

KIM L. BANGO, MD
Board Certified in Family Medicine



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Former Lady Steer receives state honors

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WEDNESDAY

AUGUST 1, 2007



BIG SPRING

HERALD

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On the air

XM Radio to spotlight Nix

By **THOMAS JENKINS**

Staff Writer

Local country musician Jody Nix might very well be the first Big Spring artist from his genre in space minus the goofy astronaut suit.



Nix

Nix, who carries on a family music tradition started by his father and uncle, Hoyle and Ben Nix, will be "beamed" into outer space Thursday morning thanks to XM Radio's "Willie's Place," a satellite radio show spotlighting traditional country music.

"I'm supposed to be on the air with Eddie Kilroy from 7 a.m. until 10 a.m.," said an obviously

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SIGN DOCTOR



Neil Anderson, a street technician with the city of Big Spring, works to remove the base of a stop sign that was recently hit by a vehicle at the corner of 17th Street and Scurry. Anderson has been with the city streets department for more than 20 years.

HERALD photo/Thomas Jenkins

Perry's veto may cost HC \$1.6 million

By **STEVE REAGAN**

Staff Writer

Howard College officials are looking for a million-dollar inspiration.

Claiming that Texas community colleges were being less than upfront in their appropriation requests, Texas Gov. Rick Perry recently vetoed a portion of the funding bill aimed at those institutions.

The veto effects how much the state contributes to employee group health insurance payments, and that action could end up costing

"I am encouraged that we have lines of communication open and people are seeking a resolution to the matter."



Sparks

Howard College more than \$1 million.

Howard College

See **VETO**, Page 3A

Rising utilities among concerns for local college

By **STEVE REAGAN**

Staff Writer

The exploding costs of utilities have Howard College officials feeling the pinch.

College trustees will address rising utility costs and other factors when they begin formulating the college's 2007-

2008 budget during a workshop at 8:30 a.m. Thursday in the student union building Tumbleweed Room.

Dr. Cheryl Sparks, Howard College president, said operating expenses are expected to

See **COLLEGE**, Page 3A

Spreading the word about Alzheimer's

by **DUSTIN WILSON**

Staff Writer

Not many people are aware of the devastation caused by Alzheimer's disease.

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

However, Alzheimer's Association regional director Debbie Erdwurm has made it her goal to spread the word and educate as many people as she can, and according to her, the best way to educate is through participation.

The Alzheimer's Association is celebrating its 10th annual Memory Walk this September with a mile-long trek through Comanche Trail Park. Big Spring is only one of the areas in West Texas committed to the walk, along

See **WALK**, Page 3A

What: Alzheimer's Memory Walk.

Where: Comanche Trail Park.

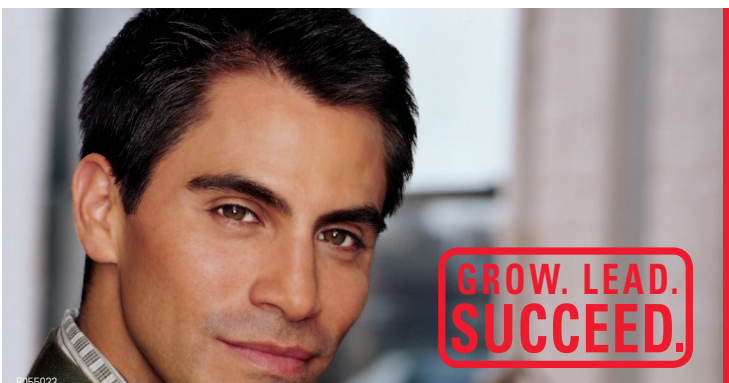
When: 9 a.m. Sept. 22.

Contact: Debbie Erdwurm at (432) 570-9191.



HERALD Photo/Dustin Wilson

Regional director of the Alzheimer's Association, Debbie Erdwurm, right, discusses plans with Marcy House director Cindy Lopez and program coordinator Janet Cross for the upcoming Alzheimer's Memory Walk in September.



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Sports

BIG SPRING HERALD

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

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Wednesday, August 1, 2007

IN BRIEF

Coahoma Athletic Boosters meeting

The Coahoma Athletic Booster Club will hold a meeting at 8:30 p.m. today in Coach Kim Nichols' classroom in the high school.

They will be meeting to plan homecoming as well as other upcoming events. Anyone interested is welcome to attend.

For more information, call Paula Buske at 816-4034 or Laura Martin at 267-8660.

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.

Lady Steers v-ball team meeting

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

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

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.

LULAC golf tourney for scholarship set

The League of United Latin American Citizens will host their First Annual LULAC Scholarship Golf Tournament at Big Spring Country Club Aug. 11.

The event will benefit a scholarship fundraiser for local high school or junior college graduates seeking an undergraduate or graduate degree at a major university within the state.

The format is an 18-hole 4-man scramble beginning at 9:30 a.m. Entry fee is \$75 per player and includes green fees, cart, range balls, lunch and refreshments throughout the day.

Registration is due by Aug. 10 with enrollment limited to the first 72 paid entrants.

For entry and sponsor information, contact Anthony Mendoza at 264-0026 or e-mail him at anthonymendoza03@yahoo.com.

Country club to host over 80 golf tourney

The Big Spring Country Club is hosting an over 80 scramble tournament starting at 1 p.m. Aug. 18. The tournament will conclude Aug. 19.

Call the pro shop at 267-5354 for more information.

Rangers ship off Teixeira and Gagne

By PAUL J. WEBER

Associated Press Writer

ARLINGTON — The Texas Rangers made a number of moves last winter to try to be instant contenders. But the trades the Rangers completed before Tuesday's non-waiver deadline now suggest a much longer timeline.

Unloading two of their biggest names, the Rangers dealt closer Eric Gagne to Boston and completed a deal to send first baseman Mark Teixeira to Atlanta. Rangers owner Tom Hicks told The Associated Press in an e-mail that Teixeira rejected an

offer for an eight-year, \$140 million contract extension made two weeks ago.

Throw in last week's deal that sent center fielder Kenny Lofton to Cleveland, and in return, the Rangers acquired mostly a heap of prospects and a new starter in left-hander Kason Gabbard.

But general manager Jon Daniels — who brought Gagne, Lofton and slugger Sammy Sosa to Texas on one-year deals last winter — insisted the Rangers aren't starting over.

"This is not a tear down," he said.

Daniels instead billed the trades as a longer-term strategy

to build around core players Michael Young and Kevin Millwood and give Texas the best chance at returning to the playoffs for the first time since 1999.

Millwood said the players had "mixed emotions" to the deals that made Texas the busiest team in the majors before the trade deadline.

"The trade for Tex (Teixeira) kind of had to happen, I think," Millwood said. "He just wasn't going to re-sign here. At least we got some good players. Gagne, I kind of felt we had a chance to sign him. I'm a little more surprised, but we move on."

In exchange for Gagne, the Red

Sox sent Gabbard and minor league outfielders David Murphy and Engel Beltre to the Rangers. Daniels said Gabbard will enter the Rangers' starting rotation but did not know when.

Daniels said he is not ruling out the possibility of getting Gagne back through free agency after the season.

By sending Teixeira to the Braves, the Rangers acquired rookie catcher Jarrod Saltalamacchia and four minor leaguers. Hicks said the Rangers made their extension offer to Teixeira two weeks ago, then

See TRADES, Page 2B

Former Lady Steer Abner receives state honors

By JEFF LANE

Special to the Herald

Recently, former Lady Steer multi-sport standout Katy Abner, was one among 20 track and field and cross-country athletes honored by the Texas Girls Coaches Association for 2007.

During her 2-day trip to Austin she participated in track and field skill demonstrations and took questions from coaches across the Lone Star State.

"It's incredible to be recognized at this level," said Abner, when asked about receiving the honor. "Only seniors can be recommended by their coach and then your coach basically submits your athletic resume to the TGCA track committee, who literally reviews hundreds of recommendations from across the state from all divisions 1A to 5A. It's just such an honor"

It has been a long road to this point and much of the journey started last year when Abner moved to Longview. The past year has brought many changes.

"Moving my senior year was one of the hardest things I think I have ever done," Abner said. "The adjustment was very difficult. Even getting in shape was a challenge because of the high humidity in East Texas."

With change came a renewed commitment to her ultimate goal of pursuing a pole-vaulting career at the collegiate level. But Abner, used to being involved in 4 different sports, wasn't ready to give up everything.

Abner had been an outstanding volleyball player



Courtesy photo

Katy Abner, formerly of Big Spring, vaults over the bar in the Class 4A, Region II Track and Field Meet held at the University of North Texas. Abner won the regional meet, advancing to the state competition where she finished sixth.

for the Lady Steer program and was determined to earn a position at her new school, Class 4A Pine Tree High School.

"I knew it would be tough, because there were nine seniors on the team, but I knew if I worked hard and turned up my intensity I could earn a position," she said. "I ended up setting and was also hitting outside before the season was over and was named first team All-District."

However, she did give up playing softball and

basketball this year to concentrate more on track.

"I decided this was the year I needed to focus more on track, if I was going to get prepared like I needed to be."

After volleyball season she began making a 3-hour round trip drive to Forney, where she would work with private coach Paul Richards twice a week.

Richards owns the company that makes Altus Pole Vault poles. Working with him gave Abner

more opportunities to compete.

"I vaulted indoors during the winter, which I had never done before," she said. "I was able to vault at the University of Houston and the University of Arkansas."

Abner earned eight first place finishes this past season, including the District 12-4A title. The highlight of her season was winning the Class 4A Region II championship at the University of North Texas in Denton, with a jump of 11'6".

This earned Abner her first trip to the state track meet, which she had missed by one jump the previous year.

"I put everything I had into the regional meet, because I knew I didn't have anything to lose, this was my last shot at going to state" she said.

"At state I placed sixth with a jump of 11'6", with one miss going into 12' and I was over it, but needed to adjust my standards."

See ABNER, Page 2B

Cowboys defense relying more on communication

By JAIME ARON

AP Sports Writer

SAN ANTONIO — When the Dallas Cowboys line up on defense these days, there's all sorts of chatter going on.

"We're telling each other, 'Hey, I'm gone.' Or, 'You've got to come to me,'" cornerback Terence Newman said.

The noise isn't caused by guys trying to figure out what to do and where to be in the scheme being implemented by new coach Wade Phillips. It's by design, a simple thing called communication.

And not only was it lacking under coach Bill Parcells, it was basically forbidden.

"Last year, it was really one guy speaking. Me," inside linebacker Bradie James said. "A lot of pressure was on me to make the calls. Really, my whole job was to manage the game. But now, we have a lot of guys talking. Communication is definitely big. You have to have communication on the back end and the front end so everyone knows

what's going on.

"If you don't communicate well, you don't have a chance. It only takes one bad play to ruin a game. So now everyone is speaking up. It's not just on one guy. It's on everybody to make sure they know what's going on, from down and distance to what formation is in and what to expect."

Newman said that although he has experience playing with fellow defensive backs Anthony Henry, Aaron Glenn and Roy Williams, it's somewhat meaningless because of the new system and the new emphasis on communication.

"It's kind of like we're all being together for the first time," Newman said. "In this defense, everybody has to talk. If you watch practice, and you pay attention, you can hear everybody talking because everyone has to know exactly where the other person is at. ... If everyone is on the same page and you still mess up, it's better than half the side knowing the defense and

See COWBOYS, Page 2B



MCT photo/Jeffery Washington/Fort Worth Star-Telegram

Dallas Cowboys' Bradie James returns an interception from Tennessee Titans quarterback Vince Young Oct. 1, 2006, at LP Field in Nashville. James and the rest of the defense say communication is the biggest difference in the new defensive scheme.

Obituaries

Police blotter

Bulletin Board

Jessie Suggs

Monday, July 30, 2007. Jessie Suggs went home to be with her Lord and Savior. She was a long-time resident of Aspermont, but had resided in Abilene since January 2001 due to declining health. She was at Royal Estates Assisted Living and since April, at Coronado Nursing Center. Much love and care was shown to her and us as a family at both places as they have become our extended family. Thanks also goes to Sears Hospice of Abilene as her last days were made much easier for her and her family.

She always had a smile on her face and tried to encourage people along the way. No matter what happened, it was always "going to be all right." Now it is finally all right, as she has been made whole and is in the presence of the Lord. She is finally with all the loved ones who have preceded her in death. Her favorite songs, "I'd Rather Have Jesus," "When We all Get to Heaven" and "I Want to Stroll Over Heaven With You" state her true feelings and desire in life. She stood firmly on Psalm 46:1 (God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.)

Funeral service is set for Mrs. Suggs, 81, at 10 .m. Thursday, Aug. 2, 2007. The services will be held at First Baptist Church in Aspermont. Brother Gary Lawrence of Abilene will officiate the service under the direction of McCoy Funeral Home in Aspermont. Burial will immediately follow in the Aspermont Cemetery.

Born in Brock, Okla., to John and Lona Stewart Hammer on Jan. 31, 1926, Jessie graduated from Monument High School in Monument, N.M. in 1944. She married James Suggs in Monument on March 13, 1948. After 45 years of marriage, James preceded her in death on Sept. 18, 1993.

She was a long-time member of the First Baptist Church in Aspermont.

She was preceded in death by both her parents, a brother, Jack Hammer, a brother, Bill Hammer, and a daughter-in-love, Terrie Suggs.

Survivors include her brother, Ronnie Hammer and wife Peggy of Hobbs, N.M.; sister Carolyn Evans and husband Mickey of Mineral Wells; and sister-in-law Carrie Hammer of Florence, Miss. Also surviving are three sons, Gary Suggs and wife Lennie of North Richard Hills, Ricky Suggs and wife Deborah of Big Spring and Randy Suggs of Midland. Also surviving is one daughter, Kathye Parker and husband Kenneth of Abilene. There are eight grandchildren, 17 great-grandchildren (plus one on the way) and numerous cousins, nephews and nieces.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorials to the charity of your choice or Sears Hospice, 3233 S. Willis St., Abilene, or Pioneer Drive Baptist Church Food Pantry, Abilene.

Pallbearers will be grandsons and grandsons-in-love. They are Jason Suggs of Fort Worth, Steve Parker of Midland, Jay Parker of San Angelo, Daniel Parker of Abilene, Jeff Suggs of Bullard, James Seals of Wall, Jeff Dobbs of Colleyville, and great-grandson Matthew Parker.

The family will be staying at the Whitten Inn in Abilene. Visitation will be at McCoy Funeral Home from 6 p.m. to 6 p.m. Wednesday.

Paid obituary

Francis Jaird

Francis Jaird, 72, of Big Spring died Tuesday, July 31, 2007, in a Midland hospital. His services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Take Note

A FUND HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED FOR THE FAMILY OF ALBERT "BERT" CARRILLO, who was killed in a traffic accident near Ft. Stockton Saturday, at the Big Spring Education Employees Credit Union to help offset burial expenses. The Credit Union is located at 1110 Benton. Call 263-8393 for more information.

HOWARD COLLEGE AND SOUTHWEST COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE FOR THE DEAF will be honoring Ron Brasel, provost at SWCID for the past 21 years, with a retirement party from noon to 1 p.m., Monday, Aug. 6 in the SWCID Auditorium. Refreshments will be served and a "retirement rocking chair" will be available for all in attendance to sign messages to Ron. Everyone is invited.

Weather

Tonight...Mostly cloudy. Isolated showers and thunderstorms in the evening...Then scattered showers and thunderstorms after midnight. Lows in the upper 60s. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph in the evening becoming light and variable. Chance of precipitation 50 percent.

Thursday...Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and thunderstorms. Heavy rainfall possible in the morning. Highs in the lower 80s. East winds around 10 mph. Chance of precipitation 50 percent.

Thursday night...Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and thunderstorms. Lows in the upper 60s. East winds around 10 mph. Chance of precipitation 40 percent.

Friday...Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers.

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

- **ARTHUR CALLOWAY**, 17, of 1301 Sycamore, was arrested Tuesday on charges of unauthorized use of a vehicle, evading arrest and resisting arrest.
- **ERNESTO MUNIZ**, 21, of 1105 Lamar, was arrested Tuesday on three local warrants.
- **ERICK HERNANDEZ**, 28, of 400 Circle, was arrested Tuesday on eight local warrants and two capias warrants.
- **JAMES LONG**, 41, of 1707 Muleshoe, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of driving while intoxicated - second offense.
- **EDWIN JAMES DEAN**, 42, of 1205 Lancaster, was arrested Tuesday on charges of public intoxication and violation of a protective order.
- **LEON LEE TREVINO**, 26, of 600 Lancaster, was arrested Tuesday on charges of assault causing bodily injury/family violence, public intoxication, four local warrants and a Dawson County warrant.
- **AGGRAVATED ASSAULT WITH A DEADLY WEAPON** was reported in the 300 block of Owens.
- **ASSAULT CLASS C/FAMILY VIOLENCE** was reported in the 400 block of Sunset.
- **BURGLARY OF A VEHICLE** was reported in the 400 block of Edwards.
- **DRIVING WHILE INTOXICATED - SECOND OFFENSE** was reported in the 2400 block of Goliad.
- **DRIVING WHILE LICENSE INVALID** was reported in the 2300 block of Gregg.
- **EVADING ARREST OR DETENTION USING A VEHICLE** was reported in the 1700 block of Wasson.
- **RESISTING ARREST, SEARCH OR TRANSPORTATION** was reported in the 1300 block of Sycamore.
- **THEFT** was reported in the 2500 block of Wasson.
- **UNAUTHORIZED USE OF A MOTOR VEHICLE** was reported in the 1300 block of Sycamore.
- **VIOLATION OF A PROTECTIVE ORDER** was reported in the 600 block of 16th Street.

Sheriff's report

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

- Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 48 inmates at the time of this report.
- **FRANK GIBBS**, 59, was arrested by the HCSO Tuesday on charges of issuance of a bad check and theft.
- **JOSE ELLIS LINFERNAL**, 32, was arrested by the HCSO Tuesday on a charge of delivery of a controlled substance.
- **APRIL DAWN ALLAIN**, 26, was arrested by the HCSO Tuesday on a charge of driving while license invalid.
- **MARIA VARGAS**, 32, was arrested by the HCSO Tuesday on a charge of issuance of a bad check.
- **ROLANDO VARGAS**, 27, was arrested by the HCSO Tuesday on a charge of theft.
- **JERARDO VARGAS**, 28, was arrested by the HCSO Tuesday on a charge of hindering apprehension/prosecution.

Fire/EMS

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

- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 800 block of Nolan. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 200 block of W. Sixth Street. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1600 block of Lark. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 2900 block of W. Highway 80. One person was transported to SMMC.

Lottery

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

Winning numbers drawn: 5-6-23-27-30.
Number matching five of five: none.

AUSTIN (AP) — The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Tuesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 5-6-3.

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

- WEDNESDAY**
- Optimist Club meets at 7 a.m. in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.
 - Senior Circle meets at 10:30 a.m. at Scenic Mountain Medical Center for Sit and Be Fit Chair Aerobics. Those 50 years and older are invited to attend. Call 268-4721.
 - Downtown Lions Club meets at noon at the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.
 - Duplicate Bridge Club meets at 1 p.m. in the Big Spring Country Club.
 - Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie meets at 7 p.m. in the Eagles Lodge at 703 W. Third.

- THURSDAY**
- Gideon International Big Spring Camp U42060 meets at 7 a.m. in Herman's Restaurant.
 - Kiwanis Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane. Call 267-6479.
 - League of United Latin American Citizens LULAC Chapter 4791 meets at 5:30 p.m. at the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce. For more information, contact John Ybarra at 264-1628. The public is invited.
 - Genealogy Society of Big Spring meets at 7 p.m. in the Howard County Library, 500 S. Main.
 - Big Spring Masonic Lodge No. 1340 meets at 7:30 p.m. at 2101 Lancaster.

- FRIDAY**
- Signal Mountain Quilting Guild meets from 9 a.m. until about 3 p.m. at St. Mary's Episcopal Church. Call 267-1037 or 267-7281 for more information.
 - AMBUCS meet at noon in La Posada Restaurant.
 - Greater Big Spring Rotary Club meets at noon at the Big Spring Country Club.
 - Spring City Senior Citizens country and western dance from 7:30 p.m. until 10:30 p.m. featuring Monroe Casey and the Prowlers. All area seniors are invited.

- SATURDAY**
- Big Spring Cruisers cruise Gregg Street and at the Sonic Drive-In beginning at 6:30 p.m.
 - Eagles Lodge Dance at 8:30 p.m. at 703 W. Third.

- MONDAY**
- Keep Big Spring Beautiful meets at noon in the Cactus Room at Howard College.
 - District Committee Lone Star of Big Spring meets at noon at 610 Scurry.
 - Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) No. 21 meets at 5 p.m. in the Dora Roberts Rehabilitation Center, 306 W. Third for weigh-in. The meeting begins at 5:30 p.m. Call 1-800-392-8677 or 263-0391 or 263-1758.
 - Evening Lions Club meets at 6:45 p.m. at Dragon China Buffett.

BIG SPRING HERALD

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Ron Midkiff Publisher... Ext. 250
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Rangers' McCarthy picks up first win since May

By TOM WITHERS

AP Sports Writer

CLEVELAND — On a day of multiple moves, the last one the Texas Rangers made was to line up in the infield and shake hands.

They won, and it was a feeling they wouldn't dare trade away.

Brandon McCarthy got his first win in more than two months, beating 13-game winner Fausto Carmona to lead the trade-happy Texas Rangers to a 3-1 win over the Cleveland Indians on Tuesday night.

"It was a big boost for McCarthy and a big boost for us," said manager Ron Washington, who lost his top player and closer in separate trades. "We played pretty good against a pretty good team."

McCarthy (5-7) had been win-

less since May 27, with three losses and four no-decisions since a 14-1 victory over Houston in an interleague game.

But the right-hander, who made just one start in June and went on the disabled list because of a blister on his middle finger, baffled the Indians and took a shutout into the seventh before Ryan Garko homered. He allowed four hits in 6 2-3 innings — his longest outing since Sept. 22, 2005.

"It had been a couple months since I had one (win)," McCarthy said. "It was nice to have that feeling again."

Carmona (13-5) was unbeaten in five July starts and was bidding to become the majors' second pitcher with 14 wins. He allowed three runs — two earned — and five hits in seven

innings.

Nelson Cruz homered for the last-place Rangers, who were baseball's most active wheelers and dealers before the 4 p.m. EST trading deadline.

They completed a seven-player swap with Atlanta, sending slugging first baseman Mark Teixeira and pitcher Ron Mahay to the Braves for catcher/first baseman Jarrod Saltalamacchia and four minor leaguers.

Texas also traded Eric Gagne to the Boston Red Sox for starter Kason Gabbard and two minor leaguers.

The shakeup left Washington without a proven closer. He used Frank Francisco to get through the seventh before going with C.J. Wilson, who got the final four outs for his first save of the season.

The Indians, who didn't pull the trigger on any deals at the deadline, have scored two runs or less in six of eight games. Cleveland dropped to 2-6 on a 10-game homestand.

"We're trying to stay positive," Casey Blake said. "It has happened before. Runs are tough to come by and then all of a sudden we'll score 10. I wish we had some answers. We're still all right, but we're letting some opportunities slip away."

Cruz snapped Carmona's 22-inning scoreless streak and gave the Rangers a 1-0 lead in the fifth with his sixth homer, a 446-foot shot that whistled through the trees beyond the center-field wall.

It was the first homer off Carmona in 38 1-3 innings in July, and first since he allowed two in a 13-7 loss to Oakland on

June 27.

The Rangers tacked on two runs — one earned — in the sixth, when Carmona briefly lost his control and the Indians' defense didn't bail him out.

Ian Kinsler walked leading off, and hustled to third when Michael Young singled to right. Young advanced on the throw and the Rangers loaded the bases when Carmona plunked Sammy Sosa, who briefly glared at the right-hander before heading to first.

Marlon Byrd followed with a hard grounder to third that Blake should have knocked down, but it scooted past him for a two-run error.

"It bounced up and I thought it was going to hit me in the face," Blake said. "It hit something and I didn't even get a glove on it. I felt bad."

COWBOYS

Continued from Page 1B

half the side playing something else."

So is that part of what went wrong down the stretch last year?

"We don't even want to talk about last year," James said. "This year, it's totally different. Everyone is communicating, stepping up to the plate and doing what they're supposed to do."

New defensive coordinator Brian Stewart is so enthused that he's gone on record saying Dallas could have the best defensive in the league.

"That's good," Newman said. "If your D-coordinator doesn't think you can be the best in the NFL, that's bad. ... We definitely have the talent. We've got to take that to heart and take it over to the game."

WE LOVE S.A.: Quarterback Tony Romo was a wide-eyed rookie when the Dallas Cowboys last held training camp in the Alamodome. After a few years in the Pacific Coast breezes of Oxnard, Calif., he was eager to get back in front of the fans

in San Antonio.

"I told some of the new guys that came in, 'You're in for a treat,'" Romo said. "Every time we come out here they make it feel like a mini-scrimmage or a game in some ways. Every time you drop back to pass, you want the crowd to cheer so you want to complete it. It adds to it. It's really exciting for us."

The first week of camp drew 86,392 fans to the Alamodome, including 17,297 for a concert. The smallest crowd was 3,580 for Monday's morning workout.

Coach Wade Phillips likes it when the fans get loud because it forces players to listen and focus harder, like they'll have to in games.

He doesn't even mind when the sounds are stirred up by mascot Rowdy.

"You have half your games on the road and there's going to be noise," Phillips said. "If noise is going to bother your team, you might as well learn it now. People put on loudspeakers and all that to get their team ready to play on the road. So I don't think it hurts when he does it. I think it helps certainly when we

make a play and everybody gets excited, too."

The biggest plus of being in the Alamodome is not worrying about the weather. Coaches know they'll get their work in without rain and that players won't be fatigued by the sun, two especially important factors with a new coaching staff.

Of course, the heat is coming. The Cowboys are expected to start working out at team headquarters Aug. 11, leaving them plenty of time to sweat.

"Outside in Texas right now we couldn't have the zip in the practices we're having," Phillips said. "You'd have to slow it down. The teaching would be slower. I think it's good to have the pads on and be able to work hard like we can do and have more reps. And then get used to the heat."

For Terrell Owens, the downside to being here is the constant reminders that the San Antonio Spurs beat the Cleveland Cavaliers in the NBA finals. Owens was rooting for the Cavs because he's friends with several of their players.

"I hope some of that Spurs' championship rubs off on us while we are down here," he said.

ABNER

Continued from Page 1B

On her last attempt at 12', she hit the bar with the back of her thigh.

"That's how far over the bar I was. If only I had pushed the standards all the way back, the outcome would have been different," she explained.

"But I'm not going to get caught up in the what ifs. I did something I've never done before, which was a bigger accomplishment to me than clearing 12'. I challenged my own mind set and won."

Abner went on to explain that on her last two attempts she used bigger poles than she had ever used before.

"I was blowing through my other ones. I knew it was now or never," she explained. "I wouldn't have done that a year ago, or even two months earlier." "That was a defining moment in my mental toughness," Abner continued. "I knew I had the physical strength and

capacity to get on bigger poles, but I had a little self-doubt. That's what I was able to overcome."

Abner quoted the famed NFL coach, Vince Lombardi who said, "What lies behind us and what lies ahead of us are tiny matters, compared to what lies within us."

Even after achieving so much Abner has bigger plans.

"After state I signed with Abilene Christian University," she said. "I had looked at several other offers. However when I compared the programs, ACU just stood out, both athletically and academically."

When asked if she had any regrets about leaving

Big Spring, she said it was bittersweet. She spoke highly of her missed friends and coaches.

"I missed my old coaches, even the ones in junior high. I owe them all big thanks," Abner said. "Some of the best coaches I ever had were Jay Kennedy and Chad Fouts. Coach Kennedy taught me how to run and Coach Fouts taught me how to pole vault. I really wish I could have brought these titles home to Big Spring."

"When people ask me where I'm from," she continued. "I tell them I graduated from Pine Tree High School in Longview, but I'm from Big Spring."

TRADES

Continued from Page 1B

told agent Scott Boras that they would trade the former All-Star either now or after the season if the offer was declined.

Last week, the Rangers traded Lofton for minor league catcher Max Ramirez.

Losing Teixeira marks the third time this decade the Rangers have traded an All-Star power hitter. Texas dealt Juan Gonzalez in 2000 and Alex Rodriguez in 2004 in hopes that those moves would make the club more competitive down the road.

Daniels said the latest trades aren't an admission that their strategy last winter was off target.

"It's an admission that we recognize where we are in the standings," Daniels said. "We had two choices as far as direction. We wanted to make sure that we built something that was sustainable."

NOTES: The Rangers activated 2B Ian Kinsler from the 15-day disabled list Tuesday after he missed 26 games with a stress fracture in his left foot, and they recalled left-hander A.J. Murray from Triple-A Oklahoma. Infielder Desi Relaford was designated for assignment.

Associated Press sports writers Tom Withers in Cleveland and Stephen Hawkins in San Antonio contributed to this report.

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What started out as an invitation to take a WWII veteran to see the National World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C., has turned into a calling of a lifetime for former U.S. Air Force captain Earl Morse. Plus, NASCAR artist Sam Bass and bean and corn salad.

American Profile

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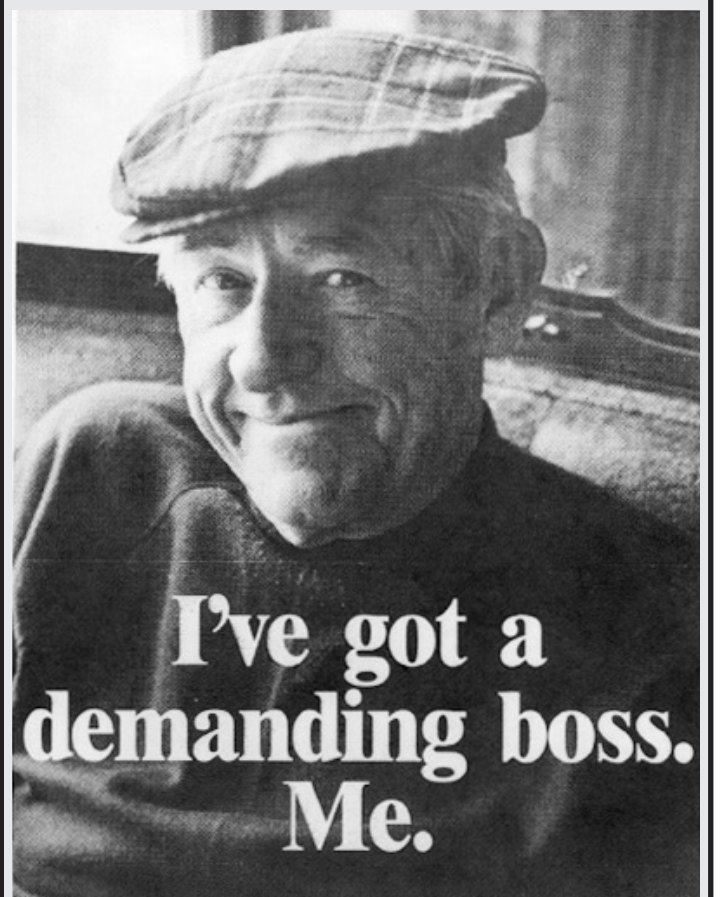
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VETO

Continued from Page 1A

President Dr. Cheryl Sparks said the conflict between Perry and community colleges boils down to an issue called "proportionality."

Perry has long advocated proportionality, the idea in which the state pays for college employees benefits in the same ratio used for paying salaries. In other words, if the state pays for 50 percent of a person's salaries, it should contribute 50 percent of the money for health insurance costs.

During the last two regular sessions of the Texas Legislature, studies conducted by the Legislative

Budget Board nixed applying proportionality to community college employees, but Perry acted with his veto in July, saying that the state would only pay a portion of the disputed benefits.

Sparks said the veto, if it stands, will not hurt the college in the upcoming fiscal year, but will force a \$1.6 million shortfall in 2008-2009.

"It would be a dramatic loss for the college," Sparks said. "State law says we have to provide health insurance for our employees ... We're going to have to reconsider our policy with regard to health insurance."

Sparks is hopeful that proposed negotiations involving Perry, Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst and the

LBB results in a restoration of the benefit payments.

Meanwhile, the college will play a game of "wait and see," she noted.

"We have been considering what to do to address this anticipated shortfall," Sparks said. "However, we received a letter from the Lt. Governor and it sent the message for us not to take any drastic action at this moment ... I am encouraged that we have lines of communication open and people are seeking a resolution to the matter."

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

COLLEGE

Continued from Page 1A

rise about \$300,000 over the previous budget year, with the chief culprit being rising energy and utility costs.

That, combined with smaller state aid than anticipated, has college officials facing some tough choices, she said.

"We're making cuts where we can in operating costs ... but we're also looking at some employee positions being frozen," Sparks said.

The college will receive basically the same amount of state revenue as the previous year,

which is less than college officials anticipated. The college will receive money to help construct a workforce training center at SouthWest Collegiate Institute for the Deaf, but no extra revenue aside from that, Sparks said.

Another factor to consider during the workshop will be the district's tax rate for the coming fiscal year.

Earlier this year, voters approved a \$21 million bond to finance construction and renovation on the Big Spring campus.

Sparks said debt service on the bond will add 8 cents to the overall tax rate this year, which will put pressure on trustees to increase the current

rate of 24.12 cents per \$100 valuation.

After spending the morning on budget matters, trustees will reconvene at 12:30 p.m. for a special business meeting.

At that time, they will discuss preliminary budget work, the tax rate and scheduling of public hearings for the budget and tax rate, Sparks said.

Trustees also will select an architectural/engineering firm to oversee the bond-related renovation projects.

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

NIX

Continued from Page 1A

excited Nix. "XM Radio and Willie's Place have done so much for me and the Texas Cowboys. They've really given us a lot of exposure and helped increase CD sales. It's really been a blessing."

The show, which is featured on XM Radio's

Channel 13, is co-owned by the Red Headed Stranger himself, Willie Nelson, and features music by the likes of Patsy Cline, Left Frizzel and Loretta Lynn.

The show is hosted by Kilroy, who was a prominent country music record producer in Nashville, Tenn.

Among the topics of conversation might be the

country performer's heritage — he's played with the legendary Bob Wills and many other greats — and Saturday's 9 p.m. show at the Stampede in Big Spring with acclaimed musician Tony Booth.

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

WALK

Continued from Page 1A

with in Lamesa, El Paso and Midland.

"November is National Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month, and the Alzheimer's Association has a nationwide fundraiser every year between September and October. We're happy to say that Big Spring has always been one of the larger participants in the state. Last year we had a turnout of around 350 people, and we expect a lot more to come out this time around," said Erdwurm. "We always have tons of kids who like to come and walk and a lot of people bring along their dogs and horses. We try to have a lot of fun with it every year. Of course, we're walking to honor those who can't remember."

According to the Alzheimer's Association Web site, since its inception in 1989, the Memory Walk has raised more than \$175 million and is the largest national fundraising event for Alzheimer's disease.

"There are more than 5.1 million people in the U.S. who suffer from Alzheimer's. One out of every 15 people is diagnosed with the disease,

and that's a very scary and devastating number," said Erdwurm. "What the Alzheimer's Association really does is to make everyone aware of the disease. It's the sixth leading cause of death in the U.S. and the fifth cause of death for people over 60."

"There's no cure for Alzheimer's; all we can go on is hope. Care for people with Alzheimer's is going to bankrupt Medicare and Medicaid in the next 20 years, and due to the federal government cutting research funds every year, our association has become the leader in the research of the disease. We're constantly providing information from our findings and trying to make people aware."

The sponsors who have donated money this year include Alon USA, Parkview Nursing Home, Scenic Mountain Medical Center and members of the Retired Senior Volunteer Program. But Erdwurm expects a lot more.

"We're still getting people to sign up and encouraging groups to donate. I expect we'll have more people before the time of the walk," says Erdwurm. "Aside from the sponsors helping out, we already have 10 teams that are planning to walk, including a group of students

from Goliad Intermediate School. We encourage people to get a team together and sign up. We don't care if they walk five feet or finish the entire mile, it's every step that counts."

The Memory Walk is slated for Sept. 22 at 9 a.m., with registration set for 8:30 a.m. at the Old Settler's Pavilion in Comanche Trail Park. The walk will begin and end at the pavilion. For more information, contact Erdwurm at (432) 570-9191.

Contact Staff Writer Dustin Wilson by calling 263-7331, ext. 237, or e-mail him at life@bigspringherald.com.

Contact the Herald at editor@bigspringherald.com

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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

Let's get behind Coahoma RCCI spruce-up effort

Coahoma residents will be breaking out the hammers, nails, lumber and paint brushes Saturday in a community-wide spruce-up effort being organized by the Rural Community College Initiative revitalization group.

Property owners and volunteers will be doing painting and repair work to several downtown Coahoma properties on Saturday.

Members of Coahoma's RCCI group have sponsored several community-wide cleanup efforts in the past two years, but according to Jan Foresyth, spokesman for the committee, they are now shifting their focus to the downtown area.

"It's the first thing people notice when they drive into town," she said. "Several of the property owners will be painting their buildings and volunteers will be helping them."

The first part of the spruce-up took place last week with the placement of signs at the two Interstate 20 entrances to Coahoma. The signs, donated by Skip Burcham, are emblazoned with the community slogan, "Coahoma: Small on numbers but big on pride."

The RCCI group also is in the process of trying to secure grant money to purchase playground equipment for the community center.

All the volunteers' hard work these past couple of years is paying off. It's not difficult for visitors to see that the clean-up efforts are making a difference.

What's more, it's not costing the community's taxpayers anything, because all of these projects are being taken care of with volunteer work and grant funding.

Foresyth was absolutely correct with her assessment that Coahoma is "doing what small towns need to be doing."

We here at the *Herald* salute the work the RCCI group and other volunteers have accomplished in Coahoma and encourage residents of the community to lend a hand this weekend.

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
- By fax at 264-7205
- By e-mail Managing Editor John A. Moseley at editor@bigspringherald.com or News Editor Bill McClellan at newsdesk@bigspringherald.com.
- By mail at P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721

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- 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

If we take our time making a decision and give it to You, Lord, You show us the way.

Amen

Same question, just a new word

What part of the word 'illegal' don't you understand?"

That is by far the most frequently asked question I get from readers who disagree with my columns on illegal immigration. They are so fixated on that word that somehow they think it entitles them to be cruel to other human beings.

Some of their letters expressing their feelings about illegal immigrants are downright scary.

With these folks, there is little sense in trying to explain that jaywalking and driving without a seat-belt are also "illegal" — but it doesn't make us criminals or worthy of discrimination or abuse.

Of course, these are the same folks behind the movement to make local governments enforce federal immigration laws.

And now I have a question for them: "What part of the word 'unconstitutional' don't you understand?"

In a ruling that should serve as a warning to immigrant bashers all over the country, a federal court declared last week that local laws limiting where illegal immigrants can live and work are unconstitutional.

The court struck down ordinances passed in Hazleton, Pa., that would have fined landlords and employers who rented or employed illegal immigrants. In fact, the judge ruled that Hazleton cannot enact any ordinances dealing with illegal immigration because they conflict with the supremacy clause of the U.S. Constitution.

"Hazleton, in its zeal to control

the presence of a group deemed undesirable, violated the rights of such people, as well as others within the community," wrote U.S. District Judge James M. Munley in the 206-page opinion. "Since the United States Constitution protects even the disfavored, the ordinances cannot be enforced."

Ironically, the Hazleton ordinances had been used as models by many municipalities that have passed or are considering similar measures to crack down on illegal immigrants. Claiming they are frustrated with the failure of the federal government to enforce immigration laws or to pass stricter enforcement measures, some local grandstanding politicians have decided to take federal law into their own hands.

Yet in a strongly worded ruling, Munley noted that the ordinances were preempted by federal law and violated due process protections in the Constitution.

"Whatever frustrations ... the city of Hazleton may feel about the current state of federal immigration enforcement, the nature of the political system in the United States prohibits the city from enacting ordinances that disrupt a carefully drawn federal statutory scheme," the judge added. "Even if federal law did not conflict with Hazleton's measures, the city could not enact an ordinance that violates rights the Constitution guarantees to every person in the United States, whether legal or not."

He said the ordinances "penalize landlords, tenants, employers and employees without providing them the procedural protections required by federal law, including notice and an opportunity to be heard."

Nevertheless, Hazleton Mayor Lou Barletta, the new poster boy

of conservative extremists, is vowing to continue appealing the case all the way to the Supreme Court, not just for his town but for other municipalities led by politicians who may be interested in scapegoating illegal immigrants for political gain. Barletta and others like him are determined to keep spending taxpayers' money on a case they cannot win, a case that proves they are so obsessed with the word "illegal" that they are willing to violate the Constitution.

The groups that filed and won the suit, including the American Civil Liberties Union of Pennsylvania, had argued that only the federal government has the right to regulate immigration or to deprive residents of the rights of equal protection. On behalf of Hazleton residents, landlords and business owners, they also argued the ordinances violated state and federal housing laws.

Vic Walczak, the Pennsylvania ACLU legal director and the lead attorney in the case, told reporters that "Hazleton-type laws are designed to make life miserable for millions of immigrants" and that "they promote distrust of all foreigners, including those here legally, and fuel xenophobia and discrimination, especially against Latinos."

Perhaps it was wishful thinking, but ACLU executive director Anthony D. Romero noted that the ruling means "political leaders, like Mayor Barletta, must stop scapegoating undocumented immigrants for all the problems we confront in our local communities."

And if they persist, we have an old question — with a new word — to ask them: "What part of the word 'unconstitutional' don't you understand?"

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MIGUEL PEREZ



Dealing with birds of a feather

Birdie Slack of Pecos loves birds. Up to a point. "We've had birds out here that have been troublesome," says Birdie. "I remember one time there was just a huge cloud of blackbirds that landed in one of my trees. You could not put your foot down without stepping on some bird poop. And they chattered all the time. They were a real nuisance."

The birds were becoming a big problem, but she did not want her husband to get out his shotgun and start shooting the birds.

"I asked the lady who works for me if she could come out one evening to help me run the birds off. She was kind enough to say she would. She wanted to know

how we were going to do it. I told her I had a special plan."

Birdie, an ex-teacher, had two whistles she once used to call school kids in from recess.

"I took one and I gave her one. Then I gave her a big pan and a big spoon to bang on it. I took a whistle, a big pan and a big spoon. I told her to stay in the front yard and I went around to the back. Then we started banging on those things and blowing the whistles."

The birds were always in a flock.

They were either in trees in the back of the house or in trees in the front.

It was just a cloud of birds when they would fly from one place to another, messing up the place.

"They made a big mess on my patio and side yard. So when she would blow her whistle and hit her big pan, they'd fly across the house and land over here. Then I'd blow my whistle and bang on my pan and they'd fly over to

where she was."

They kept up the noise for about an hour and a half.

"My husband came home and noticed all the racket and he asked me if I was crazy. I told him I wasn't, that I just wanted to run these birds off. He told me he could get out there and shoot them and I told him no, I didn't want him out there shooting them."

The birds then rose up together and flew away from Birdie's house. They never came back.

"In just a little while after the birds left, my sister called and asked me if I knew where all the blackbirds went. I told her no. Then she told me they were at her house. She has lots of trees over there."

Birdie's sister told her she knew of a sure way to get rid of the birds. It involved a shotgun.

Birdie is her real name. She was named for her grandmother's nickname.



TUMBLEWEED SMITH

Why not check this out? At the library

Just when I think it is safe to come into my office without a pile of books to check over, Rosa loads me up with a cartload of new books, audio-books and movies on DVD. We have received about 20 Spanish movies on DVD and they will be out for you to check out pretty soon.

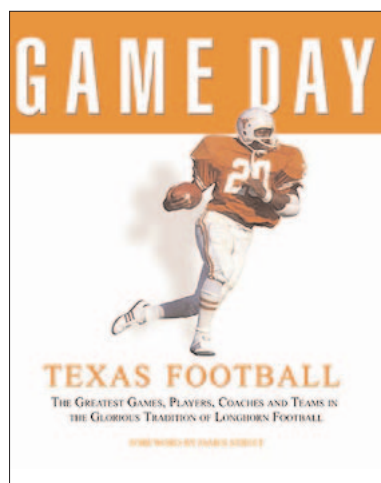
Cook Books

Do not review cook-books just before you leave for lunch! You will play havoc with your stomach to say nothing of the fact that the food you read about certainly *will not* be what you have for lunch. (By the way, Carlos' food was great.)

- "Cooking from the Hip" (641.597 COR C) comes Cat Cora's cookbook from the people who brought you the Food Network. I know that Howard County is the hotbed of nouvelle cuisine and everyone will enjoy Sake Margaritas, Chocolate Budino, and of course, Greek Lamb and Olive Burgers.
- "Eating Royally: Recipes & Remembrances from a Palace Kitchen" (641.509 MCG D) by Darren McGrady (Diana's private chef). For your next dinner party, no doubt Eggs Drumkilbo will be on the menu, along with

Curried Salmon Kedgerree. Both books have interesting stories along with food facts.

After all that, check out "The South Beach Diet: Taste of Summer Cookbook" (641.563 AGA A) to get back into shape. Even though I make fun of the recipes, there are many that will fit into anyone's taste or lifestyle.



Sports

- "Game Day: Texas Football" (796.330 TRI B) published by Triumph Books, is full of facts pertaining to the football program at the University of Texas in Austin. If you are an alumni or just really like the Longhorns, this would be a great book.
- "It's How You Play the Game" (796.092 KIL B) by Brian Kilmeade. It may not have the most

famous player or coach, but it has many stories of true sports. Kerri Strug, Angelo Dundee, Bob Dole, Stedman Graham — all have a chapter of what sports mean to them.

True Life Thrillers

• "Into Thin Air" (796.522 KRA J), is a harrowing account of the deadliest climbing season on Mt. Everest by Jon Krakauer and makes me very glad I have never had that desire to climb one of the tallest mountains on Earth.

In an excerpt from an Amazon.Com review, they write: "In March 1996, Outside magazine sent veteran journalist and seasoned climber Jon Krakauer on an expedition led by celebrated Everest guide Rob Hall. Despite the expertise of Hall and the other leaders, by the end of summit day eight people were dead. Krakauer's book is at once the story of the ill-fated adventure and an

analysis of the factors leading up to its tragic end.

I don't know how I ended up with just non-fiction books to review, when there were plenty of fiction also. Oh well.

• The final review is on "Lone Stars of David: The Jews of Texas" (976.400 WEI H) compiled and edited by Hollace Ava Weiner and Kenneth D. Roseman. I have reprinted the book flap information in describing this book. Jewish life in the United States is too often told from an East Coast perspective. Lone Stars of David presents a different panorama, with narratives of Jews who ventured to Texas before the battle of the Alamo, who fought for the Confederacy, who herded cattle up the Chisholm Trail, who drilled for oil, and who forged Jewish communities far from New York's Lower East Side. These essays also describe how Texas Jews faced the Ku Klux Klan and how they respond today to Christian funda-

mentalism.

This anthology exam-

ines the famous, with a close-up look at Neiman-Marcus, the chain synonymous with remarkable luxuries. It profiles Zale jewelers, founded by a young immigrant who grew into an international business icon. Another essay opens a window to the Dell Computer Corporation, with the story of Michael Dell, the college dropout whose philanthropy changed the course of the Austin Jewish community.

Written by historians, journalists, and rabbis who have experienced Texas firsthand, these essays challenge stereotypes. One chapter discounts the impact of crypto-Jews who fled the Spanish Inquisition for



HOLLIS MCCRIGHT

the New World. Another defies conventional wisdom about southern views toward Zionism. El Paso emerges as the unlikely home of a Holocaust museum. The book's essay on Jews in Texas politics analyzes the import of populist candidate Kinky Friedman and introduces Marjorie Arsht, a grassroots organizer whose living room was the setting for Republican George H. W. Bush's first foray into politics.

Howard County Library hours have changed. The library is open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Friday and closed on Saturdays during August. The Internet/Video room will close from noon until 2 p.m. and will close one hour before closing. The Library is located at 500 S. Main St. Our phone number is 264-2260. The Web site is www.howard-county.lib.tx.us

Hollis McCright is the director of the Howard County Library.

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Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

A Missive From Ananias

South dealer. East-West vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ —
♥ J 10 9 3
♦ A K Q 8 6
♣ 6 4 3 2

WEST
♠ A K J 10 5
♥ —
♦ 5 2
♣ A K Q 9 7 5

EAST
♠ Q 9 7 6 2
♥ 8 6 5 4
♦ 10 7
♣ J 10

SOUTH
♠ 8 4 3
♥ A K Q 7 2
♦ J 9 4 3
♣ 8

The bidding:
South West North East
1♥ 2♥ 4♥ 4♠
5♥ 5♠ 6♥ Pass
Pass 6♣ Pass Pass
7♥ Dbl Pass

Opening lead — king of spades.

Dear Mr. Becker: I'm sure you know as well as I do that bridge players have "on" days as well as "off" days. I don't claim to be more than just an average player, but the fact is that once in a while I manage to play a hand just like the experts would.

For example, take this hand I played recently at the club. Maybe the bidding wasn't according to Hoyle — though I've seen worse — but just the same I wound up at seven hearts doubled.

I was lucky to get a spade lead from West because, with a club lead, there'd be no story to tell. When dummy came down, I immediately spotted a chance to make the grand slam. I realize you might not believe that what happened actually took place, but I found the way to get around the entry problems the deal presented.

I trumped the spade with the nine, led a low diamond back and finessed the nine! I had to do this because I needed an extra entry to my hand to be able to ruff two more spades in dummy. I then trumped a spade with the ten, led a diamond to the jack and ruffed my last spade with the jack.

Now I played the trump three from dummy and finessed the seven. When this won, I heaved a huge sigh of relief, because I was then able to draw East's remaining trumps with the A-K-Q and discard my club loser on dummy's fifth diamond.

As a result, I made the grand slam, and the boys at the club haven't stopped talking about it yet.

Cordially yours, Ananias Jones

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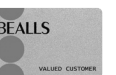
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News in brief

Mother apparently kills family, self

FLOWER MOUND (AP) — A stay-at-home mom killed her husband and two children before killing herself in an affluent suburban Dallas neighborhood, police said Tuesday.

Preliminary information indicates that Andrea Roberts, 41, shot her husband, Michael Lewis Roberts, 41, and children Micayla Roberts, 11, and Dylan Roberts, 7, while they were asleep before killing herself, said Officer Steven Caldwell of the Flower Mound Police Department. Each suffered a single gunshot wound to the head, he said.

Investigators found a suicide note, police said. Their bodies were found shortly before 10 a.m. by Michael Roberts' mother and next-door neighbor Tim Warren, who called 911.

Warren said Roberts' mother came to the house after her son's co-worker called to say her son had missed a flight that morning. She arrived after getting no answer calling the cell phones of her son, daughter-in-law and granddaughter, Warren said.

Police officer accused of assault in poolside incident

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — San Antonio police have opened an internal affairs investigation into the behavior of an officer accused of using a racial slur and beating a woman who asked him to put out his cigar at a community pool.

Tamara Vaughan, 18, said her jaw was pushed in and she still cannot open it far after an attack by Detective Keith Alfaro, 35, who was off-duty.

Vaughan was hospitalized. She has bruises on her

arm that she says are from Alfaro and estimates he hit her 25 times, including putting his forearm on her throat and choking her.

Alfaro was arrested last week and charged with aggravated assault and evading and resisting arrest.

Ed Shaughnessy, an attorney for Alfaro, said the case is pending before a grand jury and that Alfaro has not been formally indicted. He said his client maintains his innocence.

More than 100 pumps shorting consumers, ag report says

AUSTIN (AP) — The Texas Agriculture Department began publishing a list of gas stations with inaccurate fuel pumps on its Web site Tuesday, showing more than 100 that are short-changing drivers around the state.

As gas prices hover around \$3 a gallon across Texas, 74 pumps shorted consumers by at least 6 tablespoons per five gallons, while 31 pumps doubled that shortage amount to 12 tablespoons per five gallons, according to a report covering the previous 60 days.

The department allows a variation of about 6 tablespoons per five gallons of gas.

Fallen Texas soldier had lessons to share

LLANO (AP) — Fallen Army Maj. Thomas G. Bostick Jr. was an experienced soldier who mentored his troops in the field and planned to continue a life of teaching back in Central Texas, family members said.

The 37-year-old died Friday near Kamu, Afghanistan, of injuries sustained when his unit came under fire from enemy forces, the Defense Department said

Tuesday. The unit was attacked after a meeting with village elders.

At Llano High School, Bostick played basketball and participated in the Army Reserves. After graduating in 1988, he joined the Army full time and embarked on a career that included two tours to Afghanistan, deployment to Iraq and the U.S. mission to remove Gen. Manuel Noriega in Panama in 1989.

Brenda Richardson said her son loved leading his troops and sharing insights he'd gained from his superiors.

Two workers killed in Brownsville construction accident

BROWNSVILLE (AP) — Two workers were killed and a third was injured when a concrete wall panel collapsed at a construction site.

Officials said the employees of Texas Steel Erectors Inc. were pronounced dead at the scene Tuesday afternoon.

Brownsville police Sgt. Jimmy Manrique said the victims were a 52-year-old man from Austin and 49-year-old man from Toluca, Mexico. He declined to release their names pending notification of relatives.

A 22-year-old man from Austin was listed in critical but stable condition at a local hospital Tuesday night, Manrique said.

Leonel Garza, the city's assistant permitting director with the Building Inspections Department, said Key Construction, of Kansas, secured the building permit for the project.

Manrique said Texas Steel Erectors, an Austin company, is a subcontractor on the project.



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Christian ministry developing plans to distribute Bibles with newspapers

FORT WORTH (AP) — Everything from detergent to computer discs is packaged with the Sunday newspaper. So why not Bibles?

A Christian ministry wants to deliver custom-designed New Testaments to newspaper subscribers around the country as part of an effort to find innovative ways to spread a Christian message. But even in the Bible Belt, not everyone thinks that's a good idea.

International Bible Society-Send the Light is planning on spending

hundreds of thousands of dollars to distribute Bibles with 11 newspapers during 2007 and 2008. New Testaments would be packaged in pouches on the outside of newspapers, much like soap or other sample products.

The Fort Worth Star-Telegram announced in May it would deliver more than 200,000 New Testaments the last Sunday of the year. David House, the newspaper's reader advocate, said he received about 70 e-mails split between backers and those opposed to packaging the scriptures with newspapers.

"Do you have any idea how blatantly offensive this boneheaded move is to the thinking public?" a Fort Worth reader wrote in one of several letters to the editor on the topic.

Some of the outcry has come from one of the least likely sources — Christians. Bob Ray Sanders, the Star-Telegram's vice president and associate editor, said some worried that the Bibles tossed on the lawn with the newspaper would be thrown away because most people

already own a Bible.

"I expected that we'd get some criticism, but I thought it would be coming from people who were not Christian or not religious at all. Many of the complaints we got were from people who were Christian and didn't like the idea," said Sanders.

After an initial outcry in May, the paper told subscribers they could opt out of the delivered Bibles, which include the New Testament and local Christian testimony.

One reader wondered if he could halt other newspaper ads he doesn't like.

"Please note on my account that I want to receive the New Testament and 'opt out' of all other forms of unwanted solicitation and advertising. I want no toxic hair cream, no aspartame-filled gum or any other form of unwanted advertising," he wrote.

The Colorado-based International Bible Society published the New International Version of the Bible in 1978, and is one of the world's largest translators and distributors of scriptures.

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SALE PRICE Free



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Mail-in Rebate \$50.00

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Pre-Paid Service
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Smart Phones
Bag Phones
Installed Phones

New Activation required. Some restrictions apply. See store for details

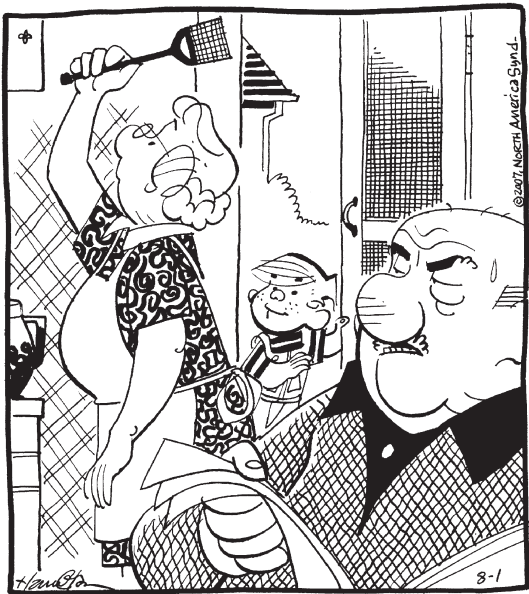
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WEDNESDAY

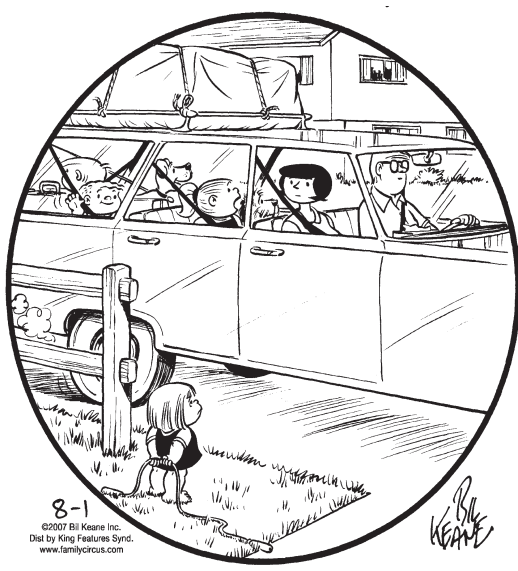
	WFDA (2) Dallas	KMID (3) Midland	UNI (4) Spanish	KPEJ (5) Odessa	KOSA (7) Odessa	KTLE (8) Telemundo	KWES (9) Midland	WTBS (11) Atlanta	KMLM (12) Odessa	KPBT (13) Odessa	DISC (20) Discovery	AMC (21) Classics	SPIKE (22) Spike TV	TNT (23) Atlanta	BET (26) Black Ent.	DISN (27) Disney	ESPN2 (28) Sports	ESPN (29) Sports	SCIFI (64) Science Fic.
6 :PM :30	News (CC) Entertainment	News Wheel-Fortune	Yo Amo a Juan	King of the Hill The Simpsons	News Entertainment	Dame Chocolate	News Be a Millionaire	Raymond Raymond	Dr. Swallow John Hagee	News-Lehrer	Shark Rebellion		CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.	Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	Live (CC) Hell Date	Han, Montana Zack & Cody	Down the Barrel	MLB Baseball: Teams to Be	Ghost Hunters (CC)
7 :PM :30	According-Jim	According-Jim	Amar sin Limites	So You Think You Can	King King	Madre Luna	Outrageous Outrageous	Raymond Raymond	Update/Israel Curt Landry	To Market to Market to Buy	Mythbusters: Jaws Special	Movie: Marked for Death	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.	Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	Movie: Leprechaun:	Movie: High School Musical		Announced (CC)	Ghost Hunters (CC)
8 :PM :30	American Inventor	American Inventor	Destilando Amor	Dance (CC) Don't Forget	Criminal Minds (CC)	La Esclava Isaura	Last Comic Standing	House-Payne House-Payne	Light of the Southwest	Great Performances	Perfect Predators		CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.	Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	Back 2 the Hood (CC)		The Bronx Is Burning (CC)		Ghost Hunters (CC)
9 :PM :30	The Nine (CC)	The Nine (CC)	Don Francisco Presenta	Becker (CC) Friends (CC)	CSI: NY (CC)	La Esclava Isaura	Dateline NBC (CC)	Family Guy Family Guy		(CC)		Mad Men	The Kill Point	Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	SOB Got-Do Better	That's-Raven Life Derek	Boxing: Wednesday	Baseball Tonight	Destination Truth (CC)
10 :PM :30	News (CC) Nightline	News Nightline	Primer Impacto Noliciero Univ.	70s Show Raymond	News Late Show-	Noticias 12 Corazones	News Tonight Show	My Boys My Boys	Update/Israel Dr. Young	Charlie Rose (CC)	Shark Attack Rescuers	Movie: Below (CC)	Murder	Heartland (CC)	Take the Cake	Zack & Cody Han, Montana	Night Fights	SportsCenter (CC)	Movie: Sightings:
11 :PM :30	The Insider Jimmy Kimmel	Jimmy Kimmel Live (CC)	La Hora de la Risa	King of the Hill Malcolm-Mid.	Letterman Late Late	!Al Rojo Vivo!	Late Night- Movie: Down to Earth (CC)	Friends (CC) Movie: Down to Earth (CC)	CCM Ministries Charles Scott	Sign Off	Mythbusters: Jaws Special		CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.	Las Vegas (CC)	The Sive Jamie Foxx	Replacements Kim Possible	NASCAR Now The Bronx Is	Baseball NFL Live	Heartland Ghost (CC)
12 :AM :30	Live (CC) News (CC)	EXTRA (CC) Basco	El Privilegio de Amar	Malcolm-Mid. My Wife-Kids	Show The Insider	Programa	Conan O'Brien News	Update/Israel Dei Sanchez			Perfect Predators	Movie: Toral! Toral!	Star Trek: Voyager	Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	Comioview American Drgn	Emperor New 2007 World	Burning (CC) SportsCenter (CC)	Mind Control-Darren Brown	

DENNIS THE MENACE



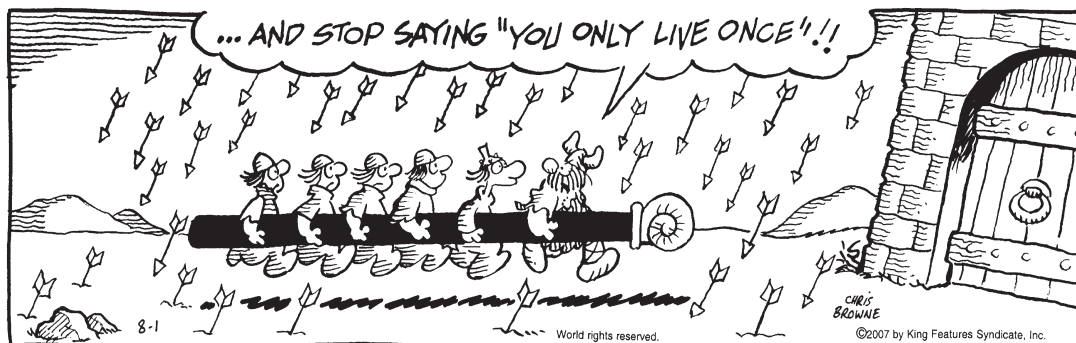
"FORGET THE PESTS THAT COME IN THROUGH THE SCREEN DOOR, MARTHA. HERE COMES ONE BIG ENOUGH TO OPEN IT."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

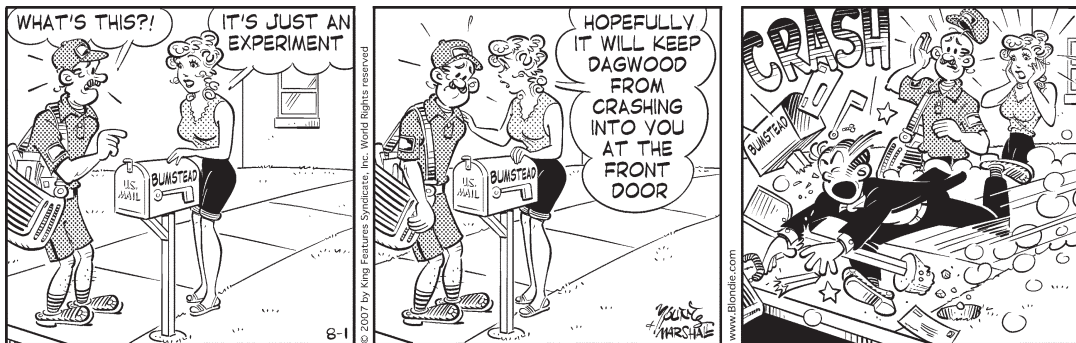


"Mommy, can Kathy go on vacation with us? She wouldn't take up much room."

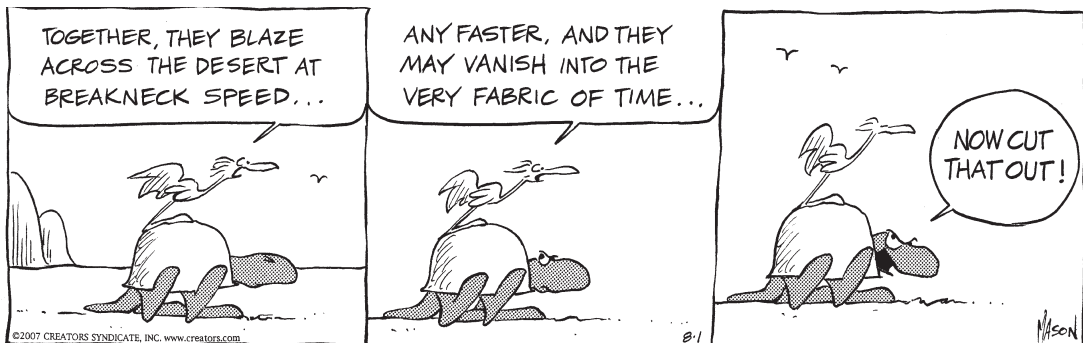
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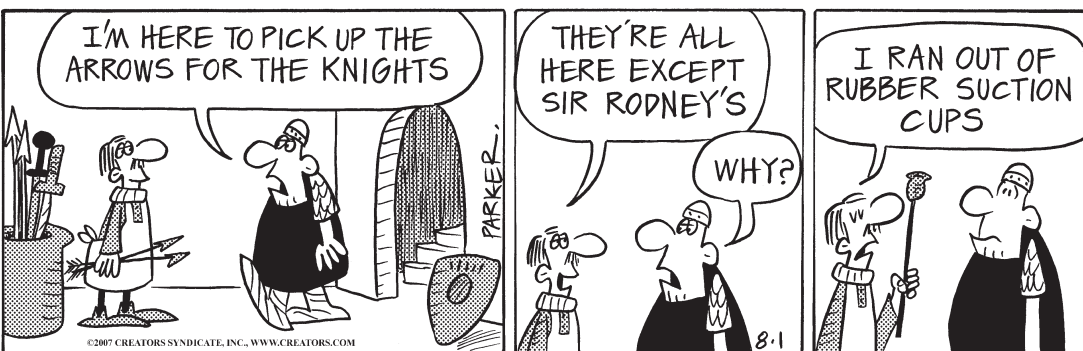
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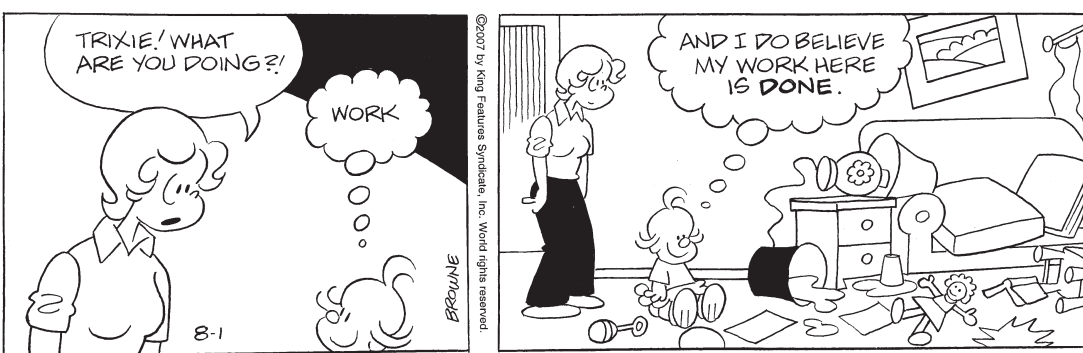
WIZARD OF ID



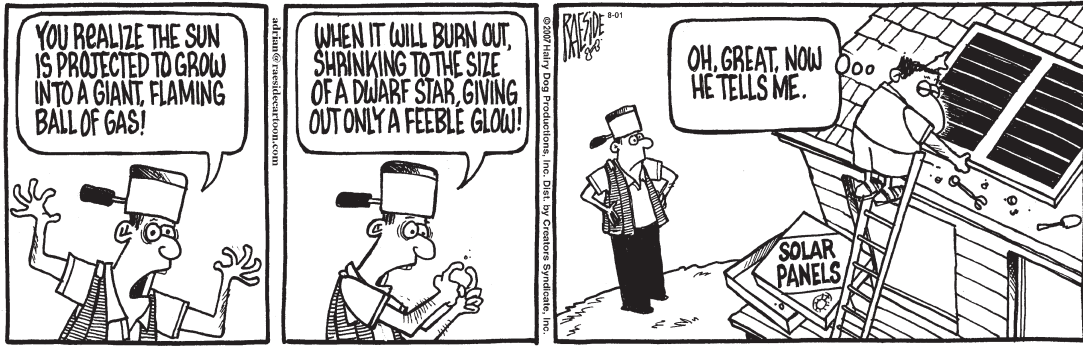
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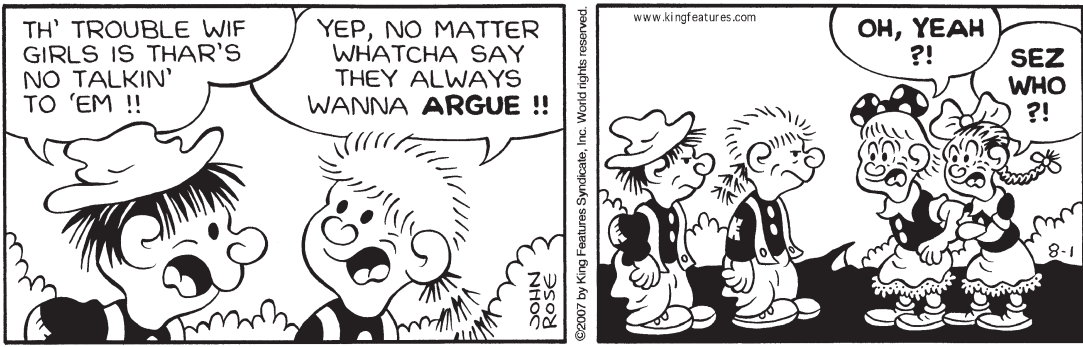
HI AND LOIS



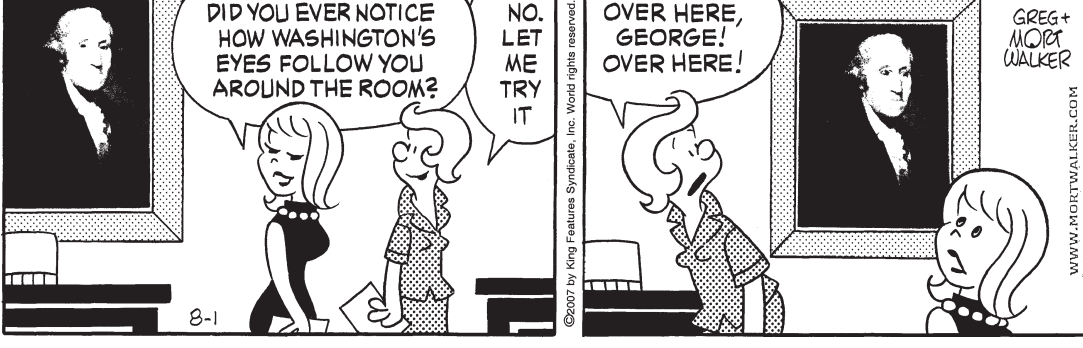
THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BETLE BAILEY



This Date In History

By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, Aug. 1, the 213th day of 2007. There are 152 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

One hundred years ago, on Aug. 1, 1907, the U.S. Air Force had its beginnings as the U.S. Army Signal Corps established an aeronautical division in charge of "all matters pertaining to military ballooning, air machines and all kindred subjects."

On this date:
In 1774, British scientist Joseph Priestley succeeded in isolating oxygen from air.
In 1876, Colorado was admitted as the 38th state.
In 1894, the First Sino-Japanese War erupted, the result of a dispute over control of Korea; Japan's army routed the Chinese.
In 1914, Germany declared

war on Russia at the onset of World War I.

In 1936, the Olympic games opened in Berlin for a ceremony presided over by Adolf Hitler.

In 1944, an uprising broke out in Warsaw, Poland, against Nazi occupation, a revolt that lasted two months before collapsing.

In 1946, President Harry S. Truman signed the Fulbright Program into law, establishing the scholarships named for Sen. William J. Fulbright.

In 1946, America's Atomic Energy Commission was established.

In 1957, the United States and Canada agreed to create the North American Air Defense Command (NORAD).

In 1966, 25-year-old Charles Joseph Whitman went on a shooting rampage at the University of Texas in Austin, killing 14 people. Whitman, who had also murdered his wife and mother hours earlier, was gunned down by police.

Today's Birthdays: Actor-director Geoffrey Holder is 77. Singer Ramblin' Jack

Elliott is 76. Cartoonist Tom Wilson (retired creator of "Ziggy") is 76. Actor-comedian Dom DeLuise is 74. Fashion designer Yves Saint Laurent is 71. Actor Giancarlo Giannini is 65. Blues singer-musician Robert Cray is 54. Singer Michael Penn is 49. Rock singer Joe Elliott (Def Leppard) is 48. Rock singer-musician Suzi Gardner (L7) is 47. Rapper Chuck D (Public Enemy) is 47. Actor Jesse Borrego is 45. Rapper Coolio is 44. Rock singer Adam Duritz (Counting Crows) is 43. Movie director Sam Mendes is 42. Country singer George Ducas is 41. Country musician Charlie Kelley (Buffalo Club) is 39.

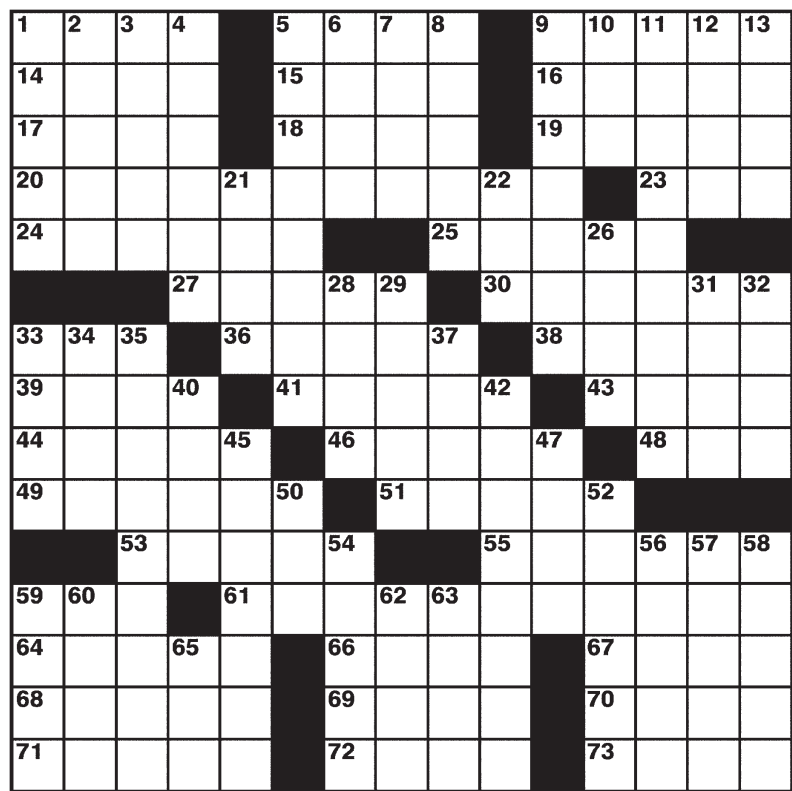
Answer to previous puzzle

TORAY	ADD	SNAKE
EMERY	BIO	HOLEY
NAACP	EAR	ATONE
ENC	HALL	MONITOR
TITLES	SAG	
	INTRO	THOMAS
NOON	RAPS	AROSE
ENVELOPE	PRINTER	
STENO	TREE	AHAB
TORSOS	ADAPT	
	SKI	DREAMS
MICKEY	MOUSE	LOP
ASONE	ADS	MOLAR
ALLEN	GEE	ELITE
METED	ESS	DENSE

Newsday Crossword

FOLLOWING DAY by Daniel R. Stark Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS
- 1 Duffel filler
- 5 Quartet member
- 9 The C in C.S. Forester
- 14 Supermodel Macpherson
- 15 Brand for Bowser
- 16 Originated
- 17 Diamond or Simon
- 18 Zen riddle
- 19 Feels concern
- 20 Advantageous position
- 23 Soccer goal
- 24 Food consumers
- 25 Cameos, for example
- 27 Paddock youngsters
- 30 Flower product
- 33 Long-armed beast
- 36 Tablecloth pattern
- 38 Liquid-Plumr alternative
- 39 Writer Angelou
- 41 Sign up for
- 43 Forearm bone
- 44 Big occasion
- 46 Fists, slangily
- 48 Follett or Kesey
- 49 Made a home
- 51 Gnats and mice
- 53 Marsh wader
- 55 Strand components
- 59 Jungle crusher
- 61 Type of butterfly
- 64 Conductor
- 66 It may be bounding
- 67 Madame Bovary's first name
- 68 Tavern perch
- 69 Barely made, with "out"
- 70 Subsidies
- 71 Oater salutation
- 72 Caves, at times
- 73 Quick bite
- DOWN
- 1 Wish granter
- 2 Actress Verdugo
- 3 Top choices
- 4 Change of pace
- 5 Popular fund-raiser
- 6 Oodles
- 7 Train for a match
- 8 Fish finder
- 9 Laughed shrilly
- 10 Geologic time division
- 11 Plant with ears
- 12 "Hmmm . . ."
- 13 In case
- 21 Globule
- 22 Not pro
- 26 Tan shade
- 28 Secure, as a contract
- 29 Gym exercise
- 31 Green Gables girl
- 32 Certain horse coloring
- 33 Final word
- 34 Do road work
- 35 Cosmetic buy
- 37 Hockey feint
- 40 Pot starter
- 42 Gives one's reaction
- 45 Without wasted words
- 47 Brood
- 50 Jones' partner
- 52 Glossy fabric
- 54 Known as
- 56 Stallone role
- 57 They branch out
- 58 Cut drastically
- 59 Lavish party
- 60 Aware of
- 62 Trout habitat
- 63 Legal claim
- 65 Curtain holder



News in brief

Car bomb kills 17, wounds 32 in Iraq

BAGHDAD (AP) — A parked car bomb killed 17 civilians and left a gaping crater in a busy square Wednesday in central Baghdad, police said. Another 32 people were wounded by the blast, a police officer said on condition of anonymity out of security concerns.

An Associated Press reporter at the scene said the explosion ripped a hole more than 3 feet deep and nearly 5 feet wide in the asphalt. Three minibuses and six cars were damaged by flames and flying debris. Blood pooled in the street.

A gas station and a nearby restaurant, which was closed at the time of the blast, also suffered damage.

The explosives had been planted in a vehicle in al-Hurriyah square in the mostly mixed Karradah neighborhood, and detonated around 10:15 a.m., the police officer said.

Dow Jones & Co. agrees to be bought

NEW YORK (AP) — Rupert Murdoch has sealed a deal to buy Wall Street Journal publisher Dow Jones & Co. for \$5 billion, ending a century of family ownership and adding a crown jewel to his global media empire, News Corp.

The companies said in the wee hours of Wednesday morning that they signed a definitive merger agreement after the deal won sufficient support to pass from a deeply divided Bancroft family, which has controlled the storied newspaper publisher for generations.

Murdoch is getting one of the great trophies of U.S. journalism and a newspaper that is considered required reading among the business and power elite.

The deal will also expand Murdoch's already massive global media and entertainment empire News Corp., which owns the Fox broadcast network, Fox News Channel, the Twentieth Century Fox movie and TV studio, MySpace, newspapers in Australia and the U.K., and several satellite TV broadcasters.

Deadline passes for Korean hostages

GHAZNI, Afghanistan (AP) — A threatened Taliban deadline to kill some of the remaining 21 South Korean captives passed without any immediate word on their fate Wednesday, while the Afghan army dropped leaflets in the area warning residents of an upcoming military mission.

The noon (2:30 a.m. CDT) deadline passed a day after Afghan police

found the body of the second hostage slain since the volunteers with a church group were seized two weeks ago. The Taliban extended several previous deadlines by hours or days. However, the two captives the militants executed were killed several hours after previous deadlines.

Afghan National Army helicopters on Wednesday dropped leaflets in Ghazni province — where the Koreans were kidnapped and are being held — warning people of an upcoming military operation in the area.

"The Defense Ministry wants to launch a military operation in the area," the leaflets said. "In order for you to be safe and not be affected by the operation, we call on you to move to secure government-controlled areas."

The leaflets did not say when or where the operation would be launched. It also was not clear whether the planned operation was aimed at freeing the hostages. A Defense Ministry spokesman said he had no immediate comment.

Committee asks how high cover-up went

WASHINGTON (AP) — A fresh round of Pentagon finger-pointing didn't settle Democrats' questions about the bungled response to Army Cpl. Pat Tillman's friendly-fire death. Maybe grilling former Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld will.

Rumsfeld was a late addition to the witness list for a House hearing Wednesday on who knew what and when about Tillman's death in Afghanistan in 2004, which initially was false-

ly blamed on enemy fire. The congressional inquiry comes a day after the Army laid most of the blame on Philip Kensing, a retired three-star general who led Army special operations forces after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.

The Army censured Kensing for "a failure of leadership" and accused him of lying to investigators probing the aftermath of Tillman's death. For five weeks the Army knew Tillman was cut down by his fellow Army Rangers, but told the public and Tillman's own family that he died in a firefight with enemy militia.

Army Secretary Pete Geren insisted, however, that there was no intentional Pentagon cover-up, and he rejected a suggestion that Rumsfeld knew the circumstances of Tillman's death before that information became public.

Security Council OKs peacekeeping force

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The U.N. Security Council unanimously approved a 26,000-strong peacekeeping force for Darfur to help end four years of rape and slaughter in the vast Sudanese region that the world has failed to stop.

The force — the first joint peacekeeping operation by the African Union and the United Nations — will replace the beleaguered 7,000-strong AU force now in Darfur no later than Dec. 31.

While the council urged speedy deployment, the bulk of the force is not expected to be on the ground until next year, and the ultimate troop strength depends on the

willingness of U.N. member states to contribute troops, police, logistics and sophisticated military hardware.

If deployed fully, it will be the largest peacekeeping operation in the world.

U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said the "historic and unprecedented resolution" will send "a clear and powerful signal" of the U.N.'s commitment "to improve the lives of the people of the region and close this tragic chapter in Sudan's history."

Rice to lay ground for Mideast peace talks

JERUSALEM (AP) — Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice will begin laying the ground for a Mideast peace conference in a visit to Israel on Wednesday, hoping to push Israelis and Palestinians closer to renewing talks.


Building on warming ties between Israel and moderate Arab countries, Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert's office said that Israel hopes "many Arab countries will attend this international meeting, including Saudi Arabia."

The statement came in reaction to an announcement Wednesday by Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud al-Faisal that his country had no objection to attending the gathering. Al-Faisal spoke at a news conference with Rice and Secretary of Defense Robert Gates.

A meeting between Israeli and Saudi representatives would be a major diplomatic break-

through. Though Israel and Saudi Arabia are both U.S. allies, representatives of the countries have never officially met and Saudi Arabia has never recognized the Jewish state.

Rice's visit to Israel and the Palestinian territories, part of a wider tour of U.S. regional allies, is her first since the Islamic group Hamas seized control of the Gaza Strip.



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



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- 2006 Chevrolet Cobalt LS Coupe - Stk# H132. Was \$12,995. **NOW \$11,995**
- 2005 Saturn Ion 3 Sedan - Stk# H152. Was \$12,995. **NOW \$11,995**
- 2005 Chrysler Sebring Coupe - Stk# H098. Was \$12,995. **NOW \$11,995**
- 2006 Chrysler PT Cruiser Touring - Stk# H102. Was \$13,495. **NOW \$12,495**
- 2006 Chevrolet Malibu LT Sedan - Stk# H146. Was \$12,995. **NOW \$12,995**
- 2006 Chevrolet Cobalt LT Sedan - Stk# H130. Was \$14,495. **NOW \$13,495**
- 2005 Pontiac Grand AM SE Sedan - Stk# F065. Was \$14,495. **NOW \$13,495**
- 2006 Ford Taurus SEL Sedan - Stk# H085. Was \$15,495. **NOW \$14,495**
- 2006 Hyundai Sonata GLS Sedan - Stk# H086. Was \$15,995. **NOW \$14,995**
- 2007 Saturn Ion 2 Sedan - Stk# H087. Was \$15,495. **NOW \$14,495**
- 2006 Chevrolet HHR LS Sport Wagon - Stk# H103. Was \$15,995. **NOW \$14,995**
- 2006 Chevrolet HHR LS Sport Wagon - Stk# F253. Was \$15,995. **NOW \$14,995**
- 2004 Ford Mustang Coupe - Stk# H109. Was \$15,495. **NOW \$14,495**
- 2006 Chevrolet Malibu LT Sedan - Stk# H149. Was \$15,495. **NOW \$14,495**
- 2006 Chevrolet Impala LT Sedan - Stk# H129. Was \$17,495. **NOW \$16,495**
- 2004 Nissan Maxima SE Sedan - Stk# F247. Was \$18,495. **NOW \$17,495**
- 2006 Nissan Altima 2.5 Sedan - Stk# H006. Was \$18,495. **NOW \$17,495**
- 2006 Buick LaCrosse CXL Sedan - Stk# H019. Was \$18,495. **NOW \$17,495**
- 2005 Ford Five Hundred Limited Sedan - Stk# H088. Was \$18,495. **NOW \$17,495**
- 2006 Buick Lucerne CX Sedan - Stk# H058. Was \$20,995. **NOW \$19,995**
- 2004 Pontiac GTO Coupe - Stk# H089. Was \$21,495. **NOW \$20,495**
- 2004 Nissan Maxima SE Sedan - Stk# H035. Was \$22,995. **NOW \$21,995**
- 2006 Mazda RX-8 Coupe - Stk# H070. Was \$27,995. **NOW \$26,995**
- 2003 Ford Thunderbird HT Conv. - Stk# H071. Was \$27,995. **NOW \$26,995**
- 2007 Cadillac DTS Sedan - Stk# H143. Was \$40,995. **NOW \$39,995**
- 2007 Cadillac DTS Sedan - Stk# H145. Was \$40,995. **NOW \$39,995**

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- 2003 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 Ext. - Stk# H127. Was \$16,995. **NOW \$15,995**
- 2006 Dodge 1500 Pickup SB - Stk# H151. Was \$19,995. **NOW \$18,995**
- 2004 GMC Sierra 1500 Pickup Crew - Stk# H024. Was \$19,995. **NOW \$22,995**
- 2006 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 Pickup - Stk# H064. Was \$20,995. **NOW \$19,995**
- 2004 Chevrolet Silverado 2500 Pickup - Stk# H112. Was \$23,495. **NOW \$22,495**
- 2006 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 Pickup - Stk# H074. Was \$23,995. **NOW \$23,995**
- 2006 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 Pickup - Stk# H073. Was \$23,995. **NOW \$23,995**
- 2004 Nissan Titan SE Crew Cab - Stk# H082. Was \$23,995. **NOW \$22,995**
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Federal grant aims to keep marriages together

By JAMIE MALERNEE

South Florida Sun-Sentinel

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. — Sheena Blissett sits across from her husband, arms crossed, eyes narrow, face hard.

"You don't listen to me when I talk to you," she said. "You get mad at me when I tell you how I really feel."

Next to the couple is a church pastor who has been leading them, and an audience of about 20 people, through a marriage course that is supposed to help couples communicate better and avoid divorce. What is unique about the course is that it is free to the public, paid for by the federal government.

"It's a process," Lena Gillis said of the curriculum she teaches. "It will work today, tomorrow and 10 years from now." The wife in the audience huffs and stares her husband down. "You," she declares, "don't have 10 years."

According to some statistics, the traditional family — a married man and woman and their children — is dying. A third of the nation's children live in a single-parent home, according to the U.S. census.

The Zoe-Life Christian Center is supposed to be an emergency room, resuscitating troubled marriages and strengthening healthy ones during



South Florida Sun-Sentinel photo/Mark Randall
Fred Rutledge, 25, irons clothes in the bedroom of his apartment in Belle Glade, Fla., before leaving for work as a corrections officer, while his wife Rakisha, 22, prepares dinner.

six-week sessions open to the public. Participants range from newlyweds to couples married for decades.

The church uses nonreligious relationship education material provided by the PAIRS Foundation, a nonprofit group founded decades ago by Lori Gordon, a family therapist who said she wanted to give average people tools to work on their own relationships. PAIRS, which has taught classes throughout the United States for years for a fee, applied for and won the government grant for South Florida.

It will receive nearly \$1 million a year, for five

years, to offer free classes in Palm Beach, Broward and Miami-Dade counties at community centers and faith-based groups, through which PAIRS also advertises.

As part of the course, couples listen to lecturers, make journal entries and practice their listening and speaking skills. At the end, they are asked to fill out a questionnaire. Since the classes began this year, participants have reported significant improvements in relationship quality, according to an analysis by the University of Central Florida.

Despite this, government funding of pro-mar-

riage measures has been controversial, particularly among those who question the political motives of Bush, chief proponent of the funding. The timing of Bush's main announcement of the initiative in 2004 — an election year, shortly after a Massachusetts state court upheld gay marriage — concerned many.

"Millions In Federal Funds Handed To Anti-Gay Groups," reported a gay news Web site.

"If liberals had introduced this costly big-government social experiment, conservatives would be outraged," wrote one commentator for the Cato Institute, a libertarian think tank, "and they would be right."

Wade Horn, assistant secretary for Children and Families within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, said his agency funds such classes because research shows children from stable, healthy marriages do better. "They are less likely to have emotional, behavioral problems, less likely to have trouble at school, have drug and alcohol problems," he said.

Horn said government intervenes when marriages go sour — for example, with issues of child support or violence — so it makes sense to put money into prevention. He added that marriage can help ease poverty.

Avis Jones-DeWeever, program director of the nonprofit Washington, D.C.-based Institute for Women's Policy Research, counters that if the government wants to get people out of poverty, research shows the best answer is a college education — not marriage education.

"It's completely irresponsible," she said. "There have been cuts across the board in poverty funding, and yet somehow we've found (millions of dollars) to invest in marriage programs."

The Good Fight Boxing gloves hang on a wall inside the church. They are covered in red hearts, and Gillis reminds her audience why they are an important symbol: "We can fight. But we fight so the relationship wins."

The subject of tonight's class: Anger. Before the night is through, the instructors — who lecture from the front of the room as the audience takes notes — will cover "safe" techniques couples can use to argue. At one point in the three-hour session, an instructor comes out with a mallet and begins beating a pillow as she screams.

Not all classes are so volatile. One of the favorite sessions focuses on different communication styles and has audience members laughing in their seats.

There's the Blamer, who always thinks he or she is right. The Placater accepts blame and never fights back. The Computer acts as if emotions don't exist. The Distracter would rather shop, party or do anything but address the problem.

Eddie Cameron chuckles, recognizing himself as the Placater. When his wife is upset, he gives in or apologizes to avoid the fight, rather than address the root cause. It is one of the reasons he wanted to attend the course.

"She was like, 'Why do we need to go to this class?' I wanted her to see: Maybe you need to look at yourself," said Cameron, 50.

Gillis said the tactics she teaches helped save her marriage. In 2000, Gillis and her husband, Senior Pastor Derrick Gillis, were about to divorce after he committed adultery.

Then they got a phone

call about the marriage course, asking if their church, which has a largely black membership, would like to become a partner with PAIRS, which was looking to reach out to that community as part of a different government grant it had received focusing on families and fatherhood.

The Gillises agreed and took the course. They say it changed their lives.

"I was able to get all my anger out, so I could feel the love ... again," Lena Gillis said. "I was able to forgive, I was able to speak and be heard."

Said her husband: "For the first time in my life, I was able to understand the importance of physical closeness and emotional openness."

"I had not been able to be emotionally open with my wife."

The couple reunited and, after two years of further study provided by PAIRS for free, became PAIRS facilitators. They, along with about 50 instructors trained for the marriage grant, receive stipends for their teaching time, about \$150 per three-hour session, paid for by the grant, which also covers administration costs.

The marriage course has been over for a few months.

It was no magic pill for one couple. According to court records, Sheena and Corey Blissett continued to fight, with the wife filing a domestic violence complaint against her husband in April.

Neither of the Blissetts could be reached for comment regarding the allegations, despite several attempts by phone. A judge has since issued a permanent injunction against Corey Blissett.

But other couples say the benefited from the experience.

Newlywed Rakisha Rutledge, 22, said the classes helped her realize she was still carrying around baggage from an old boyfriend and that she was punishing her husband for the other man's actions by picking fights and being overly jealous: "It takes effort every day, of me giving him the same trust and respect he gives me."

Her husband, Fred, said he now understands the unspoken reasons behind many of the fights the couple had.

"Now it's like, OK, this argument is because I'm not listening. OK, this is because I'm not being affectionate — as opposed to getting angry, getting over the fight, but the deeper issue is still there," he said. "I've learned how to listen."

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