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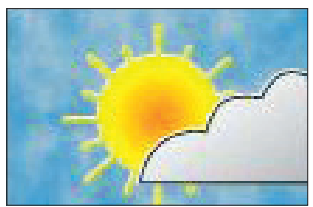
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BIG SPRING HERALD

WEDNESDAY
JULY 8, 2009



VOLUME 104, NUMBER 185

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FAMILY FUN IN FORSAN



Two boys toss a ball back and forth while playing in the Forsan High School pool Tuesday afternoon. The pool is open from 1 p.m. until 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

HERALD photo/Steve Reagan

No tax hike, it's a swap!

BSISD officials discuss ways to attain more revenue

By **STEVE REAGAN**
Staff Writer

Big Spring Independent School District officials are considering a tax hike that's really not a tax hike.

District trustees will discuss ways to secure more revenue when they hold their monthly meeting at 5:15 p.m. Thursday in the high school board room.

Administrators are touting a plan that calls for the district to raise its tax rate but in reality, will not result in a tax increase.

It's called a "tax swap," said Michael Stevens, former interim superintendent and now special advisor for the district.

BSISD, considered a "property poor" district under the state funding guidelines, receives additional state revenue the higher its tax rate goes, Stevens said.

Currently, the BSISD tax rate is \$1.04 for maintenance and operations (M and O) and .078 cents for



Stevens

See **BSISD**, Page 3A

Network upgrade to impact HC Web sites

Special to the Herald

Ongoing construction and renovations projects on the Howard College campus will cause some disruptions in related Web site access, officials have announced.

The work is part of the bond project on the Big Spring campus, and the planned network upgrade will bring down Howard College and SouthWest Collegiate Institute for the Deaf Web sites for a period of time. The sites will be completely unavailable during the outage which is scheduled to begin at 5:30 p.m. Thursday and will conclude as early as possible Sunday, officials said. The outage will not

See **NETWORK**, Page 3A

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Murder investigation continues

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

The investigation into the shooting death of a 16-year-old Big Spring youth is ongoing, and while one arrest has already been made in the case, local law enforcement

officials are hesitant to speculate whether there are more to come.

Christopher Olivarez, 18, of Big Spring was arrested June 26 in Lamesa on a charge of murder for his role in the May 30 shooting that claimed

the life of 16-year-old Justin Hernandez, according to police officials.

According to Sgt. Tony Everett, public information officer with the Big Spring Police Department, the investigation into the matter is still

open, but it's unclear if it will yield additional arrests.

"We're really not at a point where we can determine whether or not there are more arrests coming," said

See **MURDER**, Page 3A

Google's new OS to take on Microsoft

MICHAEL LIEDTKE
AP Technology Writer

SUN VALLEY, Idaho (AP) — Google Inc. is working on a new operating system for inexpensive computers in a daring attempt to wrest away Microsoft Corp.'s long-running control over people's computing experience.

The new operating system, announced late Tuesday

night on Google's Web site, will be based on the company's nine-month-old Web browser, Chrome. Google intends to rely on help from the community of open-source programmers to develop the Chrome operating system, which is expected to begin running computers in the second half of 2010.

The Mountain View, Calif.-based company disclosed its

plans for the operating system shortly after an online technology news service, Ars Technica, and The New York Times telegraphed the news on their Web sites.

Shares of Google jumped \$3.21 to \$399.84 in premarket trading Wednesday, while Microsoft fell 18 cents to \$22.35.

Google is designing the operating system primarily for "netbooks," a lower-cost,

less powerful breed of laptop computers that is becoming increasingly popular among budget-conscious consumers primarily interested in surfing the Web.

The operating system represents Google's boldest challenge yet to its biggest nemesis — Microsoft.

A high-stakes duel between

See **GOOGLE**, Page 3A

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Seven local athletes pose with their medals from a recent AAU Track and Field Meet in Abilene. All of them qualified for the Junior Olympics in Des Moines, Iowa, set for Aug. 3 through Aug. 7. Pictured from left to right are: (front row) Faith Roberson, Hayley Crawford, (back row) Darshae Vanderbilt, Tony Lewis, Devin Roberson, Tobyne Tannehill and Monte Anderson.

Courtesy photo

Among the nation's elite

Seven Big Spring athletes qualify for Junior Olympics

By JONATHAN HULL

Sports Editor

Seven local athletes recently proved they belong among the nation's elite in track and field competition.

Faith and Devin Roberson, Monte Anderson, Darshae Vanderbilt, Tony Lewis, Tobyne Tannehill and Hayley Crawford each qualified for the Junior Olympics to be held in Des Moines, Iowa,

Aug. 3 through Aug. 7.

The seven athletes did so by placing among the top four at an AAU Track Meet in Abilene June 27.

Anderson, who is the oldest of the seven athletes, qualified by winning the 100 meters and 200 meters in the boys 18-and-under age group.

Faith Roberson won the

See TRACK, Page 2B

Hatch calls for investigation into BCS affairs

FREDERIC J. FROMMER

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Utah Sen. Orrin Hatch urged the Justice Department on Tuesday to investigate college football's Bowl Championship Series for what he views as violations of antitrust laws.

Hatch made the comment after conducting a standing-room-only hearing in the Senate subcommittee with antitrust oversight, where he serves as the top Republican.

"Frankly, there's an arrogance about the BCS that just drives me nuts," he told reporters. "Hopefully this hearing will open the door to have some people reconsider their positions. And if nothing else, the Justice Department ought to be looking at this." He said that it's clear to him that the BCS is in violation of antitrust laws.

Justice Department spokeswoman Gina Talamona said: "We're aware of his request and will respond as appropriate."

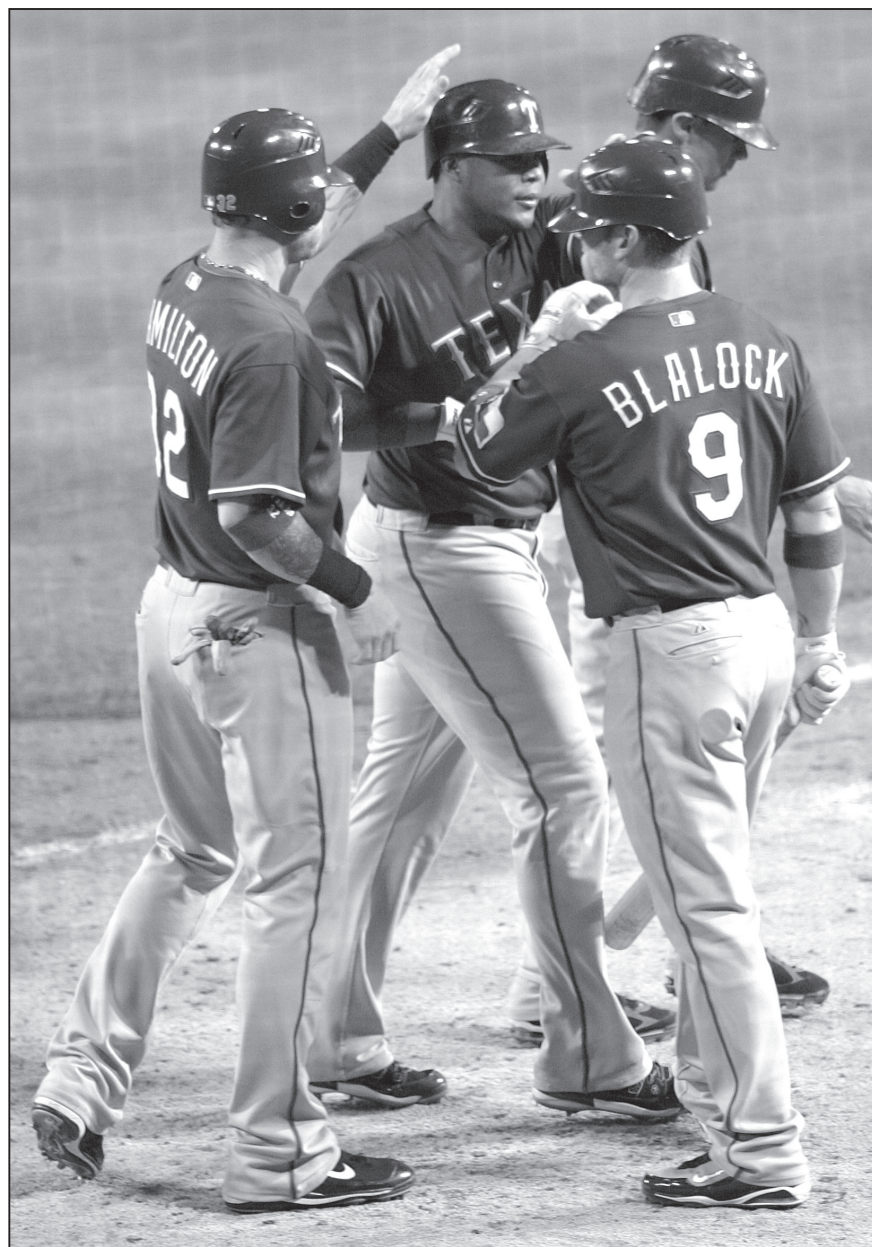
Hatch said that the BCS is exploiting a position of power, "and it's just not right."

Hatch's comments followed up on testimony by a lawyer for the Mountain West Conference, which does not get an automatic bid and has pressed for changes to the BCS.

Utah, which is in the Mountain West, was bypassed for last year's national championship despite going undefeated in the regular season. The title game pitted Florida against Oklahoma — each with one loss.

The lawyer, Barry Brett, called the BCS "a naked restraint imposed by a self-appointed cartel" in written testimony, and said that a Justice Department investigation would serve the public interest.

Under the BCS, some conferences get automatic bids to participate while others don't, and the automatic bid conferences also get far more of the revenue than the other conferences. Hatch and other BCS critics view that as anticompetitive behavior, while the BCS says it simply recognizes the teams people want to watch.



AP photo/Lori Shepler

Texas Rangers outfielder Andruw Jones, center, is congratulated by teammates Josh Hamilton, left, and Hank Blalock (9) after he hit a three-run home run against the Los Angeles Angels during the fifth inning of an AL baseball game in Anaheim, Calif., Tuesday. The Rangers won, 8-5, reclaiming a share of first place in the AL West along with the Angels.

Keeping up with Angels

Rangers black L.A., 8-5, reclaim share of first in AL West

By SOLANGE REYNER

Associated Press Writer

ANAHEIM, Calif. — Michael Young created an opening with his speed. Andruw Jones and the rest of the Texas Rangers lineup took over from there.

Jones hit a three-run homer off John Lackey after Young reached on a two-out infield single, leading to a big fifth inning in the Rangers' 8-5 victory over the Los Angeles Angels on Tuesday night.

Hank Blalock scored on a wild pitch and Jarrod Saltalamacchia added a two-run single in the inning, when Texas erased the Angels' 3-0 lead. All the runs came with two out.

"I think it all started when Mike beat out the infield hit and Jonesey did some homework on his previous two at-bats," Texas manager Ron Washington said.

Juan Rivera hit two solo homers and Chone Figgins drove in two runs for Los Angeles, which dropped into a tie with Texas for the top spot in the AL West. The teams play again Wednesday night.

Angels slugger Vladimir Guerrero left in the eighth inning with a strained muscle behind his left knee. He recently returned to right field after serving as the

See RANGERS, Page 2B

Krzyzewski on verge of returning as U.S. coach

(AP) Mike Krzyzewski appears set to go for more gold.

USA Basketball chairman Jerry Colangelo said Tuesday that "all leads point to Coach K coming back," following a report by the Boston Globe that Krzyzewski has agreed to return as U.S. Olympic basketball coach.

The Globe report cited two sources close to the situation.

Krzyzewski led the Americans to the gold medal in

the 2008 Olympics, their first major championship in eight years. He also guided them to a bronze in the world championships two years earlier.

Colangelo said he was aware of the speculation regarding Krzyzewski, but wouldn't confirm a decision had been reached. However, he hoped the coach he picked in 2005 to guide the program would return.

"With the success that we had, I would do everything in my power to keep everything intact," Colangelo said.

Sports in brief

Howard College hosting three baseball camps

The coaching staff of the 2009 National Champion Howard College baseball team is lending its services to baseball camps for three different age groups beginning July 20 and lasting through July 23 at Jack Barber Field, located on the Howard College campus.

The first is called the Rookie League Camp and is for players ages 6-8 from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. each day. Cost is \$100 if it is paid by Tuesday and goes up to \$125 after that date.

The Texas League Camp is for ages 9-12 and is from 10 a.m. to noon each day. Cost is \$125 by Tuesday and \$150 thereafter.

The Big League Camp is for ages 13-18 and lasts from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Cost is \$150 by Tuesday and \$175 if paid after that date.

Howard College baseball camps are skill intensive teaching camps. They are designed to create a fun environment to improve skills and develop a love for the game. Group and individual instruction will be provided by the Howard College coaching staff and players. Emphasis is placed on field-

ing and hitting techniques.

For more information, call the Howard College athletic office at 264-5040.

Coahoma Bulldogs Football Camp set for July 28-30

Bulldog Stadium is the site for the Coahoma Bulldogs Football Camp set for July 28-30 from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. each day.

The camp is for ages eight-years-old through incoming eighth graders. Cost is \$20 if paid by July 15 and \$25 after that date.

The camp will be coordinated by the Coahoma football coaching staff. Campers will be divided into age, skill and position groups and will work with the fundamentals of football specific to their offensive and defensive positions.

For more information, contact Head Coach Stacey Martin at 394-4535.

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. Thursday.

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

Country club site for 2-person tourney

Big Spring Country Club will host a two-person low-ball golf tournament July 25-26, officials announced.

Entry fee is \$60 per player plus golf cart. Private carts are welcome. Entry includes a barbecue meal on the course July 25.

Practice rounds will be available the day prior to the tournament's start.

The tournament will feature a shotgun start at 1 p.m. both days. The field will be flighted by first round scores.

For more information, contact the BSCC pro shop at 267-5354.

Obituaries

Velma Lucille Mohling Romine

Velma Lucille Mohling Romine, 75, of Big Spring died Monday, July 6, 2009, in a local hospital. Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. Thursday, July 9, 2009, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel with Ralph Anderson, minister of Birdwell Lane Church of Christ, and Larry Marshall, minister of Knott Church of Christ, officiating. Interment will follow at Trinity Memorial Park.

The family will receive friends from 5 p.m. until 7 p.m. Wednesday at the funeral home.

Lucille was born April 5, 1934, near Leedy, Okla. She graduated from Dumas High School in 1951 and met her husband, Tom Romine, at Porters Grocery in Dalhart. They were married 54 1/2 years. Her interests included gardening, arrowhead hunting, cooking, bowling, fishing, quilting and sewing, playing parlor games, bird watching and writing letters to her friends and family. Some of the things that set her apart were that she was very competitive, very active in the Church of Christ, stayed up to date on current events and politics, read her Bible every day and was always willing to help someone in need.

Survivors include her husband, Tom Romine of Big Spring; one son, Larry Romine and wife, Vietia, of Big Spring; one grandson, Orin Romine and wife, Jennifer, of Big Spring; two granddaughters, Sheila Romine of Midland and Rachel Romine of Big Spring; two sisters, Doris McCutchan and husband, Jerry, of Dumas, and Gladys Weatherford and husband, Roy, of Dalhart.

Lucille was preceded in death by her parents, Herman and Velma Mohling; a son, Lynn Romine; and a sister and brother-in-law, Lorene Ballard and husband, Robert.

In lieu of flowers the family suggests memorials be made to the Sherwood and Myrtie Foster Home For Children, P.O. Box 978, Stephenville 76401.

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

Paid obituary

Jack Dempsey Grant

Jack Dempsey Grant, 84, died Tuesday morning, July 7, 2009, at M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston. Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Thursday, July 9, 2009, in the chapel of Hayes Funeral Home with Pastor John Newton officiating. Graveside service will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday, July 11, 2009, at Peace Chapel in Trinity Memorial Park Cemetery in Big Spring.

He was born June 26, 1925, in Big Spring. Mr. Grant had been a resident of Santa Fe, Texas, for six years, previously of Houston and Big Spring. He was a farmer most of his life and a draftsman.

He was preceded in death by his parents, George and Ella (Hill) Grant; brothers, Carl Grant, Haskell Grant, Jeff Grant and Jim Grant; and sisters, Lucille Lilly and Zan Ryan.

Survivors include his wife of more than 65 years, Laura Grant of Santa Fe; a son and daughter-in-law, Nelson and Liana Grant of Pasadena; daughters and sons-in-law, Cynthia and Larry Kurtz of Pearland, and Cathy and Eddie Wilson of El Paso; 11 grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Friends may call from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. Wednesday at the Hayes Funeral Home, 10412 Highway 6, Hitchcock, (409) 925-3501. For more information visit www.hayesfuneralhome.com

Virginia Newsom

Virginia Newsom, 77, of Richland Hills, formerly of Big Spring, died Wednesday, July 8, 2009, in a Richland Hills nursing home. Her services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

See page 3A for Police Blotter, Sheriff's Report and EMS Report

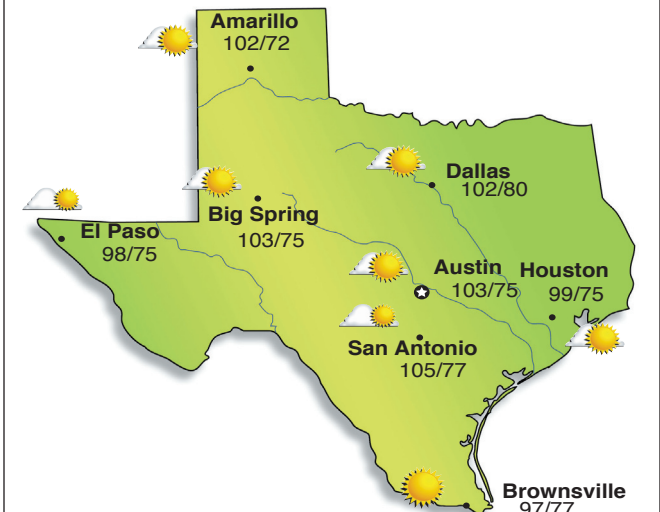
Today's Weather

Local 5-Day Forecast

Thu 7/9	Fri 7/10	Sat 7/11	Sun 7/12	Mon 7/13
103/75 Generally sunny despite a few afternoon clouds.	101/74 Sunny. Highs 99 to 103F and lows in the mid 70s.	98/73 Sunny. Highs in the upper 90s and lows in the low 70s.	96/72 A few clouds. Highs in the mid 90s and lows in the low 70s.	96/74 Mainly sunny. Highs in the mid 90s and lows in the mid 70s.
Sunrise: 6:47 AM Sunset: 8:55 PM	Sunrise: 6:47 AM Sunset: 8:55 PM	Sunrise: 6:48 AM Sunset: 8:55 PM	Sunrise: 6:49 AM Sunset: 8:55 PM	Sunrise: 6:49 AM Sunset: 8:54 PM

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Texas At A Glance



Lottery

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Tuesday afternoon by the Texas Lottery, in order: 6-9-7. Sum It Up: 22

Daily 4-Day
The winning Daily 4 numbers drawn Tuesday afternoon by the Texas Lottery, in order: 6-9-8-2. Sum It Up: 25
Pick 3-Night
The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Tuesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order:

1-7-3. Sum It Up: 11
Daily 4-Night
The winning Daily 4 numbers drawn Tuesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 6-3-9-2. Sum It Up: 20

Cash Five
Results of the Cash 5 drawing Tuesday night: Winning numbers drawn: 17-20-26-29-36. Number matching five of five: 0.

Take Note

• Angel Food 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.

• A bake sale benefiting the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation will be held Saturday in front of Wal-Mart. The sale will be from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. or until all baked items are sold out.

• Big Spring High School cheerleaders will be doing a car wash fundraiser this Saturday from 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Supreme Car Wash on FM 700, next to Culligan. Funds raised will help support the girls for cheer camp and expenses. The girls will be at the car wash to dry off cars for a donation.

• Big Spring Catholic Community has set the dates for their annual summer festivals. St. Thomas campus will host its festival Friday and Saturday. The kitchen will open its doors at 11 a.m. Friday, serving authentic Mexican food including guiso and gordita plates. For call in orders, call 263-4337. Game booths and Bingo will start at 6 p.m. A festival give-away is also involved. The winner will be announced at the Sacred Heart Campus festival Aug. 14-15. Prizes include a laptop, play station, two \$400 Wal-Mart Gift cards, a \$300 H-E-B gift card, a \$250 Visa Gift Card and an I-Pod. Tickets can be purchased for \$1 from any parishioner or by contacting the church office for more information at (432) 714-4930. Holy Trinity Catholic Church invites Big Spring and surrounding areas to join us for good food, family fun and fellowship.

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TRACK

Continued from Page 1B

long jump and 1,500 meters in the girls 10-and-under age group and also qualified in the 400 meters.

Her older brother Devin was a qualifier in the 100-meter hurdles and 200-meter hurdles in the boys 14-and-under, winning both events.

Lewis also won two events in that group, claiming the top spot in the 100 meters and 200 meters, while also qualifying in the long jump.

Tannehill was also placed in the same league with Lewis and Devin Roberson, finishing in the top four in the 100 hurdles and high jump.

Vanderbilt qualified in the girls 14-and-under group, qualifying in the

100 and 200 meters.

Crawford was in the girls 9-and-under league, winning the long jump, while registering in the top four in the 100- and 200-meter runs.

While they're all invited to attend the Junior Olympics, Coach Nick Roberson believes all seven athletes will pass on the opportunity.

"It's just an honor to qualify. I really don't know if any of these kids will make the trip up there," said Roberson. "The regional TAAF (Texas Amateur Athletic Federation) Track Meet is this weekend in Midland and I think we'll have several athletes, including all of these that qualified for the Junior Olympics, place well enough to qualify for the state meet later this month. The thing is that Texas is a strong track and field state. They'll see just as good of competition at the state meet as they will at

the Junior Olympics."

The regional meet is set to start Friday and conclude Saturday at Memorial Stadium in Midland. Roberson is confident plenty of hardware will be coming back to Big Spring.

"I expect us to bring home a lot of gold medals from the regional meet," said Roberson. "I think we're going to have a chance to bring home our first medals from the state meet as well."

The state competition is set for July 23-26 at Alamo Stadium in San Antonio.

Roberson and Mitch Woodard, who are both Big Spring High School track coaches, have been coordinating the summer track program for the past two weeks. They have had more than 75 local athletes participate, which Roberson says gives those individuals a leg up on those who aren't at

Blankenship Stadium working out every morning.

"The benefit of a summer track program is gaining experience, speed and strength that carries over to UIL events during the school year," said Roberson. "Monte is a great example of this. He's been in the summer track program for four years. He got the opportunity to run at the UIL state meet this past year. The beauty behind getting to work with the younger kids is that Mitch and I are the track coaches and we get to start a coaching relationship with these athletes at a young age. That's only going to help us once they get to the high school level."

Contact Sports Editor Jonathan Hull by calling 263-7331, ext. 237, or by e-mailing him at sports@bigspringherald.com.

RANGERS

Continued from Page 1B

designated hitter while recovering from a torn pectoral muscle.

Guerrero fielded a single by Elvis Andrus and was about to make a throw when it looked like he stepped awkwardly on his left leg. He fell to his hands and knees, but got up and

walked around before trainers came out to look at his left knee. He walked off the field on his own and was replaced by Gary Matthews Jr.

"This will obviously be a setback if he's not able to get back into the lineup quickly, but we're going to take it one step at a time," Angels manager Mike Scioscia said. "How long it takes for Vlad to heal is how long it takes.

There's not a lot we can do at this point. We're going to have to evaluate him and see."

Lackey was working on a shutout before Texas got to him in the fifth. He retired the first two batters before Young hit a chopper up the middle on a 3-2 pitch and beat shortstop Erick Aybar's throw to first in a close play.

"We caught a break," Young said. "It wasn't like I had a good at-bat.

He made a really good pitch down on the zone, I just chopped it off the plate and just ran. After that, guys strung together some decent at-bats."

Josh Hamilton then singled and Jones hit Lackey's next pitch over the wall in center, tying it at 3. Hank Blalock followed with a double and Lackey walked Marlon Byrd and David Murphy to load the bases.

The right-hander continued to struggle with his control, uncorking a wild pitch that allowed Blalock to score and surrendering Saltalamacchia's two-run single.

"They're a good offensive club, and if you miss your spots, they're going to let you know," Scioscia said. "It's something that is unusual, especially with John out there. He usually finishes off innings pretty well, but he wasn't able to do it tonight."

Lackey wasn't worried about the outing.

"We're in first place. Let's not jump off a bridge," Lackey said. "They're playing good. I mean, they've obviously played well against us. They've got a good lineup, they're pitching better and playing better

defense, so that's definitely going to keep them around a little longer."

The Rangers tacked on two more runs in the eighth. Ian Kinsler had an RBI double and Young added a sacrifice fly that made it 8-4.

Dustin Nippert, who had been sidelined with a strained right shoulder, lasted just 3 2-3 innings for Texas in his first start of the season. He allowed three runs and seven hits.

Figgins made it 1-0 with an RBI single in the third. Rivera hit a leadoff drive in the fourth and Aybar had a run-scoring single.

Derek Holland (3-5), the second of six Rangers pitchers, tossed two innings to get the win.

NOTES: Julio Borbon was optioned to Triple-A Oklahoma City to make room for Nippert. Brandon McCarthy was transferred to the 60-day DL to make room for Nippert on the 40-man roster.

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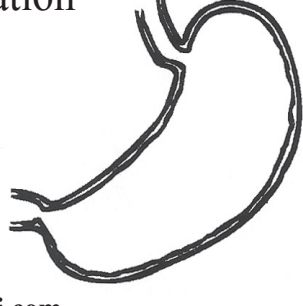
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NOW \$13,995

2004 Ford F150 Supercrew XLT - Arizona Beige w/Cloth, All Power, One Owner w/54,000 Miles.
Was \$15,995
NOW \$13,995

2004 Ford Ranger S/C XLT - White w/Cloth, Local One Owner, w/62,000 Miles.
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2003 Ford F250 Crew Cab XL - White, 5.4 V-8.
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Was \$15,995
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Was \$15,995
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2007 Saturn Aura XE - Red Jewel Tint w/Tan Cloth, V-6, Local One Owner, 100,000 Mile Warranty Remains, Only 23,000 Miles On This Efficient Sedan.
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NOW \$11,995

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BSISD

Continued from Page 1A

debt service. If trustees were to raise the maintenance and operations portion of the rate, that would qualify the district for additional state revenue, he added.

Enter the "tax swap." Stevens and Superintendent Steven Saldivar are going to recommend that trustees adopt a plan that artificially cancels out the district's debt service tax rate and move it to the maintenance and operations side.

That simple tweak in the paperwork, Stevens said, would result in the district receiving \$1.5 million extra in state funds. Half of those additional funds would be used to pay down BSISD's debt, while the other half would basically be used in whichever way the district sees fit.

"We want to stress two points," Saldivar said. "First, we want to reassure taxpayers that their taxes will not go up. The overall tax rate will remain at \$1.118. Secondly, this will allow us to access more state revenue."

There is, however, a catch.

Raising the M and O rate by almost 8 cents, even if it doesn't result in an actual tax increase, will require voter approval, meaning trustees would have to call for a special election sometime this year.

But Stevens hopes district voters understand the need for this action.

"We're doing OK (financially) right now ... this helps us keep from getting in trouble in the future," he said. "We don't want people to think we're raising too much money — we need every dime. This will help us provide quality programs for our kids."

The subject will simply be a discussion item Thursday, but Stevens expects trustees to decide whether to call a special election within the next month.

In other business Thursday, trustees will consider:

- An agreement with the City of Big Spring to provide campus security services.
- Hiring a principal for Washington Elementary and other personnel matters.
- Approval of the Howard County Appraisal District budget.
- Policy updates.

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

MURDER

Continued from Page 1A

Everett.

Hernandez was pronounced dead shortly after 10 a.m. May 30 at a Lubbock area hospital, according to police records. Law enforcement officials said Hernandez and a second victim — later identified as 17-year-old Richard Pineda of Big Spring — were shot at a residence in the 1600 block of Cardinal shortly after midnight.

Preliminary investigation into the shooting revealed that a fight involving the two teenagers and several others had occurred earlier in the evening, according to police officials. Family members of Hernandez have maintained the 16-year-old Big Spring High School student was not directly involved in any of the fights.

In a previous interview, Everett declined to comment on what role Olivarez is believed to have played in the events leading up to Hernandez's death, saying only he was taken into custody without incident.

Hernandez's mother, Nicole Harbour, has maintained since the youth's death her son was not involved in the fight that eventually spurred the shooting, which is believed to have been the result of an altercation between two female party-goers.

"There were several fights that night, one between some females who later brought back some male friends," said Harbour. "When they brought them, there was another fight, and not everyone that was at the party was involved in the fight. My son wasn't involved in the fight. After that, the people that came back to the party left again."

"The kids were playing football in the street and someone drove by and swerved at them like they were going to run them over. The vehicle took off, and not more than five minutes later it came back and did the same thing. This time, though, it stopped at the end of the road. The kids in the street thought they had come back to fight again, and that's when this person got out (of the car) and started shooting."

Harbour claims the identity of the driver of the car and other individuals believed to have been inside the vehicle were given to investigators by witnesses at the scene of the shooting.

Officials with the Howard County Jail confirmed Tuesday Olivarez was still in custody, having had his bond set at \$750,000 by a Dawson County Judge shortly after his arrest in Lamesa, located northwest of Big Spring.

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

GOOGLE

Continued from Page 1A

the two technology powerhouses has been steadily escalating in recent years as Google's dominance of the Internet's lucrative search market has given it the means to threaten Microsoft in ways that few other companies can.

Google already has rankled Microsoft by luring away some of its top employees and developing an online suite of computer programs that provide an alternative to Microsoft's top-selling word processing, spreadsheet and calendar applications.

Meanwhile, Microsoft has been trying to thwart Google by investing billions of dollars to improve its own Internet search and advertising systems — to little avail so far. In the past month or so, though, Microsoft has been winning positive reviews and picking up more users with the latest upgrade to its search engine, now called "Bing." Microsoft is hailing the makeover with a \$100 million marketing campaign.

Now Google is aiming for Microsoft's financial jugular with Chrome its operating system.

Microsoft has drawn much of its power — and profits — from the Windows operating system that has steered most personal computers for the past two decades.

Google's chief executive, Eric Schmidt, and its co-founders, Larry Page and Sergey Brin, have made little attempt to conceal their disdain for Windows in recent years.

Police blotter

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

- RICKY ESCOVEDO, 36, of 1501 Wood, was arrested Tuesday on a Howard County warrant.
- MICHAEL GARZA, 21, of 507 W. Sixth St., was arrested Wednesday on two local warrants.
- ERNESTO MUNIZ, 23, of 1112 Sycamore, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of criminal mischief.
- THEFT was reported:
 - in the 1800 block of FM 700.
 - in the 100 block of Marcy.
 - in the 900 block of Willia.
 - in the 800 block of W. Interstate Highway 20.
- POSSESSION OF DRUG PARAPHERNALIA was reported in the 1400 block of Highway 87.
- INTERFERING WITH AN EMERGENCY PHONE CALL was reported in the 800 block of Kent.
- DISORDERLY CONDUCT — LANGUAGE was reported in the 1300 block of Birdwell Lane.
- CRUELTY TO ANIMALS — FAILURE TO PROVIDE was reported in the 3600 block of Calvin.
- CRIMINAL MISCHIEF was reported in the 800 block of Interstate Highway 20.
- BURGLARY OF A VEHICLE was reported in the 2100 block of Carl.
- BURGLARY OF A HABITATION was reported in the 1900 block of Wasson.
- ASSAULT CLASS C/FAMILY VIOLENCE was reported in the 800 block of Kent.
- ASSAULT BY CONTACT was reported in the 1400 block of Sixth Street.
- AGGRAVATED ASSAULT was reported in the 1400 block of Highway 87.

Sheriff

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

- Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 65 inmates at the time of this report.
- RICKY ESCOVEDO, 36, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on a charge of evading arrest or detention.
- MELODY LYNN GAY, 47, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on a charge of public intoxication.

Fire/EMS

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

- MEDICAL was reported in the 500 block of N. Johnson. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1900 block of Wasson. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 4000 block of Parkway. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 500 block of N. Johnson. Service refused.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 2100 block of Coop Road. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1700 block of Lancaster. One person was transported to SMMC.
- STRUCTURE FIRE was reported in the 4200 block of Dixon. Smoke scare.

NETWORK

Continued from Page 1A

affect access to the college's athletic Web site, www.hchawk.com.

Courses in WebCT will not be accessible from 5:30 p.m. Thursday through 8 a.m. Monday. Students who utilize the system should plan their WebCT coursework around the outage. Students who have courses in the Angel systems will continue to have uninterrupted service during the network outage.

Students with online coursework in either WebCT or Angel are encouraged to check their systems prior to the outage and contact the help desk at (432) 263-5124 should they have any

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questions. "We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause," a college spokesperson said. "Please feel free to contact your local Howard College campus for any assistance needed during the network outage."

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Jackie Tibbets, 58, died Thursday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

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BACKYARD SALE Friday, July 10th, 8am to 5pm and Saturday 8am-noon at 426 Westover Rd. Some furniture, adult clothing and much more.

FIRST OF Several sales as I clean out closets and 2 storage buildings. Priced to sell! Clothes, Mary Kay, candles, lots of misc. 700 Scott Drive, Saturday 8:00-12:00. Please NO CHECKS.

GARAGE SALE: 2511 Broadway (Take Thorp to Broadway), Saturday 8am-2pm. Too much to list. Come See.

GARAGE SALE: 2604 E.16th St., FM 700 in front of Carpet Place, Saturday 7-? Furniture, Harley clothes man and women, Harley jackets, helmets, home decorations, baby clothes, boys clothes, toys, etc.

GARAGE SALE: 3 Metal desks, end tables, staff chairs, 60 metal folding chairs, 6-8' folding tables, 5500 CFM water cooler air condition, 36" electric ranger glass top, 17" cubic ice box, double door stove, 6-88" church pews. 21st & Lancaster (building behind HEB), Friday 8-3 & Saturday 7:30-12 Noon.

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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

We'll see you Thursday at 'After Hours'

It's time for another "Business After Hours," the chamber-sponsored program that brings together local merchants several times a year.

As we've noted before in this space, we believe it is a worthwhile activity that allows the business community to meet, get to know each other and share ideas.

The general public is invited as well, and for them, it's an opportunity to get to know more about a local business. There will be food and door prizes, and organizers encourage everyone to bring a friend.

Thursday's Business After Hours will be held from 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the Lone Star State Bank; its new facility is located at 406 E. FM 700.

Business After Hours is an informal, come-and-go event. There are no programs; it is simply a time to get acquainted, so come by and have a light breakfast with us.

We encourage you to drop by Lone Star State Bank Thursday afternoon and have some refreshments. Sponsored by the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce, it's a good opportunity to get to know other merchants and learn more about the businesses themselves.

Besides, you'll not only have refreshments and good company, but have a shot at winning one of those door prizes.

So bring a stack of your business cards and a guest or two, and join us tomorrow afternoon for Business After Hours at the Lone Star State Bank's new location.

HOW TO CONTACT US

The Herald is always interested in our readers' opinions.

In order that we might better serve your needs, we offer several ways in which you may contact us:

- In person at 710 Scurry St.
- By telephone at 263-7331
- By fax at 264-7205
- By e-mail Managing Editor John A. Moseley at editor@bigspringherald.com or News Editor Bill McClellan at newsdesk@bigspringherald.com.
- By mail at P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721

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.
- We reserve the right to limit publication to one letter per 30-day period per author.
- Letters that are unsigned or do not include a telephone number or address will not be considered.
- 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

We can fix burdens when we give them to You, Lord.

Amen

Palin's ship in the harbor

Last month, Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin said, "A ship in harbor is safe, but that's not why the ship is built," to explain why Sen. John McCain picked her to be his running mate.

Those words may come back to haunt her. When she assumed office in December 2006, Palin committed to Alaskan voters to serve four years. Having failed to do so, she will be in no position to campaign in 2012 for four years in the White House.

As a presidential candidate, she is dead. As a professional victim on the conservative speaking circuit, however, Palin could be unbeatable. Sadly, Palin has managed to alienate many erstwhile supporters who, when McCain plucked her to be his running mate, cheered at the prospect of a reform-minded, pro-oil drilling, hunt-for-food governor and who proudly mothered a Down syndrome baby — while looking great.

Critics dubbed her "Caribou Barbie." Such cheap personal shots only made the GOP base love her more. Pundits couldn't

hit Palin for being a working mother, but they could not refrain from repeating that she was a mother of five. A press corps that barely seemed to care that Joe Biden voted in favor of the Iraq War, only to oppose it later, became absorbed with the question as to whether Palin tried to ban books from the local library. (She didn't.)

Alas, Palin was not without baggage. She couldn't pass an interview with Katie Couric. She alienated swing voters by referring to rural states as the "real America."

Some of her baggage was surreal. As Palin noted Friday, political enemies used state ethics laws to raid her family's assets. "Every one — all of the 15 ethics complaints have been dismissed," said Palin. According to the Associated Press, all but two of the 15 complaints "have been dismissed with no findings of wrongdoing."

According to the Anchorage Daily News, Alaskan taxpayers have spent nearly \$300,000 investigating those apparently baseless complaints. Palin's personal legal bills exceeded \$500,000, while, as Palin noted Friday, it doesn't cost her political foes a dime to file complaints "so they're not going to stop draining public resources." There also has been no cost for smear-

ing Palin — a hobby that has become so reckless that the FBI announced Monday that Palin is not under investigation on corruption charges.

If Palin simply had announced Friday that she was done with politics because she didn't want to bankrupt her family defending against baseless charges, you could applaud. But in leaving the door open for a run-up, Palin blew that.

Instead, the rambling remarks served to reinforce the suspicion that Palin was not up to the No. 2 slot. She's stuck in the victim gear. On the heels of her orgy of indignation over David Letterman's jokes, there's too much "poor me."

Palin's attorney told CNN Monday that Palin deliberately chose to resign on July 3 as a "declaration of independence from politics as usual." You would never guess Palin campaigned for the office that she now finds so confining.

"If I've learned one thing," Palin said Friday, "life is about choices." Good, because in cleaving to the victim role, Palin chose her path. Americans don't elect victims to the White House.

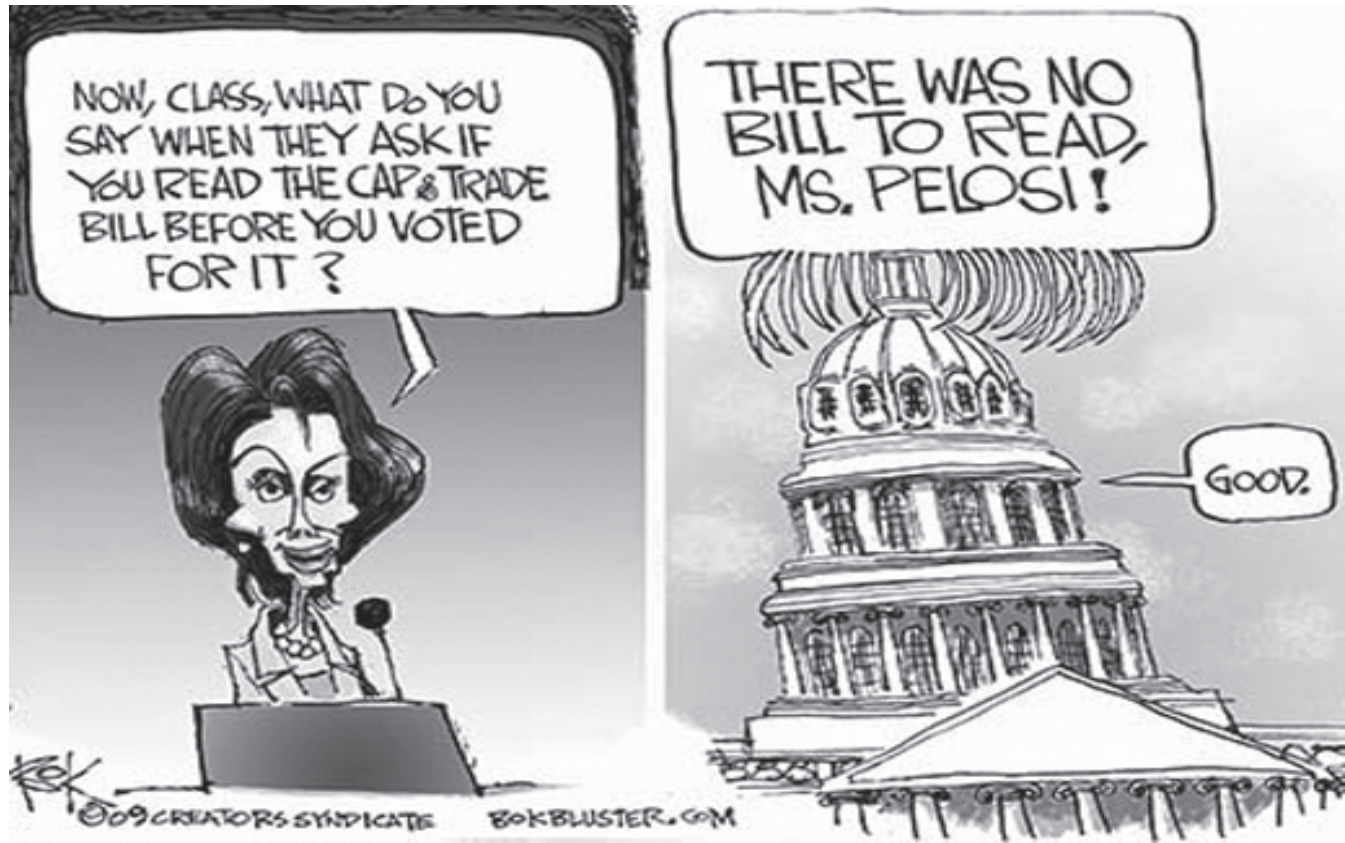
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Much ado about 'Twittering'

Have you heard about Twitter? It is the newest digital time-waster designed to hi-jack people's lives. I'm not saying it isn't a great tool for people to see just exactly what you are doing every half-hour or so. It's wonderful to be able to track your favorite celebrity's every move, but in 1999 we called that stalking.

I thought it was creepy when Santa Claus knew when you were sleeping and if you'd been good or bad.

"Yes," these fanatics tell me, "but you don't have to let strangers see your Tweets." The problem is that many people think that if they have heard someone's name or carry their business card, they are no longer strangers: As if axe murderers don't have jobs or names.

It's become a status symbol to have a high number of "followers" on Twitter, so why wouldn't you adopt someone as a friend just for follower bragging rights?

Tweets, by the way, are the posts made to your Twitter account.

These posts have a limit of 140 characters; just enough to let someone know that you are taking the dog for a walk, or taking

a shower or leaving for Jamaica tomorrow. Presumably, this is so your followers will know where and when to send a hit man.

I Tweet regularly (which sounds obscene) but I'm not really sure why I bother. My PR people, my husband, the loony lady that lives in my head and a toothless old woman that smiles at me on my way into Walmart, tell me that I must use every tool at my disposal to promote myself and my column. I have a total of four Twitter followers and one is my husband, so I fail to see how this will further my career in any appreciable way.

Also, it's kind of irritating to realize that if Twitter is the tool and tweeting is what you do with it, then — I did the math (or English) — those who use Twitter to Tweet must be referred to as Twits. In 1999, this was considered an insult.

Don't get me wrong, I'm not against letting friends and family know what is going on in my life. In fact, if I've just gone somewhere warm and tropical, I can't wait to show off my sunburn.

On the other hand, I don't really think anyone I know would be interested in what stain I found on my daughter's skirt or how I conquered the garbage disposal.

I suppose if I lived in the Amazon and was living with a remote

primitive tribe of natives, my life might be more interesting to the average National Geographic reader. I wonder if they still have dial-up in the Amazon.

Perhaps the stains I found there would be so unusual that women around the world would tune-in just to compare. Or maybe my means of disposing of garbage without regular trash pick-up would be noteworthy to a certain small percentage of people.

In 1999, when someone wanted to know such details about you, we called them nosy and told them to mind their own business. Now we invite them to view a news feed.

My fellow twits, may I simply encourage you to Tweet only high-minded profound thoughts and nuggets of wisdom that will benefit our superfluous society and provoke thoughts that will lift our generation up rather than plunge us into a digital swirl of the mundane?

For an example of such high-minded and profound thoughts, see my Tweets by going to www.Twitter.com/LauraOnLife ... and if you wanted to become my follower, I wouldn't consider you a stranger.

Laura Snyder is a nationally syndicated columnist, author and speaker. You can e-mail her at lsnyder@lauraonlife.com Or visit her website www.lauraonlife.com



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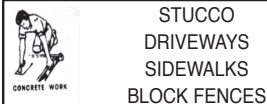
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Why not check this out? At the library

Patrick and Gina Neely have their own show on the Food Network. The library just received "Down Home with the Neelys: A Southern Family Cookbook" (641.597 NEE P). I will warn you, though: Their recipes are not low fat by any stretch of the imagination. How about this? Pimento Cheese Melts: fry some bacon, then combine extra-sharp white cheddar, orange cheddar, pimento, black pepper, garlic powder, cayenne to taste and mayonnaise. Mix all that up; slice some French bread, toast it a couple of minutes on each side, spread the pimento cheese, slap the crumbled bacon on top and then bake until the cheese is melted. Do you hear your arteries clogging up?



HOLLIS McCRIGHT

"A Brain Wider Than the Sky" (616.849 LEV A) by Andrew Levy is the story of his unremitting, four-month-long, life-altering migraine attack. For those people who do not suffer from migraines, you cannot comprehend the pain. In Levy's book, the everyday noises of a household are so excruciating to a migraining head, he isolates himself to feel less awful and then feels awful for being an absent father and partner: "A family of three starts to become a family of two," he writes. This is a witty, wonderful book and if you suffer from migraines (as I have, since about age four to now), it will sound oh so familiar.

A rather disturbing book, "Inside the

Mind of a Teen Killer" (364.152 CHA P), is a culmination of Phil Chalmers' 15-year study on teen murder and school violence. This is an anti-violence project aimed at teens, parents, youth workers, teachers and law enforcement.

The most unique part of the book is the words of the killers themselves, explaining why they committed the crimes, what led them to murder and how we could have helped them. The goal of this book is to educate America and the world on the growing problem of teen murder and school violence, and hopefully stop teen murder and save innocent lives. Phil interviewed nearly 200 teen killers and school shooters for this book, and it's sure to change the way America and the world thinks about the growing trend of juvenile homicide. (This review is from Amazon. Com.)

Let me see if I can find some more "cheerful" books. "Happiness is a Choice" (158.1 KAU B) was written and published in 1991 by Barry Kaufmann. From Library Journal, he contends that if you change a belief or attitude you can change your life. A decision to pursue happiness, he claims, can improve relations with others: "We can engineer our own responses, choosing love over hate, peace over conflict and happiness over depression."

The first five sections relate Kaufman's philosophy and offer stories of clients' successful changes while in

therapy. Section six has short chapters detailing shortcuts to happiness. The book has a four-page bibliography and two pages of additional readings.

"The Art of Happiness: A Handbook for Living" (294.344 LAM D) reads like an enchanting Indian tale by Howard Cutler and Ernest

of interviews. Cutler helps to blend psychology with the Dalai Lamas Buddhist meditations and stories.

Gyatso talks about how to defeat depression, anxiety, anger, and jealousy through meditation. He discusses relationships, health, family, work and spirituality and how to find inner peace while facing these struggles.

Now for a love story that comes out of sorrow. "Out of the Canyon: A True Story of Love and Loss" (155.934 DAI A) by Art and Allison Daily is a combination of a terrible tragedy and the healing power of love. On a crisp winter's day in Glenwood Canyon, Colo., Art Daily is driving

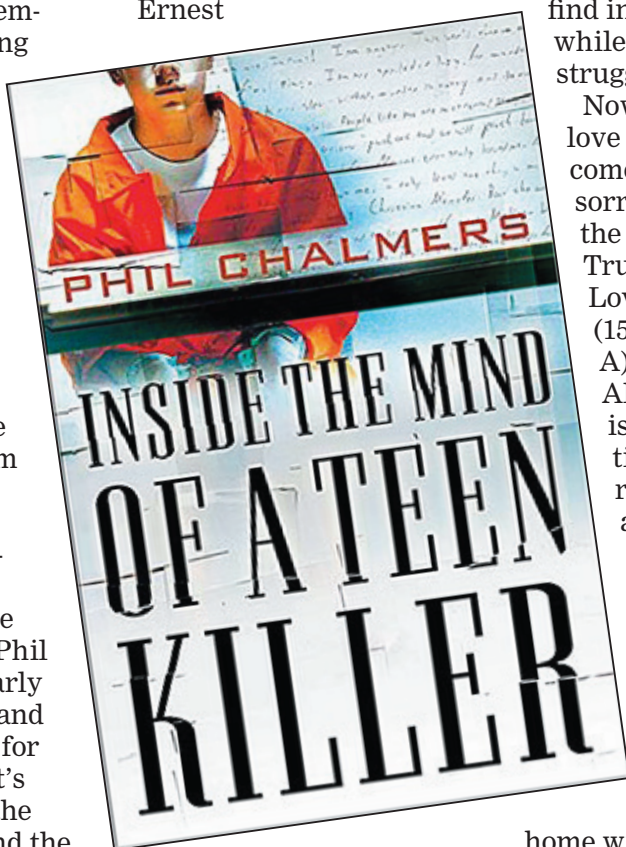
home with his family from a youth hockey game when a large boulder dislodges from the canyon wall and strikes their car, killing his wife and two sons and leaving him inexplicably untouched. In one instant, Art's entire life crumbles, leaving him feeling utterly alone. As family, friends and the entire Aspen community rush in to offer comfort and support, Art faces what he imagines to be a bleak and lonely future.

But what he finds surprises him: the healing power of a stranger's grace.

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. We are closed

Saturdays through August. The Internet/Video room closes one-half hour before closing. The library is located at 500 S. Main St. Our phone number is 264-2260.



Abuba. Gyatso, His Holiness the Fourteenth Dalai Lama, is the spiritual and temporal leader of the Tibetan people; Howard Cutler is a western-trained psychologist. Have you ever wondered what it would be like to sit down with the Dalai Lama and really press him about life's persistent questions? Why are so many people unhappy? How can I abjure loneliness? How can we reduce conflict? Is romantic love true love? Why do we suffer? How should we deal with unfairness and anger? How do you handle the death of a loved one?

These are the conundrums that psychiatrist Howard Cutler posed to the Dalai Lama during an extended period

sudoku

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

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



By Steve Becker

The Scissors Coup

West dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.
NORTH
♠ K J 6 5 2
♥ K 8 3
♦ K Q 8
♣ J 2

WEST
♠ 8 4
♥ A Q J 9 7 6 4 2
♦ 9
♣ A 6

EAST
♠ A Q 10 7 3
♥ 10 5
♦ 7 6 5 3 2
♣ 4

SOUTH
♠ 9
♥ —
♦ A J 10 4
♣ K Q 10 9 8 7 5 3

The bidding:
West North East South
4♥ Pass Pass 5♣

Opening lead — nine of diamonds.
There is a play in bridge called the scissors coup, but you don't have to know the name of the play to execute it; you can reap the benefits just the same if you make the play without knowing its name.

Take this case where you reach five clubs on the bidding shown and West leads the nine of diamonds. It's not difficult to judge that the lead is a singleton, so all your thoughts should

be devoted to trying to stop West from getting a diamond ruff.

Note that if you win the diamond in either hand and lead a trump, you quickly go down one. West takes the ace of clubs, puts East on lead with a spade and ruffs the diamond return to bring a sad end to the affair.

But if you're more careful, you can short-circuit the impending ruff and make the contract. All you have to do is to win the first diamond in dummy, lead the king of hearts and discard your singleton spade on it!

It costs you nothing to make this play. You're simply substituting a heart loser that you don't have for a spade loser that you do have. But the reward for exchanging these losers is that you wind up making the contract instead of going down, since West can no longer reach his partner's hand to secure the diamond ruff.

In effect, discarding a spade on the king of hearts serves as a scissors that cuts the vital link of communication between West and East and enables you to avert the threatened ruff. The scissors coup — whether you know what it's called or not — provides a neat solution to the dilemma.

Tomorrow: Fishing in troubled waters.

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Sandra J. Waggoner,
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Business Office
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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

The moon enters Aquarius and eccentric, offbeat notions become temporarily commonplace. When "weird" is the norm, you might feel inclined to explore all of the wonderful ways in which you do not entirely fit in with your surroundings. Likewise, you're free to find out exactly where your talent lies by going into the places where it doesn't.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). What you need out of a situation is so different from what someone else needs. You'll go out of your way to try and understand what the other person is looking for to strike a mutually wonderful deal.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Once you figure out where you want to go, you're prepared to work hard, plan and endure whatever sacrifice is necessary to get there. Be sure the destination you are focusing on is worthy of your determination.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You have the competitive spirit now and feel driven to get to the top and stay there. Get intimately acquainted with your competitors' product and strategy. Brainstorm about how you can do it differently and better.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You're trying to accomplish a huge endeavor. The plan will succeed if it includes you delegating most of the work. If the plan is for you to do all of the steps yourself, you're likely to

burn out before you finish.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You have genuinely fond feelings for a powerful person who is in a position to help you. Don't be shy about expressing your admiration. Because you are sincere, your flattery will be well received.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (JULY 8). This year is marked by great enthusiasm. You feel brave if not downright invulnerable this month. Commit to a daring career move. Sweet and caring people are attracted to you. You'll be traveling in August and November. Lean on your support network as you devote many hours to an important job in October. Taurus and Sagittarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 10, 13, 4, 16 and 38.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Think of a current problematic circumstance as an exercise designed to make you stronger. The process of coming up with solutions isn't so bad. In fact, you might even think it's fun once you get into the swing of it.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Douglas Adams expressed that "Flying is learning how to throw yourself at the ground and miss." You'll have success performing a daring act that seems as counterintuitive as human flight.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You'll realize how important it is for you to stay current. Trying to keep up with rapidly changing technology will inspire you to brush up your skills or learn an entire new set.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You are

comfortable with your strengths. While others may minimize what they do best in order to blend in, you maximize your talent and stick out — in a good way. Someone has to be the best.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You work purposefully to get ahead. Some are content to amble and enjoy life's many curiosities. You'll meet a leisurely individual and appreciate his or her perspective, though you don't share it.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You'll be spending time with a person who is more or less clueless about what is important to you. Tune this person in. Let him or her know what your basic expectations are and spell out how this person can fulfill them.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You'll be getting something done in a group. Multiple value systems must merge in order to bring about results. Your sensitivity and diplomacy will be the glue that holds it all together.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS: "I was recently dating an extremely cute Sagittarian guy and everything was going well. We had amazing chemistry at the start of the night and were joking and flirting all the way to the restaurant. By the time we got our dinners, I was thinking that this was one of the best dates I've been on in a long, long, long while. I admit that my Pisces imagination got the best of me because I was thinking about the future with this charming, sophisticated man. Well, his order was not quite to his liking, so he sent it

back. And then he got mad at the waitress and he gave her 'the hand.' I was so distracted by the little episode that I started feeling a lot less spontaneous and fun. From there, the date petered out. He asked me out again, though. Am I being shallow? Was the waitress thing just a fluke? Am I being too picky?"

Ruled by Neptune, it's wonderful how impressionable you can be — you're easily pulled along with the glamour of a situation. And you're also adept at reading the signs. So you know that a red flag like this is no "fluke" but a serious difference in sensibility. Move right along in your dating adventures — with someone else.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: The son of Will Smith and Jada Pinkett Smith has joined the family business. Jaden Smith already has several movie and television credits to his name and is slated to play the lead in the upcoming "Kung Fu Kid." Jaden was born under a family-oriented Cancer sun and has all of the charisma that comes with natal communication planet Mercury in Leo, the sign of entertainment.

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

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Annie's Mailbox: Advice for those in need

Dear Annie: I am a 28-year-old gay man. I have two jobs, keep my own house and pay my own bills. I recently started seeing someone who makes me feel wonderful, and for once in my life, I am happy. The problem is my mother. She has never met "Bill," but already doesn't like him because of our age difference. He's 47, but is the most caring person I have ever known. He supports me in all that I do and tells me I can do anything.

I admit that I don't care much for guys my age. They tend to socialize in bars and drink to excess. I would rather be at home watching a movie or reading a book. How can I get through to my mother that I am happy with Bill? You'd think she would be delighted I found someone so wonderful. — Emotionally Tattered in Texas

Dear Texas: You are 28 and no longer need

your mother's approval to date whomever you choose. The best way for Mom to accept Bill is for her to get to know him and understand why you think he's so wonderful. Make plans to introduce them soon. When she sees that the relationship is working out, she will come around. And if not, it's still your decision to make.

Dear Annie: My husband and I are both in our 60s, retired and married over 35 years. I love him dearly.

For most of our married life, I often fantasized about other men during sex in order to be sufficiently aroused. Consequently, after being intimate, I came away with feelings of guilt and felt I was betraying the fundamental tenets of our marriage vows. For the past few years, I've stopped fantasizing, allowing me to have a clear conscience, which feels

good. But as a result, I no longer enjoy intimacy.

We continue to have sex once a week. My husband knows I'm not an eager participant, but he is grateful that I go along with this arrangement to please him. Of course, he doesn't know about the fantasizing, as he would be totally devastated. My husband is a considerate, caring, loving man. He is clean and sexy and smells nice. He doesn't look at porn. Do other women in long-term relationships fantasize about other men? If so, how do they deal with the guilt? — Mature Citizen

Dear Mature: These kinds of things can



KATHY MITCHELL
MARCY SUGAR

make intimacy better and strengthen your marriage, so there is absolutely no reason to feel guilty about it. It is perfectly normal to fantasize about other partners during sex. Most

people do. It can enhance the experience and keep the sparks lit after many years together. As long as your fantasy life stays in your imagination, it is no threat to your marriage vows. In fact, your husband is probably doing the same thing, so you might want to reconsider.

Dear Annie: I read the letter from "Not Lazy and Married to Her Son," who thinks her mother-in-law is criticizing her housekeeping and cooking. My mother-in-law did similar things. When she organized my closets, I thought she was nosy. When she cleaned my kitchen floor, I thought she was criticizing my housekeeping. When she watched me peel potatoes, I assumed she thought I couldn't cook.

Now when I visit my sons and their families, I often sit idly by and wish I could help. I would love it if my daughters-in-law would give me projects to do. I want to feel needed and appreciated. That mother-in-law probably has no clue what her daughter-in-law is thinking. I wish I'd had this wisdom when my mother-in-law was living. — Missing Her

Dear Missing: It may be too late for your mother-in-law, but not for you. Talk to your daughters-in-law. Show them this letter and say you'd like to help out if

they will let you.

Dear Annie: Two months ago, I was looking at my wife's cell phone because I needed a new one and wanted to see if hers was better. I was not looking for anything. Isn't that always the case?

I ended up on her mobile Facebook site. I knew she had become reacquainted with her longtime high-school boyfriend, and I was cool with it. I am friends with a bunch of women from past relationships. Well, I stumbled upon a conversation that went from normal to questionable very quickly. She told him to call when I was not around. He responded, saying he was going to send her some photos.

I confronted her in an easygoing way, and she told me they barely spoke and I'm crazy to think otherwise. When I told her I saw their conversation, she freaked. Then she showed me the photo he sent — it was of him in ladies' underwear. I asked her to "defriend" this guy and she refused, saying she didn't want him to feel she was judging him. A month went by and I asked whether they had been in contact. She said "no," but acted oddly, so I checked her phone again. Sure enough, they are still talking.

She won't go for counseling. I have asked many times because we have communication issues. I wish I could find a way to articulate how this situation has made me feel without looking like a jerk. — I Wear Boxers in Massachusetts

Dear Boxers: The fact that this man is a cross-dresser should be irrelevant, but sending intimate photos is out of bounds. Most cross-dressers are straight, and such communication could be a way for

this man to get some sexual thrills. Your wife should not be encouraging it or doing it behind your back. Since you already have communication issues, counseling is a good idea, and as always, if she won't go, go without her.

Dear Annie: My husband used to be nice to have a conversation with. Now he gets angry and loud, and has a sharp answer for everything. He yells at me in public and his comments are very hurtful. He refuses to celebrate holidays.

Could he be going through some health problems, or is he just changing as he gets older? He comes from a very angry family, and I wonder whether this is genetic. His sister is hateful toward her husband, and his father treats his mother shamefully. Everyone tells me to leave him because he is so verbally abusive, but I love him and want to help. — Need Guidance in Ohio

Dear Ohio: There could be a genetic component, although it's just as likely it's learned behavior from growing up in such a dysfunctional family. Still, a change in demeanor can indicate a medical problem, so it would be wise for him to get a complete check-up, and you should suggest this for his general health. Before the appointment, alert the doctor to the behavioral problem because your husband is apt to stay mum on the subject.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to anniesmailbox@comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, P.O. Box 118190, Chicago, IL 60611.



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- Shouting and cursing
- Hitting, slapping and pushing
- Making threats of all kinds
- Jealousy and suspicion
- Keeping someone away from family and friends
- Throwing things around the house

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5:PM	News ABC	News ABC	Locura	Lopez	News CBS	Noticias	News NBC	Raymond	Cortes	BBC	Cash Cab	Movie: Joe Kidd, John Saxon	CSI: Crime Scn	Bones	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Phineas	Horn	SportsCenter
6:PM	News ABC	Jeopardy!	Gancho	Lopez	News CBS	Noticias	News NBC	Friends	Harris	Business	Cash Cab	CSI: Crime Scn	CSI: NY	CSI: NY	Wizards	Suite Life	Interrupt	MLB
7:PM	Entertain	Fortune	Wipeout	Two Men	Entertain	Millionaire	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Swallow	Made	Made	Movie: Clear and Present Danger, Anne Archer	UFC's Ultimate 100	CSI: NY	Movie: Juice, Jermaine Hopkins	Wizards	Football	Baseball: Teams to Be Announced.
8:PM	Survived-Game	Survived-Game	Mañana es	So You Think You Can Dance	Christine Gary	Más Sabe el Diablo	Israel Payne	Israel Payne	Faye H.	Time Team America	MythBusters	UFC's Ultimate 100	CSI: NY	UFC's Ultimate 100	Wizards	NFL Live	Bowling	Bowling
9:PM	Primetime: Crime	Primetime: Crime	Don Francisco	TMZ	CSI: NY	Victorinos	The Philanthropist	Payne	Payne	Wide Angle	1 Way	UFC Fight Night	Leverage	Game	Wizards	Boxing	Baseball Tonight	
10:PM	News	News	Impacto	Raymond	News	Noticiero	News	Payne	Israel	Charlie Rose	MythBusters	Movie: Three Kings, Ice Cube	Law & Order	Movie: Juice, Jermaine Hopkins	Suite Life	Boxing	SportsCenter	
11:PM	Nightline	Nightline	Noticiero	King-Hill	Late Show	Pobres	Tonight Show	Payne	Dr. Young	Smiley	1 Way	CSI: Crime Scn	Law & Order	So Raven	Life De	NASCAR	Baseball	
12:AM	Insider	Jimmy Kimmel Live	La Casa de la Risa	Law Order: CI	Late Late Show	Decisiones de	Late Night-Jim	Israel	Israel	Smiley	1 Way	Amazing Video	Cold Case	Game	Replace	Series of Poker	NFL Live	
1:AM	Work	Paid	Mujer...	Friends	Entertain	Pagado	Poker After Dark	Light of the Southwest	Light of the Southwest	Smiley	1 Way	Movie: Indecent Proposal, Woody Har-	Disorderly Con.	Cold Case	The Deal	Dragon	Series of	

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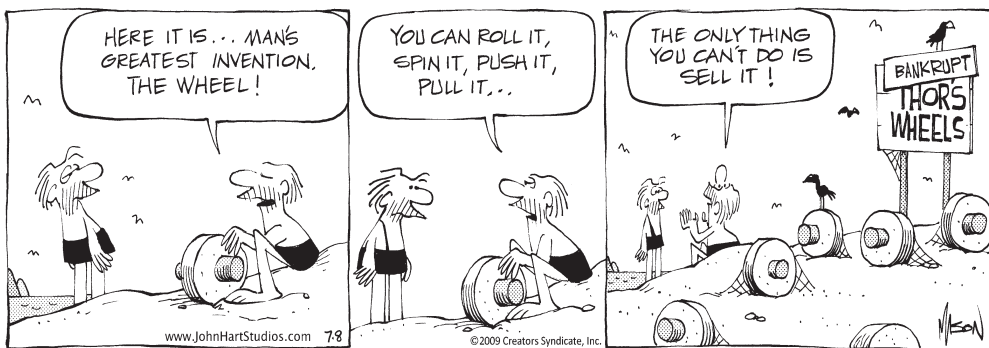
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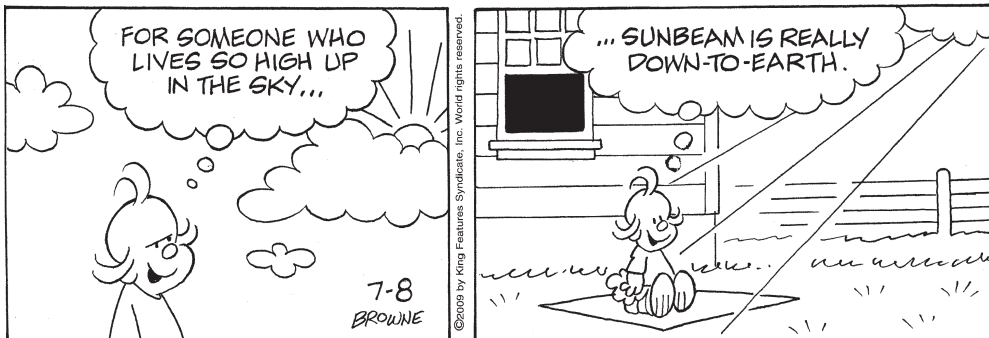
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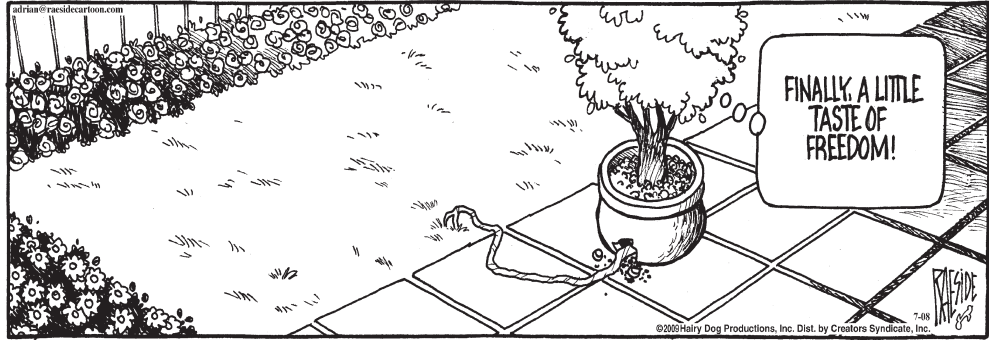
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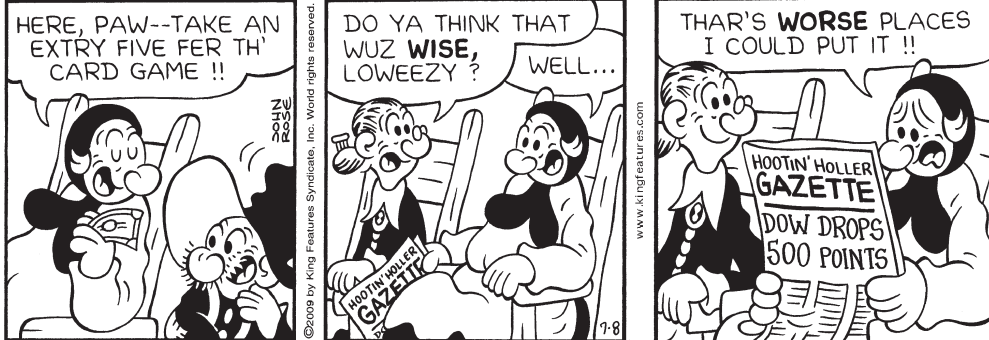
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This Date In History

Today is Wednesday, July 8, the 189th day of 2009. There are 176 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On July 8, 1919, President Woodrow Wilson received a tumultuous welcome in New York City after his return from the Versailles Peace Conference in France; Wilson then headed back to Washington, arriving around midnight.

On this date:

In 1663, King Charles II of England granted a Royal Charter to Rhode Island.

In 1776, Col. John Nixon gave the first public reading of the Declaration of Independence, in Philadelphia.

In 1853, an expedition led by Commodore Matthew Perry arrived in Yedo Bay, Japan, on a mission to seek diplomatic and trade relations with the Japanese.

In 1889, The Wall Street Journal was first published.

In 1907, Florenz Ziegfeld

staged his first "Follies," on the roof of the New York Theater.

In 1947, demolition work began in New York City to make way for the new permanent headquarters of the United Nations.

In 1950, President Harry S. Truman named Gen. Douglas MacArthur commander in chief of U.N. forces in Korea.

In 1958, President Dwight D. Eisenhower began a visit to Canada, where he conferred with Prime Minister John Diefenbaker and addressed the Canadian Parliament.

In 1989, Carlos Saul Menem was inaugurated as president of Argentina in the country's first transfer of power from one democratically elected civilian leader to another in six decades.

In 1994, Kim Il Sung, North Korea's communist leader since 1948, died at age 82.

Five years ago: Adelpia C'Today's Birthdays: Singer Jerry Vale is 77. Singer Steve Lawrence is 74. Actor Jeffrey Tambor is 65. Ballerina Cynthia Gregory is 63. Actress Kim Darby is 62. Children's performer Raffi is 61. Actress Anjelica Huston is 58. News columnist Anna Quindlen is 57.

Actor Kevin Bacon is 51. Rock musician Andy Fletcher (Depeche Mode) is 48. Country singer Toby Keith is 48. Rock musician Graham Jones (Haircut 100) is 48. Rock singer Joan Osborne is 47. Writer-producer Rob Burnett is 47. Actor Corey Parker is 44. Actor Billy Crudup is 41. Actor Michael Weatherly is 41. Singer Beck is 39. Country singer Drew Womack (Sons of the Desert) is 39. Christian rock musician Stephen Mason (Jars of Clay) is 34. Actor Milo Ventimiglia is 32. Rock musician Tavis Werts is 32. Singer Ben Jelen is 30. Actor Lance Gross is 28. Actress Sophia Bush is 27.

Answer to previous puzzle

ALF	NEAL	CHACHA
BORE	INTO	HAILEY
IRALEV	IGNORE	
DRMLK	JR	TUBA
EYE	RAGTOPS	DAY
	JOBLOT	AMBLE
JADA	LENS	FIATS
UNABLE	SENSEI	
DARBY	ODIE	TEAR
GSTAR	DUNCES	
ETA	EJECTED	ABC
JAGS	ASKEDAFTER	
USNAVY	PREMIERE	
DIALIN	INRRERUNS	
YANKEE	NESS	PET

Newsday Crossword

MORE MONEY by Gail Grabowski
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS
- 1 Book of maps
- 6 Listen to
- 10 Fully attentive
- 14 Avoid, as work
- 15 Make eyes at
- 16 Competent
- 17 High-priced fuel
- 19 Tehran's land
- 20 Solar-system center
- 21 Barack Obama's title: Abbr.
- 22 High-school compositions
- 24 Heavy weights
- 25 Happiness
- 26 Pampers too much
- 29 Where kings and queens live
- 32 Two-door car
- 33 Identical
- 34 Picnic pests
- 36 Regarding
- 37 Indy 500 driver
- 38 Difficult journey
- 39 Person not quite 20
- 40 Rams' mates
- 41 Make amends
- 42 Imagined
- 44 Sleeper's headrest
- 45 Winter coaster
- 46 Kingly address
- 47 National song
- 50 Storage building
- 51 Tip of a sock
- 54 Gone With the Wind estate
- 55 End of some game shows
- 58 Prayer ending
- 59 Leave the building
- 60 Fraction of a pound
- 61 Property owner's document
- 62 Goes bad
- 63 Fuss in front of a mirror
- DOWN
- 1 Poisonous snakes
- 2 Drive- window
- 3 Property claim
- 4 Shirt-sleeve filler
- 5 Piece of slalom gear
- 6 Residences
- 7 Omelet ingredients
- 8 Chicken king
- 9 Secondhand-shop owner
- 10 Do ranching work
- 11 Magic-spell opener
- 12 Broadway offering
- 13 Change for a \$20 bill
- 18 Large coffee vessels
- 23 Salty body of water
- 24 Reveal something accidentally
- 25 Monopoly and Scrabble
- 26 "Shoo!"
- 27 Did modeling work
- 28 External
- 29 Walked back and forth
- 30 Sign up for a class
- 31 Dictation-taking pro
- 33 Did a logger's job
- 35 Veer off course
- 37 Keep in mind
- 41 Delivery via parachute
- 43 Pub beverage
- 44 Desserts with crusts
- 46 Closes tightly
- 47 Just slightly
- 48 Birth-certificate entry
- 49 Yew or eucalyptus
- 50 Fit of temper
- 51 Melody
- 52 A single time
- 53 Biblical paradise
- 56 Tic-tac-toe nonwinner
- 57 Your and my

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14					15				16			
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Angel Food orders

Dates for ordering July Angel Food at North Birdwell Lane First United Methodist Church are Friday, July 10 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday, July 11, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Food can also be ordered from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. July 11 at the Big Spring Mall.

No orders can be taken after this for July.

You must pay for the food when you order. Angel Food accepts cash, money orders and — new this month — Lonestar cards. For more information, call (432) 267-3241, 267-2203 or 263-2536. If no one answers, leave a message.

- Box, \$30
- 1.5 lb. New York Strip Steaks (4 x 6 oz.)
- 1.5 lb. Boneless Pork Roast
- 1.5 lb. Lean Ground Beef
- 1 lb. Chicken Breast Fajita
- 2 lb. Chicken Stir-Fry Skillet Meal (All-White Chicken, Lo Mein Noodles, Vegetables & Gourmet Teriyaki Sauce)
- 12 oz. Deli Sliced Ham
- 5 oz. Chunk Light Tuna in Water
- 25 oz. Pasta Sauce
- 1 lb. Pasta
- 1 lb. Frozen Sliced Carrots
- 12 ct. White Corn Tortillas
- 4 ct. Fresh Large Baking Potatoes
- 1 Fresh Fajita Veggie Kit (Tray Pack - 1 each — Red Bell Pepper, Green Bell Pepper, Jumbo Yellow Onion)
- 1 ct. Fresh Cello-Wrapped Celery
- 32 oz. 2 percent Shelf Stable Milk
- Dozen Eggs
- Dessert

- Senior Box, \$28
- New Orleans Style Chicken over Savory Rice with Okra & Tomatoes and Diced Sweet Potatoes
- Grilled Chicken Strips & Penne Pasta with Creamy Tomato Basil Sauce, Capri Blend Vegetables and Green Beans with Onions and Red Peppers
- Beef & Bowtie Pasta with Herbed Tomato Sauce, Capri Blend Vegetables and Corn
- Flame-Broiled Salisbury Steak with Brown Gravy, Sour Cream & Chive Potatoes and Mixed Vegetables
- Cheesy Chicken and Broccoli Casserole with Rice, Green Beans and Squash Medley
- Classic Chicken Tetrazzini with Diced Carrots and Green Peas
- Country Fried Steak with Cream Gravy, Red Skin Whipped Potatoes and Mixed Vegetables
- Spaghetti with Meatballs, Green Beans and Cinnamon Applesauce
- Chicken Parmesan with Whipped Potatoes and Capri Blend Vegetables
- Flame-Broiled Beef Patty with Onion Gravy, Sour Cream & Chive Potatoes and Capri Blend Vegetables
- 10 2-pack, individually-wrapped cookies

- Allergen-Free Box, \$25
- 1 lb. Coated Chicken Tenders
- 1 lb. Coated Breast Filet
- 1 lb. Coated Chicken Nuggets
- 1 lb. Coated Chicken Wings
- 1 lb. Coated Cube Steak (Chicken Fried Steak)
- Breaded with white rice, brown rice, modified tapioca starch, flax seed, sugar, dextrose, salt, spices, dehydrated garlic, spice extractives and oleoresin paprika. Breading is pre-browned in Canola oil.

With the order of one or more of the above boxes, you may order one or more specials.

- Special No. 1, \$23
- 2 lb. Ribeye Steaks (4 x 8 oz.)
- 2 lb. Country Style Pork Ribs (4 x 8 oz.)
- 2 lb. Lean Hamburger Steaks (4 x 8 oz.)
- 1 lb. Bratwurst with Cheese

- Special No. 2, \$22
- 2.5 lb. Sirloin Strip Steaks (4 x 10 oz.)
- 2.5 lb. Bacon-Wrapped Beef Fillet (5 x 8 oz.)

- Special No. 3, \$20
- Gourmet Flavored Chicken Breast Filets
- 1.5 lb. Italian (4 x 6 oz.)
- 1.5 lb. Lemon Pepper (4 x 6 oz.)
- 1.5 lb. Honey Mustard (4 x 6 oz.)

- Special No. 4, \$21
- 3.75 lb. T-Bone Steaks (5 x 12 oz.)

- Special No. 5, \$22
- 1 Red Seedless Watermelon
- 1 lb. Red Seedless Grapes
- 1.5 lb. Tree-Ripened Plums
- 1 Cantaloupe
- 3 lb. Granny Smith Apples
- 3 Large Limes
- 4 ears White Corn
- 1 head Iceberg Lettuce
- 3 lb. Baking Potatoes
- 1 lb. Carrots
- 2 lb. Large-Medium Yellow Onions
- 1 pkg. Jumbo Garlic (5 ct.)
- AFM July 2009 Fruit and Veggie Recipe Sheet

- Special No. 6, \$22
- 3 lb. Valencia Oranges
- 1 Cantaloupe
- 1 Mango
- 6 Large Limes
- 4 ears Yellow Corn
- 2 lb. Large-Medium White Onions
- 1 Iceberg Lettuce
- 1 lb. Carrots
- 1 lb. Tomatillas
- 1 lb. Jalapeño Peppers
- 5 lb. Russet Baking Potatoes
- 1 Yellow Corn Tortillas (30 ct.)
- 1 Pinto Beans (12 oz. bag)
- AFM July 2009 Latin Flavors Recipe Sheet



Courtesy photo

Hangar 25 Air Museum held a reception in honor of Clayton Smith, the June 2009 Veteran of the Month. Smith served in the USMC. He was a small arms repair technician with Marine Aircraft Group 14 during Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2006 and the Combined Joint Task Force in the Horn of Africa in Djibouti in 2008. He is pictured with his wife, Stacy.

CHS Alumni plan all-school reunion

Coahoma High School Alumni will hold an all-school/all classes reunion Aug. 1 at the Coahoma Elementary School.

Registration takes place from 9-10 a.m., with visiting until noon, when a barbecue lunch will be served. Cost for the lunch is \$8 each and alumni are asked to send payment (by check) before July 15 to: CHS Alumni Association, POB 983, Big Spring 79721-0983.

Please include the names of alumni and guests who will be attending, along with the year of CHS graduation.


Some of our mailouts were returned as not deliverable; if you know of someone who did not receive the initial mailing, please share this information with them or contact us with their e-mail address and the information will be forwarded.

Everyone with a connection to CHS is invited, including all graduates and current and former teachers and CHS staff.

Individual classes are encouraged to schedule get-togethers Friday evening or Saturday after the All School Reunion.


This year's reunion will highlight "CHS Sports Through the Years", and the 1:30 p.m. program includes former football coaches Bernie Hagins and Norman Roberts. All former athletes at CHS will be recognized, along with members of any state qualifying team, and former athletes will be given an opportunity to share stories. An auction will be held to raise funds for the CHS Scholarship Fund. Alumni are encouraged to bring new or unique white elephant type items to be placed into the auction. Alumni who have died since the last reunion in 2006 will be memorialized.

For additional information or to submit a name for the Alumni Memorial, contact any of the following committee members: Joyce York Baumann, (432) 816-1588 (jefnjoyce@yahoo.com); Rose Thixton Teeler, (432) 393-5267 (jrteeler@yahoo.com); Barbara Ballard Reilly, (432) 263-7808; Patti Lee Meeks, (432) 267-6688 (pmeeks@basin-net.net); Jean Buchanan Wynn, (432) 394-4585.



Bob Brock Ford's July Blow-Out SALE

On 2009 F150'S



2009 Ford F150 Supercrew XLT 4X2
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MSRP \$33,805

Bob Brock Discounts And Customer Cash Back (\$8,320⁷⁰)

Blow Out Price \$25,484^{30*}

(Three to choose from, STK# 2197 (Black/Tan), STK# 2199 (Blue Flame/Tan), STK# 2196 (White/Gold))

2009 Ford F150 Supercab XLT 4X2
(4.6 V-8, Texas/Oklahoma Edition, CD, 17" Alum. Wheels, Trailer Tow Pkg., Cloth, Captain Chairs, Sat. Radio (Sirius).)



MSRP \$30,605

Bob Brock Discounts And Customer Cash Back (\$7,921⁸⁰)

Blow Out Price \$22,683^{20*}

(Two to choose from, STK# 2096 (Pueblo Gold), STK# 2191 (Brilliant Silver).)

2009 Ford F150 Lariat Supercrew 4X4
(5.4 V-8, Sony Navigation W/Sync, Power Moonroof, Power Sliding Rear Windows, Rear View Camra, Tailgate Step, 20" Chrome Wheels, Chrome Step Bar, Heated/Cool Leather Captain Chairs.)



MSRP \$47,235

Bob Brock Discounts And Customer Cash Back (\$9,208⁴⁵)

Blow Out Price \$38,026^{55*}

(Stk# 2297 (White Sand Tri-Coat).)

2009 Ford F150 STX Regular Cab
(4.6 V-8, Trailer Tow Pkg., STX Decor, 18" Alum. Wheels, Cruise Control, Sat. Radio.)



MSRP \$25,750

Bob Brock Discounts And Customer Cash Back (\$3,847⁸⁰)

Blow Out Price \$21,902^{20*}

(Stk# 2101 (Sterling Gray).)



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World Briefs

Obama confers with world leaders in Italy on economy, climate, trade, more

ROME (AP) — President Barack Obama is embarking on three days of multinational talks about climate change, the global economy and world hunger in the second and most policy-laden stop of his three-nation, weeklong trip.

The meetings to begin Wednesday in Italy may lack the intrigue of Obama's sit-downs with Russia's top leaders earlier this week or the emotion of the reception that the first black American president is likely to receive in Ghana on Saturday. But they won't lack for ambition, on the surface at least, as the world's most powerful officials address problems that threaten the planet.

Obama and first lady Michelle Obama and their daughters arrived in Rome Wednesday morning. He and the leaders of seven other industrialized nations will meet at L'Aquila near Rome before they widen their circle to include fast-growing countries like China and India, and struggling nations from Africa. In large and small groups, the talks will involve trade, Iran's nuclear ambitions, food security and other issues.

Obama went immediately into a meeting with Italian President Giorgio Napolitano after arriving at the stately Quirinale Palace, accompanied by Michelle, and meeting his host in a spectacular setting that included a large room with a soaring ceiling, gilded walls and doors and huge chandeliers.

Topping the list of G-8 discussions are possible ways to slow the release of greenhouse gases linked to global warming.

Intelligence official says North Korea believed behind cyber attacks on SKorean, U.S. Web sites

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — South Korean intelligence officials believe North Korea or pro-Pyongyang forces in South Korea committed cyber attacks that paralyzed major South Korean and U.S. Web sites, a lawmaker's aide said Wednesday.

The sites of 11 South Korean organizations including the presidential Blue House and the Defense Ministry went down or had access problems since late Tuesday, according to the state-run Korea Information Security Agency. Agency spokeswoman Ahn Jeong-eun said 11 U.S. sites suffered similar problems.

On Wednesday, the National Intelligence Service told a group of South Korean lawmakers it believes that North Korea or North Korean sympathizers in the South "were behind" the attacks, according to an aide to one of the lawmakers briefed on the information.

The aide spoke on condition of anonymity citing the sensitivity of the information. He refused to allow the name of the lawmaker he works for to be published.

The National Intelligence Service — South

Korea's main spy agency — said it couldn't immediately confirm the report.

Complex issues swamp lawmakers as White House seeks to regain momentum on health care

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama is struggling to show progress in a race against the clock to revamp the nation's health care system this year.

Problems in Congress threaten to overshadow a White House event Wednesday designed to boost Obama's health overhaul.

Leaders from hospital industry trade groups were expected to appear with Vice President Joe Biden to announce that hospitals are ready to give up about \$155 billion over 10 years in government payments. The money could then be used to help pay for covering millions of uninsured.

But Congress, not the health care industry, is the source of Obama's troubles.

Lawmakers returned Tuesday from their July 4 break with lots of questions about the complex legislation and deep misgivings about key elements under discussion.

Chinese President Hu Jintao hurries home from G8 meeting after ethnic rioting in the west

URUMQI, China (AP) — China's president cut short a G8 summit trip to rush home Wednesday after ethnic tensions soared in Xinjiang territory, and the government flooded the area with security forces in a bid to quell emotions in the wake of a massive riot that left 156 dead.

Two helicopters dropped leaflets appealing for calm among the Xinjiang capital's 2.3 million residents a day after running battles in the streets involving Han Chinese and minority Muslim Uighurs waving bricks, steel pipes and cleavers.

A Foreign Ministry statement said "given the current situation in Xinjiang," President Hu Jintao cut short a trip to Italy for a Group of Eight meeting later Wednesday to return home. It was not known if he would travel to Urumqi, about four hours by air west of Beijing.

After an overnight curfew, streets were calmer Wednesday, but residents showed cell phone and video camera footage of the earlier chaos, reporting neighbor-on-neighbor violence and pointing out bloodstains.

"The government told us today not to get involved in any kind of violence. They've been broadcasting this on the radio and they even drove through neighborhoods with speakers telling people not to carry weapons," said one Han Chinese man who would give only his surname, Wang.

Michael Jackson likely won't fade from limelight soon despite end of memorial for King of Pop

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The public mourning of Michael Jackson may be done, but the saga that was his personal life is far from over.

Nothing made that more clear than the one surprise of Tuesday's memorial service, watched by millions around the world: the emotional speech by Jackson's 11-year-old daughter, Paris-Michael.

"Ever since I was born, Daddy has been the best father I could imagine," she said, dissolving into tears and turning into the arms of her aunt Janet. "I just want to say I love him so much."

Custody of Jackson's three children is one of the biggest legal issues still unresolved. In his 2002 will, Jackson made his wishes clear — his three children should remain under the care of his mother, Katherine.

Debbie Rowe, the biological mother of Paris and her 12-year-old brother, Prince Michael, has indicated she may seek custody. The surrogate mother of Jackson's youngest child, 7-year-old Prince Michael II, is unknown. A custody hearing was scheduled for Monday.

Conn. man who took ex-wife hostage in standoff faces kidnapping, arson charges, police say

SOUTH WINDSOR, Conn. (AP) — An advertising executive — who vowed he wouldn't be divorced until his ex-wife was dead — kidnapped her from a parking lot and called for a priest to give her last rites before setting their house on fire during a 13-hour standoff, police said.

Richard Shenkman gave up about midnight Tuesday as flames destroyed the South Windsor house he once shared with Nancy Tyler. The fire ignited about an hour after Tyler escaped, a handcuff dangling from one wrist.

Police said they don't know how the fire began, but believe it was set by Shenkman. Police cut power to the suburban Hartford neighborhood and fired nonflammable tear gas canisters and flash grenades after Tyler emerged from the house, police Cmdr. Matthew Reed said.

A bomb squad had been on the scene since the standoff began Tuesday morning. There was no confirmation of explosives in the house even though there were indications.



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