

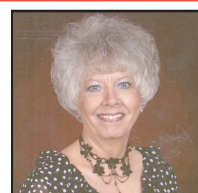
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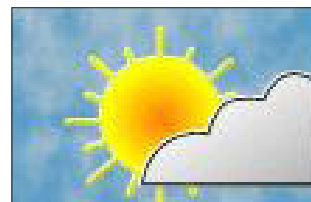
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BIG SPRING HERALD

MONDAY

AUGUST 25, 2008



VOLUME 103, NUMBER 229

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Shooting leaves 2 injured

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

A shooting Saturday night sent a pair of Big Spring brothers to the emergency room, as police officials investigate the conflict that led up to the attack.

Noe Sanchez, 18, and Orlando Sanchez, 24, were hospitalized after officers were called to the 1400 block of Virginia at approximately 8:38 p.m., according to officials with the Big Spring police Department.

"Patrol was dispatched to the 1400 block of Virginia in reference to a shooting," said Sgt. Tony Everett, public information officer with the BSPD. "On arrival officers found two subjects had been wounded by gunfire and the suspects had fled the scene."

"At this point in the investigation it appears the shooting was the result of an ongoing feud between two individuals and does not appear to be gang related."

Everett confirmed the victims are brothers, both suffering single gunshot wounds to the leg.

See **SHOOTING**, page 3A

Men at work



HERALD photo/Steve Reagan

Workers install 3/4-inch water lines on the 1500 block of Scurry Street Friday afternoon. The project, which will replace existing steel pipes and Scurry and Main streets with corrosion-resistant polyethylene lines, is expected to take several weeks, officials said.

Council to mull budget

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

It's budget time, as the Big Spring City Council is expected to consider first reading of its 2008-2009 budget and hold a public hearing on the matter Tuesday evening, spurring it closer to completing its fiscal plan for the coming year.

Lucky for city tax payers, the budget is based on a tax rate slightly lower than estimates developed in July.

Peggy Walker, director of finance for the city of Big Spring, said certified values returned by the Howard County Appraisal District totaled \$524 million, a jump from the estimated value of \$515 million the city based its proposed budget on.

"We've completed our evaluation of the tax rate," Walker told the council. "The values have

gone up considerably over the prior year, and additionally over what we included in our budget estimates. We had originally based the budget on an estimate of \$515 million and the taxable values were certified at slightly over \$524 million.

"What we're suggesting to the council is we adopt a rate that is slightly below (last year's rate of \$1.0227). It would be \$1.0132 per \$100 valuation, which is a decrease in the tax rate of almost one penny."

Walker said the savings over last year's tax rate will be less than \$10 for the majority of city taxpayers.

"The average residential home is valued at slightly more than \$40,000," said Walker. "That would

See **COUNCIL**, page 3A

Obama camp downplays Clinton backers at convention

By **DARLENE SUPERVILLE**
Associated Press Writer

DENVER — Barack Obama's campaign dismissed concerns about the impact of die-hard supporters of Hillary Rodham Clinton on the choreographed show of unity Democrats were opening Monday at their nominating convention.

Opening night at the Pepsi Center, the main venue for the four-day Democratic National Convention, aimed to tell the Illinois senator's personal story to the millions of voters nationwide who will begin tuning in to

the presidential campaign. Obama's wife, Michelle, was the evening's keynote speaker.

An emotional highlight was expected to come with a video tribute to Sen. Edward M. Kennedy. The liberal stalwart was diagnosed in May with a malignant brain tumor and has had surgery and a six-week course of chemotherapy and radiation.

Behind the scenes, however, polls showing significant Clinton support still being denied to Obama and pro-Clinton demonstrations at offsite venues were creating a different kind of

anticipation. Clinton has backed Obama and was scheduled to speak Tuesday night.

"There are a lot of delegates here who had passionate choices in an extended primary season," Obama spokesman Robert Gibbs told "Today" on NBC. "We feel confident that if we can demonstrate a record of change, a record of vision ... a team of Barack Obama and Joe Biden can convince Democrats, Republicans and independents to support a ticket of change in November."

Republican candidate John McCain tried to widen any

schism remaining between primary-season rivals with a TV ad featuring a Clinton supporter who now backs McCain over Obama.

"She had the experience and judgment to be president," says Debra Bartoshevich, identified by the McCain campaign as a former Clinton delegate. Of McCain, she says: "I respect his maverick and independent streak, and now he's the one with the experience and judgment. A lot of Democrats will vote McCain. It's OK, really!"

Most Democratic delegates were putting the rough-and-tum-

ble primary contest behind them and focusing on electing the first black presidential nominee of a major political party. The night was turned over to Michelle Obama, the candidate's wife of nearly 16 years, to allow the potential first lady a prime-time speech meant to serve a dual purpose: humanize Obama and show up her own critics before her largest audience yet.

"Our stories are the quintessential American stories," Michelle Obama said in an interview CNN aired Monday. "I am

See **OBAMA**, page 3A

INDEX

Classified 8-9
Comics 10
Obituaries 2
Opinion 4
Sports 6-7



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'Close Encounters' screening Friday at state park

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

Area residents who catch a glimpse of UFOs or aliens at the Big Spring State Park Friday won't have to question their sanity, as the Big Spring Film Society gets ready to present a massive outdoor showing of an Oscar winning 1977 movie about little green men.

And while it's not hard to figure just which movie the local society will be showing in hi-definition on a 16-foot inflatable screen, the group's spokesperson is mum on the matter.

"It's really kind of funny. We're allowed to promote the screening, even put the name of the film we're showing on our Web site, but we're not allowed to directly publicize it in the media," said Brandon Johnson, society leader and spokesman. "So, while I can't necessarily tell you what the film will be here, in this interview, I can tell you to visit our Web site the information is there."

True to his word, Johnson's Web site — www.neoarchaicrevue.com — reveals the screening will be of Steven Spielberg's classic "Close Encounters of the Third Kind," which took home the Oscar for

Best Film in 1977.

According to Johnson, the screening of the film — which is rated PG — is the perfect chance for area families to spend some time together and not only enjoy a great movie, but also the beautiful landscape of the park.

"The film's rated-PG, but it's something the entire family can enjoy," said Johnson. "They can bring their lawn chairs and coolers full of lemonade — there's no alcoholic beverages allowed in the park — and kick back and enjoy the

See **CLOSE**, page 3A



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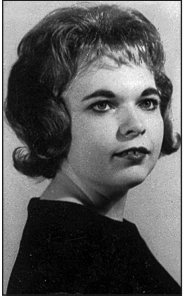
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Obituaries

Carolyn Owens



Carolyn Sue Owens was born March 25, 1943 in Big Spring to Lester and Hattie Owens of Vincent. She died Saturday, Aug. 23, 2008, at her residence in Big Spring.

She resided in Vincent with her parents and brother, Kenneth until December 1948, when the family moved to the Fairview Community north of Big Spring.

She attended school at Knott Elementary and Junior High and completed high school at Sands CISD in 1961, a member of the second graduating class at Sands. She had many friends in school who were always very dear to her.

Two months after graduating, she went to work for Southwestern Bell Telephone Co. in Big Spring, transferring to Midland in 1978. She retired, with many wonderful friends and memories, in 1992 after 31 years of services.

Carolyn was a member of the Birdwell Lane Church of Christ.

She loved traveling with her cousin, Nancy Graves, who always had her laughing.

She is survived by her brother, Kenneth Pruitt of Big Spring; nephews, Wayne Pruitt and family of Big Lake, and Lester Pruitt and family of Odom; a niece, Kimberly Pruitt of Lubbock; and many very special cousins.

She was preceded in death by her grandparents, Guy and Sadie Guffee and her parents, Lester and Hattie Owens.

Graveside funeral services will be at 1 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 26, 2008 at the Peace Chapel at Trinity Memorial Park with Ralph Anderson, minister of Birdwell Lane Church of Christ, officiating.

The family will receive friends from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. Monday at the funeral home.

The family would like to thank everyone at Allison Cancer Center, special friend Weldon Martin and to Nancy, who always came when she was needed in her life, and to Luz Martinez, who took care of us all, and Sherry Hodnett and all who made her life better during her illness.

The family suggests memorials to the Allison Cancer Center, 301 N. N, Midland 79701 or to Home Hospice, 111 E. 7th, Suite A, Big Spring 79720.

Arrangements under the direction of Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring. Online condolences can be made at: www.npwelch.com

Paid obituary

Irene Cramer



Irene Cramer, 72, of Big Spring, died Friday, Aug. 22, 2008, in a Fort Worth hospital. Graveside funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. Tuesday, Aug. 26, 2008, at the Peace Chapel at Trinity Memorial Park with the Rev. Byron Brown, pastor of First Church of the Nazarene, officiating.

The family will receive friends from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. Monday at the funeral home.

She was born Dec. 23, 1935, in Jerrel, and married John Cramer in 1985 in Stanton.

She came to Big Spring as a young child, and graduated from Big Spring High School. A lifelong resident of Big Spring, she owned and operated Airport Grocery for a number of years and was a Home Interior representative for 14 years. She was a member of First Church of the Nazarene.

Survivors include her husband, John Cramer of Big Spring; two sons and daughters-in-law, Charles and Tamara Gross of Hesperia, Calif., and James and Debbie Gross of Big Spring; a daughter and son-in-law, Katherine and Alan Locke of Cleburne; a step-daughter, Sue Benson and her boyfriend David Finlong of San Antonio; two step-sons, Mike Cramer and his wife Dora of McAllen, and Allan Cramer of Beaumont; one brother, Charles Hood of Big Spring; 14 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Everett and Lois Hood; and two brothers, Bill and Gene Hood.

Arrangements under the direction of Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring. Online condolences can be made at: www.npwelch.com

Betty Hornsberger

Betty Jo Hornsberger, 77, of Sweetwater, died Saturday, Aug. 23, 2008, in an Abilene hospital. A private family service will be held at a later date.

She was born Aug. 7, 1931, in Roby, and was a long-time Sweetwater resident.

She is survived by two sons, David Hornsberger and his wife, Pam, of Big Spring, and Bobby Hornsberger and wife Kathy, of Granite Shoals; a sister, Sonia Wood, of Durango, Colo.; seven grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

Henry Adams

Henry W. Adams, 78, of Big Spring, died Monday, Aug. 25, 2008 at his residence. His services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Joe Diaz

Joe "Pepe" Diaz, 69, of Big Spring, died Saturday, Aug. 23, 2008 in a local nursing home. His services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity between 9 a.m. Saturday and 7 a.m. today:

- EDWIN BECKMAN, 57, address not provided, was arrested Saturday on a local citation.
- SIMON ARENIVAZ, 18, of 2603 Ent, was arrested Sunday on charges of minor in possession of an alcoholic beverage, evading arrest with a motor vehicle and minor in possession of tobacco.
- MIGUEL ARENIVAZ, 21, of 2603 Ent, was arrested Sunday on charges of minor in possession of an alcoholic beverage, evading arrest with a motor vehicle and possession of marijuana – two ounces or less.
- JUSTIN RAMIREZ, 21, of 2608 Ent, was arrested Sunday on charges of public intoxication, unlawfully carrying a weapon and evading arrest with a motor vehicle.
- BILLY CHAVERA, 30, of 2504 Gunter, was arrested Sunday on three local citations.
- MARK ARGUELLO, 34, of 609 Elgin, was arrested Sunday on three local citations.
- EDWARD SPIVEY, 19, of 1101 Jeffery, was arrested Monday on four local warrants.

Note: An activity log for the weekend was not made available by the BSPD due to computer difficulties.

Fire/EMS

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

- MEDICAL was reported in the 1300 block of Mt. Vernon. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAUMA was reported in the 1500 block of Nolan. Service refused.
- TRAFFIC ACCIDENT was reported in the 500 block of Father Delaney. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAUMA was reported in the area of Father Delaney. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported near the intersection of Rosemont and Wood. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAUMA was reported in the 1300 block of Mulberry. Service refused.
- TRAFFIC ACCIDENT was reported in the 1700 block of E. Fourth Street. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAUMA was reported in the 1200 block of Goliad. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 300 block of Third Street. Service refused.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 2500 block of March. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1200 block of Wright. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 400 block of Alsford. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported near the intersection of Fourth Street and Gregg. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAFFIC ACCIDENT was reported near the intersection of 12th Street and Goliad. Service refused.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1600 block of Lancaster. One person was transported to SMMC.
- GRASS FIRE was reported in the 1000 block of N.W. Third Street.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1700 block of Lancaster. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1700 block of S. Gregg. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAUMA was reported in the 1500 block of Virginia. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 500 block of E. 16th Street. One person was transported to SMMC.
- AUTOMOBILE FIRE was reported near the intersection of W. 14th Street and Bluebird.
- TRAUMA was reported in the 1300 block of Utah. Service refused.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1400 block of 14th Street. Service refused.
- TRAFFIC ACCIDENT was reported in the 1800 block of FM 700. Service refused.
- TRAUMA was reported in the 500 block of 17th Street. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 2600 block of Langley. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 4100 block of Parkway. One person was transported to SMMC.

Support Groups

MONDAY

- Encourager's Support Group for all widows and widowers meets the first and third Monday of the month. For more information, call Nancy Hale at 398-5239.
- Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) No. 21 meets at 5 p.m. at the First Christian Church at 10th and Goliad for weigh-in. The meeting begins at 5:30 p.m. Call 213-1342 or 263-6819.

TUESDAY

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

Your Local Weather

Tue 8/26	Wed 8/27	Thu 8/28	Fri 8/29	Sat 8/30
91/66	92/67	90/66	88/64	85/64
Mostly sunny skies. High 91F. Winds SE at 5 to 10 mph.	Partly cloudy. Highs in the low 90s and lows in the upper 60s.	A few clouds. Highs in the low 90s and lows in the mid 60s.	Mix of sun and clouds. Highs in the upper 80s and lows in the mid 60s.	Isolated thunderstorms. Highs in the mid 80s and lows in the mid 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

TODAY

- Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) No. 21 meets at 5 p.m. at the First Christian Church at 10th and Goliad for weigh-in. The meeting begins at 5:30 p.m. Call 213-1342 or 263-6819.
- The Concerned Citizens Council meets at 7 p.m. at the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce. For more information, call 264-6116.
- Prospector's Club work night begins at 7 p.m. at 606 E. Third.

TUESDAY

- Big Spring Rotary Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room.
- The Powwow Committee of Big Spring meets at 7 p.m. at St. Paul Lutheran Church annex, 809 Scurry, or the fellowship hall at 810 Scurry. Call Robert Downing at 263-3255 for information.

WEDNESDAY

- Optimist Club meets at 7 a.m. in the Howard College Cactus Room.
- Free blood pressure screenings from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the Salvation Army, 811 W. Fifth St., provided by InHome Care.
- Downtown Lions Club meets at noon at the Howard College Cactus Room.
- Duplicate Bridge Club meets at 1 p.m. in the Big Spring Country Club.
- Eagles Lodge Ladies Auxiliary meets at 7 p.m. in

Sheriff's report

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

Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 62 inmates at the time of this report.

- JOEL HERNANDEZ, 31, was arrested Friday by the HCSO on a probated judgment for driving while intoxicated – second offense.
- ADAM CANDIDO AGUILAR, 32, was arrested Friday by the HCSO on a probated judgment for driving while intoxicated – second offense.
- DALLAS INEZ JORDAN, 38, was arrested Friday by the HCSO on charges of criminal mischief and possession of a controlled substance.
- BETTY LOUISE FRIDAY, 48, was transferred to the county jail Friday by the BSPD on a charge of possession of a controlled substance in a drug free zone.
- GARY LEE MOORE, 54, was arrested Saturday by DPS on charges of driving while intoxicated – third or more offense and driving while license invalid with a previous conviction or suspension.
- MIGUEL ENRIQUE JUAREZ, 20, was arrested Sunday by DPS on charges of bondsman off bond for possession of marijuana – two ounces or less, bail jumping – failure to appear and failure to drive in a single lane.
- STEVEN DWAYNE RICH, 30, was arrested Sunday by the HCSO on charges of false drug test – falsification device and bondsman off bond for possession of a controlled substance (two counts).
- DAVID LEVON HUMPHREY III, was transferred to the county jail Sunday by the BSPD on a charge of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon.
- NICOLAS CRAIG MILLS, 28, was transferred to the county jail Sunday by the BSPD on a charge of bail jumping – failure to appear.
- EUGENE VANDERBILT, 42, was transferred to the county jail Sunday by the BSPD on a charge of possession of a controlled substance.
- ROGER DEAN FOULKS, 45, was arrested Monday by DPS on a charge of driving while intoxicated – open container.
- EDGAR ORTIZ, 19, was arrested Monday by DPS on charges of theft, failure to identify as a fugitive from justice – giving false information and unauthorized use of a motor vehicle.

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News in brief

Plan carrying 90 people crashes in Kyrgyzstan, killing 68; 22 survive, officials say

BISHKEK, Kyrgyzstan (AP) — A passenger jet carrying 90 people, including a Kyrgyz high school sports team, crashed shortly after takeoff Sunday near the Kyrgyz capital, killing 65, government officials said.

The Boeing 737 was headed to Iran when it crashed near Bishkek's Manas International Airport, said government spokeswoman Roza Daudova. Twenty-two people, including two crew members, survived the accident.

Earlier, Daudova had said there were at least 68 dead and 25 survivors, but she later gave lower figures.

An airport official said the crew reported a technical problem about 10 minutes into the flight and that the plane was returning to the airport when it crashed. The official said she was not authorized to give her name.

Officials said the crash followed the sudden decompression of the jet, which came down in a field near a village.

US warship loaded with aid reaches Georgia, sending message of support

ABOARD THE U.S.S. MCFaul (AP) — A Russian general suggested that U.S. ships in the Black Sea loaded with humanitarian aid would worsen tensions already driven to a post-Cold War high by a short but intense war between Russia and Georgia.

The U.S. Navy destroyer U.S.S. McFaul reached Georgia's Black Sea port of Batumi on Sunday, bringing baby food, bottled water and a message of support for an embattled ally.

The deputy chief of Russia's general staff suggested the

arrival of the McFaul and other U.S. and NATO ships would increase tensions: Russia shares the sea with NATO members Turkey, Romania and Bulgaria as well as Georgia and Ukraine, whose pro-Western presidents are leading drives for NATO membership.

"I don't think such a buildup will foster the stabilization of the atmosphere in the region," Russia's ITAR-Tass news agency quoted Col. Gen. Anatoly Nogovitsyn as saying Saturday.

Georgian Defense Minister David Kezerashvili told The Associated Press on the aft missile deck of the McFaul after greeting U.S. Navy officers that the population of Georgia would feel "more safe" from the "Russian aggression" as a result of the ship's arrival.

Drivers significantly change their behavior as gas prices pass 'tipping point,' study says

WASHINGTON (AP) — Roll back the clock to 1961: John F. Kennedy was inaugurated president. The Peace Corps was founded. The Dow Jones industrials hit 734. Gasoline reached 31 cents a gallon.

And the number of people killed in U.S. traffic accidents that year topped 36,200.

This year, gasoline climbed over \$4 a gallon, and the traffic death toll — according to one study — appears headed to the lowest levels since Kennedy moved into the White House.

The number is being pulled down by a change in Americans' driving habits, which is fueled largely by record high gasoline prices, according to the Transportation Research Institute at the University of Michigan.

The institute's study — which covers 12 months ending in April — found that as gas prices rose, driving and

fatalities declined. The surprise, said Professor Michael Sivak, author of the study, was the huge decline in fatalities in March and April as gasoline prices surged above \$3.20 a gallon.

Israel releases Palestinian prisoners in goodwill gesture ahead of visit by Rice

BEITUNIYA CHECKPOINT, West Bank (AP) — Nearly 200 Palestinian prisoners freed Monday by Israel walked into Palestinian-controlled territory to cheers and applause, just hours before U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice was due to arrive on her latest peace mission.

The prisoners arrived at Beitunia, near the West Bank city of Ramallah, after a short drive from Ofer prison outside Jerusalem.

The prisoners, some waving black-and-white checkered keffiyeh headdresses as they got out of Israeli buses, kissed the ground before boarding Palestinian vehicles.

Israel said the release is a gesture meant to bolster moderate Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas and give a boost to the slow-moving peace talks with the moderate Palestinian leader.

"It's not easy for Israel to release prisoners. Some of the individuals being released today are guilty of direct involvement in the murder of innocent civilians," government spokesman Mark Regev said.

"But we understand the importance of the prisoner issue for Palestinian society ... We believe this action can support the negotiation process and create goodwill."

The fate of the roughly 9,000 Palestinians in Israeli jails is highly emotional, since many Palestinians either know someone in prison or have served time themselves, officials said.

OBAMA

Continued from page 1A

here because of the opportunities that my father had, that my mother had. You know, we are who Americans were supposed to be."

With Democrats and convention delegates streaming to the Mile High City, party officials worked to assure a harmonious week.

Clinton was expected by midweek to release the delegates she won in primaries and caucuses and encourage them to support

her former rival.

And by unanimous vote, the party's credentials committee restored full voting rights to delegates from Florida and Michigan. The party had stripped both states of their voting rights for holding primaries before the rules said they could. The committee vote was taken at Obama's behest, and Democrats hope the goodwill gesture will help improve their standing in two important states.

Obama, slowly making his way to Denver via a tour of battleground states, said Sunday that one of his goals is for voters to come

away from the convention thinking he is one of them. His uncommon name and family background still concern some voters.

"I think what you'll conclude is, 'He's sort of like us,'" Obama said in Eau Claire, Wis. "He comes from a middle-class background. He went to school on scholarships. He had to pay off student loans. He and his wife had to worry about child care. They had to figure out how to start a college fund for their kids."

Republicans seek to portray Obama as an Ivy-league-educated elitist. His background — white

mother from Kansas, black father from Kenya, raised in Hawaii and Indonesia — has been grist for the rumor mill, leading some voters to believe he is a Muslim or unpatriotic.

Obama closes the convention Thursday night when the action shifts to Invesco Field at Mile High stadium, where the 47-year-old, first-term senator will give his speech accepting the nomination from the 50-yard line. He said Sunday he was "still tooling around with my speech a little bit."

He is scheduled to campaign Monday in Iowa. McCain, meanwhile,

wasn't disappearing from the campaign trail entirely. He was using an appearance Monday on "The Tonight Show with Jay Leno" and newspaper interviews to stay in touch with voters. And, there's continued interest in his choice of a running mate.

Besides Michelle Obama, other speakers Monday night include Barack Obama's sister, Maya Soetero-Ng, and Craig Robinson, his brother-in-law. The schedule includes a surprise speaker, former Rep. Jim Leach of Iowa, a Republican moderate who broke ranks with his party this month and endorsed

Obama.

The convention also will give Obama's running mate his biggest audience yet. On Monday, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice told reporters aboard her flight to the Middle East that Biden is a "true patriot."

"I am not going to talk about the politics of it," Rice said. "I'll just say that Sen. Biden is a very fine statesman. I have known him for a long time. He has been a really very supportive committee chair and before that ranking member for the State Department and our diplomatic efforts."

COUNCIL

Continued from page 1A

be a decrease to the taxpayer of \$3.43. One a home valued at \$100,000, it would mean a decrease of \$3.57. It's still sufficient to fund the budget we brought to the council, and we'll be bringing it back to the council for first reading during the next meeting."

Mayor Russ McEwen took a motion and a second from the council during its Aug. 12 meeting to approve the new \$1.0132 rate, saying the vote was simply an indication the council was ready to move forward with the measure. The council voted in favor of the motion unanimously.

A public hearing on the tax rate is also slated for the meeting, with a second public hearing on

the matter set for Sept. 9. First reading of the order adopting the tax rate is also slated for the September meeting, according to Walker.

The future of portable containers — also known as freight containers or sea containers — in the city will also be up for consideration Tuesday night, as the council is expected to look at final reading of a 180-day moratorium on applications and permitting for the metal containers.

First reading of the measure was narrowly approved two weeks ago on a 4-3 vote, with Mayor Russ McEwen and council members Manuel Ramirez Jr. and Troy Tompkins voting against the moratorium.

The moratorium, which would disallow any

permits be issued for use of the containers, sometimes used by construction crews for storage, as well as by local residents in the place of sheds or other storage structures, until city officials can craft an ordinance that would address the matter — including any problems caused by residential use.

"A couple of years ago this issue came up," said Assistant City Manager Todd Darden during a previous meeting. "We refer to them as sea containers. They are the portable containers you see going up and down the railroad spurs as well as on the highways. After researching it, we began looking at some of the ordinances in our areas and what other communities were doing to address those.

"About four months ago we took a proposal tailored after what Midland has, and made some changes to it for what we thought would fit the Big Spring community and took it to Planning and Zoning. The Planning and Zoning Commission asked the staff to go back and look at it because the one we proposed did not allow them in residential zones except for construction purposes, which would be a temporary type permit." According to Darden, the number of sea containers being utilized within the city limits continues to grow, making the moratorium a necessity while city officials decide how to handle the situation.

"In the meantime, they keep growing in our community," said Darden.

"What we're asking the council to do tonight is to place a temporary moratorium on them until the staff can get the research done and get it to Planning and Zoning for a recommendation to the council to consider."

At least two local residents spoke against the moratorium during the meeting.

Also during Tuesday's meeting, the council is expected to consider final reading of an ordinance adopting a new rate review mechanism between Atmos Energy's

West Texas Division and the steering committee investigating the validity of rate increase claims, as well as final reading of a resolution that will allow for the implementation of an Adopt-A-Spot program within the city limits.

The meeting is expected to begin at 5:30 p.m. in the council chambers, located at 307 E. Fourth Street.

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

CLOSE

Continued from page 1A

whole thing."

Johnson said there's no admission charge to be part of the screening and encourages area residents

to mark the date on their calendar.

"How often do you get the chance to watch a movie on a 16-foot screen on the top of a mountain?" asked Johnson.

The film is expected to begin just after dark near

the playground, located adjacent to the park office on the top of Scenic Mountain.

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

citydesk@bigspringherald.com

SHOOTING

Continued from page 1A

Both were treated at the emergency room at Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

"Detectives have several witnesses that are being interviewed at this time,"

said Everett.

No other injuries were reported as a result of the shooting.

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EDITORIAL

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

Ron Midkiff
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Managing Editor

Bill McClellan
News Editor

OUR VIEWS

Olympic muzzle is apparent

And now, a quick update on the Chinese pledge to allow greater free speech during the Olympics. As of last Monday, the score: 77 applications received by Chinese authorities from 149 people demanding to stage a demonstration. Number of permits issued: 0. Number of would-be Chinese protesters detained because they applied for a permit: at least four.

And this just in: Two Chinese women, aged 77 and 79, were sentenced to a year of "re-education through labor" after they made five visits to the police this month in an attempt to get permission to protest, The New York Times reported. The sentences were meted out for the "crime" of "disturbing the public order."

What a sad spectacle the Chinese are showing the world. The saddest thing is, many of those who pressed their case, like the elderly women, played by the rules. They believed - hoped - that the government's declaration to allow protests at three sites, with the proper application, would be honored. One protester, Gao Chuancai, mailed in his application and came to Beijing as required, for a face-to-face follow-up, the Times reported. He wanted to "remind the world that China still has problems that need to be solved."

The result? He was grilled by cops for an hour. And now he's being detained.

Is that what Chinese officials mean when they say that most prospective protesters dropped their plans after their problems were "properly addressed"?

The Chinese are relatively new to some Olympic sports. They're still learning the ropes, not able to compete yet with the elite athletes from other nations. That's true, too, of the image Olympics, the multimillion-dollar effort to ensure that the image China projects to the world is flawless and flattering. That was supposed to include a loosening of censorship and ham-handed muzzling of those with a grievance.

But maybe the Chinese need a little primer on the rules of this free speech game. You can require that protesters hew to a time and place for a protest, and there are reasonable limits on the way they can voice their grievances. Some of that is for their own safety.

But arresting protesters for merely asking to protest? That is brutal. Much of the world had hoped that hosting the Olympics would teach the Chinese about the value of openness. If they had allowed some of these protests, they may have learned that protesters often have a point. Gao, for instance, wanted to protest corruption in his village in northeast China. Sounds like something worth hearing. He has been determined - he told a reporter he has survived two beatings by the police. Gao's son said his father was "chasing his dream of justice."

Too bad there's no gold medal for courage and perseverance.

THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE

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:

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- By telephone at 263-7331
- By fax at 264-7205
- By e-mail Managing Editor John A. Moseley at editor@bigspringherald.com or News Editor Bill McClellan at newsdesk@bigspringherald.com.
- By mail at P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721

Congress may get an earful

If only drivers could avoid high gasoline prices as easily as Congress has avoided doing anything about them.

Gas has dipped below \$4 a gallon for the first time in months, but prices are still uncomfortably high and likely will stay that way through November. Thus, the pain at the pump will remain a big election issue. But now that members of Congress are home for the August recess and are asking voters to re-elect them, they'll have to explain why the single best energy idea — expanding domestic oil production — isn't even on the agenda.

Other measures — crackdowns on speculators, subsidies for alternative energy sources, tax hikes on oil companies, prohibitions on price gouging — have been subject to endless debate, leading to legislative proposals voted on by Congress. These ideas range from mildly useful at best to downright counterproductive at worst. Some, like the tax increases and price-gouging measures, are retreats of blunders that prompted shortages and gas lines in the 1970s. Thus far, none have passed.

A far better option is to open the vast oil-rich areas in the United States — both onshore and in our territorial waters — that inexplicably remain restricted despite skyrocketing prices. Polling shows that the public strongly supports opening the 85 percent of America's offshore areas currently off-limits — areas believed to contain 19 billion barrels. The same is true for promising onshore regions such as Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife

Refuge, a tiny portion of which is estimated to contain 10 billion more. Those 29 billion barrels — and past experience suggests we'll find far more — represents 48 years' worth of current imports from Saudi Arabia.

Increasing domestic oil supplies is an indispensable part of a sound energy policy. Americans get this, even if some in Washington don't.

Several bills, sponsored mostly by Republicans, seek to open these areas. Republicans also have sought to add these measures as amendments to other energy and non-energy legislation. Not only has the House and Senate Democratic leadership opposed these efforts, but they have used every tactic in the book to keep them from coming to a vote.

Amazingly, they have even shelved appropriations bills — the ones politicians love to fill with pork-barrel spending in an election year — rather than see pro-energy amendments tacked onto them. Some say a government shutdown is possible, if Republicans insist that the bills needed to keep federal activities going also allow new drilling and if the Democratic leadership refuses to go along.

Many Republicans even tried to block the August recess and keep Congress in Washington until an agreement was reached on increasing domestic oil supplies. They failed, but some refused to go home anyway and continued making their case.

It should be emphasized that, although Republicans are leading this charge, it isn't entirely a partisan issue. The strongly liberal Democratic leadership — Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid and their like-minded colleagues — is at odds with a number of pro-energy Demo-

crats who would join Republicans and put a domestic energy bill over the top.

This is why the leadership is stone-walling: They're desperate to avoid a vote they know they would lose.

Pelosi, Reid and other critics of expanded drilling are not without their excuses: There isn't enough new oil out there to make any difference, it will take too long to bring it to market, oil companies don't need new places to drill because they're deliberately under-producing in existing areas, and so on. None of these claims have merit, but those who do believe them should be willing to say so in an open debate over a drilling bill, and then proudly vote no on that bill. Instead, they have gone miles out of their way to avoid that debate and vote.

The reality is that the liberal Democratic leadership is too beholden to environmental extremists whose "drill nowhere" absolutism takes precedence over pump prices, no matter how high they may go. And this position has never been more out of touch than it is now.

So Congress adjourned without adding a drop of new oil, and members are back in their states and districts where high pump prices remain a top concern. Don't be surprised if constituents angry over paying \$70 per tankful give their representatives an earful.

Ben Lieberman is senior policy analyst in the Thomas A. Roe Institute for Economic Policy Studies at The Heritage Foundation. Readers may write to the author in care of The Heritage Foundation, 214 Massachusetts Avenue NE, Washington, D.C. 20002; Web site: www.heritage.org. Information about Heritage's funding may be found at <http://www.heritage.org/about/reports.cfm>.

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Conflict provoked by U.S. in Iraq

Russia is not out to retake the former Soviet republics, despite its dawdling in withdrawing forces from Georgia. It was after all Georgia, not Russia, that started the fighting in South Ossetia on Aug. 7.

The background of the military conflict is a standoff between the Georgians and the Ossetians. The Ossetians have long been wary of the Georgians.

That may sound strange, since Georgia is a small country. But Ossetia is even smaller.

After the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution in Russia, Georgia briefly separated from Russia, and the Ossetians tried to separate from Georgia. They did not succeed.

In 1922, South Ossetia was given autonomy status within the Soviet Republic of Georgia. When the U.S.S.R. disbanded in 1991, the Ossetians tried again to separate from Georgia. Georgia sent in troops, leading to fighting that continued into 1992.

Georgia then abolished South Ossetia's limited autonomy and tried to incorporate it fully into Georgia. In June 1992, South Ossetian forces and Georgia agreed to a ceasefire to be monitored by a Joint Peacekeeping Forces group, under Russian command.

So Russian troops are in South Ossetia under an agreement to which Georgia is a party.

The Ossetians make up two-thirds

of the population of South Ossetia, the remainder being mainly Georgians. In a 1996 referendum, the Ossetians opted to stay separated from Georgia. They might choose, if given the chance, to unite with neighboring North Ossetia, which is inside Russia.

It is the Joint Peacekeeping Force that was attacked by Georgia on Aug. 7, as Georgia tried to assert control over South Ossetia. Russian military personnel and Ossetian civilians were killed, as Georgia shelled South Ossetia — in particular its capital city. Why did Georgia take on an army that dwarfs its own? Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili is a darling of the Bush administration, and especially of Vice President Richard Cheney's neo-conservative faction.

The administration funded and trained the Georgian army, which has been one of the few countries to contribute forces to the U.S. coalition in Iraq. The administration has also been pushing NATO to accept Georgia as a member.

Saakashvili likely construed that close connection to mean that if he started a conflict with Russia, he would get more than verbal support from Washington. The White House did react by condemning Russia, but has done nothing more concrete than to send humanitarian aid for Georgia.

Russia is not happy at the prospect of another neighboring state joining NATO. It is that fact that likely accounts for the strength of the Russian response to the Georgian attack, and for its entry into Georgian territory. Why NATO needs to expand eastward — other than

to challenge Russia — has not been adequately explained by the Bush administration. Or even why NATO serves a purpose now that the Cold War is over.

Russia views NATO as directed against it, particularly in light of the Bush administration's ill-conceived plan to install defensive missiles in Poland. The administration says that the missile shield is aimed against Iran or Middle East terrorists, but Russia doesn't buy that explanation.

The missile shield is potentially offensive, because the United States could strike Russia first, then use the shield to absorb responsive Russian missiles.

The non-neo-cons in the Bush administration around Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice understand that by building the missile shield, and by promoting not only Georgia, but Ukraine, for NATO membership, the administration arouses Russian concern and stokes Russian nationalism.

Rice has been concerned for some time that building up Georgia's military for action in Iraq might encourage Saakashvili to start trouble with Russia over South Ossetia. Her fears have now been realized.

The Georgia-Russia conflict is collateral damage from our war in Iraq, and from our military moves in eastern Europe.

John B. Quigley is a professor of law at Ohio State University. Readers may write to him at The Michael E. Moritz College of Law, Ohio State University, 55 W. 12th Avenue, Columbus, Ohio 43210, or e-mail him at Quigley.2@osu.edu.



BEN LIEBERMAN



JOHN B. QUIGLEY

Can't top Phelps

Bolt, Redeem Team and underage gymnasts can't steal golden boy's spotlight

The Olympics are always good for a few dramatic moments and a bit of controversy. The 2008 Beijing version of the Games weren't any different.

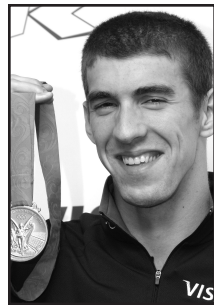
However, no matter how controversial the Chinese government was or how incredible the performance of Jamaica's Usain Bolt was on the track, the Olympic spotlight belonged to one man, who has captured the heart of his country.

Here's a quick review — plus a little of my own opinion — of the Games' biggest stories:

- A 1,000 or so word column has already been printed in the Herald praising the accomplishments of Michael Phelps.

However, what Phelps did was so remarkable, he deserves a few more.

An argument against Phelps being the greatest Olympian of all time falls short with reasons. How could anyone say otherwise?



Phelps

The numbers haven't been officially released, but I can't imagine NBC came close this past week to the 39.5 rating it received when Phelps was attempting to win his eighth gold medal.

Face it; these Olympics received the notoriety it did because of Phelps. Intrigue headed into the Games was beyond apathetic.

There was more talk about the controversy that is China heading into the Olympics. Then, Phelps captured America's attention.

He's now an icon, ranking up there with Michael Jordan and Lance Armstrong as some of the greatest and most popular athletes in our nation's history.

Our nation stopped to watch him perform and he didn't let us down.

- After Phelps, the second biggest story to come out of the Olympics was a potential scandal. It might be a couple more months before we stop hearing about the possibility that three of China's female gymnasts were under the 16-year-old age limit.

Imagine that. There's an Olympic scandal in the world's most controversial country. Shocking.

Now, I don't know why 13-year-olds aren't allowed to participate in the gymnastics competition at the Olympics.

Maybe it's a safety guideline to protect young girls from training that intensely, or maybe girls that young have a distinct advantage over a 16-year-old girl in means of flexibility.

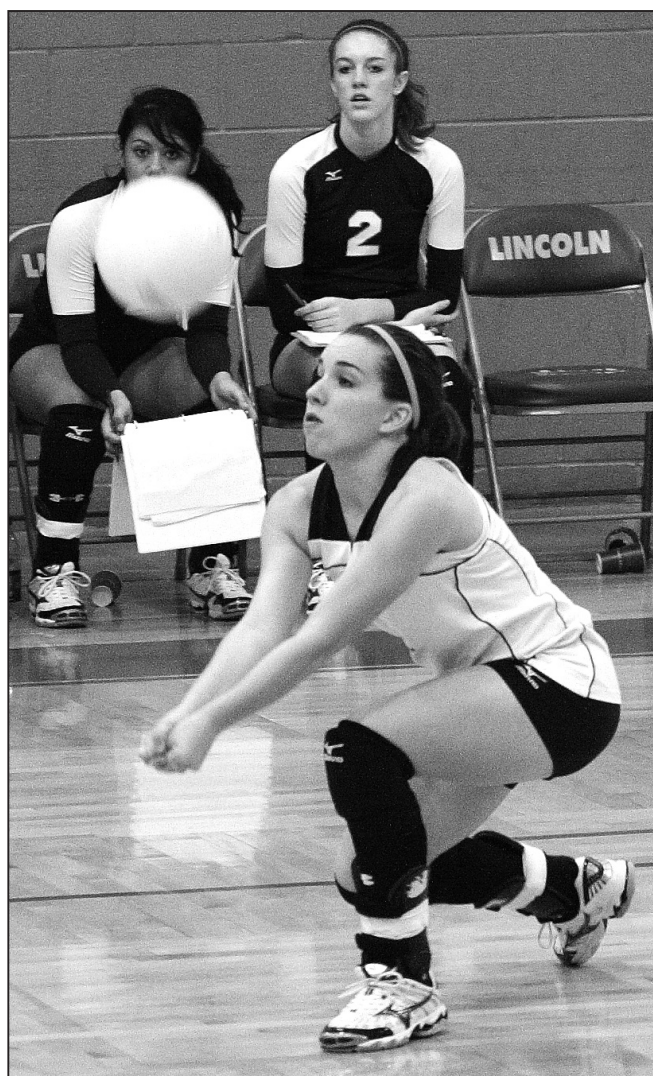
Regardless, a rule is a rule and it should be followed. Of course, Americans are quick to believe China doctored the ages of these girls. After all, it was Americans who were cheated.

Hopefully, the IOC won't let this go easily and deep investigation will be conducted. It will probably take a long, drawn out investigation to pick up on the trail China's government has definitely covered.

See **OLYMPICS**, Page 6



JONATHAN HULL



HERALD photo/Tony Claxton
Big Spring Lady Steers libero Sloan Davis passes in action from the Nita Vannoy Tournament in San Angelo Saturday. The Lady Steers went 1-4 over two days of bracket play.

Lady Steers finish 1-4 at Nita Vannoy tourney

Herald Staff Report

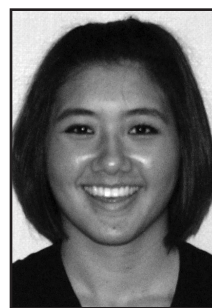
SAN ANGELO — It was a frustrating experience over the weekend for the Big Spring Lady Steers at the Nita Vannoy Tournament in San Angelo.

The Lady Steers lost four of five matches, dropping their season record to 4-11. Of their four losses, the Lady Steers had an opportunity to win two of those matches.

That wasn't the case in the tournament's opening match vs. host San Angelo Central. Central, renowned as one of the best volleyball programs in the state, blasted the Lady Steers, 25-3, 25-7.

"They had some big hitters and we were intimidated," said Lady Steers Head Coach Meghan Blake. "We just didn't compete with them and didn't really try to. Losing like this is unacceptable. We have to put together better efforts."

Central never lost a set in six tournament matches, sweep-



Claxton

ing through a field of 40 teams and claiming their third consecutive Nita Vannoy championship. This from a team that lost nine seniors from last year's squad and returned only one starter.

"That team was very good. Their coach has really established a strong program there," admired Blake. "It's the type of program I'm hoping we can get started here. It's obviously going to take some time."

The Lady Steers picked up its only win of the tournament in its second match Friday, topping Midland Classical, 25-19, 26-24. Senior Andrea Claxton led the team with five kills, three digs and 2.5 blocks.

The Lady Steers then fell in straight sets to Brownfield in a very competitive match, 25-23, 25-22, ending the first day of play.

See **BSHS**, Page 6



Blake

Good news Dallas fans

Giants' Umenyiora out for season with torn MCL

By TOM CANAVAN

AP Sports Writer

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — The New York Giants' road back to the Super Bowl is going to be a lot tougher than expected.

Going into training camp, Tom Coughlin and company knew repeating meant getting back without the retired Michael Strahan and the

disgruntled and traded Jeremy Shockey.

Now, the Giants are going to have to do it without defensive end Osi Umenyiora, their only Pro Bowl player last season.

Umenyiora tore the lateral meniscus in his left knee in a preseason game against the New

See **INJURY**, Page 6



AP photo/Bill Kostroun

New York Giants medical personnel examine defensive end Osi Umenyiora as coach Tom Coughlin, right, looks on, during the second quarter of a preseason football game against the New York Jets Saturday at Giants Stadium in East Rutherford, N.J. Umenyiora will miss the entire season with a torn MCL ligament in his knee.

Cowboys still working out defensive kinks

By DAVID JIMENEZ

Associated Press Writer

IRVING — With the regular season two weeks away, the Dallas Cowboys believe there is still work to be done defensively in the preseason.

After an up-and-down performance Friday night in a 23-22 victory over the Houston Texans, the Cowboys' defenders will try to shore things up before taking on Cleveland in their season opener Sept. 7.

"We were still inconsistent," Cowboys linebacker Zach Thomas said. "But that's what's good. It's the preseason. During this time you want to fine tune and you

want to get your rhythm."

Dallas was put in an early hole when Houston's Andre Davis returned the opening kickoff 68 yards.

The Cowboys held the Texans to a field goal on that drive. Then they forced Houston into consecutive three-and-outs.

Houston had just 10 yards of offense in the first quarter. But the Texans running game behind rookie Steve Slaton got rolling in the second quarter.

"I feel like we're giving too much on the run," defensive lineman Marcus Spears said. "It's something that we'll focus on and get corrected."

Led by Slaton and the ground attack, the Texans drove 80 yards for a touchdown in the second quarter.

"We started out fast, but we had an inconsistent drive," Thomas said. "You can't be giving up 80-yard drives if you want to be a great defense."

The Cowboys defense had a better showing than they did last week against Denver.

Led by quarterback Jay Cutler's 16-of-20 performance, the Broncos went on two long scoring drives against the Cowboys first-teamers.

Spears liked the energy he saw from the first unit Friday.

"Guys are flying around and a lot of guys are getting to the ball," Spears said. "That's what you want to see as a defense with teams not getting second and third chances to get up and make plays."

With the Cowboys still missing the injured Terence Newman, suspended cornerback Adam Jones started at cornerback.

He had one tackle, and gave up a 23-yard play to Kevin Walter, who reached over the shorter defender to make the catch. Jones also had an 18-yard punt return.

See **COWBOYS**, Page 6

Sports in brief

BSHS Community Pep Rally set for tonight

Big Spring High School is holding a community pep rally at Memorial Stadium at 8 p.m. Monday.

All athletes involved in the 2008 fall sports season from junior high to high school will be recognized.

Referees needed for football season

The Permian Basin Football Chapter is searching for referees, who can help assist officiating football games throughout the Crossroads' region.

No experience is needed as the Chapter will provide training.

Anyone interested can call Jessie Mendoza at 268-5833 or Delvin Guinn at 264-8502.

Meet the Mustangs Thursday in Ackerly

A chance to meet all Sands athletes participating in fall sports in 2008 has been arranged for 6 p.m. Aug. 28 in the school's cafeteria.

A hamburger supper will accompany the event. Cost is \$5 a person and \$15 for a family.

Registration open for v-ball league

Registration for the Big Spring Youth Volleyball League continues through Saturday at the local YMCA. The league is open for children entering grades 4, 5 and 6 this school year.

Registration fee is \$50; financial assistance is available for families that qualify.

Teams will be formed at a coaches' meeting Sept. 2 and

games will be played on Saturdays beginning Sept. 20. For more information, contact the YMCA at 267-8234.

Stanton site for Sept. 1 5K run

Stanton will host a 5 kilometer run/walk Sept. 1. Registration will be held at 7:30 a.m., with the race starting an hour later at 1101 W. Broadway (the Martin County EMS Building).

Early registration costs \$15 — race day registration will cost \$20.

There will be awards to the top three male and female runners in several age groups.

For more information, call Bob Teveni at 661-8597 or pick up entry forms at Dr. Pablo Teveni's office at 109 E. First St. in Stanton.

INJURY

Continued from Page 5

York Jets and will undergo season-ending surgery Tuesday at the Hospital for Special Surgery in New York.

The recovery period is about four months.

Dr. Russell Warren, the team surgeon, never discussed a non-surgical option, Coughlin said.

"My number one concern is about Osi," Coughlin said in a telephone conference call on Sunday. "I did talk to him on the phone a short while ago and told him that he is in everyone's thoughts and prayers."

The devastating report came less than 24 hours after the team thought it had caught a break in the wake of Saturday's second-quarter injury, which happened when Umenyiora's foot seemed to stick to the turf as he tried to

beat Jets tackle D'Brickshaw Ferguson to the outside.

Umenyiora was carted off the field with what the team described as a locked knee. X-rays taken during the game revealed no ligament damage, but an MRI performed Sunday found the torn meniscus on the 26-year-old, who led the team with 13 sacks last season.

"It was obviously the news that I did not want to hear," Coughlin said. "But after listening to the explanation and Dr. Warren's thoughts on it, I am convinced that this is the right procedure and the right way to go."

The combination of the injury and Strahan's retirement leaves the Giants very thin at defensive end.

Coughlin said the team is considering all its options, with the most obvious being enticing the 36-year-old Strahan to come out of retirement. He retired in June, ending a 15-year career

highlighted by the Giants' stunning Super Bowl victory over the unbeaten New England Patriots.

Coughlin recently talked with Strahan about his new career working on Fox's pregame NFL show on Sundays.

"The only thing I talked with Michael about was his new challenge, moving forward in his new assignment, and he was very excited about that," Coughlin said.

Agent Tony Agnone said the Giants have not contacted him to ask about Strahan, who is out of the country on vacation.

"Obviously, he loves the Giants and obviously he is working for Fox," Agnone said in a telephone interview with The Associated Press. "Right now he is relaxing and getting ready for his Fox gig."

Strahan missed all of training camp last season while mulling retirement.

He reported to the team a little more than a week before the season opener and played well.

However, he trained while thinking about retirement last year and was in good shape.

The Giants open the season on Sept. 4 against the Washington Redskins.

While Justin Tuck has replaced Strahan at left end, replacing Umenyiora at right end will not be easy.

He had 40½ sacks over the last four seasons, including a franchise-record six against the Philadelphia Eagles on Sept. 30 at Giants Stadium.

Coughlin currently has three choices to replace Umenyiora. He can start either Renaldo Wynn, the veteran free agent who was signed in the offseason, or second-year pro Dave Tollefson, who played well late last season in a backup role.

The other option would be to move strongside linebacker

Mathias Kiwanuka back to defensive end. He was switched to linebacker last year so the team could put its best 11 players on the field.

"I haven't talked to any of the players or to Kiwi or anyone this afternoon, and until I do that, I will just refrain from any thoughts about what might happen within our team," Coughlin said.

The coach said losing a player in a preseason game is difficult.

"I think it's the number one thing that brings frustration, anxiety, and knots in your stomach, all the things that go along with the injury to the players which do not allow your team to function as it is presented on paper," Coughlin said. "Those types of things are very difficult for coaches, no matter what age you are."

COWBOYS

Continued from Page 5

"Of course I was nervous," Jones said. "I hadn't had my number called in over a year. It all worked out."

Dallas' kickoff coverage allowed two long returns. Besides Davis nearly taking the opening kickoff for a touchdown, the Cowboys let Jacoby Jones take another 52 yards in the fourth quarter.

"The kick return (in the fourth quarter) was my

fault," coach Wade Phillips said. "They put their first team against our reserves. I think we should have squib kicked."

Dallas will finish its exhibition season Thursday at home against the Minnesota Vikings.

It's not known how much

time Cowboys starters will see in the final dress rehearsal before the regular season kicks off.

"We haven't decided yet," Phillips said. "We need to let individuals get enough playing time to get ready for the regular season."

Notes: Left guard Kyle Kosier could miss up to six weeks with a sprained right foot. Kosier suffered the injury in the fourth quarter of Friday night's game and left the stadium in a walking boot. ... An MRI revealed WR Isaiah Stanback has a dislocated

left shoulder, which he hurt when scrambling for the ball after he fumbled away the opening kickoff in the second half. ... The Cowboys have to cut five players by Tuesday to get their roster to 75. The final cuts to 53 have to be made next weekend.

OLYMPICS

Continued from Page 5

• Call him the Michael Phelps of the track. Usain Bolt raced in three events and set or had a part in setting three world records. Bolt, who couldn't be more appro-

priately named, has speed never seen before.

The scariest part about Bolt's performance is that most track experts say the 400 is his best event and he didn't even run it. If he had taken part in that race along with the mile relay, we could be talking about five gold medals.

• Redemption has to settle for fourth on this list. The Redeem Team led by Kobe Bryant, Dwayne Wade and LeBron James reclaimed the gold medal for Team USA.

This team took it personal that America was no longer considered the elite country when it

comes to basketball. The energy and pride they attacked the game with was admirable.

It was nice to see some drama involved with the championship game. USA received its biggest challenge from Spain in the gold medal match, winning 118-107.

For the record, this is the best "Dream Team" in history. It is better than the original.

No. They didn't dominate like the original squad made up of Michael Jordan, Magic Johnson, Larry Bird and several other NBA greats. However, that team didn't

have the competition the 2008 version of the team did.

As surprising as it may be, Beijing hosted a very historic Olympics with moments that shall be remembered forever. London can only hope moments similar to Beijing can occur in 2012.

BSHS

Continued from Page 1B

Claxton again led the

team with six digs. Halee Thomas successfully dug five balls and Cerbi Ritchey had 14 assists.

Big Spring got off to another slow start

Saturday, getting swept by Midland Christian, 25-14, 25-11. Big Spring ended its tournament experience with its best match statistically, but still fell to Marble Falls in three sets, 25-20, 20-25, 25-10.

Claxton led with 12 kills and Macy Graves spiked home eight points. Ritchey posted 23 assists.

"We were having a lot of success attacking the middle of Marble Falls' defense, but our ball control didn't allow us to do so consistently," explained Blake. "Our biggest problem this week is we didn't overcome any adversity. We have to learn to overcome adversity if we're going to be consistent. We had some players who

couldn't make the trip to San Angelo Saturday. Stuff like that happens. We have to overcome it.

"Everyone we played never gave up," she continued. "I'm hoping we learned that that's the mentality we have to have. If we're down 1-0, we still have to win the second match."

The Lady Steers play their second home game of the season Tuesday against Abilene Wylie. The match is set for 6 p.m. at Steer Gym.

"Wylie runs a fast offense because of their experience," said Blake. "If we can step up at the net with our blocking then we'll be OK. They're beatable. We have to decide we want to

beat them more than they want to beat us.

"They do have a couple of big girls, but so do we," she continued. "We're big, but we have to learn how to play big. We have to understand that it's an advantage and can be intimidating for an opponent. We have to understand how to play to our size."

Central defeated

Big Spring

25-3, 25-7
Kills - Belle Feaster 2, Andrea Claxton 1, Mirella Torres 1.
Assists - Cerbi Ritchey 4.
Digs - Halee Thomas 1.

Big Spring defeated

Midland Classical

25-19, 26-24
Kills - Claxton 5, Sloan Davis 1, Ritchey 1, Thomas 4, Torres 2, Macy Graves 1,
Assists - Ritchey 13.
Digs - Baylea Fox 2, Claxton 3, Porsha White 1, Davis 2
Aces - Claxton 2, Ritchey 1,

Thomas 2.
Blocks - Claxton 2.5, Thomas 1.

Brownfield defeated

Big Spring

25-23, 25-22
Kills - Claxton 6, Feaster 2, Thomas 3, Graves 2, Torres 1.
Assists - Ritchey 14.
Digs - Thomas 5, Fox 2, Claxton 3, Davis 3.
Aces - Ritchey 1, Torres 2.
Block - Claxton 1.

Midland Christian

defeated Big Spring

25-14, 25-11
Kills - Claxton 3, Graves 3, Fox 2, Ritchey 1.
Assists - Ritchey 8.
Aces - Torres 2.
Digs - Davis 2, Claxton 2, Feaster 2, White 1.

Marble Falls

defeated Big Spring

25-20, 20-25, 25-10
Kills - Claxton 12, Torres 1, Fox 2, Graves 8.
Assists - Ritchey 23.
Aces - Claxton 1, Torres 1, Ritchey 1, Graves 2, Feaster 1.
Blocks - Graves 1, Claxton 1.
Digs - Feaster 1, Torres 1, Claxton 1, Fox 2.

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♥ Q 4 3
♦ A K 5 2
♣ 10 6 5

EAST

♠ 5
♥ K 9 7 6
♦ Q 9 8 7 4 3
♣ J 2

SOUTH

♠ K Q 8
♥ A 10 8
♦ J 10
♣ A K Q 7 3

The bidding:

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♦	Pass	2♣
Pass	2NT	Pass	4♣
Pass	4♣	Pass	5♥
Pass	6♣		

Opening lead — six of diamonds.

It is said that luck is eliminated when you play duplicate bridge, but, alas, there is more poetry than truth in the assertion.

Consider this deal from the match between the United States and France at the 1960 World Bridge Olympiad. The bidding went as shown when Victor Mitchell and Morton Rubinow were North-South for the U.S.

West led a diamond, and Rubinow, looking at 12 highly probable

tricks — three spades, a heart, three diamonds and five clubs — followed low from dummy. East won with the queen and returned a diamond, and the slam very quickly went down the drain.

It is hard to point the finger of blame at Rubinow. Just about anyone worth his salt would have made the same play and gone minus 100.

When Pierre Jais and Roger Trezel were North-South for France, the bidding followed an entirely different route:

West	North	East	South
3♣	Pass	Pass	3NT
Pass	4NT	Pass	6♣
Pass	6NT		

Ira Rubin, West, opened three spades, but the renowned French pair found their way to six notrump anyhow. The four-notrump bid by Jais was merely a raise in notrump and had nothing to do with Blackwood.

Rubin led the jack of spades, and Trezel did not have any difficulty making six notrump. He won the spade with the king, cashed the A-K of clubs, led the jack of diamonds and finessed.

The finesse lost to the queen, but Trezel had 12 ice-cold tricks. France thus gained 1,540 points on the deal, due largely to the 6-1 diamond division that had played such a critical role against six clubs at the first table.

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

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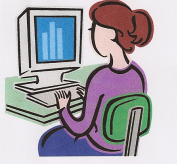
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Legals

Public Hearing
The District Judge will conduct a public hearing on the salaries of the Auditor, Assistant Auditors, and Court Reporter. Citizens are invited to attend and comment. The hearing will be held at 9:00 am on September 10, 2008 at the 118th District Court Building, 312 Scurry Street, Big Spring, TX. Signed: Jackie Olson County Auditor #5878 August 25, 2008

BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

The moon's move from brainy Gemini into feeling Cancer is like moving from the crossword puzzle in the newspaper to the funnies section. In the transition, we may decide we're wasting time, or lose interest altogether in what it is we're doing, mid-word. The people and activities that make us feel warm and fuzzy inside will get our attention.



HOLIDAY MATHIS

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You're trying to turn in good work and still have a so-called "life." Go ahead and do the adventure, book the trip, take the class. Things get easier for you. You'll find a way to make it all work.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You've set your aspirations high. Some would call it silly. Even you would have thought this task to be impossible a few years ago. But you did it anyway, and now it's all paying off.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). After much deliberation over a rather tricky decision, you're probably tired of thinking about it. You might even dive recklessly in a random direction and just hope for the best. And the best is exactly what will come of it.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You're wary of sign-

Tomorrow's Horoscope

ing onto the latest, greatest thing, whether it's a cell phone plan or a new relationship. You're all about the tried and true lately, and your loyalty is not misplaced.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). The strange occurrence of the day (and lately it seems like you get at least one per 24 hours) requires you to exercise muscles you didn't even know you had. Those "muscles" may be actual parts of your body or emotional in nature.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Your every cell is vibrating with energy. You've got it in your mind that you will do whatever it takes to feed your soul. This is no time for compromise. Speak up and say what you really, really want.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Your nature is to seek someone, or more likely many people, to share with. There's no problem finding quality company now. Even small exchanges are manifestations of your love.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). There's research to be done. The facts are not as readily available as you'd like them to be. Your first attempts may provide you with very little information, but keep at it until you get what you're after.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Your attitude makes life fun. Whether you're packing lunch for your family, or serving up stock tips, you're providing what the customer needs and doing it with style.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You're crunching numbers, skimping on extras, massaging the deal to make it go through -- there's almost nothing you can't make happen when you put your mind to it.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). There's a bit of emotional housecleaning going on. Chuck a draining relationship to make room for a loving one. Tonight pushes you out of the mundane and into something magical.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). If you're not attaining the thing you most want, it's likely because your attention is too spread out. A Taurus or Scorpio can help you narrow your focus to a single, achievable purpose.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS: "I'm just starting to get to know a Taurus. What's are the flaws associated with this sign? I want to be ready!"

The funny thing about flaws is how clearly they're the inverse of our strengths. Taurus people often have the flaw/strength of being extremely stubborn. They can get stuck on one note and stay there for a mighty long time. Yet this is also a gift; they don't easily give up their dreams or people they love. An ability to reduce life's complexity to its simplest elements is similarly a curse and a blessing. Taurus folk excel at naming the obvious, breaking things down -- helpful for those of us who find the obvious elu-

sive. However, life can be complicated, and people, complex. That's a reality, too. As such, processing a situation with emotional complexity, or being partnered with a dramatic person, can be difficult for the sensible earth sign. Finally, be straightforward with a Taurus about your desire to know their flaws -- and everything else. The bull respects tact and human courtesy more than you realize. If you really want them to open up to you, offer them a cup of tea and plant yourself on their sofa. They'll reveal, through actions and words, who they really are. In short, they'll dish their own dirt.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Does Virgo Rachael Ray attract criticism? It's an on-the-job hazard of being aligned with the sign of self-improvement -- occasionally the world mirrors her personal inner striving for perfection. With six luminaries in Virgo, Rachael is a super-Virgo, super-industrious and supersensitive. She isn't immune to criticism, but you might not know it from the way she exudes can-do and competence.

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

Annie's Mailbox®: Advice for those in need



**KATHY MITCHELL
MARCY SUGAR**

Dear Annie: My wife and I have been married nearly 50 years. For the last 20, there has been no sex, which is her wish. We do not fuss or fight, and I am sure our friends think everything is fine with us.

I have tried several times to talk to my wife about her lack of interest in sex, but she gets very upset. About 15 years ago, I convinced her to go with me for counseling, but after two sessions, she said she was not going back because there was no benefit for her.

I have several female friends and that is all they are -- friends. I asked my wife if it bothers her that I have female friends, and she said she doesn't care what I do as long as I leave her alone. We have briefly discussed divorce, but it really isn't an option because we are both retired and most of our income is from my retirement plan. We live comfortably but modestly. If we divorced, I am sure our income would be split 50-50 and neither of us could live on that.

Our children are planning a 50th anniversary party, but I just don't feel it's appropriate. We haven't been married in any real sense for the last 20 years. I have tried to talk the kids out of the idea without divulging too much information, but they think I'm just being modest. I really don't know how to handle this. Should I simply let

one if her state permits the records to be opened.

Dear Annie: This is for "Shell Shocked," whose wife left him suddenly after 25 years of marriage. My husband did the same thing to me.

Moving on is great advice. Counseling is debatable. After two years, I have finally managed to get my life going forward. As for counseling, I don't want any. I know full well what happened with my husband's midlife crisis. I was betrayed and discarded. My ex is a selfish, backstabbing, cheating pig, and I will hate him until the day I die. If he dies first, I can dance on his grave.

I don't need a therapist to tell me how to deal with this. My hate makes me strong. I believe it is healthy. There is nothing to be gained by forgiving someone who has done you wrong. -- Bitter Ex-Wife

Dear Bitter: And you don't want counseling? Honey, you are a walking advertisement for therapy. Anger can be healthy, but hate is destructive. After two years, to be so filled with bitterness is going to eat you alive. Forgiveness isn't for his sake. It's for yours. Please reconsider.

Dear Annie: My mother is 84 and lives in California. She's mentally competent but suffers from a variety of illnesses and is on medication for depression and high blood pressure. She's also been taking sleeping pills since my father's death seven years ago.

Mom is adamant about staying in the family home, so my sisters and I have tried to get her the tools she needs to remain independent: the medical alert medallion she refuses to wear because it's "ugly," the cell phone she keeps on the charger instead of in her purse, the cane she doesn't use.

I live in Hawaii and fly out to see Mom three or four times a year. When

she fell last winter and broke her arm, I took care of her. I hired an aide to come when I had to go back home, but Mom canceled the service. She is unable to take care of the house, but won't get help. My younger sister lives nearby and cleans the house and runs errands, but she has young children and it's taking a toll on her family life. My older sister and I have both invited Mom to live with us, but she won't move away from her grandchildren or siblings, who rarely visit. Also, she likes her doctors.

Mom recently had a heart attack and was in a nursing facility for a few weeks. It did wonders for her. When she was released, she was assigned a visiting nurse and physical therapist, but Mom told them to stop coming and now she stays in bed all day. Her neighbors don't look in on her and she has no friends in the area. None of us can afford to keep flying to her rescue and the stress is wearing on us. Any advice? -- Worried in Hawaii

Dear Worried: Your mother may have passed a test for mental competency, but she should be given a test to determine executive functioning -- demonstrating the ability to make decisions and understand the consequences. Notify her doctor of your concerns and suggest a more detailed evaluation, and ask if there is a geriatric assessment clinic that might make a house call since Mom is not getting around. You also should call Adult Protective Services and ask them to check in on her. There's only so much you can do with a recalcitrant parent who refuses help. Sometimes you just have to wait for the crash.

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

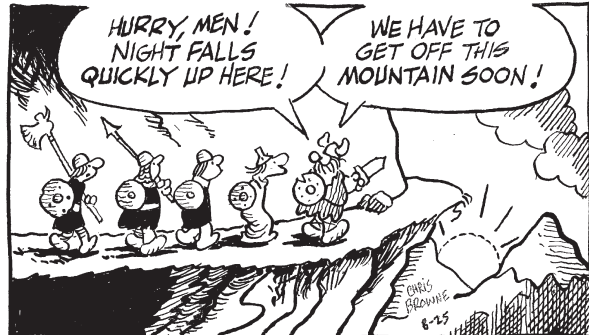
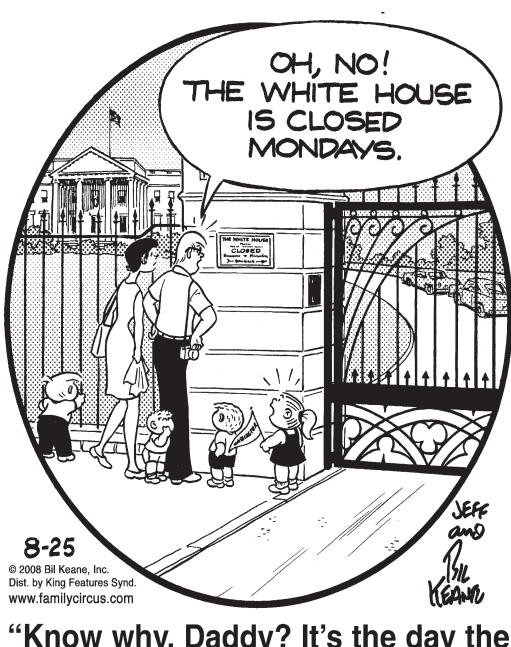
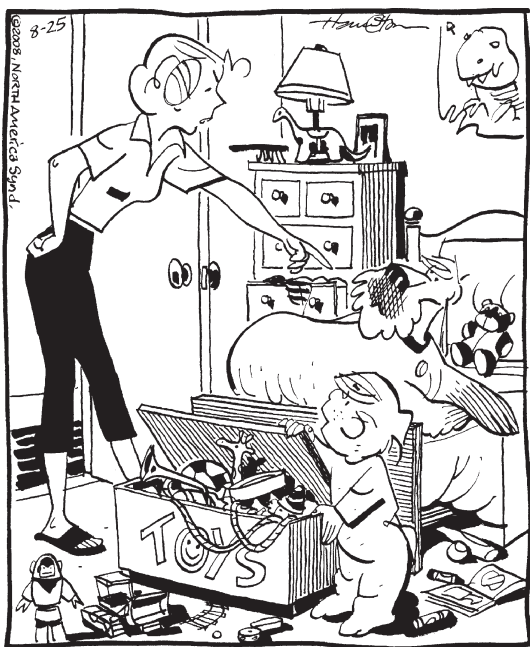
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THE FAMILY CIRCUS

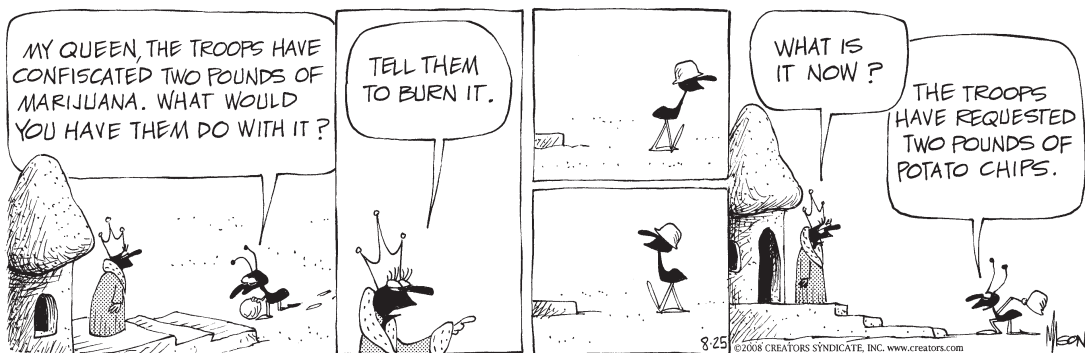
HAGAR



"HE'S JUST WARMIN' IT UP FOR ME, MOM."

"Know why, Daddy? It's the day the Bushes do their vacuuming."

BC



WIZARD OF ID



AGNES



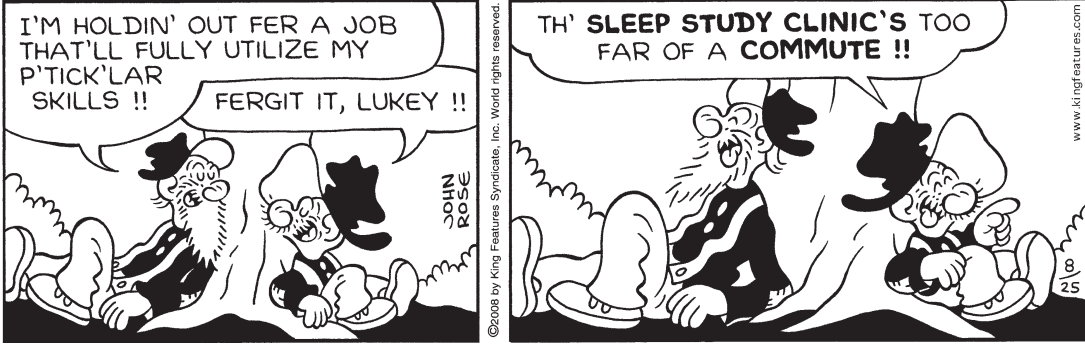
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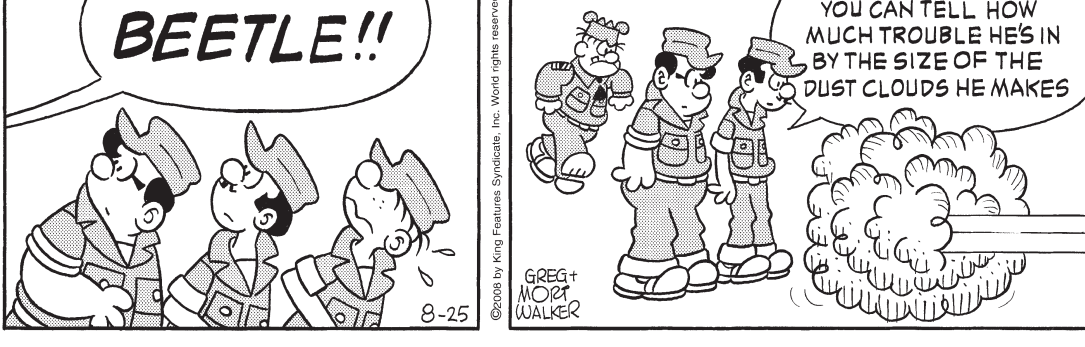
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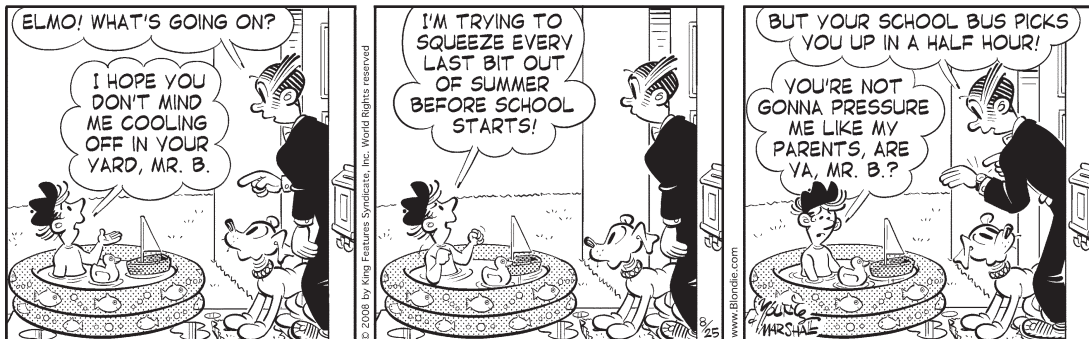
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This Date In History

Today is Monday, Aug. 25, the 238th day of 2008. There are 128 days left in the year. Today's Highlight in History: On Aug. 25, 1944, during World War II, Paris was liberated by Allied forces after four years of Nazi occupation. On this date: In 1825, Uruguay declared independence from Brazil. In 1875, Capt. Matthew Webb became the first person to swim the English Channel, getting from Dover, England, to Calais, France, in 22 hours. In 1916, the National Park Service was established within the Department of the Interior. In 1921, the United States signed a peace treaty with Germany. In 1928, an expedition led by Richard E. Byrd set sail from Hoboken, N.J., on its journey to Antarctica. In 1943, U.S. forces liberated New Georgia in the Solomon Islands from the Japanese during World War II. In 1958, President Eisenhower signed a measure providing pen-

sions for former U.S. presidents and their widows. In 1958, the game show "Concentration" premiered on NBC-TV. In 1981, the U.S. spacecraft Voyager 2 came within 63,000 miles of Saturn's cloud cover, sending back pictures of and data about the ringed planet. In 1985, Samantha Smith, 13, the schoolgirl whose letter to Yuri V. Andropov resulted in her famous peace tour of the Soviet Union, died with her father in an airliner crash in Auburn, Maine. Today's Birthdays: Actor Van Johnson is 92. Game show host Monty Hall is 87. Actor Sean Connery is 78. Actor Page Johnson is 78. Talk show/game show host Regis Philbin is 77. Actor Tom Skerritt is 75. Jazz musician Wayne Shorter is 75. Movie director Hugh Hudson is 72. Actor David Canary is 70. Movie director John Badham is 69. Filmmaker Marshall Brickman is 67. Rhythm-and-blues singer Walter Williams (The O'Jays) is 66. Actor Anthony Heald is 64. Actress Anne Archer is 61. Rock singer-actor Gene Simmons is 59. Actor John Savage is 59. Country singer-musician Henry Paul (Outlaws; Blackhawk) is 59. Rock singer Rob Halford is 57. Rock musician Geoff Downes (Asia) is 56. Rock singer Elvis Costello is 54. Movie director Tim Burton is 50. Actress Ally Walker is 47. Country singer Billy Ray Cyrus is 47. Rock musician Vivian Campbell (Def Leppard) is 46. Actor Blair Underwood is 44. Rap DJ Terminator X (Public Enemy) is 42. Alternative country singer Jeff Tweedy (Wilco) is 41. Actor David Alan Basche is 40. Television chef Rachael Ray is 40. Country singer Jo Dee Messina is 38. Model Claudia Schiffer is 38. Country singer Brice Long is 37. Actor Eric Millegan is 34. Actor Kel Mitchell is 30. Actress Rachel Bilson ("The O.C.") is 27. Actor Josh Flitter is 14. Thought for Today: "The final lesson of history: 'Let's never go back there again!'" — Friedrich Nietzsche, German philosopher (1844-1900).

Answer to previous puzzle crossword grid with words like PASCAL, ARREST, SIBERIA, PEATPOT, etc.

Newsday Crossword

NO SAIL by Sally R. Stein Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS 1 Algebra or trig 5 Corrosive chemical 9 Diamond weight unit 14 Opera solo 15 Took a train 16 Suspect's excuse 17 Noticed 18 Long race for a runner 19 Tracked with a stopwatch 20 Inflexible person 22 Mean-spirited 23 Isn't truthful 24 Owns 25 Capital of Greece 28 At the summit of 30 Finance deg. 33 Illegal payment 34 Sale condition 35 Do damage to 36 Cylindrical sandwich order 39 Aroma 40 Metallic rocks 41 Social stratum 42 Sleep stage 43 Leaves town 44 Profession 45 ___ capita 46 Cruise ship's stop 47 Come to pass 50 Dinner-table serving piece 55 Frighten 56 Solitary 57 Suffix for differ 58 Oklahoma city 59 Consumer envelope abbr. 60 Business-environment abbr. 61 Macho types 62 Something disordered 63 Soft throw DOWN 1 Prepare, as potatoes 2 Region 3 Theater level 4 Bicycle's gripper 5 Fighting forces 6 Pennies and nickels 7 Doing nothing 8 Stag or doe 9 Short snooze 10 False name 11 Canyon edges 12 Aid in crime 13 Well-ordered 21 Towel or pillowcase 24 Fire-hydrant attachment 25 Detest 26 Make a swap 27 Athlete's TV greeting, at times 28 Barbecues' residues 29 Neckwear purchases 30 En ___ (all together) 31 Cruel one 32 Traffic-light "caution" color 34 Farmland measure 35 Pulse sound 37 Entryway 38 Like haunted houses 43 From Munich 44 Hides from view 45 Handbag 46 Window pieces 47 Swearing-in statement 48 Hint 49 Not nervous 50 Feeling sad 51 Valentine's Day flower 52 Not fooled by 53 Behaves 54 Change for a \$20 bill

Crossword grid with numbers 1-63 indicating starting positions for words.