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HERALD Photo/Thomas Jenkins

Big Spring City Council members Manuel Ramirez Jr., Jo Ann Staulcup, Mayor Russ McEwen and Gloria McDonald go over proposed water and sanitation rate increases while City Finance Director Peggy Walker looks on during Monday night's budget work session in the city council chambers.

No funding available for new projects, city council informed

Increases in water, sanitation fees can be anticipated

By THOMAS JENKINS

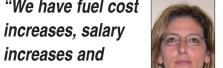
Staff Writer

DIG

VOLUME 103, NUMBER 194

Any special projects members of the Big Spring City Council would

"We have fuel cost increases, salary



for new projects, according to City Finance Director Peggy Walker.

"As far as additional projects are concerned, we already have quite a few of those included in the bud-

County OKS death penalty trial 'insurance'

By THOMAS JENKINS Staff Writer

Howard County commissioners gave the go-ahead Monday morning to join an 85-county public defender task force that handles capital cases through 2009, but showed some doubt in the long-term usefulness of the program.

The task force program helps counties defray the expense of a death penalty trial — which can range from \$80,000 and \$200,000. The program will cost the county slightly more than \$7,000 through 2009, but according to county officials, the fee increases dramatically over the next four See COUNTY, Page 3A

"There's a state grant that pays for part of it, but as that grant runs out, the cost goes up."



years. "If we approve this,

there's no cost for the remainder of 2008, and it would be just over \$7,000 for 2009," County Judge Mark Barr told the court.

Thunder in the Desert group plans to stay in **Big Spring Wednesday**

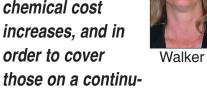
Herald Staff Report

Drums, please? The 8th Annual Thunder in the Desert Drum Corp show takes place Wednesday at Grande Communications Stadium in Midland. The event begins at 7 p.m. with gates opening at 5 p.m., according to Big Spring Band Director Rocky Harris.

with Drum Corps International (DCI). DCI Summer Music Games Tour, begins in June and culminates at the World Championship in August," said Event Coordinator Steven Dojahn. "Thunder in the Desert is a premier event, headlining four of the top-ranking drum and bugle corps in the nation."

like to see for the 2008-2009 budget will have to pay for themselves or wait, as the city staff presented a proposed budget Monday night that only manages to stay in the black thanks to rate increases in water and sanitation.

Expenses in several key areas fuel, chemicals, water and the Texas Municipal Retirement System — as well as support for ongoing projects, such as the recent renovation of Comanche Trail Golf Course



ing basis we're going to have to raise rates."

and the pending construction of the Roy Anderson Sports Complex, won't leave any room in the budget get," said Walker. "We have all of the financing we need for the sports complex and the Comanche Trail Golf Course. Some of the additional projects the council would like to see, such as the recycling centers and projects like that, we're going to have to look at in the future on a more long-term basis and determine what projects might actually be able to finance themselves, or at

See CITY, Page 3A

"The show is hosted in Midland as part of a competitive tour in association See **DRUMS**, Page 3A

The evening of entertainment features more

Bush calls on Congress to pass housing, energy

By TERENCE HUNT

AP Correspondent WASHINGTON - Presi-



-

ers Tuesday to move quickly in putting into force legislation designed to help prop up mortgage giants Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac while declaring the nation's financial system to be "basically sound." He also called on the Democratic-run Congress to follow his example and lift a ban on offshore drilling to help increase domestic oil production.

"I readily concede it won't produce a barrel of oil tomorrow, but it will reverse the psychology," Bush told a White House news conference.

Bush said the two troubled mortgage companies play a central role in the nation's housing-finance

dent Bush urged lawmak- system and that government action to help them were not bailouts, since the two would remain shareholder-owned companies.

> "I don't think the government ought to be involved in bailing out companies," Bush said.

> Amid soaring gas prices, the toughest real estate market in decades, falling home prices and financing that's harder to come by, Bush said: "It's been a difficult time for many American families."

> But he also said that the nation's economy continues to grow, if slowly.

> Bush said that despite the woes of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac and the recent government take-



AP photo/Alex Brandon

In this March 28, 2006, file photo, the Discoverer Deep Seas drillship sits on station off the coast of Louisiana as Chevron drills for oil in the Gulf of Mexico. President Bush is renewing his call to open U.S. coastal waters to oil and gas development, arguing that it's high time to battle high prices with increased domestic production.

over of California bank their deposits are insured IndyMac, U.S. depositors by the government up to should not worry because \$100,000

"If you're a depositor, you're protected by the federal government," Bush said.

The Bush administration and the Federal Reserve announced an emergency rescue plan Sunday to bolster Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, which hold or guarantee more than \$5 trillion in mortgages almost half of the nation's total.

The plan would temporarily increase a long-standing Treasury line of credit that could be provided to either company. Treasury also said it would, if necessary, buy stock in the companies to make sure they have enough money

See BUSH, Page 3A



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Do you have an interesting sports item or story idea? Call Jonathan Hull at 263-7331, Ext. 237. Email results to: sports@bigspringherald.com

> Page 1B Tuesday, July 15, 2008

D-I pummels D-II in Texas Bowl

BIG HERALD

By JONATHAN HULL

Sports Editor

GARDEN CITY — The Crossroads area's first regular season high school football game is still exactly 45 days away, but that didn't prevent some of the best recently graduated six-man football players in the state from taking the field this past weekend.

Garden City hosted the 13th version of the Texas Bowl Saturday, pitting a group of Division I All-Stars against Division II All-Stars. In the end, it was the big schools coming out on top by a score of 38-14.

The game was a last hurrah for almost all of the athletes involved as very few six-man football players receive the opportunity to play the college game.

One of those players enjoying his last competitive football game was Garden City's Bo Eggemeyer, who scored two touchdowns. Eggemeyer missed the entire district season during his senior year with a foot injury.

However, he got to put that behind him a little after he scored the game's first touchdown on a 5-yard run. He'd help push Division I's lead to 24-0 ing in the first half, hauling in a 13-yard touchdown pass from Rule's Jay T. Spencer.

That was the second of four touchdowns (three passing, one rushing) for Spencer, who had already thrown a 7-yard touchdown to Meadow's Collin Allison earlier in the second frame. He also had a 35-yard pass to Rankin's Garret Avalos in the fourth quarter and later capped the game's scoring with a 1-yard plunge into the end zone.

The game did have its tense moments, though. Trailing 24-0 at intermission, Division II

with less than a minute remain- owned the third quarter, cutting six-man football players from the deficit to 10 points.

Woodson's Robert Perez got Division II on the scoreboard with a 16-vard run and Grandfalls-Royalty's B.J. Santiago added an 8-yard touchdown run with just 32 seconds remaining in the third. However, that's as close as the game got.

Richland Springs' Mark Williams was named the game's MVP for contributions made on both sides of the ball.

been known by that name. When the event was a started 13 years ago, it was a game pitting the top

Texas against the rest of the world.

However, there was difficulty getting players from outside the state to come.

Last year, the event was made into a game pitting Division I All-Stars against Division II and was a move that former Garden City Athletic Director and Texas Bowl coordinator Ken Hoskins says has paid off.

"I think this was a big hit. We The Texas Bowl hasn't always had some really good crowds," Hoskins said. "We changed the

See BOWL, Page 2B

Hamilton's big night

Sports

Rangers' slugger belts record 28 homers in derby's first round

By MIKE FITZPATRICK

AP Baseball Writer

NEW YORK — Fans at Yankee Stadium were chanting Josh Hamilton's name and the theme music from "Rocky" was blaring over the loudspeakers.

Alas, the Texas Rangers' comeback kid had nothing left.

Hamilton hit a record 28 homers in the first round of the All-Star Home Run Derby before running out of gas and getting beaten by Minnesota's Justin Morneau in the finals Monday night.

first-time All-Star who put on a dazzling power display worthy of The House That Ruth Built.

"It'll be like 2:30 before I go to sleep," he said. "I hardly ever watch myself on TV, but I may look at some of it."

Back from eight trips to rehab for drug and alcohol addiction that derailed his career, Hamilton broke Bobby Abreu's mark for one round. Abreu hit 24 home runs in the first round in 2005 at Detroit's Comerica Park.

Hamilton's incredible tale The 2006 AL MVP topped of redemption has made a tired Hamilton 5-3 in the national news this season, last round, giving him the and he retold a story



Favre speaks

Says Pack should let release him

By CHRIS JENKINS

AP Sports Writer

MILWAUKEE — Brett Favre is finally speaking for himself: He wants to play but doesn't feel welcome in Green Bay, so he's asking to be released.

The quarterback's first substantial comments on his latest retirement decision reversal come in an interview with Fox News on "On the Record with Greta Van Susteren.'

"OK, you guys have a different path, fine," Favre said, recalling a June 20 conversation with Packers coach Mike McCarthy. "What does that mean for me? So that means either you give me my helmet, welcome back, or release me, or attempt to trade me. We all know that's a possibility, but a way-out there possibility. "And he says, 'Well, playing here is not an option, but we can't envision you playing with another team, you know, either.' And I thought, so basically, I'm not playing for anyone if I choose to come back." According to Van Susteren, who spoke to the AP by telephone Monday afternoon, Favre said he was "never fully committed" to retiring and felt pressured by the Packers to make a decision, a notion Packers general manager Ted Thompson and coach Mike McCarthy tried to dispel in an interview with the AP on Saturday. "Ted always wanted Brett back," McCarthy said. "We always wanted Brett back." The team had no immediate reaction to Favre's interview Monday. "We currently have nothing to add on this matter," a team spokesman said.

derby crown. But the night belonged to Hamilton, a See DERBY, Page 2B

AP photo/Julie Jacobson

Texas Rangers slugger Josh Hamilton swings during the Major League Baseball All-Star Home Run Derby at Yankee Stadium in New York, Monday. Hamilton hit a record 28 home runs in the first round.



AP Photo/Frank Franklinll Fans fill Yankee Stadium during batting practice at the Major League Baseball All-Star Home Run Derby in New York, Monday. The Yankees depart from the legendary venue after this season.

Yankee Stadium is biggest All-Star of all

Bv RONALD BLUM

AP Baseball Writer

NEW YORK — The star of the All-Star game doesn't swing a bat, throw a pitch or wear a glove. It has 56,000-plus blue seats, a famous field and historv. Lots of history.

Slated for extinction, Yankee Stadium gets perhaps its final moment in the national spotlight, hosting the All-Star game Tuesday night as part of its grand send-off.

"I catch myself actually looking up at seats where I sat as a kid and saying, 'Wow, that's pretty cool that, you know, I actually watched the game from there and now I'm down here and somebody else is watching us," Minnesota Twins closer Joe Nathan said.

Major League Baseball is taking a year off from showcasing the sport's shiny new emporiums and toasting the House that Ruth Built, DiMaggio won over and Reggie conquered.

Albert Pujols set some goals, and for a change they didn't involve home runs.

See STADIUM, Page 2B

See FAVRE, Page 2B

Sports in brief

Steer football season ticket sales to begin

Big Spring High School 2008 football season tickets go on sale July 28 at the Athletic Training Center.

Only people 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 Aug. 22.

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.

Big Spring Boxing Club taking sign-ups, donations and volunteers

The Big Spring Boxing Club has opened its doors and continues to take sign-ups for any male or female from ages 9-26.

Those interested can register for the club's training services from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Saturday at Morgan Park on the north side of town. There is no cost for the training.

Also needed is anyone willing to volunteer time as a trainer, conditioner or as a sparring partner.

Some equipment dontations are also needed. Anyone with questions or wanting to volunteer or donate can call Lee at 816-7995 or Willie at 935-0273.

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 days.

Cost is \$125 per camper.

For more information, visit www.gotrosevolleyballcamps.com.

Ivie hunting permit applications now accepted

Applications 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 reservoir 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.

LOCAL

Obituaries

Flora Cobos



Flora Cobos, of Midland, passed away

Sunday, July 13, 2008. She was born Aug. 22, 1924, to Raimondo and Rosa Illiano in Cappella Torregavita, Naples, Italy. Flora married Gabino Cobos in 1944 in Naples, Italy, during World War II. They moved to Alpine, and on to Midland in 1955. She was a member of Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church. Flora was a homemaker whose priority was raising her family.

She was preceded in death by her parents, husband, infant son Gilberto and sister, Emma Borredon.

Flora is survived by her daughters, Laura M. Hernandez and husband Leonard of Midland, Angela C. Sanchez of Midland, Yolanda C. Belazi of Fort Davis and Rosalinda Cobos of Midland; sons, Jesse R. Cobos and wife Linda of Hurst, Gilberto Cobos and wife Elouise of Bryan and Ricardo Cobos and wife Dorothy of Midland; sisters, Filomena Ferraiolo, Maria Cortesini, Ilde Olano, Virginia Illiano and Anna Capuano; brothers, Antonio Illiano and Giuseppe Illiano, all residing in Italy; 13 grandchildren, 12 great-grandchildren, 3 great-greatgrandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews.

Funeral services have been scheduled for 11 a.m. Wednesday, July 16, 2008, at Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church with Father Edward T. de Leon, OMI, officiating. Interment will follow at Resthaven Memorial Park.

Pallbearers will be Henry Sanchez, David Hernandez, Gerald Cobos, Omar Belazi, Ahmed Belazi, Gabriel Cobos, Adam Cobos and Tony Cobos. Honorary pallbearers will be Jessica Cobos, Nicolaus Hernandez and Paul Hernandez.

Arrangements are under the direction of Ellis Funeral Home, 801 Andrews Highway, Midland 79701 (432) 683-5555. To place online condolences please visit www. mem.com. Memorials may be directed to Hospice Midland, P.O. Box 2621, Midland 79702.

Paid obituary

Patricia 'Patty' Rothenbucher

Patricia "Patty" Rothenbucher, 62, of Big Spring died Sunday, July 13, 2008, in an Odessa hospital. Her services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Leo Calvin Bouchereau Jr.

Leo Calvin Bouchereau Jr., 51, of Big Spring died Thursday, July 10, 2008, at his residence. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Take Note

• American Legion Post 506 will be holding a fish-fry Saturday. Deliveries will be made from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. and serving will be from noon until 3 p.m. at the post, located at 3203 W. Highway 80. Plates are \$10 each. A plant/cake walk will also be held. For more information or to arrange a delivery, call 263-2084.

Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity between 7 a.m. Monday and 7 a.m. today: Note: No arrests were reported for the corresponding

period and the activity log includes items from Sunday.

• UNAUTHORIZED USE OF A MOTOR VEHICLE was reported:

in the 2900 block of W. Highway 80. in the 1400 block of 19th Street.

• THEFT was reported:

in the 700 block of Interstate Highway 20.

in the 1800 block of Gregg Street.

in the 200 block of FM 700. in the 1100 block of Blackmon.

• CRIMINAL MISCHIEF was reported:

in the 2600 block of Fairchild.

in the 1900 block of Alabama.

in the 800 block of Runnels.

in the 600 block of Johnson.

• BURGLARY OF A VEHICLE was reported: in the 1600 block of 17th Street. in the 1500 block of 17th Street.

• ASSAULT CLASS C/FAMILY VIOLENCE was reported:

in the 800 block of Johnson. in the 700 block of 11th Place. • ASSAULT BY CONTACT was reported: in the 1500 block of Chickasaw.

in the 1400 block of Sycamore.

Sheriff's report

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

Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 68 inmates at the time of this report.

• RUDDY BRISENO ALVEAR, 47, was arrested Monday by the HCSO on charges of theft and issuance of a bad check.

• ROBERT BRADELL WALKER, 26, was arrested Monday by the HCSO on a Midland County warrant for probation violation – theft.

• ERNEST LEE CHANCE, 52, was arrested Monday by the HCSO on charges of burglary of a vehicle and displaying a fictitious/counterfeit inspection or insurance document.

• FRANCISCO TREVINO, 44, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on a charge of criminal non-support.

• ROBERT RICHARD PEARSON, 20, was arrested Monday by the HCSO on a bench warrant for burglary of a building.

• ANSELMO HILARIO JR., 23, was arrested Monday by the HCSO on a bench warrant for possession of a controlled substance.

• BILLY JOE MARLAR, 20, was arrested Monday by the HCSO on a judgment/sentence for criminal mischief.

Fire/EMS

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

• MEDICAL was reported in the 1600 block of Bluebird. One person was transported to SMMC.

Your	Local	Weat	her	
Wed 7/16	Thu 7/17	Fri 7/18	Sat 7/19	Sun 7/20
90/68	199/67	90/66	91/67	93/67
Variable clouds with thunder- storms, espe- cially in the afternoon.	Scattered thunder- storms possi- ble.	More sun than clouds. Highs in the low 90s and lows in the mid 60s.	A few clouds. Highs in the low 90s and lows in the upper 60s.	Plenty of sun Highs in the low 90s and lows in the upper 60s.

Bulletin Board

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

TODAY

• Big Spring Band Boosters meets at 5:30 p.m. in the high school band hall. All band parents are invited to attend

• Big Spring Art Association meets at 7 p.m. in the Howard County Library. All working artists and those interested in art are invited to attend.

• Order of the Eastern Star No. 67 meets at 7:30 p.m. at 221 Main.

WEDNESDAY

• Optimist Club meets at 7 a.m. in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.

• Free blood pressure screenings from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the Salvation Army, 811 W. Fifth St., provided by InHome Care.

 Downtown Lions Club meets at noon at the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.

• Duplicate Bridge Club meets at 1 p.m. in the Big Spring Country Club.

• Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie meets at 7 p.m. in the Eagles Lodge, 703 W. Third St.

THURSDAY

• Gideon International Big Spring Camp U42060 meets at 7 a.m. in Herman's Restaurant.

• Kiwanis Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.

• Citizen's Police Academy Alumni Association meets at 5:30 p.m. in the RSVP office at 501 Runnels.

 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 Post 506 meets at 6 p.m. Call 263-2084 for more information.

• Rackley-Swords 379, Vietnam Veterans of America meets at 7 p.m. in the Sparenburg Building, 309 S. Main St.

• Big Spring Masonic Lodge No. 1340 meets at 7:30 p.m. at 2101 Lancaster.

FRIDAY

• Signal Mountain Quilting Guild meets from 9 a.m. until about 3 p.m. at 1019 Nolan St. Call 267-1037 or 267-7281 for more information.

• AMBUCS meet at noon in La Posada Restaurant.

 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.

Body Focus Medical Spa Botox Special \$10 Per Shot Laser Hair Removal -264-1900 1700 W. FM 700

• TRAFFIC ACCIDENT was reported in the 1600 block of Lancaster. Four people were transported to SMMC.

• MEDICAL was reported in the 1000 block of N. Runnels. One person was transported to SMMC.

• TRAUMA was reported in the 1900 block of E. FM 700. Service refused.

• GAS LEAK was reported in the 3800 block of W. Highway 80.

• GRASS FIRE was reported in the area of Sgt. Paredez and Channing.

Support Groups

TUESDAY

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

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

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

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

WEDNESDAY

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

THURSDAY

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

FRIDAY

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



.ottery

Results of the Texas Two Step drawing Monday night:

Winning numbers drawn: 3-7-14-18. Bonus Ball: 28. Number matching four of four, plus Bonus Ball: 2. Prize: \$325,000

Winning ticket(s) sold in: Woodville, Alvarado.

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Monday night: Winning numbers drawn: 3-12-21-29-32. Number matching five of five: 0.

The winning Daily 4 numbers drawn Monday night by the Texas Lottery:

2-4-8-9. Sum It Up: 23

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Monday night by the Texas Lottery: 2-2-3. Sum It Up: 7

Correction

An article in the July 13, 2008, edition of the Big Spring Herald incorrectly identified the lake Big Spring City Councilwoman Stephanie Horton pointed out as needing additional mowing to alleviate problems with snakes and other wildlife as Moss Creek Lake. The lake Horton was referring to was Beals Creek, according to the councilwoman.

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BOWL

Continued from Page 1B

format to get more Texas players involved. Small communities support their kids extremely well and that showed here."

Hoskins said one of the best things about the Texas Bowl was the pedigree of the two coaches who led the two teams. Richland Springs' Jerry Burkhart coached

DERBY

Continued from Page 1B

Monday afternoon about a vivid dream he had two years ago – he was being interviewed at Yankee Stadium after participating in the Home Run Derby.

"I can say it was a coincidence, but I don't believe in those," he said.

Mind you, his dream came while Hamilton was still banned from Major League Baseball, and before this year's All-Star game was awarded to the venerable ballpark in its final season.

"Obviously, the dream, I didn't know how many I would hit," Hamilton said in a TV interview after his huge first-round performance. "I just feel blessed to have played here."

With the crowd of 53,716 firmly behind him, undoubtedly

Favre told Fox he understands

that the Packers want to move

on — but if they're doing so,

bother me," Favre said. "It

doesn't. I totally understand

that. By me retiring March 3, I

knew that could possibly hap-

pen. All I was saying is, you

know, I'm thinking about play-

Favre said he has thought

about the ramifications of play-

ing for another team, moving to

another city, and angering some

"You know, the bottom line is,

I may not play anywhere," Favre

"Them moving on does not

FAVRE

ing again."

Packers fans.

STADIUM

Continued from Page 1B

they should let him go.

Divison I while Motley County's Mike Bigham headed up Division II. Each coach won the state title last season in their respective division.

"That was special getting those two guys to lead these teams," Hoskins said. "I think it's great that we could have an all-star game led by the state championship coaches in each division."

In the past, the football players were put in host homes throughout Garden City, but Howard

warmed by his improbable journey to stardom, Hamilton connected on 13 consecutive cuts before falling short of the fences on his final two in the first round.

"I got chills," he said.

Hamilton was drafted No. 1 overall by Tampa Bay out of high school in 1999, with some veteran scouts calling him the best prospect they'd ever seen. He finally reached the majors last year with Cincinnati, then was traded in the offseason for All-Star Edinson Volquez and another pitcher in a deal that has paid off immensely for both teams.

With his smooth left-handed swing and jaw-dropping power, Hamilton seemed a natural choice to take advantage of Yankee Stadium's short rightfield porch.

But he cleared the deepest fences with ease, hitting three

said. "But we have thought of all those things. We have thought about it."

Van Susteren — who is from Appleton, Wis., is a Packers shareholder and previously had interviewed Favre and his wife, Deanna — said Favre made it clear he would not return to the Packers if he wasn't the starter. And while Favre said the Packers asked him for a list of teams to which he would accept a trade, he wants to be released to make sure he ends up on a competitive club.

Thompson said the team wasn't going to release Favre, but he could come back in a "different role than he was" because the team is committed to going forward with Aaron Rodgers.

"You're telling me playing there is not an option, but playCollege helped change that this vear.

"Howard College did us a favor and housed all 32 of the football players participating in the events," noted Hoskins. "These guys come in on Wednesday and stay through Saturday. Howard helped us a lot by taking them in for that time."

Of course, the football game was just the main course for an all-star filled weekend. The Small-School Shootout featuring

shots farther than 500 feet including his longest estimated at 518.

"Really? Holy cow," said Hamilton, who has 21 homers this season and leads the majors with 95 RBIs.

That was the third-longest drive in the 19-year history of the derby, behind Sammy Sosa's 524-foot homer in 2002 at Miller Park in Milwaukee and Frank Thomas' 519-footer in 1994 at old Three Rivers Stadium in Pittsburgh.

"We were over there in awe of what he was doing," Morneau said.

Hamilton's first-round homers totaled 12,458 feet, an average of 445 each. He nearly had another one, but it was waved off because a fan reached over the fence to catch it.

"They should have juiced the ball up. I'd have hit the subway," Hamilton said.

ing elsewhere, we just can't -

we're trying to protect your lega-

cy," Favre said. "Well, thank

you. I appreciate that. But appar-

ently now, they're trying to pro-

tect my legacy by bringing me

back and having me be a back-

Thompson and McCarthy

wouldn't discuss the possibility

of trading Favre and said they

hadn't received any trade inqui-

Thompson and McCarthy gave

AP a detailed description of their

dealings with Favre throughout

the offseason, including an epi-

sode a few weeks after Favre's

retirement where the two were

prepared to fly to Mississippi to

seal the deal on a Favre come-

back — only to have the quarter-

In the interview, Favre said

back change his mind again.

up. Boy, that is really good."

ries as of Saturday.

some of the area's best boys and girls basketball players tipped off Friday night at Howard College's Dorothy Garrett Coliseum.

Thirty-one basketball players came into town for the event and both the boys' and girls' games were decided by close margins.

For Hoskins, coordinating the two events is currently his last administrative attachment to Garden City as the long-time athletic director retired at the

His 28 homers in the first round were the second-highest total for an entire derby, behind Abreu's 41 for Philadelphia in 2005

Signing autographs for players' young kids between swings, Hamilton stepped out of the batter's box for a few deep breaths and received high fives from his Texas teammates on the AL All-Star squad. Milton Bradley even strolled to the plate to wipe off Hamilton's forehead with a towel.

"We were sitting there saying to each other, 'How do you follow that?" Morneau said. "I'm glad I didn't hit right after him, that's for sure."

After his first round ended, Hamilton was engulfed with hugs and congratulations from All-Stars on both sides.

His batting practice pitcher also was quite a story. Hamilton chose a 71-year-old volunteer

the Packers were being dishonest, although he did not point out specific examples in the portion of the interview aired Monday.

A second segment is scheduled to air Tuesday.

"If you move on, you tell me one thing, don't come back and tell the public ... just say it, 'You know, we've moved on and we'll work with Brett on whatever it is," Favre said. "Don't make up a lot of stuff or give half of the truth."

McCarthy and Thompson also expressed concern Saturday that Favre spent most of the offseason questioning whether he still had the commitment to play football. But Favre told Fox News it wasn't going to be an issue.

"If I'm going to play it's going thing I've ever gone through."

end of the school year. However, that might be a temporary status for the Garden City fixture.

"I just finished my 30th year teaching and coaching and I felt like it was time to do something else," he said. "I'm only 54, though. After a year, I can come back and teach or coach again. Who knows? I might like retirement. I'm just going to play this year out and take a break. We'll see what comes of it.'

coach who often threw BP to him when he was a teenager in North Carolina.

Hamilton totaled 35 homers (on 59 swings) to Morneau's 22 (on 52 cuts).

The Texas outfielder stopped after making only four outs in the second round because he was already assured a spot in the finals. Contestants get 10 outs in each round.

"I couldn't ask for anything else," Hamilton said. "You don't feel tired, but obviously you're a little tired.'

When it was over, Morneau was left practically apologizing for beating Hamilton.

"He was the one that put on the show," he said. "I'm just glad I was a part of the whole thing.

"It does seem kind of unfair that he didn't get to win the whole thing," Morneau added. "Anyone who was here won't forget that performance."

to be 100 percent commitment," Favre said.

Favre's interview — which was receiving top billing over an interview with presidential candidate John McCain in promos for Van Susteren's show that aired during the day Monday is the latest development in what is looking more and more like an irreparable schism between one of the NFL's most storied franchises and perhaps its most beloved quarterback.

Thompson called the situation "gut-wrenching" Saturday.

"I mean, it hurts," he said. "I'm not talking about physically hurting, but the sensitivity. We understand where the fans are coming from. This is a hotbutton issue that surpasses any-

> leaguers seemed pumped up. After all, there never will be another All-Star game at Yankee Stadium.

Continued from Page 1B

hasn't gotten chill bumps. a tourist.

... It's the biggest stage in Francisco Giants pitcher, baseball. If you can't get who is 24 but looks like Ruth's No. 3, Ian Kinsler fired up to take those three one of the Beatles at age 14, in Joe DiMaggio's No. 5, steps up the dugout steps wasn't sure exactly what and J.D. Drew and Joe he wanted to see.

The San numbers long retired, with the same, you know, hall-Evan Longoria wearing ways and tunnels as the greats," Longoria said. Mauer in Mickey Mantle's No. 7. Red Sox roamed the Yankees clubhouse, allowed a rare peek into the pinstripes' inner sanctum. Young and old alike, they all sounded awed.

"Maybe tear up the grass a little bit and put it in the back of my pocket and take it with me," the St. Louis Cardinals slugger said.

The American League enters 10-0-1 since the NL's last victory in 1996 and is trying to win for the sixth straight time since the All-Stars began deciding home-field advantage in the World Series.

Players sat on the hallowed grass to watch the Texas' Josh Hamilton put on a percussive power display in the Home Run Derby following Monday's workout. He thrilled the crowd of 53,716 by hitting a single-round record of 28 homers in his first time up, including one that clanked off the wall behind the right-field bleachers and another that sailed an estimated 518 feet. But then the pooped slugger lost to Minnesota's Justin Morneau 5-3 in the final.

Yankee Stadium is the place where Lou Gehrig said goodbye, where Joe Louis and Muhammad Ali boxed, where popes celebrated mass. But most of all, it's remembered for the 26 World Series titles the New York Yankees have won since the Stadium opened its doors in 1923.

No other team in baseball can match the tradition.

No other place can equal the aura.

"If you stand toe to toe with the beast and you can conquer this stage, then you've reached the apex," Atlanta Braves third baseman Chipper Jones said. "I think walking through that dark, dingy tunnel into the dugout - I don't think there's any player that's ever done it that

and onto that field, man, you don't have a pulse."

He called it a huge coliseum. Right next door, an even bigger one is under construction, 63 percent larger, to be filled with restaurants, bars and seats costing up to \$2,500 a game next year. The new Yankee Stadium will look much like this one — before the 1974-75 reconstruction but it won't be the same.

"I'm really going to miss those guys down in the bullpen throwing AA batteries at me," Boston closer Jonathan Papelbon said. "I'm really going to miss the people yelling at me. They'll probably just move right across the street."

Papelbon knows the ballpark from all those Red Sox-Yankees games. Tim Lincecum was ready to be

Name

Address

City

Phone

"Babe Ruth and his head out there in — I don't know exactly where it is, because I've never been there, but I've seen people touch it," he said.

For one night only, players on the home team

"It's weird to know that walked onto the field in you're walking through



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sometimes jaded major At least in this one.

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BEXAR COUNTY-After applying Thera-Gesic® to her arthritic hands, Mary Ann W. played piano jazz music for 14 straight hours. When asked why she played so long, especially since she never took lessons nor played piano before, she painlessly replied, "None of your dang business!"



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Contra



East dealer. Neither side vulnerable. NORTH **↑** A Q 4 **♥** K 7 4 **•** K 6 3 **+**10 5 3 2 WEST EAST 107652 **♦**J9 ♥O93 ♥10862 ♦ Q 7 4 2 ♦ J 10 5 **4**0 **♣**K 9 8 7 SOUTH **•** K 8 3 ♥AJ5 A 9 8 **♣**AJ64 The bidding: South West North East Pass 1 NT 3 NT Pass

Opening lead — five of spades. Assume you're declarer with the South hand at three notrump and West leads a spade. You can count eight sure winners consisting of three spades, two hearts, two diamonds and a club. How would you proceed so as to give yourself the best chance for a ninth trick?

When the deal occurred, South won the first spade in dummy and led a low club to the jack, losing to West's queen. Declarer took the spade return in dummy and led another club to the ace, learning to his dismay that East held the K-9 of clubs over dummy's 10-5.

Since he still needed a ninth trick, South next led a low heart to the king and took a heart finesse. But when the jack lost to West's queen, declarer had to go down one.

South had the right idea about trying to get his ninth trick from the club suit, but he went about it the wrong way. The correct way to play this combination is to start by cashing the ace of clubs on the first round of the suit. This guarantees a second club trick regardless of how the suit is divided.

In the actual case, West's queen falls, after which the ten or jack becomes declarer's ninth trick. The same result is achieved if a singleton honor falls from East's hand.

If an honor does not appear on the first round, a low club is next led toward the ten. If West started with any number of clubs including the K-Q, he can win with the queen, but this assures that the ten or jack will later become the game-going trick.

The same result accrues if East holds the K-Q-x-x(-x) of clubs. Dummy's ten forces an honor, and a later club lead toward the closed hand establishes the jack.

Of course, if the clubs turn out to be divided 3-2, as they would be two-thirds of the time, the safety play of cashing the ace first proves to be unnecessary. But it's always better to be safe than sorry.

LOCAL/WIRE

State Briefs

Boy in custody after brother slain

FORT WORTH (AP) — A 15-year-old boy is in Fort Worth police custody after the fatal shooting of his 21-year-old brother.

Police say officers went to the family's southeast Fort Worth home about 5:30 a.m. Tuesday in response to a reported domestic disturbance. They found the 21-year-old shot in the head and chest. He was dead on arrival at John Peter Smith Hospital.

Investigators believe the shooting was the outgrowth of an argument between the siblings. No identities have been released.

Inmate accidentally freed

CORPUS CHRISTI (ÅP) – A Nueces County Jail inmate, who was supposed to be held without bond, was accidentally released from jail on a \$15,000 bond, officials said.

Nueces County Sheriff Jim Kaelin said Juan Zapata was released Monday due to a clerical error.

"This happened on my watch, and I take full responsibility for it," Kaelin said in a story in the Corpus Christi Caller-Times on Tuesday.

Zapata, who was arrested on June 27 on suspicion of kidnapping and other offenses, still hadn't been found as of late Monday.

"I don't see him as a danger. There were alleged kidnapping charges made by his girlfriend during a chase and whether it's true or not are up to a court to decide," Kaelin

said.

Zapata was first arrested last month on three charges -- suspicion of evading detention, violation of a protective order and reckless driving. He was released from jail on a \$15,000 bond but then was re-arrested for allegedly violating the conditions of his release. This time he was supposed to be held without bond. The sheriff said a clerk incorrectly inserted data in the computer saving that Zapata could be released on \$15.000 bond.

The sheriff said the incident, which was a first since he has held office, would be investigated.

TEA tells Cleburne ISD to pay up

CLEBURNE (AP) — A 16-month investigation has determined the Cleburne Independent School District mismanaged \$362,000 in federal funds which must be repaid, a state audit report said.

Texas Education Agency auditors said that the funds were misspent or not properly justified. The report also recommends the district hire an outside auditor to do a more comprehensive review of district funds.

A preliminary report was released in March detailing financial mismanagement and misuse of federal funds. TEA officials allowed the school district two months to respond before issuing Monday's final report.

COUNTY

Continued from Page 1A

"There's a state grant that pays for part of it, but as that grant runs out, the cost goes up. In 2010 we would be looking at about \$10,473, and in 2011 it goes up to around \$13,000. By 2012, it would be up to about \$20,000."

Barr said the court is required to give the task force 180 days notice if Howard County plans to leave the program.

"It's really a coin toss," said Barr. "This is basically insurance. However, right now we have a case that's been kicked back by the appellate court, at least the punishment phase has, and there's the possibility the recent shooting could become a capital case"

Howard County District Attorney Hardy Wilkerson is currently faced with a decision whether to re-seek the death penalty for the county's only death row inmate, whose sentence was recently overturned by the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

Billy Ray Nelson, sentenced to death for the February 1991 fatal stabbing of Charla Wheat, had his sentence overturned in December 2006. At that time, the court ordered a new punishment phase trial for Nelson, who has been on death row for almost 16 years. The circuit court decision pertains only

to retrying Nelson on punishment and has no bearing on his established guilt, officials said.

The May 4 double homicide of two Big Spring residents — Michael Cardona, 21, and Valerie Garcia, 20, who is believed to have been pregnant at the time of her death - is currently being investigated by the Big Spring Police Department, and according to Wilkerson, could become a death penalty case.

"It certainly appears to have the merits necessary for capital murder, but until the details of the investigation are turned over to us its hard to say for sure," said Wilkerson shortly after the investigation began. "Anything at this point would purely be speculation."

Commissioner Jerry Kilgore said he had consulted with Wilkerson on the matter, and the average number of cases that could turn into a death penalty case each year is surprising.

"He said on average we have these kinds of cases once every four years," said Kilgore. "They may not go that far. but that's about how often we have a trial that could become a death penalty case."

Commissioners voted unanimously to join the task force.

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

CITY

Continued from Page 1A

least partially finance themselves. That way we don't absorb the full cost from our funds.

"We're certainly financially sound, but we have some items we have to address," she added. "We have fuel cost increases, salary increases and chemical cost increases, and in order to cover those on a continuing basis we're going to have to raise rates. We're looking at some increases on our sanitation rates and our water rates."

How those rate increases will be implemented is unclear at this time, however, as the staff was instructed to explore an increase package that raise the city sanitation base rate between \$2 and \$5, as well as revenue. If your property increase water rates up to value doesn't increase, 31 cents per 1,000 gallons your tax should be the used.

of how they are applied, of 68.54 cents for the genermust yield approximately \$500,000 for the city to have any hopes of staving off the \$215,000 rate increase being passed along by the Colorado River Municipal Water District and the \$252,800 increases in the cost of chemicals.

If the council approves the proposed tax rate presented Monday, Walker said area taxpayers will pay the same amount they paid last year, barring any increases in the value of their property.

"This tax rate is the same one we used last year," said Walker. "The only thing that has changed in the tax rate is the amount of the bond rates has dropped slightly. Unfortunately, rising costs have caused the other side of the budget to increase, so we won't be brining in any additional same as it was last year." The tax rate - \$1.0227 per

al fund, 8.07 cents to fund the Big Spring Police Department's Narcotics Task Force, 2.42 cents to refund obligation bonds from 2002, 22.53 cents for general obligation bonds for the Roy Anderson Sports Complex and streets project, and .69 cents for certificates of obligation for the rehabilitation of the northside water facility and the new annex for the municipal animal shelter.

"Generally your tax rates on your debt services will come down every year because your debt service requirements reduce every year, fairly gradually," said Walker. "We do have one issue that we're paying off next year, which is the 2002 refunding on the general obligation side. and that rate will go from a little more than 5 cents

City Manager Gary Fuqua also identified problems with the municipal cemetery and the Texas Municipal Retirement System as major strains on the annual budget.

The TMRS contribution rate from the city is expected to go from 11.93 percent to a minimum of 13.01 percent, thanks to a new effort by the retirement system to have participating cities cover the expected cost of retirement in the coming years. The full rate the city is expected to pay is 17.45 percent, but according to city officials that rate will be phased in over an eightyear period.

The increase translates into more than \$280,000, as the city's contribution will rise from the \$747,936 it paid in 2007-2008 to \$981,493 in 2008-2009.

Fuqua told the council the increase isn't isolated is also considering a 25 to Big Spring, as all the percent increase in rates cities participating in the program are staring at the same type of fiscal problem.

to TMRS?" Mayor Russ McEwen asked during the presentation. "If we find ourselves in a situation where we have to take away some of the goodies in the retirement, I want to make sure it doesn't effect the employees we have now. It would only effect the employees who are

hired after the changes." Fuqua said the city cemetery is another problem item going into 1008-2009.

"The cemetery fund is in bad shape," said Fuqua. "It keeps going into the red. We haven't been able to increase the revenue like we had hoped to do. We're hoping the new chapel will be a draw, but right now we're looking at having to subsidize it for \$75,000 to \$80,000 each year if we can't increase revenues."

Fuqua said the city staff for the city-run emergency medical services.

"Is there an alternative will pay, and this rate increase would allow us to do that," said Fuqua. "I have to tell you, this is the most difficult budget I've worked on in years."

> As far as whether or not the budget will be balanced for 2008-2009, Walker said there's little doubt in her mind.

"We will absolutely come out of it in the black," said Walker firmly. "I don't doubt that at all. Our council will insist on it. You have to balance your budget every year, and the budget we brought tonight is balanced. However, it is balanced through some rate increases."

The budget work session is expected to continue tonight at 5:30 in the city council chambers, located at 307 E. Fourth St.

According to Walker, the increases, regardless \$100 valuation - consists

to 2.5 cents next year. Our street bonds went down from about 24 cents to 22 cents, and that is because our debt service requirement reduces annually."

"We want to take full advantage of what medicare

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

DRUMS

Continued from Page 1A

than 800 performers from around the country. The four teams are comprised of high school and college students ranging from ages 14 to 21.

The performing corps descend upon Midland, Odessa and Big Spring Wednesday with more than 20 buses, 10 semi-trailers and numerous other trucks, campers and trailers. They will be housed at various schools throughout the

Permian Basin. One of the groups, Madison Scouts of Madison, Wis., will be accommodated in Big Spring. According to Harris, there

are around 130 performers in the group and they will be staying overnight at the Big Spring High School. An open rehearsal is scheduled to take place at

Blankenship Field at the high school around noon. For more information about the performances, visit www.dcithunder.org.

BUSH

Continued from Page 1A

to operate.

The Fed also announced that it would allow Fannie and Freddie to get loans directly from the Fed -aprivilege previously granted only to commercial banks until this March, when the Fed extended the borrowing to investment banks to deal with the collapse of Bear Stearns.

At the same time, a housing package was heading toward final congressional passage. It would modernize the Federal Housing Administration and create a new regulator and tighter controls for Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac.

It's this legislation that

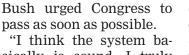
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sically is sound, I truly do," Bush said. "I understand there's a lot of nervousness. The economy is growing. Productivity is high. Trade's up. People are working — it's not as good as we'd like. And to the extent that we'll find weakness, we'll move." Bush acknowledged it could take vears before opening the Continental Shelf to oil drilling would result in increased U.S. production. But, he said, at least it would put the nation on the right track toward reducing its reliance on imported oil.

"There is no short term solution," Bush said. "The president doesn't have a magic wand. You can't just say, 'Low gas."

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Asked about his comment earlier this year that he hadn't heard of \$4 gasoline. Bush said: "I've heard of it now."

It was Bush's first fullblown exchange with reporters at the White House since April 29.

It came amid troubling developments in Afghanistan, where U.S. deaths have exceeded casualties in Iraq over the last two

9925

11730

months. There also is turmoil in the financial markets, and the government has been forced to throw a lifeline to mortgage giants Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac.

Bush opened with a state-

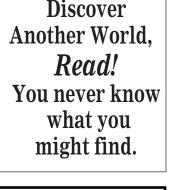


ment about steps to help stabilize the housing and financial markets and his lifting of the executive ban on offshore oil drilling. He'll also call on lawmakers to pass long-stalled spending bills.



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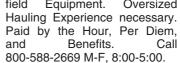
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OPINION

"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

Bill McClellan

News Editor

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

> **Ron Midkiff** Publisher

John A. Moseley Managing Editor

OTHER VIEWS

Looking at withdrawal from Iraq

resident Bush has opposed a timetable for the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Iraq, arguing that any discussion of a date would encourage terrorists and insurgents to lurk in the shadows until the departure is executed.

Whatever the arguments against a timetable, however, the proposal has more merit when it comes from the Iraqi government.

Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki recently suggested establishing a timetable for the troop withdrawal, the first time he has raised the idea since he assumed office in 2006.

"The current trend is to reach an agreement on a memorandum of understanding either for the departure of the forces or a memorandum of understanding to put a timetable on their withdrawal," al-Maliki said, according to a statement released by his office.

While the statement was vague, with no mention of a specific date for the proposed withdrawal, it marked an important milestone.

The mere fact that he broached the issue is a good sign, both for the Iraqis and for the U.S.

The wart makes the witch

ou know, I think I have finally figured out why the proverbial witch has warts. Every time you read a story about a witch or see one on a television screen, she is always depicted as having some sort of deformity (a

long nose, a wart, red eyes, etc.) unless, of course, she's a good witch. I'm going to share a secret with you: it isn't because she's evil that she has a wart; it's because she has a wart that she's evil.

Allow me to enlighten you. Has the following scenario ever happened to you ... or could it?

You wake up in the morning feeling fine and ready to start your day. You go into the bathroom to take your shower. When you are finished, you look into the mirror and see, to your dismay, a pimple the size of Montana right in the middle of your face. Your good mood slips a bit. Then you think, "Well, maybe a little makeup will help."

You slather on some industrial strength makeup that you've saved just for such an occasion. You smile at yourself in the mirror and think, "That's better."

You greet your husband in the bedroom with a kiss. He kisses you back then says, "You know, you've



LAURA **S**NYDER got a pimple there."

That's it! Your good mood goes down the toilet. "Thank you for pointing that out. I might have missed it otherwise!" you snarl.

You stomp into your closet and pull out something black to match your mood and to help flatter your figure. Hopefully, no one will notice the gargantuan zit on your face. The kids are up now, so you head

to the kitchen where, after their foraging for food, they have left every cupboard door wide open. One kid wants to know who hit you in the face. You grit your teeth and snap "Nobody hit me!" Then you start slamming cupboard doors like a demented Vanna White.

The sound startles the children and arms and legs fly spastically in all directions and a full box of green sugared cereal falls off the table and spills all over the floor. Grrrrr. You bend down to pick-up the box and crack your head on the edge of the kitchen table. Sitting on the floor, now, you rub you head in agony and your carefully coifed hair now looks like a Phyllis Diller wig.

Your youngest child comes over and gives you a sticky green cereal kiss and hug, then points to your pimple and asks if you need a "booboo band."

"No, a band-aid won't help. Now please eat your breakfast." You get up and head for the closet to grab a broom to clean up the spilled green cereal. On the way, you discover

that it is now also decorating your face because of the sweet, but sticky kiss. Ok, first, a stop at the kitchen sink to throw some water on the sticky parts of your face.

You forgot about the heavy duty makeup you have on, and the green dye from the cereal is merely absorbed as you rub water on it. Groaning disgustedly, knowing you'll have to redo your makeup, you get the broom and start sweeping.

As you are sweeping the floor with angry vigor, your husband shows up and asks if you've made any coffee.

You stand there with broom in hand, black clothes, green makeup, hair standing straight up, and that damn pimple in the middle of your face, glaring malevolently at this dear man.

He looks at you in shock, eyes wide and puts up both hands in front of him as he backs slowly out of the kitchen. "That's OK; I'll get some on the way to work." As the front door closes swiftly behind him, you suddenly realize what you must look like and you start to laugh hysterically. Only, what actually spews forth sounds suspiciously like a cackle.

It could happen ... couldn't it?

You can reach Laura at lsnyder@ lauraonlife.com Or visit her Web site www.lauraonlife.com for more columns and info about her books.

ADDRESSES

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Are we ashamed of America?

ome say Obama's critics have taken their eye off the official language. He doubtlessly has no clue why his attitude on this

share Obama's ambivalence about America's moral standing in the

State Representative Texas 85th District P.O. Box 2910 Austin, 78768 463-0604 •KEL SELIGER State Senator Texas 31st District 401 Austin, Suite 101 Big Spring, 79720

troops trying to secure the country.

The next step is the difficult part — to make sure that the withdrawal is executed responsibly, with the country stabilized to the point that the Iraqis can begin directing their own destiny.

"The prime minister is reflecting a shared goal that we have, which is that as Iraqi forces become a more self-reliant force, we'll see reductions in U.S. forces," White House spokesman Tony Fratto said.

More than 4,000 U.S. soldiers have died in Iraq since 2003, but analysts have detected a drop in violence over the last several months, attributing the success to the surge in troops last year.

And with Iraq becoming more stabilized, the economy has eclipsed the war as the top concern among voters, according to a recent USA Today/Gallup Poll.

As long as U.S. forces remain in their country, however, Iraqi officials will be sensitive and even defensive about issues concerning national sovereignty. Iraq belongs to the Iraqis.

Both countries must understand that, and both countries must work toward developing a healthy, thriving democracy in Iraq, one that can defend itself without outside assistance.

When that day will come, nobody knows.

But goals cannot be reached until they are stated and stated clearly. The prime minister has articulated his vision. Now comes the hard part — turning it into reality.

THE SAN ANTONIO EXPRESS-NEWS

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- In person at 710 Scurry St.
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 By e-mail Managing Editor John A. Moseley at editor@bigspringherald.com or News Editor Bill McClellan at newsdesk@bigspringherald.com.

• By mail at P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721

ball in focusing on his associations with the Rev. Jeremiah Wright and William Ayers, thus giving his far-left policies a pass. But that's a false choice. Those criticisms would have more validity but for the fact that Obama's associations and his approach to policy are inextricably intertwined, flowing from a particu-

lar — and consistent - mindset.

It's no accident that Obama sat for 20 years and had his children baptized in a church whose pastor revved up his congregation by denouncing America with expletives, that he had a working relationship

LIMBAUGH with a professor who expressed pride in his past anti-American terrorism, or

even that his wife admitted a firsttime pride in the United States with the advent of her husband's electoral success.

Repeated references to Obama's close connections with these people and others are not drive-by attacks designed to incriminate Obama merely by association. Their purpose is to shine a spotlight on Obama to help determine whether he embraces or is sympathetic to the same negative views about America as his soul mates.

When you couple Obama's associations with his many statements and policies, a disturbing picture emerges, suggesting Obama might lack a robust pride in America – at least in what he considers to be its present state. This point was driven home again this week, as Obama expressed "embarrassment" that American children can't speak foreign languages while European children can speak English.

This is hardly surprising. As others have noted, both as an Illinois senator and United States senator, Obama has been unwavering in his opposition to making English the

would deeply bother those of us in "flyover country," who comprise a large part of the American population that Obama holds himself out as having the unique ability to unite. How do you think most of center-right America would react if they understood Obama is more likely to get goose bumps over multiculturalism and diversity than the unique American culture and the values undergirding it?

Speaking of flyover country, who can forget Obama's completely unscripted expression of contempt for small-town America? In that spontaneous moment, he betrayed his typically liberal attitude that ordinary Americans are dependent on the superior wisdom of Washington politicians to save them from their backwoodsmanship.

Obama can deny his lifetime liberal voting record, he can lurch to the center in this general election campaign, and he can claim to be all about bipartisanship and unity, but he can't erase the "Bittergate" tape, which demonstrated his real idea of harmony: leading small-town Neanderthals, bound and gagged, into utopia.

And how about Obama's five-point plan to repair America's image in the world, including doubling our foreign aid to \$50 billion and surrendering in Iraq to generate good will for America in the Middle East?

Liberals such as Obama are preoccupied with America's image in the world – always worried about which nations we've offended or how we've let down the United Nations, when they ought to be outraged at how those other nations have abused, scorned or underappreciated us and/or haven't stepped up to the plate to do the right thing. Then again, this is the same

Obama who said "the danger of using good versus evil in the context of war is it may lead us to be not as critical as we should be about our own actions."

Surely average Americans do not

war on terror. Surely they reject that there's a dangerous downside to Americans coming together in support of the war through a shared belief in the moral authority of our cause. Along these lines, is it any surprise that Obama, possessed of this moral conflict and confusion, thinks we are at fault for not trying hard enough to meet Iranian tyrant Mahmoud Ahmadinejad halfway?

And then there's Obama's statement in the New Orleans Superdome about a year ago: "After Katrina hit, we had to realize that we were no longer the America we had hoped to be. All the hurricane did was lay bare the fact that we had not dealt with the problems of racism and poverty. But here's the good news: America was ashamed and shocked."

I know many have bought into the disgraceful propaganda that problems with the governmental responses to Katrina were based on the race or poverty of the victims. Perhaps Obama, instead of wringing his hands over the illusory harm that could come to America by clearly articulating its moral standing in this war, should refrain from participating in the dissemination of such destructively divisive slander purely for political gain.

Obama's record and attitude are there for people to see. In all sincerity, I ask: How can we afford such an attitude in America's president — especially during wartime?

David Limbaugh is a writer, author and attorney. His book "Bankrupt: The Intellectual and Moral Bankruptcy of Today's Democratic Party" was released recently in paperback. To find out more about David Limbaugh, please visit his Web site at www.davidlimbaugh.com. To read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

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BIG SPRING HERALD Tuesday, July 15, 2008

LOCAL

Bird Poop: A barn owl gets caught in cactus

n the southwest, the clouds continued to build during the afternoon. Maybe this summer storm would not rain itself out before reaching the hills and bluffs near

town. We hoped for a drenching shower. Just before the wind laid, a cool breeze preceded what was to

come. MCCASLAND Following the calm,

dusty gusts slammed

against windows and caused doors to whine. Often described as a "blow with no show," the winds played havoc with our trees. Finally, rain drops that sounded like hail pounded the house.

Bebe

After the storm had hurried on to the northeast. it left behind moist, fresh air and a vivid sunset. Tomorrow would be soon enough to gather the small, broken limbs and leaves that littered our yard.

"Didn't find it 'till after the rain," said the woman who called about a bird. The previous evening, after the storm, she had gone out to check on her

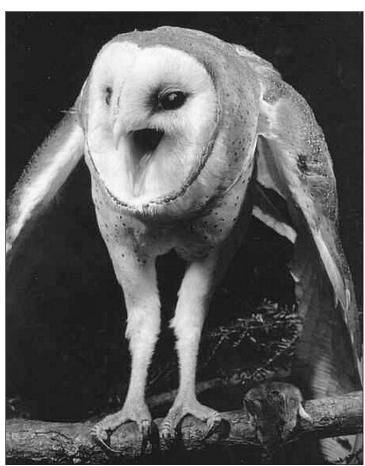
horses and a family of barn owls.

"Are the owls in your stable?" I asked. "No, they were born and raised on the bluff behind the barn. I've watched those young birds since they hatched. Even now, fully feathered, they stay in those holes during the day."

Continuing her story, she told of walking through the stalls to the back side of the structure. She wanted to make sure her owls were still in the natural creches. As she counted the family members, she realized one was missing from the ledge. Only then did she look at the large growth of pricklv pear.

Stuck between two large pads was one of the juveniles born that spring. The woman felt it had been blown into the cactus by the storm. Long, sharp spines kept the owl from escaping. Knowing the bird probably had been impaled by some of the thorns, she started tearing off pads in order to free the miserable youngster.

Once she had reached the bird, she broke away the growth that had held the owl captive. Placing the bird against her hip, she held it with one hand while trying to exit without too many more barbs



Courtesy photo

The availability of mice may often determine the territory and nesting area for barn owls. Small rodents have a slim chance against the aggressive predator.

in her hands and legs. Leaving the dense cactus, she started pulling thorns out of the owl. "When I finished him, I started on me," she added. Uncertain if smaller spines were in the bird, and what effects they might have, she decided

to call.

As she led us through the stable, the stalls, with their numerous timbers for roosting, offered a perfect home for barn owls. Even in daytime, the structure was dark and aromatic from hay, dust, and horses.

After walking through the north opening, we were once again in bright sunshine. Looking toward the northeast, we saw the large prickly pear growing at the base of the bluff that towered some 25 feet above.

The earthen home for the owls was a secure place for this family. Whether it had been formed by man or nature, the steep face kept predators from reaching the nestlings and fledglings. Time, storms, erosion, and usage had created a novel approach to family planning.

The bluff's mixture of clay, rocks, sandstone, and old roots was a faded terra cotta in color. The recesses could have been formed by gully washers as rain water plummeted to the floor below. Undermined plants and dislodged small boulders might have been discarded as the face of the bluff evolved.

To imagine the ordeal suffered by the woman and the owl while they battled the cactus made us appreciate the tenacity of both. We promised to call back with details from the wildlife center.

Searching for any remaining thorns, we realized the woman had removed the majority of the painful spines. With the overlooked ones extracted, the bird rested and was fed three days before being taken to Lubbock.

The following week, the manager of South Plains called to say the barn owl was ready for release. When a volunteer from the Center delivered the bird, we took her with us to see the unusual nursery.

Even though it had hatched on a narrow ledge of the bluff and was familiar with the terrain, the owl refused to fly. Knowing it had accessed its natal home previously, we were horrified when it hopped and ran toward the prickly pear.

Using a pole net and patience, we were able to recapture the bird without a bout with the cactus. Loading the owl for its return trip to Lubbock, we and the volunteer knew that not all releases are successful.

Later, the barn owl, accompanied by four other juveniles, would be returned to the area. During a still, moonlit night, they discovered the overwhelming lure of open country and good hunting.

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

The official story of 'Kilroy was here'

was looking through a book the other day and ran across an old picture of a face with a long nose staring over a wall and the inscription Kilroy was here! I remembered as a kid I used to see that everywhere. That started me to wondering, who was Kilroy and what was that all about. So





ships were leaving the Quincy Yard so fast that there wasn't time to paint them. As a result, Kilroy's inspection "trademark" was seen by thousands of servicemen who boarded the troopships the yard produced.

His message apparently rang a bell with the servicemen, because they picked it up and began placing the graffiti wherever they landed. claiming it was already there when they arrived. Kilroy became the U.S. super-GI who had always "already been" wherever GIs went. It became a challenge to place the logo in the most unlikely places imaginable. Before the war's end, "Kilroy" had been here, there and everywhere and for the world to note that no matter where they might be, someone named Kilroy had "been there first." And as the war went on, the legend grew. In 1945, an outhouse was built

for the exclusive use of Roosevelt, Stalin, and Churchill at the Potsdam conference. The first person inside was Stalin, who emerged and asked his aide (in Russian), "Who is Kilroy?" And so

the legend continued.

Darrell Ryan is director of federal programs for the **Big Spring Independent** School District.

1701 Lancaster



Transit Association, DARRELL

through Ryan its radio program, "Speak to

America," sponsored a nationwide contest to find the real Kilrov. Almost 40 men stepped forward to make that claim, but only James Kilroy from Halifax, Mass., had evidence of his

identity.

Kilroy was a 46-year old shipyard worker during the war. He worked as a rivet checker at the Fore River Shipyard in Quincy. His job was to go around and check on the number of rivets completed by the workers. Riveters were on piecework and got paid by the rivet.

Kilroy would count a block of rivets and put a check mark in semiwaxed lumber chalk, so the rivets wouldn't be counted twice. When Kilroy went off duty, the riveters would erase the mark. Later on, an off-shift inspector would come through and count the rivets a second time,

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resulting in double pay for the riveters.

One day Kilroy's boss called him into his office very upset about all the wages being paid to riveters, and asked him to investigate. It was then that he realized what had been going on. The tight spaces he had to crawl in to check the rivets didn't lend themselves to lugging around a paint can and brush, so Kilroy decided to stick with the waxy chalk. He continued to put his checkmark on

each job he inspected, but added KILROY WAS HERE in king-sized letters next to the check, and eventually added the sketch of the chap with the long nose peering over the wall and that became part of the Kilroy message.

Once he did that, the riveters, amused at the picture, stopped trying to wipe away his marks. Ordinarily the rivets and chalk marks would have been covered up with paint; however, the

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.

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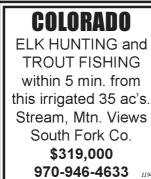
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glow

Affections are shared liberally because it's fun to share!

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You like the wild card, the unpredictable character, the surprise that keeps surprising. Luckily, even those stable types you usually count on will teeter into a delightfully irrational realm. You're sure to be

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BEAUTIFUL 4 bedroom, 2 bath, 2,375 sq. ft. home on 5 acres! Coahoma Schools, 2 fenced pastures, barn w/ 2 corstorage building. rals,

Tomorrow's Horoscope

entertained.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Keeping up appearances is not about your physicality. No one is paying attention to your clothes, your weight or your suntan. What will be noticed most is your willingness to connect with and help others.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). When your mind is burdened by too much responsibility, there is less mental space left for your imagination to soar. You are now extremely creative with the perfect balance of structure and freedom.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You're being taken to beautiful places where there is great attention to detail and where you are enveloped in someone else's grand vision. Sit back and enjoy the unfolding spectacle.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Just when you were starting to settle in, you look to the horizon and see something new coming your way. Maybe you'll feel immediately resistant to this change, but you still have a little time to warm up to the idea.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). There will be gossip, not all of it factual, but there is some truth to it. It's your choice whether to get informed and understand the various exchanges between people, or to be blissfully oblivious.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Uninvited visitors show up. Honor them with your attention. It's safe to assume there is more to their arrival than happenstance. Everyone is brought together for a reason.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Fleeting attractions can be fun. but vou're more interested in ties

Annie's Mailbox

Dear Annie: I'm a highschool student. Recently, my uncle "Joe" and I have been hanging out a lot. He gives me rides to school and picks me up from after-school activities. He also takes me to summer programs. He's a lifesaver because my mother hates to drive me and I'm in a lot of activities. Anyway, about two months ago, during one of our drives home, Uncle Joe confided that he was seeing another woman. This made me really uncomfortable because my aunt, his wife, is about to give birth to their second child. I tried not to make a big deal out of it and figured he wouldn't say anything else, but I was wrong. Now he tells me about his dates and that, for a while, he was seeing more than one woman. I don't know how to tell Uncle Joe that I don't want to hear about his relationships. I already feel guilty knowing he lies to my aunt, telling her he's playing poker with the guys when he's out with some girlfriend. What should I do? -- Too Much Information Dear TMI: It is highly inappropriate for Uncle Joe to confide in you. Tell him this information puts you in a difficult position and makes you uncomfortable. He should be aware that you may not be able to keep his secrets because you sympathize with your aunt. He needs to understand that you don't find the bragging about his exploits to be admirable. You might also suggest he work on the problems in his marriage with a professional. You may lose your rides, but you'll gain some selfrespect.

that are lasting. So don't rush in, even with those you've known forever. Take your time and make plans in the far-off distance.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You wouldn't believe the things that some people get sensitive about. And yet you're asked to believe it and compassionately indulge the behavior you do not understand.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Friends (especially the air signs --Gemini, Libra or Aquarius) are a bit needy and crave the security they feel around you. Ever faithful, you'll hang in there, the first to arrive and the last to go.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You're content, and then good fortune befalls you. And because you're so overjoyed with what you're given, even more good fortune comes your way. Now this is cycle you could get used to!

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You sublimate your own needs in favor of upholding someone else's. Giving just feels good. Then in a strange way vour need disappears -maybe it was never as important as you thought. **ASTROLOGICAL QUES-**TIONS: "I am an Aquarius born Feb. 13, 1982 at 8:01 a.m. and for the past two years, going into the third life has been unbearable. Career, finances, relationships (personal and intimate) progress and stability have been a rollercoaster ride with more downslopes than up. I've read other places that this year will be my cleanup year to prepare for the best year of my life (2009). When is it going to change to benefit us Aquarians?"

has a strange strategy, sure, but there are two sides to this coin. There is no hardship faced that can't be turned into a strength. Circumstances have asked you to surrender to what is, a Neptune tactic, not surrender to personal misery. Your Neptune cleanup duty is to take responsibility for the only things you can -your attitudes and responses. The Leo/Aquarius eclipses happening over the next two years hasten personal rebuilding for both signs by asking, who is this new you? The next full moon eclipse in Aquarius on Aug. 16 will give all Aquarians the opportunity to propel their destiny

Neptune in Aquarius

here you come! **CELEBRITY PROFILES:** "Dancing With the Stars" winner Kristi Yamaguchi said the hardest thing about sticking with it was being away from her children. With Venus in maternal Cancer, she's emotionally fulfilled by being a mother, yet with the asteroid Ceres, the great mother, also in Cancer, being away from her children probably brings up separation anxiety that makes it even more difficult to spend long hours away.

forward. Get ready 'cause

Holiday Mathis is the author of "Rock Your Stars." If you would like to write to her, please go to www.creators.com and click on "Write the Author" on the Holiday Mathis page, or you may send her a postcard in the mail. To find out more about Holiday Mathis and read her past columns, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com. © 2008 CREATORS SYN-

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you visit? She may be selfcentered and a bad hostess, but you are taking a verv harsh stance. Instead, why not see them less often? Or have your grandson visit without them. Surely if you value the relationship at all, vou can find a compromise. The choice is ultimately yours, but please don't do anything you will come to regret.

rage, Finance \$865.00 \$5,500,000.00. 903-326-4851,

fenced yard or farm. Male Heeler/Shepard Mix 4 yrs old. Very energetic, loves to play & run, rides in cars, good watch dog. He just plays to rough for children. small Call 432-935-2460.

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1804 SETTLES- 2 Bdrm, 1 bath, fenced backyard. Needs a little TLC. \$16,000.00. No Financing. Owner Call (409)553-1373, (409)553-0011.

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2004 FORD Explorer, 4WD, 87K, clean. Excellent condition. \$9.700. O.B.O Call (432)935-6461.

12208

Dear Annie: My wife and I have two grown

KATHY MITCHELL MARCY SUGAR

children who live several hours away. Our problem is with our 31-year-old married daughter.

We live in Florida, and when the kids visit, we go out of our way to stock the refrigerator, serve the foods they like and take them to see the local attractions. However, when we visit our daughter's house, she never reciprocates. During our last visit, even though we did plenty of baby-sitting, our daughter had no food in the house for us to eat.

She recently said they can't join us for dinner at a restaurant because they are saving their money. I reminded her that I am retired and on a fixed income. Both she and her husband work and spend a lot of money on magazine subscriptions, TV and other frivolous things.

This relationship seems very one-sided to me. We love our grandson so much it would hurt us to terminate the relationship, but our self-centered daughter and her husband are making it difficult to want to see them. Are we expecting too much? -- Sad Grandpa

Dear Grandpa: You're willing to give up a relationship with your daughter and grandson because they don't feed you when

Dear Annie: Here's a suggestion for "No State Sue," whose husband wanted her to wear a trashy outfit when they went out of town on vacation.

She should purchase similarly ridiculous gear for him -- maybe extremely tight, low-riding pants and a very close-fitting sheer shirt unbuttoned halfway, with a big gold chain around his neck. If he is willing to wear his new outfit, she should be willing to wear hers. They may actually discover a new hobby they can participate in together. --Kansas

Dear Kansas: We are so enjoying the thought that some of those trashy-looking folks we encounter on the street may, in fact, be disguised couples on a romantic vacation. Vive l'amour!

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to anniesmailbox@comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, P.O. Box 118190, Chicago, IL 60611. To find out more about Annie's Mailbox, and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

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6A LOCAL/WIRE BIG Spring Herald + Troop Salute: A call to duty in three generations +

on Royalty, the grandpa in the following story. must have a guardian angel who has never slept. He, along with myself and three other high school kids. was dragging main in a Ford Coupe as New Year 1951 came in. Don and one

other – I can't recall who – were squeezed into the back behind the seat. I was in the middle of the seat between Jerry Patterson and Kenneth

Bryant.

The friendly Big Spring police were patient until 1 a.m., then starting stopping all of the kids still driving around feeling their hormones, and told us it was time to go home. I guess some did. We weren't ready for that, so we started for Coahoma, thinking that Sheriff Kaiser was probably asleep and we would be fine.

LANE

BOND

Jerry told us his dim headlights were out and only the brights worked. We were indestructible, so we didn't mind. Halfway out there was a culvert waiting for us, just before a curve to the left. That was where we met the other car, whose driver shined his bright lights in our eyes to tell us to dim ours. Jerry naturally dimmed his lights as a knee-jerk reaction before he could think, and our lights disappeared. The other car passed us, so suddenly there was no light at all.

I said, "Jerry, look out for the curve." He said. "Which way?" We went from 65 mph to zero in a split second. Maybe it took five angels, but nobody died. I still wear a gold cap on a front tooth. Kenneth died recently at a ripe old age from other causes, but his face was seriously lacerated as he hit the windshield, and he wore the scar all his life. The other three — includ-

ing Don — were unhurt. In more than 20 years in the 82nd Airborne he had plenty of other chances to be killed, but he is still happily enjoying his family in his retirement. I was in the youth group that he mentions in the story below, so we literally grew up together. I lost him until about 1999, when he found me on the internet and he got connected with Big Spring again. He reads the Big Spring Herald online every day of his life, he says.

He wrote his own story. I am pleased to present his story to you.

It was on the eve of Jan. 16, 2003, when it occurred to me that PFC Chris Royalty, a member of the 82nd Airborne Division, was on an outbound aircraft somewhere in the night en route to combat operations in Afghanistan. As I peered into the star-filled night, I suddenly realized that my grandson had answered the call to duty and the baton had been passed from my generation to his father's generation, and now to him. Out there somewhere was a young paratrooper who bore his grandfather's last name and had accepted his fate to standup, hook up, shuffle and exit from a military aircraft bearing our nation's colors. Honestly, it was then that the hair on the back of my neck stood up as I felt a deep sense of pride knowing that the baton had been passed successfully to another generation.

This story is an odyssey with its roots in the small west Texas town of Big Spring. It is the story of three generations of U.S. Army paratroopers, all from the same family. A father, two sons and two grandsons. The family represents more than 82 years of accumulated service to the U.S. Army and our nation with nine of those years in a hostile combat environment. This story starts with the grandfather. Don Rovalty. who had the opportunity to grow up in Big Spring. Don credits his patriotism



and his love for God and country to his parents, the people of Big Spring, great teachers in school - MissMann, Mrs. Lawrence, Mrs. Bloomshield and bandmaster Mr. J.W. King — the folks at East Fourth Street Baptist Church and the Boy Scouts at First Baptist Church under the leadership of his scoutmaster, Mr. Sadler, with their many trips to the Davis Mountains and the Buffalo Trail Scout Ranch.

Don joined the U.S. Army in 1951, immediately volunteering for the paratroopers. Remaining in the Army in excess of 20 years, assignments took him around the world, serving in many units and capacities. Service included prestigious assignments with the 82nd Airborne Division, 24th Infantry Division, 1st Infantry Division and the 1st Armored Division. This service to our country included the Korean War and two tours during the Vietnam War. This also included four years operating in the jungles of Central America representing the U.S. Army in more than 20 other foreign countries. Among his many awards and decorations are two Bronze stars and the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry.

Don's youngest son, Ken, graduated from Officers

Georgia, Louisiana, Korea, Philippines, Vietnam and Afghanistan. A graduate of Northwestern State University of Louisiana, Ken's record of accomplishments include the completion of Airborne, Pathfinder and Ranger courses while earning the Combat Infantryman's Badge and a Bronze Star while serving on the ground in Afghanistan. Ken is currently the battalion commander for 1st Battalion, 34th Infantry Regiment, Fort Jackson, S.C., at the rank of lieutenant colonel. Ken is the father of both Chris and Ben Royalty.

Don's oldest son, Ray, graduated from West Point in 1983, accepting a Regular Army commission as a second lieutenant of infantry. While on active duty, Ray successfully completed schools for Airborne, Air Assault, Pathfinder and Ranger. Active duty service included time with the 5th Infantry Division, 3rd Ranger Battalion and the 10th Mountain Division. Ray returned from Iraq in January 2008, having served in and around east Baghdad as the senior advisor to an Iraqi major general earning the Combat Infantryman's Badge and Bronze Star for actions on the ground at the rank of colonel. Upon Ray's return, he was given command of the 1st Brigade, 98th Division, Fort Benning, Ga., as a member of the Army Reserve. Ray now has more than 25 years of combined active and reserve military service.

The oldest grandson, Chris, joined the 82nd Airborne Division having completed his Infantry and basic Airborne training at Fort Benning in 2002. Upon arrival to Fort Bragg, Chris' unit was immediately called into action in Afghanistan, followed by additional combat time in Iraq.

As a young paratrooper, Chris earned the Combat Infantryman's Badge in the early stages of U.S. involvement in both areas of operations. Chris has recently returned to the University of South Carolina to complete his bachelor's degree in computer science while participating in the ROTC program in order to earn his commission as a second lieutenant in the Army.

to join the ranks, Ben joined the 82nd Airborne Division having completed his Infantry and basic Airborne training at Fort Benning in 2005. Recently promoted to the rank of sergeant, Ben has represented our nation on the ground as a young paratrooper in both Iraq and Afghanistan, earning the Combat Infantryman's Badge early in his career. Ben recently returned from Afghanistan in April 2008 and is being assigned to the Ranger Training Brigade, Mountain Phase, Dahlonega, Ga., in the very near future.

In closing, it has truly been a blessing and an honor for my family to have the opportunity to serve our wonderful nation as members of the U.S. Army and the Airborne community. Likewise, this service represents many sacrifices by other family members as well — our wives and daughters — who have faithfully and patiently stood with us over the years. As time continues to pass quickly for most of us, one cannot forget that the journey started many years ago in a small but patriotic town in West Texas, a place of honor and deep-rooted family values.

Do you have a story about your own family members in the military? For submissions or more information, e-mail Lane Bond (lane@bondwebs.com), call him (432-263-4033), or visit his Web site (www. bondwebs.com) to learn more about Big Spring. *Please leave your phone* number or include it in vour e-mail or letter.

The youngest grandson



Candidate School at Fort Benning in 1986, having reached the rank of staff sergeant prior to attending. Ken served on active duty with assignments as an infantry officer around the world in Berlin, Alaska, Hawaii, California,

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Obama says Afghanistan 'a war that we have to win'

WASHINGTON (AP) -Contending that the U.S. is not pursuing a sound strategy for keeping Americans safe, Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama said Tuesday that fighting al-Qaida and the Taliban in Afghanistan would be his top priority after ending the war in Iraq.

"This is a war that we have to win," Obama said in remarks prepared for delivery at the International Trade Center in Washington.

In a major speech on Iran and national security, Obama said he would also secure nuclear weapons and materials from terrorists and rogue nations, achieve "true energy security," and rebuild the nation's international alliances.

The speech sets the stage for Obama's upcoming visit to Iraq and offers a high-profile explanation of his opposition to the war and his pledge to complete a U.S. troop pullout within 16 months of becoming president.

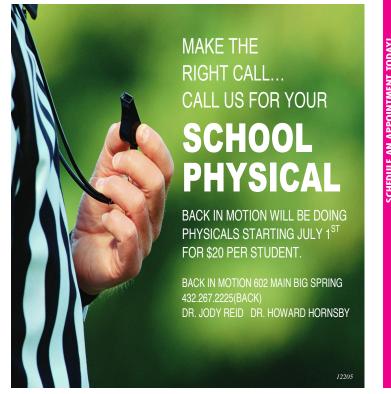
It also gives him a forum for criticizing President Bush and his rival for the John McCain.

"By any measure, our single-minded and openended focus on Iraq is not a sound strategy for keeping America safe," Obama said. "In fact — as should have been apparent to President Bush and Sen. McCain — the central front in the war on terror is not Iraq, and it never was."

Obama said the Bush strategy that McCain sup-

presidency, Republican ports has placed the burden for U.S. foreign policy on American military. National security policy should go well beyond Baghdad, he said, and involve allies around the world.

He focused on Afghanistan and Pakistan, saying that if the U.S. were attacked again, it likely would be from the same region where the Sept. 11 attacks were planned.



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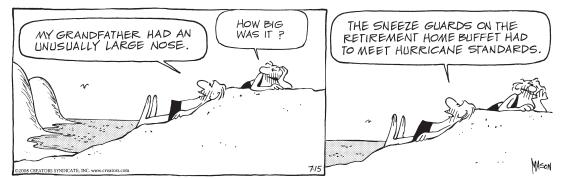
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10	:PM	News	News	Impacto	TMZ	News	Noticias	News	My Boys	Israel	Charlie Rose		Delta Force,	CSI: NY	Saving	Hell Date	Suite Life	Таре	SportsCenter
10	:30	Nightline	Nightline	Noticiero	Raymond	Late Show	Titulares	Tonight Show	Sex &	Miller		Catch	Hanna Schygulla		Grace	The Boot	Montana	Tape	
44	:PM	Insider	Jimmy Kim-	La Hora de	Two Men		Decisiones		Sex &	Ministerio-	Smiley	Deadliest	Ochyguna	CSI: Crime	Without a	Diff Wrld	So Raven	NASCAR	
		Jimmy Kim-	mel Live	la Risa	Raymond	Late Late		Late Night	Movie: Aus-	Vida	Smiley	Catch		Scene	Trace	Diff Wrld	Phil	Series of	
10	:AM	mel Live	Extra	Niña Amada	Law Order:	Show			tin Powers in	Israel	(Off Air)	Deadliest		Star Trek:	Without a	Movie: Trip-	Replace	Poker	Baseball
12	:30	News	Paid	Mia	CI	Insider		News	Goldmember	Church]	Catch	Movie:	Voyager	Trace		Kim	X Games	Tonight
-	:AM	Paid	Paid	Clasicos	RENO 911	Entertain		Poker After		Light of the]	After the	M*A*S*H,	Deep Space	Without a	Campbell	Emperor		SportsCenter
	:30	Paid	Paid	Humor	Lopez	Paid	Pelicula: Las	Dark	Movie: Dead	Southwest		Catch	Sally Keller-	9	Trace		Dragon	Classix	

DENNIS THE MENACE



"I'D SAY YOU'RE STILL A GROWIN' BOY, MR. WILSON.

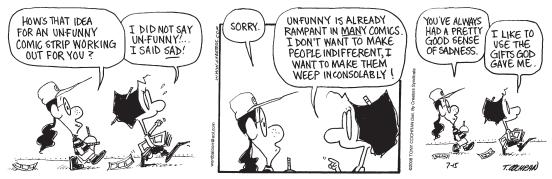
BC



WIZARD OF ID



AGNES



THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"Grandma said wrinkled is not one of the things she wanted to be when she grew up.'

HAGAR



BLONDIE

In History

Today is Tuesday, July 15, the

197th day of 2008. There are 169

Today's Highlight in History:

Nixon startled the country by

announcing he would visit the

In 1606, Dutch painter

In 1870, Georgia became the last

In 1870, Manitoba entered con-

In 1918, the Second Battle of the

In 1948, President Truman was

nominated for another term of

office by the Democratic National

In 1958, President Eisenhower

ordered U.S. Marines to Lebanon,

Convention in Philadelphia.1

Marne, resulting in an Allied vic-

tory, began during World War I.

federation as the 5th Canadian

Confederate state readmitted to

Rembrandt was born in Leiden,

People's Republic of China.

On July 15, 1971, President

days left in the year.

On this date:

Netherlands.

the Union.

province.



Muslim rebels. This Date

In 1964, Sen. Barry M. Goldwater of Arizona was nominated for president by the Republican National Convention in San Francisco.

In 1976, a 36-hour kidnap ordeal began for 26 schoolchildren and their bus driver as they were abducted near Chowchilla, Calif., by three gunmen and imprisoned in an underground cell. (The captives escaped unharmed.)

In 1978, President Carter, in West Germany for an economic summit, presided over a "town meeting" during which he fielded questions from about 1,000 Berliners.

In 1997, fashion designer Gianni Versace was shot dead outside his Miami home; suspected gunman Andrew Phillip Cunanan was found dead eight days later.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Philip Carev is 83. Author Clive Cussler is 77. Actor Alex Karras is 73. Actor Ken Kercheval is 73. Sen. George V. Voinovich, R-Ohio, is 72. Actor Patrick Wayne is 69. Actor Jan-Michael Vincent is 64. Rhythmand-blues singer Millie Jackson is 64. Rock singer-musician Peter Lewis (Mohy Grape) is 63 Singer Linda Ronstadt is 62. Rock musician Artimus Pyle is 60. Actor Terry O'Quinn is 56. Rock musi-

cian Marky Ramone is 52. Rock musician Joe Satriani is 52. Country singer-songwriter Mac McAnally is 51. Model Kim Alexis is 48. Actor Willie Aames is 48. Actor-director Forest Whitaker is 47. Actress Lolita Davidovich is 47. Actress Brigitte Nielsen is 45. Rock musician Jason Bonham is 42. Actor Kristoff St. John is 42. Rock musician Phillip Fisher is 41. Rhythm-and-blues singer Stokey (Mint Condition) is 41. Actorcomedian Eddie Griffin is 40. Actor Stan Kirsch is 40. Actor Reggie Hayes is 39. Rock musician John Dolmayan is 36. Actor Scott Foley is 36. Actor Brian Austin Green is 35. Rapper Jim Jones is 32. Actress Lana Parrilla is 31. Rock musician Ray Toro (My Chemical Romance) is 31. Rhythm-and-blues singer Kia Thornton (Divine) is 27.

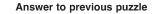
WELL, IT COULD COST YOU ANYWHERE FROM \$2,500 TO ...

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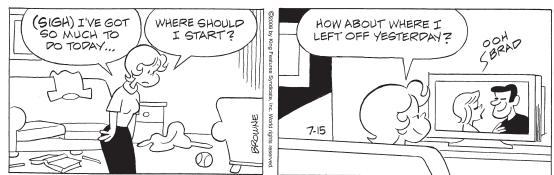
® 2008 The Associated Press.



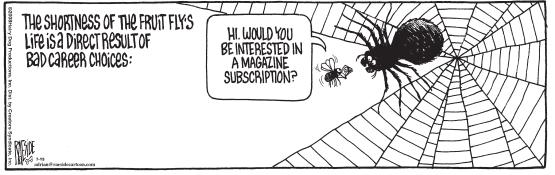


Edited by Stanley Newman

HI AND LOIS



THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH









at the request of that country's president, Camille Chamoun, in the face of a perceived threat by

Newsday Crossword

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VERBAL COOKING by Gail Grabowski

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