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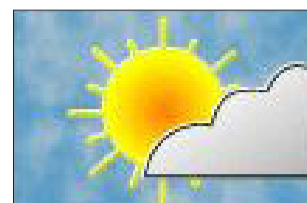
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BIG SPRING HERALD

TUESDAY

JUNE 17, 2008



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Stanton ISD project on steady track

Trustees will convene later this month

By **STEVE REAGAN**

Staff Writer

STANTON — School officials here are busy putting final plans together to turn \$9 million in bonds into new buildings.

Stanton ISD voters approved \$9 million in new construction projects in May and officials have been busy since then laying the preliminary groundwork before the projects are actually up and running.

The projects approved by voters include a new auditorium, tennis courts and science labs at the high school and a wing of new classrooms at the elementary campus.

Superintendent David Carr said no concrete start date for the projects can be set until trustees formally sell the bonds and deal with a variety of preliminary matters in the coming months.

The bonds are scheduled to be sold when the school board meets later this month. The next priority, naming a construction manager for the overall project, will be handled in

See **SISD**, Page 3A



HERALD file photo
Fireworks burst over the Comanche Trail Park Amphitheater during the 2007 Pops in the Park symphony and fireworks show. The 2008 edition is shaping up well.

Pops funding tops midpoint of \$40,000 goal

By **BILL McCLELLAN**

News Editor

Half way ... or a little more.

The Big Spring Fourth of July Foundation was pleased to announce Monday that between \$24,000 and \$25,000 in



Hansen

donations have been received for the annual "Pops in the Park" concert and fireworks show. The goal needed to put on the extravaganza is \$40,000.

"We're over half way there, so we're real pleased about that," said Jan Hansen, president of the Fourth of July Foundation. "Of course, we're still needing donations. We don't want to discourage anyone. It's a great show and we are able to make it free to the public by means of some generous corporations, businesses, organizations and individuals."

Each year, the foundation tries to put together a little something different and this year is no exception.

Donations are being received at the Chamber office or by mail at P.O. Box 1391

Vocal Trash, well known for their humor as well as musical skills, will open the concert, which is held at the Comanche Trail Park Amphitheater.

"We're going to have some special activities, too, but the public is going to have to come out to the park that night to see them. It's a secret," Hansen said with a laugh.

One activity that isn't being kept secret is a tribute to service men and women. In fact, the foundation is asking community members who have loved ones serving in the military to share photographs of their soldiers, sailors and airmen.

"For several years now we've had a video salute to our local men and women

See **POPS**, Page 3A

McCain, Obama offer different visions on taxes

By **LIZ SIDOTI**

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Make more than \$250,000 a year? Watch out. Barack Obama wants to raise your income

taxes. Social Security taxes, too.

Run a corporation? Lucky you. John McCain wants to cut your business taxes.

Those positions illustrate pieces of two vastly different approaches to the economy, an issue at the forefront of voters' minds given that the country is teetering on the brink of — if not already in — a recession as gas prices soar and layoffs rise amid a credit crisis and a housing slump.

Obama, the Democrat, seemingly has a traditional liberal outlook of taxing the rich more while helping the government help people of more modest means through tax breaks. McCain, the Republican, advocates a classic conservative vision of cutting taxes — many geared

toward businesses — to promote competition within a free-market system.

Neither plan is cheap.

The Tax Policy Center, a nonpartisan joint project of the Brookings Institution and the Urban Institute, gives a preliminary estimate that over the next decade, McCain's tax proposals would reduce federal revenues \$3.7 trillion while Obama's cuts would amount to \$2.7 trillion.

The center said the cuts would slice roughly 10 percent and 7 percent, respectively, of the federal revenues scheduled for collection under current law. But the center's estimate — seemingly the first nonpartisan comprehensive comparison of the plans — is incomplete because it doesn't account for health

See **TAXES**, Page 3A



Courtesy photo

Cornell Companies Inc. is a sponsor of the 75th annual Cowboy Reunion and Rodeo for the first time this year. To help the employees get in the rodeo spirit, non-uniformed employees were encouraged to wear their western clothes to work this week. Trevino Tapia, unit manager at Flightline, went one step further and rode to work Monday morning on his horse. Cornell plans a cook-out Thursday with a dessert contest and ticket give-a-ways.

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IN BRIEF

Big Spring Little League All-Star teams

Big Spring Little League baseball has announced their all-star teams in three divisions.

All-star 9-10

Dylan Ross, Astros; Joshua Gutierrez, Astros; Hunter Wigington, Athletics; Mani Villa, Athletics; Mason Coor, Cardinals; Matthew Wood, Dodgers; Bryson Burt, Minor Braves; Alex Byrd, Rangers; Jesse Cervantes, Red Sox; Blaze Yeater, Minor Braves; Bryce Gartman, Minor Braves; Jacob Scott (alternate), Dodgers; Lorenzo Jones, Dodgers.

All-star 10-11

Garrett Kilgora, Astros; Matthew Yanez, Astros; Kade Fannin, Cardinals; Ryan Pearson, Cardinals; Adam Franco, Rangers; Hunter Hill, Red Sox; Tyran Sealy, Red Sox; Matt Beal, Rockhounds; Tyler Bryan, Yankees; Blake Letcher, Rangers; Gary Watkins, Rangers; Jacob Davis (alternate), Athletics; Mike Pappajohn (alternate), Yankees.

All-star 12

Devin Roberson, Athletics; Austin Mize, Rangers; Brandon Warner, Rangers; Clayton Galloway, Rangers; Jesse Cantu Jr., Rangers; Blaise Coffman, Red Sox; Sagar Patel, Red Sox; Hagan Rodriguez, Rockhounds; Matthew Mims, Rockhounds; Anthony Slate, Yankees; Tobby Tannehill, Yankees; Tyler Evans (alternate), Cardinals; Nicolas Escovedo (alternate), Red Sox.

BSGSA holding 5th Annual Co-ed Ragball Tourney

The Big Spring Girls Softball Association is having its 5th Annual Co-ed Ragball Tournament Friday through Sunday at the Roy Anderson Complex.

Cost is \$110 per team with an eight-game guarantee.

Register at the complex between 5:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. Friday. Games start at 7 p.m. on the same date.

For more information contact Rodney Jones at 213-3750.

Sandlot boys softball team raising funds

The Big Spring Sandlot boys softball team is on a quest to reach the Youth Slow Pitch World Series in Fayetteville, Ark., and is asking for the assistance of the community.

The team will be holding two carwashes over the next two weeks, hoping to raise funds for their trip.

The first carwash is set for 8 a.m. Saturday at Wal-Mart. The second is at 8 a.m. June 28 at Advance Auto Parts.

Advance will also be donating a hydraulic

See **BRIEFS**, Page 2B

Learn to celebrate like a pro from T.O.

By **JAIME ARON**

AP Sports Writer

IRVING — Like many NFL players, Terrell Owens is running a football camp for kids this summer.

Others, however, don't have the caliber of counselors Owens is bringing in.

Want to run faster? Former 100-meter world record-holder Maurice Greene will teach that.

Need life skills? Michael Irvin is expected to offer advice on how to avoid the mistakes he made; perhaps Adam "Pacman" Jones, too.

How about some tips on scoring touchdowns and celebrating them? T.O. will gladly handle those topics himself.

"It's going to be a fun time," Owens said. "And an educational time for them, as well."

This will be the third year Owens runs a camp in the Dallas area, but the first time he's tapped into his address book for celebrity sizzle.

Considering he just signed a \$34 million contract extension with the Cowboys, Owens certainly isn't doing it for the money — \$195 per child age 7 to 17, for the two-

day event, July 9-10.

Owens said he's simply doing it to become more active in the community.

"It's just something that goes hand-in-hand with my solidifying where I'll be the next four years," Owens said recently in an interview with The Associated Press. "It's really just me giving back, part of what I'm supposed to do. ... I just feel like it's part of my duty. It goes with the Scripture — to whom much is given, much is required."

When Owens moved to Dallas in 2006, many fans still despised him

for anti-Cowboys antics while playing for San Francisco and Philadelphia. Although he was productive that first season, his stats were overshadowed by an accidental overdose and squabbles with the coaching staff, leaving some folks still leery about him going into 2007.

Owens responded with a record-setting season filled with praise for his positive approach. Team owner Jerry Jones reciprocated with the new contract, tying Owens to the team, and the area,

See **CAMP T.O.**, Page 2B

Woods outlasts Mediate in playoff

Woods claims third U.S. Open, 14th major

By **EDDIE PELLIS**

AP National Writer

SAN DIEGO — He worked overtime, and when that wasn't enough, he worked a little more.

This U.S. Open playoff was anything but the blowout it could have been, and when Tiger Woods adds them all up at the end of his remarkable career, the championship he won Monday might be the sweetest of all.

Definitely the most painful.

An 18-hole playoff wasn't enough to decide a champion, so Woods and the unflappable Rocco Mediate went one more hole, where Woods finally prevailed for his 14th major championship.

"The guy's impossible to beat," Mediate said.

Woods did it on a wounded knee that may have actually gotten worse over five days and 91 holes of stress and strain, and laughter and pain, at Torrey Pines. Doctors told him not to play the hilly, 7,600-yard course — longest in major championship history.

No big deal, Woods insisted, even though the grimaces and wincing on his face told a different story.

"You play through it and suck it up and get it done," Woods said.

This one might have come at a cost. Woods said he'd have to shut down his game for a while, refus-

ing to rule out missing the British Open in a month.

But for the moment, he didn't care.

He was too busy delighting in the trophy he held for the first time since 2002 — the U.S. Open has been the toughest of the four majors for Tiger — and in the bright smile of his daughter, Sam Alexis, whom he scooped up after his victory and who didn't want to let go.

"Yeah, I think so," Woods said when asked if this major was his greatest achievement. "It's either this one or my first one. This week had a lot of doubt to it, to be honest with you. I hadn't walked 18 holes until the first round here since Augusta."

The knee injury was just part of the drama in Woods' seventh professional victory at Torrey Pines, the course where he played his first regulation 18-hole round as a kid.

The fight Mediate put up was every bit as memorable.

He came into the week ranked 158, a qualifier who grabbed one of the last seven spots in an 11-man playoff earlier in the month.

He was not part of the conversation when the week began, and even after matching Woods

See **TIGER**, Page 2B



AP photo/Charlie Riedel

Tiger Woods holds up the championship trophy after winning the US Open after a sudden death hole following an 18-hole playoff round with Rocco Mediate at Torrey Pines Golf Course Monday in San Diego.

Back from Cali, Celts have chance to clinch

By **TOM WITHERS**

AP Sports Writer

BOSTON — The Boston Celtics came back from California, not champions and not whole.

They returned from Los Angeles following a long day of travel without the Larry O'Brien trophy and without Ray Allen, who stayed behind to attend to his ill son.

Unable to put the finishing touches on the Los Angeles Lakers and wrap up their first championship since 1986, the Celtics, the NBA's best team since November, flew back across three time zones Monday for a Game 6 they were hoping they wouldn't have to play.

But injuries, another big first-half deficit and a subpar performance by Kevin Garnett cost them in Game 5, a 103-98 loss in the season's final game at Staples Center.

"Not what we wanted," coach Doc Rivers said of the team's stay near the Pacific Ocean. "We wanted two more (wins). Obviously, the blanket was that we get to go home, but we really believed that we could win one of these games. We won one and

we'll take it, but that's obviously not what we want."

The Celtics weren't at full strength for Game 5, missing center Kendrick Perkins with a shoulder injury. Whether he'll play in Game 6 will be a game-time decision, but Boston expects to have Allen available.

The shooting star left the arena immediately following Sunday's game because of a "health issue" with his toddler son, Walker, who underwent medical tests Sunday and Monday. Allen was still at the hospital when the rest of the Celtics arrived in Boston at about 10:30 p.m. EDT Monday, team spokesman Jeff Twiss told The Associated Press.

Allen planned to take an overnight flight so he could play Tuesday night, according to Twiss.

Earlier, the Celtics waited at LA International Airport for their flight, which was delayed by mechanical problems. Another plane was brought in for the trip.

Their title was postponed, too.

See **FINALS**, Page 2B



AP photo/Keveork Djanshejian

Boston Celtics forward Paul Pierce (34) reacts as Ray Allen, right, is called for his fifth foul against the Los Angeles Lakers in the second half of Game 5 of the NBA Finals Sunday in Los Angeles. The Lakers won 103-98, sending the series back to Boston for Game 6.

Obituaries

Bess Wright



Bess Wright went to be with the Lord Friday, June 13, 2008. She was surrounded by her family.

Bess was born April 2, 1912, in Lawrenceville, Ill. She was a resident of Odessa since the early 1940s. Bess created a loving and warm home for her extended family and was an excellent cook. She worked with Brownies, Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts and supported her kids many pursuits. She enjoyed her many friends and was involved in Canasta Club, Old Timers Club, Christian Women's Club and the Knife and Fork Club.

Bess was the oldest living survivor of Second Baptist Church. She loved her church family and her pastor, Randy Duckett.

Bess is survived by her sons, Gary O'Rear of Odessa, Eddie O'Rear and his wife Terry of Fairbanks, Ark., and Greg Wright and his wife Joni of Odessa; her daughter Debra Seal and husband Byron of Big Spring. She is also survived by her 10 grandchildren, Dirk, Brad, Mark and Brian O'Rear, Kim Mitchell, Shawn O'Rear, Hayden O'Rear, Shandy Scott, Toby Matthew and Justin Matthews, Darrell Wright, and Darby Stehling. She also has 14 great-grandchildren.

Bess was preceded in death by her loving husband of 27 years, Bob N. Wright, and Oren O'Rear, and Bobby D. Wright.

Memorials may be made to Second Baptist Church 711 East 17th Street, Odessa 79761. A special thanks goes to the wonderful caring staff of Home Hospice.

Funeral services will be at noon Tuesday, June 17, 2008, at Second Baptist Church with the Rev. Randy Duckett officiating. Interment will follow at Ector County Cemetery.

Services are entrusted to Frank W. Wilson Funeral Directors.

Paid Obituary

Clayton Merle Coffman



Clayton Merle Coffman, 57, of Big Spring, died Saturday, June 14, 2008, in Martin County. Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Thursday, June 19, 2008, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel with the Rev. Elwin Collom, pastor of Hillcrest Baptist Church, officiating.

The family will receive friends from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Wednesday at the funeral home.

He was born Feb. 26, 1951, in Big Spring and married Joyce Robertson Oct. 20, 1989, in Big Spring.

He had worked as a driller in the oil field and then in construction. He was a member of First Baptist Church in Coahoma and had served in the United States Navy.

Survivors include his wife, Joyce Coffman of Big Spring; two sons, Christopher Clayton Coffman and wife Courtney of Abilene and Dalton Shane Coffman of Big Spring; two daughters, Tammy Kay Lockhart and Dana Rachel Lockhart, both of Big Spring; his mother, Juanita Coffman of Big Spring; four brothers, Jacky Don Coffman, Michael Dalton Coffman and Leslie Wade Coffman, all of Big Spring and James Henry Coffman of Hurst; two sisters, Rebecca Marie Norris of Alvin and Regina Colleen Swafford of Big Spring; and eight grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his father, Jack Dalton Coffman; two brothers, his twin, Clifton Earl Coffman and Wesley Carl Coffman.

Arrangements are under the direction of Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring. Online condolences can be made at: www.npwelch.com

Nate Chavez

Nate Chavez, 80, of Big Spring died Monday, June 16, 2008, at Hospice House in Odessa. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Support Groups

TUESDAY

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

• Life Recovery, a non-denominational Christian group of recovering alcoholics and addicts, meets at 7 p.m. at the St. Paul Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall.

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

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

WEDNESDAY

• RSD (Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy, a chronic pain disease), a new support and informative group meets at 213 Circle. Call Lucy at (432) 517-9207 for more information.

THURSDAY

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

FRIDAY

• AA open discussion meeting from noon until 1 p.m. at 605 Settles.

Dwite M. Gilliland



Dwite M. Gilliland, 87, a retired electrical contractor (Gilliland Electric), died June 14, 2008. He was born March 25, 1921, in Tolar. He graduated from Big Spring High School and he served in the Army Air Corps from 1942 to 1946. On Nov. 1, 1946, he married Shirley Hatcher, who preceded him in death. He married Luella Stine in 1990.

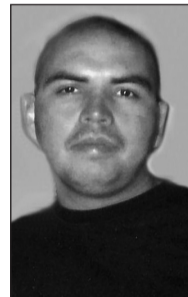
Graveside services will be held at St. Mary Magdeline Cemetery in Brackettville. In lieu of flowers, the

family has requested that memorials be made to any Hospice organization or the American Cancer Society.

Survivors include his wife, Luella; children Emily Giles and Kathy Daily, both of Mansfield, Peggy Kaniho of Albuquerque, N.M., Rick Gilliland of Trophy Club, Terri Ford of Burleson and Joe Gilliland of Liberty Hills; 13 grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by one grandson.

Danny 'Chaka' Rodriguez



Danny "Chaka" Rodriguez, 33, of Big Spring died Friday, June 13, 2008, in Midland. Vigil services will be at 7 p.m. Tuesday at Myers & Smith Chapel led by Deacon Johnny Arguello. Funeral services will be at 10 a.m. Wednesday at Sacred Heart Catholic Church with the Rev. Bernard L. Gully officiating. Burial will be at Coahoma Cemetery.

He was born May 17, 1975, in Big Spring. He worked for Big Dog Drilling Company. He was a lifetime resident of Big Spring and was a Catholic.

He is survived by his wife, Valerie Rivera of Big Spring; one daughter, Chasity Rodriguez of Big Spring; father, Alfonso Rodriguez of Big Spring; five brothers, David Rodriguez of Grand Prairie, Ernest Rodriguez and Ralph Rodriguez, both of Big Spring, Johnny Rodriguez of Arlington and Roy Rodriguez of Lubbock; six sisters, Mary Garcia of Arlington, Sally Solis, Irene Mier, Christine Gonzales, Lisa Rios, and Sue Ellen Rodriguez, all of Big Spring.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Rosalinda Rodriguez; and three brothers, Alfonso Rodriguez, Danny Rodriguez and Rudy Rodriguez.

Arrangements are by Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Pay your respects online at www.myersandsmith.com

Lavada Hale

Mrs. Lavada Hale, age 86, of Westbrook died Friday, June 13, 2008, in a local hospital. Services were held at 3 p.m. Monday in the Kiker-Seale Chapel with Archie Scarborough officiating. Burial was in the Westbrook Cemetery under the direction of Kiker-Seale Funeral Home.

Mrs. Hale was born June 30, 1921, in Eastland County to George and Ruby Mae Penn Moore. She married Floyd Hale Sept. 1, 1946, in Roscoe. He preceded her in death Feb. 9, 2005. She was a homemaker and a member of the Plainview Church of Christ.

Sue is survived by three daughters, Donna Ginkinger, Diane Petty and Pansy Fernandez, all of Westbrook; three sons, Donnie Hale, Eddie Hale and Ray Hale, all of Westbrook; two sisters, Nelda Watts and Lucille King, both of Coahoma; a brother, Lee Moore of Paige; 15 grandchildren; 16 great-grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

She is also preceded in death by her parents; a son, Wendell Hale; a sister, Bernice Ferguson; four brothers, J.W. Moore, Ed Moore, Marlin Moor and Alvin Moore; and a great-grandson, Jason Ginkinger.

Paid obituary

Take Note

• Big Spring High School is offering TAKS Tutoring for Exit-Level TAKS re-test. Science tutorials are currently underway. Math tutorials will begin Wednesday at 8 a.m. at the high school. Contact Molly Morris, high school counselor, at 264-3641, ext. 133, for additional information.

• June is Prostate Cancer Awareness Month. Any group that would like to see a program on the topic can contact Bill Birrell at 263-0659. He has an 18-minute American Cancer Society VCR tape edited by Sidney Poitier.

• Mobile Meals needs volunteers to deliver meals Monday through Friday between 9 a.m. and 10 a.m. The organization delivers approximately 70 meals each day and needs drivers to donate just one hour per week. Mobile Meals also needs back-up volunteers to fill in when regular drivers can't make it. For more information, contact Macaria Cantu at 263-4016.

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

• The purpose of life is a life of purpose. Join Nurses' Hospice of Big Spring volunteer program and become an "Angel" or "Teen Angel" in someone's life today. Come by 1008 E. Third St. or call (432) 517-4073 to register.

• Bring joy and kindness to others by becoming a Compass Hospice volunteer. Help those at the end of life's journey. Make a difference in someone's life. Call 263-5999 to begin your journey.

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Wed 6/18	Thu 6/19	Fri 6/20	Sat 6/21	Sun 6/22
97/71 A few thunderstorms in the morning. Mostly sunny skies during the afternoon.	100/72 Mix of sun and clouds. Highs 98 to 102F and lows in the low 70s.	96/71 Plenty of sun. Highs in the mid 90s and lows in the low 70s.	96/71 Times of sun and clouds. Highs in the mid 90s and lows in the low 70s.	100/72 Partly cloudy. Highs 98 to 102F and lows in the low 70s.
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Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity.

CAROLINE S. CUELLAR, 40, transient, was arrested for driving while license expired.

JONATHAN MATT MATA, 23, of 1313 Virginia, was arrested for public intoxication.

PHILIP GARCIA, 32, of 1514 Sycamore, was arrested on four local warrants.

RANDY RAY MEIR, 31, transient, was arrested for public intoxication.

GARY SIDBERRY, 29, of 1501 Sycamore, was arrested for a New Mexico warrant.

ANTHONY A. LEWIS, 37, of 904 E. 12, was arrested for assault by contact and possession of drug paraphernalia.

ASSAULT BY CONTACT was reported in the 1900 block of Highway 87.

ASSAULT BY THREATS was reported in the 2100 block of Gregg.

ASSAULT CLASS C/FAMILY VIOLENCE was reported in the 3200 block of Drexel.

THEFT was reported in the 1800 block of Gregg.

Sheriff's report

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

Note - Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 71 inmates at the time of this report.

TYRE COLE WATTS, 23, was transferred by BSPD Monday after being arrested on a parole violation warrant.

ANTHONY EUGENE TREVINO, 22, was transferred by BSPD Monday on charges of driving while license invalid and probation violation.

JOHNNY LARA, 43, was transferred by the BSPD Monday on charges of bail jumping and failure to appear, and parole violation.

ALBERTO MATA RIVAS, 50, was transferred by the BSPD Monday on charges of violation of protective order.

GARY KINLOYD SIDBERRY, 29, was transferred by the BSPD Monday on a New Mexico warrant charging attempt to commit trafficking by distribution of narcotics.

Fire/EMS

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

MEDICAL was reported on the 2000 block of Virginia. One person was transported to SMMC.

TRAUMA was reported on the 7000 block of Longshore. One person was transported to SMMC.

TRAUMA was reported on the 1800 block of Wallace. One person was transported to SMMC.

MEDICAL was reported on the 2500 block of Dow. One person was transported to SMMC.

MEDICAL was reported on the 1300 block of Colby. One person was transported to SMMC.

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CAMP T.O.

Continued from Page 1B

through 2011.

"I just feel like I'm in a place where I can devote my time and give more myself," Owens said.

When players host camps, they often invite teammates and other friends.

There's usually a trade-off — you come to my camp, I'll come to yours. Owens has extended that open invitation to lots of people, which is why his guest list won't be settled until that first morning at Duncanville High School.

Greene, meanwhile, said he's definitely coming.

"For him? Yeah, of course," Greene said. "I'm happy to

help."

The pair got to know each other through mutual friends. Now that Greene has given up on trying to make it to a third straight Olympics, he's breaking into coaching.

He said he already holds a speed camp for high school football players on weekends in California.

"All sports are turning to one

thing — speed," Greene said. "Running fast is all about the technique of how to do it. I have to look at the kids, see what they're doing wrong."

Irvin knows about doing wrong, too, using his own life as a lesson in "do as I say, not as I did."

Hearing the same message from Pacman would be interesting, considering he's still trying

to prove that he has straightened out his life and can keep it that way.

"I'm sure those two can be very enlightening to kids who've had a troubled upbringing," Owens said. "(Their stories) show you that you can be successful, even though you make mistakes. It's more powerful when you can hear it from a guy like Michael Irvin."

FINALS

Continued from Page 1B

On Sunday, the Celtics, who once trailed by 19 points, were moments away from an awards ceremony that's now on hold. Instead of hoisting a trophy and spraying champagne, the Celtics returned to New England with more work to do.

Despite the loss, they feel good about their chances of winning a 17th title — on the 17th.

"We're one up, with two games to go at home," said Paul Pierce, who scored 38 in Game 5. "It still feels like we have the advantage, and I do feel like we're the better team."

So the 11th installment of Celtics vs. Lakers, the league's signature rivalry and one of the best in pro sports, has at least

one more 48-minute episode.

After a 21-year gap between finals meetings, these teams aren't quite ready to part company.

Why would they?

Now five games old, this series has had plenty of drama (Pierce's return from a Game 1 knee injury), history (Boston's finals record 24-point comeback in Game 4), surprises (Leon Powe's emergence as a Game 2 star) and even a little scandal as former referee Tim Donaghy's allegations of fixed playoff games has hung over the finals.

The Lakers are trying to become the first team in finals history to overcome a 3-1 deficit to win a title, and they're one step closer. If they can win Game 6 on Tuesday night in Boston, they'll force a Game 7 to cap a season as trying as any in commissioner David Stern's career.

Kobe Bryant and his teammates staved off elimination Sunday by getting more physical with the Celtics, who Tuesday night will play their 26th game of this postseason — a record — and could be wearing down physically.

Bryant has yet to have a blow-out, 40- to 50-point game and doesn't think he needs one for the Lakers to win their title.

"Could I force myself to get 40? Yeah. But is that better for our ballclub? No," Bryant said. "We've got guys open, I'm going to move the ball and do what I need to do."

In Game 5, Los Angeles center Pau Gasol shed his "soft" label for a night and scored 19 points with 13 rebounds, banging his way inside against Garnett, the league's best defender who couldn't push back at the Spaniard while hampered with

fouls.

"Pau was terrific," said Bryant, who set the tone early with 15 first-half points and finished with 25 on 8-of-21 shooting. "He was aggressive. At both ends of the floor he did a great job."

Garnett was disgusted by his game and Boston's big man vowed to make amends when the Celtics get back inside their rowdy house on Causeway Street, where Boston's fans arrive early, party late and treat visitors with little regard.

Lakers, you've been warned. "It's going to be like coming into the Amazon, into the jungle," he said. "I look forward to coming home and playing."

Following the teams' first across-the-U.S.A. trek of the series, Game 3 was one of the sloppiest finals games in recent memory as the Lakers and Celtics battled jet lag and season-

ending fatigue.

With just one day off in the highly debated 2-3-2 format, Boston coach Doc Rivers expects Game 6 to be a struggle.

"It's a terrible turnaround," he said. "It's as tough as you can have. I think going West to East is tougher. Sleep patterns are messed up. It's a tough one. There's no way around it. But both teams have the same issue, so it could come down to a game of mental toughness, who fights the fatigue mentally better than the other group."

But Boston is comforted by being at home, where the Celtics are 12-1 in the postseason, where the parquet-patterned floor soothes any nerves and where the 16 championship banners hanging link the them to their past.

"That," Rivers said, "is not a bad place to be."

TIGER

Continued from Page 1B

through 72 holes, he was the ultimate underdog. This was the golf equivalent of Florida vs. Florida A&M in football, or Roger Federer vs. Aisam-Ul-Haq Qureshi, the 158th ranked player on the tennis tour. Everyone knows how those turn out, right?

But Mediate made this much more than perfunctory, falling behind by three after 10 holes, but making birdies on No. 13, 14 and 15 to draw even, then take a one-stroke lead.

"That hot streak was one of the most impressive things you can have on this golf course," Woods said.

Woods is no quitter, either, of course. "No way I was gonna bag it," he said, commenting on his

pain.

He grinded out pars on 16 and 17 to stay within a shot of Mediate, then on 18, he served up another dose of drama, the likes of which he'd been providing on that hole all week.

After a 340-yard drive to the center of the fairway, he hit safely onto the green to give himself an outside eagle chance in case Mediate made a birdie. Mediate, however, teed off into a bunker and was forced to lay up.

Woods made a safe two-putt for birdie and when Mediate's 20-foot birdie try to win went past the hole, they were headed for sudden-death, which started on the par-4 seventh.

It was pretty much elementary from there — Woods hitting two solid shots to the green, while Mediate teed off into a bunker, then hooked his next shot wildly into the crowd.

The record will show that Woods needed 19 holes to win it on Monday, though maybe he really won it on No. 18 on Saturday ... and Sunday ... and Monday. He walked up to that tee box trailing each day, and made an eagle and two birdies to keep the tournament going.

"It's pressure, there's no doubt about it," he said. "I was nervous. But that means you care. You can try to use that energy as best you can to heighten your focus and then get in the right situation, and it worked out great for me this week."

Woods moved within four majors of tying Jack Nicklaus' record. He joined Nicklaus as the second player to win the career grand slam three times.

"It's hard to believe I've had this nice a run in my career, and hopefully it will continue," he said.

But as much as history, this victory was about this particular moment. It was one of those times when all the accolades — "great," "unbelievable," "best ever" — seemed appropriate, whether they were about Woods or the overall weekend of golf he was part of.

The U.S. Open, with its thick rough and glassy greens, is rarely this good and the 18-hole playoff is a dying breed because it hardly ever produces this kind of drama.

"It's usually one guy plays OK and the other guy plays really not that good," Mediate said. "It seems like today, it was just fun to turn the tables a little bit. I turned the table a little bit."

He'll move about 100 spots in the world ranking and won't have to worry about qualifying for this tournament next year — or the Masters in 2009.

But in the end, he goes

down as a valiant loser and the answer to a trivia question: Who was the first player to lose to Woods in an 18-hole playoff? Or a 19-hole playoff?

There were times when it felt like the week would never end.

Asked how he pushed on despite the pain, Woods talked not about golf, but about workout sessions

with his buddies, way back when.

"We used to always say 'How many more reps do you have?'" Woods recalled. "And the answer was 'Four. Forever.' And that's the idea. You just keep going. And there's no finish line. You keep pushing and pushing and I did that all week."

BRIEFS

Continued from Page 1B

jack and battery charger to be raffled for \$1 a ticket.

If you want to just give a donation, call Ben Flores at 816-1262 or Diane at 264-

0353.

C. G. A. sets scholarship tournament

The Chicano Golf Association is holding their 18th annual scholarship tournament June 28-29 at the Big Spring

Country Club.

The format is a two-person scramble and cost is \$75 per player. Mulligans can be bought for \$5 a piece.

Bob Brock Ford is sponsoring Hole No. 3 Saturday with any participant that hits a hole-in-one receiving a 2008 vehicle.

There are closest-to-pin prizes awarded on holes 3, 7, 13 and 16.

All proceeds for the tournament goes to a scholarship fund for local students.

For more information, call Sammy Reyna at 267-5627 or Gilbert Rodriguez at (432) 853-5504.

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Big Spring Senior Center to offer two-step lessons

Special to the Herald

Country two-step dancing lessons will be presented beginning this Thursday evening from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Big Spring Senior Center, 1901 Simler (the old airbase officers club). The lesson will be taught the first hour, with music played for the second hour for dancing and dance practice.

Everyone 18 and older is welcome. The price of the lesson, DJ dancing, soft drinks and fellowship is \$12 per person, to be paid at the door. No reservations are needed. Each class will be restricted to 30, but other sessions will be scheduled if needed.

With the transfer of ownership and

operation from Howard County to the City of Big Spring, the Reserve and Senior Volunteer Program is moving from 501 Runnels to the Center, and is being expanded to include the operation of the Center. Nancy Jones, RSVP director, is now the director of both the RSVP and the Center. Cheryl McCall is the new coordinator of Center activities.

The Center has arranged with Lane Bond to create the Spring City Dancers and to teach the country two-step class as a beginning, with expansion in mind soon. Classes in country waltz, swing and line dancing should follow in the near future.

POPS

Continued from Page 1A

in the military, but for the most part it's just been pictures of them in uniform," Hansen said. "This year, though, we'd like to be able to show pictures of

our military people that show them on duty or off duty where they're stationed ... to give people an idea of just what they're doing and what their lives are like."

Photos can either be e-mailed to Debbye ValVerde at the Big Spring Chamber of Commerce at

debbye@bigspringchamber.com, or they can be dropped off at the chamber office at 215 W. Third St.

Pops is arguably the biggest event in Big Spring each year, drawing thousands to the park. The event features a concert by the Big Spring Symphony

and Chorus with much of it choreographed with the fireworks show.

"Dr. (Keith) Graumann has really planned a wonderful concert. It's really inspiring," said Hansen.

Vendors will furnish plenty of hot dogs, hamburgers, ice cream and other food items, as well as

novelties, drinks and the like.

Vendor booth space is still available. Those interested should contact Becky Crane at 267-5449 or 517-0373. Vendor packets are available at the Chamber of Commerce.

Those interested in making a donation to the

project can do so by contacting Debbye ValVerde at the Chamber at 263-7641 or mail them to the chamber office at P.O. Box 1391, Big Spring 79721-1391.

This year's Pops in the Park is set for Thursday, July 3.

SISD

Continued from Page 1A

July, Carr said.

Then the serious planning can begin. "We know which projects will be in the first phase (of construction)," Carr said. "But until we get the construction manager on board, it would be difficult to

set a timetable."

Carr did say trustees are planning for the projects to be spread out over a three-year period and that first priority is going to construction of the new tennis courts so they can be completed in time for tennis season next spring.

The projects are being phased in gradually so as to limit classroom disruption as much as possible, he noted. For example, the new auditorium

will be completed before the old one is demolished and science labs are built at that site.

Construction on the elementary wing will probably not even begin until next summer. Carr said the project requires heavy machinery and officials don't want to bring that equipment in during the school year.

Some disruption and headaches are inevitable, but Carr believes the finished

product will be more than worth the hassles.

"The planning phase never stops," he said. "But at least there's now the hope we can get things taken care of as soon as possible ... and can look forward to the new structures when they're completed."

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

TAXES

Continued from Page 1A

care tax proposals or, at least in McCain's case, consider how proposals to slash spending would offset some costs.

A crusader against wasteful spending, McCain asserts that he will veto bills that are too costly and cut the federal budget enough to make up for the costs of tax cuts and other proposals, although he has yet to show he can save enough to do it. At the same time, the Republican says that Congress must continue to fund an Iraq war that already has cost more than \$500 billion.

Obama, in turn, has proposed billions of dollars in spending to create jobs and pad government programs aimed at helping the less fortunate. He has said that the money will come from ending the Iraq war, slicing tax breaks for corporations, and raising taxes on high-income earners, efforts he says are intended to shift more of the tax burden to wealthy Americans.

The two candidates have been haggling over the economy for more than a week now and seem to agree only on one point when it comes to it — that they disagree on just about every other point.

"On tax policy, health care reform, trade, government spending, and a long list of other issues, we offer very different choices to the American people," McCain says at every turn.

Concurs Obama: "When it comes to the economy, John McCain and I have a fundamentally different vision of where to take the

country."

Major changes to the tax code are at the heart of both candidates' sweeping economic plans, given that most cuts enacted since President Bush took office expire at the end of 2010 and the alternative minimum tax (AMT) is poised to hit much of the middle class — two years into the next president's first term.

In 2001 and 2003 to jumpstart a lackluster economy, Bush proposed and Congress passed a series of tax cuts — including rate cuts for most taxpayers, increasing to \$1,000 the per-child tax credit, relief from the so-called marriage penalty and estate tax cuts. The AMT was enacted in 1969 to make sure the wealthy paid at least some tax, but it now also threatens about 20 million additional taxpayers — many in the middle class — with levies averaging \$2,000 if Congress doesn't annually renew a so-called patch to fix the problem.

Making permanent Bush's tax cuts and making sure the AMT keeps pace with inflation would have a direct cost of \$3.6 trillion over the next 10 years, according to the Joint Committee on Taxation and Congressional Budget Office estimates, with government borrowing costs rising more than \$800 million over the same period.

McCain, a four-term Arizona senator, twice voted against Bush's tax cuts, probably the significant domestic accomplishment of his presidency, but now embraces them and wants to permanently extend them for low-income and high-income people alike. He also long

has said he would eliminate the AMT, and while some middle-income taxpayers would benefit, so would the wealthy, who no longer would have to pay it.

Obama, the first-term Illinois senator, wasn't in the Senate when they first passed, but he's willing to go along with permanently extending them except for their chief beneficiaries, the rich. Those who make more than \$250,000 a year would see their taxes increase; Bush's tax cuts for them would be rolled back. Obama would extend and index the current AMT patch.

In the vein of taxing the rich more, Obama also supports making some higher wage-earners pay Social Security taxes on more of their income. He has called for higher payroll taxes on wage-earners making more than \$250,000 annually, a step that would affect the wealthiest 3 percent of Americans.

The 6.2 percent payroll tax is now applied to all wages up to \$102,000 a year, which covers the entire amount for most Americans. Under Obama's plan, the tax would not apply to wages between that amount and \$250,000. But Obama has said all annual salaries above the quarter-million-dollar amount would be taxed under his plan.

Conversely, McCain has ruled out higher payroll taxes for now — an adviser says that McCain would not consider an increase "under any imaginable circumstance" — but the Republican has said he would consider "almost anything" as part of a compromise to save the senior citizens' program.

Both want to slice the

estate tax, McCain more so than Obama.

The estate tax is phasing out and is completely eliminated for 2010, but it snaps back to 2001 levels — a 55 percent top rate with the first \$675,000 exempt — at the end of that year. McCain wants a 15 percent rate, and a \$5 million exemption, while Obama advocates a 45 percent rate and a \$3.5 million exemption.

Overall, the Tax Policy Center said people with very high incomes would benefit the most under McCain's proposal, while low- and middle-income taxpayers would see larger tax breaks under Obama's plan and wealthy taxpayers would see their taxes increase.

Seeking to spur growth, McCain proposes cutting the maximum corporate income tax rate from 35 percent to 25 percent, and he would allow businesses to immediately deduct the

full cost of capital business equipment in one swoop, instead of gradually over several years.

McCain also wants to increase the \$3,500 income-tax exemption for dependents by \$500 each year beginning in 2010 until it reaches \$7,000.

Among Obama's other proposals: raising the tax on capital gains and qualified dividends. However, Obama has raised the possibility of deferring some of his tax hikes on the wealthy given the ailing economy.

To help others, Obama has offered a series of tax breaks, including eliminating the income tax for senior citizens who make less than \$50,000 a year and giving a \$1,000 income tax credit for families with income of between \$8,000 and \$75,000; individuals would receive half that amount. Obama also proposes a universal mortgage credit that would

allow people who don't itemize their taxes to be eligible for a 10 percent tax credit of their mortgage interest up to \$800.

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Robert Del Bosque, 82, died Friday. Funeral Mass was at 10 a.m. Tuesday at Sacred Heart Catholic Church with burial at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

Danny Rodriguez, 33, died Friday. Vigil Services will be at 7 p.m. Tuesday at Myers and Smith Chapel. Funeral Service will be at 10 a.m. Wednesday at Sacred Heart Catholic Church with burial at Coahoma Cemetery.

Nate Chavez, 80, died Monday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

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EDITORIAL

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

Ron Midkiff
Publisher

John A. Moseley
Managing Editor

Bill McClellan
News Editor

OUR VIEWS

Woah! Let's rodeo!

It's rodeo week in Howard County and you are invited to take part in the festivities.

This is the 75th edition of the Big Spring Cowboy Reunion and Rodeo, and with the nation's top professional cowboys and cowgirls competing, plus great entertainment inside and outside the arena, it promises to be the best ever.

First things first, though. Thursday, grab up the children about 5 p.m. and snag a spot along Main or Scurry between 11th and the courthouse square. The annual rodeo parade gets under way at 5:30 p.m. and will be a special treat for the youngsters. Bring hats and sunscreen; it's going to be warm — hot even — but fun.

That night, the first of three rodeo performances will get under way at 8 o'clock in the historic Rodeo Bowl. Keep in mind that if you enjoy boot-scootin', your entry ticket will also get you into the fairbarn for a 9:30 p.m. dance to the sounds of Jody Nix and the Texas Cowboys that evening.

The rodeo continues at 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday. Friday's dance will feature Clear Walker and carries a \$10 admission over the entry price. Saturday, headliner Cory Morrow takes the stage. Tickets to that show are \$20. Walker brings lots of excitement and we anticipate this show will be a sellout.

Here's a tip that will save a bit of money, especially for a large family. Tickets to the rodeo are \$10 for adults and \$6 for children at the gate each night. Not bad, but you can pick them up for \$8 and \$4 by purchasing them in advance. You can buy tickets at the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce, Ward's Boot and Saddle, First Bank of West Texas, Compass Bank, Wells Fargo, Citizens FCU, State National Bank and HEB Grocery.

If you have a handful of people and want to watch a lot of rodeo from the best vantage point, the only way to go is to purchase box seats. The \$200 ticket includes all three nights and is good for six people. For more on that, contact Rip Patterson at 267-2435.

We've mentioned the entertainment outside the arena and it's stellar. But you'll want to catch the action inside the bowl as well. Between the bareback riders, roping and barrel racing, you'll be entertained by Tommy Lucia and his specialty act. They've been named the Pro Rodeo Cowboys Association Dress Act of the year for 2003-2005. And if those long pauses in between events that you find at some rodeos annoy you, forget it. Veteran announcer Mike Mathis is among the best in the business and he keeps everything moving faster than a calf fleeing a lasso.

Golfers! Yes, golfers! Whether steer wrestling is your thing or not, you'll want to take part in the festivities by participating in the annual rodeo golf tournament, set for Friday. The four-man scramble has an 8 a.m. shotgun start. Prizes will be furnished by Coors and Justin. The tournament benefits the Cowboy Crisis Fund. For entry information, contact the Big Spring Country Club at 267-5354.

Folks, the rodeo makes for an evening of ohing and ahing, big smiles and a lot of laughter. And you don't have to leave town to experience it. Turn off the TV one evening and get out to where the real action is being held — the Big Spring Rodeo Bowl.

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

With Your help, Lord, we will find the love that will give us rewards that we did not anticipate.
Amen

Seeking lodging in high places

What are super-cautious tourists to do? For some, even selecting hotel rooms is daunting. Historically, many guests have opted for rooms on lower floors, in case of fire.

Now, some of the same people, reading about inner city crane accidents on both coasts, are, uh, thinking higher.

One hotel desk clerk — sure he had heard every possible question — fielded a new one from a New York City visitor who had tip-toed into the city. She said she would check in after he determined the height of the tallest crane at a construction site nearby. He made a phone call that yielded the answer: 310 feet. "I want a room on any floor that's at least 320 feet above the pavement," the tourist demanded..

New York City, the bull's-eye for tourism in the USA, isn't feeling the pinch of a drab economy. Even gasoline pumps — one-armed bandits that are public enemy number one — aren't diminishing the luster of the "Big Apple."

A tourism pro explained the NYC scenario this way: many Americans who typically flock to Europe in the summer months are staying home because the dollar wilts at international monetary exchange counters. So, they're staying home, many of them opting for visits to NYC.

Since Euros are bullies in the American marketplace, Europeans are cashing in on good vacation

deals in the USA. So, NYC is hanging strong in the summer tourism derby.

What a difference a half-century makes! In the 1950's, gasoline priced at 15-20 cents per gallon was common, and many service stations passed out trading stamps with each purchase. (Attendants also threw in free windshield cleanings, and checks of radiator, tire pressure and oil levels.)

Such stamps went the way of the dodo bird three decades ago. Now, automobile dealerships are flooding the ad market with promises of \$2.99 gas for three years, or tanks of the precious fuel for new-car buyers. This is probably not a good time for trading stamps to make a comeback..

Did you see in the papers where Robbie Kniveel — the "Evel" one's son — was successful in his bid to clear 21 Hummers on his airborne motorcycle jump?

Again, timing is everything. If he'd waited a few years, he might have had a hard time finding 21 Hummers to line up!

Oh, and what about that newspaper headline: One called his feat a "Hum-Dinger."

Perhaps everyone is feeling more pressure per square inch in the living of these days.

No one is spared, not even well-known sports personalities. One example is Ron Washington, manager of the Texas Rangers whose job was in peril a short while ago. Dealing with prima donna athletes (some of whom are living, breathing bobble heads) and media on a daily basis, Washington may

soon be linked with Yogi Berra and the late Casey Stengel in the world of fouled-up oral responses.

The other day, he fended off a barbed question with this answer: "Don't expect me to 'validate' that." Perhaps he meant "validate," or maybe "verify." When job pressures squeeze, maybe we're lucky if managers and coaches get a syllable or two right..

A friend lamented the other day that this would be a terrible time for the meek to inherit the earth.

Citing skyrocketing costs across the board, he claims he's not sure how long he can survive in what we've long called a "free enterprise system."

He smiled when he spoke of family friends whose last name is "Card." They named their new-born son "Maxed Out."

We're outta here. The wife and I are heading to New York City for a few days, then board Carnival's Miracle, a renowned cruise vessel. We're eager to see if the water's still wet, the Caribbean still blue, and buffets still lavish.

We trust we'll encounter interesting people and circumstances along the way. If so, we'll write about them later.

Please notice I didn't call this time away a "vacation" and made nary a reference to "well-deserved."

Dr. Newbury is a speaker and author in the Metroplex. For more information on his books or speaking, send email to: newbury@speakerdoc.com or phone: 817-447-3872. Website: www.speakerdoc.com

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Obama flunks another test

It wasn't exactly the news the Obama campaign hoped to make this week: "Obama Aide Quits Under Fire for His Business Ties."

But that was the headline in The New York Times, with variations in other major papers. The aide in question was the head of Barack Obama's vice presidential search committee, Jim Johnson, described by the Washington Post as "a consummate Washington insider."

But the insider is now out, and the flap raises new questions about Obama's judgment. Why is it that Obama surrounds himself with people who carry so much baggage?

You would think that a candidate who has railed against the subprime mortgage business and blamed certain companies by name would steer clear of anyone with ties to that industry or those companies. Yet Obama picked Johnson to head up his vice presidential search committee even though Johnson had previously been CEO of Fannie Mae, the troubled institution that guarantees most home mortgages. Now, it turns out, Johnson received millions of dollars in loans with lower-than-market interest rates from one of Fannie Mae's partners, Countrywide Financial — a company Obama has heavily criticized.

During the Pennsylvania primary, Obama said, "Countrywide Financial was one of the folks,

one of the institutions that was pumping up the subprime lending market and inducing people to take out these subprime loans. These are the folks who are responsible for infecting the economy and helping to create a home foreclosure crisis. Two million people may end up losing their homes." Obama also blamed Countrywide's top two executives, who, he said, paid themselves \$19 million in bonuses as part of the sale of their company.

But when reporters revealed that Johnson had received preferential treatment from Countrywide, Obama's response was, "I am not vetting my VP search committee for their mortgages," and then went on to blame those who raised questions. "This is a game that can be played. Everybody you know who is tangentially related to our campaign I think is going to have a whole host of relationships. I would have to hire the vetter to vet the vetters," he said.

Johnson's departure doesn't end the controversy around Obama's VP search committee, however. One of the other members of the committee, Eric Holder, has his own problems. Holder was the No. 2 man in the Clinton Justice Department and played an important role in a controversial, last-minute presidential pardon of financier Marc Rich. Rich spent nearly two decades as a fugitive dodging charges for federal tax evasion and trading with Iran while that country held U.S. citizens as prisoners. These pardons have been the subject of federal investigations and congressional hearings, tarnishing Holder's reputation.

Yet, Obama picked Johnson and

Holder — along with Caroline Kennedy — to help him make the most critical decision of his political career. (Even the choice of Kennedy is a bit odd — her major qualifications for the role appear to be her famous family name and her gender.) So what are we to think? Either he's been careless — or worse, he's a hypocrite, holding others to standards that he has no intention of requiring his own people to meet.

Carelessness at this stage of a presidential campaign may not be fatal — and hypocrisy is an occupational hazard in politics. Still, there are legitimate questions about Obama's judgment when it comes to picking his associates. He's made disastrous choices in pastors (the Rev. Jeremiah Wright), some political patrons (convicted money launderer Tony Rezko and former Weather Underground member Bill Ayers), and staff.

One of the most important jobs of any president is to make appointments — and Obama's record so far doesn't inspire confidence. He's already botched the process for selecting his vice president. The next test will be whether, even with his flawed committee, Obama can come up with a vice presidential pick who is beyond reproach. He can't afford to flunk this one.

Linda Chavez is the author of "An Unlikely Conservative: The Transformation of an Ex-Liberal." To find out more about Linda Chavez, visit the Creators Syndicate web page at www.creators.com.

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<p>1 By Phone... 263-7331</p>	<p>2 By Fax... 264-7205</p>	<p>3 In Person... 710 Scurry</p>	<p>4 By e-mail... classifieds@ BigSpringHerald.com</p>	<p>5 By Mail... P.O. Box 1431</p>	<p>HERALD</p>
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Bird Poop: Tale of the ravens

Over the years, the lone mesquite had provided shade for cattle, and branches sturdy enough to support a large nest. Across the pasture from the ranch house, the tree was the lone sentry over open grassland as far as one could see.

Without rain, the ranch's view was one of a seemingly endless sea of beige-colored forage.

The monotony of the terrain was broken by the sounds of each spring's arrival.

As a large, black bird added twigs to the existing nest, she took advantage of the efforts of a previous generation. How any bird could find enough materials to build or replenish such a structure was puzzling to the ranch's owner.

Although he had always been a part of this land, his wife had come to accept the uniqueness of this desolate part of New Mexico and its wildlife. For years after they married, she had told her friends they lived in the middle of nowhere. As her love for the country grew, she often referred to their locale as "the corner."



With an insatiable appetite, the Chihuahuan raven, commonly called white-necked, also feasts on dead livestock, road kill, and eggs stolen from other birds. Found in the southwestern United States and Mexico, the bird is approximately 21 inches long with glossy black feathers.

As both watched the bird's numerous journeys for additional bedding, the couple looked forward to yet another successful family. With the parents and their future brood's voracious appetites, rats, mice and grasshoppers would soon disappear for a while.

Keeping them out of her garden, however, was futile. The birds' love of earthworms had led them to her melons and corn. Even the cast-aside produce was greedily devoured. Early morning harvesting seemed the only answer to salvaging her crop.

When the round mass of small limbs and twigs was complete, incubation began. After the female flew out of sight on a scorching afternoon, the rancher climbed through the barbed-wire fence to check on the nest. Inside were five grayish-green eggs with streaks and blotches of brown.

Three weeks later, the mother bird's behavior

changed. Actively seeking food, she had an emerging family to feed. Through binoculars, the couple could see first two beaks, later followed by one, then by two more. Not hatching at the same time, the young would be stair-stepped in their demands for food.

Soon, beaks could be seen resting on the edge of the nest after some of the young had been fed. Once again after the mother had left to search for food, the rancher went to see the nestlings. All mouth, bottom, and featherless, the young birds appeared healthy.

Away from the ranch for a day, the couple did not arrive home until after dark. The next morning they could see some of the nestlings looking skyward. Wondering if they had missed seeing the mother, the couple was more attentive of the nest during the afternoon. Neither saw the usual coming and going of the parent.

By nightfall, they decided to look in the nest. Anticipation turned to horror when they found only two of the five nestlings. Fearing that the remaining ones were in danger from either starvation or a predator, they took the babies to their house.

"Near Jal, in the corner," was the answer I received when the rancher's wife called. Having fed the two white-necked ravens, the woman offered to deliver them to us the next morning.

By the time she arrived, we had thought of several possibilities regarding the disappearance of the three siblings. With the parent away from the nest, an owl, fox, or raccoon might have been the culprit.

Even though the surviving twosome had not developed the white base of feathers on their throats and upper necks, we knew in the future black feathers would cover the identifying characteristic of this specie. Only when ravens are agitated, or ruffled by the wind, would the white be seen.

Because of the couple's intervention, the birds had been spared severe dehydration and starvation. Delivered to South Plains in Lubbock, the ravens would be raised and released back to the wild.

When spring arrived the following year, the couple wondered if

the two birds they had rescued were among those soaring high above the ranch. For years they had enjoyed watching the playful beings plunge downward into swirling "dust devils," only to rise swiftly on the column of

dust, debris, and wind. Wherever they were, the Jal ravens would get to experience their parents' legacy.

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



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DA AUCTIONS
Midland Service Estimated

Combating common dry eye

Dear Savvy Senior,
What all can be done to combat dry eye?
Blinking Bonnie

Dear Bonnie,
While there's currently no cure for dry eye, there are plenty of things you can do to keep your symptoms under control. Here's what you should know.

Dry Eyes
Itching, burning, and even gritty-feeling eyes are among the most



common reasons for visits to the eye doctor – and the older you get, the more likely you are to have these symptoms. The condition, known as dry eye syndrome, affects millions of Americans, most of who are over the age of 40. But discomfort isn't the only issue. Light sensitivity and blurred or fluctuating vision are common symptoms too,

and worse yet, dry eyes are more likely to get scratched or infected, which could damage your vision permanently.

See SENIOR, Page 6A



75TH BIG SPRING COWBOY REUNION RODEO PARADE

5:30 p.m. - Thursday, June 19

Let's make this the biggest and best rodeo parade ever! Award categories include floats, tractors, riding clubs, motorcycle, custom and classic cars and bicycles. First- through third-place entries will receive cash awards of \$100, \$50 and \$25, respectively; while the top entries from the six categories will receive a plaque.

ENTRANT _____

TYPE ENTRY
(Check type)

- Float Riding Club
 Custom/Classic Car
 Bicycle Tractor
 Motorcycle

CONTACT _____
PHONE No. _____

Return entries to the Big Spring Herald, 710 Scurry, no later than noon on Monday, June 16th, then get your boots, hat and western wear ready to join us in the celebration!

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9-year-old enjoys hunting with his dad

By BRAD KEITH

Stephenville Empire-Tribune

STEPHENVILLE (AP) — Standing in a room adorned with more animal trophies than most avid hunters collect in a lifetime, 9-year-old Baylor Brooks recalls his first successful hunt like it was yesterday.

It was only a little bird, says Brooks, shot with a pellet gun when he was only 5 years old.

He was hooked. "I dropped the gun, ran and grabbed the bird and took it straight to my dad," says Brooks.

Brooks, whose mother is Tonya Prorise, has continued sharing his hunting experiences with his father, Tom Brooks. So much so, that Brooks and son have made a long-term commitment to one another.

"It's kind of a father-son bonding type of thing," said Tom. "Our goal over the next 10 years is to bag one of every species of duck that lives on the North American continent."

Sound impossible? Perhaps not.

The 9-year-old has already bagged 12 kinds of duck, and his father is planning a hunt this fall in Arkansas where they will try to bag a wood duck.

Baylor, who says duck hunting is definitely his favorite, has successfully hunted five animal species — duck, dove, quail, turkey and deer.

The Stephenville youth made history when he bagged a buck at the age of 7 years, two months — making him the youngest hunter in Texas to take down a deer with a compound bow.

"I was trying to shoot at a doe," Baylor says, "but it skipped stream and I was left with a shot at the buck."

Baylor says the compound bow was his weapon of choice when he first started to hunt, but he has

since fallen in love with the shotgun.

"The gun has more action," says Tom. "He doesn't have to sit and wait as long."

Baylor says it's the outdoors lifestyle he shares with his father that spurred his love for shooting.

Tom Brooks does business with outdoors companies, including deerchannel.com.

"I've always been a big outdoors guy myself," Tom says, adding that his love of outdoors seemed to make it natural for Baylor to follow suit.

With the help of Dr. Glenn Krum, Baylor has taken his love for shooting to a competitive level. Krum, whom Tom Brooks calls a world-class shooter, offers instruction as well as practice facilities and equipment to local 4-H shooters. With his help, Baylor has proven to be a true contender in his first two competitive events.

Baylor's first competitive shooting came in a 4-H event in Brownwood where he won first place in the junior division of the shotgun competition — Brooks shoots a 12-gauge — and second in compound archery.

In his second event, the 4-H Skeet and Trap Club 2008 Invitational in Kerrville, he placed in four events and had the ninth highest overall average. Brooks was first in the 4-H international trap shoot, fourth in sporting clays, and third in father-son sporting clays.

Tom, a little embarrassed, admits his son out-shot him in the father-son event.

Baylor's best score is 20 hits in 25 shots. He strives for a perfect 25, which Tom says is traditionally cause for a unique celebration.

"When a shooter scores a perfect 25, he throws his hat in the air, and whoever is with him shoots the hat all to pieces," said Tom.

SENIOR

Continued from Page 6A

Why it Happens

People get dry eye syndrome because they either don't produce enough tears to keep their eyes properly lubricated, or because they produce poor quality tears. In some cases dry eye is caused by other medical conditions (such as diabetes, allergies, rosacea, rheumatoid arthritis, lupus and Sjogren's syndrome) and treating these conditions could alleviate the problem. But for other sufferers it can be caused by age (tear production tends to diminish as you age), eye conditions, eyelid problems, certain medications, environmental factors and even LASIK surgery. Dry eye syndrome is also more common in women, especially after menopause.

Remedies

The first step in dealing with dry eyes is to check your lifestyle and surroundings for factors that might be contributing to the problem and make adjustments:

- **Air check:** Furnaces in the winter and air conditioning in the summer dry out the air and can worsen dry eyes. So buy a humidifier and keep your home humidity between 30 and 50 percent. Also keep your eyes away from blowing air — oscillating and ceiling fans, air vents — which add to the problem.

- **Blink:** When you're reading, watching television, or using a computer, take frequent breaks because these activities cause you blink less often.

- **Avoid irritants:** Avoid smoke-filled places and if you swim, wear goggles to cut down exposure to chemicals.

- **Outside protection:** When you go outdoors, use sunglasses that wrap around the sides of your face. This will help you protect yourself better from sun, glare, wind, and dust.

- **Check your meds:** Antihistamines and decongestants,

diuretics, beta-blockers, antidepressants and over-the-counter sleeping pills can all cause dry eyes. If you're taking any of these, ask your doctor about alternatives.

- **Omega-3s:** Studies show that eating more fish and other foods rich in omega-3 fatty acids (or take a supplement) helps some people.

- **Warm compresses:** For a soothing, temporary treatment, place damp warm compresses on your eyes (use cold compresses if your dryness is due to allergies or rosacea) and gently massage the edges of your eyelids.

Treatments

If changing your environment and habits doesn't do the trick, there are a variety of over-the-counter eye lubricant drops (artificial tears) that can help. However some lubricants contain preservatives that may irritate your eyes. If you experience a lot of burning, try another product or opt for a nonpreservative formula, but don't buy eye drops that are strictly made to "get the red out." They won't help and may even aggravate your condition. Also available are over-the-counter gel lubricants that stay on your eye longer, and lid scrubs for those with eyelid inflammation.

If the over-the-counter remedies don't help, see your eye doctor for other options which could be prescription steroid eye drops, or a prescription medication called Restasis. If these don't help your doctor may suggest punctal plugs — small blockers inserted into the tear ducts to slow the drainage of eye

moisture.

And finally, if all remedies and treatments can all cause dry eyes, two other possible solutions include specially designed goggles (see www.panoptx.com) that form a moisture

chamber around the eye, and the Boston Scleral Lens (see www.bostonsight.org) which is a custom-fitted prosthetic device that creates a reservoir over the cornea. *Send your senior*

questions to: *Savvy Senior*, P.O. Box 5443, Norman, OK 73070, or visit www.savvysenior.org. *Jim Miller is a contributor to the NBC Today show and author of "The Savvy Senior" book.*

Contact
the Herald
at 263-7331

Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker
Structural Bidding

North dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.
NORTH
♦ K 8 7
♥ K 9 8 4
♦ K Q 10 3
♣ Q 3

WEST
♦ 9 6 3 2
♥ A 5 2
♦ J
♣ K 9 8 4 2

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

SOUTH
♦ A Q J 5
♥ Q J 10 6 3
♦ A 5 4
♣ 10

The bidding:

North	East	South	West
1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass
2♥	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♣	Pass	5♥	

Opening lead — jack of diamonds.

Blackwood is one of the most valuable conventions ever devised by the mind of man, but, alas, it does more harm than good if it is used improperly. Consider this deal where South had reason to believe that there might be a slam after North opened one diamond and then raised one heart to two.

But investigating the slam by jumping to four notrump was a gross abuse of Blackwood. In the actual case, North's five-club response (indicating no aces) resulted in an undesirable five-heart contract that went down one after West maneuvered a diamond ruff.

To illustrate the **futility** of the four-notrump call, what would South have done had North responded five diamonds, showing one ace? He would then have had to guess whether North held either of these two possible hands:

♦ K 7 2
♥ A K 8 5
♦ K Q 7 3
♣ 9 4

♦ K 10
♥ A 9 5 4
♦ K J 7 6 3
♣ Q 8

In the first example, 12 tricks are certain; in the second, South cannot be sure of more than 10 tricks. Furthermore, if North responds five hearts (indicating two aces), South still won't know what to do next. If he bids six, he may find partner with ♠72 ♥AK54 ♦J9873 ♣AQ, and go down one or two tricks.

South's best way of probing for a slam is to bid two spades over two hearts. This tells partner he is interested in game or slam. The two-spade bid invites North to jump to four hearts, raise spades or show a feature of his own if he has extra values.

In the actual case, since North has an absolute minimum for his first two bids, the best he can do is to say three hearts. South now bids four diamonds, making still another try for slam.

But while North finds South's bids encouraging, he still lacks the wherewithal to cooperate. He therefore returns to four hearts, and that is where North-South safely come to rest.

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Legends & Legacies

3rd Annual Fish Fry & Auction

At The Heritage Museum

June 17, 2008
6:30 p.m.

Welcome Reception
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\$25.00 per person

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For those that are bothered by the heat we are offering inside gallery seating.

Out of respect for the religious exhibit downstairs we are requesting that the beer & margaritas remain in the Pavilion area.

Please let us know if you would like to sit in the Gallery or in the Pavilion when you **R.S.V.P.** to 267-8255 By June 15, 2008

Limited Tickets

2007 Big Spring Baby Contest



Did you or someone you know have a baby in 2007 or 2008

If so, they are eligible to participate in the "2008 Big Spring Herald Baby Contest" which will be printed on Sunday, June 29th. To enter your baby simply fill out the information below and bring the photo, information to the Big Spring Herald before 5 p.m. on Wednesday, June 18th and your baby will be entered into the contest. Bring \$15 to have baby's photo published. An independent panel of judges will be judging the photos. The "First Place" winner will receive a \$100 Savings Bond "Second Place" winner will receive a \$50 Savings Bond.

Baby's Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Parents Names: _____

Phone Number: _____

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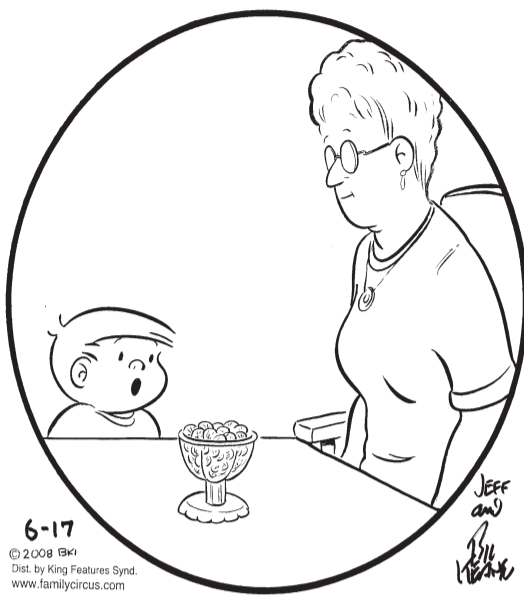
	WFAA (2) Dallas	KMID (3) Midland	UNI (4) Spanish	KPEJ (5) Odessa	KOSA (7) Odessa	KTLE (8) Telemundo	KWES (9) Midland	WTBS (11) Atlanta	KMLM (12) Odessa	KPBT (13) Odessa	DISC (20) Discovery	AMC (21) Classics	SPIKE (22) Spike TV	TNT (23) Atlanta	BET (26) Black Ent.	DISN (27) Disney	ESPN2 (28) Sports	ESPN (29) Sports	
5 :PM	News ABC	News ABC	Locura Noticiero	Simpsons King-Hill	News CBS	Noticias Noticiero	News NBC	Friends Raymond	Scrivner Uri Harel	News Business	Cash Cab	Eagle, David Suchet	CSI: Crime Scn	Law & Order	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Life De Life De	NASCAR Horn	SportsCenter	
6 :PM	News Kimmel	Jeopardy! Fortune	Yo Amo a Juan	Simpsons Two Men	News Entertainment	12 Corazones	News Millionaire	Raymond Hage	Dr. Young	Made	Cash Cab		CSI: Crime Scn	Law & Order	The Boot	Movie: Nora's Hair Salon 2: A Cut Above	College Baseball: Friday, Mark Harmon	NFL Live Series of Poker	
7 :PM	News Kimmel	NBA	Diablo-Guapos	Moment-Truth	AFI's 10 Top 10	La Traicion	Deal or No Deal	Fam. Guy	Israel	Nova (DVS)	Deadliest Catch	Movie: National Lampoon's Animal	CSI: Crime Scn	Law & Order	Movie: Nora's Hair Salon 2: A Cut Above	Montana Suite Life	NCAA World Series Game 8 -- Teams	Series of Poker	
8 :PM	NBA Basketball: Finals Game 6 -- Lakers at Celtics	NBA Basketball: Finals Game 6 -- Lakers at Celtics	Fuego en la Sangre	Hell's Kitchen		Victoria	America's Got Talent	Fam. Guy	Light of the Southwest	Frontline (DVS)	Deadliest Catch	CSI: Crime Scn	Bones	Bones	Top 25 Heartaches	Wizards of Life De	Soccer: UEFA Euro 2008	Baseball Tonight	
9 :PM	News	News	Impacto	Two Men	News	Noticias	News	My Boys	Israel	Charlie Rose	Deadliest Catch	CSI: Crime Scn	Bones	Without a Trace	Diff Wrid	So Raven	NASCAR		
10 :PM	Nightline	Nightline	La Hora de la Risa	Law Order: CI	Late Late Show	Decisiones	Tonight Show	Sex & Friends	Ministerio-Vida	Smiley	Deadliest Catch	CSI: Crime Scn	Without a Trace	Without a Trace	Hell Date	Phil	Poker		
11 :PM	Insider Jimmy Kimmel Live	Insider Jimmy Kimmel Live	Niña Amada Mia	RENO 911	Insider	Programa Pagado	Poker After Dark	Movie: The Prince & Me, Ben Miller	Israel Church	Light of the Southwest	After the Catch	Escape From	Star Trek: Voyager	Without a Trace	Movie: Nora's Hair Salon 2: A Cut Above	Replace Kim	Soccer: UEFA Euro 2008	Baseball Tonight	
12 :AM	News Wall St	News Wall St	Humor	King-Hill	Humor	Humor	Humor	Humor	Humor	Humor	Humor	Humor	Humor	Humor	Humor	Humor	Humor	Humor	Humor

DENNIS THE MENACE



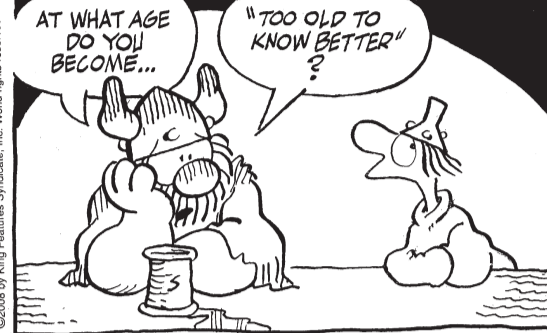
"I'll never understand grown-ups if I live to be ten!"

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

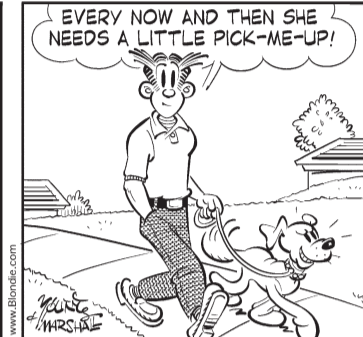


"That looks like too much candy for you to eat yourself, Grandma."

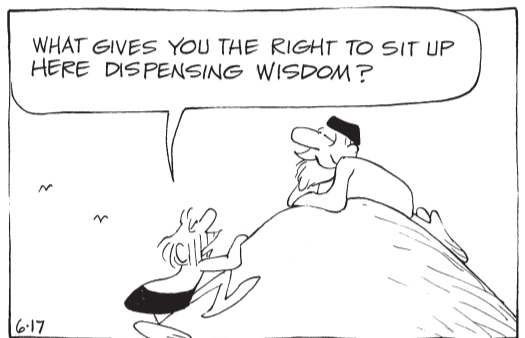
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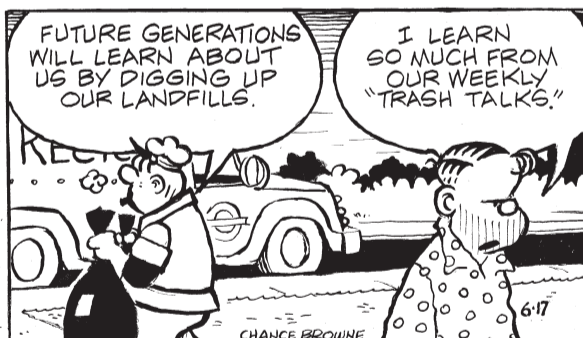
WIZARD OF ID



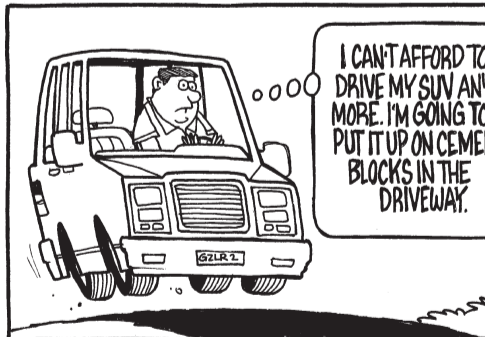
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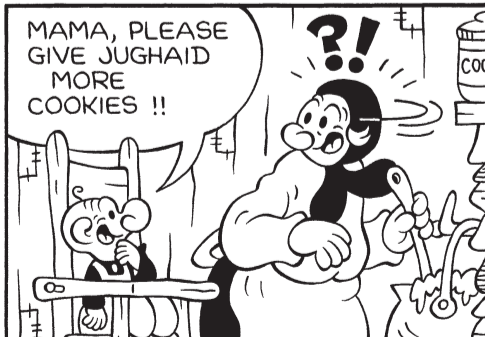
HI AND LOIS



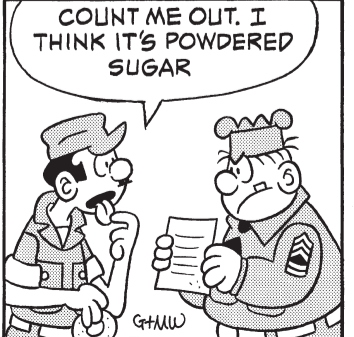
THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BEETLE BAILEY



This Date In History

Today is Tuesday, June 17, the 169th day of 2008. There are 197 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On June 17, 1775, the Revolutionary War Battle of Bunker Hill took place near Boston. The battle, which actually occurred on Breed's Hill, was a costly victory for the British, who suffered heavy losses while dislodging the rebels.

On this date:

In 1856, the Republican Party, meeting in Philadelphia, nominated John Charles Fremont to be its presidential candidate. Fremont ended up losing to James Buchanan.

In 1885, the Statue of Liberty arrived in New York Harbor aboard the French ship Isere.

In 1928, Amelia Earhart embarked on a trans-Atlantic flight from Newfoundland to Wales with pilots Wilmer Stultz and Louis Gordon, becoming the first woman to make the trip as a passenger.

In 1944, the Republic of Iceland was established.

In 1948, a United Air Lines DC-6 crashed near Mount Carmel, Pa., killing all 43 people on board.

In 1957, mob underboss Frank Scalise was shot to death at a produce market in New York.

In 1961, Soviet ballet dancer Rudolf Nureyev defected to the West while his troupe was in Paris.

In 1963, the Supreme Court, in Abington School District v. Schempp, struck down rules requiring the recitation of the Lord's Prayer or reading of Biblical verses in public schools.

In 1971, the United States and Japan signed a treaty under which Okinawa would revert to Japanese control following America's post-war occupation.

In 1972, President Nixon's eventual downfall began with the arrest of five burglars inside Democratic national headquarters in Washington's Watergate complex.

One year ago: Thirty-five people were killed in the bombing of a police academy bus in Kabul, Afghanistan; the Taliban claimed responsibility.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Peter Lupus is 76. Singer Barry Manilow is 62. Comedian Joe Piscopo is 57. Actor Mark Linn-Baker is 54. Musician Philip Chevron (The Pogues) is 51. Actor Jon Gries

(gryz) is 51. Movie producer-director-writer Bobby Farrelly is 50. Actor Thomas Haden Church is 47. Actor Greg Kinnear is 45. Actress Kami Cotler (TV: "The Waltons") is 43. Olympic gold-medal speed skater Dan Jansen is 43. Actor Jason Patric is 42. Actor-comedian Will Forte is 38. Latin pop singer Paulina Rubio is 37. Tennis player Venus Williams is 28. Actor-rapper Herculeez (Herculeez and Big Tymie) is 25. Actor Damani Roberts is 12.

Thought for Today: "During my 87 years I have witnessed a whole succession of technological revolutions. But none of them has done away with the need for character in the individual or the ability to think." — Bernard M. Baruch, American businessman and statesman (1870-1965).

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Answer to previous puzzle

MUTT	MENU	BAGS
INRE	ODOR	ELLIS
STUN	SING	ALAMO
TICTACTOE	STROP	
SEESTO	ATHENS	
TWO	WISE	
SHINY	AMID	WASP
EURO	DRESS	ALOE
WEST	RENT	LYING
TOAD	ASA	
ASSORT	TWISTS	
FUTON	PROANDCON	
AMEA	OINK	TAXI
RANAT	EPEE	ARID
CODE	MESS	GENE

Newsday Crossword

GETAWAY DAY by Gail Grabowski
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

- | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------|
| ACROSS | DOWN | ACROSS | DOWN |
| 1 College military unit: Abbr. | 1 ___ and rave | 58 Ready for customers | 10 Experienced tradesperson |
| 5 Star Trek genre | 2 Black-and-white cookie | 59 Bashful | 11 Poker-hand starter |
| 10 Cookie holder | 3 Group of athletes | 60 Warn | 12 Marsh growth |
| 13 Region | 4 Understand finally | 61 Bering and Baltic | 15 False name |
| 14 Prepared, as apples | 5 Merit-badge earners | | 20 Steak preference |
| 15 First-class | 6 Funny performer | | 21 Stepped heavily |
| 16 Clutter-free | 7 Dublin-born | | 23 Jeans color |
| 17 Forgets to mention | 8 Lavish celebration | | 24 Horses' paces |
| 18 Minstrel's instrument | 9 Proof-of-age items, for short | | 25 Float (provide financing) |
| 19 Top Gun star | | | 26 Stint in the military |
| 21 Eager to sleep | | | 27 Army beds |
| 22 Concoct, as a plan | | | 28 Not worthy |
| 23 High-fiber cereal | | | 29 Beginning stage |
| 24 Crocs' cousins | | | 31 Architect's design |
| 27 Near | | | 32 Massage |
| 30 By oneself | | | |
| 31 Self-satisfied | | | |
| 33 Strong craving | | | |
| 34 Debtor's letters | | | |
| 35 Marching-band instrument | | | |
| 36 Bride's new title, often | | | |
| 37 Paving material | | | |
| 38 Most Jordanians | | | |
| 39 Demean | | | |
| 41 Kids' outdoor winter creations | | | |
| 43 Small piano | | | |
| 44 Starlet's goal | | | |
| 45 Film excerpts | | | |
| 47 Video's counterpart | | | |
| 49 Conscience-stricken feeling | | | |
| 53 Close tightly | | | |
| 54 Rich dessert | | | |
| 55 Take the bus | | | |
| 56 Soup vessels | | | |
| 57 Black bird | | | |

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
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56						57				58		
59						60				61		

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News in brief

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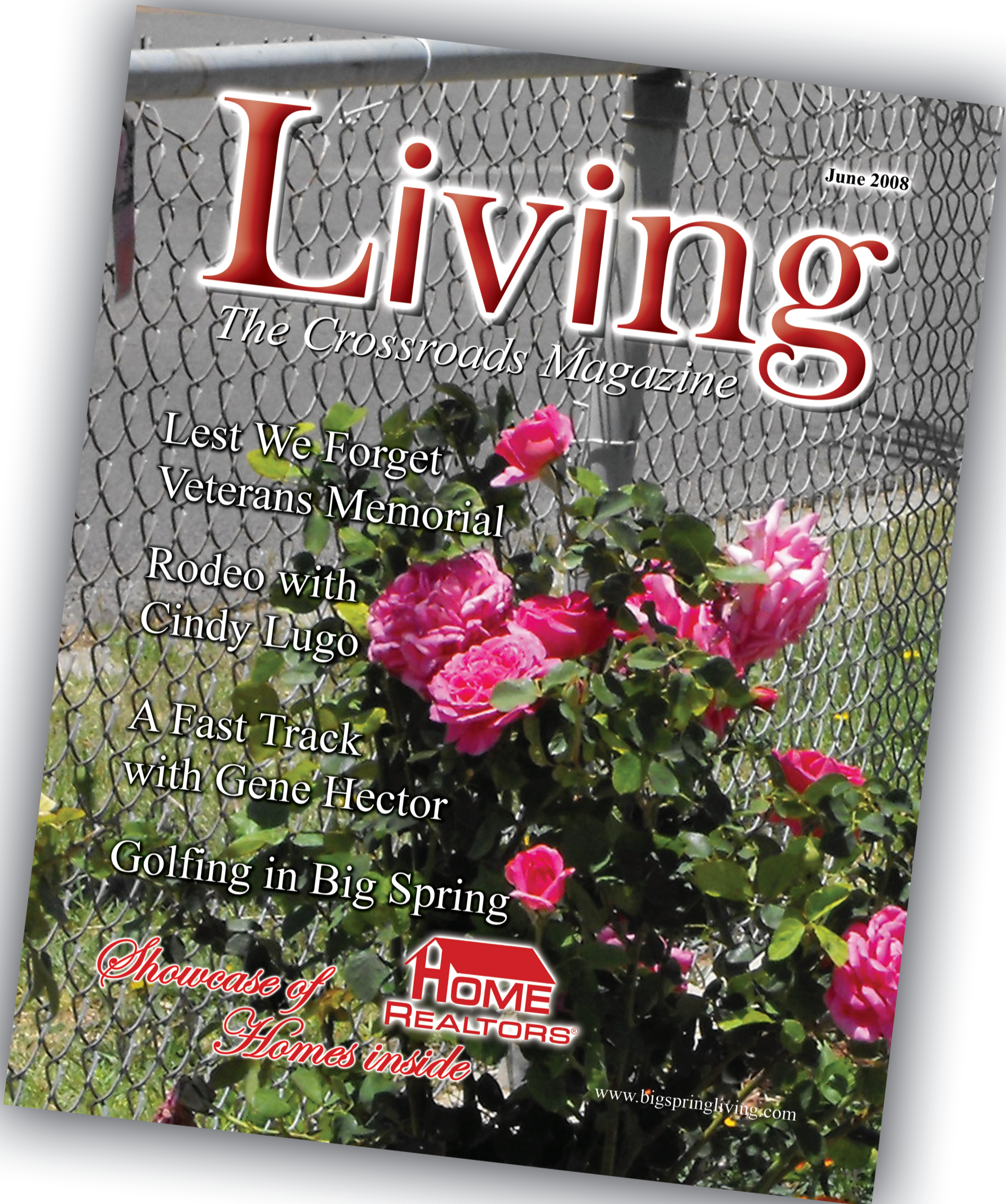
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