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# SPRING H.RALL

**THURSDAY** 



50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 SUNDAY



**HERALD** photo/Steve Reagan

Big Spring Fire Department crews responded to the scene of a house fire in the 2600 block of Hunter Wednesday afternoon. No injuries and only minor damage was reported.

# Super search

# Coahoma ISD board enters final phase in quest for district chief

By STEVE REAGAN

Staff Writer

COAHOMA — School trustees here are entering the final phase in their search for a new superintendent.

Coahoma ISD trustees have spent this week interviewing six finalists for the position, which has been vacant since Jerry Johnson retired at the end of April.

If all goes well, a new superintendent could be named as early as Tuesday, said Wayne See CISD, Page 3A

Mitchell, interim chief of the district.

Jim Dunlap and Dr. Russell Marshall, heads of Arrow Educational Services Inc., were hired by the district to screen candidates for the position. Marshall was head of the search team that recruited Johnson for the position in 2005, Mitchell said.

Marshall and the search team received 41 applications for the post and trustees subsequently narrowed that list down to six

# Fan drive continues at Salvation Army

## **How to HELP**

Purchase fans and take them to the Salvation Army at 811 W. Fifth or make a monetary donation at the same location.

#### By THOMAS JENKINS

Staff Writer

Cooler temperatures over the past several days have been a blessing, according to officials with the Salvation Army, as the charity continues its annual fan drive in an effort to help area low income residents beat the summer heat.

"We have approximately 18 fans in stock right now, so we're doing much better right now," said Paula Lafler, a social worker with the organization. "The cooler weather seems to have helped some, and we've been able to get some donations in and purchase

some fans."

The annual fan drive collects donated fans and money to purchase new fans, which are then distributed to area residents in need of help in beating the summer heat, according to Salvation Army officials.

Lafler said she knows full well See FANS, Page 3A

the summer is far from over and it's just a matter of time before the mercury begins to rise.

"We know the drive isn't over," said Lafler with a laugh. "The heat will be back sooner or later, and we know people are going to

# Jon Benet Ramsey's family finally cleared in her death

#### By CATHERINE TSAI

**Associated Press Writer** 

BOULDER, Colo. — The family of Jon Benet Ramsev still holds out hope the 6-year-old beauty queen's killer will be found, her aunt said Thursday, a day after prosecutors cleared the girl's father, brother, and deceased

mother in her slaying.

"We still don't have our killer yet. That's our final goal, and that's the goal that we're still striving toward, and we won't stop until we get there," said Pam Paugh, Patsy Ramsey's sister, on CBS' "The Early Show" Thursday.

"She went to her maker know- See RAMSEY, Page 3A

ing that she had a clear conscience and a full heart."

Armed with a few invisible skin cells, prosecutors are now certain they have the DNA profile of the man who killed 6-year-old JonBenet Ramsey Finding the man himself is another matter.



In this Aug. 29, 2000, photo, Patsy Ramsey speaks as her husband John Ramsey listens during a short news conference in Atlanta. Prosecutors say new DNA tests have cleared JonBenet Ramsey's family in the 1996 killing of the 6-yearold beauty queen.

AP file photo/Gregory Smith

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**Sports** 

Find us online at: www.bigspringherald.com

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

#### Odd stash for cash

CLAYTON, Mo. (AP) — Someone at the St. Louis County Jail was flush with money.

A correctional officer at the intake facility at the St. Louis County Justice Center last week found \$55,000 stuffed behind a toilet paper dispenser.

The bundle of money was in \$100 and \$50 bills, said Clayton Police Chief Thomas Byrne.

Officials interviewed inmates, but none admitted knowing anything about the stashed cash. The money was placed in a special bank account until the owner can be determined, Byrne said.

#### **Mid-Summer Festival**

Holy Trinity Catholic Parish will hold a Mid-Summer Festival at St. Thomas Church, N.W. Sixth and N. Main, Friday and Saturday, July 18-19. The kitchen will open at 11 a.m. each day and feature enchilada plates, gordita plates, guizo plates and more. A dessert booth will also be open.

Outside booths with games, food and drink will open at 6:30 p.m. each evening. Live music will be held each evening. Other activities include bingo from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. and a washer tournament Saturday afternoon on the St. Thomas Church grounds. Everyone is invited.

## Getting no sympathy

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP) — An East Hartford man called police to report he had been robbed while trying to buy crack cocaine.

Max Minnefield called police Monday to tell them he had paid a man and a woman \$8 for drugs he never received.

Police charged him with criminal attempt to commit possession of narcot-

Prosecutors later dropped the charg-

Laura Weslund, Minnefield's public defender, said no drugs were ever found.

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# Newton, Kirby earn TWSA all-state honors

By STEVE REAGAN

Staff Writer

COAHOMA - Postseason honors for the Coahoma Bulldogettes continue to pile up.

Two members of the Bulldogettes' Class 2A state runner-up team — pitcher Heather Newton and outfielder Krista Kerby — were recently named to the Texas Sports Writers Association Class 2A all-state softball team.

Newton, a sophomore, was the team's ace pitcher and a driving force behind the Bulldogettes' push to the state tournament. She posted an 18-8 won-lost record during the regular sea-



strikeouts and allowing little more than one earned run a game in 157 innings pitched. She did not allow

an earned run in Coahoma's games at the state Newton tournament in June.

Newton also shined at the plate. She was second on the team with a .455 batting average and led the team with 45 hits, batted in 45 runs and collected two home runs, five doubles and four triples. In addition, she tied with Kerby for the lead in stolen bases with 14.

The two-time all-district performer was named the most valuable player in District 5-2A this season.

"Heather probably only throws one or two miles per hour faster than she did last year. The big improvement for her is mentally and emotionally," Coahoma coach Tracy Tadlock said. "The mental part has been the toughest thing for her to get under control. She was quite a bit better than she was in those

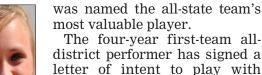
Kerby, a senior, led the team with a .473 batting average, .555 on-base percentage and .688 slugscored 37 runs and collected six triples. She was second on the team with 44 hits and third with 27 runs batted in.

She also shined in the field, committing only one error.

In the playoffs, she had the game-win-

ning hit in Game 2 of the regional finals against Hawley that sent the Bulldogettes to the state tournament. In the championship game, she managed the only Coahoma hit against East Bernard's Courtney Repka, who

Kerby



district performer has signed a letter of intent to play with Temple Junior College next sea-

"Krista is one of three senior starters (along with third baseman Christie Rich and catcher Janice Gonzales) we're going to have a tough time replacing," Tadlock said. "We have a big hole to fill in center field."

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

# Hamilton the hero for Texas

# Uncorks last-inning homer to push Rangers past LA

By STEPHEN HAWKINS

AP Sports Writer

ARLINGTON — Josh Hamilton pumped his right arm as he rounded first base, as much in relief as celebration. The real fun came when he was mobbed by his teammates at home plate.

"I always see guys on TV tossing their helmet and jumping into the crowd," Hamilton said after his ninth-inning homer gave the Texas Rangers a 5-4 victory over the Los Angeles Angels on Wednesday night. "Seeing all those guys at the plate, that's an awesome feeling."

The All-Star outfielder with an incredible comeback story ended a three-week homerless drought with a two-run the ninth off major league saves leader Francisco Rodriguez.

With Michael Young on base after an RBI single, Hamilton lined a 3-1 pitch into the rightfield seats for what he said was his first walkoff homer ever — as an amateur or a pro. It also was his first homer in 70 at-bats over 19 games since June 17.

"There's been a drought on the home runs. At the same time, you can't think about when you're going to hit your next one," Hamilton said. "But that's why you keep battling, keep playing. Something always happens like that to remind you why you love the game."

Manager

shot with two outs in See TEXAS, page 2B



Texas' Josh Hamilton leaps toward home plate and waiting teammates after hitting a the game-winning, two-run home run in the ninth inning of the Rangers' game against the Los Angeles Angels in Arlington Wednesday. The Rangers won 5-4.

# 'The King' celebrates 50 years in NASCAR

#### By MARK LONG

**AP Sports Writer** 

Richard Petty made his NASCAR debut 50 years ago on a half-mile track in South Carolina, qualifying 13th in a car with the roof cut off.

He wasn't wearing cowboy boots. He wasn't walking around in a hat adorned with ostrich feathers. He wasn't even sporting dark sunglasses.

He was a tall, lanky, 21-year-

old who wanted a chance to drive. He finished sixth — five laps behind the winand earned \$200.

"I got better," Petty says.

Indeed. Petty won an unmatched 200 races in his 35-year career, including seven Daytona 500 victories,



Petty

and a record-tying seven NASCAR championships. Somewhere along the line, he became "The King," a largerthan-life persona that includes the hat, the boots, the shades and the dark, bushy mustache. It all started at Columbia Speedway on July 12, 1958, when he got behind the wheel for the first time.

See **PETTY**, page 2B

# Not so funny

# Family threatens legal action after 'Husker's hoax

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — The father of an Oklahoma quarterback says he plans legal action against a Nebraska football fan who posted a bogus story on an Internet message board claiming two Sooners had been arrested on cocaine distribution

James W. Conradt, a Nebraska football fan living in Austin, said he did not mean to hurt Oklahoma quarterbacks Sam Bradford and Landry Jones with his Internet hoax, according to a story posted on The Oklahomans' Web site late Wednesday.

"I want to express my deepest apologies to the families," Conradt said Wednesday night after his story was reported as fact by at least two Texas radio stations. "That's the thing I'm regretful about. I didn't want to hurt anyone."

Landry's father, Kevin Jones, indicated Conradt's apology may not be

"I'm going to prosecute him to the fullest extent of the law," Jones said. "I've got deep enough pockets to do

Conradt allegedly lifted a template off The Oklahoman's Web site, wrote and pasted a bogus story about the arrest and posted it on a message board.

"When this was brought to our attention, we took immediate action," publisher Oklahoman Thompson said. "Through our technology and news teams, we tracked him down and told him to cease and desist. We take this very seriously and will consider legal action."

Oklahoma associate athletic director Kenny Mossman said the hoax is the latest in a disturbing trend.

"We feel it's real unfortunate how

See HOAX, page 2B

# Sports in brief

#### Sponsors needed for Coahoma softball team

The Coahoma 10-under All-Stars is one of several area youth fast-pitch softball teams bound for a tournament in San Angelo starting Friday.

However, the 10-under squad is still looking for sponsors to accompany the girls on the trip.

If interested, contact Jennifer Chandler at 466-3727.

### **Big Spring Boxing Club** set to start training

The Big Spring Boxing Club is ready to open its doors to the public for any male or female from ages 9-26.

Interested people can register for the club's training services from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Saturday at Morgan Park on the northside of town.

Anyone willing to volunteer time as a trainer, conditioner or sparring partner is also welcome to attend.

#### Steer football season ticket sales to begin

Big Spring High School will begin selling 2008 season

tickets for Steer football July 28 at the Athletic Training

Only persons who have previously owned season tickets are able to buy from July 28-Aug. 7. Sales for the general public begin Aug. 11 and end

Tickets can be bought Monday through Thursday

between 7:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. at the ATC. Call Kay Cook at 264-3662 with any questions.

#### **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.

#### **Rose Magers-Powell** volleyball camp scheduled

Big Spring native and former Olympian Rose Magers-Powell will hold a volleyball camp from July 28-30 at Big Spring Junior High.

The camp will be held from 9 a.m. until noon all three

Cost is \$125 per camper.

For more information, visit www.gotrosevolleyballcamps.com.

#### Ivie hunting permits applications now accepted

Application for public hunting permits on the O.H. Ivie Reservoir Wildlife Management Areas will be accepted by mail only beginning Monday and ending Aug. 15 at the resefrvoir field office.

Permits are limited and requests for information and application packets should be made by calling the Colorado River Municipal Water District at 267-6341 or by writing to: CRMWD, P.O. Box 869, Big Spring 79721.

Tue

7/15

95/68

Highs in the

mid 90s and

lows in the

upper 60s.

Partly

cloudy.

Mon

7/14

94/67

Mix of sun

and clouds.

Highs in the

mid 90s and

lows in the

upper 60s.

# **Obituaries**

Ester Daylong
Ester Daylong, 89, of Big Spring died Thursday, July 10, 2008, at Parkview Nursing and Rehabilitation. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

# **Take Note**

- · A benefit breakfast to assist in paying medical expenses for Cory Reyna will be held from 8 a.m. to noon Sunday at Sacred Heart Youth Center, 509 N. Aylesford.
- Big Spring High School will offer the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS) Exit Level Re-Test July 15-18. Please report to the High School Library at 8 a.m. Please bring a picture I.D. The testing schedule is as follows:
- July 15 ELA (English Language Arts).
- July 16 Math.
- July 17 Science.
- July 18 Social Studies.

For more information, contact the high school at 264-3641.

- BSHS Class of 1978 30-year reunion is Sept. 12-13. Contact Kent Rice at 870-918-5875 or kent\_rice@murphyoilcorp.com
- · A medical expense account has been established at Cosden Federal Credit Union for Kody Jackson, who was recently disgnosed 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 regis-
- Bring joy and kindness to others by becoming a Compass Hospice volunteer. Help those at the end of life's journey. Make a difference in someone's life. Call 263-5999 to begin your journey.
- · All Creatures Sanctuary and Rescue has an account set up with Big Spring Salvage at 3608 N. Hwy. 87 for all types of metals and aluminum cans. Please tell them that your donations are for All Creatures Sanctuary and Rescue. All Creatures Sanctuary and Rescue is also still taking weight circles off of all Purina brand dog foods. Send your Purina Weight Circles, to A.C.S. & R. at P.0, 871, Coahoma 79511. All Creatures Sanctuary and Rescue is still accepting old and used cell phones and ink jet cartridges, for drop off locations in Big Spring and Coahoma, Call Melanie at 267-7387.
- Christ Community Fellowship is collecting infant car seats and carriers. These are given to new mothers who cannot afford them. To donate your old or new car seats and carriers, call Karen Allen at 263-3517 or leave a message at Christ Community Fellowship, 263-love. All donations are appreciated.
- New Life Ministries Church of God In Christ is holding a soup kitchen every second and fourth Tuesday from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at 204 N.W. 10th. The meal is free. Call 264-0771 for more information.
- · Legal Aid of Northwest Texas is accepting appointments from 2 p.m. until 5 p.m. the first and third Wednesday of each month. Individuals seeking legal advice for matters concerning family law, divorce, custody and child support issues, social security cases, employment and housing may contact the office to schedule an appointment. Criminal cases are not accepted. Anyone recently served with legal documents should call the office immediately at 800-926-5630 or 432-686-0647.



# Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity between 7 a.m. Wednesday and 7 a.m.

- CHRISTIAN DAVON GORDON, 19, of 2911 W. Highway 80, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of criminal trespass of a habitation.
- DIJUAN EDWARD AUSBIE, 19, of 801 E.  $18^{\mbox{th}}$  Street, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of possession of
- MIGUEL ANGEL IBARRA, 38, of Mexico, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of possession of marijuana.
- JOHNNY LEE RIOS, 23, of 710 Creighton Street, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of driving while license
- LORI ANN BENNETT, 25, of 304 Circle, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of possession of drug parapher-
- DELIA SALAZAR ZARRAGA, 41, of 804 Johnson, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of possession of marijuana.
- UNAUTHORIZED USE OF A MOTOR VEHICLE was reported in the 1100 block of Sycamore.
- THEFT was reported:
- in the 200 block of FM 700.
- in the 1100 block of Lamesa.
- POSSESSION OF DRUG PARAPHERNALIA was reported:

in the 200 block of Channing.

- near the intersection of Dundee and Second Street.
- POSSESSION OF A CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE was reported in the 1500 block of Wood.
- FORGERY was reported in the 400 block of Fourth
- CRIMINAL TRESPASS OF A HABITATION/ SHELTER CENTER was reported in the 200 block of Channing.
- BURGLARY OF A HABITATION was reported in the 1600 block of 17<sup>th</sup> Street.
- ASSAULT CAUSING BODILY INJURY was reported in the 700 block of 11<sup>th</sup> Street.
- ASSAULT was reported in the 1900 block of Highway

# Sheriff's report

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

Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail report-

- ed having 68 inmates at the time of this report. • COIE MONIQUE POPE, 20, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of manufacture/delivery of a controlled substance in a drug free zone.
- MARY ELLEN GALAN VIASANA, 38, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a motion to revoke probation for possession of a controlled substance.
- DOMONIQUE XAVIER WILLIAMS, 19, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of possession of marijuana.
- JAY LEE BILLINGSLEY, 42, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on a motion to revoke probation for driving while license invalid.
- DAVID YBARRA JR., 21, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on a charge of possession of drug paraphernaпа.
- NED RANDAL HILDEBRAND, 34, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on a motion to revoke probation for possession of a controlled substance.
- MIGUEL ENRIQUE JUAREZ, 20, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on charges of no liability insurance, speeding (two counts) and violation of a promise to appear.

# **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.

• 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

**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**

7/13

91/66

Times of sun

and clouds.

Highs in the

low 90s and

lows in the

mid 60s.

**Your Local Weather** 

7/12

94/67

Times of sun

and clouds.

Highs in the

mid 90s and

lows in the

upper 60s.

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

**TODAY** 

7/11

91/67

cloudy. High

91F. Winds S

at 15 to 25

Partly

- League of United Latin American Citizens LULAC Chapter 4791 meets at 5:30 p.m. at the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce. The public is invited.
- American Legion Auxiliary meets at 6 p.m. at 3203 W. Highway 80. • The Prospector's Club meets at 7:30 p.m. at 606 E.
- Third St. The public is invited to these meetings. For more information contact Lola Lamb at 263-3340.
- · Neighbors and Newcomers Club meets. New members are welcome. Call 263-2005 for more information.

**FRIDAY** 

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

**SATURDAY** 

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

- Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) No. 21 meets at 5 p.m. at the First Christian Church at 10th and Goliad for weigh-in. The meeting begins at 5:30 p.m. Call 213-1342 or 263-6819.
- Big Spring Band Boosters meet at 5:30 p.m. in the Big Spring High School band hall.
- Coahoma Lions Club meets at 6 p.m. in the Coahoma Community Center at 306 North Ave.
- The Concerned Citizens Council meets at 7 p.m. at the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce. For more information, call 264-6116.
- · Archeology Society for Howard and Borden counties meets at 7 p.m. in the Howard County Library Community Room in the basement. Call 270-2615 for more information.
- Prospector's Club work night begins at 7 p.m. at 606 E. Third.

# Fire/EMS

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

- TRAUMA was reported in the 2300 block of Grace. Service refused.
- TRAUMA was reported in the 3200 block of Parkway. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1100 block of Sycamore. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 2000 block of Gregg Street. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 300 block of Gregg Street. One person was transported to SMMC.
- STRUCTURE FIRE was reported in the 2600 block of Hunter.

# Lottery

Results of the Lotto Texas drawing Wednesday night: Winning numbers drawn: 9-16-17-31-35-41. Number matching five of six: 26. Prize: \$1,476.

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Wednesday night: Winning numbers drawn: 5-15-24-29-37. Number matching five of five: 0.

The winning Daily 4 numbers drawn Wednesday night by the Texas Lottery: 3-4-7-8. Sum It Up: 22.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Wednesday night by the Texas Lottery: 5-7-9. Sum It Up: 21

SPRING HERAL www.BigSpringHerald.com

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The Big Spring Herald is a member of The Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce, Texas Press Association, West Texas Press Association, Texas Daily Newspaper Association, The Associated

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POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, TX 79721. Periodicals postage paid at Big Spring, Texas. USPS 1431-48 USPS 0055-940 ISSN 0746-6811

BY THE MONTH HOME DELIVERY: \$8.65 monthly; \$93.42 yearly (includes 10% discount). MAIL SUBSCRIPTIONS: \$12.50 monthly Howard & Martin Counties; \$13.25 elsewhere.



Continued from page 1B

many things have germinated from an anonymous starting point that are unfounded, untrue and, as this story proves, hurtful," Mossman said.

"The Internet has enabled a lot of this kind of thing to happen, and it's really disappointing.'

Conradt said he was on a Nebraska message board when some OU fans began writing smack.

"I just wanted to get em all riled up, I guess," Conradt said.

He did an Internet search for Sooner sports and came across the www.newsok. com template.

He told The Oklahoman he did not realize it was The Oklahoman's Web

"It was a bad decision," Conradt said. "When I got home, I got on my computer, one of the moderators on the Oklahoma site e-mailed me and said some Oklahoma people are upset about this. That's when I took it down."

Kevin Jones said he received a couple of frantic calls after the hoax spread across Internet.

# Fishing report

for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for July 9. (Report also available on Web as www.txfishing.

ALAN HENRY: Water lightly stained; 79 degrees; 0.74' low. Black bass are good on white buzzbaits and white spinnerbaits with blue highlights, and black/ chartreuse jigs along timber lines. Crappie are good on minnows and

jigs. ARROWHEAD: Water lightly stained; 82 degrees; 3.90' low. Black bass are good on topwater frog baits in surface vegetation and spinnerbaits along rocky points. Crappie are fair under east side bridge's and off the derricks. White bass are good shallow while chasing shad. Catfish are good on juglines and drift fishing with shad

78 degrees; 6.72' low. Black bass are slow. Crappie are slow. White bass are slow. Catfish are slow.

FT. PHANTOM HILL: Water clear; 78 degrees; 0.52' low. Black bass are slow. Crappie are fair on minnows and jigs. White bass are fair on live baits. Catfish are fair on

HUBBARD CREEK: Water lightly stained; 79 degrees; 1.22' low. Black bass are fair on minnows shad-colored crankbaits and spinnerbaits along grass lines, and black neon soft plastics worked along reeds and timber. Crappie are good on jigs and minnows. White bass and hybrid stripers are good on live baits along rocky points Catfish are good on live and cut

NASWORTHY: Water lightly stained; 77 degrees. Black bass are fair. Crappie are fair on minnows and jigs. Redfish are fair on live

baits. White bass and striped bass are fair on live baits. Catfish are fair on live baits

OAK CREEK: Water lightly stained; 79 degrees; 1.17' low. Black bass are fair. Crappie are fair on minnows and jigs. Catfish are

fair on live baits.

O.H. IVIE: Water lightly stained;
79 degrees; 11.21' low. Black bass are fair on topwater lures, shadcolored spinnerbaits, and white soft jerkbaits worked along tree lines. Crappie are good on minnows and jigs. White bass are good on live baits and crankbaits. Smallmouth bass are good on live baits and shad-colored crankbaits along points. Channel catfish are good on

live baits.
POSSUM KINGDOM: Water stained 84 degrees; 1.32' low. Black bass are slow on watermelon Senkos and deep-running shadcolored crankbaits along points and rock ledges in the south end

of the reservoir. Crappie are poor on small jigs worked along deep wood structures in the Caddo Creek area. White bass are good on silver crankbaits and small white jigs in the mid-lake area early in the day and at night. Catfish are good on cut baits and liver along the river channel in the Rock Creek area. SPENCE: Water lightly stained; 78

degrees; 50.65' low. Black bass are slow. Crappie are slow. White bass are slow. Striped bass and hybrid striper are slow. Catfish are slow.
STAMFORD: Water lightly stained 75 degrees; 1.77' low. Black bass are slow. Crappie are slow. White and striped bass are fair on live baits. Catfish are fair on live and

prepared baits.
SWEETWATER: Water lightly stained; 80 degrees; 1.24' low. Black bass are slow on live baits. Crappie are slow on live baits and jigs. White bass are slow. Catfish are slow on live baits.

# **TEXAS**

Continued from page 1B

Washington jumped on bench coach Art Howe's back when Hamilton connected.

"I knew it wasn't going to land on the field,' Washington said.

The Rangers (48-44)moved four games over .500 for the first time since 2006, and got within  $6\frac{1}{2}$ games of the AL Westleading Angels.

Hamilton is the former No. 1 overall draft pick by Tampa Bay in 1999 who was out of baseball for more than three seasons because of addictions to cocaine and alcohol. He has been sober for nearly

three years, and last year finally made his major league debut with 19 homers in 90 games for Cincinnati.

The Reds traded Hamilton last winter, and Wednesday he played his 89th game for the Rangers. He leads the major leagues with 89 RBIs and was voted an All-Star starter by fans. He will participate in the Home Run Derby.

Rodriguez (0-2), who already had 35 saves, gave up three runs in only his third blown chance this

"Frankie's been right on all year and just really throwing the ball well and occasionally one's going to slip through the cracks," Angels manager Mike Scioscia said. "That's what

happened."

Pinch-hitter Ramon Vazquez drew a walk to start the ninth before Ian Kinsler, the AL's top hitter, struck out. Frank Catalanotto grounded out. moving Vazquez to second before Young, who like Kinsler is going to the All-Star game as a reserve infielder, singled to get Texas within 4-3. After Young stole second, Hamilton hit a curveball over the wall.

"I put myself in that situation. I couldn't locate my pitches early in the inning," Rodriguez said. "I didn't make pitches early in the count. I think I fell behind every single one of them. If you do that, you're going to get hurt."

Jamey Wright (5-3), the

fourth Texas pitcher used during a makeshift night on the mound, worked two scoreless innings.

Los Angeles went ahead 4-2 in the seventh when Juan Rivera quickly atoned for his defensive miscue with a tiebreaking two-run homer.

Rivera's 415-foot blast to left-center off Frank Francisco, who had already walked Torii Hunter, came a half inning after Rivera made an error that led to Texas tying the game.

Marlon Byrd led off the sixth with a single to left, but Rivera let the ball get under his glove and roll to the wall. The two-base error allowed Byrd to get to third and he scored on a sacrifice fly by Jarrod Saltalamacchia to make it Saltalamacchia reached base because right fielder Vladimir Guerrero dropped the ball for his

first error this season.

Rivera, who had only seven RBIs and was hitting .188 in his 33 games before Wednesday, drove in Los Angeles' first run with a sacrifice fly in the second off Warner Madrigal, the converted outfielder from the Angels organization who made a surprise start.

Kinsler extended his hitting streak to 21 games with a leadoff single in the first. But he struck out three times after that.

Saltalamacchia drove in both Texas runs, including an RBI single in the fourth that got the Rangers within 2-1.

Madrigal, who spent his first seven professional seasons in the Angels organization, started for Vicente Padilla, who was put on the disabled list because of neck stiffness. The Rangers had planned to call up a Double-A pitcher for his major league debut, but opted instead to get through the game with relievers already on the

Madrigal gave up four singles against 11 batters, but allowed one run over three innings in his first professional start. The stocky right-hander hit .272 with 34 homers in 301 games a minor league outfielder before making the switch to the mound midway through 2006.

# PETTY

Continued from page 1B

The sport hasn't been the same since.

"I've survived these years I guess more than anything else," says Petty, recalling the 50th anniversary of his debut. "I've been there ever since NASCAR started basically, and I just come along at the right time to grow up with NASCAR."

Petty spent the better part of his childhood around race cars. He built engines, painted bodies and worked in the pits long before he was old enough to legally drive. When he did reach NASCAR's age limit, he asked his father, threetime NASCAR champion Lee Petty, for a chance.

Lee Petty pointed to an old car off in a corner and told him to cut the top off it and use it in a convertible series race at Columbia.

Richard Petty jumped at the opportunity. No one knew it was the start of something special.

"I just think I was a lucky son of a gun to be born at the right place at the right time under the right circumstances with a little bit of talent and a lot of talented people around me to put me in a position to be where I'm at today,' Petty says.

Six days after his debut, Petty made his first Grand National (now the Sprint Cup Series) start in Toronto. He finished 17th

in a race his father won.

He needed less than two years to get his first Grand National victory, but then they started piling up in a hurry. Petty finished second in the points in just his third season and was runner-up two more times before netting his first title

"When I won my very first race, I said nothing will ever be this big," Petty says. "But then you get fortunate enough to win more and more, and over a period of time, it gets dilut-race ed. So no matter how happy you are one day in, three or four weeks, you've done forgot about that and

Petty finished outside the top five in points just four times between 1960 and 1983, an amazing run that made him the sport's biggest icon.

But looking back now, there isn't one moment that stands out.

"When I sit around and talk about it or listen to people or whatever, the ones that got away are the ones that you really worry about and you say, 'We should have done better in this race or that race," Petty says. "So those are probably in your mind more than the ones that you won."

Petty's last championship came in 1979. His last victory, fittingly enough, came at Daytona in July

He retired in 1992 and has since dedicated his time to rebuilding NASCAR's most storied team, Enterprises.

It hasn't been easy.

The organization has John Andretti in 1999, and it now has sponsorship problems.

But there are signs of a

turnaround.

The organization signed driver Bobby Labonte to a long-term deal, relocated its longtime race shop closer to the NASCAR hub and formed its first dedicated test team. And maybe most significantly, Petty gave up control last month when he sold majority ownership of the famed Boston company to Ventures, a private equity

"It's a new venue for them and a new venue for of sit back and look and

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To The Troops

us," Petty says. "So we have to get our arms around who does what, how do we get our sponsorships in, how do we get our sponsors all lined up, and how do we get the crews all lined up. I don't see us having a major impact on anything outside right now, as far as seeing the car doing better or any of that kind of stuff.

"I think it's kind of a deal where we have to sort say, 'OK, what do we need now to go forward?""

And get The King back to his winning ways, a journey that started 50 years ago on a small track outside Columbia.

"I came along with a bunch of other guys that helped build the sport," Petty says. "It was sort of like when they ran the very first race. It was like planting a seed and then the tree started growing. I grew with it a little bit and then the branches go out."

#### At Home and been stuck in neutral for you're on another kick." close to two decades, fall-**Abroad** ing far behind the success it achieved when The King was driving. The team's last victory came with

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# **State Briefs**

#### Condemned man faces execution

HUNTSVILLE (AP) — Condemned inmate Calrton Turner's hopes to avoid the Texas death chamber for a second time for killing his parents a decade ago rested again with the U.S. Supreme Court.

Turner, whose lethal injection was set for Thursday evening, has acknowledged fatally shooting his adoptive parents at their suburban Dallas home 10 years ago.

The Supreme Court in September stopped his then scheduled execution some four hours after he could have been put to death. The reprieve came following the justices' decision to review whether lethal injection procedures were unconstitutionally cruel. When the court upheld the method in April, lifting a de facto moratorium on capital punishment in the nation, Turner's execution was rescheduled for this week.

"The only thing that matters is I did what I did," Turner, who turned 29 last week, told The Associated Press from death row. "This is the byproduct of something stupid that I did."

His execution would be the second in the nation's most active death penalty state since punishments resumed. At least another dozen are scheduled over the next several months in Texas, including two this month.

Turner admitted killing his father, Carlton Turner Sr., 43, and mother, Tonya, 40, by shooting each of them several times in the head at the family home in Irving in

Turner, who was adopted as an infant, said he shot his father in self-defense after repeated instances of abuse.

#### Daughter of father killed 23 years ago 'ecstatic' about arrest of man's widow

HOUSTON (AP) — Almost 23 years after Roy McCaleb was killed, his daughter, Pam Nalley, said she's ecstastic that an arrest has finally been made in the case, according to a published report.

Houston police arrested McCaleb's widow, Carolyn Sue Krizan-Wilson, 66, on Tuesday. Police this week said she killed her husband nearly 23 years ago, while brushing aside her claim that a barefoot intruder committed the murder and also raped her.

Court documents indicate she was charged with murder in the 1985 killing.

Every year for the past 23, Nalley has checked on the case. Her efforts paid off a few months ago when Sgt. Mike Peters agreed to take a look at the cold case, after Nalley's urging.

Peters dusted off the files on McCaleb's death a few months ago. As part of his investigation, Peters reinterviewed witnesses and took some of the physical evidence out of storage and sent it to a crime lab.

"I wouldn't say there was any great new evidence," he said. "No great big prize at the end of the rainbow," Peters said in a story the Houston Chronicle reported Thursday in its online edition

In a jailhouse interview Wednesday, Krizan-Wilson insisted what she said happened was true and said she never would have hurt her husband.

#### Fort Worth police raid pirating operation

FORT WORTH (AP) — One hundred thirteen burners capable of copying one disc per minute were confiscated in the largest such pirating operation police have found in the Fort Worth area, officials said.

Narcotics officers who initially went to a south Fort Worth house expecting to find drugs Tuesday afternoon ended up spending hours lugging out boxes of equipment used for the unauthorized copying of CDs and DVDs.

Officers seized about 3,800 blank CDs and 7,000 blank DVDs, a pistol and about \$5,000 in cash, said police Lt. Robert Rangel of the narcotics division.

"With over 100 (burners) going all night, you can crank out quite a bit of counterfeit product both in CDs and DVDs," Gil Torrez, an investigator with the Recording Industry Association of America who was at the scene, said in a story Thursday in the Fort Worth Star-Telegram's online edition.

Officers usually seize fewer than 10 burners during a bust. Torrez said.

RIAA statistics indicate that the profit margin for unauthorized copying can be as high as 900 percent. Torrez said counterfeiters can convert 25 cents worth of raw material into a product they can sell for \$5 to \$10 on the street.

To perform here



Country music singer Paula Nelson — daughter of legend Willie Nelson — will perform at the By The Spring Night Club Friday at 9:30 p.m. For more information or reservations, call 432-517-4307.

# **FANS**

Continued from Page 1A

need these fans.

"We're trying to target the elderly because they

#### CISD

Continued from Page 1A

finalists, Mitchell said.

"That many applications was just outstanding,' Mitchell said. "That's a good number of applicants

to heat related illnesses," said Lafler. "We're also trying to target families with children 5-years-old and younger and who are at home through the day during the summer months.

are the most susceptible

size." Despite the tentative timetable, there is no firm schedule for naming a new superintendent, Mitchell

for a school district this

"If they like any of the six candidates they interview this week, they'll likely

"Donations can be made in several different ways. Donors can bring in their used fans that are in good, serviceable condition, or they can make a monetary donation. The box fans that we normally purchase

call one or two of them back for a second round of interviews next week," he said. "Tuesday is the earliest date they would pick somebody."

State law mandates that once a district names a new superintendent, it must wait 21 days before

officially hiring a replacement. In that case, it will be the first week in August at the earliest before a replacement for Johnson

usually run about \$12 each,

but with the rising cost of

everything, it could end up

Donations can be made

by purchasing fans and

taking them to the Salva-

tion Army office — located

being higher."

Johnson, formerly superintendent at Somerville ISD, was hired by

becomes official, Mitchell

from 8:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. with an hour break for lunch at noon — or earmarking monetary donations for the fan drive.

at 811 W. Fifth St. and open

apply for assistance at the

Coahoma school trustees in April 2005 after a threemonth search, replacing Dr. Bill Kingston. Among Johnson's accomplishments at Coahoma was the successful campaign to get \$13 million in construction and renovation projects approved by voters in

Salvation Army Office during the same hours.

Contact Staff Writer Thomas Jenkins at 263-7331 ext. 232 or by e-mail at cit-Those in need of fans can ydesk@bigspringherald. com

2006.

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

Contact Staff Writer Steve

# **RAMSEY**

Continued from Page 1A

Investigators hoping to solve the nearly 12-yearold crime will have to locate a match in a growing national DNA database that currently has more than 5 million offenders' profiles.

How long it might take depends on whether the killer has any major brushes with the law that would make him subject to a mandatory DNA test.

"If this person has no criminal record and has never been DNA-typed in another case, this murderer is going to be on our streets," said Larry Pozner, a Denver attorney and a past president of the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers.

The evidence against an unknown "third party" came Wednesday when prosecutors announced that new tests pointed to a mystery attacker and cleared JonBenet's parents and her older brother Burke.

It was a vindication for the Ramsey family, but the girl's mother, Patsy, had not lived long enough to see it. She died of cancer in 2006.

John Ramsey found his killed JonBenet. daughter's strangled and bludgeoned body in the basement of the family's home in Boulder on Dec. 26, 1996. Patsy Ramsey said she found a ransom note demanding \$118,000 for her daughter.

For years after the slaying, tabloids and crime shows went after the couple, and then-District Attorney Alex Hunter said in 1997 that the parents were under an "umbrella of suspicion." News reports also cast suspicion on Jon-Benet's brother, who was 9 when his sister was killed.

"It has been too many years for this family to have suffered the injustice of being falsely accused of a crime they did not commit," said L. Lin Wood, lawyer for Patsy's husband, John.

Early in the investigation, police found male DNA in a drop of blood on JonBenet's underwear and determined it was not from anyone in her family. Investigators were unable to say who it came from and whether that person was the killer.

In 2003, the Ramseys got a major boost when a federal judge handling a defamation lawsuit involving the couple said the evidence was more consistent with the theory that an intruder

Three years later, only months after Patsy Ramsey died, the case seemed to veer into absurdity when John Mark Karr, an American teacher in Thailand, offered a bizarre confession to the slaving.

He was whisked from to Colorado but was released after prosecutors concluded he couldn't have killed her, and once again there was no prime suspect.

Then, late last year, prosecutors turned over long underwear JonBenet was wearing to the Bode Technology Group near Washington, which looked for "touch DNA," or skin cells left behind where someone has touched something. The lab has only been using this technology for about three years.

The laboratory found previously undiscovered genetic material on the sides of the girl's long underwear, where an attack-

er would have grasped the tabase. clothing to pull it down, authorities said. The DNA matched the genetic material found earlier.

District Attorney Mary Lacy said the presence of the same male DNA in three places on the girl's clothing convinced investigators it belonged to Jon-Benet's killer and had not been left accidentally by an innocent party.

"It is therefore the position of the Boulder District Attorney's Office that this profile belongs to the perpetrator of the homicide," she said in a statement Wednesday. In a letter to the Ramsevs, she said the DNA evidence "has vindicated your family."

Now investigators have DNA, if not a name.

Colorado Bureau of Investigation spokesman Lance Clem said Colorado's own database has 86,662 DNA profiles, all of which are entered in the national da-

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clude sex offenders dating the DNA and the person back at least 20 years, plus any felon from the past three years in the Department of Corrections system, Clem said.

While Colorado's DNA database is updated continuously, the national database is updated several times a week. Clem said. The numbers are still small compared to the more than 55 million entries in the FBI's fingerprint database.

"I think it's simply a mat-



ter now of waiting for that The Colorado profiles in- day when they get a hit on who brutally murdered this child is brought to justice," Wood said.

#### **MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME** & CHAPEL

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Ester Daylong, 89, died Thursday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.



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# Editorial

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

Ron Midkiff

**John A. Moseley** Managing Editor Bill McClellan News Editor

# OTHER VIEWS

# Continued irresponsibility?

nyone who paid attention during the Democratic presidential primaries may have noticed that a phrase was never heard: Balance the federal budget.

Doing that was one of the most significant achievements of the last Democratic president, Bill Clinton, but neither Hillary Clinton nor Barack Obama showed any nostalgia for the brief period when the budget was printed in black ink instead of red.

Since winning the nomination, Obama reportedly has been moving toward the middle of the political spectrum. But on the budget, he still sounds left of center, with no interest in eliminating deficit spending.

So it was heartening to hear that at least John McCain is determined to restore fiscal discipline — and not in eight years, as he had previously suggested, but in four. On Monday, he released a plan that explains how he will manage the economy and says flatly, "John McCain will balance the budget by the end of his first term."

That won't be easy, since he intends to extend the Bush tax cuts, while adding some of his own. The Concord Coalition, a nonpartisan anti-deficit group, projects that with the Bush tax cuts made permanent, the 2013 deficit will be about \$600 billion. Closing that gap would take a fierce commitment to cutting or eliminating numerous federal programs, particularly in the nation's massive entitlement programs.

The McCain campaign says he's up to the challenge. The Arizona senator vows to "modernize, streamline, consolidate, reprioritize and, where needed, terminate individual programs." He proposes a one-year freeze on all discretionary spending except that for defense or veterans. He calls for reforming Social Security and Medicare, both big and both growing.

But promises like these are not hard to make. What is hard is spelling out which programs will be cut and how. On that count, McCain was a disappointment.

You can't very well reduce Social Security costs without trimming promised benefits. But that step would mean antagonizing millions of retirees. Propose to eliminate a federal agency, and you can count on mobilizing all the people who gain from its existence. Small wonder McCain prefers to talk about streamlining and reprioritizing instead of controversial individual changes.

Even the more specific promises are underwhelming. He says the savings from victory in Iraq and Afghanistan will go exclusively for deficit reduction. But he doesn't say when those will be realized or how much the savings will be.

The portion of discretionary spending he wants to freeze amounts to only about a fifth of all federal outlays - which means the other four-fifths would keep growing unchecked. "With the tax cuts, you're talking about hundreds of billions of dollars," says Robert Bixby, executive director of the Concord Coalition, "and you just can't get that from efficiency gains in a small part of the budget."

Obama's campaign on Monday scoffed at the Mc-Cain proposals. But Obama hasn't been talking boldly about the certain path to a balanced budget. He promises to cut taxes for most Americans ... and he has a full plate of spending initiatives.

The Tax Policy Center reported last month that Obama's tax plans would raise the federal debt by \$3.3 trillion and McCain's would raise the debt by \$4.5 trillion over the next decade. That's before you figure in the cost of borrowing for new spending programs.

In the end, McCain and Obama face a basic choice: Make unprecedented cuts in spending to match tax revenues, or let the government continue to live beyond its means. From the evidence so far in the campaign, the most plausible outlook is for continued fiscal irresponsibility no matter who wins.

CHICAGO TRIBUNE

# Invaded by faceless, lawless curs

s a reporter, you write about crime all the time. Drug busts, people evading arrest and burglaries become an everyday occurrence, and as the years wear on, they take on something of an abstract feel, almost surreal.

That is, until you find yourself the victim of one of these crimes.

Having covered
Tuesday's city council meeting, I headed
over to my parents'
house to pick up my
8-year-old daughter.
We spoke for a little
while — I don't get to
spend nearly as much
time visiting with
them as I'd like —
and exhausted from

THOMAS JENKINS

a 12-hour day of work, we drove home.

I keep an old Darth Vader Slurpy cup on my dresser, and at the end of each day I toss all the loose coins from my pockets in it. This time, when I tossed my change in, I heard a very strange sound. It was the sound of it hitting bottom in an empty cup.

Granted, my memory isn't what is used to be, but that cup was about half full the last time I put change in it. Not knowing what else to do, I asked my daughter to come into my room.

Needless to say, she said she didn't take it, and was quite convincing in her pleas of innocence. Bear in mind, however, she can be quite the actress.

As we were walking into the living room I asked her, "Do you really expect me to believe someone

broke into our home and all they took was the change in my cup?" I'm not sure, but I don't think I ever finished the sentence.

As I stood there in the living room, I realized my daughter's Nintendo Wii, which was situated on a shelf in the entertainment center, was gone. The console, both remotes, nunchucks, zappers, even the infrared bar that sits on top of the television. All of it was gone.

We immediately began checking windows and doors, and what we found in the garage was chilling. The thief — or thieves, I'm keeping an open mind here — had busted open the garage door and made their way into our home. At that point, I raced through the house checking every nook and cranny to make sure they weren't still there. After all, why would someone go through the trouble of breaking into a home and just taking a game console?

The house secured once again, Hayley and I began searching the house for missing items. Guitar collection and equipment? Still there. Televisions? Still there. DVD players? Untouched. Hayley's MP3 player and glass piggy bank? Missing in action.

Considering I was saving the change in Mr. Vader's cup to give to my daughter, the slow realization hit me that everything these yellowbellied curs had stolen belonged to my little girl. All of it.

The officer from the Big Spring Police Department who arrived to take our report was extremely nice — Officers Simmons, I believe — and was very helpful with handling the details of the crime, not to mention making my daughter feel a little

more at ease.

I can honestly say I've never felt so angry and so helpless at the same time. Our home, our sanctuary, had been invaded by faceless, lawless people who couldn't care less the little girl holding on to me was crying her eyes out. They didn't care how much the Wii, a gift from me, meant to her, or that the MP3 player had been a gift from Santa. All they cared about was themselves.

As we got ready for bed, I caught her glancing around the house, a worried look in her eyes. I told her repeatedly she was safe and that I'd never let anything happen to her, but it did little to assuage her fear. She knew a stranger had walked through our home, our most sacred place, and it was a feeling we both have yet to shake.

We're working with the police, but we both know the chance of recovering what was taken is little to none. However, even if the Wii and MP3 player were returned, something tells me this episode is going to stay with my little girl for a very, very long time.

There's a part of me that knows events like this must be tempered with optimism and forgiveness, if for no one else's sake but my daughter's, but I have to admit it's hard not to lose at least a little faith in my fellow man when it's all said and done.

Maybe someday this memory will fade, and both of us will once again feel as safe in our home as we did Tuesday afternoon.

Maybe.

Thomas Jenkins is a staff writer with the Big Spring Herald. Contact him at 263-7331 ext. 232 or by e-mail at citydesk@bigspringherald.com

### **ADDRESSES**

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• 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-

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# Now free, where does Ingrid stand?

hen I met her, about a month before she was kidnapped by leftist guerrillas in Colombia, Ingrid Betancourt struck me as an idealist bordering on naive. We were in New York, and she was going back to Colombia to run for president, but somehow, she felt she could negotiate with the guerrillas and persuade them to give up their

terrorist ways.
As we spoke for nearly an hour on a Spanish-language talk radio show I hosted in the city, she convinced me that she is an equal-opportunity critic, blasting both the left- and right-wing extremists in

k

Miguel Perez

her country.

In fact, she was most critical of corrupt politicians and made me feel she feared the right-wing paramilitary squads more than the left-

ist rebels.

Perhaps it was her tough stand against the right that made her feel immune to the atrocities of the left, but after she returned to Colombia and had a face-to-face meeting with guerrilla leaders, after she challenged them to stop their kidnappings, she became one of their victims.

Advised by the Colombian army not to go into an area controlled by the rebels, she daringly went anyway. And she spent the next six years and 140 days in captivity, until the Colombian army rescued her and 14 other hostages last week.

So how does she feel about the Colombian army now? When she was running for president against Colombia's current president, Alvaro Uribe, she was opposed to Uribe's platform. Uribe said he would deal with the terrorists with a strong hand. Now that Uribe's approach has proved to be extremely successful, now that right-wing squads have disbanded and leftist rebels

are on the run, now that Uribe is hailed by most Colombians as the best president they ever have had, the world is waiting to know how its most famous hostage would answer a few questions:

— Was the policy that saved her the wrong policy? Her dramatic rescue was the result of a series of Uribe government victories over the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), which has Latin America's longest-lasting and bloodiest guerrilla army rapidly disintegrating. Would she still support a policy of dialogue and only dialogue with her former abductors?

- How does she feel about Uribe now? During her captivity, members of her family, especially her mother, were extremely critical of the Uribe government. They stood firmly against any kind of military rescue attempt to free FARC hostages. Instead, they often encouraged the government to succumb to ridiculous guerrilla demands to free the hostages through negotiations. After the dramatic rescue of Betancourt and 14 other hostages, do they still feel that way? And where does Betancourt stand after she witnessed a military operation that she later described as "perfect"?

— Would she encourage negotiations with the rebels by using FARC allies, such as Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez and Ecuadorian President Rafael Correa, as mediators? Can she trust them?

— Would she support Uribe's reelection? Thousands of signatures have been raised by Colombians who want him to seek an unprecedented third term as president. But even if Uribe chose not to seek re-election, would she support an Uribe disciple, say another hardliner, such as Colombian Defense Minister Juan Manuel Santos, the man who oversaw her rescue?

 What's in the future? Will she write a book or a play, lead a movement to free the hundreds of FARC hostages who still remain in captivity, run for president, or all of the above? When she ran for president in 2002 as a candidate of her own miniscule Green Oxygen Party, she had as much chance of getting elected as Ralph Nader does in the United States. But now she is certainly much more popular than when she was abducted. Does she still want to be a "peace-and-love" candidate for president? Does she want to turn the other cheek?

— What would be her platform? Has she learned that her captors — who used her only as merchandise and kept her as ranchers keep cattle — are not people who should be given access to power in a civilized society? Or would she make huge concessions to the nearly defeated terrorists?

— Can you really negotiate with drug-trafficking terrorists who believe in totalitarian socialism?

If I had Betancourt on the radio again, those are just some of the questions I would ask her.

Does she still believe what she told me in 2002? "If we are not afraid of death, imprisonment or anything else that can block our progress," she said, "we are finally going to achieve our dream, which is to have the country we deserve, a new Colombia."

Do you get what you want simply by wishing for it? Has Ingrid Betancourt learned her lesson? We still don't know. But we are getting some indications.

On a French radio station Monday, she urged Uribe to tone down his "radical, extremist language of hate" toward the rebels. Within a week of her rescue, she is beginning to show that her idealistic banner, which borders on naive, has not changed.

To find out more about Miguel Perez and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

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# Nation/World Briefs

#### Rice warns Iran that U.S. will do what's necessary to defend Israel after missile test TBILISI, Georgia (AP) — Secretary of State Condoleezza

Rice warned Iran on Thursday that the United States will not back down in the face of Iranian threats against

Iranian officials have strongly suggested the country's missile test on Wednesday was itself a warning to Israel not to attack Iran's nuclear facilities. Israel has left that

"We are sending a message to Iran that we will defend American interests and the interests of our allies," Rice said at the close of a three-day Eastern European trip.

Rice noted U.S. efforts to increase its own security presence in the Persian Gulf and the defense capabilities of U.S. allies there.

"We take very very strongly our obligations to help our allies defend themselves and no one should be confused about that," she said.

#### Jalapeno peppers added to tomato warnings as the confusing salmonella outbreak grows

WASHINGTON (AP) — Think of your favorite recipe for salsa. Three common ingredients now are suspects in the salmonella poisonings that have become the nation's largest foodborne outbreak in at least a decade.

And therein lies the frustration. Seven weeks into their investigation, federal health officials aren't shortening the list of potential culprits but adding to it. Now jalapeno pepper producers are being probed alongside tomato distributors, and even fresh cilantro is under suspicion too.

It's quite a departure from the 2006 E. coli outbreak in spinach, a mystery solved in about two weeks.

"We really, really got spoiled, if you will, with the spinach outbreak," Dr. Robert Tauxe, food safety chief at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, told The Associated Press.

There aren't as many spinach lovers as tomato lovers, and the spinach consumers remembered eating came in bags, often still left in their refrigerators, bearing bar codes that were as good a clue as a fingerprint in helping investigators race to the very field that had been contaminated.

#### Flames force California residents to flee homes again ahead of wind-whipped wildfire

OROVILLE, Calif. (AP) — For Clay and Nancy Henphill, running from raging wildfires has become nearly routine.

For the second time in just over two weeks, they were forced to evacuate their home after fire officials ordered 10,000 people in the Sierra Nevada foothills to flee ahead of a wind-whipped blaze, one of about 40 lightningsparked wildfires that have charred more than 76 square miles in Butte County.

The Henphills awoke to blaring sirens around 1 a.m. Tuesday and were told to leave immediately. Only a week earlier, they had returned to their home in Concow, a rural community about 90 miles north of Sacramento. after spending a week at a shelter.

"They were running sirens all down through there. We started tossing a few things in the car. A fireman said, 'Get out of here quick,'" Clay Henphill, 59, said Wednesday. "We all came out in a long lines of cars, with fire trucks going in as we were going out."

The couple grabbed clothes, medicine, camping gear and the family dog and jumped in their car. They spent Tuesday night in a tent outside an emergency shelter in Oroville.

#### Despite progress on U.S.-India nuclear deal, it may be too late for US lawmakers to act

WASHINGTON (AP) — Even with India's last-minute revival of a languishing civil nuclear accord with the United States, it may be too late for time-pressed U.S. lawmakers to ratify what has been one of President Bush's top foreign policy initiatives.

The Bush administration hopes the agreement will form the cornerstone of a closer relationship with a democratic, economically vibrant country that borders nuclear-armed China.

After months of deadlock, India is confident it now has the political support at home for the deal. But it could be weeks, or even months, before the accord is taken up by crucial international organizations and, if approved, is then sent to Congress for final approval.

By then, lawmakers probably would have only a handful of days left in their legislative calendar. The lack of time even has supporters skeptical about the immediate future of the deal, which would allow shipments of atomic fuel and technology to India.

"There's not that many days left to do this, assuming they act yesterday," Democratic Rep. Gary Ackerman, chairman of the House Foreign Affairs subcommittee on

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South Asia and the self-described "lead cheerleader" for the deal, said in an interview. "It's not impossible but highly unlikely that they've done this thing in time."

#### Rev. Jesse Jackson apologizes for crude comments about Obama caught on mic

CHICAGO (AP) — Barack Obama's campaign tried yet again to contain a political storm kicked up by a vocal Chicago supporter as the Rev. Jesse Jackson apologized for crude comments picked up by a live microphone about the Democratic

presidential candidate.

Unaware that his microphone was on during a break for a Fox News program last Sunday, Jackson used a slang reference to wanting to cut off Obama's testicles. When he learned Wednesday that the Fox News program "The O'Reilly Factor" would air his comments that night, Jackson apologized for "hurtful and wrong" remarks.

Jackson said at a news conference Wednesday that he had said Obama's speeches can come off as speaking down to black people and that there were other important issues to be addressed in the community, such as unemployment, the mortgage crisis and the number of blacks in prison.

He said he was not aware the microphone was still

Jackson declined to repeat what he thought was a the comments, but said he decided to apologize publicly after hearing from Fox News that it would air

The comments are not the first the elder Jackson has had to explain after believing he was off the record.

AP photo/Russel A. Daniels

The Rev. Jesse Jackson

speaks during a news

conference in Chica-

go. Jackson apologized

Wednesday for com-

ments he made about Ba-

rack Obama's speeches

in black churches during

private conversation with

a reporter.

In 1984, he called New York City "Hymietown," referring to the city's large Jewish population. He later acknowledged it was wrong to use the term, but he said he did so in private to a reporter.



CHICAGO (AP) — The American Medical Association is issuing a formal apology for more than a century of discriminatory policies that excluded blacks from participating in a group long considered the voice of U.S. doctors.

The apology stems from initiatives at the nation's largest doctors' group to reduce racial disparities in medicine — from the paltry number of black physicians to the disproportionate burden of disease among blacks and other minorities.

It comes more than 40 years after AMA delegates denounced policies at state and local medical societies dating to the 1800s that barred blacks. For decades, AMA delegates resisted efforts to get them to speak out forcefully against discrimination or to condemn the smaller medical groups that historically have had a big role in shaping AMA policy.

The apology being issued Thursday might seem belated, but it isn't the AMA's first for its discriminatory history. Dr. John Nelson, then AMA's president, offered a similar apology at a 2005 meeting on improving health care and eliminating disparities, sponsored by the government's Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality.

That came a year after the AMA joined the National Medical Association, a black doctors' group, and other minority doctors' groups in forming the Commission to End Health Care Disparities.

#### Foreclosure filings continue to rise as U.S. housing crisis drags on

WASHINGTON (AP) — The number of homeowners stung by the rout in the U.S. housing market jumped last month as foreclosure filings grew by more than 50 percent compared with June a year ago, according to data released Thursday.

Nationwide, 252,363 homes received at least one foreclosure-related notice in June, up 53 percent from the same month last year, but down 3 percent from May, RealtyTrac Inc. said. One in every 501 U.S. households received a foreclosure filing last month.

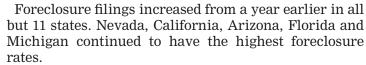
#### NOTICE OF A REQUEST FOR APPROVAL FILED WITH THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF TEXAS

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

If approved, the nonbypassable surcharge will go into effect on January 1, 2009. Affected persons include all residential and non-residential customers who are not required by the independent system operator to have an interval data recorder meter. Oncor is requesting a nonbypassable surcharge that, if approved, will be billed to retail electric providers serving residential customers or non-residential customers who are not required by the independent system operator to have an interval data recorder meter in Oncor's service area. Costs to affected retail electric customers will depend upon whether retail electric providers pass along an approved surcharge to its customers. The surcharge will allow Oncor to recover reasonable and necessary costs incurred in deploying advanced metering systems to  $\operatorname{such}$ 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,

Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC



Irvine, Calif.-based RealtyTrac monitors default notices, auction sale notices and bank repossessions. More than 71,000 properties were repossessed by lenders nationwide in June, the company said.

#### More kids caught in Mexico drug-war crossfire

CIUDAD JUAREZ, Mexico (AP) — Twelve-year-old Alexia Belen Moreno was afraid living in her father's house in Ciudad Juarez, where drug cartels are fighting a bloody war. She begged to move in with her mother just across the border in El Paso, Texas. Her parents agreed — but asked her to stay a few more weeks to finish school.

Three days later, Alexia was shot in the head blocks from her home in broad daylight. Authorities believe she was caught in the crossfire when gunmen killed two men riding with her in a car.

Alexia's death is part of an alarming trend of children dying in Mexico's drug wars.

Mexican officials say they don't track the number of child deaths from drug-gang violence. But newspaper tallies find nearly 50 kids have been killed this year and a code of ethics in which hit men took care to avoid harming children appears to be evaporating.

#### **Prosecutors to seek indictments**

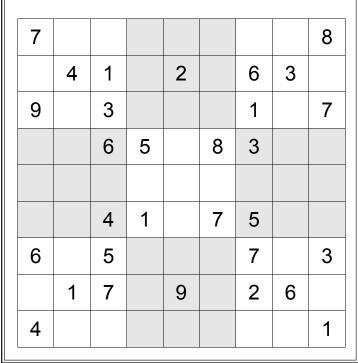
HOUSTON (AP) — Prosecutors intend to present to a federal grand jury for possible indictments the immigration charges facing four people at a rag factory, officials said.

U.S. Magistrate Frances Stacy ruled on Wednesday, after five hours of testimony, there was evidence to support federal conspiracy charges that Mabarik Kahlon, 45, owner of Action Rags USA, and three managers knew undocumented workers were hired and they had presented false work documents.

More than 160 suspected illegal immigrants working in Action Rags USA, a hot, cluttered factory in north Houston, were detained on June 25, one of the largest immigration raids in there in nearly two years.

# sudoku

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9 with no repeats. That means no number is repeated in any row, column or box.



# Contrac

#### By Steve Becker A Tall Tale

North dealer. Both sides vulnerable. NORTH **♠** 6 4 2 ♥AK ♦ Q 10 9 8 7 5 WEST **EAST ↑** A K 8 7 5 3 **♥**84 **♦** J 2 ♦ A K **SOUTH** ♠ Q J 10 ♥Q 10 9 7 The bidding: North South West

3 NT Opening lead — nine of spades. Dear Mr. Becker: I have been a

reader of your column for many years and have followed with interest your recounting of the exploits of some of the most prominent players

**However,** though I've never won a national championship or, for that matter, any other kind of championship, I hereby stake my claim to at least equal recognition as one of the

world's foremost players.

The only catch is that all my marvelous bids and plays take place while I'm asleep, and I must confess that there is an enormous difference between the way I play when I'm awake and the way I play when I'm asleep. In case you don't believe me, just ask my partners how I play when I'm not in the land of Nod. Here is a typical example of my

prowess. I played the hand just last night — while asleep, of course. I was West and led the nine of spades. My wife, Sapphira, won the trick with the king and continued with the ace and another spade.

I'm sure everybody would think that South must now make the contract, since his only losers, as the cards lie, appear to be two diamond tricks. But, as I stated earlier, these players are totally unaware of the brilliance of my play when I am in the arms of Morpheus.

On Sapphira's ace of spades 1 discarded the king of diamonds, and on the third round of spades I discarded the ace of diamonds! As a result of these two plays, there was nothing South could do to avoid going down two.

**Cordially yours,** Ford E. Winx.

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#### **Real Estate for Sale**

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# Tomorrow's Horoscope

BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

Three planetary motions amplify today's message: be thorough, considerate and self-

aware. First, Mercury looks beyond the superficial with Pluto and finds out the real story before moving into caring Cancer.

Meanwhile,

HOLIDAY **M**ATHIS

hasty Mars ≡ joins cautionary Saturn in Virgo, and together they read like a blinking yellow light: slow down!

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You have a notebook's worth of goals and are currently in the process of replacing old ones, revising still relevant ones and excitedly adding more. A Capricorn will be your supporter.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You're busy looking for a holy grail of sorts. As with most of these kinds of quests, the point is not whether you find it, but the characters who come into your life to aid the journey.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Your project is well underway. Yet somehow the original intention got lost. Maybe what you wanted in the beginning no longer applies, but this is a good day to at least check and make sure.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You busy yourself with the needs and wants of others. Why? Out of love. You wisely realize that love is more than a feeling proclamation; it's a quality of attention that you give to those you care about.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). It's easy to fall into a sluggish mood at exactly the wrong time. Take control. Jump up and down. Shout. Show enthusiasm, even if it's fake at first. Don't get tired and give up. You can do this.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). When you add to your possessions, you add to your responsibilities. Before you plunk down the cash, carefully consider whether a purchase is really going to enhance your experience.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You'll do better when you are not trying to rigidly control your own actions or participate in groups that have lots of rules. Your free-spirited mood requires leniency and wide open spaces.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). The scattered energy that accompanies a big project doesn't have to be lasting state. You absolutely need to take a silent pause. Quiet time allows the consolidation of your forces.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Perhaps there are only a few who can really understand your work. But they don't have to understand it to appreciate it, and respect you for doing it. So no explanation is necessary, just do your thing.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-

requires more than one action is a project, of which you have many. It's easy to get overwhelmed when you stop and think about it, so don't stop, don't think -- just do.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). The order is a tall one, and you're determined to deliver on it. Part of being tenacious is admitting when it has become difficult for you, and being willing to appoint helpers.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Anyone can sit around and complain about the chaos. If you're the bigger person, which you are, and the leader type (check!) then it's on you to bring order to the confusion. Prove yourself.

ASTROLOGICAL QUES-TIONS: "I'm all nose to grindstone under Saturn (I'm a Virgo) seemingly lacking all perspective. Absorbed by my work, I don't feel connected to the big picture. Any advice?"

Recently, one of my girlfriends perplexed about having a really bad couple of weeks. I noted some recent spirit-dampening astrological happenings affecting her. exclaimed, "no wonder!" and her confusion dissolved. She connected to a larger force and was far less inclined to stew on it (yes, she's also a Virgo). Then she recited a list of the more positive things going on her life: She'd just heard a little nibble on a record deal, and her new beau and her parents DICATE, INC.

Jan. 19). Anything that finally met -- and they got along! This is one example of astrology in its finest hour. Astrology can open your eyes, just like that, by becoming aware of the larger planetary cycles. Knowing Saturn brings work and responsibility, but also eventual rewards, can help you detach and breathe more optimism into your life. Astrology reminds us that while the drama appears uniquely ours, we're all players in the drama of

> **CELEBRITY PROFILES:** It seems every era has their bombshell beauty, and bodacious Jessica Simpson has the most attractive features of her lunar-ruled sun sign: she's curvy, totally feminine and her luminescent skin reflects the light, like the moon. Cancer people often have moon-shaped (round) faces and don't easily conceal their feelings -- emotions expressively dance across their faces.

Holiday Mathis is the author of "Rock Your Stars." If you would like to write to her, please go to www.creators.com 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.

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# Annie's Mailbox .: Advice for those in need

Dear Annie: A few months ago, our 31-yearold son married a 27-yearold woman with two young children. They have known each other for two years. Our daughter-in-law had both children out of wedlock, each by a different father. At first, we were very concerned about this, but we have welcomed her and her children into our family.

My husband and I decided not to tell my 90-yearold father about the children's parentage. Dad is of a generation that frowns on living together before marriage, premarital sex, etc. He has a history of abusive behavior, and we know he would berate our son, his wife and the children if he knew the history.

The children now are curious about their new great-grandfather and want to send him pictures. Our son asked what he should do. His wife was not aware of the deception. We advised that he tell her the truth, which he did, and they are in the process of deciding what to tell the children.

We all feel pretty sick about this situation. My daughter-in-law has never met my father, so I'm not sure she can appreciate the type of person he is and how abusive he can be. I want to explain why we handled it this way. Do you have any advice for resolving this family crisis? -- Confused Mom

Dear Confused: Give your daughter-in-law as much information as you can about your father's opinions and anger issues. Tell her he is not likely to be the warm and fuzzy grandpa the kids expect. If she still wants to risk being completely honest, that is up to her and her husband, and they will deal with the fallout. If Grandpa berates you about your daughterin-law, ignore him. There is no harm, however, in withholding some information from a 90-year-old man who is likely to be apoplectic at the news.



MARCY SUGAR

Send a picture if you wish, but don't elaborate. Dear Annie: My husband is an alcoholic. Five years ago, he was in an accident and arrested for DUI. It was a new beginning for us. I would like to thank the officer who found him because it was the eye-opener he needed. He quit drinking that day.

We have two children who are starting to hit the difficult teen years. They still remember the misery of their father's drinking, but it doesn't guarantee they won't follow in Dad's footsteps. What can I do to protect my kids from becoming alcoholics like their father? -- Concerned Mother

Dear Concerned: Your children are old enough to understand that they may have a predisposition to alcoholism and, therefore, a great responsibility to be extra careful when tempted to drink. You cannot prevent them from experimenting, but you can help them appreciate that the repercussions may be more serious than they anticipate, and that their friends' reactions to alcohol is not going to be an accurate gauge of what might happen to them. Please have this discus-

sion with them soon. Dear Annie: This is in reference to "Bonnie in Napa, Calif.," who broke her husband of his habit of spitting on the sidewalk by showing him how disgusting it was when she did it. Not only is it a revolting habit to spit in public, it is also illegal. This dates back to Typhoid Mary. -- Sanitary

Dear Sam: Actually, it depends on the local ordinances. For centuries, people spat on the floor in public places. The invention of spittoons encouraged them to direct their efforts in more specific locations. Concern about the spread of tuberculosis in the late 19th century. followed by the influenza epidemic of 1918, were what pushed many cities to enact laws against public expectoration. Still, such laws are rarely enforced, which means people feel free to disregard them and disgust us all.

Dear Annie: I've been married for 40 years to a man who has cheated on me repeatedly. Over the years, he has given me genital warts, herpes and two other STDs. He has even been with a woman 20 years older. It says a lot for me, doesn't it?

I never understood his cheating because the one good thing we had together was sex. I like it, and yet he's always looking for someone better. His latest fling is with a gay man he works with. He denies it, but based on the evidence and the way the man acts around my husband, I would bet my life on it.

I wanted to leave last year, but he talked me out of it, saying I had too much to lose if we split up, and he is right. I have health issues, and at my age, I doubt I could get a job.

I feel trapped. This man has so much rage and flies off the handle at the drop of a hat. I've been to two counselors who both say the stress will kill me. as it causes all the health issues I have. I've never thought my husband was anything but straight, but now I wonder if that's what all the cheating has been about. Is he trying to prove to himself that he's

not gay? I am not ugly. Other men look at me, but my husband doesn't. Life is getting short and I feel like I've wasted mine. Please help. -- Trapped in

Dear Trapped: We think you have a good grasp of your husband's problem, so don't blame yourself. Serial cheaters have their own emotional baggage, and if your husband is gay or bisexual, that would explain a lot of this. Most states offer government assistance in job training to help you get back into the workforce. Check your state's website. You also can look into the Women's Bureau of the U.S. Department of Labor at 1-800-827-5335 and AARP (aarp.org) at 1-888-OUR-AARP (1-888-687-2277) for help and information.

Dear Annie: We have some friends we enjoy getting together with, but there is one problem: their kids. They have two adult daughters. When I invite our friends over, if I say, "Bring the girls," they will. But if I don't include them, their father goes to my husband and says how much the girls would like to see us, and my husband always says, "Sure, bring them along."

me years ago that I should never bring our kids to their house because their daughters didn't want to entertain them. My kids don't even know what their house looks like. I guess I assumed when their children got older, they would go their own way, but they have not. I realize I should have dealt with this years ago. How do I deal with it now? --**Unwilling Hostess** 

They made it clear to

Dear Hostess: Don't specifically invite the girls. If the parents ask if they can come, reply with a smile, "Sorry, not this time. We want it to be just the four of us." If they are surprised, too bad. Don't back down. Make sure your husband practices those words, too, because it sounds as if he may require a spine transplant.

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

#### **BARCELONA APARTMENTS** \$299 MOVE IN SPECIAL + APPLICATION & SECURITY DEP. **ALL BILLS PAID**

**Housing Assistance Accepted** 

263-1252

# Mercury Sable

# Full-size sedan offers complete package for family transportation

It amazes me how a car can spark so many conversations.

This week's test vehicle, the 2008 Mercury Sable, is a classic example.

When I brought it home and pulled into the driveway, my wife was outside watering her garden.

"Oh, I see you have a Ford Five Hundred this

week," she taksaid, ing a quick glance at the vehicle before going about her daily watering routine. "It's not a

Five Hundred," I corrected her. "It's a Mercury Sable."

She looked up from her bed of flowers and took another quick glance.

"What's the difference?" she asked. "It looks like a Five Hundred."

Knowing how animated I can become when talking about cars — and how much my wife despises any debate that involves cars — I counted to 10 while carefully selecting my words.

"Well," I said, wanting to start off on a high note. "You are very observant to note the similarities between the two models. After all, they do share the same platform and are side the cabin. built side-by-side at Ford's Chicago assembly plant." team is one of the best in ing wheel.

"So I was right, it is a Five Hundred," she said, turning her attention back to the plants.

"No, it's not," I said, again carefully selecting my words before they jump out of my mouth which is a more difficult task than it seems. "It's a Mercury. It's a different car."

> My wife reached over to turn offthewater and placed the garden hose on the ground.

"How is it different?" she asked. "It's roomy, and safe I'm sure, handles

very well."

It was the opening I had hoped for.

I took her hand and walked her around the car pointing out the exterior styling differences — including the new features on the '08 model. I showed her the Mercury signature satin aluminum waterfall grille and the detailed jeweled projector beam headlights. I pointed out the chrome surrounds for the fog lamps and the satin aluminum caps on the mirrors.

I opened the door and invited her to take a seat in-

"The Mercury

the business," I pointed said into the speaker, and

"Notice the detail in all of the appointments. From the woodgrain accents to the stitching in the seats everything about the interior suggests that it is an upscale, premium vehicle," I said, showing her the two-tone leather seats.

"It is nice," she said, while taking a detailed look around the cabin and running her hand over the dashboard.

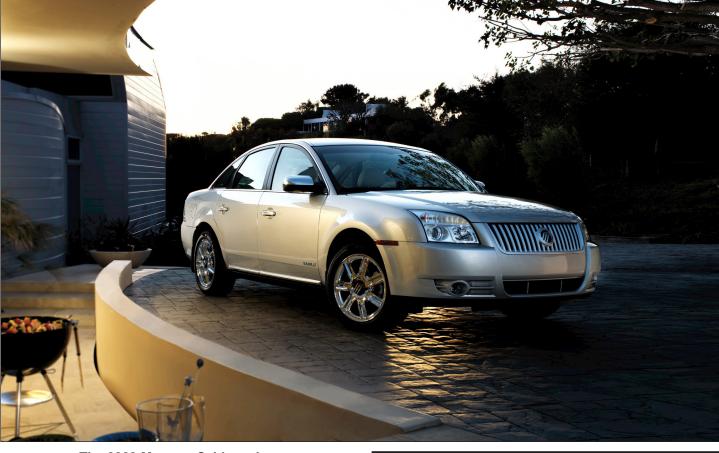
Finally, I thought I had proved my point.

"So what you're telling me is this is a really nice Five Hundred?" she said.

At that point, I just shook my head and offered to show her the new features on Sync, the handsfree communications and entertainment program available only on Ford products.

"Did you know that if someone sends you a text message on your cell phone while your driving, Sync will read it for you?"

She didn't believe me, so I had her send me a text message. I pushed the Sync button on the steer-



The 2008 Mercury Sable sedan.

we listened to the mes-

sage. "Sync even has several pre-set responses I can select from to send a reply — without ever having to take my eyes off the road," as I demonstrated the system. She was impressed.

For those in the market for a full-size sedan with premium styling and fivestar safety, the Mercury Sable should be on the test drive list.

Neal White has been covering the automotive industry for more than 15 years and is affiliated with the Texas Auto Writers Association and the Midwest

Automotive Media Association. Comments may be sent to Neal at neal.white@ waxahachiedailylight.com

## THE NUTS AND BOLTS

THE NUTS AND BOLTS MODEL: 2008 Mercury Sable 5-seat fullsize sedan Front-; allwheel drive Trim pack-

ages: Base, Premier **PRICE RANGE:** \$24,000-\$32,000 **ENGINE:** 

3.5-L V-6 (263 hp/249 torque) TRANSMISSION: 6-speed automatic

EPA: 17/18 mpg city, 24/28 mpg highway (FWD/AWD) **FUEL: Regular unleaded** SUSPENSION: Macpherson strut and rear facing L-shaped lower control arm

with isolated subframe and stabilizer bar (front); independent suspension coil over shock and hydroformed lower control arm

**BRAKES: ABS with traction** 

control. AdvanceTrac optional. LENGTH: 202.1 inches WHEELBASE: 112.9 inches

WIDTH: 74.5 inches

**HEIGHT: 61.5 inches** WEIGHT: 3,741-3,930 lbs. TRACK: 64.3/64.4 (front/rear) **FUEL TANK: 20 gallons TIRES: 17-, or 18-inch SAFETY: IIHS "Top Safety** Pick;" NHTSA five-star rating

in all crash test categories; dual-stage driver and front passenger airbags, seat-deployed

front seat side airbags, Safety Canopy side curtain airbags for both seating rows, et. Al.

# **Scooters: Miles** on the very cheap

By DANIEL PATRICK SHEEHAN The Morning Call

ALLENTOWN, Pa. — As surely as gas prices rise, on-the-go Americans will find ways to stay mobile.

Hence, scooters. Ubiquitous in Europe for decades, the little motorbikes are selling madly stateside, with sales up 24 percent over last year. Prices range from \$800 for no-name imports to \$8,000 for the best-known brands, such as Vespa, but scooter fans say the machines pay for themselves before long.

"I filled it up with \$5 yesterday," said Dawud Hason, 48, standing beside the used scooter he bought from a friend last week so he could travel from his south Allentown, Pa., home to his center city barbershop without sucking the guts out of his household budget.

At some dealerships, scooters — capable of 60, 70 and even 100 miles per gallon— are selling at about the same pace gas stations change their price boards. Well, maybe not that

"I sold eight in the past two weeks," Walt Rupnik, manager of the Pep Boys in Whitehall, Pa., said a few weeks ago as gas prices began their final push



MCT photo/Kathleen X. Cook Scooters are beoming more popular as gasoline tops \$4 a gallon.

to the \$4 threshold. "Once (gas) prices start going up, I start getting calls for scooters."

With the \$4 threshold already a footnote in gasoline history, nothing had changed. Rupnik on Wednesday sold a scooter before 10 a.m., this one to a cheerful retiree named Bill Lubrecht.

"The gas mileage is an added bonus," said Lubrecht, who paid \$1,100 for the Baja Motorsports scooter with its 125-cubic-centimeter engine and plans to use it "just for fun."

Scooters distinare guished from motorcycles by various design elements, such as engine and tank placement, and smaller tires, typically 16 inches or smaller. Small scooters can travel about 40 mph. The largest can reach 120 mph — not that you'd ever go that fast, of course.

Scooter sales were up 24 percent in the first quarter of 2008, according to the Motorcycle Industry Council, a trade group. Vespa USA, the American branch of the best-known scooter maker, said its sales in May were 105 percent higher than the same

month last year. Hason said he thought about buying a small car, but decided a scooter was a better bet.

"My wife has a Kia, one of the smallest cars out there, and she still has a problem with the gas prices," he

Tim Bruffey, who lives in Salisbury, Pa., and works at the Allentown, Pa., office of the state Department of Labor and Industry, paid \$3,200 for his scooter, which has a 200 cc engine.

"It won't take real long to pay for itself," said Bruffey, who was already gas-conscious. His car is a Mitsubishi Galant, which gets a respectable 25 miles per gallon.

"But between 25 and 80, it wasn't much of a choice," he said. "I think the American public has to come to grips with the fact that gas prices aren't coming back



# **2008 Ford Supercrew XLT**



MSRP \$33,090.00

**EMPLOYEE PRICE** STARTING AS LOW AS \$29,089.45

\$7,600 FACTORY REBATES

YOUR PRICE AS LOW AS

**TOTAL SAVINGS OF:** 

\$21,489.47 \$11,600.55 **ENDS JULY 31ST BOB BROCK FORD** 



		WFAA 2 Dallas	KMID 3 Midland	UNI 4 Spanish	KPEJ 5 Odessa	KOSA 7 Odessa	KTLE 8 Telemundo	KWES 9 Midland	WTBS 11 Atlanta	KMLM 12 Odessa	KPBT 13 Odessa	DISC 20 Discovery	AMC 21 Classics	SPIKE 22 Spike TV	TNT 23 Atlanta	BET 26 Black Ent.	DISN 27 Disney	ESPN2 28 Sports	ESPN 29 Sports
5	:PM	News	News	Locura	Simpsons	News	Noticias	News	Friends	Granger	News	Cash Cab	Code of Silence, Bert	CSI: Crime	Law & Order	· -	Wizards	Burning	SportsCenter
5	:30 :PM	ABC News	ABC Jeopardy!	Noticiero Querida	King-Hill Simpsons	CBS News	Noticiero 12 Cora-	NBC News	Raymond Raymond	Brad Sanchez	Business News-Lehrer	Cash Cab Made	Remsen	CSI: Crime	Law & Order	Live	Wizards Eddie's	NASCAR NASCAR	_
0	:30	Entertain Ugly Betty	Fortune Ugly Betty	Enemiga Diablo-Gua-	Two Men	Entertain American	zones El Juramento	Millionaire Last Comic	Raymond Fam. Guy	Hagee Israel	Texas	Made Made	Movie: The	Scn CSI: Crime	Law & Order	The Boot Blk Car	Million Dollar Cook-Off	Racing: Nationwide	NFL Live Series of
7	:30	Ogly Delly	Ogly Delly	pos	Smarter?	Dog	Li Juramento	Standing	Fam. Guy	Sprna	Texas	Made	Usual Sus-	Scn	Law & Order	Baldwin	Montana	Таре	Poker
8	:PM :30	Grey's Anatomy	Grey's Anatomy	Fuego en la Sangre	You Can Dance	CSI: Crime Scn	Victoria	Last Comic Standing	Engvall My Boys	Light of the Southwest	Antiques Roadshow	Made Made	pects, Chazz Palminteri	TNA iM- PACT!	Movie: The Recruit,	Movie: Leprechaun:	Montana Suite Life	WNBA Basketball:	Records
9	:PM :30	Hopkins	Hopkins	Rosa Gua- dalu	TMZ Raymond	Swingtown	Sin Senos		Movie: Old School,		Soundstage	Koppel	Movie: U.S.		Bridget Moynahan	Back 2 tha Hood	Wizards Life De	Sparks at Monarchs	Baseball Tonight
10	:PM	News	News	Impacto	Two Men	News	Noticias	News	Vince Vaughn	Israel	Charlie Rose		Marshals, Robert	UFC Un-		The Boot	Suite Life	MLS Soccer:	SportsCenter
10	:30	Nightline	Nightline	Noticiero	Raymond	_	Titulares	Tonight Show	ht Show 5	Van Impe		Made	Downey Jr.	leashed	Movie: The Recruit, Bridget	Hell Date	Montana	Chivas USA at Galaxy	
111	:PM :30	Insider Jimmv Kim-		La Hora de la Risa	Law & Order:		Decisiones de Famosos	Late Night	Sex &	Dr. Swallow	Smiley Smiley	Made Made		MAN Factory		Diff Wrld Diff Wrld	So Raven Phil		NFL Live
	:AM	mel Live	Extra	Niña Amada	RENO 911	Show	ao r ameses	Late Night	Engvall	Israel	(Off Air)	Made	-	Wild	Moynahan	Comicview	Replace		SportsCenter
12	:30	News	Paid	Mia	Lopez	Insider	Programa	News	My Boys	LightWrld		Made	Movie: The	Wild			Kim	X Games	1
1	:AM :30	Paid Paid	Paid Paid	Clasicos Humor	RENO 911 King-Hill	Entertain Paid	Pagado Pelicula: El	Poker After Dark	(:10) Movie: Old School	Light of the Southwest	1	Koppel	Usual Sus- pects, Chazz Palminteri	Movie: Boondock	The X-Files	BET Late	Emperor Dragon	X-Games Classix	SportsCenter

#### **DENNIS THE MENACE**



"Dennis asked us to keep you company WHILE HE'S ON VACATION."

#### THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"What did Dolly tell you?"

# **HAGAR**

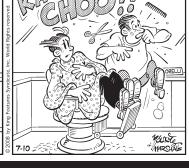






**BLONDIE** 







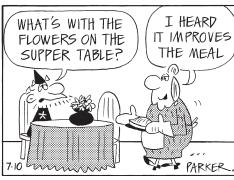
BC

# HEY HEY VELOCIRAPTORS ROAD KILL!



SO, THAT MEANS YOU NOW THAT'S JUST GROSS. EAT STUFF LIKE NUTS MUNCH AND BERRIES, TOO. RIGHT ?

WIZARD OF ID







**AGNES** 







# HI AND LOIS





# THE OTHER COAST





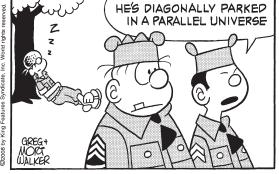
#### **SNUFFY SMITH**





#### BEETLE BAILEY





# This Date In History

Today is Thursday, July 10, the 192nd day of 2008. There are 174 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On July 10, 1940, during World War II, the Battle of Britain began as Nazi forces began attacking southern England by air.

On this date:

In 1850, Vice President Millard Fillmore assumed the presidency, taking the oath of office following the death of President Zachary Taylor.

In 1890, Wyoming became the 44th state.

In 1908, William Jennings Bryan was nominated for president by Democratic National the Convention in Denver. In 1919, President Woodrow

Wilson personally delivered the Treaty of Versailles to the Senate, and urged its ratification. In 1951, armistice talks aimed at

ending the Korean War began at Kaesong.

In 1962, the Telstar communications satellite was launched from Cape Canaveral, Fla.

In 1973, the Bahamas became fully independent after three centuries of British colonial rule. In 1978, ABC-TV launched its

reformatted evening newscast, "World News Tonight," with anchors Frank Reynolds, Peter Jennings and Max Robinson. In 1985, bowing to pressure from irate customers, the Coca-Cola Co.

sell New Coke. In 1991, Boris N. Yeltsin took the oath of office as the first elected president of the Russian republic.

said it would resume selling old-

formula Coke, while continuing to

One year ago: China executed the former head of its food and drug agency for approving untested medicine in exchange for cash. The American League defeated the National League 5-4 in the All-Star baseball game.

Today's Birthdays: Eunice Kennedy Shriver is 87. Former boxer Jake LaMotta is 87. Writerproducer Earl Hamner Jr. is 85. Former New York City Mayor David N. Dinkins is 81. Broadway composer Jerry Herman is 77. Director Ivan Passer is 75. Actor Lawrence Pressman is 69. Singer Mavis Staples is 69. Actor Mills Watson is 68. Actor Robert Pine is 67. Rock musician Jerry Miller (Moby Grape) is 65. Tennis player Virginia Wade is 63. Actor Ron

Glass is 63. Actress Sue Lyon is 62. Folk singer Arlo Guthrie is 61. Rock musician Dave Smalley is 59. Country-folk singer-songwriter Cheryl Wheeler is 57. Rock singer Neil Tennant (Pet Shop Boys) is 54. Banjo player Bela Fleck is 50. Country musician Shaw Wilson (BR549) is 48. Country singer-songwriter Ken Mellons is 43. Rock musician Peter DiStefano (Porno for Pyros) is 43. Country singer Gary LeVox (Rascal Flats) is 38. Actress Sofia Vergara is 36. Actor Adrian Grenier is 32. Actor Thomas Ian Nicholas is 28. Singer-actress Jessica Simpson is 28.

Thought for Today: "There are only two distinct classes of people on this earth: those who espouse enthusiasm and those who despise it."—Germaine de Stael, French author (1766-1817). 2008 The Associated Press.

# Answer to previous puzzle COWPANAMERICAN MOTOR PRONE

# **Newsday Crossword**

#### **ACROSS**

- **1** One-pot dinner
- **5** Sharp-witted
- 10 Did a number **14** Kilauea flow
- 15 Buzzy
- instrument
- 16 L.A. Dodger,
- 17 Rock Hudson film set in the Arctic
- 20 Dayan of Israel 21 Approx. figure
- 22 Like arugula
- 23 Frau's partner
- **25** Musk feature 27 Drive
- somebody up the wall
- **31** Line of work 34 Iolani Palace locale
- 35 Azores' loc. **36** Affectionate
- address **38** Sporty trucks,
- briefly
- 39 Confines, with "up" 41 With 33 Down,
- Caesarean rebuke
- 42 Scholastic do-over
- **44** Source of
- nickel
- **45** Encounter
- **46** Trait transmitter
- 47 Gymnastics
- apparatus **50** Rex's detective
- **51** Aspiring atty.'s hurdle
- **52** Braga of film 55 Egg cells
- **57** Mortgage

of 1958

figures **61** Detroit debut

#### **64** "My treat!" 65 Lay on the line

- **66** 51 Across. for one
  - 67 Character on
  - a cel
  - **68** Tibetan capital **69** Trig ratio

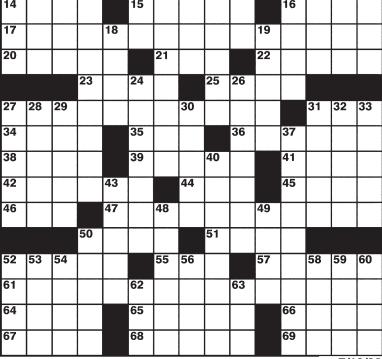
## **DOWN**

- 1 Willowy
- 2 Munchie in Mexico
- 3 Holiday lead-ins
- 4 Laundry spot
  - **5** Pseudonymous **29** Greek letter letters
  - 6 Indulges **7** Commando
  - weapons 8 Tastelessly
  - overdone
  - 9 Years on end 10 Scornful look

- 11 Actress Jessica **12** Soft-ball brand **13** Battleship
- color
  - **18** First-time voter. perhaps
  - 19 Currency of Poland
- 24 Fission device
- **26** Fairy-tale
- femmes **27** Cornucopia
- element
- 28 Gobbled up
- **30** Melancholy
- 31 Diamond star
- Derek **32** *them* author
- rock stars' recordings
- 33 See 41 Across **37** Would-be

- **HOOFING IT** by Doug Peterson Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com
  - **40** High-ranking holy men
  - **43** Primitive
  - projectile 48 Dough
  - 49 Cause damage to
  - **50** The Pink
  - Panther actor **52** Dumbarton
  - denizen 53 "It can't be!"
  - 54 Clownfish of film
  - **56** Singer Suzanne
  - 58 Sight at a
  - stand
  - **59** Verve 60 Just the
  - **62** Seagoing bird
  - of rhyme **63** 401(k)
  - alternative

10 |11 |12 |13



# 14 15 16 27 | 28 | 29 52 53 54 CREATORS SYNDICATE © 2008 STANLEY NEWMAN STANXWORDS@AOL.COM