Tuesday, Page 1A, 8-28-07 8/28/07 11:03 AM Page 1 Network Macintosh HD:Desktop Folder:



**VOLUME 102, NUMBER 234** 

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# **County to vault rollback rate**

# Cites Alon USA's tax litigation with appraisal district as the reason

#### By THOMAS JENKINS

#### Staff Writer

Howard County commissioners voted unanimously Monday morning to move forward with a tax rate that includes a 6.38cent increase over the rollback rate, thanks, according to the court, to ongoing tax litigation with Alon USA, owner of the Big Spring Refinery.

"It's a situation where Alon USA is refusing to pay its taxes, and we're having to raise taxes for county residents to make up the difference. That's it, pure and simple."

-Commissioner Bill Crooker

Bill Crooker, Alon USA's ongoing lawsuit concerning its tax tion concerning this year's val-

According to Commissioner appraisal values from last year — coupled with expected litiga-

ues — has made it necessary for the county to go above the rollback rate of 42.3974 cents per \$100 valuation.

"It's a situation where Alon USA is refusing to pay its taxes, and we're having to raise taxes for county residents to make up the difference," said Crooker. "That's it, pure and simple."

Commissioners agreed to move forward with a proposed tax rate of 48.787 cents per \$100 valuation, more than 6 cents over the proposed rollback rate of 42.3974 cents the court had decided on approximately two weeks ago.

50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 SUNDAY

The proposed rate is identical to the rate used last year, according to County Auditor Jackie Olson, which is expected

See ROLLBACK, Page 3A

# Jail cost still elusive

Commissioners have until Sept. 5 to place bond up for election in November

**By THOMAS JENKINS** Staff Writer

Poised to place a multimillion dollar bond issue before the voters to fund the design and construc-

November election, as project architect Jeff Heffelfinger struggles to get the court an estimated cost for a new jail.

"Jeff will have us that



Vince Viaille, left, senior vice president of investment bankers First Southwest Company, goes over the procedures for pre-

senting a bond election to county voters with Howard County commissioners during a special meeting Monday afternoon.

tion of a new county jail, Howard County commissioners were missing only one ingredient during their meeting Monday afternoon — an estimated cost for the project.

were Commissioners forced to hold off on a vote to place the issue before voters during the

number by Sept. 4, which is when we expect to call for the bond election," said County Judge Mark Barr.

And while the lack of a solid price tag for the planned facility wasn't available for commissioners Monday, Vince Viaille, senior vice presiinvestment passes. dent of

bankers First Southwest Company, was present to answer questions concerning the impending election, and what happens if the bond issue

"September 5 is the last day to consider placing a bond issue before the voters during the November election," Viaille told commissioners. "So taking that vote Sept. 4 will

put you on the mark." Viaille, who served as advisor to county commissioners this time last year on a similar bond issue to fund a new jail, said the court can expect

to things as it moves forward on the issue: Higher construction costs and higher interest rates.

HERALD photo/Thomas Jenkins

"Unfortunately, interest

See JAIL, Page 3A

**HC trustees OK** 



HERALD photo/Jonathan Hull

Emergency medical personnel treat this Big Spring man for minor cuts and scrapes following a motorcycle accident near the intersection of Gregg and Sixth Street Monday afternoon. The rider suffered only minor injuries and damages to the cycle and an automobile were minimal.



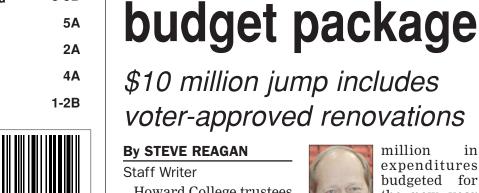


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Please call 263-7331. Office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. If you miss your paper, call (432) 263-7335 before 7 p.m. weekdays and noon Sunday.





Staff Writer Howard College trustees ended one of the most difficult budget building processes in recent memory when they approved a financial package for the coming fiscal year

Monday afternoon. At first glance, the new budget features a whopping \$10 million increase in expenditures from the previous year, but there are good reasons for such a figure, officials said.

College Vice President Terry Hansen said the \$35



Hansen

million expenditures budgeted for the new year includes both first-year costs arising from renovations at the Big Spring

campus and debt service to pay for those renovations.

"Other than that, the budget is essentially the same as last year," Hansen said.

Hansen and other col-

See HC, Page 3A





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

> Page 1B Tuesday, August 28, 2007

# IN BRIEF

#### Area high school sports calendar

Here's a listing of this week's area high school varsity sports calendar: Today

Big Spring volleyball at San Angelo Central, 6:30 p.m. Friday

Big Spring football at Odessa High, 7:30 p.m. Coahoma football at Reagan County, 7:30 p.m.

Forsan football at Kermit, 7:30 p.m. Grady football vs. Sanderson, 7:30 p.m. Stanton football at Grape Creek, 7:30 p.m. Big Spring volleyball at Seminole Tournament. First game vs.

Monahans, 11 a.m. Saturday

Sands football vs. Spur at the Jayton Classic, 1:30 p.m.

Garden City football vs. Calvert in Hico, 1:30 p.m.

#### Forsan season passes available

Forsan ISD is selling Football Family Season Passes until Sept. 7. The passes are good for any junior high, junior varsity or varsity home game and covers

all immediate family members. The cost is \$40. Tickets may be pur-

chased through the superintendent's office from 8-12 and 1-4 Monday through Friday.

Contact Judy Park at 457-2223, ext. 2, with any questions.

Howard College schedules Battle of the Cheerleaders

# **Vick pleas guilty to dogfighting charges** "I need to grow up," he added. "Dogfighting is a terrible thing, how to make Michael Vick a bet-

BIG HERALD

Associated Press Writer

RICHMOND, Va. – First, Michael Vick apologized to all the people he lied to. NFL commissioner Roger Goodell. Atlanta Falcons owner Arthur Blank. Coach Bobby Petrino. His teammates.

"I was not honest and forthright in our discussions," the star quarterback said Monday, somber and deliberate and not speaking from notes.

Then he apologized to "all the young kids out there for my immature acts."

### And so began a public act of contrition from Vick, who plead-

ed guilty to a federal dogfighting charge and then stood behind a podium to say his job now was "bettering Michael Vick the person, not the football player."

There he was, a QB so deft and nimble he pulled off any number of amazing scrambles on the field. Now he was scrambling to save himself and his football future because of his role in a gruesome dogfighting ring.

Saying he was speaking "from the heart," Vick said he took full responsibility for his actions.

and I did reject it," he said.

Acceptance of responsibility is one of the factors U.S. District Judge Henry E. Hudson will consider in handing down Vick's sentence Dec. 10. The federal sentencing guideline range is projected at a year to 18 months, but Hudson can impose up to the five-year maximum.

Vick was suspended indefinitely by the NFL after his written plea agreement was filed in court Friday.

"So I got a lot of down time, a lot of time to think about my actions and what I've done and ter person," said Vick, who grew up in Newport News.

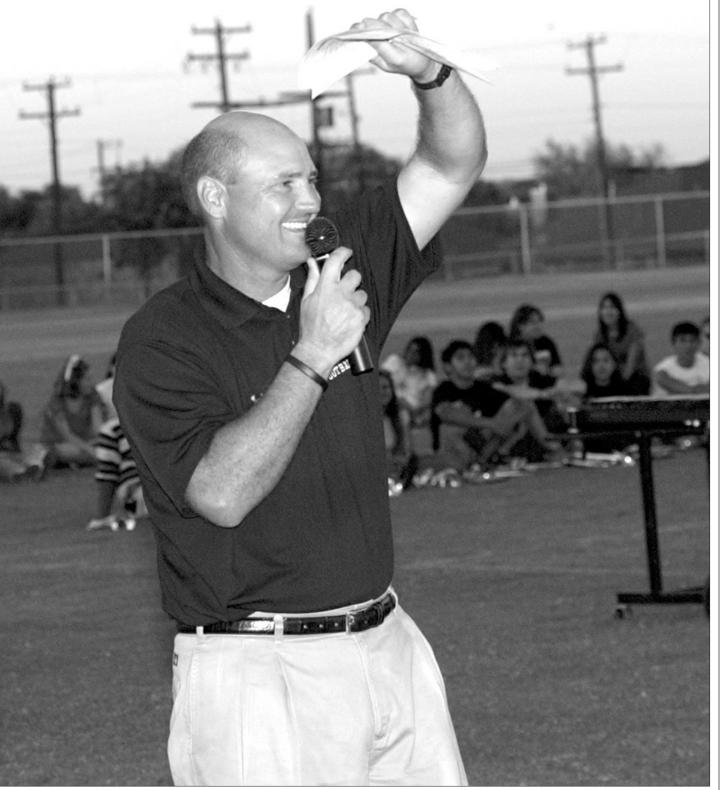
"I will redeem myself. I have to," he vowed.

In Atlanta, the Falcons said they would not cut Vick immediately because of salary-cap issues. The team intends to pursue the \$22 million in bonus money that he already received in a \$130 million contract signed in 2004.

"We cannot tell you today that Michael is cut from the team," Blank said. "Cutting him today

See VICK, Page 2B

# Ritchey gets commitment from athletes, fans



# Cowboys getting healthier

#### **By STEPHEN HAWKINS**

AP Sports Writer

IRVING Dallas Cowboys starting cornerback Terence Newman still hopes to play in the season opener even though his painful right heel is "not getting better yet."

Newman said Monday that he has a small tear in his plantar fascia, or tissue in the bottom of the foot.

"It's something that is going to be bothering me for the whole year," said Newman, who has started all 64 games since he was a first-round pick in 2003. "Right now, the problem that I have is that I can't plant on it. There is no way I can plant on my foot.

While Newman met with team trainers about how to treat his foot, linebacker Greg Ellis was in Alabama to have his Achilles tendon examined by noted orthopedist Dr. James Andrews. The team also said linebacker Kevin Burnett would have bone chips removed from his foot, though he should be able to play in the regular season opener. Kicker Martin Gramatica has a slightly pulled right hamstring, but hasn't been ruled out for Thursday's preseason finale against Minnesota. Coach Wade Phillips

Howard College is the place to be Sept. 15.

The Battle of the Cheerleaders will take place at 5:30 p.m. at Dorothy Garrett Coliseum.

All area high schools have been invited to compete. There will be both cheer and dance competitions.

Top cheer, dance and mascot awards will be presented.

Admission is free for the public, who is invited to stick around after the Battle for a community pep rally.

All area schools and communities are invited to participate. Each school will be given the opportunity to recognize their student athletes.

A spirit stick will be awarded to the community/school showing the most spirit.

#### **QB** Club meeting set for Monday

The Big Spring Quarterback Club will hold its weekly meeting at 7 p.m. Monday at the Athletic Training Center.

Contact Denise Carillo at 816-1685 or Frank Stiles at 270-3041 for more details.

#### **Crossroads Youth** Football sign-ups

The Crossroads Youth Football Association have begun their signups for the 2007 season.

While there will be no more early registration dates, a late registration day will be held Sept. 1.

See BRIEFS, Page 2B

HERALD photo/Jonathan Hull

Big Spring Athletic Director Mike Ritchey fires up the crownd and the athletes at the community pep rally held for all Big Spring High School sports Monday night at Memorial Stadium. Ritchey led the athletes and crowd in a chant of "Count me in. Count us in.".

said receiver Terry

Glenn, who had arthro-See COWBOYS, Page 2B

# Astros clean house, axe general manager, coach

#### **By CHRIS DUNCAN**

#### **AP Sports Writer**

HOUSTON - Less than two years ago, the Houston Astros were celebrating their first National League pennant. On Monday, they were starting over.

Manager Phil Garner and general manager Tim Purpura were fired by owner Drayton McLane, who said the franchise "needed a fresh start" after a plunge to the bottom of the NL Central.

Bench coach Cecil Cooper was appointed interim manager, and team president Tal Smith will serve as interim general manager.

"I felt for a number of reasons, we needed new direction, invigoration, to play with more enthusiasm and play more like a champion," McLane said.

The Astros slumped to 58-73 this year, nine games behind the division-leading Chicago Cubs. They've lost five of their last seven home games, to lowly Washington and Pittsburgh.

"We had really fallen into a pattern of so-so ball," Garner said during a telephone interview with The Associated Press. "We were never able to put together the run, like we made in the previous two seasons. I think there were a number of reasons for that."

Houston became the fourth team to switch managers this season. Baltimore fired Sam Perlozzo on June 18 and Cincinnati fired Jerry Narron on July 1, the same day Mike Hargrove resigned as Seattle's manager.

The 57-year-old Cooper becomes a major league manager for the first time. The five-time All-Star and two-time Gold Glove winner was the bench coach in Milwaukee in 2002 and managed Triple-A Indianapolis in 2003-04.

Cooper was taking his motherin-law to a doctor's appointment on Monday when Smith and McLane called to offer him the iob.

"It's been kind of a whirlwind tour this morning," he said. "Drayton asked me if I was OK and all of a sudden, in the pit of my stomach, I felt sick. It really was a shock to me. I kind of got a little emotional, but I'm also excited about the opportunity. I've been the World Series as a player and a coach. Now, I want to try it as a manager."

See FIRED, Page 2B



MCT photo/Steve Deslich/KRT Houston Astros manager Phil Garner (right) argues with home plate umpire Larry Young May 24, 2006. Garner was fired by the Astros Monday.

# **2**A

# **Obituaries**

### **Robert "Bob" Kelso**

Robert "Bob" Kelso, 74, of Garden City, died Tuesday, Aug. 28, 2007, at the Home Hospice House of Odessa. His services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

#### Linda Lopez

Abilene — Linda Lopez, 43, died Saturday, Aug. 25, 2007, at a local medical center. Services will be 10 a.m. Wednesday, Aug. 29, 2007, at Sacred Heart Catholic Church with Father Robert Bush officiating. Interment will follow in City Cemetery, directed by Elliott-Hamil Funeral Homey. A rosary will be at 7 p.m. Tuesday at the funeral home.

# **Take Note**

#### • THE FRIDAY NIGHT DANCE AT THE SPRING CITY SENIOR CENTER has been temporarily cancelled. The center will be doing extensive work on the dance floor and it will be unusable until that work is completed. Regular Friday night dances will resume as soon as possible. Center officials say they appreciate the public's patience and understanding during the process.

• MARANATHA BAPTIST ACADEMY still has openings in kindergarten through 12th grade. For more information, call 263-7696 or come by 903 Johnson St.

• THE PUBLIC IS BEING AFFORDED THE OPPORTUNITY TO ACQUIRE A PHOTO of bluebonnets, with proceeds going toward the Boyce Hale Scholarship — a \$500 scholarship presented to a Forsan High School senior. For more information, contact Jimmy Anderson at 264-2546 or go by Professional Pharmacy at 1000 Main St.

• A FUND HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED FOR THE FAMILY OF ALBERT "BERT" CARRILLO, who was killed in a traffic accident near Fort Stockton. The fund has been set up 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.

• A FUND HAS BEEN CREATED to help Garland and Malynda Helmstetler raise the \$25,000 needed for medical treatment that the family's insurance will not cover. Malynda, director of Mobile Meals, has been diagnosed with breast cancer that cannot be treated by radiation and chemotherapy. Doctors have told the family she should begin treatment on Aug. 1 so that the cancer does not spread to other organs. Donations may be made payable to Malynda's Cancer Fund at the Federal Employees Credit Union located on FM 700.

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

# LOCAL

# **Police blotter**

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

• **MIGUEL RODARTE-CRUZ**, 42, of Mexico, was arrested Monday and held for immigration.

• ELIGIO LEE VIASANA, 55, of 704 Abrams, was arrested Monday on a charge of public intoxication.

• **THEFT** was reported:

- in the 1800 block of FM 700.

- in the 300 block of Gregg Street.

- in the 400 block of Fourth Street.

• **RESISTING ARREST, SEARCH OR TRANS-PORTATION** was reported in the 800 block of 14th Street.

• **CRIMINAL MISCHIEF** was reported in the 1100 block of Sycamore.

• **BURGLARY OF A HABITATION** was reported in the 2600 block of Langley.

• **BURGLARY OF A BUILDING** was reported in the 900 block of Willia.

• **ASSAULT CLASS C/FAMILY VIOLENCE** was reported in the 2200 block of Runnels.

• ASSAULT BY CONTACT was reported:

- in the 200 block of Marcy.
- in the 100 block of Marcy.



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

Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 56 inmates at the time of this report.

• **STEVE RODRIQUEZ,** 25, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while license invalid.

• **LESTER CLAUDE DUFFER,** 27, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while license invalid - enhanced.

• **KIMBERLY DENISE JAMES,** 18, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on charges of failure to identify - giving false information.

• **TIMMY WAYNE ROGERS,** 28, was arrested Monday by the HCSO on a charge of Class C assault family violence.

# **Fire/EMS**

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

• **MEDICAL** was reported in the 800 block of Lorilla. One person was transported to SMMC.

• **TRAUMA** was reported in the 2000 block of Gregg. Service refused.

• **MEDICAL** was reported in the 2300 block of Wasson. One person was transported to SMMC.

• **TRAUMA** was reported in the 1900 block of Hearn. Service refused.

• **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1000 block of Stadium. One person was transported to SMMC.

• **TRAFFIC ACCIDENT** was reported near the intersection of Sixth Street and Gregg. Service refused.

• **TRAUMA** was reported in the 1000 block of N. Main Street. One person was transported to SMMC.

# **Bulletin Board**

#### If you have items for the Bulletin board, contact the Herald news room at 263-7331 or email

#### editor@bigspringherald.com

TODAY

• Big Spring Rotary Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room.

• The Powwow Committee of Big Spring meets at 7 p.m. at St. Paul Lutheran Church annex, 809 Scurry, or the fellowship hall at 810 Scurry. Call Robert Downing at 263-3255 for information.

#### WEDNESDAY

• Optimist Club meets at 7 a.m. in the Howard College Cactus Room.

• 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.

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

• Eagles Lodge Ladies Auxiliary meets at 7 p.m. in the Eagles Lodge, 703 W. Third.

#### THURSDAY

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

• Kiwanis Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room. 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.

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

#### FRIDAY

• Signal Mountain Quilting Guild meets from 9 a.m. until about 3 p.m. at 1019 Nolan St. Members bring their own lunch. 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.

# Lottery

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

Winning numbers drawn: 17-19-20-29-35.

Number matching five of five: none.

AUSTIN (AP) — Results of the Texas Two Step drawing Monday night:

Winning numbers drawn: 6-12-20-28. Bonus Ball: 26. Number matching four of four, plus Bonus Ball: none.

AUSTIN (AP) — The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn

A beginning crochet class is being held at 6 p.m. Wednesday in the church's Parish Hall.

#### • ALL CREATURES SANCTUARY AND RESCUE

has an account set up with Big Spring Salvage at 3608 N. Highway 87 for all types of metals and aluminum cans. See John Kimberly, manager, or Cruz Rodriquez, metal specialist, to make your donations. Please tell them that your donations are for All Creatures Sanctuary and Rescue. The sanctuary is also still taking weight circles off of all Purina Brand Dog Foods. Send your Purina Weight Circles to A.C.S. & R. at P.O. Box 871, Coahoma 79511. All Creatures Sanctuary and Rescue has an account also set up with Howard County Feed and Supply at 701 E. Second St. for donations of coastal or grass hay for a rescue horse.

#### • CHRIST COMMUNITY FELLOWSHIP IS COL-LECTING INFANT CAR SEATS AND CARRIERS.

These are given to new mothers who cannot afford them. To donate your old or new car seats and carriers, call Karen Allen at 263-3517 or leave a message at Christ Community Fellowship, 263-love. All donations are appreciated.

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

• **NEW LIFE MINISTRIES** Church of God In Christ is holding a soup kitchen every second and fourth Tuesday from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at 204 N.W. 10th. The meal is free. Call 264-0771 for more information.

• **THE PET PATROL** helps locate lost pets and owners of found pets. To volunteer or for more information, call Melanie Gambrell at 267-PETS (7387).

• **ODYSSEY HOSPICE NEEDS VOLUNTEERS** to work in the office and perform patient services. For more information or to volunteer, call 263-5999.

### Early Deadline Schedule For Labor Day, Mon., Sept. 3, 2007

<u>Classified & Display Deadline</u> Thursday, 5:00 pm Liners, Friday 2:00 pm

<u>Tuesday Deadline</u> Classified & Retail Display, 10 am Liners, Friday, 4:00 pm

# **Support Groups**

#### TUESDAY

•Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m. and closed discussion meeting 8 p.m. to 9 p.m.

•The Path, faith-based addiction recovery, meets at 6:30 p.m. at Spring Tabernacle Ministeries, 1209 Wright St.

• Al-Anon, 615 Settles for family members and friends of alcoholics meets at 8 p.m.

#### WEDNESDAY

• RSD (Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy, a chronic pain disease), a new support and informative group meets at 213 Circle. Call Lucy at 264-1213 for more information.

• Dual Recovery Anonymous (DRA), 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Howard County Library Basement Community Room. DRA is a 12-step meeting for those who have a desire to stop drinking and/or using drugs and also have a mental or emotional illness.

All meetings are non-smoking and coffee is not available but members can bring their own coffee or non-alcoholic beverage. For more information, call Deidra F. at (432) 816-3033. Leave a message if you get voice mail.

#### THURSDAY

• Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m.; women's meeting; 6:30 until 7:30 p.m. Non-smoking closed discussion meeting, 8 p.m. until 9 p.m.

#### FRIDAY

• AA open discussion meeting from noon until 1 p.m. at 605 Settles. Open Big Book study meeting, 8 p.m. until 9 p.m.

#### SATURDAY

• Alcoholics Anonymous open discussion meeting, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m. Open podium/speakers meeting 615 Settles 8 p.m. until 9 p.m. Open birthday night, no smoking meeting the last Saturday of each month at 8 p.m.



Monday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 6-8-9

# Weather

Tonight...Partly cloudy. Lows in the upper 60s. Southeast winds around 10 mph in the evening becoming light and variable.

Wednesday...Mostly sunny. Highs in the lower 90s. Southeast winds around 10 mph.

Wednesday night...Partly cloudy. Lows in the upper 60s. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph in the evening becoming light and variable.

Thursday...Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Highs in the lower 90s. East winds around 10 mph.

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

Friday...Mostly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Highs in the lower 80s.

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

Saturday...Mostly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Highs in the lower 80s.

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

Sunday...Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Highs in the lower 80s.

Sunday night...Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. Lows in the mid 60s.

Labor day...Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. Highs in the mid 80s.

BIG F	IERALD
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<b>432-263-7331</b> (Main Switchboard) 432-264-7205 (Fax)	<b>Missed Your Paper:</b> <b>432-263-7335</b> (MonFri. 8a.m7p.m. Sun. 8a.mnoon)
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### SPORTS

### Big 12 teams will be tested early **VICK**

#### By CHRIS DUNCAN

#### **AP Sports Writer**

Baylor, Oklahoma State and Kansas State will find out immediately how far their rebuilding programs have come.

On Saturday, the Bears play at No. 22 TCU, Oklahoma State visits No. 13 Georgia and Kansas State opens at No. 18 Auburn.

"We would certainly like to uphold the conference's reputation," thirdyear Cowboys coach Mike Gundy said on the first Big 12 teleconference of the season Monday. "I don't think there's any question that any time the conference steps out of league play and plays quality opponents, that we would hope our conference fares well.'

Kansas State coach Ron Prince said slotting a big nonconference game as the opener gave his players incentive to work harder in the spring and summer.

"This had a terrific impact on our offseason, the focus," Prince said. "Our players have been really excited and charged up about having this kind of opportunity.

Gundy has lined up at least one tough, non-Big 12 measuring-stick game for each of the next five seasons. Next year, the Cowboys will start a twogame series with Washington State, Georgia visits in 2009, the

2010 and Clemson is on the 2011 schedule.

Oklahoma State went 7-6 last season, including a 34-25 loss to eventual Conference USA champion Houston. But Gundy said games like the opener at Georgia – even if the Cowboys lose — will only help his team in the long run.

"We'll be able to come back and watch tape and find out exactly where we stand in a lot of areas," Gundy said.

Prince also sees the Wildcats' trip to Auburn as a key step in the program's development. The Wildcats went 7-6 in 2006 and played Louisville and Texas in the regular season before losing to Rutgers in the Texas Bowl.

"That's exactly the kind of game we need to really to become more calloused and hardened about playing these kind of opponents," Prince said. "You're going to have to beat these type of people to win your own championship, your own division, your own league. Obviously, if you ever have a chance to win the big one, you're going to have to play a team like this."

Baylor coach Guy Morriss isn't quite so enthusiastic, though he says such interconference games will become more common with 12-game schedules now allowed.

Astros went 48-26 in the

second half and won 36 of

their last 46 games to

become the NL wild card,

then defeated Atlanta in

the first round of the play-

offs before losing to St.

Louis in Game 7 of the NL

Houston won its second

straight wild-card berth

in 2005 and defeated the

championship series.

A&M (Sept. 29), Texas (Oct. 20) and Oklahoma (Nov. 10) this year, and that's enough for Morriss.

"You can go to a smaller I-A or a Division I-AA and everybody's looking for that 12th game every year and the RPI goes up and all that kind of stuff," Morriss said. "Just for me as a coach, from a pure scheduling standpoint, the Big 12 is tough enough.'

The rest of the conference teams have much easier openers.

Texas Fourth-ranked opens against Arkansas State on Saturday in Austin. The Indians went 6-6 last season, but flopped in their biggest losing 27-0 test, at Auburn.

Coach Mack Brown is more worried about his own team, which has gaps to fill on the offensive line and in the secondary. They also might be missing two receivers — Billy Pittman is out with a shoulder injury and Jordan Shipley is doubtful with a tender hamstring.

In Norman, redshirt freshman quarterback Sam Bradford makes his first start when eighthranked Oklahoma hosts North Texas. Bradford won the starting job in fall, beating out freshman Keith Nichol and junior Joey Halzle.

"There's probably a little more sense of being

## **ASTROS**

#### Continued from Page 1B

Cooper says he has a plan for turning around the Astros. He promoted first-base coach Jose Cruz bench coach and to moved bullpen coach Mark Bailey to the firstbase position and planned to unveil some lineup changes on Tuesday.

Astros in the middle of than I am saddened and upset by the firing." the 2004 season after Jimy Williams was fired. The

Craig Biggio's 3,000th hit has been the highlight of an otherwise dismal 2007 season. Houston signed free

agent Carlos Lee to a \$100 million, six-year contract last offseason but also acquired disappointing starter Woody Williams (7-12). Purpura also took some of the blame for hanging on to Morgan whose stats Ensberg, dropped precipitously after an All-Star season in 2005. The Astros designated Ensberg for assignment in late July. Purpura, who did not immediately return a telephone message, also made an ill-fated trade with Colorado, dealing speedster Willy Taveras and promising pitching prospects Jason Hirsh and Taylor Buchholz for Jason Jennings, who was 2-9 before he was placed on the disabled list with a bad elbow on Aug. 21. "We want to bring some new, fresh ideas," McLane said. "Companies become stagnant sometimes. In the corporate world, when they bring in new CEOs or new top executives, they come in with new ideas, new ways to get things done. That's

Cougars come to town in But Baylor plays Texas sure of himself," Stoops said of Bradford. "It gives you a little more voice in the huddle, when everybody knows, 'Hey, this is direction the we're going."

> Stoops expected running back Allen Patrick to return to practice this week and be ready for Saturday's game after spraining his right ankle earlier in fall workouts.

> Texas A&M will face Division I-AA Montana in its opener at Kyle Field. Coach Dennis Franchione reminded the Aggies on Sunday that the Bobcats beat Colorado in last season's opener.

"I don't think there's any doubt that their ears perked up when I talked about that game and read some of the comments from the Colorado coaches and players about the game," Franchione said. "This is a team that's usually in the Top 20 of Division I-AA football. There's a fine line of difference in some of those schools. They've got a little bit less of everything, but a lot of them have some very fine players."

Kansas opens against Central Michigan and Coach Mark Mangino is eager to see how Todd Reesing handles his first start at quarterback. The 5-foot-11 sophomore outplayed incumbent Kerry Meier in spring and fall workouts to earn the job.

what I'm excited about." Purpura joined the Astros in 1994 and directed player development and six minor league affiliates before taking over from Gerry Hunsicker as GM before the 2005 season.

McLane wants to find a receivers Jerard Rabb new GM by the end of this and Jamel Richardson. season. Smith, 73, was the Rector (knee) and Battle Astros' president from (sprained ankle) got 1976-80, then opened a injury settlements. consulting firm. McLane Phillips said Newman bought the Astros in 1993 would be held out of pracand hired Smith as team tice and not play at president the following Minnesota. The corneryear. back missed the last two "Nobody relishes these preseason games with occasions," Smith said. was initially what "Tim and Gar are good thought to be a bruised people. They cared very heel. both parties." much about the Houston When Newman tried to Astros. But as we all recreturn to practice last ognize, this is a perforweek, he had more probmance-driven industry." lems with the foot. That The Astros came into is when doctors deterthis season with the mined it was more than a fourth-best winning perbruise. centage in the majors since 1993. **EXECUTIVE PAINTING** "We've got a lot of work to do," Smith said, "and in the next several weeks, Commercial - Residential we're going to sit down Int. / Ext. and examine all aspects of the operation. We will proceed with a (GM) search as soon as we possibly can and see if we can't set things in motion Gary - 432-816-3903 for the future of this franchise. **ADVERTISING ACCOUNT REPRESENTATIVE** 

#### Continued from Page 1B

may feel better emotionally for us and many of our fans. But it's not in the long-term best interests of our franchise.'

Vick, who took no questions after his first public statement about the dogfighting ring, said little in court. With family members, including his brother and mother, watching from the front row of the packed courtroom, Vick stood flanked by two of his five lawyers and softly answered "Yes, sir" and "No, sir" to Hudson's questions.

The plea was accepted by Hudson, who asked: 'Are you entering the plea of guilty to a conspiracy charge because you are in fact guilty?"

Vick answered yes, and Hudson emphasized his broad latitude in sentenc-

### **COWBOYS**

#### Continued from Page 1B

scopic surgery Aug. 1 to remove loose cartilage from his right knee, will return to practice Saturday and should be able to play in the Sept. 9 opener against the New York Giants.

The Cowboys released nine players Monday to get their roster to 76 players, one over the limit they have to reach by Tuesday. Among the cuts were second-year receiver Jamaica Rector and nose tackle Montavious Stanley, both who spent time on the active roster last season.

Also released were offensive tackle Jason Hilliard and six rookie free agents: running back Jackie Battle, nose tackle Ola Dagunduro, linebackers Dedrick Harrington and Alex Obomese, and

ing.

"You're taking your chances here. You'll have to live with whatever decision I make," he said.

U.S. Attorney Chuck Rosenberg said a firsttime offender ordinarily might receive no jail time for the dogfighting conspiracy.

"We thought, however, that the conduct in this conspiracy was heinous. cruel and inhumane," he said.

Blank and general manager Rich McKay refused to say whether Vick would ever play for the Falcons again, though their reluctance to cut ties with the quarterback is related more to complicated legal issues than any willingness to take him back. They've already sent a "demand letter" to Vick saying they will attempt to recoup the bonus money he was paid.

"I am going to try to be ready for the opener. That is the target date," Newman said. "I don't think I am going to miss the opener. If I am ready, I am playing. If I am not ready, I am playing.'

Newman said he has been getting constant treatment from team trainers, who have told him that the tear he has is rare.

"People who tear the whole thing have not had any problems with it since then," Newman said. "But because where mine is, we don't know how it would react if the whole thing was torn."

Ellis, who has played all nine of his NFL seasons in Dallas and is the longest-tenured Cowboy, tore his Achilles' tendon in November and hasn't been able to practice despite an aggressive rehabilitation. An earlier MRI showed no problems and Phillips has often said Ellis is day to day.

"We should know more and see exactly where he is after seeing this doctor. We think it's still a situation where it's a possibility where he'll play in the first game," Phillips said. "We have told him where he is and how close he is. which we think is pretty close. We would like to get a second opinion for Rookie left tackle Doug Free, who sprained a ligament in his right knee during the preseason opener Aug. 9, is also expected to return to practice Saturday.

"I know how to win, Cooper said. "I really do believe I know what it takes to get the Houston Astros over the hump and back to the World Series."

McLane said it wasn't one game or one personnel move by Purpura, but several factors that drove him to make changes.

"There are some issues," McLane said. "It has been a series of things and observations."

The Astros have 31 games left and open a three-game series with St. Louis on Tuesday. McLane suggested that the rest of the season essentially was an audition for Cooper.

"This is an opportunity for Cecil to show us his leadership," McLane said. "It wouldn't be bad if we won all 31."

Braves and Cardinals in the playoffs before the World Series sweep.

The Astros were 82-80 last year, finishing  $1 \ 1/2$ games behind the Cardinals in the NL Central, but slumped this season following the departures of Roger Clemens Andy and Pettitte.

Garner managed Milwaukee from 1992-99 and Detroit from 2000-02. He has a 985-1,054 career record as a major league manager, including 277-252 with the Astros.

"I had a wonderful time with the Astros," Garner said. "They gave me a great opportunity. They reinvigorated my interest in baseball and really gave me a great opportunity to reinvigorate my career. I'm more grateful Garner took over the for the job they gave me

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### BRIEFS

#### Continued from Page 1B

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For more information, contact Daphne Coates at 714-4688.

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The Big Spring youth Volleyball League is now accepting sign-ups for girls and boys in grades 4-6 to play at the YMCA.

Registration fee is \$45 and financial assistance is available for those who qualify. Players can register until Thursday. A coaches meeting is

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For more information, call the YMCA at 267-8234.

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The Big Spring Boxing at 267-5822.



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# **4B**

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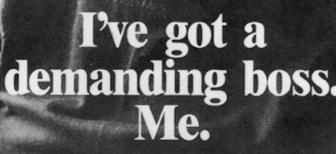
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#### **Tomorrow's Horoscope**

**BY HOLIDAY MATHIS** 

The Pisces full moon is eclipsed by



delicate MATHIS

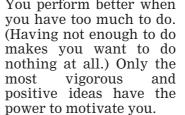
rhythms. From the balcony, Mercury and Uranusís mental chatter heightens already taut nervous systems, so keep your wits about you (and donit overindulge on the popcorn!).

ARIES (March 21-April 19. You're a hard worker. Make "no wasted effort" your motto. Not all jobs are worthy of your attention. Tasks that are torturous both and terrific have high enough stakes to merit your energy.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Everything is connected. Because of this, no one can change Use alone. vour connection with others as leverage to turn up your willpower, discipline and drive. You'll find you have the strength of all your links combined. GEMINI (May 21-June

21). Stars shine on your creativity. You can make a crumb of experience go a long way because you never seem to run out of ideas. Just think what you could do if you had the whole sandwich.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You continue to grow up — a courageous way to live, as it requires you to be honest, face your fears and deal with them. What you do tonight, you do for your family as much as for yourself.



VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Not everybody wants to change the world, you know. So when you declare your own personal revolution, donít be offended if all you get is foggy looks. They'll understand later.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You know the secret about spreading good When cheer. you're bringing sunshine into someone's world, your own picture can't help but look bright. Tonight, communicate you perfectly without words. SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Today is filled with golden, slippery moments. The more temporary a situation is, the better you can see and appreciate its beauty.

You're wise not to try to hold anything too tight. SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). OK, so you're not spending the day doing exactly what you like. But you're doing what you have to do, and there's satisfaction — and maybe even happiness in that. Isolate the joy in it, and take pleasure.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Where's your mojo? It's is not in your lucky sweater or your fancy shoes. It's not in your wallet, and you certainly didn't leave it in the car. Well, you can stop looking. It was never lost anyway; you just forgot you had it.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-18). Work goes Feb. smoothly when know when to get on a project - and when to get off. Think like you're surfing

a wave. Ride down the LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). face of the wave and then

You perform better when leap off before it comes crashing down.

> PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). No one owns you, or has ever owned you, though many have rented space in your control booth. Today's planets help you recognize how you might have given someone the illusion of power over you.

#### ASTROLOGICAL

TOPIC: There's a fullmoon lunar eclipse in Pisces — what does it portend for you? Many creation myths revolve around the sun or moon being eaten by a dragon or serpent during eclipse seasons, marking significant shifts in collective events and consciousness. In Hindu myth, dragon Rahu snuck into the god realm to try to drink from the elixir of life. This angered the sun and moon, who stopped him after he took only a sip by cutting him in half, thus cutting the dragonís timeless, spiritual gifts (his head) from his worldly desires (his tail, which fell to the earth). Symbolically, eclipses are significant time-markers for humans, as many people find themselves at a crossroads, ready to turn corners and take on new evolutionary challenges. Significant historical and personal events cluster around eclipse times, and we may be called to act quickly. Reason may not be on your side, though (remember the dragonis head is separated from his tale), so the best way manage unsettling to eclipse energy is to respond and let it happen rather than make new decisions. Let whatis been already set in motion come to vou another way of saying that when the river of life pulls you, just flow with



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# Annie's Mailbox 🛛

Dear Annie: I'm а married woman with three kids, and I teach a class for adults. Recently, been feeling I've uncomfortable with one of the male students in my class. He flirts with me and lately has become more and more brazen. He behaves like a high schooler in love. He'll make suggestive remarks during class, jump up to sit next to me when we're having а circle discussion, and when I ran into him at a party last week, he said jokingly that he had come because he knew I'd be there.

I'm concerned that I inadvertently encouraged being too him by friendly. As a teacher, I am very open and outgoing with my students, and I worry that he misinterpreted my cheerfulness. Also, at first I was enthusiastic about him as a student because he's smart and funny. Maybe he thought I was attracted to him.

I have considered telling him that he is making me uncomfortable, but drawing attention to the problem could make it worse. I don't know how he will react if I tell him he needs to cool it down. How do I tactfully let him know his flirting is inappropriate? — An Uncomfortable Teacher

Dear Teacher: You need to be a little less friendly and a lot more professional around this man and any other male student. Don't react to his flirtatious comments. During circle plant discussions, yourself between two other students. If he persists or acts in a more suggestive manner, tell



KATHY MITCHELL MARCY SUGAR

him nicely, "I'm a happily married woman and I hope you will respect that." Be careful not to let this affect your opinion of his class work, which is a separate matter. And of course, if he should become belligerent or stalk you, report him to the police. Dear Annie: We just

finished up another Little League baseball season, and I feel the usual mixture of relief and regret. Our boys have participated in ball for the last 10 years, and we have witnessed increasingly aggressive and inappropriate behavior. I wonder if we are serving our children well by having them participate in this activity.

Many of the parents and coaches harass and intimidate the volunteer umpires and base coaches, many of whom are young kids themselves. I have seen countless kids reduced to tears by enraged parents, either their own or someone else's. At one recent game, a coach was ejected from the game for repeated use of the "F" word. What is really sad is that he was scolded and ejected by a teenage

volunteer. None of the adults present had the courage to step forward and confront the man.

it!

People need to consider what they are teaching kids. They know if our actions match what we claim our values are. Let's start cheering all the players, not just the ones on our team. Help kids learn that mistakes are part of the game. Model how to be gracious in victory and in defeat. Remember that kids learn as much, if not more, from losing. Let's give youth sports back to the kids. — Sports Mom

Dear Sports Mom: Your letter reminded us of one of our favorite poems, which every coach and sports parent should keep on the refrigerator:

He Is Just a Little Boy By Chaplain Bob Fox, "The Old Bluebird"

He stands at the plate with his heart pounding fast.

The bases are loaded, the die has been cast.

Mom and Dad cannot help him, he stands all alone.

A hit at this moment would send the team home.

The ball meets the plate, he swings and he misses.

There's a groan from the crowd, with some boos and some hisses.

A thoughtless voice "Strike out the cries, bum.'

Tears fill his eyes, the game's no longer fun.

So open your heart and give him a break,

For it's moments like this, a man you can make.

Please keep this in mind, when you hear someone forget,

He is just a little boy, and not a man yet.

## LOCAL/WIRE

# News at a glance

#### Suspect in Texas murder arrested in New York

AUSTIN (AP) - A man wanted in the shooting deaths of four people at a home near Austin has been arrested in New York on a murder charge in the case and may be connected with the Pennsylvania slaying of an elderly woman, law officers said.

The weekend homicides led to the arrest Monday of 43-year-old Paul Devoe III in Shirley, N.Y., according to the U.S. Marshals Service. He was also charged with murdering a Texas bartender during the same alleged crime spree.

Devoe, who had a handgun with him, surrendered and no one was injured in the arrest, local and federal officials said. Devoe was being held by the Suffolk County Police Department in New York and faced arraignment Tuesday.

He was charged with the murder of Paula Griffith, 46, one of the four people found shot to death in the Austin-area home, the Travis County Sheriff's Office announced Monday night. Devoe's bond was set at \$2 million.

#### Inmate to die Tuesday for death of woman in Kilgore robbery

LIVINGSTON (AP) – DaRoyce Mosley doesn't deny walking into a Kilgore bar intending to hold up the place with a partner but says he fled when his uncle fired a shot that crippled the woman bartender and wasn't responsible for the four other people who were gunned

down execution-style.

"After the first shot, I ran," he said recently from Texas' death row. "I turned around and ran out."

Mosley, however, confessed to the slayings after he was picked up by police, and the confession he said he wrongly gave to officers after long intense questioning helped convince a jury in Gregg County in East Texas to convict him in the death of Patricia Colter, 54, and decide he should die.

Mosley, 32, would be the 22nd Texas inmate executed this year and the first of three on consecutive days this week in the nation's most active capital punishment state.

#### Whole Foods says it has enough shares to buy rival Wild Oats

DALLAS (AP) — Whole Foods Market Inc. said Monday it had support from enough shareholders of Wild Oats Markets Inc. to complete the purchase of its rival, putting a successful end to a takeover opposed by federal antitrust regulators.

Whole Foods said it would own 84.1 percent of the outstanding shares of Wild Oats after its tender offer of \$18.50 per share closed Monday, and another 12.7 percent were subject to guaranteed delivery over the next three days.

The company said 25.2 million shares of Wild Oats were tendered and not withdrawn and another 3.8 million shares were subject to guaranteed delivery. After buying the shares guaranteed for delivery, Whole Foods said it would

Wild Oats shares.

Austin-based Whole Foods announced its \$565 million offer for Wild Oats in February, but the Federal Trade Commission and some consumer groups opposed the deal, arguing it would result in less competition and higher prices for premium groceries.

#### Texas health centers get \$7.1 million in funds

WASHINGTON (AP) - The federal government awarded \$7.1 million to 13 Texas community health centers to provide medical care to the poor and people in areas where hospitals and doctors are few.

The awards go to clinics designated as Federally Qualified Health Clinics, said Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas. The designation qualifies them for the money, larger Medicaid and Medicare reimbursements, reduced physician's insurance, and participation in a low-cost prescription drug program.

There are 63 such clinics in Texas.

Most of the people served by the clinics have no insurance or earn less than poverty level, \$20,650 for a family of four. However, many of the clinics' patients pay some fee for their care.

#### Mississippi ranked fattest in the nation

JACKSON, Miss. (AP) - Experts say Mississippians need to skip the gravy, say no to the fried pickles and start tak-

acquire all the remaining outstanding ing brisk walks to fight an epidemic of obesity.

> According to a new study, this Deep South state is the fattest in the nation. The Trust for America's Health, a research group that focuses on disease prevention, says Mississippi is the first state where more than 30 percent of adults are considered obese.

> Aside from making Mississippi the butt of late-night talk show jokes, the obesity epidemic has serious implications for public policy.

#### Idaho Sen. Larry Craig's political future in question after arrest

WASHINGTON (AP) - Idaho Sen. Larry Craig is a conservative Republican who has voted against gay marriage and opposes hate crimes legislation that would extend special protections to gay and lesbian crime victims.

In the wake of Craig's guilty plea on misdemeanor charges stemming from complaints of lewd conduct in a men's restroom at the Minneapolis airport, his political future is in question.

The three-term senator, who has represented Idaho in Congress for more than a quarter-century, is up for re-election next year. He hasn't said if he will run for a fourth term in 2008 and was expected to announce his plans this fall.

A spokesman, Sidney Smith, was uncertain late Monday if Craig's guilty plea would affect his re-election plans.

"It's too early to talk about anything about that," Smith said.

### ROLLBACK

#### Continued from Page 1A

generate approximately to \$700,000 in additional funding, which — when coupled with more than \$300,000 in budget cuts — will barely make up the shortfall created by Alon USA.

"This will just cover that," said County Judge Mark Barr. "This will give us \$1.2 million to operate on from October until the tax money begins coming in. It's not going to help with any of the other shortfalls we've had to look at during these budget sessions.'

The refinery, which filed a increased lawsuit over appraisals in 2006, will likely do so again this year to contest an appraisal of \$320 million on its property and taxable goods, according to Brett McKibben, chief appraiser for the Howard

what Alon officials described as thing area residents should "uncontested appraisal keep in mind.

"I think they should think about that the next time they go to a 7-Eleven," Condray told the court. Alon USA owns all of the 7-Eleven convenience stores in Big Spring, and more than 150 others across West Texas.

According to Kilgore, litigation could lead to Alon USA losing its tax abatements with local taxing entities.

"There was language in the last tax abatement contract that said if they file suit, then their abatement can be revoked," Kilgore told the court. "If I understand correctly, that language was just added in the last contract, so it won't help with last year's tax situation. However, it could be applied to this year.'

Barr said the court would be exploring that option with Drew Mouton, the county's delinquent tax attorney. According to County Auditor Jackie Olson, public hearings on the tax rate will be slated for Sept. 4 and Sept. 14, with final adoption of the rate expected Sept. 24.

Commissioners also voted unanimously during the meeting to adopt the proposed budget for 2007-2008, which includes cutting six part-time and eight full-time positions, leading to several expected layoffs.

"I want to thank all of you (department heads) for your cooperation on this," Barr said. "We're moving forward in the best possible way we can."

The cuts include two full-time positions and one part-time position from the sheriff's office budget, two full-time positions and one part-time position at the county library, two full-time and one part-time position from the county's road and bridge department, one full-time and one part-time posiClerk's office.

Barr said the adopted budget - which totals \$13.08 million in expenditures while only expecting \$12.04 in revenue — could end up in serious trouble if any unexpected expenses pop up.

"We could be in serious trouble. This budget doesn't allow for any unexpected expenses," said Barr. "We've cut everything down to the bone. And while I don't feel like we've made any cuts that are going to lead to a serious loss of service in the county, any more cuts are going to hurt service tremendously. The last thing we want to see is hour-long lines at the clerk's office or the tax office, but if we have to make any more cuts, that's exactly what we're going to be looking at.'

Contact Staff Writer Thomas Jenkins at 263-7331 ext. 232 or by

amount" of \$80 million, according to Commissioner Jerry Kilgore.

the

ty officials.

sense.'

County Appraisal District.

Until litigation is settled, the refinery will pay taxes only on

Condray said Alon USA's unwillingness to pay taxes on its appraised values is some-

How Alon USA arrived at the

\$80 million figure after present-

ing the county's appraisal

review board with what compa-

ny officials say they should pay

taxes on — \$152 million — is

still unclear, according to coun-

"It doesn't make sense," said

Kilgore. "They went to the

appeal board and said they

should only pay taxes on \$152

million, instead of the \$320 mil-

lion they were appraised at.

And now they are saying they

will only pay taxes on \$80 mil-

lion — the uncontested amount

— which is only a little more

than half what they said they

should pay. It doesn't make

Big Spring Fire Marshal Carl

tion from the maintenance department and a single parttime position with the District

at e-mail citydesk@bigspringherald.com

### JAIL

#### Continued from Page 1A

rates are higher this time around," Viaille told the court. "You're looking at around 5.5 percent interest on the bond, which will be for approximately 25 years. The current bonds the county has are at 3.5 percent.

"The court would be well advised to ask for more (in the bond) than what you think you'll actually need. If there are

construction, those funds can either be used for software, computers or other necessities for the operation of the jail, or they can be applied to debt service, which will help bring the bond's effect on the tax rate down." Having already had a

any funds left over after

similar bond election fail in 2006, commissioners spent a great deal of time discussing alternative methods of financing with Viaille during the meeting.

four methods you can use," Viaille told the court. "The first is general obligation bonds, which have to be voted on. The second is certificates of obligation, which don't require a vote.

"The third method is tax notes, which can go for a maximum of seven years. However, at the end of that note you have a huge balloon payment, which has to either be paid by the county or refinanced. Bell County went this route, and then refiover several years, which doesn't require a vote because you're simply refinancing. "The fourth method, which is by far the most costly, is a lease bond

agreement. The problem with this route is you'll pay anywhere from 8 to 9 percent interest on the bond, and if the county should default, they will lose title to the facility. This is a lot more risky."

The use of certificates of obligation, however, could trigger a petition –

"You basically have nanced the balloon out and subsequently, a bond have told county commiselection — that would once again put the matter in the hands of Howard County voters, according to county officials.

The existing county jail was shut down by the Texas Commission on Jail Standards in November 2006, after the facility's smoke evacuation system failed to meet requirements during a pair of tests in 2006.

Officials with TCJS

sioners if the court doesn't pass the bond — or find another avenue of financing a new jail facility — the existing jail will be shut down, possibly throwing the county "into bankruptcy," according to Barr.

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

## HC

#### Continued from Page 1A

lege officials said they have labored especially hard in crafting this budget in order to pay for sharp increases in fixed costs while keeping the package balanced.

Howard College will face more than \$300,000 in increased utility costs this year, Hansen noted. To keep costs down, trustees kept salary increases to a minimum this year — most district employees will receive a flat raise of \$500. Also, four positions currently vacant will not be filled for the time being.

On the plus side, increased property valuations allowed trustees to keep the anticipated tax increase at a minimum, Hansen said.

The new tax rate will be 28.9 cents per \$100 valuation, up 4.7 cents from the previous year. That

includes 6 cents per \$100 valuation in debt service to start paying down the \$21.6 million bond issue approved by district voters earlier this year.

"The maintenance and operations tax rate actually went down this year, because of the increased valuations," Hansen said. "Our values went up, so our tax rate went down." The overall budget is balanced, with one exception — trustees will pull \$99,000 from the San Angelo campus' reserve funds to help complete renovations there.

Overall reserves, which are designed to keep the

Chaney's Jewelry

event.

1706 Gregg

district up and running in case of fiscal emergencies, stand at \$8.3 million for all Howard College campuses.

Hansen admitted he was not sorry to see this vear's budget preparations come to an end.

"This budget year has been a difficult one," he said. "We experienced significant increases in utility and other fixed costs that had to be absorbed into the budget. "And we're still unsure about the impact on the budget because of valuation appeals. We tried to prepare for it and have made adjustments in the

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budget to absorb the shortfall."

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**MYERS & SMITH** FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL 24th & Johnson 267-8288 June Rhoades, 64, died Sunday. Graveside serv-

ices were at 11:00 AM Tuesday at Trinity Memorial Park.



### **O**PINION

**BIG SPRING HERALD** Tuesday, August 28, 2007

# DITORIAL

"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 DEBRA J. SAUNDERS RELEASE: SUNDAY, AUGUST 12, 2007, AND THEREAFTER Ron Midkiff Publisher Paralyzing Fog of Uncertainty John A. Moseley **Bill McClellan** on Climate Managing Editor News Editor

### **OUR VIEWS**

# Symphony needs our support during season ticket sale

ere's the long and the short of it. The long — For almost a quarter of a century, the Big Spring Symphony has been performing some of the best classical music that West Texans have had an opportunity to hear. The short — the 2007-2008 season opens in less than two weeks.

Tickets to the concerts are inexpensive — \$50 for the four-concert season or \$15 a performance for adults. Tickets for seniors and youth are even less - \$10 for senior citizens and \$5 for students. Obviously then, the symphony relies on interest in the community and strong attendance to keep it strong financially.

And that's the purpose of this editorial: To encourage local businesses, groups and individuals to consider making sure they have season tickets purchased for this season's concert run.

Season tickets went on sale today here at the Herald's offices and at First Band of West Texas, Faye's Flowers, Blum's Jewelers, the Heritage Museum and the Big Spring Chamber of Commerce.

The symphony's season will debut Saturday, Sept. 8, with Maestro John Giordano serving as guest conductor and featured pianist Sijing Ye, a 15-year-old Chinese prodigy currently studying at the Julliard School of Music in New York.

Making sure no fad is left behind

any Americans do not believe that the success of our students or of our schools can be measured by one test administered on one day, and I agree with them. This is not fair," Rep. George Miller, D-Calif., told the National Press Club last month.

As the House Education and Labor Committee he chairs is expected to roll out a draft for legislation to reauthorize the 2001 No Child Left Behind bill, Miller and fellow Democrats want to change NCLB testing. Currently, the law

requires that students be tested in

math and reading every year between third-grade and eighthgrade, then once in high school. Miller explained he would add "multiple measures of success. These measures can no longer reflect just basic skills and memorization, but rather critical thinking and the ability to apply knowledge to new and challenging contexts."

On the one hand, Miller is right to push to improve NCLB. He wants to allow states to apply graduation rates toward their yearly NCLB progress scores and also would have states include history and science test scores.

On the other hand, when the education establishment touts testing for "critical thinking," that can be code for: Maybe the kid



DEBRA **S**AUNDERS

can't read, but look at the bright side, he's smart.

And when educrat groups such as the Forum on Educational Accountability — recommend that NCLB add "comprehensive assessments systems," which would include portfolios (essays, drawing, reports) in order to offer "rich and challenging educational goals," beware. What sounds like more sophisticated testing could end up being more confusing and inconclusive. A kid who can draw does not mean a kid who can multiply.

"The great danger here is that it clouds the accountability system," noted Amy Wilkins, vice president of Education Trust, a nonprofit group that advocates for higher standards in K-12 education.

No Child Left Behind's mission — to help all children read and compute at grade level — puts basics first so that children have the fundamentals in place to tackle more challenging subjects. Testing for problem-solving and critical thinking skills would only allow children who don't know the basics to score higher than they should.

Miller spoke to me on the telephone Wednesday about "drill and kill" and "teaching to the test." That's the standard line against standardized multiple-choice tests.

"It's goofy, they (the anti-test crowd) talk out of both sides of their mouth," Wilkins noted. Some educators complain that NCLB tests are confined to low-level skills and that they have to spend all their time teaching to the test. But: "If they're such low-level

skills, why do you spend so much time teaching them?"

Besides, Wilkins noted, the NCLB tests "should not be comprehensive and test every standard." She likened NCLB testing - which can consume from a couple hours to a day per year per student — to "a dipstick" that allows educators to see if kids are making adequate progress toward mastering grade-level skills, and then hopefully move on.

Will the new NCLB draft include portfolios? Miller told me that a state might be able to include portfolios for English-language learners - if the state has no valid test for that group, and thinks it can put together a good package and if the U.S. secretary of education approves. If the House education committee limits portfolios to that narrow area, so be it.

But on a larger scale, forget it. Teachers, parents and students already complain that there are too many tests. So the answer is: Another test? I don't think so.

The time it would take for teachers to grade portfolios is prohibitive. Most important of all, subjective grading defeats the whole purpose of NCLB. Washington passed this law because schools have graduated too many students who were not performing at grade level. The remedy is not a test that would allow graders to paper over the sorry fact that children cannot read.

E-mail Debra J. Saunders at dsaunders@sfchronicle.com. COPYRIGHT 2007 CREATORS SYNDICATE INC.



Ye recently won the Aspen Music Festival piano competition, the voungest to ever win the event. She will be performing Franz Liszt's First Piano Concerto, the same piece she played in winning the Aspen competition.

And don't forget the Symphony Association's annual season kickoff dinner set for 7 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 6, at the Big Spring Country Club. Giordano will be the guest speaker for the evening. A social time begins at 6:30 p.m. and the public is invited to attend.

That evening's meal will be \$8.95 plus drinks. Please RSVP by calling 267-7210.

It promises to be a very exciting and musically rewarding season.

To help ensure that our symphony will continue to perform, make sure to get your tickets for this season's concerts and support this fine organization.

## 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

### LETTER POLICIES

The Herald welcomes letters to the editor.

Limit your letters to no more than 300 words.

Sign your letter.

• Provide a daytime telephone number, as well as a street address for verification purposes.

We reserve the right to edit for style and clarity.

 We reserve the right to limit publication to one letter per 30-day period per author.

 Letters that are unsigned or do not include a telephone number or address will not be considered.

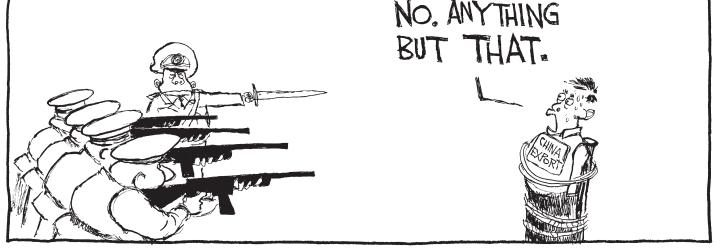
· Letters should be submitted to Editor, Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721. They can also be emailed to editor@bigspringherald.com

### **A SMALL PRAYER**

#### by K. Rae Anderson

Amen

May you be the centered point, Lord, of our life.



# Why isn't Texas in the Top 10?

The University of Texas football team is gearing up for the 2007-08 season. One preliminary poll ranks the team as high as third in the nation, much to the delight of Longhorns fans across the state.

Another set of rankings, released last month, paints a much more dismal portrait of Texas-Texas kids, that is. According to the 2007 KIDS COUNT Databook, Texas ranks 37th just 13 from the bottom-in overall child well being.

If UT were consistently ranked near or

at the bottom of Division I football on offense, defense, and in the overall rankings, Texans would be up in arms. Could you imagine the outcry if football rivals Ohio, Michigan, Nebraska, and Iowa were always better than us?

In the case of children, this really is the case.

According to the KIDS COUNT report, Texas ranks last in the nation with the highest rate of children without health care.

In fact, Texas has been at or near the bottom of the health care rankings since 1998. By contrast, Michigan and Nebraska are tied for No. 2 — with the second highest rate of kids with health insurance. Iowa is at No. 8 and Ohio ranks No. 14. Having a high num-

ber of uninsured kids doesn't just sound bad: it is bad for the state's economy and our children's futures.

Uninsured kids often turn to high-cost emergency rooms for treatment, or delay care until medical conditions are more seriousand expensive. These charges are passed on to the community through higher hospital charges, higher private health insurance premiums, and higher local taxes.

Imagine if we were as committed to ensuring the health of our youngest and most vulnerable as we are the health of our offensive and defensive lines.

Texas also ranks at the bottom on births to teens, with the highest rate of babies born to teens (ages 15-19) in the country. Iowa ranks No. 13, Michigan is at No. 17, and Nebraska ranks No. 20. Babies born to teen mothers are more likely to live in poverty, drop out of school, have a child while in their teens, and rely on public assistance.

Imagine if we were as committed to preventing pregnancy as we are turnovers.

The report also finds that when it comes to lowest high school dropout rates, Texas ranks No. 27. Iowa and Nebraska are tied for No. 4, Ohio ranks No. 9, and Michigan is No. 16.

Dropouts cost Texas millions of dollars. According to a Center for Public Policy Priorities report, if every 16-19 year old who is not in school and does not have a high school diploma simply graduated. Texas' combined earnings could increase by \$3 billion in income in just four years. Not only that, but study after study shows that an educated workforce is the primary reason why businesses relocate to states and expand current facilities.

Dropouts also have a greater need for government assistance. According to a national study by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, 40 percent of 16- to 24year-olds lacking a high school diploma received some type of government assistance in 2001. In addition, a dropout is more than eight times as likely to be incarcerated as a high school graduate.

Imagine if we were as committed to scoring high graduation rates as we are points per game.

Forget being No. 1; it's like we don't even make it to a bowl game when it comes to our children.

Children are 27 percent of our state but 100 percent of our future. Yet, we market our college players to win national awards and be top NFL draft picks but consistently let a potential group of All-Americans go without medical care or a quality education.

Come on, Texas. We can do better.

Lynsey Kluever is the communications director for Center for Public Priorities in Austin which is home to Texas Kids Count.



LYNSEY KLUEVER

### FEATURES

# Bird Poop: Broken leg leaves greater yellowlegs needing rescue

rom the state

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Bebe

MCCASLAND

acres of mesquite and the rise and fall of the surrounding terrain, this oasis for waterfowl was,

in essence, nature's

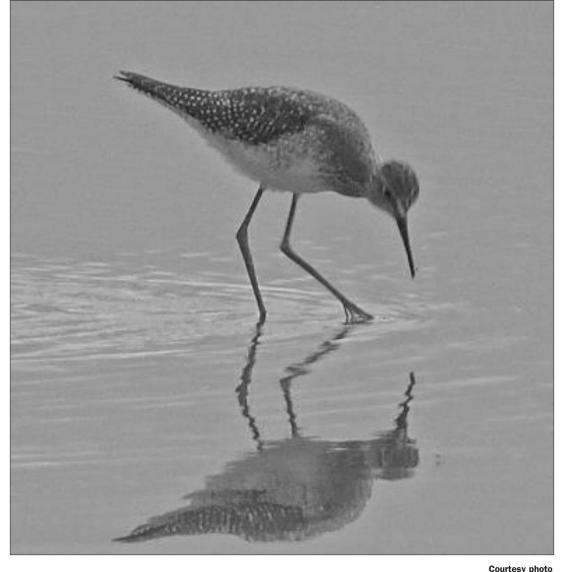
Thirty-one years ago, we had approached the eastern edge of the lake to view the nightly ritual of wintering sandhill

cranes. With the setting sun turning the western

sky a vivid orange, the silhouettes of some

35,000 birds threatened

to darken the evening



An adept wader, the greater yellowlegs is a member of the sandpiper family. Migrating by day or night, the bird easily reaches speeds of 40-45 mph.

# Parent's Corner: A brief history of Labor Day as a holiday

abor Day is fast approaching! To me Labor Day has always been special, because when I

was a kid, the day following would be the first day of school. I enjoyed school. School was a time of reunion with all my classmates

whom I had

I was entering a new grade or a new school. Today I get excited about Labor Day because

it's the first holiday of the school year and we get to take that first break before we get down to the work at hand.

However, Labor Day is a special day in America. It is a creation of the labor movement and is dedicated to the social and economic achievements of American workers. It constitutes a yearly national tribute to the contributions workers have made to the strength, prosperity and well-being of our country.

Samuel Gompers, founder and longtime president of the American Federation of Labor is quoted as saying, "Labor Day differs in every essential way from the other holidays of the year and in any country. Labor Day is devoted to no man, living or dead, to no sect, race, or nation.'

The first Labor Day holiday was celebrated on Tuesday, Sept. 5, 1882, in New York City, in accordance with the plans of the Central Labor Union The Central Labor Union held its second Labor Day holiday just a year later, on

Sept. 5, 1883. In 1884 the first Monday in September was selected as the holiday, as originally proposed, and the Central Labor Union urged similar organizations in other cities to follow the example of New York and celebrate a "workingmen's holiday" on that date. The idea spread with the growth of labor organizations and in 1885 Labor Day was celebrated in many industrial centers of the country.

The first governmental recognition came

sky. At that time we had no idea that such a phenomenon would only be a memory.

When a ranch foreman called about a bird he had found, we headed to another area of Natural Dam Salt Lake. To the north, after a lengthy, slow drive on one of many dirt roads, we met the gentleman. "It's one of those birds you see along the shore," he added after welcoming us for coming. "Seems kind of funny to find a live bird on Buzzard Creek!" A major artery for incoming water from the

north, the creek was a vital habitat for this migrating, shallow water bird. Often seen along coasts, small pools in salt marshes, mud flats and along meandering creeks, the bird had found minnows, aquatic and other insects, larvae and worms to its liking. As it had hunted the isolated edges of the creek, it had swung its long, slightly upturned bill from side to side. By this method of skimming the water, the bird had been able to pick up food during its long journey to the south. Its daily struggle for survival had been jeopardized by a broken leg.

As it lay as comfortably as possible on a pile of rags, the three of us



By Steve Becker

Good Things Come in Small Packages

NORTH ♠Q83 ♦ K J 6 2 WEST EAST A K 10 7 4 2 **•**96 **♥**62 ♥QJ10 ♦ 8 5 4 **+**1097432 SOUTH ♦ A O 10 9 🕈 A K 8 The bidding: West South North East 3 **♣** 4 ♥ 2 NT Pass Pass 3♥ Pass Opening lead — king of spades.

South dealer.

East-West vulnerable.

There are many players who upon picking up the East hand, would decide that this was a good time to review their plans for the rest of the day, or perhaps just take a short nap. They would reason that they were unlikely to do much bidding or contribute anything to the defense if, as seemed likely, the opponents wound up playing the

But they would be dead wrong, because there is a card in the East hand that will help sink South's four-

moment. It is a card that would not carry much weight in most deals, but it makes all the difference in this one. North-South reached four hearts after a Stayman inquiry disclosed the 4-4 heart fit. West led the king of spades and continued with the ace, East and South following to both spades. West then led another spade. If East thought at this point that South must have another spade for his two-notrump opening, or if he had simply lost interest in the proceedings, he might have woodenly ruffed with the deuce. If so, declarer would have overruffed with the three, played the A-K of trumps, con-ceded a trump to West and claimed the remainder to make his contract. But a more alert East might real-

ize that with the 9-8-7-5 of trumps in the dummy, ruffing with the six could do some serious damage to the contract if West held the A-10-x, K-10-x or Q-J-10 of trumps and declarer had actually started with a doubleton spade. In all of those cases, ruffing with the six would promote an extra trump trick for West and so set the contract

The deal occurred in a 2006 regional pairs championship, and to the credit of all those present, not a single declarer made four hearts. This means that no East was asleep at the switch at the critical moment, and that every East fully appreciated the

DARRELL Ryan

not seen since the end of May. I also enjoyed the first day of school because I knew through municipal ordi-

See RYAN, Page 6A

heart contract, but only if East is paying full attention at the critical potential value of the "lowly" six.

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# ELLIE ELEPHANT AND THE ZOOKEEPER

Have you ever been to a zoo? I'll bet you have. Do you like the zoo? Did you see lots of birds and animals while you were there? Did you learn anything about any of these creatures? All of them are fun to watch, aren't

they? Which bird or animal was your favorite? One of my most favorites is the elephant. Do you like elephants, too? They are really big, aren't they?

Did you see the person who helps feed the animals and care for them? They are called zookeepers. They love the animals too, don't they? They are nice people. I like them. This story is about a zookeeper who had been helping the animals for a very long time. His name is Waldo. The story is

also about an elephant named Ellie. They had been friends for a very long time. They dearly loved each other.

The story begins just a few weeks ago. Everything had been so peaceful and calm at the city zoo where Ellie lived. Waldo had come to the zoo that day to help the animals just as he had done for so many years. But Waldo

was getting very old now. He still loved the animals and wanted to care for them just as he always had. Ellie and all of the other animals

looked forward seeing to Waldo each day. Today was no different, at first.

Waldo went to the monkey house and told all of them, Good Morning" just had as he done so many times before. All of the monkeys would laugh and

screech and swing from vine to vine. That was their way of saying "Good Morning" to Waldo. He just loved to watch the monkeys swinging through the

trees on their vines. He often wished he could do that too. He watched them doing their backflips and tried to do that once, but he decided to never try that again! He would leave that up to the monkeys. He could never be a monkey no matter how hard he tried.

He went to the aviary where all of the little birds lived. Do you know what an aviary might be? Will you promise to look in your dic-



tionary tomorrow and see what this big word means? Waldo had lots of birdseed in

his pockets. He loved to hold the seeds in his hands and let the little

birds eat the seeds right from his hand. The little birds liked that, too.

The only thing wrong was that Waldo did not do something he usually did every day. He always went to visit

Ellie before he visited anyone else. Why did he not do this? Ellie did not know at that time! She did not get mad at Waldo because she had come to love him long ago, and she was sure

Waldo loved But, her! why did he not visit her first? He did not visit Ellie at all that day! He did visit not many of the other anithat mals day, either. He had never done this before! What was wrong.

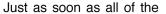
The head zookeeper learned of this and was not happy. He told Waldo that he would have to find another job. He couldn't work at the zoo anymore!

This made poor Waldo very sad. It made all of the other animals sad, too. They all loved Waldo so much! The new zookeeper would come soon.

He was a young, handsome zookeeper. He would someday love all the animals

and birds just as Waldo had done for so many years. They would love him too, but it would take time. The very first few days the new zookeeper was getting to know all of the animals, and it was not easy for anyone. None of the animals would eat, or sleep. They missed Waldo! Ellie knew what she could do to help Waldo. He had helped her so many times. She remembered all of the times when she wasn't feeling very well and Waldo stayed right by her side the whole time. He would never leave her side until she was well again. He did this for all the animals. Ellie remembered everything!

Ellie told the head zookeeper that if he would let Waldo come back to help the new young zookeeper, she could fix all the problems at the zoo. Ellie knew that the problem with Waldo was that he was getting very old and forgetful. She could help him. She never forgot anything! The head zookeeper agreed to let Waldo come back.





animals and birds saw Waldo, the whole zoo became alive again! The monkeys started swinging on their vines. The birds started singing. Waldo started singing too! He started on his rounds of feeding the birds and animals. Ellie would remember which ones to feed first and told Waldo. Waldo was so happy. The birds and animals were so happy. The head zookeeper was happy. The new, young zookeeper was happy.

The whole zoo was alive again because of Ellie! She has just been fed by Waldo. He made sure her bed was ready for her too. He even tucked her in for the night. Before he left Ellie's room, he turned and softly said to her, "Thank you, Ellie. I love you. I am very happy

 $\star\star\star$ 

because of you. Good

Night"

# **6**A

### FEATURES

#### **BIG SPRING HERALD** Tuesday, August 28, 2007



Eight members of this year's graduating class of the Western Texas College vocational nursing program received certifications during graduation and pinning ceremonies Aug. 23 at the First United Methodist Church in Snyder. Front row, from left, are: Cati Fleming of Mansfield, Tiffany Owens of Colorado City and Kristen Perez of Snyer. Back row: Tres Jones of Aspermont, Kristie Munoz of Big Spring, Victoria Rios of Big Spring, Monica Lopez of Colorado City and Leslie Christian of Colorado City.



#### Courtesv photo

Nine students in the Western Texas College vocational nursing program received their pins during graduation and pinning ceremonies Aug. 23 at the First United Methodist Church in Snyder. Front row, from left, are: Tiffany Evans of Snyder, Joshua Kerns of Big Spring and Monica Hernandez of Snyder. Back row: Susan Barrios of Big Spring, Layne Froman of Gail, Leslie Gaona of Colorado City, Magdelena Harty of Hermleigh, Kim Lane of Snyder and Melissa Rivera of Colorado City.

# Laura on Life: Handling things without complaining

'm not complaining. I actually got out of the house for a while this weekend and a bad day outside the house still beats a good day inside the house.

A good day inside the house may mean that all of the socks that came out of the dryer matched up or that all the drains were draining without a hitch. It might mean that I didn't burn our dinner or it might simply mean that I actually thought of something for dinner that everyone would like.

### BIRD

#### Continued from Page 5A

its long, bright yellow legs. Although the bird was a dark grayishbrown to black above, and whitish underneath, the speckling of white on its head, long slender neck, back, wings and breast was a predominant feature.

Carefully handing the greater yellowlegs to us, the foreman was refleved when we told him it

Yes, I live on the edge. A bad day the house thing to This time it LAURA was a short

SNYDER to deliver

some furniture to our college-aged kid's new apartment. Okay, so it

looked like a good break. If there is one. Because of where the break had occurred, there was an opportunity to set the leg. Asking how he found it, we learned that the bird's movement on the ground had caught the man's attention. Fortunately for the yellowlegs, when it saw the foreman's approaching vehicle, its struggle to stand had led to its discovery.

From its nest site in

our year, but it was something different. So I'm not complaining.

It took about a split second for my son to give us the grand tour of his cozy apartment. Then he and my husband hauled the furniture we'd brought into a now even cozier apartment. He and his roommates had more food than they had furniture, but at least they won't starve. You can't eat furniture, after all.

We had stopped at a gas station just before we arrived and I had picked

made its way to West Texas before ending its trip to Central or South America. Often mistaken for a plover or snipe, it would be spending its winter in another locale. After a veterinarian splinted the leg, the shore bird was taken to a wildlife center to recover.

Months later, it was released on a conservation lake site. Protected from ground predators, the yellowlegs could walk and hunt the muddy

up a brochure for what I thought would be a relaxing way to spend the rest of the afternoon. It was a "Float Trip" down a river named by some Native Americans that I can't pronounce. I thought it sounded perfect. We could relax and the kids would be entertained. When we got there,

they handed us life jackets and paddles and gave us a safety lesson. That's when I knew there was something wrong with this picture. In my head, I had us floating lazily

bird easily kept from sinking in the wettest of conditions.

When it was fully recovered and sensed the urge to migrate, the bird would be able to leave on its own. The ranchers,

down a quiet river taking in the scenery and watching the kids splash each other. Paddles, lifejackets, and a safety lesson didn't add up to a relaxing afternoon. But we didn't know that until after we had already paid. But I'm not complaining.

They had us wait for 45 minutes in 90-degree heat with our life jackets on. That's the equivalent of wearing a parka in the desert. When our "safety instructor" finally showed up, I could have

who had provided an environment for recovering waterfowl, no longer would hear its whistle. One morning, when the yellowlegs heard its own specie, the swift flyer flapped its wings, extendtaught him a little something about safety and it didn't have anything to do with falling out of the raft.

Then he herded about 40 of us into a ten-passenger van and left us to broil while he went to get something he forgot. One of the passengers had to turn on the van to allow us some air-conditioning so that we didn't pass out. But I'm not complaining.

We got dropped at a

See LAURA, Page 7A

ed its colorful, long legs beyond its tail and soon was lost in the clouds.

Bebe McCasland is federally and state licensed to rehabilitate wild birds.

### Notice of Public Hearing on **Tax Increase**

The HOWARD COUNTY will hold a public hearing on a proposal to increase total tax revenues from properties on the tax roll in the preceding tax year by 24.14 percent (percentage by which proposed tax rate exceeds lower of rollback tax rate or effective tax calculated under Chapter 26, Tax Code). Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property and the tay rate that is adopted

weekend trip to the mountains

wasn't the highlight of

outside of means that I have somewrite about.

### **RYAN**

Continued from Page 5A

nances passed during 1885 and 1886. The first state bill was introduced into the New York legislature, but the first to become law was passed by Oregon on Feb. 21, 1887. During that year four more states -Colorado, Massachusetts, New Jersey, and New York — created the Labor Day holiday by legislative enactment.

By the end of the decade Connecticut, Nebraska and Pennsylvania had followed suit. By 1894, 23 other states had adopted the holiday in honor of workers, and on June 28 of that year, Congress passed an act making the first Monday in September of each year a legal holiday in the District of Columbia and

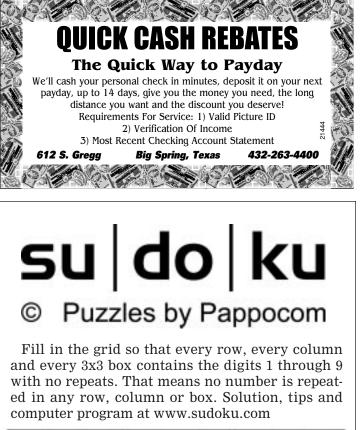


Alaska or Canada, the greater yellowlegs had shoreline. With its toes webbed at their base, the

#### the territories.

Labor Day is special and a special word of congratulations is due to all American workers. Enjoy the holiday.

Darrell Ryan is director of federal programs for the Big Spring Independent School District.



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

The public hearing will be held on September 4, 2007 at 10:00 AM and September 14, 2007 at 10:00 AM at Howard County Commissioners Court Room, 2nd Floor.

The members of the governing body voted on the proposal to consider the tax increase as follows:

FOR: Judge Mark Barr, **Commissioner Gary Simer** 

Commissioner Emma Brown Commissioner W. B. (Bill) Crooker Commissioner Jerry Kilgore

AGAINST: PRESENT and not voting: ABSENT:

Ί

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#### Comparison of Proposed Budget with Last Year's Budget

The applicable percentage increase or decrease (or difference) in the amount budgeted in the preceding fiscal year and the amount budgeted for the fiscal year that begins during the current tax year is indicated for each of the following expenditures categories:

Maintenance and operations	2.5% increase
Debt service	1.4% increase
Total expenditures	2.4% increase

**Total Appraised Value and Total Taxable Value** as calculated under section 26.04, Tax Code

	Preceding Tax Year	Current Tax Year
Total appraised value* of all property	\$1,881,152,697	\$2,335,543,104
Total appraised value* of new property**	\$8,805,862	\$4,805,462
Total taxable value*** of all property	\$1,510,640,943	\$1,871,593,236
Total taxable value*** of new property**	\$6,447,020	\$4,473,626

#### **Bonded Indebtedness**

Total amount of outstanding and unpaid bonded indebtedness \$970,000

**Tax Rates** 

Adopted tax rate for the preceding tax year Proposed tax rate for the current tax year Difference in the proposed tax rate and the adopted tax rate for the preceding tax year

\$0.487870 per \$100 in value \$0.487870 per \$100 in value

\$(0.000000) per \$100 in value

Percentage increase or decrease in the proposed tax rate and the adopted tax rate for the preceding tax year

\$0.00% Increase

These tax rate figures are not adjusted for changes in the taxable value of property.

#### **Comparison of Residence Homestead Values**

Average appraised and taxable values on residence homesteads are compared from the preceding tax year and the current tax year.

Preceding Tax Year	Current Tax Year
\$34,847	\$39,838
\$7,769	\$7,968
\$27,078	\$31,870
	\$34,847 \$7,769

#### **Comparison of Residence Homestead Taxes**

The taxes that would have been imposed in the preceding tax year on a residence homestead at the average appraised value (excluding special exemptions for persons 65 years of age or older or disabled) are estimated to be \$132.11. The taxes that would be imposed in the current tax year on a residence homestead appraised at the average appraised value in the current tax year (excluding special exemptions for persons 65 years of age or older or disabled), if the proposed tax rate is adopted. are estimated to be \$155.48. The difference between the amount of taxes on the average residence homestead in the current tax year, if the proposed tax rate is adopted, and the preceding tax year would be an increase of \$23.37 in taxes.

Appraised value" is the amount shown on the appraisal roll and defined by Section 1.04(8), Tax Code. \*\* "New property" is defined by Section 26.012(17), Tax Code. \*\*\* "Taxable value" is defined by Section 1.04(10), Tax Code.

31369

# **6B**

## Comics

#### **BIG SPRING HERALD** Tuesday, August 28, 2007

### TUESDAY

	WFAA (2)	KMID 3	UNI (4)	KPEJ 5	KOSA 7	KTLE (8)	KWES (9)	WTBS (11)	KMLM (12)	KPBT 13	DISC 20	AMC (21)	SPIKE 22	TNT 23	BET 26	DISN 27	ESPN2 28	ESPN 29	SCIFI 64
	Dallas	Midland	Spanish	Odessa	Odessa	Telemundo	Midland	Atlanta	Odessa	Odessa	Discovery	Classics	Spike TV	Atlanta	Black Ent.	Disney	Sports	Sports	Science Fic.
c <sup>:PN</sup>				King of the Hill		Dame		Raymond	Dr. Young	News-Lehrer	Lobster Wars			Law & Order		Han. Montana		53	Dead Like Me
<b>b</b> :30	Entertainment	Wheel-Fortune	Juan	The Simpsons	Entertainment	Chocolate	Be a Millionaire	Raymond	John Hagee	39	39	"	Scene Invstgtn.	(CC) (DVS)	Hell Date	Zack & Cody	Basketball:	NFL Live	
:PN	Just Laughs	Just Laughs	Amar sin	Bones (CC)	Power of 10	Madre Luna	Live From New	Raymond	Update/Israel	Nova (CC)	Dirty Jobs	Movie: Raising		Law & Order	Movie: Next	Movie: The	First Round	2007 World	Eureka (CC)
1 :30	Just Laughs	Just Laughs	Limites	"	(CC)	55	York: 1st 5	Raymond	Booker	(DVS)	(CC)	Helen	Scene Invstgtn.	(CC) (DVS)	Friday (CC)	Emperor's New	Teams TBA	Series of Poker	
- <sup>:PN</sup>	i-Caught	i-Caught	Destilando	House (CC)	Big Brother 8	La Esclava	Years of SNL	Bill Engvall	Light of the	Wide Angle	Dirty Jobs	"		Law & Order				2007 World	Eureka (CC)
8 :30	(CC)	(CC)	Amor	"	(CC)	Isaura	33	Raymond	Southwest	(CC)	(CC)	"	Scene Invstgtn.	(CC) (DVS)	22	Emperor New	Basketball:	Series of Poker	"
PN :PN			S.O.S. Sexo y		NCIS (CC)	Amor Mio	Law & Order:	Raymond	33	P.O.V. (CC)	Build It Bigger	"	CSI: Crime	The Closer	Baldwin Hills	That's-Raven	First Round	The Bronx Is	ECW
9:30	Crime (CC)	Crime (CC)	Otros Secretos	Friends (CC)	22	33	SVU	Raymond	33	33	22	Movie: City of	Scene Invstgtn.	(CC)	Baldwin Hills	Life Derek	Teams TBA	Burning (CC)	
10 :PN			Primer Impacto		News	Noticias		Bill Engvall	Update/Israel	39	Dirty Jobs	Angels		Law & Order	Take the Cake			SportsCenter	Want to Be a
10 :30	Nightline	Nightline	Noticiero Univ.	Raymond	Late Show-	12 Corazones	Tonight Show	Sex and-City	N. McBride	PBS Previews	(CC)	"	(CC)	(CC) (DVS)	(CC)	Han. Montana	FIBA Americas	(CC)	Superhero?
PN :PN	The Insider	Jimmy Kimmel	La Hora de la	King of the Hill	Letterman	33	35	Sex and-City	Joe McGee	Sign Off	Dirty Jobs	33	Murder	Without a	Hell Date	Replacements	Championship	The Bronx Is	Eureka (CC)
11 :30	Jimmy Kimmel	Live (CC)	Risa	Malcolm-Mid.	Late Late	!Al Rojo Vivo!	Late Night-	Friends (CC)	Biblical Israel	"	(CC)	"	22	Trace (CC)	Jamie Foxx	Kim Possible	Teams TBA	Burning (CC)	
	Live (CC)	Extra (CC)	Salome (SS)	My Wife-Kids	Show	53	Conan O'Brien	Movie: EDtv	Update/Israel	33	Dirty Jobs	Movie:	Star Trek:	Without a		Emperor New		SportsCenter	Twilight Zone
<b>12</b> 3	News (CC)	Express Media	"	Malcolm-Mid.	The Insider	Programa	News	(CC) (DVS)	J.R. Church	"	(CC)	Hoosiers	Voyager	Trace (CC)	Friday (CC)	American Drgn	NFL Live	(CC)	Twilight Zone

HAGAR

HOW DO YOU LIKE LIVING IN THE LOWLANDS OF

HOLLAND

#### **DENNIS THE MENACE**



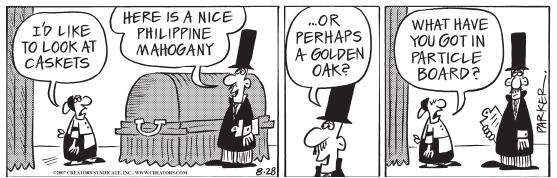
- "I GUESS I SHOULDN'T HAVE MADE THAT LAST COMMENT TO MOM."
- KIN.DRED THE FEAR OF VISITING RELATIVES WILEYS WILEY'S DICTIONARY DICTIONARY MASON

8.28

#### WIZARD OF ID

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BC



AGNES

OH, WOE IS WE WHO MUST DANCE ALONE!

#### THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"Would somebody please scratch my nose?"



ALSO WOE IS WE WHO MUGT DANCE WEIRDLY!

## In History By The Associated Press

This Date

Today is Tuesday, Aug. 28, the 240th day of 2007. There are 125 days left in the year. Today's Highlight in History:

On Aug. 28, 1963, 200,000 people participated in a peaceful civil rights rally in Washington, where Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. delivered his "I Have a Dream" speech in front of the Lincoln Memorial. On this date:

In 1609, Henry Hudson discovered Delaware Bay.

In 1774, Mother Elizabeth Ann Seton, the first American-born saint, was born in New York City.

In 1907, 100 years ago, United Parcel Service had beginnings as the its

he was 30.

In 1955, Emmett Till, a black teenager from Chicago, was abducted from his uncle's home in Money, Miss., by two white men after he had supposedly whistled at a white woman; he was found brutally murdered three days later.

In 1968, police and antiwar demonstrators clashed in the streets of Chicago as the Democratic national convention nominated Hubert H. Humphrey for president.

In 1973, more than 600 people died as an earthquake shook central Mexico.

In 1987, Academy Awardwinning movie director John Huston died in Middletown, R.I., at age 81.

In 1987, a fire damaged the Arcadia, Fla., home of Ricky, Robert and Randy Ray, three hemophiliac brothers infected with the AIDS virus whose courtordered school attendance

an air show at the U.S. Air Base in Ramstein, West Germany.

8.28

Birthdays: Today's Country singer Billy Grammer is 82. Actor Ben Gazzara is 77. Actor Sonny Shroyer is 72. Actor Ken Jenkins is 67. Former Defense Secretary William S. Cohen is 67. Actor David Soul is 64. Baseball manager Lou Piniella is 64. Actress Alice Playten is 60. Singer Osmond Wayne (The Osmonds) is 56. Actor Daniel Stern is 50. Olympic gold medal figure skater Scott Hamilton is 49. Actress Emma Samms is 47. Country singer Shania Twain is 42. Actor Billy Boyd ("The Lord of the Rings") is 39.





IT'S OKAY, BUT YOU HAVE TO MAKE CERTAIN SACRIFICES.



FOR EXAMPLE, IT'S TOLIGH TO GROW A VEGETABLE GARDEN



#### **HI AND LOIS**



#### THE OTHER COAST



#### **SNUFFY SMITH**



**BEETLE BAILEY** 



American Messenger Co. of Seattle.

In 1947, legendary bullfighter Manolete was mortally wounded by a bull during a fight in Linares, Spain;

3ROWNE

PRAY TH' FISH

ARE BITIN' !!

sparked a local uproar. (The Ray family moved to Sarasota, Fla.)

In 1988, 70 people were killed when three Italian stunt planes collided during

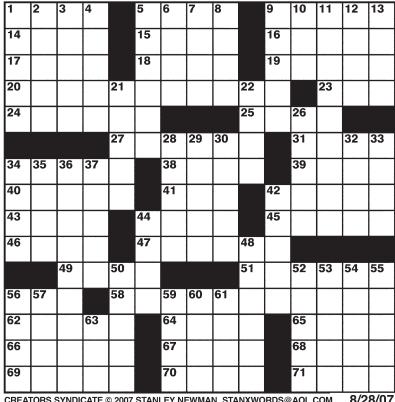
SP VIEWS ABOUTTIDALWAVE

ANIMAL ACTS by Sally R. Stein

#### Newsday Crossword

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Edited	by S	Stanley Newman
	www	v.stanxwords.com
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## **F**EATURES/**W**IRE

# **News in brief**

#### U.S., Iraqi forces kill 33 Sunni insurgents near town of Khalis

BAGHDAD (AP) – Hundreds of U.S. and Iraqi forces backed by helicopters and jet fighters attacked and killed 33 Sunni insurgents who were holding back the water supply to the Shiite town of Khalis, the American command said in a statement Tuesday.

The assault began before dawn on Monday when a joint force was landed by helicopter in the village of Gubbiya, 10 miles east of Khalis. The assault force killed 13 fighters and attack aircraft killed 20 others, the military said. The area is known to be controlled by al-Qaida in Iraq. Khalis, 50 miles north of Baghdad, has been the scene of repeated Sunni insurgent bombings and mortar attacks.

"The objective of the mission was to open the spillway, which regulates water flow to the town of Khalis, restoring the essential service of water," the statement said.

The assault uncovered three weapons caches, led to the capture of three men and "water is currently flowing unimpeded to Khalis," the military said. The statement did not say if any U.S. or Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded.

A Bradley Fighting Vehicle was seen engulfed in flames at the side of the road leading to Baghdad Airport Tuesday morning, but there was no immediate report about the incident from the military. It appeared to have been hit by a huge explosion. The stretch of highway is one of the most heavily guarded in Iraq.

#### Next attorney general nominee could face a nasty hearing

WASHINGTON (AP) — Attorney General Alberto Gonzales' replacement whoever that may be — faces a potentially nasty Senate confirmation and a beleaguered Justice Department badly in need of leadership.

Gonzales' resignation, announced

Monday, cheered his critics who for months had demanded the attorney general quit over questions about his credibility.

Filling his job could lead to a new between White House standoff Republicans and the Democratic-led Congress, experts said, even as names of possible successors began to surface.

'Selecting a successor to Gonzales will be a challenge because the Senate is unlikely to confirm anyone as aggressive as Gonzales in the defense of executive power and the practice of secrecy," said Peter Shane, professor at The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law.

But the White House is unlikely to let Congress dictate who gets the job.

#### Foreign firefighters join battle against blazes in Greece

ATHENS, Greece (AP) — Foreign firefighters and aircraft joined the battle Tuesday against blazes in southern Greece, and officials expressed optimism that wildfires burning some of the country's lushest landscape could be brought under partial control.

The fires, which began about five days ago, have killed at least 64 people and burned olive groves, forests and orchards. Beyond the loss of life and environmental damage, Greece braced for the economic impact of the worst wildfires in memory, with the government budgeting upward of \$410 million for immediate relief. The bill was expected to be much higher, the finance ministry said.

The fire department said 56 fires broke out from Monday to Tuesday. The worst were concentrated in the mountains of the Peloponnese in the south and on the island of Evia north of Athens, spokesman Nikos Diamandis said.

He said most of the efforts would be concentrated in those two regions, with most of the firefighters that have arrived from 17 countries operating in the Peloponnese.

LAURA

#### Continued from Page 6A

spot further upriver with our rafts and paddles and for the next two hours we fought to keep ourselves off the rocks. We quickly learned that if you got stuck on the rocks, it was going to take superhuman effort to get back off of them. I worked harder than I have since giving birth. The "relaxing" part never happened. But I'm not complaining. The next morning we started to drive home and got stuck in a traffic jam where the traffic was stopped dead for three hours on an uninhabited section of the Interstate. If we had a cooler full of drinks, we could have made a bundle of cash. As it happens, we were parked in the middle lane, right next to the only toilet within a ten mile radius. It was in a humongous motor home

you Rocky and Ellen! driven by a guy named You're the best! Rocky and his wife, Ellen. Obviously, since See? There wasn't anymy children have bladthing to complain about, ders the size of peanuts, now, was there? we became fast friends with them. They also had paper towels, water and air-conditioning. Thank

Laura Snyder can be emailed at lsnyder@lauraonlife.com.

**Gartman Sheetmetal** 

A group of 55 Israeli firefighters would be used to assist in combatting one of the worst fires in Krestena, near Ancient Olympia. Large parts of the world heritage site, which was the birthplace of the Olympic Games, were burned over the weekend.

#### U.S. Army turns to National Guard for recruiting help

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. Army is turning to the National Guard for help recruiting would-be soldiers in hometowns across America.

Army leaders, struggling to meet recruitment goals in the midst of a long and unpopular war in Iraq, are quietly working out final details of a program that would give bonuses of \$2,000 per recruit to any National Guard soldier who brings somebody into the active duty Army.

Army Secretary Pete Geren disclosed the plan in an interview with The Associated Press, calling it an innovative effort to get broader reach into local communities.

The Guard members, Geren said, are "much more in contact with the civilian population than the active duty soldier is. So they give us reach into a larger segment of the community on a personal level, a one to one basis, than we get through our recruiting relationships.

#### Foreign Minister Gul poised to become Turkey's president

ANKARA, Turkey (AP) — Foreign Minister Abdullah Gul was poised to become Turkey's president on Tuesday, which if accomplished would make him the first head of state with a background in political Islam in a country with strong secularist principles.

Gul's election is widely acknowledged as all but certain, even by his opponents an ascendance that would mark a major triumph for his Islamic-rooted government over the secular establishment.

His initial bid for president was blocked over fears that he planned to dilute secular traditions.

Gul failed to win the presidency in two rounds of voting last week because the ruling Justice and Development party lacked the two-thirds majority in Parliament needed for him to secure the post. But the party — which holds 341 of the 550 seats — has a far easier hurdle on Tuesday, when only a simple majority is required.



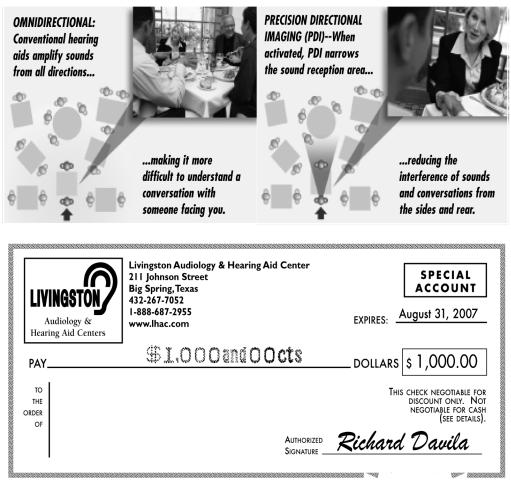
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