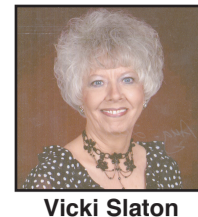




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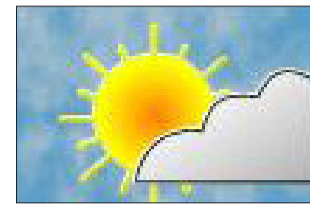


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BIG SPRING HERALD

THURSDAY

JUNE 26, 2008



VOLUME 103, NUMBER 178

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Courtesy photo

Crimson Soul is from left: Ryan Tant, Jonas Palomino, Brandon Tant and Cody Carnes.

'Local' band takes competition on-line; to play here twice

By **LYNDEL MOODY**
Herald Staff Writer

With just a click of the mouse, residents of Howard County can help some of their own come closer to achieving a dream.

Just don't wait. Crimson Soul, a Christian rock group from Howard County, is competing in an on-line contest which could garner the young four musicians a chance for a contract with a major record company.

"Right now Crimson Soul is in a competition to play at Rock the Desert in Midland (Aug. 8-9)," said Jim Koerber, the band's manager. "You can go on-line at rockthedesert.com and there is place to click on which band you want."

The top prize — besides a slot to play at the annual two-day Rock The Desert concert that drew an

estimated 13,000 spectators a day in 2007 — is a trip to Nashville to compete for a record deal with Provident Label Group.

"This is a great opportunity for Crimson Soul who happens to be our home town band," Koerber said. "It would completely lift up the group to win this opportunity."

Crimson Soul is in competition with 18 other groups, according to officials with Rock the Desert.

"There are bands signed up from all over the place," Koerber said. "We want them to win this to represent Big Spring and to play at Rock the Desert. More importantly, these guys need that extra boost to help get them as far as they can. This would be a huge step for them."

See **BAND**, Page 3A

BSISD to mull ups and Downes

Trustees to consult with attorneys about superintendent

By **STEVE REAGAN**
Staff Writer

Big Spring Independent School District trustees will discuss major personnel and financial matters when they hold a special meeting at 5:15 p.m. today in the high school board room.

Trustees are scheduled to discuss Superintendent Michael Downes' future with the district during the meeting, as well as conduct their annual budget workshop in



Downes

preparation for the 2008-2009 fiscal year.

The main action item on the agenda will be consultation with attorneys concerning an employment and/or separation agreement with Downes.

Downes, who has been superintendent at BSISD since 2002, was the subject of a complaint filed with the state educator certification

board in 2007. Although details of the complaint have never been made public, it allegedly contains accusations of misconduct with students during a previous stop in his career.

This will mark the third time in the past year trustees will formally discuss Downes' standing with the district. They have gone on record in past meetings with statements

See **BSISD**, Page 3A

LAZY SUMMER DAYS



HERALD photo/Alex Newsom

Robert Rivera, 22, of Big Spring, uses his day off to enjoy fishing at Comanche Trail Lake. Temperatures are expected to remain in the triple digits during the next few days.

Court ruling

Americans have right to own guns

By **MARK SHERMAN**
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court ruled Thursday that Americans have a right to own guns for self-defense and hunting, the justices' first major pronouncement on gun rights in U.S. history.

The court's 5-4 ruling struck down the District of Columbia's 32-year-old ban on handguns as incompatible with gun rights under the Second Amendment. The decision went further than even the Bush administration wanted, but probably leaves most firearms laws intact.

The court had not conclusively interpreted the Second Amendment since its ratification in 1791. The amendment reads: "A well regulated

See **GUNS**, Page 3A

Unbowed, politicians vow to execute child rapists

By **DEBORAH HASTINGS**
AP National Writer

Angry politicians vowed to keep writing laws that condemn child rapists to death, despite a Supreme Court decision saying such punishment is unconstitutional. "Anybody in the country who

cares about children should be outraged that we have a Supreme Court that would issue a decision like this," said Alabama Attorney General Troy King, a Republican. The justices, he said, are "creating a situation where the country is a less safe place to grow up."

The court's 5-4 decision

Wednesday derailed the efforts of nearly a dozen states supporting the right to kill those convicted of raping a child — and said execution was confined to attacks that take a life and to other crimes including treason and espionage.

At issue before the high court was a Louisiana case involving

Patrick Kennedy, sentenced to die for raping his 8-year-old daughter in her bed, an assault so severe she required surgery.

In his majority opinion, Justice Anthony Kennedy wrote "the death penalty is not a proportional

See **RAPISTS**, Page 3A

Clean-up effort targeted in District 3

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

Round three! That's what crews will be thinking as the city of Big Spring's annual large item clean up effort will get under way Friday, with city crews getting ready to hit the streets of District 3.

Having begun in April in the city's District 1, Friday's

effort will concentrate on the district represented by Councilwoman Jo Ann Staulcup, according to Assistant City Manager Todd Darden.

"We'll go through one district each month until we've completed all six," said Darden. "More and more people are taking advantage of the program each year, so we're very happy with it. We

expect a good turnout this year as well."

Darden said there's no charge to use the program, which aims to help area residents remove large, cumbersome items from their property they might not otherwise be able to transport to the landfill.

However, residents do need to be aware of what can and cannot be picked up, he said.

"Some of the more typical items we pick up are appliances that don't work anymore, couches and mattresses," said Darden. "Those are the kind of things that we can take to our landfill and we're allowed to pick up. However, we can't pick up any household hazardous waste. That means any kind

See **TRASH**, Page 3A

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IN BRIEF

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 is holding a carwash at Advance Auto Parts starting at 8 a.m. Saturday.

They will also be selling burritos, and there will also be opportunities to win prizes such as a hydraulic jack, battery charger and tickets to Schlitterbahn.

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 Saturday and Sunday 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.

Coahoma Little League electing new officers

Coahoma Little League Baseball Association is holding a meeting at 7 p.m. July 1 at the Dairy Queen in Coahoma to elect board members for the 2009 season.

If you are interested in serving on the board, the attendance at this meeting is required.

For more information, contact Andi Schneider at 270-2892 or Leslie Tindol at 213-4207.

Tennis camp set for July 28-31 at Figure 7 courts

Crossroads Tennis Association tennis instructor Ted Olesen is hosting a camp July 28-31 at the Figure 7 Tennis Center in Comanche Trail Park.

This is the second camp Olesen has put on this summer and attendance at the first camp is not a requirement to attend the second.

The camp is for all ages and abilities, and is designed to teach the beginner the basics of the game, while helping advanced players reach their full potential.

Participants do not have to take the full week of camp.

Cost is \$100 and includes a lunch each day.

Call 263-7331, ext. 237, to submit a sports brief.

Words can be a dangerous thing

Words can be a dangerous thing, even when they're

mouthered by professionals.

George Carlin once caused a commotion by saying the seven words you could never say on TV. He did it for laughs, but also to give people a jolt.



TIM DAHLBERG

Those words are commonplace on premium cable now, but Carlin's role in shocking the country with them 30 years ago was at the top of every obituary when he died this week, proving that what you say can stay with you even after you're gone.

Don Imus also gets paid to talk. Like Carlin, he's not above saying things to both shock listeners and make them think.

And, like Carlin, his obituary someday will lead off with some things he said.

The comparison ends there, and not just because Carlin was

funny and Imus isn't.

You would think Imus would have learned a lesson when he was fired from his previous gig after referring to members of the Rutgers women's basketball team as "nappy-headed hos."

That those words were directed at an overachieving team of college students made them much worse.

His encore this week didn't seem nearly as bad by comparison, though that's largely because his target this time was the player once known as Pacman. As much as I'd like to

feel sympathetic about slurs hurled Adam Jones' way, the fact is a man is paralyzed for life because of a melee he was accused of inciting.

Jones will surely be playing football for the Dallas Cowboys this year, and will almost as surely play it well. Cowboy fans will seek his autograph, wear his jersey and cheer every time he breaks up a pass or returns another one for a touchdown.

They won't be thinking of Tommy Urbanski spending his

See DAHLBERG, Page 2B

Rose, Beasley lead fab freshmen

Bulls still undecided who they'll select with first pick

By BRIAN MAHONEY
AP Basketball Writer

NEW YORK — Go first, and go home to Chicago. Fall to No. 2, and land in the Miami backcourt alongside Dwyane Wade.

Either one sounds good to Derrick Rose.

"I'm in like a win-win situation," Rose said Wednesday.

So are his hometown Bulls.

Chicago has the No. 1 pick in Thursday's NBA draft and can choose between Rose, the point guard from Memphis, and Michael Beasley, the power forward who put up huge numbers in his one season at Kansas State.

Both said they would be happy in Chicago or Miami. But being chosen by the Bulls would be extra meaningful to Rose, selected as the 2007 Mr. Basketball in Illinois by the Chicago Tribune.

"It would mean a lot knowing all of the great players that they've had in the past," Rose said. "So if I go there and get picked there, hopefully that will have a positive side to it."

Rose and Beasley sit atop a deep freshmen class that could gobble up most of the spots in the top 10.

O.J. Mayo of Southern California, UCLA's Kevin Love, Arizona's Jerryd Bayless, and Indiana guard Eric Gordon are among the other first-year stars who might already be earning NBA paychecks if not for the age requirement forcing American-born players to be at least 19 years old and a year out of

high school.

"We can have possibly eight players from our class in the lottery, so just hearing that I feel like we have a lot of star power in this class," Love said. "We're a pretty deep class as well, and I feel like hopefully we'll be able to step up our games and impact the NBA."

Beasley had the best individual year, leading the nation with 12.4 rebounds per game and ranking third with his average of 26.2 points. But if the Bulls opt for Rose, Beasley isn't even guaranteed to go second, with Miami possibly more interested in trading the pick and grabbing a guard to pair in the backcourt with Wade.

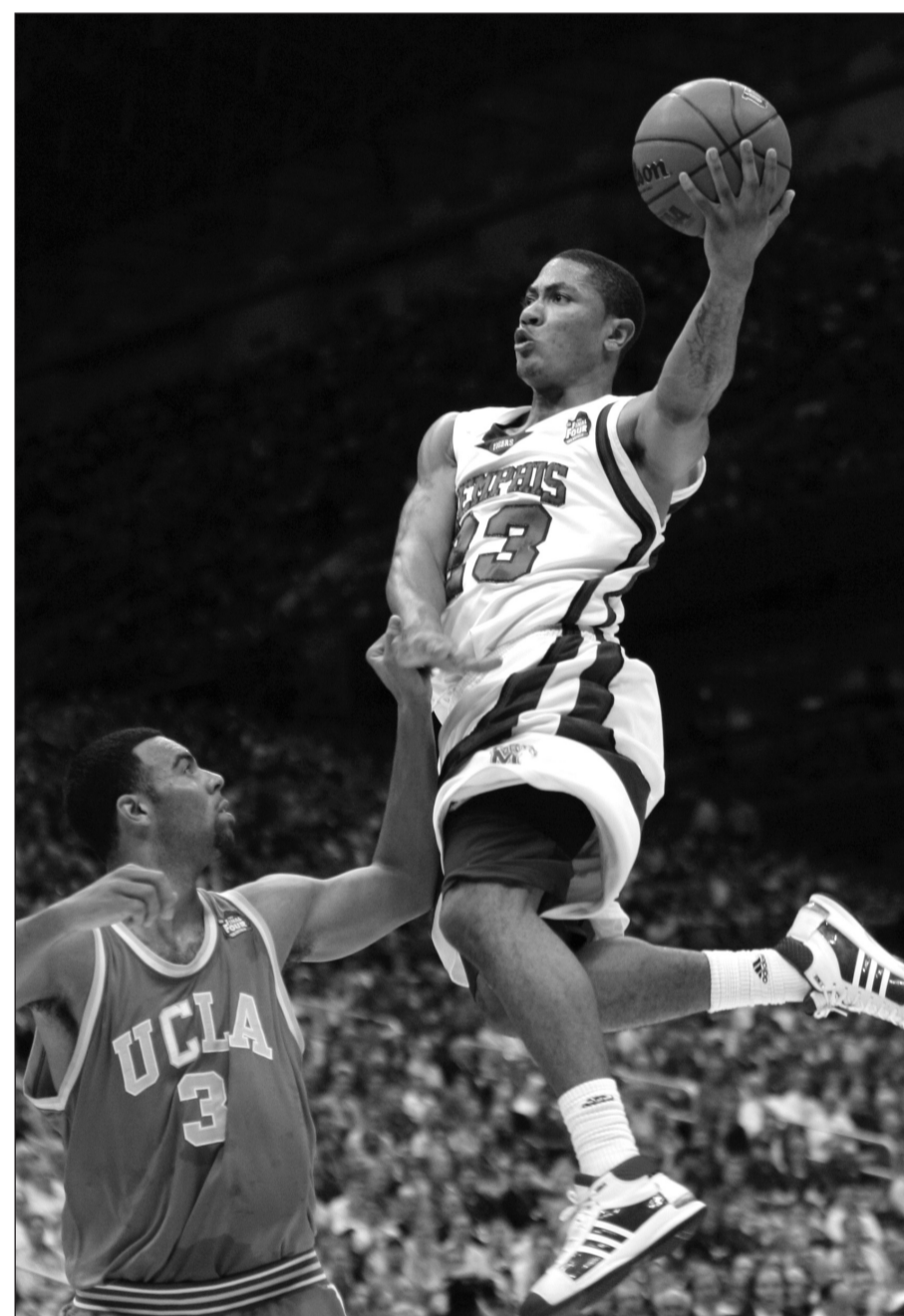
"One, 2, 3, 78, I just want to get there," Beasley said.

Hurting Beasley's chances of going first are questions about his height. The draft media guide lists him at 6-foot-10, and he said a doctor measured him at 6-8¾ in bare feet. Still, there are some concerns he may be smaller — perhaps too small to play the 4 spot in the NBA.

"I didn't know there was a height requirement in the NBA," Beasley said.

The Bulls haven't revealed publicly which way they are leaning, but Brandon Rush, sitting at the next table, said Beasley was the "best player I've seen in college, since I've been in college." His Kansas team faced Beasley in Big 12 play, then beat Rose and

See DRAFT, Page 2B



AP file photo/Eric Gay
Memphis point guard Derrick Rose, right, shoots over UCLA's Josh Shipp (3) during the first half of a semifinal at the Final Four basketball tournament in San Antonio. Derrick Rose or Michael Beasley? The Chicago Bulls have the No. 1 pick in the draft and a choice to make, one that should become a little clearer tonight.

Ramirez leads Rangers over pesky Astros



AP photo/Pat Sullivan
Texas Rangers batter Max Ramirez connects for a two-run homer, his first in the major leagues, in the fourth inning against the Houston Astros in a MLB game Wednesday in Houston. (AP Photo/Pat Sullivan)

By KRISTIE RIEKEN
AP Sports Writer

HOUSTON — Before they even took on Texas, the Houston Astros apparently were fighting among themselves.

Astros pitcher Shawn Chacon was suspended indefinitely by the team Wednesday after he reportedly grabbed general manager Ed Wade by the neck and threw him to the ground.

That was the start of a rough night for Houston, which lost 3-2 to the Rangers when Miguel Tejada grounded out with the bases loaded for the final out.

Max Ramirez got his first two major league hits and the second one — a two-run homer — put Texas up 3-2 in the fourth inning. The Astros had won two in a row after losing nine of 10.

Chacon, upset last weekend after being demoted to the bullpen, was suspended by the club for insubordination. He was quoted in a story posted on the Houston Chronicle's Web site as saying he got into a confrontation with Wade

before the game.

"He is suspended pending final resolution of whatever move we end up making with him," Wade said, declining to provide further details.

Astros manager Cecil Cooper and most of his players refused to comment on the situation, but slugger Lance Berkman said things like that sometimes happen because of the emotions involved in baseball.

"It's not unprecedented," Berkman said. "This is a very highly wound sport and unfortunately it's not a sport where you can take out any frustrations on the opponent. You have to keep yourself in check and a lot of times your emotions just get the better of you. It's happened to me. It's happened to every player in the game."

In his second major league game after being recalled from Double-A Frisco on Saturday, Ramirez hit a single in the second inning. In the fourth, his two-run homer to center put the Rangers

See TEXAS, Page 2B

Obituaries

Janie Reeder



Janie Reeder, 101, of Chester, Conn., formerly of Big Spring died Thursday, June 19, 2008, in Chester, Conn. Funeral services will be at 10:30 a.m. Saturday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Burial will be at Trinity Memorial Park.

She was born Sept. 15, 1906, in Snyder to Mary Julia and John Guy Davis Sr. She grew up in the Olton and Dimmitt area. She lived most of her life in Big Spring. In later years, she moved to Connecticut. She was a lifelong Methodist.

She is survived by one granddaughter, Julianne Cataldo of Killingworth, Conn.; two grandsons, Wally Cataldo and his wife Merrie of Andover, Mass., and Matthew Cataldo of Madison, Conn.; and four great grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by two husbands, Albert Smith and Roy Reeder; one daughter, Bertie Mary Cataldo; one brother, J.G. Davis Jr.; and one sister, Ina Richardson.

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

Larry Riggins

Larry Riggins, 58, of Big Spring, died Tuesday, June 24, 2008, in an Odessa hospice facility. The family will receive friends at 1421 E. Sixth from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Friday, June 27, 2008.

He was born Dec. 22, 1949, in Denver, Colo.

Larry was served in the United States Air Force and was stationed at Webb Air Force Base. He returned to Big Spring in 1981 where he owned and operated his own business. He was a truck driver for more than 35 years.

Survivors include one son, Wayne Riggins of Big Spring; and his mother, Earline Riggins of Cameron, Mo.

He was preceded in death by his father, Jasper Wilson Riggins.

The family suggests memorials be made to Hospice House of Odessa, 903 N. Sam Houston, Odessa 79761.

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

Take Note

- Cornerstone Covenant Church will hold a free car wash on the back lot of the church, located at 12th and Owens streets, from 8 a.m. until 1 p.m. Saturday. Free burritos also will be offered. For more information, call 466-4619 or 264-0015.

- The Big Spring Mall will be sponsoring a blood drive Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. All donors are needed. Everyone gets a opportunity to win a Vegas Trip for two. All donors gets a Vegas T-shirt.

- 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 Poirier.

- Ex-Students Homecoming at Forsan High School will be held Aug. 2. For more information, contact Jimmy Anderson at Professional Pharmacy at 267-2546 or at his residence, 267-6143.

- 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.

- All Creatures Sanctuary and Rescue has an account set up with Big Spring Salvage at 3608 N. Hwy. 87 for all types of metals and aluminum cans. Please tell them that your donations are for All Creatures Sanctuary and Rescue. All Creatures Sanctuary and Rescue is also still taking weight circles off of all Purina brand dog foods. Send your Purina Weight Circles, to A.C.S. & R. at P.O. 871, Coahoma 79511. All Creatures Sanctuary and Rescue is still accepting old and used cell phones and ink jet cartridges, for drop off locations in Big Spring and Coahoma, Call Melanie at 267-7387.

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



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Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity:

- JACE MINCE, 18, 7602 South Service Road I-20, was arrested on a charge of possession of dangerous drugs.
- DONA BYERLEY, 43, 1303 E 19th St, was arrested on charges of public intoxication and possession of dangerous drugs.
- MANON MARIE RAJBHANDARI, 30, 1002 N Gregg, was arrested on a charge of marijuana possession in a drug-free zone.
- ROBERT SANCHEZ, 44, 429 Westover, was arrested on a charge of public intoxication.
- ERNEST CLARK, 68, 4000 W Highway 80, was arrested on a charge of public intoxication.
- CHANCE LANG, 21, 4200 Hamilton, was arrested on a charge of assault class c/family violence.
- JOSUE PONCE, 38, 3625 Langley, was arrested on a charge of public intoxication.
- MOISES ACOSTA BARRAZA, 73, 538 Westover, was arrested on one warrant.
- PRISCILLA LOPEZ, 32, 2509 Hunter Drive, was arrested on two capias warrants.
- RICHARD FUENTES, 46, San Angelo, was arrested on a charge of driving while license invalid.
- ANDREW AGUILAR, 39, 1615 Canary, was arrested on a charge of public intoxication.
- AGGRAVATED ASSAULT WITH A DEADLY WEAPON was reported in the 1400 block of Highway 87.
- AGGRAVATED ASSAULT WITH A DEADLY WEAPON was reported in the 400 block of Lancaster.
- ASSAULT BY CONTACT was reported in the 2900 block of Highway 80.
- ASSAULT BY CONTACT was reported in the 2900 block of Highway 80.
- ASSAULT CLASS C/FAMILY VIOLENCE was reported in the 4100 block of Dixon.
- ASSAULT - CAUSING BODILY INJURY was reported in the 1400 block of Highway 87.
- CRIMINAL MISCHIEF was reported in the 800 block of Johnson
- DEADLY CONDUCT was reported in the 1100 block of 16.

Sheriff's report

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

- Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 74 inmates at the time of this report.
- DONA BYERLEY, 43, was transferred by the BSPD on a charge of possession of dangerous drugs.
- MANON MARIE RAJBHANDARI, 30, was transferred by the BSPD on a charge of marijuana possession in a drug-free zone.
- PAMELA KAY HADORN, 46, began serving sentence for theft.
- TEKIA "KOKO" WILLIAMS, 25, was arrested for bondsman off bond warrant.
- JESSE SOSA GALAN, 29, was arrested on a motion to revoke probation for theft of property.
- ALISHA MANETTE SMITH, 35, was arrested on a motion to revoke probation for theft of property, driver not secured, driving while license invalid, and violating a promise to appear.
- DANYA LEE HOPE, 31, was arrested on a capias warrant for possession of drug paraphernalia.
- MOSES ACOSTA BARRAZA, 73, was transferred by the BSPD on a charge of theft of property.
- DANIEL RODRIGUEZ, 40, was arrested on a charge of failure to appear.
- DAVID CRUZ, 41, was sentenced to 5 years for driving while intoxicated.
- TRACI HOLDEN MYRICK, 37, was arrested on a charge of family violence.
- CHAD PEDERSON, 32, was arrested on a charge of family violence.

Fire/EMS

- MEDICAL was reported in the 8100 block of N Service Road, and one person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 2500 block of March Circle, and one person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAUMA was reported in the 1400 block of N Highway 87, and one person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAFFIC ACCIDENT was reported in the 1900 block of Simler, and one person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAUMA was reported in the 1300 block of Wright, and one person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 2900 block of W Highway 80, and one person was transported to SMMC.
- TRANSFER occurred from SMMC to MRI.

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Mostly sunny in the morning with isolated thundershowers developing later in.	Slight chance of a thundershowers.	A few thundershowers possible.	Times of sun and clouds. Highs in the low 90s and lows in the upper 60s.	Considerable cloudiness. Highs in the mid 90s and lows in the upper 60s.

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Bulletin Board

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

TODAY
• League of United Latin American Citizens LULAC Chapter 4791 meets at 5:30 p.m. at the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce. For more information, contact John Ybarra at 264-1628. The public is invited.

FRIDAY
• Signal Mountain Quilting Guild meets from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. at 1019 Nolan St. Call 267-1037 or 267-7281 for more information.
• AMBUCS meet at noon in La Posada Restaurant.
• Greater Big Spring Rotary Club meets at noon at the Howard College Cactus Room.
• Dance at the Senior Center, 1901 Simler, from 7:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.

SATURDAY
• Eagles Lodge Dance at 8:30 p.m. at 703 W. Third.

MONDAY
• Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) No. 21 meets at 5 p.m. at the First Christian Church at 10th and Goliad for weigh-in. The meeting begins at 5:30 p.m. Call 213-1342 or 263-6819.
• Prospector's Club work night begins at 7 p.m. at 606 E. Third.

Lottery

Results of the Lotto Texas drawing Wednesday night:
Winning numbers drawn: 24-26-36-43-45-54.
Number matching six of six: 0.

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Wednesday night:
Winning numbers drawn: 7-10-20-21-31.
Number matching five of five: 1.
Prize per winner: \$22,822.
Winning tickets sold in: San Marcos.

The winning Daily 4 numbers drawn Wednesday night by the Texas Lottery: 3-5-6-7. Sum It Up: 21.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn XXXday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 2-5-9. Sum It Up: 16.

Support Groups

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

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

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

SUNDAY
• Alcoholics Anonymous meets from 11 a.m. to noon at 615 Settles. Open meeting 5 p.m. until 6 p.m.

MONDAY
• Encourager's Support Group for all widows and widowers meets the first and third Monday of the month. For more information, call Nancy Hale at 398-5239.

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Cinderella claims the crown

Fresno State shuts down Georgia, wins CWS title

By **ERIC OLSON**
AP Sports Writer

OMAHA, Neb. — Fresno State was smashing in its final performance as college baseball's team of destiny, winning a championship that would have been impossible to predict.

With Steve Detwiler providing all the offense Justin Wilson needed, the Bulldogs captured their first national championship in a men's sport with a 6-1 victory over Georgia in Game 3 of the College World Series finals Wednesday night.

Detwiler homered twice and drove in all six runs, and Wilson allowed five hits in eight innings to cap Fresno State's wild ride to a title.

Fresno State was forecast to be a Top 25 team coming into the season, but the Bulldogs lost 12 of their first 20 games. They needed to win the Western Athletic Conference tournament just to make the

NCAA field of 64, fought off elimination in regionals and super regionals, and became the first No. 4 regional seed to reach the CWS since the tournament expanded in 1999.

The Bulldogs (47-31) from California not only showed they belonged, they showed they were the best, even though no previous national champion had more losses. The national title was the second in school history. Fresno State won the 1998 women's softball title.

Fresno State third baseman Tommy Mendonca won CWS most outstanding player. He hit four home runs and had 11 RBIs and also made a number of spectacular plays in the field.

But in the finale, Detwiler was the star.

Playing with a torn ligament in his left thumb, he hit a two-run homer on Nathan Moreau's 3-2 pitch in the second inning barely cleared the right-field



AP photo/Dave Weaver

Fresno State players hold the championship trophy as they celebrate their 6-1 win over Georgia in Game 3 of the best-of-three NCAA College World Series championship baseball series in Omaha, Neb., Wednesday.

fence, just getting over the glove of Matt Olson.

There was no doubt about Detwiler's second blast, a high drive that landed three-quarters of the way up the stands in left field. That three-run shot off Dean Weaver was Detwiler's third homer of the CWS and 12th of the season. It also marked the

fourth time a player went deep twice in a championship game.

Detwiler, who also had an RBI double in the fourth, said he didn't let his thumb injury hinder him.

Seven players accounted for Fresno State's 14 homers in seven CWS games, the most since LSU and

Southern California jacked a record 17 in 1998. No other CWS team had more than six homers.

Wilson (5-5) turned in the best performance of any starter in this year's CWS. The junior left-hander struck out nine, walked one and held Georgia to three singles and a triple in seven shutout innings.

Gordon Beckham ended Wilson's shutout bid when he homered leading off the eighth. His 28th homer tied him with LSU's Matt Clark for the national lead.

"When you've got a wonderful defense behind you and your offense is outstanding, it can't get better than that," Wilson said.

TEXAS

Continued from Page 1B

ahead 3-2.

"I can't believe I got my first base hit and my first home run," he said. "It was really exciting."

Ramirez was 0-for-3 in his big league debut on Sunday after hitting .363 with 17 homers and 50 RBIs for Frisco this season. He made his first start at catcher for the banged-up Rangers, having played first base in his earlier game.

"We've known he was going to be able to swing the bat, but personally I wanted to see how he han-

dled the pitching staff and he did a great job of that," manager Ron Washington said. "You could definitely say he has a bright future."

Texas starter Scott Feldman was pulled after throwing 99 pitches in four innings. Luis Mendoza (1-2) allowed two hits in three scoreless innings.

Rangers reliever C.J. Wilson gave up double to Ty Wigginton in the ninth and walked Michael Bourn with two outs. Mark Loretta followed with a grounder and third baseman Ramon Vazquez, distracted by Wigginton running in front of him, misplayed it for an error that loaded the bases.

Tejada grounded into a routine force for the final out, giving Wilson his 16th save.

Ian Kinsler tripled and scored on a sacrifice fly by Vazquez to put the Rangers ahead 1-0 in the first. Bourn hit a two-run homer in the second that put Houston up 2-1.

Astros ace Roy Oswalt (6-8) took the loss after allowing seven hits and three runs in seven innings. Oswalt said things went better after he got a feel for Ramirez.

"He's a new guy," Oswalt said. "We don't know him too well and it took about three at-bats before I figured out what he was trying to do."

The Rangers were without both Milton Bradley and Josh Hamilton for the first time this season. Bradley hasn't started the last seven games since straining his left quadriceps June 17.

Hamilton, who leads the majors with 76 RBIs, sat out after leaving the night before with knee inflammation.

Notes: 1B Hank Blalock joined the Rangers to continue treatment on his injured right hand. He was supposed to be activated from the disabled list Tuesday, but injured his right hand diving for a ball Sunday with Triple-A Oklahoma. The Rangers aren't sure when he'll

return from the disabled list. ... Berkman had doubles in the third and fifth,

but was stranded both times. Berkman's 50 extra-base hits lead the majors.

DAHLBERG

Continued from Page 1B

life in a wheelchair just because he happened to be working the night Pacman and his crew made it rain in a Las Vegas strip club.

That said, Imus' inference that Jones is a troublemaker because he's African-American was not only incredibly stupid but racially offensive. Imus turned it around the next day by claiming his comment meant the opposite, but the Black Coaches and Administrators association, for one, wasn't buying it.

Neither was Jones, who told the Dallas Morning News that he was upset over the remarks and would pray for Imus. For those not in the know, that is classic Image Rehab 101, where the bad

guy makes sure he keeps his head low, stays out of strip clubs, and invokes his own deep faith when asked about anything.

The latest dustup doesn't seem career-threatening for Imus, who probably will come out with job intact and on Pacman's nightly prayer list.

But he wasn't the only pro having trouble on the airwaves.

During the U.S. Open, golf announcer Johnny Miller said Rocco Mediate "looks like the guy who cleans Tiger's swimming pool." Miller also said "guys with the name 'Rocco' don't get on the trophy," which technically is true since no Roccas have won the Open.

Miller apologized and Mediate said he wasn't offended. He thought Miller was a good announcer, though he stopped short of saying he'd pray for him.

In golf this ordinarily wouldn't be such a big deal, because golfers don't tend to be politically correct, anyway. But coming on the heels of Golf Channel announcer Kelly Tilghman's suspension for suggesting that the only way to stop Tiger Woods would be to lynch him in an alley, Miller might have been wiser to keep the talk to birdies, bogeys and the peculiar fact Woods and Mediate played together while dressed like twins.

Which brings us to the amateur in all of this, and a big amateur at that. Shaquille O'Neal was merely exercising his right to rap in a video of him dissing former teammate Kobe Bryant, but it cost him something as dear to him as basketball — his deputy badges.

Sheriff Joe Arpaio in Phoenix, who made Shaq a special deputy in 2006 and promoted him to colo-

nel of his posse last year, wants his two badges back because O'Neal used a racially derogatory word and other foul language in the hit YouTube video that mocked Bryant for not winning the NBA title. So does the sheriff in Bedford County (Va.), which also bestowed lawman status on the big man.

It wasn't immediately clear if the sheriffs want the lone bullet Shaq keeps in his shirt pocket, but Barney Shaq's dream of being the biggest deputy in two towns now appears over.

Proving nothing, perhaps, other than it's best to let the real professionals do the talking. They, after all, got away with it, and O'Neal didn't.

Tim Dahlberg is a national sports columnist for The Associated Press. Write to him at tdahlberg@ap.org

DRAFT

Continued from Page 1B

Memphis in the national championship game.

"I would go with Beasley because he makes things look so much easier," Rush said. "He just looks effortless out there. He had 39 on us in our own house."

Having played three seasons for the Jayhawks, Rush was one of the old-timers in the room. He may have to wait until after the kids have had their fun Thursday night.

Mayo and Bayless could be on Miami's radar if the Heat can't get Rose, and don't want Beasley, and trade out of the No. 2 spot. Or,

perhaps one may end up in New York, where the Knicks could be in the market for a point guard with the sixth pick to run new coach Mike D'Antoni's offense.

With Rose, Mayo and Bayless, three teams should get a player capable of running their team. Just ask UCLA guard Russell Westbrook, the Pac-10 defensive player of the year who had to guard all of them.

"You can go down the list. You got O.J., you got Derrick, you got Jerryd Bayless ... that's the core of the guards," said Westbrook, also expected to go in the lottery. "Them three right there basically speaks for itself. They

wouldn't be here for nothing."

Minnesota, Seattle and Memphis, holding the Nos. 3-5 picks, all could turn to players who this time last year were just getting their high school diplomas. Mayo worked out for the top seven teams, and doesn't know whose hat

he'll put on Thursday at Madison Square Garden.

"There are a lot of great players in this draft," Mayo said. "You really can't go wrong with anybody; we all worked hard to get to this point. We all should be happy to be here. It's a blessing for all of us."

sudoku

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.

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

Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker
Accentuate the Positive

West dealer.
East-West vulnerable.
NORTH
♠ J 10 7 3 2
♥ J 7 5
♦ K 6 4
♣ K 8

WEST EAST
♠ K 5 ♠ 6
♥ A K 10 6 2 ♥ Q 9 8 4
♦ Q 9 3 ♦ 10 8 2
♣ J 7 4 ♣ A 10 6 5 2

SOUTH
♠ A Q 9 8 4
♥ 3
♦ A J 7 5
♣ Q 9 3

The bidding:
West North East South
1♥ Pass 2♥ 2♠
Pass 3♠ Pass 4♠
Opening lead — king of hearts.

The finesse is an extremely valuable tool, but its overall value is greatly reduced if it is used to excess. The aim of a finesse is to gain a trick by neutralizing a high card held by the defenders, but it should not be employed when that trick can be gained by a different approach that is less hazardous.

Consider the present case where West leads the K-A of hearts against four spades. Declarer ruffs and observes that he may lose a trick in

each suit. He does not know where the king of spades and queen of diamonds are located, but he is aware that if East has either of these cards, the contract can be made via a successful finesse in either suit.

But there is no urgency about taking either finesse, so at trick three South leads a low club to the king. When this loses to the ace, declarer obtains vital information not previously available. East's possession of the ace of clubs vastly increases the chance that West — who opened the bidding — has both missing key cards. The spade and diamond finesses, if attempted, are therefore very likely to lose.

East returns the queen of hearts at trick four and South ruffs. Acting on the information he has gained, declarer cashes the ace of trumps, spurning the finesse, and continues with the queen of clubs and a club ruff. He then plays a trump, saddling West with the lead.

West has no safe return. A heart lead yields a ruff-and-discard, while a diamond lead goes into declarer's A-J, so the contract is home.

Note that if South attempts either finesse, he goes down. The bidding and the early play tell him that a finesse is the wrong weapon to use in this deal, and he adapts his play accordingly.

Government study: Many underage drinkers getting free alcohol from parents, other adults

WASHINGTON (AP) — Many of the nation's estimated 10.8 million underage drinkers are turning to their parents or other adults for free alcohol.

A government survey of teens from 2002 to 2006 said slightly more than half had engaged in drinking.

Asked about the source of alcohol, 40 percent they got it from an adult for free over the past month, the survey said. Of those, about one in four said they got it from an unrelated adult, one in 16 got it from a parent or guardian and one in 12 got it from another adult family member.

Roughly 4 percent reported taking the alcohol from their own home.

"In far too many instances parents directly enable their children's underage drinking — in essence encouraging them to risk their health and well-being," said acting Surgeon General Steven K. Galson.

BSISD

Continued from Page 1A

of support for the district boss.

It is unknown if tonight's agenda item is directly tied to the complaint. Downes was unavailable for comment and other BSISD officials contacted declined to discuss the matter.

Downes, who came to Big Spring after serving as superintendent in

Bovina for several years, is under contract to the local district through the 2009-2010 school district.

Aside from discussing Downes' future with the district, trustees will also take their first long look at the district's new budget.

Chief Financial Officer Sandra Waggoner said the budget will feature more than \$28 million in expenditures, a decrease of about \$200,000 from the previous year.

The major reason for the expenditure decrease is

that the state has capped its aid to local districts at \$4,554 per student — the same rate paid in 2005-2006.

Therefore, the only way BSISD will receive increased state aid in the future is if the district attracts more students — and officials are not budgeting for that possibility, Waggoner said.

Also, the amount of state aid a district receives is inversely proportional to the amount of money it collects locally. With

the district's estimated appraisals surpassing \$1 billion this year, that means fewer state dollars reaching BSISD, she noted.

In other business, trustees will consider an update on plans for another bond election and address employments, retirements and resignations.

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

BAND

Continued from Page 1A

Also, this will give the band an opportunity to perform in the same venue as Rock the Desert headliners Switchfoot and Newsboys.

Residents and fans alike have only a limited time to help push the band to the top. The contest

ends Monday. To vote, go to rockthedesert.com and click on the icon to vote. From there, sign up with a valid e-mail address and follow the directions. Each band competing has one song available to play at the site.

A link to the site is available on the band's myspace account at myspace.com/crimsonsoulrock.

Touring nationally full-time, the band is "home" to perform two concerts in Howard County

— a 30-minute appearance Saturday at the annual Knockout Battle of the Bands in the Municipal Auditorium and again Friday, July 4, at the Funtastic Fourth Celebration in Heart of the City Park along with Shane & Shane.

"They just got back from touring Arkansas, Louisiana, Alabama, Georgia and Nashville," Koerber said. "We've made incredible contacts and

relationships in Nashville. We just played an incredible festival in Kentucky."

According to Koerber, some music executives from Nashville will attend the Knockout Battle of the Bands concert set for 6 p.m. in the Big Spring Municipal Auditorium which will feature six up-and-coming bands. Tickets are \$10 and are available at Cowboys Steakhouse, any band member or at the door

Crimson Soul, which won the contest four years ago, will perform a short set at the end of the night.

Also performing is Big Spring's Zac Campbell, a member of the band Barabbas, which, along with Ashes to Eternity, The Great Divorce, The Lost Concept, Save the Stereo and Greater is He, will compete for a prize package worth \$7,500.

GUNS

Continued from Page 1A

militia, being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed."

The basic issue for the justices was whether the amendment protects an individual's right to own guns no matter what, or whether that right is somehow tied to service in a state militia.

Justice Antonin Scalia, writing for four colleagues,

said the Constitution does not permit "the absolute prohibition of handguns held and used for self-defense in the home."

In dissent, Justice John Paul Stevens wrote that the majority "would have us believe that over 200 years ago, the Framers made a choice to limit the tools available to elected officials wishing to regulate civilian uses of weapons."

He said such evidence "is nowhere to be found."

Joining Scalia were Chief Justice John Roberts and

Justices Samuel Alito, Anthony Kennedy and Clarence Thomas. The other dissenters were Justices Stephen Breyer, Ruth Bader Ginsburg and David Souter.

The capital's gun law was among the nation's strictest.

Dick Anthony Heller, 66, an armed security guard, sued the District after it rejected his application to keep a handgun at his home for protection in the same Capitol Hill neighborhood.

The U.S. Court of

Appeals for the District of Columbia ruled in Heller's favor and struck down Washington's ban, saying the Constitution guarantees Americans the right to own guns and that a total prohibition on handguns is not compatible with that right.

The issue caused a split within the Bush administration. Vice President Dick Cheney supported the appeals court ruling, but others in the administration feared it could lead to the undoing

of other gun regulations, including a federal law restricting sales of machine guns. Other laws keep felons from buying guns and provide for an instant background check.

Scalia said nothing in Thursday's ruling should "cast doubt on longstanding prohibitions on the possession of firearms by felons or the mentally ill, or laws forbidding the carrying of firearms in sensitive places such as schools and government buildings."

The law adopted by

RAPISTS

Continued from Page 1A

punishment for the rape of a child," despite the horrendous nature of the crime.

Republican Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal called the ruling "incredibly absurd," "a clear abuse of judicial authority" and said officials will "evaluate ways to amend our statute to maintain death as a penalty for this horrific crime."

Oklahoma officials said they, too, weren't ready to give up, and would "certainly look at what options we have," state senator Jay Paul Gumm said. "I think the people

of Oklahoma have spoken loudly that this is one of the most heinous of crimes."

Even White House hopefuls joined the fray. Republican John McCain called the ruling "an assault on law enforcement's efforts to punish these heinous felons for the most despicable crime."

Democrat Barack Obama said there should be no blanket prohibition of the death penalty for the rape of children if states want to apply it in those cases.

Forty-four states prohibit the death penalty for any kind of rape, and at least four states besides Louisiana permit it for child rape — Montana, Oklahoma, South Carolina and Texas. There's disagreement over the

status of a Georgia law permitting execution for child rape, although Justice Kennedy said in his ruling that it was still in effect.

Following the ruling, all become unconstitutional.

In Texas, Republican Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst said Wednesday that most Texans believe the death penalty is "an appropriate form of punishment for repeat child molesters. Our top priority remains protecting our most precious resource — our children."

But the Texas Association Against Sexual Assault, a nonprofit victim advocacy group representing 80 rape crisis centers, applauded the ruling.

"Most child sexual abuse

victims are abused by a family member or close family friend," the group said in a statement. "The reality is that child victims and their families don't want to be responsible for sending a grandparent, cousin or long time family friend to death row."

Nationwide, only two men have been sentenced to death for sexually abusing children — both in Louisiana. The second case involves a man convicted of repeatedly raping a 5-year-old girl. Both men will get new sentences.

Several states, including Missouri, Alabama and Colorado had been considering similar laws.

In South Carolina, Republican Attorney

General Henry McMaster said states could ultimately fight Wednesday's ruling by waiting for a change in the makeup of the Supreme Court, or by getting legislatures to redo death penalty laws.

Legal experts were divided on the potential success of such tactics.

According to Douglas Berman, a law professor at Ohio State University, the justices' ruling appears ironclad. "In the absence of death, the death penalty is off the table," he said. The court, he said, "could have left open the possibility of revamping child rape laws, by age for example, but it did not."

Law professor Deborah Denno of Fordham University wasn't so sure.

TRASH

Continued from Page 1A

of chemicals including lawn chemicals, car batteries and tires and things of that nature. We also won't be picking up any tree branches, shrubs or things like that this year.

"We're trying to target people who are elderly, handicapped or otherwise don't have the means to get these large items to our landfill. This is a service

the city is going to provide as a courtesy to those people and give them the opportunity to get things off of their property they might not be able to otherwise."

All items must be by the curb in the city's right-of-way no sooner than 24 hours before the scheduled pick up. Items need to be separated as much as possible for its trip to the municipal landfill.

"To be placed on the pick up list, all residents have to do is call 264-2504

or 264-2501, and we'll get them set up. If they don't call and get on the list, we can't pick up their items."

Darden said customers need to be aware of gas, water and electricity meters and lines when they put their large items out to be picked up.

"A lot of time we have to bring in equipment to pick those large items up," he said. "If you cover the meters up, it's hard for us to know where they are. Using the equipment makes the pick up go

quicker and we want to make sure our employees are safe while they are picking these things up."

For more information on the Large Item Pick Up program and maps of the six city districts, visit the city of Big Spring Website at www.ci.big-spring.tx.us, or call 264-2504.

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• KING FU PANDA (PG) 2:10 PM 4:50 PM 7:30 PM 9:40 PM

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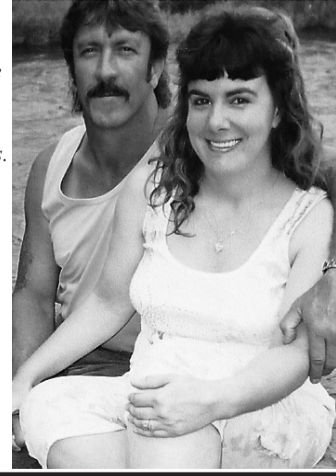
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Happy Anniversary

Steven, we made it, we've come along way. We're still in love, stronger deeper now. Most of all we have each other, love, peace, joy, happiness with God. We've been blessed with many more happy years. Good health. We were meant to be. I've always loved you, always will. You were always the love of my life. From the bottom of my heart, you've made me so happy. The special man. My Husband Love always, your Wife, Carrie O'Brien, 6-26-06.

I'm so glad we found our way back to each other.



AN ENCOURAGING WORD



By Eddy Pitchford

What's in a name? Parents may give a particular name to their child out of respect for a relative. They might express their dreams for their child by selecting the name of a famous person. Pregnant parents spend months discussing their child's means of identity, knowing they are apt to use a middle name only in formal or troublesome settings.

The purpose of a name is to identify or describe. The name, "Slowpoke" seems to fit a turtle better than a cheetah. The name, "Spot" is more appropriate for a dalmatian than a zebra.

From my vantage point, "church of Christ" is a means of identifying the church of the New Testament. If Christ built the church (Matthew 16:18) and it is His body (Ephesians 1:23), why not designate it accordingly? Indeed, "the churches of Christ salute you." (Romans 16:16).

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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.

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OUR VIEWS

Global warming turns 20

Twenty years ago this week, a then-unknown NASA scientist named James E. Hansen ushered global warming from the realm of climatology into the hot house of public policy.

He did it in testimony before the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, delivered on a sweltering summer day.

Global warming is real, he told the senators. It is already underway, he said, adding that he was "99 percent certain" it was caused by humans.

Politicians and the public listened to Hansen's message, and for two decades they've listened as a mountain of scientific evidence emerged to strengthen and confirm his conclusions. A few skeptics remain, but even President George W. Bush has become a convert.

Unfortunately, politicians have done little to actually address the problem. A bill to create a so-called cap-and-trade program for carbon emissions stalled in the Senate earlier this month.

Hansen now is director of NASA's Goddard Institute. But he's perhaps best known for the efforts of a Bush administration political appointee to keep him from speaking publicly about climate change. It didn't work.

"Emissions are continuing, basically unfettered," Hansen said this week. "We're really running out of time."

One of the prevailing counter-narratives to global warming, invoked to great effect by industry apologists and professional skeptics, is that the scientists now warning about warming were not so long ago worried about world cooling.

In fact, concerns about warming were first raised in the 19th century. As far back as 1859, scientists knew that carbon dioxide was an important greenhouse gas.

But it wasn't until about 50 years ago that they began measuring levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. Since 1958, it's increased 21.5 percent.

Carbon dioxide levels have grown by 8.4 percent since Hansen first addressed that Senate committee in 1988. The current level, 383 parts per million, is the highest in the past 650,000 years.

Evidence for warming now is "unequivocal," according to a United Nations-chartered scientific advisory group on global climate change. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change says that we can avoid the worst effects of global warming only if we act now.

Somehow, that message isn't getting through. A survey released last year found that only 48 percent of Americans believe that most scientists agree about the cause of global climate change. Even fewer, just 40 percent, believe most scientists agree that warming is occurring at all.

Why the skepticism? Because change is going to be difficult and wrenching. Many folks would rather not bother.

These days, Hansen is pessimistic that we can stop burning oil to reduce carbon dioxide emissions. "You're not going to be able to tell Saudi Arabia and Russia, the countries that have oil, that they're not going to be able to sell" it, he told a Washington audience this week.

Instead, he wants to phase out the use of coal-fired power plants by 2030. That would pose a major challenge to states like Missouri; Missourians get about 85 percent of our electricity from burning coal.

That highlights an uncomfortable — some say inconvenient — truth about global climate change: Addressing it will require difficult choices and higher expenses. Hansen believes the best way to phase out the use of coal-burning power plants is to impose a carbon-emissions tax, with the proceeds going directly to citizens to offset higher energy prices. That idea isn't even on the table in Washington.

Unfortunately, Congress isn't likely to do anything about global climate change until next year, and then only if citizens send a strong message that they want action now.

We can't afford to wait. The only thing more expensive than acting now to blunt the worst effects of global warming would be doing nothing for another 20 years.

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

One couple's world, worlds apart

The Chrysler 300C with the hemi engine that made her husband say, "That car can get it!" when he opened it up on the highway is no longer parked in the garage of their suburban North Texas home. Neither is the F250 diesel pickup that made many a trek to the hunting lease in West Texas. Selling the house and moving closer to town so she'd have a shorter commute isn't an option, so the practical solution to soaring fuel bills was to change vehicles.

A 2009 Camry, in which she's getting about 31 miles per gallon on the daily commute to and from downtown Fort Worth, replaced the two gas-gulpers.

He didn't buy a new truck; these days, his commute takes 24 hours and three flights. Since his work as a security contractor in Afghanistan won't be finished until February — and there's always the possibility that he'll extend another six months or more — why make payments on a vehicle that no one is driving?

The reports of increased violence in his current environs are troublesome as she reads stories on the news wires that she can access at work. She long ago learned, though, that obsessing over his safety is wasted energy. He enjoys

the work he's doing, just as he loved his time as a municipal police officer taking on the dangerous assignments in undercover narcotics and the gang unit.

Heaven knows that our country needs more experienced and trained people willing to help the Afghans take control of their nation if the United States is ever going to bring everyone home.

The Taliban's resurgence in the Kandahar area — where he spent his first two years in-country — is about 300 miles southwest of his Kabul quarters. His assignment on occasion takes him out to regional training centers and forward operating bases beyond the relative calm of the capital city. But that "relative calm," to a veteran of the Vietnam War, presents its own set of concerns.

The Taliban have got what he calls "the big head" and seem to think they are going to kick some tail, he writes in a recent e-mail. Reminds him of the Viet Cong during the '68 Tet offensive. But in Kabul, the situation is quiet. He'd prefer that they make some noise so the good guys know where they are and what they're doing.

That e-mail represents the extent to which he talks about his assignment. Their exchanges, which occur in real time during the first few hours after she gets into work, are mostly about the things that married couples talk about — kids, weather, health, friends and family.

The one time that she forgot to tell

him in advance that she wouldn't be in the office until the afternoon her time — the middle of the night for him — sent him into a panic, or as much of a panic as he ever exhibits. She wasn't aware of the problem until she got a call from his best friend, who is the deputy police chief of the department from which he retired, asking if she was all right.

It's an odd turn-around: He's more worried about her in Fort Worth than she is about him in a war zone.

Their long-distance life isn't unique these days. Thousands of American couples are wrestling with the challenges that separation by war bring.

When the two of them made their "for better or for worse" vows more than 16 years ago, they never imagined they'd be spending three of those years separated by half a world.

The strength needed to weather the unexpected steps in life's journey comes from unshakeable trust in each other and faith in whatever God's plan is for them — even if they can't always see it in the here and now.

Jill "J.R." Labbe is deputy editorial page editor of the Fort Worth Star-Telegram. Readers may write to her at 400 W. 7th Street, Fort Worth, Texas 76102, or via e-mail at jrllabbe@star-telegram.com.

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Iraqis know al-Qaida is the real enemy

As I rewatched the movie "Obsession — Radical Islam's War Against the West" recently, a few things jumped out, including these quotes from various Arab media outlets:

"America is the foremost enemy of the Muslim nation ..."

"They have come to fight the people of Iraq ..."

"The Americans must understand that when they attack the holy places, they attack all the Muslims of the world."

The film also showed propaganda videos from Iran, which included shots of U.S. forces kicking in doors, missiles being launched, Arab children crying, Muslims running with their wounded. Interspersed throughout were images of a smiling President Bush.

None of this was particularly original. What stood out, though, was the realization that since this movie was released in 2006, the United States had actually increased troop levels in Iraq, had redoubled efforts to rout al-Qaida there. If anything, Bush had given propagandists more fuel to inflame the anti-American Arab street.

The result? Rather than our forces' driving Iraqis into the arms of the radicals, the reverse happened.

It seems Iraqis have decided that al-Qaida, not America, is the "foremost enemy." That al-Qaida, not America, had come to fight the people of Iraq. That al-Qaida, not America, was the enemy of Muslims and their holy places.

Does this mean Iraqis want America encamped there forever? Of course not. Or that innocent life hasn't been lost as the result of U.S. actions? No.

But what irony. In the heart of the proposed capital of the radical Islamist caliphate, the antidote to jihadi propaganda has actually been exposure to the courage, decency and values of U.S. soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines.

Over the past five years, Iraqis have had the chance to see both sides in action: terrorists, extremists and militias that slaughter civilians at every opportunity vs. Americans who go out of their way to protect innocents, to help provide basic services, to rebuild communities.

Looking at those two contrary models, many Iraqis have thrown in with the Americans. Their reward? Decreasing levels of violence, a virtual end to the civil war, a certain level of protection against homicidal radicals, and the chance to put their country and lives back together.

For details on how this transformation occurred, start with the book "Moment of Truth in Iraq," by former Green Beret and longtime embedded military blogger Michael Yon.

Yon describes al-Qaida in Iraq as a gang that recruits young people with a "notion of masculinity in which the cruelest, most destructive, and bullying are seen as the toughest and thus the most admired."

In contrast, he writes, "What the American soldier at his best brings to counterinsurgency — by culture, by training, by long and honored tradition — is a different model in which the strongest — and most to be feared — is the one who protects and serves, who makes the people safe by putting himself at risk."

Yon shows the revulsion of Iraqi soldiers for al-Qaida as they pull bodies of innocents — including decapitated children — from shallow graves in a village liberated from terrorists. "Look at what al-Qaida has done to my country," one officer says.

Even the hard-core anti-American insurgent group, the 1920s Revolution Brigades, now fights alongside U.S. forces. One of their leaders told Yon: "Al-Qaida is an abomination of Islam: cutting off heads, stealing people's money, kidnapping, and every type of torture."

Yon offers several examples of the decency of U.S. forces that Iraqis have appreciated, including one by Maj. Mark Bieger, who appears on the book's cover.

Bieger's unit was tossing candy to children when a suicide bomber struck. As Yon says, the terrorist could have waited until the crowd cleared. He could have just targeted U.S. soldiers.

In the chaos that followed the blast, Bieger grabbed a wounded girl named Farah and rushed her to a vehicle for evacuation to a hospital. He hugged her several times, and Yon caught it on film.

Farah died, but, Yon says, "this picture, published all over Iraq and all over the world, had a devastating effect on the terrorists."

In his conclusion, Yon points out that the war is not yet won. But if victory is achieved, he says, it will be largely through the efforts of U.S. combat troops.

"This book covered a time in which our men and women in Iraq changed the course of history," he writes. "They did it against the odds, contrary to all expectations. ... They have been fighting for two nations, one of which didn't seem to notice."

"The Iraqis noticed."

Kevin Ferris is commentary page editor of the Philadelphia Inquirer. Readers may write to him at: Philadelphia Inquirer, P.O. Box 8263, Philadelphia, Pa. 19101, or by e-mail at kf@phillynews.com.

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Tweaked

Sonata hits nearly all the right notes

By JIM MATEJA
MCT News Service

CHICAGO — Hyundai has its work cut out for it.

It has to get people to notice its midsize Sonata sedan when its rivals are established favorites: Toyota Camry, Honda Accord, Nissan Altima, Chevy Malibu and Ford Fusion.

And all have had new versions since the 2006 model year, including some hybrids.

With much formidable competition, you can easily get lost in the crowd. That's why Hyundai has performed cosmetic surgery on the 2009 Sonata that's in showrooms now. It gets a new front end and a cabin makeover. And the next generation is due for the 2011 model year.

The midsize Sonata is assembled in Montgomery, Ala., along with the Santa Fe SUV.

No complaints about mileage. Hyundai had the third best fleet mileage rating last year (22.7 mpg) behind only Honda (22.9) and Toyota (22.8).

No gripes about price, either. Hyundai always loads its cars with standard equipment, such as stability control with traction control.

For 2009, Sonata goes upscale. It's offered in SE, GLS and Limited versions with a choice of V-6 for performance or 4-cylinder for mileage. We tested a 4-cylinder Limited.

Sonata owners had asked for is a little more punch when leaving the light or pulling out to pass. In other words, a little more fun. So Hyundai tweaked the 2.4-liter 4 and 3.3-liter V-6, to develop 175 and 249 horsepower, respectively.

Both also are quieter than the engines they replace. The 4 groans a bit when pushed hard, but it doesn't sound as if gasping for breath. Changes in transmission shift points

2009 HYUNDAI SONATA LIMITED

Wheelbase: 107.4 inches
Length: 188.9 inches
Engine: 2.4-liter, 175-h.p. 4-cylinder
Transmission: 5-speed automatic
MPG.: 22 city / 32 mpg
Price as tested: \$24,060

The sticker:
\$23,970 Base
\$90 Carpeted floor mats
\$675 for freight

Pluses:
Stylish redesign for luxury look inside and out.

Engine upgrades for better power and mileage.

Side-curtain air bags and stability/traction control standard.

Quiet operation.
Roomy cabin, spacious trunk.

Very good mileage — and price.

Minuses:
Trunk opening needs to be wider with back

make Sonata feel that much zippier leaving the light or taking the passing



lane.

Michael Deitz, manager of product planning for Hyundai, said one of the goals was to have the car get the mileage listed on the window sticker, not just come close. Of course, the EPA changing its testing procedures to achieve the same thing hasn't hurt.

Mileage rises to 22 mpg city and 32 mpg highway on the 4 from 21/30 for 2008, and 19 mpg city/29 mpg highway in the V-6, 1 mpg more on the highway.

The suspension is softly sprung to minimize bumps filtering into the cabin. It helps that seats are not only well cushioned, but also longer and wider and lean back 2 more degrees to relieve pressure on back and thighs.

Side bolsters aren't real large, but Sonata isn't designed for darting into and out of corners. It is more a pamperer with its smoothness and quietness. The suspension is firmer on the sporty SE for a focus on handling.

Stability control with traction control is standard on all models to keep you in contact with the road

and prevent unplanned detours from a straight line.

In addition to packing more punch, Sonata pays more attention to the cabin. Good fits and finishes without glaring gaps. Textured dash and door coverings as well as nicely textured leather seats provide a fashionable and luxury look.

The cabin is roomy and comfortable. Very nice head, leg and arm room in the back seat, where a pull-down armrest offers two cupholders. The trunk is very large. A small plastic tray in the corner can keep a can of pop from sliding around, but would be nice if it were big enough to hold a gallon of milk or two like the Toyota Corolla does.

Rear seat backs fold so you can slip packages from the trunk into the cabin, but the small opening limits what you can slip through.

Nice touches include covered cubbyholes in the dash to hold CDs or cell phones, rich-looking and eye-friendly blue backlighting on gauges at night, dark carpeting to

conceal ugly shoe marks and a USB port and power plug under the center armrest and another power plug in the console.

Sonata Limited starts at \$23,970 and much of the charm comes from the fact it's loaded: side-curtain air bags; anti-lock brakes; 17-inch, all-season, radials; alloy wheels; fog lights; power tilt and slide sunroof; AM/FM XM radio with CD player; keyless entry; leather (heated front) seats; power driver's seat; tilt/telescoping steering wheel with audio controls; dual automatic temperature control; and

power windows/locks/mirrors. Only option on the test car was carpeted mats at \$90.

Excellent looks, room, comfort, mileage and price along with very good performance.

A gas/electric version would help it keep up with the pack.

Hyundai is mum but you have to suspect with the new model coming for 2011, a hybrid may be too.

Jim Mateja can be reached at transportation@tribune.com.

NOTICE OF A REQUEST FOR APPROVAL FILED WITH THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF TEXAS

Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC ("Oncor"), a regulated electric transmission and distribution company, wishes to inform you that on May 28, 2008, Oncor filed a Request for Approval of Advanced Metering System Deployment Plan and Advanced Metering System Surcharge with the Public Utility Commission of Texas, a copy of which Request is kept at Oncor's office at 1601 Bryan St., 23rd floor, Dallas, TX 75201.

If approved, the nonbypassable surcharge will go into effect on January 1, 2009. Affected persons include all residential and non-residential customers who are not required by the independent system operator to have an interval data recorder meter. Oncor is requesting a nonbypassable surcharge that, if approved, will be billed to retail electric providers serving residential customers or non-residential customers who are not required by the independent system operator to have an interval data recorder meter in Oncor's service area. Costs to affected retail electric customers will

depend upon whether retail electric providers pass along an approved surcharge to its customers. The surcharge will allow Oncor to recover reasonable and necessary costs incurred in deploying advanced metering systems to such affected customers.

Persons who wish to intervene in or comment upon these proceedings should notify the Public Utility Commission of Texas (commission) as soon as possible, as an intervention deadline will be imposed. A request to intervene or for further information should be mailed to the Public Utility Commission of Texas, P.O. Box 13326, Austin, Texas 78711-3326. Further information may also be obtained by calling the Public Utility Commission at (512) 936-7120 or (888) 782-8477. Hearing- and speech-impaired individuals with text telephones (TTY) may contact the commission at (512) 936-7136. The deadline for intervention in the proceeding is July 14, 2008.

Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC

In Sunday's Big Spring Herald



Soldiers of peace

A growing number of baby boomer-age volunteers are fulfilling their life-long dream of serving their country by enlisting in the Peace Corps and using their life experiences to help others. Plus, playing homemade blues and cranberry bread with a twist.

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News in brief

Air Force officer acquitted of rape

WICHITA FALLS (AP) — The two women held hands nervously in the courtroom, surrounded by family and friends, awaiting the military jury's verdict for their former colleague.

One got the news she'd been waiting to hear nearly two years: guilty on two counts of indecent assault. But the other appeared stunned: not guilty of rape and two counts of indecent assault.

The military jury of seven men and two women in Col. Samuel Lofton's court-martial deliberated nearly five hours Wednesday before the verdict was read in the hushed courtroom. The verdict did not have to be unanimous; two-thirds had to agree.

Lofton, the former 82nd Training Group commander at Sheppard Air Force Base, also was convicted of two counts of conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman for calling a high-ranking enlisted member at her home and for making sexually suggestive comments to her at work.

Prosecutors and defense attorneys declined to comment after the verdict.

He faced up to life in prison if he had been convicted of rape. He now faces from no punishment to five years on each indecent assault count and one year on each

conduct unbecoming count.

Teenage murder suspect to be tried as an adult

SULPHUR SPRINGS (AP) — A judge ruled Wednesday that teenager Erin Caffey will be tried as an adult in a family slaying in which her mother and two younger brothers were killed earlier this year, Rains County officials said.

Caffey, who was 16 at the time of the deaths, was being held Thursday morning in the Hopkins County Jail on three counts of capital murder, a jailer who declined to give her name said.

No other details were immediately available on the court hearing. A spokesman at the Rains County Jail said Caffey's bond was set at \$1.5 million, Tyler television station KLTV reported.

Officials said Penny Caffey, 37; Tyler Caffey, 8; and Mathew Caffey 13, were shot and stabbed multiple times on March 1 in a tiny East Texas town. The lone survivor was Terry Caffey, the father. He was shot five times — including twice in the back — before he dragged his bloodied body through the woods in search of help.

Officials said Charlie Wilkinson, 19, Charles Allen Waid, 20, and Bobbi Gale Johnson, 18, are each charged

with three counts of capital murder in the pre-dawn massacre at the Caffey's secluded home. They are awaiting trial.

Broken lock traps 2 men in Humble DPS bathroom

HUMBLE (AP) — The Texas Department of Public Safety's woes continue after a malfunctioning door lock trapped two men inside a bathroom at the Humble DPS for nearly an hour.

The incident happened a day after the head of Texas' troubled top law enforcement agency pledged Tuesday to make significant reforms after coming under fire from critical lawmakers.

On Wednesday, 41-year-old Christin Perry needed a quick restroom break while renewing his license at the Humble DPS. That break turned into a lengthy ordeal when Perry tried to leave, the Houston Chronicle reported in its online editions on Thursday.

"What I think is, the lock mechanism broke, because the handle just goes up and down and it doesn't move," he said from his cell phone in the restroom Wednesday afternoon. DPS workers tried to jiggle the door open, but couldn't. They eventually summoned a locksmith, who freed Perry and another man after about an hour.



Members of the Fundamental Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints sit outside the Schleicher County Courthouse in Eldorado Wednesday. A grand jury opened its investigation Wednesday into a polygamist sect accused of forcing underage girls into marriage and motherhood.

Grand jury looks into FLDS activities

By MICHELLE ROBERTS
Associated Press Writer

ELDORADO — A grand jury investigating a polygamist sect accused of forcing underage girls into marriage and sex left Wednesday without issuing any indictments, ending their work on the case for the next month.

Women and girls in prairie dresses arrived at a courthouse surrounded by dozens of law enforcement officers in this tiny ranching hamlet's town square, but none were willing to comment about what had gone on inside the courthouse over the course of the day.

Grand jury proceedings are supposed to be secret, but court filings in the related child welfare case disclosed the start of the grand jury's work and the subpoena of one girl. Alan Futrell, an attorney for that 16-year-old girl, said the grand jury would not reconvene until July 22.

The girl, who is a daugh-

ter of the sect's jailed prophet Warren Jeffs, denies a state claim that she was married off at 15 and may have had a child soon after.

She has asked for a new lawyer in the separate child welfare case, claiming her court-appointed lawyer in that case is lying about her.

News of the grand jury and the girl's subpoena were disclosed in other court proceedings related to one of the largest custody cases in U.S. history. The girl was among the more than 400 children swept into state custody from a ranch run by the Fundamental Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.

"I don't want to do it," the girl told The Associated Press in a brief interview on Wednesday morning. After spending about 40 minutes in the courthouse in the afternoon, she only turned and smiled when asked if she testified.

Her mother, who was not subpoenaed, said she wasn't sure what the girl was called to talk about. "We just kind of wonder what it's all about," she said.

The girl had a light moment as she waited at a picnic table outside the courthouse with several other young female FLDS members.

She persuaded the others to help pull the table over to a large live oak tree, which she scrambled up to a height of about three stories while the others snapped photos with their cell phones and laughed.

Futrell said he believes any criminal indictments are a long way off.

The girl's child custody attorney, Natalie Malonis, won an extension of a restraining order against FLDS elder Willie Jessop at a hearing Tuesday. Malonis claims Jessop is influencing the girl to be uncooperative, an accusation he denies.



Community Guide

A resource for newcomers to
Big Spring and Howard County

Publication Date: July 2008
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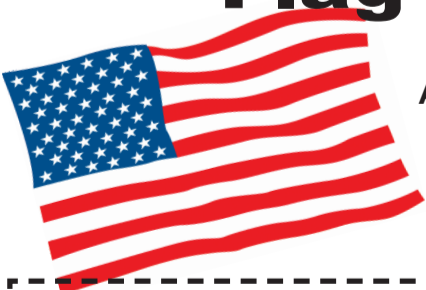
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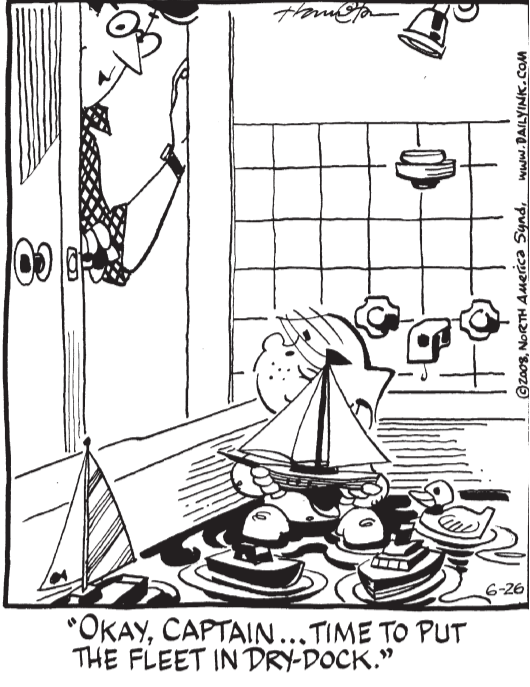


Offer available while supplies last.

*Must not have subscribed in last 45 days; delivery in Howard County only. For Mail delivery, call for rates.

Table with 20 columns representing TV channels (WFAA, KMID, UNI, KPEJ, KOSA, KTLE, KWES, WTBS, KMLM, KPBT, DISC, AMC, SPIKE, TNT, BET, DISN, ESPN2, ESPN) and 24 rows representing time slots from 5:30 AM to 1:30 AM.

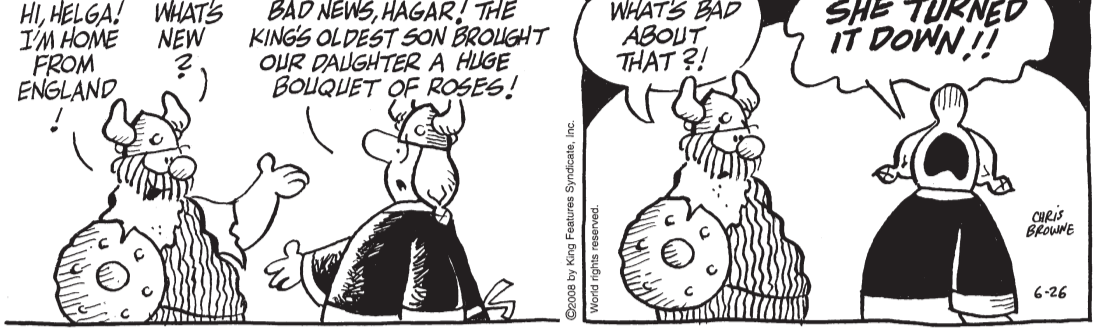
DENNIS THE MENACE



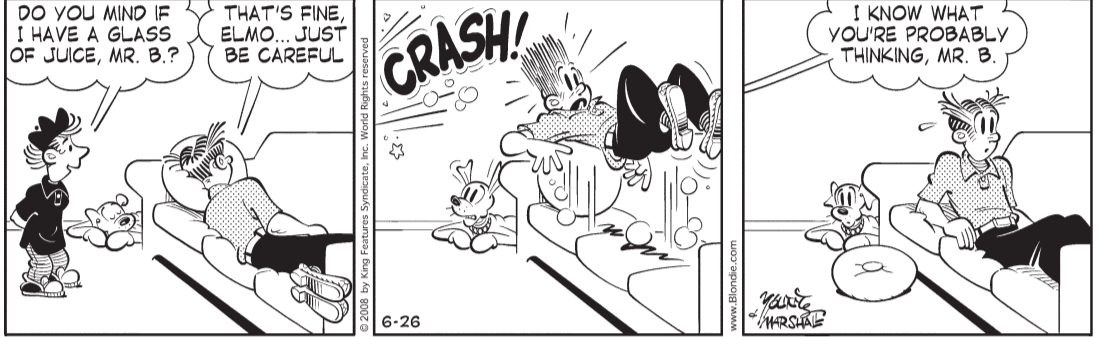
THE FAMILY CIRCUS



HAGAR



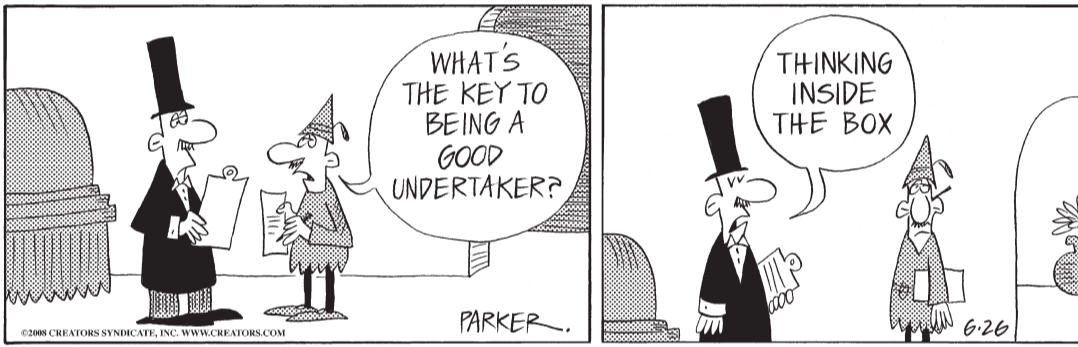
BLONDIE



BC



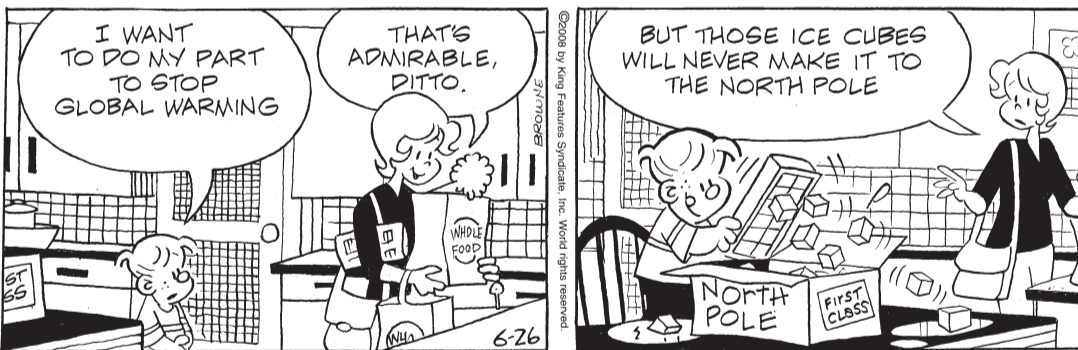
WIZARD OF ID



AGNES



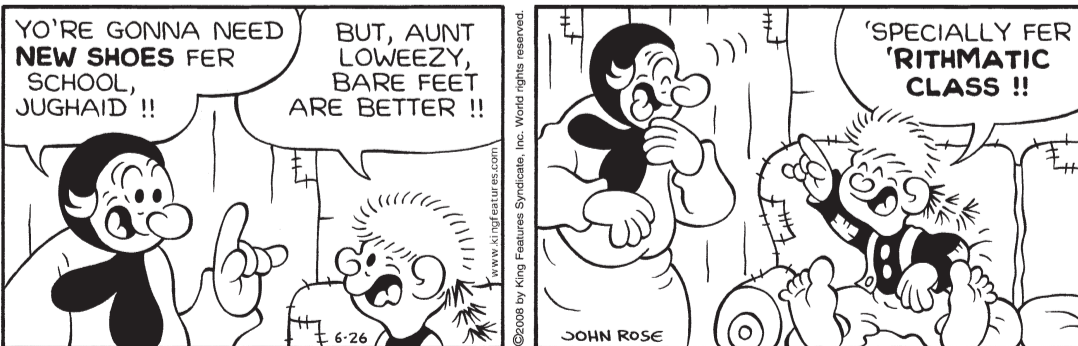
HI AND LOIS



THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BEEBLE BAILEY



This Date In History

Today is Thursday, June 26, the 178th day of 2008. There are 188 days left in the year. Today's Highlight in History: On June 26, 1963, President Kennedy visited West Berlin...

In 1973, former White House counsel John W. Dean told the Senate Watergate Committee about an "enemies list" kept by the Nixon White House. In 1977, 42 people were killed when a fire sent toxic smoke pouring through the Maury County Jail in Columbia, Tenn.

Francis is 62. Rhythm-and-blues singer Brenda Holloway is 62. Actor Robert Davi is 55. Singer-musician Mick Jones is 53. Actor Gedde Watanabe is 53. Rock singer Chris Isaak is 52. Rock singer Patty Smyth is 51. Singer Terri Nunn (Berlin) is 47. Rock singer Harriet Wheeler (The Sundays) is 45. Rock musician Colin Greenwood (Radiohead) is 39. Actor Sean Hayes is 38. Actor Matt Letscher is 38. Actress Rebecca Budig is 35. Country singer Gretchen Wilson is 34. Actor-musician Jason Schwartzman is 28. Actress Kaitlin Cullum is 22.

Newsday Crossword

POSITIONAL by Shirley Soloway Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS: 1 Bridge, 5 Bumpy-skinned creatures, 10 Sources of cash, 14 Dust-up, 15 Mag employee, 16 Candle part, 17 Help unlawfully, 18 All-day sucker, e.g., 19 Recognition for a sitcom, 20 NSA concern, 23 Praise highly, 24 Volvo alternative, 25 On the ___ (at large), 28 MLB award, 31 Yacht spot, 33 Sites for springs, 37 Primer, for one, 40 Ape, 41 Aerodynamics concern, 44 Like some buckets, 45 Sassy, 46 LAX stats, 47 Tracey of TV, 49 Apt, 51 Vacation souvenir, 52 Some Disneyana, 55 Clever play, 60 Bargain hunters of sorts, 64 Speed, 66 Act like a peacock, 67 World-weary one's word, 68 Actress Hathaway, 69 "Over the Rainbow" composer, 70 Philbin cohort, 71 Hammer part, 72 Cheerleader's repertoire, 73 Pale, DOWN: 1 Announce, 2 Address component, sometimes, 3 Skilled, 4 Inaccurate, 5 After-bath application, 6 Whiff, 7 Van Gogh's Provence home, 8 Greek triangle, 9 Security device, 10 Agape, 11 Standardized-test feature, 12 End of the 19th century, 13 High spot, 21 Shade source, 22 Illinois senator, 26 West Side Story girl, 27 Thanksgiving Day Parade name, 29 TV adjunct, 30 Magic sound effect, 32 Bank of the Seine, 33 Troop member, 34 "Positive Thinking" fellow, 35 Talus, 36 Flower part, 38 Union letters, 39 Weekly declaration, 42 Succession with legislation, 43 Troy, NY school, 48 Direct-deposit amount, 50 Football stat, 53 Mr. Moto portrayer, 54 Whiff, 56 Tara surname, 57 Sandwich shops, 58 Pie-chart alternative, 59 High-school exam part, 61 Eerie sign, 62 Sense, 63 Weekend-getaway spots, 64 Use the microwave on, 65 United.

