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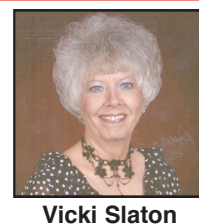
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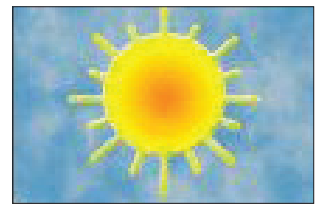
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WEDNESDAY

SEPTEMBER 17, 2008



VOLUME 103, NUMBER 249

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Alon files suit contesting 2008 appraisal

Chief appraiser hopes disputes can be settled through 'good-faith effort'

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

The Howard County Appraisal District can add its 2008 property valuation of the Big Spring Refinery to the list of lawsuits filed by Alon USA, but with talks between the two entities set to begin in the next few weeks, the dispute's end could be in sight. Alon USA filed a lawsuit



McKibben

against the appraisal district in 118th District Court Monday, bringing the number of years being disputed to three now, with lawsuits concerning 2006 and 2007 still pending in the court. The Israeli-based company's most recent suit alleges the district's 2008 valuation

of the Big Spring Refinery — \$275 million — is over-inflated.

Alon is also contesting the \$320 million tax appraisal levied against the refinery in 2007, with oil company officials claiming the valuation should be approximately \$152 million, slightly more than half of the contested figure. The company had also contested its 2006 appraisal, which totaled \$130 million. How-

ever, at the beginning of the trial, attorneys for Alon USA announced the petrochemical company would no longer contest its 2006 market value.

However, according to the district's chief appraiser, Brett McKibben, there may be an end in sight for all three suits.

"I met with the appraisal board, and we've agreed to sit down with Alon USA and make

a good-faith effort to settle these suits," said McKibben. "They'll discuss the 2006 and 2007 valuations, and I imagine the suit for the 2008 valuations will be discussed as well. I don't see any reason why we'd leave that on the table at this point."

Robert H. Moore III, 118th District Court judge, recently ruled

See **SUIT**, Page 3A

Scout signups slated

By **BRIAN MCCORMACK**
Staff Writer

The Boy Scouts of America (BSA) are holding open recruiting sessions during their fall membership drive.

Sign ups are slated to be held throughout September. Officials with the BSA are hoping to get people involved with its rich tradition of community service and outdoor education.

Although the public may join the organization at any time, membership drives are slated to begin at 6:30 p.m. each day at area schools. The first sign up will be held at Goliad Intermediate School Thursday.

Registration continues Monday — also at 6:30 p.m. — evening at Kentwood Elementary, Coahoma Elementary and Elbow Elementary in Forsan. Tuesday sign ups are being held at Marcy Elementary.

Monday, Sept. 29, the drives are scheduled at Bauer and Moss Elementaries. The final sign ups are Tuesday, Sept. 30, at Washington Elementary.

See **SCOUTS**, Page 3A



HERALD photo/Steve Reagan

Wal-Mart Supercenter Manager Tim Walsh and Bealls Manager Kim Buckner look over a display at Bealls touting the store's program to provide backpacks and school supplies to needy children in Big Spring.

Bealls leads effort to help schoolkids

By **STEVE REAGAN**
Staff Writer

Needy school children in Big Spring are getting a helping hand from a local merchant.

Bealls, with help from the Wal-Mart Supercenter, the Chamber of Commerce and private donations, will

soon equip 127 Big Spring Independent School District students with backpacks and school supplies as part of a program to aid poorer families in this area.

Kim Buckner, manager of the local department store, said the local pro-

See **BEALLS**, Page 3A

Wind energy, manpower EDC's focus

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

The board of directors for the Big Spring Economic Development Corporation took a look forward to the coming year Tuesday night, as the group identified several goals it wants to concentrate on in 2008-2009.



Wegman

According to Big Spring EDC Executive Director Terry Wegman, the top concern for the board going into 2009 will once again be wind energy.

"We want to continue to focus on wind development in Howard County," said Wegman, who spent much of the past year setting up tax abatements for wind energy developers

See **EDC**, Page 3A

Staples to be keynote speaker for ag luncheon

Herald Staff Report

Todd Staples, Texas Agriculture Commissioner, will be the keynote speaker for the 16th Annual Ag Appreciation Day, set Oct. 2.

The event, which features naming of the Ag Producer of the year and Ag Business of the Year, will be held in the Dora Roberts Community Center. It is sponsored by the Big

Spring Area Chamber of Commerce and the Convention and Visitors Bureau.

The daylong event will begin with a continental breakfast for producers at 7:30 a.m., catered by Bonnie Franklin of Franklin &

See **AG**, Page 3A

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Please call 263-7331. Office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. If you miss your paper, please call (432) 263-7335 before 7 p.m. weekdays and noon Sunday.

Dine Out Day Friday

Pappa Georgios Pizza in the Coronado Plaza is this week's Dine Out Restaurant assisting the United Way for Big Spring and Howard County.

Proceeds from Friday's sales at Papa Georgios will benefit United Way. A live band will be playing at the restaurant Friday night. Future participating restaurants will include Cowboy's Steakhouse and Greg's Grill.



Robinson honored

Myra Robinson, longtime local businesswoman with Robinson Drilling, will be honored by Samaritan Counseling Center of West Texas from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. today in the home of Mr. and Mrs. David Foster, 304 Todd.

Samaritan Counseling will also be celebrating its 35th anniversary.

Robinson has been associated with Samaritan for more than 20 years and has been instrumental in securing and promoting Samaritan's Endowment Fund. Samaritan is a non-profit, faith based outpatient counseling center.

Poll workers sought

The Howard County Elections Office is in need of poll workers for several precincts to help out in the Nov. 4 general election.

Workers are needed for Precinct 304, the Elbow polling location, and for Precincts 404, 405 and 406 at the Jonesboro Fire Station.

If you would be interested in working during the election, contact the elections office at 264-2273.



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Texans look for stadium alternatives

Team considers Rice Stadium for next home game

By KRISTIE RIEKEN

AP Sports Writer

HOUSTON — Houston Texans owner Bob McNair has discussed the possibility of his team playing at Rice Stadium if repairs to Reliant Stadium from Hurricane Ike can't be made in time for its first home game on Oct. 5.

The stadium's retractable roof lost five pieces in the storm and officials said large pieces of debris had fallen into the stadium.

Though he has discussed playing at Rice, which is four miles from Reliant, McNair is "optimistic" that repairs can be made in time for Houston to play at home against the Indianapolis Colts on Oct. 5.

"We would have to talk to them at Rice, but certainly it's a large enough stadium that it is a possibility," McNair said Tuesday.

Rice Stadium holds 47,000 in its current configuration, but the tarps could be moved off the end zone seating to expand the capacity to 70,000. It was opened in 1950 and hosted

the Super Bowl in 1974.

McNair said engineers are going over Reliant, which seats 69,500, this week to look for possible structural damage, but had not found any by Tuesday.

"I am optimistic that we are not going to find any structural damage, the

See **TEXANS**, Page 2B

Wild & Crazy Cowboys

Record TV ratings show Romo, Dallas quite a sight

By JAIME ARON

AP Sports Writer

IRVING — Jerry Jones likes to brag about the Dallas Cowboys being the top drawing card in the entire entertainment world. His premise: The Cowboys draw the highest ratings among NFL teams and the NFL is the highest-rated programming on television.

Games like Monday night sure help his claim.

Dallas' 41-37 victory over the Philadelphia Eagles was filled with drama. The lead changed seven times, the momentum swaying on good plays and goofy ones, with big-name players from both teams at both ends of the spectrum.

Mix in the backdrop of a rivalry and division supremacy, a few injuries, some questionable officiating calls, several big milestones and the historic nugget of this being the final Monday night game at Texas Stadium, and it's no wonder the Cowboys were ratings gold yet again — a whopping 12.95 million homes and 18.6 million viewers, the largest audience ever for a program on cable television. It's the second time in three years Dallas has set that mark.

"What a way to have the last Monday Night Football game at Texas Stadium," Jones said. "It had it all."

Jones' joy obviously is tinted by his team coming out on top. Thing is, Tony Romo and the Cowboys are getting awfully good at winning these kinds of

games — both those with the entire country watching and the wild-and-crazy variety.

Just last season in Buffalo, Romo threw five interceptions and lost a fumble, but rallied the Cowboys to victory.

"From then on, his feelings have been ... (when) things aren't going good, they can change and you can change them," coach Wade Phillips said Tuesday. "Having the confidence of doing it before certainly makes a difference."

That Buffalo game, by the way, also was on a Monday night.

Romo is 11-3 in nationally televised games, the ones on Sunday night, Monday night, Saturday night, Thursday night, Thanksgiving and Christmas, when everyone in the NFL is among those gathered around the tube.

Alas, Romo, is 0-2 under the similar scenario but higher stakes of the playoffs. (At least Jones can take solace in both those games making for gripping television.)

On Monday night, Romo was hyped up from the start, getting introduced last in pregame ceremonies and coming out running so fast he practically passed Terrell Owens, who was announced right before him.

On the Cowboys' first drive, Romo and Owens hooked up on a 72-yard touchdown, the longest play of Romo's career and

See **COWBOYS**, Page 4B

Victory at last

Lady Steers break losing streak with 5-set win over Miles

By JONATHAN HULL

Sports Editor

Going into Tuesday, it had been 14 matches and 24 days since the last time the Big Spring Lady Steers added to their win total.

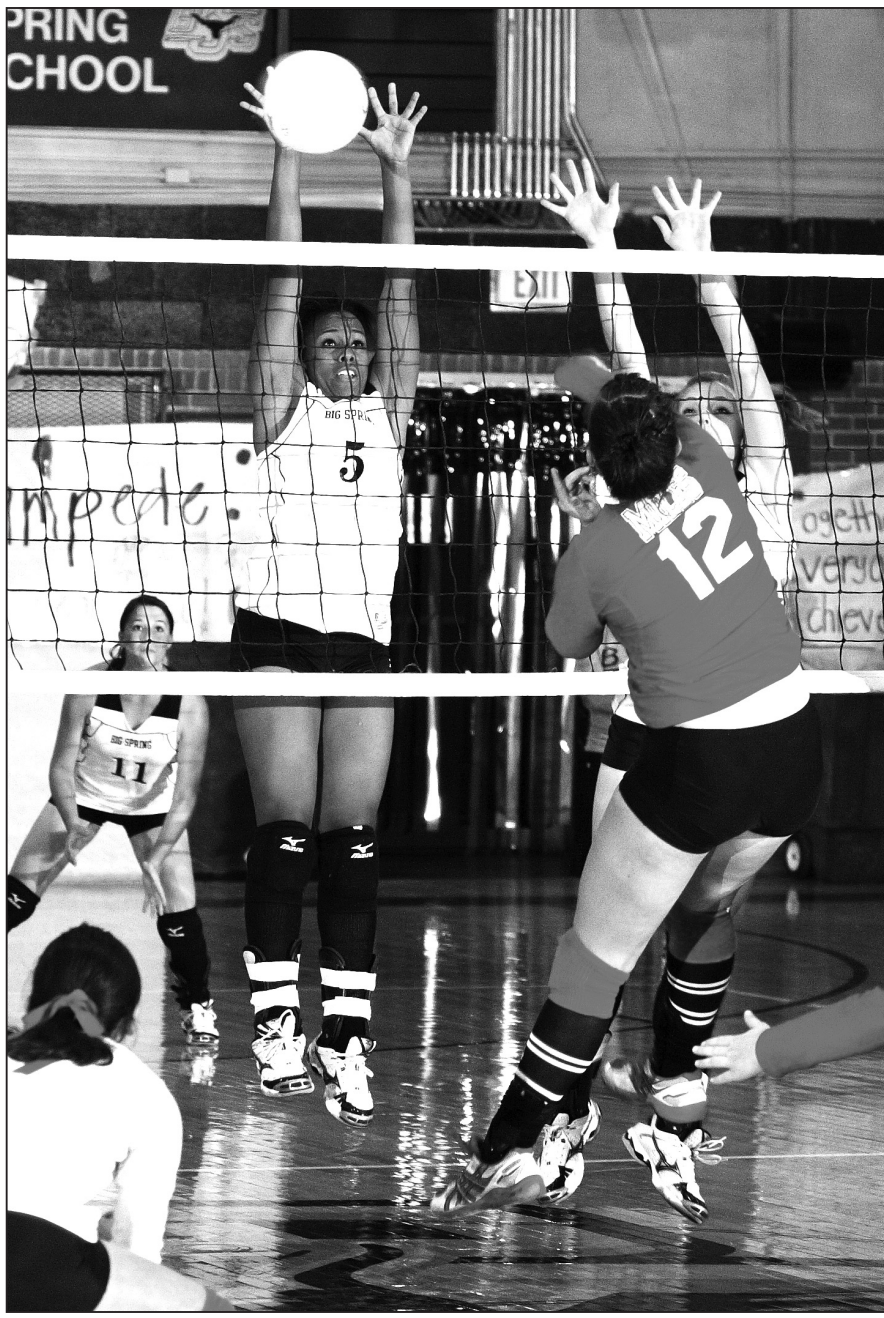
That streak ended Tuesday night at Steer Gym when the Lady Steers came out on top of a five-set affair with the Miles Lady Bulldogs, winning 22-25, 25-17, 23-25, 25-20, 15-11.

"We battled. I didn't want to go to five sets, but I'm glad we won a tough match," said Big Spring Head Coach Meghan Blake. "We really fought hard and played five good games of volleyball."

In the fifth and decisive set, Big Spring trailed early 5-3, but embarked on a 9-2 run, taking a commanding 12-7 lead. Initiating the run was sophomore Valerie Ross, who served six consecutive points, including two for aces.

"Valerie did a really good job serving in a pressure situation," Blake commended.

See **LADY STEERS**, Page 2B



HERALD photo/Tony Claxton

Big Spring's Desiree Anderson (5) blocks a spike from a Miles Lady Bulldog during the Lady Steers five-set victory Tuesday at Steer Gym. The win breaks a 14-game losing streak for the Lady Steers.

Mid-week games add to Big 12 schedules

By JEFF LATZKE

AP Sports Writer

OKLAHOMA CITY — Big 12 schools are branching out this week to create a smorgasbord of four straight days of football.

Just don't count on Kansas coach Mark Mangino wanting to get in on the weekday action again anytime soon. The 19th-ranked Jayhawks fell six spots in the polls after losing 34-31 to South Florida last Friday night, but his preference for playing on Saturdays is more about tradition.

"In my opinion, college football is made for Saturdays and that's the way we like to do it," Mangino said Monday on the Big 12 coaches' conference call.

"Winning or losing had no bearing on what day we played, I'll make that clear,

but one of the things that we do here is we have a routine. We're comfortable with the routine, our players are comfortable with it, it's been good to us and we'd like to stay with that."

Kansas State kicks off the Big 12 schedule by hosting Louisville on Wednesday night, Colorado hosts No. 21 West Virginia on Thursday and Baylor visits Connecticut on Friday night before a slate of six Saturday games.

It's the first time in the conference's history that games have been played on four straight days.

"I'm very conflicted about the games and when they're played. I think that one of the biggest issues is that we have a lot of

See **BIG 12**, Page 2B



AP photo/Ed Reinke

United States team captain Paul Azinger, right, poses with the Ryder Cup trophy and Phil Mickelson during a photo shoot with the United States team before their training rounds for the Ryder Cup at the Valhalla Golf Club, in Louisville, Ky., Wednesday. The Ryder Cup between the United States and Europe will start Friday.

Woods wishes team well, won't attend Ryder Cup

The Associated Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — The closest Tiger Woods will get to the Ryder Cup is in front of his television.

Despite speculation on various Web sites that Woods planned to show up at Valhalla Golf Club this week, he said Tuesday in a monthly newsletter he has no intention of coming.

"I plan to watch the Ryder Cup this week, but I will not attend," Woods said. "U.S. captain Paul Azinger has my cell phone number and he or any U.S. player can call me any time. If I can offer any assistance, I'm happy to help."

Woods has a 10-13-2 record in his five Ryder Cup appearances. He had season-ending knee surgery two weeks after winning the U.S. Open for this 14th major.

Woods' absence means the United States does not have a current major champion on its team for the first time since the Ryder Cup began in 1927.

Woods has said he has not watched much golf since his surgery, and is not sure how much help he could be, although he won the PGA Championship at Valhalla in 2000.

Sports in brief

BSCC hosting over-80 scramble Oct. 11-12

The Big Spring Country Club has scheduled an over-80 scramble where the combined ages of the two-person team must be 80 or higher.

Entry fee is \$60 per player plus golf cart fee, however, private carts are welcome. The event is scheduled for Oct. 11-12 with a 1 p.m. shotgun start both days, and it benefits the Big Spring Shrine Club.

Entry also includes barbecue on the course both days.

the field will be flighted by first round scores.

Call the pro shop at 267-5354 for more information or to enter a team.

Howard College schedules mini-cheer camp and Battle

Howard College is preparing to host its annual mini-cheer camp as well as the Battle of the Cheerleaders Sept. 20.

The cheer camp is for girls from kindergarten through

sixth grade. Registration is from 8-9 a.m. Sept. 20 with the actual camp lasting from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Cost is \$25.

All campers will then perform at the Battle of the Cheerleaders set to begin at 6 p.m. Sept. 20. The Battle is open to any organized cheer squad at the high school or junior high levels.

Beginning this year, a traveling trophy will be awarded to the winner.

Admission is \$3 with students, cheerleaders and sponsors being admitted free.

Obituaries

Naoma Coleman



Naoma Coleman, 86, of Big Spring died Sunday, Sept. 14, 2008, at her residence. Funeral services will be at 2 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 18, 2008, at Myers & Smith Chapel with the Rev. Walter McCall, Compass Hospice Chaplain, officiating. Burial will be in Trinity Memorial Park.

She was born April 29, 1922, in Goldthwaite and had been a resident of Big Spring since 1926. She and her husband, parents, and daughter have been in the restaurant business in Big Spring continuously since 1928, including Miller's Pig Stand, Webber's Root Beer Drive In, Terry's Drive In, the Downtowner Café and Red Mesa. She began her restaurant career in 1931, working for her parents.

She is survived by one daughter, Cindy McGuire and her husband Keith; two grandchildren, Lee Coleman and his wife, Melanie, of Waxahachie, and Diana Ruiz and her husband, Brian, of Arlington; daughter-in-law, Hannah Coleman of Cleburne; and five great-grandchildren: Caleb Coleman, Faith Coleman, Mary Grace Coleman, and Lilly Coleman, all of Waxahachie, and Nicholas Ruiz of Arlington; constant companion and pet, Tinker; special friends who were like family, Carl and Debby Rodgers and Deantha Cotton; caregivers and extended family, Margaret and H. L. Ledesma, Tina Rodriguez, Steven Rodriguez, Marie Pipes, and Isabel Ortega.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Fred Coleman Sr.; one son, Fred Coleman Jr.; and one sister, Yvonne Scherer.

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

The family will be at 211 Union.

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

Paid obituary

Winfred 'Rick' Campbell



Winfred Roland "Rick" Campbell passed away in Big Spring following a lengthy illness.

He was born Aug. 11, 1923, to Mayme Little and Dewey Campbell in Ballinger. He married Lucile Ann Kiechle Jan. 17, 1947 in San Angelo and moved to Big Spring in 1951.

After getting honorably discharged from the U.S. Navy, he worked for the Federal Aviation Administration for several years. After that, he went to work for Webb Air Force Base, where he

was the foreman of the avionics shop until he retired in 1976.

After Winfred's retirement, he acquired his real estate broker's license and was known by many members of the community through his real estate work.

Winfred had a strong Christian faith and was a member of the First Christian Church of Big Spring.

He was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather with priorities always focused on family and community. His grandchildren fondly called him "Papa" after his own grandfather. He enjoyed yard work, fiddling in the garage, cooking out in the backyard and growing prize-winning Texas pecans.

Winfred was preceded in death by Lucile Ann, his wife of 61 years.

He is survived by two sons, Charles Richard (Rick) of Houston, and Jason Dewey of Sand Springs; two daughters, Jan Bynum of Dallas, and Betsy Rutledge of Houston; four grandsons, Richard Campbell, serving in the Navy, Thomas Campbell of Houston, and Kory Rutledge and Kurt Rutledge of Houston; three granddaughters, Susan English of Pittsburgh, Penn., Kelli Cox of Dallas, and Kara Rutledge of Houston; three great-granddaughters, Alexis Bynum of Dallas, Elizabeth English of Pittsburgh, Penn. and Kyla Nelson of Oklahoma City; one sister, Willadene Varnadore of San Angelo; and one nephew, Mike Varnadore of San Angelo.

Graveside services will be held at the Peace Chapel at Trinity Memorial Park at 2 p.m. Friday, Sept. 19, 2008, with the Rev. Byron Brown officiating.

The family suggests memorials be made to Volunteers of America Texas, 300 E. Midway Drive, Euless, 76039.

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

Paid obituary

Fire/EMS

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

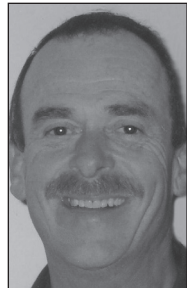
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1000 block of N. Bell. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAFFIC ACCIDENT was reported in the 3300 block of E. Interstate Highway 20. Service refused.
- TRAUMA was reported in the 1400 block of Mesquite. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1100 block of Sycamore. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAUMA was reported in the 1000 block of Cypress. Service refused.
- TRAFFIC ACCIDENT was reported near the intersection of Sixth Street and Gregg. Two people were transported to SMMC.
- TRAUMA was reported in the 500 block of Washington. Service refused.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1600 block of Lancaster. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1800 block of State. Service refused.

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Steve James



Steve James, 51, of Big Spring died Sunday, Sept. 14, 2008, at the Veterans Administration Medical Center. Memorial services will be at 2 p.m. Friday, Sept. 19, 2008, at Myers & Smith Chapel with the Rev. Doug Shelley, pastor of East Side Baptist Church, officiating.

He was born Nov. 30, 1956, in Great Lakes, Ill. He had been a resident of Big Spring since 1996, coming from Sutherlin, Ore. He worked most of his life in lumber mills. After coming to Big Spring, he had worked at Certified Builders, Hi-Rolling Trailer Manufacturing, The Y-Bar Ranch and Earthco. He was a veteran of the U. S. Navy.

He is survived by his wife, Cindy James of Big Spring; two sons, Steven James and Brandy Hubbard, both of Big Spring; one daughter, Ginger Montgomery of Big Spring; parents, Robert and Eileen James of Sun City, Ariz.; two brothers, Larry James of San Diego, Calif., and Stephen Nelson and his wife Karen of Woodburn Ore.; one sister, Candy Zeiter of Arizona; and one granddaughter.

The family will be at 3211 Moore School Rd.

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

Maurine Carter



Maurine M. Carter, age 89, died Tuesday, Sept. 16, 2008. Funeral services will be held at 1 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 18, 2008, Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home, 3800 N. Big Spring in Midland, with Scott Sheppard, minister of the Fairmont Park Church of Christ, and Dee Carter officiating. Interment will follow at Resthaven Memorial Park in Midland. Visitation with the family will be from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 17, 2008, at the

funeral home.

She was born Jan. 19, 1919, in White Flat, to George A. and Lillie B. Montgomery. She graduated from Big Spring High School, where she was a member of the Steer Cheer squad and served as editor of the yearbook, in 1935.

She married Dee Price Carter July 17, 1937. He preceded her in death in 1985.

While Dee served his country in the U.S. Army in World War II and Korea, Maurine and the children lived in Big Spring and Stanton. Following his tour of duty, they lived in Denton, Monahans and Odessa before finally settling in Midland in 1972.

She was a member of the Fairmont Park Church of Christ.

She is survived by her four children, Dee K. Carter and his wife, Susan, of Midland, Larry Carter of Cleburne, Kay Carter of Midland, and Robert R. Carter and his wife, Judy, of Alpharetta, Ga.; two sisters, Darlene Reaves of Lubbock, and Helen Snyder of Odessa; one brother-in-law, Charles E. Carter, of Gainesville; seven grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; three step-great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces, nephews, great nieces and great nephews.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorials be made to the Special Olympics and the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation or the charity of your choice.

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

Lillian Tereletsky

Lillian Tereletsky, 84, of Big Spring, died Tuesday, September 16, 2008 in a Midland nursing home. Her services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Support Groups

WEDNESDAY

• RSD (Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy, a chronic pain disease), a new support and informative group meets at 213 Circle. Call Lucy at (432) 517-9207 for more information.

THURSDAY

• Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m.; women's meeting; 6:30 until 7:30 p.m. Non-smoking closed discussion meeting, 8 p.m. until 9 p.m.

Lottery

Here are the winning numbers selected Tuesday in the Mega Millions lottery: 13-24-39-51-52; Mega Ball: 44.

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Tuesday night: Winning numbers drawn: 1-18-19-21-22. Number matching five of five: 0.

The winning Daily 4 numbers drawn Tuesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 2-3-9-2. Sum It Up: 16.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Tuesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 2-5-6. Sum it Up: 13.

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Police blotter

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

- ASHLEY SMITH, 22, of Coahoma, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of possession of drug paraphernalia.
- CHRIS SALAZAR, 21, of 1602 Sunset, was arrested Tuesday on charges of possession of drug paraphernalia and possession of a controlled substance.
- JOHN SOLIS, 22, of 1511 Sycamore, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of no driver's license.
- MARCELINO PEREZ, 26, of 1202 E. Third Street, was arrested Tuesday on a Hockley County warrant and a charge of possession of marijuana – two ounces or less.
- ERIC MCINTOSH, 26, of 1504 Runnels, was arrested Tuesday on six local warrants.
- BRIAN DAVIS, 23, of 1804 Morrison, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of possession of a controlled substance.
- JONATHAN SYKES, 24, of 1700 S. Johnson, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of possession of marijuana – two ounces or less.
- RICHARD HUCKABEE, 48, of 1516 Stadium, was arrested Tuesday on 17 local warrants.
- MICHAEL ROBERSON, 26, of 2402 Main Street, was arrested Wednesday on a parole warrant.
- THEFT was reported: in the 2000 block of Gregg Street and in the 200 block of W. Marcy.
- TAMPERING WITH EVIDENCE was reported in the 500 block of Sixth Street.
- POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA – MORE THAN TWO OUNCES LESS THAN FOUR OUNCES IN A DRUG FREE ZONE was reported in the 500 block of Sixth Street.
- POSSESSION OF DRUG PARAPHERNALIA was reported in the 1400 block of Lancaster.
- POSSESSION OF A CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE was reported: in the 600 block of Nolan and in the 1400 block of Lancaster.
- EVADING ARREST/DETENTION was reported in the 500 block of Sixth Street.
- CRIMINAL MISCHIEF was reported: in the 1400 block of Lancaster and in the 1300 block of Wood.
- BURGLARY OF A HABITATION was reported: in the 2900 block of Highway 80, in the 3300 block of Cornell and in the 1300 block of Wood.

Sheriff's report

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

Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 58 inmates at the time of this report.

- ALLISON REDDING EDMONDSON, 36, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on charges of bail jumping – failure to appear and forfeiture of bond for theft.
- MELISSA ANN PUGA, 40, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on a charge of possession of a controlled substance.
- ERIC WAYNE DEAL, 42, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on a charge of tampering/fabricating physical evidence.
- BILLY RAY JOHNSON, 47, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on a motion to revoke probation and to suspend driver's license.
- BENJAMIN EDWARD MOORE, 28, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on a motion to revoke probation for driving while intoxicated.
- PHILLIP GARCIA, 31, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on a bench warrant.
- JOHN ALBERT LOPEZ, 25, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on charges of bail jumping – failure to appear (three counts), bondsman off bond for resisting arrest/search/transportation, bondsman off bond for a motion to revoke probation for criminal mischief, bondsman off bond for evading arrest/detention, a motion to revoke probation for driving while intoxicated with a child passenger under 15 years of age and a bench warrant for driving while intoxicated with a child passenger under 15 years of age.

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BIG 12

Continued from Page 1B

terrific teams and a lot of terrific quarterbacks and I can understand why it's important for the kids and the programs to be seen nationally, and I think it's a great opportunity," K-State coach Ron Prince said.

"The football coach in me also says things that get you out of your routine and things that take you away from the classroom, that's not the norm in football."

Prince said he consulted with other college and pro coaches during the offseason for ideas on dealing with playing at an odd time and felt like he developed a solid plan.

Colorado's Dan Hawkins admitted there are some trade-offs with the weekday games. About 30 of his players had to skip practice on the Buffaloes' usual off day Monday because they had to attend class, but in turn they'll get to play on national television.

"Any time you get an opportunity to put your product out there, it's great for your fans and your alumni and your recruiting as well, so all that stuff means something," Hawkins said.

LADY STEERS

Continued from Page 1B

"I think she served with the intent of hitting a certain spot."

After Miles finally broke Ross' serves, senior Andrea Claxton took over at the net. Claxton had four kills and one block down the stretch of the match.

"I think Andrea sees the court well. She understands she can't just hit the ball hard, but that she has to hit it where defenders aren't lined up," raved Blake. "I just wish she was more emotional. She's not that type really, but I want her to go crazy when she hits the ball like that. I want her to be freaking out cause she did so well."

Freshman Cerbi Ritchey tipped the ball past a Miles' blocker for the 15th and final point, improving Big Spring's record to 5-22.

For first-year Baylor coach Art Briles, playing on a Saturday would almost be against the norm in his time so far at the school. The Bears' game last week was supposed to be played on Saturday but was moved up to the previous night because of Hurricane Ike's impending arrival.

"When they tell us to play, we play," Briles said. "You just adjust your schedule."

Fake for the future

Missouri coach Gary Pinkel said the Tigers' successful third-quarter fake field goal wasn't aimed at running it up on Nevada, but at giving future opponents something to think about.

"When you run a fake, everybody that plays you, the first thing they say is 'Hey, they will fake.' So that affects what they do the rest of the season against us, how they align," Pinkel said. "They might cheat their alignment, but then they say, 'No, they'll fake it, so we better not do that.'"

"Really, it was very good for opponents to see that we will continue to run fakes, and I think that will take a little bit of pressure off when they're going after our PAT-field

"I think this helps our confidence. Miles swings hard from their back court consistently and I don't know that we've faced a team like that yet," Blake said. "We had to work for our digs. I'm glad we won against a team like this because we'll see some just like them in district. Our confidence needs to carry over from this into district."

Claxton led the Lady Steers with 10 kills. Classmate Baylea Fox totaled 10 digs with junior Sloan Davis recording eight. Sophomore Desiree Anderson had four aces to lead the team. As a squad, the Lady Steers blocked 13 of Miles' kill attempts. Halee Thomas, Macy Graves and Cerbi Ritchey each had three blocks apiece. Ritchey also registered 20 assists.

Big Spring begins district play in a week, but have one last non-district contest at Kermit Saturday before the games start to really count.

"I've seen Kermit play once and

goal team."

Pinkel added that he wasn't wasting the fake at a time when Missouri was already up 45-17 because it was prepared solely for the Wolf Pack.

"You don't have a fake field goal you take into every game and use it. We design them for everybody that we see an edge to do it," Pinkel said.

Not so funny business

Oklahoma coach Bob Stoops said he thought there might have been some funny business going on when defensive tackle Demarcus Granger was injured in the second quarter of the Sooners' 55-14 win Saturday at Washington.

Granger had been flagged for a personal foul the previous play for shoving offensive lineman Casey Bulyca to the ground after the whistle had been blown. Bulyca and fellow linemen Jordan White-Frisbee and Juan Garcia then triple-teamed Granger, piling on top of him on the ground.

"Unfortunate any time any of that happens, but there's always a lot of rough and tough play inside so nobody here is whining about it," Stoops said.

they're a good team, but they're beatable," Blake said. "If we can get two wins going into district, then I will feel very good."

"The only district team I haven't seen play is Plainview. I've seen Frenship, Cooper and Lake View," she continued. "I really do think we can be in the top three. If we play with more concern about what we do as a team rather than individually, then I really think we can finish in the top three. I'm confident in our ability, but it's their confidence that needs to be better than mine."

Big Spring defeats Miles

22-25, 25-17, 23-25, 25-20, 15-11

Kills - Andrea Claxton 10, Halee Thomas 6, Desiree Anderson 5, Macy Graves 5, Cerbi Ritchey 4, Valerie Ross 3.

Assists - Ritchey 20, Graves 2. Digs - Baylea Fox 10, Sloan Davis 8, Ross 6, Thomas 3, Anderson 3, Ritchey 1.

Blocks - Thomas 3, Ritchey 3, Graves 3, Anderson 2, Claxton 1.

Aces - Anderson 4, Belle Feaster 2, Ross 2, Ritchey 2, Claxton 1, Fox 1, Thomas 1.

TEXANS

Continued from Page 1B

damage is just going to be to the roof and that's something we're going to be able to deal with," he said.

McNair said there is a possibility the Texans could play their home games without a roof, but that officials are worried about possible drainage issues if there is any significant rainfall while it is

uncovered.

"If we had weather like this it could be fine," McNair said on a cool, sunny day. "But if we had a tropical deluge the drainage is something that is a concern."

He's waiting for updates on how long it will take to get the roof panels made and installed at the stadium. He'll wait to make any decisions until he finds out how long that will take.



By Steve Becker

Avoiding a Finesse

West dealer. North-South vulnerable.

NORTH		
♠	K 7 5 2	
♥	6 3	
♦	J 10 7 4	
♣	9 5 3	
WEST		
♠	Q 10 8 4	
♥	8 5 2	
♦	A Q 8 3	
♣	Q 6	
EAST		
♠	9 3	
♥	7	
♦	9 6 5 2	
♣	A K J 10 8 4	
SOUTH		
♠	A J 6	
♥	A K Q J 10 9 4	
♦	K	
♣	7 2	

The bidding: West North East South Pass 3♣ 4♥

Opening lead - queen of clubs.

The opportunity to finesse is an irresistible lure to many declarers. But while the finesse is undoubtedly a valuable weapon in many situations, it is also much abused.

The fact is that the finesse is a play that may or may not succeed, depending upon the location of a particular card or cards held by the defense. It should therefore not be used whenever there is an alternative line of play that accomplishes the desired result without risking a finesse.

Consider this deal where South is

in four hearts and West leads the queen of clubs. East overtakes the queen with the king, cashes the ace and continues with the jack, ruffed by declarer with the nine. South has already lost two tricks and must lose a diamond, so the outcome appears to depend upon the success of a spade finesse.

Superficially, it might seem that South, after drawing trumps, should lead a low spade to the king and finesse the jack on the return. This play will succeed if East has the queen, but fails if West has it.

However, this is not the best line of play. After ruffing the jack of clubs, declarer should draw three rounds of trump and then play the king of diamonds. When West wins with the ace, which seems very likely from the bidding, the hand is over. It does not matter whether West returns a spade or a diamond, or where the queens of spades or diamonds are located.

A spade return automatically eliminates the spade loser, while a diamond return - whether or not West has the queen - establishes a diamond trick in dummy.

By leading the king of diamonds at trick seven, South obviates the risk involved in attempting the spade finesse. In effect, he wins the spade finesse by avoiding it.

Tomorrow: Any port in a storm.

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Where Luxury Meets Economy

Some individuals report

28 mpg



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Community Christmas Parade

5:30 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 6

Parade theme:

"Star Of Bethlehem"

Entry deadline - Noon, Friday, Nov. 14th

The parade will begin promptly at 5:30 p.m. and head north on Gregg Street toward downtown, arriving in time for the downtown Christmas celebration.

- \$100** Herald's Best Of Show Award: for best interpretation of theme
- \$75** Mayor's Award: for best use of lighting
- \$50** Grand Marshall's Award: for best costuming

- First-place plaques will be awarded in the following categories:
1. Individual or family
 2. Civic group, school or church
 3. Commercial
 4. Industrial

In addition, certificates of commendation will be awarded to the second- and third-place entries in each of those categories.

Also, a special award will be presented to the best sheriff's posse, riding club or other mounted entry.

PARADE RULES

1. The parade's official Santa Claus will be provided by the Herald **NO OTHER SANTA WILL BE PERMITTED IN THE PARADE**
2. Floats should not exceed 55 feet in length, 8 feet in width and 14 feet in height.
3. Antique vehicles will be the only undecorated vehicles permitted without special permission from Parade Committee.
4. Vehicles of a strictly commercial nature will not be permitted.
5. Parade entries not in line by the start of the parade will be placed at the end of the parade and will not be eligible for awards.
6. For safety, do not throw candy from your float. Small children run up under the tires. Please have someone walking beside your float if you want to throw candy.

2008 Christmas Parade Entry Form

Name of organization: _____
 Name of contact person: _____
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 You will receive by return mail, your float number and a map showing where to go to line up.

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 E-mail: advertising@bigspringherald.com

SUIT

Continued from Page 1A

the 2007 market value of the refinery, as of Jan. 1, 2007, was \$218 million, falling between the appraisal district's valuation of \$320 million and Alon's claims of \$152 million. However, since that ruling, the court has encouraged both sides to reach a settlement on other allegations.

The company agreed to pay taxes on an undisputed \$80 million valuation for 2007 until the matter is resolved, leaving Howard County — one of the taxing entities hardest hit by the conflict — with a potential shortfall of more than \$700,000 and Big Spring Independent School District picking up a \$264,000 loss.

Last month, commissioners agreed to a proposed tax rate of

.5362 cents per \$100 valuation, eclipsing the effective rate of .4134 cents per \$100 valuation and exceeding this year's rollback rate of .4912 cents per \$100 valuation. The rate is expected to produce an additional levy of \$2.7 million more than last year's rate — covering the shortfall caused by the ongoing litigation — according to county officials.

According to County Judge Mark Barr, Alon's most recent lawsuit is anything but good news for county coffers, and more specifically, county taxpayers.

"In 2007 Alon paid taxes on an undisputed valuation, approximately \$80 million, which was reduced to just over \$50 million after abatements were applied," said Barr. "When we came up with the tax rate for 2008, we figured on them paying approximately the same amount — \$225,000 — this

year if they filed suit.

"At this point, we'll just have to proceed (with the proposed tax rate) like we have been. We haven't been able to contact Alon officials yet to get a solid number on the undisputed taxes, but we expect it will be similar to last year's number. However, unless something changes in the very near future, we'll move forward with the proposed rate."

County commissioners held the second of a pair of public hearings on the tax rate Monday, drawing no opposition from members of the court's audience during either hearing. Commissioners must set the tax rate no later than Monday.

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

Car bomb hits front gate of U.S. Embassy in Yemen, causing unspecified casualties

SAN'A, Yemen (AP) — A car bomb targeting the U.S. Embassy hit the front gate of the compound in Yemen's capital on Wednesday, causing unspecified casualties, a U.S. spokesman said.

Ryan Gliha, the embassy spokesman, told The Associated Press by telephone that there was a second explosion that followed the initial one, but did not know what caused it.

A Yemeni security official said the embassy was hit by two car bombs and that heavy gunfire lasting around 10 minutes followed the blasts.

Several nearby homes were badly damaged by the blasts, he said, but had no information on whether the heavily guarded embassy sustained damage too. He said three of the embassy's guards were wounded, but he did not know their nationalities.

A medical official, meanwhile, said at least seven Yemeni nationals were wounded and taken to the city's Republican hospital. They are residents of a housing compound near the embassy and included children, he said.

EDC

Continued from Page 3A

planning to build in the county. "We also want to track industries that serve the wind energy business, such as companies that repair the turbines or provide parts for them."

Wegman said the other top goal for the board and corporation will be addressing a problem that is currently plaguing virtu-

ally every business in the county.

"All of the businesses are screaming for help (employees) right now," said Wegman. "It's not just a problem in Big Spring, either. It's a problem all over the region. We want to continue to work to address these problems and help with workforce recruiting and development.

"We're planning to work locally and with regional agencies to address the

workforce needs in the coming year. Things like job fairs and other regional activities can go a long way to improving our workforce and solving these problems."

Also during Tuesday night's meeting, the board decided to table a proposed contract with Ryan Inc., an economic development consulting firm led by Big Spring native G. Brint Ryan.

According to Ryan, the

contract calls for a one-time fee from Big Spring EDC that would purchase a "toolbox" of information identifying key industries suited for the area, state and federal credits and grants, as well as other useful information the EDC could use for economic development.

Wegman said the board received the proposed contract from Ryan just prior to the meeting.

"The board wanted to

have time to really look at the contract and go over it, so they decided not to take action on it at this meeting," said Wegman. "I expect they will take the matter up again at a future meeting."

The board also elected its officers for the coming year, with Dr. Keith Ledford serving as president, Larry McLellan serving as vice president and Glenn Fillingim elected secretary-treasurer.

A depository bid was also awarded during the meeting, with the board electing to go with First Bank of West Texas.

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

BEALLS

Continued from Page 1A

gram is an off-shoot of a company wide push to support education.

"Corporate offices wanted us to get involved in back-to-school programs and left it up to the individuals stores on how they would do it," said Buckner, who took over as Bealls manager this summer. "So we came up with a program where we would sell the backpacks at a very reasonable price,

then the customers turned around and donated them to the school district.

"This is a way to help out poorer families who can't afford backpacks or school supplies," she added.

All of the 127 backpacks donated by Bealls were sold, then donated to the school district, Buckner said.

To help fill those backpacks with needed supplies, Buckner and other store employees reached out to an erstwhile competitor.

"We called Wal-Mart and asked if they would help

and they agreed to donate a \$300 gift card (to help purchase school supplies)," Buckner said. "The Chamber of Commerce donated a box of supplies and our customers donated bags of supplies, also."

"This is just our way of helping Bealls do something for the people of Big Spring," Supercenter Manager Tim Walsh said.

Darrell Ryan, director of federal programs for BSISD, said the district would purchase additional supplies with the Wal-Mart gift card, then distribute the backpacks

and supplies to individual campuses sometime next week.

"This is the first time that I'm aware of that something of this nature has taken place, that a business in town has taken the initiative like this," Ryan said. "We're very grateful for the donation."

This is the first year Bealls has sponsored the program locally and Buckner promised it wouldn't be the last.

"We definitely want to do something like this again

next year, maybe branching out to other school districts in the area," she said. "We had a great turnout. I can't say enough about the generosity of our customers."

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

SCOUTS

Continued from Page 1A

According to David O'Neill, field director for the BSA Buffalo Trail Council, participation in the organization is an excellent way to instill values in young men as well as provide them with positive activities and social outlets.

"Participating in the Scouts is a good way to build character," said O'Neill. "Outdoor activities and events are always being planned at several Boy Scout campgrounds

in the area."

The local BSA chapter is one of the oldest troops west of the Mississippi River and is approaching its 100th anniversary. The Buffalo Trail Council is the body which governs BSA troops in 18 counties in West Texas. Encompassing about 5,100 area youth spread out among 514 packs, the council has produced 37 Eagle Scouts and performed more than 10,000 hours of community service within its jurisdiction.

Adult volunteers are also being sought for the duration of the membership

drive. Those interested in becoming a part of the tradition may contact the BSA office at 263-3407.

Contact Brian McCormack at 263-7331 or by e-mail at newsdesk@bigspringherald.com

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AG

Continued from Page 1A

Sons. The Howard County AgriLife Extension office will host a farm tour from 8 a.m. to 11:15 a.m.

Lunch will be catered by Al's and Son Barbecue. Tickets, at \$12 each, are available at the chamber office. Tickets are free to all area farmers and ranchers.

Deadline to purchase or pick up tickets is Monday, Sept. 29. Tickets will not be available at the door.

For more information, call Ronnie Wood, Ag Appreciation chairman, at 263-3382, or the Chamber of Commerce at 263-7641.

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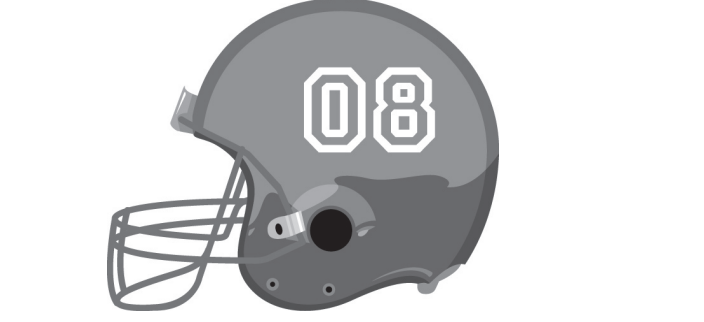
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Rules: Find this week's games in the merchants' ads on this page. Choose the teams you think will win. Clip and fill in the official entry blank on this page with your team choice. The entry with the most correct picks will win \$50. You must be 18 to enter. Only official entry forms accepted. In the event of a tie, the tie breaker will determine the winner. Guess the winner and the combined scores for the total points. Decisions of the judges are final. Employees and families of employees of The Big Spring Herald are ineligible. All entries must be received at one of the participating merchants by 1 p.m. Friday of the week played. Winners will be announced in the Big Spring Herald the Wednesday following the games.



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EDITORIAL

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

Ron Midkiff
Publisher

John A. Moseley
Managing Editor

Bill McClellan
News Editor

OTHER VIEWS

Face the consequences

The decision by Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson and Fed Chairman Ben Bernanke not to bail out investment bank Lehman Brothers was the kind of tough love Wall Street needs.

Lehman, which invested heavily in bad real-estate loans, declared bankruptcy Monday after one of the worst weekends in Wall Street history. The government's decision not to aid in a rescue, as it did with the sale of Bear Stearns in March, made the purchase of Lehman less attractive to potential buyers.

In the short term, allowing Lehman Brothers to fail will likely cause more pain for financial markets and the broader economy. The impact from the downward spiral in the credit, housing and financial markets probably isn't finished.

As banks struggle to survive, they will tighten lending practices, making it harder for companies to expand and create jobs. Even consumers with excellent credit might find it difficult to get a mortgage.

Even before the weekend had ended, there was more grim news from Wall Street. Merrill Lynch agreed to be bought by Bank of America for less than half its value. American International Group, the world's largest insurer, was forced into a restructuring. Former Fed Chairman Alan Greenspan called the crisis a "once-in-a-century event."

But if the Bush administration had agreed to bail out Lehman Brothers, taxpayers would rightly have wondered where it was going to end. For example, would the ailing auto industry deserve a taxpayer-sponsored bailout?

At some point, Paulson and Bernanke had to drive home the lesson that there are consequences for bad business decisions. If the government rides to the rescue of every large investment bank, it would encourage Wall Street executives to take greater risks in the future, knowing that Uncle Sam would serve as a backstop.

There's ample evidence that Wall Street hasn't been getting the message until now. As recently as March, Lehman Brothers CEO Richard Fuld had received a \$22 million bonus for his firm's performance. But he ignored the risk to his firm from its investment in toxic loans, and now thousands of employees will pay the price.

It may seem odd for Bernanke and Paulson to turn their backs on Lehman only one week after the government agreed to bail out mortgage giants Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. But it was always understood in theory that Washington backed these government-sponsored entities. The housing crisis unfortunately forced Washington to back up that theory with real money.

At least it's encouraging that the regulator of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac said Sunday that it won't allow those companies to make "golden parachute" severance payments to the ousted CEOs who ran them into the ground. They shouldn't be rewarded further for falling asleep at the switch.

The stakes are very high in the poor health of the capital markets, and it's difficult for the government to find a balance between trying to stave off a recession and overburdening taxpayers with debt.

President Bush has the right man leading Treasury in this shaky environment. Paulson served as chairman and CEO of Goldman Sachs until 2006, and has the confidence of Wall Street. He said stability in housing prices is "the key to turning the corner," which was the reason for bailing out Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. "There are going to be some real rough spots along the road, but I believe we're making progress," Paulson said yesterday.

Nevertheless, the stock market had its worst day in more than seven years yesterday. It was further indication that we haven't yet seen the bottom of one of the most troubling economic downturns in recent memory.

THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER

On theocracy and double standards

In the next few weeks, we're going to hear a lot of hot air from Joe Biden as he tries to recapture the spotlight from Sarah Palin. One thing I doubt we'll hear from him is that rare sensible gem he uttered a few years ago about Democrats and people of faith. But he would do well to remember his fleeting words.

Biden said: "We have too many elites in our party who look down their nose on people of faith. That's the big problem with my party."

You can say that again, Joe. But next time, you ought to try listening to your own words instead of just talking to hear your head rattle.

If Biden was sincere, why won't he take issue with liberals in the media and elsewhere who routinely demonstrate their contempt for Christians?

Whether it's Whoopi Goldberg hyperventilating about the separation of church and state, Charlie Gibson distorting Sarah Palin's views on the intersection of faith and governance, or Obama himself disparaging small-town Christians for their unashamed reliance on the Bible, liberals just don't get it. For them to occasionally pretend they do just adds insult to injury.

On "The View," Goldberg asked John McCain, "So if you believe in the separation of church and state, did it not give you a moment of pause that Sarah Palin (does) not have the same beliefs as you do about these things?"

I think we can safely infer that Goldberg was suggesting that Palin does not believe in the separation of church and state. Why? Presumably because Palin has said that she would seek God's guidance in governing. Horrors!

After all, said Goldberg, America includes not only Christians and Jews but also Muslims, Zoroastrians and Wiccans.

She asked of McCain: "Are you to govern this nation as God would have you do it, or do you govern this nation for the greater good of the people in it?"

Let liberals keep revealing their profound ignorance concerning the Constitution's prohibition of the establishment of religion and guarantee of religious liberty. Let them continue broadcasting their belief that it is improper for public officials to humbly seek God's guidance in discharging their duties. Let them showcase their convoluted view that a Christian public official can't constitutionally govern unless he erects a Chinese firewall between his faith and his governance. Let them persist in displaying their misapprehension that Christian politicians, by virtue of their faith, are theocrats and cannot serve without discriminating against non-Christians.

ABC's Charlie Gibson approached it from a different angle, trying to paint Palin as a theocrat who believes we are fighting a "holy war" in Iraq. Despite Gibson's smug assertion that he was reciting Palin's "exact words," he specifically omitted key words and completely twisted her meaning. He misrepresented Palin's exhortation that we pray for our troops and pray that they are doing God's work as an affirmative statement that they are doing God's work.

Not that it would have been terrible for Palin to have rejected liberal moral equivalency arguments between Americans and terrorists and implied we have the moral high ground over homicide-bombing fanatics. But she didn't say that. Palin has made clear she doesn't believe she has a pipeline into God's will or that she can speak for him — only that she would strive humbly to do

his will and that she would continue to commune with him, in prayer and through reading the Bible. Again, horrors!

I hope liberals keep showing their open contempt for sincerely practicing Christians. I hope they continue to operate under the assumption they can scare Americans about Palin's Bible-believing faith. But in the meantime, they might want to refresh their memories about American presidents and prayer.

Almost all of our presidents have relied heavily on prayer. But to be fair, let's just look at modern Democratic ones.

In the middle of the Cuban missile crisis, President John F. Kennedy prayed at St. Matthew's Cathedral. President Lyndon Johnson repeatedly called for national days of prayer and reportedly prayed a dozen times a day.

Jimmy Carter said: "There's no doubt that during my time as president, I prayed more intensely and more fervently for God's guidance than at any other time in my life. The problems were so complex that I sought counsel." Bible-toting Bill Clinton said, "I assure you that no president makes decisions like (an agreement with Haiti) without deep thought and prayer."

Do you ever remember anyone accusing these Democrats of having alarming theocratic impulses?

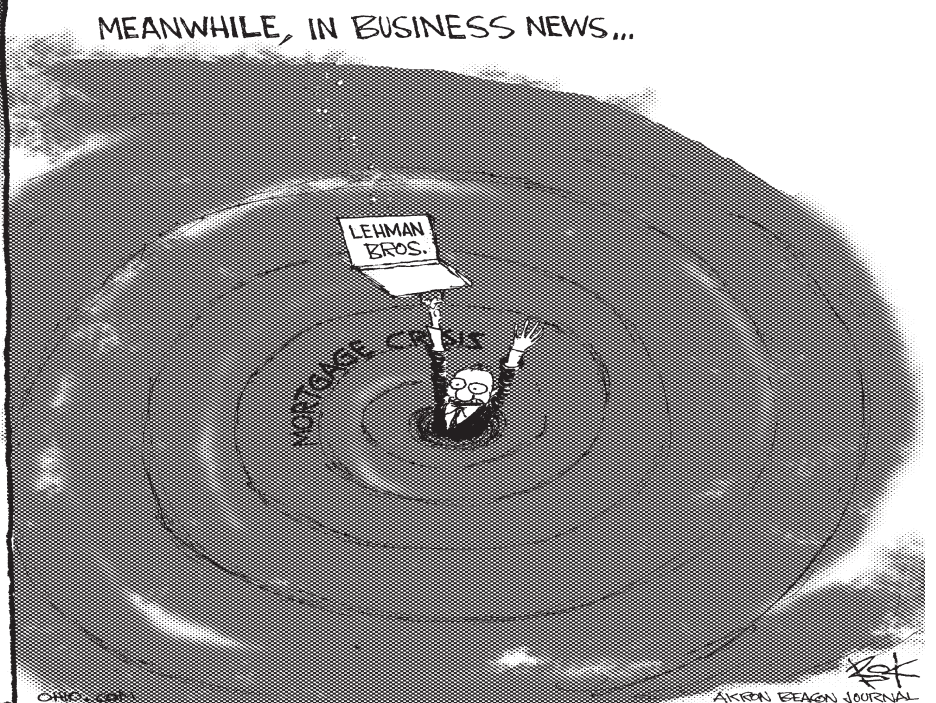
Better yet, have you heard anyone in the liberal media criticizing Obama for his statement that he prays "to Jesus every night"? Or Joe Biden for urging people to pray that the levees in New Orleans hold?

I wonder why not.

To find out more about David Limbaugh, please visit his Web site at www.davidlimbaugh.com. To read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.



DAVID
LIMBAUGH



Golfing gets stuck in the sand

Golf is a contemplative game. It is a sail through a quiet afternoon — mild exercise in the fresh air. The National Golf Foundation reports that 17 million fewer rounds were played in 2006 than in 2000. The big reasons: Golf costs too much money and takes too much time.

I've never played golf, but I've always liked the idea that someone, somewhere had the leisure to spend four hours on a green. And there's the environmental angle. While a fairway of carefully groomed grass is hardly a stand of old-growth trees, it is open space. It is a piece of nature that a country dog would feel at home on.

Some of the industry's woes stem from a significant overbuilding of golf courses. In the early '90s, when there were 12,000 courses, the National Golf Foundation said that a new one had to open every day over the next 10 years to meet the increasing demand for play. Over that decade, another 3,500 courses were built, while the number of golfers stagnated.

Golf could not possibly thrive in this wired age. As the Independent, a British newspaper, put it, "This is an era, particularly on Wall Street,

that fetishes time spent chained to the desk, that promotes short bursts of concentrated exercise in the gym close to the office instead of hours of unwinding in the open air."

That's true. Exercise is a concentrated sweat on the treadmill. No e-mail may go unanswered for more than five minutes. If you spend 10 hours at the office, and five hours on the golf course, that leaves nine hours for the rest of your life, which should include sleeping and eating. And with weekends devoted to doing all those things you didn't have time for Monday through Friday, disappearing for seven hours (if you also include lunch at the clubhouse) can be hard to justify.

"Basically, you've got to kill a day," a golfing friend told me.

Other social trends have added to golf's decline. Shrinking attention spans (induced by the Internet) can't handle a long, slow-moving activity. Some denizens of the online world have trouble staying with a long magazine article, never mind a book. And more Americans would prefer staring into a video screen than going outdoors. Hiking, biking and downhill skiing are also losing participants.

Then there's the "bowling alone" phenomenon. The fall-off of social interaction has turned us into solitary actors. (Outside of retirement communities, it's hard to round up others who have a free four or five hours.) People don't golf alone.

Other traditional sports requiring fellow players, such as tennis and basketball, have also lost followers.

At the same time, activities you can do on your own — for example, snowboarding and skateboarding — have gained in popularity. So have memberships in gyms and health clubs.

Tiger Woods remains a star of golf, but he's been around awhile. Some advocates of the sport argue that golf needs a new star, preferably a "bad boy" who can command the attention of younger people. But somehow, one can't imagine a Dennis Rodman of golf.

Will retiring baby boomers boost the industry? Don't count on it. Any new interest in golf may save some underutilized courses. But even if boomers increase the ranks of golfers, they will undoubtedly face more demands on their time than their retired parents did. They, too, live online and may have to earn some money.

They probably won't have the free hours to play the number of rounds the old timers did.

Too bad the sport has fallen on hard times.

Golf is nice. Perhaps I'll even try it, when I have the time.

To find out more about Froma Harrop, and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate web page at www.creators.com.



FROMA
HARROP

COWBOYS

Continued from Page 1B

the 131st touchdown for Owens, making him second on the NFL career list. A 98-yard kickoff return stretched Dallas' lead without Romo taking another snap.

Then Romo made things far more interesting than he would've liked.

Escaping a sack, he tried too hard to turn it into a big gain and wound up throwing an interception.

When the Cowboys got the ball back, he turned it over again by losing control of the ball three times on the same play, with Philadelphia recovering it in the end zone for a go-ahead touchdown. The Eagles eventually went up 30-21.

Phillips went to check on Romo after his fumble.

"You all right?" Phillips asked. "Leave the last one behind. It's over."

"OK," Romo said — then did exactly that.

The quarterback knew part of his problem was

slickness from tape covering a week-old injury on his non-throwing hand, so he peeled it off. He and his teammates also recalled the Buffalo game.

"This game is not without human error," Romo said. "You try to let those go and come back and score the next time."

Romo hit Owens for another TD on the next drive, then hit Jason Witten on a great play to set up a long field goal before halftime. Next came a go-ahead drive midway through the third quarter. Philadelphia reclaimed the lead, but when the Eagles fumbled on their next possession, Romo made them pay by marching Dallas for the seventh and final lead change of this instant classic.

"When things aren't going good, they can change, and you can change them," Phillips said. "Having the confidence of doing it before certainly makes a difference."

Romo, who had been 0-2 against Philadelphia at Texas Stadium, threw for 312 yards, his second straight game topping 300. It's also the 12th time he's done it in his career; just one more and he'll tie Troy Aikman's team record.

While the Cowboys came away keeping pace with

the New York Giants atop the NFC East, they couldn't keep their lineup intact.

Safety Roy Williams broke a bone in his right arm and underwent surgery Monday to attach a plate.

He's expected to miss about a month. Patrick Watkins will pick up most of the slack. Courtney Brown, who has been inactive the first two games, may get a chance and Dallas also may use more formations featuring cornerback Anthony Henry in Williams' place.

Witten sprained his shoulder but returned to make several big plays, including a 32-yard catch that set up the winning touchdown run by Marion Barber.

"He showed his heart and his character," Phillips said.

Notes: Phillips said cornerback Adam "Pacman" Jones was going to pick up the ball Philadelphia's DeSean Jackson threw down on his way into the end zone, but Jones didn't bother because officials ruled it a touchdown and, thus, a dead ball. "He should've let us get the ball, run it back or do what we did with it and then they could review and say it was a touchdown or it wasn't a touchdown," Phillips said.

Astros slumping at wrong time, lose third straight at Florida

By SARAH LARIMER
Associated Press Writer

MIAMI — The Houston Astros are running out of time to solve their problems at the plate.

Jorge Cantu hit a three-run homer and rookie Chris Volstad allowed one run in eight innings to lead the Florida Marlins to a 5-1 win over the Astros on Tuesday night.

The Astros, who have lost three straight, entered the game 2½ games behind Milwaukee and Philadelphia in the NL wild-card race.

Cantu's three-run homer in the first inning stopped Houston ace Roy Oswalt's franchise-record scoreless innings streak at 32 1-3 innings. Oswalt (15-10), who had lasted at least

eight innings in five of his previous six starts, allowed five runs — three earned — and six hits over six innings.

He struck out 10 to tie his season high.

Volstad (5-3) gave up four hits in his first start against the Astros and the second-longest outing of his career. The rookie right-hander struck out four and didn't walk a batter.

Florida's lineup rattled Oswalt early. After Cantu's home run — his 27th of the season — Dan Uggla scored on a double by Cody Ross to give the Marlins a 4-0 lead.

Oswalt then hit Alfredo Amezaga with a pitch, which drew warnings for both teams.

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.

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

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BSYSA scores and standings

U8 Standings					U10 Standings				
Team	W	L	T	Pts	Teams	W	L	T	Pts
Steers 2	0	0	6		Attack 1	0	0	3	
Blasters	1	0	0	3	Hornets	1	0	0	3
Energizers	1	0	0	3	Ballhawks	0	0	1	1
Adventurers	1	0	0	3	Tornados	0	0	1	1
Sidekicks	1	1	0	3	Earthquakes	0	1	0	0
Tigers 1	1	0	3		Extreme	0	1	0	0
Jets	0	1	0	0	U10 Results				
Wildcats	0	1	0	0	Hornets 5, Earthquakes 4				
Sidewinders	0	1	0	0	Attack 3, Extreme 2				
Red Raiders	0	2	0	0	Tornados 6, Ballhawks 6				
U8 Results					U12 Standings				
Steers 7, Red Raiders 1					Team	W	L	T	Pts
Sidekicks 8, Tigers 0					Storm 2	0	0	6	
Blasters 12, Sidewinders 0					Tornados	1	0	0	3
Energizers 6, Wildcats 3					Timberwolves 0	1	0	0	0
Adventurers 2, Jets 0					Dragons	0	2	0	0
Steers 4, Sidekicks 2					U12 Results				
Tigers 5, Red Raiders 0					Storm 6, Timberwolves 4				
					Tornados 7, Dragons 1				
					Storm 7, Dragons 0				

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Please remember the Walk to Remember Saturday at Comanche Trail Park. Alzheimer's is a heartbreaking journey and one that perhaps you or I will travel or care for someone with it.



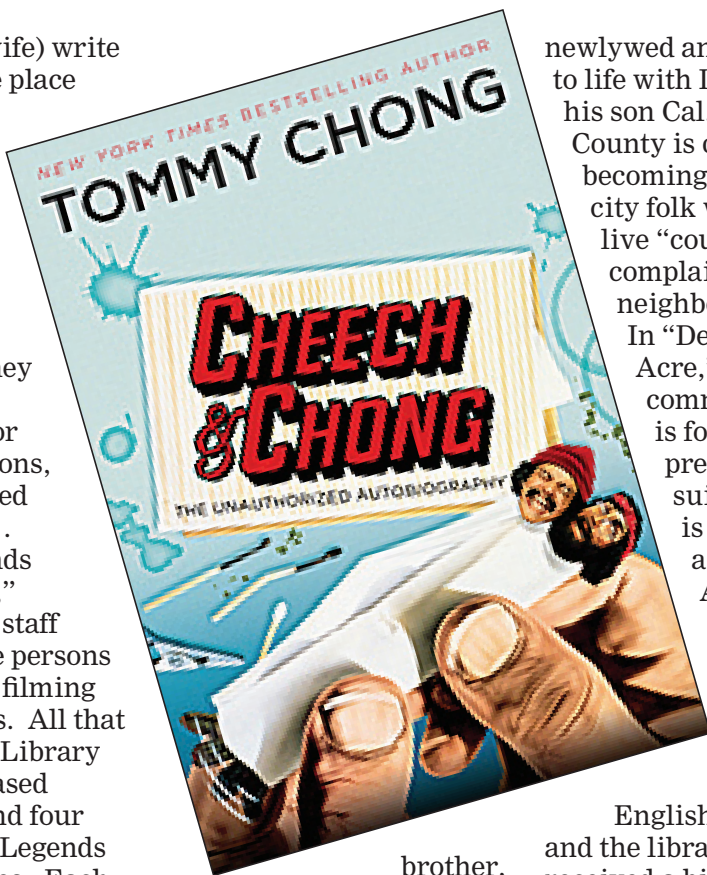
HOLLIS McCRIGHT

Mary Ellen Geist has written "Measure of the Heart: A Father's Alzheimer's, A Daughter's Return" (B GEI M). In a review from Publishers Weekly, she writes that for everyone who loves someone with Alzheimer's, there are markers and moments that tell you the disease is on the way. Her account of two years spent helping a person with Alzheimer's is both a travel guide and love story, neither in the conventional sense. As Geist makes her way, trying new things, failing, scratching plans, making mistakes, and starting all over again, she uses her professional skills as a journalist and TV anchor to incorporate conversations with other caregivers, consult with experts and read a lot of literature.

Sensitive that Alzheimer's disease affects patients and spouses in many different ways, the author offers helpful suggestions and practical advice. True, there was a downside to having to come home to help care for her father, but Geist's love of her parents and their love for one another is as palpable as the sadness wrought by the disease. To all readers, she offers a deep account of personal growth: "I define myself and my life in a whole new way. These days, it is the measure of the heart that matters most to me." Brock and Bodie Thoene

(husband and wife) write novels that take place during the 1800s. Some take place in the Old West, others in Tennessee, Kentucky or Missouri. Additionally, they also worked as script writers for Batjac Productions, a company owned by John Wayne. They were friends with the "Duke," members of his staff and many of the persons who assisted in filming Wayne's movies. All that to say this: The Library has just purchased volume three and four of the Thoene's Legends of the West series. Each book has three novels and varying story lines. The story line is always where good triumphs over evil, but just takes awhile.

"The Story of Edgar Sawtelle," by David Wroblewski, is a literary thriller with commercial legs. This stunning debut is bound to be a bestseller. In the backwoods of Wisconsin, the Sawtelle family — Gar, Trudy and their young son, Edgar — carry on the family business of breeding and training dogs. Edgar, born mute, has developed a special relationship and a unique means of communicating with Almondine, one of the Sawtelle dogs, a fictional breed distinguished by personality, temperament and the dogs' ability to intuit commands and to make decisions. Raising them is an arduous life, but a satisfying one for the family until Gar's



brother, Claude, a mystifying mixture of charm and menace, arrives. When Gar unexpectedly dies, mute Edgar cannot summon help via the telephone. His guilt and grief give way to the realization that his father was murdered; here, the resemblance to Hamlet resonates. After another gut-wrenching tragedy, Edgar goes on the run, accompanied by three loyal dogs. His quest for safety and succor provides a classic coming-of-age story with an ironic twist. Sustained by a momentum that has the crushing inevitability of fate, the propulsive narrative will have readers sucked in all the way through the breathtaking final scenes. (This review is from Publisher's Weekly.)

A new Margaret Maron mystery is in. Judge Deborah Knott is still a

newlywed and adjusting to life with Dwight and his son Cal. Colleton County is quickly becoming a mecca for city folk who want to live "country" — yet complain about a neighbor's rooster! In "Death's Half Acre," a county commissioner is found dead, presumably a suicide. But is it really a suicide?

Another fine offering from Margaret Maron. I am rather fond of

English history and the library has just received a biography by Matthew Dennison on the "The Last Princess" (B BEA P). It is about the last daughter of Queen Victoria. Princess Beatrice served as her mother's helpmate and companion until Beatrice's marriage to Prince Henry of Battenberg (which later changed to Mountbatten due to ill-feeling toward Germany during WW I). It is an engrossing story, one so very foreign to a democratic society such as we live in. It is well worth reading to see the how and why of English aristocracy.

On the totally opposite spectrum, is "Cheech & Chong: The Unauthorized Autobiography" (B CHO T) of Tommy Chong. It is a trip though a haze of smoke (and I don't think it is cigarette smoke either) of their life as an iconic comedy duo that began in the late 1960s in

the heart of Vancouver's Chinatown. Cheech Marin and Tommy Chong define the hippie-era counterculture and this is that story.

Remember, the library's hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday. 1 The Internet/ Video room is closed from noon until 2 p.m. Monday

through Friday and closes a half hour before closing. The library is located at 500 S. Main St. Our phone number is 264-2260. The Web site is www.howard-county.lib.tx.us.

Hollis McCright is director of the Howard County Library.

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By Sue Mercer, Oncor

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SUE MERCER is area manager for Oncor.
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Join us Saturday for Memory Walk 2008

Let's walk for a cure, walk in memory, walk in honor of or walk because we must. That is what Memory Walk 2008 is all about. Each person walks for his or her own reasons, but together we walk. One thing is certain — all of us will be affected

by this horrific disease — now or in the future. At the present rate, in less than 40 years it is estimated that there will be 16 million Americans with Alzheimer's disease. That's more people than the current total population of New York City, Los Angeles, Chicago and

Houston combined. Sixteen million is a mind boggling number for me. But when you start comparing populations of cities, you have just put those numbers in to some kind of perspective for me.

Those are the four most populous cities in the United States.

Forty years is not that far into the future either. If you are 20 or 30 you could be developing this disease now.

Remember, it typically takes 15 to 20 years for

the disease to be detected. Now is the time to find a cure or develop some type of medication to retard or stop the progression of Alzheimer's disease.

Research continues to find new clues to the how and why of this disease; but at the same time they are finding that this disease can even affect small children. That last statement chills me to the bone — children, young adults, middle aged people — it is not just a disease of the aged.

I encourage you to join

us for the Memory Walk this year.

You can walk one or two miles or just from your car to the Old Settler's Pavilion. We accept children, dogs, wheel chairs and golf carts — one time we even had a couple of horses.

The Walk will be held Saturday at 9 a.m. We are meeting in Comanche Trail Park.

We have hot dogs, chips, sodas, candy and lots of door prizes for those who participate. It is a wonderful way to spend a lovely

fall morning.

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Six characteristics of success

I have worked in the field of education for more than 40 years and have developed a theory on teaching. If my students are learning, it's not because of the weather, the time of year or the economy. It's because of me. I'm doing something right. If my students are not learning, it's not because of the weather, the time of year or the economy. It's because of me. I'm doing something wrong.

Somebody is always learning something from someone, so if my students are not learning, what can I do to help



DARRELL RYAN

them? First of all, I need confidence in myself and my teaching methods with clear goals and subject knowledge. Only then can I inspire dedication from my students and their willingness to learn.

Today's world is interested in success and how the successful get to the top. So we ask ourselves why some individuals outperform others. Through the years I've questioned myself and found there are certain qualities that describe successful people. Here are a few:

1. They constantly set higher goals. Successful people are mountain climbers who, having climbed one peak then look beyond to the next highest. They are the ones who challenge their students on a daily basis and are not satisfied until all

Parent's Corner

the students are successful.

2. They avoid "comfort zones." To a successful person, standing still feels like going backwards. People who stay in their comfort zones do what they did before because it's "the way we've always done it." They avoid anything new, different or unusual because they feel they might do something wrong. They blame lack of success on anything except themselves.

3. They are driven by accomplishments. They are student-focused and their thrill is the success of their students.

4. They solve problems rather than place blame.

Successful teachers do not waste their time looking at problems and saying, "It's not our fault" or "Why didn't we ...?" They say, "Let's look at what went wrong and realize it was a learning experience and figure out how we can make it work next time."

5. They look at the worst possible scenario, develop a plan and then they proceed with the confidence, knowledge and expertise necessary to make it work. Just as Thomas Edison once said, "Every time I fail I learn something." He tried 1,114 times to find a filament to stay lit in a bulb. He failed 1,113 times.

6. They rehearse the future as they see it. Successful people move towards the pictures they create in their mind. They can rehearse coming actions or events as they "see" them. They are like chess players who can "feel" the next move of their opponent and have a half-dozen responses ready when their time comes to move. As with most successful athletes, they will say they practice "seeing" themselves winning the race, hitting the home run, scoring the touchdown or the winning point. They actually visualize a future event which gives them the impetus to achieve the goal.

We may not possess all these six characteristics, but the more we have, the higher degree of success we will have.

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

Saggy pants law unconstitutional

RIVIERA BEACH, Florida (AP) — A judge has decided a law banning sagging pants in this town is unconstitutional after a teenager spent a night in jail on accusations he exposed too much of his underwear.

Julius Hart, 17, was charged last week after an officer said he spotted the teenager riding his bicycle with 4 inches (10 centimeters) to 5 inches (12 centimeters) of blue-and-black boxer shorts revealed.

Hart's public defender, Carol Bickerstaff, urged a judge Monday to strike down the sagging pants law, telling him: "Your honor, we now have the fashion police."

Circuit Judge Paul Moyle ruled that the law was unconstitutional based on "the limited facts" of the case. Technically, however, the charge hasn't been dropped yet,

Notice of Tax Revenue Increase

The Howard County conducted public hearings on September 8, 2008 and September 15, 2008 on a proposal to increase the total tax revenues of the Howard County from properties on the tax roll in the preceding year by 29.83 percent.

The total tax revenue raised last year at last year's tax rate of \$0.487870 for each \$100 of taxable value was \$9,126,579.

The total tax revenue proposed to be raised this year at the proposed tax rate of \$0.536254 for each \$100 of taxable value, excluding tax revenue to be raised from new property added to the tax roll this year, is \$11,835,333.

The total tax revenue proposed to be raised this year at the proposed tax rate of \$0.536254 for each \$100 of taxable value, including tax revenue to be raised from new property added to the tax roll this year, is \$11,870,091.

The Commissioners Court of Howard County is scheduled to vote on the tax rate that will result in that tax increase at a public meeting to be held on September 22, 2008 at Howard County Commissioners Court Room, 2nd Floor at 10:00 a.m.

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Buffalo Tales

From Forsan public schools



Homecoming court

Forsan celebrated homecoming last week. Senior nominees for queen were Faith Belew, daughter of Sherri and Bill Wigington and Ron Belew; Monica Garza, daughter of Cindy and Santiago Tercero, Jr.; Melanie McDonald, daughter of Natalie and the late Pete McDonald.; Shelby McDonald, daughter of Glenda and Terry McDonald; and Charlene Stanley, daughter of Sherri and A. J. Stanley.

Monica was elected homecoming queen.

Duchesses were Ambra Hill, freshman; Erica Garrett, sophomore; and Shelby Jones, junior.

Contest winners

Costume winners for the week were as follows:

Pajama day — Sage Kolden
Twin day — Kayla King and Dakota Steelman
Crazy Day — James Wheeler
Back in time — Stephanie Williams
Black and White — Just too outstanding to name
Best all round — junior high — Tyler Evans
Best all round — high school Kayla King

Class favorites

Class favorites were also chosen from each class as follows:

Seniors — Melanie McDonald and Jeff Carey
Juniors — Shelby Jones

and Evan Burton

Sophomores — Kelsee Perkins and Zach Hatfield
Freshmen — Shelbie Hudgins and Bryson Phillips
8th Grade — Leah Lloyd and Jansen McDonald
7th Grade — Rachel Haggard and Kolby Self
6th Grade — Emily Hatfield and Zachary Long

Great debate

Debaters for 2008-09 attended the National Debate Clinic in Lubbock on Thursday. Those attending were Clay Lockhart, Ray Martinez and Ryan Welch, Misha Willard, Eric Ochoa, Ashley Buzbee and Mara Sheets.

The group is sponsored

by Jan Sims.

Student Council Officers for 2008 are Stephanie Williams, president; Michael Steelman, vice president; and Regan Newsom, secretary.

The council conducted a workshop Saturday for 20 new council members. They also decorated halls for homecoming following the workshop.

They will attend Fall Forum in Monahans on Saturday, Sept. 27.

Forsan serves as District VIII Secretary School. Jan Sims is the sponsor.

Forsan JV defeated Irion County 44-0 Thursday night and the Junior High Buffaloes won by a score of 42-6.



Courtesy photo

Bianca Mancha, a junior at Big Spring High School, poses with her first-place trophy from the Permian Basin Fair and Exposition Talent Competition. Mancha took top-prize in the competition — including the trophy and \$4,500 cash — for her rendition of "Anyway" by Martina McBride.

News in brief

Asian stock markets lose steam after opening higher on AIG bailout

HONG KONG (AP) — Asian stocks turned in a mixed performance Wednesday, giving up early gains as a U.S. plan to rescue troubled insurer AIG failed to persuade many investors that recent financial turmoil would soon ease.

European shares were higher in early trade.

Asia's markets opened mostly higher as Wall Street's rise overnight lifted sentiment after Tuesday's huge sell-off. Japan's Nikkei 225 average added 1.2 percent to 11,749.79 after sinking nearly 5 percent the day before to its lowest finish in more than three years.

South Korea's Kospi climbed 2.7 percent and Taiwan's benchmark rose 0.8 percent.

But Hong Kong's blue-chip Hang Seng Index dropped 3.6 percent to 17,637.19, dragged by Chinese banks to its worst close since Oct. 26.

China's Shanghai benchmark fell 2.9 percent, while Australia's S&P/ASX 200 shed 0.6 percent.

Government saves AIG with \$85 billion loan, takes 80 percent stake in battered insurance giant

WASHINGTON (AP) — Another day, another bailout. The U.S. government stepped in Tuesday to rescue

American International Group Inc., one of the world's largest insurers, with an \$85 billion injection of taxpayer money.

It was the second time this month the feds put taxpayer money on the hook to rescue a private financial company, saying its failure would further disrupt markets and threaten the already fragile economy.

AIG said it will repay the money in full with proceeds from the sales of some of its assets.

Under the deal, the Federal Reserve will provide a two-year \$85 billion emergency loan to AIG, which teetered on the edge of failure because of stresses caused by the collapse of the subprime mortgage market and the credit crunch that ensued. In return, the government will get a 79.9 percent stake in AIG and the right to remove senior management.

The move was similar to government's seizure on Sept. 7 of mortgage giants Fannie Mae and Freddie

Mac, where 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.

Offshore drilling now up to Senate after House agrees to open waters long off limits

WASHINGTON (AP) — Offshore oil drilling, which has dominated energy debates in the presidential campaign, is now coming to the Senate.

The House late Tuesday approved on a 236-189 vote legislation that would open waters 50 miles off the Pacific and Atlantic coasts to oil and natural gas development — if the adjacent states agree to go along.

The legislation now goes to the Senate, where Democratic leaders are expected to mold it to their liking in the next few days.

So far, the Senate has indicated it has no intention of going as far as the House in expanding offshore oil and gas drilling beyond the western Gulf of Mexico, where energy companies have been pumping oil and gas for decades.

At least two proposals being crafted in the Senate would allow drilling in some areas along the southern Atlantic from Virginia to Georgia.

But the Pacific and remainder of the Atlantic seaboard would not be affected.



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A dog's tale

In 1956, author Fred Gipson penned the classic dog tale, *Old Yeller*, that was also turned into a family movie favorite. Each October, fans of the tale, inspired by a true story, come to Gipson's home town to honor the author and the story. Plus, controlling asthma and easy appetizers.

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News in brief

Rancher finds man's badly decayed body

MISSION (AP) — An autopsy will be performed to determine the cause of death of a man whose badly decayed body has been found by a local rancher.

Hidalgo County Sheriff Lupe Trevino said the rancher discovered the man's body in his cow pasture in the vicinity of Rancho Los Mirasoles, early Tuesday afternoon.

Authorities said the body was so decayed that it was impossible to identify anything beyond its gender.

The Monitor of McAllen reports the autopsy will be performed Wednesday. Trevino said officials hope to learn if the man's fingerprints can be run "if the skin is not too deteriorated."

Flood threatens West Texas border town

PRESIDIO (AP) — A levee holding back the swelling Rio Grande near this West Texas border town is in danger of bursting as the river continues to rise.

Presidio Mayor Lorenzo Hernandez said Tuesday night that the river could top the levee designed for a 25-year flood at any time.

"The levee breaking is our biggest concern. What comes after that we'll have to see," said a tired looking Hernandez, who spent part of Tuesday night answering phone calls at City Hall and listening to news reports of flooding to the south, in neighboring Ojinaga, Mexico.

Officials in Presidio, a dusty border town of about 5,000 people some 250 miles down river from El Paso,

have been keeping a close eye on the Rio Grande for nearly two weeks.

The river started swelling, first breaching its banks and then filling the wide channel between two earthen levees, after a series of storms soaked parts of the northern Mexican state of Chihuahua, which shares a border with parts of West Texas.

The flood threat prompted officials in Presidio to go door-to-door urging people to leave. They made the same plea from a helicopter. U.S. Customs and Border Protection officials also shut down the international bridge connecting Presidio to Ojinaga.

Killer of 93-year-old woman in \$10 burglary to die

HUNTSVILLE (AP) — Widespread power shortages in the Huntsville area were not affecting the scheduled execution of a Texas prisoner condemned for killing an elderly woman 10 years ago.

Former auto mechanic and laborer William Murray, 39, was set to die Wednesday evening. The execution would be the ninth this year in the nation's most active capital punishment state.

The Huntsville Unit of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, where lethal injections are carried out, had power, agency spokeswoman Michelle Lyons said.

Murray's appeals were exhausted and the Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles unanimously rejected a clemency request filed by his attorney, J. Stephen Bush, who acknowledged the attempt was "a very long shot."

Murray was condemned for the 1998 strangling and

rape of 93-year-old Rena Ratcliff during a burglary at her home in Kaufman County, just outside Dallas.

Evidence at his trial showed he'd been responsible for at least a dozen burglaries in his home area of Kaufman County, earning him a 10-year prison term. But he was released on probation just three months after going to prison.

Three months later, Ratcliff was killed in a burglary that got Murray less than \$10 from a jar of change and a brown-handled knife he later swapped for drugs.

14-year-old leads

Dallas police on chase

DALLAS (AP) — A 14-year-old teen allegedly threatened to kill his mother during a chase with police that ended in Fort Worth, police said.

No injuries were reported and no weapon was found in the car.

Police said in a statement that Tuesday night's chase started after the teen got into an argument with his 38-year-old mother.

After she tried to stop him from taking her car, he took it and allegedly refused to let her get out.

She called 911 and the teen led police on a chase on Interstate 30 headed west.

Fort Worth police eventually stopped the vehicle using spikes.

Dallas police said the teen allegedly attempted to slam on his brakes in order to cause police to crash into him.

Police said he also backed into at least one police car before he was taken into custody.



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- * Camper Pkg.
- * Dual Power Seats
- * Tailgate Step
- * Privacy Glass
- * Tow Command



* w/FMC Financing And Owner Loyalty

** w/FMC Financing

BOB BROCK FORD

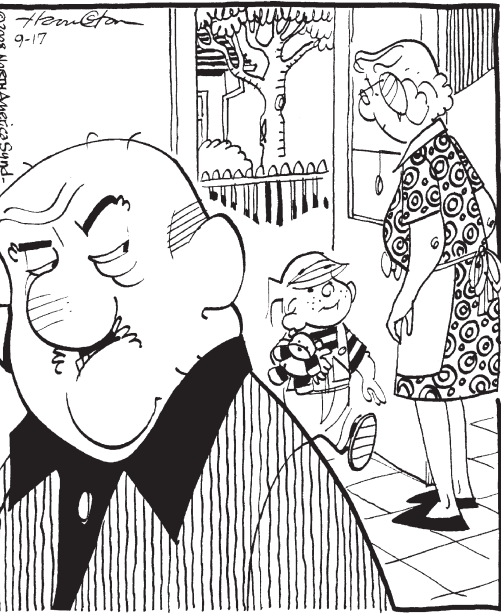


500 W. 4th

267-7424

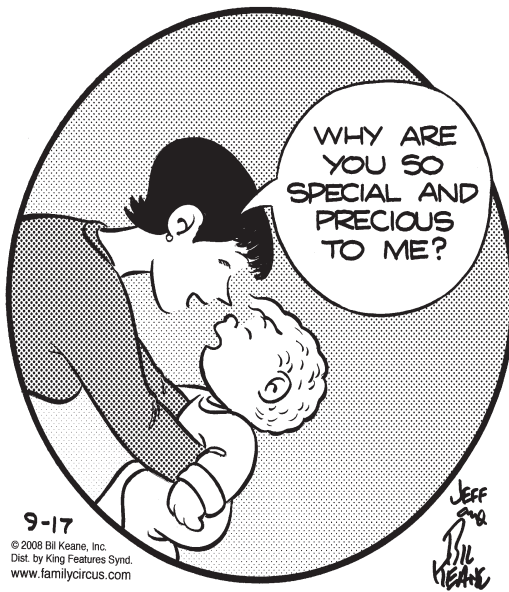
Table with 29 columns representing different TV channels and their respective programming for the day of September 17, 2008.

DENNIS THE MENACE



"I SEND THE KID HOME, BUT IT'S ALWAYS A ROUND-TRIP TICKET."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

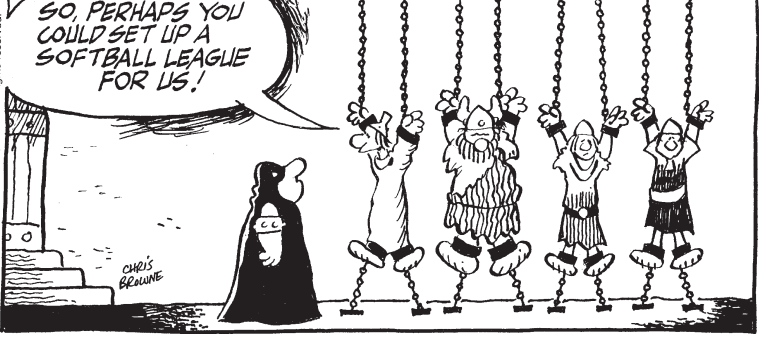


"I don't know, Mommy. I was just borned that way."

HAGAR

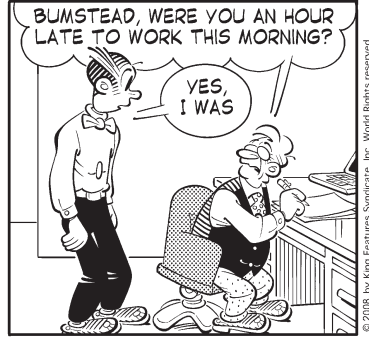


AUTHORITIES NOW SAY REGULAR EXERCISE IS VITAL TO A PERSON'S WELL-BEING...



SO, PERHAPS YOU COULD SET UP A SOFTBALL LEAGUE FOR US!

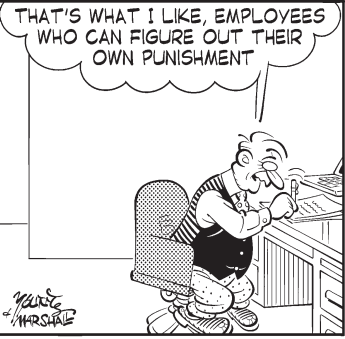
BLONDIE



BUMSTEAD, WERE YOU AN HOUR LATE TO WORK THIS MORNING?

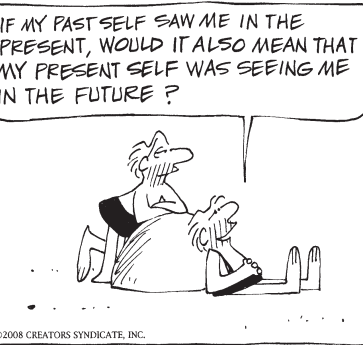


BUT TO MAKE UP FOR IT, I PLAN TO LEAVE AN HOUR EARLIER THIS EVENING.



THAT'S WHAT I LIKE, EMPLOYEES WHO CAN FIGURE OUT THEIR OWN PUNISHMENT

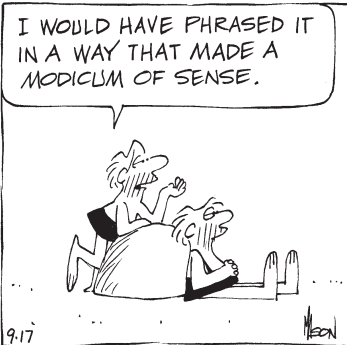
BC



IF MY PAST SELF SAW ME IN THE PRESENT, WOULD IT ALSO MEAN THAT MY PRESENT SELF WAS SEEING ME IN THE FUTURE?



I WISH I HAD SAID THAT.



I WOULD HAVE PHRASED IT IN A WAY THAT MADE A MODICUM OF SENSE.

WIZARD OF ID



I WAS JUST OVER AT OLD LINDY'S WAKE



OVER THREE HUNDRED



WOW, IF HE HAD KNOWN THAT MANY FOLKS WOULD SHOW UP, HE WOULD HAVE DIED YEARS AGO

AGNES



WOULD YOU LIKE TO JOIN MY EXCLUSIVE CLUB?



HA! IT CAN'T BE VERY EXCLUSIVE IF THEY LET YOU JOIN.



IT'S VERY EXCLUSIVE! WE EXCLUDE ALL PEOPLE WHO THINK EXCLUSIVITY IS IMPORTANT.

HI AND LOIS

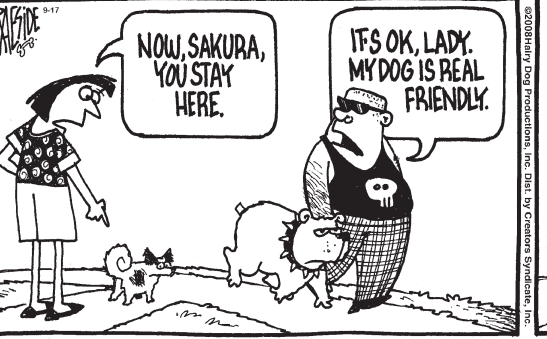


WHERE IS EVERYBODY?

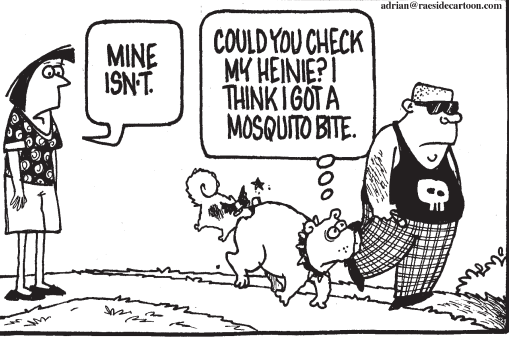


MOST PEOPLE DO THEIR BANKING ONLINE NOW.

THE OTHER COAST

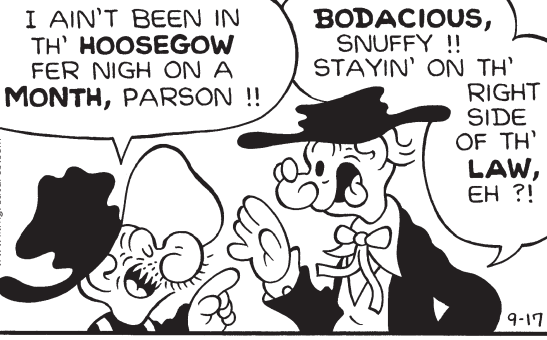


NOW, SAKURA, YOU STAY HERE.



IT'S OK, LADY. MY DOG IS REAL FRIENDLY.

SNUFFY SMITH

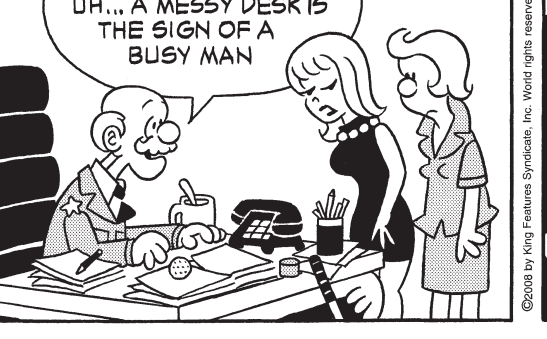


I AIN'T BEEN IN TH' HOOSGOW FER NIGH ON A MONTH, PARSON !!



BODACIOUS, SNUFFY !! STAYIN' ON TH' RIGHT SIDE OF TH' LAW, EH ?!

BEEBLE BAILEY



UH... A MESSY DESK IS THE SIGN OF A BUSY MAN



OR... A MESSY DESK IS THE SIGN OF A MAN BUSY AT SOMETHING OTHER THAN WORK

This Date In History

Today is Wednesday, Sept. 17, the 261st day of 2008. There are 105 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: One hundred years ago, on Sept. 17, 1908, Thomas E. Selfridge, a 1st Lieutenant in the U.S. Army Signal Corps, became the first person to die in the crash of a powered aircraft, the Wright Flyer.

On this date: In 1787, the Constitution of the United States was completed and signed by a majority of delegates attending the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia.

In 1862, in the bloodiest battle day in U.S. history, Union forces fought Confederate invaders in the Civil War Battle of Antietam at Sharpsburg, Md.

In 1920, the American Professional Football Association, a precursor of the National Football League, was formed in Canton, Ohio.

In 1939, the Soviet Union invaded Poland, more than two weeks after Nazi Germany had launched its assault.

In 1944, during World War II, Allied paratroopers launched Operation Market Garden, landing behind German lines in the Netherlands. (After initial success, the Allies were beaten back by the Germans.)

In 1947, James V. Forrestal was sworn in as the first U.S. Secretary of Defense.

In 1948, the United Nations mediator for Palestine, Count Folke Bernadotte, was assassinated in Jerusalem by Jewish extremists.

In 1978, after meeting at Camp David, Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin and Egyptian President Anwar Sadat signed a framework for a peace treaty.

In 1983, Vanessa L. Williams of New York became the first black contestant to be crowned Miss America. (The following July, she also became the first Miss America to resign in the wake of her Penthouse magazine scandal.)

In 1988, opening ceremonies for the Summer Olympics took place in Seoul, South Korea.

Today's Birthdays: Actor David Huddleston is 78. Sen. Charles E. Grassley (R-Iowa) is 75. Actor Paul Benedict is 70. Supreme Court Justice David H. Souter is 69.

Singer LaMonte McLemore (The Fifth Dimension) is 69. Singer Fee Waybill is 58. Actress Cassandra Peterson ("Elvira, Mistress of the Dark") is 57. Comedian Rita Rudner is 55. Muppeteer Kevin Clash is 48. Movie director Baz Luhrmann is 46. Singer BeBe Winans is 46. Actor Kyle Chandler is 43. Rapper Doug E. Fresh is 42. Actor Malik Yoba is 41. Rock musician Keith Flint (Prodigy) is 39. Actor Matthew Settle is 39. Rapper Vinnie (Naughty By Nature) is 38. Rock singer Anastacia is 35. Rhythm-and-blues singer Marcus Sanders (Hi-Five) is 35. Actress-singer Nona Gaye is 34. Singer-actor Constantine Maroulis is 33. Pop singer Maile Misajon (Eden's Crush) is 32. Country singer-songwriter Stephen Cochran is 29.

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Answer to previous puzzle crossword grid with filled-in letters.

Newsday Crossword

CANINE CORPS by Fred Piscop Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down words.