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BIG SPRING HERALD

THURSDAY

JULY 3, 2008



VOLUME 103, NUMBER 184

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Primed for celebration

By **BILL MCCLELLAN**
News Editor

Opportunities to celebrate our nation's independence will be abundant over the next two days, beginning with tonight's Pops in the

Park fireworks and music show in the Comanche Trail Park Amphitheater. Except for the price of food, drink and a few novelties, everything is free.

Thousands are expected to converge on

the amphitheater this evening. Vocal Trash will take the stage at 6:30 p.m. Despite its name, the well-known Dallas area band performs family-oriented material. As dusk arrives, the Big Spring Symphony and Chorus will begin a variety of songs, including many with a patriotic theme. About 9:45 p.m., one of the area's largest fireworks display will get under way.

Pops committee members believe this year's show will draw the largest crowd yet, weather permitting.

"The committee has managed to expand the show, making it bigger and better every year and we're trying to do that this year by adding Vocal Trash as the opening act," said Jan Hansen, Pops director. "The crowd has continued to grow over the years, too. So, we're expecting to have a great overflow audience this year. Hopefully it will be the biggest we've ever had."

Along the way, there will be a video salute to military veterans and some special activities which will remain under wraps until the show begins, Hansen said.

The symphony performance will be directed by Dr. Keith Graumann, and



HERALD file photo

Tonight's Pops in the Park fireworks and symphony production at Comanche Trail Park begins two days of celebration in Howard County.



July 3

Pops in the Park

Comanche Trail Amphitheater
Featuring music by the
Big Spring Symphony and
Chorus

Gates open at 5 p.m.

Vocal Trash performs at 6:30 p.m.

Symphony Concert at 8:25 p.m.

Fireworks Display at 9:45 p.m.

July 4

Coahoma Freedom Parade

Begins at 10 a.m.

in the football stadium parking lot
proceeds south on N. First Street to the 1-20 service road
Parade Marshals

Highland

4th of July Parade

Begins at 10 a.m. at the corner of Robb and Highland

Funtastic Fourth Festival

Heart of the City Park

10 a.m. to 10:30 p.m.

Gospel Music All Day Long

Food & Novelty Vendors, Children's Games,
Washer Tournament, Horse Rides for children

Barabbas, 5:45-6:45 p.m.

Crimson Soul, 7:30-8:45 p.m.

Shane & Shane, 9-10:30 p.m.

BSISD to eliminate extended-day instruction at Bauer

By **STEVE REAGAN**

Staff Writer

Big Spring Independent School District is getting out of the magnet school business.

BSISD officials announced that the district is eliminating extended-day instruction at Bauer Magnet School and

shuffling funds earmarked for those activities into reading instruction programs.

With the change, Bauer loses its unique status among BSISD elementary campuses, although it is uncertain just how elimination of the program will effect enrollment.

The extended-day program

offered specialized classes and activities to students. Among those activities were classes in technology, arts and crafts and drama. Students also were offered swimming and other activities at the YMCA.

"The students would attend one class or social activity for six weeks, then they would rotate

to a different class for another six weeks," Bauer Principal Wenda Christopher said. "We had a waiting list for it, so it was obviously something parents and students enjoyed a lot."

Sandra Waggoner, chief financial officer for the school district, said money earmarked for extended-day programs —

about \$25,000 — would be shunted into reading intervention programs in an effort to improve state test scores in that area. The change will not effect staffing considerations.

"Bauer will still have access to those funds," Waggoner said,

See **BAUER**, Page 3A

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www.bigspringherald.com

To reach us:

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Hostages rescued in Colombia

By **ELIZABETH WHITE**

Associated Press Writer

LACKLAND AIR FORCE BASE — With little fanfare, three American hostages rescued from leftist guerillas in Colombia returned safely to the United States, more than five years after their plane went down in rebel-held jungle.

The men didn't wave to

reporters or bend down to kiss the ground upon their return late Wednesday. They simply boarded waiting helicopters, which took them to a hospital where they were expected to reunite with their families.

The U.S. military contractors — Marc Gonsalves, Thomas Howes and Keith Stansell — had been held by the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia since their drug-

surveillance plane went down in the jungle in February 2003. Nowhere in the world have American hostages currently in captivity been held longer, according to the U.S. Embassy in Bogota.

The three were rescued when Colombian spies tricked leftist rebels into handing them over along with kidnapped presidential candidate Ingrid Betancourt. She was also

freed Wednesday, as were 11 Colombian police and soldiers.

A plane carrying the Americans landed at Lackland Air Force Base shortly after 11 p.m. All appeared well as they exited the Air Force C-17. The men were then flown by choppers to Brooke Army Medical Center in San

See **RESCUED**, Page 3A

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IN BRIEF

BSLL All-Star tournament schedule

The 12-year-olds play at 8 p.m. tonight against Midland Mid-City in Midland. A win puts Big Spring into the championship series beginning Saturday.

Forsan Juniors play the Midland Lee Juniors at 6 p.m. tonight at Christensen Stadium.

Forsan Seniors also play at a time to be determined tonight at Christensen Stadium.

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 grades listed 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 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.

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 beginners 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, or e-mail sports@bigspringherald.com. to submit a sports brief.

Favre considers return to NFL

The Associated Press

GREEN BAY, Wis. — Brett Favre dismissed an ESPN report that he's considering coming out of retirement as "all rumor."

Favre responded Wednesday to the ESPN report by telling his hometown newspaper Web site, SunHerald.com in Gulfport, Miss., that "it's all rumor."

The paper reported that Favre sent a text message saying there's "no reason" for a media frenzy.

ESPN reported that an unidentified Packers source said the 38-year-old Favre told coach Mike McCarthy in the past two weeks

that he has the itch to play.

"The Packers have no reaction," team spokesman Jeff Blumb told The Associated Press.

Favre's agent, James "Bus" Cook, didn't return a message seeking comment. Packers general manager Ted Thompson and McCarthy were on vacation.

Favre retired March 6 after a 17-year career.

Cornerback Al Harris said on ESPN's "NFL Live" that Favre made similar comments to him.

"I know he has the itch to come back and play," Harris said. "If he will or not, I don't know."

The Packers plan to use Aaron

Rodgers as their starting quarterback for the upcoming season, and he's been leading the team through organized team activities and minicamp.

Rodgers has been groomed to take over for Favre since being selected in the first round in 2005, but has played sparingly.

"Aaron is our quarterback," Harris said. "Brett's retired. But if he wanted to come back, there would be some guys who wouldn't mind it. I would welcome him back with open arms."

Favre has two years left on his contract at an average of about \$12.5 million per season. The

Packers placed him on the reserve-retired list in the spring so his salary does not now count toward the cap.

Favre's commitment to retirement has been questioned since his announcement. That talk resumed in mid-June when Favre withdrew from the American Century Celebrity Golf Championship at Lake Tahoe, scheduled for July 11-13.

Tournament spokesman Steve Griffith said then that Favre had to miss the event because of a scheduling conflict.

See **FAVRE**, Page 2B

BSLL All-Star tournament update



Pictured above is the 9-10-year-old Big Spring Little League All-Star team. The 9-10-year-olds were eliminated from the District 3 All-Star Tournament in Odessa Wednesday with a 7-5 loss to Andrews. The elimination comes just one day after the squad delivered a dominant 16-3 win over Midland Eastern Tuesday. Now only the 12-year-olds and Forsan's Junior and Senior teams remain alive in tournament play. Look in the briefs for a schedule of those three teams.

Courtesy photo

Dodgers shut down Astros, 4-1

By CHRIS DUNCAN

AP Sports Writer

HOUSTON — Joe Torre sure wasn't expecting a start like this from Hiroki Kuroda.

The Japanese right-hander threw seven shut-out innings after coming off the disabled list, and Jeff Kent had a pair of RBI doubles to lead the Los Angeles Dodgers to a 4-0 win over the Houston Astros on Wednesday night.

Kuroda (4-6) allowed five hits with one strikeout, looking strong in his first start since going on the DL on June 18 with tendinitis in his right shoulder. Kuroda threw 83 pitches and also saved the Dodgers bullpen after Torre used six relievers in Tuesday's 7-6 win.

"I expected him to have a good outing," Torre said, "but to give us seven innings like that and to have his pitch count where it was and to be as sharp as he was, I didn't expect

See **ASTROS**, Page 2B

A-Rod, Giambi power Yanks over Texas

Rangers fail to get rare series sweep over New York

By DAVE SKRETTA

AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK — Hank Steinbrenner demanded to see more offense, and Jason Giambi and the New York Yankees obliged.

If only it were that easy all the time.

Giambi hit a grand slam and drove in a season-best six runs, Alex Rodriguez added a three-run shot to move another notch up the career home run list, and New York pounded the Texas Rangers 18-7 Wednesday night to avoid a series sweep.

The Yankees had been struggling at the plate, scoring just seven runs and batting .172 in losing three of their last four games, prompting the club's co-chairman to say things were "getting ridiculous."

"We've got to start hitting," Steinbrenner said earlier in the day in Tampa, Fla. "They've got to start waking up."

Consider the Yankees wide awake.

Rodriguez scored four times, the last coming on his line-drive homer to right during the Yankees' season-high nine-run seventh inning. It was Rodriguez's 535th homer, moving him past Jimmie Foxx for 14th on the career list and within one of Yankees Hall of Famer Mickey Mantle.

So did Steinbrenner's edict have

anything to do with the scoring outburst?

"I wish," Giambi said. "They could yell at us every day for all I care."

Milton Bradley and Chris Davis each hit two-run homers for the Rangers, who are 0-7 after taking the first two games of a three-game series. Josh Hamilton also drove in a pair of runs.

Edwar Ramirez (2-0) picked up the win in relief for the Yankees, whose bullpen pitched four scoreless innings after the Rangers chased former teammate Sidney Ponson.

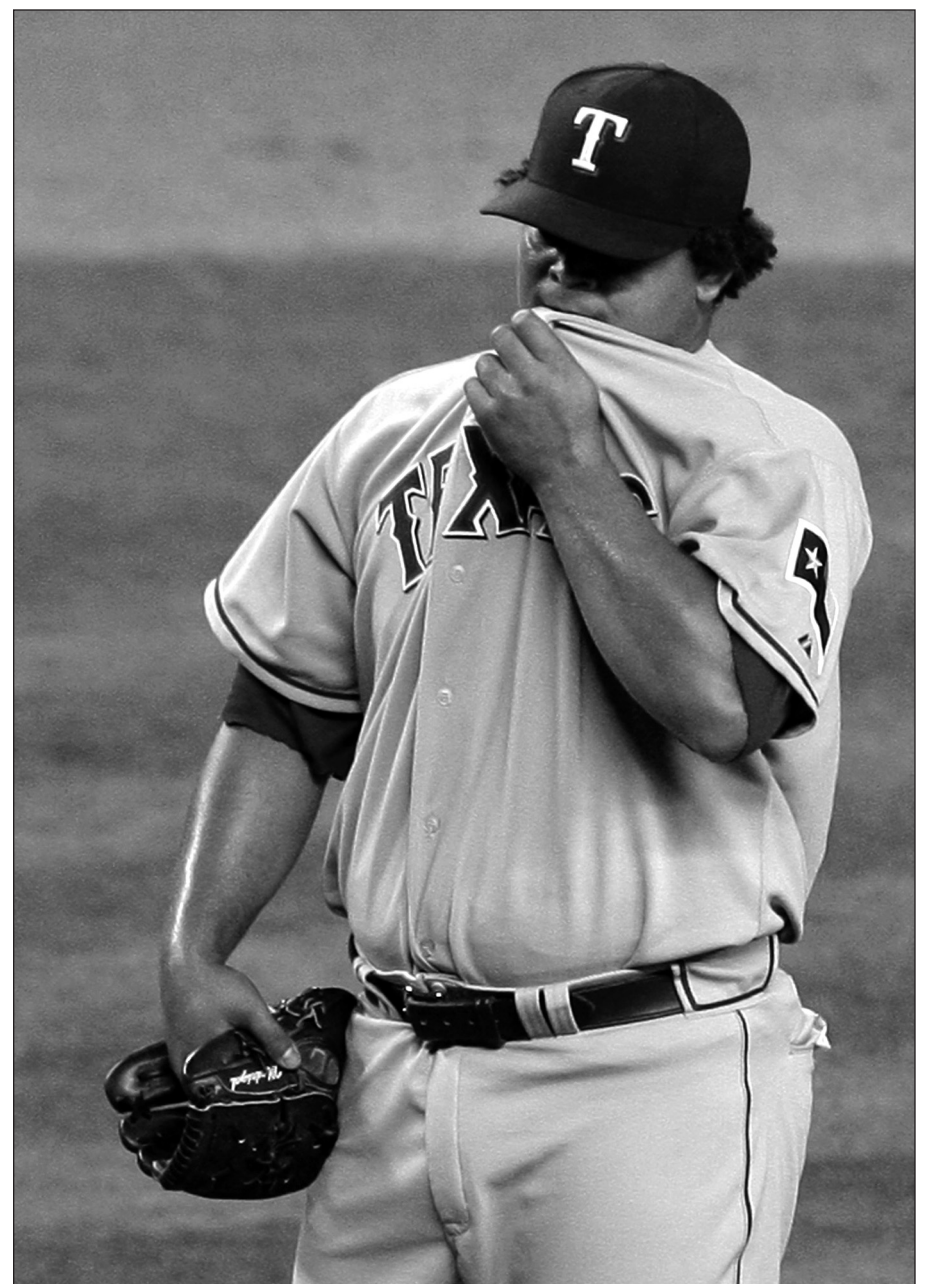
Derek Jeter's run-scoring single in the eighth gave every Yankees starter a hit. Seven players in pinstripes drove in runs, including youngster Brett Gardner with his first career hit during New York's big seventh inning.

"All of a sudden their bats just woke up and we had nothing to neutralize them," Rangers manager Ron Washington said.

Giambi sparked New York's offense with one big swing in the third.

Johnny Damon was aboard with a one-out single when second baseman Ian Kinsler botched a fielder's choice grounder by Jeter. A-Rod walked to load the bases, and Giambi drove a 2-1 pitch from Luis Mendoza into the upper

See **RANGERS**, Page 2B



Texas Rangers reliever Warner Madrigal bites his jersey during the New York Yankees nine-run seventh inning in an AL baseball game at Yankee Stadium in New York, Wednesday.

AP photo/Kathy Willens

Obituaries

Roy Thornton

Roy Thornton, 53, of Wheat Ridge, Colo., formerly of Big Spring died Tuesday, July 1, 2008, in Denver, Colo. Funeral Services will be at 2 p.m. Friday at Myers & Smith Chapel with the Rev. Jeff Stehle, of Baptist Temple Church, officiating. Burial will be at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

Roy was born July 8, 1954, in San Antonio. He graduated from Big Spring High School. Roy lived most of his life in Big Spring, and lived in Colorado for the past 15 years. He drove a truck for Chemical Express and was also a motorcycle mechanic. He was a Baptist.

Roy is survived by his mother, Theda Perez of Big Spring; two aunts, Nell Thornton of Big Spring, and Sue Holt of Midland; and two uncles, Otis Thornton of Big Spring; and L.C. Thornton of Poplar, Montana.

Roy was preceded in death by his step-father, Delores Perez in 1988.

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

Paid obituary

Jean Jackson Cook

Jean Jackson Cook, 86, of Big Spring, died Wednesday, July 2, 2008, in Tyler. Her services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Richard Eugene Jokinen

Richard Eugene Jokinen, 63, of Big Spring died Tuesday, July 1, 2008, at his residence. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Dorothy Barrow

Dorothy Barrow, 90, of Big Spring, died Wednesday, July 2, 2008, at her residence. Her services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Take Note

• The country two-step lessons which began recently at the Senior Center will not meet this week, but will resume Thursday, July 10, from 7-9 p.m. Visitors are welcome to observe, but the fee is \$12 per lesson and practice time. Call Lane Bond at 432-263-4033 for more information."

• A medical expense account has been established at Cosden Federal Credit Union for Kody Jackson, who was recently diagnosed with lymphoma in his right knee. He has no medical insurance and must start chemotherapy and radiation treatment as soon as possible. Kody is the son of Susan and Johnny Jackson. For more information, contact Cosden FCU at 264-2600.

• The Texas Department of State Health Services is conducting a community health survey. The information will be used to study barriers to health care and other public health issues. Your personal information will not be used, other than the comments portion of the survey. You will not be asked for your name. The survey is available online and takes about 15 minutes to complete. For the English survey, go to www.questionpro.com/akira/TakeSurvey?id=929625. For the survey in Spanish, go to www.questionpro.com/akira/TakeSurvey?id=929626.

• 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.

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Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity:

- MONICA MINJAREZ, 33, of 707 E. 16th Street, was arrested Wednesday on a local warrant and a capias warrant.
- CHELSEA RICHARDSON, 25, of 3906 Connally Street, was arrested Wednesday on two capias warrants.
- MRYA BOONE, 28, of Snyder, was arrested Wednesday on a Taylor County warrant.
- AMBER M. GUTIERREZ, 32, was arrested Wednesday and held for the U.S. Marshals.
- COIE MONIQUE POPE, 20, of 3608 Calvin Street, was arrested Wednesday on a warrant.
- JAY LEE BILLINGSLEY, 42, of 1005 Nolan Street, was arrested on a charge of driving while license invalid - Class B misdemeanor.
- DANIEL SYLVA, 24, of Austin, was arrested Thursday on a charge of possession of marijuana - two ounces or less.
- LANESSA SYLVA, 23, of Austin, was arrested Thursday on a charge of possession of marijuana - two ounces or less.
- JACKY DALE MILLER JR., 31, of Austin, was arrested Thursday on a charge of possession of marijuana - two ounces or less.
- DERRICK WILLIAMS, 36, of Austin, was arrested Thursday on charges of possession of marijuana - two ounces or less and driving while license invalid - Class B misdemeanor.
- ANDRIAN ESCOVEDO YANEZ, 20, of 1508 Sycamore Street, was arrested Thursday on a citation.
- ASSAULT CLASS C/FAMILY VIOLENCE was reported Wednesday in the 3600 block of Dixon.
- CRIMINAL MISCHIEF was reported Wednesday in the 1100 block of Seventh Street.
- EVADING ARREST was reported Wednesday in the 800 block of 18th Street.
- THEFT was reported Wednesday in the 900 block of Golf Course.

Fire/EMS

The Big Spring Fire Department/Emergency Medical Service reported the following activity:

- MEDICAL was reported Wednesday in the 2800 block of Clanton, and one person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported Wednesday in the 2700 block of Crestline, and one person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported Wednesday in the 1700 block of Harvard, and one person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported Wednesday in the 1800 block of W. Highway 87, and one person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported Wednesday in the 100 block of S. Gregg, and one person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported Wednesday at Sixth Street and Gregg, and one person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported Wednesday in the 400 Block of S. Aylesford, and one person was transported to SMMC.

Note: An arrest log was not available from the Howard County Sheriff's Office at press time due to technical problems.

Support Groups

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.

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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

- Pops in the Park, an annual symphony and fireworks show, begins at 6:30 p.m. at the Comanche Trail Park Amphitheater.

FRIDAY

- Funtastic Fourth Festival begins at 10 a.m. in Heart of the City Park in downtown Big Spring.
- Highland Parade begins at 10 a.m. at the corner of Robb and Highland Avenue in Big Spring.
- Coahoma Freedom Parade begins at 10 a.m. along First Street in Coahoma.

TUESDAY

- Coahoma Senior Citizen luncheon is set for 11 a.m. in the Coahoma Community Center.
- Big Spring Rotary Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.
- Alzheimer's Association, the Greater West Texas Chapter meets at 2 p.m. in the Howard County Library conference room, 500 S. Main.
- VFW Post 2013 meets at 7 p.m. in the VFW Hall, 500 Driver Road.
- Gospel Singing in the Kentwood Activity Center at 7 p.m. Everyone is welcome.
- The Howard County Sheriff's Posse meets at 7 p.m. at the Sheriff's Posse building on the Andrews Highway. For more information, call Bert Sheppard at 263-4483 or Rose Armstead at 263-2769.
- Order of the Eastern Star No. 67 meets at 7:30 p.m. at 221 Main.

WEDNESDAY

- Optimist Club meets at 7 a.m. in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.
- Free blood pressure screenings from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the Salvation Army, 811 W. Fifth St., provided by InHome Care.
- Downtown Lions Club meets at noon at the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.
- Duplicate Bridge Club meets at 1 p.m. in the Big Spring Country Club.
- Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie meets at 7 p.m. in the Eagles Lodge at 703 W. Third.

Lottery

Results of the Lotto Texas drawing Wednesday night:
Winning numbers drawn: 3-10-19-28-31-37.
Number matching six of six: 0.

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Wednesday night:
Winning numbers drawn: 1-7-11-14-25.
Number matching five of five: 1.
Prize per winner: \$23,044.
Winning tickets sold in: Temple.

The winning Daily 4 numbers drawn Wednesday night by the Texas Lottery: 4-6-6-8. Sum It Up: 24.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Wednesday night by the Texas Lottery: 5-5-5. Sum It Up: 15.

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Venus into Wimbledon finals

By **STEPHEN WILSON**
AP Sports Writer

WIMBLEDON, England — Defending champion Venus Williams beat Elena Dementieva 6-1, 7-6 (3) Thursday to advance to the Wimbledon final, set-

ting up a potential championship matchup with sister Serena. Venus Williams, a four-time Wimbledon winner, overpowered the fifth-seeded Russian in the first set and then won the big points in the second-set

tiebreaker to improve her record to 7-0 in semifinals at the All England Club. Her opponent in Saturday's final could be two-time champion Serena, who was next up on Centre Court to face 133rd-ranked Chinese

wild-card entrant Zheng Jie. It would be the first all-Williams final since 2003 when Serena beat Venus in the championship match for the second year in a row.

FAVRE

Continued from Page 1B

When he retired, a teary Favre said, "I've given everything I possibly could give to this organization, the game of football, and I don't think I've got anything left to give. And that's it. I know I can play. But I don't think I want to."

But less than two months later, he told reporters he might be open to returning if Rodgers was injured.

Favre, a three-time MVP, leads the league with 442 touchdown passes, 61,655 yards passing and 160 career victories. He started 253 consecutive regular-season games, more than any other quarterback in history. Including the playoffs, his streak stands at 275.

Rodgers, meanwhile, has stirred up controversy himself this week. In a Sports Illustrated article, the quarterback said he didn't feel pressure to connect with fans the way Favre did.

ASTROS

Continued from Page 1B

him to be that good. He was great and saving the bullpen to boot."

Andre Ethier hit a solo homer and Blake DeWitt scored on Luis Maza's squeeze bunt for the Dodgers, who've won five of their last six road games.

Carlos Lee homered in the ninth off Cory Wade for Houston's only run. Wade relieved Kuroda in the eighth and retired the other six batters he faced.

Kuroda allowed only a broken-bat single to David Newhan and a walk to Lance Berkman through the first four innings, throwing only 48 pitches. He hadn't pitched since June 12, when he allowed six runs in 2 1-3 innings against San Diego.

He said he worked hard during the break to stay in shape and keep command of his pitches.

"It was a break, but I wasn't really resting that much," Kuroda said through an interpreter. "In my head, I always wanted to come back and pitch as many games as possible. Mentally, it was a struggle. But I was able

to rest my body."

Newhan and J.R. Towles both singled with one out in the fifth. As pinch-hitter Darin Erstad batted, Kuroda spun and picked off Newhan with a quick throw to Maza, the Dodgers' shortstop.

The out cost Houston a run: Erstad doubled into the left-field corner and Towles stopped at third. Michael Bourn grounded out to end the inning.

Kuroda gave up only a single to Lee in the sixth after that. He felt fatigued by the seventh and wasn't as impressed by his performance as Torre seemed to be.

"I wasn't really surprised," he said. "It turned out really well for the team and for myself. It was nice."

Though Torre was hoping to rest his bullpen, he didn't consider leaving Kuroda in for another inning.

"We didn't want to push him at that point," Torre said. "He made the decision-making easy."

The Dodgers scored all their runs off Runelvys Hernandez (0-2), who was making his second start since replacing Shawn Chacon in the Astros' rotation. Hernandez was recalled from the minors

when Chacon was waived after a physical altercation with general manager Ed Wade in the clubhouse June 25.

Kent's RBI double off the left-field scoreboard in the first inning gave the Dodgers a 1-0 lead. His 498th double as a second baseman broke a tie with Roberto Alomar for first all-time at the position.

Matt Kemp led off the third with a triple over Bourn's head in center. Two outs later, Kent doubled again to make it 2-0.

"I missed my spots a couple of times against Kent," Hernandez said. "With those pitches, the game was changed."

DeWitt led off the fourth with a single to right. He stole second and went for third with Towles' throw sailed into center field. Towles was recalled from Triple-A Round Rock on Tuesday night after regular catcher Humberto Quintero was hit by Maza's bat on a swing and suffered a concussion.

Maza dropped a perfect bunt down the first-base line to score DeWitt for a 3-0 lead. Ethier led off the fifth with a homer high into the upper deck in right, his eighth of the season.

The Dodgers have scored

11 runs on their last two games after mustering only 14 in their previous seven games.

"What I like about what we're doing right now is we're scoring in more than one inning and we're manufacturing stuff, doing little things," Torre said. "We're playing heads-up baseball. We need to do more of that, for our own confidence, that we can come to the ballpark with a good feeling, rather than just wondering."

Dave Borkowski, recalled from Triple-A Round Rock before the game, started the sixth in relief of Hernandez. Borkowski gave up no runs on two hits in two solid innings.

Notes: Kent has 551 career doubles. ... In the corresponding move for Borkowski's callup, the Astros designated RHP Oscar Villareal for assignment. Villareal gave up a run in one inning of Tuesday's 7-6 loss. ... The Dodgers optioned LHP Clayton Kershaw to Double-A Jacksonville to make room for Kuroda on the roster. ... After the game, Torre said SS Rafael Furcal will undergo back surgery Thursday. Torre said Furcal, already on the disabled list, will miss at least eight more weeks.

RANGERS

Continued from Page 1B

deck in right to give the Yankees a 5-3 lead.

It was Giambi's 18th homer of the year and 13th career grand slam, and the big designated hitter rewarded a standing ovation by stepping from the dugout and tipping his helmet.

"The kid just made a little mistake," Giambi said of the hanging sinker. "I'm glad I could come through tonight and pick up the ballclub a little."

Bradley and Davis put the Rangers back ahead in the sixth with their two-run homers, knocking Ponson from the game and giving Texas a 7-6 lead.

Short-lived, as it turned out.

Rangers relievers had given up just nine earned runs over their last 27 1-3 innings coming into the game, but they gave up that many in the seventh

inning alone.

Bobby Abreu doubled and the next four batters also reached off reliever Warner Madrigal (0-1), who was making his big league debut. By the time Gardner drove in Robinson Cano, the Yankees had gone back on top 11-7.

"That's what our lineup is capable of," Gardner said. "Tonight we broke it open."

Starting in place of slumping center fielder Melky Cabrera, Gardner swiped second and scored on Damon's base hit. Abreu walked to reach base for the second time in the inning, and A-Rod lined a shot to right that never got much higher than the outfield wall.

Warner wound up with a forgettable debut: one-third of an inning, six runs, five hits and a walk.

"I told him, 'Keep your head up. It couldn't have been much worse,'" fellow Rangers reliever Jamey Wright said. "Looking at that lineup, it should hap-

pen every now and then."

Kinsler, who leads the American League in batting, singled and scored in Texas' three-run third to extend his hitting streak to 15 games.

Ponson, the rotund right-hander from Aruba whom the Rangers let go early last month because of off-field problems, gave up seven runs and nine hits in five-plus innings in his second start for New York.

"Well, we came in here and took two of three from New York," Washington said, putting a positive spin on an ugly night for the Rangers. "I don't think when we arrived here anybody gave us a chance to do that."

Notes: Rangers SS Michael Young left the game after the third inning with a mild left groin strain. He's day to day. ... Brandon Boggs started in LF for Texas in place of struggling David Murphy. ... Rangers RHP Scott Feldman will skip a turn

in the rotation and start Tuesday against the Angels.

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

Fourth Of July

Celebrating God & County

Schedule Of Events

Heart Of The City Park

Washer Tournament

Water Rides

Horseback Rides

Jumping Castles

Train Rides

10:00-10:15 - GLORIA McDONALD, MAYOR PRO-TEM • SHERAN JONES, STAR SPANGLE BANNER & GOD BLESS AMERICA

11:00-11:45 - ONE MOMENT

11:45-12:30 - RESTORATION BAND

12:30-1:15 - DISCIPLINA

1:15-3:15 - TALENT SHOW

3:15-4:00 - SUSIE GONZALEZ

4:00-4:45 - CLAY COLLINS

4:45-5:30 - JASON SANDERSON

5:30-5:45 - GLORIA McDONALD, MAYOR PRO-TEM, SHERAN JONES, STAR SPANGLE BANNER & GOD BLESS AMERICA

5:45-6:45 - KNOCKOUT BAND WINNER - BARRABAS

6:45-7:30 - AWARD PRESENTATION BY SAM SEGUNDO & CLINT COLLINS

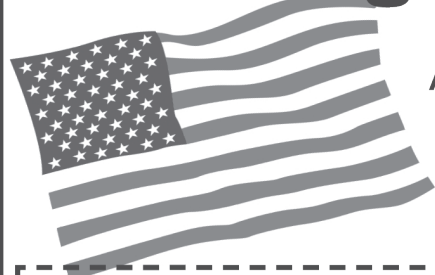
7:30-8:45 - FEATURED BAND CRIMSON SOUL

8:45-9:00 - SETUP

9:00-10:30 - SHANE & SHANE HEADLINER BAND

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HERALD photo/Alex Newsom

The 10- and-under Girl's All Star Team worked a booth at the Big Spring Mall's Flea Market Saturday to raise money for their competition in San Angelo this July. From left to right are, Skydra Sanford, MacKenzie Kennedy and Elizabeth Fleeson.

BAUER

Continued from Page 1A

"but they will be targeted in other areas." The change takes effect with the coming school year, Christopher said. What the changes will mean to Bauer have yet to be determined, officials said. "I'm disappointed, but I understand the district's decision," Christopher said. "I think it's unfortunate, because the children definitely enjoyed it. They learned a lot through the program ... It will probably effect our student body." Parents with questions are encouraged to contact the BSISD central office at 264-3600.

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

CELEBRATE

Continued from Page 1A

and both take entries right up until they start. The Highland Parade begins at the corner of Robb and Highland Drive and will end at Goliad and Highland Drive. Drawing approximately 75 participants — mostly kids and pets — there will be awards for bicycles, walkers, strollers, motorized vehicles and four-wheelers. Residents

can join in by decorating their mailboxes. Immediately following the parade, Center and Praise, a group from the First United Methodist Church, will perform. Over in Coahoma, line-up for the Freedom Parade will begin at the football field parking lot at the north end of N. First Street. Once under way, the parade will roll south, all the way to the I-20 frontage road. Cars, tractors, bicycles, motorcycles, floats and just about anything else can join in the parade, which

has been going on about 15 years. Grand marshals for the event are veterans Larry Truman Pherigo, Donald Bennett McKinney and Wendell Shive. Also beginning at 10 a.m. Friday will be the Funtastic Fourth Festival in Big Spring's Heart of the City Park. Dedicated to "God and Country," organizers have promised live music from start to finish — about 10:30 p.m. "This is our gift to the community," said Allan Johnson, spokesperson for the

Downtown Revitalization Association, which sponsors the event. "This isn't a fund-raiser or anything like that. In the end, the DRA is lucky if it even breaks even. We just want to stir up the excitement in downtown Big Spring. We feel like if we can get the energy and determination up in the downtown area — if we can get the right kind of attitude growing — we'll see the kind of revitalization we've been working for." Headline musical

performers will be Christian groups Shane and Shane, Crimson Soul and Barabbas, which won last weekend's Knockout Battle of the Bands here. Barabbas is to perform from 5:45 p.m. to 6:45 p.m., Crimson Soul from 7:30 p.m. to 8:45 p.m. and Shane and Shane from 9 p.m. until 10:30 p.m. Local and area groups and churches will provide gospel music throughout the day. "The gospel music is one of the best parts of the festival," said Johnson.

"We've had more churches contact us this year and ask to participate than ever before. We're very pleased to see the community come together for the event." Organizers said more than 50 vendors have signed up to have wares at the event and there will be day-long rides and activities for children and a washer pitching tournament for adults, to begin about 1 p.m. Staff writer Thomas Jenkins contributed to this story.

RESCUED

Continued from Page 1A

Antonio, where they were expected to undergo tests. Long before their rescue, it seemed like any public efforts to rescue the hostages had disappeared. While France exhorted the world to care about the plight of Betancourt, and even sent a humanitarian mission in a failed rescue attempt this year, the U.S. government remained nearly silent about efforts to free the Americans, employees of a Northrop Grumman Corp. subsidiary that has supported Colombia's fight against drugs and rebels. Howes is a native of Chatham, Mass.; Gonsalves' father lives in Hebron, Conn.; and Stansell's family lives in Miami. Their families complained publicly about what seemed to be the U.S. government's failure to act. "We didn't know what the heck was going on," Gonsalves' father, George, told reporters. "I'm getting information from you guys." The Americans' fate

seemed particularly grim after "proof-of-life" images released in November showed them appearing haggard, even haunted, against a deep jungle background. The contractors and Betancourt were among a group of rebel-designated "political prisoners" whom the FARC planned to release only in exchange for hundreds of imprisoned rebels. But every attempt at talking about a prisoner swap seemed to go nowhere. Behind the scenes, however, Colombia's armed forces were closing in on the rebels, with the help of billions of dollars in U.S. military support. The U.S. and Colombian governments learned the hostages' location "any number of times" and planned several rescue missions during their five years in captivity, but the difficulty of extracting them alive had prevented the missions from being carried out, according to a U.S. government official in Washington who spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of intelligence matters. Last month, Colombian Defense Minister Juan Manuel Santosa said soldiers

had spotted the three men in the southern jungles, but they disappeared into the forest before the troops could attempt a rescue. After the men were freed, U.S. Ambassador William Brownfield said U.S. and Colombian forces cooperated closely on the rescue mission, including sharing intelligence, equipment, training advice and operational experience. The Americans appeared healthy in a video shown on Colombian television, though Brownfield, who met with them at a Colombian military base, said two of the three were suffering from the jungle malady leishmaniasis and "looking forward to modern medical treatment." George Gonsalves was mowing his yard when an excited neighbor relayed the news he had seen on

television. "I didn't know how to stop my lawnmower," he said. "I was shocked. I couldn't believe it." "We're still teary-eyed and not quite have our wits about us," said Stansell's stepmother, Lynne. And Howes' niece, Amanda Howes, said the rescue "redefines the word miracle." Congratulations poured in to Colombian President Alvaro Uribe from President Bush and both presidential candidates. Republican Sen. John McCain said Uribe had told him in advance of the rescue plans while he was campaigning in Colombia. "It's a very high-risk operation," he said. "I congratulate President Uribe, the military and the nation of Colombia." Democrat Barack Obama also sent his

congratulations, saying he supports "Colombia's steady strategy of making no concessions to the FARC, and its targeted use of intelligence, military, law enforcement, diplomatic and political power to achieve important victories against terrorism." Gonsalves' father, who later got a phone call from the FBI confirming his son was free, expected an emotional family reunion, especially for his son's three children,

now teenagers. "Think about your children if they don't see you for a week a weekend or a month," he said. "It's five years pulled out of your life."

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

Roy Thornton, 53, died Tuesday. Funeral Services will be at 2:00 PM Friday at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

Richard Eugene Jokinen, 63, died Tuesday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

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EDITORIAL

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-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

Ron Midkiff
Publisher

John A. Moseley
Managing Editor

Bill McClellan
News Editor

OUR VIEWS



Have a great time celebrating our independence

If you are reading this, you've probably seen today's front page, so we don't need to say much more.

To those who haven't taken in Big Spring's Pops in the Park celebration before — do so. It's an exhilarating experience. It's very difficult not to show your pride when bombs — fireworks, in this case — are "bursting in air" in time with the Big Spring Symphony's rendition of our national anthem.

Dress up in red, white and blue and plan on staying several hours. Food and drink will be available from vendors on site.

Friday, take time to go over to Coahoma for the annual "Freedom Parade" or make it out to the Highland area in Big Spring for the Highland Parade. Both are kid-filled, enjoyable events.

Finally, stop by Heart of the City Park for some great gospel music, food and fun. The Funtastic Fourth Festival is family-oriented and will have a lot of children-friendly activities. In the evening, listen to some of the best up-and-coming Christian bands in the land.

We hope you have a great time celebrating our nation's independence in Big Spring. Have fun, and be safe.

How To Contact Us

The Herald is always interested in our readers' opinions. In order that we might better serve your needs, we offer several ways in which you may contact us:

- In person at 710 Scurry St.
- By telephone at 263-7331
- By fax at 264-7205
- By e-mail Managing Editor John A. Moseley at editor@bigspringherald.com or News Editor Bill McClellan at newsdesk@bigspringherald.com.
- By mail at P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721

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The Herald welcomes letters to the editor.

- Limit your letters to no more than 300 words.
- Sign your letter.
- Provide a daytime telephone number, as well as a street address for verification purposes.
- We reserve the right to edit for style and clarity.
- We reserve the right to limit publication to one letter per 30-day period per author.
- Letters that are unsigned or do not include a telephone number or address will not be considered.
- Letters should be submitted to Editor, Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721. They can also be e-mailed to editor@bigspringherald.com

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

Watch over us Lord, in times of celebration and in times of sadness. Amen

Who's winning at the All-Star break?

We've reached politics' equivalent of the All-Star break. The presidential nominations are lined up. The edge is off the campaigns for the Fourth of July. And the fall election remains many games away.

This being the midseason point, who is making the most persuasive case to win the World Series of politics in November?

Here's my take on the best reasons for John McCain and for Barack Obama:



WILLIAM
MCKENZIE

The case for McCain

If you want someone who can find the political center, so far this is your guy. McCain, the Arizona senator, has talked about saving future generations from fiscal ruin, protecting the environment and radically changing the health care system.

About fiscal restraint, he's gone to Iowa — of all places! — to complain about federal mandates to produce more ethanol, which realistically means motor fuel squeezed out of corn. Obama favors the mandate, as does President Bush and many legislators. McCain argues that it was an unnecessary give-away to corn producers at the very time corn prices are soaring out of sight.

For similar reasons, he opposed the farm bill and its subsidies to farmers who grow corn and other big crops. (Obama, senator from Illinois, favored the bill, which some environmental and anti-hunger groups really disliked.) And McCain hasn't flinched in talking about entitlement programs eating us and the federal budget alive unless we change the way Medicare

and other guaranteed programs work.

On the environment, the GOP headliner breaks from many in his party by emphasizing perils of global warming. He also favors a cap-and-trade system to combat the greenhouse gases that fuel climate change. The Dems will have difficulty painting him as hard-hearted on the environment.

On health care, the maverick proposes ending the tax break that gives corporate higher-ups and wealthier Americans a huge advantage over everyone else searching for insurance. McCain would replace that advantage with a tax break that particularly helps the middle class afford care.

Add up issues like these, and he strikes the pose of a fiscal conservative who's socially aware.

But he's not home free.

McCain's position on appointing conservative judges will appease the right but possibly lose him the working women who rejected Obama in the primaries.

Also, if he goes with a right-wing running mate, like a Mitt Romney, McCain will have a harder time winning undecided moderates and independents.

Bottom line: He's making a strong case for the center but hasn't yet closed the deal.

The case for Obama

Even though he hasn't made race the centerpiece of his campaign, Obama represents the best chance in America's history to deal with our racial divides. (Yes, that includes the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.) Obama can speak uniquely to black and white America. After all, he is both.

It's almost impossible to comprehend how deeply race has stained the American consciousness. A president who can

walk us through our past into our future could change our thinking on an issue that has troubled us since the Constitution was written.

With his cool manner and piercing intellect, the Harvard Law grad also could reshape how we talk about other issues. Brown University economist Glenn Loury made this point on Bill Moyers' PBS show recently. Obama seems disinclined to accept the common framing of such issues as abortion.

Those are two strong selling points, along with the JFK-ish energy he would bring to the White House. The other night, the lens of C-Span showed the charismatic Democrat jawing jovially with Republicans on the Senate floor.

But he, too, has far to go. For all his talk about a new politics, he has yet to show how he would change Washington. In fact, he played old-school politics when he stuck a knife in the campaign finance system. Also, his Social Security plan relies on taxing the rich and does not come close to ending financial pressures on the system. How's that being anything other than a liberal Democrat?

Bottom line: He holds enormous potential on racial and cultural issues, but he must show how he would change our politics and keep us from handing future generations crippling debt.

I see the race as Obama's to lose, but it's still wide open. Four months from now, we will know who hit a home run with the most voters and doused themselves with champagne in the championship locker room.

William McKenzie is an editorial columnist for The Dallas Morning News.

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ADDRESSES

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

• **GEORGE W. BUSH**
President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

• **KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON**
U.S. Senator
703 Hart Office Building

Washington, D.C. 20510-4305
Phone: 202-224-5922

• **JOHN CORNYN**
U.S. Senator
517 Hart Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-4305
Phone: 202-224-2934

• **RANDY NEUGEBAUER**
U.S. Representative
19th Cong. District

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Phone: (512) 463-2000

• **JOE HEFLIN**
State Representative
Texas 85th District
P.O. Box 2910
Austin, 78768
Phone: (432) 213-2897 or (512) 463-0604

• **KEL SELIGER**
State Senator
Texas 31st District
401 Austin, Suite 101
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American dream realized in Cuba

Since her days as a young girl, Arabia Mollette dreamed of becoming a doctor. The streets of the South Bronx pulled in another direction.

"My family was hit hard with drugs," said the 28-year old student, "both of my parents." There were five sisters and a brother. At 15, "I was out in the streets selling drugs, sleeping on trains when I didn't have a place to stay. I was not on crack, but I did have a problem with drinking.

"Two of my sisters have passed away. One was shot to death in Schenectady when she was a freshman at college. She was in a car with her friend — at the wrong place at the wrong time. The situation had nothing to do with her; it was the person she was hanging out with. She died three weeks after her 19th birthday. It was devastating."

Sent away to relatives in Peekskill, N.Y., Mollette achieved honors as a high school junior. And, at 17, she had a son with a 29-year-old. "The relationship with the father was not positive." It got worse when she talked of going off to college to fulfill her dream. "We were not together. He had my son at his house."

On the night of Feb. 19, 1998, the 4-month-old was rushed to the hospital, suffering from a heart attack, fractured skull and brain injuries. He died the next day. Claiming to have shaken his son when he wouldn't stop crying, the father pleaded guilty to manslaughter and was sentenced to 11 to 22 years in prison. "It's hard

for me to sleep at night (thinking) I will not see my son again," Mollette told the judge before yelling at her son's father: "How could you put me through this?"

Gathering herself over time, the young student worked her way through Hunter College, graduating with a minor in black and Puerto Rican studies and a major in psychology. "I studied psychology because I wanted to understand myself as a black woman in America. I wanted to understand ... what made me do some of those things.

"Even as an undergrad, I was (sometimes) homeless. I didn't think becoming a doctor was going to happen due to the financial situation." The cost of a medical education ranges up past \$150,000, with most young physicians \$120,000 in college-loan debt. In June 2005, while participating in a biomedical research program at SUNY Binghamton, a friend told Mollette about the medical program she was attending. "I said, 'What medical school are you going to?'"

It was the Latin American School of Medical Sciences that Cuba created in 1999 to train doctors from the region. When Rep. Bennie Thompson, D-Miss., inquired about the school during a U.S. Congressional Black Caucus visit in 2000, Fidel Castro, not one to pass up a propaganda pitch, offered free medical training to low-income Americans to return home and serve their medically underserved communities.

Some 111 such U.S. students, mainly blacks and Latinos, have joined the 4,000 physicians Cuba has recruited from Latin America, Africa and the Caribbean. According to a recent Johns Hopkins newsletter, Cuba's

highly rated, free medical system maintains the "highest doctor-to-patient ratio, about one physician per 170 patients, of all countries in the world." The U.S. ratio is one doctor to 400 patients; at HMOs, where most Americans receive care, it's one to 600 patients.

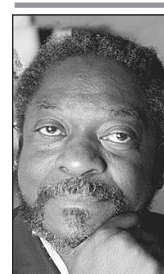
"I have utilized my tragic experiences to explain why I wanted to become a doctor, to fulfill this dream," Mollette told me during a recent trip to Havana, where I interviewed eight other U.S. students. "When I came down here (two years ago), I didn't speak any Spanish. By the grace of God, I was able to pick up Spanish in three months. When I'm studying or taking an exam, I think about the tragedies (of my life) to motivate me.

"My family can't help me, financially. I try not to be upset about that. Emotionally, they are there for me. So when I go home, I have to find some type of work, babysitting or cleaning somebody's house." All tuition, books, meals and even medical care the Cuban government provides free. "I have to buy my plane ticket and come back. And I have to purchase certain personal items I need. I wasn't born with a silver spoon. One day, I'll be able to help my family.

"What happened to my son, and my sister," Mollette said, breaking off into sobs, "is the reason I had to get myself together. I'm crying because for the first time in my life, I got to do something I wanted to do."

Les Payne is a columnist for Newsday.

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- 1-1.5 lb. meaty beef ribs
- 1-28 oz. meatloaf & gravy
- 1-1 lb. beef fajitas
- 1-1 lb. fully cooked meatballs
- 1-1 lb. all meat hot dogs.
- 1-1 lb. broccoli
- 1-1 lb. peas and carrots
- 1-28 oz. pasta sauce
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For more information, call Bill Lovelace at 267-3241 or Madeline Boadle at 267-2203. If no one answers, please leave a message.

Contact the Herald at 263-7331

DEAR MARGO: One Romance — Two Views

Dear Margo: I've been dating a guy I'll call "Greg" for a year and a half. We had a great relationship; I always had a lot of fun with him. However, we often had little quarrels over unimportant things, whereas we were able to solve bigger conflicts more constructively.

Despite the ups and downs, I felt we were happy together. About a month ago, Greg told me he wanted to "take a break" and separate for a while.

He said the ups and downs were making him think about whether our relationship was the "right one."

He wanted us to "just be friends" for a while so he could "figure stuff out." We got together as friends a few times, but it was awkward and usually made me upset.

Several days ago, Greg got into an argument with his friend "John." John called me that night and told me, out of anger, that Greg has been seeing another girl since just days after we broke up.

Greg had been going to great lengths to make sure

I didn't find out about the new relationship. Naturally, I am devastated and feel completely duped. I would have almost been happier if he'd broken up with me for someone else, versus breaking up with me in the easiest way possible, then trying to hide his true intentions.

I feel so lost and confused about this whole scenario. Should I confront Greg about what his friend told me?

Should I keep hanging on? Or should I just cut him out of my life completely? — *Scrambled*

Dear Scram: Greg behaved like a snake in your view, but I'm willing to bet he thought he was letting you down gently.

As for your questions: I would not confront him. Then you will have ... what? The result would feel nothing like satisfaction.

As for "hanging on," hanging on to what? He is gone, baby, gone. So your third question is the right one to be asking, and the answer is yes. I guarantee you will feel done with all this in a matter of months.

— *Margo, unavoidably*
When Even a Phone Call Is Too Much

Dear Margo: I've written in the past, but I really need your advice this time! My wife and I recently moved to the Northwest from Idaho after I accepted a job offer.

We made the decision together; she even faxed in the acceptance letter for me. Here's the problem: Her estranged father, who was not a part of her childhood, lives in town and has been trying to reconnect with her.

She is not interested in a relationship beyond what already exists. We are all friendly enough and see each other for a quick lunch or dinner on holidays, but he can't leave well enough alone.

He calls daily and is always a sad sack on the phone; work stinks, the weather is bad, the boss is a jerk, etc. Now, my wife

would rather move than deal with his issues and all the stress. Do I call the man and tell him he's screwing up my wife's life and, in turn, screwing up mine? I just want her to be happy. — *Beyond Distressed*

Dear Be: I wholeheartedly support your idea of phoning your wife's father to tell him that he needs to dial it back in terms of being in touch with his daughter.

Remind him of the history, and add that your winding up in his town had to do with business, nothing else. Given the

situation, you need not worry about antagonizing him.

It is perfectly legitimate to say his daily calls are upsetting and that in order to preserve the tenuous relationship they have, he will have to readjust to the holiday schedule. I think it's wonderful that you are offering to be the spokesman; I also think it will be less fraught than if your wife had to make that call. — *Margo, approvingly*

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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

You deserve a factual look at . . .

The Golan Heights

To Whom Do They Belong? Can Israel Survive Without Them?

In a transparent effort to improve his thuggish image, Syria's president Bashar Assad has proposed to meet with Israeli government officials to discuss the possibility of peace. There can be no question that "peace" is not on Mr. Assad's mind, but rather the recovery of the Golan Heights, from which Syria has launched three major wars against Israel.

What are the facts?

Historical Background— The Golan was always part of the Jewish homeland. The Syrian claim to the Golan is tenuous. Syria, as a political entity, did not exist at all until after the first World War. Until then it was just another province in the Ottoman empire, with ill-defined borders. In 1923, in an Anglo/French great power play, the border between Syria and Israel was established. The Golan Heights were ceded to Syria. Even before the establishment of Israel in 1948, the Syrians, having heavily fortified the area, subjected the villages in northern Israel to almost daily shellings, making normal life impossible. In the 1967 Six-Day War, Syria attacked Israel and was defeated. Israel occupied the Golan Heights and in 1981, for all practical purposes, annexed them.

Syria and its President— Syria is the most destabilizing influence in the Middle East. It is classified by the U.S. State Department as a narcotic-dealing and terrorist state. Its main fury is directed against Israel, which is perceived as a bulwark of Western influence and civilization, both of which Syria abhors and totally rejects.

Syria's former president, Hafez Assad, was a tyrant, every bit as ruthless and as cunning as his unlamented Iraqi counterpart Saddam Hussein. His son, the current president, is equally despotic, though not quite as smart as his father. Syria is a world center for terrorism. It still harbors Nazi bigwigs, who found welcome there after the World War. Few doubt that Hafez Assad was the mastermind behind the attack on the US Marines barracks in Beirut in which 241 Americans were killed. The Syrian government oversees one of the largest narcotics and counterfeiting operations in the world.

Syria has attacked Israel three times across the Golan. Given its implacable hostility, no responsible Israeli leader could possibly return the Golan to Syria. If it were to give up the high ground of the Golan and return to the "death trap" borders of 1967 or anything close to it, Israel, in order to survive, would have to rely on the good will of the Arab states, whose main policy objective is the destruction of Israel. Even though peace-for-peace would be the best solution, how about this: In order to assuage Arab pride, consider granting formal ownership of the Golan to Syria and having Israel—given the precedents of Guantánamo and Hong Kong—lease it back for a hundred-year period. An aggressor will attack only if confident of victory. With the Golan in Israeli hands, attacking Arab armies could be confident of defeat, and peace would be preserved. To hand back the Golan to Syria at this time would be a prescription for war and for Israel's destruction.

This ad has been published and paid for by



Facts and Logic About the Middle East
P.O. Box 590359 ■ San Francisco, CA 94159
Gerardo Joffe, President

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Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

A Trap for the Unwary

North dealer.
Neither side vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ 8 5 4
♥ A 10 7 2
♦ 10 3
♣ A K J 5

WEST
♠ K 10 7 3 2
♥ 6 4
♦ K Q 9 5
♣ 7 3

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

SOUTH
♠ A Q
♥ K Q J 9 8 3
♦ A J 4
♣ 6 2

The bidding:

North	East	South	West
1 ♠	Pass	2 ♥	Pass
3 ♥	Pass	4 NT	Pass
5 ♥	Pass	5 NT	Pass
6 ♦	Pass	6 ♥	

 Opening lead — king of diamonds.

Occasionally, a player has a chance to win by deception that might be lost by straightforward play. Today's deal provides an interesting example, both from the offensive and defensive points of view.

South won West's king of diamonds with the ace and saw he could make his slam if either the spade or club finesse succeeded. Since both finesses had an equal chance of winning, he decided to forgo the club finesse because the queen might fall

on the first, second or third round of the suit.

So, after drawing two rounds of trump, he cashed the A-K of clubs and ruffed a club. When the queen did not drop, the slam appeared to depend on the location of the spade king.

However, declarer was still not inclined to pin all his hopes on a successful spade finesse. Instead, he led a trump to dummy, ruffed the jack of clubs and then led the jack of diamonds!

West won with the queen and found it hard to believe that South would waste the jack of diamonds if he had a low diamond left to lead toward dummy's ten. So, to avoid presenting declarer with a ruff-and-discard, he shifted to a low spade, handing South the slam.

While we have nothing but admiration for South's clever ploy, West should nevertheless have found the winning counter play. At the point where West won the diamond, declarer had shown up with precisely six hearts, two diamonds and two clubs.

If South actually started with only a doubleton diamond, he had to have three spades. So even if a diamond return yielded a ruff-and-discard, it would still leave declarer with a spade loser, assuring that the slam would go down one.

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In observation of Independence Day
The Big Spring Herald Will Be Closed
Friday, July 4th

Early deadlines are as follows:

RETAIL
Thursday, July 3rd
Deadlines - Tuesday, July 1st, 3:00 p.m.

Friday, July 4th, Sunday, July 6th
& Monday, July 7th
Deadline - Wednesday July 2nd, 3:00 p.m.

CLASSIFIEDS
Friday, July 4th, Sunday, July 6th,
& Monday, July 7th
Deadline - Thursday, July 3rd, 11:59 a.m.

HAVE A SAFE INDEPENDENCE DAY!!!

11864

DON'T MISS SUNDAY'S PAPER...

OVER \$11.00 WORTH OF VALUABLE COUPONS FROM SMART SOURCE.

Help Wanted

POST OFFICE NOW HIRING. Avg. Pay \$20/hour or \$57K annually including Federal Benefits and OT. Placed by ad-Source, not aff w/USPS who hires. 1-866-795-4058.

PRINTING PRESSMAN Monday thru Friday, 8:00-5:00. Bindery skills a plus. Salary DOE. Send resume to P.O. Box 10400, Midland, TX 79702.

SHELL STAR STOP looking for new team members. Full & Part time Cashiers & Assistant Managers. Apply in person at any Shell Star Stop in Big Spring. Drug Free Environment.

TRUCK DRIVER needed. Must have Class A CDL with Tanker and Hazardous Endorsements. Delivery of New and Used Oil-field Equipment. Oversized Hauling Experience necessary. Paid by the Hour, Per Diem, and Benefits. Call 800-588-2669 M-F, 8:00-5:00.

WAREHOUSE/ DELIVERY Wanted for local Rental Store. Benefits include paid vacation, retirement & health insurance. Requirements are background check, drug screening, good driving record and be at least 21 years old. Starting pay \$8.50 per hour. Apply in person, Credit World, 1611 Gregg.

WHITTEN INN now hiring the following positions: **Housekeepers, Maintenance, Desk Clerks.** Apply in person, on I-20 next to TA Truck Stop.

Items for Sale

22 CALIBER Guns for Sale: Model 241 Remington, Colt Woodsman, S&W Model 34-1 and pocket knives. Call 432-394-4314.

5 HORSEPOWER, 3 phase air compressor. 3 phase tire balancing machine. (2) 15,000 fuel storage tanks. Call (432)353-4242 or (432)270-5872.

A NEW Brand Name King Pillow Top Mattress Set. Factory Warranty, Sell \$250. (432)664-8980.

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DOUBLE/ FULL pillow top mattress and box set. NEW, factory sealed. ONLY \$130. (432)664-8980.

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FOUND SMALL Bulldog mix on South Parkway. Call 432-263-3423 to claim.

LOST 3 month old black male Chinese pug, in Coahoma. Last seen was Saturday night. Call (432)213-3189.

LOST YORKIE, female Brownish & gray. Auburn St.area. Call (432)213-6006.

Miscellaneous

BEAUTIFUL 6pc MODERN style Espresso finish bedroom set. Must see, \$595. 806-549-3110.....
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FINE CHERRY 6-pc. dining room table & chairs. Solid wood. Queen Anne style, \$395. 806-549-3110.

Miscellaneous

POTTERY BARN style cigar back sofa, love..wood frame, never used. Still boxed. Worth \$4100, sell \$1395. 806-549-3110.....
\$575 5-pc microfiber sofa set. New in boxes. Factory warranty. Neutral color. 806-549-3110.

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AKC REGISTERED Pomeranian, white male. 7 Weeks old. \$300. (432)756-2288, Cell (432)664-3266.

FREE GERMAN Shepherd puppy (female), 7 month old. No Shots. Call 432-263-6037.

GERMAN SHEPHERD puppies. AKC papers. White female, gray male, \$700. obo. black female \$425. Other pups, \$350. Parents are our family dogs. (432)517-0078.

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AKC SHIH-TZU/ Pomeranian Mix. Small cute. 6 Puppies. Affectionate and eager to please their owners. Born 5/3/08. Pad trained. Smart and Cute. 432-213-2267.

Real Estate for Rent

1218 E. 16th. 3 bedroom, 1 bath, CH/A, washer & dryer connections. One year lease. \$800. month. Call (432)267-2296. No Pets, No HUD. You pay utilities.

1312 RIDGEROAD. 3 Bedroom, 1 bath. No pets. Call (432)267-3841 or 517-0642.

4 BDRM House- 30 minute drive from Big Spring refinery at Lake Thomas. Water Well, total electric. Call (432)213-1587 leave message if no answer.

602 LINDA LANE, 3 bedroom, 1 bath, carport. Newly paint, CH/A. \$650. month, \$650. deposit. No Pets. Call (432)263-8005 or 816-1330.

703 EDWARDS 2 bedroom, 1 bath house. CH/A, washer/dryer connections. One Year Lease. No HUD. No Pets. No Bills Paid. (432)267-2296.

AVAILABLE JULY 10th, Two bedroom, 2 bath plus a guesthouse one bedroom, one bath, garage, fenced. One year lease. \$800. month, \$800. deposit. firm. Call (432)267-6257 or (432)268-3232

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COVERED CAR lot and office for rent. Lighted and secure. Great Location. Call (432)264-8924 for more details.

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2311 BRENT Drive. Quite Neighborhood. 3 Bdrm, 2 bath, large lot, double garage and fireplace. Call (432)395-6685.

3/2 Home 2400 sq. feet with double garage on .8 acres near Tubbs addition. Forsan ISD. \$169,500.00. Additional acreage available. Possible Owner Financing. 512-940-5200, 432-631-8100.

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1107 MULBERRY 3/1 with 720 square foot 2 bay shop. \$59,500.00. Owner will finance with 10% down. \$520 Monthly. Call (512)940-5200 or (432)631-8100.

1998 OAKCREEK Mobile Home 18X80 in Forsan ISD on school land. 3 Bdrm, 2 bath. Like New in Excellent Condition. \$40,000.00 OBO. Call (432)457-0160.

2210 MERRILY- 4 Bdrm, 1-1/2 bath, storage shed. Kentwood School. \$95,000.00. Also have **2106 Grace-** 3 Bdrm, 2 bath CH/A. Forsan ISD. Call (432)816-8970.

2715 CENTRAL Drive 3/2 with fireplace, fenced yard and shop. \$139,500.00. Owner will finance with 10% down. \$1215. Monthly. Call (512)940-5200 or (432)631-8100.

3241 DREXEL Ave. 3/2, garage, fireplace and fenced yard. \$99,500.00. Owner will Finance with 10% down. \$865.00 Monthly. Call (512)940-5200, (432)631-8100.

4102 BILGER. 1340 sq. ft. 3 bedroom, 2 bath. New roof, carpet, tile and dishwasher, fresh paint throughout, CH/A, fenced yard, garage. \$85,000. Call (432)267-5855.

900 ACRES 1.5 miles of Colorado River, Highly improved. Saba County. Beautiful Ranch. \$5,500,000.00. Call 903-326-4851, 903-872-2022 or 325-623-5651.

BY OWNER 3 Bdrm 2 bath. 2318 Brent Drive. Owner/Agent Call 432-264-8166 or 432-935-6516.

BY OWNER/ No Financing: Coahoma ISD, 2 bdr., 1 bath house on approx. half acre. Call 432-267-2907.

"HISTORIC DISTRICT" Building Downtown. Two-Three Separate businesses. 6000 Square feet. 98% Refurbished. Owner Financing. 10% down plus terms. \$150K. Call (432)264-8048.

INVESTMENT PROPERTY, \$35,000. Currently rented. 104 Circle Street. 3 bedroom, 1 bath, 1015 sq. ft. CH/A. Current income \$425. month. No Owner Finance. (432)816-1464.

OWNER FINANCED-Easy Terms. 1307 Mt. Vernon and 510 State Street. Call TruStar Realty (432)264-8166.

LAND FOR Sale, 5 miles south of Big Spring on east side of Highway 87 and in Coahoma on the south side of IS 20. Call (432)263-8785.

LAND FOR Sale: Morgan Ranch Estate. 6.86 acres with water well. Beautiful view. Great Building Site. Call 432-816-6560.

NICE LAKE House. South Lake Thomas. 1-3 Bdrm, 5 lots, storage's, garage and carport. Good Condition. \$35,000.00 O.B.O. Call 254-842-5611 leave message.

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2006 ONE ton Chevy Duramax Turbo diesel, white long bed dually. Good condition, runs well. 141,000 miles. \$22,000. Call (432)249-0106.

Tomorrow's Horoscope

BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

The maternal Cancer moon nurtures connections. It's a dandy time to spruce up our home, get out the grill, for the Fourth of July is upon us. As gatherings of old familiar faces kick into high gear, even if we don't have a nurturing bone in our body, we probably know someone who makes really good potato salad.



HOLIDAY MATHIS

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You're giving the gift of your undivided attention, which turns out to be the best gift you could ever give. Bonus: Dialing your soul into one person happens to be a rapturous pleasure.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). A magnetic physical attraction is enjoyable, even if it never goes anywhere. And it probably shouldn't go anywhere. Let the zippy energy you feel carry you brightly through your usual tasks and leave it at that.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You're still trying to find that special someone who will relate to you in every way. Some have sensitivity, some finesse - those are fine qualities, too - but what you really need now is a partner who can really focus, preferably on you.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Relationships are never simple, due to the complex matrix of joy and sorrow that makes up a person. So if you have emotional intelligence (and your sign definitely does), consider yourself tremendously lucky.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You have a solid idea of what you'd like to do. But when you try to relay it to others, you'll discover that it could be even more fleshed out. Don't be discouraged. You're in the process, and that's what matters.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Your inner urge to connect with people impels you toward popularity. It probably was never your aim to have so many phone calls and invitations that you have to turn some down, but you're there anyway.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Keats said that beauty is truth, truth beauty. Good, in theory, and yet you still work to conceal the bumps, detract from the lumps and highlight the very best bits of truth. No one said it was easy to be pretty.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You have a way of entertaining young people and children. As you create some fun, you're teaching through example how to turn bits of life into humor. Laughter is a step toward enlightenment.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Your astral gift

is powerful concentration. Put it to a higher purpose. You have the ability to digest weighty and complex matters. You come up with cures and solutions, and make stellar decisions.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You'll be getting up in front of people to make your presentation. Nerves kick in, whether speaking to one or 1,000. The extra energy gives you an edge though, if you breathe and channel it right.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Your energy is outstanding and you are able to do twice the workload that you could normally handle. Rest up this afternoon. Unplug the computer and step away from the Internet!

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You may be in the mood to indulge in what you don't need, including extra food or drink. Being around people whose habits you admire will override the mood, though, so keep good company.

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

Annie's Mailbox ®

Dear Annie: When I was in elementary school in the 1980s, there was a contest in which students were to write and illustrate books. I thought I did a good job, but on the day of the judging, another girl won. I was not a sore loser. My problem was this:



KATHY MITCHELL
MARCY SUGAR

Several weeks before the contest, the exact plot of this girl's story, down to the names of the characters, had been broadcast as an hour-long children's movie. I mentioned this to the teacher in front of the entire class. The other girl claimed innocence, and I received a long lecture on jealousy and a note was sent home. My abusive father beat me for being a liar, and I was terribly picked on at school by the winner and her friends.

I never forgot these

Vehicles

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Legals

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR COMMERCIAL SURFACE DISPOSAL FACILITY PERMIT
On June 26, 2008, Westex Systems Sacroc LP, P.O. Box 1270 Midland, Texas 79702 filed an application with the Railroad Commission of Texas for a **COMMERCIAL SURFACE DISPOSAL FACILITY PERMIT** to dispose of RCRA exempt oilfield waste in a (double plastic lined disposal) landfill.

The proposed disposal site is located on Hwy 669-2.25 miles north of Gail, Texas in the Section 19, Block 30, T-5-N, T&P RR Company Survey, Abstract No. A-201, Borden County, Texas. The proposed disposal site is located on real property owned by Borden County, Inc.

Affected persons may protest this application. Protests must be in writing and must be received by the 15th day after the last date of publication of this notice. The last date of publication of this notice is expected to be July 9, 2008 which means protests should be received by July 24, 2008. Protests must be sent to the Environmental Services Section, Oil and Gas Division, Railroad Commission of Texas, P.O. Box 12987, Austin, Texas 78711 (Telephone 512-463-6818) #5835 July 3 & 9, 2008

things. I recently did some searching and found the original book for sale online. I have also found links to the movie along with lesson plans for teachers based on the film. I always knew I wasn't a liar and now feel fully vindicated.

I'm 34 years old. Should I let this drop, or should I send copies of the book to both the teacher and the student who "wrote" it? -- Amber

Dear Amber: We can understand why this injustice has bothered you, but first decide what you hope to accomplish by sending the books. The girl who plagiarized the story already knows she's guilty. If you send her the book, she will also know that you've been obsessed with this for years, which may give her more satisfaction than you'd like. The teacher may not recall the incident, and even if she does, there's not much she can do about it now. The best you can hope for is an apology from each of them. If you don't get it, will you feel better or worse? When you can answer that, you will know what to do.

Dear Annie: How do I get a beef in the paper? It has to do with men wearing hats anywhere and everywhere. What happened to being a gentleman? -- Please Remove Your Hat

Dear Please: Not everyone is aware of the etiquette involved, although we're not holding our breath that this will make a difference. According to

Emily Post, men's hats are considered outdoor apparel and should be removed when indoors. (Women are permitted to wear hats indoors as part of their outfit, as long as they do not block someone's view in the theater, for example.) Baseball caps should be removed whether worn by men or women.

Exceptions include those who cover their head for religious purposes, small children who might lose a baseball cap if there is no place to put it, and those undergoing chemotherapy or who have a medical problem such as alopecia.

Dear Annie: Your response to "Middle School Teacher, Illinois" was lame. Much of life is "tedious and repetitious" - washing dishes, doing laundry, going to work and just about everything else. Children need to learn that just because it's tedious and repetitious doesn't mean it shouldn't be done.

My son should have been valedictorian, but didn't do his homework. His mother and I constantly pressed him, collaborated with his teachers to find out his assignments and kept on him until he finished the work, even though he found it boring. Today, he is in charge of quality control at a manufacturing plant. His job is tedious and repetitious and he loves it.

Successfully completing your work gives a sense of satisfaction. Not doing so is just plain lazy. Parents need to be tough. -- Been There

Dear Been There: We agree that children should complete their assignments and that parents sometimes must be tough, and said so in our initial response. We are truly dismayed, however, that you believe one important purpose of school is to teach tedium and repetition. How sad.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column.

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News in brief

McCain puts top adviser in control of day-to-day campaign duties after Republican concerns

WASHINGTON (AP) — John McCain put a top adviser in control of day-to-day campaign operations Wednesday after weeks of private concerns among Republicans that the GOP presidential campaign had not made the transition for the general election.

Steve Schmidt, a veteran of President Bush's re-election and a member of the Arizona senator's inner circle, will oversee daily political, strategy, coalitions, scheduling and communications efforts from the campaign's northern Virginia headquarters.

The campaign's estimated 300-person staff will report to Schmidt, who will report to campaign manager Rick Davis.

Davis will continue to focus on long-term planning, the vice presidential search, fundraising and the national convention but Schmidt's added responsibilities mean the campaign manager's load now will be somewhat lighter. Davis took the reins of the campaign almost exactly a year ago amid a major staff shake-up and has been the subject of Democratic criticism for his past lobbying work.

He told the staff of Schmidt's expanded role at a Wednesday meeting at headquarters, saying that Schmidt would have "full operational control" of the campaign's daily activities.

Final Bush G-8 summit may be harmonious amid shared woes and eased tensions

WASHINGTON (AP) — The issues are as difficult as ever, but the conditions are likely to be more conducive to agreement as President Bush attends his eighth and final economic summit of industrial democracies.

The annual Group of Eight meeting, which begins Monday on the northern Japanese island of Hokkaido, comes amid economic turmoil in most of the member nations, as well as political uncertainty for many of the leaders. Oil prices are hitting new record highs and worries about inflation are mounting. Like the United States, most of the nation's major trading partners are experiencing slow growth and market declines.

And Bush isn't the only one suffering low approval ratings.

In fact, the president may have more clout at the gathering than his own low approval number — 29 percent in an AP-Ipsos poll conducted in mid-June — and the vast unpopularity of the Iraq war would suggest.

Hedge fund swindler faces NYC court hearing after faking his suicide and going on the run

NEW YORK (AP) — The beginning of the end for a financier on the run came when he reached out to his sister-in-law. She then called her mother, who in turn called a man she had grown to trust at the U.S. Marshals Service.



AP Photo/J. Michael Short

Marc Gonsalves, Thomas Howes and Keith Stansell, held hostage for more than five years by a guerilla group in Columbia, set foot on American soil for the first time since they were rescued earlier in the day, as they deplane from a U. S. Air Force C-17 transport at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio Wednesday. See related story, page 1A.

Samuel Israel III, on the lam for three weeks after faking his own suicide to avoid reporting to prison, told his family early Wednesday that he was considering surrendering.

His mother asked Ed Farrell, a supervisory inspector on the U.S. marshals' Fugitive Task Force in Chicago, to promise her son's safety.

"I said, 'We'll assure his safety,'" Farrell said.

Minutes later, the bearded Israel walked into a small-town police station in Massachusetts and surrendered while talking to his mom on his cell phone.

Israel, 49, was sentenced in April for conspiracy and fraud. Prosecutors said he and two other men scammed investors into putting \$450 million into hedge funds by announcing nonexistent profits and providing fake audits, and made millions in commissions on trades that lost money for the investors.

Missing 12-year-old Vermont girl's body found near uncle's house; mother asks for justice

RANDOLPH, Vt. (AP) — Instead of gathering at a vigil to offer prayers for the safe return of a missing 12-year-old girl, residents found themselves mourning the news that her body had been found.

Police unearthed Brooke Bennett's body Wednesday from a makeshift grave about a mile from her uncle's house, ending a

weeklong search for the subject of Vermont's first Amber Alert.

"Brooke Marie, I love you so much," her mother, Cassandra Gagnon, said at the gathering later in the picturesque town of a little more than 5,000. "I just ask that justice be done for the person who took my baby away," she said, sobbing.

The girl's father, James Bennett, added, "I know Brooke knows that we love her and will always love her."

As state police announced the grim news Wednesday evening, they said Michael Jacques, the girl's uncle and a convicted sex offender, will face federal kidnapping charges.

Most of Big Sur evacuated after massive wildfire spreads; 31 miles of Highway 1 closed

BIG SUR, Calif. (AP) — Authorities ordered the remaining residents of this scenic coastal community to leave

Wednesday because an out-of-control wildfire, one of hundreds in California, had jumped a fire line and was threatening more homes.

Flames raged in the hills above and ash fell from orange skies as evacuees in packed cars streamed north along Highway 1, the only major road out of Big Sur. Sheriff's deputies told residents they needed to leave the area by late afternoon.

"The fire is just a big raging animal right now," said Darby Marshall, spokesman for the Monterey County Office of Emergency Services.

The blaze near Big Sur is one of more than 1,100 wildfires, mostly ignited by lightning, that have scorched more than 770 square miles and destroyed 64 homes and buildings across northern and central California since June 20.

New mandatory evacuation notices were issued Wednesday for a 31-mile stretch along Highway 1. Authorities have closed a total of 25 miles of the scenic roadway.

Scientists: Ingredient in watermelon has effects similar to Viagra

LUBBOCK (AP) — A slice of cool, fresh watermelon is a juicy way to top off a Fourth of July cookout and one that researchers say has effects similar to Viagra — but don't necessarily expect it to keep the fireworks all night long.

Watermelons contain an ingredient called citrulline that can trigger production of a compound that helps relax the body's blood vessels, similar to what happens when a man takes Viagra, said scientists in Texas, one of the nation's top producers of the seedless variety.

Found in the flesh and rind of watermelons, citrulline reacts with the body's enzymes when consumed in large quantities and is changed into arginine, an amino acid that benefits the heart and the circulatory and immune systems.

"Arginine boosts nitric oxide, which relaxes blood vessels, the same basic effect that Viagra has, to treat erectile dysfunction and maybe even prevent it," said Bhimu Patil, a researcher and director of Texas A&M's Fruit and Vegetable Improvement Center. "Watermelon may not be as organ-specific as Viagra, but it's a great way to relax blood vessels without any drug side effects."

Todd Wehner, who studies watermelon breeding at North Carolina State University, said anyone taking Viagra shouldn't expect the same result from watermelon.

Video Salute To The Troops At Home and Abroad



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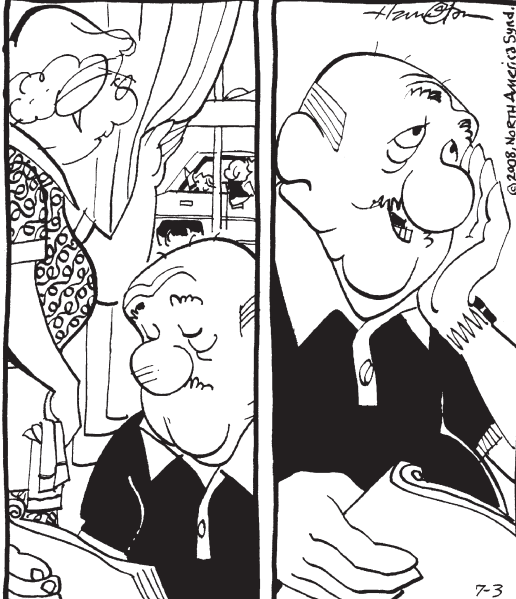
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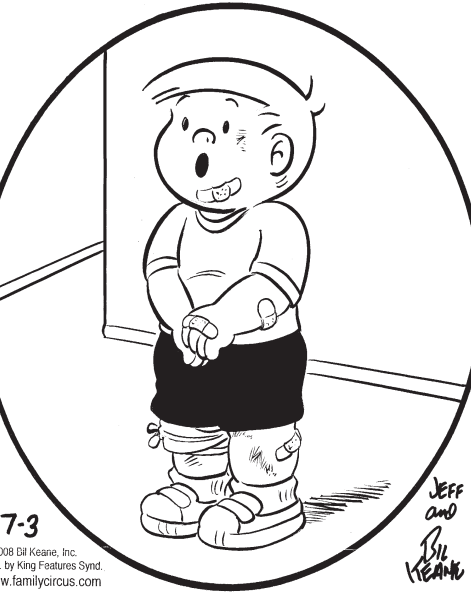
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5 :PM	News ABC	News ABC	Locura Noticiero	Simpsons King-Hill	News CBS	Noticias Noticiero	News NBC	Friends Raymond	Granger Brad	News Business	Cash Cab Cash Cab	House, Sam Elliott	Movie: Star Wars IV: A New Hope, Carrie Fisher	Law & Order	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Wizards of Waverly Place	Race	SportsCenter
6 :PM	News ABC	Jeopardy! Fortune	Querida Enemiga	Simpsons Two Men	News CBS	12 Corazones	News NBC	Raymond Raymond	Sanchez News-Lehrer	Made	Made	Made	Made	Law & Order	The Boot	Wizards of Waverly Place	Burning	SportsCenter
7 :PM	Ugly Betty	Ugly Betty	Diablo-Guapos	You Smarter?	How I Met My Rules	El Juramento	Millionaire	Raymond Last Comic Standing	Fam. Guy	Israel	Texas	Movie: National Lampoon's Animal	Law & Order	BLK Car	Montana	Wizards of Waverly Place	Interrupt	NFL Live
8 :PM	Grey's Anatomy	Grey's Anatomy	Fuego en la Sangre	You Can Dance	CSI: Crime Scn	Victoria	Light of the Southwest	Engvall My Boys	Antiques Roadshow	Made	Made	Made	Made	Law & Order	Movie: Pa-pa Soldiers, Damon Dash	Wizards of Waverly Place	Strongest	NFL Live
9 :PM	Hopkins	Hopkins	Amas de Casa	TMZ	Swingtown	Sin Senos	Fear Itself	Movie: Lara Croft: Tomb Raider	Soundstage	Made	Made	Made	Made	Law & Order	Wizards of Waverly Place	Wizards of Waverly Place	Wimbledon	NFL Live
10 :PM	News ABC	News ABC	Impacto	Two Men	News	Noticias	News	Israel	Charlie Rose	Made	Made	Made	Made	Law & Order	Movie: Fresh, Samuel L. Jackson	Wizards of Waverly Place	Life De	SportsCenter
11 :PM	Nightline	Nightline	Noticiero	Raymond	Late Show	Titulares	Tennis	Van Impe	Dr.	Made	Made	Made	Made	Without a Trace	MAN	Wizards of Waverly Place	So Raven	SportsCenter
12 :AM	Insider Jimmy Kim-mel Live	Insider Jimmy Kim-mel Live	Rosa	Late Order: CI	Late Late Show	Deci	Late Night	Sex & Swallow	Smiley	Made	Made	Made	Made	Without a Trace	MAN	Wizards of Waverly Place	Phil	SportsCenter
1 :AM	Paid	Paid	Clasicos	RENO 911	Entertain	Pagado	News	LightWrd	Israel	Made	Made	Made	Made	Without a Trace	MAN	Wizards of Waverly Place	Replace	SportsCenter
1 :AM	Paid	Paid	Humor	RENO 911	Entertain	Pagado	News	LightWrd	Israel	Made	Made	Made	Made	Without a Trace	MAN	Wizards of Waverly Place	Kim	SportsCenter

DENNIS THE MENACE



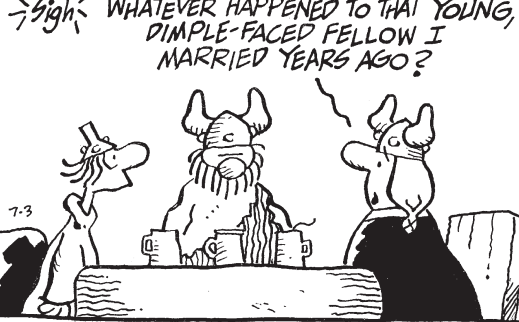
"Well, the Mitchells are off on vacation." "Do I hear a collective sigh of relief?"

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"Mommy, how long before you give me back my skateboard?"

HAGAR

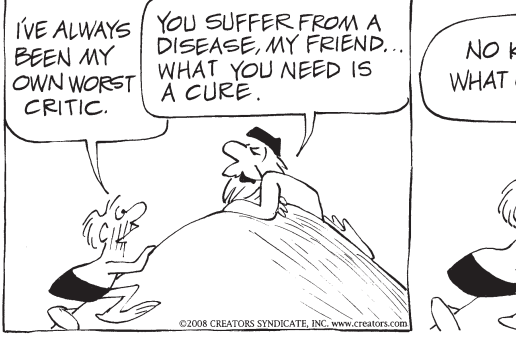


"Sigh... whatever happened to that young, dimple-faced fellow I married years ago?"



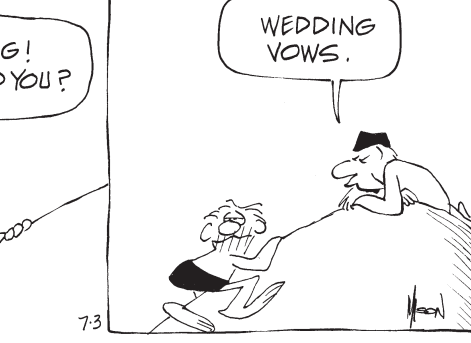
"He grew a beard, right?"

BC



"I've always been my own worst critic." "You suffer from a disease, my friend... what you need is a cure." "No kidding! What cured you?" "Wedding vows."

BLONDIE



"Rough day, dear?" "One of the roughest." "I knew it was gonna be bad news from the minute I woke up..." "I was in the conference room and there was nobody left except me and the boss."

WIZARD OF ID



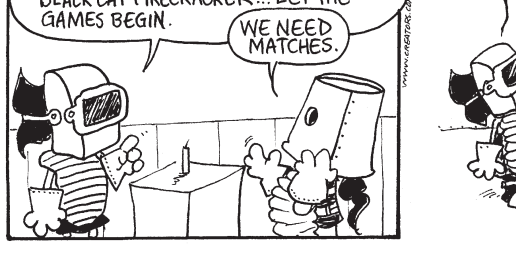
"You do? What woman is desperate enough to go out with a loser like you?" "I have a date tonight!" "Your sister."

AGNES



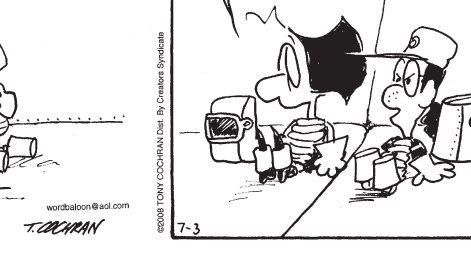
"Ok... we have taken every precaution possible. We can now safely initiate the ignition of your genuine Black Cat Firecracker... let the games begin." "We need matches." "Grandma? We need matches." "No." "Sheesh... it's like she has a sixth sense or something."

HI AND LOIS



"Painting is fun." "And you get to work outside." "Thank!" "If it wasn't for the bees, I could do this for a living!"

THE OTHER COAST



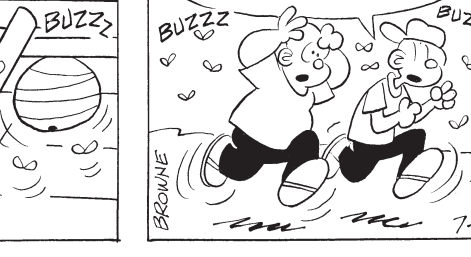
"The perfect harmony that male and female members of the isolated Ubongi tribe had lived in for centuries was about to come to a crashing end..." "Here, it's a TV remote."

SNUFFY SMITH



"Cassie!! That is no way for a newlywed to be dressin'!!" "I ain't tryin' to be 'hip,' Aunt Lowzey!!" "I jest ain't got th' hang of th' laundry thing yet!!"

BEELE BAILEY



"Why did you call me a 'pathetic old goat'?" "It's the best I could do, sir." "Camp Swampy Muckraker." "We don't use extreme obscenities!"

This Date In History

Today is Thursday, July 3, the 185th day of 2008. There are 181 days left in the year.
 Today's Highlight in History:
 Four hundred years ago, on July 3, 1608, the city of Quebec was founded by Samuel de Champlain.
 On this date:
 In 1775, Gen. George Washington took command of the Continental Army at Cambridge, Mass.
 In 1863, the three-day Civil War Battle of Gettysburg, Pa., ended in a major victory for the North as Confederate troops retreated.
 In 1890, Idaho became the 43rd state of the Union.
 In 1898, the U.S. Navy defeated a Spanish fleet in the harbor at Santiago, Cuba, during the Spanish-American War.
 In 1908, author Joel Chandler Harris, the creator of Uncle Remus, died in Atlanta.
 In 1944, during World War II, Soviet forces recaptured Minsk.
 In 1962, Algeria became independent after 132 years of French rule.
 In 1971, singer Jim Morrison of

The Doors died in Paris at age 27.
 In 1978, the Supreme Court, in Federal Communications Commission v. Pacifica Foundation, ruled the FCC was within its authority to reprimand New York radio station WBAI-FM for broadcasting George Carlin's "Filthy Words" comedy routine.
 In 1988, the USS Vincennes shot down an Iran Air jetliner over the Persian Gulf, killing all 290 people aboard.
 One year ago, President Bush refused to rule out an eventual pardon for I. Lewis "Scooter" Libby after already commuting his prison sentence in the CIA leak case.
 Today's Birthdays: Movie director Ken Russell is 81. Jazz musician Pete Fountain is 78. Playwright Tom Stoppard is 71. Writer-producer Jay Tarses is 69. Singer Fontella Bass is 68. Actor Kurtwood Smith is 65. Actor Michael Cole ("The Mod Squad") is 63. Country singer Johnny Lee is 62. Writer Dave Barry is 61. Actress Betty Buckley is 61. Rock singer-musician Paul Barrere (Little Feat) is 60. Actress Jan Smithers is 59. Former Haitian President Jean-Claude Duvalier is 57. Talk show host Montel Williams is 52. Country singer Aaron Tippin is 50. Rock musician Vince Clarke (Erasure)

is 48. Actor Tom Cruise is 46. Actor Thomas Gibson is 46. Actress Hunter Tylo is 46. Actress Connie Nielsen is 44. Actress Yearley Smith is 44. Singer Ishmael Butler is 39. Rock musician Kevin Hearn (Barenaked Ladies) is 39. Actress-singer Audra McDonald is 38. Country singer Trent Tomlinson is 33. Singer Shane Lynch (Boyzone) is 32. Rhythm-and-blues singer Tonia Tash (Divine) is 29. Country singer-songwriter Sarah Buxton is 28. Actor Grant Rosenmeyer is 17. Actress Kelsey Batelaan is 13.
 Thought for Today: "A man never knows how to say goodbye; a woman never knows when to say it." — Helen Rowland, American journalist and humorist (1876-1950).
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Answer to previous puzzle

EYES	DELTA	PETS
BITE	ITEMS	AVOW
BLACKS	SHEEP	SERIA
SALTINE	NEATNIK	
TERP	RYES	
SMOKEY	ROSE	TSP
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NEWT	EMOTE	USNA
SAISS	DINER	SOTS

Newsday Crossword

- ACROSS
- 1 Two-faced god
 - 6 Agree
 - 10 Convenience-store dispensers
 - 14 Hilo hi
 - 15 Wild
 - 16 Spicy cuisine
 - 17 Author born in 1908
 - 19 Chase after
 - 20 General direction
 - 21 Past, for instance
 - 22 Augusta tournament
 - 26 Striped, as a bird's neck
 - 27 Overturns
 - 28 Stimulate
 - 30 Bench feature
 - 31 Sag
 - 32 Campers
 - 35 Barbarian
 - 36 6 Down/8 Down adversary
 - 38 Flutter
 - 39 UCLA rival
 - 40 Accepts
 - 41 Senate runner
 - 42 Heeded
 - 44 New Mexico city
 - 46 Diggers
 - 48 Maryland state birds
 - 49 Former UN leader
 - 50 Reef material
 - 52 Mid-month day
 - 53 Novel by 17 Across
 - 58 Gossip
 - 59 Prod
- DOWN
- 1 alai
 - 2 Like
 - 3 Nantes negative
 - 4 TV range
 - 5 Like some peanuts
 - 6 With 8 Down, character created by 17 Across
 - 7 "Me too!"
 - 8 See 6 Down
 - 9 Hosp. test
 - 10 Georgia city
 - 11 Novel by 17 Across
 - 12 Parson's home
 - 13 Located
 - 18 Is human
 - 21 Brownish gray
 - 22 Chinese pancake
 - 23 Great grade
 - 24 Actor who portrayed 6 Down/8 Down
 - 25 Time Warner cable channel
 - 26 Unwelcome guest
 - 28 Shaped like eyebrows
 - 29 Deteriorates
 - 31 Fake, in hockey
 - 33 Unclear
 - 34 Means to an end
 - 36 Far from soft
 - 37 Remits
 - 41 Arafat org.
 - 43 Nonhuman animals
 - 44 Agassi's wife
 - 45 Under the weather
 - 46 Milkers in a Christmas song
 - 47 Nepal neighbor
 - 48 Fiat
 - 50 Central section
 - 51 Gymnast Korbut
 - 53 Fallow
 - 54 Natal prefix
 - 55 Chat
 - 56 LAX posting
 - 57 Dowel

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