



50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 SUNDAY

# \*Sales tax initiative goes to voters\*

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## Commissioners unanimously approve measure

VOLUME 103, NUMBER 230

## **By THOMAS JENKINS**

Staff Writer

BIG

To tax or not to tax, that is the question Howard County commissioners want area voters to answer during the November election, as the court agreed to place a new .5 percent sales tax outside Big Spring city limits on the ballot.

Commissioners voted unanimously to present the measure — called the County Assistance District Sales Tax by the Texas Comptroller's office — to voters for approval during their Monday morning meeting.

The sales tax - which couldrange from 1/8, 1/4, 3/8, or 1/2 of 1 percent — would affect all of the unincorporated portions of the county, as well as the cities of Coahoma and Forsan, but would not affect vendors located in the city of Big Spring, which falls under the umbrella of the Big Spring Economic Development Corporation. According to Barr, commissioners plan to collect

the maximum amount allowed by law, or one-half of 1 percent.

Barr said the one hurdle that could keep the tax from going to voters in November — opposition from the cities of Forsan and Coahoma — has been cleared.

"Jerry (Kilgore, commissioner) and I both met with the Forsan City Council and the Coahoma City Council, and they approved it unanimously. They didn't have any problems with it." said Barr.

Kilgore agreed, saying he's not sure if the citizens in Coahoma and Forsan will vote for the tax, but their city council has agreed not to stand in the way of giving the voters the chance to decide.

"I don't know whether they are going to vote for it or not," said

See SALES TAX, Page 3

# **Delinquent taxes** down substantially, Mouton tells court

be more

pleased

with the

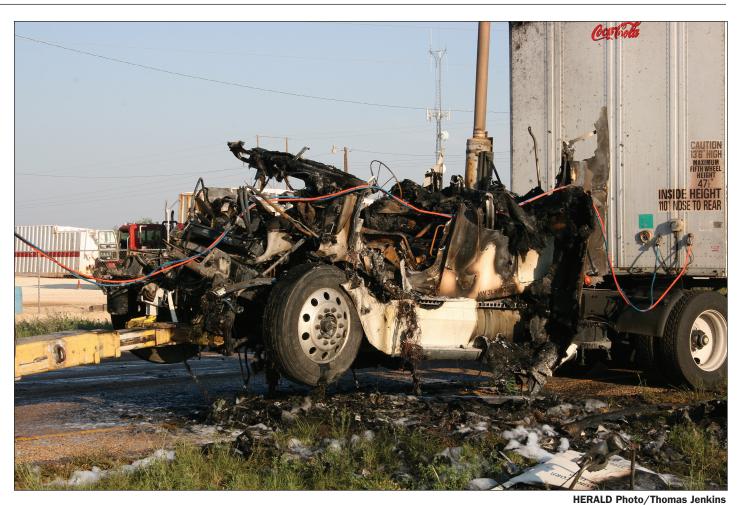
## **By THOMAS JENKINS** Staff Writer

According to local attorney and delinquent tax collector Drew Mouton, the amount of delinquent taxes placed on the roles beginning July 1 hit an all time low this year — if you don't count the millions of Alon USA tax dollars currently tied up in court.

According to a report delivered by Mouton to Howard County commissioners Monday morning, the amount of taxes added



tax collec-Mouton tions. I think the numbers show it was another good year and I'm pleased with the effort."



to the delinquent tax roles July 1 is down considerably, thanks to a pair of factors.

"In July of 2008 the county had \$158,228 in base tax go on the delinquent roles. That's the lowest amount in the last five years," said Mouton. "We had very good current collections. I'm convinced that's a result of two things. First, I think Kathy's (Sayles, County Tax Collector) office is doing a great job. Second, I think the increased delinquent tax effort helps get those current taxes paid. When they come in to pay their delinquent taxes and see what that number is, and they compare it to the current taxes due they re- See COUNTY, Page 3

alize how much penalty and interest is added on to that. They say, 'Lord, let me go ahead and pay these current taxes because they are so small and I don't want them to grow to the point these delinquent taxes are at.

"It makes sense, and I think those efforts work hand-in-hand with the current collections. The total for the four largest entities is \$582,000, and that's the smallest amount for the total. The only one that had a larger amount this year is the city of Big Spring. I'm not sure why that is. There are just a few more

The driver of this truck was transported to the emergency room at Scenic Mountain Medical Center after law enforcement officials say the rig slammed into the back of another tractor-trailer approximately a mile north of Big Spring on U.S. Highway 87. According to witnesses, the truck caught fire minutes after the crash. No

# HC's budget sees little change

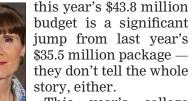
## **By STEVE REAGAN**

#### Staff Writer

Appearances can be deceiving, even with budgets.

At first glance, Howard College trustees adopted a package featuring a whopping \$8 million increase in expenditures during their Monday afternoon meeting.

While the numbers don't lie -



This year's college budget includes \$14 million in expenditures Sparks related to campus-wide

this year's \$43.8 million renovations approved by voters in 2006. So, one could argue that trustees actually adopted a leaner budget this time around.

> Aside from bond-related projects, there is little different between the new budget and last year's package, officials said.

See COLLEGE, Page 3

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## **Clinton faces new Republican** attacks ahead of her speech

#### By SCOTT LINDLAW

#### Associated Press Writer

DENVER — Republicans on Tuesday invoked Hillary Rodham Clinton's past criticism that Barack Obama wasn't ready to lead as Democrats faced two days at their national convention to be dominated by the old Clinton regime.

Clinton, Obama's former rival for the nomination, was expected to urge her disappointed supporters to line up in unity behind Obama in a prime-time speech to the Democratic National Convention. Her husband, former President Clinton, speaks to the convention on Wednesday night.

Some Democratic activists, meanwhile, voiced concern that the convention, which began on Monday, had yet to

See **CLINTON**, Page 3

life threatening injuries were reported as a result of the traffic accident.

## **UW Dine Out Day**

K.C. Steakhouse at N. Service Road I-20 West is this week's Dine Out Restaurant

assisting the United Way for Big Spring and Howard County. Proceeds from Friday's sales at K.C. Steakhouse will benefit United Way.



Future participating restaurants will include, Al's & Sons Barbecue, Dell's Cafe, Papa Georgio's Pizza, Cowboy's Steakhouse and others.

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## Obituaries

## **Betty Thomas**



A memorial service for Betty Thomas, 76, of Levelland, will be held at 4:30 p.m. Friday, Aug. 29, 2008, at the Fifth Street Baptist Church in Levelland. Cremation arrangements are with Resthaven of Lubbock.

Mrs. Thomas passed away Saturday, Aug. 23, 2008, in Midland .

Betty was born Feb 15, 1932, in Pampa to William Dixon and Zelpha Louretta Dickens Casey. She graduated from Electra High School and married Don

Thomas in Electra March 10, 1951.

Betty served as secretary at the Levelland Middle School for 27 years, and attended the Fifth Street Baptist Church.

Survivors include her daughter, Christi and husband David Nix of Odessa; sister-in-law, Faye Casey of Midland; grandchildren, Kyle and Margaux Nix of Deer Park, Katie Nix and fiancé Chris Brown of Odessa, and Mathew and Halee Thomas of Big Spring; a great-grandson, Eli Nix of Deer Park; and a former daughter-in-law, Shann Smith of Big Spring.

Betty was preceded in death by her husband; a son, David Thomas; and a brother, Vernon Casey.

The family suggests memorials to St. Jude's Childrens Hospital in lieu of flowers.

Friends may visit www.mem.com to leave condolences and tributes.

Paid obituary

## **Deena Garrett**



Deena Garrett, 82, passed away July 28, 2008, in Austin. Memorial services will be held at 2:30 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 30, 2008, at College Baptist Church, 1105 Birdwell Lane, in Big Spring.

She was born Dec. 17, 1925 in Breckenridge, to Woodie and Edith (Parrish) Hill. She graduated from Big Spring High School as salutatorian of the Class of 1942.

Surviving family include her daughter, Marsha Padilla of Austin; sons Bert

(Dwaine) Matthies of Lamesa, and Mark Matthies of Austin; sister, Woodine Wiley of Big Sandy; and brother, Ron Parrish of Malvern, Ariz.

She is preceded in death by her husband Vernon Garrett.

Paid obituary

## Henry W. Adams



Henry W. Adams, 78, of Big Spring, died Monday, Aug. 25, 2008, at his residence. Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 27, 2008, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel with the Rev. Joey Bacon, associate pastor of Trinity Baptist Church, officiating. Interment will follow at Trinity Memorial. The family will receive friends Tuesday from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the funeral home.

He was born May 8, 1930, in Snyder, Okla., and married Sherry Mitchem in 1984 in Big Spring.

Henry graduated from Big Spring High School in 1948,

## Joe 'Pepe' Diaz



Joe "Pepe" Diaz, 69, of Big Spring, died Saturday, Aug. 23, 2008, in a local nursing home. A rosary will be said at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 27, 2008, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel. Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. Thursday, Aug. 28, 2008, at the Sacred Heart Catholic Church with Father Ariel Lagunilla officiating. Interment will follow at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

He was born Aug. 24, 1938, in Big Spring and married Rosario Paredez Aug. 10, 1959, in Big Spring.

Joe was a lifelong resident of Big Spring. He had worked for the city of Big Spring a number of years before working for Bettle and Womack Construction Company for 26 years, retiring as a foreman. He was a member of Sacred Heart Catholic Church.

Survivors include his wife, Rosario Diaz of Big Spring; two sons and daughters-in-law, Joe Jr. and Romelia Diaz of Midland, and Robert and Yvonne Diaz of Big Spring; two daughters and one son-in-law, Christina and James Gonzalez, and Angie Diaz, all of San Antonio; three brothers; six sisters; 10 grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents; and one brother, Manuel Diaz.

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

## Kelly Crawford

Kelly Marie Crawford, 23, died Monday, Aug. 25, 2008. Viewing will be held at Myers & Smith Funeral Home from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 26, 2008. Graveside services will be conducted at 11 a.m. Wednesday, Aug. 27, 2008 Coahoma Cemetery in Coahoma.

She was born Sept. 17, 1984 to David and Susan Crawford.

She is survived by her parents, David and Susan Crawford; sister, Katherine Crawford; and numerous aunts, uncles and cousins in Big Spring.

She is preceded in death by her paternal grandmother, Mary R. Crawford; and her maternal grandparents, Dan and Evelyn Clark.

# **Police blotter**

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity between 7 a.m. Monday and 7 a.m. today: • EDWARD SPIVEY, age not provided, of 1101 Jeffery,

was arrested Monday on four local warrants.

• BRENDA MENDEZ, 26, of 1300 Madison, was arrested Tuesday on charges of possession of drug paraphernalia and criminal mischief.

 $\bullet$  UNLAWFULLY CARRYING A WEAPON was reported in the 2800 block of  $13^{\mbox{th}}$  Street.

• STEALING/RECEIVING STOLEN CHECKS was reported in the 1300 block of Madison.

• THEFT was reported:

in the 300 block of Owens.

in the 900 block of Willia.

 $\bullet$  POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA – TWO OUNCES OR LESS was reported in the 2800 block of 13  $^{th}$  Street.

## Your Local Weather

Tue <b>8/26</b>	Wed 8/27	Thu 8/28	Fri 8/29	Sat <b>8/30</b>
				THEFT
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 thun- derstorms. Highs in the mid 80s and lows in the mid 60s.

# **Bulletin Board**

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

TODAY

• 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 the Eagles Lodge, 703 W. Third.

# Sheriff's report

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

Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 64 inmates at the time of this report.

• ROGER DEAN FOULKS, 45, was arrested Monday by DPS on charges 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.

• ARGIMIRO GOMEZ AGUILLAR, 21, was arrested Monday by DPS on a charge of theft.

• JUSTIN RAMIREZ, 21, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on charges of unlawfully carrying weapon and evading arrest/detention using a vehicle.

• SIMON JACOB ARENIVAS, 17, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on a charge of evading arrest/detention using a vehicle.

• MIGUEL ANTONIO ARENIVAZ, 19, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on charges of evading arrest/detention using a vehicle and possession of marijuana.

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then worked for Coca-Cola for 15 years. He had served in the National Guard. Henry later owned and operated three service stations, and had owned Ace Wrecking for 37 years. He was a member of Trinity Baptist Church.

He is survived by his wife, Sherry Adams; daughter and son-in-law, Debbie and Fred Riggan of Burleson; son and daughter-in-law, Steve and Jani Adams of Midland; five grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents, four brothers, Arlis, Edgar, Garland, and Elmer Adams, three sisters, Lorema Adams, Winona Hobson, Marcella Carter, and several nieces and nephews.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations to the American Cancer Society, c/o Carolyn Brooks, PO Box 2121, Big Spring 79721-2121.

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

## **'Crazy Charlie' Burden**



"Crazy Charlie" Burden, 43, of Big Spirng, died Monday, August 18, 2008, in a Lubbock hospital. A benefit dinner and memorial service will be held Saturday, Oct. 11, 2008, at the Eagle Lodge. Time to be announced.

He was born Dec. 10, 1964, in Salem, N.J., and married Karen Mae Friant May 2, 1989, in Penns Grove, N.J.

He was a husband, a father and an entrepreneur.

Survivors include his wife, Karen

Burden of Big Spring; and three daughters, Crystal Burden, Brandy Burden and Jessica Burden, all of Big Spring.

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

## Elvira DeLeon

Elvira DeLeon, 65, of Big Spring, died Monday, Aug. 25, 2008, in a local hospital. Her services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.



• EVADING ARREST/DETENTION WITH A VEHICLE was reported in the 2900 block of 13<sup>th</sup> Street.

• CRIMINAL MISCHIEF was reported:

in the 2000 block of Merrily.

in the 500 block of Birdwell Lane.

in the 2400 block of Gregg Street.

in the 2700 block of Rebecca.

 $\bullet$  ASSAULT CLASS C/FAMILY VIOLENCE was reported:

in the 2900 block of Highway 80.

in the 3200 block of Avenue C.

- ASSAULT BY CONTACT was reported in the 100 block of  $16^{\mbox{th}}$  Street.

## **Fire/EMS**

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

• TRAUMA was reported in the 1500 block of W. 11<sup>th</sup> Street. One person was transported to SMMC.

• MEDICAL was reported in the 4100 block of Parkway. One person was transported to SMMC.

• MEDICAL was reported in the 1400 block of Wood. One person was transported to SMMC.

• TRAUMA was reported in the 100 block of Hoosier Road. One person was transported to SMMC.

• MEDICAL was reported near the 194 mile marker of Interstate Highway 20. One person was transported to SMMC.

• MEDICAL was reported in the 1000 block of South Birdwell Lane. One person was transported to SMMC.

• TRAUMA was reported in the area of N. Highway 87. Service refused.

• GRASS FIRE was reported in the 400 block of Armstrong,



• EUGENE MORENO ZAPATA, 32, was arrested Monday by the HCSO on charges of bail jumping – failure to appear and a motion to revoke probation for theft.

• ADAM MICHAEL NATIVIDAD, 30, was arrested Monday by DPS on a charge of possession of a controlled substance.

• JOHN ANTHONY MIER, 20, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on a charge of possession of a controlled substance.

## Lottery

Results of the Texas Two Step drawing Monday night:

Winning numbers drawn: 19-6-12-1. Bonus Ball: 34. Number matching four of four, plus Bonus Ball: 0.

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Monday night: Winning numbers drawn: 9-15-27-6-3. Number matching five of five: 1. Prize per winner: \$26,152. Winning tickets sold in: Onalaska.

The winning Daily 4 numbers drawn Monday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 6-6-5-8. Sum It Up: 25

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Monday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 3-2-5. Sum It Up: 10

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## LOCAL/WIRE

## SALES TAX

### Continued from Page 1

Kilgore with a laugh. "They did do us a favor, however, so we can get it on the ballot. They didn't have any opposition to it that I could tell."

## COUNTY

#### Continued from Page 1

delinquent tax payers in the city than outside of the city."

Unfortunately, according to Mouton, those encouraging numbers come with a big asterisk next to them on the record books, as the ongoing legal battle between Alon USA - the owner of the Big Spring Refinery - and the Howard CountyAppraisal District over what the petrochemical company claims is over-inflated values.

"As you all are keenly aware of, we had the Alon USA appraisal valuation dispute ongoing," said Mouton. "My understanding is they finished the testimony and are coming back Sept. 9 to do their summations, and they

Barr said the funds would be used for specific departments, as required by state law surrounding the district tax. "The funds would be

used for the sheriff's office, the road and bridge department and the volunteer fire department," said Barr. "It would allow

> judge will make the ruling sometime after that. They paid taxes on what they consider to be the undisputed amount. When you appeal your valuation you have to pay your tax. You either pay it on the full valuation you're disputing and get a refund when the appeal is determined, or you can choose to pay on what you consider to be the undisputed amount, whatever that number is, and that's what they have done for 2006 and 2007.

> "The difference between the tax on the undisputed amount they paid and the certified on the roll by the appraisal district, that number actually shows up as a delinquent tax because that is the value the appraisal district had to certify. So if you look at the delinquent tax roll, it's actually \$5.831 million more than the \$582,000 figure. The difference is

us to put more deputies on we're paying very close atthe street when necessary, work on the roads and give Volunteer Fire Chief Tommy Sullivan more resources to work with. Of course, the money would go into the general fund. However, state law is very clear what it can be used for, and that's something

> the tax — the additional tax that would be owed by Alon USA if the appraisal district's value is upheld — would be \$5.831 million. However, I've removed these from the delinquent tax rolls because we can't pursue these taxes. It's subject to the appeal. All we can do is wait and see what the valuation is determined at, and I'm sure once the valuation is determined Alon will pay those."

Alon is contesting a \$320 million tax appraisal levied against the refinery in 2007. Oil company officials claimed the valuation should be approximately \$152 million, slightly more than half of the contested figure. The appraisal district's review board subsequently upheld the \$320 million appraisal, prompting Alon to file the lawsuit.

The company has agreed to pay

tention to."

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:

> taxes on an \$80 million valuation until the matter is resolved. That still leaves Howard County with a potential shortfall of more than \$700,000 and Big Spring Independent School District picking up a \$264,000 loss.

services:

tenance, or improvement

• the provision of law en-

• the maintenance or

improvement of libraries,

museums, parks, or other

• the provision of servic-

recreational facilities;

forcement and detention

of roads or highways;

In the end, however, Mouton said he's very pleased with the work his firm has done for the county over the past several years.

"I couldn't be more pleased with the delinquent tax collections. I think the numbers show it was another year and I'm pleased with the effort," said Mouton. "This past year we collected \$329,557 for the county, which is more than we collected in the last four years... The total for the four largest entities is \$1.2 million, which is just a tad less than what we collected for the largest four entities back in

• the construction, main- es that benefit the public welfare; or

> • the promotion of economic development and tourism.

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

2004 and 2005. We collected \$1.3 million then, and that was the best year we ever had.

"So we didn't quite hit that, but when you actually add in all the smaller entities — the city of Coahoma, the city of Forsan, the Forsan school district and the water control and improvement district — you see the total we collected for everyone is up to \$1.484 million, which in fact is more than we've ever collected for all the entities in the county. The only one we did not collect for was the Coahoma school district."

Also during the meeting, commissioners voted to renew the county's contract with Mouton.

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

## COLLEGE

## Continued from Page 1

"Except for the increased expenditures on the bond projects, this budget is very similar to last year," said Terry Hansen, executive vice president of the college. "Accounting for the money added a bit of

## CLINTON

#### Continued from Page 1

produce a sustained or effective attack against Republican presidential candidate John McCain.

In particular, they cited comments by former Virginia Gov. Mark Warner, who also was to address the convention Tuesday night, suggesting that his speech would not be a redmeat attack on McCain

complexity to the budget that we didn't have a year ago, but certainly, it wasn't anything we couldn't handle."

The junior college district's tax rate of 27.8 cents per \$100 valuation is a full penny below the previous year's rate. However, increased district valuations mean that property owners could very well see an

played off her primary campaign spot featuring sleeping children and a 3 a.m. phone call portending a crisis. In the new ad Clinton is shown saying: "I know Sen. McCain has a lifetime of experience that he will bring to the White House. And, Sen. Obama has a speech he gave in 2002."

A narrator adds: "Hillary's right. John McCain for president."

Clinton has already de-

increase in their tax bills, College President Dr. Cheryl Sparks said.

"Our tax base has increased as a whole, so we're anticipating a 7.8 percent increase in our overall levy this year," Sparks said. "The effect this will have on taxpayers will depend on what happens to their property valuations."

her grasp and now is being called on to defend and support the person who wrested it from her. She is effectively playing middlewoman Tuesday night passing a torch from her husband, the 42nd president, to Obama, who wants to succeed him as the next Democratic president. But not without some

Clinton-style political dealmaking and drama.

The Clinton and Obama camps agreed to limit Wednesday's divisive nominating process for president, allowing some states to cast votes for both Obama and Clinton before ending the roll call in an acclamation for the Illinois senator. In one scenario, Clinton herself would cut off the voting and urge the unanimous nomination of Obama, according to Democratic officials involved in the negotiations. They discussed the deal on condition of anonymity while final details were being worked out. But some Clinton delegates said they were not interested in a compromise, raising the prospect of divisive floor demonstrations.

will dip into \$300,000 of contingency reserves to fianyone's mind that this is Barack Obama's convention," Clinton told reporters. And yet, she said, some of her delegates "feel an obligation to the people who sent them here" and

would vote for her.

As part of the deal, Obama and Clinton activists teamed up and circulated three petitions on the convention floor Monday night — supporting Clinton, Obama and his running mate, Joe Biden. Each needed 300 signatures Clinton said she wouldn't tell her backers how to vote, but she told them she would cast her own vote for Obama.

nance building renovation at the San Angelo campus, which will put the HC budget slightly out of balance. Major increases in expenditures are because of

planned salary increases for district personnel and higher fuel and utility costs, Sparks said.

In other business, trustees approved:

• The annual delinquent

they have dominated Democratic politics for the past 16 years

Tuesday morning, Bill Clinton was participating in a panel at the Club of Madrid NDI International Affairs Forum "to discuss ways in which his foundation is addressing some of the world's most pressing problems," said his spokesman, Matt McKenna.

The former president planned few other public outings, and no news metax collection report from local attorney Drew Mouton.

• Bids for electrical service and snack vending on the San Angelo campus.

 Catalog and handbook changes.

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

**MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME** & CHAPEL

24th & Johnson 267-8288

Kelly Marie Crawford, 23, died Monday. The family will receive friends Tuesday from 6:00 until 8:00 PM at Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Graveside Services will be at 11:00 AM Wednesday at the Coahoma Cemetery.

will be \$11 less than the previous year, while the bill on an average-priced home in Howard County (\$43,000) will decrease by \$4.84, Sparks said. SouthWest Collegiate In-

stitute for the Deaf's budget is balanced, while trustees

The district's tax levy on

property valued at \$100,000

but an appeal for bipartisanship.

"There may be parts of the speech that aren't going to get a lot of applause, but I've got to say what I believe will get out country back on the right path," Warner told reporters on Monday.

Democratic strategist Paul Begala took issue with Warner's comments, suggesting that more partisanship, not less, is needed at the party convention.

"This isn't the Richmond Chamber of Commerce," Begala said Tuesday.

On Monday, James Carville, who managed Bill Clinton's successful 1992 campaign, told CNN: "If this party has a message, it's done a hell of a job hiding it tonight, I promise you that."

The day Clinton was to address the convention, McCain's latest TV ad

nounced such tactics. "I'm Hillary Clinton and I do not approve that message," she told members of the New York delegation on Monday.

Meanwhile, McCain is expected to name his running mate in the coming days.

A top surrogate and prospective No. 2, former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney was to be in Denver on Tuesday to assail Democrats on behalf of McCain. It amounted to a final audition of sorts as McCain seeks a strong running mate who can play the attack-dog role against Obama and running mate Joe Biden. Another Republican said to be a serious vice presidential contender, Minnesota Gov. Tim Pawlenty, was scheduled to be in Denver doing the same on Thursday.

Clinton once seemed to have the nomination in

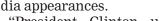
"I don't care what she says," said Mary Boergers, a Maryland delegate who wants to cast a vote for Clinton.

"There is no doubt in

As well as Clinton's speech, the lineup for the second day of the convention features 11 governors and prominent House and Senate leaders. The convention's keynote address will be given by Warner, a former Clinton supporter. The Clintons will dominate the next two days of the convention, just as

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EXP. 12/30/08



"President Clinton understands this is Sen. Obama's convention and he is here to do all he can to make Sen. Obama our next president," McKenna said in an e-mail message.

**CINEMA**4

◆ DARK KNIGHT (PG-13) 12:50 PM 4:00 PM 7:00

◆ HOUSE BUNNY, THE (PG-13) 1:20 PM 4:30 PM 7:30 PM

TROPIC THUNDER (R) 1:00 PM 4:10 PM 7:10 PM







## **O**PINION

# **Z**DITORIAL

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

#### -FIRST AMENDMENT

**Bill McClellan** 

News Editor

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> **Ron Midkiff** Publisher

John A. Moseley Managing Editor

# OTHER VIEWS unite party?

emocrats started their convention ... with two obvious and important differences from years past. On Thursday, Barack Obama will become the first minority presidential nominee from either major party. The articulate, engaging senator is generating the most electricity since John F. Kennedy became Democrats' nominee in 1960. In recent elections, other than Bill Clinton, the party has struggled through a series of intelligent but wooden nominees (think Mondale, Dukakis, Gore and Kerry).

But having a personally exciting leader doesn't mean Democrats have this election won. The latest polls show Mr. Obama and Republican John McCain in a neck-and-neck race. The Democrats will need more than the traditional convention bounce to prevail in November.

Republicans face their own hurdles, which we will outline when their convention begins in a week. For now, the Obama campaign must start answering these challenges this week:

Can he unify his party?

One likable element about Mr. Obama is his appeal to unify the nation after the divisive Clinton and Bush presidencies. That can't happen if he can't first bring his own party together.

That should be his and the Democrats' easiest challenge this week. Countless factors would seem to portend change at the White House. Democrats smell victory, so they probably won't risk repeating 1980, when an insurgent Ted Kennedy overshadowed Jimmy Carter.

Still, Hillary Clinton has enough frustrated supporters that they demanded an official nomination and roll-call vote at the convention. Mr. Obama's team wisely agreed, but he must shrewdly manage this week's affairs. That means letting Clinton delegates blow off steam without caving to them.

Rallying disaffected Democrats is certainly necessary. The Wall Street Journal reported last week that only half the Clinton supporters now back Mr. Obama. If he leaves Denver having to look over his shoulder at his own party, he's in trouble.

Will he keen us safe?

Party platform = lots of goodies emocrats used to love to bash President Bush for sending America to war without asking Americans to sacrifice. Now that it is an election year, you won't hear the s-word coming out of their lips. The Democratic National Committee draft platform is all goodies.

The draft, "Renewing America's Promise," says the party will heed the American desire to

"abandon the politics of partisan division" — and they are eager to do so, as soon as they are done blaming Republicans for high gasoline prices, the mortgage meltdown and an "unnecessary war." (You would never guess that half of this year's Democratic presidential candidates voted to authorize that war.) And: "The American

people do not want gov-

ernment to solve all our problems." But

diate relief to working people who have

lost their jobs, families who have lost

their homes, and people who have lost

wants an America in which "every

Just think dollar signs. Lots of dollar

signs. There's the "immediate energy

rebate" — Obama has proposed a rebate

sequel that would send \$1,000 to families

a plan to spend \$50 billion to jumpstart

**ADDRESSES** 

**FEDERAL** 

President

U.S. Senator

4305

4305

**GOVERNMENT** 

The White House

· GEORGE W. BUSH

Washington, D.C. 20500

703 Hart Office Building

Washington, D.C. 20510-

Phone: 202-224-5922

517 Hart Office Building

Washington, D.C. 20510-

· JOHN CORNYN

U.S. Senator

KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON

to make up for high fuel prices. It's part of

the economy. Seniors win, too. "Renewing

Pay attention, grasshopper. The DNC

American is empowered to be a watchdog

Other language is easier to understand.

their way." (Read: everyone.)

and a whistle blower."

the Dems still promise to "provide imme-



**S**AUNDERS

income taxes for seniors who make less than \$50,000 a year — because "every senior deserves to live out their life with dignity and respect." (Now they think it's not dignified to pay taxes?)

The draft platform promises to provide every American access to "affordable, comprehensive health care," and to achieve "long-overdue mental health and addiction treatment parity." That's right: The Dems will expand the number of people who receive subsidized health care, provide better benefits, and you apparently don't have to worry about costs going up. Because the Dems are going to eliminate waste in the medical system, they "will save the typical family up to \$2,500 per year."

Also, under Plan DNC, "All Americans should be empowered to promote wellness." Tax cuts for most families. No taxes at all for millions of seniors. A boost in the Earned Income Tax Credit. Plus, health care for all — that saves families money. Sound too good to be true?

But what if you don't have a job? No problem. The platform promises to "develop innovative transitional job programs that place unemployed people into temporary jobs and train them for permanent ones.'

This draft does not reflect Obama's and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's newfound (if overdue) openness to offshore oil drilling. Ergo: "We know we can't drill our way to energy independence." There are the usual salutes to biofuels and plug-in hybrid cars, which should "help free us from the tyranny of oil."

The draft platform says the Democrats can "solve the problem of four dollar a gallon gas" -- one hopes not with \$5 a gallon gas. And the draft pledges to make America 50 percent more energy efficient by 2030, to make 25 percent of electricity

come from renewable sources by 2025, and they'll double fuel efficiency standards -no date on that.

The Democratic platform would raise the child-care tax credit, "provide every child access to quality, affordable early childhood education," and double funding for after-school and summer learning programs. Then, there's the commitment to special education and "transitional bilingual education."

A "new American Opportunity Tax Credit" would cover the first \$4,000 of a college education for most Americans in exchange for which students will perform community service. It's a great way to create Democrats — by putting practically every college kid on the government payroll.

How to pay for all these bright packages? Chances are that you won't have to give, but only will get, get, get. "We won't increase taxes on any family earning under \$250,000 and we will offer additional tax cuts for middle class families," the Dems promise. Those making more than \$250,000 will be "asked" — "asked" (it's almost European) — "to pay a bit more." The energy mandates will be funded "by dedicating a portion of the revenues generated by an economy wide cap and trade program" on greenhouse gases. It's barely worthy of mention.

Then the platform promises a return to fiscal responsibility. Really.

E-mail Debra J. Saunders at dsaunders@sfchronicle.com. To find out more about Debra J. Saunders, and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

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•KEL SELIGER 401 Austin, Suite 101

**BIG SPRING CITY COUNCIL** 

A Quinnipiac University poll revealed last week that a majority of Americans thought John McCain was more qualified to handle the recent Russia-Georgia crisis. Even 31 percent of Democrats thought Mr. McCain was more qualified.

Those numbers are Mr. Obama's dilemma writ large. He doesn't have foreign policy experience, so he must persuade enough voters that he has a better vision and that he will compensate for his inexperience by selecting people who can give him wise advice about such global hot spots.

That's why his choice of Joe Biden as vice president is a smart one. The Delaware senator's résumé includes chairing the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, a post that gives him a feel for leaders and danger zones. He's arguably as qualified as George H.W. Bush was when he became our first foreign policy president since Richard Nixon.

Of course, Mr. Biden will be No. 2 on the ticket, which means Mr. Obama's handling of foreign policy will remain an uncertainty.

As an African-American who once lived in Indonesia, he can project America in a new, compelling way to developing nations. He can show that we live in a diverse meritocracy. That's worth plenty in the battle for the hearts and minds for the parts of the world that may see us as the Great Satan.

But how will he deal with a bullying Vladimir Putin? Or challenge Iran when even the European Union has taken a harder negotiating line than his original position? And when he talks about containing evil, does that mean in places like Darfur, too?

Because of these legitimate worries, voters will be looking this week for evidence that Mr. Obama can address major global crises.

Can he find the economic center?

In the run-up to convention week, Mr. Obama showed renewed passion about the plight of the middle class. That's a smart move, with polls showing the economy as the top issue. And most Americans tell pollsters they prefer Mr. Obama handling the economy.

But rolled-up sleeves and an experienced running mate alone won't energize the economy and position America in the global economy. Policies matter more, and Mr. Obama must show how his apparent reliance on higher taxes, more spending and tighter trade pacts won't restrict a struggling economy. Our trade deficit shows we can't keep living off foreign capital to keep our economy going.

Likewise, he's running away from the New Democrats of the 1990s, who understood that budget surpluses require fiscal discipline. The tens of billions of new spending Mr. Obama has proposed don't qualify as that. When combined with his plans for higher taxes on dividends, Social Security wages, capital gains and marginal rates, he looks like the classic GOP critique of a liberal: Someone who thinks taxing and spending solves most problems.

If he finds the economic center, he probably wins this election. So far, he hasn't.

Is he an elitist or leader?

Mr. Obama's JFK-like sophistication is a plus to many suburban professionals eager to vote for him. But this strength also presents a real challenge. Polls show many Americans still struggle to identify with his values.

#### **Dallas Morning News**

Phone: 202-224-2934

Medical Center): 263-7361.. 263-0260.

# Redefining problem won't make it go away

• f ever we needed proof that having an advanced degree doesn't correlate with common sense, we got it this week. A group of college presidents from some of the most prestigious schools in the nation have called on lawmakers to consider lowering the drinking age. They call their effort the Amethyst Initiative. Why Amethyst? On their website, the erudite group explains to those of us who aren't fluent in ancient Greek, the

word is derived from the prefix "a" -- meaning not -- and "methustos," which means intoxicated.

"Twenty-one is not working," the group claims. "A culture of dangerous, clandestine "binge-drinking" -- often conducted off-campus -has developed," they say, as if the law prohibiting underage drinking has created this culture. Apparently the group believes that if we'd simply lower the drinking age to 18, college

students will magically stop binge drinking.

By that reasoning, why not lower the drinking age to 14? That way, we could wipe out binge drinking among highschool students as well. Heck, maybe we could cure alcoholism by eliminating age limits on drinking altogether. Start kids early and they'll learn to drink responsibly, right?

The facts suggest otherwise. According to a 2007 survey by the U.S. Surgeon General, 45 percent of high-school students reported drinking alcohol within the previous month, and more than one in four said they were binge drinkers. In 2005, drinking led to 145,000 emergency room visits by kids 12 to 20 years old for injuries related to their drinking. Of the nearly 7,500 traffic deaths involving 15- to 20-year-olds in 2005, more than 2,000 had been drinking. And young people who start drinking before they turn 15 are five times more likely to become problem drinkers or alcoholics later on. Lowering the drinking age to 18 won't

Back in the Dark Ages when I started college (1965), colleges assumed the role of in loco parentis, acting in the place of parents for students who were not yet adults. By 1970 when I graduated, most universities had dropped virtually all the old rules. Once forbidden to do so, students were allowed to entertain members of the opposite sex in their dorm rooms (and soon, those dorms would be co-ed). Curfews were gone. Indeed, the only behavioral rule colleges seemed willing to enforce after the tumultuous Sixties was the prohibition against drinking on campus. Now, more than 100 college presidents have asked to be alleviated of even this responsibility.

solve these problems -- and would likely make them worse. So why do these college presidents want to open this Pandora's box? It's simple. They don't want to be responsible for enforcing the law on their campuses.

Back in the Dark Ages when I started college (1965), colleges assumed the role of in loco parentis, acting in the place of parents for students who were not yet adults. By 1970 when I graduated, most universities had dropped virtually all the old rules. Once forbidden to do so, students were allowed to entertain members of the opposite sex in their dorm rooms (and soon, those dorms would be co-ed). Curfews were gone. Indeed, the only behavioral rule colleges seemed willing to

enforce after the tumultuous Sixties was the prohibition against drinking on campus. Now, more than 100 college presidents have asked to be alleviated of even this responsibility.

College should be a time for students not only to acquire knowledge and earn a degree but to form character. College presidents could help fulfill their role in that endeavor by promoting less, not more, alcohol on campus. The National Institute of Medicine and the National Research Council have outlined several proposals to reduce underage drinking. Among their recommendations are increasing alcohol taxes, reducing youth exposure to alcohol advertising, and enforcing underage drinking laws more aggressively, not less. And they call on colleges and universities to collaborate and implement programs to prevent underage drinking.

The average cost of a four-year public college was nearly \$13,000 a year in 2006 and more than \$30,000 for a private college. You'd think for that kind of money we could get college presidents to do something as simple as to discourage underage drinking on their campuses. Instead, too many don't only look away but want to define the problem out of existence by lowering the legal drinking age.

Alcohol abuse is a serious problem in our culture. It ruins lives and kills thousands of Americans every year on our streets and highways. Alcohol devastates the health and well-being of those who abuse it and destroys innocent family members. We need to do everything we can to discourage drinking, especially among the young. The last thing we need is a bunch of college presidents to pretend that redefining the legal drinking age is a step in that direction.

Linda Chavez is the author of "An Unlikely Conservative: The Transformation of an Ex-Liberal." To find out more about Linda Chavez, visit the Creators Syndicate web page at www.creators.com.

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LINDA

CHAVEZ



# BIG HERALD

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

> Page 5 Tuesday, August 26, 2008

# Cowboys get Newman back, lose 2 others

#### **By STEPHEN HAWKINS**

**AP Sports Writer** 

IRVING - Terence Newman participated in practice with the Dallas Cowboys for the first time in four weeks Monday, an indication that the Pro Bowl cornerback could be ready to play in the season opener.

While Newman returned to practice, the Cowboys were without two other players because of injuries.

Guard Kyle Kosier needed crutches to get around the team's facility because of the large cast on his sprained right foot,

and receiver Isaiah Stanback couldn't lift expected to play in the regular-season his arms very high because of a separated left shoulder. Both were hurt Friday night in a 23-22 preseason victory over Houston.

Newman, coming off his first Pro Bowl season, sustained a groin injury July 28, less than a week into the team's training camp in California.

Coach Wade Phillips said Newman "didn't have any trouble" during the twohour workout Monday, but that the cornerback didn't have to cover any receivers in one-on-one situations.

Without any setbacks, Newman is See COWBOYS, Page 6

opener Sept. 7 at Cleveland. But Phillips said Newman likely won't play Thursday night in the preseason finale against Minnesota.

"I'd say we still have to be careful with him and make sure he's ready to go in the regular season," Phillips said. "We've waited a good while, we've been real cautious with it. We're going to make sure he's 100 percent."

This is the second year in a row Newman got hurt in the preseason. He missed the

# **Breakout**

## Texans finally feel poised for breakthrough season

## **By CHRIS DUNCAN**

See TEXANS, Page 6

**AP Sports Writer** 

HOUSTON - The Houston Texans have no more excuses.

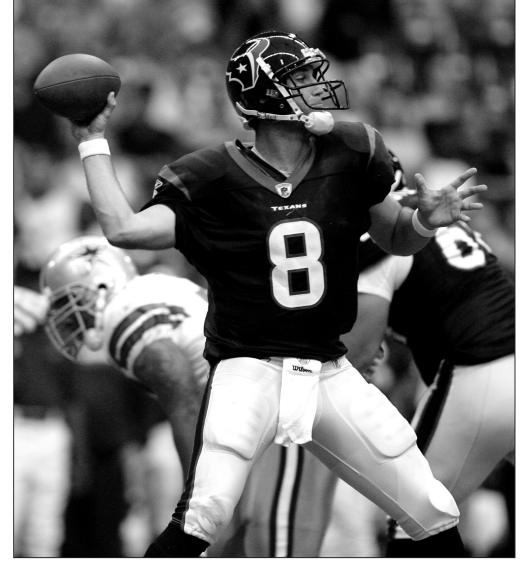
They're no longer a young expansion team building from the ground up and fighting for respect. Gary Kubiak is starting his third season as head coach, so he should be past the growing pains of the job after a decade working as an offensive coordinator. Same for Mario Williams, who's starting his third season and should be used to the media spotlight by now.

Houston went 8-8 in 2007, and all the key pieces are back in place for 2008. Starting the franchise's seventh season, the Texans openly say that anything shy of a winning record will go down as a major disappointment.

"Last year, we made a big step," said quarterback Matt Schaub. "This year, it's time for us to make that giant leap and become a playoff contender."

Schaub completed 66 percent of his passes last season, his first running Kubiak's offensive system. He missed some time with a shoulder injury and concussion, but he's looked sharp in the preseason.

He's got a deep receiving corps, led by All-Pro Andre Johnson, who's practicing again after a groin injury early in training camp. Johnson



AP photo/Matt Slocum Houston Texans guarterback Matt Schaub (8) looks to pass in the second quarter of an NFL preseason football game against the Dallas Cowboys, Friday in Irving. Schaub is entering his second season with the Texans and is one of the reasons expectations are higher than ever in Houston.

<u>U.S. Open</u> **Blake survives** five set match

## **By RACHEL COHEN**

**AP Sports Writer** 

NEW YORK — It was at last year's U.S. Open that James Blake finally won a five-set match.

Maybe now he's starting to get the hang of it.

The No. 9 seed had to work past midnight to beat 19-year-old fellow American Donald Young in the first round this year. By the time the 2-hour, 48-minute match had ended, it was Tuesday morning, and Blake had a 6-1, 3-6, 6-1, 4-6, 6-4 victory.

"I said earlier my experience may help a little, and that definitely may have been the difference on one or two points in the match," said Blake, wearing a Mets jersey and cap.

Earlier, Rafael Nadal played for the first time as the world No. 1. Admittedly tired after winning Olympic gold just over a week before. Nadal swatted his very first shot wide against No. 136 Bjorn Phau. The Wimbledon and French Open champ was two points from dropping the first set when he surged and, despite needing to bandage a nasty blister, won 7-6 (4), 6-3, 7-6 (4).

The Olympic women's champ, Elena Dementieva of Russia, conceded that she too was still recovering from her emotional victory.

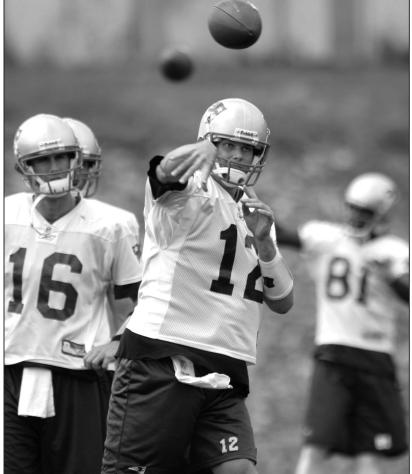
Dementieva took the final four games to defeat Akgul Amanmuradova 6-4, 7-5 in her first-round match. The No. 5 seed was glad to win quickly and give her mind and body a break.

Former champs Lindsay Davenport and Svetlana Kuznetsova also opened with straight-sets victories. Many of the stars like to hurry through the first round — it takes seven wins for the title, and any rest is welcome.

Nadal got a stiffer test from the German qualifier than many anticipated, and shook his head near the end of a match that lasted nearly 3 hours.

Tenth-seeded Anna Chakvetadze was the top player to lose, beaten by Ekateria Makarova 1-6, 6-2, 6-3 in a matchup of Russian women.

Roger Federer, bidding for his fifth straight U.S. Open title, was scheduled to begin Tuesday, as were No. 1 Ana Ivanovic and the Williams sisters. The final Grand Slam event of the season figured to be a scramble on both sides. Nadal seems like the natural favorite, yet has never gone beyond the quarterfinals in five previous tries at Flushing Meadows. The 22-year-old Spanish dynamo took a while to find his rhythm against Phau, whose spirited play made him a crowd favorite. Fans at Arthur Ashe Stadium, often quiet during early daytime sessions, cheered when Phau dived for a shot, rolled over on his back and chased a return. The Open set a first-day record Monday with a total of 59,124 fans. In the night's last match, they got behind Young, the former No. 1 junior player in the world. Young came back from down a break to win the fourth set. Serving with the final set tied 4-4, he seemed to have the momentum, earlier having fought off a break point with a broken racket string. But Blake took control after he successfully challenged to take a point away from Young at the start of the game. Blake went on to break Young to go up 5-4, then served out the match. He successfully challenged again in the last game to reach triple match point. Blake was 0-9 in five-set matches before a second-round victory here last year. He's now 4-11 all-time in matches that go the distance, including 2-4 at the Open. It was Young's first career fivesetter.



AP photo/Steven Senne

New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady, center, delivers a pass as quarterback Matt Cassel, left, looks on during practice in Foxborough, Mass., Monday. Brady has missed all of preseason action with a foot injury, but says he'll be ready for the regular season opener.

# **NFL's best QBs** ready to return

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. (AP) – Tom Brady says he'll be ready for the New England Patriots opener even if a foot injury keeps him from taking a single snap in exhibition games.

Last season's NFL MVP sat out the first three games and plans to tell coach Bill Belichick he's "feeling great" in hopes of playing in Thursday night's final exhibition game at the New York Giants, the team that ruined the Patriots' unbeaten season by beating them in the Super Bowl.

"I'm hoping I'm always out there," Brady said Monday on his regular weekly appearance on WEEI radio, "and if I don't play, I'll be ready for Kansas City.'

The Patriots open the regular season at home against the Chiefs.

Brady was not available Monday to other members of the media.

The cause of Brady's right foot injury hasn't been disclosed, but he did everything the other quarterbacks did during the 15 minutes of practice open to the media Monday. He stretched, ran, did agility drills and dropped back without any apparent restriction when he threw passes.

Without Brady, the Patriots are 0-3 and have played poorly on offense, defense and special teams. Fourth-year backup Matt Cassel has started all three games but has been outplayed by Matt Gutierrez, in his second season with the team.

Asked if he thinks he'll be ready for the opener if he doesn't play in an exhibition game, Brady said: "Yeah, I sure do. I've been playing a lot of football, so whether you play or don't play (in the preseason) I'd be ready, no

See NFL, Page 6

# **Sports in brief**

## **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. Thursday

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 formede 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 office3 at 109 E. First St. in Stanton.



are still some mis-

takes that concern

you, the closer you

get to the season,

but obviously, he

can be a big help to

On defense, the

Texans need a

complement up

front to Williams,

who set a franchise

record with 14

sacks in 2007, liv-

ing up to the expec-

tations as the top

overall pick in

Colvin, but defen-

sive coordinator

**Richard Smith said** 

following the sec-

Texans

Rosevelt

preseason

2006.

The

added

ond

game that he's "a little bit rusty"

after a foot injury kept him out

of the last five regular-season

games for New England in 2007.

the depth chart at left end,

Kubiak has also used Earl

Cochran and N.D. Kalu with the

first unit. Cochran appeared in

15 games last season without a

start, but had a sack, one more

than Weaver. The 33-year-old

Kalu had arthroscopic knee sur-

gery and has surprised coaches

"We are trying to evaluate

with his energy in camp.

While Anthony Weaver leads

us offensively.'

## **TEXANS**

Continued from Page 5

missed part of 2007 with a knee injury after catching 103 passes in 2006.

Andre Davis and Jacoby Jones have deep-threat speed and Kevin Walter led the team with 65 receptions last season.

"We have such good rapport and feel for one another," Schaub said.

The Texans ranked 11th in passing offense last season (234 yards per game), but 22nd in rushing (99 yards). Kubiak hired offensive line guru Alex Gibbs to implement the blocking schemes that helped Denver rank among the league's top rushing teams in the 1990s.

"We brought the expert in here to make sure we're doing it the right way," Kubiak said.

Even with Gibbs, the running game is the team's most pressing concern.

Ahman Green was a bust in his first season, missing most of 2007 with a lingering knee bruise. He came to training camp fully healed, then strained his groin on his first play in Houston's preseason opener. The 31-year-old Green, who has six career 1,000-yard seasons, won't take another live snap until at least the Texans' season opener at Pittsburgh on Sept. 7,

## Hull's take on Texans

Houston's biggest obstacle to overcome is the conference it plays in with Jacksonville, Indianapolis and Tennessee. Put the Texans in any other division in the

NFL other than the NFC East and they're a playoff team. The defensive front seven is one of the

league's best anchored by DeMeco Ryans and Mario Williams.

Offensively, the passing game has the potential to be explosive and with Alex Gibbs, whose reputation as an offensive line coach is nothing short of legendary, the running game should take off, too.

Expect West Virginia rookie Steve Slaton from to end up being the back taking most of the carries by season's end, though. 2008 prediction: 8-8

— Jonathan Hull

Look in Friday's edition of the Herald for a Dallas Cowboys' season preview.

Kubiak said.

Houston picked up Chris Brown in the offseason, but the five-year veteran missed part of training camp with a sore back. He rushed eight times for only 19 yards in the Texans' second preseason game.

Chris Taylor and Darius Walker are also in the mix, and the Texans have liked what they've seen from third-round draft pick Steve Slaton, the former West Virginia star.

"He's a player that's getting continuously better every time we go out," Kubiak said. "There

NFL Most Valuable Player is not expected to play in the team's final preseason game Thursday night.

Manning underwent surgery July 14 to have an infected bursa sac removed from his left knee and has been on the physically unable to perform list the entire preseason. He has never missed a regular-season start in his 10-year career.

"We have a chance to get Peyton activated and out to practice. So we'll see how that goes," Colts coach Tony Dungy said Monday.

Manning got limited light work in practice last week and was on the sideline, but not in uniform, during Sunday night's 20-7 loss to the Buffalo Bills. Backup quarterback Jim Sorgi, who started the first three preseason games in place of Manning, also missed Sunday's game because of a sore knee.

Due to the injuries to Manning and Sorgi, Dungy said the Colts might keep three quarterbacks on the roster during the regular season.

"We have not been a threequarterback team since I've been here, but I would think, especially early in the season, we would be," Dungy said.

## Giants attempt coaxing Strahan to pull a 'Favre'

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP) — The New York Giants are interested in luring Michael Strahan out of retirement after

these guys and see who can get there, from a one-on-one standpoint, who can create some pressure," Kubiak said. "The key right now is that we keep moving people around, because I'm not sure that we know who is going to be there opening day."

The Texans are also hoping for a better year from defensive tackle Amobi Okoye, their firstround draft pick in 2007. Okoye made 32 tackles, including  $5\frac{1}{2}$ sacks, as a rookie.

DeMeco Ryans anchors the linebackers after leading the Texans in tackles for the second straight season and making the Pro Bowl. Morlon Greenwood was Houston's second-leading tackler last year and Kubiak has liked what he's seen in training camp from Zac Diles, Houston's seventh-round pick in 2007.

The secondary was shaky last season, but the Texans think they've added speed by signing free agent Jacques Reeves. Cornerback Fred Bennett had three of Houston's league-low 11 interceptions last year and Jamar Fletcher and third-round pick Antwaun Molden have thrived at camp.

Kubiak has also raved about the offseason improvement of safety Will Demps. Cornerback Dunta Robinson, who suffered a devastating knee injury last November, is expected to return by midseason.

losing Pro Bowl defensive end Osi Umenyiora to a season-ending knee injury Saturday night.

The Super Bowl champions contacted the representative for the seven-time Pro Bowl defensive end on Monday to gauge Strahan's interest in returning for a 16th season.

"They want to see if there is any interest there," agent Tony Agnone told The Associated Press. "I have to talk to Michael.'

Strahan is on vacation in Greece. Agnone said he has not talked to him about the Giants' inquiry.

Agnone described the Giants' call as a courtesy — for now and noted the two sides did no negotiating.

**Houston Texans** Schedule

	Concaa	C
Date	Opponent	Time
9-7	@ Pittsburgh	Noon
9-14	Baltimore	3:15 p.m.
9-21	@ Tennessee	Noon
9-28	@ Jacksonville	Noon
10-5	Indianapolis	Noon
10-12	Miami	Noon
10-19	Detroit	3:05 p.m.
10-26	Bye	
11-2	@ Minnesota	Noon
11-9	Cincinnati	Noon
11-16	@ Indianapolis	Noon
11-23	@ Cleveland	Noon
12-1	Jacksonville	7:30 p.m.
12-7	@ Green Bay	Noon
12-14	Tennessee	Noon
12-21	@ Oakland	3:05 p.m.
12-28	Chicago	Noon

The kicking game should be solid again, with Kris Brown handling field goals and Matt Turk punting. Turk set franchise records in 2007 for yards per punt (41.7) and net average (37.9).

After a recent practice Kubiak was optimistic, but still not sure how good the Texans can be.

"To put a finger on right where we're at right now, we've had a good camp. There have been some good things," he said. "We're going to end up with some new faces that are going to make us better. We've got a tremendous challenge ahead of us."

With Strahan's status uncertain, the Giants shuffled their defense Monday and moved Mathias Kiwanuka back to end from his strongside linebacker spot.

General manager Jerry Reese had said earlier Monday that the Giants were looking at all their options.

Jets quarterback Brett Favre, recently unretired himself, said the Giants should do whatever possible to get Strahan back.

"The guy still looks great, hell of a player," Favre said. "I would have done whatever to try to get him back initially, but now, how could you not want him back?

"Wouldn't that be something, he comes back and we start a trend?"

the tissue in the base of his right foot.

Kosier, who started all 32 games at left guard for the Cowboys since coming from Detroit as a free agent, sprained his right foot blocking in the fourth quarter of Friday night's game. After missing only one game the past six seasons, Kosier is expected to be out four to six

Before center Andre Gurode missed the final two games of the regular season last year, the Cowboys had started the same offensive linemen in every game: Flozell Adams, Kosier, Gurode, Leonard Davis and Marc Colombo. Adams, Gurode and Davis were all Pro Bowl selections.

"Whoever they put in there, they're going to manage

**COWBOYS** 

Manning on the

verge of activation

Continued from Page 5

last three preseason games and the first two games of

## NFL Continued from Page 5

week.

not."

matter what. It's up to Coach. I

was hoping I could play last

continued. "I was wishing I

could play last week and it didn't

happen and it'll be the same

thing this week. I'm hoping I'm

out there and if I'm not, I'm

INDIANAPOLIS(AP)—Peyton

Manning might be activated by

the Indianapolis Colts on

Tuesday, although the two-time

"I'm feeling very good," he

the regular season last year because of a slight tear in





## By Steve Becker The Law of Probabilities

South dealer.		
Both sides vulner	rable.	
	RTH	
<b>♦</b> J 4	IXI II	
	10.5	
	Q 10 5	
	Q 10 6	
<b>+</b> 10	83	
WEST	]	EAST
<b>•</b> 8	٠	752
♥J9743	<b>Y</b> 1	K 6 2
♦ J 9 5		K 8 4 3
<b>♣</b> QJ94		A K 7
		AK /
	UTH	
	K Q 10 9 6	5
♥ 8		
♦72		
♣6 5	2	
The bidding:		
South West	North	East
3 A Pass		
Opening lead —	queen or	clubs.

Declarer is often presented with a choice of two lines of play, either of which could be right or wrong depending on how the defenders cards are divided.

In such cases, declarer should naturally opt for the play that offers the greatest chance of success. While it is true that the right play will occasionally turn out wrong, and the wrong play will occasionally turn out right, over the long haul declarer will surely be better off if he makes the play favored by the percentages.

hearts

spades.

just a 50 percent chance of succeeding. But if he tries to drop the king of hearts by first ruffing two rounds of the suit, he materially increases his chance of success. At the same time, he preserves his 50 percent chance of winning a finesse in diamonds if the heart king does not fall.

Here is a typical case. West leads

the queen of clubs, which holds, and

another club, East taking the A-K.

Having lost the first three tricks,

South must now decide whether to

take a heart finesse or a diamond

finesse. Each has an equal chance of winning, so it might seem that one could mentally toss a coin to settle the matter. But actually, there is a

The proper approach is to win

In the actual layout, the king of hearts falls on the ten, so no finesse at all is necessary. Declarer eventu-

ally discards his losing diamond on

the heart queen and makes four

The advantage in the recom-

mended line of play is really more a

matter of common sense than any-

thing else. If declarer relies on a

straight finesse in either suit, he has

the trump return, lead a heart to the ace, ruff a heart, cross to dummy with a trump and ruff the ten of

East then returns a trump.

clear-cut percentage play

weeks.

Pat McQuistan, a third-year player from Weber State, was in Kosier's spot with the first-team line during the 20 minutes of practice open to the media Monday. Phillips said McQuistan, Joe Berger and Cory Proctor all will get some time at left guard Thursday night, and their play will determine who replaces Kosier in the opener.

"The tape of the game will sway us one way or another, or keep us on whoever we thought it should be in the first place," Phillips said.



# sudoku

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9 with no repeats. That means no number is repeated in any row, column or box.

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

Kosier said. "They'll be all right. They're playing around three Pro Bowlers, so they'll be all right."

Stanback separated his shoulder when he got hit at the end of a 32-yard kickoff return and fumbled to open the second half against the Texans. He also had a 44-yard return in the game.

With Stanback and fellow receiver/returner Miles Austin (sprained right knee) both expected to miss the start of the regular season, Phillips is now considering using rookie running back Felix Jones or Adam "Pacman" Jones to return kickoffs.

"Pacman" has returned punts during the preseason but the Cowboys have held off using him or Felix Jones, who is expected to have a substantial role on offense, on kickoff returns.

"We've got to consider it now," Phillips said. "It's a different set of circumstances."

Notes: Phillips said nickel LB Kevin Burnett, who had arthroscopic surgery on his sprained left knee two weeks ago, is "coming along. I think it's going to be close whether he plays the first week or not." ... The Cowboys released four players and reached an injury settlement with fullback Ronnie Cruz to get to the 75-player limit a day before the deadline. The cuts were CB Quincy Butler, QB Jeff Terrell, P Jay Ottovegio and WR Daniel Polk.



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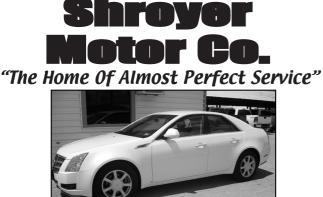
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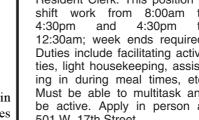
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at

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ing relation-HOLIDAY ships. The MATHIS Cancer

m o o n , prominent in today's sky, supports nourishing feminine forces that keep the world in divine balance. It's as though women hung the moon for all to enjoy!

ARIES (March 21-April 19). The conflict is all inside you -- two parts of you pulling for different goals. Sit down at the negotiating table with you and you. Persuade one of your internal forces to back down and suddenly things get easy.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Being thrifty just isn't your nature, however you can stretch a dollar when you have an incentive to do so. For instance, there's an expensive gift you've been aching to give yourself -- now that's a reason to save up.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You have your eye on the latest technology. Is it time to make the leap? Though you want to be the first on this bandwagon, you're better off waiting for all the kinks to get worked out. Why be the guinea pig?

CANCER (June 22-July 22). It's only Tuesday and

## Tomorrow's Horoscope

already you're celebrating Jan. 19). Resist the the completion of a journey. So it was a short journey; still, it was a necessary step in your progress toward realizing your potential.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Not everyone around you will appreciate your spontaneous and passionate expressions -- it takes all kinds. However, those who do accept your fiery zest for life will be moved and inspired by the action you take.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Sometimes it takes too long to weigh your options. Besides, there isn't a scale in the world that can calculate the diverse benefits of each choice. Turn off your mind and go with your gut.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You don't need a reason to be happy; you just are, and the reasons will appear to support you. Such is the case this afternoon. And the best part is that your happiness multiplies when you share it. SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov.

21). Your energy ebbs and flows and this time you're quite wise in your handling of the cycle. You know better than to complain when you're energy is low, or to over-commit yourself when it's high.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). The success of a project hinges on your next move. You're so fabulous at shooting from the hip now. A loose idea of what you're going to do is enough. You get the maximum benefit from a minimal plan.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-

## Annie's Mailbox Solution: Advice for those in need

Dear Annie: Three months ago, my husband and I accompanied my 71year-old mother to our home in California. She was released to my care because the authorities in Pennsylvania felt she could no longer manage on her own. She has a history of mental instabil ity (bipolar) and prior to her release had been hospitalized for mental evaluation five times in three months. Our intention in bringing her here was to see how she managed. We planned to ultimately convert our garage into a small apartment so she could be close by but still maintain some independ-What we've ence. observed is someone who does very little for herself and basically goes from the sofa (to watch TV) to the table (for food), to the bathroom and back to the sofa. That's her entire dav.



Dear Annie: I am really bothered when people use words that are not part of the English language (as I was taught by my mother and teachers), such as "stupidest," "theirselves," "hisself" and "funner," to name a few. Have times changed so that these

more. Mom and Dad are always insulting each other. They never give compliments or even say I love you, except on special occasions. Sometimes I think the only reason they are together is my brother and I.

I am only 11 years old and can already pick up on their disconnection. The main thing I'm worried about is divorce and making me pick sides. They are very nice to my brother and me, but not to each other. Last week. Dad called my mom and my brother some notvery-nice names, and they stormed out of the house and didn't come

accompanied him, I impulse to justify your encourage you to very choices to others, especarefully consider your cially when you're trying to prove that the treats you give yourself are well deserved. Of course they are. Believe you're worthy and make no excuses. AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Staying late at work is a temptation, but it won't be as productive as

you think it will be, so

you may as well go home

on time. The most effi-

cient thing you can do

PISCES (Feb. 19-March

20). It's too hard to with-

hold what you want to say

to a partner. You'll spill it

in one way or another. It

benefits you to think

about how you'd like the

conversation to go. Start

and end on a positive

ASTROLOGICAL QUES-

TIONS: "I am an Aquarius

born Feb. 14, 1956. I have

been dating a Virgo born

Aug. 24, 1958, for 10 years.

Lately things have not

been going well. Is the

future going to be any bet-

Ten years is a long time

to be dating, and the

stress vou're experiencing

currently has to do with

keeping your relationship

current with whom you

two have become. People

change. So do relation-

ships. Virgo has been

undergoing a major life

transformation since last

fall. I sincerely hope he's

confided in you through-

out this period because if

he hasn't, you probably

feel left out or in the dark

about where you are in

relation to him at this

tonight is relax.

note.

ter?"

Neptune's transit to your sun. Try considering the various sources at work (other than your relationship) contributing to your dissatisfaction. Finally, if the future looks uncertain to you, staying flexible and honest with him -even to the point of admitting you don't know what's next -- helps.

**CELEBRITY PROFILES:** If Billy Ray Cyrus sometimes comes across as painfully humble, it's not because his daughter may surpass his own stardom, and it's not about the mullet, either. As a Virgo, he's naturally modest -bashful even. Try asking a Virgo person to toot their own horn and watch them squirm! It would do Billy Ray good to puff himself up every now and then, as his Uranus in Leo needs creative recognition.

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

perceptions about the recent changes that have taken place in him. Your support or lack thereof communicates so much. Meanwhile, you're becoming less certain about your own identity due to

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CHEVROLET pickup, 1988 V-8, long bed, needs overhaul. \$500. as is. 1986 Nissan Sentra 4-dr. needs overhaul., \$400. as is. 2-3/8 inch oilfiled pipe. 600 ft. \$1.50 a ft. Bill Chrane Carwash, 1301 East 3rd, (432)213-0426

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**2700 ROCKDALE** 

My husband and I both work and have to travel a great deal. We tried leaving Mom alone for a few

#### Vehicles

1999 DYNA Super Glide HD Motorcycle. Mint condition, albeen garaged. Low wavs miles, great shape and lots of extras. \$9,000.00. Call Chad, after 5:00 (432)267-4834.

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10790



KATHY MITCHELL MARCY SUGAR

davs and it was a disaster. She stopped taking her meds, found some old wine we had forgotten about, got drunk, fell and injured her foot. My husband and I are exhausted from waiting on her, and while she recognizes that we both work very hard, she does nothing to help.

We've told Mom she can't manage on her own and have nixed the garage conversion. I have toured several assisted living facilities in our area. Even if we supplement her Social Security income, it's only enough for a shared living arrangement. She doesn't want that.

Mom says she is going back to her apartment in Pennsylvania. My husband and I feel it is a very poor decision, but we also know she can't stay here. Should we take her back? -- Torn in San Pedro

Dear Torn: And do what? Leave her? Mom is incapable of living alone and will resist any attempt to change that, but it has to be done. Call the Eldercare Locator (eldercare.gov) at 1-800-677-1116 and ask what services are available in her area or yours. Look into a home health aide through the Visiting Nurses Associations of America (vnaa.org). Check references for a live-in companion who will watch her for a small fee plus room and board. You sound like a caring daughter. Please don't give up on Mom because she is making it difficult.

words are now accepted as proper English? --Sharon

Dear Sharon: Of course not, but poorly educated people don't know any better, and unless they are your children, you are not allowed to correct them in public, no matter how tempting. Sorry.

Dear Annie: You are right about "Amber," who lost a writing contest in school because another student handed in a plagiarized paper, but I am sorely dissatisfied. The teacher called her a liar and her father beat her.

My heart goes out to Amber for all these years of suffering with the gnawing pain of that terrible incident. I hope she has shown them all by her successes since then. If not, it is time for her to start writing again, pampering herself and being all she can be. Maybe sending the plagiarized books won't garner an apology, but it warrants doing something. Is her father still alive? If so, she should send him 10 copies of the book. If he is dead, he should get 10 copies dumped on his grave. -- Judy

Dear Judy: Amber really struck a nerve with our readers who wanted somehow to punish the teacher, the other student and the father. But we were especially gratified by all the letters telling Amber to stay strong, that our readers believe her and stand by her, no matter what she chooses to do. Our thanks to everyone who wrote, and we hope it helps Amber rise above the injustice.

Dear Annie: I have the sinking feeling that my parents, who have been married for 20 years, don't love each other anyhome until really late. When my parents fight, I feel terrible. I just want to jump out the window. Don't even suggest counseling. I already did and they laughed and said they don't need it. I showed them an entry in my journal about my feelings and they said I'm too young to feel this way. I'm so confused.

I just want to relax for the rest of the summer, but I feel like I have an elephant on my shoulders. -- Confused and Frustrated

Dear Confused: Not all arguing leads to divorce, but even so, it's obvious your parents don't realize how upsetting this is for you. You need an advocate. Discuss your concerns with a grandparent, favorite relative, your clergyperson or a school counselor, and ask one of them to talk to your folks about what's going on. We hope it will help.

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

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## Comics

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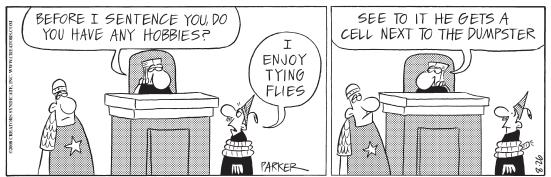


## <u>OVI<u>PX101310</u>L</u> JEFF àno 8-26 KEANN © 2008 Bil Keane, Inc. Dist. by King Features Synd www.familycircus.com "Why didn't you go before we qot on?"

BC



## WIZARD OF ID



## AGNES









POINT WEL

TAKEN



L I WONDER WHAT GEORGE I MEAN, HE DID WEAR A POWDERED I DOUBT HE WOULD WASHINGTON HAVE BEEN WOULD HAVE SHOCKED THOUGHT?

of office in his own right at the Democratic National Convention in Atlantic City, N.J.

In 1968, the Democratic National Convention opened in Chicago. In 1972, the summer Olympics

opened in Munich, West Germany.

In 1978, Cardinal Albino Luciani of Venice was elected the 264th Pope of the Roman Catholic Church following the death of Paul VI. The new pontiff took the name Pope John Paul I.

In 1986, in the so-called "preppie murder case," 18-year-old Jennifer Levin was found strangled in New York's Central Park; Robert Chambers later pleaded guilty to manslaughter and served 15 years in prison.

One year ago: Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki lashed out at American critics, saying Sen. Hillary Clinton and other Democrats who had called for his ouster should "come to their senses." The \$95 million Hawaii Superferry made its maiden run from Oahu to Maui, the first passenger ferry service between the islands.

Today's Birthdays: Former Washington Post Executive Editor Benjamin C. Bradlee is 87. Former Democratic vice-presidential nominee Geraldine Ferraro is 73.

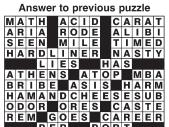
Singer Vic Dana is 66. Rhythmand-blues singer Valerie Simpson is 62. Pop singer Bob Cowsill is 59. Actor Brett Cullen is 52. Jazz musician Branford Marsalis is 48. Country musician Jimmy Olander (Diamond Rio) is 47. Actor Chris Burke is 43. Rock singer Shirley Manson (Garbage) is 42. Rock musician Dan Vickrey (Counting Crowes) is 42. Rock musician Adrian Young (No Doubt) is 39. Actress Melissa McCarthy is 38. Latin pop singer Thalia is 37. Actor Macaulay Culkin is 28. Actor Chris Pine is 28. Rhythm-and-blues singer Cassie Ventura is 22. Actress Keke Palmer is 15.

Mart

MARCUS

Thought for Today: "Nothing has really happened until it has been recorded." - Virginia Woolf, English author and critic (1882-1941).

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## This Date In History

Today is Tuesday, Aug. 26, the 239th day of 2008. There are 127 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On Aug. 26, 1920, the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, guaranteeing American women the right to vote, was certified in effect by Secretary of State Bainbridge Colby.

On this date:

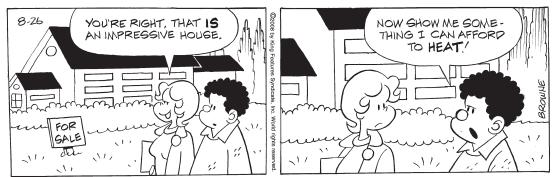
In 55 B.C., Roman forces under Julius Caesar invaded Britain, but achieved limited success.

In 1883, the island volcano Krakatoa began cataclysmic eruptions, leading to a massive explosion the following day.

In 1936, the Anglo-Egyptian Treaty, calling for most British troops to leave Egypt, was signed in Montreux, Switzerland. (It was abrogated by Egypt in 1951).

In 1958, Alaskans went to the polls to overwhelmingly vote in favor of statehood.

## **HI AND LOIS**



## THE OTHER COAST



## **SNUFFY SMITH**





In 1961, the original Hockey Hall of Fame was opened in Toronto. In 1964, President Lyndon B. Johnson was nominated for a term

#### GR AVYBOAT ALARM ONE ENCE

FARM FARE by Gail Grabowski

## Newsday Crossword

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