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# BIG SPRING HERALD

**TUESDAY**  
**JULY 29, 2008**



VOLUME 103, NUMBER 206

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HERALD photo/Steve Reagan

Workers prepare to begin painting logos on the side of the north side water tower adjacent to Blue Bell Ice Cream this morning. The tower will soon sport logos for both the city of Big Spring and Big Spring Independent School District, Assistant City Manager Todd Darden said.

## County tax hike looms

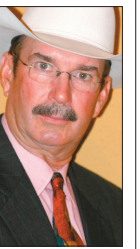
*Commissioners say Alon USA's legal appeals leave them no choice*

By **THOMAS JENKINS**  
Staff Writer

Prepare for the worst and hope for the best. That's the plan Howard County commissioners are endorsing, as the court agreed Monday to move forward with a tax rate approximately 5 cents above the rollback rate in hopes of generating enough funds to cover unpaid taxes from the Alon USA Big Spring Refinery, which is currently appealing its 2006 and 2007 levies in 118th District Court.

Commissioners agreed to a proposed tax rate of .5412 cents per \$100 valuation, eclipsing the effective rate of .4134 cents per \$100 valuation and exceeding this year's rollback rate of .4912 cents per \$100 valuation, but according to County Judge Mark Barr, whether

**"If we approve the tax rate based on the certified values – which includes the assessment of the Big Spring Refinery – and Alon decides to only pay on a portion of that, as they have the past two years, we're caught short."**



Barr

or not the proposed rate will be necessary to make up the shortfall caused by

See **COUNTY**, Page 3A



HERALD Photo/Thomas Jenkins

Howard County Commissioners discuss a hike in the tax rate to cover revenue currently held up in a legal battle between the county and Alon USA, the owner of the Big Spring Refinery, which is disputing its tax assessments for tax years 2006-2007, 2007-2008, and could possibly do the same in the coming year.

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## Sullivan: Threat of fire remains serious

By **THOMAS JENKINS**  
Staff Writer

With the Fourth of July holiday in the books and the number of reported wildfires down more than 50 percent compared to a few months ago, many area residents may be enjoying a sigh of relief heading into August.

According to Howard County Volunteer Fire Chief Tommy Sullivan, however, that



Sullivan

relief may be short lived. "We're responding to approximately one fire every two days right now," said Sullivan. "Not too long ago, we were responding to four and five fires a day, so things have definitely improved. However, the moisture from

the rains we saw during the first part of July are gone, and all that green stuff is starting to turn brown again. We're expecting some extreme heat in the coming months, and that will just add to the problem."

Sullivan urged Howard County Commissioners Monday to continue their support of the ongoing burn ban, which will be up for renewal in the near future.

"I know we've never had to keep a burn ban in effect this long in the past," said Sullivan. "However, it's vital right now, and it will become even more vital if we don't get some substantial rains in the very near future. We've dodged a lot of bullets recently, but no lives have been lost, so we're thankful for that."

See **FIRE**, Page 3A

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# Pacman lives

## Beleagured CB still called by infamous moniker on the field

By **STEPHEN HAWKINS**

AP Sports Writer

OXNARD, Calif. — On the field, he is still "Pacman" — and embracing the nickname he seemed to be wanting to shed not so long ago.

That is what his new Dallas Cowboys teammates and coaches call Adam Jones at training camp. When fans chant the still-suspended cornerback's name, they're yelling "Pacman! Pacman!" And that is what his autograph reads, including the signature he penned on the backside of an infant.

He even introduced himself as "Pac" when meeting some visitors on the field before practice Monday.

"I'm not really shedding the nickname," said Jones, who anticipates being fully reinstated to play this season for the Cowboys.

A month ago, though, Jones said he preferred to be called "Adam or Mr. Jones" instead of the nickname given him by his mother and how he's been known his entire life. His explanation then was that there was "a lot of negativity" with that moniker and it was time for a change.

That declaration came after NFL commissioner Roger Goodell cleared Jones to practice and he went through three weeks of workouts.

Asked what was different now in camp, Jones responded to reporters, "It's just for y'all that I'm shedding the nickname. All my teammates call me Pacman. ... Y'all are not my teammates, y'all are not in the locker room and going through the trenches with me."

But neither are the fans

See **PACMAN**, Page 2B



AP photo/Tony Gutierrez

Dallas Cowboys cornerback Adam Jones, right, defends against wide receiver Terrell Owens (81) during drills at the Dallas Cowboys training camp Monday in Oxnard, Calif. Jones still embraces the "Pacman" moniker on the field. He is at camp with the Cowboys, where he is doing drills with Terrell Owens and doesn't mind teammates calling him by his since-spurned nickname.

# Struggling M's hold off Texas

## Beltre's bombs propel Seattle to 7-5 victory over Rangers

By **DAVID JIMENEZ**

Associated Press Writer

ARLINGTON — Adrian Beltre put Seattle ahead with his bat, then kept them there by doing his part on a heads-up defensive play.

Beltre homered twice, including the go-ahead shot in the eighth inning, to lead the Mariners past the short-handed Texas Rangers 7-5 Monday night.

Beltre's 18th home run, a solo shot, put Seattle on top 6-5. The Rangers looked ready to answer, putting runners on second and third with one out and baseball's RBI leader Josh Hamilton at the plate.

Beltre saw Ramon Vazquez was a long way down the third-base line, and made eye contact with catcher Kenji Johjima. Hamilton took a pitch, and Johjima made a perfect throw to Beltre to catch Vazquez off third.

"It's a tough play," said Beltre, who blocked Vazquez' path back to third with his foot. "But in that moment we have the best RBI man in

baseball up there. Any ground ball or fly ball ties the game."

Arthur Rhodes struck out Hamilton to preserve Seattle's lead.

"It was the right time for the call," Johjima said. "In that situation it's worth the risk."

Rangers All-Star shortstop Michael Young could miss up to a week with a small fracture on his right ring finger, which he apparently suffered diving back to first base on a pickoff attempt in the first inning. He is expected to be out of the lineup five to seven days.

Texas was already without third baseman Hank Blalock, who was scratched before the game with an upset stomach.

"It's a small break," Young said. "I jammed it. I couldn't get my hand over the bag, and I slammed it in there."

Frank Francisco (2-3) allowed Beltre's homer in

See **RANGERS**, Page 2B



AP photo/LM Otero

Texas Rangers center fielder Josh Hamilton (32) watches as the solo home run by Seattle Mariners third baseman Adrian Beltre lands over the center field fence in the eighth inning of an AL baseball game in Arlington, Monday. Beltre blasted two homers in the Mariners 7-5 win over the Rangers.

# Texans fixing ground game

By **KRISTIE RIEKEN**

AP Sports Writer

HOUSTON — Various injuries have slowed Houston's running game the past three years. Now the Texans have more depth than ever before — that is, if their top two backs can stay healthy.

Ahman Green is the starter and Houston added Chris Brown in the offseason. Both have had success in the NFL, but have been hampered by injuries.

Green has missed 23 games the last three years and Brown has sat out 15 the last two.

Houston averaged 99 yards rushing a game last season, which ranked 22nd in the NFL. Ron Dayne filled in for Green last season and was the team's leading rusher with 773 yards, but he was not re-signed.

The Texans added Brown as insurance for Green, who signed a four-year, \$23 million contract before last season, but had only 70 carries for 260 yards in 2007.

But Brown sat out Monday's practice with cramps in his back after missing Friday's practice for personal reasons.

Coach Gary Kubiak hopes he'll return Tuesday.

"He is already a day behind and needs to get back out here," Kubiak said.

Brown is looking to put his struggles behind him and find success in Houston.

"Definitely a fresh start," he said. "No one has an opinion of me and they know I can go out and play. I can go out and start all over and go out there and have a good time."

He blames his injuries on bad luck and being in the wrong place at the wrong time.

"It's definitely frustrating when you're having a good season or you're trying to turn your season around and someone falls on you wrong and slows you down," he said. "It's very frustrating, but you just have to keep going and move on."

As for Green, he's looked good in practice after dealing with knee problems most of last season. Houston is hoping the 31-year-old Green regains his form from two seasons ago when he ran for 1,059 yards.

That's not to say they think he has to run for 1,000 yards for the team to be successful.

He certainly needs to be on the field more than he was in his Houston debut.

"I think to put that on one player, I don't know if that's the right thing to do," Kubiak said. "But is it a necessity that we run the ball extremely well to become a better football team? You bet that's a necessity, so I would imagine that means we need to have one. Somebody's probably got to be that guy and step up and do that. But regardless if we do it as a group or with one guy, it doesn't matter to me. I just know we've got to run the ball well."

See **HAMM**, Page 2B



AP file photo/Rob Carr

Olympic champion Paul Hamm shows off his hand during a news conference before the men's first day of competition for the U.S. Olympic gymnastics trials June 19 in Philadelphia. The reigning Olympic gold medalist announced Monday that he's had a setback in his recovery from a broken right hand and won't be healthy enough to compete in the Beijing Olympics.

# Hold the Hamm

## Reigning champion won't be in Beijing after all

By **NANCY ARMOUR**

AP National Writer

Paul Hamm probably could have gutted through the pain in his broken hand. A bad shoulder that prevented him from doing some of his routines? With less than a week of training before the Beijing Games?

That was too tall an order, even for the reigning Olympic champion.

Hamm withdrew from the Beijing Olympics on Monday, saying he won't be healthy enough to compete. He still is feeling pain in the right hand he broke two months ago, but the bigger concern could be the strained rotator cuff in his left shoulder that made training last week "a disaster."

"For my comeback to be suc-

cessful, I needed to make continuous progress and have no setbacks," an emotional Hamm said. "The time frame I was given was extremely short. ... This has been hardest decision I've ever had to make, but I have too much respect for the Olympics and my team to continue on when I know the best thing for everyone is for me to step aside."

The loss of Hamm is a huge blow for the Americans, who were fourth at last year's world championships and hoped his return — and that of twin brother Morgan — would get them back on the podium. Hamm is the only American to win the world (2003) or Olympic (2004) all-around titles.

## Obituaries

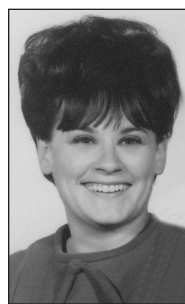
## Salvador Sanchez

Salvador Sanchez, 87, died July 27, 2008, at Cozad, Neb. Services are scheduled for 11 a.m. Tuesday, July 29, 2008, at the Berryman Funeral Home Chapel in Cozad.

Survivors include a son, Salvador Sanchez Jr., and a daughter, Chela Trevino, both of Big Spring.

Condolences may be shared at berrymanfuneralhome.com.

## Sue Mize



Sue Mize, 63, of Big Spring died Sunday, July 27, 2008, at Midland Memorial Hospital. Funeral services will be at 10 a.m. Thursday at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial at Trinity Memorial Park. The family will receive friends from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. Wednesday at Myers & Smith Chapel.

She was born Aug. 22, 1944, in Big Spring to Lucille and Carl Lockhart. She married Paul Mize March 13, 1966, in Luther. She was employed by the

Howard County Sheriff's Department. She was a lifetime resident of Big Spring and was a Baptist.

She is survived by her husband, Paul Mize of Big Spring; two sons, Jason Mize and his wife Ivory of Big Spring, and Jeremy Mize of Snyder; one daughter, Melissa Mize of Big Spring; two brothers, Jimmy Lockhart and his wife Wanda, and Ben Lockhart and his wife Sandy, all of Big Spring; nine grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

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

## Guadalupe 'Lupe' Valdez

Guadalupe "Lupe" Valdez, 68, of Big Spring died Monday, July 28, 2008, at his residence. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

## Delbert Harland

Delbert Harland, 77, of Georgetown, formerly of Big Spring died Monday, July 28, 2008, in a Georgetown hospice facility. Services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

## Jesus Lopez

Jesus Lopez, 100, of Big Spring, died Tuesday, July 29, 2008, in a local nursing home. His services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

## Take Note

• The West Texas Pachyderms will meet at noon Thursday at Big Spring Country Club. Guest speaker Tommy Scott will speak on 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment rights and gun ownership. Please attend and bring a guest. This is an important election year. RSVP by calling 263-7147.

• The Big Spring Independent School District Board of Trustees would like to invite the public to a reception honoring Steven Saldivar, assistant superintendent, from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Thursday in the Big Spring High School Library.

• A reception for Hangar 25 Air Museum Veteran of the Month James Ray Coleman will be held at 6 p.m. Thursday in the museum briefing room. For more information, call 264-1999.

• Big Spring High School Class of 1998 10-year reunion will be held Sept. 12-13 during the BSHS homecoming weekend. To get details and register, visit www.free-webs.com/bshs1998 or contact Traci Bellinghausen at (817) 308-9845 or Jacob Cordova at (432) 935-0533.

• 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. For more information, contact Macaria Cantu at 263-4016.

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## Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity between 7 a.m. Monday and 7 a.m. today:

- MICHAEL ROBERSON, 26, of 2402 Main, was arrested on charges of possession of marijuana and possession of a controlled substance.
- FRANK JACKSON, 49, of 202 E. 24<sup>th</sup> Street, was arrested on a charge of criminal trespassing.
- ASSAULT BY CONTACT was reported in the 1600 block of Martin Luther.
- ASSAULT BY CONTACT was reported in the 3900 block of Hamilton.
- ASSAULT BY CONTACT was reported in the 1000 block of Lamesa.
- ASSAULT CLASS C - FAMILY VIOLENCE was reported in the 3200 block of Cornell.
- ASSAULT CLASS C - FAMILY VIOLENCE was reported in the 1400 block of Sixth Street.
- CRIMINAL MISCHIEF was reported in the 800 block of Interstate 20.
- CRIMINAL TRESPASS was reported in the 1900 block of Scurry.
- POSSESSION OF A CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE - OVER 4 GRAMS UNDER 200 GRAMS was reported in the 100 block of Third Street.
- POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA - TWO OUNCES OR LESS was reported in the 100 block of Third Street.

## Sheriff's report

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

Note - Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 56 inmates at the time of this report.

- RAMON LOPEZ JR., 40, was arrested by the DPS Monday on a charge of driving while license invalid with a previous conviction or suspension.
- MILES FRANKLIN SHERWOOD, 51, was transferred by the BSPD to the County Jail Monday on two holds for Nueces County on charges of larceny and failure to appear.
- AMBER LEONOR DAVIS, 24, was transferred by the BSPD to the County Jail Monday on charges of credit card or debit card abuse and theft.
- JOSE L. ANNALLA, 47, was arrested by the DPS on a Dawson County warrant.

## Fire/EMS

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

- MEDICAL was reported in the 1300 block of Utah. Service refused.
- TRAUMA was reported in the 3200 block of Parkway. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported at Interstate 20 and Highway 87. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported at the 400 block of S. Aylesford. One person was transported to SMMC.

## Support Groups

## TUESDAY

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

• 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.

## SATURDAY

• Alcoholics Anonymous open discussion meeting, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m. Open podium/speakers meeting 615 Settles 8 p.m. until 9 p.m. Open birthday night, no smoking meeting the last Saturday of each month at 8 p.m.

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Partly cloudy with isolated thunderstorms possible. High around 95F.	Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 90s and lows in the low 70s.	A few clouds. Highs in the low 90s and lows in the low 70s.	More sun than clouds. Highs in the mid 90s and lows in the low 70s.	Abundant sunshine. Highs in the mid 90s and lows in the low 70s.

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## Bulletin Board

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

## WEDNESDAY

- Optimist Club meets at 7 a.m. in the Howard College Cactus Room.
- 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 in the Howard College Cactus Room.
- Duplicate Bridge Club meets at 1 p.m. in the Big Spring Country Club.

## 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.
- 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.

## FRIDAY

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

## SATURDAY

- Big Spring Cruisers cruise Gregg Street and at the Sonic Drive-In beginning at 6:30 p.m.
- Eagles Lodge Dance at 8:30 p.m. at 703 W. Third.
- Big Spring Squares. Call 263-6305 for more information.

## MONDAY

- Keep Big Spring Beautiful meets at noon in the Cactus Room at Howard College.
- District Committee Lone Star of Big Spring meets at noon at 610 Scurry.
- Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) No. 21 begins at 5 p.m. with weight-in at the First Christian Church at 10th and Goliad for weigh-in. The meeting begins at 5:30 p.m. Call 213-1342 or 263-6819.
- Evening Lions Club meets at 6:45 p.m. at Dragon China Buffet.
- Howard County ARC meets at 806 E. Third in the Bingo Hall. Call 264-0674 for more information.
- The Big Spring Cruisers club meeting at 7 p.m. in the Texas RV Park meeting room.
- Prospector's Club work night begins at 7 p.m. at 606 E. Third.
- Big Spring Chapter No. 178 meets at 7:30 p.m. at 221 Main.

## Lottery

Cash Five results from Monday: 7-16-27-29-37.

Pick 3 Monday Night: 8-3-1. Sum It Up: 12.

Daily 4 Monday Night: 5-6-6-7. Sum It Up: 24.

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POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, TX 79721. Periodicals postage paid at Big Spring, Texas.  
USPS 1431-48 USPS 0055-940 ISSN 0746-6811  
BY THE MONTH HOME DELIVERY: \$8.65 monthly; \$93.42 yearly (includes 10% discount). MAIL SUBSCRIPTIONS: \$12.50 monthly Howard & Martin Counties; \$13.25 elsewhere.

## RANGERS

Continued from Page 1B

the eighth.

Sean Green (3-3) earned the win in relief of Felix Hernandez by picking up the final out in the seventh. Brandon Morrow pitched the ninth for his 10th save in 12 chances.

Hernandez allowed six hits and four runs over six innings.

He struck out six and walked four.

Raul Ibanez and rookie Bryan LaHair hit solo homers for the Mariners, who have won two in a row after snapping a seven-game losing streak. Ichiro Suzuki added a sacrifice fly in the ninth.

"The guys battled," Mariners manager Jim Riggleman said. "There were big hits and we pitched out of trouble. There was a lot of good stuff out

there."

The Rangers tied the game at 5 in the seventh on David Murphy's RBI single.

Texas starter Scott Feldman allowed five runs and eight hits in six innings. He struck out four and walked one.

Beltre, who is one of a handful of Seattle players who may be traded before the deadline Thursday, got the Mariners going with a three-run homer off Feldman. Beltre has two multi-

homer games this season and 18 in his career.

Young hit an RBI single, and Murphy added a run-scoring groundout to cut Seattle's lead to 3-2 in the first.

While running the bases, Young was shaking his hand, then he fielded a grounder in the top half of the second before leaving the game.

LaHair's first big league homer gave Seattle a 4-2 lead in the second.

## PACMAN

Continued from Page 1B

clamoring for his autograph on No. 21 jerseys, or the man who held up an infant and had Jones sign the back of the child's outfit.

Regardless of what Jones is called — "I call him dummy if I want," Tank Johnson said, laughing when asked which name was proper — off-field issues are what got Jones in trouble and suspended from the NFL last season while he was still with Tennessee. That is what had to change.

Jones was suspended in April 2007 following an accumulation of arrests and legal problems. He has been arrested six times and

involved in a dozen incidents requiring police intervention since the Titans drafted him in the first round in 2005.

Goodell hasn't said yet if Jones will be allowed to play in the regular season. That decision might not come until the week of the Cowboys' opener on Sept. 7. NFL spokesman Greg Aiello would only say Monday that a decision on Jones would come "some time before the regular season."

Jones said he is focused on training camp and getting ready to play this season. Not the pending decision by the commissioner.

"I'm not even worrying about that, it will come," Jones said. "All I've got to do is do my part, and I'm doing it."

There is enough else to keep

Jones occupied: learning the Cowboys' defense and coverages while getting back into playing shape after more than a year off the field.

He hasn't played in an NFL game since 2006, and finally donned pads again when training camp got into full swing over the weekend.

"I've got a lot of fine-tuning to do with my hands and feet. ... But it's coming back," he said. "By the first regular-season game, I want to be ready to rock and roll and I think I'm preparing myself to be ready."

Jones, who is also returning kicks, is trying to match up against Pro Bowl receiver Terrell Owens as much as possible during passing drills.

When the two were lined up against each other in a drill

Sunday, Jones started pumping his arms in the air to spur on the crowd. Then T.O. blew past him with a double move and caught a long touchdown pass from Tony Romo.

On Monday, Jones jammed Owens at the line, but T.O. got past him again.

On another play, Jones got tangled up and tripped another receiver downfield when the ball was in the air.

"I look forward to it every day. I relish those moments," Owens said of the one-on-one matchups with Jones. "I think everyone knows that Adam wants to be the best defensive back."

Cowboys coach Wade Phillips described the 5-foot-10 Jones as "pretty quiet, a little more introverted" and more physical than he imagined. And somebody

The Rangers got within 4-3 in the third on Milton Bradley's RBI grounder. They tied the game at 4 on Ian Kinsler's RBI double in the fourth.

But Rangers manager Ron Washington was lamenting Texas' missed opportunity with Hamilton up in the eighth.

"That will haunt me all night," Washington said. "We had the best RBI man in the game up at the plate."

excited to be on the field again.

"I can see he's enjoying it, being around the players, being a part of the football team," Phillips said. "He likes to compete."

Phillips has said the team is preparing as if Jones will be on the field for the opener in Cleveland.

For Jones, each day on the field is a step closer to playing in a game again. That's his only focus, not the past off-field issues.

"Everything else is behind me. I thank God for putting me in this situation where I can be with the Dallas Cowboys," Jones said. "The mistakes are behind me and I'm looking forward to the future. ... Not saying I wanted it, but I had good vacation and I'm here to play football."

## HAMM

Continued from Page 1B

Raj Bhavsar, who also was an alternate in 2004, will take Hamm's spot.

USA Gymnastics also is still waiting for final clearance on Morgan Hamm, who received a warning July 3 from the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency for getting a prescribed anti-inflammatory shot without having filed the proper paperwork.

"Paul at his best is irreplaceable," Bhavsar said. "(But) I believe in my heart the team goal is the same, and it's definitely within our potential. ... We're not ever going to give up on that dream."

Hamm's withdrawal also clears the way for China's Yang Wei in the all-around. Yang, the two-time defending world champion, is so technically superior that Hamm was considered the only one who could challenge him.

"I was giving myself the chance to see how this past week went, to see if I could turn the corner at any point. That just never happened," Hamm said. "When you go into the Olympic Games, you're supposed to be in the best shape of your life. Not the worst shape."

Hamm broke the fourth metacarpal — the bone extending from his right ring finger to his wrist — May 22 at the national

championships, just 11 weeks before the start of the games. It's a devastating injury for a gymnast, because every one of the six events the men do puts a heavy load of stress on the hand. Many moves require the hand to be twisted sharply or support a gymnast's entire body weight.

Hand specialist Dr. Lawrence Lubbers stabilized the fracture May 27, inserting a titanium plate and nine tiny screws. Though Hamm was allowed to do strength and conditioning work, he wasn't cleared to resume full gymnastics activity until July 3.

Hamm's recovery appeared to be on track when he proved he was physically able to compete at a July 19 intrasquad meet. He did portions of all six events that day, estimating he was about 90 percent, but said he still had pain in the right hand.

He said his shoulder began hurting the day after that intrasquad meet. When he returned home to Columbus, Ohio, it was clear just what a toll the hard training had taken.

Time and again last week, he got up on the still rings only to have to quickly drop back off. Skills he had been able to do a few days earlier were now impossible.

"There came a point in the gym where I almost threw my arms in the air and just knew, this wasn't working," the 25-year-old Hamm said. "It was a

really tough decision for me to make. You could drag this out even further. But what I know with my body and what I feel, there's no point for me to do that. It's not in the best interest of everyone involved.

"I pushed for the comeback. I did everything I possibly could," he said. "There just wasn't enough time. I feel like if I had another month, I would have been able to get the job done."

But he didn't have a month. The American men go through processing Tuesday and leave for China on Wednesday. Podium training — the one opportunity gymnasts have to train on the competition floor and in front of judges before the meet begins — is Aug. 6.

The men's competition begins Aug. 9.

The Americans likely would have needed him on all six events in both qualifying and team finals.

Because the scoring format in team finals is so unforgiving — three athletes compete on each event and all three scores count — Hamm didn't want to hurt the Americans if he wasn't fully ready to go.

"We were so close," Lubbers said. "Without the shoulder, we probably would have made it. But the two were just too much."

Hamm did talk with USA Gymnastics officials about going to Beijing and only doing a few

events. But that isn't realistic or fair, he said, especially considering rings is one of the events the Americans would have needed him on.

"What stopped us, I think, is the shoulder," coach Miles Avery said. "It's just from working hard. It's just an overuse injury. If you rest and ice it, you'll be fine and can pick back up. We don't have the time."

Hamm's withdrawal likely ends the career of one of, if not the best gymnasts the United States has ever had. In addition to his world and Olympic titles, he led the Americans to a silver medal in Athens, their first at the Olympics in 20 years.

His comeback in Athens was one of the most spectacular ever in the sport.

After a fall on vault dropped him to 12th place with only two events left, he rallied with two of the best routines of his career to win the gold.

Two days later, however, the International Gymnastics Federation said that bronze medalist Yang Tae-young of South Korea had been wrongly docked a tenth of a point on his second-to-last event.

Add that extra tenth, and Yang would have scored higher than Hamm. That assumes, though, that everything in the final rotation would have played out the same, something nobody can say for sure.

The Koreans did not protest in

time, and the FIG said it couldn't change results after the competition. But the Koreans took the matter all the way to the Court of Arbitration for Sport, forcing Hamm to defend his gold medal. CAS eventually declared Hamm the rightful champion.

Despite taking 2½ years off after Athens — an unprecedented layoff in the sport — Hamm had firmly established himself as a contender for another gold, winning every meet he entered this year, often by large margins. Even with his injury, he still finished the first night of nationals almost four points ahead.

"Enough cannot be said about the effort Paul has made over the last few months and the contributions he has already made," said Steve Penny, president of USA Gymnastics. "His decision is being made with the team's best interests in mind. It's a shame that it's happening right now, and one of the world's best gymnasts will not be able to compete at this summer's Olympic Games."

Hamm, a three-time U.S. champion, also was the cornerstone of silver medal teams at the 2001 and 2003 world championships. He has five medals from the world championships, and three from the Olympic Games.

He had said he planned to retire after Beijing, and said Monday that is still his intention.

## Sports in brief

## Golf City Championship slated for this weekend

The Big Spring City Championship will take place this weekend at the city golf course in Comanche Trail Park.

Cost is \$40 with no green fees. The payout will be in the form of pro shop gift certificates.

A handicap is needed and there will be three divisions of play. Each division will be flighted after Saturday's scores.

Call the pro shop at 264-2366 for more information and to set tee times.

## Steer football season ticket sales to begin

Big Spring High School 2008 football season tickets have gone on sale at the Athletic Training Center.

Only people who have previously owned season tickets are able to buy through 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.

## Crossroads Youth Football

## Association sign-ups start Saturday

Crossroads Youth Football Association begins sign-ups for both football and cheerleading for the 2008 sea-

son Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Big Spring Mall.

Subsequent sign-up dates will be held Aug. 9, 16 and 23 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the mall. Late sign-ups for football only is Aug. 30 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. There are no late sign-ups for cheerleading.

For more information, visit [www.freewebs.com/cyfa](http://www.freewebs.com/cyfa). For questions regarding football, call John Sotelo at 816-3060, and for cheerleading, contact Trish Hobby at 393-5647.

## HCYHC hosting series of Jackpot Play Days

The Howard County Youth Horseman Club is hosting a series of Jackpot Play Days open to the public at the HCYHC Arena, located on Garden City Hwy — half a mile off N. Hwy 87.

The first play day in the series is at 6 p.m. Aug. 9.

For more information, call 213-6177 or 267-8041.

## Ragball tournament at Towle Park in Snyder

A ragball tournament benefiting the Rose Sanchez cancer fund is being played at Towle Park in Snyder Friday and Saturday.

Cost is \$100 a team with first- and second-place T-shirts being given as prizes.

For more information or to register, call Andrew at (325) 573-1814 or Joe at (325) 573-8164.

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# Texas Briefs

## Body found in debris from N.M. flash flooding

RUIDOSO, N.M. (AP) — Rescuers used pulleys Monday to help stranded residents and campers cross a rushing river where the body of a man reported missing in flash flooding was found near a bridge in a thicket of debris.

The victim, 20-year-old Joseph Godines, was reported missing by his brother in this south-central New Mexico mountain resort area, said Ruidoso police Chief Wolfgang Born.

Godines was one of two people reported swept away after apparently losing his footing near the Rio Ruidoso as it spilled over its banks Sunday in flooding caused by the remnants of Hurricane Dolly.

An estimated 350 to 500 houses, campers, mobile homes and structures were damaged in the flooding, with about 350 people evacuated from homes and up to 500 vacationers stranded away from their cabins, campsites or recreational vehicles.

They were unable to return Monday because of washed out roads and bridges. Some residents were stuck after refusing to evacuate.

Tom Schafer, Ruidoso's emergency management coordinator, said there were 25 water rescues Sunday, mostly from vehicles but a few homes as well.

## Police chase ends in death of Houston physician

HOUSTON (AP) — Dr. Wesley Gustafson Jr., a veteran family practice physician, was killed when a Chevrolet Trailblazer slammed into his Buick sport utility vehicle during a police chase, authorities said.

Harris County prosecutor Warren Diepraam said the man who hit Gustafson during the police chase, Danny M. Shipp, 38, of New Orleans, will be charged with felony murder.

Gustafson was taken to Ben Taub Hospital where he was pronounced dead. Shipp was also transported to a hospital under police guard.

The crash happened around 10 a.m. Monday in Houston's upscale Memorial Villages area. Gustafson had planned to open a new office next week in a southwest Houston shopping center and was leaving the area when his vehicle was broadsided.

"He hit him full blast - nonstop," Elbert Simmons said in Monday's online edition of the Houston Chronicle.

Another eyewitness Charlie Elias, said he could feel the impact of the crash, which uprooted two trees.

Two other cars were also hit by Shipp's vehicle before Gustafson's SUV was slammed. Authorities said Shipp was driving between 50 to 60 mph.

Only one officer was involved in the 10-minute chase which did not appear to violate police department policy, said Lt. Bill Sala of the Memorial Villages Police Department.

Police said the chase started in Memorial Villages and

ended in the Houston Police Department's jurisdiction but was over before other officers could join in.

## Appeal expected for bilingual education ruling

DALLAS (AP) — The state education agency said it plans to ask Attorney General Greg Abbott to appeal a federal judge's ruling requiring the state of Texas to come up with a plan to improve bilingual education programs for secondary school students, according to media reports.

"We are disappointed that the judge reversed his original order of a year ago. We are continuing to study this latest ruling, but we do anticipate asking the attorney general to appeal," Debbie Ratcliffe of the Texas Education Agency said Tuesday in The Dallas Morning News' online edition.

She said the state "absolutely stands" by its programs for limited-English students.

On Friday, U.S. District Judge William Wayne Justice cited unqualified monitors, undercounting of students with limited English proficiency and arbitrary standards as part of the failure of the 1981 Bilingual and Special Education Programs Act to provide adequate programs for limited-English students.

He said TEA was violating the civil rights of Spanish-speaking secondary students under the federal Equal Education Opportunity Act. His 95-page ruling gave the state until January 31 to produce a new plan.

The ruling was surprising because it reverses Justice's 2007 order which gave the state's bilingual education programs a passing grade, the Houston Chronicle and the San Antonio Express-News said in online reports Tuesday.

Some Texas lawmakers said on Monday they were already addressing some of the challenges limited-English students face, even before the judge's ruling.

## Sizable number of Texas drivers without insurance

AUSTIN (AP) — A large number of drivers on Texas highways and roads do not have auto insurance, according to a Texas insurance organization.

A 60-day pilot project testing the new TexasSure program, which allows law enforcement personnel via computer to verify coverage status when they stop a motorist, focused on Travis County. During the test which is expected to end soon, Texas Department of Public Safety troopers stopped and ticketed uninsured drivers.

So far, 25.5 percent of 5,012 drivers stopped in Travis County and small portions of nearby Williamson and Hays counties since June 2, did not have auto insurance.

"The numbers show that Texas has an even larger number of uninsured drivers than we had realized," said Mark Hanna, spokesman for the Insurance Council

of Texas, in a story Tuesday in the online editions of the Houston Chronicle and the San Antonio Express-News.

The Council has been monitoring the state's new auto insurance verification program.

"Troopers tell us that some areas of the state may have more than half of their drivers uninsured, and that's scary news for everyone else on our roadways," Hanna said.

This spring, the minimum amount of liability insurance Texas drivers are required to have, increased for the first time in 22 years. Hanna said he didn't think the higher requirement was a factor in the lack of coverage because the effect on premiums was "minimal."

## Elsewhere

### Canadian woman gives birth to 18th child

ABBOTSFORD, British Columbia (AP) — A Romanian immigrant has given birth to her 18th child in British Columbia, making her the province's most prolific mother in 20 years.

Proud dad Alexandru Ionce said Saturday that his 44-year-old wife, Livia, gave birth on July 22. Their daughter Abigail weighed in at 7 pounds, 12 ounces (3.5 kilograms).

"We never planned how many children to have. We just let God guide our lives, you know, because we strongly believe life comes from God and that's the reason we did not stop the life," Alexandru Ionce said.

The couple immigrated to Canada from Romania in 1990 and now live in Abbotsford. Their 17 other children range in age from 20 months to 23 years.

Ionce said he did not know if the couple would have more children. The family now has 10 girls and eight boys.

"We would have liked a boy to be even," he said. "We thank God all of them are healthy and happy."

### Holy hooligans! Phony 'Joker' arrested in Michigan

THREE RIVERS, Mich. (AP) — Police in Michigan have arrested a man who they say tried to steal posters and other items related to the new Batman movie from a cinema lobby while dressed up as the Joker.

Detective Mike Mohny said Monday 20-year-old Spencer Taylor of Three Rivers has been booked for investigation of larceny and malicious destruction of property.

Taylor is scheduled to be arraigned Aug. 5 in St. Joseph County District Court.

There is no telephone listing under his name in the Three Rivers area.

Mohny says officers who were dispatched early Sunday to the theater arrived to find employees restraining a man wearing a purple suit, a green wig and face paint in the style of Batman's nemesis in "The Dark Knight."

## COUNTY

Continued from Page 1A

Alon USA is up in the air.

"We're in limbo on this right now," said Barr. "If we approve the tax rate based on the certified values — which includes the assessment of the Big Spring Refinery — and Alon decides to only pay on a portion of that, as they have the past two years, we're caught short (financially). There's a pre-trial hearing coming up and the trial is Aug. 18, but that's just for the 2006-2007 taxes.

We're hoping to have a better idea what's going on before we hold the public hearings in September."

In 2007, Alon USA disputed its \$320 million tax appraisal, claiming it should only have to pay taxes on approximately \$152 million. The \$320 million assessment was later upheld by the appraisal district's review board, spurring the petrochemical company to file a lawsuit in 118<sup>th</sup> District Court.

According to reports following the filing of the lawsuit, Alon agreed to pay \$80 million in taxes until the matter is resolved, leaving

the county with a shortfall of more than \$700,000 and Big Spring Independent School District picking up a \$264,000 loss.

According to County Auditor Jackie Olson, Alon USA paid approximately \$225,000 in taxes last year — based on an undisputed assessment of \$80 million that was reduced to \$54 million by abatement agreements — considerably less than the \$1 million levied against the company.

Commissioners consulted with Dennis Hart, an advisor with the Texas Comptroller's Office, by telephone during the

meeting to determine the best route for setting the tax rate this year and still leaving room to adjust if the mid-August tax trial yields a favorable result.

Hart told commissioners they could vote on a proposed tax rate that included coverage for the Alon-related shortfall and lower that rate before the court takes its final vote on the matter Sept. 22, but could not raise the rate following public hearings set for Sept. 8 and 15.

"You can always lower the rate because you've given the public a worst case scenario," Hart told

commissioners. "However, if you raise the tax rate following the public hearings, you have to go through the whole process again."

The rollback rate — which includes a 5 cent increase over last year's rate to cover the construction of a new county jail — would generate \$1.7 million more than the taxes collected last year, according to Barr. However, the loss of taxes from Alon USA — estimated at \$1 million, approximately 18 percent of the county's tax base — coupled with skyrocketing fuel bills, would

destroy that additional income and throw the county's budget into turmoil.

In addition to the possible shortfall, if the court is forced to go above the rollback rate of .4912 cents per \$100 valuation, a petition from citizens opposing the increase could spur a rollback election.

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

## FIRE

Continued from Page 1A

Barr called for area officials and the local media to stress to area residents how serious the situation is.

And while no one can predict a wildfire, Sullivan said local residents can take measures to help firefighters if their home becomes endangered.

"I really can't stress this enough, but it's vital our citizens be very careful right now," said Sullivan. "Fire prevention is more of a proactive thing than a re-

active thing, because once a fire starts it's too late. One of the most important measures people can take right now is to make sure they have a 75- to 100-foot fire break around their home. Get rid of brush and other items that could burn. That can really help firefighters if their home becomes threatened."

Sullivan said signs located on county firehouses that normally track the risk-level of wildfires will now be marked with a different sort of sign.

"The signs show there is a burn ban in effect right now," said Sullivan. "We're hoping that will

help remind the citizens and impress upon them the importance of the ban. This is serious stuff."

In the meantime, Sullivan said local residents need to remain vigilant of fire dangers throughout Howard County and the surrounding areas.

"I really hope people aren't getting a false sense of security," said Sullivan. "The danger is still very much there, and if people get careless we're going to

be in big trouble."

Contact Staff Writer Thomas Jenkins at 263-

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Sue Mize, 63, died Sunday. Funeral Services will be at 10:00 AM Thursday at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial at Trinity Memorial Park. The family will receive friends from 6:00 until 8:00 PM Wednesday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Guadalupe "Lupe" Valdez, 68, died Monday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

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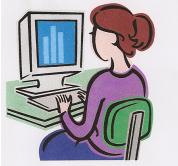
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12502

## EDITORIAL

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

Ron Midkiff  
Publisher

John A. Moseley  
Managing Editor

Bill McClellan  
News Editor

## OTHER VIEWS

## Vital to go on with wind energy lines

Some of the strongest and most reliably consistent onshore winds in the Lone Star State are in West Texas and the Panhandle. That's why you see those gargantuan wind turbines generating electricity near cities such as Abilene and Sweetwater.

The bulk of the state's people live considerably farther east, however, in fast-growing metropolitan areas such as Dallas-Fort Worth.

A plan is being developed to pair up the wind power with the people.

What's most needed is a few billion dollars worth of transmission lines a capital expenditure that should trigger construction of additional wind farms in Texas, which leads the nation in wind generation capacity.

Fortunately, the Texas Public Utility Commission has taken a big step toward accomplishing this, voting July 17 for a plan under which \$4.83 billion would be spent to build an estimated 2,400 miles of transmission lines from West Texas to highly populated areas with spiraling electricity demand.

Those new lines potentially could carry not only wind-generated electricity, but also power produced from other sources.

That's good, because Texas needs not only to expand its power generation, but also diversify it. The state generates electricity chiefly by burning natural gas and coal. Natural gas is expensive. Traditional coal-fired power plants are more heavily polluting and emit large amounts of carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas linked to global warming.

The state can diversify its generation by expanding clean, renewable energy sources (such as wind, solar and biomass), nuclear power (virtually emissions-free) and "clean coal" plants (which would capture carbon dioxide and emit less other air pollutants than older coal plants).

The plan to construct transmission lines still faces another procedural hurdle, but the PUC's vote was an important step forward. Five large utilities have formed a consortium that proposes to build the lines.

Texas' population is expected to jump nearly 50 percent an addition of about 11 million people in the next 30 years. That roughly equals the population of 16 Fort Worth's. That's a lot more people, who'll need a lot more electricity and an expanded transmission grid to transport the juice.

It won't happen overnight. Building those lines won't be quick or cheap.

It's expected to be at least five years before the lines could be built and ready to flow with electricity. Construction costs could run \$2 million per mile for large, high-capacity lines.

Customers served by ERCOT, the power-grid operator for the majority of Texas' electric service, would pay the costs over several years through a fee estimated to be \$4 on monthly electric bills.

It's uncertain when the extra charge would start or construction of the lines would begin.

Texas is going to need those added transmission lines to encourage development of additional wind farms and help ensure that we won't be left in the dark when 11 million more people call the state home.

THE FORT WORTH STAR-TELEGRAM

## Sometimes death needs a hand

When we know,  
The end is near;  
Why must others,  
Interfere?

You can tell when columnists are aging ... they write more about death. It comes from increased time visiting friends in nursing homes, from reflecting on their own parents' final days, and from absorbing the morbid significance of their latest prescription. It's generally not a pretty scene and it causes some writers to ponder an ideal society where late-term sufferers could pull their own plug.

Actually, such a Camelot already famously exists. It's Oregon, where a recent count toted up 292 doctor-assisted suicides under that state's unique 10-year-old law. So far, it has comfortably withstood several referendums and court challenges, thus demonstrating the sturdy independence of Oregonians. It also demonstrates the relative paucity of Catholic and evangelical presence in its precincts. California and Washington take periodic cracks at such a law too, but the zooming Latino population down south may have doomed such efforts there.

Prospects may be sunnier on the national level. You-know-who is leaving office in January, and, with

luck, federal agents will no longer waste our tax money trolling for occasional doctors who may have quietly lent a pill to a dying patient. Who knows — maybe someday we'll get a sane national law? Well, maybe not.

Meanwhile needless suffering and indignity continue unabated. The medical community has its protocols that allow no symptom to go untreated, especially in the hospital. To do otherwise gives an opening to a decedent's heirs and their alert lawyers. For a patient's heartfelt desires to be honored, he'd better have a comprehensive living will and a full-time, experienced healthcare proxy. Once you're on that respirator, it takes a magic trick to get you off.

Setting out to reform this perverse system is its relentless ancient foe, Jack Kevorkian, recently released from jail. Jack's running for Congress now. Congress is the root of the problem to be sure, but his chances seem slim. Unfortunately none of his former patients can vote. But surprisingly, repeated polling on this issue may one day be what brings about its cure. Public sentiment is now up to 48 percent in favor of allowing physician-assisted suicide, with 44 percent opposed. And 68 percent believe that there are at least some circumstances where patients should be allowed to call it quits. Of course political success will take a lot bigger proportion of votes than that. While a majority of us might vote for it

now, the zealous religious minority will make sure we never get that chance. They don't just vote, they campaign.

All of which is too bad for the bulk of Americans. Tim Russert may have hit upon a relatively painless way to go, but that's uncommon and undesirably early. A more typical demise follows the unremitting application of costly life extending medications and treatments, often long after the quality of life has achieved absolute zero. And this in a setting where everyone is trying to do their best.

Unfortunately doing one's best is not always the appropriate action, especially when the patient wants to pack it in. Even in Oregon, the doc can't help unless you're diagnosed with less than six months to live. It's rarely an easy road. Does the patient really mean to depart, or is he just depressed? How bad are those treatments anyway?

And so control over this particularly morbid aspect of one's impending demise lies with the zealots and the politicians. Diligent health proxies and doctors can and do often come to reasonable patient solutions, but it's unfortunately the ideological outsiders who more often impose so much of today's terminal suffering.

Columnist William A. Collins is a former state representative and a former mayor of Norwalk, Connecticut.



WILLIAM  
A.  
COLLINS

## NEWS ITEM: HUGO CHAVEZ OFFERS FREE OIL TO KEEP POOR AMERICANS WARM



## Readers have trouble with reality

A couple of weeks ago I took what I thought was an unassailable position on gun control. I said I was through with it.

The gun-sellers' lobby had won the day, I said, and I was waving the white flag. Unregulated sale of lethal weapons was a lousy idea but it was a lousy idea whose time had come.

That seemed like a reasonable response to the Supreme Court's ruling that it was unconstitutional for cities and states to try to stop people from owning guns.

It was a sign that I was moving toward the center, I thought.

But were the gun nuts satisfied? No. They assailed my unassailable position. For example:

"I was saddened to read that you are no longer going to be writing about gun control....I really will miss the laughs I get reading columns from people who talk about 'sensible' gun control laws as if such laws actually existed."

Also: "Gun control advocates...are all either idiots, liars or worst of all cowards."

And: "You're an anti-gun bigot and we gun owners don't expect logic or knowledge about guns or gun owners from you. Good riddance to your articles on guns."

OK, if that's the way you want to play it, I rescind my pledge of neutrality. Instead, I vow to keep attacking the stupidity of unfettered

gun ownership until I have vanquished the gun sellers' lobby and broken the back of the NRA.

You think I can't do it? Ha! That's what they said when I declared war on cigarettes in 1960. Before you knew it, Johnny the Philip Morris Bellhop was a homeless panhandler.

And they laughed at me in 1972 when I went to Washington to drive Richard Nixon from office. Two years later, it was, "Sayonara Tricky Dick."

So enjoy yourselves, gun-persons. Your end is coming. And when the black helicopters land on your lawn and AFT agents shoot you for resisting arrest, I'll be proud to show up and pry your weapon from your cold, dead hand.

Laughing maniacally as I do it. So there.

But guns aren't the only thing Americans are irrational about. There's oil. A good many readers found my conspiracy theory about Iraq and oil unpersuasive.

They simply don't want to believe that Bush and Cheney took us to war in Iraq primarily to gain control of the oil reserves there. That, while it didn't quite work out as they'd planned, set off a chain of events that ended with oil companies getting rich and Americans getting poor. (We are probably the only country in the world, civilized or un-, that believes we invaded Iraq to bring it democracy.)

Then, Phil Gramm-like, I advised people to stop whining about the price of gas and just use less of it.

More letters: "We live in a rural area where there are no buses or

trains. No sidewalks by our roads to take a walk on. We've already cut back on gas consumption so far that we hardly go anywhere except to the grocery store."

Also: "You are as nutty as the rest of the Dems. Stop blaming this mess on George Bush and 'Big Oil'... it is time to promote American ingenuity, entrepreneurialism, capitalism, etc."

And one that found wisdom in an unlikely place:

"According to an article by Ann Coulter, consumers now pay about 46 cents per gallon in gasoline taxes...the government is the 'monster taking our money' instead of 'big' oil."

Let me respond to those in reverse order:

— Ann Coulter is a ham sandwich shy of a picnic. Don't believe a word she says. That includes "and" and "the."

— Most American ingenuity and entrepreneurialism is spent figuring out how to get \$30 million bonuses from companies the bonuses have just run into the ground. That's modern capitalism.

— And it's not my fault you live in the country. You noticed there were no sidewalks when you bought the place, right?

Enjoy the crickets. And stop whining.

Don Kaul is a two-time Pulitzer Prize-losing Washington correspondent who, by his own account, is right more than he's wrong. Email: [dkaul2@earthlink.net](mailto:dkaul2@earthlink.net)



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BEBE  
MCCASLAND

Attired in the same white, his sibling had kept him company while his parents had sought large insects for the nestlings as their appetites grew rapidly. From this nest, he and his companion had taken their first steps in becoming fledglings. Jumping from limb to limb, flapping their wings, and investigating their new world, the twosome had developed from fluff balls to feathered and streaked juveniles.

Although it would be more than a year before they began the molt that would give them their adult coloration, the two hawks resembled their parents in size and the shape of their bodies in flight. Closing their wings

and swooping downward toward a tree, they had learned that the cicadas they sought would fly out of their hiding places in hopes of avoiding these predatory moves.

With their first success in grabbing insects out of the air, the two first-year young had mastered not only the skills needed to obtain their food. Through the use of their wings, they had developed the strength and muscle tone to follow their parents' insistence that an early morning in September was the time to migrate southward.

Having survived and returned to his birthplace, the bird had completed his yearly travel. Although he still had some of his juvenile characteristics, he would in the future develop the red eyes and the soft light gray and charcoal coloration of his parents.

Even though other kites had built or reused nests, and were now in the process of teaching their fledglings food-gathering skills, he spent his summer soaring high in the sky. Looking down on the roof tops and streets, the bird preferred the highest trees and available cover. As the parent birds depleted the number of cicadas, grasshoppers and dragonflies to feed their young, he had to fly further to



Courtesy photo

While in flight, the Mississippi kite tightly grasps its prey and eats the desired parts. Federally and state protected, the hawk's diet of insects and small rodents keeps a summer population under control.

find his meals.

Over an undiscovered area of the community he called home, he seized a cicada in flight. Having eaten the abdomen, he dropped the rest of the hard shelled insect. As he flapped his wings to gain elevation, he was startled by a sharp pain in his chest. Quickly he looked for a place to land. When he was about a foot above the ground, his flight wavered. Wobbly, his wings could no longer maintain

a balanced landing.

"Found him in the dirt," said the county volunteer fireman when he brought the Mississippi Kite to us. "He doesn't feel like flying," the man continued. Grateful there was not a compound fracture, we noticed the favored wing was held equal to the opposite side. Since we detected a slight movement in a bone above the elbow joint, we hoped it was a hairline fracture that could mend.

Checking on either side of the breast bone for body fat, I felt a solid lump. Carefully parting the feathers, we found half of a BB pellet outside the skin. As I touched the copper-colored missile, it rolled down my fingers and into the palm of my hand. Where it had been left an indentation half the size of the BB. Although the affected skin was a reddish circle, the pellet had not penetrated the body.

"Think we have what brought down the kite," I advised the fireman. "If nothing else, your bird was probably badly bruised by the impact, and broke its wing on landing."

At the wildlife center in Lubbock, the kite was diagnosed as having a stress fracture of the wing. After being set, the wing would mend and the bird could be released. The dent in the kite's skin and dignity would heal on their own.

To us it was another instance of man's cruelty and thoughtlessness. For the fireman, it was another unique experience as he tried to protect the county. He said his days were filled with people thinking various laws did not apply to them.

After his wing had the appropriate healing time, the flight cage strengthened the kite's muscles and flight ability. Wanting the bird to be further south in his migration, the center manager had the first-year young hitch a ride with a college student. Instead of his parents encouraging him to migrate, the inherent desire to be with his own specie was incentive enough when he was finally set free.

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

## HOMES NEEDED



Please help! I am mostly German Shepherd with possibly a little husky mix and am no more than a year old. (If you look on www.petfinder, my name is Geko.) I sure do need a good home fast! The people who are taking care of me out at the city shelter say I am a very good dog and they sure would like for someone to come and adopt me. Come see me; I won't be here long.

The city fees are  
\$25 — adoption fee  
\$20 — microchipping  
\$10 — rabies shot  
\$15 — City tags for any pet that is not spayed/neutered or \$4 if the pet is spayed/neutered  
\$70 — total (or \$59 if pet is spayed/neutered)



Hello, I'm a chihuahua/rat terrier mix and I just had a litter of pups! I am ready now to go to a forever home. The people at the shelter think I'm about a year old. I am small and quite a jumper. Please help me get a good home.

For information on adopting these animals or others from the City Shelter, call 264-2372.

## The unforgettable Shelby Stepp

There used to be a story in the Reader's Digest that was called "The Most Unforgettable Character I've Met." It was always a wonderful story about a fascinating individual. I was thinking about those stories the other day and decided I would like to write about the most unforgettable person I've ever known. His name was Shelby Stepp.



DARRELL  
RYAN

He was born in Wichita Falls and lived there all his life. Several things made him unforgettable but the most visible was his physical appearance. He was born without hands or feet.

At the ends of his wrists were a couple of appendages that he could use for fingers and his legs ended in stubs. He was born without an opening for a mouth so the doctors had to make an incision to allow for an opening but his tongue was small and stiff so his speaking was always difficult. His eyes were extremely weak which required him always to wear thick glasses.

When he was born, the doctors told his mom that he would never be normal, but she must do

everything she could to treat him as a normal child. She was told to only do things for him which were impossible for him to do for himself. Make him have to learn to do for himself as much as possible. Mrs. Stepp would often say that was the most difficult thing she ever did.

However, Shelby was a bright child. He had a good mind and learned quickly. To go from place to place, Mrs. Stepp attached little leather cups strapped to his legs for shoes. She taught him to use those little appendages at the end of his arms for holding eating utensils but he also learned to use a pencil in the same way. He learned to read and write. And his writing was almost perfect.

When Shelby became a teenager he would often walk around the neighbor-

hood, going from place to place seeking other children with whom to play but usually being rejected. However, he learned to cope with his physical inability and used his intelligence and humor as his "calling card." Shelby was often scoffed and ridiculed for his appearance by kids who didn't know him and didn't understand him. His life was not a pleasant one, but he made it work.

He became an accomplished musician on the marimba. He would have

### Parent's Corner

the mallets strapped to his wrists and he would play with expertise. He became very well known in area churches and was a guest musician almost every week. He worked as a janitor at his local church and was able to support

See Stepp, Page 6A

### 27th ANNUAL GUN, KNIFE & COIN SHOW

Canyon Gun Club Inc. Synder, Tx.  
SCURRY COUNTY COLISEUM  
AUGUST 2nd AND 3rd, 2008

SAT. 9:00 a.m. TO 6:00 p.m.  
SUN. 9:00 a.m. TO 5:00 p.m.

More information: (325) 573-2323 or (325) 573-2777

Admission is \$3

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**Help Wanted**

**RAINBOW CHRISTIAN** Pre-School is needing, 1 Child-care worker & 1 Bus Driver/Caregiver. Both are full time positions. Experience a must! Come by 409 Goliad to apply.

**ROOFING CREW** needed local work. Call 432-213-1184.

**SECURITY PERSONAL** wanted for all shifts, Mon.-Sun. Must have a clean background check and a valid driver's license. Retirees welcome to apply. Call toll free 1-877-352-7248, 432-466-5215.

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

**TRUCKDRIVER NEEDED!** **BEST PAY, GREAT BENEFITS!** Pay is hourly, lots of OVERTIME, plus per diem. T&T Transports in Colorado City needs Class A CDL driver to haul oilfield equipment cross-country. Home weekly. Must have oversized hauling experiences, tanker and hazardous endorsements, good driving record. Call 1-800-588-2669.

**WANTED:** 29 Serious people to Work From Home using a Computer Up to \$1,500-\$5,000 PT/FT [www.jmconcepts.com](http://www.jmconcepts.com)

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

**Items for Sale**

**2 PIECE** Pillow Top Queen Mattress Set. Brand new with Mfg. warranty. \$160. (432)664-8980.

**3 PCS** King Pillow Top Mattress Set, still in plastic with Factory Warranty. \$245. (432)664-8980.

**CHERRY SLEIGH** bed solid wood, still in box with mattress set, both new, \$395. (432)664-8980.

**FULL PILLOW** Top Mattress set with frame. Only \$175. (432)664-8980.

**NEW TWIN** Pillow top Mattress set. \$115. has warranty. (432)664-8980.

**ONLY SATURDAY, Aug 2** ONLY 9am to 1pm American Limestone has stone panels, bits & pieces at low cost. Corner of 1st Ave. and Wright Ave. Southeast side of Air Park.

**PRESSURE RELIEVING,** Tempur-pedic type Memory Foam Mattress set new in plastic. \$500. (432)664-8980.

**Lost and Found**

**FREE TO** good home (Male) Border Collie/ Lab mixed puppy. Call 432-816-1708.

**Miscellaneous**

**CAKES:** Wedding, Anniversaries, Quinceanarios. Arches, Candelabras and florals. FREE DELIVERY. Year 2000 prices. Call Grishams (432)267-8191.

**TIME SHARE** Ownership. Home Base Branson Mo. A Very Special Deal for a Low-Low Price. Call (432)264-6489.

**TWO 250** Barrel (shorty) steel tanks. For Scrap. Call (432)394-4492.

**Mobile Homes**

**MUST BE MOVED-** Large Doublewide- 3 Bdrm, 2 bath with 2 living areas. \$59,500.00. Call (432)756-3865, 634-6414.

**On the Farm**

**NEW MAHINDRA TRACTORS** 6011 E. Hwy. 80 Midland, TX (Take exit 144 off I-20, located on N. Service Rd. of Bus. 20.) Full service dealership Hours 8am-6pm M-F 8am-noon Sat.

**CULTIVATE YOUR DREAMS** 0% interest up to 60 Months on selected models. Mahindra Tractors have better traction, stability and control. Mahindra will push more, pull more and lift more. [www.beenetractors.com](http://www.beenetractors.com)

**Pets**

**AKC PAPERS** German Shepherd puppies. 8 weeks old, \$325. each, One white female pup. \$600. OBO. (432)517-0078.

**FREE TO** good home Walker Coon Hound /Border Collie mixed puppies. Call (432)268-3106.

**Real Estate for Rent**

**1409 MT. VERNON.** 3 Bedroom, 1 bath, NEW kitchen, large living area, CH/A, laundry room, fenced yard. 12 Month Lease. \$700. Month, \$700. deposit. Call 432-263-8005, 816-1330.

**1503 MESQUITE.** Three bedroom, two bath home with fenced yard. References and one year lease required. No inside pets. \$695 month, \$500. deposit. Call (432)267-6667.

**3619 HAMILTON-** 3 Bdrm, 1 bath. Completely Remodeled. Asking \$1,400., \$700. deposit. 432-213-0820.

**OFFICE BUILDING** Strip Center. 614 Gregg. 1200 sq. feet. Parking front and rear. \$900. month. 432-267-7449.

**REMINISCE INN** Sterling City, Texas 42 miles South of Big Spring on Hwy 87 North **Rooms for RENT:** Daily & Weekly Rates 325-450-5455 Denise Turner

**SUNSET RIDGE APARTMENT** 2911 West Hwy 80 Big Spring 432-263-2292 1 & 2 Bedrooms!!!!!! Now Available!!!!!!

**THE OFFICE** Building, 710 Gregg Street, for lease, excellent space for a medical doctor or lab available, also have individual offices starting @ \$250. per month with bills paid. Call (432)770-5656 or (432)517-0038. Broker/ Owner.

**Real Estate for Sale**

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

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

**1998 OAKCREEK** Mobile Home 18X80 in Forsan ISD- MUST BE MOVED. 3 Bdrm, 2 bath. Like New in. \$40,000.00 OBO. No Owner Financing. Call (432)457-0160.

**2513 CENTRAL.** 3 bedroom, 2 bath, one car garage, newly remodeled with new kitchen cabinets, tile floors, paint, and updated bathrooms. Ready to Move In! \$99,750. Call (432)816-1330.

**BY HOLIDAY MATHIS**

As Mercury meets the sun in exuberant Leo, our excitement for an idea, person or thing is declared flamboyantly -- in any venue of self-expression we enjoy. Opinions are in no scarce supply! Admiration and affections are easily shared. Our creative ability is turned on, and this seems to happen without so much as thinking about it.



**HOLIDAY MATHIS**

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19). You'll be dealing with different energy levels and standards of honesty. Well, it doesn't mean the other people are wrong per say, just wrong for

**Real Estate for Sale**

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

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

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

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

**BUSINESS FOR** Sale by Owner. Unlimited income possibilities. Hair salon, tanning salon & boutique. Established business in great location. Serious buyers only! (433)816-6228.



**BY OWNER-** 2500 sq feet-Two Story 3/2. 2505 Broadway St. (off Thorpe) County Like Setting. Huge trees, workshop, gazebo, dead end street, almost 1 acre. \$169,900. Must See. Quiet Neighborhood. Call 432-935-4111 or 935-1833.

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

**CREAM OF THE Crop-** Forsan ISD. Beautifully Remodeled 3/2/2, CH/A. New appliances, barn, fences, stalls and arena on 5 acres. By appointment. \$199,000.00. (325)728-6602, (432)394-4451.

**OWNER FINANCE-** \$5,000 Down, \$13,900 Loan. 2 Bdrm, 2 bath, fixer-upper. Call Doris, Home Realtors (432)270-8920.

**HOUSE FOR** sale By Owner. 1202 Buena Vista. 3 Bedroom, 2 bath. 1 acre with shop. Coahoma ISD. Call for appointment (432)213-3956. \$195,000.00.

**OWNER FINANCED-Easy** Terms. 1307 Mt. Vernon, 510 State Street, and 3450 Ranch 33. Call TruStar Realty (432)264-8166.

**OWNER FINANCE** Home. 501 Union. Three bedroom, one bath, two living areas, Priced to Sell! \$32,000. \$2,000 down. \$400. month. Nearly updated carpet & tile. Call Patience (432)349-5242.

**WE BUY HOUSES** and LAND. Any Condition. Tax Liens No Problem. Call (512)940-5200, 432-631-8100.

**Vehicles**

**2005 HONDA** Shadow Spirit (Motorcycle) 750cc, 8,000 miles. Garage kept. Great Condition. New back tire. \$4,000.00 OBO. Call 432-213-0619.

**PRICE REDUCED!!!!!!!** 2002 Yamaha Roadstar Silverado. Like new condition. 15000 Miles on bike, 800 miles on tires. Call after 6:30pm cell (432)553-3876 or (432)267-1090.

**WHEEL CHAIR** assessable conversion. 2006 Dodge Grand Caravan. Only 14,200 miles. Excellent condition. Still under warranty. Call 432-770-4652 or 432-699-5460.

**Tomorrow's Horoscope**

you right now. And you're right to want what you want.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20). Snap up a golden opportunity -- the one in charge sees something in you. Promotions and raises are around the corner if you play your cards right. When you don't know what to say, maintain your superbly optimistic attitude.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 21). You'd like for people to call you "driven." Admittedly, it would help if you knew what you were supposed to be driving toward. The answer is in you. Don't ask anyone else -- ask your heart.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22). Maybe you were cajoled into doing a job, but in any case, you agreed to do it and that's that. There's something terrific that happens when you make good on your promises.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22). Unsure how to make it clear that you really care about someone? Spill the one thing a loved one most needs to hear: "I'm there for you." Those words have healing power, especially coming from you now.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Getting unstuck from a rut is easier than you thought it would be. You simply make a choice, then make another. A few quick, bright decisions and suddenly someone is bringing you exactly what you ordered -- finally.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Your work picture is changing. Same tasks, different attitude. Others are starting to see you as capable of having and being all you've said you want to be. The laws of attraction are working for

you. **SCORPIO** (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Your confidence has its up and down moments, all of which are heartwarming to one who adores you. Move forward, even though you're unsure. Pisces acts as your guidance counselor.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). It's a good thing you're in an accessible mood because others need you -- boy, do they need you. Gemini and Virgo are particularly receptive to your help. Tonight, humor puts things into proper perspective.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Your truth-telling tendency keeps your relationships clearly defined. However, do consider the diplomatic option of saying nothing at all, especially around a Taurus.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). There's a prime chance to indulge in your guilty pleasure. By the same token, it's unwise to put yourself in a situation where there's too much of a bad thing available.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20). You're in the habit of being hard on yourself, which is why you consistently turn in fine work, are a terrific friend and have relationships that do you proud. Tonight, relax. Let up on the rules. Go easy on yourself.

**ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS:** "I have three young children and I already see that they're each so totally different. What might astrology have to say about my girls -- a 5-year-old Gemini, 2-year-old Capricorn and newborn Taurus?"

Toddlers can be silent on what will make them happy, which makes basic astrology invaluable

able to parents. Sibling rivalry won't be an issue for your Gemini child; this sign absolutely adores siblings! However, she won't suffer boredom kindly, so get her involved. Try making games out of the most mundane chores, changing diapers or feeding baby. I'm noticing Capricorn is in her "terrible twos," so named after the astrological Mars return. Self-assertion, and boundary testing are common here, but Capricorn kids often enjoy straightforward rules, so you'll find her responsive to guidelines and rewards for following those. Taurus babies are physically responsive; hugs, touches and peaceful quiet calm baby's cries. So whether she needs cuddles (Taurus) or to be given a mommy's-little-helper responsibility to make her feel important and loved (Capricorn), sun sign astrology can bridge gaps in maturity and understanding.

**CELEBRITY PROFILES:** Kate Bush is an original rock star. Diverse musical influences and raw lyrics suggest more of an artistic movement (her music is likened to surrealism) than a singular musical category. Born with the sun and Uranus in Leo, Kate was bound to be an unconventional artist, a creative innovator in her chosen field. As for rock 'n' roll, there's always a place reserved for rebel rockers.

*Holiday Mathis is the author of "Rock Your Stars." If you would like to write to her, please go to [www.creators.com](http://www.creators.com).*

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**Annie's Mailbox** ®

Dear Annie: My husband and I just celebrated our 25th wedding anniversary. We have three beautiful daughters and a grandchild on the way.

Since the beginning of my marriage, I have worked two full-time jobs and additional part-time jobs when needed. My husband has never worked more than one job at a time. He was unemployed for three years after our last child was born and refused to care for the children while I went to work. He wants me to keep him in the style to which he would like to become accustomed.

My husband doesn't want me paying the bills, but he is not paying them, either. I get frustrated when the collection calls come in and he won't address the issue. I don't want to be a whiner, but I am at the end of my rope. I can't buy anything without worrying if it will mean no groceries that week. I have not had a new outfit in over 10 years. I shop at thrift stores and Goodwill.

I want to be able to answer the phone without worrying that it is a collection agency. I want to buy one new thing without guilt. I want my children to learn financial responsibility. Please give me some help to get out of debt and keep my marriage a happy one. -- Financial Failure

Dear Financial: Your husband needs to get off his duff and hold up his end of the marriage. Staying happy and out of debt should not be your exclusive responsibility, and he sounds too disorganized to get his act together. It's possible he has adult ADD and you should suggest he see his doctor about it. Meanwhile, contact the



**KATHY MITCHELL MARCY SUGAR**

"take charge" person is so dominating that nothing could be good enough anyway. I wouldn't think of asking my husband to throw a party for me.

Mt. Airy, Md.: Men run the majority of the businesses around the world, so why do you assume they can't plan a party? I bet if it were a golf outing, he could handle the arrangements.

Boston: Did you forget to take your sensitivity pills? Milestone birthdays can be tricky. Why was a party, given by her husband, so important? If there was ever someone who needed counseling, this woman is it.

Omaha: I am a 51-year-old male, and if asked to provide a party for my wife, I would be on it in a heartbeat. A guy who blows off his wife's wishes shows her where she stands. Any moron can call a few friends and order balloons and cake. He is just inconsiderate.

Chicago: I don't think her expectations were unrealistic or that she should need to give him guidance. If she completely runs the show at home, she needs to change the dynamic and make him assume more responsibility (like maybe planning the kids' birthday parties).

*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](mailto: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](http://www.creators.com).*  
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**2403 CINDY**

# Memory Walk '08 to raise Alzheimer's awareness

The Alzheimer's Association's Memory Walk is a nation-wide movement to raise awareness and much needed funds to battle Alzheimer's disease and other dementias. People participate in memory of a loved one, in honor a loved one or because



NANCY JONES

they realize that someone they love will someday develop Alzheimer's disease. Sept. 20, people from around the community of Big Spring will be gathering for Memory Walk 2008.

Alzheimer's is a progressive disease of the brain and the most common form of dementia. Alzheimer's disease has no respect for people. There is no specific age to develop the disease and it affects people in their 20s, 50s or 80s. Alzheimer's does not respect race, ethnicity,

education, sex or economic issues.

I'll be sharing the Top 10 Reasons to participate in Memory Walk 2008 over the next few weeks.

Reason No. 10 to participate in Memory Walk 2008 — Nearly half of Americans know someone with Alzheimer's disease (AD), yet a whopping 94 percent don't know much about this terrible disease.

The Alzheimer's Association offers brochures and information to anyone who calls

their helpline at 1-800-272-3900. You will be referred to people who are trained to counsel you about Alzheimer's disease and the options that exist to help both patients and caregivers.

The RSVP (Retired Senior Volunteer Program) office in Big Spring — located at the Big Spring Senior Center, 1901 Simler — offers brochures to the public.

Please remember that although there is no cure for this disease, research continues to find new medicines to slow

its progress.

The Big Spring Memory Walk strives to bring public awareness through education, aid to patients and their families with support and the most up-to-date medical information.

A portion of the funds raised support research to one day find a cure.

If you are interested in supporting the Memory Walk with a team or a donation, please call me at 264-2397 for more information.

## News in brief

### US, Iraqi forces launch new offensive vs. Diyala insurgents

BAGHDAD (AP) — U.S. and Iraqi forces fanned out in the volatile Diyala province Tuesday in a new operation aimed at clearing al-Qaida in Iraq from safe havens in an area considered the last major insurgent belt around the capital.

New checkpoints were erected across the province and authorities ordered a ban on unofficial traffic as search operations got under way in the provincial capital of Baqouba and surrounding areas, according to witnesses. Many residents said they were afraid to leave their houses.

The U.S.-backed Iraqi military is hoping to build on recent security gains from similar offensives against Sunni insurgents in the northern city of Mosul and Shiite militiamen in Baghdad, Basra and Amarah.

The troops were focusing on chasing al-Qaida and other insurgents who sought refuge in Diyala to escape earlier crack-downs, said Gen. Ali Ghaidan, the commander of Iraqi ground forces in the province.

The province, which sits to the north of the capital and borders Iran, has been one of the hardest areas to control since the U.S.-led war began in March 2003. Baqouba, the provincial capital, was hit by a twin suicide bombing that killed at least 28 people on July 15 and has seen a number of female suicide attacks.

### Bush decides that former Army cook's crimes so repugnant they call for execution

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush

could have commuted the death sentence of Ronald A. Gray, a former Army cook convicted of multiple rapes and murders.

But Bush decided Monday that Gray's crimes were so repugnant that execution was the only just punishment.

Bush's decision marked the first time in 51 years that a president has affirmed a death sentence for a member of the U.S. military. It was the first time in 46 years that such a decision has even been weighed in the Oval Office.

Gray, 42, was convicted in connection with a spree of four murders and eight rapes in the Fayetteville, N.C., area between April 1986 and January 1987 while he was stationed at Fort Bragg. He has been on death row at the U.S. Disciplinary Barracks at Fort Leavenworth, Kan., since April 1988.

### Pakistan investigates reports senior al-Qaida figure killed in suspected US missile strike

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP) — Pakistan investigated reports Tuesday that a senior al-Qaida figure was among six people killed in a suspected U.S. missile strike amid anger that the attack had violated the Islamic nation's sovereignty.

Pakistan's army said it had not confirmed that Monday's strike killed al-Qaida operative Abu Khabab al-Masri, described by Washington as an expert who trained terrorists in the use of poisons and explosives.

But two Pakistani intelligence officials said they believed al-Masri had died and an American official in Washington expressed cautious optimism. The U.S. is offering a \$5 million reward for informa-

tion leading to his capture.

"There is a real sense that this guy is gone," the American official said. But he cautioned that there was no material evidence yet to confirm al-Masri's death, such as a photograph of the dead man at the bomb site.

### Report says US national security system is outdated and needs massive changes

WASHINGTON (AP) — In a report aimed at the next president, security specialists are proposing a vast overhaul of the U.S. security system, declaring it problem-plagued.

The report, a copy of which was obtained by The Associated Press, said frequent feuding and jurisdictional disputes among Cabinet secretaries and other agency heads force the president to spend too much time settling internal fights.

Time and money are wasted on duplicative and inefficient actions, slowing down government responses to crises, the report said.

The president and his top advisers focus on day-to-day crisis management rather than long-term planning, "allowing problems to escape presidential attention until they worsen and reach the crisis level," said the report, to be issued later in the week.

### Police: Letter indicates suspected gunman targeted Tenn. church because of its liberal views

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Children from the Unitarian church where authorities said an out-of-work truck driver shot and killed two people, ended a prayer vigil by singing a song from the musical the gunman interrupted.

At the service Monday, which included candle-lighting and speeches by church leaders, the children came out singing, "The sun will come out tomorrow," a line from the signature song in the musical "Annie."

Gunfire erupted Sunday during the children's performance at the Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church, which authorities said Jim D. Adkisson intentionally targeted because of its congregation's liberal policies. A four-page letter found in Adkisson's SUV indicated he picked the church because, the police

chief said, "he hated the liberal movement."

An overflow crowd of more than 1,000 people attended the memorial service at the Second Presbyterian Church next door.

### After bitter primary, Obama tries to win over Clinton supporters, increase lead among women

CHICAGO (AP) — After Hillary Rodham Clinton lost the race for the Democratic presidential nomination, one of her delegates wanted to send a message. So Mary Beth Pyle wore a Clinton T-shirt to a unity dinner meant to build support for Barack Obama.

Then she pulled it off to reveal an Obama T-shirt underneath — a symbol of her support for the party's new candidate for president.

"We were there to get over it. We had a sip of wine — goodbye, Hillary — and another sip — hello, Obama," said Pyle, chairwoman of the Democratic Party in Mesa County, Colo.

But many of Clinton's supporters aren't so willing to embrace Obama, at least not yet. Independents and moderate Republican women remain a question mark, too.

### Tourists pack their bags as wildfire outside Yosemite forces evacuations

MARIPOSA, Calif. (AP) — Visitors to Yosemite National Park weighed whether to cut their vacations short Tuesday as a destructive wildfire raging miles from the famed wilderness threatened thousands of homes and left evacuees stranded.

Authorities said late Monday the blaze tearing through a steep, dry river canyon had destroyed 25 homes, more than double the number reported earlier in the day. The fire has forced the evacuation of about 300 homes in the nearby towns of Midpines and Coulterville and is endangering as many as 4,000 others.

More than 46 square miles of mostly wilderness terrain have burned since a target shooter sparked the wildfire on Friday. The fire was 10 percent contained Monday night as it burned about 12 miles from Yosemite National Park, which remained open.

### STAPP

Continued from Page 5A

himself.

Shelby learned to ride a large tricycle which became his major transportation and he would be seen almost anywhere in

the city. He became very self sufficient and that's what made Shelby so unforgettable. He learned to cope with his situation and make the best of it. He learned to develop his abilities in spite of his inabilities. He learned to make friends and be accepted as part of the crowd for he wanted to be accepted, not pitied!

He desired to serve but not to be served. He did not wish to be a burden on society, but be an asset to society by giving of the best of his ability.

Shelby died a few years ago. He was almost at retirement age, but I don't think he would have ever retired. That was just part of his nature. He was a worker and a giver. That was his destiny.

William Jennings Bryan once said, "Destiny is no matter of chance. It is a matter of choice: It is not a thing to be waited for; it is a thing to be achieved."

And so it was with Shelby. He achieved the status, to all of us who knew him, as a very unforgettable character.

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

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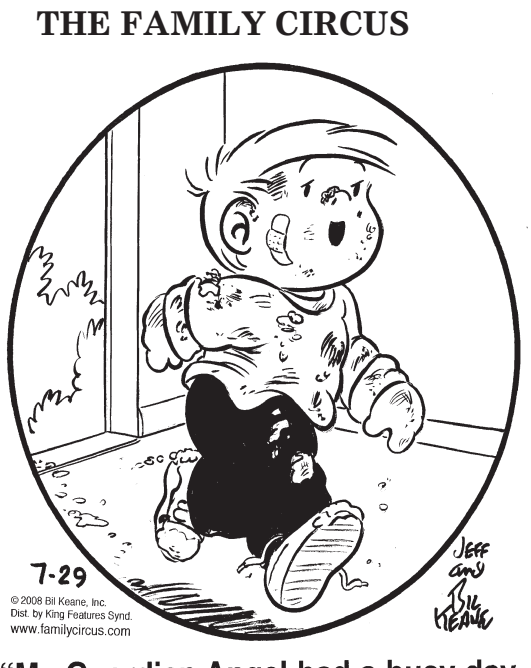
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5 :PM	News ABC	News ABC	Locura	Simpsons King-Hill	News CBS	Noticias Noticiero	News NBC	Friends Raymond	Scrivner Uri Harel	News Business	Cash Cab	Movie: Escape From New York	CSI: Crime Scn	Law & Order	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Games Life De	Horn Interrupt	SportsCenter
6 :PM	News ABC	Jeopardy! Fortune	Noticiero	Simpsons Two Men	News CBS	12 Corazones	News NBC	Raymond	Dr. Young	News Business	Cash Cab	Movie: Escape From New York	CSI: Crime Scn	Law & Order	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Games Life De	Horn Interrupt	SportsCenter
7 :PM	Wipeout	Wipeout	Diablo-Guapos	Kitchen Nightmares	Entertain NCIS	El Juramento	Celebrity Feud	Fam. Guy	Israel	Nova (DVS)	Shark Attack	Movie: Timecop, Ron Silver	CSI: Crime Scn	Law & Order	Movie: Madea's Family Reunion, Lynn Whitfield	Movie: The Thirteenth Year	MLB Baseball: 2008 State Farm Home Run Derby.	Series of Poker
8 :PM	Survived-Game	Survived-Game	Fuego en la Sangre	House	Big Brother 10	Victoria	America-Talent	Fam. Guy	Israel	Wide Angle	Dirty Jobs	Movie: Species, Alfred Molina	CSI: Crime Scn	Law & Order	Baldwin	Baldwin	Wizards Games	Tape
9 :PM	Primetime	Primetime	Aqui y Ahora	TMZ	Without a Trace	Sin Senos	Law & Order: SVU	Office	My Boys	P.O.V.	Not Shark Bait	Movie: Species, Alfred Molina	CSI: Crime Scn	Bones	Baldwin	Baldwin	Wizards Games	Tape
10 :PM	News ABC	News ABC	Impacto	Two Men	News CBS	Noticias	News NBC	Sex & Miller	Israel	Charlie Rose	Tiger Sharks	Movie: Tomorrow Never Dies, Michelle Yeoh	CSI: NY	Saving Grace	Hell Date	The Boot	Montana	Tape
11 :PM	Nightline	Nightline	Noticiero	Raymond	Late Show	Titulares	Tonight Show	Sex & Miller	Ministerio-Vida	Smiley Smiley	Shark Attack	Movie: Tomorrow Never Dies, Michelle Yeoh	CSI: NY	Saving Grace	Hell Date	The Boot	Montana	Tape
12 :AM	Insider Jimmy Kimmel Live	Extra	Niña Amada Mia	RENO 911 Lopez	Insider	Programa Pagado	News	Movie: A Few Good Men, Demi Moore	Israel	Smiley Smiley	Shark Attack	Movie: Tomorrow Never Dies, Michelle Yeoh	CSI: NY	Saving Grace	Hell Date	The Boot	Montana	Tape
1 :AM	Paid	Axis	Clasicos	RENO 911	Insider	Programa Pagado	News	Movie: A Few Good Men, Demi Moore	Israel	Smiley Smiley	Shark Attack	Movie: Tomorrow Never Dies, Michelle Yeoh	CSI: NY	Saving Grace	Hell Date	The Boot	Montana	Tape



"I'M TOO YOUNG TO READ THE NEWSPAPER, SO I HAVTA WATCH A LOT OF CARTOONS."



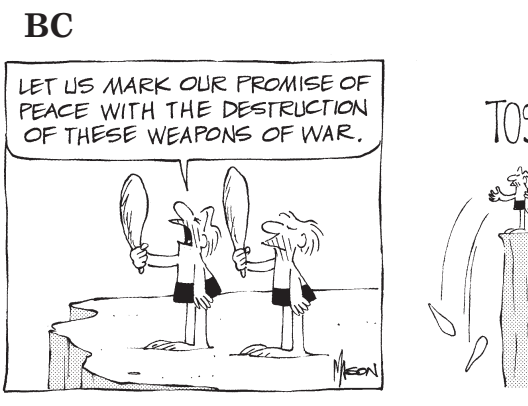
"My Guardian Angel had a busy day today, but we had FUN!"



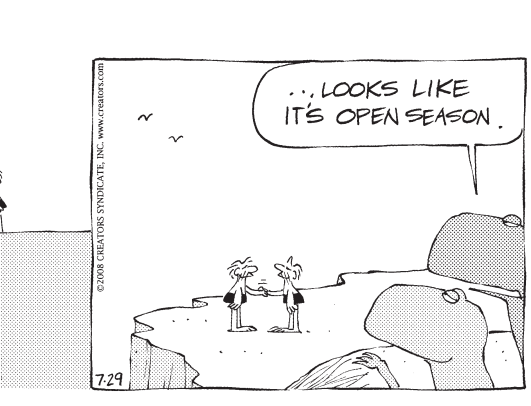
"BE MY GUEST!"



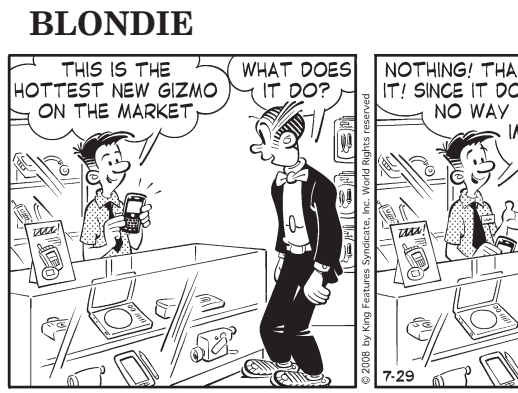
"I'M JUST RENTING"



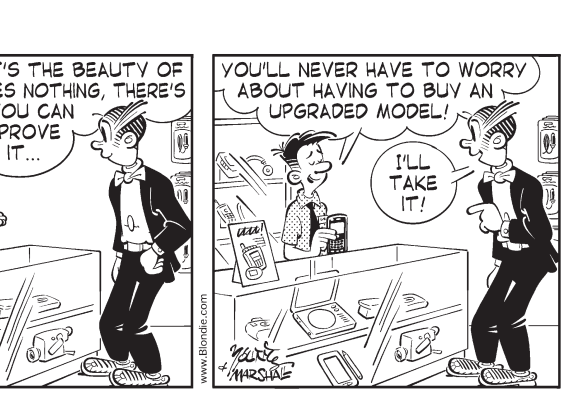
"THIS IS THE HOTTEST NEW GIZMO ON THE MARKET"



"WHAT DOES IT DO?"



"NOTHING! THAT'S THE BEAUTY OF IT! SINCE IT DOES NOTHING, THERE'S NO WAY YOU CAN IMPROVE IT..."



"YOU'LL NEVER HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT HAVING TO BUY AN UPGRADED MODEL!"



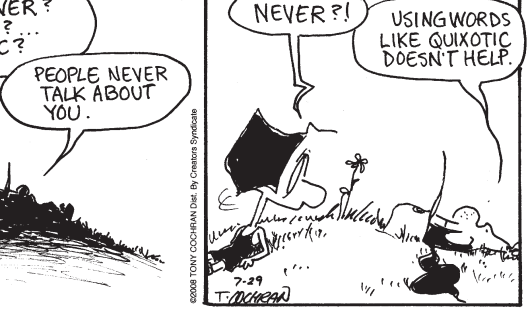
"LET US MARK OUR PROMISE OF PEACE WITH THE DESTRUCTION OF THESE WEAPONS OF WAR."



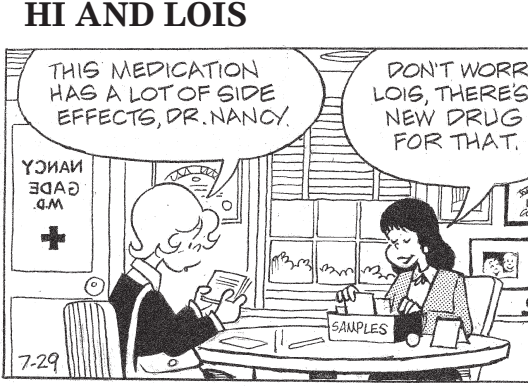
"...LOOKS LIKE IT'S OPEN SEASON."



"WHEN PEOPLE TALK ABOUT ME... WHAT DO THEY SAY?"



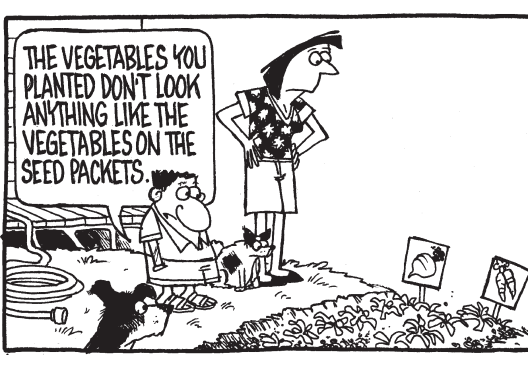
"DO THEY SAY I'M CLEVER? CRAZY? ECCENTRIC? ... MAYBE QUIXOTIC?"



"THIS MEDICATION HAS A LOT OF SIDE EFFECTS, DR. NANCY."



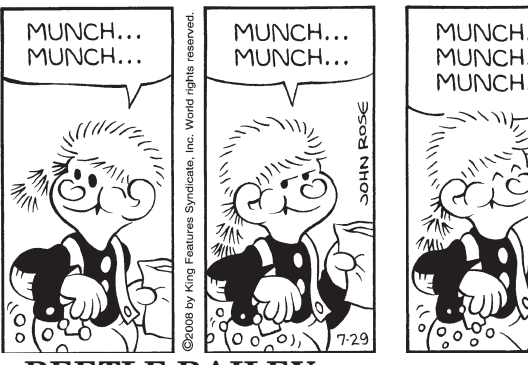
"DON'T WORRY, LOIS, THERE'S A NEW DRUG FOR THAT."



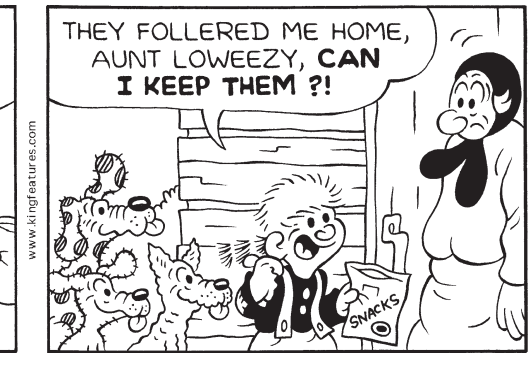
"THE VEGETABLES YOU PLANTED DON'T LOOK ANYTHING LIKE THE VEGETABLES ON THE SEED PACKETS."



"WHAT'S THIS?"



"MUNCH... MUNCH..."



"THEY FOLLERED ME HOME, AUNT LOWEEZY, CAN I KEEP THEM?!"



"WHEN SEWING ON A 4-HOLE BUTTON, STITCH THROUGH 2 HOLES, THEN KNOT THE THREAD AND SEW THE OTHER 2 HOLES"



"DOES IT SEEM TO YOU THAT THE ARMY IS MOVING AWAY FROM BOMBING THINGS?"

This Date In History

Today is Tuesday, July 29, the 211th day of 2008. There are 155 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: Fifty years ago, on July 29, 1958, President Eisenhower signed the National Aeronautics and Space Act, which created NASA.

On this date:

- In 1588, the English attacked the Spanish Armada in the Battle of Gravelines, resulting in an English victory.
- In 1890, artist Vincent van Gogh, 37, died of a self-inflicted gunshot wound in Auvers-sur-Oise, France.
- In 1900, Italian King Humbert I was assassinated by an anarchist; he was succeeded by his son, Victor Emmanuel III.
- In 1914, transcontinental telephone service began with the first telephone conversation between New York and San Francisco.
- In 1948, Britain's King George VI opened the Olympic Games in London.
- In 1957, the International Atomic Energy Agency was established.

In 1957, Jack Paar made his debut as host of NBC's "Tonight Show."

In 1967, an accidental rocket launch aboard the supercarrier USS Forrestal in the Gulf of Tonkin resulted in a fire and explosions that killed 134 servicemen.

In 1968, the Vatican issued an encyclical in which Pope Paul VI reaffirmed the Catholic Church's opposition to artificial means of contraception.

In 1981, Britain's Prince Charles married Lady Diana Spencer at St. Paul's Cathedral in London. (However, the couple divorced in 1996.)

One year ago: British Prime Minister Gordon Brown arrived at Camp David in Maryland for a private dinner as well as meetings with President Bush. Tens of thousands of Iraqis celebrated after Iraq beat three-time champion Saudi Arabia 1-0 to take the Asian Cup.

Today's Birthdays: Comedian Professor Irwin Corey is 94. Actor Robert Horton is 84. Former Sen. Nancy Kassebaum-Baker, R-Kan., is 76. Actor Robert Fuller is 74. Sen. Elizabeth H. Dole, R-N.C., is 72. Actor David Warner is 67. Rock musician Neal Doughty (R&O Speedwagon) is 62. Marilyn Tucker Quayle, wife of former Vice

President Dan Quayle, is 59. Actor Mike Starr is 58. Documentary maker Ken Burns is 55. Style guru Tim Gunn (TV: "Project Runway") is 55. Rock singer-musician Geddy Lee (Rush) is 55. Rock singer Patti Scialfa (Bruce Springsteen and the E Street Band) is 55. Rock musician Chris Gorman is 41. Actor Rodney Allen Rippey is 40. Actor Wil Wheaton is 36. Rhythm-and-blues singer Wanya Morris (Boyz II Men) is 35. Actor Josh Radnor is 34. Hip-hop DJ/music producer Danger Mouse is 31. Actress Allison Mack is 26.

Thought for Today: "Man must rise above the Earth, Ai to the top of the atmosphere and beyond, Ai for only thus will he fully understand the world in which he lives." — Socrates, Greek philosopher (469 B.C.-399 B.C.).

Answer to previous puzzle

TELLS	SILLO	PALL
ALLEY	IRON	OHIO
CLASSY	DIGS	WARN
HIM	TEES	ICEBAG
SAMEAS	STAR	
UMS	PENPALS	
LAPD	TREE	ALLAH
ASIDE	ARC	LASSO
VINYL	IRKS	NOTE
ANSWERS	MAT	
ACHE	WADSUP	
CHATTY	HASA	NOS
RICE	TOOTH	PICKS
OVER	HOOT	TOILET
WEDS	MOPS	SUERS

Newsday Crossword

TENORS, ANYONE? by Sally R. Stein  
Edited by Stanley Newman  
www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS**
- 1 Befuddle
  - 5 Not illuminated
  - 9 Group of employees
  - 14 In the center of
  - 15 Author Wiesel
  - 16 Video-store rental
  - 17 Small snack
  - 18 \_\_\_ of the above
  - 19 Banish
  - 20 Complimenting verbally
  - 23 Fall behind
  - 24 Curved line
  - 25 Genuine
  - 29 Glides on snow
  - 31 AMA members
  - 34 Glances
  - 35 Glances at
  - 36 Maple or mahogany
  - 37 Does
  - 46 Across maintenance
  - 40 Chimps and gorillas
  - 41 One-person performance
  - 42 Petroleum ship
  - 43 Crimson, for example
  - 44 Fixes firmly
  - 45 Hunters' guns
  - 46 Family vehicle
  - 47 \_\_\_ in "simple"
  - 48 Crowd's loud approval
  - 56 Welcome words to a hitchhiker
  - 57 Back end
  - 58 Mouse relatives
  - 60 Illinois senator
- DOWN**
- 1 Tiny bit
  - 2 Friends, in France
  - 3 Tubular pasta
  - 4 Biblical garden
  - 5 "That's not true!" is one
  - 6 Go \_\_\_ for the ride
  - 7 Telephone sound
  - 8 Hang on to
  - 9 Mascara stains
  - 10 Poisonous
  - 11 Hertz rival
  - 12 Fingernail shaper
  - 13 Service charges
  - 21 Window material
  - 22 Elevate
  - 25 Wedding site
  - 26 Two-door
  - 46 Across
  - 27 Improved, as one's muscles
  - 28 Luau instruments
  - 29 Shuts tightly
  - 30 Casino game
  - 31 Military practice
  - 32 Actress Zellweger
  - 33 Fortune tellers
  - 35 Parking place
  - 36 End-of-week shout
  - 38 Software buyers
  - 39 Din
  - 44 Steam rooms
  - 45 Enthusiastic, informally
  - 46 Theft or arson
  - 47 Hardly any
  - 48 Karate move
  - 49 Boxcar rider
  - 50 Milky gem
  - 51 Best-selling cookie
  - 52 Greek cheese
  - 53 Important periods
  - 54 Hard to find
  - 55 Goulash, for instance
  - 59 \_\_\_ Francisco

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
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