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BIG SPRING HERALD

TUESDAY
JULY 15, 2008



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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

Any special projects members of the Big Spring City Council would 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

"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."



Walker

and the pending construction of the Roy Anderson Sports Complex, won't leave any room in the budget

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 budget," 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

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

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



Bsrr

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.

See **COUNTY**, Page 3A

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.

"The show is hosted in Midland as part of a competitive tour in association

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."

The evening of entertainment features more

See **DRUMS**, Page 3A

Bush calls on Congress to pass housing, energy

By **TERENCE HUNT**
AP Correspondent
WASHINGTON — Presi-

dent Bush urged lawmakers 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

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 IndyMac, U.S. depositors should not worry because

their deposits are insured by the government up to \$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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D-I pummels D-II in Texas Bowl

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

with less than a minute remaining 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

owned the third quarter, cutting the deficit to 10 points.

Woodson's Robert Perez got Division II on the scoreboard with a 16-yard 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.

The Texas Bowl hasn't always been known by that name. When the event was a started 13 years ago, it was a game pitting the top

six-man football players from 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 had some really good crowds," Hoskins said. "We changed the

See **BOWL**, Page 2B

Hamilton's big night

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.

The 2006 AL MVP topped a tired Hamilton 5-3 in the last round, giving him the derby crown. But the night belonged to Hamilton, a

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 of redemption has made national news this season, and he retold a story

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.

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.

See **FAVRE**, Page 2B



AP Photo/Frank FranklinII

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

By **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 history. 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

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 donations 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.gotrosevolleyball-camps.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.

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.

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-great-grandchildren 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.

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 diagnosed with lymphoma in his right knee. He has no medical insurance and must start chemotherapy and radiation treatment as soon as possible. Kody is the son of Susan and Johnny Jackson. For more information, contact Cosden FCU at 264-2600.

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

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

Mobile Meals needs volunteers to deliver meals Monday through Friday between 9 a.m. and 10 a.m. The organization delivers approximately 70 meals each day and needs drivers to donate just one hour per week. Mobile Meals also needs back-up volunteers to fill in when regular drivers can't make it. For more information, contact Macaria Cantu at 263-4016.

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.
THEFT was reported: in the 700 block of Interstate Highway 20.
BURGLARY OF A VEHICLE was reported: in the 1600 block of 17th Street.
ASSAULT CLASS C/FAMILY VIOLENCE was reported: in the 800 block of Johnson.

Sheriff's report

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

- 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.
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.

Your Local Weather

Weather forecast table with columns for Wed 7/16, Thu 7/17, Fri 7/18, Sat 7/19, Sun 7/20. Includes temperature ranges and weather icons.

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.

Lottery

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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Bird Poop: A barn owl gets caught in cactus

In 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.



BEBE
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.

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.

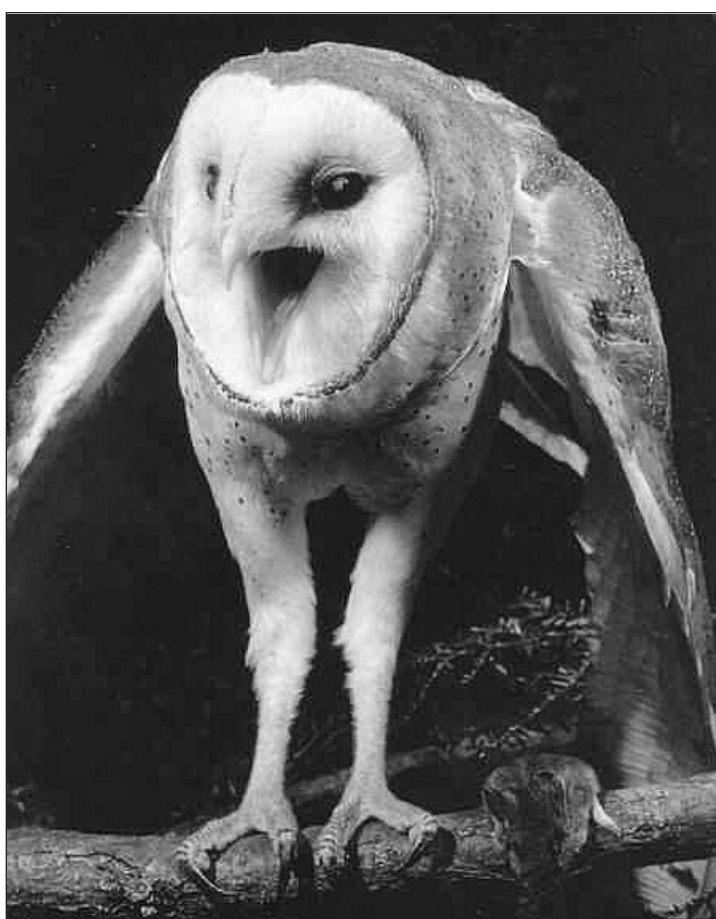
"Didn't find it 'till after the rain," said the woman who called about a bird. The previous evening, after the storm, she had gone out to check on her

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 prickly 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.

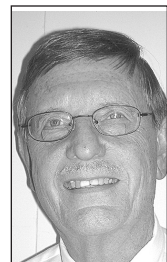
Later, the barn owl, accompanied by four other juveniles, would be returned to the area. During a still, moonlit night, they discovered the overwhelming lure of open country and good hunting.

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

The official story of 'Kilroy was here'

I 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 I did a little searching and found some answers.



DARRELL
RYAN

In 1946, the American Transit Association, through its radio program, "Speak to America," sponsored a nationwide contest to find the real Kilroy. 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 piecemeal and got paid by the rivet.

Kilroy would count a block of rivets and put a check mark in semi-waxed 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,



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

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.

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Troop Salute: A call to duty in three generations

Don 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.



LANE BOND

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.

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 Royalty, who had the opportunity to grow up in Big Spring. Don credits his patriotism



DON ROYALTY



KEN DON BEN CHRIS RAY

and his love for God and country to his parents, the people of Big Spring, great teachers in school — Miss Mann, 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 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,

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 ma-

jor 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.

The youngest grandson

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, Dahlonaga, 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 your e-mail or letter.

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

presidency, Republican John McCain.

"By any measure, our single-minded and open-ended 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-

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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5 :PM	News ABC	News ABC	Locura Noticiero	Simpsons King-Hill	News CBS	Noticias Noticiero	News NBC	Friends Raymond	Scrivner Uri Harel	News Business	Cash Cab Cash Cab	Kevin Bacon	CSI: Crime Scene	Law & Order	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Life De Life De	NASCAR Burning	SportsCenter
6 :PM	Entertain 30	Jeopardy! Fortune	Querida Enemiga	MLB All-Star	News CBS	12 Coronas	News NBC	Raymond Hagee	Dr. Young	News-Lehrer	Made		CSI: Crime Scene	Law & Order		Movie: Motocrossed	WNBA Liberty at Sun	
7 :PM	Wipeout 30	Survived-Game	Diablo-Guapos	MLB Baseball: All-Star Game.	Big Brother 10	NCIS	Victoria	America-Talent	Sex & Family	Israel Victory	Nova (DVS)	Movie: M*A*S*H, Sally Kellerman	CSI: Crime Scene	Law & Order	Movie: Tripin', Maia Campbell	Phineas Montana	WNBA Silver Stars at Mercury	Series of Poker
8 :PM	Survived-Game 30	Survived-Game	Fuego en la Sangre		Without a Trace	Sin Senos	Law & Order: SVU	Office	Office	Office	P.O.V.	Movie: The Delta Force, Hanna Schygulla	CSI: Crime Scene	Bones	Baldwin Hell Date	Suite Life Suite Life	Tape	SportsCenter
9 :PM	Primetime 30	Primetime	Aqui y Ahora		News TMZ	Noticias	News	My Boys	Israel Miller	Charlie Rose	Deadliest Catch	CSI: NY	Saving Grace	The Boot	So Raven	NASCAR		
10 :PM	Nightline 30	Nightline	Noticiero	Raymond	Late Show	Titulares	Tonight Show	Sex & Family	Ministerio-Vida	Smiley Smiley	Deadliest Catch	CSI: Crime Scene	Without a Trace	Diff Wld	Phil	Series of Poker		
11 :PM	Insider 30	Jimmy Kimmel Live	La Hora de la Risas	Two Men	Late Late Show	Decisiones	Late Night	Movie: Austin Powers in Goldmember	Israel Church	(Off Air)	Deadliest Catch	Star Trek: Voyager	Without a Trace	Movie: Tripin', Maia Campbell	Kim	X Games	Baseball Tonight	
12 :AM	News 30	Paid	Niña Amada Mia	Law Order: CI	Insider	Programa Pagado	News	Poker After Dark	Light of the Southwest		After the Catch	Deep Space 9	Without a Trace		Emperor Dragon	X-Games Classix	SportsCenter	
1 :AM	Paid 30	Paid	Humor	RENO 911 Lopez	Entertain	Pelicula: Las												

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7-15

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

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

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

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7-15

WE WANT TO PULL OUT ALL THE STOPS FOR OUR CLASS REUNION

THAT'S RIGHT, ALL THE STOPS!

HOW MUCH TO THROW A BASH WITH ABSOLUTELY NO STOPS?

NO STOPS AT ALL!

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

STOP! STOP!

WIZARD OF ID

7-15

I TOLD MY HUSBAND TO BE COMPLETELY HONEST WITH ME, AND HE TOLD ME HE WAS HAVING AN AFFAIR!

WHAT'S NEW?

BUT I JUST KNOW THAT CREEP IS OUT GOLFING AGAIN

AGNES

7-15

HOW'S THAT IDEA FOR AN UNFUNNY COMIC STRIP WORKING OUT FOR YOU?

I DID NOT SAY UN-FUNNY... I SAID SAD!

SORRY.

UNFUNNY IS ALREADY RAMPANT IN MANY COMICS. I DON'T WANT TO MAKE PEOPLE INDIFFERENT, I WANT TO MAKE THEM WEEP INCONSOLABLY!

YOU'VE ALWAYS HAD A PRETTY GOOD SENSE OF SADNESS.

I LIKE TO USE THE GIFTS GOD GAVE ME.

HI AND LOIS

7-15

(SIGH) I'VE GOT SO MUCH TO DO TODAY...

WHERE SHOULD I START?

HOW ABOUT WHERE I LEFT OFF YESTERDAY?

OOH BRAD

THE OTHER COAST

7-15

THE SHORTNESS OF THE FRUIT FLY'S LIFE IS A DIRECT RESULT OF BAD CAREER CHOICES:

HI, WOULD YOU BE INTERESTED IN A MAGAZINE SUBSCRIPTION?

SNUFFY SMITH

7-15

I'M GONNA FIX ME A LI'L SNACK TO HAVE WIF MY TEA, PAW-- YOU WANT ENNYTHIN' WHILE I'M UP?

GUESS I AM A TAD HONGRY...

I'LL TAKE A PORK CHOP, 'TATERS AN' GRAVY, CORN ON TH' COB, COLLARDS, A BUTTERED BISCUIT, AN' A BIG OL' SLICE OF PECAN PIE !!

BEEBLE BAILEY

7-15

MAKING MEAT-BALLS?

YEAH, EAT ONE AND TELL ME WHAT YOU THINK

DON'T EVER ASK ZERO TO THINK

This Date In History

Today is Tuesday, July 15, the 197th day of 2008. There are 169 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On July 15, 1971, President Nixon startled the country by announcing he would visit the People's Republic of China.

On this date:

In 1606, Dutch painter Rembrandt was born in Leiden, Netherlands.

In 1870, Georgia became the last Confederate state readmitted to the Union.

In 1870, Manitoba entered confederation as the 5th Canadian province.

In 1918, the Second Battle of the Marne, resulting in an Allied victory, began during World War I.

In 1948, President Truman was nominated for another term of office by the Democratic National Convention in Philadelphia.

In 1958, President Eisenhower ordered U.S. Marines to Lebanon, at the request of that country's president, Camille Chamoun, in the face of a perceived threat by Muslim rebels.

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 Carey 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. Rhythm-and-blues singer Millie Jackson is 64. Rock singer-musician Peter Lewis (Moby Grape) is 63. Singer Linda Ronstadt is 62. Rock musician Artimus Pyle is 60. Actor Terry O'Quinn is 56. Rock musician 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 Stokely (Mint Condition) is 41. Actor-comedian 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.

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Newsday Crossword

VERBAL COOKING by Gail Grabowski
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 Noun or verb

5 Used a vegetable peeler

10 Throat-clearing sound

14 "Now it's clear!"

15 Like a gymnast

16 Rooster, for example

17 Many a Balkan native

18 Chitchats

19 Low-key "Hey!"

20 Breakfast side dish

22 Giggling sound

23 Diving birds

24 Basil or oregano

25 African monkey

28 Army commander

31 Skilled

32 Highly intelligent

34 Dollar bill

35 Take to court

36 Auto-club suggestion

37 Clever one

38 North Pole aide

39 Kitchen appliance

40 Playground retort

42 Narrow waterways

44 Up and about

45 Fairy-tale starter

46 Of the sun

48 Digging tool

50 Seafood cookouts

54 Not difficult

55 Snapshot

DOWN

1 Genie's offering

2 Capital of Norway

3 Package of paper

4 Evolve

5 Store's customer

6 Once more

7 Makes angry

8 Fraternal organization

9 ___ Moines, IA

10 Unit of current

11 Breakfast side dish

12 "So what ___ is new?"

13 Apportion, with "out"

21 Yard fraction

22 Circus structure

24 Roll-call response

25 Military installations

26 Grownup

27 Traditional Sunday entrées

28 Fence opening

29 Licorice flavoring

30 Reveal

32 Babies in blue

33 Beer holder

36 Hotel posting

39 Chinese-food staple

40 Lobster relative

41 Skilled fighter pilots

43 But

44 Not quite

46 Replay feature, for short

47 Wild West movie

48 Char, as a steak

49 Window section

50 British fellow

51 Metric weight

52 List-ending abbr.

53 Drop in the mailbox

55 Qt. fractions

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