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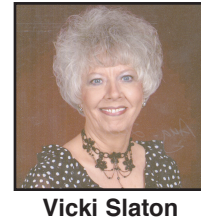
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BIG SPRING HERALD

WEDNESDAY

JULY 30, 2008



VOLUME 103, NUMBER 207

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Ryan offers 'toolbox' to city

Wants to help with economic development push

By THOMAS JENKINS

Staff Writer

Economic development was the focus Tuesday night when the Big Spring City Council held its quarterly meeting with the Big Spring Economic Development board of directors, and according to one Big Spring native, it's all about what you have in your toolbox.

Brint Ryan, manager of the Settles Hotel Development Company and owner of Ryan Inc., an economic development consulting firm, met with both groups to offer a contract to the government agencies he said will help the city develop a "first-class approach" to attracting new industries.

"The primary intent of the contract is two-fold," said Ryan. "First, it's to help the Big Spring Economic Development Corporation develop a first-class approach to economic development, using all of the tools at their disposal. Not just the local incentives they rely on so heavily today, but the federal and state tax credits, grants and other money that is available to put together a complete, comprehensive package.

We think that is going to significantly enhance their ability to attract new investment and new employers to Big Spring.

"The second part is we want to continue to develop our relationship with the economic development corporation. Since we started with the Settles Hotel, we've worked closely with them and they've been extremely supportive, and we want to grow that relationship further. That way, as we see deals coming through our pipeline — as we see clients looking for an attractive place to relocate — we can work directly with the economic development corporation and close some of those deals for Big

See RYAN, Page 3A



Texas Gov. Rick Perry will deliver the keynote address during an Aug. 21 groundbreaking ceremony to mark the beginning of a \$20 million renovation of the Settles Hotel.

Settles facelift

Perry to headline Aug. 21 ceremony

By THOMAS JENKINS

Staff Writer

The mid-August groundbreaking for the Settles Hotel will begin with more than just swinging hammers, as Texas Gov. Rick Perry is expected to serve as the keynote speaker for a ceremony to kick off renovations to the downtown landmark.

Big Spring native G. Brint Ryan, manager of the Settles Hotel Development Company, made the announcement Tuesday night during a joint meeting of the Big Spring City Council and the city's economic development corporation.

"On Aug. 21 we have our groundbreaking ceremony scheduled and we appreciate the governor being willing to come out," said Ryan. "He's been very gracious in accepting our invitation to deliver the keynote address at the ceremony, and we're really looking forward to that. After he steps off the podium, we're going to start asbestos abatement, and we're really thrilled about that."

Ryan said the project — which has seen its budget balloon from \$12 million to nearly \$20 million over the past year — is behind schedule, but he feels confident it's moving in the right direction.

"This has been a very exhausting process. We've had a number of legal issues dealing with the microwave equipment that had to be removed from the building," said Ryan, "we had significant consulting that had to be done on the asbestos abatement and we've been in the salvage operation in the building for the last six weeks, removing all the salvageable material before we start abatement. That includes all the sinks, the bath tubs, the fixtures

See SETTLES, Page 3A

County eyes district tax referendum in November

By THOMAS JENKINS

Staff Writer

How soon a proposed district sales tax could go to voters in Howard County may depend on just how agreeable city councils in Forsan and Coahoma are to the idea, as commissioners look to move forward with a

county assistance district sales tax.

The sales tax — which could range from 1/8, 1/4, 3/8, or 1/2 of 1 percent — would effect all of the unincorporated portions of the county, as well as the cities of Coahoma and Forsan, but would not effect vendors located

in the city of Big Spring, which falls under the umbrella of the Big Spring Economic Development Corporation.

However, according to County Judge Mark Barr, whether to present the proposed tax to voters

See TAX, Page 3A

BSISD registration to begin

By STEVE REAGAN

Staff Writer

The first tangible sign that another school year is arriving begins within the next few days.

Big Spring public school classes begin Aug. 25, and officials have released student registration information for the new school year.

Registration for students new to the district in grades kindergarten through 8 — and other kindergarteners who did not register in May — will be held from

Aug. 6 through Aug. 8 at their respective campuses. New high school students may register beginning Monday at the BSIS central office.

No appointment is necessary.

New students must provide their birth certificate, immunization record and Social Security number when they register.

BSISD elementary campuses (grades K through 4) are Bauer (264-4121), Kentwood (264-4130), Marcy (264-4144), Moss (264-4148)

See BSISD, Page 3A

Sen. Cornyn assistant coming

Elizabeth Cox, West Texas regional assistant for U.S. Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas, will be in Howard County Thursday to meet with constituents, address any federal concerns they may have and assist with various other services.

She will be in the second floor country courtroom at the Howard County Courthouse from 1:30 p.m. to 3 p.m.

The public is invited.

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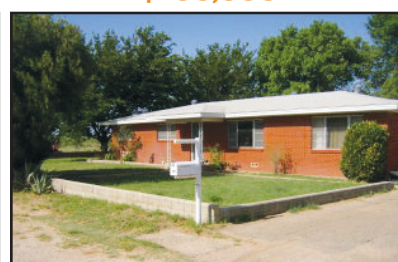
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Giddyup

HCYHC wrapped up third series of season Saturday

By JONATHAN HULL
Sports Editor

One is never too young to climb onto the back of a horse.

This is proved by the Howard County Youth Horseman Club. The HCYHC prides itself on assisting in the teaching of young kids horsemanship skills.

"The purpose of our club is to create an interest in showing, training, competition and horsemanship for youth of Howard County and the surrounding

areas," said HCYHC Secretary Dana Nix. "We also want to help prepare these kids for a future in rodeo if they choose to pursue one."

HCYHC's season consists of four series. Each series has three different play days attached to it. There are several different age divisions within the realms of the competitions, ranging from six years old and younger to 13-15-year-old boys or girls.

See HCYHC, Page 2B



HERALD photo/Jonathan Hull

Pete Hofacket leads Neely Key through a poles course at the Howard County Youth Horseman Club's final play day in its third series Saturday at the HCYHC Arena located on Garden City Highway.

Favre files for reinstatement

By CHRIS JENKINS
AP Sports Writer

GREEN BAY, Wis. — Brett Favre's decision to file for reinstatement will force the Green Bay Packers to do one of three things: release him, trade him, or allow him to report to camp.

If he reports, it potentially could cause a major distraction for a team that committed to moving on after he retired in March.

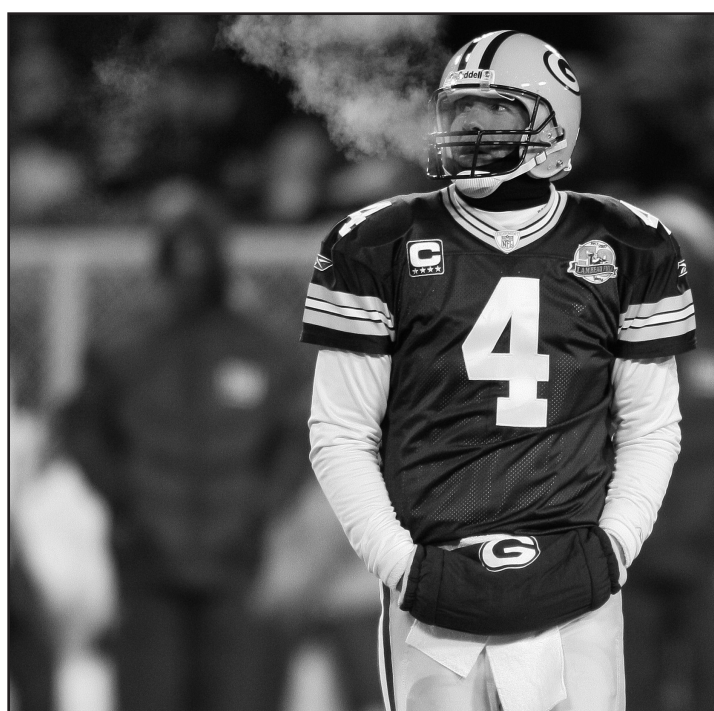
NFL spokesman Randall Liu confirmed that Favre sent his reinstatement paperwork to the NFL offices Tuesday. He now is

awaiting approval from commissioner Roger Goodell, a step that is considered a formality, but wouldn't be forthcoming until Wednesday at the earliest.

Once Favre is reinstated, the Packers will have 24 hours to decide what to do with him.

"That's obviously the first step in Brett coming back, so we'll deal with that when he is reinstated and we'll definitely have a plan in order," Packers coach Mike McCarthy

See FAVRE, Page 2B



AP file photo/David J. Phillip

Green Bay Packers quarterback Brett Favre looks on during the NFC Championship football game Jan. 20 against the New York Giants in Green Bay, Wis. Favre officially filed for reinstatement into the NFL Tuesday after retiring just a few months ago.

Trouble in Houston?

Controversial Artest traded to Rockets

By CHRIS DUNCAN
AP Sports Writer

HOUSTON — The Houston Rockets are close to an agreement to acquire Ron Artest from the Sacramento Kings, two people familiar with the negotiations told The Associated Press.

The Rockets will give up guard Bobby Jackson, who played for the Kings from 2000-05, and another player — likely rookie forward Donte Greene, according to two NBA people who confirmed the deal, but spoke on condition of anonymity because no official announcement had been made.

The Houston Chronicle first reported details of the trade on its Web site on Tuesday night.

Artest's long-anticipated move out of Sacramento probably can't be announced yet because Greene, acquired by the Rockets on draft night last month, signed a contract

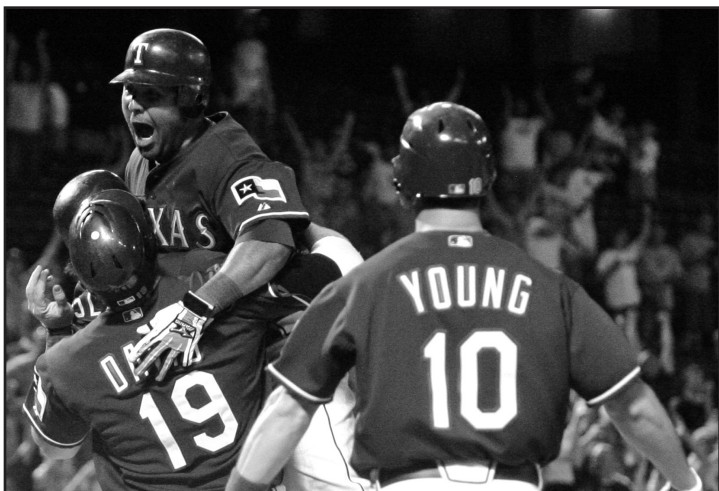
with Houston on July 14. A player can't be traded within 30 days of signing a contract, according to league rules.

Rockets general manager Daryl Morey did not immediately return a phone message. Rockets spokesman Nelson Luis said Morey was traveling out of the country and unavailable for comment. Morey planned to attend the Olympics next month.

The Kings confirmed that the teams had spoken about Artest.

"We have had some very positive discussions with Houston involving Ron, but no trade is imminent at this time," said Geoff Petrie, the Kings' president of basketball operations.

The 6-foot-7, 248-pound Artest averaged 20.5 points last season, his highest since 2004-05, when he averaged 24.5 for Indiana. He also grabbed 5.8 rebounds per game for Sacramento last season.



AP photo/Matt Slocum

Texas Rangers first baseman Gerald Laird, center, celebrates with teammates Chris Davis (19) and Michael Young (10) after scoring on Ramon Vazquez's game-winning two-run double in the ninth inning of an AL baseball game against the Seattle Mariners Tuesday in Arlington.

Vasquez's double gives Texas win

The Associated Press

ARLINGTON — Ramon Vazquez made three errors, including one that let the go-ahead run score. He atoned in a hurry.

Vazquez's two-run double in the bottom of the ninth lifted the Rangers to an 11-10 victory over the Seattle Mariners after Texas had wasted a seven-run lead after three innings.

"It's awesome. I was glad

to do something to end the game. It would have been a tough one leaving this game if we would have lost," Vazquez said.

Texas trailed 10-9 in the bottom of the ninth. But Marlon Byrd and Chris Davis singled off Seattle closer J.J. Putz (2-4).

Byrd was forced at third on Gerald Laird's ground-out while attempting to

See RANGERS, Page 2B

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.

Big Spring two-a-day schedules for volleyball and football

Two-a-day practices for Big Spring volleyball and football start Monday.

The football team will practice Monday through Friday with the first session lasting from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. and the second occurring from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Volleyball two-a-days occur Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and then from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Call Kay Cook with any questions at 264-3662.

Steer football season ticket sales have begun

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

Only people who have previously owned season tick-

ets 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 season 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. For questions regarding football, call John Sotelo at 816-3060, and for cheerleading, contact Trish Hobby at 393-5647.

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.

Lady Steers Booster Club holding important meeting

The Big Spring Lady Steers Booster Club is holding an important meeting at 7 p.m. Aug. 5, concerning the future organization of the club.

Any parent of a Lady Steers athlete, junior high or high school, is encouraged to attend the meeting taking place at the Athletic Training Center.

The Lady Steers volleyball team will also meet the same day at 6 p.m. in Steer Gym.

Big Spring QB Club meeting Monday

The Big Spring Quarterback Club will meet at 7 p.m. Monday in the Athletic Training Center. Any parent of a Steers football player is encouraged to attend.

For more information, call Denise Carillo at 816-1685.

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 Highway — half a mile off N. Highway 87.

The first play day in the series is at 6 p.m. Aug. 9. For more information, call 213-6177 or 267-8041.

Obituaries

Margaret Whaley



Margaret B. Whaley passed away July 27, 2008, at the age of 96 after a life of great joy, friendship and service to others.

She and her deceased husband, Searcy R. Whaley, founder in the mid-1950s of hospitals and clinics for alcoholics, had both been long-time residents of Dallas. Margaret resided at Presbyterian Village North in Dallas at the time of her death.

She was born April 28, 1912, in St. Louis to Mr. and Mrs. F.W. Bettie. As a young child, Margaret and her family moved to Big Spring, where she grew up and graduated from high school.

She was installed into the Order of Eastern Star in Big Spring in 1944. She was one of the earliest members of the Al-Anon family group. Margaret was a legal secretary in Big Spring before her marriage to Searcy in 1934. She and Searcy were married for more than 68 years before he passed away in 2003. Both were members of First Baptist Church Dallas.

Margaret is survived by her brother, Clayton Bettie and wife Alta Mae; nephews, Jim Bettie and wife Deborah of Delaware and Dick Bettie and wife Liz of Texas; and nieces, Kay Beard of Texas and Doris Jean Yates of California.

A viewing and visitation will be held Friday, Aug. 1, 2008, from noon until 1:30 p.m. at Sparkman/Hillcrest Funeral Home. A brief service at 2 p.m. will follow in the chapel in celebration of Margaret's life. Interment will be at Mount Hope Cemetery in Anson on Saturday, Aug. 2, 2008, at 10 a.m.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests that donations be made in Margaret's name to Texas Clinic and Hospital for Alcoholism, PO Box 35865, Dallas 75235.

Paid obituary

Guadalupe Valdez



Guadalupe "Lupe" Casias Valdez, 68, of Big Spring died Monday, July 28, 2008, at his residence. Funeral services will be at 2 p.m. Thursday at Sacred Heart Catholic Church with Rev. Ariel Lagunilla officiating. Burial will be at Mt. Olive Memorial Park. Vigil Services will be at 8 p.m. Wednesday at Myers & Smith Chapel.

He was born March 18, 1940, in Sinton to Isabel and Joaquin Valdez. He was a construction worker, having worked for L.G. Nix Construction for 15 years and also worked at Nu-Way Janitorial Service. He was a lifetime resident of Big Spring and was a member of Sacred Heart Catholic Church.

He is survived by two brothers, Desi C. Carmona and Vicente Carmona, both of Big Spring; one sister, Gloria Jean Carmona Viau of Emporis, Kan.; and a number of nieces and nephews.

In addition to his parents he was preceded in death by his step-father, D. M. Carmona; two brothers, Joe C. Valdez and J. C. Valdez; and a sister, Eva C. Valdez.

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

Homer Williford

Homer Williford, 81, of Big Spring died Monday, July 28, 2008, in a local nursing home. Services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Carla Castaneda

Carla "Charlie" Castaneda, 23, of Big Spring died Tuesday, July 29, 2008, at her residence. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Arrangements are by Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

• The West Texas Pachyderms will meet at noon Thursday at Big Spring Country Club. Guest speaker Tommy Scott will speak on 2nd 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

Police blotter

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

- RANDY RAY MIER, 30, transient, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of public intoxication.
- NATHAN ROBINSON III, 33, of 1511 Wood, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of possession of marijuana.
- JOHN SOLIS, 22, of 1401 N. Highway 87, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of disorderly conduct.
- ASSAULT CLASS C - FAMILY VIOLENCE was reported in the 2500 block of Dow.
- ASSAULT CLASS C - FAMILY VIOLENCE was reported in the 400 block of Aylesford.
- BURGLARY OF A HABITATION was reported in the 2600 block of Albrook.
- BURGLARY OF A VEHICLE was reported in the 1600 block of Lincoln.
- BURGLARY OF A VEHICLE was reported in the 2700 block of Wasson.
- CRIMINAL TRESPASS WARNING was reported in the 1400 block of Highway 87.
- FORGERY was reported in the 1200 block of Main.
- THEFT was reported in the 1100 block of Lamesa.
- UNAUTHORIZED USE OF A MOTOR VEHICLE was reported in the 500 block of Westover.

Sheriff's report

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

Note - Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 53 inmates at the time of this report.

- ANDRE DEJUAN DUGAS, 28, was arrested by the HCSO Tuesday on a charge of driving while intoxicated.
- MICHAEL ROY ROBERSON, 25, was transferred by the BSPD to the County Jail Tuesday on charges of possession of marijuana and possession of a controlled substance - over 4 grams but under 200 grams.
- DANIELLE PREJEAN HORNSBY, 34, was arrested by the HCSO Tuesday on a charge of false report to a police officer/law enforcement employee.
- MARCUS EDWARD-DO STALLINGS, 17, was arrested by the HCSO Tuesday on a charge of criminal mischief - over \$500 but under \$1,500.

The Big Spring Fire Department and Emergency

Fire/EMS

Medical Services reported the following activity:

- MEDICAL was reported in the 2700 block of Apache. Service refused.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 3300 block of Haley. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported at S. Highway 87. One person was transported to SMMC.

Support Groups

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.

Take Note

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.

Your Local Weather

Thu 7/31	Fri 8/1	Sat 8/2	Sun 8/3	Mon 8/4
97/71	91/70	94/70	95/70	94/69
Mostly sunny skies. High 97F. Winds SE at 5 to 10 mph.	Isolated thunderstorms. High in the low 90s and lows in the low 70s.	A few clouds. High in the mid 90s and lows in the low 70s.	Mainly sunny. High in the mid 90s and lows in the low 70s.	Sunshine. High in the mid 90s and lows in the upper 60s.

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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

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

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Tuesday night:

Winning numbers drawn: 9-28-32-35-37.
Number matching five of five: 0.

The winning Daily 4 numbers drawn Tuesday night by the Texas Lottery: 0-1-3-9. Sum It Up: 13.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Tuesday night by the Texas Lottery: 5-8-9. Sum It Up: 22.

BIG SPRING HERALD

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HCHYC

Continued from Page 1B

There's also a leadline division which is for any age of beginning rider. In the leadline, a more experienced rider guides the beginner rider through the course.

There are a variety of competitions at each play day and points

are given for the top scorers in each one. The events include exhibition barrels, poles, straight barrels, flags and goat tying.

The club wrapped up its third series Saturday at its arena on Garden City Highway, just a half-mile from Highway 87. Top performers in their respective divisions for the third series were: Neely Key, leadline; Kaylee Kernick, 6 & under; Trevor

Kernick, 7-9 boys; and D'Amberley Averitt, 13-15 girls.

The overall standings in each division are led by the following individuals: Riggin Stewart, 6 & under; Rope Stewart, 7-9 boys; McHaley Long, 10-12 girls; Daniel Dalager, 10-12 boys; Courtney Blair, 13-15 girls; Cody Jones, 13-15 boys; and Faith Raspe, leadline.

The HCHYC begins its fourth and final series of the season

begins Aug. 9 and will also feature play days on Aug. 23 and Sept. 6. Books open at 5 p.m. and play begins at 6 p.m. each night.

The final trio of competitions are called the Jackpot Series because cash prizes are given away.

Nix notes that anyone is welcome to come out and participate.

"The competitions aren't only for our members. Non-members

can compete as well," she said. "The cost per event in the Jackpot Series is \$5 for members and \$7 for non-members. We've had a pretty good season and are happy with the results as we get ready to wrap it up with our last series of the year."

Contact Sports Editor Jonathan Hull by calling 263-7331, ext. 237, or by e-mailing him at sports@bigspringherald.com.

FAVRE

Continued from Page 1B

said after practice Tuesday afternoon.

ESPN first reported that Favre faxed the letter earlier Tuesday.

If Goodell reinstates Favre on Wednesday, his return to the practice field for the Packers could come Friday. The Packers practice twice Wednesday but can wait a day to put Favre back on their active roster. The team does not have a scheduled public practice Thursday.

Throughout Favre's latest round of flip-flopping on his football future, Packers officials have said that Favre had the option of rejoining the team — but Aaron Rodgers would be the starter.

"Brett Favre is still a very good football player," McCarthy said Tuesday. "He is an asset to our football team. Once again, I'm going to answer this question for the last time. The plan for

Brett Favre will be discussed with Brett Favre first, and then we'll make it aware to the public."

McCarthy also said Rodgers will start all of the preseason games and probably get more playing time than Favre used to in the preseason.

"He'll be starting all of the games as the starter," McCarthy said of Rodgers. "We've talked about possibly playing our first group maybe a little longer, and those are things that we'll discuss. The health of your football team obviously factors into that, so that is our plan going into the preseason with Aaron."

Rodgers insisted he isn't bothered by the potential of having Favre lurking over his shoulder.

"You know, I'm not as affected as you guys (the media) think I am or should be," Rodgers said. "They told me I'm the starter, and until that changes, that's going to be my focus."

Rodgers said he is confident in his abilities and the firm com-

mitment he has received from Packers coaches.

"I've been empowered as the starting quarterback and until that changes, I'll say it again, that's going to be my focus," Rodgers said.

Rodgers said he and Favre have "never had a problem" and would probably "joke around" when they saw each other again.

"We've got a great relationship," Rodgers said. "If he's here, we'll welcome him back."

But some Packers players seemed skeptical that Favre would remain the backup if he ended up reporting to camp and wasn't traded away.

"I don't know about that," wide receiver Donald Driver said. "But we'll see. We'll see what happens."

Cornerback Charles Woodson — who chanted "We want Brett!" as he left the practice field Tuesday, but later laughed it off as "just having a little fun" with reporters — seemed to think Favre could play his way into

the position.

"Who knows how Brett feels about that — if he's coming in as being the backup, or coming in and a potential trade is going to happen, I don't know," Woodson said. "But if he comes in as the backup, he just comes in and plays the way he knows how to play. And if it's better, then the organization has another decision to make."

But Woodson said players aren't taking sides.

"There's no reason for anyone in the locker room to take sides or say in the media they prefer one guy over the other," Woodson said. "It's A-Rod's job, and at this point, it's his job to keep."

McCarthy said Favre's presence wouldn't become a distraction.

"I'm not concerned about it," McCarthy said. "We have talked about it as a football team. The players are handling it totally different than I think the perception is out there. We're about playing football. We're about getting ready for our season

upcoming. Everybody is aware of everything that is going on. There are no ill feelings toward Brett Favre, and he will be welcomed back into our locker room."

Of course, it won't come to that if the Packers can work out a trade deemed acceptable to Favre in the next few days.

The Packers have no plans to grant Favre the release he has requested, suspecting that he would immediately sign with division rival Minnesota; the Packers have filed tampering charges against the Vikings.

The team owns Favre's rights until his contract expires after the 2010 season, making a trade the most likely outcome acceptable to both Favre and the Packers.

But maybe not for some of his old teammates.

"He would look ugly in any other uniform, plain and simple," Driver said. "Every guy that leaves here and gets another uniform, that's what I tell them: They look ugly."

RANGERS

Continued from Page 1B

bunt, but Vazquez's double to right center drove in Davis and Laird to end a game featuring 21 runs, 33 hits and a season-high five errors by Texas.

"Sometimes you don't do it in the field but if you can come away with a win, it makes it worth it," Byrd said.

In the top of the ninth, Jamie Burke's RBI single tied it for the

Mariners, and pinch-runner Jarrod Washburn crossed the plate with the go-ahead run on a throwing error by Vazquez at third base.

Texas closer C.J. Wilson (1-2) allowed a single to Jose Lopez leading off the ninth and hit Kenji Johjima with a pitch. Johjima limped to the bench and Washburn, a pitcher, came on to run.

Washburn wasn't wearing a uniform top, spikes or a belt while he was sitting on the bench, and he had to retreat to

the clubhouse for shoes and a jersey. He borrowed a belt from manager Jim Riggleman, and ran onto the field.

Miguel Cairo's sacrifice bunt advanced the runners to second and third.

Burke hit a slow grounder to Vazquez, who threw wildly to first as Lopez and Washburn both scored.

Byrd homered and drove in four runs for the Rangers.

Mariners right fielder Ichiro Suzuki got his 3,000th professional hit between the major

leagues and Japan with a first-inning single. Suzuki went 2-for-5 to raise his average to .298.

Suzuki hit a soft liner to left-center on the game's first pitch from Luis Mendoza and added an RBI single sixth.

Ichiro has 1,723 hits in 1,224 games during his eight seasons with the Mariners and had 1,278 hits over 951 games in nine seasons with the Orix Blue Wave of Japan's Pacific League.

Speaking through an interpreter, Suzuki said after the

game that he disputes those who downplay his milestone because more than 1,200 of his hits came in Japan.

"If you look at it, my pace of getting hits in the United States is actually quicker than in Japan," Suzuki said. "So I guess if people want to say those kinds of things, one thing I'd like for them to look at is that statistic."

Vazquez, Laird, Milton Bradley and Josh Hamilton all had three hits for the Rangers, who compensated for a season-high five errors with 18 hits.

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- 2003 Cadillac DeVille - Tan w/Leather, All Power, One Owner. Was \$14,995 **Sale Price \$12,995**
- 2003 Ford Escort ZX2 - Black w/Cloth, One Owner w/66,000 Miles. Was \$9,995 **Sale Price \$6,995**
- 1997 Lincoln Continental - Black w/Leather, All Power, One Owner w/53,000 Miles. Was \$6,995 **SOLD Sale Price \$4,995**

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Pre-pregnancy diabetes tied to more birth defects

By MIKE STOBBE
AP Medical Writer

ATLANTA — Diabetic women who get pregnant are three to four times more likely to have a child with birth defects than other women, according to new government research.

The study is the largest of its kind, and provides the most detailed information to date on types of birth defects that befall the infants of diabetic mothers, including heart defects, missing kidneys and spine deformities.

The study lists nearly 40 types of birth defects found to be significantly more common in the infants of diabetic mothers than in those who weren't diabetic or who were diagnosed with diabetes after they became pregnant.

The study's list of diabetes-associated birth defects is surprising — it's much longer than was previously understood,

said Janis Biermann, senior vice president for education and health promotion at the March of Dimes.

"It adds more information about the specific types of birth defects associated with pregestational diabetes and gestational diabetes," said Biermann, who was not involved in the research.

Researchers from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention led the study, which is being published in the American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology. CDC officials released the study Wednesday.

Birth defects affect one in 33 babies born in the United States, and cause about one in five infant deaths. The cause of most birth defects isn't known but some risk factors include obesity, alcohol, smoking and infections.

Doctors have known for decades about the threat diabetes poses to pregnancies. Past research has focused on dangers to the infant

by the extra amounts of glucose — sugar — circulating in the womb of a diabetic mother. Studies with rats and mice clearly show excess sugar harms fetal tissue development, said Dr. E. Albert Reece, a study co-author, who directs birth defects research at the University of Maryland School of Medicine.

The new study draws from the birth records between 1997 and 2003 at hospitals in 10 states — Arkansas, California, Georgia, Iowa, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Texas and Utah.

The study focused on the 13,000 births involving a major birth defect, and compared them to nearly 5,000 randomly selected healthy births from the same locations.

Mothers were asked if they had been diagnosed with diabetes before or during their pregnancy. The researchers said those who were diagnosed while

pregnant either had a temporary, pregnancy-induced condition called gestational diabetes or had diabetes that had gone undiagnosed until they were pregnant.

The study found that there was no diabetes involved in 93 percent of the birth defects.

About 2 percent of the children with single birth defects were born to mothers who had diabetes before they became pregnant. About 5 percent of the infants with multiple defects were born to mothers with that condition. In healthy births, the percentage of mothers who were diabetic before pregnancy was much lower.

The study also showed a wide range of birth defects that included malformation of the heart, spine, limbs and gastrointestinal tract.

"Diabetes is not discriminating" in which birth defects it's linked to, said Dr. Adolfo Correa, a CDC epidemiologist who was the study's lead author.

Fire near Yosemite park hurts tourist business

By GARANCE BURKE
Associated Press Writer

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK, Calif. — Vendors along one of the main roads leading to Yosemite National Park this summer were finally seeing business turn around following a rock slide that kept tour buses away for the previous two years.

That was before a massive wildfire closed the highway and sent towering plumes of smoke

and ash over one of the nation's most celebrated wilderness areas.

"It's like we just get on our feet and they kick the stool out from under us," said Donna Santi, a gift shop clerk in Mariposa. "Still, the business will survive. We're more worried about the residents."

The fire raging since Friday has destroyed 25 homes and was only 20 percent contained late Tuesday.

Visitors seeking to photograph Yosemite National Park's famed peaks instead took shots of monoliths obscured by flying ash blowing in from the wildfire burning just 12 miles outside the park.

The haze has left one of California's most popular destinations shrouded in smoke at the height of Yosemite's busiest season.

"It's the views that are really disappointing," said Karen

Brown, a 45-year-old mother of two from Phoenix. "We do two major trips a year and this was one of them. It's not like we can shoot back here in a month."

Brown said her family was packing up a day early to avoid suffering from irritated eyes and sore throats.

The children had been "using their imaginations to experience Yosemite," she said, but ventured they would prefer clear views of Lake Tahoe.

BSISD

Continued from page 1A

and Washington (264-4126).

Students who attended Big Spring schools during the 2007-08 school year are already registered for the new year, officials said, but may need to update information such as addresses or telephone numbers.

Students must be regis-

tered at the campus in their attendance area unless a transfer request was approved at the administration office.

If students moved to a different attendance area during the summer, they need to pick up their registration packets at their old campus.

Attendance area can be determined by contacting BSISD Transportation Director Wayland Pierce at 264-4108.

Students in grades 5 and 6 will attend Goliad Intermediate (264-4111). Fifth-grade orientation will be held at 5:30 p.m. Aug. 21, while sixth-grade orientation will be held one hour later.

Students in grades 7 and 8 will attend Big Spring Junior High (264-4135). Seventh-grade orientation and schedule pick-up will be held at 4 p.m. Aug. 21. Eighth-grade orientation will be held at 5:30 p.m.

that day. Schedule pick-up for Big Spring High School students is as follows:

- Seniors and juniors — from 9 a.m. to noon Aug. 20.
 - Sophomores — from 9 a.m. to noon Aug. 21.
 - Freshmen — "Fish Camp" orientation will be held at 5:30 p.m. Aug. 21 in the high school auditorium. Open house and schedule pick-up will follow.
- Students with schedule

conflicts need to see their counselors the day they pick up their schedules. Freshmen with schedule conflicts should see their counselors from 8 a.m. until noon Aug. 22.

For more information, contact the BSISD central office at 264-3600.

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

SETTLES

Continued from page 1A

— basically anything we can save for the reconstruction. In addition to that, we've had issues with the approval from the Texas Historic

Commission and we received their final approval of our schematic design six weeks ago. We're very excited about that.

"We're doing the project right, and we're doing it right because that's how we want it and it's required to secure our tax

credit financing. It's taken a little bit longer than we had initially planned, but the outcome is going to be more than worth it."

SHDC announced plans for a multi-million dollar renovation project in December 2006. According to SHDC officials, the

project includes plans for commercial and residential use of the property, with retail space available on the first and second floors.

Since that time, the purchase price for the structure — \$75,000 to be paid to the city of Big Spring — has remained in

escrow, waiting for Ryan and his company to take legal ownership of the local landmark.

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

RYAN

Continued from page 1A

Spring." According to Ryan, the contract calls for a one-time fee from Big Spring

EDC that would purchase a "toolbox" of information identifying key industries suited for the area, state and federal credits and grants, as well as other useful information the EDC could use for economic development.

However, the cost of the contract wasn't nearly as concise as Ryan's presentation.

According to EDC board member Larry McLellan, the cost of the contract — which includes all the information and help

learning how to use it, according to Ryan — is between \$75,000 and \$90,000.

Ryan was unable to confirm the contract fee following the meeting. The council and EDC board entered an executive

session following the presentation, but took no action upon returning.

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

TAX

Continued from page 1A

during the November presidential election or the May city and school board elections is the question facing the court.

"We have until Aug. 26 to call for the election," said Barr. "We have to notify both cities of our intent within 60 days, and they have 45 days to reply.

"So, as you can see, there's really no way to make those deadlines and get it on the November ballot. However, County Attorney Mike Thomas has advised us that if we can get both cities to pass a resolution saying they will not oppose the tax before

that August deadline, then we won't have to worry about the 60-day rule and we can move forward immediately. So it all hinges on whether or not Forsan and Coahoma plan to oppose the tax."

Commissioners Jerry Kilgore and Gary Simer said they were in favor of shooting for the November election.

"There's certainly going to be a better voter turnout in the presidential election," said Kilgore. "I feel like putting it on the November ballot will give us a much better representation of what the voters want than presenting it in May."

Barr said he has already made arrangements to

meet with the Forsan City Council and is in the process of making similar arrangements with the city of Coahoma.

"If we can get them to pass resolutions saying they won't oppose the tax, we can go ahead and move forward," said Barr. "However, if either of them plan to oppose it, then we're stuck waiting until May. It's that simple."

According to information on Window on State Government — a Web site provided by Texas Comptroller Susan Combs — the district must use the sales tax revenues to perform the following functions of the district:

- the construction, or

improvement of roads or highways;

- the provision of law enforcement and detention services;
- the maintenance or improvement of libraries, museums, parks, or other recreational facilities;
- the provision of services that benefit the public welfare; or
- the promotion of economic development and tourism.

As far as eligibility for the creation of the tax district is concerned, the comptroller's site also says, "A county with a population of less than 45,000 is eligible to create a county assistance district if the county does not contain a city that has

a 4A or 4B development corporation, or the county contains territory of a transit authority created under Chapter 451 or 452 of the Texas Transportation Code."

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

Suicide ruled in death

Herald staff report

The death of a 23-year-old Big Spring woman has been ruled a suicide, according to Howard County officials.

Carla Michelle Pineda-Castaneda, 23, of 1443 Hilltop Road, was pronounced dead early Tuesday morning at her residence by Justice of the Peace Bennie Green, who ruled the death a suicide.

According to Green, Castaneda was found by a family member in a bedroom at the residence, having hung herself with a piece of rope.

According to Mark Hall, chief deputy with the Howard County Sheriff's Office, suicide notes addressed to family members were found at the scene.

Green said no foul play is suspected and no autopsy was ordered.

"It's cut and dried what happened," said Green. "It wasn't necessary to call for an autopsy."

Contact the Herald at 263-7331

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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. Funeral Services will be at 2:00 PM Thursday at Sacred Heart Catholic Church with burial at Mt. Olive Memorial Park. Vigil Services will be at 8:00 PM Wednesday at Myers & Smith Chapel.

Carla "Charlie" Castaneda, 23, died Tuesday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

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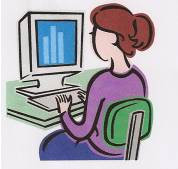
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Garage Sales

1400 BENTON. Saturday, 7:00-6:00. Rainbow vacuum, dorm furnishings & fridge, home decor, furniture, awesome men's, women's, junior's clothes, bedding. 15 years of stuff.

528 SCOTT Drive. Clothing, dryer, lawnmower, furniture and other miscellaneous items. Saturday ONLY! 8am-3pm.

4 FAMILY Garage Sale, 309 Washington Blvd., Saturday 8:00-2:00. TVs, Queen bed, washer, dryer, kitchen tables, gas stove, linens, floral arrangements, lots of girls clothes newborn to teen, baby bedding, lots of toys. Too much to list.

DAHMER'S ANTIQUES has Sold! 204-206 Main. Everything must go by August 23rd. No reasonable offer refused. Sale doors will open Monday July 28th 10:00am-3:00pm. Sale will continue till August 24th. Phone 432-264-8048.

GARAGE SALE 2613 Cindy Lane. Thursday 8 to 12. Roll top desk, computer desk, televisions, mattress W/boxsprings, dining table W/4 rolling chairs, crosses, lamps, household items, toys, china cabinet, pink depression glassware, and doghouse.

Garage Sales

GARAGE SALE: 2715 Coronado Ave. Friday 6pm-9pm, Saturday 7am-12Noon. Cash Only.

GARAGE SALE: Baby furniture as well as a variety of other furniture, boys name brand clothing sizes 3-7, various household items, and much more. Free to good home spayed indoor cat. Thurs.-Sat. 8:00am-6:00pm, 900 Mountain Park Drive.

MULTI FAMILY Garage/ Moving Sale. Lots of baby, kitchen and bedding. 6102 S. Service Road (Sand Springs). Thursday 5:30pm-8:30pm Friday and Saturday 8am-Noon and 5:30pm-8:30pm Or call (817)683-7322 for directions.

SMALL ESTATE SALE: Saturday Only 8-?, 2705 Crestline (in Coronado). Some furniture, crystal, oriental items, glassware, lots of kitchen items, knick-knacks and misc. items.

WHOLE BLOCK of Sales! 100 Block of Jefferson (between Washington and 11th). Collectibles, kids clothes, furniture, tools, toys, decor, much more. Saturday 8:00am.-?

YARD SALE: 204 E. Robinson Rd., Saturday, 8am-? Assorted new picture frames, cross necklaces, 1/2 price Mary Kay, tools, clothes, furniture, 2x4's, misc. items. Too Much to List!!

Help Wanted

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BIG SPRING Country Club needs Dishwasher & Wait Staff, full or part-time. Apply in person, Tuesday thru Friday or call 432-267-8241.

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CASA of West Texas is seeking a Case Supervisor for its Big Spring Office. Supervise volunteers who speak for the best interest of children in court. Full-time, benefits. Travel required. Email: lilyw@casawtx.org

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-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

Ron Midkiff
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OTHER VIEWS

In need of real dropout rates

For too long, Texas was in denial about its dropout problem. Fuzzy math and fungible counting methods allowed districts to grossly underestimate the number of students slipping through the cracks.

A planned shift to tougher dropout standards seemed to signal that the state was ready for a reality check. But for two years running, the Texas Education Agency has deferred full implementation, giving schools with high dropout rates a "get out of jail free" card.

Last year, the first for the new standard, the state granted an exception that spared school districts and campuses from being saddled with lower ratings based solely on dropout numbers. The reprieve seemed reasonable, as educators adjusted to the new criteria.

So this would be the year that Texas came to terms with its dropout epidemic. At least that was the plan.

But as the release date for school rankings drew near, districts again pleaded for more time. Unfortunately, state Education Commissioner Robert Scott obliged.

Earlier this month, he granted another exception, giving schools a break for a second year. This prolonged amnesty runs counter to the sense of urgency that must surround the dropout issue. How severe is the problem? Estimates vary widely, depending on the counting method, but a study released this year by America's Promise Alliance reported that Dallas had a graduation rate of only 44.4 percent in 2004.

State officials have argued that educators will use the additional time to evaluate information and craft strategies, but Texas can't afford to burn another year mulling this over. There's little doubt that districts will intensify efforts to keep kids in school when student completion rates threaten their prized performance ratings.

The truth will hurt when the new standard is in place. No doubt some districts that have become accustomed to higher marks will be labeled "academically unacceptable."

Yet implementing more stringent criteria will underscore the depth of the problem and will be the most effective way to spur action.

TEA officials now say that it's common to allow a two-year grace period before using new indicators to calculate ratings, although that's not a formal policy. And there was no mention of the practice last summer when the state announced the first one-year exception.

At this point, we can only hope that the third time will be a charm when it comes to implementing real dropout standards.

THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS

HOW TO CONTACT US

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

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

For those so graciously willing to help others in times of need.

Amen

A soldier shares his life after deployment

It was a lost high school class ring that eventually put me in touch with Mark Sewell, a 1980 graduate of Union High School in Tulsa, Okla.

The ring had been stolen in a burglary more than 12 years ago when Sewell lived in Wylie near Dallas, and it was found on the streets of Fort Worth about three years ago.

With the help of readers, we finally found the right Mark Sewell in Fredonia, Kan., and during our initial conversation it was clear that the Persian Gulf War veteran was still suffering from his experience in the U.S. Army.

I tried several times to get him to discuss his injuries, but he refused. "I don't want to talk about it," he told me more than once.

I issued a final plea last week when I told him that I was planning a follow-up column about him getting the ring back.

Last Tuesday, in an e-mail message sent at 12:47 a.m. with "Insomnia as usual" as its subject, Sewell opened up, perhaps more than he has in years.

Here is that message in its entirety, which Sewell said he wrote to help other men and women returning from war.

"One time Bob and this is it.

"On a normal day under normal circumstances I would not answer any of your questions nor would I tell you anything about myself. My DD214 (separation from service document) is public record but my life is not. I've read some of your columns and you seem OK. I say that tentatively, you understand? Linda,

my wife, says to talk about my war so that you will write about it and the young men coming home from the current war may be helped.

"I won't go into details because there are too many. My unit, which I will not identify, was a divisional reconnaissance unit (LRSD) (Long Range Surveillance Detachment). We saw some combat and it sucked. I got a Bronze Star and a couple of other medals. Medals are good merit awards in the Army for both staying alive and/or killing somebody. I killed a few people that I won't go into details over that I probably shouldn't have. People told me that I did the right thing but I don't think so. Guilt and sadness are my best friends and they are still with me today.

"What is it like to come home to family, friends and Wal-Mart after combat? I couldn't tell you because I don't believe that I ever did. I drank a lot, kept to myself and sweated in the dark a lot. None of that is very glamorous. After about 10 years I was diagnosed with combat PTSD (post-traumatic stress disorder) at 70 percent. The VA throws in the extra 30 percent for unemployment. I guess I am no longer a productive member of society. I want to be but it is hard. I was diagnosed with agoraphobia because I would not leave the safety of my own home. I've also been diagnosed as being depressed and angry. Hey, I'm not mad at anyone although I used to be mad at everyone. War is terrible. The experience of hunting and killing someone while they hunt and hope to kill you is surreal. It tends to stick with you.

"A long time ago they called PTSD a 'soldier's heart.' That sadness that washes over you while standing in line at the grocery store. You look around at all the people and think to yourself that none of them knows

what it is like, war ... none of them knows. You feel protective of them and proud that you have spared them from ever knowing it.

"My current wife saved my life. I mean that in a most literal way. She is understanding and so very patient. She is also practical and steadfast. The best combat lifesaver that I have ever met.

"Today I hear the government is denying cases of PTSD. Calling them instead traumatic brain injury, or TBI. Those assholes. ... Which is worse? The injury to the person inside the brain or the brain itself? They are also saying that a lot of the problems were pre-existing. When I was in the Army they would eject you if you were a bed-wetter. If you had a real mental condition there is no way that they would have accepted you in the first place. It always surprised my parents and my wife that even though I'd been seeing VA doctors since the day I got out of the Army, it took me so long to get my rating of PTSD.

"That's it, Bob. Probably more than you wanted but the dam spilled over. Write about TBI, pre-existing conditions and the high rate of suicides among combat veterans. Write about the homeless rate among soldiers who have just returned 'Home.' Don't stop writing and I won't stop reading.

"Feel free to use anything that I've told you.

"Thanks,
"Mark"

My thanks to you, Mark, for sharing this much of your ordeal.

Bob Ray Sanders is a columnist for the Fort Worth Star-Telegram. Readers may write to him at: 400 W. 7th Street, Fort Worth 76102, or via e-mail at bobray@star-telegram.com.

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Drill and ease fear factor's affect on price

Sometimes political parties play to type so perfectly that it's almost charming. Consider the completely predictable responses of Democrats and Republicans to the record prices of oil.

Both parties agree that \$4 gasoline is problematic. From there, they part ways. Democrats blame the oil companies and speculators. Republicans point the finger at government interference and increased global demand. Democrats want to tax and regulate their way out of the problem by passing increased carbon-tax measures and fuel-economy standards. Republicans want to drill for more oil. Naturally, each party opposes the views of the other.

Each is half right. Global demand for oil has increased from 77.4 million barrels per day in 2001 to 86.4 million b.p.d. today. That's an increase of 11.6 percent. So Republicans are correct that demand has increased. But during that same time period, the price of oil has increased, in real dollars, by 400 percent.

Which means Democrats are correct in saying that other forces — namely, speculation and risk premiums — are responsible for much of the elevated price. Republicans like to deny such factors, since they imply the inefficiencies of the free market, but their effects are undeniable.

After all, it isn't as though people want more oil than is being pro-

duced. The oil market has surplus production capacity — that is, a buffer of additional supply than can be cranked up should demand rise. There is more oil to be sold than people want to buy. In recent years, however, global surplus capacity has shrunk. The risk premiums we're paying are due to fears that the surplus might not be enough to cover demand, should some unforeseen event cause a supply interruption.

Which brings us to the Republican proposal to drill for more oil at home. Currently, there is a ban on drilling for oil within 200 miles of our coast. This means that we can't get our hands on about 85 percent of America's untapped domestic reserves. Which is a little bit crazy. Imagine building your house next to a well, but refusing to tap it in favor of buying expensive bottled water from someone else.

Our untapped resources are not trivial. According to Rep. Roy Blunt, the Missouri Republican leading the drill team in the House, our deep-water ocean resources should yield 3 million barrels per day (as well as 76 trillion cubic feet of natural gas); Arctic resources could account for an additional 1 million b.p.d.; and our oil shale resources could give us an additional 2.5 million b.p.d.

Last week, President Bush rescinded the executive order prohibiting offshore drilling. So the only thing standing in the way of harnessing America's reserves are Democrats in Congress.

Congressional Democrats claim we can't drill our way out of our long-term energy problem. And they're not wrong. Even if everything went right, the Republican

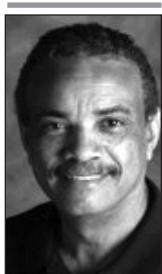
plan to drill only yields 6.5 million b.p.d., a small portion of our national 20 million b.p.d. habit. And that oil could take as long as 10 years to come online.

But drilling would be a short-term fix for our troubled economy. Remember, oil prices are soaring because investors are worried about future, not current, supply shortfalls. Moving to create additional future supply would relieve some of the price pressure we're experiencing today. And while we can't drill our way out of long-term oil dependence, we might be able to drill our way out of recessionary trends brought on by the giant oil-price shocks.

The real problem — and here's where both parties are wrong — isn't \$4 gas. The problem is a 400 percent oil-price increase in just a few short years. At some point, gas needed to become more expensive to prod consumers toward more fuel-efficient alternatives. It is dangerous to be dependent on foreign oil. But the overnight spike carries its own economic dangers.

The key to balancing increased energy independence and economic health is gradualism. Higher gas prices are here to stay, so American consumers are going to be pushed toward greater efficiency, no matter what. To lessen the pain, and to protect our economic well-being, Democrats in Congress should let the drilling begin.

Jonathan V. Last is a columnist for the Philadelphia Inquirer. Readers may write to him at: Philadelphia Inquirer, P.O. Box 8263, Philadelphia, Pa. 19101, or by e-mail at jlast@phillynews.com.



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Why not check this out? At the county library

The Friends of the Library are requesting donations of gently used books for the annual book sale. You may bring them to the Library during regular hours. It is requested that they be in sturdy boxes. As always, the Friends request that the items be something that you would like to purchase; dirty and musty books need not apply!



HOLLIS McCRIGHT

The sale is scheduled for Sept. 19-21. A correction from last week, membership dues are \$5 per person. We are still working on a new website although sad to say, it is not up yet. Also, our phone message on the answering service still reflects incorrect information. We will attempt to correct it as soon as possible.

New Arrivals

Our Large Print is important to many people here in the community. It enables people whose vision is compromised to still enjoy reading. Some new LP mysteries have arrived.

• "Chasing Darkness" (LP M CRA R). Robert Crais is a well-known thriller/mystery writer who also was a writer for a number of TV shows — Cagney & Lacey, Quincy ME, Miami Vice and even LA Law.

His character Elvis Cole is a police detective for the LAPD and Crais' latest book comes from the headlines. Police are evac-

uating a fire-threatened LA neighborhood, when they discover an apparent suicide victim. As always, it is what it isn't and that is all I'm going to tell you. We do have this in regular print also.

• "Sleeping Arrangements" (LP F WIC M) Madeleine Wickham has a wicked sense of writing. Her books are usually based in England, maybe Spain or France, and there is always a crossed "love" affair. Her latest is just that. Two couples have been promised the use of a villa in Spain but it is large enough only for a single couple. Chloe and Phillip and Hugh and Amanda come to spend a week on vacation. The question is, will each couple leave as they came? This may also be found in the Fiction area with the rest of Wickham's books. Another LP selection is Elizabeth Adler's "One of Those Malibu Nights" (LP M ADL E).

Non-Fiction

"Dead Lucky: Life After Death on Mount Everest" (796.522 HAL L) by Lincoln Hall.

In May 2006 on Mt. Everest, veteran climber Hall was left for dead because, to his fellow climbers, he appeared to have died. But the following morning, members of another expedition found him sitting on a rock and very much alive. Hall's story made headlines around the world — not too many dead men walk down off the tallest mountain in the world — and now Hall, the author of seven previous climbing-themed books, tells us the full story.

It is a remarkable account. Hall's ordeal is

the stuff of nightmares: collapsing from altitude sickness, slipping into unconsciousness, waking up all alone at the top of the world, left behind as though he were a corpse.

As a storyteller, Hall has a tough job: to convey to the reader what was going on inside his head as he slipped in and out of hallucination until the line between fantasy and reality was so blurred as to be nonexistent.

He does this with a grace and sense of drama that benefit a novel: we feel we're there with him, seeing and hearing things that can't possibly be real. There have been a great

many Everest-themed books lately, but this one stands alone, the first-person account of a climber's journey into, and back out of, death itself. — review from Booklist.

Current Events/Iraq
A couple of books from Iraq: "From Baghdad, With Love" (956.704 KOP J) by Lt. Col. Jay Kopelman and "God Willing: My Wild Ride with the New Iraqi Army" (956.704 NAV E) by Captain Eric Navarro are now in. Kopelman writes about Lava, a tiny puppy found in an abandoned home in Fallujah and taken as a pet by some of the rough-

est, toughest Marines around. "God Willing" is Capt. Navarro's account of living and training five-hundred Iraqi police recruits. Both are equally engrossing. Relationships • "There When He Needs You" (649.108 BER N) Dad, are you puzzled how to talk to your son? Do your conversations consist of yes/no questions? Are you trying to be a good father to your son but don't quite know how to do so? Neil Bernstein has written a book on how to be emotionally involved and available to your son. This will give you some

guidance in communicating with your son. The Library is closed on Saturdays for the month of August. The Howard County Library hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Friday. The Internet/Video room is closed from noon until 2 p.m. and closes one-half hour before closing. The Library is located at 500 S. Main St. Our phone number is 264-2260. The Web site is www.howard-county.lib.tx.us

Hollis McCright is director of the Howard County Library.

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Laura on Life

Princess Palace

Once upon a time, there was a princess who collected frogs, turtles and rocks. She was fascinated by worms and befriended spiders. She intercepted bugs from the traps her mother put out and, in general, was very un-princess-like.



LAURA SNYDER

This princess had four brothers who all had princely qualities but rarely ever used them. This is why our princess felt the need to defend herself against her brothers' un-princely-ness. She also defended any creatures that might otherwise become the target of her brothers' curiosity. Curiosity, I might add, that had more to do with life-threatening insect experimentation than with a harmless want of knowledge.

This little princess was friend to one and all, creatures and humans alike, including a certain babysitter onto whom she would launch herself and demand a piggy-back ride. Her friendship of animals might bring to mind an image of Cinderella and her troop of housekeeping forest friends ... but for one exception. Her bedroom always looked like it had been hit by a bomb. Apparently she had not yet acquired the skills to teach her animals friends how to handle a broom and dust pan.

As for feeling a pea under her mattress, it is highly unlikely given the abundance of items unrelated to sleeping that she is amassing upon her bed. It is not uncommon to see her awaken in the morning with her knees resting on a two inch volume about horses, a plastic miniature teapot balancing on the end of her big toe, and the imprint of a Polly Pocket she had

See **LAURA**, Page 6A



40% OFF
BOYS & GIRLS SHORTS
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Assorted career and casual looks. Reg. 20.00-54.00, **Sale 12.00-32.40**

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SAT. 9:00 a.m. TO 6:00 p.m.
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More information: (325) 573-2323 or (325) 573-2777
Admission is \$3

Prices effective thru August 4, 2008. Interim markdowns may have been taken. Entire stocks only where indicated. Selection may vary by store.

BEALLS HOURS:
MONDAY - SATURDAY 10:00 A.M. - 9:00 P.M. SUNDAY 12:00 P.M. - 6:00 P.M.
INSIDE THE BIG SPRING MALL

Help Wanted

GARTMAN REFRIGERATION need Certified HVAC and experienced plumber. Apply in person, 3206 E. FM 700.

GAS PRICES got you Down Try Avon!!!!!! 12 Immediate openings. Up to 50% commission and great benefits. For the cost of lunch you could start a new career. call (432)270-2125. Ind. sales rep.

GO GREEN

Join The Wind Energy Team: Openings For Wind Tower Installation. No Experience Required; Will Train. Excellent Pay With Project Bonuses. Full Benefit Package. For More Information About Opportunities In The Big Spring, TX Area Call 1-877-355-5303 Ext.#5325. M-F 8a-5p EEOC/MF

GREAT PAY & BENEFITS!

Hiring class CDL Drivers. Clean MVR. Also need Shop Mechanic. Call 432-756-2875 or apply at Key Energy, West I-20 South Service Road, Stanton, TX.

HIRING TEMPORARY Cashier/Clerk. Apply in person @ Texas Book Company-Howard College Bookstore, Mon-Thurs 10am-5pm.

HOUSEKEEPING NEEDED-above average wage. Pick up application at Holiday Inn Express, 1109 N. Aylesford.

INDEPENDENT OIL & Gas Co. is seeking to fill a drilling, completion and field operations supervisor(s) position. A competitive salary/ benefits and an excellent work environment are some of the associated advantages. This position offers challenging work in the supervision of drilling, completion and field operations in the West Texas Area. Please send resume with contact information to: dorr@telesisoperating.com, or fax to 817-737-2235. All inquiries will be strictly confidential.

NEED CDL Driver to move equipment and Heavy Equipment Operator. Must pass drug test. Call 432-394-4161.

NEED TRANSPORT Driver for fuel deliveries. Starting Salary \$18.50per Hour. Excellent Benefits. Must have CDL & good driving record. Come by 1st & Johnson, Park Fuels/ Chevron, Big Spring.

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

Help Wanted

NEIGHBORS CONVENIENCE Store now hiring cooks, cashiers, stockers. All Shifts. Apply at 3315 E. FM 700.

NOW HIRING full time/ part time employees at WES-T-GO. Apply in person, 1800 Gregg.

PARKVIEW NURSING & REHABILITATION

Now hiring for the following positions:
* Dietary Aide
* Certified Nurse Aides
Which offers great benefits, competitive pay and a excellent working environment. Please apply in person at 3200 Parkway Rd., Big Spring, Texas.

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PIZZA INN

EARN \$12-\$14 PER HOUR DELIVERING PIZZA'S. \$100 HIRING BONUS. MUST BE 18YRS. OLD WITH CLEAN DRIVING RECORD. ALSO TAKING APPLICATIONS FOR MANAGEMENT POSITIONS. APPLY IN PERSON AT 1702 GREGG. NO PHONE CALLS.

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

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.

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.

SITTER NEEDED for 12 year old. Some over nights required. Prefer our house but can make other arrangements. Call (308)660-3993 Big Spring.

Help Wanted

SPECS. & Company is seeking a self motivated employee with excellent communication and customer skills. Will train right person. Apply at 2311 Scurry. Monday-Friday 8:30-5:30.

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

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

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

Items for Sale

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

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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.

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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

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

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FREE!! Ready for Loving Home, Pomeranian/Chihuahua mixed puppies. Also have two female Chihuahua dogs. Call 432-466-1708.

AKC SHIH-TZU/ Pomeranian Mix. Small cute. 3 Puppies. Affectionate and eager to please their owners. Born 5/3/08. Pad trained. Smart and Cute. \$100.00 OBO. 432-213-2267.

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

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.

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.

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.

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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.

SALE or RENT - 3 Bedroom, 1 bath. Asking \$30,000.00 or \$500.00 a month plus deposit. Call 432-816-9942 for more information.

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

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1998 OLDSMOBILE Van. Everything works good. Needs some engine work. 2 New tires, starter, battery, alternator. Best Offer. Call (432)264-0356 leave message.

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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.

Horoscope

BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

Today's moon in Cancer nurtures our emotional well-being by unconditionally accepting whatever comes up. If we're feeling cranky, maybe we need sleep, a relaxing bubble bath or a good meal. Or maybe what we really need is a supportive listener to say "poor baby" -- a perfectly acceptable request to make in the right company! ARIES (March 21-April 19). If you've recently had trouble envisioning your bright future, the fog is lifted. Dream away! Tonight, don't presume to know what people are thinking and don't read too deeply into what's said.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Taking care of the feelings of everyone around you gets tiresome. Be tough and expect others to be tough. Energetic and secure people surround you. You'll make a new friend.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Your role is important. And what excites you about your work situation is not the same thing that excites others. Revel in having your own little secret sources of challenge and delight.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Technical difficulties do arise. It's challenging just to get everyone at the same place at the right time. No matter. Do your best and don't let them see you sweat. You can pull off any feat just by pretending to be confident.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Taking life too literally is a danger. You're better off distancing yourself from what's going on so you can see the patterns. Instead of listening to what's said, ask yourself, "What's this really about?"

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Take any excuse you can get to fall more deeply in love with yourself. There's no sense waiting for someone to help you participate in life -- jump in and let the others catch up to join your fun.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You don't have to be a teenager to find everything to be a bit ridiculous. Your intelligence forces you to see the funny part of what others are taking way too seriously. Cancer is your ally.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). There are pressing situations to sort out. It's best done without too much thinking. If you insist upon seeing and knowing everything about your subject before you decide, you'll never decide. Feel your way.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Where you want to go is so far from where you are now, you might wonder if you'll make it. There's no time to ponder. Head in the right direction. Going the distance is a cinch when you take it inch by inch.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You usually find something to like about people the minute you meet them, though today you might be put off by someone for no apparent reason. Act on the instinct -- quickly move on.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). A relationship is threatening to take flight. Are you up for the ride? Go ahead and store your emotional baggage in the overhead bin. Together you'll arrive at a beautiful, exotic new place.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You've taken it upon yourself to clean up someone's mess. Tell it how it is. You're not whining, just stating the facts. What you say tonight will be remembered for a long time to come.

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TexSCAN Week of July 27, 2008

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'Portable' computers become, well, really portable

By **ANDREW D. SMITH**
MCT

DALLAS — Computer makers have always advertised notebooks as "portable," a technically accurate but highly misleading word for their back-breaking products.

Now they're flooding the market with something different: portable computers that actually are portable.

Better still, manufacturers have taken two different approaches to cut size and weight. One uses cutting-edge technology to put traditional notebooks on a diet and create powerful-but-expensive "slimbooks." The other removes needless components and software to make tiny "netbook" computers that can cost less than \$300.

Apple brought the first

slimbook to market in January with its MacBook Air. The device packs a 13.3-inch screen and a full-size keyboard into a three-pound package. A 15-inch MacBook Pro, by contrast, weighs 5.5 pounds and ranks among the lightest full-size notebooks.

Less than a month after the MacBook Air debuted, Lenovo began selling a similar device, the ThinkPad X300.

Hewlett-Packard then announced plans for its Voodoo Envy 133 and Toshiba unveiled the Portege R500, a 12-inch device that will weigh just 2.4 pounds.

Folks who never take their notebooks farther than the living room may question the importance of a measly two or three pounds. Road warriors know to forget about pounds. Every ounce counts.

And weight isn't the only slimbook advantage. Their small chips and LED screens extend battery life. Some have solid state drives, which use less energy than spinning-disk hard drives.

The MacBook Air runs roughly five hours on its tiny battery, about as much as the MacBook Pro runs on a much larger model.

One X300 model goes a step further. It substitutes a second battery for the DVD drive and lasts seven hours on a single charge.

In a couple of years, slimbook users will work all day without needing to lug power bricks or search for plugs.

"Notebook users, traditionally, have sacrificed battery life to cut weight or boost computing power," said Leslie Fiering, lead notebook analyst at Gartner Research.

"But we may be near the point where we can get all-day use from a light, powerful notebook, and it's going to be incredibly liberating for road warriors."

We're not quite there yet, though.

All slimbooks sacrifice performance for portability. Chips are slow. Stor-

age is limited. Some models omit DVD drives and skimp on ports.

But manufacturers doubt these shortcomings will much deter the business users who buy high-end notebooks. E-mail programs, Office software and Internet browsers don't require much storage or computing power.

At the low end, mini notebooks go much further with the feature cutting. Rather than trying to replicate a full-size computer on a smaller scale, some of these "netbooks" offer little more than a quick way to get online.

The Asus Eee, which basically invented the netbook category when it hit stores last fall, uses a streamlined Linux operating system rather than Windows. It includes little software. It doesn't have a DVD drive either — or even a traditional hard drive.

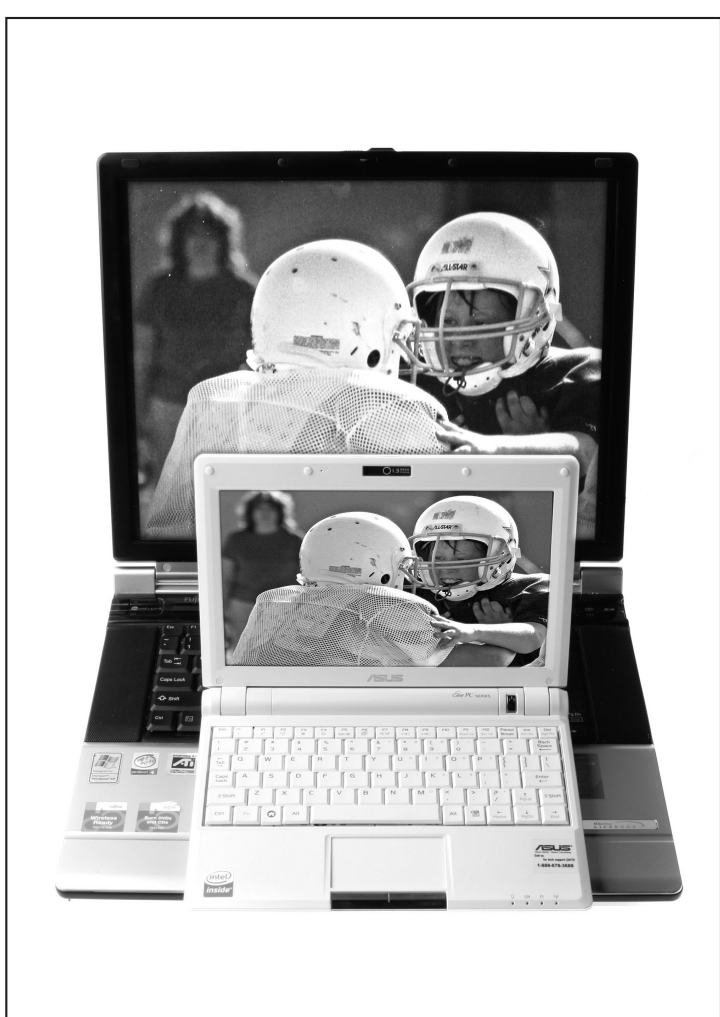
The dearth of features allows the computer to boot up in about 20 seconds and lets Asus sell it for \$299. Its 7-inch screen and miniature body keep the weight down to just two pounds.

Some consumers may ask what they could do on a computer that lacks both software and storage. The surprising answer: almost everything.

Internet-based software now lets anyone with a Web browser check e-mail, type documents, make spreadsheets, create presentations, edit photos, manage finances or plan days.

Web-ware helped make the Eee a blockbuster hit and lured competitors into the netbook market.

Hewlett-Packard has launched a line of net-



MCT photo/Lisa LeVrier

A so-called netbook, the Asus Eee, sits atop a full-size notebook computer by Fujitsu.

books called Mini-Notes. Everex sells a model called the Cloudbook. Acer sells the Aspire One. Dell plans to join the fray soon with the Dell E.

In all, chipmaker Intel says, 10 manufacturers will bring 20 models to market by year's end. It expects netbook sales to top 50 million a year by 2011.

Of course, many users still want notebooks with Windows, Word and a hard drive. Netbook makers oblige such folks with slower or pricier models.

Most offer Windows XP on some models. A few offer the larger Windows

Vista operating system, which can slow netbooks to a crawl.

Options proliferate almost weekly, and the trend will probably continue.

"We'll see more and more variety as the technology improves and prices keep falling," said Harry Wang, a senior analyst at Parks Associates in Plano, Texas.

"People won't have one or two computers. As prices fall, people may buy a handful and use each one for specific situations, just like they use certain shoes for exercise and others for work."

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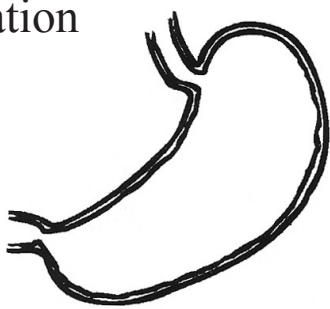
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- Burns or bruises in an unusual pattern that may indicate the use of an instrument or a human bite; cigarette burns on any part of the body
- Frequent complaints of pain without obvious injury
- Aggressive, disruptive and destructive behavior
- Lack of reaction to pain
- Passive, withdrawn, emotionless behavior
- Fear of going home or seeing parents
- Injuries that appear after the child has not been seen for several days
- Unseasonable clothes that may hide injuries to arms or legs

You are responsible for your child's safety

- If you permit your child to be in a situation where he or she may be injured, then you may be prosecuted for child abuse. The fact that the abuser is a parent or other family member does not remove your obligation to protect the child.
- If you are frightened for your own safety or that of your child, call 911 or 1-800-252-5400.
- If you are uneasy about your own behavior toward your child, you can call the Parents Anonymous toll-free hotline at: 1-800-554-2323.
- You are legally responsible for the care of your child. You must provide your child with safe and adequate food, clothing, shelter, protection, medical care and supervision, or else you must arrange for someone else to provide these things. Failure to do so may be considered neglect
- If you suspect abuse:
 - Don't try to investigate
 - Don't try to confront the abuser
 - DO report your reasonable suspicions

Texas Department of Family and Protective Services Violence Hotline: 1-800-252-5400

Parents anonymous Hotline: 1-800-252-5400

Locally Call-Victim Service: 263-3312

LAURA

Continued from Page 1A

slept on embossed into her cheek. No, she would never notice a pea in her bed, much less under the mattress.

I took my little princess to a beauty salon just for

little girls. She needed her hair cut. The sign on the door said "No Boys Allowed." My princess thought she had finally come "home."

As we walked through the gates of a pearly paradise, we were enveloped in the essence of girlhood. The walls were all shades of pink, from rose to

mauve. Hot pink and silver boas were draped on chairs and fairy dust was being strewn hither and yon and settled on anyone without a Y chromosome.

Everywhere were the scents of cotton candy and fruit, and the sights of all things shiny, sparkly, fuzzy and dainty. Bejeweled fabrics and lip gloss in every imaginable color covered pink and silver shelves and bins. Best of all, according to my princess, was that, being played at full volume over their loud speakers, was Hannah Montana.

My princess was in fairy-tale heaven. She eagerly sat upon her "throne" to have her "lady-in-waiting" work a miracle with her tangled mane of hair. Then the head fairy asked if she'd like some glitter in her hair.

"Heck, yeah!" my little princess exclaimed. "Gold, silver, or rainbow?"

"Ooooh! Rainbow!" she squealed. Why settle for one color when you can have them all?

"How about a glittery heart stamp on your cheek?"

"OK!" she said, deeply immersing herself in this temporary me-world.

We left this little chunk of heaven with some cherry-flavored lip gloss, a stuffed fuzzy raccoon, a lollipop in the shape of a slice of kiwi and one very happy, glittering princess.

In fact, she now looked so princess-like, that I just knew she'd feel that pea under her mattress.

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

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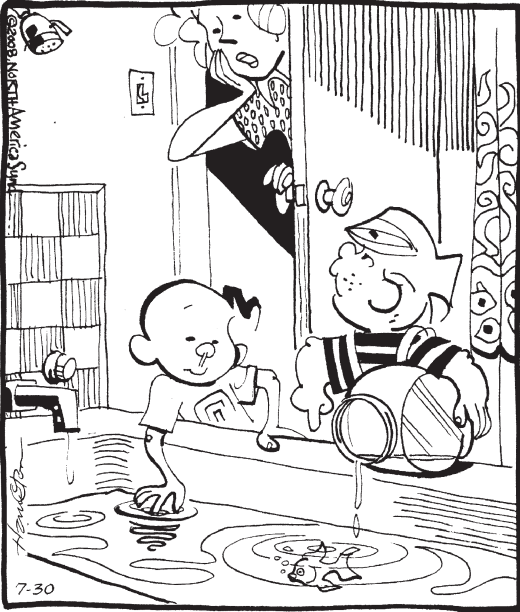
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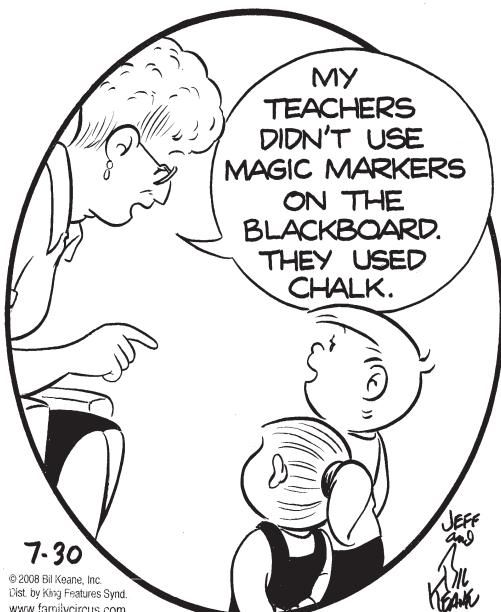
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5 :PM	News	News	Locura	Simpsons	News	Noticias	News	Friends	Cortes	News	Cash Cab	Movie: Timecop, Ron Silver	CSI: Crime Scn	Law & Order	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Wizards	Horn	SportsCenter
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7 :PM	Entertain	Fortune	Querida Enemiga	Simpsons	News	12 Corazones	Millionaire	Diary of a Mad Black Woman	Prophecy	News-Lehrer	Prowling Sharks	CSI: Crime Scn	Law & Order	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Wizards	Series of Poker	MLB Baseball: Teams to Be Announced.	
8 :PM	Wife Swap	Wife Swap	Diablo-Guap	You Can Dance	News	El Jaramento 10	The Baby Borrowers	Mad Black Woman	Hague	Click & Clack	Jaws of the Pacific	CSI: Crime Scn	Law & Order	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Wizards	Series of Poker	MLB Baseball: Teams to Be Announced.	
9 :PM	Supernanny	Supernanny	Fuego en la Sangre	You Can Dance	News	Criminal Minds	Victoria	The Baby Borrowers	Light of the Southwest	Nova scienceNOW	MythBusters Shark Week Special 2	CSI: Crime Scn	Law & Order	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Wizards	Series of Poker	MLB Baseball: Teams to Be Announced.	
10 :PM	Primetime: Crime	Primetime: Crime	Don Francisco	TMZ	CSI: NY	Sin Senos	(:01) Law & Order	Payne	Carrier (DVS)	Charlie Rose	American Shark	CSI: Crime Scn	Law & Order	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Wizards	Series of Poker	MLB Baseball: Teams to Be Announced.	
11 :PM	News	News	Impacto	Two Men	News	Noticias	News	Friends	Israel	Charlie Rose	American Shark	CSI: Crime Scn	Law & Order	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Wizards	Series of Poker	MLB Baseball: Teams to Be Announced.	
12 :AM	Nightline	Nightline	Noticiero	Raymond	Late Show	Noticias	News	Friends	Israel	Charlie Rose	American Shark	CSI: Crime Scn	Law & Order	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Wizards	Series of Poker	MLB Baseball: Teams to Be Announced.	
1 :AM	Insider Jimmy Kimmel Live	Jimmy Kimmel Live	La Hora de la Risa	CI	Late Late Show	Noticias	News	Friends	Israel	Charlie Rose	American Shark	CSI: Crime Scn	Law & Order	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Wizards	Series of Poker	MLB Baseball: Teams to Be Announced.	
2 :AM	News	Light	Niña Amada Mia	RENO 911	Insider	Programa Pagado	News	Movie: Eight Legged Freaks	Israel	Sanchez	Light of the Southwest	CSI: Crime Scn	Law & Order	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Wizards	Series of Poker	MLB Baseball: Teams to Be Announced.	
3 :AM	Paid	Axis	Clasicos	RENO 911	Entertain	Pelicula:	News	Poker After Dark	Israel	Sanchez	Light of the Southwest	CSI: Crime Scn	Law & Order	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Wizards	Series of Poker	MLB Baseball: Teams to Be Announced.	
4 :AM	Paid	Paid	Humor	King-Hill	Paid		News	Poker After Dark	Israel	Sanchez	Light of the Southwest	CSI: Crime Scn	Law & Order	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Wizards	Series of Poker	MLB Baseball: Teams to Be Announced.	

DENNIS THE MENACE



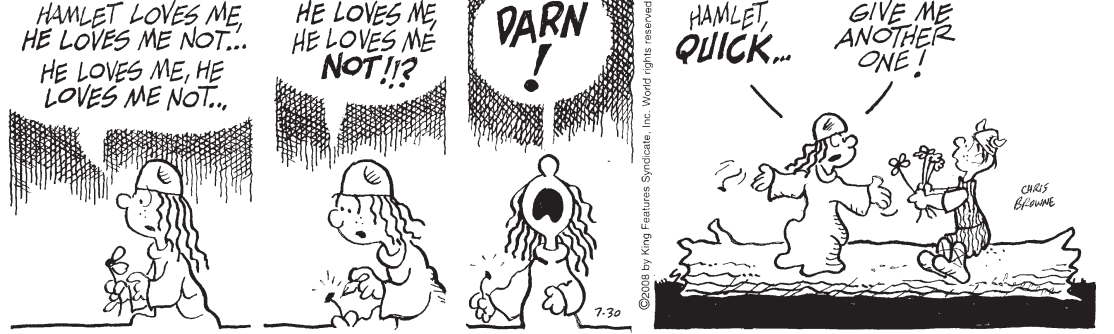
"WE THOUGHT THE GOLDFISH WOULD LIKE A CHANCE TO STRETCH HIS FINS."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

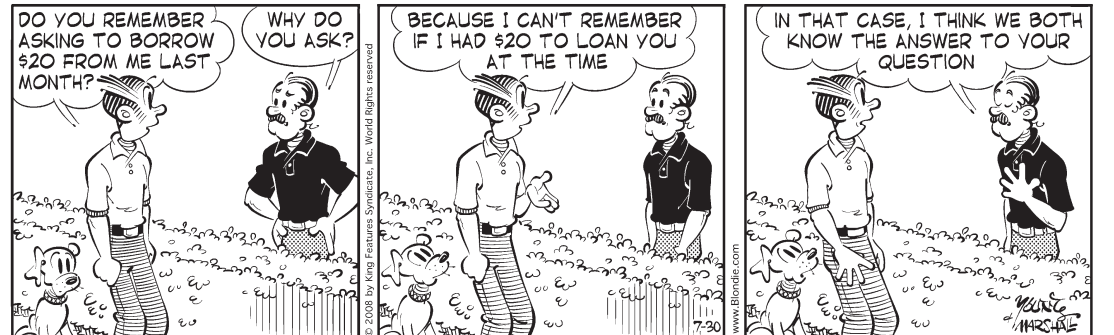


"But our blackboards are white!"

HAGAR



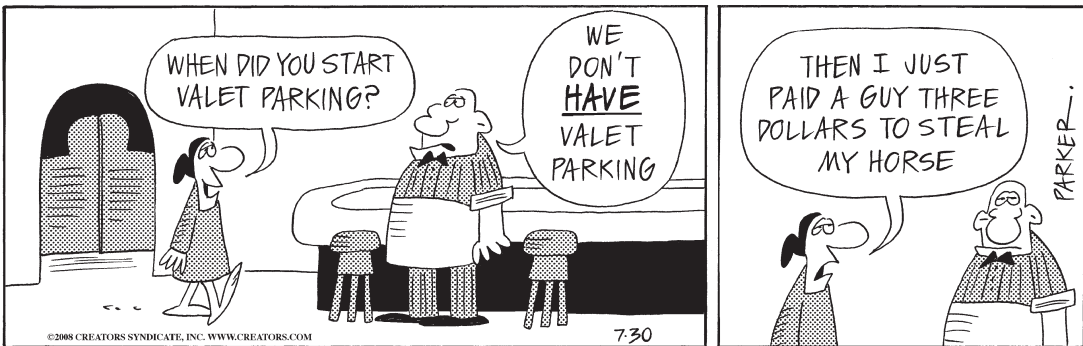
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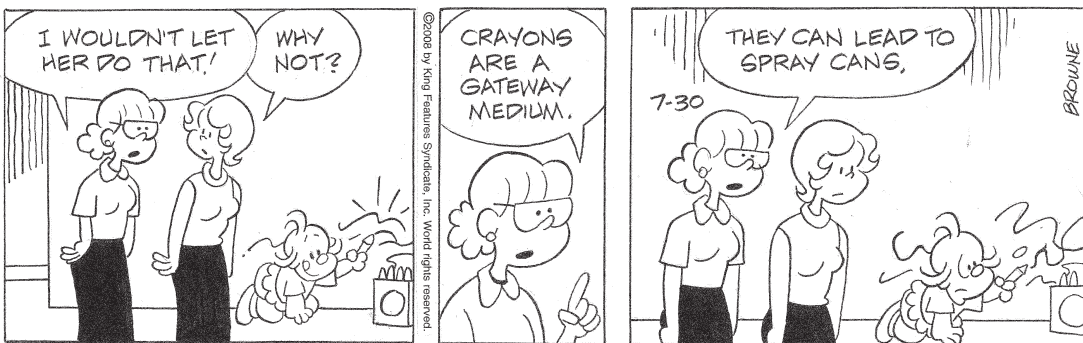
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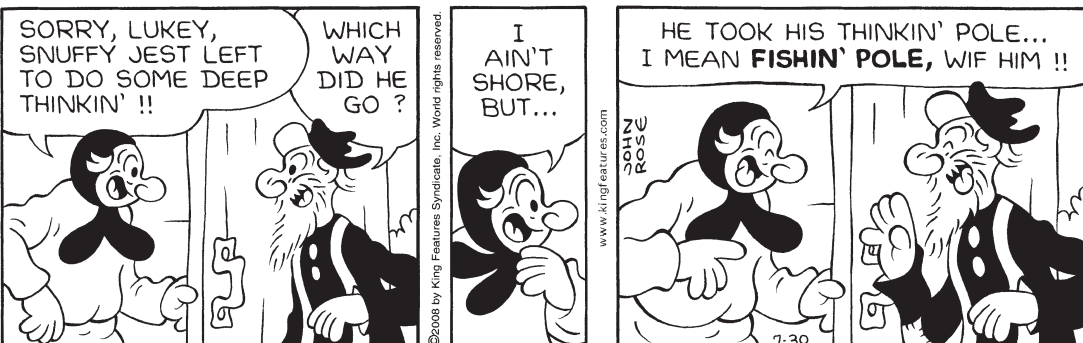
HI AND LOIS



THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BEEBLE BAILEY



This Date In History

Today is Wednesday, July 30, the 212th day of 2008. There are 154 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On July 30, 1945, during World War II, the battle cruiser USS Indianapolis, which had just delivered components for the atomic bomb that would be dropped on Hiroshima, was torpedoed by a Japanese submarine; only 316 out of some 1,200 men survived the sinking and shark-infested waters.

On this date:

In 1619, the first representative assembly in America convened in Jamestown, Va.

In 1729, the city of Baltimore was founded.

In 1792, the French national anthem "La Marseillaise," by Claude Joseph Rouget de Lisle, was first sung in Paris by troops arriving from Marseille.

In 1864, during the Civil War, Union forces tried to take Petersburg, Va., by exploding a gunpowder-filled mine under Confederate defense lines; the

attack failed.

In 1908, the first round-the-world automobile race, which had begun in New York in February, ended in Paris with the drivers of the American car, a Thomas Flyer, declared the winners over teams from Germany and Italy.

In 1918, poet Joyce Kilmer, a sergeant in the 165th U.S. Infantry Regiment, was killed during the Second Battle of the Marne in World War I. (Kilmer is perhaps best remembered for his poem "Trees.")

In 1932, the Summer Olympic Games opened in Los Angeles.

In 1942, President Roosevelt signed a bill creating a women's auxiliary agency in the Navy known as "Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service," A1 WAVES for short.

In 1965, President Johnson signed into law the Medicare bill, which went into effect the following year.

In 1975, former Teamsters union president Jimmy Hoffa disappeared in suburban Detroit — although presumed dead, his remains have never been found.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Richard Johnson is 81. Actor Edd "Kookie" Byrnes is 75. Blues musician Buddy Guy is 72. Movie director Peter Bogdanovich is 69.

Feminist activist Eleanor Smeal is 69. Former U.S. Rep. Patricia Schroeder, D-Colo., is 68. Singer Paul Anka is 67. Jazz musician David Sanborn is 63. California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger is 61. Actor William Atherton is 61. Actor Jean Reno is 60. Blues singer-musician Otis Taylor is 60. Actor Frank Stallone is 58. Actor Ken Olin is 54. Actress Delta Burke is 52. Singer-songwriter Kate Bush is 50. Country singer Neal McCoy is 50. Actor Richard Burgi is 50. Director Richard Linklater is 48. Actor Laurence Fishburne is 47. Actress Lisa Kudrow is 45. Bluegrass musician Danny Roberts (The Grascals) is 45. Country musician Dwayne O'Brien is 44. Actress Vivica A. Fox is 44. Actor Terry Crews ("Everybody Hates Chris") is 40. Actor Simon Baker is 39.

Answer to previous puzzle

DAZE	DARK	STAFF
AMID	ELIE	MOVIE
BITE	NONE	EXILE
SINGING	PRaises	
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ACTUAL	SKIS	DRS
LOOKS	SEES	TREE
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RED	SETS	RIFLES
CAR	SAS	
CHORUS	OF	CHEERS
HOPIN	REAR	RATS
OBAMA	ETNA	AREA
POLES	OATH	SEWN

Newsday Crossword

SOME FOR ALL by Fred Piscop
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

- | | | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| ACROSS | 61 Mess up | 14 Purges | 39 In place of |
| 1 Slight odor | 62 Pass into law | 17 Editor's | 41 "You're on!" |
| 6 Jukebox selection | 63 Out of the way | strikeout | 42 Make an |
| 10 Crash into | 64 Fish-to-be | 21 Cookie holder | estimate of |
| 13 WWII hero | 65 Race terminus | 23 Bahrain, | 44 List-ending |
| 14 Copter part | 66 Clan emblem | for one | abbr. |
| 15 Verse of praise | | 25 Melville | 45 Galileo's |
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| 18 Dressy scarf | | 26 After the | 46 Tartar-sauce |
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64				65					66			



AP Photo/Donna McWilliams

Jenny, an African elephant, is given treats by senior zoo keeper Gavin Eastep as she is cooled with a spray of water at the Dallas Zoo Tuesday. The weather forecast is for above-average temperatures for most of the week, with triple digits through Wednesday.

Educators air funding concerns at summit

By APRIL CASTRO

Associated Press Writer

AUSTIN — Educators, tax experts and state officials met Tuesday to discuss a growing list of funding demands for public schools but acknowledged it would be difficult to come up with the money to deal with rising fuel costs, inflation and enrollment growth.

The concerns voiced at the school finance summit, hosted by Education Commissioner Robert Scott, illustrated how the school funding overhaul adopted by lawmakers two years ago under court pressure is quickly reaching capacity.

The overhaul was designed to shift the school tax burden away from local property taxpayers, replacing a portion with revenue from a revised business tax and higher cigarette taxes among other things.

School districts were allowed authority to raise school property tax rates two cents a year per \$100 of property value for three years or ask voters for a rate increase up to 13 cents.

This year's two-cent taxing authority is far from adequate to address skyrocketing costs of fuel, utilities and inflation, officials said.

"Just think about the inflation over a year on a \$300 million budget," said Jesus Chavez, superintendent of the Round Rock school district, who wants to give his teachers a 3 percent raise next year. "Two pennies don't cover inflation, first of all. ... Inflation and a salary increase with two pennies, doesn't balance."

Among the funding priorities to be made to lawmakers as they prepare to write the 2010-11 state budget, school officials also say they need more money to increase their technology allotment, building space to accommodate growing enrollment and an increase in the transportation allotment, which hasn't been updated since gasoline was under a dollar per gallon in 1983.

While state leaders have bragged about going into the next legislative session

with an almost \$11 billion surplus, it will actually be about \$2 billion.

That's because \$5.7 billion is reserved for the state's Rainy Day Fund and can't be touched without super-majority approval from each chamber of the Legislature.

Another \$3 billion of the estimate is constitutionally dedicated to pay for the

property tax cuts as part of the 2006 school funding overhaul.

That money can't be touched either.

That \$2 billion will have to be tapped to pay for an estimated 160,000 new students expected to enroll in the public school system since the last budget was written at an estimated cost of about \$1.5 billion.

News in brief

Scorching temps connect to 3 deaths in Dallas

DALLAS (AP) — The Dallas County Medical Examiner's Office says triple-digit temperatures have led to the death of an 84-year-old Mesquite man and contributed to the deaths of two others.

The medical examiner's office says 84-year-old Harold Ulrick died on Tuesday of hyperthermia caused by extreme heat. A neighbor found his body in the driveway of his home. The body of his 95-year-old wife, Alma, was also found on the bathroom floor but officials say her death was due to heart failure.

Neighbors say the couple had only a window air conditioner to cool their home.

The medical examiner's office said heat played a role in the deaths of two other people on Tuesday — 49-year-old Ronald Gibson and 82-year-old Billie Jean Emmons.

Feds question \$20M Dallas Housing Authority spent on rent, dead clients

DALLAS (AP) — A draft report of a new federal audit questions the Dallas Housing Authority's spending \$20 million on suspicious rental assistance payments, including subsidies for 45 people who are dead.

On the heels of the soon-to-be-released audit, the head of the housing authority, Ann Lott, resigned Tuesday without warning after the agency's board met to talk about the report along with possible disciplinary action. Lott, the agency's president and chief executive officer, had no comment about the resignation which is effective immediately, The Dallas Morning News reported Wednesday in its online edition.

"The long and short of it is, if anything is wrong, the buck stops with the head," said Betty Culbreath, the board's chairwoman. Lott's resignation was not the result of the board asking her to, said Culbreath, who would not talk about the federal audit.

"Ms. Lott has done a lot for the authority," said Culbreath, who has publicly clashed with Ms. Lott. "I believe what she did was in the best interest of the agency."

Report: Troubled TYC receives failing grade in educating inmates

AUSTIN (AP) — A report from the troubled-Texas Youth Commission says many of its inmates receive "generally

poor" education in the state juvenile prison system.

The 82-page report on TYC, which houses juvenile offenders, is to be released Wednesday. It was assembled by TYC's Office of Independent Ombudsman and Michael P. Krezmien, an assistant professor of special education at the University of Texas at Austin.

The report's authors said they "found the instructional practices to be generally poor." For example, students with limited reading ability were told to read independently, while a sizable number of teachers said they did not feel safe and some used a lot of classroom time trying to get students under control.

"What concerned me most is how disruptive the punitive nature of TYC is to education, the very thing that is crucial to rehabilitating these youth," Ombudsman Will Harrell said in the Wednesday online edition of The Dallas Morning News.

The agency has been under fire since early 2007, when allegations surfaced that administrators at the West Texas State School in Pyote sexually abused inmates. Next came reports exposing lax medical care, youth beatings and a culture of retaliation against whistleblowers.

Government investigating whether employees bought fake diplomas from Spokane diploma mill

WASHINGTON (AP) — Immigration officials are looking through a list of more than 9,000 names to see how many federal employees may have bought a phony high school or college degree from a Spokane, Washington-based diploma mill.

The Spokesman-Review newspaper obtained the list and published the names on its Web site Monday. The Justice Department has refused to release the list, which grew out of a lengthy investigation by the U.S. attorney for the Eastern district of Washington.

The list included some people who apparently work for government, educational institutions and the military, according to their e-mail addresses that ended in .gov, .edu or .mil, according to the newspaper report.

Immigration and Customs Enforcement, one of the federal agencies that investigates document fraud, is going through the list of 9,612 names and searching for federal employees, agency spokesman Brandon Alvarez-Montgomery said.

It is not known how many Homeland Security Department employees are on this list, he said.

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News in brief

Ex-Bosnian Serb leader extradited to UN tribunal in the Netherlands

BELGRADE, Serbia (AP) — Authorities extradited ex-Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic to the Netherlands to face genocide charges before the U.N. war crimes tribunal on Wednesday, hours after a violence-tinged protest by thousands of his supporters in downtown Belgrade.

U.N. spokesman Liam McDowall confirmed Karadzic was transferred to the U.N. detention center near The Hague, where he will stand trial.

A jet with Serbian government markings landed at the Rotterdam airport Wednesday morning, AP Television News footage showed. The plane with Serbian government markings taxied into a hangar,

out of view of reporters and television cameras before anyone disembarked.

Less than an hour later, a helicopter landed behind the high wall of the detention center while another helicopter hovered overhead. Two black minivans drove through the prison gates moments earlier.

The Serbian government said in a statement issued early Wednesday that its justice ministry had issued a decree that allowed his handover to the U.N. court, despite a violence-tinged protest hours before by thousands of his supporters.

Indictment of Alaska Sen. Stevens adds to bleak GOP prospects in November

WASHINGTON (AP) — The indictment of Alaska Republican Sen. Ted

Stevens on charges that he lied about accepting gifts from an oil contractor only adds to his party's already bleak electoral prospects in November, and not simply because it could cost the GOP a Senate seat that should be safe.

While Stevens has vowed to fight charges and, through a spokesman, to move "full steam ahead" with his re-election bid, he's received little support from Alaska's Republican governor and no comment yet from his own GOP leader in the Capitol.

His indictment, though, could knock Republicans off message just as party leaders hoped to gain traction on one of the few issues in which voters solidly side with them: producing more domestic oil.

Stevens is the single most prominent advocate of oil drilling in protected areas, and charges that he took more than a quarter-million dollars worth of unreported gifts from oil services contractor Veco Corp. and its executives will play right into Democratic efforts to paint Republicans as a party captive to Big Oil.

Stevens, 84, the first sitting U.S. senator to face federal indictment since 1993, declared Tuesday, "I am innocent of these charges and intend to prove that."

Quake leaves Calif. rattled; officials call it drill for the 'Big One'

CHINO HILLS, Calif. (AP) — Despite shaking a large swath of Southern California, a magnitude-5.4 earthquake was not the "Big One" that scientists

have long feared. Still, it rattled nerves, causing people to vow to step up their emergency preparations.

The quake, which rocked the region from Los Angeles to San Diego on Tuesday, caused only limited damage and minor injuries, and served as a reminder of the seismic danger below sprawling freeways and subdivisions.

The temblor's epicenter was located just outside Chino Hills, 29 miles southeast of downtown Los Angeles in San Bernardino County, and it was felt as far east as Las Vegas. Dozens of aftershocks followed, the largest a magnitude-3.8.

"We were really fortunate this time," said Capt. Jeremy Ault of the Chino Valley Independent Fire District. "It's a good opportunity to remember that we live in earthquake country. This is part of living in Southern California and we need to make sure we're prepared."

Chino Hills was incorporated in 1991, so much of the construction is newer and built to modern safety standards, city spokeswoman Denise Cattern said. There were no reports of harm in the city of 80,000, she said, although cell phone service in the area was briefly disrupted.

Democratic-led panels pushing to air alleged misdeeds

WASHINGTON (AP) — Across Capitol Hill, Democratic-led committees are considering punishments for past and present Bush administration officials for a range of alleged misdeeds, from discriminating against liberals at the Justice Department to blowing off subpoenas and lying to Congress.

The proceedings on Wednesday are the latest congressional review of the White House, a constitutionally mandated power that majority Democrats relish. But three months out from Election Day, a lame-duck Congress conducting oversight of a lame-duck White House produces mostly talk. There's little time and less willingness to spend the remaining five weeks of the congressional session doing more than holding televised hearings to try to convince voters that President Bush has abused the powers of his office.

The allegations certainly are serious.

The Senate Judiciary Committee on Wednesday was to hear from Justice Department Inspector General Glenn A. Fine, who reported this week that former department officials broke the law by letting Bush administration politics dictate the hiring of prosecutors, immigration judges and other career government lawyers. The probe springs from Justice's firings of nine federal prosecutors that sparked congressional investigations last year and led to the resignation of Attorney General Alberto Gonzales.

House and Senate Democrats said the findings affirmed their contention that career Justice employees were hired and fired based on whether they were deemed sufficiently conservative, a violation of law. House Judiciary Committee Chairman John Conyers said he was considering bringing criminal charges against some of the former officials named in Fine's report who may have lied to his committee. Lying to Congress is a crime, but there's little agreement among Democrats on whether a perjury referral against some of the officials is warranted.

Questions remain in death of pregnant soldier

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP) — Even with a suspect in custody, there are still plenty of questions surrounding the death of a pregnant soldier found in a motel bathtub in Fayetteville more than a month ago.

Police have charged Fort Bragg soldier Edgar Patino in the death of Army Spc. Megan L. Touma, but investigators haven't released a cause of death or motive.

Touma was last seen alive not long after she arrived on June 12 at Fort Bragg, home to the Army's 82nd Airborne Division and its Special Operations Command. She was divorced, though authorities have said nothing about the father of her child.

She was temporarily assigned to Fort Bragg's 19th Replacement Company, and would have eventually been assigned to work at a base dental clinic.

Police scheduled an 11 a.m. news conference Wednesday, the same day Patino is scheduled to appear in court.

Patino was arrested

without incident at his home Tuesday, said Lt. Lars Paul, a police watch commander. He was being held in the Cumberland County jail without bond.

Bush administration pushing ahead with peace process

WASHINGTON (AP) — Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice invited top Israeli and Palestinian negotiators to Washington this week to preserve modest momentum in Mideast peace talks begun under U.S. sponsorship last year.

The Bush administration is trying to secure a few concessions from Israel and the Palestinians by the end of this year, leaving the details of any real peace deal to the next president.

The talks have yielded no measurable gains in public. Rice has taken to mediating three-way sessions and was expected to press Wednesday for a more formal accounting of the progress she has said the two sides are making behind closed doors.

"Our goal as the United States is to work as hard as we can to encourage the parties to resolve the differences between them," Rice said Tuesday. "They are working very, very hard. They are also working very seriously."

Rice met Tuesday with the senior Palestinian negotiator. She planned a one-on-one session Wednesday with the top Israeli negotiator, followed by a joint session scheduled to last more than two hours.

UN says North Korea is facing its worst food crisis since 1990s, millions at risk

BEIJING (AP) — Flooding and poor harvests have caused North Korea's worst food crisis since the late 1990s and have put millions at risk, the United Nations' food agency said Wednesday.

The food shortage threatens widespread malnutrition, the World Food Program said.

"Millions of vulnerable North Koreans are at risk of slipping toward precarious hunger levels," Jean-Pierre de Margerie, a WFP director for North Korea, told a news conference.

The WFP had been given permission to launch a new operation to target those most vulnerable in eight of the country's 10 provinces, or 6.4 million people.

An international appeal for aid would be launched in the next two weeks. Food aid is needed to tide people over for the next three to four months until the next harvest, he said.

While 400,000 metric tons of U.S. food aid have already shipped, there is an urgent need for \$20 million to get through the next autumn harvest.

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