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BIG SPRING HERALD

THURSDAY
AUGUST 30, 2007



VOLUME 102, NUMBER 236

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Students at Coahoma Elementary School carry out their assignments this morning. Coahoma school district officials are reporting a slight increase in enrollment from the previous year.

Student numbers are steady

Down slightly at Forsan, up marginally at Coahoma

By **STEVE REAGAN**

Staff Writer

Officials at Coahoma and Forsan school districts report attendance figures consistent with the first day of school last year.

Simply put, enrollment is down slightly at Forsan, while it has increased by a small margin in Coahoma.

Randy Johnson, superintendent at Forsan ISD, said the district welcomed 680 students on the first day of school Monday, a decrease of 9 from the same time last year.

"Between 675 and 685 students is just wonderful for us. Any bigger for us and it feels too crowded."



—Forsan ISD Superintendent
Randy Johnson

Johnson said 325 students were enrolled at the

See **NUMBERS**, Page 3A

It's a tight fit

BSISD elementaries at near capacity

By **STEVE REAGAN**

Staff Writer

Big Spring Independent School District officials are overjoyed at news of increased enrollment. Where to put all those new students, however, is becoming something of a concern.

BSISD Superintendent Michael Downes recently said that first-day enrollment was about 200 above projections, with most of that increase coming in the early elementary level grades.

"The Texas State Data Center has projected modest population



Dunnam

growth for the next 30 years in Howard County," Downes said. "We've actually exceeded those projections in the past three years."

Increased enrollment at the elementaries, while certainly welcome, is coming close to exacerbating an already worrisome classroom space problem on those campuses.

Simply put, the district is running out of room.

Because of state regulations, the

district is limited to how many students can be placed in classrooms at the elementary level, and classroom space has reached a premium, Downes said.

"We have one empty classroom at Bauer Elementary — and that's it," Downes said.

The district has two weeks to conform to a state-mandated 22-to-1 student/teacher ratio in the elementary grades, Assistant Superintendent Carie Dunnam said.

See **BSISD**, Page 3A

SUMMER BEAUTY



HERALD photo/Thomas Jenkins
Autumn might be just around the corner, but that hasn't stopped local flora from popping up all over the place, including this flower — along with hundreds of others — in the northern part of the city.

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CASA needing volunteers

By **THOMAS JENKINS**

Staff Writer

The Court Appointed Child Advocate (CASA) program is looking for a few good men and women.

OK, maybe more than a few.

According to Dedi Roundtree, spokesperson and volunteer coordinator for the



Roundtree

program, the need for CASA volunteers in Howard County to assist in child-related investigations and court cases has reached a critical point.

"There are presently 31 cases in Howard

County that CASA is involved with," said Roundtree. "There are a total of 50 children in these 31 cases. We need a minimum of 22 trained volunteers to cover these cases, but we only have seven. In essence, we need 15 new volunteers, now."

"Volunteers with CASA act

as the eyes and ears of the court. The children are visited in their placement at least once a month, and contact with counselors and other service providers help develop a complete picture of changes being made to provide children with a safe and

See **CASA**, Page 3A

Blum's Jewelers One beautiful place

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Sports

BIG SPRING HERALD

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

Page 1B
Thursday, August 30, 2007

IN BRIEF

Area high school sports calendar

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

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 purchased 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

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 sign-ups for the 2007 season.

While there will be no more early registration dates, a late registration day will be Saturday.

See BRIEFS, Page 3B

Garden City starts season Saturday

By JONATHAN HULL

Sports Editor

GARDEN CITY — There's no time for rebuilding for Garden City's Bearkats. Not when they play in a district that fields four teams — including themselves at No. 19 — ranked in the state's top 20.

However, the Bearkats graduated 12 seniors from last season's state quarterfinalist team and return just four lettermen, of which only two were starters.

There's also no warm-up game as the Bearkats face the No. 4

Calvert Trojans at 1:30 p.m. at the Six-man Super Shootout in Hico. The Bearkats' coaching staff knows they're going to find out about their team quickly.

"We're going to know what we have. We need to be running smoothly to start," said Head Coach Vance Jones. "Calvert is big, fast and very well coached. It's going to be a huge early test for us."

The starters that the Bearkats do return are difference makers, including second-team all-state running back Bo Eggemeyer. Eggemeyer ran for more than

1,900 yards last season and scored 33 times. His production could go up even more with defenses concentrating on him.

He's sure to carry the ball a lot Saturday.

"We want to control the clock offensively to try and keep Calvert's offense off the field," said Jones. "We've got a running back we can do that with, too."

Sanderson at Grady

GRADY — Grady's Wildcats will begin their search for a post-season berth that narrowly escaped them in 2006, when they

host Sanderson's Eagles at 7:30 p.m. Friday.

Last year, Sanderson dominated the Wildcats, 36-14, to start the season. The Eagles accounted for Grady's only non-district loss last year.

"Sanderson is a historically good, yearly playoff team," said Grady Head Coach Joe Helms. "They like to run the ball a lot with an unbalanced line and are very physical. We're going to have to keep our responsibilities defensively cause we're going to

See AREA, Page 2B



Big Spring Steers' cornerback Brandon Ontiveros returns an interception in a scrimmage against Wichita Falls Hirschi Aug. 17. The Steers open the regular season on the road against Odessa High's Bronchos Friday.

HERALD photo/Ken Hollandsworth

Steers hope to finally top Bronchos

By JONATHAN HULL

Sports Editor

Finally, the wait is over.

The 2007 version of Big Spring's Steers take the field in their game jerseys, rather than their practice ones, at 7:30 p.m. Friday against Odessa High's Bronchos in famed Ratliff Stadium.

The Mike Ritchey head coaching era also gets off to a start. Ritchey just hopes it's a positive one.

He and his squad face an Odessa High team who Big Spring has lost seven straight times — although the margin each of the last three years has been by nine

points or less — and who the Steers have not defeated since 1985 — their last season as a Class 5A team.

Ritchey says the fundamentals of the game could finally propel Big Spring over the top of their long-time rival.

"Taking care of the football is our main concern," he said. "There's no need to give them more opportunities than what they're already getting. If we can not turn the ball over and force them into some mistakes, then we could find some success against them."

"It's been too long," continued Ritchey, when he learned about

the long drought between Big Spring victories over Odessa. "That's way too long to go without a victory against a school. We hope to change that to a positive streak Friday."

To do so, the Steers must first contain the Bronchos' senior quarterback David Camacho, who led Odessa in rushing and passing yards last season. Camacho racked up over 2,400 total yards through the air and on the ground last season while scoring 25 total touchdowns.

Ritchey makes it clear that shutting down the talented quarterback is going to be top priority

defensively.

"They do whatever they can to get the ball into their quarterback's hands," he said. "He's very talented and the main offensive weapon. He makes a lot of first downs and big plays."

"They give him the ball in a variety of ways," Ritchey continued. "They'll run options, draws up the middle, run sprint outs that give him the run/pass option and he throws the ball real well. He's a weapon. He'll get plenty of our defense's attention though."

Offensively, Ritchey

See STEERS, Page 2B

Forsan kicks off season visiting Kermit

By JEFF LANE

Special to the Herald

Time to start the run for a 16-1A district title.

But first the 2007 version of the Forsan Buffaloes will open up this Friday at 7:30 p.m. on the road against the Kermit Yellow Jackets.

Last season the Buffs won a thrilling game, fueled by a 72-yard interception returned for a touchdown by Justin Wilson, 26-6. But Forsan head coach Tommy Thompson knows the Jackets will be an early season challenge.

"The Kermit win was big for us last year," said Thompson. "It set the tone for our season. This year they are fielding all upper classmen with 18 seniors. We are definitely opening the year with a huge test."

Both teams are similar in that they are running versions of the spread offense, but whereas the

Buff's will also run a Wing-T set, the Jackets will run from the wishbone.

"They are trying out the spread this year, much like we are," Thompson said. "But they will rely a lot on the veer option, and they have a distinct size advantage with their offensive line averaging around 230 pounds."

Thompson said he plans to keep pace with Kermit by running a balanced attack of both styles, hoping to keep the Jackets from loading up on the run.

"Since they are bigger in most positions, we need to mix it up on offense," said Thompson. "We will be showing them different sets that will put us in position to run or pass."

When the Buffs line up on defense they will try and counter Kermit's

See FORSAN, Page 2B



Forsan's Jace Sandridge looks to make a play in 2006 playoff action against Winters. Sandridge and the Buffs hope to make a return trip to the postseasons in 2007.

Courtesy photo/Bob Fishback

AREA

Continued from Page 1B

see a lot of triple option run at us."

It was that triple option that gave the Wildcats so much trouble last season. However, Helms feels that this year's team is more capable of dealing with Sanderson's offense.

"We're a more physical and more disciplined team than we were at the start of last season," he said. "Sanderson showed us what we were last year. It was a learning experience. We're definitely a better team."

Offensively, Grady has been potent in the preseason, scoring 17 times in its two scrimmages. Helms feels the team's more physical nature is going to benefit it greatly.

"We're very excited about what we've seen so far," Helms said. "We're going to be able to run right at teams. This is a year that we can contend."

Stanton at Grape Creek

STANTON — Maturity comes with experience.

Stanton's Buffaloes boast two

seniors — center and defensive end Adam Evans and quarterback and free safety Garrett Fulton — that have been three-year starters at their positions.

Evans and Fulton will lead the Buffs into San Angelo where they'll take on Grape Creek's Eagles at 7:30 p.m. Friday.

The Eagles return seven starters from a 2-8 team. They'll be concentrating on stopping Stanton's run-heavy offense based around running back Robbie Toland.

Toland rushed for more than 900 yards and seven touchdowns in 2006. Head Coach Lee McCown says that his running back will see many more carries this year.

"We hope to improve everywhere statistically," said McCown. "But Robbie could see the biggest increase because of our offensive system."

Defensively, Evans and middle linebacker Mark Garcia lead a very quick unit.

"We're not as big as we've been in the past, but we're quicker," said McCown. "We make up for our lack of size with speed and discipline. Our

defense is set for a good year."

Sands vs. Spur

SANDS — Gaining some game experience is probably the most important thing for the Sands Mustangs to accomplish early in the season.

The Mustangs return just one player — junior Jesus Gomez — from last season's 5-5 team.

The young team will get its first taste of varsity action against Spur's Bulldogs in the Jayton Classic at 1:30 p.m. Saturday. Last year, Spur defeated the Mustangs 38-36 in a thriller also played in Jayton.

Unfortunately for Sands, Spur returns 12 lettermen and 10 starters to face the young Mustangs.

"We have a complete lack of experience," said Head Coach Wayne Henderson. "We've got some talent and athletic ability, but we've got to get some experience to learn how to play the game faster."

Contact Sports Editor Jonathan Hull by calling him at 263-7331, ext. 237, or by e-mailing him at sports@bigspringherald.com.



HERALD photo/Bruce Schooler
Garden City running back Bo Eggemeyer tries to escape a Westbook tackler in action last season.



HERALD photo/Ken Hollandsworth
Big Spring's Nathan Doport (20) attempts a field goal with Tyler Tannehill (10) holding in a scrimmage against Pampa Aug. 23 in Lubbock.

STEERS

Continued from Page 1B

feels that out-executing Odessa's defense is key for the Steers.

"We're a quick team, but so are they," he said. "It will probably come down to out-executing them to have some success offensively. Our best weapon is our speed and quickness. The same can be said about them though."

The Steers have been prepared for Odessa, however, as they played two similar offenses in both scrimmages against Pampa and Wichita Falls Hirschi.

Although Pampa was able to use two option plays to get outside of the Big Spring defense last

week, Ritchey felt that the Steers adjusted well, which could have them ready for plays Odessa might run.

"Our defense put up a dominant performance except for a couple of plays against Pampa," Ritchey said. "We bounced back from the big plays, though, and shut them down afterwards. Odessa will probably run some of the same stuff, especially after they've seen it done successfully on us. We've just got to keep up with our assignments."

The Steers are looking to improve upon two consecutive years with regular season records of 3-7. Ritchey hopes that Friday could be the start of a season that sees improvement to that record.

"I think we match up

better with Odessa than we have in previous years," he explained. "We have more speed this season. Our athletes can go step for step with their athletes. I don't think either side will dominate the other. We respect their speed, but we don't fear it. We match up better this year because we can run with them."

"Big plays will probably decide this game," Ritchey continued. "However, it's how each team responds to giving up a big play or two that should really decide this game."

Contact Sports Editor Jonathan Hull by calling him at 263-7331, ext. 237, or by e-mailing him at sports@bigspringherald.com.

BULLDOGS

Continued from Page 1B

"We were running too much stuff during the last scrimmage," Kennedy said. "We need to keep things simpler and make sure we are great at what we do run."

Part of the scale down of the offensive scheme is to give quarterback Donnie Garcia the chance to quickly read defenses and make plays.

"Donnie is very capable at beating defenses," Kennedy said. "We just need to make sure we're calling plays that take advantage of his abilities."

Other than Davenport, the Owls will return 17 starters. However, that is something that Coahoma — returning 10 starters of its own — can overcome with their size advantage.

"We do have some good size," said Kennedy. "We're not going to be pushed around up front. It's an advantage that should benefit us all season."

Contact Sports Editor Jonathan Hull by calling 263-7331, ext. 237, or by e-mailing him at sports@bigspringherald.com.

FORSAN

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offense with a 3-5-3 defensive lineup.

"Our linebackers will look a little like defensive ends in this set," Thompson said. "We hope this will help us to get good pressure on the quarterback and to stuff the gaps on running

plays."

Not only are the Buffaloes faced with a long road trip and a bigger team, Thompson says they may have to dig deep to find what they are made of.

"We may have been a little fatigued at Reagan County last week," Thompson said. "We have worked on conditioning, but it is time to reach down and find the inten-

sity and desire it will take to win games. We haven't had the positives we'd like to see so far and we need to see how we respond to adversity as well as handle what success we do have."

su | do | ku

© Puzzles by Pappocom

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

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

Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker
Declarer Sets a Trap

East dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.
NORTH
♠ Q 5 4
♥ Q
♦ 7 6 2
♣ J 10 9 8 6 3
WEST
♠ K J 8 7 2
♥ 6 5 3
♦ A Q 3
♣ 5 2
EAST
♠ 9 6 3
♥ K J 9 7
♦ J 10 8 4
♣ 7 4
SOUTH
♠ A 10
♥ A 10 8 4 2
♦ K 9 5
♣ A K Q

The bidding:
East 2 NT South Pass West 3 NT North 3 NT
Opening lead — seven of spades.
What you can't accomplish by normal means you can sometimes accomplish by guile. Consider this hand from a rubber-bridge game where South stole his three-notrump contract.
West led a spade, and South realized there was no chance of making the contract unless he could get some assistance from the defense. So he played low from dummy and, after East produced the nine, won the trick with the ace! This was the first step in a campaign to bamboozle the opposition.
Declarer next cashed the A-K of clubs, trying to look like a man who

hoped the queen would fall on the first or second lead of the suit. He then played the ten of spades.
West grabbed the king and, under the impression that his partner had the club suit stopped, returned a low spade to dummy's queen to establish his suit. Declarer thereupon gratefully discarded his queen of clubs and so made three notrump.
Of course, South was lucky to find the clubs divided 2-2 so that the chances of carrying off the ruse were increased, and he was equally fortunate to have encountered a gullible West.
If West had paid more attention to the cards his partner played instead of what declarer was doing, he might not have fallen prey to South's scheme. East had played the 7-4 of clubs, in that order, as the A-K were cashed, indicating a doubleton in dummy's long suit.
By interpreting East's plays correctly, West would have been able to work out what South was up to and would no doubt have found the answer. A heart return, after winning the king of spades, would have left declarer without recourse, and he would have gone down at least two tricks.
The outcome points up once again the importance of signals that help the defenders overcome the natural advantage declarer has over the defense.

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NUMBERS

Continued from Page 1A

elementary level, while the junior high had 157 students and the high school 198.

That slight decrease was fine with Johnson, who doesn't subscribe to the "bigger is better" theory, at least where enrollment is concerned.

"We feel that we're just about as big as we want to be," he said. "Between 675 and 685 students is just wonderful for us. Any bigger for us and it feels too crowded."

In fact, FISSD put a cap on student transfers from out of district this year in order to keep enrollment down to the desired levels, Johnson said.

About 30 percent of Forsan students are out-of-district transfers, a figure Johnson considers about ideal. Most of those students are from Big Spring, with the remainder coming from Coahoma, Garden City and Sterling City school districts.

Johnson also is pleased at how those student numbers are spread between grade levels.

"They are spread more evenly than last year," he said. "Last year, we had some individual grades that were too large, but it has evened out now."

At Coahoma, Superintendent Jerry Johnson reported that 768 students attended the first day of class, a figure slightly above last year.

Johnson said 393 students were enrolled in the elementary grades, 133 were in attendance at the junior high and 242 at the high school — and more should be coming.

"We should pick up at least a few more students in the next few weeks — we usually do after Labor Day," Johnson said. "It will probably be next Tuesday or Wednesday before we know how many."

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

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 Malynnda Helmstetler raise the \$25,000 needed for medical treatment that the family's insurance will not cover. Malynnda, 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 Malynnda'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.

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

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

BSISD

Continued from Page 1A

"We are already over the legal limits in some grade levels at three campuses — Kentwood, Marcy and Moss," Dunnam said. "But we have to comply with the state requirements by Sept. 13, and we will."

The emerging problem did not totally catch district officials by surprise.

"We started talking about this trend in 2006," Downes said. "At that point, we could see the enrollment growth coming down the line and started planning on how to deal with it."

If enrollment continues to outstrip classroom space, the district will have to make some tough choices, Downes noted. In the short term, busing students from overcrowded campuses to those with

room is the answer, but long-term solutions are more problematic. Possibilities — all with drawbacks — include converting computer labs to classrooms, installing portable classrooms on campuses and reopening Anderson Kindergarten.

Converting computer lab space would deprive students of valuable technology instruction, portable classrooms are expensive to buy and

maintain and reopening Anderson would mean moving the district's Disciplinary Alternative Education Program — which is currently housed in the building — elsewhere at added cost to the district, Downes said.

And it's not just a problem of where to put students, Downes added.

"We have campuses with support staff, such as nurses, who don't have an office," Downes said.

"At Washington, we have a small room shared by multiple support staff, and it is honestly not large enough to house one of them, much less all. We do not have any empty rooms at Moss, Kentwood, Washington and Marcy, and we have one empty room at Bauer."

Downes noted that the space squeeze is not expected to go away anytime soon.

"We anticipate kinder-

garten enrollment next year at between 330 and 350 students. That will probably require an additional classroom or two," he said. "In that case, we will have to look at one of emergency options, such as the purchase and use of portable buildings."

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

CASA

Continued from Page 1A

nurturing environment."

Roundtree said the end-goal for all CASA volunteers is to reunite children with their parents.

"The initial goal for all the people involved in the case is family reunification," said Roundtree. "A child should be with their own mother and father in a safe, permanent and loving home as soon as possible."

According to Roundtree, CASA volunteers write reports — which include concerns and recommendations as to the best interests of the children — for the court as to their findings, with a case generally open for 12 months.

Roundtree said during that year-long period, the judge schedules hearings every two to three months to get an update as to the progress being made to correct the problem which caused the removal and to receive a status of the children in their

placement.

"The Court Appointed Child Advocate program is one that is making a difference in the lives of abused and neglected children," said Roundtree. "The program is made up of volunteers who have gone through more than 30 hours of special training and have been sworn in by the court to represent the best interests of children who have been removed from the custody of their parents or guardian by Child Protective Services."

"CASA conducts its own investigation as to the history of the family and any others associated with the case. Research of criminal history is included, and CASA is appointed as the guardian ad litem for the children and receives a court order signed by the judge that allows them access to all medical and educational records for the children."

Roundtree said statistics concerning child abuse released several years ago, when applied

over time, show what an ugly — and deadly — picture child abuse paints all over the nation and in Howard County.

"A study of child abuse and neglect by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services revealed an estimated 872,000 children were determined to be victims of child abuse or neglect in 2004," said Roundtree. "The same study reported that an estimated 1,490 children died due to abuse or neglect for the same period."

"During the period of more than four years since those statistics were taken — if you continue at that rate — approximately 3.7 million children were determined to be victims of child abuse or neglect in the U.S. For this same period, an estimated 6333 children died due to abuse or neglect and 80 percent of this number were children under the age of four years."

Roundtree said volunteering with the CASA

program is all about making a difference in the life of a child.

"A hundred years from now, it will not matter how much money you made, or what kind of house you lived in, or what kind of clothes you wore," she said. "But it will matter if you made a difference in the life of a

child."

For more information on how to become a CASA volunteer, call (877) 316-8346.


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

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Isabella Aracelle Lopez, 6 months, died Wednesday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

These financial institutions will observe the following hours Monday, September 3rd

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MCT photo/Ron Jenkins/Fort Worth Star-Telegram

Texas Rangers left fielder Frank Catalanotto on his way to second base after hitting his lead-off double in the first inning against the Chicago White Sox on Wednesday in Arlington. The Rangers won 5-4.

Despite errors, Rangers still edge White Sox, 5-4

By **STEPHEN HAWKINS**

AP Sports Writer

ARLINGTON — Sammy Sosa is still having a big impact for the Texas Rangers, even though he's not in the lineup very much anymore.

Chicago White Sox manager Ozzie Guillen just keeps getting more frustrated.

Sosa had a game-tying pinch-hit RBI double in the seventh inning and won the game with a sacrifice fly in the 11th, as Texas beat the White Sox 5-4 on Wednesday night.

"I know the situation right now is not the way that I want it," said Sosa, who has started only 10 of the last 28 games. "What I have to do is just be patient. Any opportunity I get, I'm going to do the best I can."

While the Rangers won their fourth straight game, the White Sox managed only five hits — none in the last five innings against five Texas relievers — and lost for the 15th time in 18 games.

"It's embarrassing day in and day out to do the same stuff," Guillen said. "People are blaming our pitching staff, but the offense comes along and puts more dirt on the grave. Everyone in that room should look in the mirror and be embarrassed."

Less than two years after winning the World Series, the White Sox (57-76) are in last place in the AL Central.

"We've got a \$100 mil-

lion payroll and they don't show it on the field," Guillen said. "If this keeps up, bring on the Double-A kids. They're killing me. They're killing my family, my coaching staff and the White Sox fans. I hope they care the way we care. I'm tired of seeing this (expletive) every day."

With the Rangers on their way to a seventh losing record in eight seasons, they are evaluating younger players. That means fewer playing chances for Sosa, the 38-year-old slugger who earlier this season joined the 600-homer club.

Sosa hit a fly ball to center in the 11th and Jerry Owens made a diving catch, but the fielder had no chance to get up and throw Ian Kinsler out at the plate.

Kinsler reached with one out on a fly ball that dropped several feet in front of a sliding Owens, who played while Jermaine Dye got a night off. Michael Young followed with a double into the left-field corner off Boone Logan (2-1), who then intentionally walked Marlon Byrd to load the bases for Sosa.

"Any guy in his situation wouldn't be happy with what transpired, but he didn't hang his head and he told us he'd help us any way he can," manager Ron Washington said. "When he does make contact he can do damage. He can find a way to get RBIs."

Sosa still leads Texas

with 76 RBIs.

Jim Thome won 3-for-5 with a pair of run-scoring singles for the White Sox, who have lost 15 of 18 games.

Thome had reached base in 16 consecutive plate appearances against Texas before taking a called third strike leading off the eighth and grounding into a double play in the 10th. Thome is 8-for-11 with 11 walks in the five-game season series.

Wes Littleton (2-1), the sixth Rangers pitcher, threw a perfect 11th for the win.

Sosa's double in the seventh tied the game at 4 when Byrd scored. Byrd drew a one-out walk and extended the Rangers' team record to 20 consecutive stolen bases — since Byrd was caught July 5.

The White Sox didn't score after having two on with no outs in the ninth. Andy Gonzalez walked and Darin Erstad, in an 0-for-14 slump, reached on a sacrifice bunt when Frank Francisco bobbled the ball. After another sac bunt, Francisco struck out the last two batters.

Jon Garland still doesn't have a victory in August, even after limiting Texas to three runs over six innings. The right-hander is 0-3 with an 8.49 ERA in six starts since his last victory July 27.

"I left the game with a lead, gave the team a chance," Garland said. "It's hard to ask for more. It seems like whatever can go wrong is. It's the exact opposite of '05."

Rangers starter Kameron Loe allowed four runs, but only one of

them was earned after his two throwing errors. He tied a career high with seven strikeouts in his six innings.

With the game tied at 1, Danny Richar led off the Chicago third with a grounder and an umpire's ruling that left first baseman Jarrod Saltalamacchia with an error.

While Saltalamacchia appeared to pull his foot slightly off the base while taking second baseman Kinsler's throw, replays indicated he reconnected with the bag before Richar got there. But umpire Chuck Meriwether called the runner safe.

Loe made it worse when he tried to pick off Richar and made an errant throw. Richar went to third and scored on a sacrifice fly by Josh Fields before Thome's second RBI single.

An inning later, Loe fielded Juan Uribe's comebacker but threw the ball wide of first and allowed another run.

Owens led off the game with a double and scored on Thome's first hit. But Texas got even in the bottom of the first when Frank Catalanotto had a leadoff double and came home when Michael Young singled.

Brad Wilkerson had an RBI single in the third, and Ramon Vazquez had one in the fourth.

Notes: Catalanotto was replaced in left field in the top of the second because of a sore right groin.

The team said he was day to day.

AL Roundup

Indians 4, Twins 3

The Cleveland Indians are playing without fear — especially of Johan Santana.

Rookie Asdrubal Cabrera's two-run homer and Victor Martinez's solo shot off Santana in a four-run first helped the first-place Indians win their fifth straight, 4-3 over the Twins.

"It feels good to sweep these guys and let them know we're for real," said starter C.C. Sabathia. "We definitely have something to prove to everybody."

The Indians' seventh win in eight games, coupled with Detroit's 5-0 loss in Kansas City, upped Cleveland's lead in the AL Central to 4 1/2 games over the second-place Tigers.

Sabathia (15-7) allowed two runs and seven hits in six innings to win for the first time since Aug. 3.

Santana (14-10) dropped to 0-4 in five starts this season against the Indians, already the only team to beat the All-Star three times in the same year.

Angels 8, Mariners 2

At Seattle, Jered Weaver (10-6) won for the fourth time in five decisions, Garret Anderson had four hits and Los Angeles completed a three-game sweep and open a five-game lead in the AL West.

Vladimir Guerrero homered and went 8-for-14 in the series as the Angels improved to 11-4 against Seattle this year.

Jeff Mathis hit his third career home run, a fourth-inning drive off Felix Hernandez (10-7), who lost from the first time in seven starts since July 22.

Yankees 4, Red Sox 3

At New York, Roger Clemens (6-5) allowed only two hits and out-pitched a much younger ace in leading the Yankees past Josh Beckett (16-6) and Boston.

Alex Rodriguez hit his major league-leading 44th home run, and the Yankees got another big hit from Johnny Damon to earn their second consecutive win in the series.

Athletics 5, Blue Jays 4, 11 innings

At Oakland, Calif., Jack Hannahan hit a game-ending single with two outs in the 11th inning to help Oakland snap a five-game losing streak.

Hannahan's big hit came after Huston Street blew a 4-2 lead in the ninth by allowing solo homers to Lyle Overbay and pinch-hitter Matt Stairs — the first time the closer has allowed two homers in an outing in his career.

Devil Rays 5, Orioles 4, 12 innings

At Baltimore, Dioner Navarro singled in the tiebreaking run in the 12th inning, and Tampa Bay took advantage of another meltdown by the Baltimore bullpen in handing the Orioles their eighth straight loss.

NL Roundup

Brewers 6, Cubs 1

At Chicago, Ben Sheets (11-4) came off the disabled list to work six strong innings, and Ryan Braun hit a bases-loaded double during a four-run seventh inning as the Brewers moved within 1 1/2 games of the first-place Cubs in the NL Central.

Carlos Zambrano (14-11) gave up nine hits and six runs — five earned. He is winless since signing a five-year, \$91.5 million contract on Aug. 17 and hasn't won since July 29.

Astros 7, Cardinals 0

At Houston, Roy Oswalt (14-6) allowed four hits and struck out nine in seven dominant innings as the Astros gave Cecil Cooper his first win since replacing Phil Garner as

manager on Monday.

The Cardinals, who remained two games back in the NL Central, lost for the third time in nine games.

Kip Wells (6-15) lost his second straight decision and gave up two homers for the second time in three starts. He allowed five runs and nine hits with two strikeouts in six innings.

Padres 3, Diamondbacks 1

SAN DIEGO — Brian Giles homered in the third and scored the go-ahead run on Mike Cameron's double in the eighth, backing a strong outing by Greg Maddux and pushing the Padres a percentage point ahead of the Diamondbacks in the NL West.

Kevin Cameron (2-0) pitched a perfect eighth to earn the win.

The Big Spring Herald will be closed Monday, September 3rd in observance of Labor Day. Deadlines for Classified and Retail Advertising are:

CLASSIFIED & DISPLAY DEADLINE

Thursday, 5:00 p.m.

Liners, Friday, 2:00 p.m.

TUESDAY DEADLINE

Classified & Retail Display, 10:00 a.m.

Liners, Friday, 4:00 p.m.

Office reopens at 8:00 a.m. Tuesday, September 5th.

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You will still receive your Monday afternoon paper.

BRIEFS

Continued from Page 1B

Cost is \$40 for flag football and \$100 for tackle.

Any cheerleaders who will not need a uniform can sign-up for \$35. The cost is \$100 if a new uniform is needed.

All children going into kindergarten through sixth grade can register.

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

YMCA volleyball league sign-ups

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 through today.

A coaches meeting is also scheduled for today. Teams begin practice Tuesday.

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

Big Spring Boxing Club seeking site

The Big Spring Boxing Club is seeking a building to be donated so that they can get started with their program.

Heavy bags, gloves, head gear and other equipment has been donated, but the club needs a place to begin practices.

Contact Willie Jenkins at 267-5822.

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Baylor @ TCU
Texas Tech @ SMU
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Nadal struggles but advances at U.S. Open

By HOWARD FENDRICH
AP Tennis Writer

NEW YORK — Playing on a taped-up knee so painful he almost pulled out of the U.S. Open, Rafael Nadal was hardly at his imposing best Wednesday.

It was a struggle to sprint, and he scuffled against a foe who never has won a Grand Slam match, let alone a title. On a day when his rival, No. 1 Roger Federer, won easily, three-time French Open winner Nadal hardly looked ready to flourish at Flushing Meadows, where his career mark is worse than at any other major.

To improve on that, Nadal will need to recover quickly and perform better than he did before eventually earning a 7-5, 3-6, 6-4, 6-1 first-round victory over Australian wild-card entry Alun Jones, whose claim to fame is a bit part in the film "Wimbledon."

"I didn't run too much, no? I can't move too much," the No. 2-seeded Nadal said. "Difficult to play like this, especially here."

Federer had no difficulty at all Wednesday night, when he was dressed for a formal affair as he bids to become the first man since the 1920s to claim four consecutive U.S. championships.

He strode out for his 6-1, 6-4, 6-4 victory over Paul Capdeville in black, head-to-toe: bandanna, wrist band, shirt, shorts, socks and shoes. The shorts even had satin stripes down the sides.

"A little bit of the tuxedo look," Federer said. "It's something special."

The only real fight Capdeville put up was directed at the chair

umpire, who wouldn't let him challenge a call at the end of the second set because the replay request came too late.

Now Federer faces a much taller task: His third-round opponent is John Isner, the 6-foot-9 American who only a few months ago was playing college tennis for Georgia. With fans barking for their favorite Bulldog, Isner followed up his first-round upset of No. 26 Jarkko Nieminen by beating Rik de Voest of South Africa 6-3, 6-3, 7-6 (4).

Federer said he's only seen Isner play a few games and called him a "new kid on the block."

During an on-court interview, Isner was asked to look ahead to the matchup with Federer.

"Is he good?" Isner asked with a knowing laugh.

"I'm going to believe," Isner said later. "I'm not saying I'm going to win, but I'm going to believe. That's what I have to do."

Like Federer, other past U.S. Open champions in action won in straight sets: Venus and Serena Williams, Justine Henin and Marat Safin.

Nadal would love to join that club, and he and Federer have been building quite a rivalry, combining to corral the last 10 Grand Slam titles and meeting in four of the past six major finals.

Nadal is 2-0 against Federer in title matches at Roland Garros. Federer is 2-0 against Nadal in title matches at the All England Club. So the tennis world has been looking forward to a tiebreaker on the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center's blue hard court.

But Nadal felt a "sharp pain" in his left knee



MCT photo/J. Conrad Williams Jr./Newsday
Serena Williams hits a backhand against Maria Elena Carmerin during their second round match in the US Open tennis tournament in Flushing Meadows, N.Y. Wednesday.

Sunday, toward the end of a practice session. The next day, Nadal didn't practice at all and figured he would have to withdraw from the year's last Grand Slam tournament.

Nadal had an MRI exam that showed no significant damage, so he spent Monday and Tuesday getting treatment on the knee from a doctor and a trainer.

That helped, but Nadal acknowledged he might not have been on court Wednesday were this any other tournament.

He only has been beyond the U.S. Open's third round once, reach-

ing the quarterfinals last year. And there were moments when it appeared he might be in real trouble against Jones.

The 123rd-ranked Jones had a minute of screen time in his cinematic debut, portraying a tennis player who lost to the protagonist in the quarterfinals at the All England Club.

His character's name was Tom, and to this day the 27-year-old gets called that in locker rooms.

He hasn't exactly made a name for himself in tennis, entering the day with a 2-5 career record in

tour-level matches. About 2 1/2 years ago, he dropped off the circuit entirely for 12 months, teaching at a local club in Canberra and digging holes for his father's construction company.

Yet on Wednesday, for the better part of two hours, Jones gave Nadal all he could handle.

Quite a thrill, even if, as Jones put it, "I don't think he was at 100 percent. Only heard the grunt a few times."

Indeed, the indefatigable Nadal said he took it a tad easy so as not to risk further damage to his left knee.

Hopes on rise in Dallas

By JAIME ARON
AP Sports Writer

IRVING — Bill Parcells sure picked a strange time to leave the Dallas Cowboys.

Four years after taking over a broken franchise, Parcells did such a great recovery job that folks were disappointed by a 9-7 record and a wild-card berth last season. More was expected then — and a lot more is expected now considering they have almost the same lineup.

Dallas returns 10 offensive starters from the unit that scored the third-most points in the NFL last season. The only change is an upgrade at right guard — unless you count a new, happy attitude from Terrell Owens. On defense, the personnel hasn't changed much, but the scheme has, going with a formula that's been a big hit everywhere else it's been used.

Oh, yeah. There is that one big switch, in head coaches.

Wade Phillips is the architect of the defense and the new mood-setter. His life-is-good approach has allowed optimism to flourish.

"I think we have every right to think that we will be a better team than we were last year," said team owner Jerry Jones, who has sworn off bold pre-season prognostications since some wild misses in the pre-Parcells era.

Phillips brings impeccable credentials as a coordinator and a winning record as a head coach. He's even got deep roots in the Lone Star State. The only thing his resume lacks is the one thing the Cowboys need most: playoff success.

Dallas hasn't won a postseason game since 1996.

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HUGE SALE: Motor homes, cars, furniture, clothes, wood cabinets & doors, jars, juke box, 5 piece booth, pipe, lake-way burritos, 6695 N. Service Road, Friday & Saturday 8-? (432)270-8962.

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Tomorrow's Horoscope

BY HOLIDAY MATHIS
'Fiddle-de-dee,' says our Scarlett O'Hara moon in Aries to any shrinking-violet



HOLIDAY MATHIS

character in her midst. After acute episodes of vulnerability, the Aries moon gives us back our three C's: confidence, courage and character. It's easier to take a no-nonsense approach to life with Scarlett's apropos attitude. 'After all, tomorrow is another day'

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Your road to success is a freeway, and every driver knows that's not a good place to park. Get your speed up and zoom into the evening. Then, guard your relaxation time. Declare the area around you a stress-free zone.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). There's happiness out there for you today. All

you have to do is open your eyes to the beautiful sights and open your heart to ecstatic feelings. Being around that certain person helps.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Despite the fact that you're trying to be more realistic these days, truly magical events do occur. This is the kind of day you look back on later and think, "Did that really happen?" It did.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You'll find exquisite joy in handling what would normally be considered tediously detailed. So jump in with that fine-tooth comb and go to town. Virgo is an ideal partner for this project.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). There's satisfaction in practical things, like a nutritious meal or a clean house. Also, surprises are in store — perhaps an unexpected doorbell ring, last-minute assignment or romantic twist.

VRIGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Relationships that look good on paper but

don't "click" are about as valuable as the piece of paper they supposedly look good on. Whether at work or at play, go where the chemistry is hot.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Stop worrying about making the perfect choice. There is no perfect choice. And if you had to overcome all of your own objections in order to make a move, you'd stay still. So make an imperfect choice and go forward.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). There isn't time to obsess or be nitpicky. Let go of anything that doesn't seem important so that you can go lightly. You're successful in love when you know what to overlook. Be open to the nature of flaws.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). The one you love and the one who loves you are the same person — this is cause for celebration, as this equation certainly doesn't happen every day, or even every lifetime. Yeah, you're lucky.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Your good deeds go underreported, but keep doing them anyway. Every time you act in a way you know is right, you gain confidence. Tonight, go find the party!

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Talking too much diminishes the point or confuses the issue. If you're quiet and attentive, you'll see the shortcut. Plus, you'll be so very attractive to the one who goes for strong, silent types.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Rely on your network. If you need to make a few social phone calls in order to get things done, by all means, get dialing. People like you even more when they are in the process of helping you.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS: "I noticed that there are two types of Aries. I'm not the typical aggressive Aries. I am actually envious of my fellow sun mates who are more assertive! I

definitely have the fear factor going on — fear of rejection on so many levels. Could you tell me a bit about the shrinking-violet side of Aries?"

Violet, it takes a lot of strength to push through the earth's surface for the first time. As the first sign on the zodiacal wheel, the act of becoming is risky. All Aries are confronted with that same flower-in-springtime dilemma: 'Should I go for it?' Some of you boldly forge ahead, risking life and limb. As shrinking violets mature, they learn to feel the fear and do it anyway. You light up in situations requiring courage — whether that means pursuing a dream job or joining an outdoor singles adventure group. If your goals are too ominous, start small. One step is all it takes to be your own hero. Here's an encouraging thought from Anais Nin about the violets: 'And the day came when the risk to remain tight in a bud was

more painful than the risk it took to blossom.'

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Does Cameron Diaz (8/30/72) break the Virgin mold? You can't get this energetic babe far enough away from the staid, bookish librarian stereotype. That's because Virgo is a glamour girl in disguise — when the librarian lets down her hair and takes off her glasses, things really get steamy. Matched with a great sense of comic timing, this gorgeous Virgo smartly works what she's got.

If you would like to write to Holiday Mathis, please go to www.creators.com and click on "Write the Author" on the Holiday Mathis page, or you may send her a postcard in the mail. To find out more about Holiday Mathis and read her past columns, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

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Annie's Mailbox ®: Advice for those in need

Dear Annie: I am a 26-year-old man, and my life is a mess. Two years ago, I had a great job and a beautiful fiancée. I was completely crazy about "Cassie," who was then a junior in college. When she told me she wanted to live on campus because it was closer and would give her a real college experience, I agreed it would make her life easier. To make a long story short, her communication became infrequent, and then she broke off our engagement, the only explanation being that "she didn't love me anymore." She refused to take my calls or respond to e-mails. I was devastated.

Two months later, I lost my job when the company went bankrupt. I worked at several lower-paying jobs and finally found one I liked, but was canned after several months. They said it was downsizing, but I later discovered the boss didn't like me. I have no idea why.

That was three months ago, and I have been unable to find work. I had to move in with my father and his wife, and Dad has made it his daily ritual to belittle my education (I have a bachelor's degree in



KATHY MITCHELL
MARCY SUGAR

history) and berate me for not having studied "something useful."

My life has completely fallen apart, and it started the day Cassie left. I still think about her every day and mourn my old life. I'm sure none of this would have happened if I had found a way to keep Cassie from moving. I'm sick of crying myself to sleep over things I can't change. Please help. — Lost in New England

Dear New England: Cassie moved because she was already planning to leave you and was looking for a way out. Trust us, better it happened before you married and not after. Your depression is not a permanent condition. This is a transitional period between your old life and a new, more solid

one. Take a temp job that will pay enough to move out of Dad's house. Get some exercise. Talk to your clergyman or get some free or low-cost short-term counseling through your local hospital or the nearest university psychology department. We'll be rooting for you.

Dear Annie: I am a 40ish single woman with a busy job. I don't have a lot of free time, but I enjoy an evening out occasionally. What I am struggling with is that all my friends are either married or have steady boyfriends and now

exclude me from their activities. I've had many relationships since my divorce and never ignored my friends. In fact, I fixed up three of these women with the guys they are currently seeing. While these same women called constantly when they were single, they haven't thought once to invite me out in the last five years.

I am not a needy person, but I am amazed these women don't seem to remember what it was like to be alone. Please remind people that true friends are hard to find and friendships need

nurturing. — Anywhere, Any Town

Dear Anywhere: A lot of attached women find their single women friends to be a threat or loose end that doesn't fit in the "couples" category. You will have to make the effort to maintain these friendships, but meanwhile, branch out and cultivate some new friends. And if you are one of those people who has been neglecting a single friend, please pick up the phone today.

Dear Annie: This is for "Lonely," the 60-year-old who wrote about poor odds in the man

department. I was recently in Skagway, Alaska. Our guide said the ratio of men to women in Skagway was 8 to 1. She also said, "The odds are good, ladies, but the goods are odd!" — Regular Reader

Dear Reader: We doubt the men in Skagway will appreciate the sentiment, but thanks for the laugh.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to anniesmailbox@comcast.net

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'07 GT Mustang

World's most popular Pony car continues to gain momentum

The Ford Mustang continues to be one of the best-selling cars in America. In fact, one out of every two sports cars sold in this country is a Mustang while the modern-era, rear-wheel drive muscle car also claims the title as the nation's top-selling convertible.

This week I had the chance to cruise in the 2007 Mustang GT Convertible

— and it didn't even rain. My track record with rain and convertibles is somewhat legendary. Usually, you can bank on heavy rain during weeks when the test vehicle is a convertible.

It must be that Mustang magic.

Available in coupe and convertible body styles, the Mustang is offered in four trim lines — V6 Deluxe, V6 Premium, GT Deluxe and GT Premium. (For this review, we're not going to focus on the Mustang Shelby GT500 — that's a review all on its own.)

For those in the Mustang market, be forewarned. Once you drive

the GT, there is no turning back. Not that there's anything wrong with the V6 Mustang. Powered by a 4.0-liter V-6 engine (210 horsepower/240 lbs.-ft. torque) and mated to either a smooth-shifting five-speed manual or five-speed automatic, the V6 is spirited, nimble and with a base price starting below \$20,000, a great value.

But once you get behind the wheel of the GT, start the engine and hear the roar of the 300-horsepower V-8 come to life, you embark on a ride that is absolute driving pleasure. The GT is a car designed for those who love to drive, and it does not disappoint.

Standard safety features include Ford's Personal Safety System, which includes dual-stage driver and front-passenger airbags. An optional anti-theft package is also offered which helps guard against tow-away thefts and includes an interior motion sensor to detect smash-and-grab

break-ins. It's also nicely loaded. The V6 Deluxe includes power windows, mirrors and door locks, remote keyless entry, air conditioning, audio system with CD player and auxiliary input jack, tilt steering wheel, cruise control and 16-inch wheels. The V6 Premium adds machined-aluminum wheels with chrome spinner, Shaker 500 audio system with six-disc CD changer and six-way power driver's seat. In addition to the V-8 engine, GT Deluxe adds anti-lock brakes with traction control, front fog lamps, complex reflector halogen headlamps with integral turn signals, rear spoiler, 17-inch performance tires and sport bucket seats. The GT Premium adds the Shaker 500 premium audio system and Aberdeen leather-trimmed embossed sport bucket seats. For the 2007 model year, Ford is also offer-



The 2007 Ford Mustang GT Convertible.

ON THE ROAD



BY NEAL WHITE

THE NUTS AND BOLTS



MODEL: 2007 Ford Mustang 4-seat coupe/convertible Rear-wheel drive	TRACTION CONTROL: GT only
Trim packages: V6 Deluxe, V6 Premium, GT Deluxe, GT Premium	BRAKES: ABS
PRICE RANGE: \$20,000-\$36,000	LENGTH: 187.6 inches
ENGINE: 4.0-L V-6 (210 hp/240 torque) 4.6-L V-8 (300 hp/320 torque)	WHEELBASE: 107.1 inches
TRANSMISSION: 5-speed manual 5-speed automatic	WIDTH: 73.9 inches
EPA: 19/17 mpg city, 28/25 mpg highway (V6/GT)	HEIGHT: 55.7 inches*
FUEL: Regular unleaded	WEIGHT: 3,352-3,540 lbs.
SUSPENSION: (GT) Reverse-L independent MacPherson strut, 34-mm stabilizer bar (front); 3-link solid axle with coil springs, Panhard rod and 20-mm solid stabilizer bar (rear)	TRACK: 62.3/62.5* (front/rear)
	FUEL TANK: 16 gallons
	TIRES: 16-, 17-, or 18-inch
	WARRANTY: 3-year/36,000-mile bumper-to-bumper; 5-year/60,000-mile powertrain.
	*denotes GT model

covering the automotive industry for more than 15 years and is affiliated with the Texas Auto Writers Association and

the Midwest Automotive Media Association. Comments may be sent to Neal at neal.white@waxahachiedailylight.com.

ing GT California Special edition package and a GT special appearance package. While produced in limited numbers, the California package adds 18-inch wheels, side scoops, unique tape stripes, black leather trimmed seats, chin spoiler and ground effects. In addition to unique badging, the GT appearance package adds an engine cover and a hood scoop.

While we're entering the end of the model year, I can tell you the excitement will continue in '08 for the Mustang lineup as Ford plans to add the Shelby GT500KR, the most powerful production Mustang ever produced. With an availability set for next spring, the GT500KR will deliver an estimated 540 horsepower.

For those in the market for an exciting, yet affordable sports car, the Mustang is a must test drive.

Neal White has been

State briefs

Lawmakers grill TYC officials on reform

AUSTIN (AP) — Publicly facing lawmakers for the first time since the Texas Youth Commission began sweeping reforms enacted by the Legislature, top agency officials said Wednesday there is progress in restoring the state's scandal-racked juvenile prison system.

But they still faced sometimes skeptical questions from a joint oversight committee that pressed officials about reform issues ranging from a new policy on pepper spray to the status of older youth offenders still remaining in the agency's care.

"If I can create an environment where staff know that it's OK to care, then I think that I've done my job," said Dimitria Pope, the agency's acting director since June.

Pope said the youth commission has worked hard to cut inmate populations to about 2,700 and properly train and hire capable staff since a sex and cover-up scandal that emerged earlier this year turned the agency inside-out.

But many questions lawmakers posed were about more recent issues, like a proposal to have guards rely on pepper spray to subdue unruly juvenile prisoners. The plan has angered justice advocates who call the practice regressive.

'I was wrong,' condemned killer admits

LIVINGSTON (AP) — Condemned prisoner Kenneth Foster acknowledges he and his "knucklehead" friends were up to no good as he drove them around San Antonio in a rental car and robbed at least four people 11 years ago.

"It was wrong," Foster, 30, said recently from death row. "I don't want to downplay that. I was wrong for that. I was too much of a follower. I'm straight up about that."

Their robbery spree, while they were all high on alcohol and marijuana, turned deadly when Foster followed Michael LaHood Jr., and his girlfriend to LaHood's home about 2 a.m. Aug. 15, 1996. One of Foster's passengers, Mauriceo Brown, jumped out, walked up to LaHood, demanded his wallet and car keys, then opened fire when LaHood, 25, couldn't produce them. LaHood, shot through the eye, died

instantly.

Brown and Foster, tried together, were convicted of capital murder and sentenced to death. Foster is set to die Thursday evening, 13 months after Brown, 31, was strapped to the same death chamber gurney in Huntsville for lethal injection.

Sprawling spider web engulfs North Texas park trail

WILLS POINT (AP) — Entomologists are debating the origin and rarity of a sprawling spider web that blankets several trees, shrubs and the ground along a 200-yard stretch of trail in a North Texas park.

Officials at Lake Tawakoni State Park say the massive mosquito trap is a big attraction for some visitors, while others won't go anywhere near it.

"At first, it was so white it looked like fairyland," said Donna Garde, superintendent of the park about 45 miles east of Dallas. "Now it's filled with so many mosquitoes that it's turned a little brown. There are times you can literally hear the screech of millions of mosquitoes caught in those webs."

Spider experts say the web may have been constructed by social cobweb spiders, which work together, or could be the result of a mass dispersal in which the arachnids spin webs to spread out from one another.

Shrimp boat cook gives birth 30 miles offshore

FREEMONT (AP) — When the cook on his shrimp boat went into labor 30 miles offshore, captain Ed Keisel grabbed a new roll of paper towels and a first aid handbook and did the best he could.

His improvisation averted a potential disaster Wednesday when he successfully delivered Cindy Preisel's baby boy, even though the baby's feet emerged first.

"I reached with my fingers and as gently as I could and popped out his left shoulder and then his right," he said. "But then the little guy was stuck by his head, being strangled. So I did the only thing I could — I waited for a contraction and then slid my fingers in around the top of his head and scooped him out."

But the newborn wasn't breathing, so

Keisel started administering gentle CPR.

"I started giving mouth-to-mouth, three short puffs, and then thumping and rubbing its back," he said.

The baby began to take short breaths, and after 20 to 25 minutes of CPR, the newborn gulped in air, his lips turned rosy and he started crying.

Texas Democrats plan presidential ePrimary

DALLAS (AP) — Texas Democrats have scheduled an online presidential poll to counter a GOP straw poll, but Democratic officials acknowledged they won't have much control over who clicks a vote.

Starting Friday, visitors who log on to the state party's Web site will have the chance to vote for one of the Democratic presidential contenders and to mention the election issues they're concerned about.

Party officials said they'll work to monitor responses to make sure only Texans' votes are counted in the

"ePrimary Poll." But that could include Texas Republicans.

Party spokeswoman Amber Moon said the poll will be worthwhile.

"This is open to a wide universe of people who want to be involved in the political process, who want to be involved in our party's effort to select our presidential nominee," she said.

She said she's not worried about Republicans participating.

"Republicans aren't participating in their own straw poll," she said.

The Texas GOP straw poll is Saturday in Fort Worth. Hans Klingler, spokesman and political director for the Texas Republican Party, dismissed the Democrats' online poll.

"The Republican Party of Texas is bringing together thousands of our grass-roots leaders from across Texas this weekend in Fort Worth to voice their choice for president of the United States," Klingler said. "Unfortunately, it looks like the Texas Democratic Party's only hope is to do that in a virtual world."

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► Nation/World briefs

Report: Va. Tech officials may have saved lives by notifying students, faculty sooner

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) — Virginia Tech officials might have saved lives if they had notified faculty and students sooner about the first two shootings on campus, a panel concluded in its investigation of the April rampage that left 33 dead.

"Warning the students, faculty and staff might have made a difference. ... So the earlier and clearer the warning, the more chance an individual had of surviving," said the report, which was released late Wednesday night.

However, the report concluded that while swifter warnings might have helped students and faculty protect themselves or alert authorities of suspicious activity, a lockdown on April 16 of the 131 buildings on campus was not feasible.

It may not have prevented the determined gunman, Seung-Hui Cho, from carrying out the shootings, the report said. As a student, he had access to campus buildings and the ability to get the same messages as everyone else. He could have gained access to a dormitory or begun shooting people in the open.

"From what we know of his mental state and commitment to action that day, it was likely that he would have acted out his fantasy somewhere on campus or outside it that same day," the report said.

Congressional auditors see little progress to meet political, military goals in Iraq

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Iraqi government has failed to meet the vast majority of political and military goals laid out by lawmakers to assess President Bush's Iraq war strategy, congressional auditors have determined.

The Associated Press has learned the Government Accountability Office, or GAO, will report that at least 13 of the 18 benchmarks to measure the surge of U.S. troops to Iraq are unfulfilled ahead of a Sept. 15 deadline. That's when Bush is to give a detailed accounting of the situation eight months after he announced the policy, according to three officials familiar with the matter.

The officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity because the report has not been made public, also said the administration is preparing a case to play down the findings, arguing that Congress ordered the GAO to use unfair, "all or nothing" standards when compiling the document.

The GAO is to give a classified briefing about its findings to lawmakers on Thursday. It is not yet clear when its unclassified report will be released but it is due Sept. 1 amid a series of assessments called for in January legislation that authorized Bush's plan to send 30,000 more troops to Iraq, where there is now a total of more than 160,000 troops.

Among those Bush will hear from are the Joint Chiefs of Staff; Defense Secretary Robert Gates; the commander of U.S. forces in Iraq, Gen. David Petraeus; and the U.S. ambassador to Iraq, Ryan Crocker. The Pentagon said Wednesday Bush was likely to get a variety of views from different military offi-

cial. Bush will then deliver his own report to Congress by Sept. 15.

Taliban set to free 7 remaining South Korean hostages, Korean official says

GHAZNI, Afghanistan (AP) — Taliban militants were expected to release seven remaining South Korean hostages Thursday, bringing to an end a six-week drama that saw two captives killed by the kidnapers, a South Korean official said.

South Korean presidential spokesman Cheon Ho-sun said Thursday that once free, the group will be heading to Kabul before returning home via Dubai.

On Wednesday, the Taliban released 12 of 19 South Koreans held, as part of a deal with Seoul that one Afghan minister warned would embolden the insurgents.

The hostages were released into the care of officials of the International Committee of the Red Cross at three separate locations in central Afghanistan.

None of the 12 spoke to reporters.

GOP lawmakers call for Idaho Sen. Craig's resignation over his arrest in men's room

WASHINGTON (AP) — Idaho Sen. Larry Craig is finding himself increasingly isolated from his political allies as more Republicans call for him to resign over his arrest in an airport men's room.

A spokesman for Craig denied widespread speculation in Washington that the three-term senator — up for re-election next year — was preparing to quit. Sidney Smith said Wednesday he had heard no such discussion.

Republican Senate leaders pushed Craig from senior committee positions. A White House spokesman expressed disappointment in the 62-year-old lawmaker, who pleaded guilty earlier this month to a charge stemming from an undercover police operation last June in a Minneapolis airport bathroom.

Others in the GOP were more harsh. "Senator Craig pled guilty to a crime involving conduct unbecoming a senator," said Sen. Norm Coleman, R-Minn. "He should resign."

Craig "represents the Republican Party," said Rep. Pete Hoekstra of Michigan, who called the behavior unacceptable and was the first in a steadily lengthening list of GOP members of Congress calling on Craig to quit.

Pakistan President Gen. Musharraf rejects 'pressure or ultimatum' over army future

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP) — President Gen. Pervez Musharraf rejects "any pressure or ultimatum" to decide whether to quit as army chief, his spokesman said Thursday, after an opponent said he would step down as head of the military under a pact to restore Pakistan to democracy.

Still, officials were either unavailable or declined to comment directly on the accuracy of Former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's assertion Wednesday that Musharraf had already decided to leave his powerful military post.

Musharraf and Bhutto are in the midst of negotiating an agreement that could end military rule eight years after Musharraf seized power in a coup and see him share power with the opposition.

Musharraf's office released a statement rejecting reports that Bhutto's call for concrete commitments by the end of this week amounted to an ultimatum to decide whether to remove his uniform.

While the president believed in dialogue "on all important national issues, he never worked under any pressure or ultimatum," his spokesman Rashid Qureshi said in a faxed statement.

U.N. envoy says there's hope that Israel and Palestinians can revive stalled peace process

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The U.N.'s top Middle East envoy said there are "signs of hope" that Israel and the Palestinians can agree to revive the stalled peace process in time for a related U.S.-sponsored international conference in November.

Michael Williams, the U.N. special coordinator for the Middle East peace process, on Wednesday said the conference, the revival of a pan-Arab peace initiative, and, perhaps above all, the dialogue between Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas are among the encouraging signals.

The talks between Abbas and Olmert, most recently on Tuesday, and the reform efforts of Palestinian Prime Minister Salam Fayyad "have created growing expectations," Williams told the U.N. Security Council.

"We cannot afford a new failure in the efforts to revive the Arab-Israeli peace process," he said. "There is a hope now which has been absent for almost seven years. A setback at this stage could have serious consequences."

Katrina's 2nd anniversary marked in Louisiana and Mississippi with song, tears and anger

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — James Chaney spent the second anniversary of Hurricane Katrina doing what he's been doing since the killer storm crashed ashore — working on a damaged home.

"My house is pretty close to being done, now we're trying to get my sister home," said Chaney, 39. "Thank God for family and friends. If it wasn't for them nobody would ever get back here."


Two years after Katrina hit, a storm of bitterness and anger has yet to clear. While memorials were held to mark the day, residents fumed about the government's response and marched to demand help.

"We want people to know that nothing is being done to help people here," said Samuel Banks, 40, as he marched with about 1,000 other protesters Wednesday. "How can the city rebuild if nobody has money or jobs?"


President Bush visited the first school to reopen in the hard-hit Lower 9th Ward and pledged additional aid. "We're still paying attention. We understand," he said.

Thanks From KBSB


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704 Main



Dr. David Long



706 Main

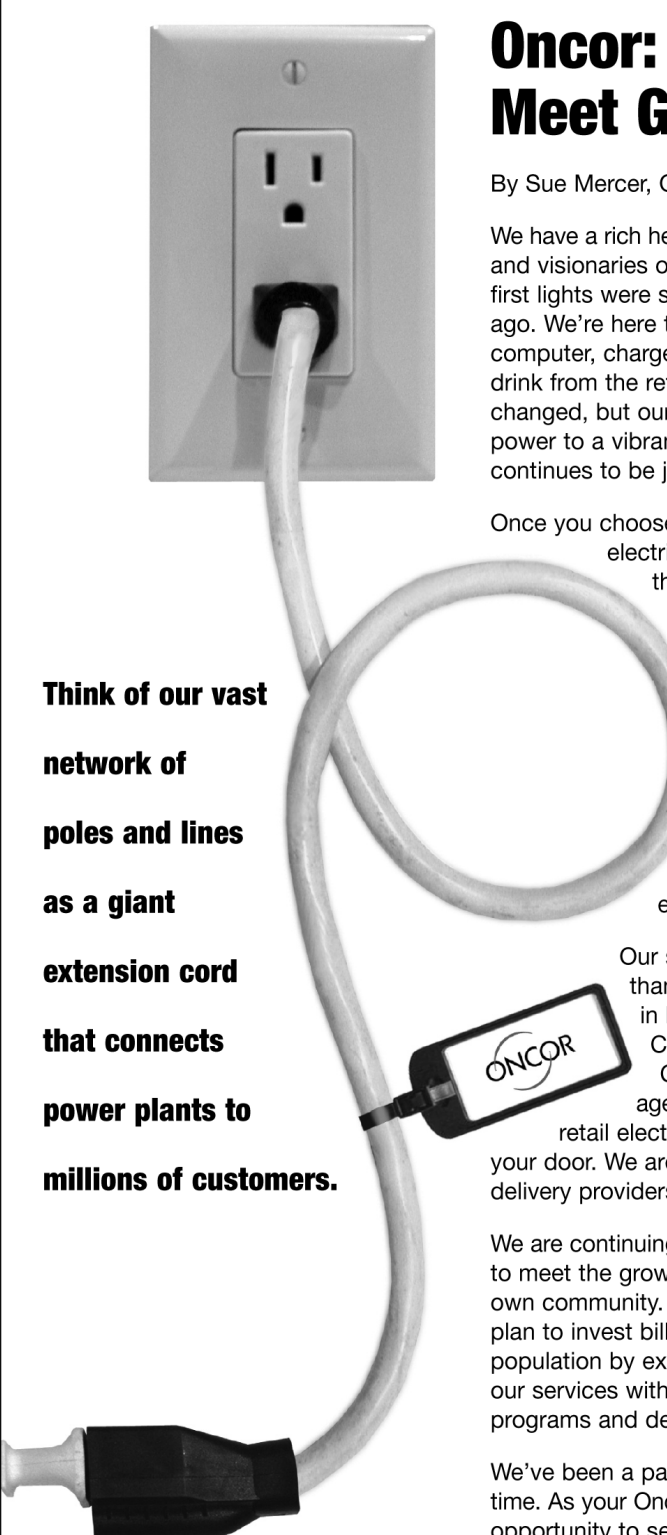


Nalley Pickle & Welch

Thanks to the following addresses for cleaning up:
901 S. NOLAN, 903 S. NOLAN, 904 S. GOLIAD, 1500 LINCOLN, 703 E. 15TH,
906 S. AYLESFORD, 1306 SCURRY AND 1308 SCURRY

Oncor: Investing to Meet Growing Needs

By Sue Mercer, Oncor



Think of our vast network of poles and lines as a giant extension cord that connects power plants to millions of customers.

We have a rich heritage of working with the leaders and visionaries of Texas. We were here when the first lights were switched on more than a century ago. We're here today when you boot up a computer, charge your cell phone or get a cold drink from the refrigerator. Our name has recently changed, but our commitment hasn't. Delivering power to a vibrant economy in Texas was and continues to be job number one.



Once you choose a retail electric provider to sell electricity to you, it's our job to deliver that electricity to your home or business reliably, safely and efficiently. Think of our vast network of poles and lines as a giant extension cord connecting power plants and customers. In fact, we have more than 100,000 miles of lines across the state of Texas and we manage one of the most efficient and reliable electric grids in the United States.

Our system delivers electricity to more than 3 million homes and businesses in East, West, Central, and North Central Texas. The Public Utility Commission of Texas, a state agency, regulates what we charge all retail electric providers to deliver power to your door. We are one of the lowest-cost electric delivery providers in Texas.

We are continuing to invest in our network in order to meet the growing needs of the state and our own community. Over the next three years, we plan to invest billions to support our growing population by expanding our system, improving our services with our comprehensive maintenance programs and deploying new technologies.

We've been a part of the community for a long time. As your Oncor area manager, I appreciate the opportunity to serve this community by delivering safe, reliable and efficient electricity.

SUE MERCER
Area Manager
www.oncor.com

THURSDAY

Table with 20 columns (WFAA, KMID, UNI, KPEJ, KOSA, KTLE, KWES, WTBS, KMLM, KPBT, DISC, AMC, SPIKE, TNT, BET, DISN, ESPN28, ESPN, SCIFI) and 7 rows (6-12 PM) listing local and national TV programming.

DENNIS THE MENACE



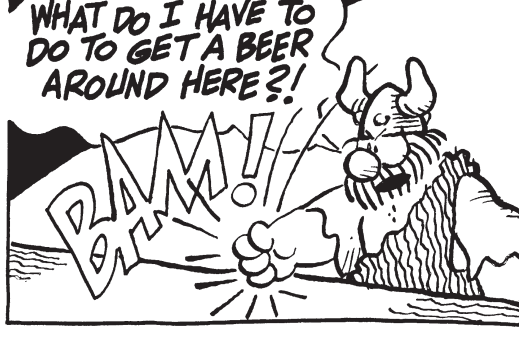
"MR. WILSON ISN'T HAPPY UNLESS HE'S IN A BAD MOOD."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

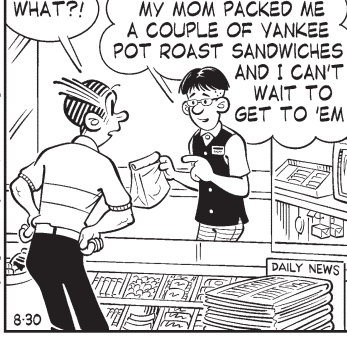


"What happens if I sleep loose?"

HAGAR



BLONDIE



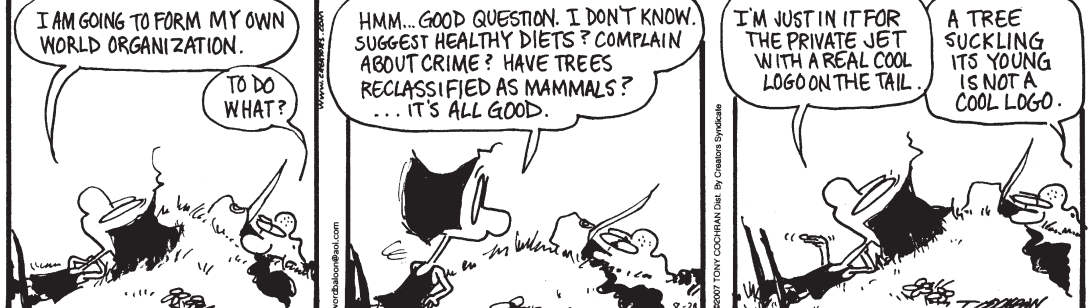
BC



WIZARD OF ID



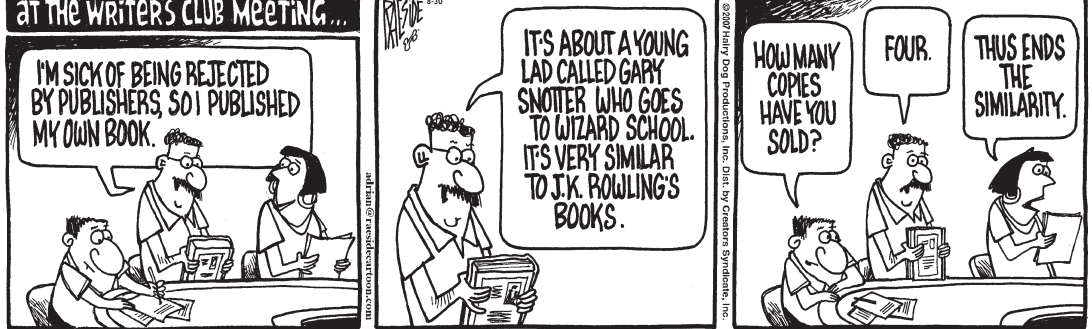
AGNES



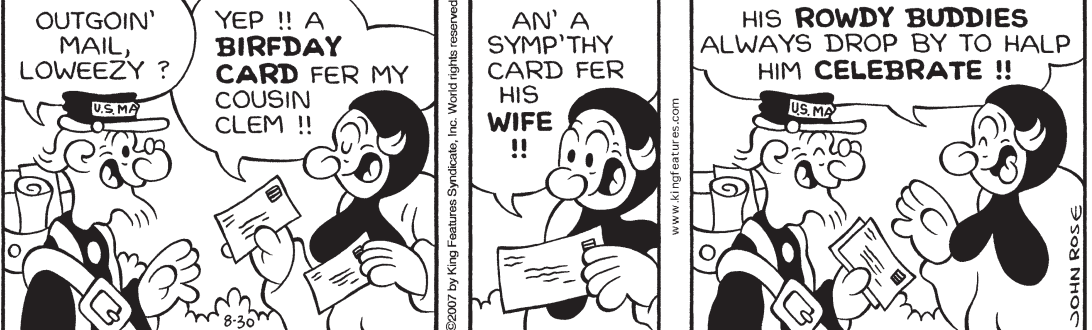
HI AND LOIS



THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BETLE BAILEY



This Date In History

By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, Aug. 30, the 242nd day of 2007. There are 123 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

Ten years ago, on Aug. 30, 1997, came reports of the car crash in Paris that claimed the lives of Princess Diana, Dodi Fayed and their driver, Henri Paul.

On this date: In 1797, the creator of "Frankenstein," Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley, was born in London.

In 1861, Union Gen. John C. Fremont instituted martial law in Missouri and declared slaves there to be free.

In 1991, Azerbaijan

In 1862, Union forces were defeated by the Confederates at the Second Battle of Bull Run in Manassas, Va.

In 1905, Ty Cobb made his major-league debut as a player for the Detroit Tigers, hitting a double in his first at-bat in a game against the New York Highlanders.

In 1945, Gen. Douglas MacArthur arrived in Japan to set up Allied occupation headquarters.

In 1963, the "Hot Line" communications link between Washington and Moscow went into operation.

In 1967, the Senate confirmed the appointment of Thurgood Marshall as the first black justice on the U.S. Supreme Court.

In 1983, Guion S. Bluford Jr. became the first black American astronaut to travel in space, blasting off aboard the Challenger.

In 1987, a redesigned space shuttle booster, created in the wake of the Challenger disaster, roared into life in its first full-scale test-firing near Brigham City, Utah.

declared its independence, joining the stampede of republics seeking to secede from the Soviet Union.

Today's Birthdays: Country singer Kitty Wells is 88. Opera singer Regina Resnik is 85. Actor Bill Daily is 80. Actress Elizabeth Ashley is 68. Actor Ben Jones is 66. Cartoonist R. Crumb is 64. Skier Jean-Claude Killy is 64. Actress Peggy Lipton is 60. Comedian Lewis Black is 59. Actor Timothy Bottoms is 56. Actor David Paymer is 53. Jazz musician Gerald Albright is 50. Actor Michael Chiklis is 44. Music producer Robert Cliviles is 43. Actress Michael Michele is 41.

Answer to previous puzzle: A grid of words including UTAH, HOMES, BIDS, NORA, EVERT, EDIE, FRONTRANGE, ALAW, ISM, HOLD, PANELS, TOADIES, BOSCH, INS, VANPOOLS, AMASS, TIKI, URAL, MESH, MONET, NERO, IOTA, AWED, STOKE, SWINDLES, MAE, TEAR, REFRACT, CHEESY, SAME, SHE, HORN, SINKORSWIM, EBON, ICIER, RAMP, ROSA, AUTRY, ONES.

Newsday Crossword

CAR WEAR by Fred Piscop Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS: 1 Iconic riveter, 6 Crows' cries, 10 Turner of rock, 14 Antitheft device, 15 Natural soother, 16 Mineral in lentils, 17 "Understand?", 18 Baby-powder mineral, 19 Sail holder, 20 Transmission lever, 22 Answer to "That so?", 23 Gal's pal, 24 Mean and nasty, 26 Burrowing rodent, 30 Parsley unit, 32 Blunted sword, 33 What's inevitable, 35 NBA's sport, for short, 39 Purple shade, 41 Actor Stiller, 42 Photo tint, 43 Brief tussle, 44 Sausage unit, 46 Manor bigwig, 47 Actress Barkin, 49 Take-home amount, 51 Written for voices, 54 Sailor's milieu, 55 Leveling strip, 56 Part of a car-slowing device, 62 Concerning, 63 Roof edge, 64 Add up, 66 Beehive State athletes, 67 Like true fans, 68 Wipe clean, 69 Ticked off, 70 Loch of note, 71 Direct attention, 10 Engine-valve regulator, 11 Ticked off, 12 Emphatic denial, 13 Unable to sit still, 21 Ride the waves, 25 Barbecue fare, 26 Solidifies, 27 Mayberry tyke, 28 Hit, as with hailstones, 29 Temperature-regulating conduit, 30 Brew holder, 31 Ivy League school, 34 Up to the task, 36 Each, 37 Pre-euro unit, 38 Noblewoman, 40 Fast-food drink, 45 Patella site, 48 Mail-order giant, 50 Bonnet time, 51 Yuletide name, 52 Can't help but, 53 Riverbank frolicker, 54 Depot postings, for short, 57 Boffo review, 58 Hertz rival, 59 Aesopian loser, 60 Norwegian saint, 61 Choice word, 65 "So's ___ old man!"

13x13 crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-71 indicating starting positions for the clues.