her to come and stay with my husband and me until she got back on her feet. You can see where this is going, can't you? Yup, the original "one month" with her and her dog turned into 14 months, and ultimately an "in flagrante" episode with my husband.

That was 10 years ago, and my dilemma has nothing to do with forgiveness of either party. That's a done deal. Here's where the true hurt comes in. She was like a wonderful "aunt" to my children growing up. They loved her, counted on her and trusted her.

Margo, through three high school graduations, one summa cum laude college graduation and one baby (my first grandchild), this woman has ignored my offspring. This is not a problem for me, however. (I figure, if she could betray a trust as great as that of a best friend's husband, nothing is beyond her.) The problem lies with my kids, who now range from 19 to 24. They still hurt from "Auntie's" defection and wonder what they did to alienate her.

What do I tell them that will assuage the hurt, without diminishing her or their father in their eyes? — Taking the High Road in Illinois

Dear Take: Your situation reminds me of the old saying "No good deed goes unpunished." Hard to believe, but taking in a friend who makes a beeline for the husband is an old story. Two famous examples were Dory Previn taking in Mia Farrow, who went on to marry her husband, Andre Previn. (For a while.) Patricia Neal took in her costumer, who then married her husband, Roald Dahl.

You are right that you cannot tell the kids you discovered Auntie and their father in, er, a clinch, but you can say that her absence from the family has to do with her, not them. Tell them sometimes people have their own demons that, unfortunately, damage relationships. Over and out. — Margo, convincingly

Dear Margo is written by Margo Howard, Ann Landers' daughter. All letters must be sent via e-mail to dearmargo@creators.com. Due to a high volume of e-mail, not all letters will be answered.

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HOLIDAY MATHIS



MARGO HOWARD

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ANSWERS

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

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Legals

No. P-13,556
ESTATE OF BETHEL LAVERNE CHRANE, DECEASED IN THE COUNTY COURT OF HOWARD COUNTY, TEXAS

NOTICE
Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Independent Administration for the Estate of BETHEL LAVERNE CHRANE, Deceased were issued on the 12th day of July, 2007, under Docket No. P-13,556, pending in the County Court of Howard County, Texas, to SHARON ANN WILKERSON

Claims may be presented in care of SHARON ANN WILKERSON to the estate addressed as follows:
Estate of Bethel Laverne Chrane
c/o Sharon Ann Wilkinson
PO Box 2241
Big Spring, TX 79721

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

DATED this 12th day of July, 2007.
SHARON ANN WILKERSON
Independent Executrix of the Estate of Bethel Laverne Chrane, Deceased.
#5454 July 23, 2007

Annie's Mailbox ®: Advice for those in need

Dear Annie: My husband and I have two grandsons, ages 8 and 6. These boys are precious to us.

Our problem is my daughter-in-law. Every so often, she decides to punish us by taking the boys away. The first time was because she felt my husband was sick too often. We were not allowed any contact with the boys for six months. The second time was after I bought some baby ducks for them. She decided the oldest was allergic, and we didn't see them for three months. (In the meantime, they were turned over to a sitter who smoked.) In addition, she decided that our dog (13 years old with a cancerous tumor) was somehow infecting the boys.

When the boys were last at my house, she was angry because I told them about the Easter Bunny and she didn't want me to. I think that sort of thing is harmless, but things escalated from there. She has phoned, screaming at us, and sent e-mails telling us she is "saving" the boys from our horrible influence, and that we should have a nice life, because we'll never see them again.

We have tried family counseling, but she ended up shrieking at the mediator. Unfortunately, our son apparently doesn't care enough to help. These occasions take their toll, not only on us, but also on the boys. What can we do? — Hurting Grandma

Dear Grandma: Your daughter-in-law sounds like she has a few screws loose, and your son is a piece of macaroni. You're going to have to tread carefully around them. First, you do need to respect Mom's authority. Live pets and topics like



KATHY MITCHELL
MARCY SUGAR

the Easter Bunny should be off-limits. The rest will require tact. She's looking for reasons to cut you out, so be as cooperative as possible, and apologize when she is angry with you. It doesn't matter if you are right. This is what it costs to see your grandchildren.

Dear Annie: One of my co-workers was down on his luck and had to take his car off the road. He was taking a taxi to work, but it was expensive. I offered to pick him up in the morning until he could find a second job. It's a little out of my way, and I usually enjoy quiet time in my car, but I didn't have a good excuse not to help out.

Six months later, he has done nothing about finding a way to increase his income so he can fix his car. Instead of helping, I feel like I am enabling him. Is it OK to say, "No more free rides"? — One-Way Trip

Dear One Way: By all means. Your co-worker should have offered to pay something for gas, but since he hasn't, tell him, "Gasoline is expensive, so could you chip in?" Specify how much you think is fair. If he refuses, tell him that picking him up is costing you too much, and suggest he find rides

from other people or look into public transportation.

Dear Annie: "Frustrated Dad in Mayberry" might like to know how I solved the problem of people talking during a performance.

Years ago, I was the PTA president and noticed that children and parents continued to talk during presentations and meetings. One day, I was at the podium when two ladies near the front were having a noisy conversation. I stopped talking and waited patiently at the podium until they noticed. I explained that I didn't want to interrupt them but needed their attention so we could proceed quickly along. After doing this sort of thing twice, I never had to stop again. People knew we would wait for them. Later, I received compliments and comments from other parents saying they were glad I did it. — Past PTA President

Dear Past President: We're not sure this would work at a major school performance, but it can't hurt to try. Thanks for the suggestion.

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. To find out more about Annie's Mailbox, and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

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Texas starts drying after rain stranded train, forced evacuations

By The Associated Press

The sun was finally out over South and Central Texas on Sunday after days of torrential rain that left an Amtrak train stranded, flooded roads and sent Boy Scouts on a camping trip fleeing for their lives.

As much as 17 inches of rain had fallen in some areas between 10 p.m. Friday and 10 a.m. Saturday, said Pat McDonald, a National Weather Service forecaster. Dozens of people were rescued, some by helicopter, but no serious

injuries were reported in the state's latest round of flooding.

Only isolated showers were forecast through Tuesday, but several Central Texas rivers were either at flood stage or expected to reach that level Sunday night or Monday, McDonald said. Those included the San Marcos, Guadalupe, Medina, San Antonio, Nueces and Frio rivers.

The high water posed little threat to homes but was a problem for some recreational areas and ranches, he said.

A Boy Scout troop from sub-

urban Fort Worth camping on the Guadalupe River had to make a quick getaway early Saturday when the water rose rapidly. No one was injured, but the troop lost five vehicles, including its 15-passenger van, to the waters north of San Antonio, the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram* reported.

"I've never seen water rise like that," Juan Ramirez, one of 15 Scouts on the outing, told the newspaper. "We barely got out of our tent."

An Amtrak train was halted Saturday morning in Knippa, a

town about 75 miles west of San Antonio, after water covered the tracks, stranding 176 passengers.

Buses drove most passengers Saturday evening to El Paso, where they boarded another train and were under way by 10 p.m., Amtrak spokeswoman Vernae Graham said Sunday. A few passengers caught trains at other stops between San Antonio and El Paso, Graham said.

A woman who authorities say drove a minivan around road barricades south of Austin and

became stuck in floodwaters with two children was charged with child endangerment.

Laura Delarosa, 30, of Dripping Springs, was arrested Saturday after rescue workers got her and the children — a 9-year-old girl and a 7-year-old boy — to safety.

The National Weather Service confirmed a small tornado in Guadalupe County near Seguin on Saturday about 5:25 a.m. Four businesses and at least one house were damaged, Guadalupe County Sheriff's Cpl. John Batey said Saturday.

TEXAS NEWS BRIEFS

State board of Education delays adoption of new reading, writing curriculum standards

AUSTIN (AP) — The State Board of Education has postponed until next year the adoption of new reading and writing curriculum standards for Texas public school students.

Education groups urged the board to allow more time for teachers to provide input on how to best teach English language arts.

The state's reading curriculum was last revamped 10 years ago. Last week's decision means the board will vote on new curriculum in February, rather than taking a preliminary vote this September and final action in November.

Board Chairman Don McLeroy, R-Bryan, and acting Texas Education Commissioner Robert Scott had wanted to push ahead for a preliminary vote on the plan this fall.

Hundreds turn out for asbestos screening in West Dallas neighborhood near plant

DALLAS (AP) — More than 500 current and former residents of a West Dallas neighborhood that was home to a vermiculite plant showed up for asbestos screening over the weekend, officials said.

Parkland Memorial Hospital used a \$250,000 state grant to X-ray up to 300 people. But a higher turnout meant officials had to make a list of residents who were turned away.

In 2005, the federal government determined that the Texas Vermiculite plant could have exposed its employees and neighbors to asbestos.

W.R. Grace & Co. operated the plant from 1953 to 1992 before it was demolished between 2001 and 2002. It produced fire-retardant materials extracted from vermiculite. The process released asbestos fibers, which are small enough to be inhaled, and can contribute to lung ailments.

Man who attacked Houston police car with pipe killed and officer wounded

HOUSTON (AP) — One man was killed and a Houston police officer wounded in a shooting that occurred after the man attacked a police car with a pipe before authorities said he turned on officers.

The shooting occurred after officers responded to a call from a woman in south Houston who said her son had threatened her with a knife, police spokesman Officer Gabe Ortiz said. The wounded officer was struck by a gunshot fired by another officer. His injury was not life threatening, Ortiz said.

Family members were outraged by the Saturday night death. They said Guillory, 39, was a paranoid schizophrenic who had been in and out of treatment much of his life.

Police said in a statement Sunday night that there was no opportunity during Saturday night's incident for crisis intervention team members to become involved.

Man charged with attempted murder after lighting three women on fire

WACO (AP) — A 23-year-old man accused of setting his mother, aunt and another woman on fire after pouring gasoline on them was jailed on attempted murder and arson charges.

Ishmael Lopez, of Waco, was arraigned on two counts of attempted murder Saturday. Lopez also faces arson of a habitation and aggravated assault charges in the three women's attack.

Investigators say Ishmael Lopez poured gasoline on his mother, 52-year-old Adela Lopez, following an argument early Wednesday. They say he did the same to his aunt, Diann Gonzales, 44, and Lydia Herrera, 43. Then, he lit a fire that seriously injured all three women, Waco police said.

Adela Lopez had improved to stable condition, while Gonzales and Herrera were in critical condition at Parkland Hospital in Dallas.

Ishmael Lopez turned himself in to the Waco fire marshal Friday morning.

Copperas Cove couple recovering from bee attack after being stung hundreds of times

COPPERAS COVE (AP) — A Copperas Cove couple are recovering from an attack by bees that swarmed over them as they returned from checking the construction progress of their new home.

Doctors stopped counting Karen Folger's stings at 500. Charlie Folger had more than 100 stings on each arm after the attack earlier this month. The couple's

13-year-old daughter, 11-year-old son and 2-year-old son were protected from the attack inside the family's sport utility vehicle.

Charlie Folger said he felt something hit his ear as he started to get into the SUV.

"Then I swatted at it, and it felt like five bullets hit me in the back of the head," Folger said. "I heard this roar, and I looked down, and my shirt, my arms were just covered in bees. I couldn't see any skin. It was literally two seconds from the first sting on my ear to the time they covered me."

The Folgers both said the bees filled their mouths, making it difficult to breathe. They said doctors at a local hospital told them they were lucky to survive the July 8 attack.

Lampasas police Sgt. Tony Barrio said he'd never encountered such a ferocious bee attack.

"I've been doing this 17 years, and I've never seen an attack like that. I've been on a lot of bee calls, and I've never been aggressively pursued by bees," he said.

"The fire department put a thousand gallons of water down that tree and hit it with two hoses," he continued, but it hardly slowed them down. "At that point, we sealed off the street for a half a mile."

As he was swarmed, Charlie Folger ran down the road, trying to get the bees off.

"I ran to the top of the intersection and stopped so I could clear my throat because they filled my mouth," Folger said in a story in Sunday's Killeen Daily Herald. "I chewed them up and swallowed them to keep them from blocking my airways. I was pulling them out of my mouth and just crushing them with my hands."

He finally found help at a nearby home, but didn't realize his wife and children were still back at the vehicle where Karen Folger was covered in bees.

"They hit me so hard, they came immediately," she said. "I never really saw the swarm, I couldn't wrap my brain around it. It hurt so bad; it felt like I was on fire. What can I do? I was just trying to get myself out of the situation."

She said she couldn't open her mouth because the bees poured in. The couple's 13-year-old daughter called police from within the SUV.

Charlie Folger said he thought the bees might have swarmed because of noise from a passing motorcycle.

Entomologist Alexis Park at the University of California-Riverside, who studies the swarming behavior of European honeybees, believes the Folgers unknowingly disturbed a parent colony of Africanized honeybees.

Street racing blamed in accident that led to death of pregnant woman in Houston

HOUSTON (AP) — A pregnant woman was killed and her husband and infant daughter were injured early Sunday when their pickup truck was struck by a vehicle involved in a street race, police said.

Doctor's saved the woman's baby with a Caesarean section, police said. Her husband and 11-month-old daughter were taken to a hospital and were expected to survive, according to a story on the *Houston Chronicle* Web site. The pregnant woman's name was not released.

Police said a Camaro and another vehicle were racing at about 2:15 a.m. when the Camaro struck the back of the pickup, causing it to flip over and skid along a median.

The driver of the Camaro sustained minor injuries and remains in custody with intoxication manslaughter charges pending against him, police said. The driver of the other vehicle fled in what police described

as a silver-colored vehicle.

Field with 10,000 marijuana plants found by authorities on utility's land near Dallas

GRAND PRAIRIE (AP) — Federal drug agents and local authorities cleared a massive marijuana field in North Texas on Saturday where more than 10,000 pot plants were growing.

The field, which covered upward of seven acres and was located where the city limits to Grand Prairie and Dallas meet, was discovered Friday after a caller phoned in a tip to Grand Prairie police.

More than 10,451 marijuana plants were found, said Jim Capra, special agent in charge of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration's field office in Dallas. The plants would be worth as much \$5 million if grown to maturity, he said.

The property is owned by the utility company Oncor. The company's security officials were helping with the investigation, Capra said.

Shortfall means no interest-free loan program for new students

DALLAS (AP) — Just weeks before starting a new academic year, thousands of college students throughout Texas are being told they won't get the interest-free, forgivable loan they were counting on to pay tuition.

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board notified college financial aid offices this month that there isn't enough money in the Texas "B On Time" loan program to cover all the students who qualify.

The program awards students interest-free loans that are totally forgiven if they graduate on time with at least a B average. But with \$8 million less in the program than last year, state officials told college financial aid offices that there is no loan money available for new students.

About 650 students who obtained the loan last year also won't be able to renew, though which returning students will lose out hasn't been determined.

"If you're not going to do the program, then at least give notice far enough in advance so that you're not counting on that money," said DeSoto parent Emily Barmer, whose son, Brad, won't be getting the loan.

Last year, Texas spent \$49 million on "B On Time" loans, enough for 12,800 students. But there's only an estimated \$41 million available for the loans this academic year, enough for 9,900 students.

Texas's two largest campuses, the University of Texas at Austin and Texas A&M University, have started notifying incoming freshmen who won't get the loans as expected.

Campus financial aid officials say they are trying to offer students other types of loans. But those loans can charge 6 or 8 percent interest and don't offer forgiveness for good grades and timely graduation.

Those offers have become even more important in recent years, when tuition at public, four-year colleges has risen about 40 percent on average. Tuition, room, board and expenses is expected to top \$20,000 this year at UT's flagship campus.

Some Texas colleges didn't tell incoming freshmen about the "B On Time" loans because officials weren't sure the money would come through.

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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

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

Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

Famous Hand

North dealer.
North-South vulnerable.

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

WEST
♠ 8 4
♥ A Q 10 9 6 2
♦ 8 3
♣ J 8 4

EAST
♠ K 10 9 5 3
♥ K
♦ 9 7 6 5
♣ Q 5 3

SOUTH
♠ A J 7
♥ 8 5 4 3
♦ K Q 10 4
♣ 10 9

The bidding:
North 1♣
East 2♣
South 2NT
West 3♥

Opening lead — eight of spades.

History does not record the declarer on this hand played many years ago, so South will have to be remembered only by the name of Anonymous.

East-West were playing weak jump-overcalls, and East's two-spade bid was designed only to harass his vulnerable opponents. West's three-heart bid was more of the same. These tactics proved successful, though, because they jockeyed North-South into a poor three-trump contract.

West led a spade, and South won with the jack. Declarer could see only eight tricks, with little hope of a ninth. He knew that if he gave up a club trick early in the play to try to establish the suit, the defense would be in position to run five or six heart tricks.

But South considered the matter carefully and, after a while, came up with an ingenious scheme to steal the contract. At trick two, he led the three of hearts!

This apparently suicidal play worked out just as declarer had hoped. West did not go up with the ace of hearts, which would have settled South's hash immediately, but made the normal play of the queen. East, forced to win the trick with the king, returned a diamond.

Declarer took it in his hand, led the nine of clubs and ducked it to East's queen. The party was now over. East returned another diamond, and declarer finished with 10 tricks consisting of two spades, four diamonds and four clubs.

South had realized that West's heart holding could not very well include the A-K-Q or he would have led the suit originally. Declarer therefore placed East with a singleton honor, which he hoped was the king or ace.

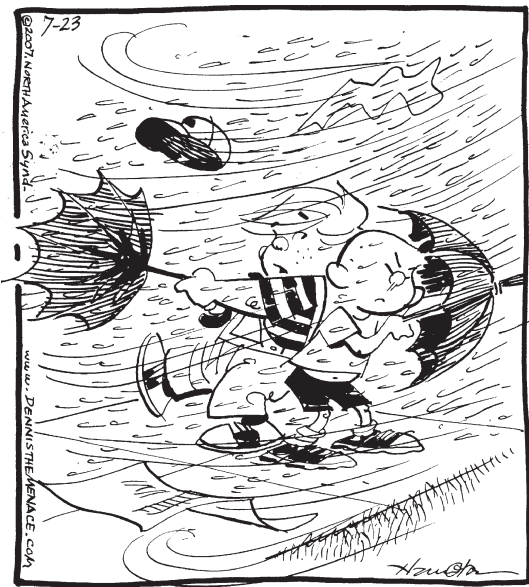
West could have saved the day, of course, but how many players do you know who would have gone up with the ace of hearts at trick two?

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MONDAY

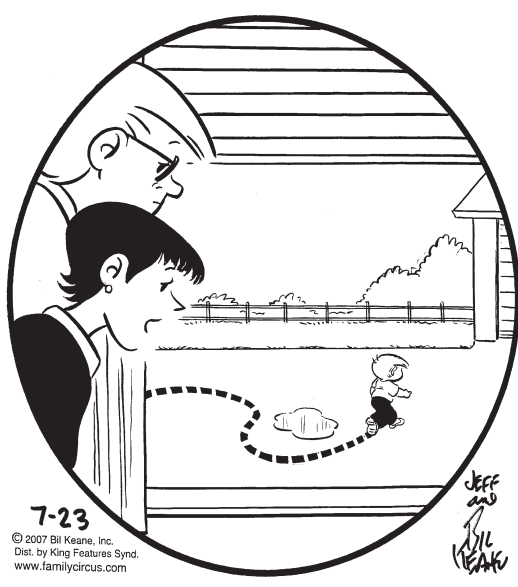
	WFSA (2) Dallas	KMID (3) Midland	UNI (4) Spanish	KPEJ (5) Odessa	KOSA (7) Odessa	KTLE (8) Telemundo	KWES (9) Midland	WTBS (11) Atlanta	KMLM (12) Odessa	KPBT (13) Odessa	DISC (20) Discovery	AMC (21) Classics	SPIKE (22) Spike TV	TNT (23) Atlanta	BET (26) Black Ent.	DISN (27) Disney	ESPN2 (28) Sports	ESPN (29) Sports	SCIFI (64) Science Fic.
6:PM :30	News (CC) Entertainment	News Wheel-Fortune	Yo Amo a Juan	King of the Hill The Simpsons	News Entertainment	Dame Chocolate	News Be a Millionaire	Raymond Raymond	Van Impe Pres John Hagee	News-Lehrer	Man vs. Wild		CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.	Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	Live (CC) Hell Date	Han. Montana Zack & Cody	MLB Baseball: Boston Red	Football Live	Star Trek: Enterprise
7:PM :30	Wife Swap (CC)	Wife Swap (CC)	Amar sin Limites	Smarter Than a 5th Grader?	How I Met Old Christine	Madre Luna	Age of Love (CC)	Friends (CC) Friends (CC)	Update/Israel Charles Scott	Antiques Roadshow	Build It Bigger	Movie: Batman	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.	Heartland (CC)	Movie: Turn It Up (CC)	Movie: Max Keeble's Big	Sox at Cleveland	ESPN Ultimate NASCAR	Star Trek: Enterprise
8:PM :30	CMA Music Festival:	CMA Music Festival:	Destilando Amor	Hell's Kitchen (CC)	Two/Half Men How I Met	Zorro - La Es- pada y la Rosa	Age of Love (CC)	Friends (CC) Friends (CC)	Light of the Southwest	History Detectives	Build It Bigger		Movie: Sin City	The Closer (CC)		Move (CC) Life Derek	Indians (CC)		Star Trek: Enterprise
9:PM :30	Country's Night to Rock	Country's Night to Rock	Cristina	Becker (CC) Friends (CC)	CSI: Miami (CC)	La Esclava Isaura	Dateline NBC (CC)	Friends (CC) Friends (CC)		Power of Art	Build It Bigger			Saving Grace (CC)	Soul Food (CC)	That's-Raven Life Derek	The Bronx Is Burning (CC)	Baseball Tonight	Star Trek: Enterprise
10:PM :30	News (CC) Nightline	News Nightline	Primer Impacto Noticiero Univ.	70s Show Raymond	News Late Show-	Noticias 12 Corazones	News Tonight Show	Seinfeld (CC) Seinfeld (CC)	The Hour of Healing	Charlie Rose (CC)	Build It Bigger	Catwoman (CC)		Cold Case (CC)	Take the Cake (CC)	Zack & Cody Han. Montana	The Bronx Is Burning (CC)	SportsCenter (CC)	Noein (CC) Tokko (CC)
11:PM :30	The Insider Jimmy Kimmel	Jimmy Kimmel Live (CC)	Bus.-Timbriche Hora de-Risa	King of the Hill Malcolm-Mid.	Letterman Late Late	¡Al Rojo Vivo!	Late Night- Conan O'Brien	Funniest Commercials	Uri Harel Scrivner	Sign Off	Build It Bigger (CC)		CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.	The Closer (CC)	Jamie Foxx Jamie Foxx	Replacements Kim Possible	NASCAR Now Mix Tape Tour	Baseball NFL Live	Street Fighter Street Fighter
12:AM :30	Live (CC) News (CC)	Extra (CC) Tri-Vita	El Privilegio de Amar	Malcolm-Mid. My Wife-Kids	Show The Insider	Programa	Conan O'Brien News	Movie: Big Bully (CC)	Update/Israel Curt Landry		Build It Bigger	Beautiful	Star Trek: Voyager	Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	Comioview (CC)	Emperor New American Drgn	Mix Tape Tour X-Games	SportsCenter (CC)	Twilight Zone Twilight Zone

DENNIS THE MENACE



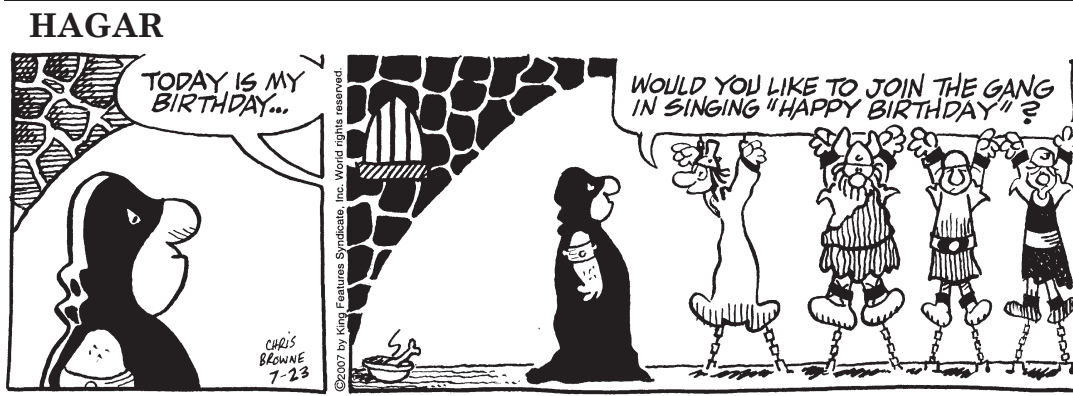
"GEE! MOTHER NATURE'S A LOT LIKE MR. WILSON! ONE DAY SHE'S NICE, AN' THE NEXT DAY SHE'S GRUMPY!"

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

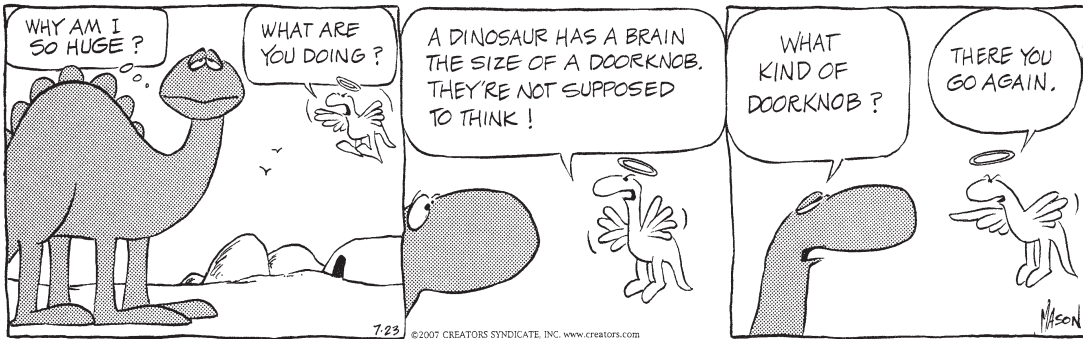


"Maybe Billy has grown up. He just walked around that puddle."

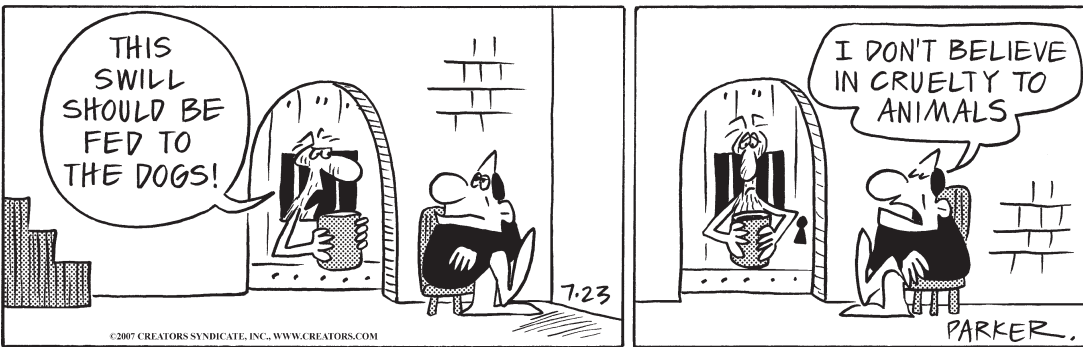
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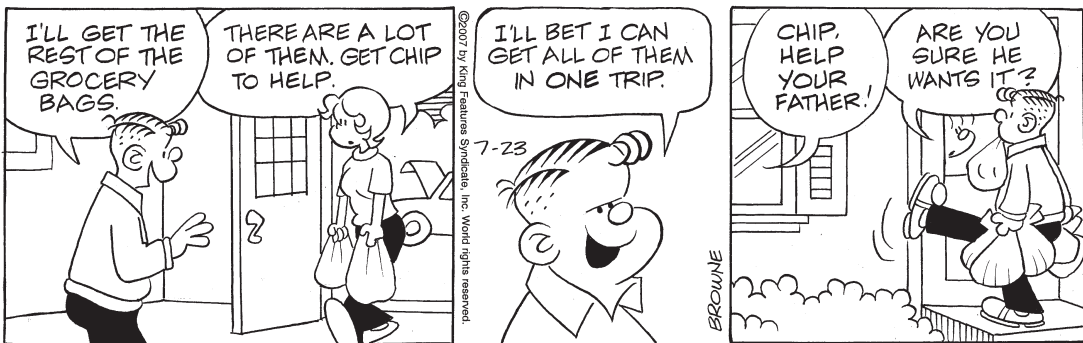
WIZARD OF ID



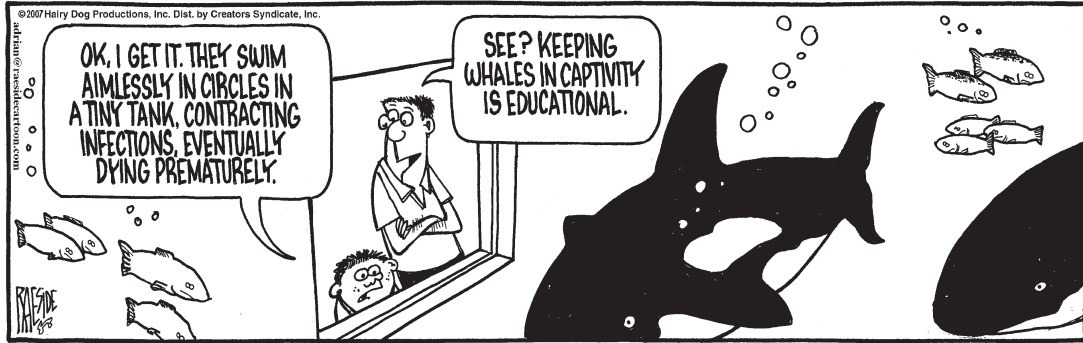
AGNES



HI AND LOIS



THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BETLE BAILEY



This Date In History

Today is Monday, July 23, the 204th day of 2007. There are 161 days left in the year. Today's Highlight in History: On July 23, 1967, a week of deadly race-related rioting that claimed 43 lives erupted in Detroit. On this date: In 1885, Ulysses S. Grant, the 18th president of the United States, died in Mount McGregor, N.Y., at age 63. In 1886, New York saloon-keeper Steve Brodie claimed to have made a daredevil plunge from the Brooklyn Bridge into the East River (however, few historians believe the jump actually occurred). In 1892, Emperor Haile Selassie of Ethiopia was born. In 1914, Austria-Hungary issued an ultimatum to Serbia following the killing of Archduke Franz Ferdinand by a Serb assassin; the dispute led to World War I. In 1945, French Marshal Henri Petain, who had headed the Vichy government during World War II, went on trial, charged with treason. (He was condemned to death, but his sentence was commuted.) In 1951, Henri Petain died in prison. In 1952, Egyptian military officers led by Gamal Abdel Nasser launched a successful coup against King Farouk. In 1977, a jury in Washington D.C. convicted 12 Hanafi Muslims of charges stemming from the hostage siege at three build-

ings the previous March. In 1982, actor Vic Morrow and two child actors, 7-year-old Myca Dinh Le and 6-year-old Renee Chen, were killed when a helicopter crashed on top of them during filming of a Vietnam War scene for "Twilight Zone: The Movie." (Director John Landis and four associates were later acquitted of manslaughter charges.) Today's Birthdays: Actress Gloria DeHaven is 82.

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Answer to previous puzzle

PEATBOG	ADJUSTS
ONLEAVE	PREPTIE
STARTING	PITCHER
TEMPE	TREES
DROSS	LEAD
OED	PEAR
CREATE	SETBACK
NANCYDREW	
RANCHOS	ITSELF
METOO	APEX
ALLY	ALOU
MEA	HUMOR
MANDARIN	NORANGES
ARTISAN	PUNJEST
SNAPPLE	ATTESTS

Newsday Crossword RESTAURANT WORK by Gail Grabowski Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS
- 1 Something extra
- 5 Yardstick unit
- 9 Nickels and dimes
- 14 Expel, as from power
- 15 Song for one person
- 16 Upper-arm muscle
- 17 Students' vehicle
- 19 Entrap
- 20 Stadium levels
- 21 General Grant's foe
- 22 Be aware of
- 23 Feared greatly
- 25 Guitarist Atkins
- 27 Deli loaf
- 28 Turnpike or street
- 31 One in charge
- 34 Bandleaders' sticks
- 37 Logger's tool
- 38 Conceit
- 39 "Baloney!"
- 40 Under the weather
- 41 Cartoon bark
- 42 Low-scoring tie
- 43 Dance move
- 44 Keyboarded again
- 46 Zilch
- 48 Gardener's purchase
- 49 Walks a beat
- 53 Poems of praise
- 55 Shirt-sleeve filler
- 56 Molecule parts
- 58 Handbag
- 60 Author of medical fiction
- 62 Blacksmith's block
- 63 Trucker with a transmitter
- 64 Italian wine region
- 65 Impolite looks
- 66 Roll-call response
- 67 Wind-instrument insert
- DOWN
- 1 Fence stake
- 2 Clearheaded
- 3 Theater employee
- 4 They stockpile stuff
- 5 Oahu or Maui: Abbr.
- 6 Aristocratic
- 7 Tipped off, with "in"
- 8 Fire-hydrant attachment
- 9 CSI network
- 10 Grunted, as a pig
- 11 Remark of impatience
- 12 Infamous Roman emperor
- 13 Eject, as lava
- 18 National anthem start
- 24 Like a fish fillet
- 25 Permission
- 26 Breakfast side dish
- 28 Speckle-coated horse
- 29 Wheel connector
- 30 Shrink bark
- 31 Grizzly, for one
- 32 Fairy-tale monster
- 33 Machine-dispensed ice cream
- 35 Like fine wine
- 36 A pair of
- 39 Wish earnestly
- 43 Toy on grooved tracks
- 45 Corporal's affirmative
- 47 Tehran's country
- 49 Investigate
- 50 Traffic-light color
- 51 Off the leash
- 52 Struck forcefully
- 53 Milky gem
- 54 Sand hill
- 55 Part of the foot
- 57 Lose control on ice
- 59 Overhead trains
- 61 Make angry

