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# BIG SPRING HERALD

**MONDAY**  
SEPTEMBER 8, 2008



VOLUME 103, NUMBER 241

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## City council to sign off on budget Tuesday

By **THOMAS JENKINS**  
Staff Writer

The Big Spring City Council is expected to wrap up its budgetary planning for the coming year Tuesday evening with final approval of the 2008-2009 fiscal plan.

The budget, which passed first reading Aug. 26 on a unanimous vote, includes a last-minute

amendment changing to the way the city will deal with an expected \$500,000 increase in water and chemical costs.

Councilwoman Stephanie Horton expressed her displeasure with the water rate increase — which originally called for a \$2.50 hike in customer's base rate for sanitation and a 15.5-cent increase per 1,000 gallons of

water used — asking the council to consider a different ratio of \$2 for the base rate and an 18.5-cent increase per 1,000 gallons used.

According to city officials, water rate increases are necessary to balance out a \$500,000 adjustment caused by the \$215,000 rate hike being passed along by the Colorado River Municipal Water District and the \$252,800 jump in

the cost of chemicals.

The council is also expected to hold public hearings on the budget and the tax rate — \$1.0132 per \$100 valuation — the fiscal plan is built on.

City Finance Director Peggy Walker said the savings over last year's tax rate — \$1.0227 per \$100 valuation — 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 be a decrease to the taxpayer of \$3.43. One a home valued at \$100,000, it would mean a decrease of \$8.57. It's still sufficient to fund the budget we

See **CITY**, Page 3

## Boy, 3, dies of gunshot wound

No charges filed at this time, Sgt. Everett says

By **THOMAS JENKINS**  
Staff Writer

A tragic accident Saturday night claimed the life of a 3-year-old Big Spring boy in the 3700 block of Connally.

According to law enforcement officials, Aiden Mathews, address not provided, was pronounced dead shortly after 9:13 p.m. Saturday after he is believed to have shot himself in the face with a handgun.

"At approximately 9:13 p.m. officers responded to 3701 Connally in reference to a gunshot victim," said Sgt. Tony Everett, public information officer with the Big Spring Police Department. "Officers arrived and found that a 3-year-old male had been shot in the face.

"The child had found a handgun in the home, and while handling the weapon suffered a wound to the face. The child was transported to the emergency room at Scenic Mountain Medical Center by ambulance. Life saving measures failed and the child was pronounced dead by Justice of the Peace Kathryn Wiseman."

According to Everett, the child was

See **SHOOTING**, Page 3



HERALD photo/Bruce Schooler

Physically challenged competitor Austin Cogar of Wichita Falls, competes in Saturday's Comanche Warrior Triathlon at Comanche Trail Park.

## Alon trial slated to wrap up

By **THOMAS JENKINS**  
Staff Writer

Testimony in Alon USA's suit against the Howard County Appraisal District alleging inflated tax valuations is expected to come to a close Tuesday, as attorneys for both sides are slated to present their closing arguments in 118<sup>th</sup> District Court.

Summations — set to begin at 9 a.m. in front of District Court Judge Robert H. Moore III — come after attorneys for the Appraisal District finished testimony in the case Aug. 22 after a week-long trial.

According to court officials, scheduling conflicts for both sides made it necessary for attorneys to take the two-week break from the trial.

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 agreed to

See **ALON**, Page 3

## U.S. government takes on big role in mortgage market

By **MARTIN CRUTSINGER** and **ALAN ZIBEL**  
AP Business Writers

WASHINGTON — Uncle Sam has just become the 800 pound gorilla in the U.S. mortgage market.

The Bush administration announced Sunday it was seizing troubled mortgage giants Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac in a bid to help

reverse a prolonged housing and credit crisis.

But private analysts worried that it may not be enough to stabilize the slumping housing market given the glut of vacant homes for sale, rising foreclosures, rising unemployment and weak consumer confidence.

Mark Zandi, chief economist at Moody's Economy.

com predicted that 30-year mortgage rates, currently averaging 6.35 percent nationwide, could dip to close to 5.5 percent. That's because investors will be more willing to buy the debt issued by Fannie and Freddie — and at lower rates — since the federal government is now explicitly

See **MARKET**, Page 3

### Dine Out Day

Dell's Cafe at 1608 E. Fourth St. is this week's Dine Out Restaurant assisting the United Way for Big Spring and Howard County.

Proceeds from Friday's sales at Dell's will benefit United Way. Future participating restaurants will include Papa Georgio's Pizza, Cowboy's Steakhouse, Greg's Grill and others.



### Driver safety course

A senior citizen driver safety course will be taught at the Big Spring Senior Center, 1901 Simler Drive, Thursday and Friday, Sept. 11-12. The course will begin at 9 a.m. and end at 1:30 p.m. each day, with a half-hour off for lunch.

There is a \$10 fee for the book. Many auto insurance companies will give a discount on insurance premiums when the course is completed.

To register, call the Senior Center at 267-1628. Class size is limited to 35. The course is for motorists age 50 and older and is especially designed for seniors.

### Smacked by a fish

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP) — It's a fishing tale that packs a wallop so strong it broke the jaw of a southeastern Arkansas teen and covered him in fish blood and guts.

Seth Russell, 15, of Crossett, was cruising Lake Chicot on a large inner tube towed by a boat when a Silver Asian carp leaped from the water and smacked him in the face. Seth was knocked unconscious.

The teen has had oral surgery to wire several teeth together and still experiences back pain.

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## Obituaries

### Dorothy P. Cullom



Dorothy P. Cullom, 85, of Big Spring died Friday, Sept. 5, 2008, at her residence. Graveside funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. Tuesday, Sept. 9, 2008, at the Trinity Memorial Park Peace Chapel with Chaplain Cherise Felty of Home Hospice officiating. The family will receive friends Monday from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the funeral home.

She was born May 5, 1923, in Culman County, Ala., and married John Hillman Cullom Sept. 17, 1946, in Sterling City. He preceded her in death Aug. 8, 1995.

Dorothy and her husband came to Big Spring in 1987. She was a homemaker and a Methodist.

Survivors include her brother, John M. Higdon of Culman, Ala.; and several nieces and nephews.

She was also preceded in death by her parents and eight brothers and sisters.

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

### Irwin L. Ward

Irwin L. Ward, 80, of Big Spring died Sept. 3, 2008, in a local nursing home. Graveside funeral services will be held at Fairview Cemetery in Midland, at his son Ronnie's grave at 2 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 10, 2008, with Chaplain Walter McCall with Compass Hospice, officiating.

He was born Feb. 17, 1928, in Sidney, Texas, and married Jackie Grace in July 1983 in Midland.

He had lived in Ballinger for 15 years before moving to Stanton in 2004. Irwin worked as an electrician for Northern Natural Gas, retiring in 1975. He was a member of the First Baptist Church of Stanton and had served as a deacon. He served in the United States Army Air Corps during World War II.

Survivors include his wife, Jackie Ward of Big Spring; one son, Gregg Ward of Weatherford; one daughter, Linda Pruitt and husband Donnie of Midland; one stepson, Brad Johnson and wife Debbie of Stanton; one stepdaughter, Jade Cook and husband Omer of Garden City; four grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by a son, Ronnie Ward.

The family suggests memorials be made to Compass Hospice, 1003 East FM 700, Big Spring 79720.

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

### Grover McKnight

Grover McKnight, 77, of Big Spring died Saturday, Sept. 6, 2008, in a Big Spring nursing home. Graveside funeral services will be held at 1 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 9, 2008, at Mt. Olive Memorial Park with Chaplain Walter McCall of Compass Hospice, officiating.

He was born June 7, 1931, in Jacksonville, Texas, and married Ila Mae Powell in 1997 in Stanton. She preceded him in death Feb. 24, 2008.

Grover came to Big Spring in 1993 and worked as a truck driver throughout his life. He was a Baptist.

Survivors include one son, Dennis N. McKnight of Dallas; two sisters, Elsie "Pinky" Sadler of Groves and Betty "Sue" Wright of Jacksonville; two step-sons, Dwayne Powell and wife Neysa of Irving and Wayland Powell and wife Nell of Big Spring; two grandchildren and several nieces and nephews.

Arrangements under the direction of Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Online condolences can be made at: [www.npwelch.com](http://www.npwelch.com)

### Aiden Matthews

Aiden Matthews, 3, of Big Spring died Saturday, Sept. 6, 2008, in Big Spring. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

## Police blotter

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

- MICHAEL RAY LEWIS, 47, of 1002 N. Main Street, was arrested Saturday on charges of assault by contact and possession of a controlled substance in a drug free zone.

- EZEQUIEL ARRENDONDO, 27, of Mexico, was arrested Saturday on three local citations and held for immigration.

- JOHN AUBREY SCRIVNER, 59, transient, was arrested Saturday on a Taylor County warrant.

- ANTHONY THOMAS MCGRUDER, 37, of 100 Lockhart No. A, was arrested Saturday on a charge of possession of a controlled substance.

- WILLIAM RUSSELL PARKS, 39, of 3228 Cornell, was arrested Saturday on a charge of possession of a controlled substance.

- ROBERT DIAZ JR., 26, of 1111 Ridgeroad, was arrested Saturday on a charge of possession of a controlled substance.

- CASSANDRA VILLA, 18, of Coahoma, was arrested Sunday on a local citation.

- BETTY JEAN MUNIZ, 42, of 160 N.W. Eighth Street, was arrested Sunday on charges of driving while intoxicated with a child passenger and evading arrest with a vehicle.

- UNAUTHORIZED USE OF A MOTOR VEHICLE was reported:

- in the 1400 block of Runnels.

- in the 1000 block of Main Street.

- POSSESSION OF A CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE was reported in the 1000 block of Main Street.

- CRIMINAL TRESPASS OF A HABITATION/SHELTER CENTER was reported in the 500 block of Lancaster.

- CRIMINAL MISCHIEF was reported:

- in the 3200 block of Avenue C.

- in the 1000 block of Main Street.

- in the 1300 block of Runnels.

- in the 1400 block of Highway 87.

- in the 1900 block of Gregg Street.

- in the 1500 block of Sycamore.

- BURGLARY OF A VEHICLE was reported in the 700 block of Edwards.

- ASSAULT CAUSING BODILY INJURY was reported in the 1900 block of Highway 87.

- ASSAULT CLASS C/FAMILY VIOLENCE was reported:

- in the 3200 block of Avenue C.

- in the 1900 block of First Street.

- in the 1600 block of Stadium.

- FAILURE TO IDENTIFY - GIVING FALSE INFORMATION was reported in the area of N.W. 10<sup>th</sup> Street.

- EVADING ARREST/DETENTION WITH A VEHICLE was reported in the 1200 block of Highway 350.

## Your Local Weather

Tue 9/9	Wed 9/10	Thu 9/11	Fri 9/12	Sat 9/13
<b>79/63</b>	<b>83/66</b>	<b>80/67</b>	<b>82/66</b>	<b>81/63</b>
Rain showers in the morning with scattered thunderstorms arriving in the af.	Scattered thunderstorms possible.	Partly cloudy with a stray thunderstorm.	Partly cloudy, chance of a thunderstorm.	Partly cloudy, chance of a thunderstorm.

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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.

- Big Spring Band Boosters meet at 5:30 p.m. in the Big Spring High School band hall.

- Coahoma Lions Club meets at 6 p.m. in the Coahoma Community Center at 306 North Ave.

- The Concerned Citizens Council meets at 7 p.m. at the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce. For more information, call 264-6116.

- Archeology Society for Howard and Borden counties meets at 7 p.m. in the Howard County Library Community Room in the basement. Call 270-2615 for more information.

- Prospector's Club work night begins at 7 p.m. at 606 E. Third.

- Big Spring Society of the Order of Beacients meets at 6:30 p.m. for a meal with meeting that begins at 7:30 p.m. at 221 Main.

- Big Spring Commandry meets at 7:30 p.m. at 221 Main.

- The Christian Motorcyclists Association meets at 7:30 p.m. at the Dragon Restaurant, 1300 S. Gregg. Everyone is welcome. Call 263-3869 for more information.

TUESDAY

- Big Spring Rotary Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.

- The American Cancer Society meets at noon at the Home Hospice office for lunch and its monthly meeting. For more information, call Sherry Hodnett at 264-7599.

## Sheriff's report

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

Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 57 inmates at the time of this report.

- LESTER CLAUDE DUFFER, 28, was transferred to the county jail Friday by the BSPD on charges of unauthorized use of a motor vehicle and driving while license invalid/suspended.

- NATHAN ROBINSON, 33, was transferred to the county jail Friday by the BSPD on charges of criminal mischief, possession of marijuana - two ounces or less and possession of a controlled substance.

- REGINALD JAY VANDERBILT, 25, was transferred to the county jail Friday by the BSPD on charges of parole violation, burglary of a habitation and failure to identify as a fugitive from justice.

- WILLIE RAY MYLES JR., 47, was transferred to the county jail Friday by the BSPD on charges of failure to identify as a fugitive from justice - giving false information and a parole warrant.

- CHRISTOPHER OBELL VANOVER, 31, was arrested Friday by the HCSO on a charge of possession of marijuana.

- JOHN MANUEL SOLIS, 22, was arrested Saturday by the HCSO on charges of duty on striking fixture/landscape, evading arrest/detention with a vehicle and

possession of marijuana - two ounces or less.

- MOISES CORTEZ HERNANDEZ, 31, was arrested Saturday by the HCSO on charges of public intoxication, failure to maintain financial responsibility and no valid driver's license.

- RICKY LEE TATE, 19, was transferred to the county jail Saturday by the BSPD on a motion to revoke probation for possession of marijuana - two ounces or less and a charge of possession of a controlled substance.

- TAVIAN ATKINS, 21, was transferred to the county jail Saturday by the BSPD on a charge of criminal mischief.

- DAVID RUTLEDGE, 34, was arrested Sunday by DPS on charges of driving while license invalid with a previous conviction or suspension and displaying an expired inspection sticker.

- WILLIAM RUSSELL PARKS, 39, was transferred to the county jail Sunday by the BSPD on a charge of possession of a controlled substance.

- MICHAEL RAY LEWIS, 47, was transferred to the county jail Sunday by the BSPD on charges of assault by contact and possession of a controlled substance in a drug free zone.

- DAVID YANEZ, 40, was arrested Monday by the HCSO on a charge of driving while intoxicated - third or more offense.

## Fire/EMS

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

- TRAUMA was reported in the 700 block of Avondale. Service refused.

- MEDICAL was reported in the 1900 block of Owens. Service refused.

- MEDICAL was reported in the 4200 block of Parkway. One person was transported to SMMC.

- TRAUMA was reported in the 3300 block of E. FM 700. Service refused.

- TRAUMA was reported in the 1800 block of N. Highway 87. One person was transported to SMMC.

- TRAUMA was reported in the 3300 block of E. 11<sup>th</sup> Street. Service refused.

- TRAUMA was reported in the 300 block of Ramsey Road. One person was transported to SMMC.

- MEDICAL was reported in the 1500 block of Wood. One person was transported to SMMC.

- MEDICAL was reported in the 7000 block of Roberts Road. One person was transported to SMMC.

- TRAUMA was reported in the 1300 block of Wright. One person was transported to SMMC.

- TRAUMA was reported in the 1900 block of N. Highway 87. One person was transported to SMMC.

- TRAUMA was reported in the 2000 block of Gregg Street. One person was transported to SMMC.

- MEDICAL was reported in the 2500 block of Barkdale. One person was transported to SMMC.

- TRAUMA was reported in the 3700 block of Connally. One person was transported to SMMC.

- MEDICAL was reported in the 3700 block of Connally. One person was transported to SMMC.

- TRAUMA was reported in the 1500 block of E. Sixth Street. One person was transported to SMMC.

- TRAFFIC ACCIDENT was reported in the 1500 block of E. Fourth Street. Two people were transported to SMMC.

- MEDICAL was reported in the 1700 block of E. Highway 350. One person was transported to SMMC.

## BIG SPRING HERALD

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## Don Haskins dies at age 78

EL PASO (AP) — The glow from Don Haskins' greatest triumph was mostly a memory when Disney decided to take another look.

Then came the movie "Glory Road" and a whole new generation learned what Bob Knight already knew about his old friend's career — and legacy.

"Don got more out of his teams and players than any coach who has ever coached college basketball," Knight said.

Haskins, the Hall of Fame coach credited with helping break color barriers in college sports in 1966 when he used five black starters to win a national basketball title for Texas Western, died Sunday. He was 78.

Dr. Dwayne Aboud, Haskins' physician, told reporters Sunday that Haskins had been suffering from congestive heart failure and died at home about 4:30 p.m. He was surrounded by friends and relatives, Aboud said.

"As many of you know, Coach Haskins has had some cardiac problems. He opted not to go back to the hospital but to remain at home," Aboud said, standing outside the

University of Texas El-Paso basketball arena named for Haskins.

As word of Haskins' death spread, those who knew him were quick to sing his praises.

"The word unique does not begin to describe Don Haskins," Knight, the winningest men's coach in the sport's history, said Sunday.

"There is no one who has ever coached that I respected and admired more than Don Haskins. I've had no better friend that I enjoyed more than Don Haskins.

"The myth that surrounds Don Haskins in the movie 'Glory Road' and what he did for black players is better said that he cared like that for all his players," Knight added. "To me that tells me more about the man than anything. ... There was never anyone like him before and there will never be one like him again."

Haskins, who was white, was an old-time coach who believed in hard work and was known for his gruff demeanor. That attitude was portrayed in the 2006 movie that chronicled Haskins' improbable rise to national fame in the 1966 championship game against an all-white, heavily favored Kentucky team coached by Adolph Rupp.

## CITY

Continued from Page 1

brought to the council, and we'll be bringing it back to the council for first reading during the next meeting."

According to previous reports from Walker, the tax rate consists of 68.54 cents for the general fund; 8.07 cents to fund the Big Spring Police Department's Narcotics Task Force; 2.42 cents to refund obligation bonds from 2002; 22.53 cents for general

obligation bonds for the Roy Anderson Sports Complex and streets project; and .69 cents for certificates of obligation for the rehabilitation of the northside water facility and the new annex for the municipal animal shelter.

The council is also expect-

ed to consider first reading of an ordinance adopting the tax rate during the meeting.

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

## SHOOTING

Continued from Page 1

visiting relatives at the time of the accident.

"An autopsy was ordered

and is scheduled to take place today in Lubbock," said Everett.

The handgun was a .357 caliber sig, according to Everett.

Everett said whether or

not charges will be brought against the owner of the gun is unclear at this time.

"No charges have been brought at this time," said Everett. "That's a decision that will have to be made

once the investigation is complete."

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

## MARKET

Continued from Page 1

standing behind that debt. "Effectively, the federal government has now become the nation's mortgage lender," he said. "This takes a major financial threat off the table."

Officials announced that both Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac were being placed in a government conservatorship, a move that could end up costing taxpayers billions of dollars.

Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson refused to estimate how much the takeover of the two companies will cost the government, but he insisted that taxpayers will get paid back first.

"We structured this facility to protect the taxpayer," Paulson said Monday in an interview on the CBS Early Show. "The government will be repaid ... before the shareholders of these companies get a penny."

In a separate appearance on CNBC, Paulson said "we obviously don't know" when asked how much the takeover could end up costing taxpayers. He said that will depend on how quickly the housing market turns around.

The plan touched off a global stock rally Monday. Japan's Nikkei stock average jumped 3.4 percent and Hong Kong's Hang Seng index surged

4.3 percent. In morning trading, Britain's FTSE 100 jumped 3.81 percent, Germany's DAX index rose 3.21 percent, and France's CAC-40 surged 4.44 percent.

U.S. stock futures pointed to a huge rally, jumping more than 2 percent ahead of Monday's open in New York.

The companies, which together own or guarantee about \$5 trillion in home loans, about half the nation's total, have lost \$14 billion in the last year and are likely to pile up billions more in losses until the housing market begins to recover.

The Treasury Department said it was prepared to put up as much as \$100 billion over time in each of the companies if needed to keep them from going broke, in exchange for senior preferred stock. Treasury will immediately be issued \$1 billion of such stock from each company, which will pay 10 percent interest. Further purchases of preferred stock will be triggered if quarterly audits find that the companies' capital cushion is below prudent standards.

The government, which will receive warrants representing ownership stakes of 79.9 percent in each company, is hoping that its moves will reassure nervous investors that they can continue to buy the debt of the two companies.

In a statement, President Bush said, "Americans

should be confident that the actions taken today will strengthen our ability to weather the housing correction and are critical to returning the economy to stronger sustained growth."

The conservatorship will be run by the Federal Housing Finance Agency, the new agency created by Congress this summer to regulate Fannie and Freddie, a move taken at the same time that Congress greatly expanded the power of the Treasury Department to make loans to the two companies and purchase their stock.

The executives and board of directors of both institutions are being replaced. Herb Allison, the former head of the TIAA-CREF retirement investment fund, was selected to head Fannie Mae, and David Moffett, a former vice chairman of US Bancorp, was picked to head Freddie Mac.

Paulson was careful not to blame Daniel Mudd, the outgoing CEO of Fannie Mae, or Freddie Mac's departing CEO, Richard Syron, for the companies' current problems. While both men are being removed as the top executives, they have been asked to remain for an unspecified period to help with the transition.

Fannie and Freddie both purchase home loans from banks and then repackage

those loans as mortgage-backed securities that they either hold on their own books or sell to investors around the globe. This process provides banks with more money to make more home loans, greatly expanding home ownership.

The impact of the government takeover on existing common and preferred shares, which have slumped in value in the last year, will depend on how investors react to Paulson's assertion that they must absorb the cost of further losses first. Under the plan, dividends on both common and preferred stock would be eliminated, saving about \$2 billion a year.

Analysts were split on how much the takeover could eventually cost taxpayers although they all agreed the up-front costs will be substantial, possibly hitting \$100 billion as the Treasury is called upon to bolster the capital cushions at both institutions.

However, if the plan does the trick of stabilizing the housing market and home prices stop falling and rebound, then the assets of both Fannie and Freddie should rise in value and the government should be able to sell off the companies and recoup its investments.

But it could take a long time to work through

that process given all the headwinds facing housing at the moment from the plunge in home prices to soaring defaults on mortgages which are dumping more homes on an already glutted market. The weak economy has pushed unemployment to a five-year high of 6.1 percent, further reducing demand for homes.

"I think the government will end up having to put in far more money than they are planning right now (given all the problems facing housing) but the important thing is the agencies have been taken over by the government," said Sung Won Sohn, an economics professor at California State University Channel Islands. "That means there will be less panic in financial markets."

Under government control, the companies will be allowed to expand their support for the mortgage market over the next year by boosting their holdings of mortgage securities they hold on their books from a combined \$1.5 trillion to \$1.7 trillion. Starting in 2010, though, they are

required to drop their holdings by 10 percent annually until they reach a combined \$500 billion.

In addition, officials said the Treasury Department plans to purchase \$5 billion in mortgage-backed securities issued by the two companies later this month, the first of a series of purchases planned by the government in an effort to bolster for these securities, which was badly shaken a year ago when the credit crisis first erupted with soaring defaults on subprime mortgages.

Paulson said that it would be up to Congress and the next president to figure out the two companies' ultimate structure and the conflicting goals they operated under — maximizing returns for shareholders while also being required to facilitate home buying for low- and moderate-income Americans.

"There is a consensus today ... that they cannot continue in their current form," he said.

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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.

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## OTHER VIEWS

### GOP sounds its own call for a break from the past

It is a sad statement on the record of George W. Bush that both major political parties are hammering away at the need for fundamental change in our federal government.

In accepting the GOP presidential nomination Thursday night, Sen. John McCain emphasized that theme again: "We need to change how government does almost everything." He also said he wanted "to get this country moving again."

At their national convention last week, the Democrats did their best to portray McCain as a Bush clone.

This week, however, Republicans emphasized the Arizona senator's credentials as an independent thinker who is sure to shake up the status quo in Washington.

That image was furthered by his selection of a woman for the national ticket, an unprecedented move for the GOP. Gov. Sarah Palin of Alaska was in turn introduced to the country as another maverick, someone who would stand up to special interests, stubborn federal bureaucrats and elected officials with misguided agendas.

McCain, whom this newspaper endorsed for the Republican nomination in 2000 and again this year, offers voters a great deal of experience and expertise.

And on Thursday night, he reminded the GOP convention and the country of his long record of fighting against business as usual in Washington. He reiterated his commitment to oppose pork-barrel spending, promising once again to not simply veto such spending, but to publicly embarrass the sponsors.

McCain lamented some of the party's mistakes that had resulted in a loss of public trust. Rather than reforming government, he said, both Democrats and Republicans had made it bigger and less effective. It was not the sort of admission one usually hears at political conventions.

McCain called for less partisan rancor in national politics, which would certainly be a welcome break from the past.

He also gave an emotional recounting of his experiences as a prisoner of war.

Palin's acceptance speech Wednesday, delivered with poise and some clever jabs at the Democrats, marked a high point of the convention for many of the delegates in St. Paul. But she is a newcomer to the national scene who will need to persuade many voters that she is prepared to step into the presidency, if necessary.

That could be a tough job, given her record in Alaska. It is not as fiscally conservative as she suggested this week, for example, and she currently faces an ethics inquiry. Some Republicans this week seemed to think that simply whining about media coverage should get their ticket into the White House. As McCain and probably Palin know, however, it will take more than that.

THE KANSAS CITY STAR

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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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# The Unexamined Life

The biggest story to emerge from the Republican National Convention was the media's effort to destroy Gov. Sarah Palin. Members of the Fourth Estate behaved more like a Democratic fifth column this week than they did like honest reporters. Palin's stunningly effective speech Wednesday night showed they will not easily take her down — but their malicious attacks on Gov. Palin's family prove that they will stop at nothing to achieve their aim.

Since when is the private life of a 17-year-old fair game in a political campaign? Apparently only when that 17-year-old's mom is a Republican candidate.

Make no mistake — the press outed Bristol Palin's pregnancy. Reporters descended on Alaska following vile and false accusations on Internet blogs that Gov. Palin faked her own pregnancy and that her daughter was actually baby Trig's mother.

These lies weren't only spread by left-wing fanatics but by journalists like Andrew Sullivan, whose blog appears on Atlantic.com, the online version of what was once one of the most respected magazines in the country. As the rumors got uglier, the McCain campaign decided they had no choice but to reveal to the world intimate details about Gov. Palin's daughter. And the media stood by their decision to muckrake by arguing for the public's right to know.

If you don't think this reflects media bias, contrast this insatiable prying into Bristol Palin's life with the press's lack of curiosity about the behavior of another 17-year-old — one whose story would seem to

have more relevance to this year's presidential election.

In his memoir "Dreams from My Father," Barack Obama describes his troubled teenaged years. "Pot had helped, and booze, maybe a little blow when you could afford it. Not smack though," he recalls, though he admits he came close to trying heroin at the urging of a friend who shot up in front of him. He was deterred by the image "of an air bubble, shiny and round like a pearl, rolling quietly through my vein and stopping my heart," he says. "Junkie. Pothead. That's where I'd been headed: the final, fatal role of the young would-be black man."

Obama's drug use went on for at least a few years, though he is noticeably vague in describing exactly when it began, how extensive it was, or when it ended. At least one of his friends was arrested for drug possession; another had a mental breakdown after one too many acid trips. But Obama has been reticent to reveal the extent of his illegal activities — and the media haven't cared enough to pursue the question.

Past drug use by presidential candidates was considered a legitimate subject of inquiry for Bill Clinton (who, famously, "didn't inhale") and George W. Bush. News organizations devoted considerable investigative resources in 2000 to track down unsubstantiated rumors about Bush's alleged cocaine use — and printed the accusation, even when there was no credible evidence that it was true. Yet those same news organizations treat Obama's admitted — and apparently heavy — youthful drug use as if it were off-limits.

What a candidate did as a young man — even if it was illegal — should not necessarily disqualify him from becoming president. But shouldn't we want to know a

bit more than he's volunteered to date before we make a final judgment? Did Obama ever sell drugs to anyone? When was the last time he used cocaine? What other illegal drugs has he used? As an adult, has he been present when others were using illicit drugs?

Why is it reporters who were willing to pursue Bristol Palin, who isn't on the ballot, somehow think it is unseemly to ask Sen. Obama tough questions about his drug use? Oh, that was a long time ago, they'll argue.

But a 1986 arrest for driving while impaired by Gov. Palin's husband — not the candidate — is somehow worthy of extensive front-page coverage?

The double standard is shocking — but perhaps not to Sen. Obama. In his memoir, he gives the most telling explanation of how he has gotten away with avoiding discussions of his drug use. It was the same technique he used on his mother when she confronted him in his senior year of high school: "I had given her a reassuring smile and patted her hand and told her not to worry, I wouldn't do anything stupid. It was usually an effective tactic, another of those tricks I had learned: People were satisfied so long as you were courteous and smiled and made no sudden moves."

With two months left to Election Day, it will be a test of the media's integrity to see if they devote as much time delving into Sen. Obama's drug use as they did into Bristol Palin's sex life.

*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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# Obama hits the big 5-0

He hit it this week. The big 5-0. No, I'm not referring to the age — an age that, whatever anyone says, is not the new 30. It's still 50. It's something no one I know looks forward to unless they are ill and afraid they won't make it that far.

The big 5-0 in politics is different. Fifty-percent means that you have, at least at that moment, in that snapshot, assuming the polls are accurate, made the sale. It means that all you have to do is hang on to the people who are already with you, rather than persuade new ones, and you win.

Barack Obama hit the big 5-0 in two major polls this week. In both the Rasmussen Reports (Thursday) and the Gallup daily tracking (Tuesday) polls, he made it to a majority. It doesn't mean — to quote Peggy Noonan, who now says it wasn't what she meant — "it's over" for McCain. It doesn't mean it's time for the Obama gang to pick out their offices in the West Wing and start thinking drapes and decor. But it's still a major milestone.

Of course, the polls may be wrong. They might be overestimating the population of new voters and the number of African-Americans who will turn out. They might be underestimating the percentage of Americans who will tell pollsters they are voting for Obama, what for them may be the politically correct answer, but then vote McCain instead. Even so, the chance that two polls

two days apart are both wrong in the same way is at least slightly less than the chance that any single one is. And even if they're off, they still depict an unmistakable trend. It's a little like your old bathroom scale. It may be high or it may be low; the absolute number it registers may not be the same one you'd get in the doctor's office. But if you climb on it every day religiously, or once a week at the same time and day, you're going to know for darn certain in which direction you're heading.

Obama is heading up. That Obama reached 50 percent is significant, but that he has reached it in the middle — or even at the end — of the Republican convention is even more significant. What it tells me is that this Republican convention is not working the way successful Republican conventions of the past have. It has not turned into a four-day prime-time negative ad against Obama. It has not been one speech after another making the case that McCain is qualified and Obama is not, that McCain can face up to Putin and Obama cannot, that Obama will raise your taxes and McCain will not — with the few Democrats who are scurrying around St. Paul or hanging out at satellite studios scrambling to rebut the charges.

Instead, it has been a four-day discussion of hurricanes: first, Hurricane Gustav, but more prominently and more troublingly for Republicans, a four-day discussion of the Palin storm. The question that has dominated every conversation is not whether Obama is qualified but whether Palin is, and what McCain's choice of her says about him.

You can argue that the Republican base is energized, and maybe they are. You can argue that many in the media have been unfair to Palin, and surely they have been. But when you give the press four days to do the kind of digging and dishing that they have had 19 months to do with Obama and 19 years to do with Clinton, and even more with both Biden and McCain, it's bound to be messy.

You can attack the media, as the McCain camp has begun to do, but that doesn't mean they will back off. Far from it. When the media are attacked, they (to the extent there is a "they" anymore, as opposed to thousands of separate he's and she's) are more likely to come back shooting than to respond with apologies.

And they aren't on the ballot; McCain and Palin are.

But whatever argument you make, the numbers are telling. In the last two days of nonstop Republican coverage, Obama has hit 50 percent for the first time. His support is going up while McCain's is going down — during McCain's own convention.

That is certainly not the script they had in mind when they announced the choice of Sarah Palin last week. They took charge of the conversation, all right, but it has not been the one they were hoping to have.

*To find out more about Susan Estrich and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate website at www.creators.com.*

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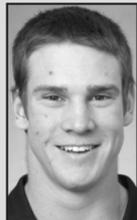
### HERALD PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

Each week, the Herald will recognize Crossroads athletes who posted outstanding performances in their sport, ranging from swimming and tennis to football and volleyball.

#### Ryan Tannehill

Former Big Spring Steer, currently a receiver for Texas A&M

Tannehill continues to shine at wide receiver for the Aggies. He's led the team in receiving yards in both of A&M's games.



Tannehill

This week he caught three balls for 57 yards in a 28-22 win over New Mexico. He's tied for the team lead with eight receptions and leads the team with 116 yards.

#### Matt Ritchey

Big Spring junior quarterback

While Denison boasted its own dual-threat at quarterback, Ritchey proved to be just as prolific in Big Spring's 44-37 loss Friday.

Ritchey threw for 187 yards and ran for 143 against the Yellow Jackets, scoring on runs of 51 and 5 yards. He also intercepted a pass on defense.

#### Josh Paniagua

Coahoma junior quarterback

Paniagua completed 8-of-10 passes in helping lead the Bulldogs to a 21-20 victory over Forsan in the Howard County Bowl Friday.

He threw for 159 yards and one touchdown, a 47-yard strike to Corey Roberts.

#### Daniel Armendariz

Sands junior running back

Armendariz is generally praised for his defensive talents, but it was his offensive skills on display at Sands' Roundup victory over Wilson Friday.

He rumbled for 95 yards on seven carries, scoring two touchdowns in the first quarter in a game shortened due to the 45-point mercy rule.

#### Jeremy Freitag

Forsan senior running back

Freitag probably had the most impressive offensive performance of the Howard County Bowl, rushing for 121 yards and a touchdown on 21 carries.

He also had one reception for 15 yards, giving him 136 total yards from scrimmage on 22 touches.



Freitag

#### Macy Graves

Big Spring junior netter

Graves stood out in the Lady Steers' straight sets loss to Andrews Saturday.

Graves led the Lady Steers with eight kills and four blocks. She has consistently led the team in blocks throughout the season.



Graves

## Serves haunt Lady Steers

### BSHS drops duel matches to Wink, Andrews Saturday

#### Herald Staff Report

Volleyball's most fundamental skill is serving. Each point begins with a serve and the team with the most success behind the back line will win the set 90 percent of the time.

Serving haunted Big Spring's Lady Steers Saturday in Andrews as they dropped both of their matches against Wink and Andrews.

Wink, ranked No. 5 in Class A, dominated the Lady Steers, 25-10, 25-15, 25-12, hitting aces past

See **LADY STEERS**, Page 6



HERALD photo/Tony Claxton

Big Spring's Halee Thomas digs a serve from Andrews in a volleyball duel match played in Andrews Friday. The Lady Steers dropped matches to No. 4 Wink and Andrews.



AP photo/Tony Dejak

Dallas Cowboys running back Marion Barber (24) scores on a 1-yard touchdown run in the second quarter of an NFL football game against the Cleveland Browns Sunday in Cleveland. Barber scored twice in the Cowboys' 28-10 victory.

# Super opener

## Cowboys start season dogging Browns, 28-10

#### By TOM WITHERS

AP Sports Writer

CLEVELAND — Terrell Owens dropped the ball near the goal line and one of the NFL's top showmen began his first choreographed touchdown celebration of the season.

He shook one leg, then the other as if he was an Olympic sprinter. Dallas' star then pretended to get into the starting blocks to perhaps face Usain Bolt in the 100 meters.

On your mark, get set ... the Cowboys are off.

Given plenty of time to throw, Tony Romo passed for 320 yards and a 35-yard touchdown pass to Owens, and Marion Barber scored on a pair of 1-yard runs before leaving with bruised

ribs as the Cowboys opened a season they expect to end with a Super Bowl title by overwhelming the out-of-sync Cleveland Browns 28-10 on Sunday.

Dallas dominated on the field and on the stat sheet with a performance one would might expect in late October or November, not on the first weekend in September, when teams are typically working out some of the summer's kinks.

"It wasn't easy. We did some things well," Romo said. "We went out there and executed."

Romo finished 24-of-32 and again showed his toughness by shaking off

See **COWBOYS**, Page 6

## Serena claims Open title, ascends to world's No. 1

#### By HOWARD FENDRICH

AP Tennis Writer

NEW YORK — Serena Williams flung her racket straight up and jumped for joy, hopping and skipping and screaming and generally looking like someone who had just won her first U.S. Open title or earned her debut at No. 1.

Nope. It sure had been a while, though.

Displaying the talent and tenacity that allowed her to dominate tennis earlier in the decade, Williams outlasted Jelena Jankovic 6-4, 7-5 Sunday night in a thrill-a-minute match chock full of marvelous strokes and momentum swings to win her third U.S. Open championship and ninth Grand Slam title.

And there was this "added bonus," as Williams termed it: She returns to the top of the rankings.

As the women met at the net when it ended, Williams felt compelled to say to Jankovic, "I'm sorry I got so excited."

No apology necessary. Four times a single point

from heading to a third set, Williams was simply relentless. She took the final four games, and 13 of the last 19 points.

"I felt I had her. I had her, because she was really tired at the end of the second set," Jankovic said. "Who knows what would have happened if I had got into a third set? I probably would have had the upper hand. But who knows?"

Instead, Williams took the title without dropping a set. The closest she came to losing one? In the quarterfinals, when she beat older sister Venus in two tiebreakers.

On this night, Venus was in the guest box, cheering for Kid Sis.

It was his youngest daughter's first triumph at Flushing Meadows since 2002, and it guaranteed that the American will lead the rankings Monday for the first time since a 57-week run ended in August 2003 — the longest gap between stints at No. 1 for a woman.

"I feel," the 26-year-old Williams said, "like I have a new career."



AP photo/Julie Jacobson

Serena Williams poses with her championship trophy after defeating Jelena Jankovic to win the women's finals championship match at the U.S. Open tennis tournament in New York, Sunday. Williams ascends to the top of the world rankings with the win.

## COWBOYS

Continued from Page 5

a hit by Browns linebacker Willie McGinest that opened a nasty gash on the chiseled chin of pop star Jessica Simpson's favorite quarterback. Romo needed several stitches and Barber, too, got some extra post-game medical attention.

X-rays on his ribs were negative and the Cowboys are hoping Barber, who ran for 80 yards on 16 tries before getting hurt in the third quarter, will be able to play when Dallas hosts NFC East rival Philadelphia a week from Monday.

Coming off a 13-win season, which ended with a bitterly disappointing playoff loss at home to the New York Giants, the Cowboys lived up to all their preseason hype with a solid performance on both sides of the ball. Their offense racked up nearly 500 yards, controlled the clock and strung together four long touchdown drives.

The defense held one of the AFC's most potent offenses to 205 yards, and except for some silly penalties, the star-studded 'Boys, whose training camp was profiled on HBO's "Hard Knocks," had a knockout debut.

"We're ready," said Owens, who finished with five catches for 87 yards. "Training camp and all that stuff is over with. The season is here and this was a great start."

Jason Witten added six catches for 96 yards, Patrick Crayton had six for 82 and the Cowboys moved the ball on Cleveland's defense as if they were facing their scout team.

When they didn't have the ball, the Browns missed tackles. When they had it, they dropped passes, looked confused and had technical difficulties.

Cleveland quarterback Derek Anderson, who finished 11-of-24 for 114 yards, revealed that the headset in his helmet failed in the red zone — a problem that the team thought it had corrected in exhibition play.

"The battery on the stupid headset went out and we had to

call time," Anderson said. "It happened two or three times in the red zone. You hate to waste a timeout on those things, but we had to do it."

Cleveland's only TD came on Anderson's 2-yard pass to Kellen Winslow in the second quarter. Anderson never got into a rhythm with wide receiver Braylon Edwards, who had only two catches and dropped at least two, including one in the first quarter on what would have been a TD.

Edwards missed three exhibition games with a cut foot and said the time off hurt his timing.

"We weren't ready," he said. "We were not on the same page. I don't think anyone was. We just didn't play good football. It was everybody, D.A., myself, everybody."

On top of a strong performance on both sides of the ball, the Cowboys also got their first look at Adam "Pacman" Jones, the cornerback/punt returner, who was recently reinstated after serving a 17-month suspension and played his first game since Dec. 31, 2006, for Tennessee.

Jones, who's been arrested six times since joining the league, was called for interference in the end zone to set up Cleveland's only TD and muffed a punt he recovered.

Afterward, Jones gushed about his new team.

"It's going to be real hard to beat us. Period. Point blank. We've got a lot of talent," he said. "This is the most talented team I've ever been on."

Notes: Owens' TD was his 130th, tying him for second on the career list with Cris Carter. Jerry Rice had 197. ... Down by 21 in the fourth, Browns coach Romeo Crennel elected to kick a 34-yard field goal instead of going for it on 4th-and-3 at the 17. Cleveland fans were not pleased. ... Browns WR Donte Stallworth sat out after apparently injuring his groin in warm-ups. He had been bothered by a hamstring injury. ... Cavaliers superstar LeBron James, sporting his trademark New York Yankees cap and wearing Cowboys colors, hung out on

Dallas' sideline before the game. He's a longtime Cowboys fan.

## Brady hurts knee in Patriots' win

Tom Brady limped off the field in pain, and the New England Patriots can only hope their Super Bowl hopes didn't go with him.

The NFL's reigning MVP left Sunday's 17-10 victory over Kansas City midway through the first quarter with an injured left knee after being hit on a throw. There was no immediate word on the extent of Brady's injury — "I am not sure what we are dealing with," coach Bill Belichick said — or how long he would be out.

"It kind of looked bad," wide receiver Randy Moss said.

Various reports Sunday night said Belichick told the players that the injury was serious. The Patriots were already looking for a possible replacement for Brady. A person familiar with the situation told The Associated Press that former Tampa Bay quarterback Chris Simms was coming in Monday for a physical.

Brady went to the locker room and wasn't seen again as backup Matt Cassel led the Patriots to the victory. Cassel, who had thrown just 39 passes in his first three seasons, could see a lot more action if Brady is sidelined next week — or beyond.

"They're looking at him, doing some tests on him, so I don't have any information there," Belichick said, cracking a smile as he added, "doubt anybody's interested."

The 31-year-old Brady, who last season led the Patriots to an undefeated regular season and their fourth Super Bowl in eight years, wasn't available for comment after the game.

"He's the face of the New England Patriots, and Tom being who he is, it kind of hurts, to be honest with you," said Moss, who caught a record 23 TD passes from Brady last season.

In other games, it was Tennessee 17, Jacksonville 10; the New York Jets 20, Miami 14; Carolina 26, San Diego 24;

Chicago 29, Indianapolis 13; Dallas 28, Cleveland 10; Arizona 23, San Francisco 13; Pittsburgh 38, Houston 17; Philadelphia 38, St. Louis 3; New Orleans 24, Tampa Bay 20; Atlanta 34, Detroit 21; Buffalo 34, Seattle 10; and Baltimore 17, Cincinnati 10.

On Monday night, Minnesota is at Green Bay and Denver is at Oakland.

At Foxborough, Mass., Brady, who has started 128 consecutive games, went to the turf clutching his left knee midway through the first quarter. After being tended to on the field, he walked off, limping, between two trainers.

After missing the entire preseason with an unspecified foot injury, Brady was hit on the left leg by Chiefs safety Bernard Pollard.

"He was in a lot of pain," Pollard said. "When you hear a scream, you know that."

The Patriots plummeted from an exclamation point of an unbeaten 2007 regular season to a huge question mark to begin 2008. They lost the Super Bowl to the New York Giants 17-14, then went 0-4 in the exhibition season while Brady had a right foot injury and missed all four games.

Cassel went 13-for-18 for 152 yards and one touchdown.

"This is something I've been preparing for (for) a long time. It's not something that we expected to come up on opening day," Cassel said. "Since I've been here and been around Tom, he's always popped back up."

## Titans 17, Jaguars 10

The Titans also aren't sure if they'll be without their quarterback for any time. Vince Young was on crutches at Nashville after spraining his left knee late in their win.

Tennessee coach Jeff Fisher said his quarterback will have tests to determine the severity of the injury, but added that Young's knee appeared to ease up in the locker room.

"The biggest concern that I have right now, not knowing, I don't think it is serious about

Vince," Fisher said. "We are going to do some studies, some tests on his knee."

The Titans sacked David Garrard seven times and Cortland Finnegan intercepted him twice in the season opener between the AFC's two wild cards in 2007.

Jacksonville came in without top backup Richard Collier on the offensive line after he was shot earlier this week. The Jaguars had three more linemen get hurt, and Maurice Williams and Vince Manuwai didn't return. That helped Tennessee limit the Jaguars to 187 yards offense, just 33 yards rushing by what was the NFL's second-best rushing team last season.

## Jets 20, Dolphins 14

At Miami, Brett Favre made a successful debut, throwing for two touchdowns six months after calling it a career in Green Bay before changing his mind.

Favre's new start with the Jets had a happy ending thanks to two late stands by New York's defense. Dwight Lowery batted away a fourth-down pass in the end zone with 9 minutes left, and Darrelle Revis intercepted Chad Pennington — again in the end zone — with 5 seconds left.

Favre finished 15-for-22 for 194 yards and his 161st victory, extending his NFL record for starting quarterbacks.

Pennington, the man Favre replaced, was 26-for-43 for 251 yards and two TDs for Miami.

## Panthers 26, Chargers 24

Panthers quarterback Jake Delhomme threw a 14-yard touchdown pass to Dante Rosario as time expired in San Diego, capping a desperation drive for the win.

After Philip Rivers rallied San Diego with his third TD pass of the game, Delhomme moved the Panthers to the San Diego 14 with 2 seconds left before calling his final timeout. Delhomme dropped back on fourth down and found Rosario in the back of the end zone.

## LADY STEERS

Continued from Page 5

Big Spring 24 times in the match.

"We gave them almost enough points to make up an

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♠ K  
♥ K 10 4  
♦ A K Q  
♣ Q 7 5 4 3 2

**WEST**

♠ J 9 8 7 4 2  
♥ —  
♦ J 7 6 4  
♣ J 10 9

**EAST**

♠ Q 10 6 5  
♥ J 8 7 6  
♦ 5  
♣ A K 8 6

**SOUTH**

♠ A 3  
♥ A Q 9 5 3 2  
♦ 10 9 8 3 2  
♣ —

The bidding:  
North    East    South    West  
1 ♠    Pass    1 ♥    Pass  
2 ♥    Pass    3 ♦    Pass  
4 ♥    Pass    4 ♠    Pass  
6 ♦    Pass    6 ♥

Opening lead — jack of clubs.

This hand was played by Roger Trezel, well-known French star. He got to six hearts and made 12 tricks, but not many players would have brought the contract home.

Trezel ruffed the opening club lead and cashed the queen of hearts, on which West showed out. Here Trezel made the first of several good plays when he had the foresight to play dummy's ten on the queen. Next he led a heart to the king and cashed

the king of spades.

After cashing the queen of diamonds, Trezel returned a trump and took the marked finesse of the nine. He then played the ace of hearts, discarding the king of diamonds from dummy, followed by the ace of spades, discarding the ace of diamonds from dummy!

Trezel next conceded the ten of diamonds to West's jack, and that was the end of the hand. Declarer won the rest, since he had three diamond tricks and a trump left.

All of these plays turned out to be necessary for the contract to be made. If Trezel had neglected to unblock the ten of hearts at trick two, he would have made only three diamond tricks instead of the four he needed, and again would have failed. The unblocking plays in diamonds were a safety measure to guard against a possible 4-1 break in the suit.

Trezel's plays were all logical enough, but they were of the type that most players would be more apt to think of after the play than during it.

entire set on aces," noted Big Spring Head Coach Meghan Blake. "We only scored a total of 37 points in three sets and that's because we were aced so much. We don't get an opportunity to do something with the ball when we get aced. Having a team hit that many balls by us tells me we aren't focusing. We weren't ever able to get in our offense because we couldn't get the ball up. Wink was definitely a good serving team. They focused on our players struggling to pass the ball. Not one person on this team didn't get aced, though."

It was another straight sets loss to Andrews, however, the Lady Steers did put up a more competitive fight, falling 25-20, 25-18, 25-22.

Still, it was the service game doing the Lady Steers in. Instead, it was Big Spring having the inability to consistently serve the ball in play that killed its hopes of winning.

"We had 14 service errors in this game. That's pretty much giving away half a set to Andrews," Blake said. "We passed the ball well in this one. We played good defense. We can't make a run though, because of our serving. We'd score a couple of points and put the ball in the net. It kept us out of control of the game."

"Both teams we faced today were good, but beatable," she continued. "Serving is basic, but it can make or break a team."

Desiree Anderson led the team with 10 kills in the two games combined. Graves had nine kills and led with five blocks. Baylea Fox led with 15 digs and Cerbi Ritchey had 26 assists.

The two losses push Big Spring's losing streak to 13

## 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.

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

games. The Lady Steers (4-20) get an opportunity to end that streak Tuesday when they visit Midland Christian at 6:15 p.m. Midland Christian already defeated the Lady Steers once this season in the Nita Vannoy Tournament in San Angelo, 25-14, 25-11.

"Midland Christian is very good. They have a girl with a heavy swing from the outside. Still, they're beatable," Blake said. "We've been having some great practices, but we've got to start carrying that over into matches. We have to decide what we want to do and then do it. If we do our job as a collective 10 players then we can be successful."

## Wink defeated Big Spring

25-10, 25-15, 25-12  
Kills — Halee Thomas 2, Desiree Anderson 2, Macy Graves 1, Halee Torres 1, Belle Feaster 1.  
Assists — Cerbi Ritchey 7.  
Digs — Baylea Fox 5, Sloan Davis 4, Mirella Torres 1, Andrea Claxton 1.  
Aces — Claxton 4, Thomas 2, Ritchey 1, Valerie Ross 1.  
Blocks — Graves 1, Claxton 1, Anderson 1, Ritchey 1.

## Andrews defeated Big Spring

25-20, 25-18, 25-22  
Kills — Anderson 8, Graves 8, Thomas 2, Ritchey 1, Claxton 1.  
Assists — Ritchey 19.  
Digs — Fox 10, Ross 4, Ritchey 1, Davis 1.  
Aces — Ross 2, Ritchey 2, Anderson 1.  
Blocks — Graves 4, Anderson 1, Thomas .5, Ross .5.

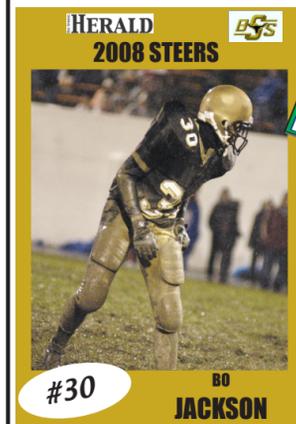
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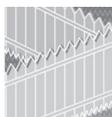
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**NEW MAHINDRA TRACTORS** 6011 E. Hwy. 80 Midland, TX (Take exit 144 off I-20, located on N. Service Rd. of Bus. 20.) Full service dealership Hours 8am-6pm M-F 8am-noon Sat.

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**Dottie-** Dalmation mix, 7 years old  
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**\$350/MO!** BUY a 3 bed, 2 bath! 5% dn, 20 yrs, 8% apr! For listings 800-544-6258 x F086.

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**408 WEST 10th,** Very Nice Small 2 bedroom, 1 bath, CH/A. \$650.00 month, \$500.00 deposit. Call 432-263-1792.

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**LEASE: BUILDING** Downtown, 2500 sq. ft. Nice store front. Some display fixtures. Call (432)935-0028.

**NEWLY REMODELED** 3/2/1. Appliances, washer, dryer, CH/A. Morrison Street. \$575 Month, \$300 deposit. One Year Lease. Call 432-816-9848.

**RV SPACES,** 3 miles outside city. \$410.00 month. Includes-Electric, water, sewer and garbage. Covered vehicle space available- extra charge. Call 254-643-1145.

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**1709 SETTLES** Remodeled Three bedroom, two bath, garage. New carpet, tile, built in appliances. Call (325)207-3434 or (432)209-7285.

**BY OWNER** 3 Bdrm, 3 bath, 2600sq. ft. 3202 Greenbrier Ave. in College Park Estates. \$152,000. Call 432-263-7168. See listing www.owners.com/DAJ2456

**BY HOLIDAY MATHIS**

Mercury joins Mars in smart Libra, provoking the question: Is it better to be right or fair? Then J u p i t e r m e e t s



**HOLIDAY MATHIS**

Saturn, stimulating resolve to work with what we have already, in new and improved ways. Finally, Pluto moves forward from retrograde in optimistic Sagittarius. Eliminate negativity at its source -- with your thinking.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19). People want to interact with you and will extend fantastic invitations -- especially the one from a Libra. Say yes and you'll be escorted where the conversation is sparking and the food is mighty good, too.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20). Even when the actual events of the day are nothing new, your thoughts are different. Your mind is making mischief. You're seeing a fun and dramatic aspect of this totally normal day.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 21). You see someone you didn't think of as your competition pulling off amazing feats. This is motivating to you. You see how you are capable of doing so much more than you thought you could do.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22). You could use a

**Tomorrow's Horoscope**

friend, but not just any friend. You have a specific need for a supportive person to fill. Maybe it's baby-sitting, carpooling or an educated listening ear. Tonight you'll attract the right one.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22). Sometimes you strengthen a relationship by getting along. Other times, like now, you strengthen a relationship by working on the areas in which you're not getting along. Look at what's bugging you. Solutions are imminent.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You won't be sure what to make of your work and social scene. Strange people will act normal, and normal people will act strange. What it all boils down to is that everyone is weird in some unique way.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). The reason you sometimes decide not to take the lead is that you don't need the extra pressure of people following you and asking you what to do next. That's OK. It's enough to lead yourself right now.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You're seeing how you can gain leverage in a situation and it won't be difficult for you. All you have to do is be productive and do fine work. Your value goes up and so does your level of power.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You're in a hurry to meet a goal in your desired timeframe. Whatever process you can speed up, you're on it. Try not to be too extreme

though, or you're liable to make costly mistakes.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You're more impressionable than you usually would be. The opinions, whims and intentions of others can distract you, and to some degree it's creative for you to veer off track.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). A work project may career dangerously off its path. There is something creative to be gained from the diversion. Still, it behooves you to gain control and steer things back on purpose.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20). You have an inner sensor that tells you where the fun will be, but you don't always follow it. You're due for some laughs, so go ahead. Tonight, people are kind to you for no good reason.

**ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS:** "I recently met a man who was born eight hours before me. His birthday is 7/28/71, born at 6 p.m. in California, and I was born on 7/29/71 at 2 a.m. in California. For some reason it was love at first sight for me, but I have read that we may not be very compatible, that we may actually be looking at our flaws and imperfections through each other. Can you tell me what you think about this match?"

When looking in the mirror at a reflection that looks a lot like you, it's true you may see the good, the bad and the ugly in yourself. But don't

forget the good. Your spitting image shares the same wonderful qualities in you. The source of your worry is clear enough: Both of your Mercury(s) are in Virgo, squared by Saturn. You're flaw-finders by nature, so you see the negative easily. It's a part of your makeup. If you haven't already, you'll soon recognize this in him, too. By seeing your perceived imperfections, through the eyes of love, you'll become more generous and forgiving toward you both.

**CELEBRITY PROFILES:** Hugh Grant possesses a well-rehearsed, yet laidback charm. Among peers and directors, he's notorious for being meticulous and thorough with his character research -- only to turn around and produce a persona more spontaneous in nature than studied! This is owed to Virgo's earthy but inherently adaptable nature. Combining steadfastness and flexibility, Hugh's a mercurial method man.

*Holiday Mathis is the author of "Rock Your Stars." 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.*

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**FORECLOSURE!** 3 bdrm. Only \$20,800! Must see! For listings 800-544-6258 ext. F906.

**HORSEMAN'S DREAM,** Priced to Sell- CIRD 3/2, Open concept with office. Barn, Shop, Arena on 18 acres. Excellent Fences, Quiet Area. 432-816-9441, 394-4183.

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**PRICED REDUCE** \$5000. On this 3 bdrm, 2 bath Highland South Home. Many updates have been done including lots of ceramic tile, appliances, and energy efficient windows. Call Linda Leonard 432-263-7500 or Home Realtors 263-1284.

**OWNER FINANCED-** 3241 Drexel 3/2, fireplace, garage, \$99,500.00. 10% Down. \$865.00 Monthly. Call (512)940-5200, (432)631-8100.

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

**Vehicles**

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**2007 SUBURBAN** 2 wheel drive, 1/2 Ton, LS, 22,000 miles, Ext.-Sport Red Metallic, Int-Ebony/Light Cashmere \$23,500. Call 432-517-0383.

**Annie's Mailbox**

Dear Annie: My husband and I recently had our first child. We take turns taking care of the baby so we can each get some rest.

When "Jimmy" was 3 weeks old, he had colic and cried nonstop for several days. My husband got mad, said he couldn't deal with this and threw the baby on the bed. When Jimmy was 4 months old, he caught a cold and cried day and night for a week. I caught my husband hitting and yelling at him.

I told my husband if he hits or throws Jimmy again, I will take our son and leave. Is this a normal reaction to the stress of an infant, or is it the beginning of child abuse? I am exhausted, too, but I never feel angry with Jimmy the way my husband does. Am I overreacting? -- Worried New Mom

Dear Worried: Overreacting? You're not reacting enough. Hitting and throwing an infant is child abuse. Period. Your husband may be unprepared for the responsibilities of fatherhood, and yes, it can be stressful to be sleep-deprived while caring for a crying infant, but that doesn't justify his behavior. Please don't wait until it happens again. The next time could be fatal, and you'll never forgive yourself for not taking action sooner. Call the National Domestic Violence



**KATHY MITCHELL MARCY SUGAR**

Hotline (ndvh.org) at 1-800-799-SAFE (1-800-799-7233) and get some assistance. Do it now.

Dear Annie: My 21-year-old niece has been dealing with a drinking problem since high school. I also have a drinking problem that only my husband and kids know about. My husband, who was having a serious talk with my niece, decided it was in her best interest to tell her about my problem.

I am very private and want no one to know about my drinking because of the stigma attached. I don't want my parents or siblings to have to worry about me or look at me differently. I am doing quite well keeping this under control.

I can't be certain my niece will blab this information to everyone, but somehow, I think she will eventually. Do you think my husband had good reason to tell her? I don't see how it would help, and it sure made me angry. Shouldn't such personal information come directly from me? -- Upset Wife

Dear Upset: Your husband should have asked you first if it was OK to give your niece this information, but you can't put the cat back in the bag. It is very possible that learning her aunt has a similar problem was comforting to your niece and will inspire her to work harder to control her drinking. In fact, the two of you may share a genetic predisposition to alco-

holism. We think having this information will do more good than harm, and we hope you will forgive your husband so you can be a source of encouragement to your niece.

Dear Annie: I read the responses to "Tired of Paying." I'm 60, male and recently widowed. If one extends an invitation for a meal or any other activity, that person assumes the obligation for any expense.

Thirty-five years ago, I did some part-time modeling and worked with some gorgeous ladies. I wouldn't have expected them to reach for a check in a restaurant, even though they were paid about 10 times what I was.

Imagine inviting friends over for dinner and at the end of the evening presenting them with a bill for "their share" of the festivities. Has civility become extinct? Or have I? -- T.K. in Ojai, Calif.

Dear T.K.: We've heard of people who, in fact, do present their "guests" with a bill at the end of an evening. It's outrageously ill-mannered. The person who extends the invitation is still responsible for paying unless other arrangements are agreed upon in advance. However, if someone cannot afford to treat every time, he or she should select something less expensive, which is why we recommended meeting for a cup of coffee and other readers suggested a walk in the park.

*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, and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.*

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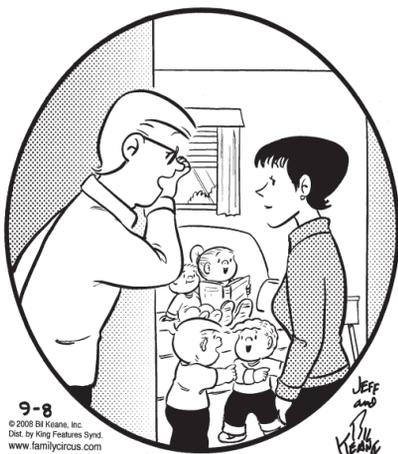
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5 :PM	News ABC	News ABC	Locura Noticiero	Lopez Lopez	News CBS	Noticias Noticiero	News NBC	Friends Raymond	CCM Granger	News Business	Cash Cab Cash Cab	Geronimo: An American Legend	CSI: Crime Scn	Law & Order	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Suite Life Suite Life		down
6 :PM	News ABC	Jeopardy! Fortune	Querida Enemiga	Two Men Sarah Connor	News CBS	12 Corazones	Millionaire Raymond	Deal or No Deal	Israel Hagee	News Business	Made Made	CSI: Crime Scn	Law & Order		Suite Life Suite Life	E:60	NFL Football: Minnesota Vikings at Green Bay Packers.	
7 :PM	H.S. Musical	H.S. Musical	Diablo-Guapos	Prison Break	Two Men Christine	Doña Barbara	Toughest Jobs	Fam. Guy	Light of the Southwest	History Detectives	9/11 Towers	Movie: Alexander, Val Kilmer	CSI: Crime Scn	The Closer	Movie: Baby Boy, A.J. Johnson	An Extremely Goofy Movie	Poker Series of Poker	
8 :PM	CMA Music Festival: Country's Night	CMA Music Festival: Country's Night	Fuego en la Sangre	Prison Break	Two Men Christine	Doña Barbara	Toughest Jobs	Fam. Guy	Light of the Southwest	History Detectives	9/11 Towers	Movie: Without a Paddle, Dax Shepard	The Closer	Raising the Bar	Movie: Baby Boy, A.J. Johnson	An Extremely Goofy Movie	Poker Series of Poker	
9 :PM	News ABC	News ABC	Impacto Noticiero	Raymond	News CBS	Noticias Noticiero	News NBC	Sex & Sala	Israel Sala	Charlie Rose	Made Made	MAN	Bones	Hell Date	Suite Life Suite Life	SportsCenter	(15) NFL Football: Denver Broncos at Oakland Raiders.	
10 :PM	Nightline	Nightline	Impacto Noticiero	Raymond	News CBS	Noticias Noticiero	News NBC	Sex & Sala	Israel Sala	Charlie Rose	Made Made	MAN	Bones	Hell Date	Suite Life Suite Life	SportsCenter	(15) NFL Football: Denver Broncos at Oakland Raiders.	
11 :PM	Insider Jimmy Kimmel Live	Jimmy Kimmel Live	La Hora de la Risa	Law Order: CI	Late Late Show	Decisions	Late Night	Movie: The Fifth Element, Ian Holm	Uri Harel	Smiley Smiley	Mega-Excavators	CSI: Crime Scn	The Closer	Movie: Baby Boy, A.J. Johnson	So Raven Cory	NASCAR Now		
12 :AM	News ABC	News ABC	Amarte-Pecado	RENO 911	Insider	Programa Pagado	News	Light of the Southwest	Cortes	Light of the Southwest	Into the Unknown	Movie: North to Alaska, Ernie Kravars	Star Trek: Voyager	Raising the Bar	Kim	NFL Films	SportsCenter	
1 :AM	Paid Basco	Paid Basco	Clasicos Humor	Friends King-Hill	Entertain	Policula: Cofre de la Muerte	Poker After Dark					Into the Unknown	Deep Space 9	Cold Case	Diff Wrd	Emperor Dragon	College Football: Teams to Watch	

DENNIS THE MENACE



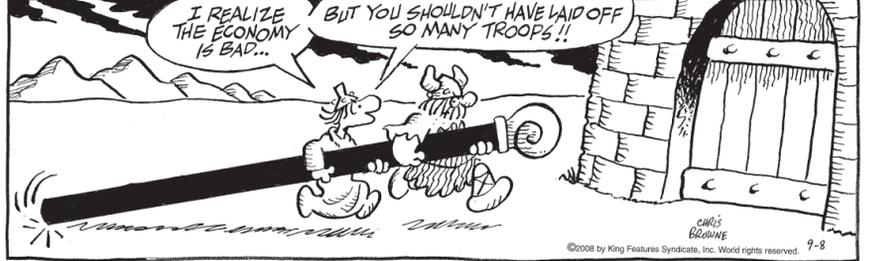
"NOW YOUR ROOM IS NICE AND CLEAN."  
"BUT YOU CLEANED UP ALL THE FUN!"

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"I wish they'd stop calling the days before they were born 'the olden days.'"

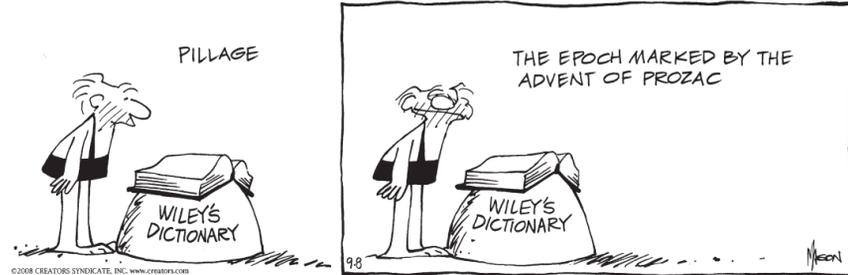
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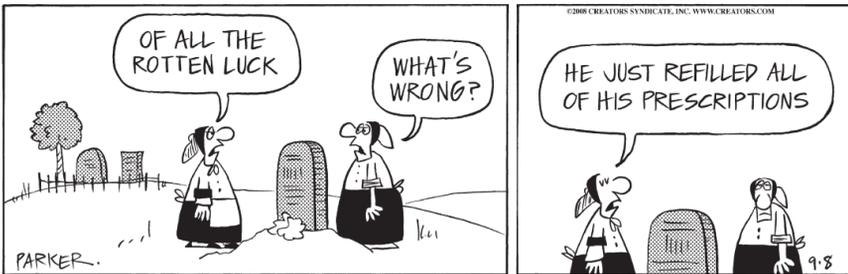
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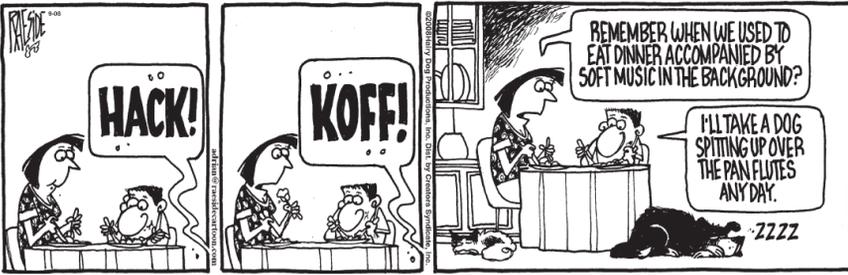
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HI AND LOIS



THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BEEBLE BAILEY



This Date In History

Today is Monday, Sept. 8, the 252nd day of 2008. There are 114 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On Sept. 8, 1900, Galveston, Texas, was struck by a hurricane that killed an estimated 8,000 people.

On this date: In 1565, a Spanish expedition established the first permanent European settlement in North America at present-day St. Augustine, Fla.

In 1664, the Dutch surrendered New Amsterdam to the British, who renamed it New York.

In 1930, the comic strip "Blondie," created by Chic Young, was first published.

In 1934, 134 people lost their lives in a fire aboard the liner Morro Castle off the New Jersey coast.

In 1941, the 900-day Siege of Leningrad by German forces began during World War II.

In 1951, a peace treaty with Japan was signed by 49 nations in San Francisco.

In 1974, President Ford granted

an unconditional pardon to former President Nixon.

In 1975, Boston's public schools began court-ordered citywide busing to achieve racial desegregation amid scattered incidents of violence.

In 1988, two nuclear-missile rocket motors were destroyed at an army ammunition plant in Karnack, Texas; they were the first U.S. weapons to be eliminated under an arms reduction treaty with the Soviet Union.

In 1994, a USAir Boeing 737 crashed into a ravine as it was approaching Pittsburgh International Airport, killing all 132 people on board.

One year ago, Sheriff's deputies in Logan County, W. Va., rescued Megan Williams, a 20-year-old black woman, from a house in Big Creek, where she'd endured what authorities described as days of torture.

(Six whites later pleaded guilty to various charges; a seventh is awaiting trial.) Top-ranked Svetlana Kuznetsova 6-1, 6-3 to win her second U.S. Open women's title and seventh Grand Slam championship.

Today's Birthdays: Comedian Sid Caesar is 86. Ventriloquist Willie Tyler is 68. Actor Alan Feinstein is 67. Pop singer Sal

Valentino (The Beau Brummels) is 66. Author Ann Beattie is 61. Cajun singer Zachary Richard is 58. Musician Will Lee ("Late Show with David Letterman") is 56. Actress Heather Thomas is 51. Singer Aimee Mann is 48. Pop musician David Steele (Fine Young Cannibals) is 48. Actor Thomas Kretschmann is 46. Alternative country singer Neko Case is 38. TV personality Brooke Burke is 37. Actor Martin Freeman is 37. Actor Henry Thomas is 37. Actor David Arquette is 37. Rock musician Richard Hughes (Keane) is 33. Actor Larenz Tate is 33. Actor Nathan Corzdy is 31. Rhythm-and-blues singer Pink is 29. Actor Jonathan Taylor Thomas is 27.

Thought for Today: "That pestilent cosmetic, rhetoric." — T.H. Huxley, English biologist and author (1825-1895).

Answer to previous puzzle

D	O	L	E	F	U	L	C	H	I	M	E	R	A
A	B	A	L	O	N	E	D	E	N	H	A	A	G
M	A	L	L	O	W	S	B	I	C	O	R	N	E
P	D	A	T	E	M	P	U	R	A	N	I	N	E
E	I	N	S	D	I	O	R	S	V	E	N	D	
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S	H	E	A	T	H	E	M	E	N	T	O	S	
N	A	I	R	R	A	T	E						
C	O	E	D	I	T	E	D	C	A	S	A	B	A
A	N	T	E	D	A	E	R	G	S	U	I	T	
P	L	I	E	B	R	A	S	A	S	S	I	T	
E	E	C	G	U	A	R	D	E	D	T	H		
C	A	K	E	M	I	X	Y	O	U	R	E	O	N
O	V	E	R	A	L	L	E	U	T	E	R	P	E
D	E	T	E	N	T	E	S	L	I	N	E	S	S

Newsday Crossword

YARD WORK by Gail Grabowski  
Edited by Stanley Newman  
www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS**
- 1 Commercial on the tube
  - 5 Angelic instrument
  - 9 Windshield cleaner
  - 14 Elaborate party
  - 15 Butter alternative
  - 16 Run off to marry
  - 17 "The heat \_\_\_"
  - 18 Sits in the sun
  - 19 Skin-lotion additives
  - 20 Indecisive one
  - 23 \_\_\_ go (release)
  - 24 Teacher's directive
  - 25 Vegas machines
  - 27 Post-office purchase
  - 30 Wooer
  - 33 CSI network
  - 36 Begin
  - 38 Native American group
  - 39 Honolulu's island
  - 41 Coffee alternative
  - 42 Environmental sci.
  - 43 Watchful
  - 45 Heroic tales
  - 48 Door opener
  - 49 Accountant's book
  - 51 Skiers' surface
  - 53 Campsite shelters
  - 55 Enter a highway
  - 58 Fill in \_\_\_ blank
  - 60 Poker player's pack
  - 64 Male pigs
  - 66 Prefix for dynamic
  - 67 Lengthy story
  - 68 No-fat eater
  - 69 Impolite glance
  - 70 Biblical paradise
  - 71 Green pasta sauce
  - 72 Story line
  - 73 Piece of classroom furniture
  - 7 Tenant's expense
  - 8 Military bases
  - 9 Become tired
  - 10 Not feeling well
  - 11 Billiard cue
  - 12 Fencing weapon
  - 13 Take a breather
  - 21 CPR specialists
  - 22 Letters after kays
  - 26 Bicycle wheel
  - 28 Spouse
  - 29 Gets ready, for short
  - 31 Woodwind instrument
  - 32 Depend (on)
  - 33 Old-time furnace fuel
  - 34 Hay unit
  - 35 Weep
  - 37 Kite attachment
  - 40 Strongly recommend
  - 44 Takes care of
  - 46 Reassure
  - 47 Blueprint detail, briefly
  - 50 Numbered highway: Abbr.
  - 52 Cleaned, as a blackboard
  - 54 Place to rub in shampoo
  - 56 A- or B+
  - 57 Rims
  - 58 Recipe amount: Abbr.
  - 59 Wish earnestly
  - 61 \_\_\_ over (capsize)
  - 62 Creme-filled cookie
  - 63 Descended
  - 65 Lab-maze runner

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