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**Steers fall to Coronado in non-district play**  
Page 1B

**Pediatrician Dr. Kimberly Saenz**  
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(In The Malone Hogan Clinic)  
**SEPTEMBER 1**  
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**BIG SPRING HERALD**

**WEDNESDAY**  
SEPTEMBER 12, 2007



VOLUME 102, NUMBER 247

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50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 SUNDAY



Clockwise from top left, Dr. Darryl Powell, Brig. Gen., U.S. Army, Retired, speaks to a crowd of 200 at the Big Spring Mall Tuesday evening. At right, Vietnam veteran Mike Tarpley plays "Taps." Above, Tom Land, director of the Big Spring H-E-B grocery store, right, serves up a hot breakfast to Big Spring Fire Department Chief Brian Jensen Tuesday morning. The morning meal was part of an H-E-B program that served meals to firefighters all over the state in remembrance of the Sept. 11, 2001, tragedy in New York.

HERALD photos/Lane Bond and Thomas Jenkins

**City budget gets OK, 5-1**

By THOMAS JENKINS  
Staff Writer

The Big Spring City Council approved the final reading of its 2007-2008 budget and first reading of the proposed tax rate Tuesday evening, both on 5-1 votes. The council approved final reading of the fiscal plan, which is based on a tax rate of \$1.02 per \$100 valuation, approximately 5 cents over the city's rollback rate of 97.7820 cents per \$100 valuation, following a public hearing on the rate that drew no comments from local citizens or council members.

The budget also includes an increase in the base fee paid by city water customers — from \$12.50 to \$13 — and a 4-cent increase in the water consumption rate to

*"... the majority of the tax increase came from the bond issues that passed, and the taxpayers basically said to us they want to do these projects and we're willing to have our taxes raised to do that."*



McEwen

cover increased costs from the Colorado River Municipal Water District. Councilman Greg

See CITY, Page 3A

**Howard County honors heroes of War on Terror**

By LANE BOND

Special to the Herald

A crowd of approximately 200 people gathered for a memorial service Tuesday evening at the Big Spring Mall marking the sixth anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on New York and Washington, D.C.

The service was designed to give area residents an opportunity to reflect on the meaning of the attacks and on the heroes and heroism the event has produced.

Almost 3,000 people died when three airliners destroyed the

World Trade Center towers in New York and slammed into the Pentagon in our nation's capital or soon after, as a direct result of the attack. A fourth hijacked jetliner that most believe was meant to target the White House, was brought down in a Pennsylvania field when passengers aboard the flight fought back against the attackers.

The world was vastly changed by a few extremists.

Six families from Big Spring or with close ties to Big Spring have lost sons in the military response

to terrorism.

Those six families, the 9/11 victims and the heroes of the fire fighting and law enforcement communities were honored during Tuesday's observance.

Those killed in action were:

- Army Pfc. Clayton Welch, the son of Randy Henson and grandson of Virginia James, both of Stanton. He was killed in action in Iraq and received the Bronze Star and Purple Heart awards.
- Army SPC Braden J. Long,

See HEROES, Page 7A

By THOMAS JENKINS

Staff Writer

If you like your concerts a little on the "trashy" side, the Big Spring Convention and Visitors Bureau has just the show.

The local CVB will be sponsoring a free concert Saturday at the Dorothy G a r r e t t Coliseum featuring musical group Vocal Trash, along with the Howard College sponsored Battle of the Cheerleaders and

community pep rally.

Compared to such successful specialty acts as Stomp, a popular drum act of which the members are known to play everything from trash cans to kitchen sinks, and legendary acapella group Nylons, Vocal Trash takes combines both genres into one fun-filled show, according to creator and group leader Steve Linder.

"We wanted to come up with something completely different from the norm," said Linder, one-half of the longtime musi-

See TRASH, Page 3A

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

**Troop Salute**

**Army Sgt. Jesse Herrera Jr.**

By LANE BOND  
Special to the Herald

Army Sergeant Jesse Herrera Jr. is about to go to Iraq for his third deployment. He has also had one deployment in Afghanistan. Jesse is pictured here as a recruit in 2,000 and as a sergeant in 2007, with his wife



See SALUTE, Page 7A

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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  
Wednesday, September 12, 2007

## IN BRIEF

### Howard College cheer camp set

Howard College is holding a mini-cheer camp Saturday at Dorothy Garrett Coliseum.

The camp is from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. with registration starting at 8 a.m. Cost is \$25.

Campers need to bring a lunch, water bottle and tennis shoes and will get a chance to meet the Howard College cheerleaders.

All registered participants will perform in the Battle of the Cheerleaders at 5:30 p.m.

### HC schedules Battle of the Cheerleaders

Howard College is the place to be Saturday.

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.

### Disc golf tourney set for Sept. 30

The 15th Ever DiscOver Big Spring Disc Golf Tournament has been set for Sept. 30 at Birdwell Park.

Registration is from 8 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. before the tournament. It is limited to the first 90 players and two rounds of 18 holes will be played.

Fees vary from \$15 to \$45 depending on division.

Contact Greg Brooks at (432) 528-5076 or e-mail him at gbrooks@apex2000.net for more information.

### Area high school sports calendar

Here's a look at this week's area high school varsity sports calendar:

#### FRIDAY

Big Spring football vs. Hereford, 7:30 p.m.

Stanton football vs. Forsan, Homecoming, 7:30 p.m.

Coahoma football vs. Ballinger, Homecoming, 7:30 p.m.

Garden City football vs. Midland Trinity, 7:30 p.m.

Grady football at New Home, 7:30 p.m.

Sands football at Westbrook, 7:30 p.m.

#### SATURDAY

Big Spring volleyball vs. Lubbock High and Greenwood in Greenwood, 11 a.m.

Big Spring cross country at W.T. Micro-Graphics meet in Lubbock.

Big Spring tennis vs. Plainview, 10 a.m.

## Youth golfers win state championship



Tyler Bryan and Sarah Black present the trophies they won at the Ewing Automotive Tour Championship at the Stonbridge Country Club in McKinney Aug. 20 and 21.

By LARRY BRYAN

Special to the Herald

Big Spring has more than its fair share of young golfing talent.

Sarah Black and Tyler Bryan capped off a summer of golf by capturing the Ewing Automotive Tour Championship. The tournament was held at Stonebridge Country Club in McKinney August 20 & 21 and brought together the best junior players from North Texas.

In order to qualify, a player must have won four times on the junior tour or have finished in the top 5 at regionals.

Black, 11, competed in 17 tournaments this summer. She finished first 16 times with one sec-

ond place finish. She won player of the year honors for West Texas and recorded a scoring average of 43.37 for the year.

She competed against 59 girls across North Texas in the 10-11 Girls age bracket. Sarah is a sixth grader at Goliad.

Bryan, 10, competed in 12 tournaments this summer and finished first eight times and second four times.

He finished second in the West Texas points race, but had the top scoring average for North Texas with an average of 38.5.

He competed against 219 players in the 10-11 Boys bracket. Bryan is a fifth grader also

See GOLF, Page 2B

## Lady Steers prep for district with tough competition

By JONATHAN HULL

Sports Editor

Although it might not seem like it at first, the high level of competition that Big Spring's Lady Steers faced on the volleyball court Tuesday night in the Big Spring Junior High gymnasium is exactly the type of test they needed before district play starts next week.

The Lady Steers were dropped by Lubbock Coronado's Lady Mustangs in straight sets in a best-of-five format — 25-12, 25-9, 25-12.

"This is one of the best teams we'll see all season," said Head Coach Amanda Whitaker. "We played them last year and they weren't nearly as good as they are this season. They're right up there with Abilene High as far as best teams we've faced."

The Lady Steers struggled to keep up with Coronado in the first two sets, falling behind 10-1 at the beginning of the second game. However, they stepped up and showed a stronger effort in the final set, according to Whitaker.

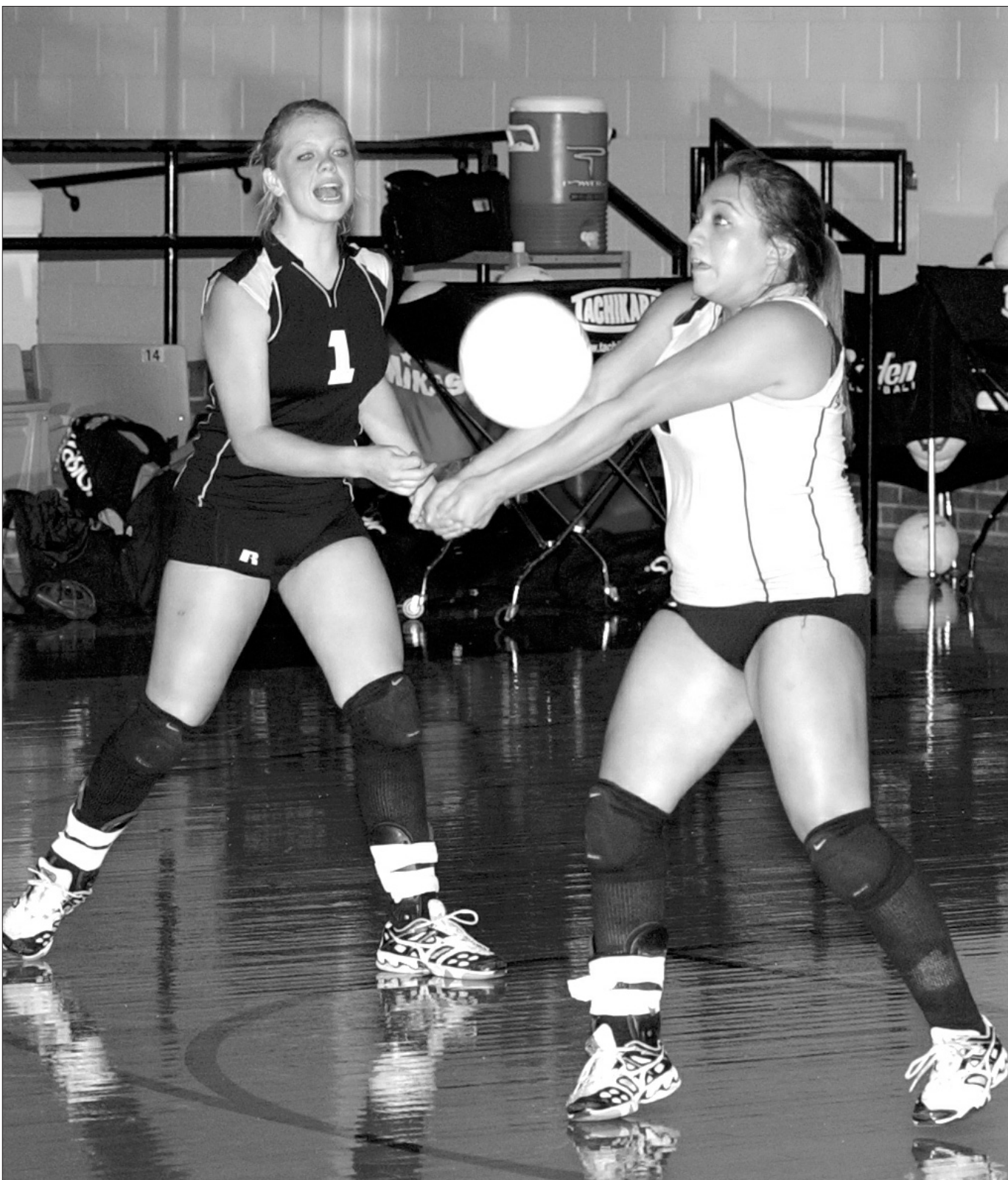
"We stepped up and played harder in the final set," she said. "We carried on a few volleys with them that we didn't have in the first two games. It was a good effort and a good test before district begins."

The stronger effort was exhibited by several players, including Clarissa Carrisalez who made several diving digs. Callie Partee and Amanda Claxton led the team in kills. Jordan Chesworth contributed the most assists. Baylea Fox and Kayla Bailey also provided strong play.

The Lady Mustangs are in the same district as Amarillo High's Golden Sandstorm — last year's Class 5A state champs.

"They're learning to play up to that level of play," said Whitaker. "We've been trying to do the same. It was good for us to

See BSBS, Page 2B



Big Spring's Clarissa Carrisalez bumps the ball following a Lubbock Coronado serve in a match played Tuesday at the Big Spring Junior High gymnasium. Coronado defeated the Lady Steers in straight sets, 25-12, 25-9, 25-12. The Lady Steers will be back in action Saturday when they visit Greenwood for a dual match against both Greenwood's Lady Mustangs and Lubbock's Lady Westerners.

Herald photo/Jonathan Hull

## Bills' Everett shows movement in arms and legs

By JOHN WAWROW

AP Sports Writer

BUFFALO, N.Y. — Kevin Everett voluntarily moved his arms and legs on Tuesday when partially awakened, prompting a neurosurgeon to say the Buffalo Bills' tight end would walk again — contrary to the grim prognosis given a day before.

"Based on our experience, the fact that he's moving so well, so early after such a catastrophic injury means he will walk again," said Dr. Barth Green, chairman of the department of neurological surgery at the University of Miami school of medicine.

"It's totally spectacular, totally unexpected," Green told The Associated Press by telephone from Miami.

Green said he's been consulting with doctors in Buffalo since Everett sustained a life-threatening spinal cord injury Sunday after ducking his head while tackling the Denver Broncos' Domenik Hixon during the second-half kickoff of the Bills' season opener.

Everett dropped face-first to the ground after his helmet hit Hixon high on the left shoulder and side of the helmet.

Everett remains in intensive care at Buffalo's Millard Fillmore Gates Hospital and will be slowly taken off sedation and have his body temperature warmed over the next day, Green said. Doctors will then begin taking the player off life support systems — including a respirator — currently controlling his body functions.

"It's feasible, but it's not 100 percent predictable at this time ... he could lead a normal life," Green said.

On Monday, Bills orthopedic surgeon, Dr. Andrew Cappuccino, said Everett likely wouldn't walk again.

"A best-case scenario is full recovery, but not likely," said Cappuccino, who operated on the reserve tight end. "I believe there will be some permanent neurologic deficit."

Cappuccino was not available Tuesday, and hospital spokesman Mike Hughes declined comment.

In a report Tuesday evening, Buffalo's WIVB-TV quoted Cappuccino as saying: "We may be witnessing a minor miracle."

Bills owner Ralph Wilson said the team has been in contact from the beginning with Green and the Miami Project, the university's neurological center that specializes in spinal cord injuries and paralysis.

"I don't know if I would call it a miracle. I would call it a spectacular example of what people can do," Green said. "To me, it's like putting the first man on the moon or splitting the atom. We've shown that if the right treatment is given to people who have a catastrophic injury that they could walk away from it."

The encouraging news might have come as a surprise to many, but not to those who know Everett well.

Al Celaya, who coached Everett at Thomas Jefferson High in Port Arthur, Texas, was confident his former player would battle through.

"When faced with any adversity, Kevin is going to put out the effort, he's going to work hard

and he's going to find a way to win," Celaya said. "I think Kevin will be that kind of person, because that's the kind of person he's always been."

Intending to play basketball, Everett was persuaded by Celaya to give football a try. Some nine years later, and after two seasons at the University of Miami, Everett was Buffalo's third-round pick in the 2005 draft.

"He overcame a lot of odds to do that," Celaya said.

Green said the key was the quick action taken by Cappuccino to run an ice-cold saline solution through Everett's system that put the player in a hypothermic state. Doctors at the Miami Project have demonstrated in their laboratories that such action significantly decreases the damage to the spinal cord due to swelling and movement.

"We've been doing a protocol on humans and having similar experiences for many months now," Green said. "But this is the first time I'm aware of that the doctor was with the patient

See EVERETT, Page 2B







# Rangers split double header with Tigers

## The Associated Press

ARLINGTON — Jim Leyland knows baseball isn't a complicated game.

His Detroit Tigers proved his point Tuesday.

The Tigers gave up 13 runs in the first game of a day-night doubleheader with the Texas Rangers, but allowed only one in the second to gain a split.

"It's pretty simple — it comes down to whether your team pitches or not," Leyland said. "We didn't pitch good in the first game, and we pitched very well in the second game."

Texas hit seven homers to win the opener 13-6, but rookie Jair Jurrjens and three relievers combined on a seven-hitter in the Tigers' 4-1 victory in the nightcap.

"You just have to hit the reset button when the first game goes like that," said Jason Grilli, who pitched two shutout innings in Detroit's win.

The split, combined with a win by the Yankees, left the Tigers four games behind New York in the AL wild-card race. The Tigers entered the day six games behind first-place Cleveland in the AL Central.

"We're a huge, huge long shot for the division, but we've got a legitimate chance at the wild card," Leyland said. "We've got to keep taking care of business and, obviously, we'll need some help."

Jurrjens (2-1) was making his fourth major-

league start, and hadn't pitched since Aug. 26 because of shoulder problems. He was activated from the disabled list before the game, and gave up one run and three hits in five innings.

"I was getting stiff between innings because of the cold wind, but I wasn't hurting on the mound," he said. "I just wanted to get through five innings."

Marlon Byrd hit two of the Rangers' seven homers in the opener. Hank Blalock, David Murphy, Freddy Guzman, Jarrod Saltamacchia and Ramon Vazquez also went deep for Texas, which had not hit seven homers in a game since getting eight on June 30, 2005, against the Angels.

The Rangers, who took an 11-0 lead in the first game, went up 1-0 on Byrd's sacrifice fly in the first inning of the nightcap, but Brandon McCarthy (5-9) couldn't survive the bottom of the inning.

Curtis Granderson started the inning with a walk, stole second and third and scored on Gary Sheffield's one-out RBI single. Sheffield's hit ended an 0-for-25 slump, his longest since an 0-for-29 skid in 2002.

After Sheffield stole second, Magglio Ordonez hit an RBI single and Ivan Rodriguez made it 3-0 with a two-out double, ending McCarthy's day.

The Tigers added a run in the second on an RBI

single by Placido Polanco. Sheffield, Rodriguez and Polanco all sat out the first game, when Detroit couldn't build on Monday's dramatic four-run rally in the ninth to beat Toronto.

"Momentum doesn't matter if you don't pitch," Leyland said. "When the air is out of the balloon after three innings, it isn't good."

The Rangers didn't get an extra-base hit in the nightcap.

"We hit well in the first game, and they pitched well in the second game," Michael Young said.

The second-game loss ended Texas' season-best winning streak at six games, but they have won 13 of 16. The Rangers scored 52 runs in a stretch of three doubleheader games.

"It seems like we're a doubleheader team," Byrd said. "It's been a long year, but we're finally playing Rangers baseball."

Vicente Padilla (6-9) allowed three hits and three walks in six shutout innings in the opener, improving his scoreless streak to 12 innings.

Texas went ahead in the first on Jason Botts' RBI single. In the second, left fielder Marcus Thames let Murphy's fly ball glance off his glove, bounce off the top of the wall and land in the bullpen to make it 2-0.

Byrd hit a two-run homer in the third and Blalock's two-out double



MCT photo/Kirthmon F. Dozier/Detroit Free Press  
The Texas Rangers' Frank Catalanotto (27) is tagged out by the Detroit Tigers' Omar Infante (left) in the fourth inning Tuesday in Detroit. The two teams split a double-header with the Rangers winning the first game 13-6.

chased Durbin. Murphy reached on a throwing error by third baseman Brandon Inge and Tim Byrdak threw a run-scoring wild pitch that put Texas ahead 5-0.

Texas made it 10-0 in the fifth off Jose Capellan, including homers by Byrd, Saltamacchia and Vazquez. Blalock hit a 440-foot drive to straight-away center in the seventh against Yorman Bazardo, and Guzman got his first major league homer in the ninth.

## BSHS

Continued from Page 1B

see that level of competition before we start district. It was encouraging for us to step up and compete and volley with them in the last set. Hopefully, that'll let the team know that we can compete within our own district."

The Lady Steers will get two more pre-district tune-up matches before they host Plainview's Lady Bulldogs Tuesday. They'll play a dual match against Greenwood's Lady Rangers and Lubbock High's Lady

Westerners in Greenwood, starting at 10 a.m. Saturday.

Lubbock High fell to the same Lady Mustangs Saturday in district play.

"These are two teams we should be able to play with," said Whitaker. "It will also be good preparation for our first district game with Plainview. It's up to us to make sure that we're fully prepared for the district season."

Contact Sports Editor Jonathan Hull by calling 263-7331, ext. 237, or by e-mail [ajling@sports@bigspringherald.com](mailto:ajling@sports@bigspringherald.com).

## GOLF

Continued from Page 1B

attending Goliad. This was the second consecutive year for Bryan to capture the season ending Tour Championship.

Cassie and Kelsie Guinn also earned an invitation to the Tour Championship, with both girls winning five times

this summer.

Cassie competed in the 15-18 Girls bracket where she finished third in the West Texas Player of the Year standings. Her sister Kelsie was runner-up to Black in the Player of the Year voting in the 10-11 Girls bracket.

Larry Bryan is the golf pro at the Big Spring Country Club.

# 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](http://www.sudoku.com)

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

# Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

## Minus One Equals Plus Two

West dealer.  
North-South vulnerable.

**NORTH**  
♠ J 10 9  
♥ A K 10 6 4  
♦ 7 2  
♣ 9 3 2

**WEST**  
♠ Q 8 7 3  
♥ Q 9 5 3 2  
♦ J 8 4  
♣ 4

**EAST**  
♠ 5 4 2  
♥ J 8 7  
♦ —  
♣ K Q J 10 8 6 5

**SOUTH**  
♠ A K 6  
♥ —  
♦ A K Q 10 9 6 5 3  
♣ A 7

The bidding:  
West North East South  
Pass Pass 4♣ 6♦

Opening lead — four of clubs.  
The ability to visualize how the opponents' cards are divided has a great deal to do with how well declarer fares in many hands. Consider this deal where South distinguished himself in the play and brought home a well-deserved slam.

South made a very reasonable decision when he overcalled East's four-club bid with six diamonds. It was not what could be characterized as a scientific bid — South had no way of knowing whether he would make six diamonds, seven diamonds

or go down one — but it seemed, on balance, that six diamonds was a good shot.

West led the four of clubs, obviously a singleton. South won with the ace, cashed the A-K of diamonds, and exited with the diamond three!

West was pleasantly surprised to win a trick with the trump jack, but his joy was short-lived. It didn't matter what he did next. A heart return would give declarer two discards on the A-K of hearts; a spade return would give declarer access to dummy and produce the same result.

So South made six diamonds because he was clever enough to lose a trump trick that he didn't have to lose. He would have gone down one, assuming correct defense, had he not played the hand the way he did.

The unusual play in the trump suit was sure to succeed. Declarer realized that West would be forced to lead a spade or a heart after winning the trump trick, because West could not have another club. Even if West was smart enough to play the J-8 of diamonds on the A-K, he could still be thrown on lead with the four.

In effect, East's opening four-club bid boomeranged, not so much because it made the slam easy to bid, but because it pointed the way to the winning line of play.

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## EVERETT

Continued from Page 1B

when he was injured and the hypothermia was started within minutes of the injury. We know the earlier it's started, the better."

Cappuccino said Monday that the 25-year-old did have touch sensation throughout his body, showed signs of voluntary movement and was able to breathe on his own before being sedated. But

he cautioned that Everett's injury remained life-threatening because he was still susceptible to blood clots, infection and breathing failure.

Green noted that Everett and Wilson have ties to Miami and the Miami Project — Everett played there and Wilson is one of the project's largest donors.

"It's an amazing group of circumstances. It's a home run. It's a touch-down," Green said.

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In **SUNDAY'S** Big Spring Herald

**American Profile**

The Man Behind THE WAR

Ken Burns' obsessions

Award-winning documentary moviemaker Ken Burns admits to two obsessions: film and family. His latest film obsession, a seven-part series on World War II, begins Sept. 23 on PBS. It's called simply *The War*. Plus, literary destinations and hearty barley recipes.

**American Profile**



# Franco pleads guilty, gets five-year term

By STEVE REAGAN  
Staff Writer

Halfway through his drug-possession trial, Rosendo Franco decided to cut a deal.

Franco, on trial in 118th District Court Tuesday on charges of possession of cocaine and evading arrest, changed his mind shortly before the jury was to decide his guilt or innocence and accepted an offer from the district attorney's office, instead.

Franco, 24, of Big Spring, will serve five years in prison on the drug charge and six months in state jail for evading arrest with a vehicle. He had faced maximum punishments of 20 years in prison and two years in state jail, respectively.

Hardy L. Wilkerson, 118th District Attorney, expressed

**"We had certain goals at the outset of this trial: First, we wanted to get a guilty verdict, and secondly, we wanted to see Mr. Franco do some time in prison ... The plea agreement fell within those goals, so we're happy."**



—District Attorney Hardy Wilkerson

satisfaction with the plea agreement.

"We had certain goals at the outset of this trial: First, we wanted to get a guilty verdict, and secondly, we wanted to see Mr. Franco do some time in prison ... The plea agreement fell within those goals, so we're happy."

Trial testimony showed that Franco was arrested shortly after leading Big Spring Police Officer Clint Sheets on a high-

speed chase on the north side of Big Spring early on the morning of May 21, 2006.

Sheets, now a deputy with the Howard County Sheriff's Office, testified that he spotted Franco's vehicle turn without signaling. Shortly after Sheets made a U-turn to follow, the suspect's vehicle began speeding up.

Franco continued traveling north on Gregg Street before turning east on N.E. Sixth, at

one point bottoming his car out while crossing an intersection and sending a "shower of sparks" from the undercarriage of the vehicle, Sheets said.

The chase ended in front of Franco's residence on N.E. Sixth, where the defendant left the vehicle and fled on foot. Sheets, noticing two others in the suspect vehicle, realized he was "at a tactical disadvantage" and radioed for backup.

Two officers, including BSPD Cpl. Nathan Londonberg, responded to the scene and assisted in the search for Franco.

Londonberg testified that, after a short search of the premises, he apprehended Franco inside the residence and forced him onto the ground.

At that time, two packets of a

white powdery substance fell from Franco's clothing, Londonberg testified.

The substance was subsequently sent to the Department of Public Safety for testing, and Laboratory Technician Dennis Hambrick testified that it tested positively for cocaine at a weight slightly more than 13 grams.

"I thought we put on a pretty thorough case," Wilkerson said. "We had solid evidence and I felt it was particularly compelling ... The Big Spring police officers did a very good job."

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

## Take Note

• **COAHOMA LIONS CLUB WILL HOLD A PANCAKE SUPPER** from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Friday in the elementary cafeteria. Tickets can be purchased at the door for \$5 or in advance at Lil Sooper or from a club member for \$4. Children under 6 can eat free. Supper includes a drink, sausage, bacon and pancakes.

• **AMERICAN LEGION POST 506 WILL HOLD A FISH FRY** Saturday at 3203 W. Highway 80. Plates are \$8 each. Delivery is from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. by calling 263-2084. Serving will be held from noon until 3 p.m.

• **A CHILDBIRTH EDUCATION CLASS** will be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, at the OB Classroom at Scenic Mountain Medical Center. The instructor will be Laurie Burks, RN. Snacks and lunch will be provided. To register, call (432) 268-4550.

• **A FUND HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED** for David English of Snyder, who was recently injured on the job in Big Spring and is in crit-

ical condition at Covenant Hospital in Lubbock. Donations can be made at American State Bank, 1411, S. Gregg St., Big Spring.

• **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.

• **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.

## TRASH

Continued from Page 1A

cal production team of Linder and Brock. "Everyone has a band, but nobody's doing this."

The Battle of the Cheerleaders is to get under way at 5:30 p.m., with the community pep rally immediately following, at approximately 6:30 p.m.

"All area schools are invited to take part in the Battle of the Cheerleaders and the community pep rally," said Debbie Wegman, director of

the Big Spring CVB. "The cheer competition will feature cheer and dance, with awards presented to the top competitors in cheer, dance and mascot.

"During the pep rally, each school will be given an opportunity to recognize its athletes, students and cheerleaders. A spirit stick award will be given, and we want everyone to be loud, proud and show their stuff. There will also be a chance to meet the Howard College Hawks athletes and cheerleaders for this school year."

Vocal Trash is expected to

take the stage following the pep rally, approximately 7:30 p.m.

"If you've never had a chance to see this band, it really is amazing," said Wegman. "They just have so much energy throughout the show, and you just can't help but be inspired by what they do."

Admission to the show is free. For more information, contact the CVB at 263-8235.

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

## Trustees to hear report on BSJH

By STEVE REAGAN  
Staff Writer

Structural concerns at the local junior high will highlight the monthly meeting of the Big Spring Independent School District board of trustees, scheduled for 5:15 p.m. Thursday in the high school board room.

The junior high, which has experienced structural problems since its construction in 1996, was the subject of a study recently conducted by the engineering firm Bryant Consultants, BSISD Superintendent Michael Downes said.

Uneven settling of the building substructure is predominant in two areas of the building and is due to "loose fill material," the study concluded.

"The first area is at the arroyo area that existed in the vicinity," Downes said. "The second area involves fill that was placed on the site prior to construction ... The study concluded that the settling was due to natural compaction of those materials."

Steve Frase, who has worked as an engineering consultant for BSISD the past several years, said the settling has not caused permanent damage to the building and does not require immedi-

ate remedy, Downes said. "We'll likely address a solution sometime next summer," he said.

A bit of good news from the report is that concerns about rainwater seeping into the substructure and causing erosion damage appear to be unfounded.

"The study showed no effects of rainwater in the area," Downes said. "The problems are all based on deficiencies present when construction started."

In other business, trustees will consider:

• A public hearing on the BSISD Financial Accountability Rating (School FIRST) and the annual Financial Accountability Management Report for the 2005-2006 fiscal year.

• The delinquent tax collection report for the district.

• A lease agreement with Greater Opportunities of the Permian Basin.

• Approval of the Howard County Tax Collection budget for 2007-2008.

• Personnel matters.

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

## CITY

Continued from Page 1A

Biddison voted against the budget — as well as first reading of the tax rate — saying he felt the tax hit was ill-timed.

"I've been thinking about it a lot, and it's just bad timing," said Biddison. "We're trying to get people to come into town — retirees and businesses — and they are going to look at that tax rate. To me, I think we may be shooting ourselves in the foot a little bit. I know stuff goes up, but it's the same old budget we've always had. That's how I feel about it."

According to city officials, the average Big Spring homeowner paid approximately \$237 in city taxes last year. Based on the proposed tax rate — which must pass final reading in two weeks to be adopted — the average taxpayer will be looking at a \$338 bill this year.

The proposed tax rate includes an additional 7.32 cents to fund a new six-man narcotics task force to be created within the Big Spring Police Department, a move Mayor Russ McEwen said the council feels very

strongly about.

"I feel good about it. I feel like we have a good, quality budget, and it's a balanced budget," said McEwen. "And the council feels very strongly about the drug task force and we believe it's going to be good for the community."

McEwen said he understands Biddison's concern over the tax rate.

"It's very difficult because you don't want your tax rate to be high," said McEwen. "However, the majority of the tax increase came from the bond issues that passed, and the taxpayers basically said to us they want to do these projects and we're willing to have our taxes raised to do that. The thing to remember is that only 7 cents of that tax increase is going to the drug task force, and we feel like that's worthwhile."

With the 2007-2008 budget now officially in the books, McEwen said he expects Big Spring Police Chief Lonnie Smith to begin assembling the task force as soon as the fiscal plan goes into effect in

October.

"The drug task force will be in operation as soon after Oct. 1 as we can get it up and running," said McEwen. "We're going to instruct the chief to get going with this — to get the equipment, to get the personnel, which is the key — as soon as possible. We want good, quality people who can make the cases that can be prosecuted and do a good job with it."

The council also denied an appeal from former staff member Darrell Ware, who was terminated from his position of director of human resources several months ago, due to city policy, according to McEwen.

"He appealed to the city council to — in essence — overturn what the city manager had done, which was terminate his employment," said McEwen. "However, our personnel policy says it can only be done in the first five days after termination, and obviously he was way outside of that. So we denied the appeal based on the fact that it was outside our policy."

City Attorney Linda Sjogren, who advised the council on the matter during an executive session, declined to comment due to pending litigation.

Also during the meeting, the council approved:

• Final reading of a resolution authorizing the mayor to execute a contract with Big Spring Victim Services to fund rape counseling and victims services.

• Final reading of a resolution authorizing a contract with the Heritage Museum for operation of the Potton House.

• Final reading of an ordinance approving an amendment to the Zoning Ordinance for a zone change from retail to light commercial for property

located at the northwest corner of Scurry and the FM 700 N. Service Road.

• First reading of an ordinance amending the Big Spring Code of Ordinances increasing the monthly life line rate and water consumption rates.

The council failed to approve first reading of an ordinance that would have changed the current \$25,000 purchase limitation for city officials before council approval to \$50,000, with the motion made by Councilwoman Gloria McDonald dying

due to a lack of a motion to second.

A pair of appointments to the city's civil service commission was approved by the council, with local resident Walter Shipman appointed to serve an unexpired term ending in 2009 and former city council member Tommy Tune appointed to serve until 2010.

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

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Wynelle Hale, 80, of Big Spring died Friday. Memorial Services will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday at First United Methodist Church.

**Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce**  
presents  
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Sponsored by Howard College and Howard County LULAC Council 4791  
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Ribbon Cutting to Open Exhibit at 5:00 p.m.  
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Rosa Rosales, National LULAC President  
Mayor Russ McEwen - Dr. Cheryl Sparks, President of Howard College  
Refreshments - Networking



# CLASSIFIEDS

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**Announcements**

I WILL not be responsible any debts accrued by Rita Jan Perry Anderson Carnes as of 8/25/07. Calvin Carnes.

RITA JAN Carnes has been responsible for all debts prior to 8/25/07.

**Business Opportunity**

**DELIVER THE** Abilene Reporter News in Big Spring each morning. Requires 1-2 hours per day. Earn \$250 per week. Contact Martin (325)670-5219 thomasm@reporternews.com

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Big Spring, Tx 79720

**THE SAN** Angelo Standard Times is seeking a mature individual for home delivery of newspapers in Big Spring. Make approximate \$700.00 per month, \$100 sign in bonus. Running your own business. Must like working early morning hours. Call today 1-(800)588-1884 ext. 8294.

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**CLINE CONSTRUCTION** is in need of Class A or B CDL Drivers light trucks involved. Please call (432)267-6006 or come by 1807 N. FM 700.

**BUFFALO COUNTRY FINA** taking applications for Sales Clerk. Experience preferred but will train. Apply at 4911 South Hwy 87. No Phone Calls.

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**OTR DRIVERS** wanted for Groendyke Transport. Must be 23 years of age, have tanker endorsement & clean driving record. Top pay, full benefits, 401K, paid vacations. Apply online at www.groendyke.com or pick up application. 6907 N I 27 Lubbock, TX 79701-824-2005

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**Sept. 10-13, 8a-5p**

**APPLY IN PERSON @ 5212 South Service Road, East I-20, Big Spring.**

Exit Midway Road across from Alon USA Refinery near Refinery Road.



# EDITORIAL

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

Ron Midkiff  
Publisher

John A. Moseley  
Managing Editor

Bill McClellan  
News Editor

## OUR VIEWS

# There's still time to enter queen contest

There's still time for girls in Howard County to enter the 2007 Howard County Fair Queen Contest, thanks to organizers' decision to extend the entry deadline.

The deadline for the contest was originally set for Monday, but fair officials say last-minute entries will be accepted today and Thursday.

This year's fair is scheduled for a Wednesday through Saturday, Sept. 26-29, run. And the Howard County Fair Queen Contest is always kind of a start to the festivities.

The queen contest, according to Howard County Fair Board member Nancy Howard, is always fun and offers girls an opportunity to take the classes offered.

The contest is open to all girls in high school who are unmarried and are not mothers. A \$35 entry fee, the same as last year, is required, but contestants may solicit sponsors to offset that cost. In fact, a contestant must have a sponsor to compete.

Applications are available at Posey Cotton Co. office at 601 Scurry Street and the Howard County Extension Office in the courthouse. They are also available online at [www.howardcountyfairtexas.com](http://www.howardcountyfairtexas.com). They must be turned in to the extension office.

The contest is scheduled for 1 p.m. Saturday at the Dora Roberts Community Center. At 9 a.m. that same day, the contestants attend classes that provide them instruction in make-up application, runway presentation, self-esteem and the interview process.

Each girl competes in two divisions — denim/casual wear and formal wear. Lunch is provided for all contestants the day of the event and prizes are awarded to the winners. A gift bag is also presented to each contestant.

For more information, contact Howard at 353-4448.

And with this year's fair rapidly approaching, it's time for individuals, organizations and businesses that plan to have a booth at the fair to make the necessary arrangements.

The booths, measuring 8 feet by 10 feet, are available with an electrical outlet. A table with two chairs is available for rent for \$10. But there is almost always a waiting list for booth space. So it's advisable for those planning to have a display at the fair contact Howard as quickly as possible.

Howard is also the contact for those interested in the Children's Fair designed for students in pre-kindergarten through the fourth grade. This year the Children's Fair theme is "It's a Jungle Out There." Classroom or individual projects can be entered, with the contestant choosing the medium or material for the project. Each student who submits a project will receive a ribbon.

## 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](mailto:editor@bigspringherald.com) or News Editor Bill McClellan at [newsdesk@bigspringherald.com](mailto: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 e-mailed to [editor@bigspringherald.com](mailto:editor@bigspringherald.com)

## A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

*Our energy combined with You, Lord, is a winning combination.*

Amen

# Winning Hispanic vote by default

Republicans give us their back, and Democrats give us demagoguery. That's what Latinos are getting from the presidential candidates, and nowhere was that more evident than in the debate hosted by the Spanish-language Univision TV network Sunday night from the campus of the University of Miami.

On Latino issues, the Democrats came across as naive, uninformed and patronizing. But the Republicans did even worse. Their separate debate had to be cancelled because only one candidate — Sen. John McCain of Arizona — had agreed to show up.

Sunday's live TV debate, the first ever broadcast in Spanish, was a missed opportunity for Democrats to show that, instead of expecting to win the Hispanic vote by default, as they usually do, this time they were ready to earn and inspire support from Latinos.

Unfortunately, that didn't happen.

All we heard was more of the same tired rhetoric — nothing new about the many issues that concern Latinos. It was clear that they were all going to play it safe. Why take risks when, considering the Republican alternatives, they feel that Latinos will have no choice but to vote for them?

And of course, they are right. With the fear-mongering, anti-immigrant sentiments expressed by many GOP conservatives in recent years, with all their mean-spirited efforts to suppress the Spanish language and make Latinos feel unwelcome even when they are naturalized U.S. citizens or born here, Republicans have blown away the Hispanic vote that President Bush had cultivated by falsely claiming that he was a "compassionate conservative."

All the Democrats have to do, instead of taking controversial positions that could alienate some voters, is remind Latinos of the draconian measures introduced by some Republicans when the GOP had control of Congress.

For example, Clinton recalled a piece of legislation that would

have penalized those who help illegal immigrants. "It would have criminalized the good Samaritan," she said. "It would have criminalized Jesus Christ."

Unless McCain wins the Republican nomination, which doesn't seem likely, the Democrats know that they can sit back and expect the Hispanic vote to fall into their laps.

Democrats also know that the Hispanic vote in key Electoral College states is likely to give them the margin of victory. And yet they know that they have to do very little to earn it.

Some symbolic gestures, like showing up at a Spanish-language debate, will do the trick, they figure.

Never mind coming up with some new and exciting initiatives that will stimulate Latino voters. In fact, during Sunday's debate it was clear that some of the leading Democratic candidates were more concerned about not alienating other Americans who may feel threatened by Latinos.

When the Democrats were asked why there is so much emphasis on securing our border with Mexico, and not with Canada, especially since no terrorists have come through our southern border, and when they were asked if they were willing to promote Spanish as a second national language of the United States, most of the Democrats ran for cover.

No, senator, they were not going to give any ammunition to immigrant and Latino bashers to turn xenophobic Americans against them. They'll take the xenophobic vote, especially since there is little chance of losing the Hispanic vote anyway.

For Latinos, the differences between New York Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson, former Alaska Sen. Mike Gravel, Connecticut Sen. Chris Dodd, Illinois Sen. Barack Obama, former North Carolina Sen. John Edwards and Ohio Rep. Dennis Kucinich were very hard to find.

Only Delaware Sen. Joe Biden missed the debate, which was moderated in Spanish by Univision anchors Jorge Ramos and Maria Elena Salinas. The candidates heard and responded to the questions in English through a

group of interpreters who provided the audience with simultaneous translations back to Spanish.

On the question of a fence along the Canadian border, none of them answered directly. Instead, they insisted that national security has to be a key part of immigration reform legislation. They kept saying they favor a comprehensive plan. Some said they were committed to doing something about it in their first year as president. But they offered very little specifics. They even avoided explaining whether they favor a path to legalization for the nation's 12 million illegal immigrants.

Surely some Latinos were screaming at their televisions, asking, "What would you do about the 12 million?" But they got no answer.

When they spoke about Latin America, they couldn't get past complaining that our hemispheric neighbors have been neglected by the Bush administration — as if we didn't already know that. They offered no specifics on how they would deal with the region's swing to the anti-American left.

In fact, instead of standing firm against Cuba's Fidel Castro and Venezuela's Hugo Chavez, they naively explained that they would seek to establish better relations with Chavez and lift the economic embargo against the Castro dictatorship.

"The refusal of Republican candidates to address the Hispanic community, not just at this forum but in national Hispanic gatherings in recent months, speaks volumes," said Democratic National Committee Chairman Howard Dean in a statement released after the debate. "Sadly, it is consistent with the Republican Party's strategy to scapegoat Hispanic immigrants for political gain."

Dean said the Democratic candidates "showed a stark contrast with the divisiveness and hate-filled rhetoric coming from the Republican presidential candidates and from their shrinking party."

That's all true, and it's also the reason why Democrats feel they can take the Hispanic vote for granted.

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# Keeping bad schools no big trick

You've got to love that Supreme Court! What jokesters! They've now ruled that U.S. civil rights law prohibits misguided cities like Louisville and Seattle from busing kids to integrate their schools. Presumably hundreds of other foolishly righteous towns nationwide will likewise be brought up short.

Of course it is still illegal for government themselves to segregate artificially. Brown vs. Bd. Of Education sees to that.

But if persnickety white parents choose to settle in neighborhoods or towns where minorities can't afford to follow, well, the Court now secures their right to have schools that are free of dark faces.

A public service by our local newspaper recently demonstrated just how well this system works. Presumably as a means of stimulating suburban readership, the editors printed large color photos of each nearby high school's graduating class.

While this may just have been a marketing gimmick, it pointed out graphically that there aren't many blacks out there in the 'burbs. Our city schools, however, seem plainly 50-50, and our neighboring city runs about the same. What a promo for suburbia! It's like Al Gore's kid driving his Prius at 100 mph. Subaru and Toyota shares have just zoomed.

Similar pics of truly central city graduates would be starkly different. There it's the white faces that would be rare. Those urban graduates would also be fewer in number due to disastrous inner city dropout rates. Martin Luther King used to preach that he wanted his own kids to go to school with whites. Otherwise they would never get their fair share of public resources.

He sure got that right. The moment a school tips toward poverty, some of its most exciting teachers start draining away, its special programs for impoverished and under prepared students suffer financial erosion, and high-performing classmates drift off to charter, magnet, or private schools. And why not? Families who are blessed with a precious sparkling little asset have to look out for No. 1.

From No. 2 on down, everyone else is stuck. That's the American way. Sure, we have remedial programs galore, at least until budget time. Then MLK's warning comes into play. Similarly muddying the water is No Child Left Behind, yet another strategy for repositioning the deck chairs.

Not to say there aren't other solutions to poor schools — solutions even the Supreme Court would have trouble overturning. Head Start is one, along with other pre-school options. Saturday academies are another. But most such cures actually target the poison of poverty. These techniques include earned income tax credits, universal health care, pre-natal attention, subsidized housing, sub-

sidized food, etc. They are all traditional tools for attacking poverty and turn out to be the same underfunded solutions one would use to help out bad schools.

Fortunately all this is not rocket science. In fact it's not science at all. Any suffering citizen of an urban core or other pain-wracked slum could tell you how it goes. It's just that American society does not place equality high on its priority list. Lord knows poor whites are burden enough, but when you add in blacks, Latinos, Indians, and refugees, it just gets to be too much. There is so much suffering in the cities that our personal best bet is simply to move away and leave it all behind.

This withdrawal not only condemns plenty of troubled schools to abandonment, but undermines still others that aren't yet quite so hopeless. Many towns have schools with lots of poor kids because of their demographics, which up to now have gotten by with busing. But now with the Supreme Court leading the way in prohibiting scattering those kids throughout the system, these communities are more likely to further segregate themselves. This will surely lead to still more education failures.

Luckily money alone could cure much of the problem, but unluckily, very few Americans are game to spend it.

Columnist William A. Collins is a former state representative and a former mayor of Norwalk, Conn.  
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**Tomorrow's Horoscope**

Does a painting know perfect equilibrium, does a flower know unity? Just as complementary colors and shapes arrange in a fashion just so and a vision of beauty emerges, errant emotions



HOLIDAY MATHIS

coalesce into a holistic picture with today and tomorrow's waxing Libra moon. Watch your relationships take new shape and form.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19). Your enthusiasm and spontaneity ignites myriad opportunities. All of them seem rather casual, but don't be fooled. What's at stake is much more than a good time.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20). There are differences — fundamental differences — between you and a partner. None of it has to hinder your progress together. In fact, your teamwork is made

stronger because of your varied strengths.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 21). Today's theme is freedom. If you've felt locked into an area of your life, you will be sprung from your cell. Keep running, and don't look back. If you create enough momentum, this newfound independence will be lasting.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22). Instead of screening your calls, answer them all, expecting a little conflict as part of the deal. Better to get feelings out in the open and seek resolution than to feel anxious every time the phone rings.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22). If you're still dealing with the sort of person who'd throw a drowning man both ends of a rope, this is a good time to stop the relationship. It won't take long to find a supportive replacement.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Your talent for trend-tracking is exceptional. Put this instinct to work for you. Indulge your whims, study your

interests, and have the confidence to lay down the money when you know it's time.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). If it seems like you've been compromising an awful lot lately, good for you. Flexibility isn't a sign of weakness. Quite the opposite is true. You're the strong, tall tree in the wind — mobile and immobile at once.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). It's too costly and time-consuming to invent everything you need. You can be original and still utilize conventional wisdom. Your success depends on your ability to observe your world and use what you find.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). What can't be done by you alone can be done extremely quickly with at least one other person — preferably a Taurus. A partner's taste or method of doing things will save you money.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Earning isn't a problem, but your spending style might be

keeping you from getting ahead. You have expensive tastes. Feeling rich may require that you delay your gratification until you can truly afford it.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Smart work versus hard work is the game, and you can guess which side wins out. Your ability to relate on a human level leads to friendship, sales and possibly even romance.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20). Loved ones grow to respect you even more when they see you hard at work. Likewise, colleagues are intrigued by what they learn about your personal life. There's a message in this about integration.

**ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS:** "My birthday is Nov. 21, 1979. I feel as though I'm basically persona non grata to the universe at this time in my life. I'm utterly lost, and all I want to do is make music, but in the past year, life has become very complex. Is there any way out for

me? Is there any hope at all on the horizon? I work really hard, but I am stuck, and I need some cosmic encouragement."

Ah, the case of the invisible man — a Scorpio tale. Scorpions are easily bogged down by the weight of their own desires. Remember to live in the light. The universe sends curveballs for your growth and, ultimately, reward. Humbly evolve, please. If it's time to give up one thing for another, read your feedback. Pacify the beasts of demand and necessity as best you can, then patiently pursue what you believe in — your music. You've got incredible talent there, and people will see it eventually. The pressure cooker subsides by October, and you're singing! Seek out goal-setting strategies this fall, like taking small, considered steps toward your goals every day. Essentially, you need a lifelong strategy for success, but one that fits on a sticky note.

**CELEBRITY PROFILES:** Jennifer Hudson won the awards of a lifetime for her "Dreamgirls" performance at the young age of 25. As a Virgo, presenting her most polished performance is a very real dream. But she's not alone; Libra planetary friends follow behind. Jennifer's path of service involves working in close partnership with others and joining their talent with hers. This year, watch her emulate bigger stars.

If you would like to write to Holiday Mathis, please go to [www.creators.com](http://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](http://www.creators.com).

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**Annie's Mailbox**  
: Advice for those in need

Dear Annie: I am dating "Scott," a wonderful man. We are both divorced and have children from our previous marriages. Scott's two adolescent children live with him. My only child is on her own. Scott and I want to marry, and his two children approve. But I sometimes spend weekends at his place and have become concerned. He seems to

have no rules.

Scott's bedroom is next to the family room, and his kids stay there way past 11 p.m. most nights. Scott periodically tells them they ought to go to bed, but they ignore him, keep the TV blaring and trash the area with food and paper cups. Scott also leaves the door to his room open until they decide to go to bed. Many times, we have to get up early for work, yet he says nothing to them about the noise. By the time they go to sleep, I'm too exhausted for intimacy.

This entire arrangement makes me angry. I have told Scott if we marry, there will have to be some changes, but he accuses me of picking on his kids, saying I don't love them. I really like his kids, but I won't consider moving in permanently, knowing this would be a source of contention. Scott wants me to cook and clean, but I have no say in how the house is run. When his teenage son brings his girlfriends over, I have to go into another room. I feel like a total outsider. I understand his children are accustomed to having the entire house to themselves, but I don't want to live this way. Any suggestions? — Not Sure in the Midwest

Dear Not Sure: Issues with stepchildren can be difficult and, without Scott's cooperation, can wreck the relationship. Scott must understand that a lack of discipline is a disservice to his children, and the two of you must present a united front, with Scott taking the lead. If he won't do this, you can try family counseling or you can wait until the children are out of the house before you marry. Or, of course, you can just walk away.

Dear Annie: My heart is aching. I have been married for 40 years to a man most people think is a saint. He is good to me, provides well, helps around the house, and is kind and considerate. His children

grandchildren love him.

So what is my problem? He looks at porn on the computer on a regular basis. I suspect he is gratifying himself watching these computer sluts. This ties my stomach in a knot. I can't eat. I can't sleep. I cry myself to sleep. If I bring it up, he will deny it and just be more devious.

Is it adultery when a man watches porn? I feel like he is cheating on me. Am I overreacting? — Depressed

Dear Depressed: A little. Like it or not, most men look at porn. It has nothing to do with you. It is cheating if he is contacting these women or engaging in cyber sex. It's a problem if it becomes an addiction or porn replaces intimacy with you. Some women actually watch porn with their husbands and find it stimulating. Only you can decide how much of a problem this is, and after 40 years, how tolerant you are going to be.

Dear Annie: I'd like to respond to "A Friend," who said "Irma" had a filthy kitchen and bathroom.

It was only when I visited my mother's home and found the same thing that I realized Mom's vision was worse than we realized. She could not see the details of what needed to be cleaned. We got a cleaning lady and took Mom to the ophthalmologist. Subsequent cataract surgery corrected the vision problem, but Mom loved the cleaning lady and kept her! — G.

Dear G.: You may be right about Irma's vision, and we hope her friend is willing to find out if this could be the cause of the problem.

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](mailto:anniesmailbox@comcast.net), or write to: Annie's Mailbox, P.O. Box 118190, Chicago, IL 60611. To find out more about Annie's Mailbox, and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at [www.creators.com](http://www.creators.com).

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**When He's Really an Older Man**

Dear Margo: I'm 20, on my own, and putting myself through college. Without meaning to sound cocky, I'm very attractive and can reel in any man I want, so most people are surprised when they find out my boyfriend of two years is 30 years older than I am.

I'm not settling; he's very attractive and in great shape. Everyone guesses he is 10 years younger than he is. We get along wonderfully and he's very good to me. My guy is adventurous and certainly not set in his ways. We imagine that someday we'll have to part as lovers but believe we'll always be friends.

I'm just not interested in guys in their 20s. They are gangly and goofy, and their favorite hobbies are getting drunk and hooking up. I realize they're not all like that, but I'm not going to kill myself looking just so other people are happy with my mate's age.

My parents are very conservative. They taught me that there is one person I am destined to find, and I mustn't sleep with anyone 'til then. Well, I don't believe that for a second. I count myself lucky to have found such a perfect personality, and I want to be with him until I find somebody just as good who may be closer to my age. I don't know how long that will be, but I'm

getting tired of secrets.

How and when (if at all) do I convince my parents this is a healthy situation for me until I can find somebody serious? By the way, they both know and like my man; they just don't know I'm with him! — Younger Woman in the Closet

Dear Younger: I'm not surprised they know your man. I'll bet he's one of their friends. Given what you've been taught by your parents (the very conservative ones) announcing to them that their 50-year-old friend is your paramour will blow the lid off.

Because you don't think you and this man will marry, there is no percentage in fessing up to something you know will make your parents wild. I think you can keep this secret from them in the name of peace and harmony. There is just no way you will convince them this is a "healthy situation" for you. — Margo, discreetly

**Scoping Out the Newbies**

Dear Margo: I need guidance. I am 33 years old, and I broke up with my significant other about three years ago. The breakup was devastating to me, as we'd been together for 11 years. (We never married and there are no children.)

I took a break to heal and come to terms with what happened. Now I am out there dating again and having a hard time meeting decent, single men in my age range. Several girlfriends suggested I try Internet dating. I have viewed

some of the websites, but I have not signed up for any of them yet because I'm concerned about the "safety factor" in meeting these men.

Do you have any suggestions for new Internet daters? I am a little embarrassed to ask my friends and admit that I am so outdated. (The last time I met someone new, I was 19.) Can you help me? — Do You Like Pina Coladas?

Dear Do: No need for embarrassment with the girlfriends; after all, they're the ones who are encouraging you to try online dating. But here are the basics:

Don't give out personal contact information such as a phone number or address. When you decide to meet, have it be in a public place . . . a restaurant or a coffee shop. Listen carefully to what is said, and if someone's overanxious, this is not a good sign.

It is often true (alas) that if the person has sent a picture, it is from 30 pounds ago and maybe when he still had hair. The bad news is that the self-description may be totally inaccurate; but it's also the good news, because you get to see for yourself. — Margo, intrepidly

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

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**su | do | ku**  
© Puzzles by Pappocoom  
**ANSWERS**

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

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# Carolina folk artist's home a one-of-a-kind destination

By GARY A. WARNER

Orange County Register

BYNUM, N.C. — Look at it, love it, but don't covet.

Clyde Jones' front yard on a rural North Carolina hillside in Bynum, south of Chapel Hill, is littered with a wildly painted wood menagerie of polka-dotted giraffes, hot-pink alligators, screaming-yellow-striped lions and purple tigers.



Not a one is for sale

"You can't buy one, but I like it when people come up and take a look," Jones says.

Wielding a power saw and a paint brush, Jones has become a legendary folk artist, his works on display from the Smithsonian Institution to Africa to China. He also does large folk-art paintings, but it is the carved "critters" that have made his fame. They're an almost psychedelic vision of the animal world. Everyday dogs, cats, fish and pigs, but also giraffes, penguins, alligators and tigers.

"Never seen some of these animals, but that doesn't really matter," Jones says from his sloping porch. "I just see a piece of wood and they come out."

The only way one of the dozens of creations in his yard goes down the road is as a gift to friends, supporters and charities whom he authorizes to auction them off. While some artists would take the displays as a point of pride, not every notice has pleased the artist. A piece of his sold at auction for \$8,000 a few years ago.

"He wasn't very happy about that," said Gene Hamer, a Chapel Hill restaurant owner who has championed Jones' work. "It was a piece he had donated and somehow it ended up being resold. If you see a Clyde Jones critter for sale in a gallery, something is fishy. He'll part with his paintings, but not his critters. I have a few at my restaurant, but he gave them to me."

Though he isn't going to sell, visitors are welcome to come up to the Critter Crossing to take a look. It's hard to find, on a back road off the main highway between Pittsboro and Carrboro.

If you get lost, ask at the Bynum General Store, where everyone, including Jones, picks up their mail. But once you get in the general vicinity, it's hard to miss the place. In a neighborhood of older homes with peeling paint and a few double-wide

trailers, the house at Clyde's Critter Crossing is painted (and often repainted), sometimes in brilliant reds and blues. Dolphins jump and penguins dance and curvy white stripes top the chimney.

Jones never seems to tire of the parade of strangers who come to his door.

"I've known him for over 20 years and he is a very kind-hearted guy," Hamer said. "You drop by and there is always someone in his yard, people from all over the world."

The deep yard seems to have not an inch of space to spare. On one side are hunks of wood and cans of paint. On the other are the animals, splatter and sawdust. Jones sits on the porch, his overalls splattered and dusted with the detritus of his creations.

"I've been doing this for a long time," he says. "Maybe too long, I don't know."

Friends say Jones is likely marking his 70th birthday this year, but he says he genuinely doesn't remember when he was born.

"I am a day older than yesterday and a day younger than tomorrow," he says

Virgil Lee Johnson, 34, said his friend Clyde is a remnant of a way of life that is quickly passing away.

"This used to be a textile mill town," he said. "It shut down in '82, '83."

"A lot of the old-timers stayed around until they passed away. Now we're getting a lot of new people. You drive north a bit and you see all those new homes coming over the hills."

Jones was a lumberjack who was injured on the job when a splinter flew into his eye. In about 1982, he started making his critters as a way to pass the time. He saw these things in nature and the chainsaw started to participate. Then he painted. Lots of paint. So many layers, a thick, thick texture. You wonder how it ever all dries. But it leaves a smooth sheen.

The march of suburbia is putting an end to people like Jones, Hamer said.

"As this place becomes less rural, all the things of the city come in," Hamer said. "There's television and video games and all the other ways to pass the time."

Even without the distractions, it would be hard to invent another Clyde Jones.

"Clyde is one of a kind," Hamer said. "He could have made a lot of money but that wasn't his way. He would rather just put a smile on your face."



MCT photo/Leonard Ortiz

Clyde Jones' Critter Crossing on Clyde Avenue in Bynum, N.C., is the home and workshop of Clyde Jones who has made a name for himself by creating fanciful animal figures, dogs, giraffes, dogs and elephants fashioned out of logs quickly cut with a chain saw, nailed together and covered with a bright coat of paint.

**IF YOU GO:**

**GETTING THERE:** Clyde's Critter Crossing is located on Clyde Avenue in Bynum, in Chatham County, North Carolina. It's about 20 minutes south of Chapel Hill, N.C., off Highway 15-501. No phone, no e-mail. No set hours, just try not to bother Clyde Jones too early in the morning or after sundown.

**TIP:** Check out Clyde Jones' art at Crook's Corner, Gene Hamer's award-winning modern Southern cuisine restaurant in Chapel Hill (try the jalapeno hushpuppies). The covered courtyard dining area has several of Jones' critters on display — and there's even one up on the roof. 610 W. Franklin St., Chapel Hill, NC, 919-929-7643. crookscorner.com.

**MORE INFO:** car-rboro.com/clyde

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**Coins: Morgan dollars, assorted other coins**  
**Furniture:** Antique Oak Buffet, Oak side by Side Cabinet, Mirrors, Frames, Mahogany Dining Table, 52" TV, Outdoor furniture, Tables, Chairs, Sofas, Dining Furniture- Piano, Display Shelves, Desks, Washer, Dryer, Refrigerator, furniture for every room in the house.

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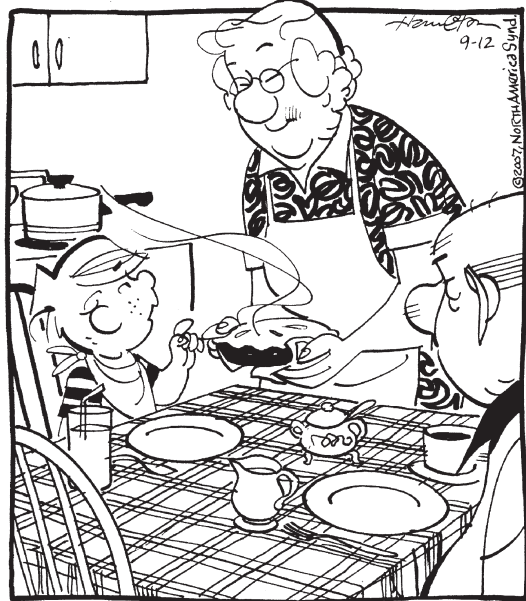




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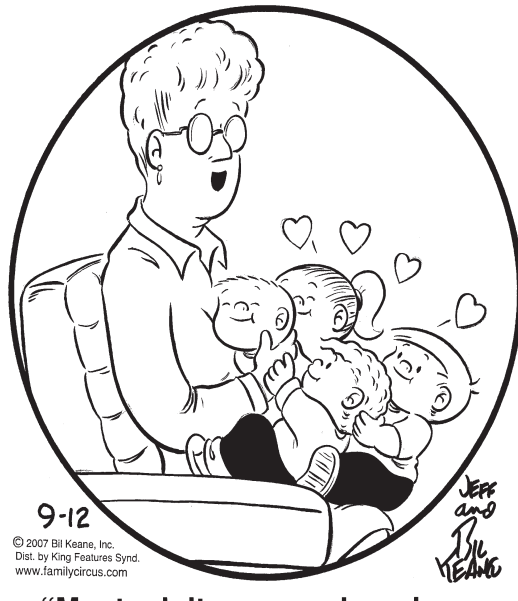
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6 :PM :30	News (CC) Entertainment	Jeopardy! Wheel-Fortune	Yo Amo a Juan	The Simpsons Two-Half Men	News Entertainment	Dame Chocolate	News Be a Millionaire	Raymond Raymond	Dr. Swallow John Hagee	News-Lehrer -	How It's Made How It's Made	-	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn. (CC) (DVS)	Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	Live (CC) Hell Date	Han, Montana Zack & Cody	Summer House	MLB Baseball: Atlanta Braves (CC)	Ghost Hunters (CC)
7 :PM :30	According-Jim According-Jim	According-Jim According-Jim	Amar sin Limites	Til Death Til Death	Power of 10 (CC)	Pregame Rumbo al	Last Comic Standing	Family Guy Family Guy	Update/Israel Rico Cortes	Brown Is the New Green	MythBusters (CC)	Movie: Midway -	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn. (CC) (DVS)	Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	Movie: Prison Song (CC)	Movie: Confessions of a Teenage Drama Queen	Int'l Challenge Billiards:	at New York Mets (CC)	Ghost Hunters (CC)
8 :PM :30	NASCAR in Primetime	NASCAR in Primetime	Destilando Amor	Bones (CC)	Criminal Minds (CC)	Mundial: Mexico vs.	Last Comic Standing	House-Payne House-Payne	Light of the Southwest	American Masters (CC)	MythBusters (CC)	-	UFC Unleashed	Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	-	a Teenage Drama Queen	Int'l Challenge Billiards:	-	Ghost Hunters (CC)
9 :PM :30	Primetime: The Outsiders	Primetime: The Outsiders	Don Francisco Presenta	TMZ (CC) King of the Hill	CSI: NY (CC)	Brasil Movie: Amores	Dateline NBC (CC)	Raymond Raymond	-	Visions	Build It Bigger -	-	UFC Unleashed	Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	Girlfriends Girlfriends	That's-Raven Life Derek	Int'l Challenge The Contender	Baseball Tonight (CC)	Ghost Hunters (CC)
10 :PM :30	News (CC) Nightline	News Nightline	Primer Impacto Noticiero Univ.	Raymond Two-Half Men	News Late Show-	Perros -	News Tonight Show	Seinfeld (CC) Movie: Enough (CC)	Update/Israel Dr. Young	Charlie Rose (CC)	Cash Cab: After Dark	Movie: Sands of Iwo Jima	UFC Unleashed	Without a Trace (CC)	Take the Cake (CC)	Zack & Cody Han, Montana	The Contender (CC)	SportsCenter Tonight (CC)	Flash Gordon (CC)
11 :PM :30	The Insider Jimmy Kimmel Live (CC)	Jimmy Kimmel Live (CC)	La Hora de la Risa	Reno 911! 70s Show	Letterman Late Late	-	Late Night- -	CCM Ministries Charles Scott	-	Tavis Smiley Tavis Smiley	MythBusters (CC)	-	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn. (CC)	Las Vegas (CC)	Hell Date Jamie Foxx	Replacements Kim Possible	NASCAR Now	Baseball NFL Live	Painkiller Jane (CC)
12 :AM :30	Live (CC) News (CC)	Extra (CC) Basco	Salome (SS)	My Wife-Kids 70s Show	The Insider	Programa	Conan O'Brien News	Update/Israel Del Sanchez	-	Sign Off -	Mad Men -	-	Star Trek: Voyager	Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	Jamie Foxx Jamie Foxx	Emperor New American Drgn	2007 World Series of Poker	SportsCenter (CC)	Twilight Zone Twilight Zone

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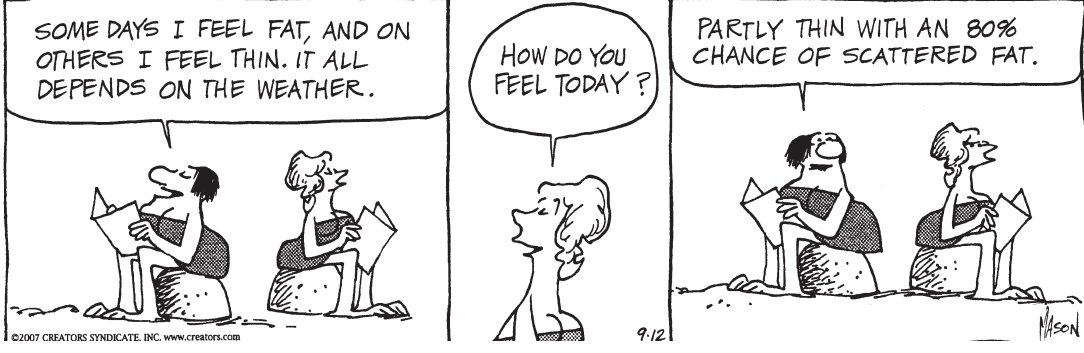
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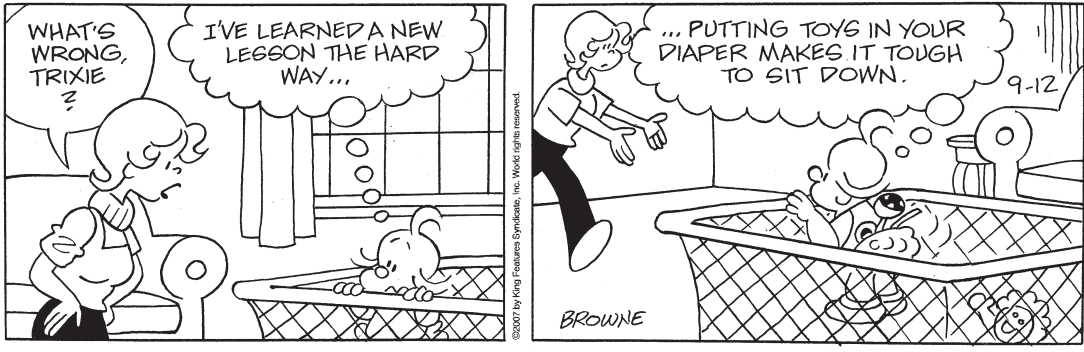
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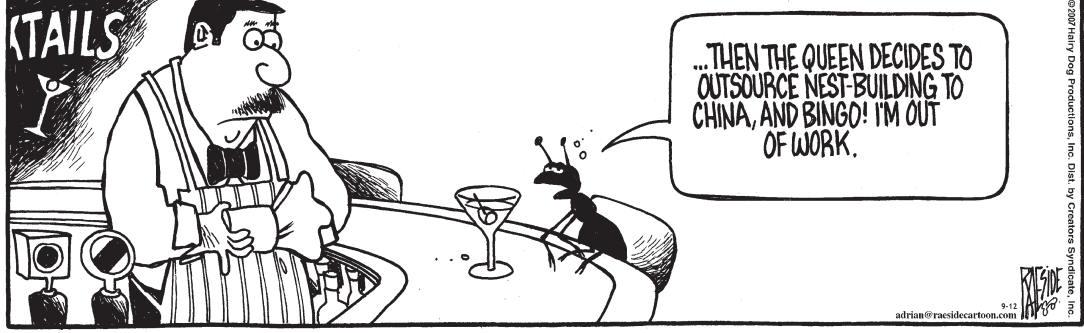
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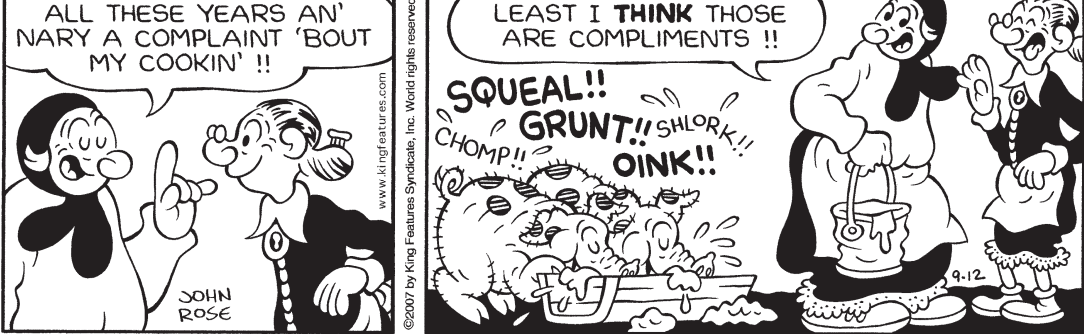
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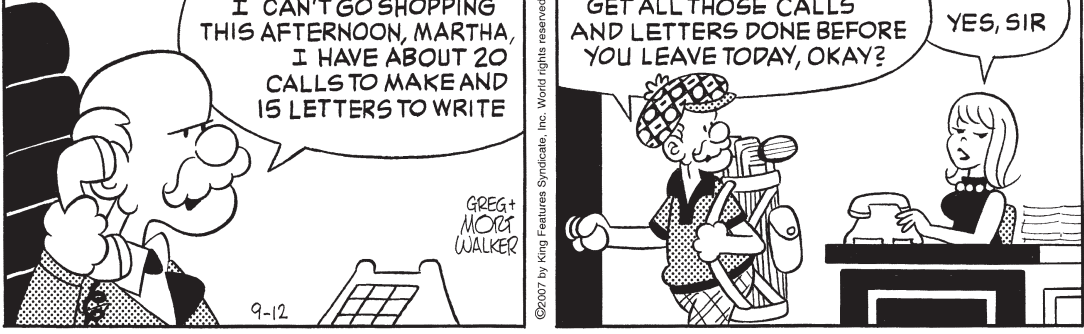
THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BETLE BAILEY



This Date In History

Today is Wednesday, Sept. 12, the 255th day of 2007. There are 110 days left in the year. The Jewish holiday Rosh Hashanah begins at sunset.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Sept. 12, 1609, English explorer Henry Hudson sailed up the river that now bears his name.

On this date:

In 1880, author and journalist H.L. Mencken was born in Baltimore.

In 1914, during World War I, the First Battle of the Marne ended in an Allied victory against Germany.

In 1938, Adolf Hitler demanded the right of self-determination for the Sudeten Germans in Czechoslovakia.

In 1943, German paratroopers took Benito Mussolini from the hotel where he was being held by the Italian government.

In 1944, the Second Quebec Conference opened with President Roosevelt and British Prime Minister Winston Churchill in attendance.

In 1953, Massachusetts Sen. John F. Kennedy married Jacqueline Lee Bouvier in Newport, R.I.

In 1960, Kennedy, then the Democratic presidential candidate, addressed questions about his Roman Catholic faith, telling a Southern Baptist group in Houston, "I do not speak for my church on public matters, and the church does not speak for me."

In 1974, Emperor Haile Selassie was deposed by Ethiopia's military, after ruling for 58 years.

In 1977, South African black student leader Steven Biko died while in police custody, triggering an international outcry.

In 1992, the space shuttle Endeavour blasted off, carrying with it Mark Lee and Jan Davis, the first married couple in space; Mae Jemison, the first black woman in space; and Mamoru Mohri, the first

Japanese citizen to fly on a U.S. spaceship.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Irene Dailey is 87. Actor Dickie Moore ("Our Gang") is 82. Actor Freddie Jones is 80. Country singer George Jones is 76. Actor Ian Holm is 76. Actress Linda Gray is 67. Singer Maria Muldaur is 64. Actor Joe Pantoliano is 56. Singer-musician Gerry Beckley (America) is 55. Rock musician Neil Peart (Rush) is 55. Actor Peter Scolaro is 52. Actress Rachel Ward is 50. Actress Amy Yasbeck is 45. Rock musician Norwood Fisher (Fishbone) is 42. Actor Darren E. Burrows is 41.

Answer to previous puzzle

PAIN	ALAMO	ALPS
UNDO	DIGIN	GOAT
BELT	ROOST	ENVY
SWEEP	INGCHANGE	
	IFS	EDT
LATEST	BEDS	SOS
OPERA	SOLO	FADE
WAXING	NOSTALGIC	
IRAN	RATE	ROAST
QTS	PIGS	CRESTS
	AID	SLO
	DUSTING	POWDERS
MINI	PERAN	AREA
AVID	ORATE	MISS
DATE	NOSES	PETS

Newsday Crossword

FOWL LANGUAGE by Daniel R. Stark  
Edited by Stanley Newman  
www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS**
- 1 Pirate's booty
  - 5 Unpleasant situation
  - 9 Manufacturer
  - 14 The good guy
  - 15 Operatic piece
  - 16 Video-game pioneer
  - 17 Sandwich cookie
  - 18 Ragtime dance
  - 20 Thick fog
  - 22 Whim
  - 23 Space-station view
  - 25 \_\_\_ voyage party
  - 26 Stick (to)
  - 29 Breakfast orders
  - 33 Military cells
  - 34 Forest clearing
  - 35 Taunting laugh
  - 37 Loud sound
  - 38 Ancient Britons
  - 39 Be bold
  - 40 Come to the rescue of
  - 41 Sheep shelters
  - 42 Forward thrust
  - 43 Like some power
  - 45 Poked fun at
  - 46 Ben-\_\_\_
  - 47 Chimney nester
  - 49 With suspicion
  - 53 Ships' steering devices
  - 57 Get too scared
- DOWN**
- 1 Bargain-hunt
  - 2 Used to be
  - 3 Environs
  - 4 Zero, in sports slang
  - 5 Ripe
  - 6 Spew lava
  - 7 Polite word
  - 8 Munro's pen name
  - 9 Spring fest need
  - 10 Bring into accord
  - 11 Malden of Patton
  - 12 Cupid alias
  - 13 Religious ceremony
  - 19 Implants
  - 21 Rowing implements
  - 24 Screams
  - 26 "Dancing Queen" band
  - 27 Flow out
  - 28 Krishna worshiper
  - 30 Gymnasts' pads
  - 31 Be gracious
  - 32 An NCO, informally
  - 34 "\_\_\_ move on!"
  - 36 Pay attention to
  - 38 Strong-arm
  - 39 Crouch
  - 41 Old jalopy
  - 42 Feudal boss
  - 44 Latin dance
  - 45 Ends of rivers
  - 48 Temporary
  - 49 Behaves
  - 50 Furniture-leg leveler
  - 51 Tailed toy
  - 52 Oklahoma city
  - 54 Toledo's lake
  - 55 Like blue moons
  - 56 Malamute's burden
  - 58 Small bill

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# News in brief

## Mexican trucks banned from U.S. highways

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate voted Tuesday to ban Mexican trucks from U.S. roadways, rekindling a more than decade-old trade dispute with Mexico.

By a 74-24 vote, the Senate approved a proposal by Sen. Byron Dorgan, D-N.D., prohibiting the Transportation Department from spending money on a North American Free Trade Agreement pilot program giving Mexican trucks greater access to U.S. highways.

The proposal is part of a \$106 billion transportation and housing spending bill that the Senate hopes to vote on later this week. The House approved a similar provision to Dorgan's in July as part of its version of the transportation spending bill.

Supporters of Dorgan's amendment argued the trucks are not yet proven safe. Opponents said the U.S. is applying tougher standards to Mexican trucks than to Canadian trucks and failing to live up to its NAFTA obligations.

## Ex-BP plant manager told jurors he was committed to safety

GALVESTON (AP) — As he concluded his fourth and final day of testimony, the former plant manager at BP PLC's Texas City refinery — the site of 2005's deadly explosion — tried to reiterate to jurors that he was committed to safety.

Don Parus said after a 2002 study he embarked on a multi-year program to fix the plant's infrastructure.

BP attorneys showed jurors photographs of rusted pipes that had been repaired.

"You had a fake safety program at BP Texas City," said Brent Coon, an attorney for four workers suing the oil giant for injuries they attribute to the March 2005 explosion.

"We had a broken program that we were trying to fix," Parus responded Tuesday.

Pat Gower, BP's U.S. refining vice president, was set to follow Parus on the witness stand Wednesday.

## HEROES

Continued from Page 1A

whose wife, Teresa Long, and her mother, Mary Ford, both live in Big Spring, was killed Aug. 4, 2007, in Baghdad while serving in the U.S. Army. He was 19 and from Sherman.

• Army Pfc. Kristian Menchaca, whose wife, Christina, lives in Big Spring. His body was found June 20, 2006, in Iraq. He was 23. He was

from the Houston area and received the Bronze Star, Purple Heart and Prisoner of War medals.

• Army SPC Robert J. Volker, the son of Robert and Melissa Volker of Big Spring, was a demolitions specialist and was killed while disarming an explosive device.

• Marine Pfc. Chad Bales Metcalf, the son of John Wayne and Ginger Metcalf of Coahoma. He was a truck driver, killed in a motor vehicle accident in the first mad dash across the sands to

Baghdad when the Iraq war started.

• Army Staff Sgt. Clinton T. Newman, the son of Fred Newman, training operations director with the Big Spring Fire Department. He had been Army Reserve Soldier of the Year in 2000 and received the Bronze Star, Purple Heart and Meritorious Service Medal.

The program was sponsored by Hangar 25 Air Museum and the Museum Administrator Meghan F. Bias served as mistress of

ceremonies.

Speakers for the observance included Dr. Darryl Powell, a retired U.S. Army brigadier general; Richard A. Grove, deputy chief of the Big Spring Fire Department; and Lt. Drew Bavin of the Big Spring Police Department.

John Pilgrim read two of his original poems, "Freedom," and the anonymous poem "September Eleven."

The event closed with "Taps" being played by Mike Tarpley.

## SALUTE

Continued from Page 1A

lives in Big Spring, as do Jesse's mother, Mary Lou Soldana, and her husband Tony. Jesse's picture has been on display on our Wall of Heroes since it first begun in 2002.

In a recent e-mail to the Herald, Jesse gave a summary of his military service so far (he plans to stay in for a career):

"My name is Jesse Herrera Jr. I am an E-5 / SGT in the U.S. Army. I was born in Big Spring. I graduated in May of 2000. July 12, 2000, I joined the

army and was sent to Basic and AIT in Fort Benning, Ga. My first duty station was Fort Campbell, Ken., were I have been for the last seven years.

"I am with HHC 1-187th Infantry Regiment. I was deployed to Afghanistan from November 2001 to May 2002. I was then deployed to Iraq from March 2003 to September 2003 before coming back early for medical reasons. My last deployment was to Iraq in September 2005 to September 2006.

"Now I am a Training Room NCO for HHC 1-187th where I am in charge of the records for

all of the men in my company.

"The schools that I have attended are Technical Transportation of Hazardous Material Course, NBC Defense Course, Unit Armor, Combat Lifesaver Course and Field Sanitation Course. I have also

earned two Army Commendation Medals, two Army Good Conduct Medals, one Army Achievement Medal, one National Defense Service Medal, one Iraq Campaign Medal, one Afghanistan Campaign Medal, one Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, one Global War on

Terrorism Medal, one Army Service Ribbon, one Overseas Service Ribbon, one Army Valorous Unit Award, one Army Presidential Unit Citation, and a Combat Infantry Badge. Now soon I will be deploying to Iraq for my third tour."

*Do you have a story about your own family members in the military? For submissions or more information, e-mail Lane Bond (lane@bondwebs.com), call (432) 263-4033, or visit www.bondwebs.com to learn more about Big Spring.*

## Union to file suit seeking to stop raids

By OSKAR GARCIA

Associated Press Writer  
OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — The United Food and Commercial Workers International Union wants a federal judge to stop immigration officials from conducting what the union calls illegal workplace raids.

A lawsuit to be filed Wednesday morning in U.S. District Court in Amarillo alleges that agents unlawfully detained workers and violated their constitutional rights during raids of six

Swift & Co. meatpacking plants in December. The lawsuit also demands that the Department of Homeland Security and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement pay damages to workers.

A copy of the lawsuit was provided to The Associated Press on Tuesday.

ICE officials investigating identity theft arrested 1,297 workers at the plants, but union officials have said more than 12,000 workers were detained against their will during the operation.

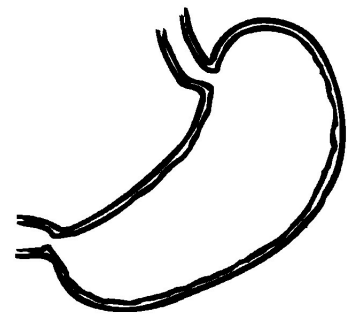
The plants raided were in Cactus, Texas; Grand Island, Neb.; Greeley, Colo.; Hyrum, Utah; Marshalltown, Iowa; and Worthington, Minn.

Union president Joseph Hansen planned to formally announce the lawsuit at a news conference Wednesday in Washington, and to complain that workers who weren't accused of breaking any laws were handcuffed and held for hours and denied access to phones, bathrooms, legal counsel and their families.

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2002 Ford Mustang Coupe 2D - Stk# H087A. Was \$9,995.....NOW \$8,995	2006 Buick Lucerne CX Sedan - Stk# H058. Was \$20,995.....NOW \$19,995	2006 Chevrolet 1500 PU Ext. Cab - Stk# H172. Was \$26,995.....NOW \$25,995
2003 Ford Mustang Coupe 2D - Stk# H156. Was \$11,995.....NOW \$10,995	2004 Pontiac GTO Coupe - Stk# H089. Was \$21,495.....NOW \$20,495	2005 GMC Sierra 1500 Pickup - Stk# H118. Was \$27,495.....NOW \$26,495
2004 Pontiac Grand AM SE Sedan 4D - Stk# H099. Was \$11,995.....NOW \$10,995	2004 Nissan Maxima SE Sedan - Stk# H035. Was \$22,995.....NOW \$21,995	2005 Chevrolet Silverado 2500 Pickup - Stk# 044. Was \$31,995.....NOW \$30,995
2005 Ford Focus ZX4 Sedan - Stk# P252A. Was \$12,495.....NOW \$11,495	2006 Buick Lucerne CXL Sedan 4D - Stk# H020. Was \$25,495.....NOW \$24,495	★ SUV's ★
2005 Chevrolet Impala Sedan 4D - Stk# H092A. Was \$9,995.....NOW \$11,995	2006 Mazda RX-8 Coupe - Stk# H070. Was \$27,995.....NOW \$26,995	2002 Chevrolet TrailBlazer - Stk# H125. Was \$12,995.....NOW \$11,995
2006 Chevrolet Cobalt LS Coupe - Stk# H128. Was \$12,995.....NOW \$11,995	2007 Cadillac CTS Sedan 4D - Stk# H167. Was \$28,495.....NOW \$27,495	2004 Ford Explorer 4D - Stk# H159. Was \$14,995.....NOW \$13,995
2006 Chevrolet Cobalt LS Coupe - Stk# H152. Was \$12,995.....NOW \$11,995	2007 Cadillac DTS Sedan - Stk# H143. Was \$40,995.....NOW \$39,995	2006 Chevrolet HHR LS SW 4D - Stk# P253. Was \$15,995.....NOW \$14,995
2005 Chrysler Sebring Coupe - Stk# H098. Was \$12,995.....NOW \$11,995	2007 Cadillac DTS Sedan - Stk# H145. Was \$40,995.....NOW \$39,995	2005 Buick Rendezvous CX - Stk# H101. Was \$16,995.....NOW \$15,995
2006 Chrysler PT Cruiser Touring - Stk# H102. Was \$15,495.....NOW \$12,495	★ TRUCKS ★	2004 Chevrolet Tahoe - Stk# H120. Was \$19,995.....NOW \$18,995
2004 Ford Mustang Coupe 2D - Stk# H157. Was \$15,495.....NOW \$12,495	2005 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 PU HD - Stk# H095A. Was \$15,995.....NOW \$14,995	2007 Chevrolet Equinox 4D - Stk# H166. Was \$12,995.....NOW \$18,995
2002 Buick Park Avenue Sedan 4D - Stk# H142A. Was \$15,995.....NOW \$12,995	2005 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 Ext. - Stk# H127. Was \$16,995.....NOW \$15,995	2005 Ford Explorer Sport Trac - Stk# H105. Was \$20,495.....NOW \$19,495
2006 Chevrolet Malibu LT Sedan - Stk# H146. Was \$12,995.....NOW \$12,995	2006 Dodge 1500 Pickup SB - Stk# H151. Was \$19,995.....NOW \$18,995	2006 Pontiac Torrent 4D - Stk# H160. Was \$20,495.....NOW \$19,495
2006 Chevrolet Cobalt LT Sedan - Stk# H150. Was \$14,495.....NOW \$13,495	2004 GMC Sierra 1500 Pickup Crew - Stk# H024. Was \$19,995.....NOW \$18,995	2006 Chevrolet Equinox AWD - Stk# H106. Was \$20,995.....NOW \$19,995
2006 Ford Taurus SEL Sedan - Stk# H085. Was \$15,495.....NOW \$14,495	2005 Nissan Titan SE Crew Cab - Stk# H170. Was \$20,995.....NOW \$19,995	2007 Chevrolet Equinox - Stk# H141. Was \$21,495.....NOW \$20,495
2006 Hyundai Sonata GLS Sedan - Stk# H086. Was \$15,995.....NOW \$14,995	2006 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 CC - Stk# H067. Was \$22,995.....NOW \$21,995	2004 Chevrolet Tahoe 4D - Stk# H161. Was \$25,495.....NOW \$24,495
2006 Chevrolet HHR LS Sport Wagon - Stk# H103. Was \$15,995.....NOW \$14,995	2006 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 Pickup - Stk# H064. Was \$20,995.....NOW \$19,995	2007 Pontiac Solstice Convertible - Stk# H171. Was \$26,995.....NOW \$25,995
2005 Chevrolet Impala Sedan 4D - Stk# H169. Was \$15,495.....NOW \$14,495	2004 Chevrolet Silverado 2500 Pickup - Stk# H112. Was \$23,495.....NOW \$22,495	2006 Chevrolet Avalanche 1500 - Stk# H150. Was \$27,495.....NOW \$26,495
2006 Chevrolet Malibu LT Sedan 4D - Stk# H149. Was \$15,495.....NOW \$14,495	2006 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 Pickup - Stk# H074. Was \$23,995.....NOW \$22,995	2005 Chevrolet Suburban 2WD Z71 - Stk# H124. Was \$27,495.....NOW \$26,495
2006 Chevrolet Impala LT Sedan - Stk# H129. Was \$17,495.....NOW \$16,495	2006 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 Pickup - Stk# H073. Was \$23,995.....NOW \$22,995	2005 Lincoln Aviator 4D - Stk# H158. Was \$27,995.....NOW \$26,995
2004 Nissan Maxima SE Sedan - Stk# P247. Was \$18,495.....NOW \$17,495	2004 Nissan Titan SE Crew Cab - Stk# H082. Was \$23,995.....NOW \$22,995	2007 Cadillac SRX - Stk# H140. Was \$35,995.....NOW \$34,995
2006 Buick LaCrosse CXL Sedan - Stk# H019. Was \$18,495.....NOW \$17,495	2007 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 Pickup - Stk# H072. Was \$24,995.....NOW \$23,995	2007 Chevrolet Tahoe 4D - Stk# H165. Was \$36,495.....NOW \$35,495
	2007 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 Pickup - Stk# H050. Was \$24,995.....NOW \$23,995	2007 Cadillac Escalade 4D - Stk# H164. Was \$48,995.....NOW \$47,995

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# ▶ News in brief

## AP: Officials say Bush will adopt general's recommendations on troop withdrawals

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush will tell the nation Thursday evening that he plans to reduce the American troop presence in Iraq by as many as 30,000 by next summer but will condition those and further cuts on continued progress, The Associated Press has learned.

In a 15-minute address from the White House at 9 p.m. EDT, Bush will endorse the recommendations of his top general and top diplomat in Iraq, following their appearance at two days of hearings in Congress, administration officials said. The White House plans to issue a written status report on the troop buildup on Friday, they said.

The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because Bush's speech is not yet final. Bush was rehearsing and polishing his remarks even as the U.S. commander in Iraq, Gen. David Petraeus, and U.S. Ambassador Ryan Crocker were presenting their arguments for a second day on Capitol Hill.

In the speech, the president will say he understands Americans' deep concerns about U.S. involvement in Iraq and their desire to bring the troops home, they said. Bush will say that, after hearing from Petraeus and Crocker, he has decided on a way forward that will reduce the U.S. military presence but not abandon Iraq to chaos, according to the officials.

## Senate takes up toy safety today, with heads of Mattel and Toys 'R' Us due to testify

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate takes up toy safety today, days after Mattel announced a third recall of lead-tainted toys from China. The head of Mattel will appear in front of a Senate panel, along with the CEO of Toys "R" Us and the acting chairwoman of the Consumer Product Safety Commission, Nancy Nord, who says the toy industry has to be more proactive in finding out what's being used to make toys.

Meanwhile, Sen. Amy Klobuchar of Minnesota has introduced legislation that would treat any lead in

children's products as a banned hazardous substance. Yesterday, China agreed to prohibit the use of lead paint in toys exported to the U.S.

Appearing before a subcommittee of the Senate Appropriations Committee today are:

- CPSC Acting Chairman Nancy Nord
- Commissioner Thomas Moore

## Brookings study finds demographic shift in New Orleans

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — New Orleans is narrowly retaining a black majority after Hurricane Katrina, according to a study released Wednesday by The Brookings Institution.

The study determined that while blacks left the city at a much faster rate than whites, New Orleans was still 58 percent black during 2006. Before Katrina, which hit Aug. 29, 2005, the city was 67 percent black, according to the U.S. census.

"It's certainly still a predominantly African-American city," said William Frey, a demographer and senior fellow at Washington, D.C.-based Brookings. "Speculation that there was not going to be a black majority in the city is not true, according to these estimates."

While several studies have examined utility hookups and postal deliveries to estimate the population that has returned to New Orleans since Katrina, The Brookings Institution study is the first comprehensive look at the shifting demographics since the storm.

Through a special arrangement with the U.S. Census Bureau, Brookings gleaned statistics from new census data also released Wednesday that the institution called a "fuller picture on who moved out and who is coming back."

## Embattled Japanese Prime Minister Abe announces he will resign

TOKYO (AP) — Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe announced Wednesday he will resign, ending a troubled year-old government that has suffered a string of

damaging scandals and a humiliating electoral defeat.

Abe said he was quitting to pave the way for ruling and opposition parties to work together to approve the extension of Tokyo's naval mission in support of the U.S.-led operation in Afghanistan.

"In the present situation it is difficult to push ahead with effective policies that win the support and trust of the public," Abe said in a nationally televised news conference. "I have decided that we need a change in this situation."

Abe, a nationalist whose support rating has plunged to 30 percent, also cited the ruling party's defeat in July 29 elections, in which the opposition took control of the upper house of Parliament.

## Inspectors head to North Korea's nuclear facilities

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — A team of inspectors from the United States, China and Russia headed Wednesday to North Korea's main nuclear facilities to study how to permanently disable them so that the communist country can no longer produce atomic bombs.

The delegates arrived Tuesday in the North Korean capital, Pyongyang, ahead of their inspection tour 60 miles north in Yongbyon to determine how to disable facilities there under a February international accord.

Their findings will be reported to chief delegates at six-nation nuclear talks, which are expected to convene later this month to finalize a timeline for further steps in the North's nuclear disarmament.

U.S. State Department official Sung Kim told reporters in Pyongyang that it was not yet certain which of the North Korean facilities would be inspected, adding that the team would possibly return Thursday to Pyongyang, broadcaster APTN reported.

The North in July shut down its sole operating reactor at Yongbyon, which produced plutonium for bombs and is being monitored by the International Atomic Energy Agency.

The Yongbyon site also includes facilities for reprocessing nuclear fuel from the reactor.

# Life expectancy climbs to 78 years, longest ever

By MIKE STOBBE

AP Medical Writer

ATLANTA (AP) — The life expectancy for Americans is nearly 78 years, the longest in U.S. history, according to new government figures from 2005 released Thursday.

That age, based on the latest data available, was still lower than the life span in more than three dozen other countries, however.

More bad news: The annual number of U.S. deaths rose from 2004 to 2005, a depressing uptick after the figure had dropped by 50,000 from 2003 to 2004. In 2005, the number of deaths increased by about that same amount.

U.S. life expectancy at birth inched up to 77.9 from the previous record, 77.8, recorded for 2004. The increase was more dramatic in contrast with 1995, when life expectancy was 75.8, and 1955, when it was 69.6.

The improvement was led by a drop in deaths from heart disease and stroke — two of the nation's leading killers, according to the National Center for Health Statistics, which released the new life expectancy report Wednesday.

"If death rates from certain leading causes of death continue to decline, we should continue to see improvements in life expectancy," said Hsiang-Ching Kung, in a prepared statement. Kung is a survey statistician who co-authored the report.

The report also described a slight increase in the infant mortality rate, from 6.8 per 1,000 live births in 2004 to 6.9 in 2005. But researchers said the increase was not statistically significant.

The report is based on about 99 percent of the death records reported in all 50 states and the District of Columbia for 2005.

A final report will be released later, and the numbers may change a little. Last year, when releasing its preliminary death data for 2004, the government reported a 77.9 life expectancy. That figure later dropped to 77.8 in the final report.

In the 2005 preliminary report, researchers counted 2,447,910 deaths, up about 2 percent from the 2,397,615 in 2004.

The 2004 count had been a 2 percent drop from 2003 — the biggest decline in nearly 70 years.

Researchers also noted continued differences by race and sex. Life expectancy for whites in 2005 was 78.3, the same as it was in 2004. Black life expectancy rose from 73.1 in 2004 to 73.2 in 2005, but it was still nearly five years lower than the white figure.

Life expectancy for women continues to be five years longer than for

men, the report also found.

The age-adjusted death rate for heart disease dropped from 217 deaths per 100,000 in 2004 to about 210 in 2005, and actual deaths dropped from about 652,500 to about 649,000. The stroke rate dropped from 50 per 100,000 to about 46.5, and the number of stroke deaths dropped from about 150,000 to 143,500.

But the count of cancer deaths rose from about 554,000 to about 559,000, according to the report.

And there were 5 percent increases in the rates for Alzheimer's disease, the No. 7 leading cause of death, and for Parkinson's disease, which was No. 14.

The United States continues to lag behind at least 40 other nations. Andorra, a tiny country in the Pyrenees mountains between France and Spain, has the longest life expectancy, at 83.5 years, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. Japan, Macau, San Marino and Singapore ranked second, third, fourth and fifth.



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