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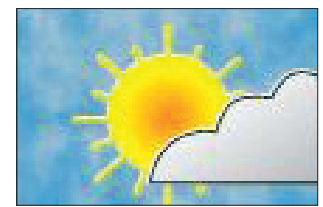


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HIGH BIG SPRING HERALD

THURSDAY

JUNE 25, 2009



VOLUME 104, NUMBER 174

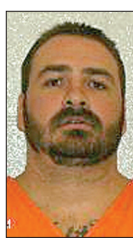
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Odessa man guilty

Jury sentences Rodney Laudell Mason Jr. to life in prison for murder

By THOMAS JENKINS
Staff Writer
GARDEN CITY — An Odessa man was found guilty of murder Wednesday in Garden City, the first homicide case for the small West Texas county in nearly 50 years.
Rodney Laudell Mason Jr.



Mason was found guilty of murder by a jury and sentenced to life in prison, according to 118th District Attorney Hardy L. Wilkerson, bringing the three-day trial to a close in Glasscock County.

According to Wilkerson, the conviction was the result of the hard work of law enforcement officials who investigated the homicide.
“I think Wednesday’s conviction and sentence are the reflection of the excellent work done by Glasscock County Sheriff Keith Burnett

and Texas Ranger Don Williams,” said Wilkerson following the conviction.
Mason was convicted of the March 2008 stabbing death of Timothy Wayne Sanchez, 18, of Odessa. Sanchez was found stabbed to death late on the evening of March 15, 2008, about 12 miles south of

Stanton on Highway 137, according to law enforcement reports.
Deputies received a 911 call at 9:46 p.m. in reference to a person being hit by an automobile. When they arrived at the scene, they found
See **MURDER**, Page 3A

Electrical revamp to put collegiate campuses in dark

By STEVE REAGAN
Staff Writer
The lights will be going out at Howard College this weekend.
College officials announced that a revamp of the Big Spring campus’ electrical system will result in a temporary power outage starting Friday and lasting until sometime Monday.
The first step of the upgrade, part of the college’s \$21.6 mil-

lion renovation project, will take effect at 5:30 p.m. today when the Web sites for HC and SouthWest Collegiate Institute for the Deaf are shut off. Thing go really dark the next day, when the power grid is shut down beginning at 8 a.m.
Dr. Cheryl Sparks, college president, said work on the college’s electrical infra-
See **OUTAGE**, Page 3A



Blanca Mercedes Mancha performs at the Permian Basin Fair and Expo. The local girl is in Dallas auditioning for an appearance on “American Idol.”

‘Idol’ hopeful

Big Spring girl auditioning for popular TV show

By ALEX NEWSOM
Herald Intern
Big Spring High School student Bianca Mercedes Mancha is currently in Dallas trying to make her dreams come true as she auditions for a spot on “American Idol,” the biggest reality television show of the decade.
She and her mother, Gloria Reese, left Tuesday morning, and around 10 p.m. that night joined the line that was already beginning to form. They had been planning to get up in the early morning hours of Wednesday, but Mancha said they saw the line beginning to form a little after 9 p.m. and decided they’d better get on down there.
“We were really lucky to make it to the front of the line,” Mancha said and estimated there was a turnout of more than 5,000 people. “People were around the whole Dallas Cowboys Stadium.”
While waiting in line, Mancha was interviewed and sang on the radio show “Kidd
See **IDOL**, Page 3A

Uncertainty over state aid clouds BSISD planning

By STEVE REAGAN
Staff Writer
Big Spring Independent School District trustees have begun crafting a new budget, but a large degree of uncertainty has been injected into the matter.
Budget-making is usually a fluid process in the best of times, but uncertainty over

state funding has made things even more unclear, at least for the time being.
Dr. Michael Stevens, interim superintendent for the district, said there is a rather large question on just how much state aid BSISD will receive during the next budget
See **BSISD**, Page 3A

District 3 residents talk trash

Large item collection set Friday

By THOMAS JENKINS
Staff Writer
Spring may be over, but the city of Big Spring still has cleaning on the brain, as municipal crews get ready for Friday’s large item pick-up in District 3.
Having begun in April in the city’s District 1, Friday’s effort will con-

centrate on the district represented by Councilwoman Jo Ann Staulcup, according to Assistant City Manager Todd Darden.
“We’ll go through one district each month until we’ve completed all six,” said Darden. “People have really been utilizing the program, which is exactly what we want, so

we’ll keep going strong until we finish District 6 later this year.”
Darden said there’s no charge to use the program, which aims to help area residents remove large, cumbersome items from their property they might not otherwise be able to transport to the landfill.
However, residents do need to be aware of what can and cannot be
See **TRASH**, Page 3A

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Sources: Cavs close to acquiring Shaq from Suns

TOM WITHERS
AP Sports Writer

CLEVELAND — The Cleveland Cavaliers are close to acquiring center Shaquille O'Neal in a trade that would pair him with MVP LeBron James, multiple people with knowledge of the deal told The Associated Press early Thursday.

The Cavs and Phoenix Suns have reached an agreement in principle on the deal, which gives Cleveland two of the league's biggest superstars.

O'Neal will join Cleveland in exchange for center Ben Wallace, guard Sasha Pavlovic, a second-round draft pick (No. 46 overall in Thursday's draft) and cash, said the two

people who spoke on condition of anonymity because the league still must approve the deal.

Yahoo! Sports first reported the deal.

The trade, which the sides had been discussing for months, gives the Suns financial flexibility in the future. O'Neal has just one season

left on a \$20 million contract and Wallace is in the final year of a \$14 million deal.

The Suns save \$10 million on the deal, half of it by lowering their payroll below the luxury tax limit. They plan to buy out Pavlovic, who has \$1.5 million of his \$4.95 million contract guaranteed.

Phoenix, which also gets

\$500,000 in cash from the Cavs, might save even more if Wallace decides to accept a buyout. The big center reportedly is considering retirement after battling injuries the last few seasons.

Owner Robert Sarver, whose banking and real estate

See **SHAQ**, Page 2B

LSU rips Texas for national title

Tiger bats explode in 6th to top 'Horns

ERIC OLSON
AP Sports Writer

OMAHA, Neb. — It's almost too much for Jared Mitchell to wrap his mind around.

Already a national champion in football and a first-round draft pick in baseball, Mitchell ended his college career Wednesday night with an NCAA title in baseball and the College World Series Most Outstanding Player Award.

Quite a way to go out. "If there's a better way, write the story for me," Mitchell said after LSU defeated Texas 11-4 in the winner-take-all Game 3 of the CWS finals.

Mitchell hit a three-run homer in the first inning to get the Tigers started. He batted .348 with two home runs, three doubles and seven RBIs in six games in Omaha.

The Tigers' big first inning came after Texas freshman Taylor Jungmann had limited them to five hits in a 5-1 loss in Game 2 on Tuesday.

"We were talking about getting an early lead," LSU first baseman Sean Ochinko said. "Jared's home run got the wheels spinning. That's what we needed at that point."

Mitchell, a receiver on the LSU team that won the BCS championship after the 2007 season, said he hoped to ignite the Tigers after their sluggish offensive performance the night before.

"In football, converting third downs wins championships," he said. "In baseball, clutch hits win championships. Who's going to get the big hit when we need it?"

Texas rallied to tie, but LSU put the game away with a five-run sixth inning.

Now a program that two years ago wasn't good enough to qualify for its conference tournament is the best team in college baseball again.

The Tigers (56-17) won their sixth national title — tied with Texas for second-most all-time behind USC's 12 — and first since 2000.

"It's an unbelievable feeling to be put in the position where you're remembered forever in Baton Rouge now," said Mitchell, a first-round pick of the Chicago White Sox. "To be in that company with the players who won championships, to put LSU baseball on top where it belongs, that is special."

"It's everybody pulling together, a sense of urgency we had, and we began to play our best ball at the end of the year."

It was the first national title for 51-year-old coach Paul Mainieri, who played his freshman year at LSU in 1976 and returned to the school after coaching stops at St. Thomas (Fla.), Air Force and Notre Dame.



AP photo/Ted Kirk

LSU players, including Leon Landry (6), pile up after defeating Texas 11-4 in the deciding game of the NCAA College World Series baseball finals in Omaha, Neb., Wednesday night.

"I've had wonderful feelings everywhere I've been," Mainieri said. "They're all feeling a part of this. I'm so happy for these kids. They've done everything I've asked."

"They played great. They played great defense. Our pitching has been solid all year. When we got to the end of the season everyone was determined they would get it done. It's

been a coach's dream to have a group like this."

The Tigers came into the CWS ranked No. 1 in the major polls, and that's where they'll finish after keeping Texas from becoming the first No. 1 seed to win the NCAA tournament since Miami in 1999.

"They are the best team we've played by far," Texas coach Augie Garrido said. "We didn't lose it. They won

it. It was a well-deserved championship."

Louis Coleman struck out Kevin Keyes for the second out in the ninth inning, bringing most of the 19,986 fans at Rosenblatt Stadium to their feet. Coleman struck out Connor Rowe for the final out, threw his glove high in the air and then sank to the bottom of the pile in front of the mound.

LSU won national

titles in 1991, '93, '96, '97 and 2000 under Skip Bertman. Though the Tigers made it back to the CWS two times under Smoke Laval — he went 0-4 here — the program fell off before Mainieri arrived three years ago.

His 2007 team, which included four regulars on the 2009 title team, failed to qualify for the

See **LSU**, Page 2B



AP photo/Jim Slosiarek/The Gazette

People react to the shooting of Aplington-Parkersburg football coach Ed Thomas Wednesday in Parkersburg, Iowa. Mark Becker, a 24-year-old former Aplington-Parkersburg High School football player, walked into the school's weight room Wednesday morning and fatally shot his former coach Ed Thomas, before sheriff's deputies arrested him at a nearby home a short time later.

Small Iowa town trying to overcome trauma of popular coach's murder by former player

NIGEL DUARA

Associated Press Writer

PARKERSBURG, Iowa — When a fatal tornado ripped through the rural Iowa town Ed Thomas called home, the local football coach became the driving force behind rebuilding. As a trusted and active church member, he encouraged the tiny community to have faith.

Parkersburg needed it Wednesday as they struggled with news of the longtime high school football coach's violent death at the hands of a gunman who police said was a former player.

"This is way worse than the tornado we went through," said Larry Pruisner, whose two grandsons played for Thomas. "Those things we can rebuild. We're not going to get Ed back. He's gone."

Thomas was more than Aplington-Parkersburg High School's football coach of 34 years, running up a 292-84 record with two state titles while sending four players to the NFL. He was a social studies teacher and driving instructor. He oversaw Sunday

school classes and served as an elder at First Congregational Church.

The 58-year-old known to everyone as "Coach" was gunned down Wednesday morning inside a weight room adjacent to the school while holding an off-season team workout. Investigators say former player Mark Becker, 24, walked past about 20 students before shooting Thomas several times and walking back out.

Becker, who was to have gone to a hospital psychiatric ward after allegedly leading police on a high-speed chase Saturday, was arrested a short time later in the driveway of his parents' home and charged with first-degree murder. Bond was set at \$1 million, and Becker's next scheduled court appearance is July 2. Police say they are still investigating a motive.

"Aside from my own father and mother, no one had a more profound impact on my life than Coach Thomas," said Detroit Lions defensive end Jared DeVries, one of four former players

Thomas watched rise to the NFL, which named him 2005 high school coach of the year. "Heaven just got a great football coach and an even better man."

The cruelest irony for this town about 80 miles northeast of Des Moines is that Thomas is widely credited with salvaging its spirit after the last disaster, a powerful tornado that shredded the southern third of the city and killed six in May 2008. The high school shone as a testament to the town's rebuilding and the football stadium — named for Thomas — often is referred to as the "Sacred Acre."

"You could see exactly what the football program means to Aplington-Parkersburg in the way the community pulled together to restore the football field after the tornado. That is a reflection of Coach Thomas," said Denver Broncos center Casey Wiegmann. "I cannot begin to count the number of lives he affected in this community."

See **COACH**, Page 2B

Obituaries

William K. 'Bill' Slagle

William K. "Bill" Slagle, 91, of Big Spring died Tuesday, June 23, 2009, at the Martin County Hospital. A memorial service will be held at a later date.

He was born Sept. 5, 1917, in Murphysboro, Ill., to Eula and Charles Slagle. He lived in East St. Louis, Ill., and graduated from Washington University with a degree in electrical engineering. He moved to Albuquerque in 1959 and taught school there until 1979, when he moved to Big Spring. After moving to Big Spring he was a substitute teacher from 1975 until 1986. He was a Methodist.

He is survived by a niece; three nephews; and a multitude of friends and caregivers.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by one sister and brother-in-law, Martha and George Youngman.

The family suggests memorials to Martha J. Slagle Youngman Nursing Scholarship Fund at Howard College.

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

Boyce 'Buddy' Howerton

Boyce "Buddy" Howerton, 74, of Big Spring died Wednesday, June 24, 2009, at Lamun-Lusk-Sanchez State Veterans Home. Memorial services will be at 4: p.m. Friday at Myers & Smith Chapel with the Rev. H. Alan Matthies officiating.

He was born Oct. 26, 1934, in Big Spring to Lillie and Kent Howerton. He grew up in Big Spring and Amarillo, and served in the U.S. Air Force. In his younger years, he worked at the truck stop in Big Spring. He returned to Big Spring in 2007.

He is survived by two sisters, Barbara Sue King of Oklahoma City, Okla., and Evelyn Gray of Weatherford; one brother, Jerry Howerton of Midland; and several nieces, nephews and cousins.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife, Mary Jo; three children, Roger Howerton, Wendell Howerton and Sherry Howerton; and one brother, R.C. Huddleston.

The family suggests memorials to the American Cancer Society, c/o Carolyn Brooks, P.O. Box 2121, Big Spring 79721.

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

Olin Bearden

Olin Bearden, 81, of Coahoma died Tuesday, June 23, 2009, at the Marcy House. Graveside services will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday at Coahoma Cemetery with the Rev. Donita Lea officiating. The family will receive friends from 6 p.m. until 7 p.m. Friday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

He was born June 9, 1928, in Snyder to Ruby and Leonard Bearden. He grew up in Scurry County and moved to Big Spring in 1962. He was a veteran of the U.S. Navy and had worked for Cosden starting in 1962. He retired from Fina in 1986. He was a member of the First United Methodist Church in Coahoma.

He is survived by two sons, Rick Bearden of Woodstock, Md., and Kenny Bearden and wife Karen of Big Spring; four grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; and one brother, Clyde Bearden and wife Wanda of Lubbock.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife, Jeannine, Dec. 3, 2004; and four brothers, Robert, Frank, Ronald and Lowell Bearden.

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

Sheriff

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

Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 81 inmates at the time of this report.

• MICHAEL ARTHUR BROWN, 38, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of theft.

• JESSIE CASTILLO, 44, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while license invalid with a previous conviction or suspension.

• PAUL FLANNELL, 51, was transferred to the county jail Thursday by the BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.

• LYNDON TRENT FRAYLEY, 49, was arrested Thursday by the HCSO on a charge of public intoxication.

• TRACY LYNN GONZALES, 23, was transferred

See SHERIFF, Page 3A

Charles R. 'Pappy' Chatwell

Charles R. "Pappy" Chatwell, 82 of Midland died Tuesday, June 23, 2009, at his home.

Pappy was born April 15, 1927, in Tuscola to William Chatwell and Willie Wolfenburger Chatwell. He was an Army veteran and was stationed in Germany.

He was preceded in death by his parents and one brother, Bill Chatwell.

He is survived by his wife of 64 years, Joyce Chatwell of the home; one son, Robert Allan Chatwell of Midland; two daughters, Charlene

Parkhill and husband Jimmy of Big Spring, Deborah Lynn Choat and husband Jimmy of San Angelo; three brothers, Don Chatwell of Oklahoma, Jim Chatwell of Rockport and Jack Chatwell of Thermopolis, Wyo.; two sisters, Margaret Skinner of Payson, Ariz., and Roma Thompson of Big Spring. He is also survived by five grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

The family will receive friends at Ellis Funeral Home from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Friday, June 26, 2009. Graveside services will be at 10 a.m. Saturday, June 27, 2009, at Serenity Memorial Gardens.

In lieu of flowers donations may be made to the American Cancer Society, P.O. Box 22718 Oklahoma City, OK 73123.

Arrangements are under the direction of Ellis Funeral Home of Midland. To place online condolences please visit www.mem.com.

Carolina Rivas

Carolina Rivas, 81, of Lenorah died Wednesday, June 24, 2009, in an Odessa hospital. Her services are pending with Gilbreath Funeral Home of Stanton.

Police blotter

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

• JARVIS PRESTON, 28, of Midland, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of possession of a controlled substance.

• BRYANT JONES, 31, of Colorado City, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of possession of a controlled substance.

• GARY HUBBARD, 51, of Midland, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of possession of a controlled substance.

• ROBERTO VASQUEZ JR., 17, of 3610 Hamilton, was arrested Wednesday on six local warrants.

• MICHAEL BROWN, 28, of 3606 Calvin, was arrested Wednesday on a non-local warrant.

• JESSE CASTILLO, 44, of 1904 S. Johnson, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of driving while license invalid.

• BYRON ROBERTS, 24, of 1900 S. Main St., was arrested Wednesday on a charge of possession of marijuana – two ounces or less.

• JENNIFER PEREZ, 30, of 613 Linda Lane, was arrested Wednesday on a local warrant.

• BRYON PAYNE, 23, of 1509 Stadium, was arrested Wednesday on three local warrants.

• JOSHUA THOMPSON, 21, of 401 Dallas, was arrested Wednesday on two local warrants and a charge of public intoxication.

• TRACY GONZALES, 23, of 2707 Hernandez Rd., was arrested Wednesday on a charge of no driver's license when unlicensed.

• THEFT was reported: in the 900 block of Willia.

• POSSESSION OF A CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE was reported near the 171 mile marker of Interstate Highway 20.

• DISORDERLY CONDUCT – FIGHTING was reported in the 1500 block of Sycamore.

• ASSAULT CAUSING BODILY INJURY – FAMILY VIOLENCE was reported in the 3600 block of Hamilton.

• ASSAULT CAUSING BODILY INJURY was reported in the 1100 block of Stanford.

• ARSON – INTENTIONALLY STARTING A FIRE / RECKLESS DAMAGE was reported in the 1900 block of Martin Luther King Blvd. According to Big Spring Fire Marshall Carl Condray, a 1996 GMC pickup was set on fire at Knollwood apartments at approximately 3:10 a.m. Wednesday morning. No injuries were reported as a result of the fire and the loss was estimated at approximately \$5,000.

Fire/EMS

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

• TRAFFIC ACCIDENT was reported near the intersection of FM 700 and Wasson Road. Service refused.




• MEDICAL was reported in the 100 block of E. Second Street. One person was transported to SMMC.

• TRAFFIC ACCIDENT was reported near the intersection of Birdwell Lane and Morrison. One person was transported to SMMC.

• MEDICAL was reported in the 1500 block of Sycamore. One person was transported to SMMC.

• MEDICAL was reported in the 1200 block of Mesa. One person was transported to SMMC.

Your Local Weather

Fri 6/26	Sat 6/27	Sun 6/28
 97/73 A mainly sunny sky. High 97F. Winds SE at 5 to 10 mph.	 97/74 Abundant sunshine. Highs in the upper 90s and lows in the mid 70s.	 90/71 Times of sun and clouds. Highs in the low 90s and lows in the low 70s.

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Bulletin Board

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

TODAY

• League of United Latin American Citizens LULAC Chapter 4791 meets at 5:30 p.m. at the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce. The public is invited.

FRIDAY

• Signal Mountain Quilting Guild meets from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. at 1019 Nolan St. Call 267-1037 or 267-7281 for more information.

• AMBUCS meet at noon in La Posada Restaurant.

• Greater Big Spring Rotary Club meets at noon at the Howard College Cactus Room.

• Dance at the Senior Center, 1901 Simler, from 7:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.

MONDAY

• Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) No. 21 meets at the First Christian Church at 10th and Goliad, in the dining hall on the east side of the building. Weigh-in starts at 5:30 p.m. and the meeting begins at 6 p.m. There is a different program each week. For more information, call 213-1342 or 263-6819.

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

TUESDAY

• Big Spring Rotary Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room.

Lottery

The winning numbers drawn in the Lotto Texas drawing Wednesday night: 1-7-16-17-23-41.

The winning Cash Five numbers drawn Wednesday by the Texas Lottery: 8-12-29-30-34.

The winning Daily 4 numbers drawn Wednesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 1-9-0-4. Sum 14.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Wednesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 7-1-5. Sum 13.

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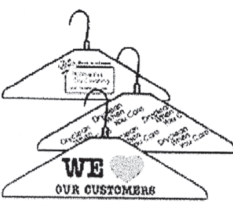
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Scriptwriter Serena reaches 3rd round at Wimbledon

STEVEN WINE

AP Sports Writer

WIMBLEDON, England — Serena Williams is writing a TV script that borrows from some of her favorite shows, including "Desperate Housewives," "Sex and the City" and "Family Guy."

Then there's the other script she has in mind — the one that ends with her winning Wimbledon next week.

Her attention was on the latter storyline Wednesday afternoon, when she advanced to the third round by beating Jarmila Groth 6-2, 6-1. Williams is seeking her third Wimbledon title and her first since 2003.

"I should have won more than twice here," she said. "Hopefully I can rectify that this year."

The victory took only 57 minutes, leaving Williams with lots of time to

get back to her TV script treatment.

"You'll be excited to know I wrote three parts already," she said. "I was going to do it (Tuesday), but I started watching 'Dexter' and I got a little sidetracked. You know what, today's a good day. I can write. For me it's really about being in the mood, and how I'm feeling."

Williams always keeps busy. She's an actress, a clothing designer and the winner of 10 Grand Slam titles, most recently this year's Australian Open. She writes a blog — in one entry this week, she complained about Wimbledon rules prohibiting food in the players' locker rooms. She has a ghostwritten autobiography due this year.

And now she wants to write for television.

"Definitely for TV," she said.



AP photo/Kirsty Wigglesworth

Serena Williams returns to Jarmila Groth of Australia, during their second round singles match at Wimbledon Wednesday.

SHAQ

Continued from Pg. 1B

interests have suffered greatly in the economic downturn, said last Saturday that he didn't mind paying a luxury tax for a good team. But Phoenix failed to make the playoffs, and the Suns are in the midst of what amounts to a rebuilding effort.

In Cleveland, O'Neal could be the missing piece for James to win a first championship. The 7-foot hoops icon known best as "Shaq" but by many other aliases, certainly gives the city a surge of star power.

O'Neal's addition also provides Cleveland with some much needed size in its frontcourt. The Cavs couldn't stop Orlando center Dwight Howard in the Eastern

Conference finals, losing the series in six games and seeing a 66-win regular season and deep playoff run come up short.

O'Neal can still bang inside, which is why Cavaliers general manager Danny Ferry tried to acquire him before the trading deadline in February. Ferry and Suns GM Steve Kerr are former NBA teammates and good friends.

The Suns were a West-leading 34-14 when they acquired O'Neal in February 2008. He averaged 17.8 points and 8.4 rebounds last season and appeared in his 15th All-Star game, stealing the show with a goofy dance during pregame introductions at U.S. Airways Center.

O'Neal answered to "the Big Cactus" in the desert, but the plodding 7-foot-1, 325-pounder seemed a strange fit with

the up-tempo Suns.

Popular coach Mike D'Antoni, who reportedly pushed management to acquire Shaq, left at the end of O'Neal's first season.

D'Antoni was replaced by Terry Porter, who was fired midseason after a failed attempt to get the team to play better defense.

The Suns won one playoff game in O'Neal's 1½ seasons — and last spring they failed to qualify for the postseason for the first time since 2004.

Soon after the season ended, speculation began to grow that the club was looking to deal O'Neal while his trade value was still high.

The Suns might not be finished with big trades. All-Star Amare Stoudemire, who can opt out of his contract, also is being mentioned prominently in poten-

tial deals.

With James' potential free agency looming after next season, the Cavaliers feel an even greater sense of urgency to win the city's first pro sports championship since 1964. By bringing in O'Neal, they have again demonstrated to the 24-year-old James that they're willing to make bold moves while keeping themselves in good financial position.

If the O'Neal-James pairing doesn't work out, the Cavs might be able to trade the perennial All-Star next February and would have more money to spend in the Summer of 2010 on what is being called the greatest free agency class in league history.

James and O'Neal have known each other for years.

When James was a high school phenom in Akron, Ohio, O'Neal at-

tended one of his games and the two have remained close. James has often wondered what He's about to find out.

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.

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

COACH

Continued from Pg. 1B

Friends and family said for all his sporting success, Thomas took the most pride in his Christian faith and carried his morals on and off the field.

"He could go into the locker room and give you the biggest chewing out you ever saw, but you would never hear a curse word," Pruisner said.

Thomas was content to stay in Parkersburg and wasn't much for vacations, but earlier this month he took off for Hawaii with his two sons and their wives in tow.

Pruisner later heard Thomas was eager to get back.

"His vacation was out here on the football field," Pruisner said.

The coach also seemed content with his play-book.

He stuck to about five plays and ran an old-fashioned Wing-T, an offensive formation that generally fell out of favor when Dick Clark first hosted American Bandstand. They worked for years.

"Some people want to call him old-fashioned," said local barber Tom Teeple, who called Thomas his best friend. "But this is what it was all about to him. Consistency."

If not for a shattered leg in an accident early in his career at William Penn, Thomas may have found himself on

the playing field rather than the sidelines. But friends said once he turned to coaching, he never looked back.

Teeple can still rattle off Thomas' slowly improving records as a young coach at a Northeast Hamilton Community School in Blairsburg, Iowa: 0-9, 3-6, 6-3. Thomas didn't ask his players to be great athletes, but he did require them to buy into his system: stay in shape, stay out of trouble and the rest would work itself out.

"He was the epitome of what I would have liked

to have been, salt of the earth" Teeple said. "I am a better person for having known Ed."

Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

Sylvia Strikes Again

South dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
 ♠ K 9 6 5
 ♥ K Q J
 ♦ 9 7
 ♣ K 8 6 3

WEST
 ♠ —
 ♥ 10 9 8 7
 ♦ A 8 6 4 3
 ♣ 9 7 5 4

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

SOUTH
 ♠ A Q J 10 8 3 2
 ♥ A 6 4
 ♦ K J 10
 ♣ —

The bidding:
 South West North East
 1♠ Pass 3♣ Pass
 6♣

Opening lead — ten of hearts.

The first time I played against Sylvia was an experience I'll never forget. Her conception of the game was totally unlike that of anyone I had ever met. It was not so much that she played badly as it was that she played differently. She certainly got the best of me on this deal.

I was South, declarer at six spades. West led a heart, and I could see at once that everything hinged on losing only one diamond trick.

It was clear that if East (Sylvia) had the A-Q, I could not fail to make

the slam. It was also obvious that if West had the A-Q, nothing could help me.

The only cases that mattered were those where West had the ace and East the queen, or West the queen and East the ace. Here I would have to guess how to play the diamonds to make the contract.

Such guesses are, of course, not just a matter of luck. In order to help me find the right play, I won the heart, drew trumps and led the king of clubs from dummy. I was sure this would locate the ace of clubs, and this in turn would give me a better idea of who had the ace of diamonds.

But when I led the king of clubs, Sylvia played the deuce! Sylvia, as you may know, had a stubborn streak in her makeup, and she held firmly to the conviction that if I wanted her to play an ace on a king, she was not going to oblige me by doing so.

I ruffed the club, making a mental note that West had the ace. This naturally convinced me that West could not have the ace of diamonds, since with two aces, he would surely have led one of them initially.

So I crossed to dummy with a heart, led a diamond and, after Sylvia followed low, confidently played the king. West took the ace and returned a diamond, and down I went, another addition to Sylvia's long string of victims.

Tomorrow: Charting the course of play.
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Road Construction Blues

At the Big Spring Herald we are suffering through the same road construction problems as everyone else. Over the last 2 weeks the front of our building has had no parking and it has been very hard for our customers to get to us. It is now available for parking and our newspaper racks that are out front are again available. We also realize that it is not easy to get to places on Gregg St. to get your copy of the paper. We would like to make everyone aware of all the different locations the Big Spring Herald is sold at for your convenience.

All the 7-11 Stores	Park's Convenience	All the Star Stops
Wes-T-Go	H-E-B	Zoom Grocery
Fast Stop Wasson Rd.	D's One Stop	Wal*Mart
Gold Rush	Fast Stop East 4 th	Travel Centers of America
Travel Mart	Buffalo Country Fina	Kate's Fina Mart
Town & Country	Town & Country (Coahoma)	Little Sooper (Coahoma)

Racks:

Medicine Center Pharmacy	Whataburger	Herman's
VA Hospital	McDonald's	Cowboy's Steakhouse
Greg's Grill	Chicken Express	Neighbor's Convenience
Brenda's BBQ	Denny's	Texas Cajun Café
Kwikies	Dollar General (Stanton)	Lawrence Brothers (Stanton)
Uncles (Sand Springs)	Lakeway Grocery (Sand Springs)	
Big Spring Dairy Queens		

We have now added Newspaper Racks at both Big Spring Dairy Queens locations for your convenience.

SHERIFF

Continued from Page 2A

to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on charges of no driver's license and failure to maintain financial responsibility.

- GARY LEE HUBBARD, 51, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of possession of a controlled substance.
- BRYANT STEDMAN JONES, 31, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of possession of a controlled substance.
- BRYON PATRICK PAYNE, 23, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on charges of failure to maintain financial responsibility, no driver's license and possession of a controlled substance.
- JENNIFER ROSE PEREZ, 30, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a local warrant.
- JARVIS DARNELL PRESTON, 28,

was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of possession of a controlled substance.

- BYRON ZACHARY ROBERTS, 24, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of possession of marijuana — two ounces or less.
- MARK TIMOTHY STANLEY, 47, was transferred to the county jail Thursday by the BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.
- JOSHUA LYNN THOMPSON, 21, was transferred to the county jail Thursday by the BSPD on a charge of public intoxication and warrants for driving while license invalid/suspended and violation of a promise to appear.
- FRANK ALEXANDER TREVINO, 20, was arrested Thursday by the HCSO on a motion to revoke probation.
- ROBERTO VASQUEZ, 17, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on charges of no driver's license (two counts), failure to maintain financial responsibility and three local warrants.

Court says strip search of Arizona teenager illegal

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court ruled Thursday that a school's strip search of an Arizona teenage girl accused of having prescription-strength ibuprofen was illegal.

In an 8-1 ruling, the justices said school officials violated the law with their search of Savana Redding in the rural eastern Arizona town of Safford.

Redding, who now attends college, was 13 when officials at Safford Middle School ordered her to remove her clothes and shake out her underwear because they were looking for pills — the equivalent of two Advils. The district bans prescription and over-the-counter drugs and the school was acting

on a tip from another student. "What was missing from the suspected facts that pointed to Savana was any indication of danger to the students from the power of the drugs or their quantity, and any reason to suppose that Savana was carrying pills in her underwear," Justice David Souter wrote in the majority opinion. "We think that the combination of these deficiencies was fatal to finding the search reasonable."

In a dissent, Justice Clarence Thomas found the search legal and said the court previously had given school officials "considerable leeway" under the Fourth Amendment in school settings.

MURDER

Continued from Page 1A

Sanchez lying by the roadway, according to Burnett.

An autopsy determined cause of death to be from multiple stab wounds, which totaled more than 30 strikes,

according to Wilkerson. The autopsy report revealed at least three of the stab wounds could have ended Sanchez's life, he added.

"You never take anything for granted when you're presenting evidence to a jury," said Wilkerson. "You have to work toward a goal, and you have to work hard until you

achieve it. That's how we approached this case, and I feel like justice has been served."

Once the jury brought back the guilty verdict, Wilkerson said the punishment phase of the trial moved along quickly.

"We presented evidence concerning two prior convic-

tions for aggravated robbery he had served time for in New Mexico," said Wilkerson. "The defense didn't offer any evidence during the punishment phase. I can't say the sentence surprised me. It was exactly what we had asked the jury to deliver."

Wilkerson said Mason will

have to serve a minimum of 30 years in a Texas Department of Criminal Justice facility before he is eligible for parole.

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

OUTAGE

Continued from Page 1A

structure will be completed Monday — but the work will come with a catch.

"We won't have any electrical service for those three days,"

Sparks said earlier this month, "so we'll have to shut down most of the campus."

No summer school activities are scheduled for that period, so Sparks said disruptions will be minimized.

"We looked at all different kinds of scenarios and we decided this was

the best of our alternatives," Sparks said.

The Web sites for HC and SWCID will be back up and running "as soon as possible" Monday, according to information released by HC official Cindy Smith. Howard's athletic Web site — www.hchawk.com — will not be effected

by the shutdown, Smith added.

All power and communication outlets on the Big Spring campus — including telephone, fax and computer networks — will be effected during the power outage.

Enhanced security will be on campus throughout the outage,

Smith noted. Full electrical service will be restored Monday morning.

"We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause and appreciate your patience as we strive to improve our campus to better serve the needs of our students and communi-

ties," Smith stated. For more information, contact Smith at 264-5034 — by this afternoon, of course.

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

BSISD

Continued from Page 1A

cycle. "We're still not certain what the state's going to do in that area," Stevens said. "And we're going to wait and see what happens there before we go any further."

The problem, Stevens said, has to do with questionable state use of federal funds.

"As it stands, the state

is using federal stimulus money to provide aid to local districts," he said. "There's a question on whether they can do that ... so a lot of school districts, not just Big Spring, are in limbo right now while they sort things out."

The use of federal stimulus money as direct aid to local schools severely impacts a proposed teacher pay raise, officials said.

"Right now, one of the biggest holdups is that

the teacher pay raise passed by the legislature is predicated on using stimulus money and there's a big question on whether the U.S. Department of Education will allow that," said Sandra Waggoner, chief financial officer for BSISD.

As things stand, a pay raise for teachers, librarians and counselors seems fairly certain. How big that raise will be, however, is very much up in the air, Waggoner said.

"There's just no way we can say for sure right now," she said. "But teachers should at least receive their normal step raises."

Waggoner said questions about state aid have made work on this year's budget more difficult than in the past.

"Last year, we knew how much funding we would get," Waggoner said. "But this year, the way the situation has changed, it's so much more difficult that we're

still trying to figure things out."

This does not mean that BSISD will be late crafting a budget this year, but local officials would appreciate some direction from their state counterparts.

"It's something that changes every few days," Waggoner said of state guidelines. "But we have enough leeway (in the budget) that if things change drastically, we can still make things work."

Waggoner promises a balanced budget with few big-ticket bells and whistles. The district plans to purchase two buses and four smaller trucks, but that's basically the expense of special purchases, she said.

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

IDOL

Continued from Page 1A

Kraddick in the Morning."

"Jenna from Kidd Kraddick was in the front talking to people," the 17-year old said. "So I've already received some attention, but the whole situation is kind of crazy. I'm so excited. Everyone was just so happy to be there."

Her mother said, "Everyone in line was singing while they were waiting. That's not really Bianca's personality, but she sang once and then several people were like, 'That little girl can sing.' Even some of the other hopeful contestants said something."

"She's got the pipes; it's just getting past that first round," Reese remarked.

Though some may think her mother is

slightly biased, the sheer number of awards Mancha has won in the past proves her mother's not the only one impressed. According to Reese, Mancha has performed at the Johnnie High's Country Music Revue in Arlington, Billy Bob's Texas in Fort Worth and the Odessa Music City Mall. She won the grand prize twice in the talent competition in Odessa and the grand prize at the 2008 Permian Basin

Fair and Expo Talent Show and intends to enter again this year. She is the lead singer for the youth band at Family Faith Victory Center and sings at weddings, parties and local sporting events for Howard College and Big Spring High School.

She had hoped to audition last year when she was 16, the age minimum, but she came down with the flu and was unable to perform.

Mancha has three songs prepared for auditions Friday: "You're Gonna Love Me" by Jennifer Hudson, "Listen" by Beyonce and "A Broken Wing" by Martina McBride. She has to audition for three producers before she can audition for the actual judges.

"I'm so thrilled to be pursuing my dreams. I'll try to represent

Big Spring well," she said. "Keep me in your prayers."

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL
24th & Johnson 267-8288

Olin Bearden, 81, died Tuesday. Graveside services will be at 11:00 AM Saturday at Coahoma Cemetery. The family will receive friends from 6:00 until 7:00 PM Friday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

William K. "Bill" Slagle, 91, died Tuesday. A Memorial Service will be held at a later date.

Boyce "Buddy" Howerton, 74, died Wednesday. Memorial Services will be at 4:00 PM Friday at Myers & Smith Chapel.

TRASH

Continued from Page 1A

picked up, he said. "Some of the more typical items we pick up are appliances that don't work anymore, couches and mattresses," said Darden. "Those are the kind of things that we can take to our landfill and we're allowed to pick up. However, we can't pick up any household hazardous waste. That means any kind of chemicals including lawn chemicals, car batteries and tires and things of that nature.

We also won't be picking up any tree branches, shrubs or things like that.

"We're trying to target people who are elderly, handicapped or otherwise don't have the means to get these large items to our landfill. This is a service the city is going to provide as a courtesy to those people and give them the opportunity to get things off of their property they might not be able to otherwise."

All items must be by the curb in the city's right-of-way no sooner than 24 hours before the scheduled pick up.

Items need to be separated as much as possible for its trip to the municipal landfill.

"To be placed on the pick up list, all residents have to do is call 264-2504 or 264-2501, and we'll get them set up. If they don't call and get on the list, we can't pick up their items."

Darden said customers need to be aware of gas, water and electricity meters and lines when they put their large items out to be picked up.

"A lot of time we have to bring in equipment to pick those large items up," he said. "If you

cover the meters up, it's hard for us to know where they are. Using the equipment makes the pick up go quicker and we want to make sure our employees are safe while they are picking these things up."

For more information on the large item pick up program and maps of the six city districts, visit the city of Big Spring Web site at www.ci.big-spring.tx.us or call 264-2504.

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

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AN ENCOURAGING WORD



By Eddy Pitchford

As a batter watches the pitcher release the ball, there is a moment when he must decide if he will swing the bat. To put off that decision is to decide — by default. Of course, life is filled with many other moments of decision.

Many people put off obedience to God and therefore, disobey — by default. Scripture challenges us, "Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow... Anyone, then, who knows the good he ought to do and doesn't do it, sins." (James 4:14-17)

Prompt, decisive obedience is illustrated in Acts 16:33, "At that hour of the night the jailer took them and washed their wounds; then immediately he and his family were baptized."

Have you delayed obeying God? "And now what are you waiting for..." (Acts 22:16)

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Garage Sales

2507 REBECCA:- Tools, electronics, men's & women's plus size clothing plus much more. Friday 8-3 & Saturday 8-1. No Early Sales Please.

4 FAMILY GARAGE Sale: 205 Washington, Saturday 7:30-12:30. Toys, boys clothes 3T, women's & men's clothes, household items, linens, Christmas items, You Don't Want to Miss This One! Lots of great stuff.

AVON STOCK Clearance Sale! Saturday 9-5, 614 Dallas Street. Up to a 50% discount on Avon Stock! Credit Cards & Checks Welcome.

BACK YARD sale: 2611 Central Dr. Saturday 8:00-? Stroller, car seat, bassinet, crib, toddler bed, clothes, furniture, bedding, lots of misc.

CARPOR SALE: 701 Colgate Ave., Saturday 8-2. Coca Cola items, infants-kids & women's clothes, dishes, microwave and lots more. CHEAP, CHEAP!!

DON'T MISS THIS Huge Yard Sale: Friday Only 8:00-3:00, 103 Rocco Rd. (Sandsprings). Tons of very nice girls size 4-10 name brand clothing for summer and back to school. Black antique cottage bedroom suite with mattresses (350.00) white bedroom furniture, metal bunk bed w/couch futon on bottom, antique children's desk, nice toys, little Tyke house and picnic table, tons of bedding and home decor. (432)517-0190.

NEW AD

ESTATE SALE: Dishes, furniture, collectibles, linens, craft supplies, art works, art supplies, artificial plants, mirrors, yard tools, TV's, clothes, etc. Everything must go even the house. 2406 Morrison, Friday & Saturday 8am till whenever.

ESTATE/YARD SALE: Saturday 7am-4pm, 2720 Cindy. Too much to list.

THREE FAMILY Garage Sale. Sat. 8:00-2:00, 2905 S. Goliad. No Early Birds. Childrens clothes (girls), furniture, household items, knick-knacks, Christmas & Wedding deco., Too much to list. Come See!!

GARAGE SALE GODDESS is DECLUTTERING! 2203 East 25th (Kentwood), Saturday 8:00-1:00. Display racks, couch, glassware, antique sideboard, Little Tikes sand/water table, old books. Brownies and Snow Cones.

GARAGE SALE: 1514 East 18th (behind Harris Lumber), Friday & Saturday 8 till? Antiques, coke items, rod and reels, 2 BBQ pits, tools, signs, and misc. items.

GARAGE SALE: 3235 Cornell Ave., Friday 8-? & Saturday 7-? All size clothes, knick-knacks, mustang seats and lots of everything..

GARAGE SALE: 710 South Lancaster. Saturday 7:00-2:00. Cookbooks, kitchenware, books, large ladies clothing, a/c, and lots of misc.

HUGE MOVING Sale: 2612 Chanute, Friday & Saturday 8-? Washer, dryer, refrigerator, stove, go cart, tools, household items, knick-knacks, linens and lots more. Everything must go!!

Garage Sales

GARAGE SALE: Allan's Furniture we're cleaning out the warehouse. Odd pieces starting at \$5.00. Large selection of tables, chairs, footboards, odds & ends. 202 Scurry, 9:00am-5:00pm.

GARAGE SALE: Friday & Saturday 8-12, 4 Craigmont Court behind First Baptist Church. 2 Recliners, baby things, small toys, business and casual good size 16 clothing, sheets and bedspreads. Lots of stuff.

GARAGE SALE: Saturday 8am-1pm, 1321 Tucson. Black couch & matching loveseat, blue suede couch & loveseat, patio furniture, computer desk, boys clothes 3T-16, girls from 24 month-16, dishes and lots of miscellaneous, end tables, lamps and lots more.

HUGE YARD Sale: 1506 Kiowa St., Friday & Saturday 9:00-2:00. Mary Lee's selling off her magnificent collection of unique Americana/ Texana/ "countrified" goodies also handcrafted display case. Jenna's dissolving her book collection. Rare & collectible titles. Yes, but also thousands of books @ .25c each- all Genres Christie will be selling her famous burritos. Also lots of Furniture and housewares.

MULTI FAMILY Garage Sale, Saturday, 7:30-1:00. 4217 Theo/ Willard. Batman/ Spiderman/ Starwars collectibles, Beanie Babies- Pampered Chef items, women's- men's- boy's & girl's clothes.

MULTI FAMILY Garage Sale: 400 East 20th St., Thursday & Friday 8-5. Washer, dryer, big screen TV, children's clothes (all sizes.) and misc. items.. Too much to list.

MULTI FAMILY: 2719 Central, Friday Afternoon & Saturday 8-12. Coffee table, drapes, nice clothes, aquarium stuff, bicycle and lots of misc.

MULTI. FAMILY Garage Sale, Friday & Saturday, 7:00-1:00, 2612 Carol. Toys, household items, game table, tools, suitcases, furniture, kids & adult clothes, book shelves, kids kitchen and lots more.

YARD SALE: 607 Circle Dr. Thursday & Friday. Electric stove (like new) \$175.00, table and chairs, bed and frame, dishes, tools, garden tools, lumber, lots of misc.

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For more information go to www.mybigspring.com or call (432)264-2346

COMFORT INN is now hiring housekeeping with competitive pay. Please apply at 2900 East I-20, Big Spring, Texas, 79720.

DENTAL CLERK/ DENTAL HYGIENIST Both needed for the Wallace/ Ware Units in Colorado City. Excellent pay and benefits! Applications available www.mitchellcountyhospital.com (325)728-8522



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PARKPLACE RETIREMENT Living is seeking a night front desk clerk. This position is shift work from 12:30am to 8:30am; week ends required (guaranteed 40 hours a week). Must be able to read, write, and understand written instructions, and follow directions. Duties include overseeing facility, light housekeeping, and assisting in during meal times, etc. Must be able to multitask and be active. Apply in person at 501 W. 17th Street.

WE ARE a growing company in the field of wind energy and are seeking someone highly motivated, able to take charge and to manage their procedures efficiently while coordinating with our office here in Portland as well as other offices nationwide. Here is a simple list or requirements. e offer a pay range between \$10 & \$13/hour and want someone who can grow with our company and be truly invested in their job with pride in their work At least 2 years of college. At least 2 years experience as an Admin Asst. or similar position. Strong knowledge of Microsoft Office suite, especially Excel. Excellent written and verbal communication skills. Ability to meet multiple deadlines. Very organized. Able to perform will in a multi-tasking environment. Efficient at running back-office operations. Not easily overwhelmed. Solid computer skills. Can quickly learn new applications and perform simple computer hardware and software troubleshooting. Basic accounting sills. Experience with basic book-keeping, purchasing and inventory control. Can prepare professional spreadsheets. Good verbal and written communication skills. Can prepare solid; professional business documentation. This person will sort the mail, answer the main telephone line, maintain technical files, arrange delivery of product, record employee hours, and perform other basic administrative support for various departments as necessary. This is a full time, non-management position. Call 1st Staffing at (432)550-4059.

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WANTED! PIANO Player for Sunday Services at Calvary Baptist Church. Time involved will be from 11:00-12:00am. Compensation will be \$50.00. Call Herb at (432)267-1402.

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5-PIECE BEDROOM set Brand New with Mfg. warranty \$450. 432-664-8980.

\$160 New pillow top Mattress set, Queen size, in plastic with Factory warranty. 432-664-8980.

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

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OTHER VIEWS

Perry's veto of pre-k bill could cost him re-election in 2010

It is a sad day for four-year-old children in Texas. Gov. Rick Perry vetoed one of the most popular bills of the legislative session. House Bill 130 would have ensured access to high quality, full-day pre-k programs for thousands of military, foster care, homeless and other at-risk children. This veto only reinforces the cynicism of many Texans that politics and big money drive our state government.

Many want to know why the governor would veto a bill improving the quality of early education in Texas.

Was there a lack of support at the Capitol for the bill? No. HB 130 had 100 authors and co-authors, and was voted favorably out of the House and Senate with a two-thirds majority vote.

Was there a lack of support among Texas voters? No. According to a statewide poll of registered voters, 70 percent of Republicans, 78 percent of Democrats and 70 percent of independents support pre-k.

Did the bill ensure quality? Yes. HB 130 included research-based components such as smaller class sizes, highly trained teachers, lower child to staff ratios and approved quality curricula.

Was there a lack of local control? No. HB 130 created a voluntary grant program that ensured district selected partnerships while financially incentivizing and rewarding school districts already meeting proven, high-quality standards.

Was the program not fiscally responsible? No. The \$25 million originally allotted to House Bill 130 is still going to be rolled back into the Texas Education Agency to be spent on current pre-k programs without the required quality components.

Is there a lack of research that pre-k works? No. Texas' own Bush School of Government and Public Service at Texas A&M found that every dollar invested returns at least \$3.50 to local communities. Savings are realized through increased high school graduation rates, higher earning power as adults, fewer referrals to special education and significantly less involvement with the criminal justice system.

Was there a lack of statewide support? No. More than 20,000 emails were sent by pre-k supporters in support of this critical piece of legislation. In addition, thousands of advocates made visits to the Texas Capitol, called legislators and faxed letters of support.

Was there a lack of media coverage on the story? No. Every major newspaper in the state covered the story throughout the legislative session.

So why would the governor veto such a popular and quality piece of legislation? Dare I say that the governor is playing politics with young children? Could it be he has a tough race coming up in 2010 against another popular Republican?

If this is indeed the case, I hope the he is ready to answer tough questions from the thousands of pre-k supporters across Texas that wanted to see high quality pre-k for its youngest and most at-risk Texans. I sure hope he has another platform on which to win in 2010, because supporting young Texans and an educated workforce for tomorrow won't be one of them.

Kara Johnson is the executive director of the Texas Early Childhood Education Coalition.



KARA JOHNSON

Nail in smoking's coffin

It's been 45 years since I quit smoking cigarettes, two weeks before the surgeon general's report on smoking came out. I thought you should be smart enough to figure out that cigarettes were bad for you without the government telling you.

After all, they didn't call them "coffin nails" for nothing.

I'd been quitting smoking for almost as long as I'd been smoking, about 12 years. I'd smoke for six or eight months (a pack or two a day) until I got that wonderful, rich morning cough that heavy smokers know so well. Or I'd get one of my two fall-winter-spring chest colds. And I'd swear off the nasty things.

But sooner or later — sometimes as quickly as a couple of days — I'd get back at it.

My environment didn't help. I worked in a newsroom, where pretty much everyone smoked. We'd sit there at our typewriters, cigarettes dangling from our mouths, while we pounded out our nearly deathless prose. Finished, we'd drop the still-burning butt on the floor and grind it out on the linoleum.

Was it coarse and ugly? Yes. But impossibly romantic, the sort of thing that Humphrey Bogart movies were made of.

That was the thing about cigarettes, they were cool. And

if you wanted to be cool too — and who didn't — you had to smoke them. Edward R. Murrow, the coolest of postwar TV journalists, held his cigarette like a scepter while interviewing the rich and famous, his head wreathed in smoke.

James Dean, the coolest of young actors not named Brando, appeared in "Rebel Without A Cause" with a filtered cigarette lightly clenched in his front teeth. Until then we hadn't realized that filtered cigarettes could be cool. (Such was the power of movies in the good old days.)

But, always, we knew it was bad for us. We could feel it. We just didn't know how bad. The surgeon general's report told us. Very bad.

People who smoked were nine or 10 times more likely to get lung cancer than people who didn't. (Both Bogart and Murrow were to die of lung cancer, by the way, taking the edge off the romanticism of it all.)

Smoking also caused emphysema and heart disease, the report said, and the birth-weight of babies born to women who smoked was significantly lower than that of infants born to non-smokers.

So I quit and I stayed quit. I suppose it saved my life.

The report, initiated under President John Kennedy, was easily the greatest public healthy initiative of my time. And now we have another step on the way to sanity.

Last week Congress passed a bill that will give the Federal Drug Administration power to regulate the sale and manufacture of tobacco products, just

as it does other dangerous drugs.

It promises to be the next great public health measure for — while the warnings of the 1964 report helped cut smoking in half over the decades — an estimated 20 percent of Americans still smoke. And 40,000 of them die of smoking-related diseases each year.

Imagine that. The nation was appalled when 3,000 died in the 9/11 attacks.

We consider it a national tragedy, which it is.

Six years of war in Iraq have cost 4,200 dead and we mourn their loss.

Tobacco claims 40,000 lives a year and it's taken us 45 years — 1.8 million lives worth — to take really tough effective measures to regulate its use.

We won't be able to stop people from smoking.

It's an addition. (I had a friend dying of emphysema who would disconnect himself from his oxygen tank to sneak a cigarette.)

But if they can keep a high percentage of kids from taking it up, that's something; that's a lot.

I'll admit that even today it looks kind of cool when you see people smoking in, for example, a French movie (smoking has all but disappeared from American movies).

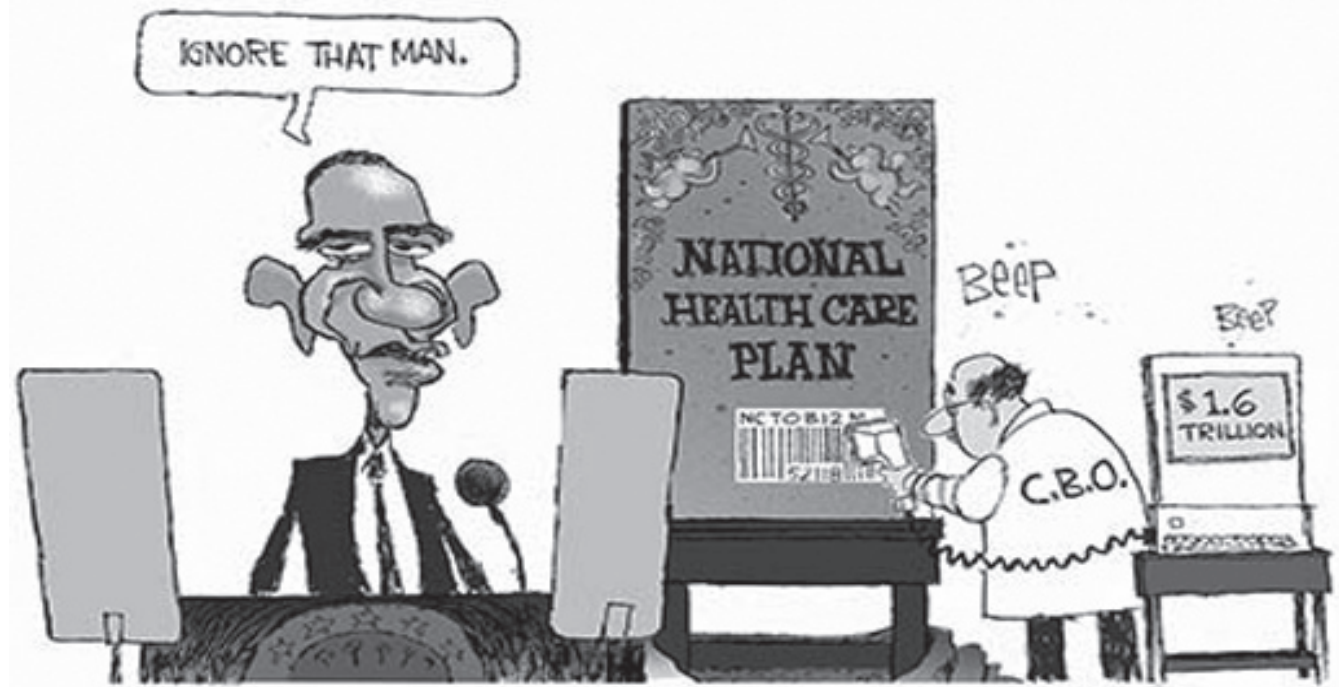
Seeing someone in a hospital bed, tubes attached, gasping into an oxygen mask? Not so cool.

Don Kaul is a two-time Pulitzer Prize-losing Washington correspondent who, by his own account, is right more than he's wrong. E-mail him at dkaul2@earthlink.net



DONALD KAUL

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Tobacco takes on overpopulation

Funeral futures are not booming these days, what with the crusade against smoking in the Western world. But Nevada is doing its best to rescue the industry. It may soon restore smoking rights in taverns.

Apparently the ban on puffing in such places has cut into the bars' slot machine revenue, as miffed patrons move over to real casinos instead where they can drink, gamble and smoke all at the same time. What a treat. Somehow the casinos had been left out of the state's general smoking prohibition. Thank goodness someone is finally thinking straight.

Altria (Phillip Morris) certainly is. Understandably sensitive to the steady decline in smoking nationally, Altria is buying up UST (formerly United States Tobacco), America's premium snuff maker.

You're no doubt aware that even though cigarettes are gradually sinking beneath the waves, snuff is ascendant. Its use is growing at 7 percent a year, particularly among young macho men.

Altria is paying \$10 billion to get on that band wagon and soon all those unemployed cancer doctors may be able to avoid the unemployment line.

Meanwhile, heavy economic

factors are further roiling the tobacco scene. The recession is the biggest. Who can afford cigarettes anymore? Many folks can scarcely afford to eat, let alone puff. For others though, smoking comes first and eating, at least decent food, second.

And now the president has gotten into the act. At his urging, the Congress has just raised the tax per pack another 62 cents, and has finally given regulatory authority over tobacco to the FDA.

At this point only true addicts can arrange their finances to buy tobacco. There's getting to be as much profit in smuggling smokes as in smuggling dope.

Luckily for the industry, the other government shoe has not yet dropped.

You remember that the outcome of America's largest lawsuit ever was for the tobacco companies to pay the states \$246 billion in penance for being naughty. A healthy chunk of that money was supposed to go toward anti-smoking programs.

Fat chance! With free money on the table and no rules, the states have largely spent it for their own budgetary purposes with barely a pittance for prevention. Ideologically we're not much into state government meddling in people's private lives.

Unfortunately, the federal bureaucrats aren't helping either. Neither Medicare, nor Medicaid will pay for cessation programs for their patients.

Of course if one continues puffing and comes down with can-

cer or emphysema, then they'll pay. Plenty. But prevention is not our government's long suit.

Still, overall, the U.S. does lead the world in stamping out tobacco. Smokers are seriously ostracized. Europe is coming along too, though it's no doubt hard for them to admit that America is right about something.

The real problem is Asia. Big Tobacco has licked its wounds in this country and reorganized over there.

According to those who keep track, there are about 1.3 billion smokers in the world today, headed for 1.6 billion by 2025.

Undertakers of the world, rejoice!

In Africa, few folks can afford the habit, and in Latin America, some of the U.S. admonitions seem to have taken hold. But in Asia, smoking is a cultural frenzy. The industry is spending plenty, using many of the same techniques that were so successful here for so long.

Indeed, tobacco may be our only prayer in slowing the globe's unsustainable population growth and subsequent climate crisis. China can't do it alone.

Perhaps we could persuade the industry to focus its efforts on those lands like Bangladesh that are due to be flooded by global warming. Kill two birds with one stone, so to speak. Meanwhile, cancer is still a zooming worldwide growth industry.

Columnist William A. Collins is a former state representative and a former mayor of Norwalk, Conn.

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- Provide a daytime telephone number, as well as a street address for verification purposes.
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- We reserve the right to limit publication to one letter per 30-day period per author.
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- Letters should be submitted to Editor, Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721. They can also be e-mailed to editor@bigspringherald.com

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

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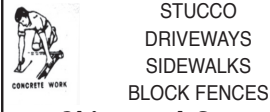
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News in brief

Sanford gives up moral high ground, hope for political agenda after admitting affair

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP) — South Carolina's governor once cited "moral legitimacy" when he was a congressman voting for President Bill Clinton's impeachment.

He became a darling of fiscal conservatives over his ideological opposition to federal stimulus cash.

Now Mark Sanford has taken a swan dive from the moral high ground.

By admitting to an extramarital affair with a woman in Argentina on Wednesday, the Republican governor makes the already-difficult end of his term-limited administration nearly untenable.

He has alienated leaders of his GOP-dominated state Legislature for years, but said recently he was finding comfort outside the Statehouse as a champion for smaller government and lower taxes.

He was raising his national political profile with his outspoken fight against using federal cash for anything but paying down debt.

As chairman of the Republican Governors Association, he was raising money for candidates and deflecting talk he was planning to run for president in 2012.

Mousavi Web site: 70 professors detained after meeting him

By The Associated Press

EDITOR'S NOTE: Iranian authorities have barred journalists for international news organizations from reporting on the streets and ordered them to stay in their offices. This report is based on the accounts of witnesses reached in Iran and official statements carried on Iranian media.

Seventy university professors were detained in Iran in a widening government crackdown on protesters, according to a Web site affiliated with Iran's key opposition figure, Mir Hossein Mousavi, who says he was robbed of victory in a rigged presidential election.

Hundreds of protesters and activists are believed to have been taken into custody since the June 12 vote, in which Iran's ruling clerics declared hard-line President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad the winner by a landslide.

Ahmadinejad dismissed growing Western criticism of the post-election clampdown, singling out President Barack Obama.

"Why has Mr. Obama, who advocates change, been trapped and follows the same path as Bush," state TV quoted Ahmadinejad as saying.

Lawmakers struggle to lower cost of healthcare overhaul

WASHINGTON (AP) — With lawmakers trying to crunch the numbers on a \$1 trillion health care overhaul, President Barack Obama is leaving the door open to a new tax on employer-provided health care benefits.

Senior senators said Wednesday the benefits tax could be essential for the complex plan to be fully financed.

"I don't want to prejudice what they're doing," Obama said, referring to proposals in the Senate to tax workers who get expensive insurance policies. Obama, who campaigned against the tax when he ran for president, drew a quick rebuff from organized labor.

For Obama, the health care debate got personal during an ABC News town hall at the White House on Wednesday. The prime-time program was the latest in a string of events designed to build public support for his plan to slow the rise in health care costs and expand coverage to the nearly 50 million uninsured.

Investigators focus on 'anomalies' in track circuit near stretch of fatal DC train crash

WASHINGTON (AP) — Commuter rail tracks in the nation's capital are studded with devices that detect passing trains and tell them when to stop or slow down. But those devices on the stretch of track near where nine people were killed in a train crash didn't pass tests by investigators.

The tests Wednesday raised the possibility that trains passing through that stretch could have had trouble receiving signals to stop or slow down. Officials stopped short of saying whether the sensors were broken, refusing to elaborate on the "anomalies" that testers found.

"Whether trains are operated in automatic or manual, these circuits are vital," said Debbie Hersman of the National Transportation Safety Board. "We're particularly interested in the speed commands that might be sent from that circuit when there's a train standing on that circuit."

Equipment along a 740-foot stretch failed to recognize the testing device, Hersman said. Five other stretches of track, or circuits, in the area of the crash near the Maryland state line showed no problems.

Hersman wouldn't give specifics on what the "anomalies" were or whether investigators think they were occurring before the crash, saying more tests were needed. Investigators planned to test the track with a six-car train Wednesday night.

N. Korea vows to enlarge atomic arsenal

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — North Korea vowed Thursday to enlarge its atomic arsenal and warned of a "fire shower of nuclear retaliation" in the event of a U.S. attack, as the regime marked the 1950 outbreak of the Korean War.

The anniversary came as the U.S. Navy trailed a North Korean ship suspected of carrying weapons in violation of a U.N. resolution punishing Pyongyang's May 25 nuclear test, and as anticipation mounted that the North might test-fire short- or mid-range missiles in the coming days.

President Barack Obama extended U.S. economic sanctions against North Korea for another year Wednesday, saying the North's possession of "weapons-usable fissile material" and its proliferation risk "continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat" to the United States, according to the White House Web site.

State-run newspapers in Pyongyang ran lengthy editorials accusing the U.S. of invading the country in 1950 and of looking for an opportunity to attack again. The editorials said that justified North Korea's development of atomic bombs to defend itself.

Obama, Merkel to meet under cloud of disagreement

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama sits down this week with German Chancellor Angela Merkel under a cloud of disagreement over the way out of the global financial crisis and Germany's role in the U.S.-led Afghan war.

The Germans probably will stand pat on their refusal to increase troop strength significantly to the NATO mission in Afghanistan. Merkel's unusually harsh public criticism of U.S. financial policy appears to be driven by domestic politics — the chancellor's need to appear tough in advance of September elections.

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Big Spring and Howard County

Publication Date: July 26, 2009
DEADLINE: July 15th

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Tomorrow's Horoscope

The Leo moon is a master showman, coloring the world in greasepaint and sprinkling it with sequins. Reality will be stretched, disbelief suspended -- that's entertainment!



HOLIDAY MATHIS

Whether you sit back and watch the scenes unfold or become an active part of the drama, keep your sense of humor and you're sure to have a good time.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Your social awareness will be tested. There's a fine line between what's funny and what's just sad. Be compassionate and careful in your reaction to other people's stories.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You do the right thing. Your high sense of morality makes it painful for you to do anything but the right thing. And you'll feel even better about yourself if you don't tell anyone about your good

works. **GEMINI** (May 21-June 21). The people around you may not get along with one another so well now, but you're on friendly terms with everyone. You've gotten this far by not taking sides and you'll do well to remain neutral.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). On a day like this, you're better off not forcing yourself to do what you don't want to do. Be happy and have fun. When you feel yourself not having fun, change course to one that looks like more fun.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You have true friends who do not care one bit where you live or what you wear or drive. But not everyone in the world is so inclined. Avoid furthering a relationship with one who has but a superficial interest in you.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (JUNE 25). You will live daringly. When afraid, you'll summon the courage to push past your fear. A powerful person admires your guts. Make a declaration about where you want to be this time next year and that person will help you get there.

July brings friendship and fun. Travel in October. There's financial luck in January. Gemini and Pisces adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 8, 50, 41, 4 and 13.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You toss a request the universe. The first few answers you'll get aren't the best you can expect. Be patient and selective. Think long term. What provides short-term gratification may contribute to a future problem.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You have a radar for bad situations. Your friend doesn't. Help this person out by sharing what you know. Being too truthful when you weren't even asked your opinion is usually a crummy idea, but today is different.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Why is it that jokes about taboo or forbidden things are so much funnier than jokes on socially acceptable topics? You're the expert on both kinds of humor and you'll keep 'em in stitches now.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). The creativity energy is welling up inside

you. Don't worry about expressing it or suppressing it. For now, just let it be. You'll know what you're supposed to do when an irresistible opportunity arises.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You believe you have an open mind. Would your loved ones and colleagues agree? You'll get a window into how you are perceived and you'll be pleased and enlightened by what you learn.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You're never surprised when familiar ideas turn out to be untrue. But be careful not to disagree with traditional methods just because they are old. The old way will be the best way this afternoon.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You don't need to be right all of the time, but if someone says you're wrong, you want proof. And you also want to see the "right" way in action. Stay your ground until you are absolutely sure it's incorrect.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS: "My sister is super mad at me. What happened is that her boyfriend proposed to her

last month and she said yes, but she complained about the ring he used to propose. When she told me about it, she was worried that he would think she was shallow and superficial. I told her that she is shallow and superficial and that she shouldn't have been such a brat and spoiled the moment for him. Now she's mad at me. I'm married, too, and my husband didn't even have a ring when he proposed. And he barely even proposed really. But we've been together for 15 years and I can't see what difference getting a good ring would have made. Anyway, now my sister and her fiance have found the right ring and everything is going well for them as they get ready for the wedding and meanwhile, she won't even talk to me. What's a Virgo to do?"

You can't help that you're down-to-earth, just like your sister can't help that she's not. You thought your sister shouldn't have been so blunt and inconsiderate with her husband and you let her know in a similarly blunt

and inconsiderate way. Ask for forgiveness and try and be happy for her.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Dan Brown is a best-selling author of thriller fiction and a Cancer with a Sagittarius moon. Cancer natives typically have richer inner worlds, and Brown has invited his readers to revel in the excitement of his works such as "The Da Vinci Code" and "Angels & Demons." Sagittarius moon indicates a passion for travel, research and the exploration of different countries and cultures.

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

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Annie's Mailbox

Dear Annie: After a botched operation left her bedridden for months, my mother has to relearn to walk. My father, a loving but controlling person, didn't want to put her into a rehab facility where she would be pushed to get well. Instead, he placed her in a nearby nursing home. Most of the patients in the home are in wheelchairs or in their beds. The staff gives Mom physical therapy four days a week, but they don't have a lot of equipment or expertise in rehab. Long story short, Mom is not making progress. She's getting depressed, and it looks like she'll live the rest of her life in the home. My siblings who live in the area defer to my father, and I can't get the doctors to do a thing.

My mother has her full mental faculties, and I

think if the doctors could talk to her alone, without Dad around, and explain that she needs to go somewhere else, she would do it. And if they would spell it out for Dad, he might be OK with it, too. Right now, it's all about keeping him calm instead of getting her well. I don't want my mother to spend the next 20 years in a nursing home because we missed the opportunity to get her the aggressive therapy she needs. What can I do? -- Concerned Daughter

Dear Daughter: You may not be completely informed of the reasons behind the choices being made. Many nursing homes have quite competent rehab facilities, and it's possible your mother is, in fact, getting the best care available to her. Set up a conference

call with your siblings, and find out what is really going on.

You also can leave a message for the doctor explaining your concerns in detail. Enlist your siblings' support to approach your father, calmly and with love, to clarify why a different program could be more beneficial. Surely he wants Mom to make as complete a recovery as possible.

Dear Annie: I recently attended the wedding of a friend's son. It was a beautiful affair. However, I was disappointed to see that 8- and 10-year-old children were permitted to stand with the single men and women waiting to catch the bouquet and garter.

I encouraged my son's girlfriend to try to catch the bouquet, but the

children stood in front of the adults, who could not push forward for fear of knocking down the kids. Tradition says those who catch these items are the next to be married. I don't think 10-year-olds should participate. What do you say? -- Perplexed in Pittsburgh

Dear Pittsburgh: It is not appropriate for young children to participate in these customs. (The "winners" also customarily dance with each other, which can be awkward when a 30-year-old woman catches the bouquet and must dance with a 9-year-old garter catcher.) Many bridal couples, however, have no objection. Those who do should announce that the tossing is limited to adults 18 and over.

Dear Annie: As an attorney, I believe you should have added a

caveat to your advice to "Not Their Mother," whose brother-in-law and his girlfriend are living in their home as tenants. Whether paying rent or not, tenants must be served with a notice of eviction and most likely will have 30 days to vacate. Throwing them out without the notice of eviction and simply changing the locks could bring the homeowners a lot of legal trouble they probably don't want.

I would also advise against packing the couple's bags or placing any of their belongings outside. Landlord/tenant laws vary from state to state, but I feel comfortable in offering that type of advice in a general sense. -- Wendy Gantos, Esq.

Dear Wendy Gantos: We appreciate the legal

advice. Every state is different, and we do not know the details of this particular rental situation, but better safe than sorry.

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

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News in brief

Indicted billionaire Stanford taken to courthouse

HOUSTON (AP) — Billionaire R. Allen Stanford is wearing handcuffs and leg chains as he arrived at a federal courthouse in Houston to face fraud and conspiracy charges.

Stanford, wearing an orange prison jumpsuit and dark slip-on shoes, was the last inmate off the corrections shuttle bus Thursday morning. Stanford was arrested June 18 in Virginia.

The 59-year-old financier has denied allegations he swindled investors out of \$7 billion in an elaborate Ponzi scheme.

Stanford and three executives from his now defunct Houston-based Stanford Financial Group are set to be arraigned, a week after a grand jury returned a 21-count indictment.

A magistrate is also expected to decide if Stanford will be allowed to be free on bond pending trial.

Tree falls, knocks out electricity in Longview

LONGVIEW (AP) — About 300 customers in Longview lost electricity when a tree fell onto power lines, sparking a small grass fire near some homes.

AEP/Southwestern Electric Power Co. spokesman Scott McCloud told The Associated Press on Thursday that the tree pulled down two circuits.

McCloud says electricity was restored by 8:15 p.m. Wednesday, several hours after the outage began.

Pat Maddox, whose house is near the tree that came in contact with the power lines, said she was doing a crossword puzzle and watching TV when she heard popping sounds.

Maddox told the Longview News-Journal that her "house flashed, everything flashed inside."

Firefighters quickly put out the grass fire in a vacant lot next to the woman's home.

Off-duty agent from Arizona shot at in Texas

MISSION (AP) — Mission police questioned six people after someone shot into the vehicle of an off-duty U.S. Border Patrol agent from Arizona.

Sgt. Jody Tittle says no one was injured in the shooting when the agent, whose name was not released, noticed a vehicle with at least two men following him.

Police say the off-duty agent had his family with him and planned to leave his young daughter with a relative. The agent's vehicle was boxed in early Wednesday, a suspect displayed a gun, the agent showed his own weapon, then the suspect fired into the dashboard of the lawman's vehicle and fled.

Tittle says information gathered in the investigation led to three men, three women and a house in McAllen. No charges were im-

mediately filed.

Border Patrol spokesman John Lopez says the agent works in the Tucson sector.

Judge blocks closure of Temple homeless shelter

BELTON (AP) — A judge has blocked closure of a homeless shelter in Temple where structural and safety issues were raised.

Judge Gordon Adams issued a temporary injunction and ordered another hearing Aug. 26.

The Temple Building and Standards Commission on June 1 ordered Martha's Kitchen to close its thrift store, furniture warehouse and men's dormitory. Officials cited plumbing and electrical problems at additional structures, ordering repairs within 90 days.

Wednesday's order found Martha's Kitchen would suffer harm by not being able to provide food and shelter and by immediate closure.

Volunteer board chairman Ray Severn says Martha's Kitchen will "continue to feed, clothe and house the homeless."

An attorney for the city, Enid Wade, says Temple has the option to appeal.

Signs in Houston warn against gun buys for Mexico

HOUSTON (AP) — More than 70 billboards and other signs in the Houston area warn gun buyers against illegally smuggling weapons for the Mexican drug trade.

The firearms industry-supported "Don't lie for the other Guy" campaign is expected to be expanded to El Paso, the Rio Grande Valley and Phoenix.

The Houston Chronicle reports dozens of guns purchased in Houston have been traced to kidnappings and murders in Mexico.

Lawrence Keane with the National Shooting Sports Foundation says \$500,000 will be spent over the next four months. The industry is responding to allegations that Houston stores have become the primary source for

Mexican drug cartel weapons.

2 suspects charged in officer's slaying

HOUSTON (AP) — Two suspects were charged with capital murder for the killing of an undercover officer during a shootout that also claimed the alleged gunman's life.

The Harris County District Attorney's office said in a statement Wednesday night that Andres Nava-Maldonado, 41, of Mexico, and Xiomara Mendez-Rosales, 36, of Honduras, had been charged for 42-year-old Officer Henry Canales's death. The suspects' immigration status is under investigation and it was not immediately known whether they have an attorney.

Authorities say Canales, a Houston police officer since 1993, was shot Tuesday night

while in the parking lot of a drug store during an investigation of the sale of stolen televisions.

Houston police spokesman Victor Senties has said money was exchanged with undercover officers when the buyer shot Canales.

A juvenile female was also arrested but the statement did not specify what charges she faces.

The dead gunman was identified as 37-year-old Roberto Pedroza Carrillo who was shot by another officer.

Carrillo is believed to have been an illegal immigrant from Mexico.

2 suspects freed in Texas yogurt shop murder case

AUSTIN (AP) — Two men awaiting retrial in the 1991 murders of four teenage girls at an Austin yogurt shop were released from jail

Wednesday while prosecutors search for a match to new DNA evidence that didn't come from either of them.

After his release from the Travis County Jail, Michael Scott held hands with his wife, Jeannine, and hugged her but didn't speak to reporters. Co-defendant Robert Springsteen said, "I'd like to thank God, my family and my attorney for this opportunity. Thank you."

Their convictions at their first trials were overturned on appeal. Now, new DNA tests on evidence taken from

the victims revealed the presence of an unknown male. Defense attorneys say that proves Scott's and Springsteen's innocence.

Prosecutors insist the DNA does not exonerate them as suspects and both still face capital murder charges.

State District Judge Mike Lynch's order for the men's release came during a hearing for Scott's retrial, which was scheduled for July 6. Prosecutors asked that the trial be delayed until 2010 while they try to determine the source of the DNA.

Man Hurls Polecat 63 ft.

BEXAR COUNTY - After using Thera-Gesic® on his sore shoulder, Tom W. was able to rid his property of the varmint last Thursday.



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Blast Off: 'Rocky Mountain Thunder' Returns To Midland Odessa this Saturday 6/27 Along with 'West Texas True Ten-Five' and 'Outlaw Prostreet Backhalf' — bad heads-up racing! for TRIPLE THUNDER SATURDAY!! AT DESERT THUNDER RACEWAY on I-20 Service Road at CR 1250

Get ready west Texas — You are in for a Triple Thunder Treat at Desert Thunder Raceway Saturday. "If you haven't experienced Desert Thunder Raceway — this is the time to come!!! says Mike Waldrop, Track Manager/Owner.

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"We emphasize the affordable family entertainment and value with Triple Thunder Saturday" Waldrop said. "We know our fans work hard for their money and we strive to provide them with a great show at an unbeatable price."

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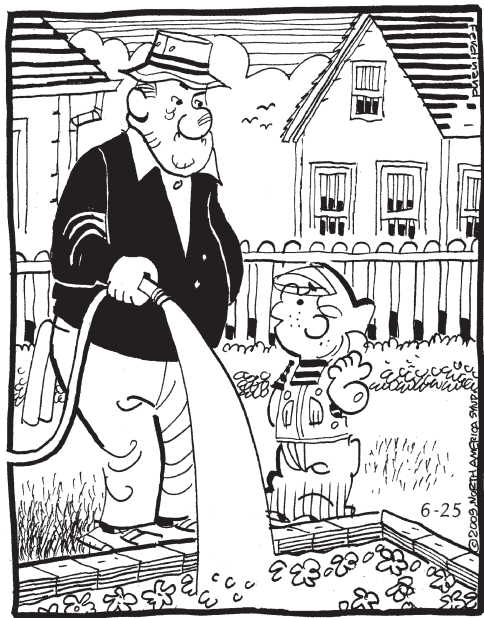
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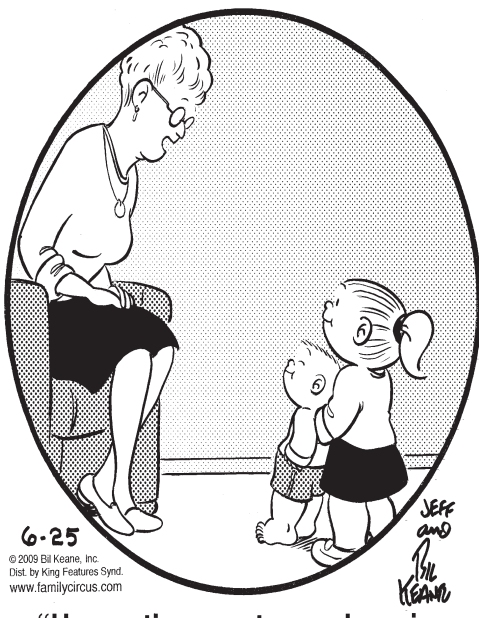
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5 :PM	News ABC	News ABC	Locura	Lopez	News CBS	Noticias	News NBC	Raymond	Granger	BBC	Cash Cab	Danger, Anne Archer	CSI: Crime Scn	Bones	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Phineas	Horn	SportsCenter
6 :PM	Entertain	Jeopardy!	Gancho	Two Men	News CBS	12 Cora-zones	News NBC	Friends	Brad	Business	Cash Cab		UFC Un-leashed	Bones		Wizards	MLL	Draft Pre
7 :PM	Samantha	Fortune	Cuidado-Angel	Two Men	Entertain	How I Met Rules	Millionaire	Seinfeld	Hagee	Made			UFC Un-leashed	Bones	Movie: I Got the Hook-Up	Princess Dia-ries 2: Royal Engagement	Lacrosse: Toronto at Boston	Draft
8 :PM	Grey's Anatomy	Grey's Anatomy	Mañana es	You Can Dance	CSI: Crime Scn	Más Sabe el Diabolo	Office	Friends	Light of the Southwest	Antiques Roadshow	River Mon-sters	Movie: The Game, Deborah Kara Unger	UFC Un-leashed	Law & Order	Movie: Crim-son Tide, George Dzundza	College Hill	Soccer: Confedera-tions Cup	
9 :PM	(:02) Private Practice	(:02) Private Practice	Mujeres Asesinas	TMZ	(:01) The Mentalist	Victorinos	(:01) The Listener	Movie: Nacho Libre, Héctor Jimenez	Israel	Charlie Rose	River Mon-sters	Movie: Sleeping With the Enemy	Jesse James	Movie: I Got the Hook-Up	College Hill	Wizards	Montana	SportsCtr.
10 :PM	Nightline	Nightline	Noticiero	Raymond	News	Noticias	News	Titulares	Tonight Show	Sex & Dr.	Smiley	River Mon-sters	MAN	Movie: Crim-son Tide, George Dzundza	College Hill	Life De	Baseball Tonight	SportsCenter
11 :PM	Insider	Jimmy Kim-mel Live	La Casa de la Risa	Law Order: CI	Late Late Show	Late Late Show	Late Night-Jim	Sex & Dr.	Swallow	Israel	Light of the Southwest	Movie: The Usual Sus-pects, Chazz Palminteri	Scrub	Scrub	College Hill	Replace	NFL Live	SportsCenter
12 :AM	News	Paid	Marketing	Mujer...	Friends	Consumer	Insider	Pagado	Poker After Dark	LightWrd	Deadliest Catch	Movie: The Usual Sus-pects, Chazz Palminteri	Scrub	Scrub	College Hill	Kim	NASCAR	SportsCenter
1 :AM	Paid	Paid	Marketing	Mujer...	Friends	Consumer	Insider	Pagado	Poker After Dark	LightWrd	Deadliest Catch	Movie: The Usual Sus-pects, Chazz Palminteri	Scrub	Scrub	College Hill	Replace	NFL Live	SportsCenter

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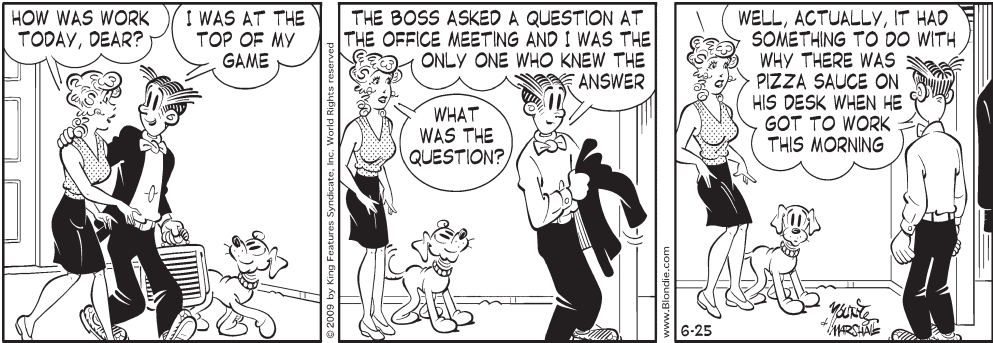
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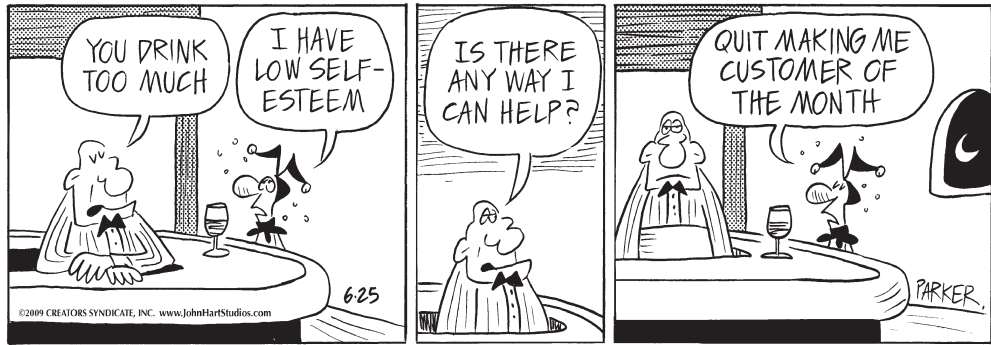
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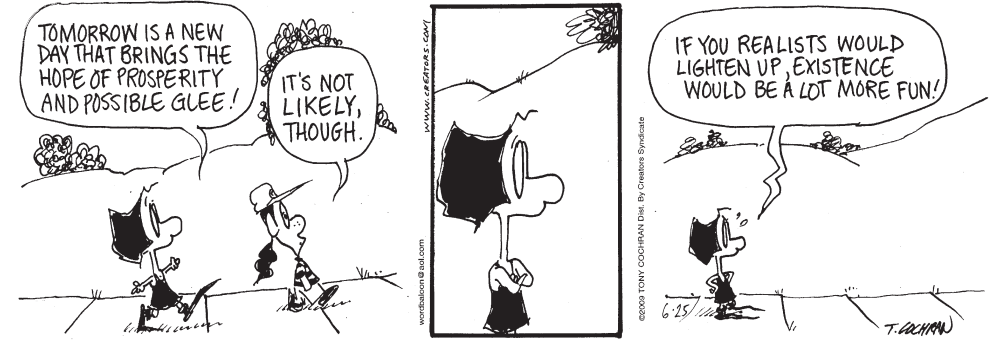
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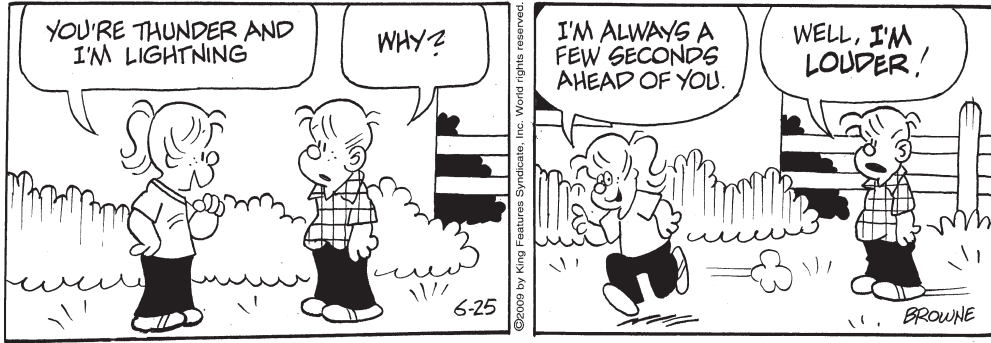
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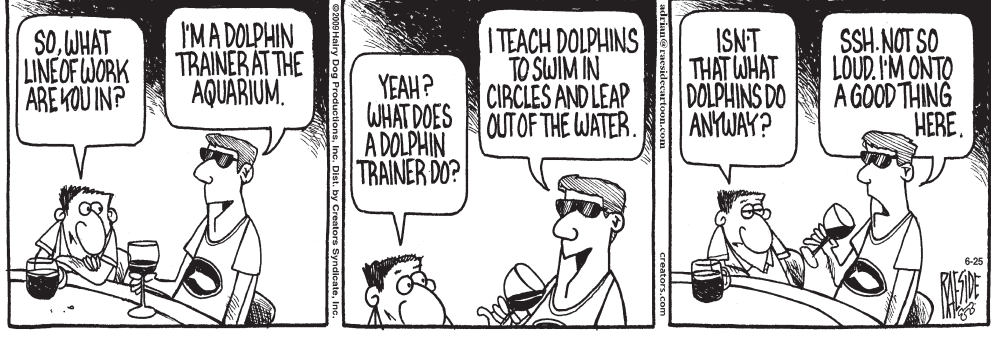
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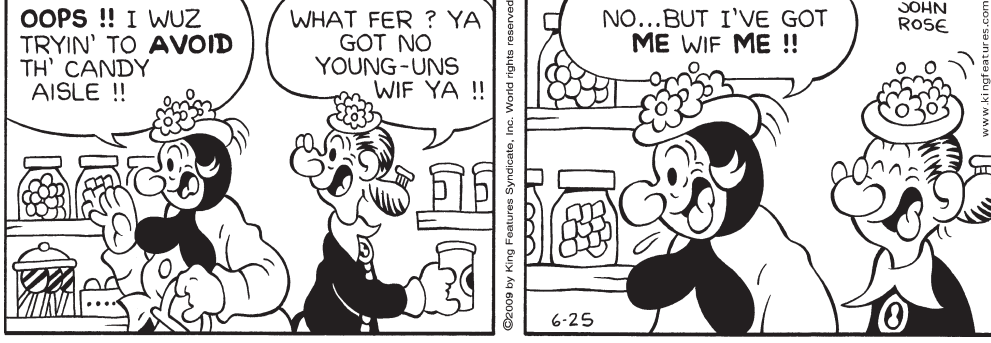
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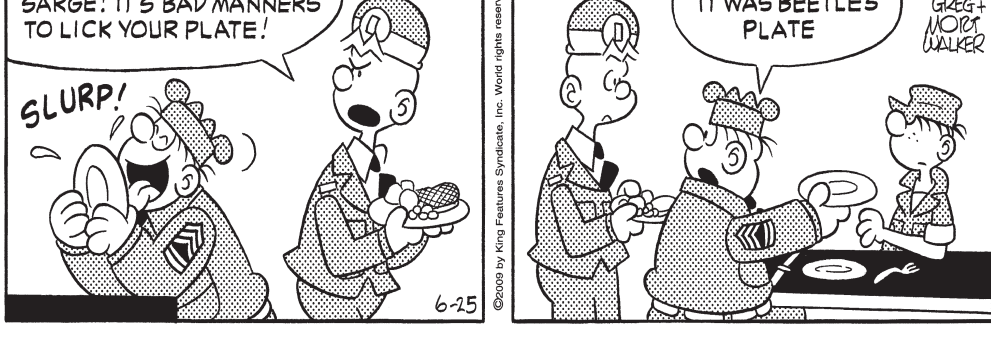
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This Date In History

Today is Thursday, June 25, the 176th day of 2009. There are 189 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On June 25, 1950, war broke out in Korea as forces from the communist North invaded the South.

On this date: In 1788, Virginia ratified the U.S. Constitution.

In 1868, Congress passed an Omnibus Act allowing for the readmission of Florida, Alabama, Louisiana, Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina to the Union.

In 1876, Lt. Col. George A. Custer and his 7th Cavalry were wiped out by Sioux and Cheyenne Indians in the Battle of the Little Bighorn in Montana.

In 1906, architect Stanford White was shot to death atop New York's Madison Square Garden, which he had designed, by millionaire Harry K. Thaw, the jealous husband of Evelyn

Nesbit. (Thaw was acquitted of murder by reason of insanity.)

In 1938, the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 was enacted.

In 1942, some 1,000 British Royal Air Force bombers raided Bremen, Germany, during World War II.

In 1959, spree killer Charles Starkweather, 20, was put to death in Nebraska's electric chair. Eamon de Valera was inaugurated as president of Ireland.

In 1962, the Supreme Court, in Engel v. Vitale, ruled that recital of a state-sponsored prayer in New York State public schools was unconstitutional.

In 1973, former White House Counsel John W. Dean began testifying before the Senate Watergate Committee.

In 1996, a truck bomb killed 19 Americans and injured hundreds at a U.S. military housing complex in Saudi Arabia.

Today's Birthdays: Movie director Sidney Lumet is 85. Actress June Lockhart is 84. R&B singer Eddie Floyd is 72. Actress Barbara Montgomery is 70. Basketball Hall of Famer Willis Reed is 67. Writer-producer-director Gary David

Goldberg is 65. Singer Carly Simon is 64. Rock musician Allen Lanier (Blue Oyster Cult) is 63. Rock musician Ian McDonald (Foreigner; King Crimson) is 63. Actor-comedian Jimmie Walker is 62. Actor-director Michael Lembeck is 61. TV personality Phyllis George is 60. Rock singer Tim Finn is 57. Rock musician David Paich (Toto) is 55. Actor Michael Sabatino is 54. Actor-writer-director Ricky Gervais is 48. Actor John Benjamin Hickey is 46. Rock singer George Michael is 46. Actress Erica Gimpel is 45. Recently retired Houston Rockets center Dikembe Mutombo is 43. Rapper-producer Richie Rich is 42. Rapper Candyman is 41.

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Answer to previous puzzle

ETCH	TAMES	MAJA
BELA	EDITH	OWES
BRUTEFORCE	NAST	ERE
BLUE	ASSISI	DASBOOT
OTTER	EON	CLARE
BREAK	PRAYERRUG	BAITS
FROZE	MUSE	STATELINE
JANET	OLOGY	RES
PROFS	COWHAND	RIPPED
VOTE	WOE	OVER
ANIMALFARM	WERE	MISER
ORSO	STAY	SLATY
PEEN		

Newsday Crossword

- ACROSS
- 1 Importance
 - 5 Software, for short
 - 9 Fruit pulp
 - 14 Compatriot
 - 15 Gentleman friend
 - 16 Antivenom, e.g.
 - 17 Sit in the spa
 - 18 Nursery need
 - 19 Conference members
 - 20 Gossips
 - 23 Grant's counterpart
 - 24 Polynesian wreath
 - 25 Iron-pumper's unit
 - 26 Well put
 - 29 Bauer of boots
 - 31 Tel. and ext.
 - 33 Quaint gathering
 - 34 Sun, poetically
 - 36 55 Down, on sundials
 - 37 Spanish custard
 - 38 Gossips
 - 42 12-point type
 - 43 Dec. hrs. in NJ
 - 44 Hindustani Mr.
 - 45 Roth offering
 - 46 Spud
 - 48 Pie filling
 - 52 Sword's mightier rival
 - 53 Snoopy, in his daydreams
 - 54 List ender
 - 56 Western treaty grp.
 - 57 Gossips
 - 61 Natural satellites
- DOWN
- 63 Secure a ship
 - 64 Singapore setting
 - 65 Not neat
 - 66 Gothic governess
 - 67 Precisely
 - 68 Wire material
 - 69 mm/dd/yyyy info
 - 70 Pot payment
 - 7 Ark
 - 8 complement
 - 8 Commuter towns
 - 9 Shutterbugs' settings
 - 10 Impolite look
 - 11 In pencil, for example
 - 12 Do some math
 - 13 British naval initials
 - 21 Vigilant
 - 22 Has earned
 - 27 Little legumes
 - 28 Half of a score
 - 30 Kappa
 - 32 Please, to Hans
 - 35 Lighten up
 - 37 Do somersaults
 - 38 Trunk item, often
 - 39 "Stop helping me!"
 - 40 Admired
 - 41 Just a hint
 - 42 Domino dot
 - 46 Fez feature
 - 47 Snap back
 - 49 Something harmful
 - 50 Will Rogers prop
 - 51 Snazzy spread
 - 55 Mid-afternoon
 - 58 Peruvian of old
 - 59 Tofu source
 - 60 Facts and figures
 - 61 May-day honoree
 - 62 United

GOSSIPY by Betty Keller
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

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