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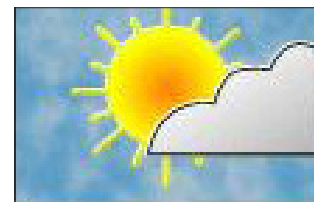
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# HERALD

**WEDNESDAY**

JULY 2, 2008



VOLUME 103, NUMBER 183

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**Darlene Dabney visits with Big Spring Mayor Russ McEwen after the mayor read a proclamation making Tuesday, July 1, Darlene Dabney Day in Big Spring. Dabney, American State Bank vice president, celebrated her 50<sup>th</sup> year as a bank employee with a reception attend by many in the community. She began her career as a 19-year-old with Security State Bank, which was later purchased by American State Bank.**

HERALD photo/Lyndel Moody

## Drought wilts farmer's market

*Vendors don't have enough product*

By **THOMAS JENKINS**  
Staff Writer

Area residents hoping to fill their pantries with fresh fruits and vegetables from the annual Farmer's Market will have to wait at least a year, as organization officials have cancelled this year's run due to a shortage in product.

Marian Newton, a

spokesperson for the group responsible for the market, said weather conditions have many former market vendors looking to fill their own pantries.

"Between the drought and sand, there really isn't anything left for our producers to sell," said Newton. "So we got together and decided to cancel this year's Farmers

Market."

The opening date for the market had been set for July 8, according to Newton, but has been cancelled — along with the rest of the market dates through the season — until producers can generate new crops.

Newton's wife, Sherry,

See **MARKET**, Page 3A

## Highland residents set to show their patriotism

By **ALEX NEWSOM**  
Herald intern

It's parade time. For more than 20 years, the Highland Parade has been something to look forward to during the week surrounding the Fourth of July.

The parade — slated Friday morning — is set

to begin at the corner of Robb and Highland Drive and end at the corner of Goliad and Highland Drive. The parade is expected to last 30 to 40 minutes, and according to event organizers, draws approximately 75 participants.

According to Shayla

Seymore, organizer for this year's parade, there will be entertainment, awards and cookies following the event. Center and Praise, a group from the First United Methodist Church, is slated to perform, and awards will be given for

See **HIGHLAND**, Page 3A

## 46th annual Fly-In planned Friday at Colorado City

**Herald Staff Report**

Colorado City will be celebrating its 46<sup>th</sup> annual Fly-In breakfast Friday and everyone is invited.

The Fly-In was originally started in 1962 to promote the new landing strip east

of the community. Pilots attending are mainly from Texas and New Mexico, but pilots from other states, the farthest being Alaska, have come in the past. Most bring their families and come to have

breakfast, visit with friends and fellow pilots and compete for different plaques, including longest distance flown, most unusual aircraft and oldest aircraft. Breakfast is free to fly-ins and \$5 for other attendees. It begins

at 7 a.m., and breakfast is usually over in less than three hours.

The event's popularity has grown over the years, with the number of breakfasts served reaching 600. There will be somewhere between 80

and 100 planes attending. Skydivers, brought by Dave Watts of Midland, will be making two jumps, and golf carts are available for those who find the walk too strenuous.

The Colorado City Fly-In Association, comprised

entirely of volunteers, is in charge of organizing the event.

For more information, contact the Colorado City Area Chamber of Commerce at (325) 728-3403 or e-mail them at [ccitychamber@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ccitychamber@sbcglobal.net).

### Nowthen is Nowthen again

NOWTHEN, Minn. (AP) — Residents of Nowthen know it's a funny name, but they're proud to officially become a city.

The community north of the Twin Cities changed its name Monday from Burnsville Township to Nowthen, which was the name the first local post office was given by mistake.

During the 1890s, a community leader created a list of possible names for the post office and wrote, "Nowthen, one of these ought to do."



**Paramedics with the Big Spring Fire Department work to remove an elderly woman from a vehicle following a traffic accident on 11<sup>th</sup> Place near Runnels Tuesday afternoon. According to police at the scene, the woman suffered a medical emergency while traveling down the street and hit a second vehicle from behind. She was transported to the emergency room at Scenic Mountain Medical Center with unknown injuries.**

HERALD Photo/Thomas Jenkins

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### IN BRIEF

#### 12-year-old All-Stars in top three in tourney

The Big Spring Little League Association 12-year-old All-Stars are on the verge of playing for a District 3 championship.

The 12-year-olds defeated Northern Tuesday, earning the chance to play Mid-City for the right to advance to the championship series in the double-elimination bracket.

They play at 7 p.m. Thursday. With a win, they'll play for the title at a time to be determined Saturday.

The 11-year-old All-Stars saw their streak of wins in the tournament come to an end Tuesday, falling to North Ector.

The 10-year-olds kept their title hopes alive with a win Tuesday.

They'll play again today at 7 p.m. in another elimination game at Jim Parker Field in Odessa.

No updates were available for the Big Spring Junior team.

#### UIL required physicals due for some athletes

UIL requires all incoming seventh, ninth and 11th grade athletes to have a physical before they are allowed to participate in any sport.

This includes practices and games. All local athletic departments are encouraging athletes and their parents headed into the listed grades above to make an appointment with their doctor and get this physical before the start of the school year.

Football and volleyball players would want to get this taken care of before the start of their two-a-days.

Contact your school's athletic department with any questions.

#### Big Spring QB Club meeting at ATC July 7

The Big Spring Quarterback Club is holding its first meeting of the 2008 season at 6:30 p.m. Monday, July 7, at the Athletic Training Center.

The club will then meet every subsequent Monday at the same time until school starts.

All parents of junior high or high school football players are encouraged to attend.

For more information, call the ATC at 264-3662.

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

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

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.

# Records crumble at Olympic trials

By PAUL NEWBERRY

AP National Writer

OMAHA, Neb. — Michael Phelps just missed setting another world record at the U.S. Olympic trials.

Natalie Coughlin and Aaron Peirsol showed him how to do it.

Racing about 10 minutes apart, Coughlin and Peirsol broke their own marks in the 100-meter backstroke Tuesday on another lightning-quick night at the temporary pool in America's heartland.

Their records were the fifth and sixth of the meet — with five days to go. Both Coughlin and Peirsol

were wearing the Speedo LZR Racer, which upped its tally of world marks to 44 since debuting in mid-February.

"I'm really glad that I stamped my ticket to Beijing. I got that over with," Coughlin said. "I feel like a huge weight has been lifted."

Phelps made a dogged run at perhaps the most impressive record on his staggering resume, the time of 1 minute, 43.86 seconds from the 200-meter freestyle at last year's world championships. He was right on pace as he pow-

ered toward the wall, but he touched with only the third-fastest time in history, 1:44.10.

Then it was time for Coughlin and Peirsol to shine.

Coughlin became the first woman to break 59 seconds, just one day after she reclaimed the world record in the preliminaries. She touched in 58.97, locking up the first of perhaps as many as six races she could swim in Beijing.

Peirsol showed he's still king of the backstroke, beating a strong field and his own record in the 100

back at 52.89, ahead of the 52.98 from last year's worlds.

Six-foot-8 Matt Grevers took second just ahead of Ryan Looche, who dropped a spot in the 200 free final — and another chance to race Phelps — to give himself a better shot to qualify in the backstroke. The move didn't pay off; Lochte came on strong over the final 50 but touched in 53.37, behind Grevers' 53.19. Randall Bal, the fastest qualifier in the semifinals, settled for fourth in

See OLYMPICS, Page 2B

# Rangers close in on sweep of Yanks

## Young's RBI single off Rivera gives Texas 3-2 win

By HOWIE RUMBERG

AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK — Ian Kinsler walked on four pitches to start the game and Texas' leadoff batter was off and running.

He didn't stop until he stole third and scored on Michael Young's hit off Mariano Rivera in the ninth inning to give the Rangers their second straight win over the New York Yankees, 3-2 on Tuesday night.

Kinsler led off the ninth with a double down the left field line off Rivera and then stole third, his third stolen base of the game.

"I didn't want to lose this game so I had to make it," Kinsler said.

Young hit a hard grounder through a drawn-in infield to score Kinsler for the Rangers' first run off Yankees relievers in four-plus innings.

"It's just taking advantage of what we can do," Texas manager Ron Washington said. "It worked out perfect for us, Michael putting the ball in play. Good things happen when you put the ball in play."

Rivera (2-3), who started the ninth after Dan Giese,

Dave Robertson and Jose Veres held the Rangers to one hit in four innings in relief of Joba Chamberlain. Rivera has still not allowed a run in a save situation this season. All four runs he has allowed have come in games that were tied.

"It doesn't mean more," Kinsler said of beating Rivera. "It's just tougher to do, to squeeze out that run in the ninth is big."

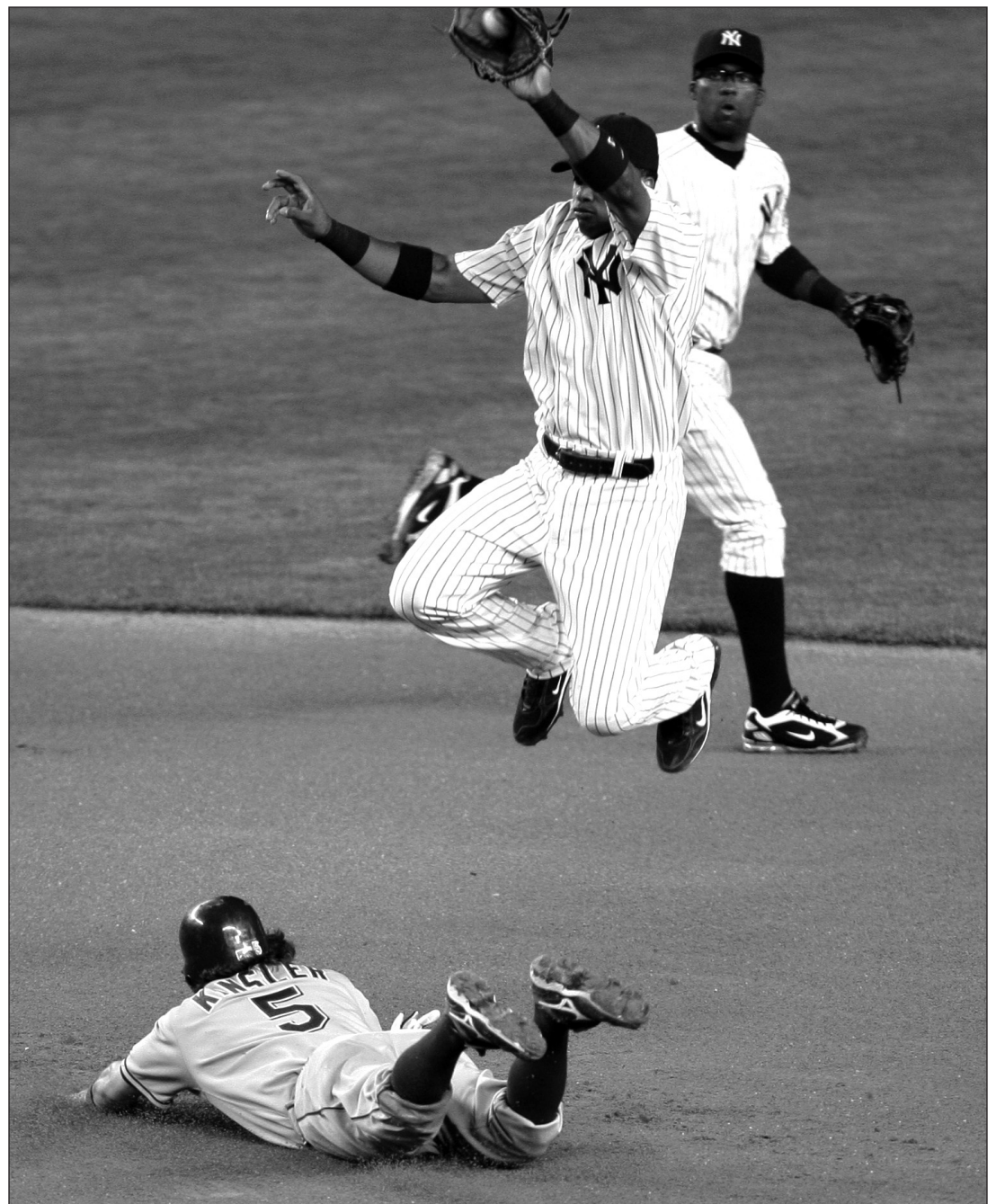
Losers of three straight, the Yankees have had trouble scoring runs recently. They have scored seven runs in the past four games after a 9-0 win over the Mets in a second game of a doubleheader last Friday.

"It stinks," Yankees manager Joe Girardi said. "You're looking for consistency. It's not an offense that should struggle."

Frank Francisco (2-2) pitched the eighth for the win. C.J. Wilson walked the leadoff batter in the ninth, but got three outs for his 19th save in 21 chances. Derek Jeter, who got the night off, was in the on-deck circle when Wilson got the final out.

Sidney Ponson, in his second stint with New York, will face his former

See RANGERS, Page 2B



AP photo/Kathy Willens  
Texas Rangers second baseman Ian Kinsler (5) slides safely under New York's second baseman Robinson Cano, center, as shortstop Wilson Betemit looks on in the seventh inning of an AL baseball game at Yankee Stadium in New York, Tuesday.

# Williams sisters look to meet in finals

## Venus and Serena each make Wimbledon semis, one win from sibling battle for title

By STEPHEN WILSON

AP Sports Writer

WIMBLEDON, England (AP) — Don't tell Serena Williams that sister Venus is the one to beat at Wimbledon.

"I would never sit here and say she's the favorite when I'm still in the draw," she said, bristling at the suggestion. "That's not me. I always believe that I'm the favorite. Even if I'm not the favorite, I'm always going to believe that I am."

The Williams sisters, who between them have won six of the last eight Wimbledon titles, are one round away from a third Wimbledon title matchup and seventh Grand Slam championship showdown. Neither has dropped a set so far, and their power games have set them apart from the rest of the women's field.

"That would be amazing if we both were in the final," defending champion and four-time winner Venus said after beating Tamarine Tanasugarn 6-4, 6-3 Tuesday to reach the semifinals.

Two-time champ Serena caught some of her sister's match before going out and sweeping Agnieszka Radwanska 6-4, 6-0.

"Watching the competition a little bit," she said.

Next up for sixth-seeded Serena on Thursday is Zheng Jie, who became the first Chinese player to reach the semifinals of a Grand Slam by beating Nicole Pietrangola 6-2, 5-7, 6-1. The 133rd-ranked Zheng is also the first wild-card entrant to reach the women's semis at Wimbledon and second at any Grand Slam.

No. 7 Venus will next face No. 5 Elena Dementieva, who wasted a 5-1 lead and two match points in the second set before beating fellow Russian Nadia Petrova 6-1, 6-7 (6), 6-3 to reach her first Wimbledon semifinal.

Venus was limping slightly at the end of her match with what she said was a tight left hamstring.

"I'm fine," she said. "I'm walking around on two legs, doing good, so I'm not really concerned right now."

The Williams sisters will be heavy favorites to meet in their first four final since the 2003 Wimbledon championship. Serena won that match in three sets, following up her straight-set win over Venus for the 2002 title. Serena leads Venus 5-1 in Slam finals and 8-7 overall.

See WIMBLEDON, Page 2B



AP photo/Anja Niedringhaus  
Serena Williams reacts after winning her quarterfinal match against Poland's Agnieszka Radwanska on the Centre Court at Wimbledon, Tuesday.







Courtesy photo

Local musician Jody Nix, second from right, and his band perform with Ray Benson and members of Asleep at the Wheel Sunday night during the Smithsonian Folklife Festival in Washington D.C. Nix and his band were one of several groups invited to perform during the event in the nation's capitol.

# Western govts hope to sway energy policy

By MATT JOYCE

Associated Press Writer

TETON VILLAGE, Wyo. — Citing a lack of federal leadership, the nation's Western governors want to draft a national energy policy they hope will influence the next presidential administration.

Governors participating in the final day of the Western Governors' Association meeting in Wyoming said their resource-rich region is well positioned to take the lead on the issue.

"We all know that nature abhors a vacuum, and so does politics," said Utah Gov. Jon Huntsman. "This group is very, very serious about putting forward a policy recommendation to the next administration."

Tuesday's meeting wrapped up three days of discussions on issues related to energy, climate change, water supply and wildlife habitat. Over the next several months, representatives from the governors' offices will craft the energy policy proposal.

British Columbia Premier Gordon Campbell, one of four Canadian provincial leaders in attendance, said not all Canadians or Americans are convinced that climate change is real. However, he said regional governments would be negligent not to take action.

"I don't actually look at this as a challenge between the north side of the border and the south side of the border; this is a challenge for all of us," he said.

The discussion centered on the need for diverse, secure and affordable energy sources, relying both on traditional fuels such as coal and natural gas while also expanding renewable sources such as wind and solar. Government and industry officials emphasized increased conservation would be a key part of any energy policy.

The governors also focused on climate change, discussing technology and strategies for cleaning up carbon dioxide emissions from fossil fuels. Those strategies include emerging technologies for capturing carbon and the potential for a national "cap-and-trade" system to limit smokestack emissions and assign a monetary value to pollutants.

Wyoming Gov. Dave Freudenthal, whose state leads the nation in coal production, said regional efforts at that type of system illustrate the lack of federal initiative.

"What you see is all of those efforts pushing in the direction of forcing the federal government to finally do what it should do and figure out how to monetize carbon and integrate that into the economy," Freudenthal said.

Jeff Immelt, chairman and chief executive of General Electric Co., attended Tuesday's meeting as a keynote speaker and participated in discussions with the governors. He said the United States is not alone in dealing with issues of how to provide clean energy and clean water, two principles he said his company is committed to.

"If we don't push it in the United States, other countries are going to do this," Immelt said. "It's not like other people are waiting for us to lead."

But delivering a federal energy policy proposal to Washington won't have much effect if it's simply a consensus document among governors, said Gov. Christine Gregoire of Washington. She said the governors should solicit officials from a range of sectors to sign the document.

## State Briefs

### Sheriff ponders documentary crew request

DALLAS (AP) — Dallas County Sheriff Lupe Valdez said she would decide Wednesday whether to allow a documentary film crew into her jail.

The sheriff and county commissioners have been at odds over the plan since it was announced. Commissioners and the county judge voted unanimously Tuesday to seek a court order to stop the filming. District Attorney Craig Watkins sided with the sheriff at an afternoon news conference.

"I don't want to do anything that will harm the county," Valdez told The Associated Press. She said she was still talking to people.

"If it's going to be more of a negative than it will be positive, then we will stop. And tomorrow morning we will see where we are at."

Valdez believes letting a Discovery Channel film crew into the Lew Sterrett Justice Center will give her staff a chance to feature the jail in a positive light to the entire country. Film crews could be at the jail at least 30 days, The Dallas Morning news reported in its online edition.

Commissioner Kenneth Mayfield told the newspaper the filming was "too big a risk to take at this time." The jail has failed five consecutive state inspections and is still not compliant with state jail standards.

### Citizen's group in Victoria abandons council recall efforts; aims for charter revision

VICTORIA (AP) — A citizens group here voted unanimously to tackle revising the city charter, instead of pursuing a city council recall.

"That's where I am leaning. It's more productive with the timing and everything," said Russell Pruitt, a member of the Citizens for Responsible Government group, in a story for Wednesday's edition of the Victoria Advocate.

Pruitt was among the 30 who attended a Tuesday night meeting, initially to discuss a recall petition. The recall effort follows the May indictments of four city

leaders, including Victoria Mayor Will Armstrong, in an investigation of tampering with a criminal case against a former sheriff facing child sex charges.

Pruitt discussed the number of signatures needed to recall the candidates. He also outlined the six charter amendments the group is proposing: term limits for the city council, reducing the number of signatures required for initiative and referendum petitions, having the county elections administrator instead of the city secretary certify all petitions, requiring the city attorney to run for office, changing the city's elections from May to November to coincide with state elections and prohibiting the city council from spending tax money to defend indicted city officials.

### EPA says it will approve plan to reduce air pollution in Dallas-Fort Worth area

DALLAS (AP) — The Environmental Protection Agency is ready to sign off on a clean air plan for the Dallas-Fort Worth area.

The proposal would reduce ozone-forming pollutants by 88 tons per day. The amount is more than double what the earlier plan proposed.

The EPA will take comments on the plan before making its final decision.

The proposed approval has some conditions. The EPA said the state has to finalize regulations that would reduce the amount of discrete emission credits available in the nine-county non-attainment area covered by the plan.

Environmental groups such as the Dallas Chapter of the Sierra Club said the plan is woefully short of where it needs to be.

"There has been talk of further action regarding this air plan as far as legal action. There has been talk from the environmental community of requesting that the state agency's air authority be pulled," said Rita Beving, conservation spokeswoman for the Dallas club, referring to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

## MARKET

Continued from Page 1A

who is also involved with the organization, said the decision was a tough one, but a recent meeting left the group with little choice.

"We held an emergency meeting with the growers, and some of them had nothing at all because of the wind and drought," said Sherry

Newton. "Others only had a dab, so there certainly wasn't enough their to support the demand from the community. We hated to have to cancel the season — this would have been our fifth year — but when you just don't have the product there isn't anything you can do."

Newton said there is little to no chance of any late crops able to sustain a market this season, but the annual event is expected to take place next year, as long as mother

nature cooperates. "There's really no chance of anything happening with the market this year," said Sherry Newton. "However, we fully expect to hold the market next year. Hopefully, we'll get a little more help from the weather next year."

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

## HIGHLAND

Continued from Page 1A

classifications such as bicycles, walkers, strollers, motorized vehicles and four-wheelers.

Decorated mailboxes and yards will also be judged, with all participants in the parade receiving a ribbon.

When asked about the popularity of the Highland Parade, Seymore said it's a family affair that spans the

generations. "Some of the people even have family members come in from out of town for the parade," said Seymore. "Several people have had their kids ride in the parade, and now they get to watch their grandchildren participate."

Seymore said there's no admission fee or pre-registration required to take part in the parade, with participants expected to begin lining up around 9:15 a.m. and the festivities set to get under way at 10

a.m. "I want to encourage everyone to bring their kids and enjoy the parade," said Seymore.

For more information on the parade — or to make a monetary or cookie donation — contact Seymore at 267-4854 or Linda Stallings at 267-8427.

Contact Herald intern Alex Newsom at 263-7331 or by e-mail at newsdesk@bigspringherald.com

### MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

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Wayne Johnson, 73, died Sunday. Funeral Services will be at 10:30 AM Thursday at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

Roy Thornton, 53, died Tuesday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

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## News in brief

### Ex-convict suspected of killing 8 in 2 states captured outside of southwestern Ill. bar

GRANITE CITY, Ill. (AP) — An exhaustive, two-state manhunt for an ex-convict suspected in eight grisly slayings has ended with the man quietly arrested outside a bar known as a police hang-out.

Nicholas T. Sheley's capture was only a matter of time because of the intense publicity surrounding the case, said Tim Lewis, police chief in the St. Louis suburb of Festus, Mo. Police knew from a number of witness reports that Sheley was in the area, he said.

"He was desperate and he gave up without a fight," Lewis said Tuesday night. "He looks rough. He's had a rough two days."

Sheley was taken into custody around 6:40 p.m. Tuesday while smoking a cigarette outside Bindy's, a bar in Granite City about 10 miles north of St. Louis, witnesses said.

He ordered a glass of water and went to the bathroom before an employee and customer recognized him, bartender Katie Ronk said. The customer, Gary Range, said he left the bar and notified a police officer parked in the lot outside.

### Key energy forum has no answers on when — or if — oil prices will come down

MADRID, Spain (AP) — As crude soared to a new record, the head of the International Energy Agency declared that the world was in the grip of an "oil shock," and the president of OPEC acknowledged he could not say whether prices would flatten out or continue to soar.

The comments by IEA chief Nobuko Tanaka, OPEC chief and Algerian Energy minister Chakib Khelil and other industry leaders at the 19th World Petroleum conference reflected the concern surrounding record oil prices that seem ready to spike higher.

An IEA report released at the conference confirmed what most consumers fear: that supplies of oil will remain tight, whether for cooking fires in the poorest countries or powering cars and cooling or heating homes in the richest. And that's despite record prices and reduced demand as costly crude dampens the world's oil hunger.

Reflecting the world's oil price doldrums, light, sweet crude for August delivery rose 97 cents to settle at a new high of \$140.97 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange. Prices at one point rose as high as \$143.33, just 34 cents shy of Monday's trading record.

"We are clearly in the third oil price shock," declared Tanaka, comparing the effects to periods of soaring prices in the 1970s and 1980s.

### McCain to tour drug interdiction efforts after praising Uribe for anti-drug efforts

CARTAGENA, Colombia (AP) — Republican John McCain planned to tour a Colombian port by boat Wednesday to get a first-hand look at the country's drug interdiction programs, a day after he praised President Alvaro Uribe for Colombia's anti-drug efforts but pressed him to improve the government's record on human rights.

The Republican presidential hopeful was on a three-day visit to Colombia and Mexico, where the eradication of illegal drugs topped the agenda. McCain was also promoting free trade deals like NAFTA he said would benefit the U.S. economy over time, even though such agreements have been deeply unpopular in several general election swing states like Ohio and Michigan.

The Arizona senator was also meeting with cabinet ministers and business leaders. He was scheduled to depart Wednesday afternoon for Mexico City.

McCain met with Uribe Tuesday night at the Colombian leader's seaside retreat here. The two talked for nearly two hours and addressed the country's problematic human rights record, McCain said.

"I've been a supporter of human rights for my entire life and career," McCain told reporters after the meeting. "We have discussed this issue with President Uribe and will continue to urge progress in that direction. I believe progress is being made and that more progress needs to be made."

### With Obama atop Dem ticket, candidates use race as wedge issue

JACKSON, Miss. (AP) — A Republican congressional candidate in a majority-white Mississippi district runs ads trying to tie his Democratic rival with Barack Obama's former pastor, seen by some as an anti-white firebrand. Democrats distribute fliers accusing the Republican of wanting a statue to honor the founder of the Ku Klux Klan.

The only black justice on the Wisconsin Supreme Court is defeated after his rival runs an ad with the justice's picture next to that of a black convict. A watchdog group calls it a "disgraceful attack."

In South Carolina, a Republican challenger for the U.S. Senate airs an ad with people stepping over wire fencing and protest signs holding "Secure Our Borders" signs. It includes a man and woman saying, "Muchas gracias, Lindsey Graham," the incumbent Republican.

In the first year a major party is poised to choose a black nominee for president, American politicians are still appealing to voters' racial fears, with varying degrees of success.

"Racial fears and racial conflict are certainly not segregated to the South,"

said Michael Dawson, a University of Chicago political scientist who has studied race in politics. "Certainly, I think we see it in most parts of the country."

### Who's not following government's advice on identity theft? The government

WASHINGTON (AP) — When it comes to the risks of identity theft, the U.S. government isn't taking its own advice.

The nation's Medicare agency and the Pentagon compel at least 52 million Americans to carry their Social Security numbers in their wallets, contrary to warnings by the Federal Trade Commission that people should avoid doing so.

At least 44 million Medicare insurance cards include the beneficiary's full Social Security number.

Social Security numbers also appear on 8 million Defense Department identity cards used by active duty and reserve forces and their dependents, and on identification cards issued to military retirees. The Pentagon plans to remove the numbers but won't complete the effort until 2014.

And the Internal Revenue Service still tells taxpayers to write their Social Security number on checks used to make payments, a potential problem for those using the mail rather than filing electronically.

### Chinese party boss in Tibet attacks Dalai Lama while envoys hold talks

BEIJING (AP) — China's Communist Party boss in Tibet delivered a fresh attack on the Dalai Lama Wednesday, even as envoys of the region's exiled leader met for a second day with Chinese officials for talks aimed at easing tensions following anti-government riots.

The official Tibet Daily quoted hardliner Zhang Qingli as saying that supporters of the Dalai Lama were behind the violence that began with deadly rioting in Tibet's capital Lhasa on March 14 and quickly spread throughout Tibetan areas of western China.

"The March 14 incident was a seriously violent criminal incident by the Dalai clique. The organized and orchestrated incident was created by Tibetan separatists after long-term preparation,

with the support and instigation of Western hostile forces," Zhang was quoted as saying.

He said the violence was timed for the run-up to next month's Summer Olympics in Beijing.

"At a sensitive moment, they harbored the evil intention of turning the incident into a bloodbath, of disrupting the Beijing Olympics and destroying Tibet's stability and political harmony," Zhang said.

### Pentagon balks at dropping recruitment waiver requirements for petty crimes

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Pentagon has revised its policy for recruits who must get waivers for past bad behavior, but officials stopped short of eliminating waiver requirements for petty crimes, The Associated Press has learned.

After a lengthy review, the Defense Department bowed to insistence from the services that they be allowed to set their own guidelines for what offenses trigger a waiver. Instead, officials say the Pentagon will unveil a policy Wednesday that improves and simplifies the reporting process, grouping the waivers into

four broad categories.

Several officials spoke about the new policy on condition of anonymity because it has not yet been released.

Last year, under the continuing strain of Iraq and Afghanistan, the number

of recruits with waivers for bad conduct increased. Senior military leaders at the time suggested the department might be able to eliminate waiver requirements for some less serious crimes in the near future.

## sudoku

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9		2		7	1			4
	6		8					1
	5		4				9	
3							2	
		8	6		3	7		
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	1				6		3	
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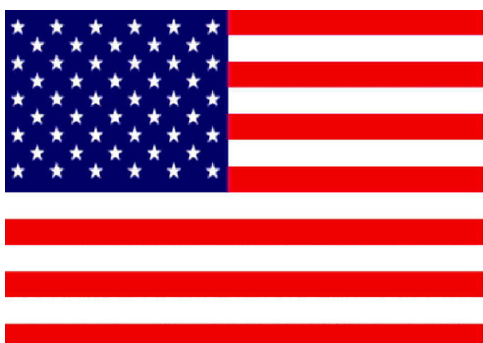
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**Ryan Devere,** Agent  
**John Burson,** Agent

(432) 267-7466  
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# Why not check this out — at the library

**N**ote: The Library will be closed on Friday for the holiday. Please call for hours on Thursday. We will reopen Monday.

Today is my sister Sarah's birthday. She is a school administrator in the San Antonio Independent School District, as well as a golfer, a Spurs fan and a great person. Sarah's favorite quote is this: "A bad day at the golf course is still better than a great day at the office."



HOLLIS MCCRIGHT

I write that to say this — a new book by Dan Jenkins, "The Franchise Babe," is about women in golf, more particularly, about teen-age golfers like Michelle Wie.

Jack Brannon is a sportswriter in his 40s who has become bored out of his mind covering the PGA tour and decides to check out the "Lolitas" on the LPGA Tour. His subject is Ginger Clayton, an 18-year old with a killer game and is considered to be a "franchise" babe (hence the book title). As with all of Jenkins' books, they have superb, dead-on takedowns of the selfish sports moms, gas-bag corporate types, sleazy sport agents, etc. This is a very amusing book



and one that I am buying Sarah for her birthday! I think Salman Rushdie is still on the hit-list of the hard-line Islamic religious leaders. "The Enchantress of Florence," by Rushdie, has won the Booker Prize, awarded each year for the best original full-length novel written in the English language. You must also be a citizen of either the Commonwealth of

Nations (53 nations formerly under British control) or the Republic of Ireland. Winners of the Booker Prize are generally assured of international renown and success. It is also a mark of distinction for authors to be nominated for the Booker long list or selected for inclusion in the short list. All this to tell you about Rushdie's book.

From Amazon.com reviews: At once bawdy, gorgeous, gory, and hilarious, "The Enchantress of Florence" is a study in contradiction, highlighted in its barbarian philosopher-king who detests his bloodthirsty heritage even while he carries it out. Full of rich sentences running nearly the length of a page, Rushdie's 10th novel blends fact and fable into a challenging but satisfying read.

For some low-brow readers, there is "Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull" by James Rollins. The book is based upon the movie by the same name.

Nancy Snyderman, the chief medical editor for NBC News, has written "Medical Myths That Can Kill You" (610 SNY N), and goes on to tell you the truths that will save, extend and improve your life.

Problems sleeping at night? Check out "Sound Sleep Sound Mind" (616.849 KRA B) by Barry Krakow to see if this can help you.

Do you feel like the stuff in your house, garage or storage buildings is slowly smothering you? Then read "When Organizing Isn't Enough: Shed Your Stuff, Change Your Life" (650.12 MOR J) by July Morgenstern. We have also received "The Everything to Organize Your Home Book" (648.8 SCH J) by Jenny Schroedel. Jenny takes a room-by-room approach to

eliminate clutter and maximize storage.

Are you taking on some home improvement projects? Remember that the Library has books to help you: "Drywall" (693 FER M) by Myron Ferguson; "Carpentry" (694 FIN H) from the pros at Fine Homebuilding; Popular Mechanics has "Money Smart Makeovers for Kitchen" (643.3 POP M); and from Taunton Publishing comes "Trim Complete" (694.6 KIS G) and "Tiling Complete" (698 SCH M), both by Greg Kossow.

Now that the house is in tip-top shape, now it is time for you! "Kim Lyons' Your Body, Your Life" (613.7 LYO K) is a 12-week program to optimize "physical, mental and emotional fitness."

Or you might check out "Champions Body for Life" (613.7 CAR A) by Art Carey. The cover notes that it is "twelve weeks to mental and physical strength." Go for it! Check out the website: [www.bodyforlife.com](http://www.bodyforlife.com).

It does rely on supplements to be successful, as far as I can see from looking through the book and the website.

Another war correspondent has checked in with a book of his experiences — "War Journal: My Five Years in Iraq" (956.704 ENG R) by Richard Engel, an NBC Middle East correspondent. He is the longest-serving broadcaster to cover the war, before, during and after the 2003 invasion. The bookflap will tempt you to check the book out.

The Library is closed Saturdays through August. Library hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday. The Internet/Video room is closed from noon until 2 p.m. and closes one-half hour before closing. The Library is located at 500 S. Main St. Our phone number is 264-2260. The Website is [www.howard-county.lib.tx.us](http://www.howard-county.lib.tx.us).

Hollis McCright is director of the Howard County Library.

## 'Car Guys' reluctantly tackle TV

BOSTON (AP) — Tom and Ray Magliozzi, aka Click and Clack, the Tappet Brothers of NPR's "Car Talk" fame, are just two low-ego lugs. That's why — familiar self-deprecating shtick aside — the boys' ambivalence about their new public television series rings seriously true.

"I hope that people look at it mercifully," says the younger, stockier, talkier Ray (Clack) about "As the Wrench Turns," a half-hour series that wraps social and environmental messages inside an animated sitcom.

Premiering 8 p.m. EDT July 9 (check local listings) on PBS, the show follows Click and Clack's exploits co-hosting a nationally syndicated radio show and running a car repair shop that mirrors their real-life Good News Garage in Cambridge, Mass. The show will air in two-episode blocks for five weeks.

But will the humor of "As the Wrench Turns" compare to what we've come to expect from Tom and Ray's hugely popular radio franchise — the most listened-to entertainment program on NPR?

"It's lame enough that people will laugh at some of the lame stuff," Rays says in between bites of lunch on the patio of radio station WBUR-FM in Boston, where the Magliozzis tape "Car Talk." "There will be some chuckles and wry smiles," he says as brother Tom (Click) looks on, cigar-smoking and chortling gently.

Tom and Ray voice their animated selves in the TV series, executive-produced by Howard Grossman. But "As the Wrench Turns" deviates from "Car Talk's" successful format. No phone calls from distressed car owners, no long bouts of brotherly banter, no silly signature "Puzzler" or "Stump the Chump" jokes. Instead, the show

plays out like a family-friendly "Family Guy" or "The Simpsons."

Story lines include Click and Clack's loony fundraising efforts for their bankrupt radio network — which involves their joint run for the White House — plus outsourcing their radio show to India and creating the first-ever pasta-fueled motor vehicle.

And unlike their NPR series, which is definitely a two-personality affair, "Wrench" turns on an expanded cast of characters, including oddball auto mechanics Crusty, Fidel and Stash; perky young radio producer Beth; and the brothers' chunky female garage receptionist and bookie, Sal.

"It's cute," says "Car Talk" executive producer Doug Berman, who runs "Car Talk's" parent company called (for real) Dewey, Cheatham & Howe, and has worked with the Magliozzis for more than 20 years. His thoughts mesh so thoroughly with the Magliozzis' that he

seems like a third brother.

And he knows his "Wrench," since he wrote nine of the show's 10 episodes.

So how did the Magliozzis get into this prime-time pickle?

"We felt sorry for Howard," Tom says quietly. "He'd been working on it for so long."

An independent producer of telefilms and TV specials, Grossman cold-pitched an idea for an animated show involving actual, taped "Car Talk" phone calls — with little effort from Tom and Ray — to Berman in 2001. The show went through several transformations, multiple network rejections and ever-increasing Berman and Magliozzi involvement before PBS bought the fully scripted version of "Wrench" in 2006.

And the TV-reluctant Tappet Brothers, who swear they would rather sit around drinking coffee and kibitzing, were suddenly ensnared in their very own sitcom.

### Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

#### Plays That Go Against the Grain

South dealer.  
Both sides vulnerable.

**NORTH**  
♠ J 9 6 2  
♥ A Q J 10 5  
♦ 10 4  
♣ 8 3

**WEST**  
♠ 7 5  
♥ 8 2  
♦ A K Q 9 8 2  
♣ K 7 4

**EAST**  
♠ 4  
♥ K 7 6 3  
♦ 7 5 3  
♣ Q 10 6 5 2

**SOUTH**  
♠ A K Q 10 8 3  
♥ 9 4  
♦ J 6  
♣ A J 9

The bidding:  
South West North East  
1 ♠ 2 ♦ 2 ♥ Pass  
3 ♠ Pass 4 ♠

Opening lead — king of diamonds.  
**Some defensive plays** that look dangerous are not nearly as risky as they may seem.  
**Take this case** where South got to four spades as shown and West started by cashing two high diamonds. He was then faced with the critical decision of what to do next. Afraid to lead a club away from the king because declarer might have the A-Q, West shifted to a trump.

**Declarer won**, drew another round of trump and then tried a heart finesse. East took the nine with the king and returned a club. Alas, the club shift came too late. South won with the ace and disposed of his club losers on dummy's hearts to make exactly four spades, losing only two diamonds and a heart. Of course, if West had led a club at trick three, the contract would have gone down one.

**The primary principle** of defense is to assume declarer has a hand that allows him to be defeated. For West to assume that South has the A-Q of clubs directly contravenes this rule. Since such a holding by declarer would render four spades unbeatable, it would amount to a concession of the contract.

**Instead**, West should assume that East has either the ace of clubs or the queen of clubs and a heart or trump trick. This possibility is certainly viable and should be tested by leading a club.

**If it turns out** that South actually has the A-Q of clubs, no harm will come from the club lead. In that case, declarer's club losers are destined to eventually go off on dummy's hearts regardless of whether partner or declarer has the heart king.

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## In Sunday's Big Spring Herald

**American Profile**

*Spreading the words*

Brothers Kyle and Brady Baldwin are typical teenagers, except for one thing. They are the founders of the nonprofit organization, My Own Book, that spreads the joy of reading by giving away books to less fortunate children. Plus, getting a colonoscopy and orange layer cake.

### American Profile

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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	Simpsons	News	Noticias	News	Friends	Cortes	News	Cash Cab	Movie: Striking Distance	Movie: Star Wars: Episode III - Revenge of the Sith	Law & Order	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Wizards	NASCAR	SportsCenter	
6 :PM	News ABC	Jeopardy!	Fortune	Simpsons	News	12 Coronas	News	Raymond	Israel	Business	Cash Cab	Movie: Road House, Sam Elliott	Movie: Star Wars: Episode III - Revenge of the Sith	Law & Order	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Wizards	NASCAR	SportsCenter	
7 :PM	Wife Swap	Wife Swap	Diablo-Guapos	So You Think You Can Dance	Criminal Minds	Victoria	Celebrity Circus	Payne	Light of the Southwest	Carrier	MythBusters	Movie: Road House, Sam Elliott	Movie: Star Wars: Episode III - Revenge of the Sith	Law & Order	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Wizards	NASCAR	SportsCenter	
8 :PM	Supernanny	Supernanny	Fuego en la Sangre	CSI: NY	Sin Senos	Law & Order	Payne	Payne	Payne	Carrier	MythBusters	Movie: Road House, Sam Elliott	Movie: Star Wars: Episode III - Revenge of the Sith	Law & Order	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Wizards	NASCAR	SportsCenter	
9 :PM	Primetime: Crime	Primetime: Crime	Don Francisco	TMZ	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond
10 :PM	News	News	Impacto	Two Men	News	Noticias	News	Friends	Israel	Charlie Rose	Made	Movie: Black Dog, Randy Travis	Movie: Star Wars: Episode III - Revenge of the Sith	Law & Order	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Wizards	NASCAR	SportsCenter	
11 :PM	Nightline	Nightline	Noticiero	Late Show	Pecaditos	Tennis	Friends	Dr. Young	Charlie Rose	Made	Movie: Black Dog, Randy Travis	Movie: Star Wars: Episode III - Revenge of the Sith	Law & Order	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Wizards	NASCAR	SportsCenter		
12 :AM	Insider	Jimmy Kimmel Live	La Hora de la Risa	Late Late Show	Deci	Late Night	Movie: Underworld, Michael Sheen	Light of the Southwest	Light of the Southwest	Light of the Southwest	Light of the Southwest	Light of the Southwest	Light of the Southwest	Light of the Southwest	Light of the Southwest	Light of the Southwest	Light of the Southwest	Light of the Southwest	Light of the Southwest
1 :AM	Riches	Paid	Clasicos	RENO 911	Lopez	Insider	Programa Pagado	News	News	News	News	News	News	News	News	News	News	News	News

### DENNIS THE MENACE

"I DON'T GET IT. WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A SLIM CHANCE AND A FAT CHANCE?"

### THE FAMILY CIRCUS

"First there's spring, then summer, fall and winter. So where does autumn fit in?"

### HAGAR

HA, HA! WEARING THAT KILT, MAKES YOU LOOK STUPID!  
WHAT'S YOUR NAME, STUPID?  
MY NAME IS SANDY...  
AND THAT'S MY BROTHER, WENDELL BEHIND YOU!

### BC

NOW, I WILL CROSS-POLLINATE THESE TWO UNIQUE BREEDS IN HOPES OF CREATING A NIFTY NEW HYBRID.

SHOULDN'T YOU PUT ON SOME MUSIC OR SOMETHING?

### BLONDIE

YOU'RE SURE IN A GREAT MOOD TODAY, BOSS?  
CORRIGI. I THINK A EUROPEAN CRUISE WOULD BE A FUN WAY TO CELEBRATE OUR ANNIVERSARY.  
WOW, AREN'T SOME OF THOSE THINGS PRETTY EXPENSIVE, BOSS?  
HEY, IT'S ONLY MONEY, MY BOY.  
BESIDES, SHE'LL BE ON THAT SHIP NEARLY THREE WEEKS!

### WIZARD OF ID

I'M JUST NOT READY YET, DUKE  
LET'S GET MARRIED!  
WHEN DO YOU THINK YOU WILL BE READY?  
WHEN DO YOU THINK YOU'LL GET THAT PROMOTION?

### AGNES

AGNES! YOU CAN'T TURN ME IN! I'VE WANTED TO BLOW UP A FIRE CRACKER EVER SINCE I WAS A KID!  
JUST SAY NO, TROUT.  
FINGERS WILL BESHED... EYES WILL BE BLOWN OUT OF SOCKETS... HIGH FREQUENCY HEARING WILL BE HISTORY... DISFIGURING BURNS WILL DOT OUR SKINS' TOPOGRAPHY.  
SO? IT'S NOT LIKE WE PLAN TO BE FASHION MODELS OR ANYTHING.  
SPEAK FOR YOURSELF, LITTLE MISS PICKS-HER-SCABS!

### HI AND LOIS

WHY DO YOU WEAR THE SAME THING EVERY DAY?  
IT'S SUMMER, I'M FREE!  
FROM WHAT?  
BUTTONS... BUCKLES... ZIPPERS... LACES...

### THE OTHER COAST

I WAS DRIVING IN THE MOUNTAINS ON THE WEEKEND AND HIT A DEER.  
THAT'S TERRIBLE, LARRY. HOW IS THE DEER?  
I DON'T WANT TO TALK ABOUT IT.  
I HOPE HE HAS INSURANCE.  
YOUR PERSONAL INJURY LAWYER ON LINE TWO.

### SNUFFY SMITH

HOWDY, JUGHAID, ARE YA ENJOVIN' YORE SUMMER VACATION?  
YES, MA'AM, I MEAN, NO, MA'AM... UM...ER...  
MIZ PRUNELLY, IS THIS A POP QUIZ?!

### BEETLE BAILEY

SORRY, BUT I NEEDED BEETLE FOR GUARD DUTY TONIGHT  
BUT WE HAD A DATE FOR DINNER!  
THANK GOODNESS FOR TAKE-OUT!

## This Date In History

Today is Wednesday, July 2, the 184th day of 2008. There are 182 days left in the year.

**Today's Highlight in History:**  
On July 2, 1776, the Continental Congress passed a resolution saying that "these United Colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and independent States."

**On this date:**  
In 1807, in the wake of the Chesapeake incident, in which the crew of a British frigate boarded an American ship and forcibly removed four suspected deserters, President Jefferson ordered all British ships to vacate U.S. territorial waters.  
In 1881, President Garfield was shot by Charles J. Guiteau at the Washington railroad station; Garfield died the following September. (Guiteau was hanged in June 1882.)  
In 1908, Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall was born in Baltimore.  
In 1926, the United States Army Air Corps was created.  
In 1937, aviator Amelia Earhart and navigator Fred Noonan disappeared over the Pacific Ocean while attempting to make the first round-the-world flight along the equator.

**Birthdays:**  
Imelda Marcos is 79. Jazz musician Ahmad Jamal is 78. Actress Polly Holliday is 71. Former White House chief of staff John H. Sununu is 69. Actor Ron Silver is 62. Writer-director-comedian Larry David is 61. Luci Baines Johnson, daughter of President Johnson, is 61. Actor Saul Rubinek is 60. Rock musician Roy Bittan (Bruce Springsteen & the E Street Band) is 59. Rock musician Gene Taylor (The Blasters) is 56. Actress-model Jerry Hall is 52. Actor Jimmy McNichol is 47. Rock musician Dave Parsons (Bush) is 43. Actress Yancy Butler is 38. Contemporary Christian musician Melodee DeVevo (Casting Crowns) is 32. Singer Michelle Branch is 25. Actress Vanessa Lee Chester is 24.

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## Newsday Crossword

**ACROSS**

- 1 Nights before holidays
- 5 River formation
- 10 Class favorites
- 14 Take the bait
- 15 Tabloids twosomes
- 16 Declare openly
- 17 Wool owner of rhyme
- 19 Hospital fluids
- 20 Soup toss-in
- 21 Felix Unger, for one
- 23 University of Maryland athlete
- 25 Deli loaves
- 26 Fire-prevention bear
- 30 One of a Valentine dozen
- 32 Recipe amt.
- 35 Lies low
- 36 Secret writings
- 37 Earth-friendly prefix
- 38 Tennis pro Roddick
- 39 Stepped on it
- 40 Locket shape
- 41 Ring figure
- 42 Takes a break
- 43 Peachy-keen
- 44 "The Gold-Bug" author
- 45 Golden Rule word
- 46 Dempsey defeater
- 47 Come to shore

**DOWN**

- 1 Recedes
- 2 TV handyman
- 3 Catchall abbr.
- 4 Sunni or Shia
- 5 Goofy's creator
- 6 Old anesthetic
- 7 Director Ang
- 8 Some feds
- 9 Slandered
- 10 Cut-and-\_\_
- 11 All tied up
- 12 Singer Amos
- 13 Love-letter letters
- 18 Toys with tails
- 22 Salts' assents
- 24 Exam supervisor
- 26 Like a tack
- 27 Sal of Exodus
- 28 Fraternal group
- 29 Hotel issuance
- 31 Praiseful poems
- 33 Map feature
- 34 Cracker requester
- 36 Play group
- 39 Produced a likeness of
- 40 MYOB part
- 42 Pipsqueak
- 43 \_\_ cum laude
- 46 Spatula, for example
- 48 Some kin
- 50 Rash action
- 51 Confessor's list
- 52 Plane measure
- 53 Bruce Willis ex
- 55 Major work
- 56 \_\_ facto
- 57 Cost of tenancy
- 58 Epochs
- 61 Put on

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Answer to previous puzzle

PANTS	SPUEW	STEP
ARENA	POLE	LURE
DIRTY	LOOKS	IRIS
SAD	WOOL	TICKET
CHIN	DECK	
BARREN	FORESTS	
ORION	BARN	TRIM
LENO	RIM	REDO
TASK	CARS	SEALS
SEESAWS	SWEDES	
DULL	SWAT	
CHISEL	REAP	ASA
AIDE	SHADY	PATHS
PLEA	TOGA	EBOOK
SLAM	OPEN	DEMOS

# Rebels desert as Colombia army advances

By **FRANK BAJAK**  
Associated Press Writer

VILLAVICENCIO, Colombia — Not long after two top commanders of Latin America's last major rebel army were killed — one in a raid, the other by a turncoat bodyguard — Diego Canizares decided to call it quits.

The 39-year-old veteran guerrilla made indirect contact with the Colombian army. Then he strapped on his 9mm Taurus pistol and portable radio, slipped 10 anti-personnel mines into a canvas sack and walked off as if going to work.

Instead, he met up with a waiting army patrol — becoming one of more than 1,450 fighters of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC, to desert this year, according to the government's count.

Colombia's U.S.-trained and advised armed forces are squeezing the leftist rebel group as never before, bearing down on a half-dozen guerrilla concentrations after decimating several of the more than 50 rebel fronts last year.

Data obtained by The Associated Press from Colombia's armed forces and interviews with deserters show the rebels have been seriously weakened, so much so that many Colombians believe the endgame may be near. The 44-year-old insurgency has long filled its ranks with rural peasants resentful of government neglect, but is now widely despised for its embrace of kidnaping and drug trafficking. John McCain, the pre-

sumed Republican nominee in the U.S. presidential race who arrived Tuesday for an overnight visit, has said one of his reasons for coming here is to highlight Colombia's military success.

"If it keeps up like this, in two years the guerrillas will disappear completely," said Canizares, a 16-year FARC veteran who gave up in March after the military doggedly pursued him and the 50 troops under his command. He was barely sleeping, sometimes going three to four days without a decent

meal.

"More than one of us came to see that this was no life," said Canizares, who was second-in-command of plainclothes militias of the rebels' 39th Front, which operates in Colombia's eastern plains.

But longtime FARC watchers are reluctant to proclaim the rebellion over. The guerrillas have hunkered down in Colombia's forbidding jungles and mountains, planting more land mines in hopes of outlasting President Alvaro Uribe, who has made defeating

the FARC the cornerstone of his administration. His second term ends in 2010 and he is constitutionally barred from running again.

"Those who are announcing that the FARC is defeated, that it's done for, are mistaken," said Carlos Lozano, editor of the Communist Party weekly Voz and a longtime mediator with the rebels. "The FARC remains a big guerrilla force spread across the nation with the capacity still to destabilize."

Nevertheless, the military now appears to have

the upper hand. For the first time, more Colombian guerrillas deserted last year than died in combat, said Gen. Freddy Padilla, the armed forces chief. By official count, 2,480 rebels gave up, compared to 1,893 killed in action.

The FARC is now down to about 9,000 fighters, the government says, half its strength of a decade ago when it regularly overran army outposts. Padilla said 30 of the rebels who surrendered in the past year had more than 20 years each in the FARC.

"The FARC subsists at

the moment because it still has money from drug-trafficking and also because of (its) hostages," Padilla said in an interview. "If the hostages didn't exist, nobody would be interested in the FARC."

Many of the die-hard combatants who accept amnesty offers in this provincial capital where Colombia's eastern plains meet the Andes mountains have an added incentive for surrendering: A \$100 million government fund provides cash rewards to those who betray their commanders.

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# Students' fitness declines through school years

By APRIL CASTRO

Associated Press Writer

AUSTIN — Texas public school students are startlingly unhealthy and their fitness levels decline sharply through 12th grade, where less than 10 percent of students passed a fitness test this year, according to the first results of an annual health assessment.

The most physically healthy class was third grade girls, of whom 32 percent were deemed physically fit according to a six-part measure of aerobic capacity, body composition, muscular strength, muscular endurance and flexibility.

But the number of physically fit students declined every year through high school, where just 7.8 percent of senior girls and 8.5 percent of senior boys reached the "Healthy Fitness Zone."

"These results just confirm what many of us already knew and that is

that our children's health is in jeopardy," said Sen. Jane Nelson, a Lewisville Republican who pushed legislation requiring the fitness assessment last year.

"We cannot allow an entire generation of Texans to grow up and live a shorter life than previous generations."

The new law requires a physical fitness assessment of all public school students beginning in third grade. The results are to be reported to the Texas Education Agency, which will analyze the results by school district annually, comparing results to students' grades, attendance, obesity, disciplinary problems and school meal programs. That data is expected to be available later this year.

The poor results in upper grades correspond with decreased physical fitness requirements in high school, said Texas Education Commissioner Robert Scott.

The new law also requires 30 minutes of daily "moderate to vigorous" physical activity, or 135 minutes a week, for children up to fifth grade. For students in sixth through eighth grades, 30 minutes a day, 125 minutes a week or 225 minutes over two weeks is required.

The Fitnessgram test, developed by aerobics pioneer Dr. Kenneth Cooper, includes a skin fold test, curl-ups and push-ups. Another exercise tests flexibJane Nelson, a Lewisville Republican who pushed legislation requiring the fitness assessment last year. ility, with students sitting with one bent leg and one straight leg and then reaching forward as far as they can.

In the trunk lift, which tests trunk extensor strength, students lie on their stomachs and raise their upper body while the teacher measures the distance between the stu-

dents' chins and the floor. The last test is called the pacer, a paced 20-meter run that increases in intensity as time progresses.

The results are recorded on a report card that allows parents and teachers to identify the physical strengths and weaknesses of each student.

Results, unattached to students' names, also go to the TEA, which will compare the fitness data to students' grades, attendance, obesity, disciplinary problems and school meal pro-

grams.

Health experts say there is a correlation between physical fitness and good grades and Cooper called exercise "fertilizer for the brain."

"If you want to increase grades in school, get your kids in shape," he said.

"Clearly, we need to make sure our children are more active," Scott said. "But schools can't do this alone. We need to work with parents and communities and we need to make sure our children

achieve a more healthy lifestyle."

Forty-two percent of the state's fourth-graders, 39 percent of eighth-graders and 36 percent of 11th-graders are overweight or at risk of being overweight, according to a 2007 report from the Texas comptroller.

Overweight people have increased risk for adult heart disease and diabetes and lower life expectancy.

More than 8,000 Texas schools participated in the Fitnessgram test.

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call 263-7331



**KIM L. BANGO, MD**

Board Certified in Family Medicine

432-263-0500  
1608 W. FM 700, Suite D  
Big Spring, Texas



"Accepting New Patients"

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# POPS IN THE PARK

## Thursday, July 3rd

### Comanche Trail Amphitheater

#### Featuring Music By

#### The Big Spring Symphony And Chorus

### Schedule Of Events:

5:00 P.M. ~ Gates Open at Amphitheater

5:00 P.M. ~ Food and Novelty Booths Open

6:30 P.M. ~ Performance by Vocal Trash

7:45 P.M. ~ Welcome Announcements

7:50 P.M. ~ Representative Joe Heflin

8:00 P.M. ~ Flag Ceremony

8:25 P.M. ~ Symphony Concert

9:25 P.M. ~ Video Presentation Recognizing

Servicemen & Women

9:45 p.m. ~ Fireworks Display

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**Presented By:**

Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce, Big Spring Herald, Big Spring Symphony  
City of Big Spring, Cornell Companies,

"94.3" The Fuse -The Official Radio Station of Pops In The Park,  
KBST 95.7 & KBST 1490,

KBYG Radio 1400

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