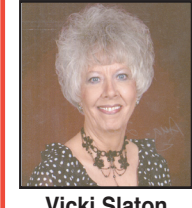




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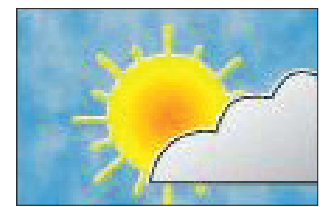
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BIG SPRING HERALD

WEDNESDAY
JULY 1, 2009



VOLUME 104, NUMBER 179

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HERALD photo/Steve Reagan

A Big Spring Airport employee guides a U.S. Army AH-64 Apache helicopter to a stop at the airport Tuesday morning. A detachment of 11 Army helicopters stopped at Big Spring en route to their home base in Savannah, Ga. after completing a training deployment in New Mexico.

Parade time for Highland

Annual event to begin at 10 a.m. Saturday

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

Event organizers are calling all kids — and a whole lot more — as the residents of the Highland Subdivision get ready to host the annual July 4 Highland Parade Saturday morning.

According to Shayla Seymore, parade co-coordinator, this year's Independence Day fare will be very similar to years past, complete with numerous categories for parade entries to compete in.

“Registration for those wishing to compete in the parade will be held from 9:30 until right before the parade begins at 10 a.m.,” said Seymore. “Those who want to participate in the parade without being judged don’t have to register prior to the start of the event.”

“The parade will feature a number of categories to be judged, including bicycles, golf carts, wagons, horses,

See **HIGHLAND**, Page 3A

States face tough budget choices

JUDY LIN
Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — Legislators in more than a half-dozen states, their revenues evaporating in the recession, frantically worked to stave off government shutdowns and devastating ser-

In Illinois, the sputtering drive to come up with a state budget broke down completely Tuesday, leaving the state without any plan for paying its employees or delivering government services.

vice cuts. California failed to meet a midnight deadline and now may need to issue IOUs

instead of paying bills. Across the country, lawmakers were feeling the heat

as their legislatures began the new fiscal year without a budget in place.

In Illinois, the sputtering drive to come up with a state budget broke down completely Tuesday, leaving the state without any plan for paying its employees or delivering government services. The session ended without any

See **BUDGET**, Page 3A

Mississippi still fattest but Alabama closing in

LAURAN NEERGAARD
AP Medical Writer

WASHINGTON — Mississippi's still king of cellulite, but an ominous tide is rolling toward the Medicare doctors in neighboring Alabama: obese baby boomers.

It's time for the nation's annual obesity rankings and, outside of fairly lean Colorado, there's little good news. Obesity rates among adults rose in 23 states over the past year and didn't decline

anywhere, says a new report from the Trust for America's Health and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Ohio ranked in the top 10 for adult obesity.

And while the nation has long been bracing for a surge in Medicare as the boomers start turning 65, the new report makes clear that fat, not just age, will fuel much of those bills. In every state, the rate of obesity is higher among 55- to 64-year-olds — the oldest boomers — than

among today's 65-and-beyond.

That translates into a coming jump of obese Medicare patients that ranges from 5.2 percent in New York to a high of 16.3 percent in Alabama, the report concluded. In Alabama, nearly 39 percent of the oldest boomers are obese.

Health economists once made the harsh financial calculation that the obese would save money by dying sooner, notes Jeff Levi, executive director of the Trust, a nonprof-

it public health group. But more recent research instead suggests they live nearly as long but are much sicker for longer, requiring such costly interventions as knee replacements and diabetes care and dialysis. Studies show Medicare spends anywhere from \$1,400 to \$6,000 more annually on health care for an obese senior than for the non-obese.

“There isn't a magic bul-

See **OBESITY**, Page 3A



AP photo
In Alabama, nearly 39 percent of the oldest boomers are obese.

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HERALD photo/Steve Reagan
Police and emergency medical service personnel responded to the scene of a two-vehicle accident at the intersection of E. 13th and Owens streets Tuesday afternoon. Two people were transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center with undisclosed injuries.

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Padres edge Astros

SAN DIEGO (AP) — The siege of Adrian Gonzalez dampened a comeback win by the Padres.

Gonzalez left with a strained right knee during San Diego's 4-3 victory over the Houston Astros on Tuesday night and it's uncertain whether the All-Star first baseman will miss any time.

"We'll see how I wake up," said Gonzalez, the Padres' top hitter. "My body is kind of weird. Sometimes I feel something and I wake up the next morning and I feel great. Then sometimes I wake up and something aches that I didn't feel the night before."

"Hopefully, going by my past, I will wake up and feel better."

The injury to San Diego's best offensive player was clearly a concern in the clubhouse.

"He's our MVP," David Eckstein said. "Between him and Scotty (Hairston), those are the only guys who can change the game with one swing. That definitely puts a little bit of a damper (on the win)."

Eckstein capped a three-run rally in the

See **ASTROS**, Page 2B



Texas Rangers' closer Frank Francisco, left, receives the ball from catcher Jarrod Saltalamacchia after the Rangers' 9-5 win against the Los Angeles Angels in Arlington Tuesday.

AP Photo/Donna McWilliam

Texas pounds Angels

ARLINGTON (AP) — Give Marlon Byrd some credit for this victory, a day after he blamed himself for a Texas Rangers loss.

Byrd homered twice to drive in five runs and Texas again had its way at home against Joe Saunders, beating the AL West-leading Los Angeles Angels 9-5 on Tuesday night.

"That's something that we needed," Byrd said.

The Rangers were leading by one with two on and two out in the fourth when Byrd hit his second homer and seventh of the season.

With Texas up by one Monday, in part because of his homer, Byrd hit into an inning-ending double play with two on. He was 3 for 4, but blamed himself for the 5-2 loss because right after his grounder, the next five Angels reached, including back-to-back homers.

Byrd made up for that, though he insisted he wasn't thinking about it Tuesday.

"I go home, it's all gone," Byrd said. "I have the drive home to be mad. Once I get home, that's done. I move on and try to do what I did."

Texas quickly built a 3-0 lead, scoring more runs through its first three batters off Saunders (8-5) than in 10 of its June games. Kinsler extended his team record with his 10th career leadoff homer, fifth this year, and Byrd connected after Michael Young walked.

Saunders is 0-5 with an 11.67 ERA

See **RANGERS**, Page 2B

An all-Williams or all-Russian Wimbledon finals?

By **STEPHEN WILSON**

AP Sports Writer

WIMBLEDON, England — Wimbledon could be headed for another all-Williams final. Then again, it could be an all-Russian matchup.

The Williams sisters are one round away from another Grand Slam championship showdown, but they will first have to get past Russian opponents to set up their eighth meeting in a major final and fourth in the Wimbledon title match.

"I would love it to be a Williams final, and so would she," five-time champion Venus said, referring to younger sister and two-time winner Serena. "That would be great."

Third-seeded Venus, going for her third straight Wimbledon championship, will be up against No. 1 Dinara Safina in Thursday's semifinals. Serena, seeded No. 2, will face No. 4 Elena Dementieva.

The Williams siblings go in as solid favorites. They have put on a clinic of power tennis so far, showing why they have been the dominant force at the All England Club for most of the decade.

"Do I feel invincible?" Venus said after blasting



Serena Williams

Agnieszka Radwanska 6-1, 6-2 in Tuesday's quarterfinals. "I'd like to say yes, but I really do work at it."

Only once in the past nine years has there been a Wimbledon women's final that didn't feature at least one of the Williams sisters.

They have faced each other in three Wimbledon finals, including last year. Serena won the first two, in 2002 and '03. They are 10-10 in career meetings and have played in seven Grand Slam finals, with Serena winning five.

"Serena and I work really hard — that's the first point," Venus said. "And second, if it was so easy, we'd win everything. But it's not that easy. We still are definitely the front-runners in tennis as far as being some of the best players out there."

The women had the day off Wednesday, which was set aside for the men's quarterfinals.

Five-time champion Roger Federer, closing in on a record 15th Grand Slam title, was scheduled first on Centre Court against big-serving 6-foot-10 Croat Ivo Karlovic, followed by No. 3 Andy Murray of Britain against Spanish wild card Juan Carlos Ferrero.

On Court 1, No. 4 Novak Djokovic was to face Tommy Haas, with two-time finalist Andy Roddick paired against 2002 champion Lleyton Hewitt.

The Williams sisters have sailed through the draw so far without dropping a set. Venus has lost only 20 games



Venus Williams

in five matches, Serena 25.

"We have a great game," Serena said after beating Victoria Azarenka 6-2, 6-3 Tuesday. "We have strong serves. I think we have pretty good returns. Just solid all-around court players. I think we both move pretty well."

I think that's a pretty solid game."

Venus said the sisters thrive at Wimbledon not only because of their attacking, punishing styles.

"I do have strategy," she said. "Maybe it doesn't look like it but I do. I think that's my secret weapon, that it doesn't look like I'm thinking, but I am."

Venus has shown no letup in her aggressive style despite wearing a bandage on her left leg. She has been reluctant to discuss whether she has a knee problem.

"I'm doing well, thank you," she said after Tuesday's match.

One person who is convinced the sisters will meet for the title on Saturday is their father, Richard.

"I think they are both playing 'super well,'" he said. "They're playing 'The Williams Way.' And when you're playing 'The Williams Way,' it's very difficult for anyone to touch you."

Williams has a 2-1 career edge over Safina, though the Russian won their last meeting in three sets on clay at the Italian Open in May.

"I know what she's doing," Safina said. "I know her"

See **TENNIS**, Page 2B

Sports in brief

Ragball tournament to benefit sandlot team

There will be a benefit rag ball tournament benefiting the Boys 16-Under Sandlot Team set for July 3-5 at the Roy Anderson Complex and Cotton Mize Field.

Entry fees are \$10 per person, and registration is set for Friday, July 3, at the Roy Anderson Complex.

Friday night's games will be played at the Roy Anderson Complex.

Trophies will be awarded to the first- through third-place teams and T-shirts will be awarded to the first- and second-place teams.

Proceeds from the tournament will be used to send the team to the New Mexico State Tournament in Clovis, N.M., and to the USSSA Youth Slow Pitch World Tournament set for July 30-Aug. 2 in Lubbock.

For more information, call Ben Flores at 432-816-1262 or Manuel Sosa at 432-213-5511.

12 and Under softball all-stars raising money at Pizza Inn

The Big Spring Girls Softball Association 12U All-Stars team is raising money to attend its all-star tournament.

One of its fund raisers will be waiting tables at Pizza Inn from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. July 9.

A portion of the profits will benefit the team. Donations will also be accepted.

Police blotter

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

- CRIMINAL MISCHIEF was reported in the 2900 block of W. Highway 80.
- ASSAULT CLASS C/FAMILY VIOLENCE was reported: in the 100 block of 13th Street. 1000 block of Main Street.

Sheriff

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

Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 67 inmates at the time of this report.

- WILLIAM EARL ANDERSON, 45, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on a local warrant.
- FERNANDO KYONG ARRIAGA JR., 32, was arrested Tuesday (arresting agency not provided) on a probation revocation for driving while license invalid.
- MATTHEW DANIEL CANTU, 27, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on a judgment/sentence for driving while license invalid with a previous conviction.
- ENRIQUE HENRY GUZMAN, 50, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on a charge of possession of a controlled substance.
- JULIANA RENEE JUAREZ, 21, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on a charge of probation violation — theft.

EMS

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

- MEDICAL was reported in the 2900 block of W. Highway 80. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1800 block of E. FM 700. Service refused.
- TRAFFIC ACCIDENT was reported in the 700 block of E. 15th Street. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1700 block of E. Highway 350. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAUMA was reported in the 600 block of Caylor. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAFFIC ACCIDENT was reported in the 700 block of E. 13th Street. Two people were transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 200 block of Tulane. Service refused.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 100 block of Jefferson. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAFFIC ACCIDENT was reported near the intersection of Owens and 13th Street. One person was transported to SMMC.
- GAS LEAK was reported in the 3200 block of Auburn.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 600 block of Colgate. Service refused.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1500 block of Sycamore. One person was transported to SMMC.

Support Groups

WEDNESDAY

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

THURSDAY

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

FRIDAY

- AA open discussion meeting from noon until 1 p.m. at 605 Settles. Open Big Book study meeting, 8 p.m. until 9 p.m.

SATURDAY

- Alcoholics Anonymous open discussion meeting, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m. Open podium/speakers meeting 615 Settles 8 p.m. until 9 p.m. Open birthday night, no smoking meeting the last Saturday of each month at 8 p.m.

SUNDAY

- Alcoholics Anonymous meets from 11 a.m. to noon at 615 Settles. Open meeting 5 p.m. until 6 p.m.

MONDAY

- Encourager's Support Group for all widows and widowers meets the first and third Monday of the month. For more information, call Nancy Hale at 398-5239.

Bulletin Board

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

TODAY

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

THURSDAY

- Gideon International Big Spring Camp U42060 meets at 7 a.m. in Herman's Restaurant.
- Kiwanis Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room.
- 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.

MONDAY

- Keep Big Spring Beautiful meets at noon in the Cactus Room at Howard College.
- District Committee Lone Star of Big Spring meets at noon at 610 Scurry.
- 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.
- Evening Lions Club meets at 6:45 p.m. at Dragon China Buffet.
- Howard County ARC meets at 806 E. Third in the Bingo Hall. Call 264-0674 for more information.
- The Big Spring Cruisers club meeting at 7 p.m. in the Texas RV Park meeting room.
- Prospector's Club work night begins at 7 p.m. at 606 E. Third.
- Big Spring Chapter No. 178 meets at 7:30 p.m. at 221 Main.

TUESDAY

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

Take Note

- Angel Food ordering days for the July 4 holiday weekend will be Wednesday and Thursday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Orders will be taken only at North Birdwell Lane United Methodist Church, 2702 N. Birdwell Lane, on those days. Regular order days for July will be Friday, July 11, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday, July 12, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the church. Orders will also be taken from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. July 12 at the Big Spring Mall. For more information, call 267-2203.

- The West Texas Pachyderm (Republican) Club is having its monthly meeting Thursday, June 25 at noon at the Big Spring Country Club located off of Driver Road. Lunch will be served for a nominal fee. Plans for an upcoming Tea Party will be discussed and anyone interested should attend. For more information, call Melanie Gambrell at 267-7387.

- The Permian Basin Foundation has awarded West Texas Opportunities funds through the Texas Resources for Iraq Afghanistan Deployment fund. West Texas Opportunities will assist current and former military personnel serving in Iraq or Afghanistan and their families. Funding will serve Howard, Martin, Andrews, Borden, Dawson, Ector, Fisher, Gaines, Glasscock, Midland, Mitchell, Nolan, Scurry and Upton counties. For more information, contact Diana Martinez or Debbie Wilson at 110 Johnson in Big Spring or call (432) 267-9536.

- An account to defray funeral costs for the family of Justin Hernandez has been set up at Western Bank — formerly known as First Bank of West Texas — located on FM 700. Hernandez was killed in a shooting May 29. For more information, contact the bank at 267-1113.

- Area residents are invited to participate in Vacation Bible School events being offered by the Southern Baptist Churches of Big Spring. Listed are the churches, dates, times and ages included: Coahoma First Baptist, July 6-10, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., ages pre-kindergarten through sixth grade. Gateway Baptist, July 6-10, 9 a.m. to noon, ages 4 through sixth grade. Central Baptist Elbow, July 12-16, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., ages kindergarten through adult. Baptist Temple, July 20-24, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., ages 4 through sixth grade. Hillcrest Baptist, July 26-30, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., ages kindergarten through sixth grade.

Today's Weather

Local 3-Day Forecast

Thu 7/2	Fri 7/3	Sat 7/4
94/72 Sunny skies. High 94F. Winds S at 5 to 10 mph.	95/72 More sun than clouds. Highs in the mid 90s and lows in the low 70s.	95/73 Abundant sunshine. Highs in the mid 90s and lows in the low 70s.
Sunrise: 6:44 AM Sunset: 8:57 PM	Sunrise: 6:44 AM Sunset: 8:56 PM	Sunrise: 6:44 AM Sunset: 8:56 PM

American Profile
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Stories for and about hometowns just like yours. Look for us each week in this paper.

Texas At A Glance

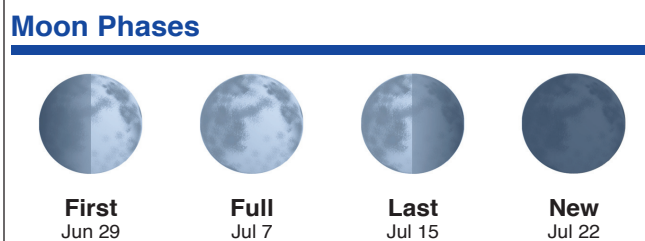


Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Abilene	98	73	sunny
Amarillo	94	66	sunny
Austin	100	74	mst sunny
Beaumont	98	76	mst sunny
Brownsville	93	78	mst sunny
Brownwood	99	72	sunny
Corpus Christi	96	78	mst sunny
Corsicana	99	74	sunny
Dallas	101	75	sunny
Del Rio	100	78	mst sunny
El Paso	94	72	mst sunny
Fort Stockton	93	70	mst sunny
Gainesville	99	74	sunny
Greenville	99	72	sunny
Houston	99	75	mst sunny
Kingsville	98	76	mst sunny
Livingston	100	73	mst sunny
Longview	99	74	sunny
Lubbock	95	68	sunny
Lufkin	100	74	sunny
Midland	95	74	sunny
Raymondville	97	76	mst sunny
Rosenberg	99	75	mst sunny
San Antonio	102	75	mst sunny
San Marcos	102	74	mst sunny
Sulphur Springs	99	74	sunny
Sweetwater	97	72	sunny
Tyler	99	73	sunny
Weatherford	99	73	sunny
Wichita Falls	100	72	sunny

National Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Atlanta	90	67	mst sunny
Boston	69	62	rain
Chicago	77	61	pt sunny
Dallas	101	75	sunny
Denver	80	61	t-storm
Houston	99	75	mst sunny
Los Angeles	79	64	pt sunny
Miami	89	79	t-storm
Minneapolis	82	61	mst sunny
New York	77	65	t-storm
Phoenix	96	81	t-storm
San Francisco	78	58	pt sunny
Seattle	85	59	sunny
St. Louis	80	66	mst sunny
Washington, DC	81	65	pt sunny



UV Index

Thu 7/2	Fri 7/3	Sat 7/4
11	11	11
Extreme	Extreme	Extreme

The UV Index is measured on a 0 - 11 number scale, with a higher UV Index showing the need for greater skin protection.

Lottery

The jackpot in the Mega Millions multistate lottery game has been increased to \$113 million.

The prize amount was rolled over because no player matched all the winning numbers in Tuesday's \$94 million drawing. The next Mega Millions drawing is Friday night.

The winning numbers from Tuesday were 7, 34, 49, 54 and 55. The Mega Ball number was 34.

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Tuesday night:

Winning numbers drawn: 4 - 11 - 13 - 31 - 37. Number matching five of five: 0.

The winning Daily 4 numbers drawn Tuesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 7 - 2 - 7 - 7. Sum It Up: 23.

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

BIG SPRING HERALD

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TENNIS

Continued from Page 1B

weapons. I have my weapons. ... If I play my best, and she plays the best, it's 50-50 who's going to win the match."

Safina, who has lost in three Grand Slam finals and never won a major, will have to keep her serve in the court if she has any chance of beating Williams. Safina had 15 double-faults — including three in a row in one game — before finishing off Sabine Lisicki 6-7 (5), 6-4, 6-1.

know what I'm doing with my serve," Safina said.

Serena is 5-3 against Dementieva. They met at Wimbledon in the fourth round in 2002.

"I don't remember that," Williams said.

Dementieva lost to Venus in last year's Wimbledon semifinals. Now playing in her 43rd Grand Slam tournament, the 27-year-old Russian hasn't dropped a set so far.

"This time I'm going to play a different player and it's going to be all new," Dementieva said. "I just want to see how tough I can be out there against her, just looking for some good fight."

RANGERS

Continued from Page 1B

in five career starts at Rangers Ballpark.

The left-hander is 21-4 with a 2.92 ERA in 31 starts as a visitor to other ballparks — and 3-0 with a 1.44 ERA in four home starts against Texas.

"Maybe you guys can figure it out because I haven't," Saunders said.

"It seems like every time I come and pitch here, I don't have any command or they're sitting one way and I'm pitching right into their swings."

Nelson Cruz and David

Murphy also went deep for Texas, which ended what had been one of the worst offensive months in team history with a season-high five home runs — four in 3 2-3 innings off Saunders.

Elvis Andrus had four stolen bases, the first AL rookie since 1990 to do that.

"Obviously he doesn't feel comfortable. I don't know if it's the mound, a good offensive club," manager Mike Scioscia said. "He has trouble executing pitches as consistently as he can."

The Angels had their six-game winning streak snapped, but are still 1½ games ahead of Texas.

Scott Feldman (6-2) made it through six innings even

after throwing 57 pitches the first two innings while giving up a three-run lead.

The right-hander retired 13 of the last 14 batters he faced, 11 in a row after Torii Hunter's RBI single tied it at 3 in the second.

"I wasn't sure how far he was going to be able to go after that," manager Ron Washington said. "He settled down and started pitching."

And the Rangers hitters were slugging again.

Cruz snapped a 2-for-27 slide with a go-ahead homer in the third. Murphy's fourth homer in six games came in the seventh and made it 9-3.

"Hopefully, this will create some momentum for us," Murphy said.

ASTROS

Continued from Page 1B

seventh inning with a go-ahead RBI single for a 4-3 lead.

Gonzalez was hurt sliding into third base with an RBI triple in the fourth.

"It wasn't my best slide," he said. "I slide on top of my leg. I felt it as soon as I hit the ground."

Josh Banks (1-0) pitched seven solid innings, allowing three

runs and five hits in his first major league start of the season. The right-hander, recalled from Triple-A Portland on June 16, struck out four and walked one.

Heath Bell got four outs for his 22nd save in 23 chances.

Bell is tied with Los Angeles Angels lefty Brian Fuentes for the major league lead.

The Padres, last in the majors in runs, can hardly afford to lose Gonzalez, an All-Star last year. He slumped through June, but with 24 homers with 48 RBIs,

he is still on pace for an outstanding season.

"Hopefully, it's just day to day," Bell said. "Maybe Adrian can get a couple of days' rest and come back hitting dingers."

In 24 games since June 2, Gonzalez is batting .221 with two homers and five RBIs.

His batting average has dropped from .289 to .271.

"We're going to see how it sets up overnight, and (Wednesday) morning we'll see if there is a need for any tests," San Diego manager Bud

Black said.

The injury also puts Gonzalez's streak of 283 consecutive games played in jeopardy, the longest active streak in the majors.

He is 23 games short of breaking Steve Garvey's San Diego record of 305 games.

Trailing 3-1, the Padres went ahead with three runs in the seventh against Chris Sampson (4-1).

Chase Headley led off with a single. After a strikeout and a sacrifice, pinch-hitter Will Venable doubled in one

run. Tony Gwynn Jr. followed with an RBI single and went to second on the throw home. Eckstein then singled to center, with Gwynn just beating the throw home from Michael Bourn for a 4-3 lead.

"Bad day," Sampson said. "I just missed a few spots, made some bad pitches. (Mike) Hampton pitched his tail off and deserved to win and I just messed it up. It was my fault."

Lance Berkman hit a two-run homer and Hampton pitched six strong innings after

coming off the disabled list for the Astros.

Berkman continued his recent tear with his 17th home run, putting Houston ahead 3-0 in the third.

Berkman went 2 for 3 with a walk and is 10 for 19 with three homers and nine RBIs in his last six games.

Hampton allowed one run and three hits with six strikeouts and a walk.

The left-hander had been on the 15-day DL since June 14 with a left groin strain before being activated Tuesday.

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News in Brief

Al Franken's win in Minnesota Senate race gives Democrats filibuster-proof majority

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP) — Al Franken refused his rival's calls for an election night concession last November, choosing instead to begin vote counting and courtroom haggling that stretched almost eight months and ultimately landed him a seat in the U.S. Senate.

Franken's victory over Republican Norm Coleman gives Democrats 60 Senate seats, the critical number needed to overcome Republican filibusters. When Franken is seated, which could come as early as next week, his party will have a majority not reached on either side of the aisle in some three decades.

Coleman conceded the election hours after a unanimous state Supreme Court ruled Tuesday that Franken — who moved into politics with books poking fun at conservative radio host Rush Limbaugh — should be certified the winner. In doing so, Coleman pulled the plug on a bitter election that was decided by 312 votes out of almost 2.9 million cast.

"When you win an election this close, you know not one bit of effort went to waste," Franken told reporters outside his downtown Minneapolis town house, accompanied by his wife. "The way I see it, I'm not going to Washington to be the 60th Democratic senator, I'm going to Washington to be the second senator from Minnesota."

Coleman could have carried his fight into federal court, but it was unlikely to overturn the state Supreme Court's decision.

Busy scene behind Neverland's gates on the eve of Michael Jackson's expected will filing

LOS ANGELES (AP) — On the night before Michael Jackson's will was expected to be filed in court, heavy construction equipment and workers passed through the wrought-iron

gates of Neverland Ranch, fueling speculation that it could soon be hosting a funeral or permanent memorial to the King of Pop.

Late Tuesday, Santa Barbara County officials said there were no final decisions by the Jackson family for any funeral or memorial service in the county or at Neverland.

All the same, more than a dozen vehicles, including a tractor, a cement mixer and a backhoe, along with groups of gardeners and florists bearing huge wreaths, were spotted on the property about 120 miles northwest of Los Angeles.

At once a symbol of Jackson's success and excesses, Neverland — the 2,500-acre property nestled in the hills of Santa Barbara County's wine country — became the site of a makeshift memorial after his death Thursday.

Members of Jackson's family met Tuesday with officials from the Los Angeles police and California Highway Patrol about funeral services but "details are still pending," according to Fran Clader, a spokeswoman for the patrol.

North Korean ship changes its course as Pyongyang renews warnings against searches

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — A North Korean ship under scrutiny for more than a week by the U.S. Navy has changed course and was heading back the way it came, U.S. officials said, as Pyongyang warned Wednesday it will take military action if anyone attempts to search its vessels.

The Kang Nam 1 — originally believed to be bound for Myanmar with suspicious cargo on board, possibly illicit weapons — turned around and headed back north on Sunday, two U.S. officials said on condition of anonymity to discuss intelligence.

The U.S. officials, speaking in Washington on Tuesday, said they do not know where the ship is going. But it was some 250 miles (400 kilometers) south of Hong Kong on Tuesday and heading north, one official said.

NJ man on 15th drunken-driving offense: I'm guilty

MORRISTOWN, N.J. (AP) — A New Jersey man whose driver's license has been suspended 78 times has pleaded guilty to his 15th drunken-driving offense.

Shaun Campbell of East Rutherford told a judge Tuesday that he had been drinking "quite a bit" of beer when he crashed his SUV head-on into a pickup in April. The truck's occupants, a man and his 4-year-old daughter, were not seriously hurt.

The 40-year-old Campbell's blood-alcohol level was .288 percent, more than triple the state's legal limit.

Authorities say Campbell's license has been suspended 78 times in 22 years. He still faces drunken-driving charges in two other New Jersey cities.

Prosecutors are seeking a maximum prison term of nearly three years at Campbell's sentencing in August. He will lose his license for at least 10 more years.

HIGHLAND

Continued from Page 1A

scooters, rollerblades and strollers. We'll also judge dogs and pets, walkers, battery operated kids vehicles that are motorized, mailboxes and houses. We'll also have a category for

four-wheelers, but we're requiring that an adult 18 years old or older stay with the child and drive, just to be safe."

Seymore said the parade will begin at the corner of Highland and Robb, and will end at Highland and Goliad.

"We'll have refreshments and entertainment at the end of the parade," said Seymore. "Gloria Garibay will

be singing for us, and we'll be passing out the awards. All of the children who participate will receive a ribbon."

Seymore said the parade, which has been a local mainstay since the early 1970s, is a fun and family-friendly way to celebrate the Fourth of July.

"I think, for most of the people ... it's a family tradition," she said. "Their

kids were in it, and now their grandchildren are in it. It's just a lot of fun for everybody."

For more information, contact Seymore at 267-4854 or Linda Stallings at 267-8427.

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

BUDGET

Continued from Page 1A

firm plans to return or even for Gov. Pat Quinn and legislative leaders to resume negotiations.

In Pennsylvania, talks between Gov. Ed Rendell and top legislators ended Tuesday night with no substantial progress, aides said. Rendell said he didn't think an agreement would come soon. The state faces the prospect of not being able to pay state employees if they cannot resolve an impasse.

The end of June marked the end of the fiscal year in many states, meaning lawmakers worked late Tuesday to pass budgets in a year that has seen the recession take a devastating toll on government finances.

Fallout from California's budget mess threatened to spread nationwide because of the sheer size of the state's

economy. The Senate rejected three bills designed to save \$5 billion, including \$3.3 billion in education funding cuts that had to be enacted before Wednesday.

Senate President Pro Tem Darrell Steinberg, a Democrat, called Republicans' refusal to vote for the measures "an irresponsible position to take." At least two Republican votes were needed to put together the two-thirds majorities required to approve the legislation, which passed the Assembly last week with bipartisan support.

Arizona, Indiana, Ohio, Connecticut and Mississippi also were among the other states that raced against the clock to pass budgets — and avoid crippling consequences.

Faced with a budget stalemate, the Ohio House voted in favor of a seven-day spending plan that will allow the state to keep operating

while budget talks continue, the first temporary budget Ohio has been forced to approve in 18 years.

Indiana narrowly averted a large-scale government shutdown after coming to terms on a budget.

Mississippi lawmakers approved most of the \$6 billion budget, but left one agency — the state's utility regulatory agency — unfunded. The Public Service Commission said it didn't know how the agency would continue to function, but Gov. Haley Barbour has said he can run the agency by executive order.

In Connecticut, Gov. M. Jodi Rell signed an executive order to keep the government running without a two-year budget in place. While she contends the average taxpayer won't notice any change, municipal officials fear delays in state grants that fund everything from road

repairs to education.

In the wee hours Wednesday, the Arizona Legislature completed action on budget bills to implement most of a compromise \$8.4 billion budget negotiated with Gov. Jan Brewer. Lawmakers omitted a sales tax increase that Brewer wanted, and her spokesman declined to say if she would sign the bills.

In Pennsylvania, state workers will receive only partial pay on July 17 and July 24, after which paychecks will be withheld entirely until the impasse is solved. They will then be paid retroactively.

Rendell said 10 banks and credit unions have agreed to help 69,000 state employees by offering them low- or no-interest loans and lines of credit.

In most states, the debate centers around whether states should be raising taxes to bridge the budget gaps.

California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger said he wouldn't sign anything that raised taxes or fees beyond what he has already proposed.

"They should forget about that," the Republican governor said, accusing Democrats of going through a "song and dance. Let's get to work, fix it."

State Controller John Chiang has said he would have to start issuing the IOUs on Thursday unless lawmakers took steps to stem the state's red ink by then.

Roughly \$3 billion worth of IOUs will be issued in July unless a compromise on closing the deficit is reached quickly. They will be sent to state contractors, college students, welfare recipients, low-income seniors, the dis-

abled and others who depend on or deliver state services. Counties will not get paid for social programs they administer.

OBESE

Continued from Page 1A

let. We don't have a pill for it," said Levi, whose group is pushing for health reform legislation to include community-level programs that help people make healthier choices — like building sidewalks so people can walk their neighborhoods instead of drive, and providing healthier school lunches.

"It's not going to be solved in the doctor's office but in the community, where we change norms," Levi said.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has long said that nearly a third of Americans are obese. The Trust report uses somewhat more conservative CDC surveys for a closer state-by-state look. Among the findings:

—Mississippi had the highest rate of adult obesity, 32.5 percent, for the fifth year in a row.

—Three additional states now have adult obesity rates above 30 percent, including Alabama, 31.2 percent; West Virginia, 31.1 percent; and Tennes-

see, 30.2 percent. Ohio ranked 10th with an adult obesity rate of 28.6 percent.

—Colorado had the lowest rate of obese adults, at 18.9 percent, followed by Massachusetts, 21.2 percent; and Connecticut, 21.3 percent.

—Mississippi also had the highest rate of overweight and obese children, at 44.4 percent. It's followed by Arkansas, 37.5 percent; and Georgia, 37.3 percent.

—Following Alabama, Michigan ranks No. 2 with the most obese 55- to 64-year-olds, 36 percent. Colorado has the lowest rate, 21.8 percent.

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SUNDAY, JULY 5th & MONDAY, JULY 6th

Deadlines: Tuesday, July 2nd, 10:00 am

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Dallas wants Kidd to return

DALLAS (AP) — Mark Cuban wants to be first in line to talk to Jason Kidd.

Cuban posted Tuesday on Twitter, "Getting ready to fly up to NYC for Free Agent meeting at 12:01," and that free agent is Kidd, according to a person with knowledge of the situation. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because NBA rules prevent commenting on such things.

Cuban has made it clear he wants to keep Kidd alongside Dirk Nowitzki on the Dallas Mavericks, but it might not be easy.

The New York Knicks are believed to be interested, too. So could LeBron James' Cavaliers or perhaps Kobe Bryant's Lakers. Kidd has never won an NBA championship, but has won two Olympic gold medals, including one with James and Bryant just last year. Other teams also may be calling agent Jeff Schwartz.

ESPN.com first reported that Cuban's New York trip is for Kidd.

Kidd made more than \$21 million last season. At 36, he knows to expect a dip — but how much could be the big difference. Another likely factor will be the length of the contract.

The Lakers and Cavaliers might only offer a one-year deal, dangling their hopes of a title as incentive. Kidd would then be a free agent again in 2010, meaning he'd still have a chance for one last big payday.

"You would love to win a championship, but there are no guarantees," Kidd said in mid-May, a day after the Mavericks' season ended with a second-round loss to the Denver Nuggets. "You could pick the favorites for next year to win a championship and things could go side-ways."

So maybe he'd prefer big money now from a team already in contention. That could be Dallas, which might be willing to pay more than other teams to help maximize the prime of Nowitzki's career and to avoid the problem of trying to replace him.

"I'm not looking at it as ... hitching on a bandwagon and jumping on with a team that's a favorite," Kidd said.

Rockets still mum on Yao news

HOUSTON (AP) — On the eve of the NBA draft, Houston Rockets general manager Daryl Morey said that the franchise was still determined to build around All-Star center Yao Ming.

"He's the cornerstone of the team," Morey said.

A few days later, the future of the team and the All-Star center from China have suddenly been thrown into question amid ominous reports from the team doctor that the hairline fracture in Yao's left foot could not only possibly keep him out all of next season, but potentially end his career.

That would not only be devastating news for the Rockets, but a crippling blow to the NBA, which would lose one of its most influential international ambassadors.

On Tuesday, the league was still holding out hope that Yao would play again.

"I think it's awfully prema-

ture for us to comment on that," league spokesman Tim Frank said. "Let's see how this works out first."

Morey said Monday he would not comment on the reports about Yao "until we have all the facts."

A team spokesman said Tuesday that nothing was definitive and that Yao and his representatives were seeking other medical opinions this week.

The Rockets already know that Tracy McGrady could be out until next February after undergoing risky microfracture surgery on his left knee. Morey also has to decide what to do with Ron Artest, who becomes a free agent after making over \$7 million in a productive first season in Houston. Artest said after the season that he wanted to come back — but that was when he believed the Rockets could compete for the Western Conference title.

Releasing McGrady and Artest could save the Rockets money, but probably cost them a season. It would also mark a disappointing end to the star-crossed pairing of Yao and McGrady.

The two have only played together in 220 games across five seasons. Together, they've missed 204 games to injuries and illnesses since McGrady joined the team in June 2004.

Yao was injured in Game 3 of the second-round series with the Los Angeles Lakers, and Houston pushed the eventual NBA champions to seven games. But the scrappiness the Rockets showed won't be enough to carry them through a whole season without a superstar.

That leaves Morey with difficult — and far-reaching — decisions to make this summer.

Yao is due to make over \$16 million next season, with a player option for 2010-11 that

would pay him over \$17 million. McGrady will make over \$22 million next season, the last year of his contract.

Before the draft, Morey said teams have made "very aggressive" offers for McGrady. They're probably more interested in McGrady's expiring contract than what he could provide on the court, but either way, Morey hasn't seen a deal he likes.

"We are getting a lot of interest on Tracy and I do have to listen," Morey said.

"It's my job to make this team as ready to win the title as possible."

But how realistic is that if Yao is sidelined for the season or longer?

Morey said last Friday that the uncertainty surrounding Yao had not changed his offseason strategy for trades. That was before team doctor Tom Clanton told the Houston Chronicle that Yao's injury could threaten his career.

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In Sunday's Big Spring Herald

American Profile
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EDITORIAL

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-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

Ron Midkiff
Publisher

John A. Moseley
Managing Editor

Bill McClellan
News Editor

OUR VIEW

Let's all enjoy Friday night's Pops concert

One of Big Spring's highlights of the summer is virtually at hand as organizers make final preparations for Friday night's 12th annual "Pops in the Park" celebration at the Comanche Trail Amphitheater.

The event — a free concert performance by the Big Spring Symphony and Chorus, a patriotic fireworks display — will be opened by Jim Kays and the Kays Grass Band, followed by Texas Country Artist Maren Morris.

It is being presented by the Herald, the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce, the Big Spring Symphony, the city of Big Spring, KTBS, KBST AM & FM and the Cornell Companies.

Major corporate sponsors for the show include "Stars and Stripes" donor H-E-B; "Texas Star" sponsors Medicine Center Pharmacy and KBYG; and "Rocket" donors Alon USA, Robinson Drilling of Texas, T. Blackshear Interiors, Partee Enterprises, Porter Henderson Implement Company, TLC Property Management, Wal-Mart, the Worthy Company and the Howard County Volunteer Fire Department.

Gates will open at 5 p.m. — plenty of time to claim a choice seat. Vendor's booths will open at the same time and Jim Kays and the Kays Grass Band will get the musical entertainment started at 6 p.m.. The symphony and chorus will begin its presentation around 8:30 and the fireworks begin around 9:45.

While no admission will be charged of those who attend the show, it should be noted that the celebration does carry a significant price tag — approximately \$40,000 this year.

Donations from area businesses, groups and individuals cover the amount needed to put on the show, but every little bit helps. What's more, the organizing committee will need seed money when it begins its work on next year's show.

That's why concert-goers will be solicited for donations during the show.

We here at the Herald want to take this opportunity to encourage individual contributions at the amphitheater.

If just half of those who attend could donate one dollar, organizers would be guaranteed of having the seed money they'll need for the next edition of what most of us believe is the best Fourth of July celebration anywhere in West Texas.

"Pops in the Park" is a quality show and the organizing committee works diligently to make each celebration a little bigger and better than the one which preceded it. And everyone who can contribute — from the major corporate sponsor plunking down \$5,000 to the youngster dropping a few coins in the donation basket at the amphitheater has a hand in making the show the success it always is.

So make your plans to be at the Comanche Trail Park Amphitheater Tuesday night and enjoy yourself as our community celebrates the freedoms granted us as citizens of the greatest nation on earth.

We'll see you there!

LETTER POLICIES

The Herald welcomes letters to the editor.

- Limit your letters to no more than 300 words.
- Sign your letter.
- Provide a daytime telephone number, as well as a street address for verification purposes.
- We reserve the right to edit for style and clarity.
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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

May our ambition for You, Lord, show through to others.

Amen

Let's keep Affirmative Action, without reverse discrimination

Some Republicans will tell us that Sonia Sotomayor is in trouble, that Monday's Supreme Court decision to overturn one of her appeals court rulings should disqualify her from joining the highest court in the land.

Of course, because this is not unprecedented, the argument will be phony.

Appeals court judges whose rulings are overturned can end up on the Supreme Court. It has happened before, and it surely will happen this time.

In spite of all the race-baiting arguments that will be made by some of her critics, Sotomayor will be confirmed as the first Latina Supreme Court justice, not only because she is brilliant and deserves it but also because the Supreme Court needs a little diversity.

Yes, that's right; the composition of the Supreme Court needs a little affirmative action!

Yet it should not be the kind of affirmative action practiced by the city of New Haven, Conn., where efforts to end discrimination against African-Americans led to reverse discrimination against white and Hispanic firefighters.

At the Supreme Court level, we don't have that problem. After all, candidates for the Supreme Court are nominated by the president and confirmed by the Senate.

It's a political decision. There is no promotional exam that determines who is most qualified to sit on the highest court. If there were one, Sotomayor surely would pass it.

But if there were a bunch of white men who scored better

than Sotomayor and she got the job anyway, that would be reverse discrimination.

In New Haven, when the city threw out the results of a firefighters promotional exam because not enough black firefighters passed and because officials feared lawsuits from black applicants claiming that the test was flawed, it turned affirmative action into reverse discrimination.

When the city was challenged by white and Hispanic firefighters who passed the exam, the case went all the way up to the 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, where a panel of judges, including Sotomayor, failed to recognize it as reverse discrimination and ruled in favor of the city.

But because the Supreme Court overturned the appeals court's ruling Monday — deciding that white firefighters were denied promotions unfairly — we now can expect Sotomayor's critics to say this proves she is an activist judge who rules based on her personal feelings about race.

In fact, the New Haven case proves exactly the opposite; Sotomayor showed restraint and followed precedent by supporting the city's decision to comply with the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

Had Sotomayor been the activist Hispanic judge some claim she is, she would have ruled in favor of the white firefighters, because among them there was at least one Hispanic.

Nevertheless, immediately after the ruling, Sotomayor's critics said it raised serious questions about her nomination.

Mind you, because the divided ruling came down to a 5-4 vote, four sitting Supreme Court justices agreed with Sotomayor, including David Souter, the justice she would replace.

Had she been on the high court already, Sotomayor's vote would

not have changed the outcome.

Besides, Supreme Court justices almost always disagree on how laws should be interpreted, but that hasn't disqualified them from sitting on the Supreme Court.

The only serious questions raised by this ruling are about the future of affirmative action programs and their role in helping women and minorities advance in the U.S. work force, government contracting and college admissions.

On the extreme right, there will be those who argue that race no longer should be an issue, that we should strive to create a colorblind society, that affirmative action is no longer necessary and that it should be banned.

But that would be absurd, especially because that argument usually comes from prominent race baiters, people who prove — just by their racist behavior — that affirmative action is still very necessary.

It may not be the perfect way to correct the inequalities and discrimination that still exist in our society, but until someone comes up with a better way, affirmative action is the best of all the bad solutions.

When affirmative action programs create reverse discrimination problems — as abhorrent as the ones they were meant to solve — we obviously have to find a way to revise them.

The idea is to avoid all forms of discrimination, for all Americans.

But because there is no test for Supreme Court justices and because Sotomayor is as qualified as hundreds of other Americans with brilliant credentials, why not apply a little affirmative action to the Supreme Court of the United States?

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Global warming denying

There is so much misinformation on the subject of global warming and so little consensus — as to what environmental changes are occurring, whether human behavior is contributing to them, whether they are causing significant environmental damage, and whether the proposed cap and trade legislation would do anything to alleviate any of this — it is no wonder our freedom-hating majority in the House insisted on cramming it through before they could even read, much less digest, what it contained.

It would be bad enough if they passed innocuous legislation to address an alleged problem (man-caused global warming) without first verifying there is a problem and then analyzing and assessing the extent of it, but it's outrageous that they would pass a measure that could have crippling effects on our economy and American taxpayers.

Who do these people think they are — that they can claim a mandate to do anything they want to, that they can grab as much power as they want, that they can transform our government overnight into an enemy of the people, with no fear of accountability?

Oh, I know; the government has already behaved like the people's enemy all too often, but never on the scale we're witnessing today — from a party that had the audacity to accuse President George W. Bush of abusing his authority.

Just where is the journalistic skepticism in today's dominant media culture or the professed open-mindedness of Democrats?

What is their response when people have the temerity to challenge their assertions on catastrophic global warming?

It is ridicule and abuse.

Not only are the doubters flat-earth Neanderthals; they are

darn near treasonous, according to the dogmatic left.

You don't believe me?

In a piece about the cap and trade bill, New York Times columnist Paul Krugman wrote, "As I watched the (global warming) deniers make their arguments, I couldn't help thinking that I was watching a form of treason — treason against the planet."

Don't get me wrong. It's not really newsworthy when leftists incline toward criminalizing their political opponents.

Both Krugman and his colleague Frank Rich wrote columns last month essentially blaming President Barack Obama's critics for the murders of abortion doctor George Tiller and the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum security guard.

But I digress.

While President Obama says that global warming "science is beyond dispute and the facts are clear" and Krugman says the "warming deniers" have "contempt for hard science," the record reveals a different story. If anyone has contempt for hard science, it is the Krugman leftists, who, either because of their political agenda or ideological predispositions, refuse to acknowledge — let alone consider — opposing opinions, even when they come from "hard scientists."

One way they deal with the very real fact that there is significant opposition to their dogmatic conclusions is to personally attack their opponents, usually saying evil corporations with vested interests in destroying the planet have bought them off.

Just as often, they simply out-yeell, ridicule, ignore or attempt to silence them. Remember when MIT's Richard Lindzen acknowledged that many scientists refuse to publicize their dissent to make "their lives easier"?

I would like to know how Krugman and Obama would explain away the fact that more than 31,000 scientists, including more than 9,000 with Ph.D.s, have signed a petition urging the United States government to

reject the global warming agreement known as Kyoto — "and any other similar proposals" — because the "the proposed limits on greenhouse gases would harm the environment, hinder the advance of science and technology, and damage the health and welfare of mankind."

Another 100 scientists have endorsed a newspaper ad by the Cato Institute challenging the president's "facts" on global warming.

But these authoritarian leftists don't just scoff at the hard science contradicting their conclusions about global warming and the extent to which man is contributing to it.

In their close-minded arrogance, they completely eschew any scientific inquiry into whether cap and trade legislation would have any appreciable impact on the alleged problems.

But if they are so sure of their scientific position, why are we reading reports — from the CBS Political Hotsheet, no less — that "the Environmental Protection Agency may have suppressed an internal report that was skeptical of claims about global warming, including whether carbon dioxide must be strictly regulated by the federal government, according to a series of newly disclosed e-mail messages"?

That's right; the Hotsheet reports that "less than two weeks before the agency formally submitted its pro-regulation recommendation to the White House, an EPA center director quashed a 98-page report that warned against making hasty 'decisions based on a scientific hypothesis that does not appear to explain most of the available data.'"

What say you, President Obama?

If you and your comrades are so sure of your science, why — other than, perhaps, your mission to destroy capitalism — are you silencing and/or ignoring dissenting science?

David Limbaugh is a writer, author and attorney.

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MIGUEL PEREZ



DAVID LIMBAUGH

Older Armstrong believes he can still win

PARIS (AP) — Lance Armstrong believes he can win an eighth Tour de France title, well aware his aging legs are not as strong as they used to be. He is also willing to put such ambitions aside if it means helping teammate Alberto Contador win.

Contador, the 2007 winner, and Armstrong will ride for the Astana team in the three-week race that starts Saturday with a time trial in Monaco. The pairing raises an intriguing question: Can the two Tour de France champions ride together or will their fierce individual agendas divide them?

The 37-year-old Armstrong won the last of his record seven straight Tours in 2005, and his startling comeback has fans worldwide eager to see if he can add to his cycling legend.

"Now it's 2009, not 2004, 2005 or 2001, that's different", Armstrong said in an interview with The Associated Press on Tuesday. "I would love to be eternally young, but I'm not. That's just the reality."

"It's not going to be easy to win," Armstrong added. "In December and January, I thought it would be easier. It ends up being more difficult than I thought. Perhaps because of the crash, of the

complicated season or simply because I'm older now."

Armstrong said he would be willing to support Contador if it becomes clear the Spaniard is the likelier rider to win the grueling race.

"Out of respect for him, out of respect for the team and out of respect for the rules of cycling, I would do it with pleasure", Armstrong said by telephone after previewing the 18th stage of the Tour, a time trial in Annecy.

When riders take the start line in Monaco, just one rider — the 40-year-old Spaniard Inigo Cuesta — is likely to be older than Armstrong. The Tour's oldest champion is Belgium's Firmin Lambot, who was 36 when he won in 1922.

Armstrong knows the odds are against him, and he would love to prove his doubters wrong.

"They would say that my time has come and gone and that I'm too old, that it's very complicated, that there are other riders now," Armstrong said. "I know those things and you could use those for motivation. I know where I am. I've studied my performances in training very closely, and I'm excited to race. I'm not sure that I can win, but I can tell you that the person who thinks that I

get 10th ... he is dead wrong."

Armstrong overcame testicular cancer to win his first Tour in 1999 and finished a creditable 12th place recently in the Giro d'Italia. Still, most regard Contador as favorite for the world's biggest multi-stage race.

Before the Giro, Armstrong broke his collarbone in a crash during the Vuelta of Castilla and Leon in March. Now he has recovered fully.

"The indication I have in training and the tests that I did tell me that my condition is good," he said. "Maybe not the best of my life, but not too bad."

As meticulous as ever, Armstrong spent the last four days scoping out the big difficulties he will face during the third and final week of the race — a sure sign his ambition still burns.

However, Contador's legs are 11 years fresher than Armstrong's, and Spain's supreme climber is just as hungry to win.

Armstrong insists there are no conflict of interests on his team.

"We really have a clear-cut favorite (Contador) that we can say he is better than the other contenders," he said. "Nobody wants to lose. I'm not going to act irresponsibly. Neither will Levi

(Leipheimer), neither will (Andreas) Kloecken. And, at the end of the day, we will have to follow the orders of the team's director."

Armstrong and Contador, one of only five riders with victories in the three main tours (Spain, Italy and France) don't know each other well and they have spent little time together.

"The relationship is cordial and respectful — there is not a lot of interaction" Armstrong said. "The language is an issue, a challenge. His English is similar to my Spanish, so the crossover is not easy."

Astana manager Johan Bruyneel, who oversaw Armstrong's seven Tour wins, recently said Contador would be team leader.

Armstrong told the AP that Contador would wear the team's No. 1 jersey on Saturday for the 9.6-mile time trial.

The opening clock race could establish a clear hierarchy within Astana. If Armstrong wins it, it would be hard for the 26-year-old Contador to claim leadership later.

"Of course it's important, but it's a long way from Verbiers, the (Mont) Ventoux, (the Col du) Grand Colombier," Armstrong said,

looking toward the brutal third week.

This year, Contador has improved his speed and won the Spanish time trial last week. Armstrong predicts Contador will be fast in Monaco, but tabs Swiss star Fabian Cancellara as Saturday's winner.

Armstrong also thinks his team will win the Stage 4 team time trial in Montpellier and take the yellow jersey then. It could be on his shoulders that day, or on those of Contador, or draped on his American teammate, Leipheimer.

During his heyday, Armstrong usually destroyed his rivals at the first hilltop finish. The first such finish this year is Sage 7, at Arcalis in the Pyrenees. Armstrong preaches patience this year.

"There are too many difficult parts in the final week," he said. "Honestly speaking, I plan to be careful in Arcalis. It's not like before when you had two stages in the Pyrenees and then one week through the middle of France pretty easy and then two stages in the Alps and then one week to Paris."

According to Armstrong, the major threat to the Astana team will come from Australian rider Cadel Evans, the runner-up in 2007 and 2008.

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5:00 P.M. ~ Food and Novelty Booths Open

6:00 P.M. ~ Performance by Kays Bluegrass Band

6:45 P.M. ~ Performance by Maren Morris Band

7:50 P.M. ~ Welcome and Announcements

8:00 P.M. ~ Flag Ceremony

8:25 P.M. ~ Symphony Concert

9:25 P.M. ~ Video Presentation Recognizing

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9:45 p.m. ~ Fireworks Display

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NUTRITIONWISE

Frozen juice bars and almond milk

Q: Are frozen juice bars and popsicles lower in calories than the conventional fruit-flavored popsicles?

A: No, unless they are a smaller size, calories of juice bars and the conventional frozen treats based on sugar-water are similar.

Although all these bars may taste like fruit they contain widely varying amounts of juice. "Juice bars" sometimes contain only 10 percent fruit juice, and the few that are labeled with 90 percent juice may not be the kind of juice you expect.

Some products note that they contain half or a whole day's recommended vitamin C. However, that doesn't mean they supply the broad range of vitamins, antioxidants and minerals such as potassium that we get from a serving of fruit or juice.

Calories of these bars don't vary much, because they contain about the same amount of sugar, whether from juice or added sugars.

The only bars with calories as low as 15 to 20 each are usually somewhat smaller than other bars and made with no-calorie sweeteners.

Q: Is almond milk a nutritious substitute for milk?

A: From a cook's perspective, almond milk can be used instead of cow's milk or soymilk on cereal, in smoothies, in cooking or as a beverage, but nutritionally it is not equivalent.

At one time almond milk was primarily available in a sugar-sweetened form.

Whether flavored or unflavored, these highly sweetened versions contain far more sugar than protein, in some cases equal to five teaspoons of sugar per cup.

Unsweetened almond milk is sugar-free and may contain only about 40 calories per cup. But it supplies just a fraction of the protein and only two-thirds of the calcium in milk.

Almonds are a nutrient-dense food packed with protein, minerals and vitamin E.

Almond milk is also loaded with vitamin E and is fortified with vitamin D like in cow's milk.

But though you can use almond milk in place of cow's milk or soymilk, don't count on a smoothie or other dish made with almond milk as adding the same nutrients to your diet.



KAREN COLLINS
MS, RD, CDN

**Snoring in children:
The tip of a troubling iceberg?**

Does your child snore? If so, do they also have any of the following: bed wetting, ADD or ADHD, lack of growth, poor concentration, headaches, nightmares or terrors, obesity, grinding of teeth while sleeping?

All of the above conditions can also occur without snoring and some snoring is harmless. But when one or more occur with snoring there is a definite possibility of Pediatric Obstructive Sleep Apnea (OSA). OSA is blockage of the airway in the pharyngeal area (back of throat) due to the relaxed tissues of the tongue, palate and pharyngeal wall. It does not occur when awake, but only all the tissues are relaxed in sleep.

So how can Pediatric OSA be a cause of the varied problems listed above? Put your hand over your mouth and nose to block your airway and try to take a few breaths. Your whole chest and abdomen will contract trying to draw in that breath. Your bladder is getting squeezed too, possibly resulting in bedwetting.

Now consider that you couldn't get any air in until you woke up from your deep sleep. In summary, you would get no deep sleep. What happens to you, personally, when you don't get enough sleep? Can you think clearly? Are you your normal self? Can you concentrate? Do you get headaches? Do you munch continually to try to stay alert? The effects are very similar for kids.

Now what about growth? Growth hormone is secreted by the body only during deep sleep. If a child is deprived of this sleep, due to frequent wakings to breathe, they often will be undersized in height for their age.

Nightmares can result from the body trying to wake itself enough to breathe. Tooth grinding may result from the body trying to move the jaw forward enough to allow airflow.

The good news is that Pediatric Obstructive Sleep Apnea is often very easy to treat. Talk to your child's physician. One of the most common

causes is enlarged tonsils (and adenoids). These are often prone to infection, but even if not, ones large enough to block the airway should be removed anyway by an ENT physician.

A trained dentist often can solve other problems. A common cause of Pediatric OSA is a constricted palate. If the palate is narrow, there often just isn't room for the air to get past the back of the tongue. This is often the case if the palate is V shaped or narrow U shaped, rather than the desired broad U shape. Expansion is done with a relatively simple "palatal expander" device that works comfortably over a period of a few months.

If the problem is an underdeveloped lower jaw, dental orthopedic device to help encourage lower jaw growth may be helpful.

Again, the above listed problems do not indicate OSA unless accompanied by significant snoring. If so, talk to your child's physician and dentist and see if you can solve several problems at once!



DR. DAVID WARD

Dr. David Ward has practiced family dentistry in Big Spring for 20 years. All of Dr. Ward's previous Herald articles on dental health topics are available on his Web site www.DavidWardDDS.com.

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Hard choices on 4 big issues stymie health push

RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR
Associated Press Writer
WASHINGTON — Four divisive issues could dash President Barack Obama's hopes of overhauling health care: cost, creating a government-run plan, taxing workers' benefits and penalizing employers that don't offer coverage.

These are potential deal-breakers as Obama and the Democratic-controlled Congress work to revamp the system to cover the nearly 50 million uninsured Americans and try to check rising medical costs.

"This is extremely complicated," says Senate Finance Committee Chairman Max Baucus, D-Mont.

He isn't kidding. Even if lawmakers come back from their July Fourth recess charged up to tackle health care, these issues are going to keep simmering for months. A big blowup over any single one could threaten the entire legislation.

Here's a look at each issue, and how key players line up:

COSTS
Covering nearly 50 million Americans won't come cheap. The government would have to subsidize premiums even for some middle-class families. Baucus says he's pared down the cost of his bill to under \$1 trillion

over 10 years, but across the Capitol, House Democrats aren't yet revealing the price tag for their legislation. There's a reason. The more generous House version may cost a lot closer to \$2 trillion.

Either way, that's a stunning amount of money. To put it in perspective, the United States will spend about \$35 trillion on health care during the 10-year span of the legislation, so \$1 trillion is about 3 percent of that.

Obama says the legislation will be fully paid for, and must not add to the deficit. But check the fine print: The cost estimates will only cover the first 10 years after the bill is signed. After that, the warranty expires.

Costs could explode in future years, particularly if the government is helping solid middle-class households pay for coverage, which already costs about \$13,000 a year for a family plan.

The bigger the price tag, the more likely that trimming fat in the health care system won't cover costs and higher taxes will be needed sooner or later.

Republicans say the overhaul should be financed mainly with savings, even if it means delays in covering the uninsured, or helping fewer people.

EMPLOYERS
Businesses now provide coverage to more than 160 million people, although no law says they must.

The health care legislation working its way through Congress is likely to include a requirement for individuals to get insurance.

Shouldn't it also spell out obligations for employers?

"It would seem to be unfair to exclude employers entirely and put the full force of responsibility on individuals," said former Senate Democratic leader Tom Daschle, who remains involved in the debate even though tax troubles forced him to withdraw as Obama's nominee for health secretary.

Both the House and Senate are considering new employer obligations. Businesses are strongly opposed to them.

Under the House Democrats' plan, employers would be required to provide coverage or pay a penalty.

The Senate Finance Committee is taking another approach. There wouldn't be any requirement that employers provide health insurance. But if a company's workers wind up getting taxpayer-subsidized insurance, the employer would have to pay part of the cost.

Obama supports a requirement, with exceptions for small businesses.

Republicans want to offer tax credits to help small companies buy coverage, and they oppose a requirement.

Employer opposition to health insurance requirements helped bring down President Bill Clinton's health plan in the 1990s, and business groups are already preparing for another fight.

It could get really ugly again.

GOVERNMENT PLAN
Of all the divisive issues, Democrats' idea for a new government health plan to compete with private insurers has generated the most political passion.

It would mark the first time government gets into the business of providing medical insurance for middle-class workers and their families — a major expansion of its role.

The public plan would be avail-

able through a new kind of insurance purchasing pool called an exchange, which would also offer private plans. The purchasing pools would be open to individuals and small businesses.

Insurers, employers and congressional Republicans are adamantly opposed, saying the government would eventually drive out private coverage.

Democrats are just as strongly in favor of the idea, saying the insurance industry needs competition. Attempts to find compromises, including setting up nonprofit co-ops, haven't defused the situation.

Obama offered a ringing defense of the public plan at his news conference last week. But would he refuse to sign a bill that doesn't have a government option?

"I'm not one to argue that if we don't get a public plan, we walk away," Daschle said. "I just can't imagine that not having a public plan would be sufficient reason to walk away from all the good we could do."

BENEFITS TAX
During last year's presidential campaign, Obama criticized Republican rival Sen. John McCain for proposing to tax workers who receive employer-provided health insurance to raise money for covering the uninsured.

Now the president may have to take back his words and break a campaign promise not to raise taxes on Americans making less than \$250,000.

Although McCain's idea was far more sweeping, key senators are saying it won't be possible to pay for expanded coverage without taxing some health benefits.

The Senate Finance Committee is eyeing plans with a total premium cost above \$17,000 for family coverage. The theory is that taxing such coverage — Obama calls it "Cadillac" — will encourage people to be thrifter consumers of medical services, and that can help bring down costs.

Labor unions are flabbergasted that Obama hasn't slammed the door on the idea.

McCain, who got a seat this year on the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee, will be watching closely.



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A modern twist on an old fairy tale

I was sent an extremely interesting version of an old children's story the other day that I think you will enjoy.

It's a new version of the old story about the little red hen. See if you think it would apply to our situation today.

"Who will help me plant the wheat?" asked the Little Red Hen.

"Not I," said the cow.

"Not I," said the duck.

"Not I," said the pig.

"Not I," said the goose.



DARRELL RYAN

"Then I will do it by myself," said the little red hen, and so she did.

The wheat grew very tall and ripened into golden grain.

"Who will help me reap my wheat?" asked the little red hen.

"Not I," said the duck.

"Out of my classification," said the pig.

"I'd lose my seniority," said the cow.

"I'd lose my unemployment compensation," said the goose.

"Then I will do it by myself," said the little red hen, and so she did.

At last it came time to bake the bread. "Who will help me bake the bread?" asked the little red hen.

"That would be overtime for me," said the cow.

"I'd lose my welfare benefits," said the duck.

"I'm a dropout and never learned how," said the pig.

"If I'm to be the only helper, that's discrimination," said the goose.

"Then I will do it by myself," said the little red hen.

She baked five loaves and held them up for all of her neighbors to see.

They wanted some and, in fact, demanded a share. But the little red hen said, "No, I shall eat all five loaves."

"Excess profits!" cried the cow.

"Capitalist leech!" screamed the duck.

"I demand equal rights!"

yelled the goose.

The pig just grunted in disdain.

And they all painted "Unfair!" picket signs and marched around and around the little red hen, shouting obscenities. Then the farmer came.

He said to the little red hen, "You must not be so greedy."

"But I earned the bread," said the little red hen.

"Exactly," said the farmer.

"That is what makes our free enterprise system so wonderful. Anyone in the barnyard can earn as much as he wants. But under our modern government regulations, the productive workers must divide the fruits of their labor with those who are

lazy and idle."

And they all lived happily ever after, including the little red hen, who smiled and clucked, "I am grateful, for now I truly understand."

But her neighbors became quite disappointed in her.

She never again baked bread because she joined the "party" and got her bread free.

And all the creatures of the barn yard smiled. "Fairness" had been established.

Individual initiative had died, and nobody noticed; perhaps no one cared, so long as there was free bread that "others" were paying for.

Darrell Ryan is director of federal programs for Big Spring ISD.

How to turn a craft into a successful business venture

By JENNIFER FORKER, Associated Press

For people who are long on creative ability but short on business sense, Lisa Sonora Beam has some ideas that may help.

In her book "The Creative Entrepreneur: A DIY Visual Guidebook for Making Business Ideas Real" (Quarry Books, 2008), Beam takes a tactile, artsy approach to the business world, which she says can appear daunting for some creative types. The book, which won

two Independent Book Publishers Association awards in May, probes strategic business planning but also requires some internal digging, as Beam encourages readers to examine themselves.

"What I really wanted to have was a book that you could refer to when you get stuck, or need inspiration," she says.

Creative people often can't translate their passion into a sustainable business model, says Beam, 43, who has taught workshops on

the subject, primarily in the San Francisco area.

The workshops, also offered online, are taught entirely with art supplies, she explained.

"We think of strategic planning in a dull way," she says, insisting, "if we're not having fun, we're not going to keep doing something."

Much of the book is dedicated to "visual journaling," which is similar to writing about one's life, only in art form.

Most of the soul-searching and business

planning she offers is accomplished in visual journals.

The artsy-craftsy crowd can find success, she says, by taking an imaginative, right-brain approach to practical, left-brain business practices.

"Understanding left-brain/right-brain modes of thinking is one reason why working with the tools in your journal is so powerful," writes Beam in her book.

"Think of it as creative cross-training. The overall result is a

more integrated individual, able to pull from a variety of tools and mindsets appropriate to the task at hand."

Carol Parks, 60, a Los Angeles artist, says Beam's workshop recently helped her grow her art-class business from five to 30 classes.

"Using her tools helps you get over formerly insurmountable obstacles," Parks says. "It helps you get out of your own way."

Traci Bunkers, 43, a self-employed artist liv-

ing in Lawrence, Kan., says Beam's workshop helped her devise a business framework, and the visual journaling keeps her focused.

"I think it really has helped me to steer my business with intention rather than just going with the flow and ending up where life takes me," Bunkers says.

"I can be more objective about my work decisions since I have the tools for putting them down on paper and evaluating how it works," she added.



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Sandra J. Waggoner,
Chief Financial Officer
Big Spring Independent School District
Business Office
708 East 11th Place
Big Spring, Texas 79720-4648
Bid documents for "Modular Building Foundations" are available from Parkhill, Smith & Cooper, Inc. beginning June 26th, 2009. Contact information follows: 4222 85th Street, Lubbock, Texas, 79423; Phone (806)473-2200.
#6183 July 1 & 8, 2009

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Tomorrow's Horoscope

Uranus goes retrograde in Pisces. Though this distant planet does everything in slow motion, his effect often comes in a fast and furious form. Some of us will feel like a child throwing a mean tantrum in order to get the grown-ups to do what we want. Change is on the horizon. Whether it comes fast or slow, it always gets here soon enough.



HOLIDAY MATHIS

ARIES (March 21-April 19). The facts are only one part of the truth. Admitting your feelings, at least to yourself, adds another layer. Once you acknowledge what really happened and how you feel about, your energy is freed.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Is ignorance bliss? Or is knowledge power? Each statement will apply, depending on the time of day. You're being fed all sorts of information and at some point, you may decide it's a little much.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Your energy is strong! You feel vitally alive, greedy for the unknown. As you leap into adventure and devour the newness, wonder what was it that held you back before.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). The thing you would do to make more money and the thing you would do to be happier are the same thing today. That's a rare and wonderful occurrence. Take advantage of this right away. Get busy.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You are delightful and wise. Share your insights and people's ears perk up -- same with their moods. You'll probably evoke a few chuckles, too, and that always makes your day.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (JULY 1). You'll be rewarded for your active imagination. Fantasy life and reality collide and you experience your dream. Financial improvements happen this month. August brings exciting dates and nights of laughter. There's an important upgrade in November. When you reach the crossroads in December, go with your heart. Leo and Virgo adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 50, 3, 22, 51 and 16.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). There are things you never think about that are part of other people's daily life. A friend opens your eyes to the options. You might decide to adopt a habit or two from this person.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You secretly admire those who devote their hours, money and energy to frivolous matters. Pick up the cue and go a little wild with your own enjoyment this afternoon. It's about time you took your fun more seriously.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You know what activities bring you joy. So why aren't you doing them? Stop putting everyone else before yourself. Sure, you have to make a living. But ask yourself honestly, do you really need to spend so many hours at it?

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). A long-term relationship is in danger of getting very boring.

Inject some spice, even if you have to invent it. Find some way -- any way -- to share a laugh, a secret or an experience.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You'll be swept into the exciting world of a spontaneous individual. When you are with this person, all of the problems of the past and your worries about the future magically disappear.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You have more nerve than you do pride. Congratulations, this makes you officially the most popular person in the room because everyone wants to be around the rebellious fun one.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You have been ultra-responsible for a few days past the advised limit of ultra-responsibility. As Dorothy Parker said, "Take care of the luxuries and the necessities will take care of themselves."

ASTROLOGICAL INSIGHT: WHAT THEY LIKE ABOUT YOU: Come on, admit it. As confident as you may be in your own skin, you still wonder what people think about you sometimes. And if they like you, you want to know why, partly out of curiosity and partly so that you can recreate the magic when you meet new folks. You're attractive for so many different reasons, and here's a few you might not have thought about before. **ARIES:** They love that you know your mind and you go for it. **TAURUS:** You do what it takes to be successful and you nurture success in others. **GEMINI:** You always know the right

thing to say. **CANCER:** You make people feel comfortable enough to be their true selves. **LEO:** You're glamorous and they feel more glamorous being around you. **VIRGO:** You get things done and you're cool about how you do it. **LIBRA:** You have impeccable style. **SCORPIO:** You're sexy. **SAGITTARIUS:** You're worldly and sophisticated. **CAPRICORN:** You're powerful and you empower others. **AQUARIUS:** They admire you for the difference you make in the world. **PISCES:** You are soulful and your actions speak directly to people's hearts.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Happy birthday to Cancer actress Liv Tyler. This lovely moonchild capitalized on her ethereal beauty in her role as Arwen Undomeil in the "Lord of the Rings" film trilogy -- a brave half-elven who chooses, literally, to join the human race. Cancer is the sign of mothers and Tyler is creatively inspired by her adorable son, Milo.

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. © 2009 CREATORS SYNDICATE, INC.

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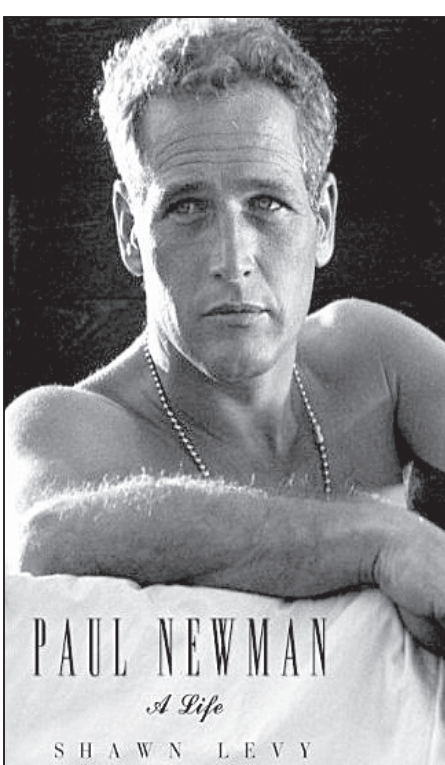
The library will be closed Friday for the Fourth of July Holiday. Don't forget to go to Pops in the Park! The library will reopen Monday 6 at 10 a.m.. Some great biographies have come in. From the star of "Dirty Dancing" to a daredevil who jumped cars; a — ahem! — "darn" Yankee to Cool Hand Luke; all of these are stories of great and not-so-great human beings. Patrick Swayze began his career as a dancer in his mother's atelier. In "One Last Dance — Patrick Swayze" (B SWA P) Wendy Leigh has used many sources to write Patrick's story. Stuart Barker will bring "Evel Knievel:

Life of Evel" (B KNI E) back to life. Evel has been jumping since age eight, but it wasn't until he performed his legendary leap over the fountains at Caesar's Palace in Las Vegas that he became famous. Although as a result of that jump, he was in a 28-day coma. With ever increasingly dangerous stunts, Evel sought to eclipse what he had done before. Oh, what devilish blue eyes Paul Newman had! Shawn Levy's "Paul Newman: A Life"



HOLLIS McCRIGHT

(B NEW P) tells the story of an acting icon. Refusing to coast on just his devastatingly good looks; Newman demanded a high level of rigor and clarity from each project. He used this tenacity in each part of his life, whether it was politics, car racing, philanthropy or food. This biography has garnered some great reviews. Selena Roberts broke the story of Alex Rodriguez use of steroids in Sport Illustrated in the February 2009 issues. Roberts goes beyond the sensational headlines, probing A-Rod's childhood to reveal a man torn by obligation to his family and the pull of his insatiable hedonism. Roberts sheds new light on A-Rod's abuse of performance-enhancing drugs, a practice he appears to have begun as early as high school and that extended into his Yankee years. She chronicles his secretive real estate deals, gets inside the negotiations for his latest record-breaking contract with the Yankees and examines the insecurities that compel him to seek support from a motivational guru before every game.



In "A-Rod," Roberts captures baseball's greatest player as a tragic figure in pinstripes: the man once considered the clean exception of the steroid generation revealed as an unmistakable product of its greed and dissolution. This review is from the book flap. Are you ready for a Joe Pickett book? Just processed and ready for checkout is "Below Zero" (M BOX C) by C.J. Box.

Text messages are being sent to Joe's daughter Sheridan from April (who was horrifically killed in prior book "Winterkill"). Who is sending these messages and what do they mean to the Pickett family? A favorite author of mine is William G. Tapply.

We have received "Gray Ghost" (M TAP W), a Stoney Calhoun novel. Stoney was struck by lightning and never regained his memory. Re-inventing himself, he is now a guide on the Casco Bay in Maine. When two people turn up dead that he has had dealing with, he wonders if the murders relate to his pre-memory life. Some new Non-Fiction just in: "The Indifferent Stars Above" (978.020 BRO D) by Daniel James Brown is the story of a Donner Party bride; a woman who trekked out to find help in horrendous snow conditions. Another book on steroids in baseball: "American Icon: Fall of Roger Clemens" (796.357 THO T) written by Teri Thompson, Nathaniel Vinton, Michael O'Keefe and Christian Reid — all members of *New York Daily News* sports investigative team. Here are a couple of historical books: "The Illustrious Dead: Terrifying Story of How Typhus Killed Napoleon's Greatest Army" (940.274 TAL S) by Stephen Talty and "We Two: Victoria and Albert: Rulers,

Partners, Rivals" (947.081 GIL G) by Gillian Gill. The first book was written about a pitched battle between human ambition (Napoleon) and nature (the microbe germ typhus) that would shape the modern world. In Gill's book, Queen Victoria and Prince Albert entered their marriage longing for intimate companionship, but each were determined to be the ruler in that relationship. For years to come, that dynamic would shape both their lives and the lives of Englishmen the world over. Our Web site is www.howard-county.lib.tx.us. You can reach Johnny at the reference desk at hclref@hotmail.com. Unfortunately, you cannot reserve books online. Please e-mail Johnny at the address above and he will be glad to reserve book, BOT/CD, etc. for you. Howard County Library hours are 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Friday. The Internet/Video room closes a half-hour before closing. The library is located at 500 S. Main St. Our phone number is 264-2260.

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.

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

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The dog (really) ate his passport

EAU CLAIRE, Wisconsin (AP) — A Wisconsin teenager using a classic excuse for evading schoolwork missed a class trip to Peru despite his tale being true: The dog ate his passport. Officials at Chicago's O'Hare airport told 17-year-old Jon Meier the chewed-on document was fine, but authorities in Miami

rejected it and wouldn't let him board the south-bound aircraft. His family's 1-year-old golden retriever, Sunshine, chewed a corner of the document, obscuring some numbers. Meier couldn't get another passport in time to join the trip with his Spanish class from Eau Claire North High School. The 12-day trip ended Monday.

2009 Reader's Choice Winner
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Dr. Scott Barclay



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Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker
Opportunity Knocks but Once

South dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.
NORTH
♠ 10 9 2
♥ K 10 7 5 4
♦ K Q
♣ 9 6 3
WEST
♠ Q J 6 4
♥ 9 3
♦ A J 8 5 2
♣ J 7
EAST
♠ 8 5 3
♥ A 2
♦ 9 7 6
♣ K 10 8 4 2
SOUTH
♠ A K 7
♥ Q J 8 6
♦ 10 4 3
♣ A Q 5
The bidding:
South West North East
1 NT Pass 2♦ Pass
2♥ Pass 2 NT Pass
4♥
Opening lead — three of hearts.

with the ace and shifted to a low club, ducked to the jack. West's club return was taken by the queen, and South drew the missing trumps before leading a diamond. West won with the ace and made the harmless-looking return of the spade queen. This gave Tammen an opening that he quickly exploited. After winning with the ace, he cashed the ace of clubs and then ran his trumps, producing this position as dummy's last trump was led:

North
♠ 10 9
♥ 10
♦ K
East
Immaterial
♠ J 6
♥ J 8
South
♠ K 7
♥ 10 4

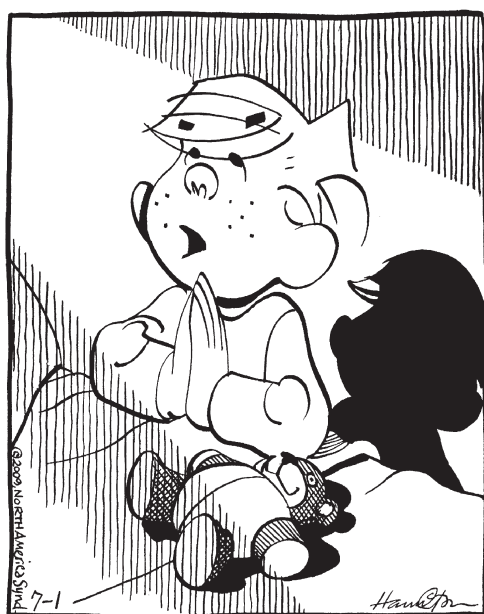
This deal occurred at the 1986 world team championship in a match between Indonesia and the Netherlands. The hero was Holland's Kees Tammen, who took advantage of a subtle defensive slip to bring in a seemingly hopeless contract. North's two-diamond response was a transfer to hearts, and Tammen accepted his partner's invitation to game on the next round. West led a trump, and Tammen was confronted by at least one loser in each suit. East won the opening heart lead

On the heart ten, declarer discarded a spade, and West was a dead duck. If he discarded a diamond, South would cash the diamond king and take the last two tricks with the spade king and diamond ten. If West discarded a spade instead, Tammen would cash the spade king and score the last two tricks with dummy's diamond king and spade ten. West could have avoided this unhappy ending had he returned a diamond after taking the ace. This would have removed a vital entry to dummy, and the squeeze would not have materialized.

Tomorrow: Like taking candy from a baby.

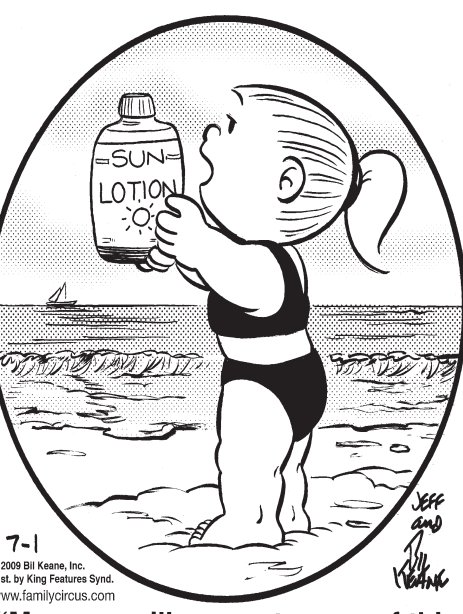
	WFAA (2) Dallas	KMID (3) Midland	UNI (4) Spanish	KPEJ (5) Odessa	KOSA (7) Odessa	KTLE (8) Telemundo	KWES (9) Midland	WTBS (11) Atlanta	KMLM (12) Odessa	KPBT (13) Odessa	DISC (20) Discovery	AMC (21) Classics	SPIKE (22) Spike TV	TNT (23) Atlanta	BET (26) Black Ent.	DISN (27) Disney	ESPN2 (28) Sports	ESPN (29) Sports
5:PM :30	News ABC	News ABC	Locura	Lopez	News CBS	Noticias	News NBC	Raymond	Cortez	BBC Business	Pitchmen	Ghostbusters II, Sigourney Weaver	Movie: Star Wars: Episode III -- Revenge of the Sith	Bones	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Phineas	Horn	SportsCenter
6:PM :30	News ABC	Jeopardy! Entertainment	Noticiero Gancho	Lopez	News CBS	Noticiero	News NBC	Friends	Harris	Business	Pitchmen	Star Wars: Episode III -- Revenge of the Sith	Bones	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Phineas	Horn	SportsCenter	
7:PM :30	Wipeout	Wipeout	Cuidado-Ángel	TMZ	CSI: NY	Victorinos	America-Talent	Payne	Israel	American Masters	Pitchmen	Movie: Out for Justice, Jerry Orbach	Bones	Movie: Boyz n the Hood	Movie: The Wild, James Belushi	Wizards	Football	MLB
8:PM :30	Survived-Game	Survived-Game	Mañana es	TMZ	CSI: NY	Victorinos	America-Talent	Payne	Israel	American Masters	Pitchmen	Movie: Out for Justice, Jerry Orbach	Bones	Movie: Boyz n the Hood	Movie: The Wild, James Belushi	Wizards	Football	MLB
9:PM :30	Primetime: Crime	Primetime: Crime	Don Francisco	TMZ	CSI: NY	Victorinos	America-Talent	Payne	Israel	American Masters	Pitchmen	Movie: Out for Justice, Jerry Orbach	Bones	Movie: Boyz n the Hood	Movie: The Wild, James Belushi	Wizards	Football	MLB
10:PM :30	News ABC	News ABC	Noticiero	TMZ	CSI: NY	Victorinos	America-Talent	Payne	Israel	American Masters	Pitchmen	Movie: Out for Justice, Jerry Orbach	Bones	Movie: Boyz n the Hood	Movie: The Wild, James Belushi	Wizards	Football	MLB
11:PM :30	Insider	Jimmy Kimmel Live	La Casa de la Risa	TMZ	CSI: NY	Victorinos	America-Talent	Payne	Israel	American Masters	Pitchmen	Movie: Out for Justice, Jerry Orbach	Bones	Movie: Boyz n the Hood	Movie: The Wild, James Belushi	Wizards	Football	MLB
12:AM :30	News ABC	News ABC	Noticiero	TMZ	CSI: NY	Victorinos	America-Talent	Payne	Israel	American Masters	Pitchmen	Movie: Out for Justice, Jerry Orbach	Bones	Movie: Boyz n the Hood	Movie: The Wild, James Belushi	Wizards	Football	MLB
1:AM :30	Work	Work	Güereja	TMZ	CSI: NY	Victorinos	America-Talent	Payne	Israel	American Masters	Pitchmen	Movie: Out for Justice, Jerry Orbach	Bones	Movie: Boyz n the Hood	Movie: The Wild, James Belushi	Wizards	Football	MLB

DENNIS THE MENACE



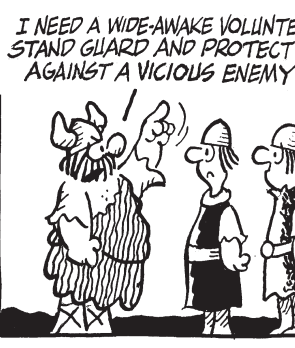
"IF MR. WILSON TOLD YOU ANYTHING ABOUT ME, REMEMBER...HE TENDS TO 'ZAGGERATE.'"

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

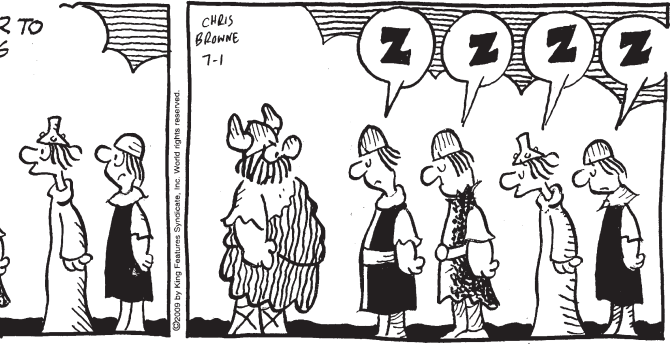


"Mommy, will you put some of this sunSCREEN-SAVER on my back?"

HAGAR



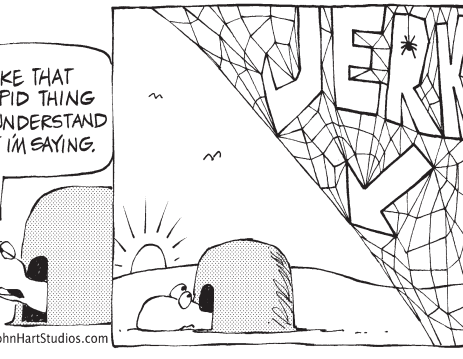
BLONDIE



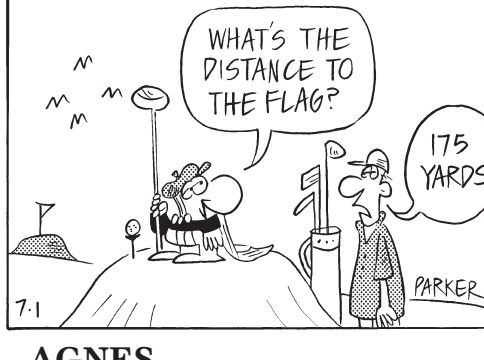
BC



WIZARD OF ID



AGNES



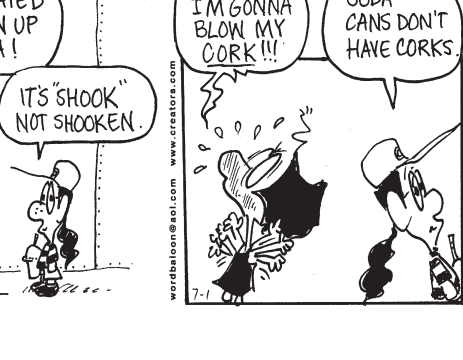
HI AND LOIS



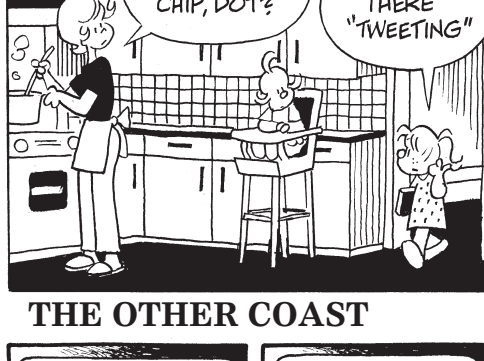
THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



JUGHAID SMIF, I KNOW YOU'RE IN THAR !! ARE YOU TRYIN' TO AVOID ME ?!



BETLE BAILEY



This Date In History

Today is Wednesday, July 1, the 182nd day of 2009. There are 183 days left in the year. This is Canada Day.

Today's Highlight in History:

On July 1, 1867, Canada became a self-governing dominion of Great Britain as the British North America Act took effect.

On this date:

In 1859, the first intercollegiate baseball game took place in Pittsfield, Mass., between teams from Williams College and Amherst College. (Amherst won the nearly four-hour, 26-inning contest by the score of 73-32.)

In 1863, the Civil War Battle of Gettysburg, resulting in a Union victory, began in Pennsylvania.

In 1934, Hollywood began enforcing its Production Code subjecting motion pictures to censorship review.

In 1946, the United States exploded a 20-kiloton atomic bomb near Bikini Atoll in the Pacific.

Answer to previous puzzle

WANE SPREE IDEA
ANOX NEEDS SEAL
STEP AREAS RATS
PILOTFILM CANSO
SOULS POEM
EMCEES BEDLAM
WOOD STALE REP
EPA TALENTS TAR
SEC WOOD RITE
SHRINE TEENSY
HOSE CAWED
SCOOT MODELHOME
IOUS DIVAN EGAD
LAST INEPT ARID
OLES MISTY DENY

Newsday Crossword

CONTRASTS by Shirley Soloway Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS
- 1 Arm or leg
- 5 Transition point, in astrology
- 9 Set of principles
- 14 Headliner
- 15 Fairy-tale opener
- 16 "Cease!" on the seas
- 17 Rights grp.
- 18 Tartan-wearing group
- 19 More unusual
- 20 Oversensitive
- 23 NJ neighbor
- 24 Application, as of paint
- 25 Far from colorful
- 27 Outcome
- 30 Pompeii's undoing
- 34 Expert
- 35 Private's reply
- 37 Thurber's daydreamer
- 38 Short blast of wind
- 40 Footnote abbr.
- 42 Begin to awake
- 43 Punch in, as a PIN
- 45 Leading predecessor
- 48 "Not to worry!"
- 50 Abduct
- 52 Farm enclosures
- 53 One from Belgrade
- 54 Lovey-dovey sound
- 56 Rather dense
- 62 Bracelet site, perhaps
- 64 John Glenn's state
- 65 Spy-school subject
- 66 Navigate
- 67 Kindhearted
- 68 Patella site
- 69 Ice-bucket accessory
- 70 Poker payment
- 71 Dispatch
- DOWN
- 1 Future atty.'s hurdle
- 2 Yen
- 3 Landlocked African nation
- 4 Sunday meal
- 5 Parrot relative
- 6 Not illuminated
- 7 Read through quickly
- 8 Ivy League school
- 9 Tympanic membrane
- 10 Federal power agcy.
- 11 Stubborn
- 12 "Thanks for explaining!"
- 13 Computer key near Shift
- 21 Coming up
- 22 Mag. employees
- 26 Hertz competitor
- 27 Bunk-bed choice
- 28 Wrinkled plum
- 29 Not arrogant
- 30 See 36 Down
- 31 Cleveland's water
- 32 Central New York city
- 33 Sundae component
- 36 30 Down and Ebian
- 39 Elaborate party
- 41 After deductions
- 44 Lease signers
- 46 Desperately urgent
- 49 Shade of blond
- 51 Arizona baseball team, for short
- 53 Sidestep
- 54 Group of actors
- 55 Not fooled by
- 57 Nebraska neighbor
- 58 Fictional detective
- 59 Over with
- 60 Idyllic place
- 61 Accomplishment
- 63 Journey segment

