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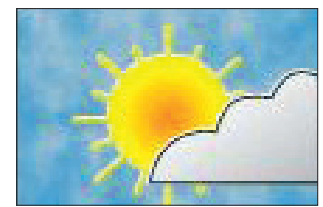
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H BIG SPRING HERALD

WEDNESDAY
 JULY 15, 2009



VOLUME 104, NUMBER 191

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50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 SUNDAY

Two fires overnight called arson

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
 Staff Writer

A pair of fires reported late Tuesday night and early this morning have been ruled arson and could be related, according to fire officials.
 Carl Condray, fire marshal for the city of Big Spring, said the first report came at approximately 11:32 p.m.



Condray

Tuesday in the 800 block of Runnels. "The first fire was a vehicle fire," said Condray. "It was reported in a small parking lot located behind the AT&T building on Runnels. The vehicle was a Ford Focus and was

completely destroyed. When firefighters arrived on the scene, the entire rear of the vehicle was engulfed." Condray said it took firefighters approximately five minutes to extinguish the blaze. "It appears the fire was set using some trash," he said. "It went up pretty quick. There

were no injuries reported as a result of the fire, which has been ruled arson." A second fire, reported at approximately 3:19 a.m. in the 900 block of Goliad, destroyed a derelict building that was part of the former Big Spring Care Center, which was torn down a few weeks ago. "Apparently, when the facil-

ity was torn down the maintenance building was not part of the demolition," said Condray. "Because the building was derelict, there's no real damage to report as far as dollar amounts go. It took firefighters approximately 15 minutes to extinguish the

See **ARSON**, Page 3A



HERALD photo/Alex Newsom

Amber Robinson teaches her class of young toddlers at the West Side Community Day Care Center, 2300 Simler, Tuesday afternoon. The West Side Community Day Care Center is a non-profit day care funded by the United Way and other private sources.

City cries 'mulligan!'

At-risk effort lands in rough; council to seek formal bids for pro shop construction

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
 Staff Writer

After two failed attempts to get construction bids within the project's budget, the Big Spring City Council voted Tuesday night to abandon the use of a construction manager at risk and take formal bids to build a new pro shop for the Comanche Trail Golf Course. According to Assistant City Manager Todd Darden, the city will be requesting formal bids — a more tradi-

tional method of attracting contractors than the use of a construction manager at risk — in an attempt to bring the project within its budgetary constraints. "For the past several months we've been working through a contractor at risk type program to build our golf course pro shop," said Darden. "We hired an architect out of Dallas for the design and concept of what we needed and want-

See **CITY**, Page 3A

How much to pay? FISD officials wait

By **STEVE REAGAN**
 Staff Writer

FORSAN — Like other school districts in Howard County, Forsan officials are playing a waiting game when it comes to forging a new budget. Superintendent Randy Johnson said uncertainty about the manner and quantity of state aid has made making a new budget slow going so far.

"We're still waiting for information from the state as to where we are," he said. Unlike the other Howard County public school systems, Forsan ISD is considered "property rich" under the state financing formula, meaning that it must pay a certain amount of money to the state each year. Just how much Forsan owes is still a question. "The last estimate we received showed our payment to



Jonhson

be about \$670,000, but we know our ... payment will go up. We just don't know how much," Johnson said. Under the "Robin Hood" formula, school districts are considered rich or poor based on a method that compares the district's tax valuations with its number of students. Forsan has the fewest number of students of the

three Howard County school districts and steadily rising property values. New wind farm businesses within FISD have fueled an increase in property valuations, which in turn is the major reason behind the increased payments to the state, Johnson said. FISD valuations have been steadily climbing the past several years, from a low of \$143 million in 1999-2000 to a total estimated at between

\$600 million and \$700 million this coming budget year. Increased valuations, however, do not automatically translate into increased revenues, at least for Forsan. "For the state, this is a good deal because more money flows to them," Johnson said. "For us, however, we're capped to how much revenue we can raise. By the time we get through with the budget,

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Gay clergy eligible for all Episcopal ministry

RACHEL ZOLL
 AP Religion Writer

NEW YORK — Episcopalians declared gays and lesbians eligible for "any ordained ministry" Tuesday, a vote expected to upset world Anglican leaders who had sought a clear moratorium on consecrating another gay bishop. Leaders of the Episcopal Church, the Anglican province in the United States, insisted they were still committed to membership in the Anglican Communion. Some Angli-

"I personally believe we had to do this. It's the way we see the Gospel."

—John Cheek, delegate from the Diocese of Western Massachusetts

can leaders, however, predicted the vote would break their fellowship. The Episcopal General Convention, meeting in Anaheim, Calif., gave final approval to the measure

during their once-every-three-years legislative assembly, which runs through Friday. "God has called and may call" gays in committed relationships to "any ordained ministry" in the church, the resolution says. Lay people voted 78-21 and clergy voted 77-19 to approve the measure. The House of Bishops had earlier voted 99-45 to adopt the statement. In the debates, delegates said they

See **GAYS**, Page 3A

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Is David Duval ready to come all the way back?

PAUL NEWBERRY
AP National Writer

TURNBERRY, Scotland — As gray clouds kept spitting out rain, David Duval just went about his work at one end of the putting green. He didn't bother with an umbrella and kept on those trademark sunglasses, even though the sun was nowhere to be found on this gloomy afternoon along the Scottish coast.

He's always projected an air of aloofness, given off a sense that you'll never really know what goes on behind the dark shades.

It was that way when he was the No. 1 golfer in the world. It was that way when he couldn't hit a ball any

straighter than a weekend duffer. Even now, eight years removed from his last win, he might be the most intriguing golfer at the British Open.

Last month, Duval suddenly found the game that so mysteriously deserted him just when he seemed poised for an Arnie-vs.-Jack-like rivalry with Tiger Woods.

Duval stayed in contention through all four rounds of a waterlogged U.S. Open and really looked as though he might pull off one of the most improbable victories ever, only to come up two strokes shy of Lucas Glover in a three-way tie for runner-up.

"I had a real good time," Duval said

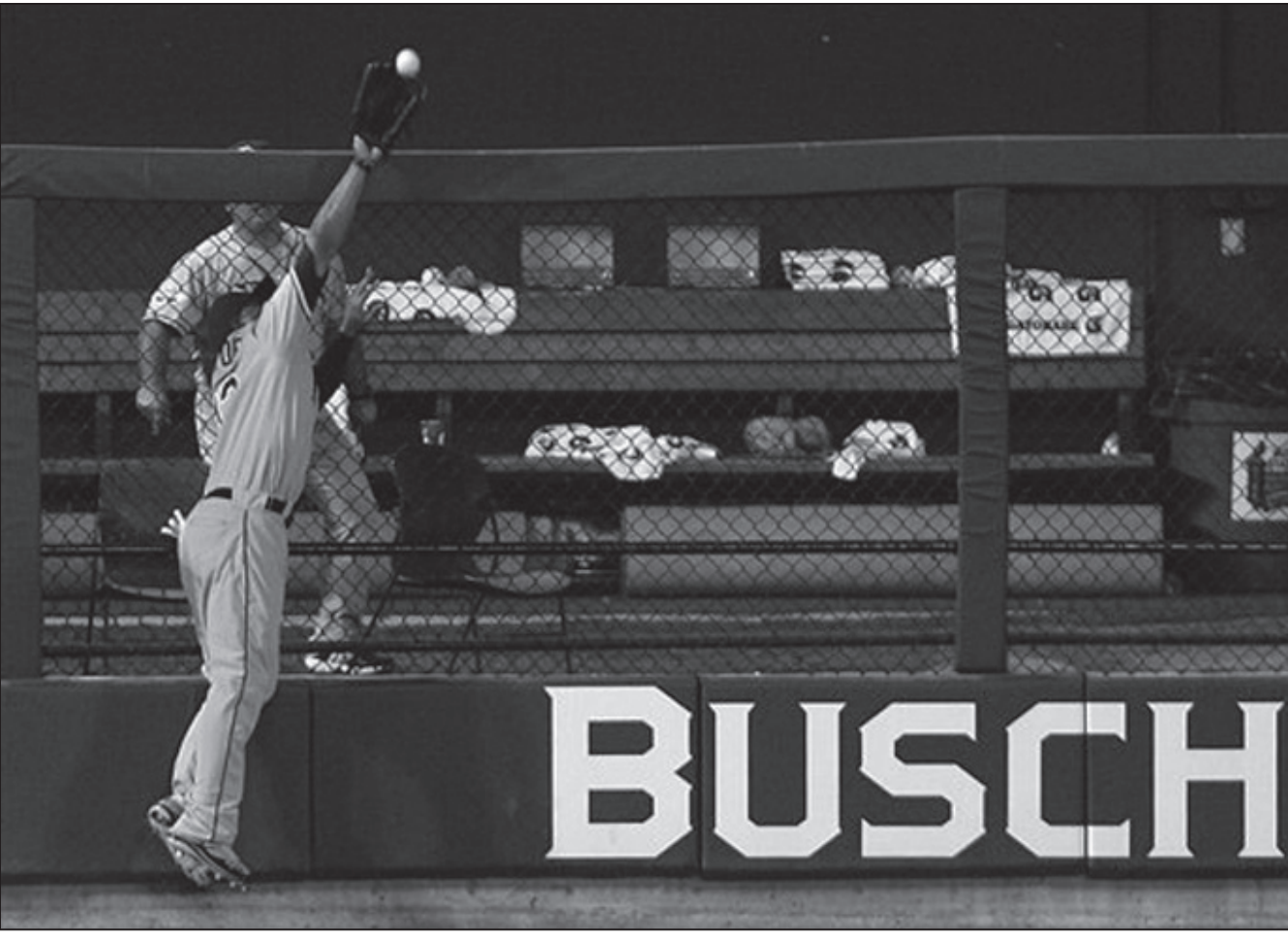
See **DUVAL**, Page 2B



AP photo/Peter Morrison

David Duval of the U.S. plays a shot on the 18th hole during practice for the British Open Golf championship, at the Turnberry golf course in Scotland Tuesday.

Different year, same winner



AP photo/Tom Gannam

The American League's Carl Crawford of the Tampa Bay Rays makes a catch on a ball hit by the National League's Brad Hawpe of the Colorado Rockies during the seventh inning of the MLB All-Star baseball game in St. Louis.

Great catch: Crawford grabs MVP award

MIKE FITZPATRICK
AP Baseball Writer

ST. LOUIS — Carl Crawford helped carry Tampa Bay from the American League basement to an improbable pennant.

It's only fitting that he became the first All-Star MVP in franchise history.

Crawford made a sensational catch at a crucial time Tuesday night, robbing Brad Hawpe of a go-ahead homer in the seventh inning of the American League's

4-3 victory over the NL at Busch Stadium.

"The ball was so high in the air, it gave me time to get back to the wall," Crawford said. "That's part of my game, playing defense. You can bring that to the field every day."

His leap over the 8-foot fence in left field earned Crawford an MVP award that's named for Ted Williams.

"It feels great. They totally got me off guard today. I didn't think

I was going to win it," Crawford said. "I'm just so happy, I don't really know what to say. I just hope I can come back many times and try to win it again."

Crawford also became the first position player to win MVP honors at the All-Star game without scoring a run or driving one in.

Instead, he took a run away.

"Defense wins championships and tonight we proved that

See **MVP**, Page 2B

American League All-Stars manage to stop NL again

RONALD BLUM
AP Baseball Writer

ST. LOUIS — Even President Barack Obama wonders: Why hasn't the National League won the All-Star game since he first ran for public office?

"Three, four years, you can say it's just happenstance," he said. "But it starts to get to be a trend when you're starting to go on 12 years. What's going on?"

World Series champions change. Stadiums change. Stars of the game change.

Baseball's All-Star game winner is always the same.

Carl Crawford pulled back a home run with a leaping grab an inning before

Curtis scored the tiebreaking run in the eighth inning. That boosted the American League to a 4-3 victory Tuesday night at new Busch Stadium, its seventh straight win since the All-Star game has been used to determine home-field advantage for the World Series.

"We came here on a mission and the mission was accomplished," said Mariano Rivera, who pitched a 1-2-3 ninth for his record fourth All-Star save, breaking a tie with Dennis Eckersley.

Baseball's home-field

advantage innovation began after 2002's infamous 7-7, 11-inning tie at Milwaukee. The AL is 12-0-1 since its 1996 defeat in Philadelphia — the longest unbeaten streak in All-Star history.

"It is so important to get home-field advantage in the World Series," said Tampa Bay's Joe Maddon, the AL manager. "So there was a lot on the line there today."

Not even Obama's ceremonial first pitch helped the NL, which had been 4-0 when sitting presidents threw out the first offering. It scored all its runs in the second for a 3-2 lead, but 22 of its last 24 batters made out.

Despite starting the World Series on the road last year, Philadelphia beat the Rays in five games for the NL's third title in six seasons. The Phillies' Jayson Werth, who ran down Justin Morneau's drive to deep left-center off Francisco Rodriguez to end the ninth, took solace from that.

"Hopefully, we'll get a chance to overcome that obstacle again this year," he said.

Crawford entered with a pinch single in the fifth and jumped at the 8-foot left-field wall to snare Brad Hawpe's

See **STARS**, Page 2B

Sports in brief

Benefit golf tournament scheduled for Gilbert 'Tavi' Rodriguez

A benefit golf tournament has been scheduled for Sunday, July 26, at the Comanche Trail Golf Course for Gilbert "Tavi" Rodriguez.

Format for the tournament will be a four-man scramble and teams must be registered no later than 10:30 a.m. that day. Play will begin at 11 a.m.

Entry fees are \$100 per team — \$25 per player — and does not include green fees or golf cart rental. Closest to the pin prizes will be available on Nos. 3, 6, 11 and 14.

All proceeds will go to Rodriguez's medical expenses.

For more information, contact Billy Pineda at 432-213-4943.

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 Monday 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 fielding and hitting techniques.

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

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.

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 8-years-old through incoming eighth graders. Cost is \$20 if paid by today 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.

Team of four local women finish third in San Angelo tournament

A foursome of local women, composed of Tammy DePauw, Pat Underwood, SuAnn Seay and Patsy Sharpnack, took part in the Ida Mae Powell Classic, a four-woman, select shot golf tournament, in San Angelo.

They turned in a good showing, finishing third in the tournament's first flight.

Obituaries

Rosie Hernandez

Rosie Hernandez, 27, of Midland, formerly of Big Spring died Sunday, July 12, 2009, in Midland County. Vigil service will be held at 7 p.m. Wednesday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral mass will be held at 10 a.m. Thursday at Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church with burial at Trinity Memorial Park.

She was born May 12, 1982, in Big Spring to Socorro and Don Jose Hernandez Sr. She graduated from Big Spring High School in 2001. She was a lifetime resident of Big Spring until moving to Odessa two years ago. She was a supervisor at Home Depot in Midland and was a member of Holy Trinity Catholic Church.

In addition to her parents, she is survived by three brothers, Roy Castro and wife, Joyce, of Milford, Ind., Juan Vasquez and wife, Concepcion, and Jose Hernandez Jr. and wife, Erika, all of Big Spring; three nieces and four nephews.

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

Joan Deaumer Nash

Joan Deaumer Nash, 88, of Lewisville, formerly of Big Spring died Wednesday, July 15, 2009, in a Lewisville hospital. Her services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Louise Paulger

Louise Paulger, 99, of Big Spring died Tuesday, July 14, 2009, at Parkview Nursing and Rehabilitation. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Correction

In a story published Tuesday in the Big Spring Herald, the Lubbock County Medical Examiner's Office was identified by local officials as being a part of Texas Tech University Medical Center. According to officials with UMC, the office is part of the Texas Tech Health Sciences Center, which is governed separately from the medical center.

Support Groups

TODAY

• 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.

Take Note

• Big Spring High School will be offering the exit level TAKS retest Wednesday through Friday at the high school. Please bring picture identification with you to the high school library at 8 a.m. Testing schedule is: Wednesday, Math; Thursday, Science; and Friday, Social Studies.

• The American Legion Post 506 will host a fish fry from noon to 3 p.m. Saturday at the lodge, 3203 W. Highway 80. Carry outs will be available. Delivery will be available from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. by calling 263-2084. Plates are \$10 each. Everyone is welcome.

• Baptist Temple will hold Vacation Bible School July 20-24, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., ages 4 through sixth grade.

• Hillcrest Baptist Church will hold Vacation Bible School — Truth Trek — from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. July 26-30 for children in kindergarten through the sixth grade. There will be a kickoff party from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday, July 25 with hot dogs, drinks and a big slide. For more information, call 267-1639.

• Road to Recovery, a free service for those in the Big Spring area taking cancer treatments at Allison Cancer in Midland, is still in operation. The coordinator and phone number to call have changed. To get a ride to cancer treatment in Midland, please call Amy Carnes at (432) 334-6121, which is the American Cancer Society office in Odessa. If Amy is out of the office, you may leave your information with Melissa. An alternate number to call is 1-800-ACS-2345, which is the regional patient services offices; they will relay your information to Amy for the local drivers.

Police blotter

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

- MICHAEL RENTERIA, 39, of 2519 Dow, was arrested Tuesday on two local warrants.
- MELISSA DEANDA, 19, of 507 N.W. Eighth St., was arrested Tuesday on a warrant for possession of marijuana.
- RONNIE BUSSEY, 65, of El Paso, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of public intoxication.
- THEFT was reported in the 400 block of Birdwell Lane.
- TERRORISTIC THREAT was reported in the 400 block of Fourth Street.
- CRIMINAL MISCHIEF was reported: in the 800 block of Second Street. in the 2000 block of Main Street. in the 1800 block of Scurry.
- BURGLARY OF A HABITATION was reported in the 300 block of Seventh Street.
- ASSAULT BY CONTACT was reported in the 1900 block of Highway 87.
- ABANDON/ENDANGERING A CHILD was reported in the 2300 block of Wasson.

Sheriff

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

Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 64 inmates at the time of this report.

- RONNIE GENE BUSSEY, 65, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.
- REBECCA CUELLAR, 25, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on charges of driving while intoxicated — second offense, failure to identify as a fugitive from justice — giving false information and a local warrant.
- MARIAN DAVIS, 39, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.
- MELISSA RAEE DEANDA, 19, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on a charge of delivery of marijuana — more than a quarter-ounce, less than five pounds.
- ERNEST GARCIA, 37, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on a charge of forgery of a government instrument money/security.
- SHAWN MARIE GOULD, 41, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on a local warrant.
- MICHAEL DEAN NALL, 30, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on charges of no driver's license and failure to appear.
- MICHAEL DWAYNE RENTERIA, 39, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on charges of failure to appear, failure to maintain financial responsibility, issuance of a bad check, speeding, expired driver's license and violation of a promise to appear.
- HECTOR SANCHEZ, 25, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on three local warrants and charges of evading arrest or detention, criminal mischief, resisting arrest, search or transportation (two counts) and escape from custody.
- ROBERT JOE SANCHEZ, 34, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on a local warrant and charges of disorderly conduct — language, public intoxication and interfering with the duties of a public servant.
- ROBERT RUBEN SANCHEZ, 45, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.

Fire/EMS

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

- TRAUMA was reported in the 700 block of W. Interstate Highway 20. Service refused.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 8700 block of E. Highway 350. Service refused.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1500 block of Midway Road. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 500 block of N. Johnson. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAFFIC ACCIDENT was reported in the 1700 block of Sycamore. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 3400 block of E. 11th Street. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1700 block of Lancaster. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAFFIC ACCIDENT was reported in the 1300 block of Sycamore. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 900 block of E. 15th Street. One person was transported to SMMC.
- STRUCTURE FIRE was reported in the 900 block of Goliad.
- AUTOMOBILE FIRE was reported in the 800 block of Runnels.

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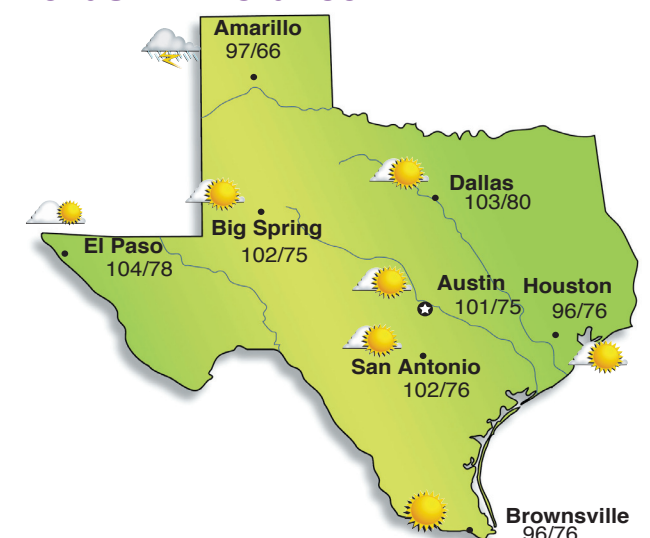
Thu 7/16	Fri 7/17	Sat 7/18	Sun 7/19	Mon 7/20
				
102/75 Except for a few afternoon clouds, mainly sunny. Hot. High 102F.	101/74 Partly cloudy with a stray thunderstorm.	93/72 Slight chance of a thunderstorm.	97/73 Partly cloudy, chance of a thunderstorm.	98/75 Partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 90s and lows in the mid 70s.
Sunrise: 6:51 AM Sunset: 8:53 PM	Sunrise: 6:51 AM Sunset: 8:53 PM	Sunrise: 6:52 AM Sunset: 8:52 PM	Sunrise: 6:53 AM Sunset: 8:52 PM	Sunrise: 6:53 AM Sunset: 8:51 PM



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Texas At A Glance



Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Ablene	103	76	mst sunny	Kingsville	99	77	sunny
Amarillo	97	66	t-storm	Livingston	98	74	t-storm
Austin	101	75	mst sunny	Longview	99	77	pt sunny
Beaumont	93	75	t-storm	Lubbock	101	70	pt sunny
Brownsville	96	76	sunny	Lufkin	98	75	t-storm
Brownwood	102	75	mst sunny	Midland	102	77	pt sunny
Corpus Christi	97	78	sunny	Raymondville	100	76	sunny
Corsicana	101	78	mst sunny	Rosenberg	96	75	mst sunny
Dallas	103	80	mst sunny	San Antonio	102	76	mst sunny
Del Rio	103	80	mst sunny	San Marcos	101	75	mst sunny
El Paso	104	78	pt sunny	Sulphur Springs	101	77	mst sunny
Fort Stockton	99	74	mst sunny	Sweetwater	103	75	mst sunny
Gainesville	103	76	mst sunny	Tyler	100	76	mst sunny
Greenville	101	76	mst sunny	Weatherford	104	77	mst sunny
Houston	96	76	mst sunny	Wichita Falls	106	73	pt sunny

Bulletin Board

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

TODAY

• Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie meets at 7 p.m. in the Eagles Lodge, 703 W. Third St.

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, 1001 Birdwell Lane.
- Citizen's Police Academy Alumni Association meets at 5:30 p.m. in the Big Spring City Council Chambers, 307 E. Fourth.
- 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.
- American Legion Post 506 meets at 6 p.m. Call 263-2084 for more information.
- Rackley-Swords 379, Vietnam Veterans of America meets at 7 p.m. in the Sparenburg Building, 309 S. Main St.
- Big Spring Masonic Lodge No. 1340 meets at 7:30 p.m. at 2101 Lancaster.

Lottery

Here are the winning numbers selected day in the Mega Millions lottery: 20-29-35-45-53; Mega Ball: 41.

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Tuesday night:

Winning numbers drawn: 15-17-18-19-26.

Number matching five of five: 1. Prize: \$22,355.

Winning ticket purchased in: Mineral Wells.

The winning Daily 4 numbers drawn Tuesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 0-0-6-4. Sum It Up: 10.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Tuesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 2-8-5. Sum It Up: 15.

BIG SPRING HERALD

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DUVAL

Continued from Pg. 1B

Tuesday. "It was just great, the whole arena. I probably expected to be a little nervous and such. But if anything, I was more comfortable than I ever was, even when I was on top of my game. I just felt great. I loved it. I really felt comfortable with what I was doing and where I was."

Now, he must show it wasn't the greatest of flukes.

After all, Duval's performance at Bethpage Black was his first top 10 since 2002. His check for \$559,830 nearly matched what he's made in the last five years combined on the PGA Tour. He remains far down in the world rankings at No. 145. And he still

hasn't won since the last of his 13 tour victories, way back at the 2001 British Open.

When he finished up on the putting green, Duval browsed through the pro shop at Turnberry. Then he paused for a few minutes in the center of the clubhouse, not far from the portraits of three previous British Open champions: Tom Watson, Greg Norman and Nick Price.

Might he join them before the week is out? Duval believes he is certainly capable.

"I've lived through what I've lived through professionally," he said. "I feel like I'm a different person, a different player than I was a year or two ago, or 10 years ago even. I feel like I'm a better golfer than I was at any point in my career. Now it's just a matter of going out and doing it.

That's all there is to it."

It sounds so easy. It's not, of course.

A decade ago, Duval looked as though he would be one of this generation's most dominant players, perhaps a notch below Woods — isn't everyone? — but certainly capable of playing the role of worthy second fiddle, a right-handed version of Phil Mickelson.

Duval challenged time and time again in the majors before he finally broke through for his first big title at Lytham eight years ago. That was supposed to be the win that pushed him over the hump. Instead, his game took an inexplicable tumble before his year with the claret jug was up.

In 2002, Duval slumped to 80th on the money list and failed to win for the first time

in six years. The following year, he plummeted all the way to 211th. The shots that once soared gracefully over the middle of the fairway took aim at the gallery, a baffling barrage of hooks and slices.

Some wondered if Duval — who married, became a father and talked of finding happiness beyond the golf course — had lost that competitive edge so critical to success. He pointed to back problems as the primary culprit, saying they fouled up his swing much like a pitcher who changes his throwing motion to compensate for an injury.

Duval showed the first tangible glimpses of a comeback at this very tournament last year. He put together three solid rounds at Birkdale — 73, 69 and 71 — but a third-round 83 knocked him out of conten-

tion.

"I remember I played a lot better than my scores reflected," he said. "Even the three days I had the lower scores, I played better than that. But for bad luck in the third round I wouldn't have had any luck. I hit the ball really well and just got absolutely messed with the whole day. It's one of those things that happens."

It was also one of only five times in 20 events that Duval actually made the cut last year, and 2009 started much the same way. He headed into Bethpage having played on the weekend a mere four times in 13 tries, his highest finish a tie for 55th at Pebble Beach. But he truly felt his game was coming together.

"I feel like I was close last year," Duval said. "This year I started saying."

MVP

Continued from Pg. 1B

defense wins All-Star games as well," said Boston reliever Jonathan Papelbon, who threw the pitch to Hawpe and wound up with the win. "Obviously, it was a game-changing play. He won MVP because of that play and deservedly so."

Making his third All-Star appearance, Craw-

ford was elected by his fellow players as a reserve. He came off the bench as a pinch hitter in the fifth and singled his first time up before finishing 1 for 3.

Statistics show Crawford is one of the best defensive outfielders in baseball. But curiously, he's never won a Gold Glove.

This could be the catch that clinches one.

"He hit it pretty good off the bat and I didn't think it was going to

carry that far," Crawford said. "I don't think I've ever robbed a home run before, so I picked a good time to do it tonight."

The 27-year-old Crawford is best known for his dazzling speed — he leads the majors with 44 stolen bases. But he's developed into a fine all-around player, batting .309 with eight homers, 39 RBIs and 58 runs for the defending AL champions this season.

Drafted by Tampa Bay

in 1999, Crawford is the longest-tenured player in club history. So he endured one dreadful season after another until the Rays' remarkable turnaround last year.

The team has a \$10 million option on his contract next season with a \$1.25 million buyout.

"I've been talking to everybody all year about this. Carl, he has become a better baseball player since I first met him in 2006," said AL manager Joe Maddon.

STARS

Continued from Pg. 1B

leadoff drive in the seventh-inning home run by Jonathan Papelbon, which would have put the NL ahead 4-3.

Somehow, the NL always finds ways to lose.

"I still don't think there's a good answer for it," Hawpe said.

Crawford became the first non-pitcher to win the MVP with no RBIs and no runs.

"It's definitely probably my best catch," he said. "I didn't think it was going to carry that far."

Granderson's one-out triple in the eighth against Heath Bell landed off the bottom of the left-field wall. The drive went over Justin Upton, normally a right fielder,

who took a bit of a circuitous route. Bell, the loser, intentionally walked Victor Martinez, and Jones followed with a fly to deep right.

Maddon credited "these stallions in the bullpen" after Papelbon, Joe Nathan and Rivera finished a five-hitter.

"I'm used to seeing it. I've been seeing it for 17 years now," Derek Jeter, Rivera's Yankees teammate, said. "Nothing he does surprises me."

Starting with Hanley Ramirez's groundout off starter Roy Halladay that ended the second, AL pitchers retired 18 consecutive batters before Adrian Gonzalez's two-out walk in the eighth against Nathan. Orlando Hudson singled and, with pinch-hitter Ryan Howard at the plate, stole second before Howard struck out on a pitch in the dirt.

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Lubbock to host BLM horse, burro adoptions

LUBBOCK (AP) — Wild horses and burros will be available in Lubbock as part of a U.S. Bureau of Land Management adoption event.

inspection Thursday at the Panhandle-South Plains Fairgrounds.

Adoptions begin Friday, with a minimum fee of \$125 per animal. The event runs through Saturday.

Bureau spokesman Paul McGuire said more than 32,000 wild horses roam agency-managed areas. Reducing the range population is meant to help support the horse population and other wildlife.

ARSON

Continued from Page 1A

fire.” No injuries were reported as a result of the fire, according to fire department records.

Condray said both fires — which are still under investigation — have been ruled arson attacks, and could likely have been set by the same person or group of people.

“Considering the proximity of the two fires and the times they were set, I’d say there’s a pretty good chance they are related,” said Condray. “It’s certainly possible.”

News at a glance

As U.S. eyes Mideast investors, treasury secretary sets sights on UAE officials

ABU DHABI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — U.S. Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner, looking to win backing from oil-rich Gulf Arab nations, said Wednesday that Washington wants to work with its allies to build a stronger financial foundation for the world as it emerges from its worst recession in decades.

Geithner’s comments followed a closed-door breakfast meeting with United Arab Emirates Foreign Trade Minister Sheikhha Lubna al-Qasimi and other officials from the Arab world’s second largest economy.

The talks in the UAE’s federal capital, Abu Dhabi, focused on education and economic development.

“We of course want to not just address the immediate causes of the financial crisis,” Geithner said after the meeting. “We want to rebuild a stronger foundation for more balanced growth globally.”

The meeting marked the start of the second of a two-day visit with Arab Gulf leaders — a high profile trip in which he met a day earlier with Saudi Arabia’s King Abdullah and businessmen in the kingdom. The UAE, which is the end of the Mideast tour, is also home to the Persian Gulf commercial and financial hub, Dubai.

A key aim of the trip, which follows a series of overtures to the Middle East by President Barack Obama, is to reassure major oil producers in the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council that America still welcomes their business and will safeguard the value of

the dollar and their vast U.S. investments by forging a way out of the financial crisis.

Florida couple’s slayings put the spotlight on a sheriff with a knack for sound bites

PENSACOLA, Fla. (AP) — The public face of the investigation into a wealthy Florida couple’s slayings presciently told a newspaper while campaigning for sheriff a year ago that this county of 300,000 “isn’t Mayberry anymore.”

The husband and wife’s killings on Thursday proved Escambia County Sheriff David Morgan’s words true, and the investigation has given him more chances to demonstrate his knack for delivering ready-to-publish sound bites.

Morgan told a news conference on Sunday he was anxious to share more details about the case because “it’s going to be a humdinger.” The next day, he compared the killings of the couple known for adopting children with special needs to the 1959 slayings chronicled by Truman Capote in the book “In Cold Blood.”

On Tuesday, after the last three of seven suspects were arrested, he stood in front of the cameras and hugged a sobbing daughter of one of the victims, saying he’d kept a promise made to her the night of the slayings.

“It is my honor today to tell you, Ashley ... we have found them and they are in custody,” Morgan told Ashley Markham, one of four adult children from Byrd and Melanie Billings’ previous marriages.

CITY

Continued from Page 1A

ed for the Comanche Trail Golf Course.

“So we worked with the architect and Lee George to come up with a design and went out for bids. We’ve received two bids to date, and we’re still about \$200,000 above where we need to be. What we’re asking permission to do is to go out for formal bids and see if we can bring in contractors in the area and see if we can get this within its budget with the designs we have.”

Darden said one of the more challenging aspects of a project such as this is to make sure the pro shop blends in with the existing structures at the park,

most of which feature a great deal of stone work.

“We wanted something we could be proud of and something that would fit in with the aesthetics and existing theme at the park,” said Darden. “As you know, rock veneer is the most prevalent theme, and nearly all of our structures have that same look at the park.”

Darden said he was surprised when the use of a construction manager at risk failed to bring in suitable bids because the same method had worked so well for other projects in the Crossroads area.

“I’ve been told Howard College saved a lot of money on the science building by using a construction manager at risk, and the county had success with it as well,” said Darden.

“However, the first round of bids we received on the clubhouse were \$250,000 over budget. And then the second bid was more than \$200,000 over budget.

“Maybe our project is too small for this method. Either way, we’re asking the council to terminate the agreement between the city and Lee George Construction so we can go out for bids.”

Darden said the cost of materials has gone down since the project was budgeted, leaving the city and the project architect confounded with the recent bids.

“When we originally budgeted this project, we were looking at \$120 per square foot for the clubhouse,” said Darden. “However, the two bids we’ve gotten have been around \$170

per square foot, which really doesn’t make much sense because the cost of materials has gone down. We could build the clubhouse with the prices the CM at risk gave us, but we wouldn’t be able to build a driveway, do any landscaping or add a pavilion. We’re hoping that by opening this up for bids we’ll be able to get the costs down.”

The council also approved the termination of the contract between the city and Lee George Construction. Both decisions were made by unanimous votes with Councilwoman Stephanie Horton absent from the meeting.

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

GAYS

Continued from Page 1A

worried about the reaction of other Anglicans, but felt a duty to vote yes.

“I personally believe we had to do this,” said John Cheek, a delegate from the Diocese of Western Massachusetts, based in Springfield. “It’s the way we see the Gospel.”

Episcopalians caused an uproar in 2003 by consecrating the first openly gay bishop, V. Gene Robinson of New Hampshire. Since then, Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams, the Anglican spiritual leader, has struggled to prevent a permanent Anglican split.

Last month, break-away Episcopal conservatives and other like-minded traditionalists

formed a rival national province to the Episcopal Church called the Anglican Church in North America.

The new body includes four seceding Episcopal dioceses and is supported by several overseas Anglican leaders who have broken ties with the Episcopal Church.

The 77 million-member communion is the third-largest grouping of churches worldwide, behind the Roman Catholic and Orthodox Christian churches.

Williams attended the convention in its opening days last week, telling delegates, “I hope and pray that there won’t be decisions in the coming days that could push us further apart.”

To ease tensions with overseas Anglicans, the Episcopal General Convention three years ago passed a resolution that

urged restraint by dioceses considering gay candidates for bishop.

The latest statement is widely viewed by advocates for gay clergy, theological conservatives and others in the Anglican world as repelling that pledge.

The Episcopal gay advocacy group Integrity said in a statement that the declaration “effectively ends” the temporary prohibition on gay bishops. Robinson, in a post on his diocesan blog, acknowledged the risk the bishops’ took in adopting the measure.

“No doubt, they will pay a price for opening their hearts, much as gay and lesbian people in this church have paid a price for their exclusion,” Robinson wrote. “I applaud them for their courage and will stand with them in the consequences of their vote.”

The few traditional Episcopalians who attended the convention said they were there to express the conservative view, but had largely resigned themselves to the liberal direction of the denomination, which has about 2.3 million members.

“If you think you’re going to convince the Episcopal Church, you’re smoking something funny,” said Bishop Peter Beckwith, a theological conservative from the Diocese of Springfield, Illinois. “That’s unrealistic, but we’re still called to be faithful.”

Episcopalians and Anglicans have been debating for decades how to interpret the Bible on issues from salvation to homosexuality. Traditionalists believe Scripture bans same-gender relationships, while liberals emphasize the

Bible’s social justice teachings on tolerance.

Church of England Bishop N.T. Wright, a prominent Anglican scholar, wrote in an op-ed in The Times of London, that this week’s vote “marks a clear break with the rest of the Anglican Communion” and formalizes the Anglican schism.

When Williams learned that the latest statement was heading toward approval, he told British reporters that he “regrets” the move.

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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

A tough time for those who represent us

It's one of the most excruciating times of the year for elected officials anywhere — that time when every entity which collects taxes, fees and other assessments is tasked with forming a budget for the coming fiscal year.

It means hours and hours of meetings with managers, financial officers and department heads in an effort to accomplish what sometimes seems all but impossible.

Some of it is projection based on past history: How much water will city customers use? How many more miles can the school district rely on an aging bus? Will sales tax rebates remain steady? Will an air conditioning unit that supplies cool air to 150 students or 60 employees last one more year?

When needs are identified, they must be prioritized. Then choices must be made based on revenue expectations.

And for our school district trustees, uncertainty about the manner and quantity of state aid has made the progress even more difficult and time consuming than normal.

We don't envy those who have to make these decisions — our public schools and college boards, city council members and county commissioners. At the same time they are the individuals elected to represent us and we expect them to do so with us in mind.

That's not easy, because we are all different individuals who live in different neighborhoods. For some, resurfacing the street in front of our homes is of paramount importance. Others see water quality as a big issue. Still others deem the county road near their farm or ranch a priority.

If we have children in school, public education always seems to have more importance.

If we are on a limited budget, it's important that we don't have to endure a tax increase.

Our elected representatives have to take all of that into consideration and make the best decisions they can — sometimes with very limited resources.

That seems to almost certainly be the case for most of the taxing entities in Howard County. Yes, property values figure to be higher, but so are the costs of everything our governments and schools need to operate.

We here at the Herald are like most: We want those representatives to search hard for ways to cut costs and retain, if not improve, services. After all, everyone wants more for less, don't they?

Sure they do!

Rarely is that possible.

As a result, we all have to be realistic.

Therefore, we encourage the general public to be tolerant in the days and weeks ahead, and to remember that those representatives are faced with a very difficult and quite often thankless task.

We don't envy them one bit. We do, however, thank them for their service and think there is no better time to let them know they are appreciated for the job they do for all of us.

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- 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

When we walk in Your love, Lord, we give others the benefit of the doubt.

Amen

GOP on trial in Sotomayor hearings

Shortly after the Judge Sonia Sotomayor confirmation hearings began Monday, Sen. Jeff Sessions let it be known that he and other Republicans intended to play hardball.

And in the Latino community, where almost everyone enjoys a good ballgame, many people began to look for fouls.

If the Republicans play hard but fair, as the opposition party, they will be within their rights. But if their passion for extreme right-wing ideals leads to comments that could be considered racist or if Sotomayor's experience as a Latina becomes an issue, boy are they in trouble!

Sessions wasted no time demonstrating classic GOP insensitivity toward minorities. He said that the importance being placed on Sotomayor's personal background is "shocking and offensive" to him.

What an interesting choice of words! That's exactly how many Latinos may feel after Sessions and some of his Republican colleagues get done with Sotomayor.

Let's face it. In the Latino community, Republicans, not Sotomayor, are on trial. Of course, there are exceptions. I get letters from some extreme-right Latinos who make Sessions seem moderate. But they are a minute minority of extremely neurotic individuals.

Most Latinos feel an immense sense of pride because of Sotomayor's nomination, and they will feel immensely offended if the first Hispanic Supreme Court nominee is mistreated in any way, especially if it is perceived as prejudice based on her

ethnicity.

When they question Sotomayor, a Puerto Rican from the Bronx, N.Y., Republicans on the Senate Judiciary Committee will be playing with their party's political future. If they represent states with few Latino voters, perhaps they feel they can afford to be arrogant. But surely, in areas where Latino voters make a difference, they will be hurting their fellow Republicans.

Even before Sotomayor got a chance to speak Monday, Sessions led the Republican offensive by immediately challenging Sotomayor's 2001 comment on how a "wise Latina" might make a better decision than a white man.

"I will not vote for — and no senator should vote for — an individual nominated by any president who believes it is acceptable for a judge to allow their own personal background, gender, prejudices or sympathies to sway their decision," Sessions charged.

While Sessions and other Republicans tried to portray Sotomayor as an activist judge — and while they pretended to be the champions of an impartial judiciary — it was Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse, D-R.I., who most eloquently put them in their place.

"These calls for restraint and modesty and complaints about activist judges are often code words seeking a particular kind of judge who will deliver a particular set of political outcomes," Whitehouse said.

He is right. But it applies to both sides.

It's always amazing how both Democrats and Republicans try to fool the American people into believing that Supreme Court nominations have nothing to do with party politics.

Whether they are Democrats or Republicans, they want us

to believe that their appointees practice "judicial restraints" and that the other side appoints activists.

This time, it is the Republicans' turn to do it. And Whitehead rightfully called them on it. "For all the talk of modesty and restraint, the right-wing justices of the court have a striking record of ignoring precedent, overturning congressional statutes, limiting constitutional protections and discovering new constitutional rights," Whitehouse charged.

When it was finally Sotomayor's turn to speak, she made it perfectly clear that her experiences as a Latina will only help to inform her decisions. "The task of a judge is not to make law," she said. "It is to apply the law."

She explained that during her 17 years on the bench, she has witnessed the human consequences of her decisions. "Those decisions have not been made to serve the interests of any one litigant, but always to serve the larger interest of impartial justice," Sotomayor said. "My personal and professional experiences help me listen and understand, with the law always commanding the result in every case," she added.

In the next few days, right before our eyes, Republican senators are likely to turn into bullies as they keep drilling Sotomayor over issues related to her Latina experience.

Perhaps they will be appealing to bigots and xenophobes, or perhaps they just can't hide their own anti-Hispanic prejudices. But in the hardball game that began in the U.S. Senate Monday, although Republicans came out swinging the bats, Latinos saw them striking out.

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Michelle's purse... it's her money

Was that a \$5,000 VBH alligator clutch that Michelle Obama was carrying in Italy? So the company bragged, absolutely certain it was theirs, until the White House responded that it was not the alligator but the patent, an \$875 VBH clutch and not the more expensive model.

To be honest, I didn't even know what VBH was until I saw the headlines about the \$5,000 one Michelle wasn't carrying. I love handbags as much as the next girl, but I could never get my head around the idea of spending that kind of money on something that is bound to end up with ink stains. But if Michelle wants to spend hers, more power to her. If she wants to wear \$540 sneakers (Lanvin, a "cult" item that is bound to end up in one of my local resale stores), I say go for it.

She is not going to solve the recession by wearing Keds. She wears enough clothes from Gap and J.Crew to make the point that looking great doesn't have

to be uber-expensive (although the things she manages to find at those places never seem to be there when I am), and that half the fun of fashion is figuring out how to copy high-style for less.

What Michelle Obama projects, with her bright colors, body-conscious clothes and keen sense of style, is a woman at her best, looking great, feeling great, being great, full of life, celebrating her country and her family and, yes, herself. The White House was quick to say the bag didn't cost \$5,000, but it was still what my mother would have called a very, very good bag, and the first lady didn't apologize for that.

Why should she?

She's not 22. She's a grown woman who hasn't faded to beige or placed herself in the background, who isn't embarrassed that she doesn't look 17, who (by all reports) doesn't hate her hips or hide her rear or ask whether the dress makes her look fat before she lets herself like it.

If that isn't a role model, what is?

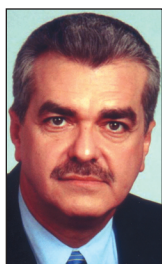
The other day, I ran into a woman I know who has done very well professionally. I hadn't seen her in a while, and somehow I was taken aback. She

looked the way she always had, only worse. I laugh when I see young women trying so (too) hard, because the truth is that when you're young, it's easy. The woman I ran into got to where she is, at least in part, by not getting trapped by the beauty thing.

On the other hand, she was long past the point where she needed to use or hide her sexuality. Now middle-aged, she's become one of those women that other women can't look at for five minutes without wanting to do a makeover and wondering why she hasn't. Is she really happy this way? More power to her, but I want younger women to know it doesn't have to be that way.

Michelle is middle-aged, too. You can be powerful and beautiful. You can be passionate about politics and clutch bags; you can do your best for your country and look your best while you do. You deserve the sneakers — if not the Lanvin ones, then ones that make you feel just as good. And we should all ditch black for yellow. Especially in a recession. Go Michelle.

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Why not check this out?

Insights into the mind of a Canadian journalist

So many interesting books come across my desk and while I want to spread the news about all of them, sometimes a particular one attracts my interest and I spend time (more than I really have time for) researching the subject matter and the author. This column will be about one of those occasions.



HOLLIS
MCCRIGHT

There hasn't been as much in the media about piracy off the coast of Africa and/or Malaysia, but I am sure it continues. Daniel Sekulich is a Canadian journalist based in Toronto and in searching for some biographical information, I googled his name and this blogspot came up: <http://oceantitans.blogspot.com/>.

The United States is most fortunate in that the wars that have been fought on our soil, have been few and except for the Civil War, relatively small in nature. That is not the case in Europe. In Sekulich's blog, he writes that he is fortunate to live close to a large park in Toronto and one day while walking there, he blogged the following: "The groundskeepers had just finished cutting the grass when I smelled it again: the smell of war. I hadn't suffered any sort of traumatic flashback to some personal experience in a battle, nor was I even thinking about a conflict that had recently occurred. But I was reminded of war and death, and the smell most definitely stopped me dead in my tracks. For there, in a peaceful park in Canada's largest city, the smell of the First World War came back to me. Our sense of smell is supposed to be leave the strongest impression, and the freshly cut grass certainly brought a lot back to me this morning.

He continues writing: "A few years ago, I spent some time in north-eastern France with members of the government's Département du Déminage. These Interior Ministry personnel are tasked with the ongoing clearance of France's battlefields from two world wars, hauling unexploded shells, grenades, mortars and other ordnance from the very soil where millions of men fought.

"On an early summer morning, I followed a six-member team into the forests near the village of Bezonvaux, just north of Verdun. The village itself was destroyed during the Great War and never rebuilt. We passed it without even slowing down, the unit's trucks veering off the paved road onto a small dirt track that snaked its way from Bezonvaux

into the Bois des Fosses. The trucks stopped at some pre-determined point and the men quickly split into three teams and headed off into the woods, with yours truly tagging along.

"I had no idea what the demineurs were searching for, but as I followed them I could clearly see signs of the horrific 1916 Battle of Verdun everywhere: the ground was pitted and scarred from all the artillery shells that had exploded, small hillocks on all sides.

"There was no such thing as old growth forest here, for there had been no forest left after the initial artillery barrages between the French and Germans over 90 years ago. And though the trees had eventually begun to grow again — many years after the Armistice of 1918 — the Bois des Fosses harboured a far deadlier harvest for the demineurs.

"It didn't take long for the men to begin their work. Quite simply, their job entails working their way through selected portions of the forest battlefield and picking up the various unexploded munitions that the earth heaves up from time to time. In some places, I was told, over two tons of munitions fell on a square meter of soil and the French government has predicted it will take something like 800 years to clear the entire country. Yes, 800 years. And, given the way governments tend to be conservative with many of their statistics, one wonders if the real figure isn't much higher.

"The variety of ordnance and equipment employed during the battle for Verdun was typical of the entire First World War: there were shrapnel shells, high explosive shells, gas shells, howitzers, siege guns, mortars, even immense railroad guns. And since not everything that was fired exploded on impact — duds, so to speak — there is an awful lot for the demineurs to reap.

"The various munitions collected were placed in the waiting trucks — into sandboxes, so the shells wouldn't roll around as we returned to their base. And back at the old German fortress they called home, near the ancient city of Metz, the shells from the War To End All Wars were laid to rest in secure vaults. In a few weeks' time, the shells would be trucked to a military base and piled into heaps, wired up with explosive charges and detonated, finally putting an end to their long and dangerous lives.

"Ah, but the smell I was reminded of? Well, after the teams had unloaded the ordnance, one of them took me aside to show me a special shell they'd found. It wasn't much larger than a section of a baseball

bat, a brown, rusting relic that he held very gingerly in his gloved hands. He gently rocked it from side to side and told me to listen to the shell, to put my ear close to it. As he moved it from side to side, I could hear the faint sound of a liquid sloshing within it. This, he told me, was gas. By the ring on its nosecone, it was a phosgene shell, a German chemical weapon from the First World War.

"The demineur told me to follow him into the vault as he placed it upon a pile of other chemical shells, and then pointed to a collection of white, plastic jerry cans in one corner. These contained liquid phosgene that had been removed from shells too rusty to trust. The demineurs drilled a hole in the decrepit shells, emptied the contents and stored them here until they could figure out to properly dispose of the chemicals.

"He took one of the containers,



Daniel Sekulich

and unscrewed the cap. 'Here, have a smell,' he said, 'But not too close, okay?' And so I took a whiff of the weapon that had inspired so much fear and caused so many injuries and deaths, taking in the scent of 1916.

"That scent remains with me to this day, for it smelled like a fresh cut lawn."

How haunting.

The book that Sekulich

wrote is "Terror on the High Seas: True Tales of Modern-Day Pirates" (910.45 SEK D) and is available to check out. Information in this column is from Sekulich's blog and has been slightly edited for length.

Our Web site is www.howard-county.lib.tx.us. Howard County Library hours are 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Friday and will be 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.



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Tomorrow's Horoscope

The day starts with the vim and vigor of a zesty Aries moon. To take advantage of the energy boost, plan to tackle your most difficult work before noon. Caution: Those with strong personalities will show up even stronger than usual. Later, a sensual Taurus moon mellow in the evening sky, promising that appetites will be sated and hopes fulfilled.



HOLIDAY MATHS

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You're open to connecting with someone who is very different from you personality-wise. You could be led down a path to emotional experiences you never perceived before.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Inside your head, there is no time. In your mind, it is always now. That's why we need schedules and calendars.

Put your goals on the schedule. They need to be there in order to be taken seriously by your own brain.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). It's important to you that others feel safe, secure and welcome around you. That's why you make an extra effort to ensure that their travels to meet you will go smoothly. Connect at a convenient place and time.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Imagined dangers could suck your time. To keep them from overtaking your consciousness, talk with friends about what you're afraid of. You'll likely discover that there's nothing to worry about.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). There's a lineup of activities you need to get to and you'll benefit from moving quickly from one to the next. If you don't like the task and you're not good at it either, delegate.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (JULY 15). The balance you strike in your personal life allows you to

step up your productivity. Relationships lift and support you. By mid-August, you've made an important sale or finished a key project. Your social stature gets a boost in October and you'll enjoy being the cool one people look up to. Family makes you proud in December. Cancer and Aries adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 5, 43, 25, 30 and 17.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). When you are completely focused on getting what you want, you lose all self-awareness. You come across to others as confident, but really you're so in the moment, there's no mental space to even consider how you look.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). No matter what kind of dreams you had last night, or how hard it was to wake up, you always have the choice to improve your mood. Recall pleasant times to change your tone from grumpy to great.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). This should come as a relief: You don't have to

act like you like someone who you don't like in order to get ahead in business. Be genuine instead. Actually, find something to like in the person. It won't be as hard as you think.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Usually it comes naturally to you to save the day. Be more cautious over the next three days. A grand gesture is not what's needed. If you get involved too deeply in other people's business, it will be difficult to get out.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). There's something you said you would do that remains undone. You were in a different mood when you obligated yourself and you don't feel the same about the situation. And yet, it's important that you deliver on your promise.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Your status in a relationship is in a state of flux. Every move you make changes the balance. To arrive at a stable place, consider not making a move for a while. Let the relationship find

its natural equilibrium. **PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20). You know what you must do. Your heart dictates loudly these days. And yet you still haven't figured out how you can possibly fit its requests in your schedule. Relax. Something will soon open up.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS: "I'm a 35-year-old Cancer guy who is considering leaving my corporate job to work independently. My friends tell me it's crazy to give up a good job in this economy, and they may be right. I have a decent salary, benefits and work that I basically like. However, I've always wondered whether I might be successful with my own company. I'm currently single, no children, and I figure that this might be the last time in my life I'll be able to pursue risky business endeavors without having it affect my family. What do you think?"

I say act, and act fast while the planets are on your side. The sun emboldens you to decide,

follow through and never look back. There's a reason you have this desire and you will never regret following through. Cancer has the right personality for independent work, especially if you plan to start with a home office. You enjoy structure in your home and schedule. You're stern with yourself and keep on track with your projections and goals. And you have that hard shell around you to deflect the word "no" and keep on going until you get to "yes." Best of luck!

C E L E B R I T Y PROFILES: Beth Stern is a model, actress and wife of shock-jock extraordinaire Howard Stern, a Capricorn. Cancer wives enjoy creating a comfortable and beautiful home environment in which to share love and life. Capricorns feel the same way about creating an empire. Capricorns can be workaholics and find solace in a partner who can remind them to slow down for pleasure and relaxation. ©2009 CREATORS SYNDICATE, INC.

Annie's Mailbox

Dear Annie: I am in my 60s, in good health, and have been married five years. This is my fourth marriage and I find myself miserable. My husband is good to me, and I know a lot of women would eagerly trade places. But I am ashamed to say I do not love him, nor have I ever loved any man.

I am most certainly straight and have three children by a previous husband. I am simply the type of person who prefers being alone. However, I am much better off financially being married. Are there other women out there who feel like I do? Please give me some insight. — *Unhappy in Louisiana*

Dear Unhappy: There are many women who have little interest in marriage, but there is tremendous social pressure for them to marry and have children regardless. Also, too many

women define their self-worth in terms of their ability to snag a husband. And if a woman wants children, it is more complicated to support and care for them alone.

Being in love is not the only criterion for a satisfying marriage. Your husband is good to you.

Do you treat him well? If so and he is happy, discuss your preference for spending more time alone.

He may be more accommodating than you think. And if he is not happy, he deserves to be with someone who will love him and show it.

Dear Annie: One of the married women in our social group chose not to have children. Whenever she hears about someone else's child having problems with the law, drugs or some other sad situation, she always says, "It just makes me realize how lucky I am."

Those of us who love

our children and are proud of them are offended by this remark. What do we say to her? — *Louisville*

Dear Louisville: It sounds as if your friend needs to reassure herself that she made the right choice. Simply say, "You know,

Doris, some of us have wonderful children, and we feel fortunate and grateful that they are part of our lives. I wish you could appreciate that."

Dear Annie: You can add one more response to the letter from "Trying My Best," whose boss criticized her hair after chemo treatments.

Nine years ago, my wife lost her battle with can-

cer. She also endured harsh, unfeeling treatment at work.

The week we learned that additional treatment would not prolong her life, she came home in tears due to a particularly

nasty comment from a co-worker.

The next day, I accompanied my wife to her office and asked the supervisor for permission to address those co-workers.

The supervisor was clueless about what had been going on. I said, "My name is Jay and I'm Jena's husband. I love her with all my heart, but

we found out this week she is dying and there is nothing more that can be done." The silence was deafening.

I took my wife's hand, told her I loved her and said if she didn't want to work there anymore, she could come home so I could take care of her. With tears in her eyes, she replied, "Let's go."

By the time we arrived home, our answering machine was full of kind messages from her co-workers.

The supervisor came by a week later to see how she was doing and informed us that three employees had been fired for "creating a hostile work environment."

She also gently chided Jena for not bringing it to her attention.

My wife died in my arms six weeks later. She had forgiven them and so have I.

To all the survivors out there, take heart. Every

day that goes by will give you a little more strength to get through. — *Still in Pain But Moving On*

Dear Still: Our deepest condolences. We are certain it was comforting to your wife to have such a loving and devoted husband.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to anniesmailbox@comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, P.O. Box 118190, Chicago, IL 60611. To find out more about Annie's Mailbox, and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com. ©2009 CREATORS SYNDICATE, INC.

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NYU comes to the state of Texas

By **NANCY KOGER**

Special to the Herald

An unlikely scenario: Five New York University coeds from all corners of the U.S. dancing the Texas two-step at The Stampede in Big Spring on the Fourth of July.

How could that come about?

Kelsey Edelen, who has visited her grandparents Tom and Nancy Koger all her life, came back to attend her family's annual Redneck, White and Blue Fourth of July Party. During her freshman year at NYU, she kept telling her roommate from California and other friends on the ninth floor of Rubin Hall on Fifth Avenue what a crazy time her family has at their ranch over the Independence Day holiday. When she told them that this year — to celebrate her grandparents' 50th wedding anniversary — the whole family was go-

ing to Jody Nix's dance hall — the Stampede — the group asked if they could come.

Kelsey, from Austin; her roommate, Becca Cloyd, of Escondido, Calif.; Caroline Waters, of Little Rock, Ark.; Lindsay Geier, of Tarpon Springs, Fla.; and Amanda Konarski, of Elmwood Park, N.J. — who called themselves the "Ninth Floor Mafia," had visited Lindsay's home for spring break and decided that a visit to Texas in mid-summer should be their next journey together.

From all over the country they flew into Austin, where Kelsey introduced them to Texas barbecue and showed them the capitol before bringing them to Big Spring. None of the girls had been to Texas, except to go through an airport. They found the space surprising and the dry heat pretty inviting, after the cool, rainy



Courtesy photo

Kelsey Edelen, Lindsay Geier, Amanda Konarski, Caroline Waters and Becca Cloyd, all New York City

spring in New York City this year.

They took to Tex-Mex

cuisine like ducks to water, savoring everything they tried.

"We have Cuban and Puerto Rican-type food in Florida, but it's not

like this," Lindsay said, over a plate of combination enchiladas. Becca said that she was used to the Mexican food of Southern California, "but I really like this Tex-Mex food."

Kelsey's uncle, Phillip Koger, who now lives in Austin, was here to show them the highlights of Big Spring, like rides down "Thrill Hill" and "Roller Coaster Hill" and the nighttime view from Scenic Mountain.

After a couple of days at the Koger ranch in Dawson and Martin counties, pitching washers, swimming, fishing, hunting and watching the little grandkids play, the five came back to Big Spring for their first-ever visit to a Texas country dance hall.

There was much discussion about what to wear for such an occasion, but the consensus was short dresses with their cowboy boots. Although the girls hadn't danced the Texas two-step before, they were game to try it with each other or with the gentlemen who invited them to dance.

For students with wide-ranging interests — Amanda is a linguistics major, Spanish minor who plans to go to law school; Becca is a marketing major with plans to enter marketing, possibly in the book publishing sector; Caroline majors in communications, with plans for public relations and advertising work; Lindsay is a history major with hopes of going to law school; and Kelsey majors in accounting and wants to work in auditing — one might think small town Texas would be boring. However, as Becca stated, "Everything we've seen and done has just been awesome."

Each one of the coeds will spend her spring semester next year in a foreign country, depending on her field of study. Kelsey will be in London; Becca in Paris; Lindsay and Caroline in Florence, Italy; and Amanda in somewhere in Spain. They are planning to have another spring break reunion somewhere in Italy.

"We know we'll have fun, but it won't be like the Fourth of July in Big Spring" Amanda commented.

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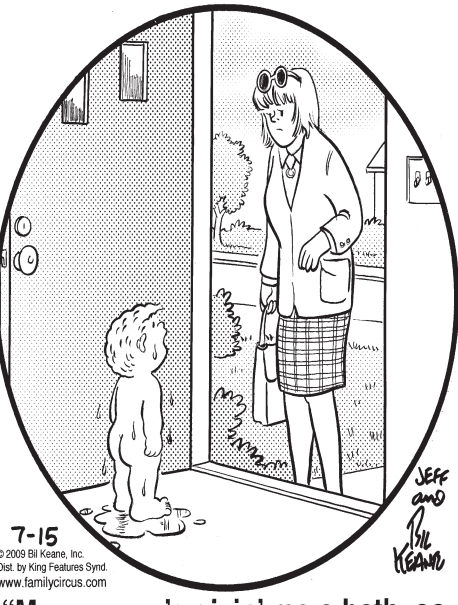
Table with 20 columns representing different TV channels and their programming schedules for the week of July 15, 2009.

DENNIS THE MENACE



'How can we get away from it all if we're takin' it all with us?'

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



'My mommy's givin' me a bath, so maybe you can come back later?'

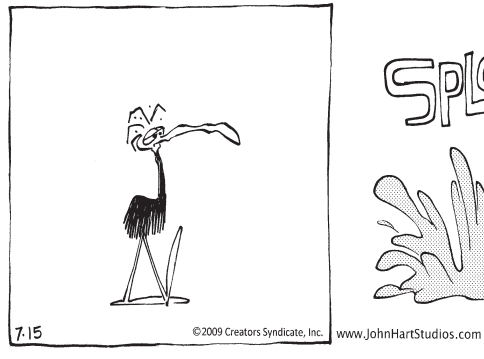
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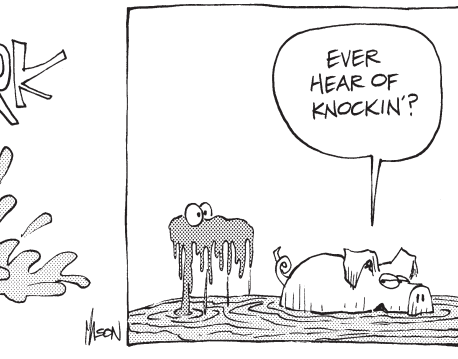
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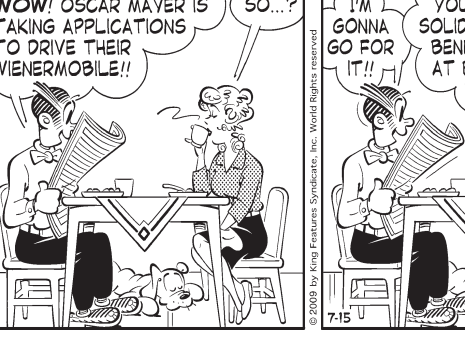
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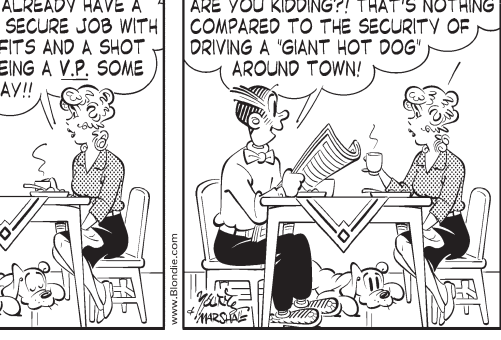
WIZARD OF ID



BLONDIE



BLONDIE



This Date In History

Today is Wednesday, July 15, the 196th day of 2009. There are 169 days left in the year. Today's Highlight in History: On July 15, 1971, President Richard Nixon startled the country by announcing he would visit the People's Republic of China.

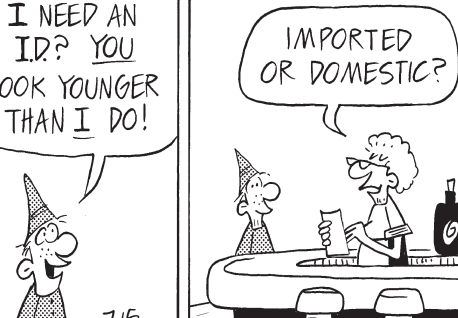
Democratic national convention in Philadelphia. In 1958, President Dwight D. Eisenhower ordered U.S. Marines to Lebanon, at the request of that country's president, Camille Chamoun, in the face of a perceived threat by Muslim rebels.

Kercheval is 74. Sen. George V. Voinovich, R-Ohio, is 73. Actor Patrick Wayne is 70. Actor Jan-Michael Vincent is 65. R&B singer Millie Jackson is 65. Rock singer-musician Peter Lewis (Moby Grape) is 64.

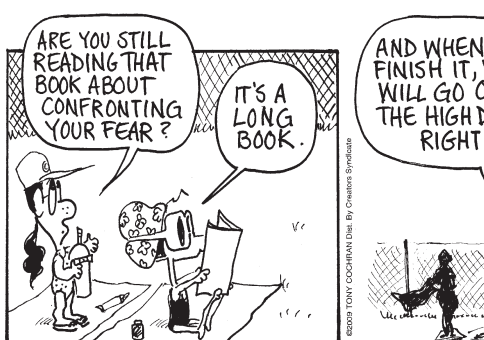
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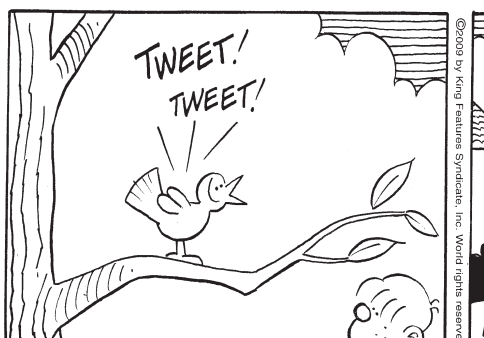
THE OTHER COAST



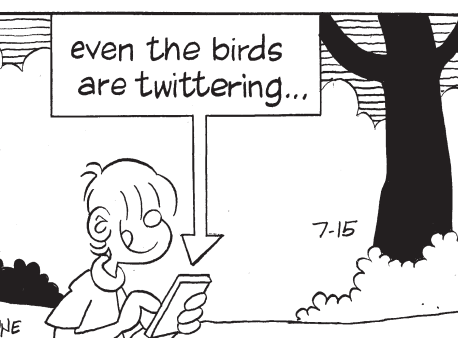
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BEETLE BAILEY



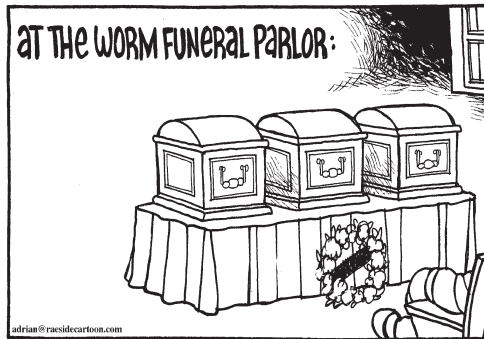
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- ACROSS 1 Poisonous snakes 5 Strike with open palm 9 Antic 14 Fireplace residue 15 Read (over) 16 Came up 17 Karenina 18 Formerly 19 Weekday column headings 20 Shipping document 23 Wide shoe specification 24 Oboe accessories 25 Swizzle stick 27 Messy ones 30 Peeved mood 31 Poke 34 Flynn of films 36 Small canyon 39 Zone 41 Jazz singer Vaughan 43 Wedding-cake level 44 Hollers 46 Piece of bacon 48 Little green veggie 49 Drinks like a cat 51 Wise folks 53 Describes in detail 56 Warm's up 59 Leprechaun 60 Uncontrolled city growth 64 Fingernail smoothers 66 Nastase of tennis

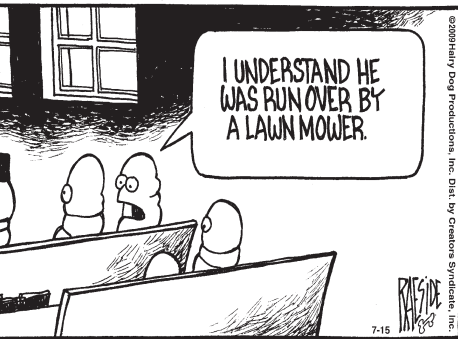
OFF YOUR FEET by Norma Steinberg Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

Crossword puzzle grid with clues and answers. Includes a list of words and phrases related to the puzzle.

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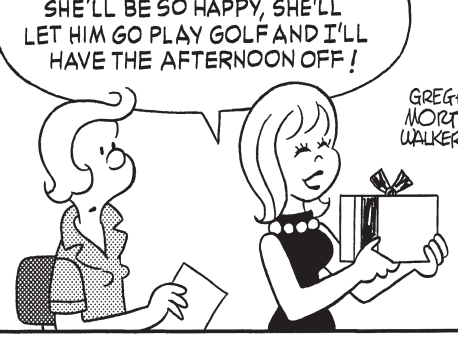
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SNUFFY SMITH



BEETLE BAILEY



Answer to previous puzzle crossword grid with words like BATCH, SPEW, BOSCH, OMAHA, TAME, UPTO, BOXUP, ARID, DEEM, SKIMP, GETSAGRIP, ELSE, LEAN, DOMINO, CEOS, EGAD, WEALTH, ION, FLYOFF, THEHANDLE, YES, RATSON, ALEX, MATE, INGEST, HARM, PACE, TOTHEHILT, PASTA, ONLY, ARAB, HUMAN, READ, HIYA, ERUPT, NYSE, ASSIST, WAGES.

Homes needed

Big Spring Animal Control Shelter has a number of dogs for adoption. For more information on how you can adopt these animals and make them a part of your home, please contact (432) 264-2567.



HERALD photo/Alex Newsom
Pat and Tony Vines (center) of 600 E. 15th Street received this month's Keep Big Spring Beautiful award, "Doing Your Part/Beautification Award" from Walter Ward, the association's president (left), Pat Simmons, founder of Keep Big Spring Beautiful (second from right), and District 2 Council Member Manuel Ramirez (right).

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.

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

Bob Brock Ford's July Blow-Out SALE On 2009 F150'S

2009 Ford F150 Supercrew XLT 4X2
(4.6 V-8, Texas/Oklahoma Edition, Sync, w/All Assists, Trailer Tow Pkg., Power Driver Seats, Lower Tutone Paint, Power Windows & Locks.)

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).)

Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

Cooperative Defense

South dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
♠10 9 5 2
♥8
♦7 6 4 2
♣K Q 5 3

WEST
♠J 8
♥J 7
♦A Q 9 8 3
♣10 9 8 4

EAST
♠Q 3
♥Q 10 6 4 3
♦J 5
♣A J 6 2

SOUTH
♠A K 7 6 4
♥A K 9 5 2
♦K 10
♣7

The bidding:
1♠ South West North East
3♥ Pass 2♣ Pass
4♠ Opening lead — ten of clubs.

The **uppercut** is a colorful term used to describe a play made by a defender whereby he is able to promote a trump trick for his partner. It is a play that can be very profitable for the defense when the occasion arises.

South reached four spades on the bidding shown, and West made the normal lead of the ten of clubs. East took dummy's queen with the ace and returned the jack of diamonds. Declarer covered with the king, and West won with the ace and cashed

the queen for the defense's third trick.

West now paused to consider where the setting trick might come from. He reasoned that if East had the queen or king of spades, the contract could be defeated provided East could be induced to ruff a third round of diamonds with either of those cards.

West was afraid that if he returned a low diamond at this point, East might ruff low, thinking declarer had the nine of diamonds. West also feared that if he led the nine instead, East might discard, since the nine was the highest diamond remaining.

Ultimately, it boiled down to a question of having faith in partner and hoping East would do the right thing regardless of which diamond West led.

West made the proper technical return of the nine, hoping East would appreciate the situation, and East did not let him down. He realized that declarer had no more diamonds, since South had dropped the ten on the preceding trick.

East therefore ruffed the diamond nine with the queen. Declarer had no choice but to overruff, and West's jack became the setting trick.

East's play was clearly correct. He had nothing to lose by ruffing if declarer had the A-K-J of spades, and a good deal to gain if West had as little as the J-x.

Tomorrow: The art of circumvention.
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News in brief

Sotomayor says record as judge rebuts claims she is biased

WASHINGTON (AP) — Sonia Sotomayor is relying on her 17-year record as a federal judge to rebut criticism that she is concealing a liberal agenda that will show up if she is confirmed to the Supreme Court.

Sotomayor, the first Hispanic high court nominee, was set to return Wednesday to a cavernous Senate hearing room for another grueling day of questioning.

Republicans on the Senate Judiciary Committee are using Sotomayor's confirmation hearing to raise doubts about her fairness, while Democrats are portraying the 55-year-old New Yorker as a model jurist.

Under questioning Tuesday, Sotomayor tried to take away one line of Republican attack when she distanced herself from the man who nominated her, President Barack Obama.

Asked whether she shared Obama's view — stated when he was a senator — that in some cases, the key determinant is "what is in the judge's heart," Sotomayor said she does not.

168 reportedly killed when Iranian plane headed to Armenia crashes

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — State TV says 168 people were killed when a passenger plane crashed Wednesday in northwest Iran.

Iranian Civil Aviation Organization spokesman Reza Jafarzadeh had told state television that 153 passengers and 15 crewmembers were on the Russian-made Caspian Airlines jet that had been headed from Tehran to the Armenian capital Yerevan.

Footage from the scene on state-run Press TV shows a deep trench smashed into an agricultural field by the impact, littered with smoking wreckage. It showed a large chunk of a wing, but much of the wreckage appeared to be in small pieces.

Democrats look to medical providers, employers, wealthy for health care dollars

WASHINGTON (AP) — House Democratic leaders, pledging to meet the president's goal of health care legislation before their August break, are offering a \$1.5 trillion plan that for the first time would make health care a right and a responsibility for all Americans. Left to pick up most of the tab were medical providers, employers and the wealthy.

"We cannot allow this issue to be delayed. We cannot put it off again," Rep. Henry Waxman, D-Calif., the chairman of the House Energy and Commerce committee, said Tuesday. "We, quite frankly, cannot go home for a recess unless the House and the Senate both pass bills to reform and restructure our health care system."

In the Senate, Majority Leader Harry Reid said

he wanted floor debate to begin a week from Monday. With the Senate Finance Committee still struggling to reach consensus, that timetable could slip. Even so, it underscored a renewed sense of urgency.

Obama himself was driving the action, going off-script to push the issue during a speech in Michigan and scheduling a Rose Garden news conference for Wednesday to make more comments on the topic.

"There's going to be a major debate over the next three weeks," Obama said in Warren, Mich., deviating from his prepared text on new spending for community colleges. "And don't be fooled by folks trying to scare you saying we can't change the health care system. We have no choice but to change the health care system because right now it's broken for too many Americans."

Former Israeli soldiers claim military used reckless force in Gaza fighting

JERUSALEM (AP) — The Israeli military used reckless force during the fighting in Gaza earlier this year, resulting in needless deaths and damage, a group of former Israeli soldiers charged in a report Wednesday.

In testimonies collected by Breaking the Silence, an organization of Israeli army reservists, 26 soldiers who participated in the three weeks of Gaza fighting describe demolishing homes and using firepower beyond what was necessary given the relatively light resistance they encountered.

None of the soldiers were identified and no dates or locations were provided for the events they recount.

The Israeli military accused the group of "defaming and slandering the IDF (Israel Defense Forces) and its commanders."

"The IDF is one of the world's most moral armies and operates according to the highest moral code," Defense Minister Ehud Barak said in a separate statement.

Clinton makes move to emerge from Obama, Biden's shadow

WASHINGTON (AP) — Eclipsed by a globe-trotting president, a foreign policy-savvy vice president and a bevy of special envoys, Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton is struggling to re-emerge this week as the Obama administration's diplomatic heavyweight.

Clinton is trying to retake center stage as the administration's top foreign policy voice after four frustrating, low-profile weeks during which a fractured elbow forced her to cancel two overseas trips. Her diminishing presence abroad and at home, followed by her startling public criticism of the White House this week for delaying a key appointment, has prompted a flurry of speculation about whether her influence is waning inside President Barack Obama's Cabinet.

Clinton was set to deliver what aides billed as a major policy address at the Council on Foreign Relations in Washington on Wednesday. A day later, she heads off on an around-the-world trip.

"Her role so far has been more in the field of public relations than in policy formation," said Reginald Dale, a senior fellow at the Center for Strategic and International Studies. "She is seen as glamorous and in many countries as a valuable symbol of the United States, but it is not at all clear that she has an in-depth influence on foreign policy."

"She needs to decide if she wants to be the administration's mascot or have an impact on actual policy," he said. "If she wants to have an impact, the speech may be a way of claiming her stake."



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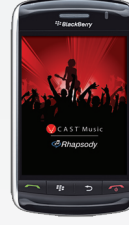
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