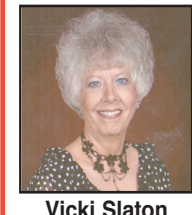




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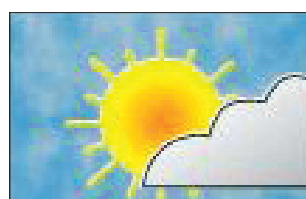


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BIG SPRING HERALD

THURSDAY

JULY 16, 2009



VOLUME 104, NUMBER 192

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HERALD photo/Steve Reagan

Work crews tear up existing sidewalks on the 800 block of Gregg Street this morning. The work is part of a Texas Department of Transportation project renovating Highway 87 through much of Big Spring.

Community college investment?

Obama initiative a hit at Howard College

By **STEVE REAGAN**
Staff Writer

Howard College's president said the institution is ready to answer U.S. President Barack Obama's call for a multi-billion-dollar investment in the nation's community colleges.

Obama announced Tuesday a four-part, \$12 billion program aimed at helping community colleges reach, teach and train more people "for the jobs of the future."

Under the initiative, colleges could qualify for "challenge grants" which would give them money to try new programs or expand existing operations.

Money also could be spent to renovate or construct facilities, something never offered from the federal government to community colleges before. Other funds would be targeted toward dropout prevention and providing greater access to online courses.

Dr. Cheryl Sparks, president of Howard College, said lawmakers at both the federal and state level are coming to appreciate the role community colleges play in workforce training.

"What's happening at the national level is just a reflection of what's happening at the state level," she said. "Earlier this year, we saw the state legislature announce initiatives enhancing our workforce training programs."

"Needless to say, we're very pleased to see this new focus," Sparks added.

The reason for that heightened focus, she said, was the unique role community colleges play in their area.

"We are in the community and we're directly tied to the local community," she said. "With all the workforce training and academic opportunities we offer, we

See **COLLEGE**, Page 3

Back to school

Salvation Army handing out supplies to needy kids

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

With just a couple of days left in this year's Salvation Army Back to School Drive, officials with the local charity say they are bracing themselves for the last minute onslaught.

"It was really strange this year because we had a big rush Monday and Tuesday, which were the first two days we took applications for the program," said Paula Lafler, social worker with the Salvation Army. "That doesn't happen very often. Then, things seemed to slow down quite a bit Wednesday, so we're re-



ally expecting the numbers to jump today and Friday, which is the last day for folks to apply."

Lafler said the program — which provides local low-income students with back-to-school necessities such as paper, pencils and backpacks — provided for more than 300 students last year, and despite slow numbers so far, Salvation Army officials are expecting similar numbers this year.

"We've already given out between 80 and 90 sets of supplies, so we're a

little behind where I thought we'd be," said Lafler.

"However, we gathered supplies for 350 kids and had that and more come in for them. We ordered 350 sets again this year, and we're expecting to hand out about that many when this is over."

Applications for supplies will be taken from 9 a.m. until noon and 1 p.m. until 3 p.m. today through Friday, according to Lafler.

"We need people who are coming in to apply to bring a social security card and state-issued picture ID," said Lafler. "We can't go off

See **SUPPLIES**, Page 3

A&M Club scholarship fund-raiser to feature skeet shoot and auction

By **STEVE REAGAN**
Staff Writer

If you have the travel bug, the Howard County A&M Club has a deal for you.

Trips to such far-ranging destinations as Cancun, Mexico and Pebble Beach, Calif., will be among the many items offered when the local A&M Club holds its 10th Annual Scholarship Auction Saturday.

As usual, the event will feature a wide array of sports and music memorabilia. But that's only just a portion of what the event has to offer, organizers said.



Newton

Activities start with a skeet shoot at 3 p.m. Saturday at 7500 E. Moss Lake Rd. Interested persons need to contact Kelly Gaskins at (432) 517-0471.

After the shooting stops, however, attention will shift to the auction, which will begin with a barbecue dinner at 5:30 p.m. at Moss Creek Ranch, 1601 S. Moss Lake Rd. The auction should begin around 7 p.m., said Dianna Newton, event organizer.

While Newton promises the evening will be fun, it has a serious purpose.

"The purpose of the auction is to provide scholarship money for Howard County students attending Texas A&M University in College Station," she said. "Right now, we have nine students receiving scholarships from the Howard County A&M Club."

Among the more unique items up for auction this year is a trip for two to the 2010 U.S. Open Golf tournament at Pebble Beach, Calif. The package includes airfare and hotel ac-

commodations, Newton said. Other vacation packages include trips to Cabo San Lucas and Cancun, Mexico, Pagosa Springs, Colo. and St. Petersburg, Fla.

A mainstay of the auction is its sports memorabilia and this year's offerings are heavily accented with Dallas Cowboys items, Newton said. Autographed jerseys signed by Emmitt Smith, Tony Dorsett and Randy White will be auctioned, as well as an item autographed by every starting quarterback in Cowboys' history.

See **A&M CLUB**, Page 3

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Obituaries

Marae (Dumpy) Brooks

Marae (Dumpy) Brooks of Lindale joined her husband, Gerald Lloyd (Jerry) Brooks, in their new life together July 14, 2009.

She left behind two sons, Rocky Ray Brooks of Euless and Don Lloyd Brooks of Big Spring; a daughter, Cary Brooks Nichols of Lindale; a sister, Dee Jenkins and brother-in-law Paul Jenkins of Big Spring; and a brother, Charles Clarke and sister-in-law Shari Clarke of Boise, Idaho. Her legacy includes 17 grandchildren, four great-grandchildren, several aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins and many, many friends.

Marae was born and attended school in Snyder. She and Jerry lived in Big Spring for many years where she held the position of director of the Convention and Visitors Bureau. She had also served as community director for a Big Spring senior citizen assisted living apartment community, and office manager and accountant at the Big Spring Herald.

Before moving to Lindale in March 2009, she lived in Irving for 12 years, where she had worked as a financial advisor at Fowler Christian Apartments, worked for TXU Electric, and after retirement, had worked part-time at the Irving Convention and Visitors Bureau.

A memorial service will be held Friday, July 17, 2009, at 2 p.m. at First Christian Church, 210 E. Sixth St. in Irving, followed by a reception for family and friends at the church.

Arrangements are made by Brown's Memorial Funeral Home of Irving.

Paid obituary

Joan Deaumer Nash

Joan Deaumer Nash, 88, of Lewisville, formerly of Big Spring died Wednesday, July 15, 2009, in a Lewisville hospital. Graveside funeral services will be held at 11:30 a.m. Saturday, July 18, 2009, at the Peace Chapel at Trinity Memorial Park in Big Spring with Dallas Lee "Tony" Nash II officiating.

She was born Feb. 20, 1921, in Bluefield, W. Va., and married Dallas Lee Nash March 2, 1944, in Bluefield, W. Va. He preceded her in death June 9, 2006.

She received her bachelor's degree in education from Concord University in Athens, W. Va., in 1942. She taught for 37 years, three of which were in Panama. She and her husband Dallas moved to Big Spring in 1967. Joan retired from the Big Spring Independent School District in 1983. In addition to teaching, Joan attended the Pittsburgh Art Institute and loved oil painting, drawing and even gardening.

She was a member of First Baptist Church, where she taught Sunday School.

Survivors include one son, Dallas Lee "Tony" Nash II and wife, Sandi, of Lewisville; two grandsons, Dallas Lee Nash III and wife, Amy, of Lewisville, and Wilson Nash of Concord, Calif.; and one sister, Lois Taylor of Bluefield, W. V.

She was also preceded in death by her parents, three sisters and one brother.

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

Paid obituary

Take Note

• Big Spring High School will be offering the exit level TAKS retest 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.

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

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

• 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.

• Mobile Meals needs volunteers. If you can donate one hour per week to our organization delivering meals between 9 a.m. and 10 a.m., you will be helping the senior citizens of Big Spring. Contact Macaria Cantu at 263-4016

Maria Petra Duran

Maria Petra Duran, 57, of San Antonio died Tuesday, July 14, 2009, at South West General Medical Center in San Antonio. Vigil services will be held at 8 p.m. Thursday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral mass will be held at 2 p.m. Friday at Sacred Heart Catholic Church with the Rev. Ariel Lagunilla officiating. Burial will be at Trinity Memorial Park.

She was born Sept. 1, 1952, in Big Spring. She had been a lifetime resident of San Antonio. She worked at Methodist Hospital for more than 30 years, then pursued her lifetime ambition to teach. She graduated from the University of Texas at San Antonio with a degree in education.

While attending the University, she did substitute teaching. After graduation she taught first grade until her illness forced her to retire.

She was a member of St. Leo's Catholic Church in San Antonio. She was active in LULAC and the American Cancer Society, San Antonio Chapter. Her hobby was line dancing.

Maria is survived by her two step-sons, Luis Pineda Jr., and Anthony Pineda Sr. and wife, Susie, all of San Antonio; two grandchildren, Alexis Pineda and Anthony Pineda Jr.; five aunts, Juanita Gutierrez of Odessa, Elvira Olivas, Rosa Alvarez and Margarita Alvarez, all of Big Spring, and Mary "Chagua" Sanchez of San Antonio; and a number of cousins.

Maria was preceded in death by her parents, Manuela and Gabriel Duran.

Pallbearers will be Eric Sanchez, Enrique Sanchez III, Enrique Alvarez, Albert Alvarez, Edward Olivas and John Dominguez.

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

Paid obituary

Louie Paulger

Louie Paulger, 99, of Big Spring died Tuesday, July 14, 2009, at Parkview Nursing and Rehabilitation. Funeral services will be at 10:30 a.m. Friday at Myers & Smith Chapel with the Rev. Ken McMeans, pastor of College Baptist Church, officiating. Burial will be at the City of Lubbock Cemetery.

She was born June 24, 1910, in Ector County to Elda Mae and Claud Archie Paulger. She graduated from the Moody Bible Institute in 1937.

She worked more than 30 years for the Child Evangelism Fellowship, first in Lubbock and then in the Big Spring area. She had been a resident of Big Spring since 1956, coming from Lubbock. She was a member of College Baptist Church.

Survivors include several nephews.

The family suggests memorials to the Child Evangelism Fellowship, P.O. Box 348, Warrington, Mo. 63383.

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

Gregoria Escanuelas

Gregoria Escanuelas, 56, of Odessa, formerly of Big Spring died Wednesday, July 15, 2009, in an Odessa Hospital. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Police blotter

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

- VANESSA ARMENDAREZ, 24, of Stanton, was arrested Wednesday on two local warrants and a charge of possession of a controlled substance.
- THEFT was reported:
 - in the 1700 block of FM 700.
 - in the 400 block of Birdwell Lane.
 - in the 1800 block of Gregg Street.
- POSSESSION OF A CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE was reported in the 800 block of Interstate Highway 20.
- BURGLARY F A VEHICLE was reported in the 200 block of 11th Street.
- ASSAULT CLASS C/FAMILY VIOLENCE was reported in the 1600 block of Sixth Street.
- ASSAULT BY CONTACT was reported in the 1900 block of Highway 87.
- ARSON was reported in the 900 block of Goliad.

Note: Due to telephone and Internet difficulties at the Herald office Thursday morning, reports from the Big Spring Fire Department and EMS, as well as the Howard County Sheriff's Office, were unavailable at press time.

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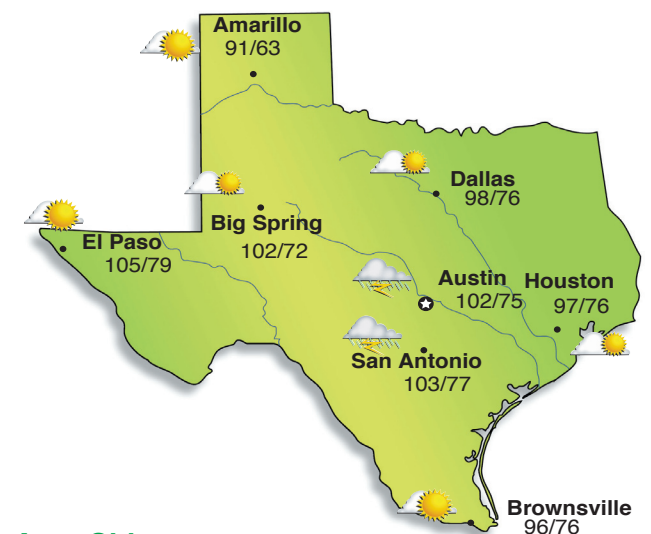
| Fri 7/17 | Sat 7/18 | Sun 7/19 | Mon 7/20 | Tue 7/21 |
|---|---|--|--|--|
| | | | | |
| 102/72 Partly cloudy skies. Hot. High 102F. Winds ENE at 5 to 10 mph. | 90/69 Scattered thunderstorms possible. | 92/71 Partly cloudy, chance of a thunderstorm. | 96/72 Times of sun and clouds. Highs in the mid 90s and lows in the low 70s. | 93/70 Partly cloudy. Highs in the low 90s and lows in the low 70s. |
| 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 | Sunrise: 6:54 AM Sunset: 8:51 PM |

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Texas At A Glance



Area Cities

| City | Hi | Lo | Cond. | City | Hi | Lo | Cond. |
|----------------|-----|----|-----------|-----------------|-----|----|-----------|
| Abilene | 102 | 72 | pt sunny | Kingsville | 100 | 77 | mst sunny |
| Amarillo | 91 | 63 | mst sunny | Livingston | 98 | 74 | t-storm |
| Austin | 102 | 75 | t-storm | Longview | 94 | 74 | t-storm |
| Beaumont | 94 | 75 | t-storm | Lubbock | 99 | 68 | pt sunny |
| Brownsville | 96 | 76 | mst sunny | Lufkin | 98 | 74 | t-storm |
| Brownwood | 101 | 73 | sunny | Midland | 102 | 75 | pt sunny |
| Corpus Christi | 97 | 78 | mst sunny | Raymondville | 100 | 77 | pt sunny |
| Corsicana | 97 | 74 | pt sunny | Rosenberg | 97 | 75 | mst sunny |
| Dallas | 98 | 76 | pt sunny | San Antonio | 103 | 77 | t-storm |
| Del Rio | 104 | 80 | t-storm | San Marcos | 102 | 76 | t-storm |
| El Paso | 105 | 79 | mst sunny | Sulphur Springs | 94 | 73 | t-storm |
| Fort Stockton | 101 | 74 | sunny | Sweetwater | 101 | 71 | pt sunny |
| Gainesville | 97 | 72 | pt sunny | Tyler | 95 | 73 | t-storm |
| Greenville | 95 | 72 | t-storm | Weatherford | 99 | 73 | pt sunny |
| Houston | 97 | 76 | pt sunny | Wichita Falls | 99 | 68 | 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

• 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.

FRIDAY

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

Lottery

The winning numbers drawn in the Lotto Texas drawing Wednesday night: 1-14-16-24-38-42.

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Wednesday night:

Winning numbers drawn: 1-2-6-12-33.

Number matching five of five: 2. Prize: \$11,300

Winning ticket purchased in: Katy.

chased in: Katy.

The winning Daily 4 numbers drawn Wednesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 9-9-8-2. Sum It Up: 28.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Wednesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order:

6-3-7. Sum It Up: 16.

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Eight suspects in custody in Florida couple slayings

BILL KACZOR

Associated Press Writer

PENSACOLA, Fla. (AP) — Eight people have been charged in a precisely executed, deadly break-in at a Florida Panhandle home, but authorities are still seeking at least one more accomplice who they believe failed his assignment to disable the house's surveillance system.

Footage taken by the cameras helped lead investigators to the suspects in last week's shooting deaths of Melanie and Byrd Billings, who were known for adopting 13 children with special needs. The videos showed masked men — some dressed as ninjas — slipping into front and back doors at the home.

Police on Wednesday arrested an eighth suspect, 47-year-old Pamela Long Wiggins, charging her with accessory after the fact to felony murder, Escambia County Sheriff David Morgan said. Seven others have also

been charged in the killings.

Morgan said the men spent 30 days training for what was a precisely executed break-in, save for the failure to turn off the couple's camera system. Before the crime, the extensive surveillance system was used to monitor the children.

"The execution was basically flawless," Morgan said. "The one gaping hole that would not have made this a perfect operation, if you will, was the fact that the surveillance system was not disabled. I guess the question was why was it not?"

Morgan said investigators think an accomplice or one of the seven suspects at the scene had been assigned to turn off the cameras, possibly remotely, but never did — and the men who broke in apparently didn't know that. Morgan said authorities expect to question two more "persons of interest" in the next couple of days.

The surveillance videos led investi-

gators to a red van used as a used as a getaway car and eventually to the suspects, a loosely connected group of mostly day laborers who knew each other through a power washing business and an auto detailing operation.

They were in the nine-bedroom house for just four minutes and on the property for 10, Morgan said.

Morgan said the suspects took a safe from the house, though he would not say what was in it or what else was taken. Authorities have said the main motive was robbery, though there may have been others.

He said earlier that Wiggins is a friend and landlord to 35-year-old Leonard Gonzalez Jr., whom Morgan described as a "pivotal person" in organizing the break-in.

Morgan said Thursday that Wiggins led them to evidence, though he would not be more specific.

"We have obtained a lot of physical evidence as a result of the arrest

of this witness," he told NBC's Today Show.

Gonzalez, who's charged with murder, proclaimed his innocence in court Tuesday.

State Attorney Eddins said the day before Wiggins' arrest that he will ask a grand jury to indict the suspects on first-degree murder charges. The male suspects range in age from 16 to 56.

David Melenkevitz, a spokesman for the Drug Enforcement Administration, said his agency is assisting with the investigation but would not comment further. He said Escambia County officials have also sought help from other federal agencies including the FBI and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

Nine of the couple's 13 adopted children were home during the break-in. Three saw the intruders but were not hurt. The couple also had four children from previous marriages.

What you talkin' bout, Willis? Sears Tower renamed

CARYN ROUSSEAU

Associated Press Writer

CHICAGO — One of the world's most iconic skyscrapers has long tempted Chicago visitors to squint, crane their necks and try to see the tip of the country's tallest building. But starting Thursday, Sears Tower will be gone.

Sort of. Its black, block-like architecture and towering rooftop spikes will remain, but the widely recognized name it carried for three decades will be pushed out by a British company.

Willis Tower will be introduced to Chicago by Mayor Richard M. Daley and others on Thursday during a public renaming ceremony hosted by Willis Group Holdings. The London-based insurance brokerage secured the naming rights as part an agreement to lease 140,000 square feet of space, and has said it plans to

bring hundreds of jobs to the city.

But some locals aren't sold.

"It's always going to be the Sears Tower. It's part of Chicago and I won't call it Willis Tower. In Chicago we hold fast," Chicago teacher Marianne Turk, 46, said as she stood in line this week to go up to the building's Skydeck.

The 110-story skyscraper has been known as Sears Tower since it opened in 1973. Its original tenant, Sears Roebuck and Co., moved out in 1992 but its sign stayed. A real estate investment group, American Landmark Properties of Skokie, now owns the 1,450-foot-tall building.

"Everybody knows that tower," Willis Group Holdings chief executive Joe Plumeri said ahead of Thursday's ceremony. "If we're good corporate citizens and do what we should, hopefully Wil-



lis and the tower and Chicago will all become synonymous."

Historically, skyscrapers have been businesses unto themselves, acting as a commodity to compete for high rents and tenants, said Carol Willis, founder and director

of The Skyscraper Museum in New York.

"Naming rights are an asset of the building. They can be turned into money and that's what the new owners are doing," she said.

Other well known buildings have undergone name changes — New York City's Pan Am Building became the MetLife Building, and Chicago's Standard Oil Building is now the Aon Center — but the public hasn't always taken to them.

The Chicago tower's owners acknowledge it will take time for some people to accept the new name, but they're confident it will happen eventually.

"It is an icon, but I believe over time it will become known as Willis Tower," said John Huston of American Landmark Properties, who represents the building ownership.

Alex Lucas, 29, an Arlington Heights business

systems analyst who works down the street from the skyscraper, was so displeased with the name change that he started a Web site, www.itsthesearstower.com.

"Chicago is going to lose a big part of what is its identity and I don't know what's going to fill that space," Lucas said.

The new name isn't the only major change this year. Last month, owners announced a \$350 million greening effort, complete with wind turbines and solar panels, along with plans for a 50-story luxury hotel. For tourists, glass-bottomed enclosed balconies on the 103rd Skydeck were opened earlier this month, giving visitors a 1,353-foot look straight down.

All these efforts were part of a plan aimed at remarketing the building as a pioneer and reintroducing it to the world, owners say.

Reluctance to let go of the name is understandable, said Plumeri, Willis Group Holdings' CEO. But, he added, "By the same token life moves on, nothing ever stays the same. Chicago is an evolving city."

COLLEGE

Continued from Page 1

cover the waterfront of educational opportunity in a community."

Until now, federal funds have had a more indirect impact on Howard College — usu-

ally in the form of Pell grants and student loan money — but President Obama's initiative announces a more active relationship in the future, Sparks said.

"The federal government is a major player in community colleges," she said. "Pell grants and college loan

programs ... are the only way some students can afford to attend college. But this certainly marks a heightened interest in community colleges."

Although President Obama's initiative is likely several years from implementation, Sparks said Howard College will be prepared

if and when the program becomes a reality.

"We have been watching the past few administrations ... and there has been a noticeable increase in interest in community colleges," Sparks said. "It's as if national and state legislators are seeing the role community colleg-

es can play — and we're ready."

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

SUPPLIES

Continued from Page 1

of Medicaid cards and birth certificates anymore. We also need to know what school the child is

going to and what grade they will be in. Also, bring proof of income and expenses. We'll let you know right then and there whether you qualify for the program, and if you do, you'll be able to take the supplies home right then."

For more information on the

program, contact the Salvation Army at 267-8239.

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

A&M CLUB

Continued from Page 1

Also for auction will be a wide selection of music memorabilia — including tickets to a George Strait concert in Houston — and locally crafted metal items, such as hat racks and lamps, Newton said.

The big auction item of the night, however, will be naming rights to a scholarship. The minimum bid on the scholarship will be \$5,000, Newton noted.

The general public — regardless of college affiliation — is welcome, she said.

"The reason we're doing this is because, first of all, there's a need. These kids need monetary and emotional support from their home county. That's the biggest thing," Newton said. "And, secondly, it's just a lot of fun."

To donate to the scholarship fund, or for more information on the auction, contact Newton at 263-4204.

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

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AN ENCOURAGING WORD



By Eddy Pitchford

Satan wants us to fall hook, line and sinker for his lies. He uses various baits to lure us away from the will of God. He desires that we love things and use people. He prompts us to selfishly misuse money, sexuality and religion. He attracts our attention enough to snag us and then reels us in.

Jesus says of Satan, "...He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it" (John 8:44).

Satan lies and distorts truth as he lures us through "...the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life..." (I John 2:16) It is imperative that we "take heed lest we fall."

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EDITORIAL

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

Ron Midkiff
Publisher

John A. Moseley
Managing Editor

Bill McClellan
News Editor

OUR VIEW

Leadership really an opportunity to help community

It's that time again, time to apply for one of the really impressive programs the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce provides our community — Leadership Big Spring.

While a great many of us are familiar with the Leadership Big Spring program, designed to familiarize future community leaders with various assets and institutions in our community, some may not.

The program, which teaches leadership skills through a series of courses and tasks, is also older than many people might realize, according to Chamber Executive Director Debbye ValVerde.

A new class of the Leadership Big Spring program — the 27th — will begin Aug. 20 at the Dora Roberts Community Center's Lake Room.

Chamber officials are currently accepting applications for the class, giving local citizens until July 31 to sign up for the program.

The class has evolved over the years, according to ValVerde. Participants are now asked to be a part of the community by going to local government and school board meetings, and they are asked for their input from what they see and what they have gotten out of the meeting.

They also go on police rides and through the Boy Scouts COPEs Course which, ValVerde says, really bonds the group.

ValVerde said the program not only teaches it's class members how to lead, but how to have a positive impact on the community.

Each year members of the Leadership Big Spring class embark on a community project by either funding it themselves or by seeking donations from sponsors, providing experience in getting other people and businesses involved in supporting worthwhile projects.

The program's cost is \$400 per person for Chamber members in good standing and \$600 for non-Chamber residents wanting to take part in the class. Those tuition fees include transportation for tours, meals, a leadership skills book and information.

Applications are available at the Chamber office located 215 W. Third. In addition, interested persons can call the Chamber at 263-7641.

We encourage all interested citizens to take part in the program, but remember, the class is limited to 25 people, so be sure to get those applications in as soon as possible.

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

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- The Herald welcomes letters to the editor.
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 - 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

With you, Lord, we project a better personal image.

Amen

Hell is for 'heroes' like Frank Ricci

It appears that liberal activist group People For the American Way's smear campaign against Connecticut firefighter Frank Ricci is bearing fruit. Dahlia Lithwick has already responded with an obedient hit piece in Slate magazine, which perfectly fits the bill.

Why are liberals targeting Ricci? Because he had the audacity to challenge Supreme Court nominee Sonia Sotomayor's 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals summary ruling against him and other firefighters denied promotions because of affirmative action policies. Worse, he prevailed when the Supreme Court reversed the Sotomayor court.

Worse yet, Ricci has agreed to testify at Judge Sotomayor's Senate confirmation hearing, so liberal hardballers supporting Sotomayor's confirmation must personally discredit him — just as they did Joe the Plumber.

You know the drill; liberals always go to the mat for the common man and for African-Americans and women — unless, of course, those common men, African-Americans or women (e.g., Joe, Clarence Thomas, Sarah Palin) oppose their agenda.

People For the American Way triggered this opposition research campaign against Ricci in an e-mail, which cited "Frank Ricci's troubled and litigious work history." Dahlia Lithwick then helped to fill in the blanks in her article "Fire Proof." (I wish some of these lib crack investigative reporters would use their formidable talents to fill in the blanks on President Barack Obama's largely undocumented

life. But here I merely fantasize — and digress.)

Right up front in her article, Lithwick tells us that "Ricci has become a sort of folk hero for white men everywhere, having dared to stand up against the evils of affirmative action and race-based employment preferences." At the confirmation hearings, "he will be called on to make the point ... that Sotomayor, for all her talk of empathy ... 'demonstrated no empathy for the real world consequences' of affirmative action on Ricci."

This is wrong — and offensive — in several ways. While I don't expect doctrinaire liberals to understand this, conservatives don't see the world through the same race-conscious prism as they do. We don't see Ricci as white or Italian or any other category, and we certainly don't see him as a type of folk hero fighting reverse discrimination.

His skin color and ethnicity are utterly irrelevant to us, except to the extent they were used by his employer and the Sotomayor court to deny Ricci and his colleagues promotions they had worked hard to achieve.

Memo to libs: While you may well consider Sotomayor a folk heroine because of her gender and ethnicity, that is not how most of us think.

The principle we seek to have vindicated is not white power or male power. It is racial and gender neutrality and equal protection of the laws.

Nor does Lithwick accurately perceive the conservative mind-set regarding Sotomayor's reputed "empathy" orientation to jurisprudence. The fact that Sotomayor would only selectively indulge her empathetic impulse — in favor of certain minorities — is no news flash. Liberals of the race-conscious variety make no secret about their selective

approach to racism and sexism. Just ask Attorney General Eric Holder, who has made clear his view that proposed hate crime statutes are only designed to protect those who have been historically aggrieved, which excludes, for example, white men.

But that's hardly the point concerning judicial "empathy." Our main concern here is that appellate judges make their rulings based on the law and not their feelings — or policy preferences, for that matter.

Lithwick proceeds to describe Ricci's allegedly "litigious" past presumably to make him a less sympathetic and credible witness.

But again she misses the point. These confirmation hearings are not about Ricci or his past. And the relevant issue in his recently successful reversal of the Sotomayor court was not his alleged penchant for lawsuits. It was whether that court visited an injustice upon him and his fellow plaintiffs and, if so, why.

It seems to me that the People For the American Way, Lithwick and other windup liberal activists might be getting more than they are bargaining for if they continue to pursue this line of impeachment.

Their attacks will surely just cause a brighter spotlight to fall, not only on Sotomayor's cavalier handling of the Ricci case but also on what the National Journal's widely respected legal analyst Stuart Taylor describes as his "concern that her decisions may be biased by the grievance-focused mind-set and the 'wise Latina woman' superiority complex displayed in some of her speeches."

David Limbaugh is a writer, author and attorney.

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South Carolina deserves better

Despite my relatively insignificant job as general manager of a toy and hobby store, I remain available to my staff at all times. I check my cell phone during movies, return text messages while eating dinner and if I'm going someplace, I let my senior people know where I am.

Were I in a more important position, say governor of South Carolina, I imagine I would make an even greater effort to be reachable. I most certainly would not leave the country without at least putting a sticky note on my chief of staff's desk and perhaps changing my outbound voicemail message to say "the governor is not at his desk at this time because he's off having an affair in Argentina."

Perhaps I would not be that direct on the message, but you get the general idea. It seems that if someone in a job where at best he could have a Slinky-related emergency or perhaps a disaster involving the crash of a toy train remains reachable at all times, then it would be reasonable to expect the same from a governor.

The fine people of South Carolina, however, did not get that

basic courtesy as their governor went on a South American adultery-fest while telling his staff he was hiking the Appalachian Trail. Though "hiking the Appalachian Trail" stands likely to become a euphemism for having an affair, it did not yet mean that and Gov. Mark Sanford betrayed not only his wife with his lie, but all the people of his state.

In addition to questioning whether someone as morally vacant as Sanford deserves to be in office after lying so blatantly to his constituents, you also have to wonder how someone with so little guile got to be governor in the first place. Not only did Sanford cheat on his wife, his attempt to cover it up sounded like a lie concocted by a not particularly bright third grader.

Were I to plan a secret love affair in Argentina, I would imagine I'd be smart enough to at least concoct a plausible excuse for being in Argentina. Perhaps the governor could have told his wife and the public that he was on a fact finding mission to learn about soccer teams or maybe he could have spun a yarn about a cultural exchange.

No matter what lie he told, the governor should be smart enough to realize that if he disappears, people may look for him. He also should have known that it's a little odd to be coming out of the international terminal at the airport when the Appalachian Trail resides in the United

States.

It's actually pretty amazing that nobody on the plane recognized him as he was flying out of an airport in his home state. Potzie from "Happy Days" can't walk through a mall without getting asked where Ralph Malph is (autograph show at the Ramada Inn would be a good guess) so it strikes me as a stunning stroke of luck that the sitting governor of state could expect to fly without being recognized.

While I would prefer our elected officials not be the kind of people who have affairs, I'm willing to accept that adultery is generally an issue between husbands and wives.

Sanford, however, made his morally reprehensible behavior a public matter when he chose to disappear without letting his constituents know where he was.

Gov. Sanford obviously wanted to be caught — perhaps the urge to brag about his ability to score with an Argentinian woman simply overwhelmed him — and he's clearly unfit to hold office. Bill Clinton at least had the decency to commit his adultery at his desk while doing his job and John F. Kennedy may have had multiple affairs, but he never let his sex life get in the way of his job.

Daniel B. Kline's work appears in more than 100 papers. He can be e-mailed at dan@notastep.com



DAVID
LIMBAUGH



DANIEL
KLINE

News in brief

Senators set to finish questioning of Sotomayor with likely confirmation ahead

WASHINGTON (AP) — Barring a monumental mistake, Sonia Sotomayor has to endure only a few more hours in the witness chair before she can look ahead to her eventual confirmation as a Supreme Court justice.

Sotomayor returns for a third and final day of questioning Thursday, having avoided saying much on a range of hot-button issues, including guns and abortion.

Her unwillingness to be pinned down on almost any topic frustrated even some friendly Democrats.

"I think your record is exemplary, Judge Sotomayor, exemplary," said Sen. Arlen Specter, D-Pa., who quit the Republican Party earlier this year. "I'm not commenting about your answers, but your record is exemplary."

Sotomayor, 55, has been a federal judge for 17 years, the last 11 on the appeals court in New York. President Barack Obama nominated her to take the seat of Justice David Souter, who retired last month.

A vote by the full Senate to confirm her is expected in early August, time enough to allow her to take the judicial oath and participate in a scheduled hearing Sept. 9 on a case involving federal campaign finance law.

Despite her years of service, Republicans continued to focus more on Sotomayor's writings and speeches. They said they were still worried Sotomayor would bring bias and a political agenda to the bench.

Obama to tell NAACP that families, neighborhoods must work together

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama is telling the nation's oldest civil rights organization that government, families and neighborhoods must work together to improve their communities.

Obama also planned to urge young people to aspire to surpass their role models and resist the lure of mediocrity during a speech Thursday to the NAACP. White House aides said the president did not intend to introduce new programs or policy, instead striking an inspirational tone on the 100th birthday of the civil rights groups.

Obama, the first black president, plans to take a restrained tone during his evening remarks in lieu of a raucous celebration of his history-making campaign, officials said before he flew to New York. White House aides sought to play down the expectations of the speech, the first so directly linked with race since Obama took office.

"I think the first speech to black America, the first speech to white America, the first speech to America was the inaugural address," White House spokesman Robert Gibbs told reporters on Wednesday.

Implicit in the appearance, Obama is seeking the backing of the powerful NAACP and its members for his ambitious domestic agenda. For all their shared interests, White House aides cautioned that the group's leadership had not guaranteed its support of all of Obama's priorities.

House prepares to vote on health care bill as Obama steps up campaign for overhaul

WASHINGTON (AP) — House Democrats are preparing to advance legislation that would deliver on President Barack Obama's promise to remake the nation's costly health care system and cover some 50 million uninsured.

On the heels of the Senate health committee's approval Wednesday of a plan to revamp U.S. health care, three House committees with jurisdiction over the issue were shifting into action.

Votes were planned Thursday in the Education and Labor and Ways and Means committees on a \$1.5 trillion plan that majority House Democrats presented this week. The legislation seeks to provide coverage to nearly all Americans by subsidizing the poor and penalizing individuals and employers who don't purchase health insurance.

A third House committee, Energy and Commerce, also was considering the measure Thursday, but the road was expected to be rougher there. A group of fiscally conservative House Democrats called the Blue Dogs holds more than half-a-dozen seats on the committee — enough to block approval — and is opposing the bill over costs and other issues.

Investigators recover 2 of 3 black boxes in Iranian plane crash that killed 168

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — Investigators have recovered two of the three black boxes belonging to a Russian-made jetliner that crashed shortly after taking off from Tehran, Iran's state radio reported Thursday.

All 168 people aboard the Caspian Airlines aircraft bound for Yerevan, Armenia, on Wednesday were killed.

The radio's report quoted chief investigator Ahmad Majidi as saying one of the two recovered boxes was damaged. It said the boxes — the plane's cockpit voice and flight data recorders — would likely be sent to the aircraft's Russian manufacturers for analysis.

The search for the third black box was continuing, Majidi said.

Bodies of the victims would be taken to Tehran later Thursday for identification, he added.

Most of the passengers were Iranians, many of them from Iran's large ethnic Armenian community, as well as 11 members of Iran's national youth judo team. Five Armenian citizens were among the dead, Armenia's Foreign Ministry said in a

statement, along with two Georgians, including a staffer from the Caucasus nation's embassy in Yerevan.

Investors appear unfazed by government's refusal to bail out CIT

WASHINGTON (AP) — CIT Group Inc.'s inability to get emergency government funding drew a muted reaction from investors, suggesting the commercial lender's possible failure won't have widespread economic consequences.

CIT said late Wednesday that negotiations with regulators about a possible rescue had broken off after days of round-the-clock talks, raising expectations that the New York-based company will file for bankruptcy. The move marked a defining moment for the Obama administration and showed it's drawing a line in the sand on federal rescues for troubled financial firms.

Investors seemed unfazed by the news. Futures on the Dow Jones industrial average and the Standard and Poor's 500 index dipped on the announcement but quickly stabilized. Overseas, Asian stock markets rose sharply following Wall Street's surge earlier Wednesday. The Dow Jones industrials finished the day up 257 points.

The muted response to CIT's woes suggests investors are more focused on signs that the economic slump may be easing, said Paul Baiocchi, senior market strategist at Delta Global Advisors in San

Francisco.

"The market may simply scoff at this news," Baiocchi said. "We're seeing more optimism with the earnings outlook this quarter, so that could outweigh CIT's problems."

Interim leader: He's willing to step down, as long as ousted prez doesn't return

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras (AP) — Honduras' interim leader said Wednesday he is willing to step down to help end his country's political crisis, but only if ousted President Manuel Zelaya isn't allowed to regain power.

Roberto Micheletti also accused unspecified groups of handing out weapons and planning an armed rebellion, and his government reinstated an overnight curfew. The move came a day after Zelaya called for an insurrection in Honduras.

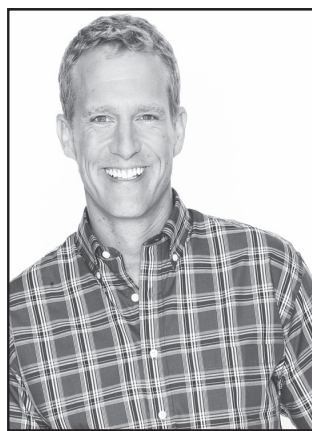
Micheletti, the former congressional leader who was selected by lawmakers to serve out the final six months of Zelaya's term, presented the resignation offer as a means to end the nearly three-week standoff over Honduras' military-backed coup.

The interim president said he was willing to leave office "if at some point that decision is needed to bring peace and tranquility to the country, but without the return ... of former President Zelaya."

The offer was presented by a Honduran delegation to the Washington-based Organization of American States, Micheletti told reporters.

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Inside The Big Spring Mall

News in brief

Proposed balloon release ban in Lubbock goes bust

LUBBOCK (AP) — A proposed ban on mass releases of helium-filled balloons in Lubbock has gone bust.

The measure would have barred the release of more than 30 gas-filled balloons at a time.

Councilman Paul Beane floated the proposal, saying the ban was about preventing litter and being a good neighbor. The measure passed on first reading July 8.

The second reading would have been Wednesday.

But the proposal was withdrawn from the agenda, after Councilman Todd Klein said he changed his mind and would oppose the ban. That switch gave opponents on the council enough votes to kill the plan.

Klein told KCBD-TV that he heard a lot of citizen opposition.

Critics say council members had better things to do than banter over balloons, such as dealing with the city budget.

Oil slips but stays above \$60 on positive US news

VIENNA (AP) — Oil prices slipped but stayed well above \$60 a barrel Thursday after a more positive economic outlook from the U.S. central bank buoyed investor confidence.

Although investors took profits on the previous day's rally, prices were supported by a larger than expected draw on U.S. crude stocks, implying an uptick in demand.

Benchmark crude for August delivery was down 64 cents to \$60.90 a barrel by afternoon European electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. On Wednesday, the contract added \$2.02 to settle at \$61.54.

Oil surged Wednesday on signs from the Federal Reserve that the U.S. economy may be performing better than expected.

The Fed said industrial companies cut production far less in June than they had in previous months, and the central bank's minutes from its meeting last month showed it now expects the economy to contract at a slower pace than previously thought.

In addition to such positive economic signals, Vienna's JBC Energy said that "a 2.8 million barrel drop in U.S. crude stocks ... a weakening U.S. dollar and news on strong GDP growth in China provided the basis for a rebound in international oil prices."

The Energy Information Administration said Wednesday that the country's supply of crude oil dropped more than expected last week, falling by 2.8 million barrels.

Inventories have dropped 13.2 million barrels during the last four weeks.

Oil had dropped to \$58.78 a barrel last week from \$73.38 on June 30 on investor concern that the global economy will emerge from recession slower than expected.

11 horses die in Parker County from dehydration

FORT WORTH (AP) — Parker County authorities say 11 horses died of dehydration at a ranch near Weatherford.

Sheriff Larry Fowler says it appears a well had quit and an employee did not notice it.

Fowler told the Fort Worth Star-Telegram that a ranch hand apparently failed to check a water well on the opposite side of the property from where the horses were being fed.

Fowler says the ranch hand is being prosecuted

on misdemeanor animal cruelty charges.

Ten horses were discovered dead earlier this month. Another had to be euthanized. More than two dozen others were removed and treated for dehydration.

9 hurt in Austin home invasion

AUSTIN (AP) — Austin police say nine people have been hurt in a home invasion using guns, knives and bats.

Lt. John McMiller says the attacks took place early Thursday and one suspect was caught on a neighbor's roof while trying to flee. Several other suspects are sought.

McMiller says it appears at least two women who work at a club were followed home after the place closed.

McMiller says four people were transported to an Austin hospital with non-life threatening injuries. One person was shot in the hand.

The other five victims were treated at the scene.

Police say some electronic items believe taken from the home were discovered abandoned nearby.

2 Wharton churches damaged by vandals

WHARTON (AP) — Vandals who targeted two churches in Wharton destroyed windows, overturned pews and damaged musical instruments.

Members say True Holiness Pentecostal Church suffered thousands of dollars in damage. Macedonia Baptist Church also was damaged.

Investigators say no property appears to have been stolen from either church.

True Holiness elder Lee Kimble says he was "just appalled" think somebody could enter the church and cause such destruction.

A door of the True Holiness was kicked in Monday night.

Macedonia Baptist Church Minister James Malone says he's very frustrated, saying: "Why do you break into a church?"

Wharton is about 60 miles southwest of Houston.

'Protest zones' created for East Texas rally

PARIS, Texas (AP) — A county judge has created protest zones to help police keep the peace at a planned rally next week organized by activists angered by a racially charged death in East Texas.

Lamar County Judge Chuck Superville said the protest zones are designed to separate members of the Nation of Islam and the New Black Panther Party, who organized the rally, from counter-protestors representing white supremacist groups.

Authorities say they have heard reports that white supremacist groups plan to attend the Tuesday rally in Paris, about 90 miles northeast of Dallas.

Activists are angered by what they said is a pattern of unequal justice for blacks and whites in Paris.

No injuries as small plane lands on Texas highway

SAN ANGELO (AP) — A pair of businessmen are unhurt after one safely landed their small plane on a West Texas highway when it lost power.

Brent McCasland and James Wood were on their way home to San Angelo from a business meeting when the single-engine six-seat Cessna 210 lost power Wednesday afternoon. They were about four miles from a San Angelo airfield.

McCasland, the pilot, radioed the tower that he'd

lost power and was looking for a place to land.

He found one on U.S. 87. The plane stopped with one wheel on the pavement and one wheel on the center median.

No one was injured.

Judge changes venue on exorcism case

HENDERSON (AP) — The capital murder trial of a man accused of killing a child during an exorcism will be moved outside Rusk County.

State District Judge Clay Gossett has signed the order that would move the trial of Blaine Keith Milam, 20, elsewhere, the Tyler Morning Telegraph reported. Jury selection is scheduled to begin in January.

Milam and Jessica Carson were arrested late last year in the beating death of Carson's 13-month-old toddler, Amora Bain Carson. Investigators say the couple used a hammer to "beat the demons out" of her.

Gossett has not yet found a new location for the trial. Jessica Carson has also yet to be tried.

Perry, Hutchinson pull in slew of large donor checks

AUSTIN (AP) — Republican Gov. Rick Perry relied on dozens of donors who gave \$50,000 or more in his dash to raise cash in late June for his race against Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison.

Campaign finance reports released Wednesday showed Perry tapped some well-known supporters to pile up \$4.2 million in the last nine days of the month. He had to wait until the spring legislative session and veto period ended to raise money.

"Governor Perry is very pleased with the financial support he has received, especially considering the limited amount of time he was able to raise funds," said his spokesman, Mark Miner.

Perry, who is running for a third term as Texas' chief executive, faces Hutchison in the Republican primary next March. The outcome of the clash between Perry and the more moderate Hutchison could signal the direction of the national Republican Party in the coming years. The winner of the race will likely be the favorite in Texas' general election.

Hutchison, a U.S. senator who enjoys statewide popularity, had already announced she raised \$6.7 million the first half of 2009. The money came from more than 6,500 donors across Texas and most was in donations of \$500 or less, her campaign said.

"We are so grateful to the thousands of Texans who have contributed to our campaign," Hutchison spokesman Hans Klingler said. "They believe Texas needs a leader who brings results, not politics."

But, like Perry, Hutchison had some big contributors.

Wealthy businessmen Ray Hunt and Robert Rowling of Dallas each gave her \$100,000 checks. Rowling is a former University of Texas System regent who abruptly resigned this year in a public spat with Perry over bonuses for the system's money managers. Hutchison has said Perry's feud with Rowling appeared to be politically motivated because Rowling supported Hutchison.

2 picketers hit by car at Bell plant

FORT WORTH (AP) — A nonunion Bell Helicopter employee was arrested Wednesday after hitting two picketers with his car while pulling into a plant entrance, police said.

Cullen H. McNair, 76, of Hurst accelerated as the two union members were walking between cars and knocked them to the ground just before 7 a.m., said Fort Worth police Sgt. Pedro Criado.

The two United Auto Workers Local 218 members were treated at a hospital for what were believed to be minor injuries, witnesses said.

McNair was arrested and charged with two counts of aggravated assault with a motor vehicle, a second-degree felony punishable by up to 20 years in prison. He remained jailed early Wednesday evening with bond set at \$20,000, said Lt. D.T. Hanlon.

In Sunday's Big Spring Herald



Burger Queen

Sally Sampson is a food artist. Well, sort of. The cookbook author looks at a typical hamburger and her creative juices start flowing. The result is a unique burger recipe for every week of the year. Plus, frugal parenting tips and zucchini bake.

American Profile

Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

The Art of Circumvention

East dealer.
North-South vulnerable.
NORTH
♠ A 8 6
♥ 10 7 5
♦ K Q 8
♣ A 7 5 3

WEST
♠ 5 3
♥ K J 2
♦ 9 5 4 2
♣ J 10 9 8

EAST
♠ J 10 7 4 2
♥ 9 8 6 3
♦ 10 6
♣ 6 4

SOUTH
♠ K Q 9
♥ A Q 4
♦ A J 7 3
♣ K Q 2

The bidding:
East South West North
Pass 2NT Pass 6NT
Opening lead — jack of clubs.

The finesse is undoubtedly a vital weapon in declarer's arsenal, but it is a play that most declarers use far more often than they should. If there is an alternative that raises the chances of making the contract to better than 50-50, the finesse should ordinarily not be employed.

Take this deal where South starts with 11 sure tricks — three spades, a heart, four diamonds and three clubs — and must find a 12th to make his slam.

At first glance, it appears that the extra trick will have to come from

either a 3-3 division of the missing clubs or, failing that, a successful heart finesse. But a third possibility exists, and South should keep it in mind as he proceeds.

Declarer starts by taking the club lead with the king and cashing four diamond tricks, discarding a heart from dummy as East discards a spade and a heart. Next he plays the A-K-Q of spades, West discarding a heart on the third round.

South now turns his attention to clubs, cashing the queen and leading to dummy's ace as East lets go of another heart on the third club. With the clubs failing to divide evenly, it might seem that the heart finesse must now be taken. But if declarer has been doing his homework, he should realize that he has much better than a 50-50 chance to make the slam. In fact, he has a sure thing!

Only three tricks remain to be played. West is known to have one club left and is also known to have no more spades or diamonds. His two remaining cards are therefore hearts. Whether one of them is the king is not known, but that doesn't matter in the slightest.

At trick 11, declarer leads dummy's last club. West has no choice but to win and return a heart into South's A-Q, and the slam is home.

Tomorrow: Bidding quiz.
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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.

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| 2 | 5 | 6 | | | | | | |
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Magic match Mavs' offer for Gortat

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — Getting paid \$34 million to back up Dwight Howard on the Orlando Magic for the next five years might sound like a good gig.

It's just that Marcin Gortat was looking forward to having the chance to start for the Dallas Mavericks.

The Magic surprised — and disappointed — Gortat and the Mavericks on Monday, matching an offer sheet to keep the Polish big man.

Gortat's agent, Guy Zucker, said the center "was definitely very disappointed today." He said Gortat was back in his native Poland, where he'd already been telling everyone he was headed to the Mavericks.

Gortat was hoping to play alongside Jason Kidd and Dirk Nowitzki and, most of all, compete with Erick Dampier for the starting job. Dampier is going into the final year of his contract.

In Orlando, Gortat will likely see spotty playing time behind Howard.

"It was definitely about the opportunity to find out how good he can really be," Zucker said. "We had requested that Orlando not match the offer. We stated the fact that he sincerely wanted the chance to carve his own path, be his own man, so to speak, which is not going to be realistically possible in Orlando."

Gortat averaged 3.8 points and 4.5 rebounds in about 12 minutes per game last season. Gortat's return solidifies the Magic frontcourt for next season, with the team signing former Mavericks power forward Brandon Baver last week.

"Having quality big men is an absolute must in our league, and Marcin has worked very hard to fit into that category," Magic general manager Otis Smith said in a statement. "He provides tremendous depth to our frontcourt and we're happy to bring him back."

See **GORTAT**, Page 12

Favre steps up workouts

CHRIS TALBOTT

Associated Press Writer

HATTIESBURG, Miss. — Brett Favre acknowledged he's "running out of time" to decide whether he'll play for the Minnesota Vikings this season.

The quarterback told The Associated Press on Wednesday that he'll give the Vikings an answer on whether he'll play by the July 30 start of training camp. Favre has been working out with the Oak Grove High School football team three days a week all summer, but added a Sunday workout this week.

"There's two weeks left and I'm doing everything I can," Favre said. "I was down here Sunday morning working out. I'm trying to get everything to where I feel 100 percent when I go in. I can't go in any less. When you're 39 years old, it's hard enough. But it's getting there."

The former Packers and Jets quarterback said surgery to repair a biceps tendon in his throwing arm was successful and that he has enough velocity to return to the NFL. He's just not sure whether that means he'll be able to compete for an entire season.

"I felt like going to New York last year that I still had it," Favre said. "I didn't know my arm was hurt at the time. So that's what I try to get across to people. I had that fixed, the surgery to fix that, so I'm trying to make sure that if I go back that part is completely resolved."

It sure looked like it Wednesday morning, when a jovial Favre hit a variety of passes to high school and college wide receivers. He was crisp on short timing passes and was hitting short timing passes in the end zone from about 50 yards away. He attempted a few deep passes off bootlegs and usually hit his targets in stride.

Favre's spirals held true and he proved he still has plenty of zip when he tossed a deep pass to a college receiver who dropped by to work out. The pass split the receiver's hands and hit him in the face.

"He's a senior from Southeastern Louisiana, so I put a little more on it," Favre said.

Favre said if the arm strength wasn't there, he wouldn't be making a bid to return for his 19th season in the league.

"I don't think Minnesota would even consider it if I didn't have

See **FAVRE**, Page 12

Flashback

Tom Watson leads in early stages of the British Open

PAUL NEWBERRY

AP National Writer

TURNBERRY, Scotland — Last year, Greg Norman. This time, Tom Watson.

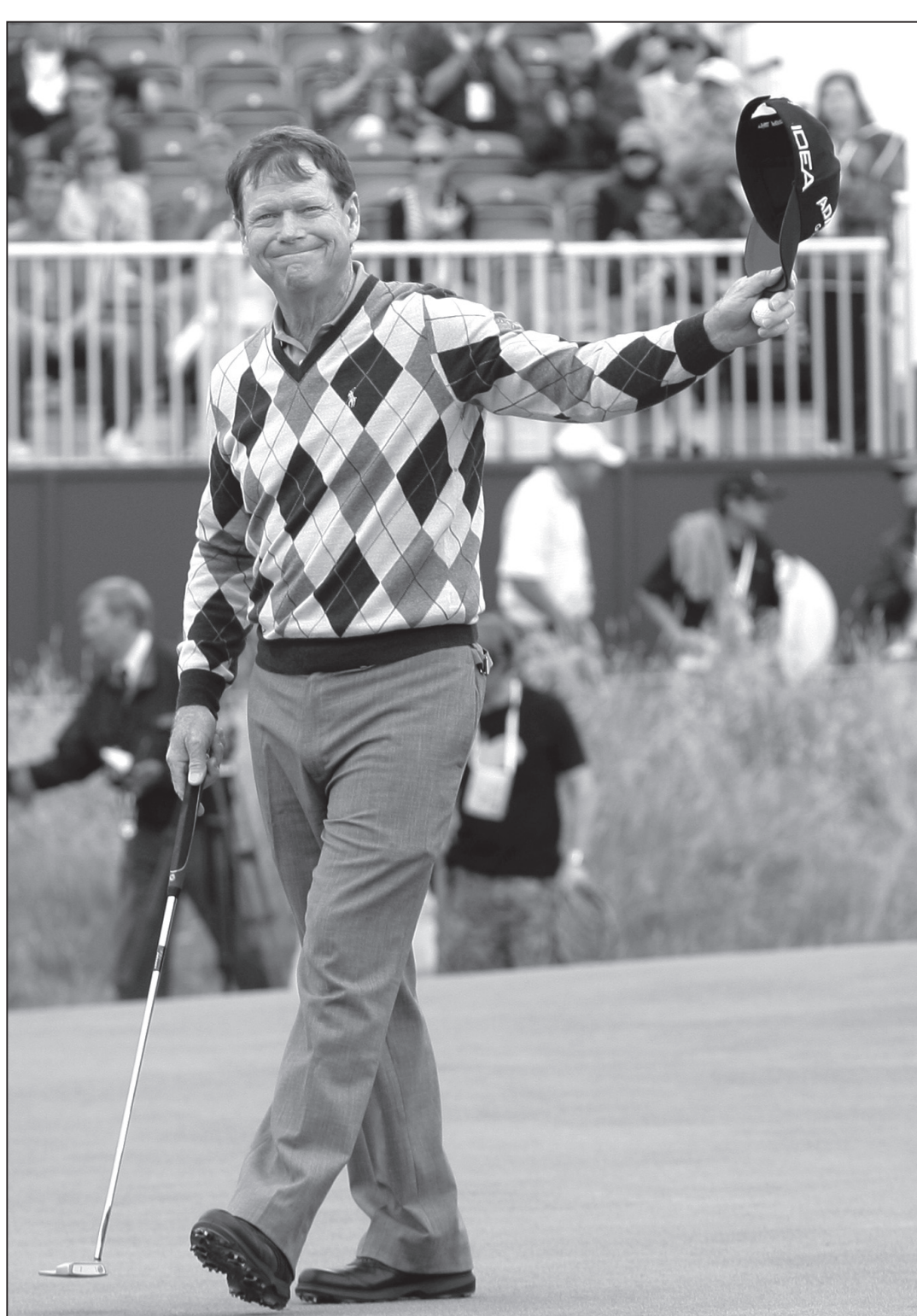
Thirty-two years after his epic "Duel in the Sun" with Jack Nicklaus, Watson took advantage of pristine conditions at the British Open to shoot a stunning 5-under 65 on Thursday.

"Not bad for an almost 60-year-old," said Watson, who turns that age in September. "Obviously I enjoyed it. I played very well, kept the ball in play, made a few putts. The course was defenseless today. As a result, you're seeing a lot of scores under par. I suspect by the end of the day, 65 will not be in the lead."

At least he didn't have to worry about Tiger Woods. On a day for going low, the world's No. 1 player struggled to a 71 at Turnberry, hitting one wayward shot after another — including a dunk in Wilson's Burn, which led to the last of his four bogeys at No. 16.

When the round ended, Woods headed back to the range to work on his swing, which looked

See **GOLF**, Page 12



AP photo/Alastair Grant
Tom Watson of the US gestures to the crowd after finishing on the 18th during the opening round of the British Open Golf championship at the Turnberry golf course in Scotland Thursday.

Peppers, Panthers fail to agree on contract before deadline

MIKE CRANSTON

AP Sports Writer

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — The deadline for the Carolina Panthers to strike a long-term deal with franchise defensive end Julius Peppers passed Wednesday without an agreement.

Peppers will now play under a one-year contract worth at least \$16.7 million, creating the prospect

for another offseason of uncertainty next year.

The Panthers had until 4 p.m. EDT to sign the four-time Pro Bowl pick to a deal that would secure his long-term future in Carolina and free up salary-cap space this season.

"Both sides tried," agent Carl Carey said. "Julius feels good about the one-year deal and is ready for the season to begin."

Carey and Panthers general manager Marty Hurney are now barred from negotiating a new deal until the end of the season, when Carolina will have the option to place the franchise tag on Peppers again.

That's what began the prolonged dispute

See **PEPPERS**, Page 12

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 Thursday, 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 \$25.

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.

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Garage Sales

2613 CAROL Saturday 8am-1pm. Clothing, bathroom fixture, computer desk, glider, and misc. household items.

3 FAMILY Garage Sale-2807 Apache, Friday 4pm-7pm, Saturday 8am-12pm. Toys, clothes, baby bedding, decorative items, comforters, and more.

3 FAMILY Yard Sale- 1501 W. Cherokee. Friday and Saturday 8am-2pm. Queen bed frame, baby items, teen girls and women plus size clothing, home decor. Everything must go!

5 FAMILY Garage Sale 2411 E. 24th. Saturday 7am-12pm. Come see what we have!!!!

GARAGE SALE 2501 Central. Sat. 7 A.M.- ?? Kitchen items, bicycle, ceiling fan, other misc.

GARAGE SALE: 1308 Marjio, Thursday & Friday 8:00-2:00. Pots & pans, DVD players and lots more.

GARAGE SALE: 1608 Cole Ln (Kentwood Addition), Saturday 7-? Baby clothes, toys, clothing, furniture, household items, etc.

GARAGE SALE: 5408 Wasson Rd., Saturday 8-? Washer dryer, pub set, clothes, household items, etc.

GARAGE SALE: 6807 East Midway Rd. RV ext. cord, RV spare, new and other items. Friday & Saturday 8-?

LARGE CARPORT SALE- 4211 Dixon, (Sat. 8AM-1PM)- Don't miss this one!! Multi cd/dvd receiver, stereo equipment, large speakers, custom speaker box w/amp, microwave, dell printer/copier/fax machine, daybed, large women's clothes, men's suits, dress shirts, bedding, toys, Christmas/fall decorations, 5ft nutcrackers, tools, electric weed eater w/100ft cord, electric drill, saw, sander and lots of miscellaneous.

MULTI FAMILY Garage Sale: 1720 Purdue, Friday & Saturday 8-? Juniors clothing, children's clothing, furniture, antique table, household items and lots more.

Garage Sales

YARD SALE: 202 Young Rd. (Sand Springs). Take Moss Creek Exit. Girls and boys clothes, household items, computers, electronics, toys, and lots of other good stuff. Friday & Saturday 7am-1pm.

YARD SALE: SATURDAY ONLY 7am-12. 1000 FM 821 (East of Coahoma exit 192 1 mile south follow signs). Air hockey, foosball games, weight set, dishwasher, big screen TV's, 20 yrs of stuff.

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Tomorrow's Horoscope

The tension between Venus and Saturn is palatable as they prepare for an astrological square that becomes exact next week. Lessons in love usually happen under emotional extremes, ecstasy, despair, euphoria and heart-break. But not now. Currently, love's lessons are more cerebral. Expect mental games and tricks of communication.



HOLIDAY MATHIS

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Some of your daily tasks have turned into a time-consuming grind. And yet, they are still both necessary and worthwhile. Try a new approach so that going through these motions won't seem like a trudge.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). To be as happy as you can be requires you to think harder and feel more deeply. Slow down. Do not add any more activities to your schedule. Bring more awareness to the activities you're already involved in.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Cancel what doesn't add value to your life. There is probably at least one unhelpful relationship or habit you've outgrown that you stop putting your attention toward. Your best life is a pared-down version of this one.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). When it comes to getting organized, there isn't a system in the world that applies perfectly to your life. You'll have to create one. It's a trial-and-error process. If the structures you erect today don't work tomorrow, keep at it.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Start a cycle of mutual support. Offer to help someone who is struggling with the same issue you are grappling with. Your outreach will bring out the best and highest in your character.

T O D A Y ' S BIRTHDAY (JULY 16). You generously share your life with a larger circle of people this year and will be appreciated for how you fit easily into the group, as well as for your quirky individualism. You'll be swept off your feet in August. November brings a raise. January is a tough challenge. A mentor helps you achieve your goal. Taurus and Pisces adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 3, 14, 37, 28 and 16.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You'll choose to be a winner, not a martyr. Winners take their needs seriously. They take steps to get their wishes met, which usually begins by telling others in clear and specific terms what they want to happen.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Your presence is powerfully felt by your loved ones, colleagues and acquaintances. You may notice that someone cares perhaps a bit too much about what you think. It's flattering, albeit a little annoying.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You'll soon be getting into the ring with some hefty competition. Over the next three days, you'll formulate your strategy. Get the scoop on your opponent. The right information will give you an edge.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You'll be communicating in a way you haven't had to before. What should you say? What tone should you take? What should you wear? Write a script for yourself and practice it.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Think ahead and make checklists. There is no such a thing

as being over-prepared, except when it comes to travel. Don't pack so much for a trip that it's impossible to move your suitcases without a dolly.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You've been told that you are wonderful and you can do anything you put your mind to. This is all well and good in theory, but unless you are given specific instructions, you may feel lost today. Ask "how."

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You'll be asked to perform in some way. If you feel uptight about being in the spotlight, it's a sign that you're under-rehearsed. It's not enough to memorize what you'll say. Repeat your spiel until it's second nature.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS: "Holiday, am I crazy for wanting a boyfriend who is chivalrous? I'm a 23-year-old Southern belle living in the Northwestern United States. I admit I'm old fashioned — that's just how I was raised. We say 'yes, ma'am' and 'thank you, sir' where I come from. Men hold open doors for women, including getting out of the car and opening the passenger door. And men pay for dates. The last date I went on didn't even say "bless you" when I sneezed, and he walked ahead of me most of the time. When is this Virgo belle going to meet her Mr. Manners?"

Oh, he's out there. And while you're gearing up to meet your Mr. Manners, you could do your social duty by teaching etiquette-challenged Americans a thing or two. If you really believe in and want to perpetuate the style of good graces you were raised with, you need to stand by them. Instead of conforming, push the Southern belle envelope. Stand in front of the passenger car door

until the guy gets out of the car to open it for you. Don't touch your purse when the check comes. You may have more luck dating the more traditional-minded men like Capricorn, Virgo and Taurus.

If you would like to write to Holiday Mathis, please go to www.creators.com and click on "Write the Author" on the Holiday Mathis page, or you may send her a postcard in the

mail. To find out more about Holiday Mathis and read her past columns, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com. © 2009 CREATORS SYNDICATE, INC.

Annie's Mailbox

Dear Annie: I am a single mom of two children, ages 10 and 16. I have a good job, can make ends meet on my own, and consider myself very independent and self-reliant. I am in a relationship with a wonderful man. "Bill" also has a good job and a salary almost equal to mine.

He has never been married and has no children. We love each other and have been living together for two years. This is not a temporary relationship.

The problem is, how do I get Bill to contribute to our rent and utility bills without having to ask him directly?

When I fall short on rent and ask him for money, he gladly gives me whatever I want with no hesitation. But usually, I go from paycheck to paycheck while his pockets remain full.

It bothers me that I have to ask him to help. Shouldn't he automatically contribute without needing an engraved invitation? — *Don't Want To Be Confrontational*

Dear Don't Want: Bill should be proportionately responsible for the upkeep of the home, including rent, utilities, phone bills, groceries and everything else.

Bill may believe an independent, self-reliant woman would find his offer of help insulting, so he waits until you ask.

But every couple that lives together should sit down and work out a budget, incorporating both salaries. Stop playing passive-aggressive and speak frankly. You need to get this done.

Dear Annie: My boy-

friend constantly stares at other women and makes salacious comments about them under his breath, as if I weren't there.

Then, when I say something, he denies it and says I'm crazy. Worse, he feels free to criticize my appearance. My boyfriend is overweight, but I have never made a negative comment about his size.

I am an attractive woman with a nice figure, and when he belittles me, he doesn't



KATHY MITCHELL
MARCY SUGAR

understand why I don't want to have sex with him.

I tell him his behavior toward other women hurts my feelings and makes me feel inadequate, but he says all men do it and I should get professional help to control my insecurities.

I think he's a bully. I wouldn't mind counseling, but he would never agree to go. I've asked. We are in our late 40s, and I have never been treated this way by any man. Am I too sensitive? — *Stressed Out*

Dear Stressed: Let's see. Your boyfriend ogles other women, demeans and criticizes

you, and when you tell him it is hurtful, says you are crazy. He won't get counseling. Why are you with him? He sounds like a loser. So lose him.

Dear Annie: I read the letter from "No Name," whose molester father, now in his 90s, still must be kept away from the children.

My father couldn't be trusted with any child right up until his death. I also kept quiet because I was told no one would believe me and I would be tearing my family apart.

As a young girl, I clearly remember my stepmother telling Dad to "take his daughter and leave hers alone." When I was a teen, my father killed my dog to ensure I wouldn't tell.

I only confronted them after my sister mentioned that her young daughters develop yeast infections every time they stay overnight at Grandpa's.

My father and stepmother denied everything. In fact, they both went to therapy for those who have been "falsely accused."

Even in his 80s, Dad was still capable of hurting anyone who got in his way. The one consolation was that my sister stopped allowing him to babysit. — *Also No Name*

Dear Also: What a horrible situation. We hope you, your sister and the granddaughters have sought counseling to help deal with this nightmare.

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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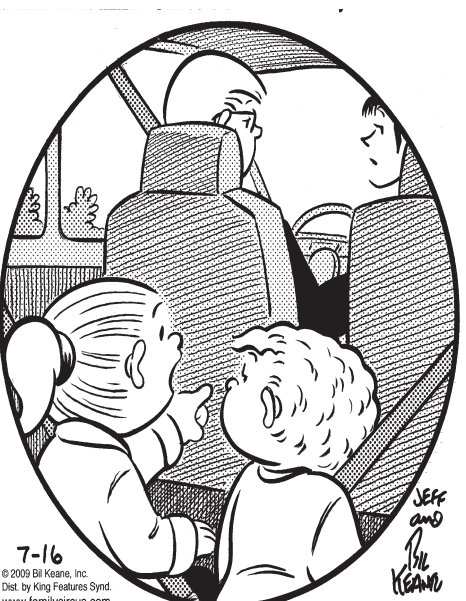
| | WFAA (2) Dallas | KMID (3) Midland | UNI (4) Spanish | KPEJ (5) Odessa | KOSA (7) Odessa | KTLE (8) Telemundo | KWES (9) Midland | WTBS (11) Atlanta | KMLM (12) Odessa | KPBT (13) Odessa | DISC (20) Discovery | AMC (21) Classics | SPIKE (22) Spike TV | TNT (23) Atlanta | BET (26) Black Ent. | DISN (27) Disney | ESPN2 (28) Sports | ESPN (29) Sports |
|-------|---------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|
| 5:30 | News ABC | News ABC | Locura Noticiero | Lopez Lopez | News CBS | Noticias Noticiero | News NBC | Raymond Friends | Granger Brad | BBC Business | Survivorman | Jumanji, Kirsten Dunst | CSI: NY | | 106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live | Sonny Sony | Horn Interrupt | SportsCenter |
| 6:30 | News ABC | Jeopardy! Fortune | Noche de Estrellas | Two Men Two Men | News CBS | 12 Corazones | News NBC | Seinfeld Seinfeld | Sanchez Sanchez | News-Lehrer | Survivorman | CSI: Crime Scn | CSI: NY | | Sonny Sony | Football NFL Live | Phelps | |
| 7:30 | JK Rowling JK Rowling | JK Rowling | Premios Juventud 2009 | Bones | Entertain Big Brother 11 | Más Sabe el Diabolo | Office Friends | Friends Friends | Israel Sprma | Texas InnerVWS | Survivorman | Movie: Ghostbusters, Harold Ramis | UFC Unleashed | CSI: NY | Movie: King's Ransom, Kellita Smith | So Raven Suite Life Montana Phineas | FIVB Volleyball: World League | Softball: Netherlands vs. United States |
| 8:30 | Grey's Anatomy | Grey's Anatomy | | You Can Dance | CSI: Crime Scn | Rostro Pobres | Office Friends | Friends Friends | Light of the Southwest | Antiques Roadshow | Are We Alone? | | TNA iMPACT! | CSI: NY | | | | |
| 9:30 | (:02) Private Practice | (:02) Private Practice | | TMZ Raymond | (:01) The Mentalist | Victorinos | (:01) The Listener | Movie: Men in Black, Linda Fiorentino | | Soundstage | | | | | Movie: Braveheart, Patrick McGooohan | Wizards Montana Suite Life So Raven | MLL Lacrosse: All-Star Game | Baseball Tonight SportsCenter |
| 10:30 | News Nightline | News Nightline | Impacto Noticiero | Raymond King-Hill | News Late Show | Noticias Titulares | News Tonight Show | Israel Van Impe | Charlie Rose | Survivorman | | | Jesse James | | | | | |
| 11:30 | Insider Jimmy Kimmel Live | Jimmy Kimmel Live | La Casa de la Risa | Law Order: CI | Late Late Show | Decisiones de Famosos | Late Night-Jim | Sex & Swallow | Bill Cloud Smiley | BBC (Off Air) | Are We Alone? | | MAN Game | | | | | |
| 12:30 | Golf | (:35) Extra | Contra Viento | Paired | Insider | Pagado | News | Israel LightWrd | LightWrd | | | Movie: The Toy, Scott Schwartz | MAN MXC | (:45) Movie: Stealth, Jamie Foxx | The Deal | | | |
| 1:30 | News Paid | News Paid | Mujer... Güereja | Paired | Entertain | Pelicula: Al... Al... | Poker After Dark | | | | Alaska Exper. | | | | | | | |

DENNIS THE MENACE



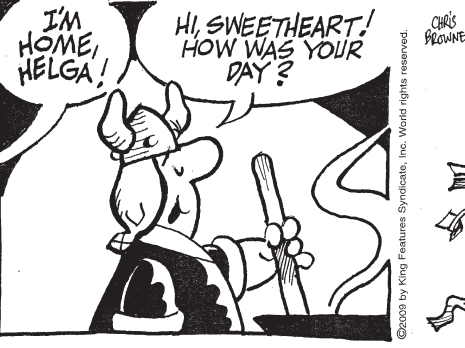
"So, where does the tide go when it goes out?"

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

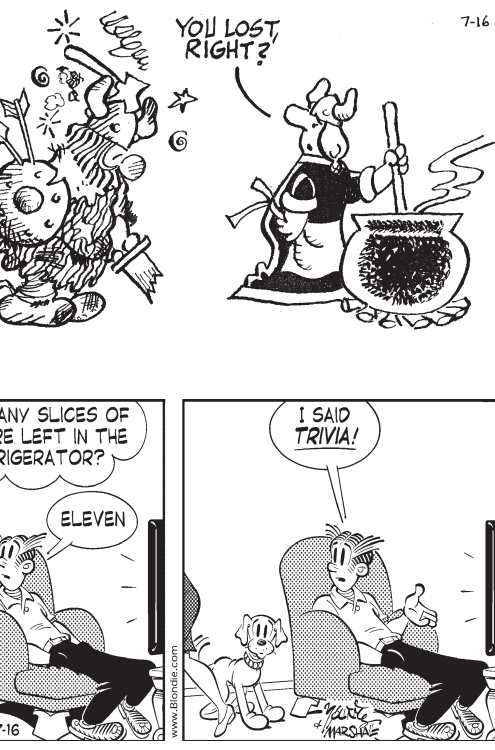


"If it's just a hop, skip and jump away, why are we takin' the car?"

HAGAR



BLONDIE



BC



WIZARD OF ID



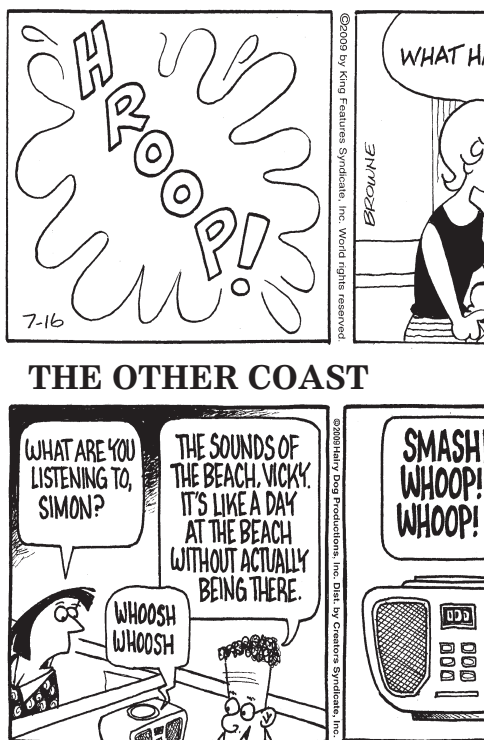
AGNES



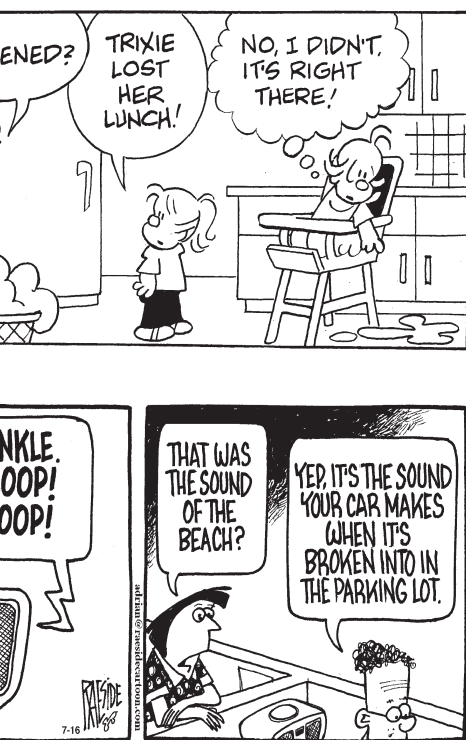
HI AND LOIS



THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BEETLE BAILEY



This Date In History

Today is Thursday, July 16, the 197th day of 2009. There are 168 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On July 16, 1969, Apollo 11, carrying astronauts Neil Armstrong, Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin Jr. and Michael Collins, blasted off from Cape Kennedy, Fla., on the first manned mission to the surface of the moon.

On this date:

In 1790, a site along the Potomac River was designated the permanent seat of the U.S. government; the area became Washington.

In 1862, David G. Farragut became the first rear admiral in the United States Navy.

In 1909, the Audi auto company was founded in Zwickau, Germany, by August Horch under the name Horch Automobil-Werke. (A legal dispute resulted in Horch renaming the company Audiwerke the following year.)

In 1945, the United States

exploded its first experimental atomic bomb, in the desert of Alamogordo, N.M.

In 1957, Marine Maj. John Glenn set a transcontinental speed record by flying a jet from California to New York in three hours, 23 minutes and eight seconds.

In 1964, as he accepted the Republican presidential nomination in San Francisco, Barry M. Goldwater said "extremism in the defense of liberty is no vice" and that "moderation in the pursuit of justice is no virtue."

In 1973, during the Senate Watergate hearings, former White House aide Alexander P. Butterfield publicly revealed the existence of President Richard Nixon's secret taping system.

In 1979, Saddam Hussein became president of Iraq.

In 1989, conductor Herbert von Karajan died near Salzburg, Austria, at age 81.

In 1994, the first of 21 pieces of comet Shoemaker-Levy 9 smashed into Jupiter, to the joy of astronomers awaiting the celestial fireworks.

Today's Birthdays: Former Attorney General Dick Thornburgh is 77. Soul singer

Denise LaSalle is 75. Soul singer William Bell is 70. Actor Corin Redgrave is 70. Former tennis player Margaret Court is 67. Violinist Pinchas Zukerman is 61. Actor-singer Ruben Blades is 61. Rock composer-musician Stewart Copeland (The Police) is 57. Playwright Tony Kushner is 53. Dancer Michael Flatley is 51. Former NFL kicker Gary Anderson is 50. Actress Phoebe Cates is 46. Country singer Craig Morgan is 45. Actor Daryl "Chill" Mitchell is 44. Actor-comedian Will Ferrell is 42. Actress Rain Pryor is 40. Actor Corey Feldman is 38. Rock musician Ed Kowalczyk (Live) is 38. Rock singer Ryan McCombs (Drowning Pool) is 35.

Answer to previous puzzle

| | | |
|---------|---------|-------|
| ASPS | SLAP | CAPER |
| SOOT | PORE | AROSE |
| ANNA | ONCE | MTWTF |
| PACKING | SLIP | EEE |
| REEDS | STIRrer | |
| SLOBS | SNIT | |
| JAB | ERROL | GORGE |
| AREA | SARAH | TIER |
| YELLS | STRIP | PEA |
| LAPS | SAGES | |
| LAYOUT | HEATS | |
| ELF | URBANS | PRAWL |
| FILES | ILIE | OHIO |
| TBONE | RONA | NONO |
| YIPES | DEES | GEEK |

Newsday Crossword

ON THE BEACH by David W. Cromer

Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

- One less than quadri-
- Eject violently
- Rodeo rope
- Bumper-sticker verb
- Court statement
- Poke around
- Next big thing
- Actress Plummer
- Savings acronym
- Debt color
- Fix a salon mistake, perhaps
- Polar expanse
- Crime in the Constitution
- Too busy to talk
- Gumbo ingredient
- Offends the nose
- See sites
- Atlanta school
- Fuss over, with "on"
- Poolside quarters
- Looks forward to
- Checked out
- Out of energy
- Heavy weight
- 2001... computer
- City in Italia
- CBer's opening words
- Lofty dwelling
- Numbered work
- "Scram!"
- Spacious
- Bank stack
- Many mos.

DOWN

- Foil
- Wandering one
- Enter forcibly
- It may hide a bed
- Margarine serving
- Group values
- A question of location
- Shaq's alma mater
- Small soldier
- Like some dispositions
- Not happy
- Essay page
- Tanzania neighbor
- Dedicated verses
- Bit of reality
- 24 Signed
- 25 Suffix for million
- 26 Jury member
- 28 Sound impressed
- 30 Bear lair
- 31 Small strummer
- 32 SF setting
- 34 River, to Roberto
- 35 Kicked in
- 37 Wine word
- 38 John's *Pulp Fiction* costar
- 39 Plunder
- 40 Campus club
- 41 Newcastle-upon-__ (English city)
- 42 Cowboy nickname
- 46 '75 Wimbledon winner
- 48 Annoyance
- 49 Immigrants' island
- 50 Jack Ryan creator
- 51 Musician's obstacle
- 52 Sounds of annoyance
- 54 Seer's deck
- 55 Wed on the sly
- 57 Slopes apparatus
- 58 Ice-cream extra, perhaps
- 59 Roman emperor
- 61 Where sergeants eat
- 63 Objective
- 64 Answer sheet
- 65 One in a habit

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

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62 63 64 65

66 67 68

69 70 71

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GOLF

Continued from Page 7

downright ugly with his right hand flying off the club. His first signs of frustration emerged at No. 3, when he took an angry swipe and mumbled something under his breath. By the time the day was done, he had angrily tossed away his clubs several times.

Woods' score was especially disappointing given the conditions at Turnberry: partly sunny, no rain and barely the hint of a breeze off the Irish Sea.

"I certainly made a few mistakes out there," Woods said. "Realistically, I probably should have shot about 1-or 2-under par."

The Open keeps bringing out the best in the old-timers. Last year, Norman was 53 when he held the 54-hole lead at Birkdale, only to fade on the final day.

Watson still has three rounds to go, and the history of major championship golf is filled with opening-day leaders who fell out of contention by the weekend.

But those first 18 holes sure were fun — and not as surprising to Watson as they were to everyone else.

"I haven't reassessed (expectations) at all," he said. "I was playing well in the practice rounds, and I felt I would play very well this week."

Watson, a five-time Open champion, posted his lowest score in the tournament since a second-round 65 in 1994 — the last time it was held at Turnberry. A year ago, he shot 74-76 at Birkdale and missed the cut.

Watson posted five birdies and made a couple of testy par saves, including a 6-footer at the final hole to ensure his name would be all alone atop the leaderboard, at least for a while.

With red numbers there for the taking, Americans Stewart Cink and Steve Stricker, Australians John Senden and Mathew Goggin, and Camilo Villegas of Colombia put up 66s.

The 1989 Open champion, Mark Calcavecchia, went out in the first group of the day with his wife on the bag and shot 67. Also at 67 were 1998 Open champion Mark O'Meara, who now plays on the Champions Tour, and three-time major champion Vijay Singh.

Stricker, playing in the group just ahead of Watson, got a chance to keep up with the turn-back-the-clock round.

"That was very cool to watch," Stricker said. "It gives hope to everybody that you can continue to play well in your later years."

Senden didn't even know if he'd be playing this week. He got into the tournament Tuesday as an alternate when Jeev Milkha Singh withdrew with an injury. The Aussie stayed

away from bogey and birdied four of the last six holes for a 66.

"I was lucky enough to be in the field, so that was a bonus," Senden said.

The conditions along the picturesque Scottish coast were ideal — the sun peeking in and out of the clouds, the Ailsa Craig easily visible offshore, the flags hanging limply above the grandstands, barely the hint of a breeze.

All week Watson has been reminded of his showdown with Nicklaus in 1977, when the Open first came to historic Turnberry. Watson held on to win by a stroke in what was essentially a match-play format over the final round.

Watson got a text from Nicklaus' wife, Barbara, wishing him luck on the eve of the tournament. He sent the couple back a note saying he wished they could be at Turnberry.

Nicklaus played his final British Open at St. Andrews in 2005.

"I don't live in the past," Watson said. "But certainly that has been at the forefront of a lot of conversations for me this week. A lot of people have been congratulating me for '77, and they remember it, too. It's also amazing there's a lot of kids in the tournament who were not even born in 1977."

That includes one of Watson's playing partners, 16-year-old Italian amateur Matteo Manassero, the youngest player in the field. Watson is the old-

est.

Calcavecchia is no spring chicken himself. He recalled his 1989 performance at Troon, about 20 miles north of Turnberry, when he beat Wayne Grady and Norman in a playoff to win his only major championship.

"Yep, it was 20 years ago, right up the road," Calcavecchia said. "This has always been my favorite tournament of the year to come to."

But he almost passed up the chance to play this year. After playing 36 holes last Sunday at the rain-plagued John Deere Classic, the 49-year-old American had back spasms and considered staying home.

Now, he's glad he came — though the persnickety Scottish weather can change at any time. Just ask last year's runner-up, Ian Poulter, who teed off in the afternoon.

"Watching the golf this morning on TV," he wrote on Twitter before getting to the course. "It's flat, calm and no rain there. I'm staying 5 miles away and it's pouring down."

Norman failed to follow up his stirring performance last year, when he was 18 holes away from becoming the oldest major champion. He looked every bit his age, now 54, struggling to a 77 that left him unlikely to make the cut.

Padraig Harrington, who had a late tee time, hopes to become the first player since Peter Thomson in 1954-56 to win the Open three years in a row.

FAVRE

Continued from Page 7

it," Favre said. "Second of all, I wouldn't even think about it if I didn't have it. Now, having it here and having in on the field on Sundays is two different things, I know that for a fact. I know what it takes to play on Sunday and I

still believe I have that."

Favre said his hesitation is more about what those watching him practice might not see.

He used a golfing analogy to explain his situation.

What if, he asked, Tiger Woods came back and found he didn't have the same game?

"He goes out and hits a 2 iron and he thinks it will go the normal distance it has all

his life, then all of a sudden it's 13 yards short, and he says, 'I don't know why that is because everything felt perfect,' so that's what I have to get through," Favre said.

"If you're throwing and it's a little off and you have a little pain, it's a little bit understandable. If there's no pain and there's no excuse, that's where you've got a problem. So I want to go out and have one of those days throwing

and then have another where all of those throws you make, every warmup throw you make or just in general, feels perfect."

Favre was released by the Jets earlier this year, clearing the way for him to sign with any team willing to take him. Dr. James Andrews performed surgery May 22 to address the injured biceps tendon, which hampered Favre down the stretch last

season.

The Vikings have remained mostly quiet on the topic in recent weeks, preferring to let Favre work through his rehabilitation from the surgery and make up his own mind.

At a fan forum in June, owner Zygi Wilf made it clear officials were receptive to Favre joining the team and the decision was Favre's to make.

PEPPERS

Continued from Page 7

between the team and its career sacks leader, who in January announced he wanted to play elsewhere.

Carolina still placed the restrictive franchise tag on Peppers, even after he said he would never sign a long-term deal with the team. Peppers then declined to sign the one-year tender and skipped a three-day minicamp and 12 other offseason workouts.

The franchise tag restriction meant other teams couldn't sign the 29-year-old Peppers without surrendering two first-round picks to Carolina. No other teams agreed to that deal and agent Carey couldn't broker a trade for less compensation.

Running out of options outside of a training-camp holdout, Peppers changed course on June 24 and signed the tender. Carey then said Peppers had positive talks with team officials and was now open to considering a long-term deal.

Carey said there was good dialogue on both sides, but Wednesday's deadline was a barrier. While Kansas City signed quarterback Matt Cassel and Baltimore locked up linebacker Terrell Suggs this week, the Panthers couldn't do the same with their franchised player.

It leaves Peppers with one of the richest one-year contracts in NFL history. The \$16.7 million is guaranteed and Peppers would earn an additional \$1.5 million for making the Pro Bowl and \$250,000 for each Carolina

playoff victory.

The large salary-cap figure Peppers takes up has hampered the Panthers from making offseason moves. They didn't sign one free agent from another team and had to cut ties with long-time veterans.

Reliable long-snapper Jason Kyle was allowed to sign with division rival New Orleans to save money. The Panthers will also likely rely on a number of rookies for several spots on special teams.

But Carolina will also apparently avoid a training-camp distraction involving its top defensive player. Peppers, who had a career-high 14½ sacks last season, has indicated he'll report to camp on time Aug. 2.

Hurney, who declined comment Wednesday, had remained confident throughout the stalemate that Peppers would be at camp.

After missing offseason workouts, he'll have to catch up to learn new defensive coordinator Ron Meeks' system. Meeks has said it will cater to Peppers' speed and athletic ability.



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GORTAT

Continued from Page 7

Fresh off their second trip to the NBA finals, the Magic have showed this offseason they are willing to spend.

Gortat's re-signing coupled with the acquisition for Vince Carter from New Jersey will force Orlando to dip into the luxury tax for the first time in franchise history.

The move is also another sign that

Orlando believes its time to win is now.

Gortat, the 6-foot-11, 240-pound center, made about \$700,000 last season, his first full year in the NBA. But Gortat earned the big pay raise in large part because of a few stellar playoff moments.

Gortat filled in for Howard in the Game 6 clincher against Philadelphia in the opening round after Orlando's All-Star was suspended, adding a few powerful dunks that earned him the nickname the "Polish Hammer" from teammates. He also had a pair of blocks on Cleveland's LeBron James in the conference finals, and he saw his minutes increase in the finals because of the size of the Los Angeles Lakers.

The chance to compete for a title with the Magic offers little consolation.

"But on the other hand, the Mavericks are in a position to challenge for the finals as well," Zucker said. "We thought Dallas represented a perfect situation for him."

AP Sports Writer Jaime Aron in Dallas contributed to this story.

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