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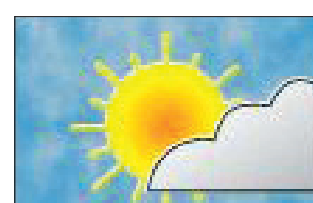


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TUESDAY

AUGUST 18, 2009



VOLUME 104, NUMBER 220

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HERALD photos/Steve Reagan

Construction and renovation projects at Coahoma Independent School District are nearing completion. Clockwise, from top: The east side of the high school features a new entrance; a weight room is part of the new athletic field house, where only detail work remains; building supplies litter the hallway of a new classroom wing, which should be ready for occupancy by late September, officials said.

Patience about to pay off in Coahoma

It's been two-and-a-half years, but construction's end is in sight for CISD

By **STEVE REAGAN**

Staff Writer

COAHOMA — School officials believe they finally see the light at the end of the tunnel as far as district-wide renovations are concerned.

With a little bit of luck, all projects associated with a \$13 million renovation project should be completed by mid-school year, Coahoma Independent School District Superintendent Randy Brown said.

For the better part of two-and-a-half years, students and staff at Coahoma ISD have had to go about their daily business while dealing with an assortment of distractions caused by the renovations, which effected each campus in the district.

And the patience shown is about to pay off, Brown said.

"Our staff and students and the community at large have all had a great attitude about the construction projects," Brown said. "They've all pulled together to make sure we get the school year off on the right foot."

The major work still remaining centers around getting a second wing of high school

See **CISD**, Page 3A

Forsan voters will decide how to feed the 'poor'

Options under state's Robin Hood plan tough to take, but 'wealthy' district has no choice

By **STEVE REAGAN**

Staff Writer

FORSAN — School district voters here will soon head to the polls to decide the best way to distribute the district's excess wealth.

Forsan Independent School District trustees voted unanimously to set Sept. 29 as the

date for the "wealth equalization election" during their monthly meeting Monday evening.

The election became a necessity once Fisd crossed the monetary line dividing Chapter 42 (property-poorer) schools from Chapter 41 (property-richer) districts. As

a Chapter 41 district, Forsan is required by state law to disperse a portion of its wealth to help equalize school funding in Texas.

"This is something we have no control over," Fisd Superintendent Randy Johnson said. "Is there a way we can keep that money here? Only if

we find some way to add students and, right now, we're as full as we can be. If we started adding students, we'd have to build buildings and hire more teachers."

Business Manager Dianna Newton said the district will have to pay out about \$1.2 million in equalization fund-

ing this school year. The only question remaining is how the money will be dispersed.

Johnson said school officials have five possible options in that regard:

- Consolidation with a neighboring school district.

See **FISD**, Page 3A

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4 p.m. at Outpatient Clinic waiting area...

Welcome reception set today at VA

Herald Staff Report

A welcome reception for Douglas Paxton and Dr. Martin Schnier will be held at 4 p.m. today in the Outpatient Clinic waiting area at the West Texas VA Health Care System, 300 Veterans Blvd.

Paxton has been appointed as the medical center's associate director. His appointment was effective Aug.

3. Paxton is relocating to West Texas from Baton Rouge, La., where he served as director of the Community Based Outpatient Clinic. The clinic, located in the Southwest Louisiana Veterans Health Care System, employs approximately 120 people and serves some 10,000 veterans.

His prior assignments have included the VA Maryland Health Care System, Central Texas VA

Health Care System and Orlando VA Medical Center. For six years, he served as an infantryman in the U.S. Army. He completed his master's degree in social work from Delaware State University with a minor in sociology. He and his wife Markita have four children and four grandchildren.

Dr. Schnier is chief of staff at the West Texas VA Health Center.

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AP photo/Tony Gutierrez

Texas Rangers relief pitcher Neftali Feliz delivers to the Minnesota Twins in the seventh inning of an AL baseball game Monday in Arlington. The Rangers won 8-5.

Rangers increase lead in Wild Card with 8-5 win

DAVID JIMENEZ

Associated Press Writer

ARLINGTON — The Texas Rangers avoided a letdown after winning a big weekend series over their closest playoff competitor.

Marlon Byrd drove in three runs and the Texas Rangers extended their lead in the AL wild-card race, beating the slumping Minnesota Twins 8-5 Monday night.

After taking two of three over the weekend from Boston, the Rangers stretched their advantage to one game over the Red Sox atop the wild-card standings.

Josh Hamilton had two hits and scored twice as he batted third in the Rangers lineup for the first time since July 25. David Murphy added

two RBIs for Texas, which jumped out to a 7-2 lead after the second.

"We're trying to take the approach of keeping the intensity like Boston is here every day," said Hamilton, who was dropped to as low as seventh in the lineup earlier this month.

Tommy Hunter (6-2) won his third straight start, allowing four runs and four hits in 5 2-3 innings.

Since he was called up from the minors on June 28, Hunter has gone 6-2 with a 2.38 ERA in nine starts.

"The first two innings, Tommy had trouble with his command," Rangers manager Ron Washington said. "But he hung out there and fought like the warrior that he is."

See **RANGERS**, Page 2B

Cowboys WR Hurd shines in practice

STEPHEN HAWKINS

AP Sports Writer

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Sam Hurd leaps with a defender on his back and his arms almost fully extended above his head to grab the ball for a long gain.

That spectacular play during the Dallas Cowboys' team drills Monday came only a few snaps after Hurd cut across the middle in traffic and reached to catch a ball thrown behind him.

"Sam Hurd makes an unheard of catch every day, I think," coach Wade Phillips said.

Along with the acrobatic catches in camp, Hurd led the Cowboys with a team-high five receptions for 79 yards in the preseason opener while playing with the second-team offense. With No. 1 receiver Roy Williams bothered by a sprained left wrist, though he did practice Monday, there could be more opportunities for Hurd in the next game on Friday night.

Now in his fourth season, after being limited to three games last year with no catches because of a recurring ankle injury, Hurd is ready to be a consistent contributor.

"I have been patient, patiently waiting," Hurd said. "As a rookie, you don't even think you're going to make it. You're just working your hardest. ... I took advantage of everything I could do to get better, and it's been a blessing that each year I've developed and grown a little better."

When he came to camp as an undrafted rookie out of Northern Illinois in 2006, Hurd became a constant companion of Terrell Owens, trying to learn everything he could from the veteran receiver.

Now with T.O. gone, there are more chances for every Dallas receiver.

"Sam has been good since I've been here," quarterback Tony Romo said. "I've always had a good feel for Sam and his routes and just trusting him to do things that needed to be done."

Hurd was in the mix to again be the team's primary No. 3 receiver during camp last year before injuring his ankle in the final preseason game. He finally

See **HURD**, Page 2B



HERALD photo/Jonathan Hull

Big Spring's Desiree Anderson (5) spikes the ball at a Crane player in a non-district volleyball game played at Steer Gym Monday. The Lady Steers defeated Crane in four sets then lost to Wink in straight sets later in the day.

Lady Steers split matches

By JONATHAN HULL

Sports Editor

Big Spring's Lady Steers had their work cut out for them on the volleyball court at Steer Gym Monday as two different opponents came calling.

The results were mixed as the Lady Steers handled Crane in four sets and then fell to Wink in straight sets.

The Lady Steers played perhaps some of their best volleyball of the season in the first match against Crane as they defeated the Lady Birds, 25-22, 26-24, 27-29, 25-13.

In the first set, the Lady Steers got off to an 8-3 start before seeing Crane go on a 9-2 run and take a 12-10 lead. The Lady Steers were able to tie the game at 21 late and then outscored the Lady Birds down the stretch, 4-1, to take a 1-0 set lead.

The second game was even more of a challenge for the Lady Steers, but some clutch serves by Desiree Anderson lifted them to a 2-0 set lead.

With Big Spring trailing 24-20, Anderson stepped behind the line and utilized a powerful jump serve that kept Crane out of system. She had three aces in the 6-0 run, pushing the Lady Steers within a set of winning the match.

"What I'm more impressed with Desiree than anything is the guts it takes to go back behind the line and just go all out, especially that close to losing the game," said Big Spring Head Coach Lynn Osbourne. "I'm trying to instill in this team to always play all out with intensity."

See **LADY STEERS**, Page 2B

Rangers fail to sign top draft pick Purke

ARLINGTON — The Texas Rangers failed to sign their top pick in the amateur draft, high school left-hander Matthew Purke.

Purke was the 14th overall pick in June.

"It's disappointing," Rangers general manager Jon Daniels said after Monday night's deadline passed.

"You draft a player with every intention of signing him. But we couldn't make it work. There's a silver lining that we get the pick back next year, but I would have preferred having him in a Ranger uniform."

The 18-year-old Purke pitched for Klein High School outside Houston, going 4-2 with a 1.18 ERA as a senior.

He struck out 91 and walked only seven in 47 1-3 innings, featuring a 95 mph fastball.

Purke passed a Rangers' physical last weekend. On Saturday night he met with team president Nolan Ryan and his family watched the

See **PURKE**, Page 2B

Sports in brief

Big Spring Quarterback Club meeting at ATC Monday

The Big Spring Quarterback Club will meet at the Athletic Training Center at 7 p.m. Monday. Parents of junior high and high school football players are encouraged to attend.

Forsan junior high football players can pick up equipment Saturday

All prospective Forsan junior high football players need to pick up their equipment Saturday at the Forsan fieldhouse.

Eighth graders can get their equipment from 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. with seventh graders to follow from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

All incoming seventh graders and any new eighth graders will need a physical before school starts.

Prospective Big Spring junior high volleyball players must have physicals

All incoming seventh grade girls wanting to play volleyball must have a physical on file before the

first day of school if they want the opportunity to try out.

Tryouts for volleyball occur on the first day of school. Anyone without a physical will not be allowed to try out.

Contact the athletic offices at 264-3662 with an inquiry.

Crossroads Youth Football signups slated for this month

The Crossroads Youth Football Association has begun signups for football players and cheerleaders at the Big Spring Mall.

Final day of registration for the 2009 season is Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Late registration for football only will be held from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Aug. 29.

For more information, call Jeff Vidal at 816-6871.

Coahoma flag football league holding signups this month

The Coahoma NFL Flag Football League will

hold signups on every Saturday for the rest of August from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. each day at the Coahoma Community Center.

This if for children ages 9-11 as of Sept. 1 in Coahoma, Big Spring, Forsan and all surrounding areas. It is a co-ed league and both boys and girls are encouraged to register.

Cost is \$45 per child and includes an NFL jersey. There will be no fundraiser.

Call 213-4193 with any questions.

Big Spring Youth Soccer Association having late registration for 3 days

The Big Spring Youth Soccer Association is giving the public extra days to sign up children ages 4-11 for the 2009 season.

Late registration will take place at the Big Spring Mall from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. today and Wednesday.

Cost for late signups is \$75 and includes the full uniform.

For more information, contact Isaac Miramontes at 935-9056.

Obituaries

Frankie Almata Mayo

Frankie Almata Mayo died Friday, Aug. 14, 2009, at her residence in Odessa.

She was born Saturday, June 5, 1949, in Big Spring to Henry Franklin Edwards and Roxie Almata Edwards. She married Tommy Mayo in Lovington, N.M. July 11, 1988. She was a beautician, a nurse and a truck driver for Haliburton. She worked for MHMR in Big Spring at the state hospital and in Odessa at PBCC. She retired in 1999 for health reasons. She was a member of the Midland Gem and Mineral Society.

Survivors include her husband, Tommy Mayo of Odessa; two sons, Doyle Burnett Jr. of Odessa and Terry Mayo of San Diego, Calif.; four daughters, Tammy Galamore of Sacramento, Calif., Tracey Nave of Seminole, Teresa Patterson of Midland and Ashlee Campbell of Elgin Air Force Base, Fla.; two brothers, John and Henry Edwards, both of Big Spring; four sisters, Susie Edwards of Big Spring, Geneva Stephens of Lewisville, Crystal Kahler of Hurst and Angel Callaway of Cheyenne, Wyo.; 15 grandchildren; one great-grandchild; and many aunts, uncles, nieces and nephews.

Funeral services will be at 10 a.m. Tuesday, Aug. 2009, at Acres West Funeral Chapel in Odessa, with the Rev. James Mayo officiating. Arrangements are entrusted to Acres West Funeral Chapel.

Carolyn Jean Miller

Carolyn Jean Miller, 71, formerly of Big Spring, died Saturday, Aug. 15, 2009, in San Pedro, Calif.

She was born June 17, 1938, in Okemah, Okla. and moved shortly thereafter with her family to Big Spring, where she graduated from high school. She later received a bachelor's degree from Texas Christian University and master's degree from Southern Methodist University.

She moved to California in 1968 and had resided in San Pedro since 1969.

She is survived by her sister and brother-in-law, Marilyn and Bill Barnard; and several nieces, nephews and cousins.

She was preceded in death by her parents.

Take Note

• Marcy Elementary is inviting parents to "Meet the Teacher" from 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Wednesday. Everyone is invited.

• Moss Elementary will have a "Meet the Teacher" day from 11:30 a.m. until 1 p.m. Friday. For more information, call 264-4148.

• Herman's Restaurant is this week's United Way of Big Spring and Howard County Dine Out Day Restaurant. Herman's Restaurant will donate a portion of its proceeds Friday to the local United Way.

• Former students of Gay Hill Common School near Luther will be having a reunion and time capsule dig at the remains of the school house at 3 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 17. Bring your shovels, metal detectors, etc. Organizers have planned the event in conjunction with the Big Spring High School 2009 Homecoming. More than 50 former students have been contacted and many are planning to attend.

• A benefit fund for stroke victim Rocky Dunlap has been established at Big Spring Education Employees Federal Credit Union, 1110 Benton St. Dunlap has been employed for the past several years as a principal with Big Spring Independent School District.

• 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.

• 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.

• The Big Spring High School class of 1979 is seeking classmates to attend our 30-year reunion Sept. 18-19. Please contact Debbye Salazar ValVerde at debbyeval@bigspringchamber.com or Cheryl Carter Joy at joychery179@hotmail.com.

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Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity Monday:

- JAMEY JOHNSON, 46, 2621 Chanute, was arrested on charges of possession of drug paraphernalia, evading arrest or detention and violating a criminal trespass warning.
- TYSON BARKER, 18, 1804 Scurry, was arrested on a charge of possession of marijuana.
- STEVEN ZEMIS WRIGHT, 40, Folrida, was arrested on charges of theft, possession of marijuana and public intoxication.
- ASSAULT BY CONTACT was reported in the 1900 block of Highway 87.
- BURGLARY OF A HABITATION was reported in the 1300 block of Mount Vernon.
- CRIMINAL TRESPASS WARNING was reported in the 700 block of Interstate 20.
- POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA/TWO OUNCES OR LESS was reported in the 300 block of Owens.
- THEFT was reported in the 300 block of Owens (two reports) and the 2000 block of Gregg.

Sheriff

The Howard County Sheriff's Office reported the following activity Monday: (officials reported 81 prisoners in the county jail):

- TYSON BARKER, 18, was transferred from BSPD after being arrested on a charge of possession of marijuana.
- CHRISTOPHER BEDFORD, 29, was transferred from BSPD after being arrested on a charge of failure to appear.
- MARCUS EMORY STURGILL, 20, was arrested by deputies on a charge of failure to appear.

Fire/EMS

The Big Spring Fire Department/Emergency Medical Service reported the following activity Monday:

- PUBLIC SERVICE was reported in the 1500 block of Avion.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 6700 block of S. Highway 87. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 500 block of N.E. Goliad. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 4200 block of Hamilton. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1900 block of Martin Luther King. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1900 block of Simler. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAUMA was reported in the 1900 block of Alabama. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAUMA was reported in the 300 block of W. Fourth. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAUMA was reported in the 400 block of Pettus Road. One person was transported to SMMC.

Support Groups

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

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

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

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

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

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

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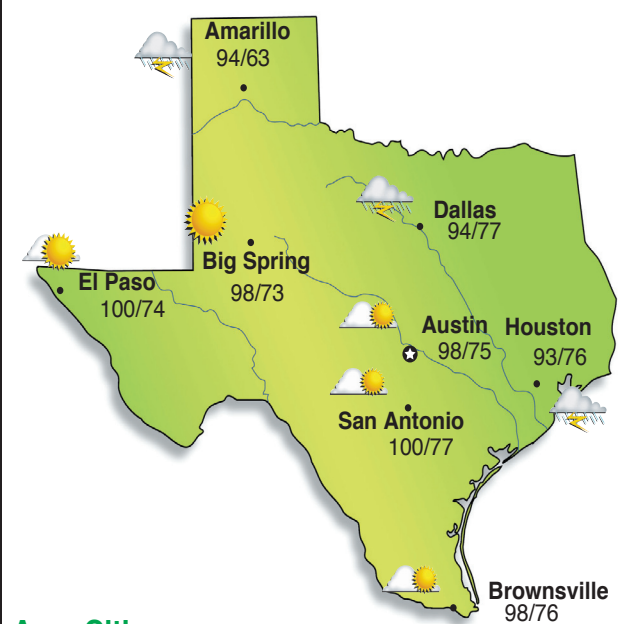
Today's Weather

Local 5-Day Forecast

Wed 8/19	Thu 8/20	Fri 8/21	Sat 8/22	Sun 8/23
98/73	99/71	96/72	97/72	96/72
Mainly sunny. High 98F. Winds S at 10 to 20 mph.	Times of sun and clouds. Highs in the upper 90s and lows in the low 70s.	Sunny. Highs in the mid 90s and lows in the low 70s.	Mainly sunny. Highs in the upper 90s and lows in the low 70s.	A few clouds. Highs in the mid 90s and lows in the low 70s.
Sunrise: 7:13 AM Sunset: 8:26 PM	Sunrise: 7:14 AM Sunset: 8:24 PM	Sunrise: 7:14 AM Sunset: 8:23 PM	Sunrise: 7:15 AM Sunset: 8:22 PM	Sunrise: 7:16 AM Sunset: 8:21 PM

American Profile
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Texas At A Glance



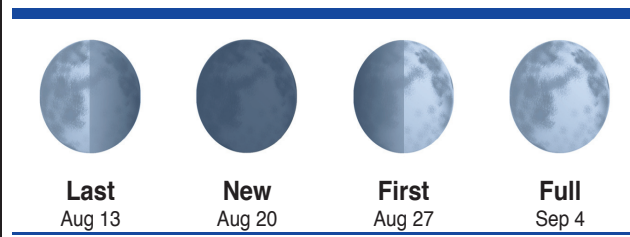
Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Abilene	97	75	mst sunny	Kingsville	100	78	t-storm
Amarillo	94	63	t-storm	Livingston	93	73	t-storm
Austin	98	75	pt sunny	Longview	89	74	t-storm
Beaumont	90	76	t-storm	Lubbock	98	70	mst sunny
Brownsville	98	76	pt sunny	Lufkin	91	75	t-storm
Brownwood	96	74	mst sunny	Midland	100	75	sunny
Corpus Christi	97	79	t-storm	Raymondville	101	77	pt sunny
Corsicana	93	74	t-storm	Rosenberg	94	75	t-storm
Dallas	94	77	t-storm	San Antonio	100	77	pt sunny
Del Rio	103	80	mst sunny	San Marcos	99	76	pt sunny
El Paso	100	74	mst sunny	Sulphur Springs	88	74	t-storm
Fort Stockton	98	73	mst sunny	Sweetwater	97	73	sunny
Gainesville	93	76	mst sunny	Tyler	90	73	t-storm
Greenville	90	73	t-storm	Weatherford	95	76	mst sunny
Houston	93	76	t-storm	Wichita Falls	98	76	mst sunny

National Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Atlanta	89	71	t-storm	Minneapolis	75	61	t-storm
Boston	92	65	t-storm	New York	90	72	t-storm
Chicago	80	68	t-storm	Phoenix	104	80	sunny
Dallas	94	77	t-storm	San Francisco	80	57	pt sunny
Denver	82	52	mst sunny	Seattle	87	65	mst sunny
Houston	93	76	t-storm	St. Louis	87	72	t-storm
Los Angeles	77	62	pt sunny	Washington, DC	92	74	t-storm
Miami	87	81	t-storm				

Moon Phases



UV Index

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Lottery

Results of the Texas Two Step drawing Monday night:
Winning numbers drawn: 17 - 21 - 25 - 34. Bonus Ball: 22.

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Monday night:
Winning numbers drawn: 1 - 6 - 16 - 20 - 21.

The winning Daily 4 numbers drawn Monday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 4 - 2 - 2 - 0. Sum It Up: 8.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Monday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 1 - 5 - 4. Sum It Up: 10.

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When pitches sail up and in, temper rise, too

BEN WALKER

AP Baseball Writer
Check the baseball highlights lately and it's hard to tell whether you're watching MLB or WWE.
Kevin Youkilis charges the mound, chucks his helmet and tackles a pitcher. Prince Fielder tries to barge into the opposing clubhouse. Ian Kinsler gets off the ground and confronts the catcher.
Is it HBP ... or Raw?
They were the lucky ones — David Wright, Scott Rolen and Edgar Gonzalez are on the disabled list because of beanballs.
Summer temperatures are up, and so are tempers. There seems to be a heightened pitch around the majors after a recent rash of high-and-tight

fastballs.
"It's a little more intense out there," San Francisco manager Bruce Bochy said Monday.
This typically is the month when a lot of big league batters get nicked. An average of 314 hitters were plunked in August during the previous four seasons; the rate is under 300 in every preceding month over the same span, according to STATS.
"You know when the guy is getting hit on purpose and you know when the guy is not getting hit on purpose," Chicago White Sox manager Ozzie Guillen said. "To me, it's a lot of kids that don't know how to pitch."
Whether it's payback or not doesn't always matter to the guys getting drilled.

Bochy and the Giants got embroiled Saturday after Matt Cain's heater hit Wright squarely in the helmet. New York Mets ace Johan Santana then threw behind Pablo Sandoval and hit Bengie Molina.
A week earlier, St. Louis pitcher Brad Thompson was suspended three games after zinging a fastball past Wright. The purpose pitch came after Cardinals stars Albert Pujols and Ryan Ludwick got hit.
Guillen, as usual, had plenty to say.
"Around the league, be careful because we're going to hit people," he said. "If I see someone hit my player, and I know they hit him on purpose it's two guys going down."
Youkilis had seen — and felt —

enough at Fenway Park when he got hit by a pitch from Detroit's Rick Porcello. The Boston star rushed the rookie, triggering a bench-clearing brawl that drew five-game suspensions for both main combatants.
Gonzalez has been out of the lineup since he was hit in the head by Colorado's Jason Hammel. The San Diego second baseman said he "felt my brain move backward" at impact.
Kinsler felt fine, moments after a fastball from Boston's Fernando Cabrera ricocheted off his shoulder and hit him in the helmet. The Texas star got off the ground and began jawing with Red Sox catcher Jason Varitek.
"We were able to talk after the game and put it behind us," Kinsler said.

LADY STEERS

Continued from Page 1B

Crane didn't retire easily and a back-and-forth battle in the third game went the Lady Birds way in the end as they pulled out the 29-27 win to stay alive in the match.
However, the fourth and final set turned out to be the least dramatic as the Lady Steers went on a 14-2 run to take an 17-9 advantage and then coasted to their third victory of the season.
It was a vast improvement from the season opener in Sweetwater last week and Osbourne credits the team with figuring out what it takes to compete.
"I think the No. 1 thing for this team's improvement is they've relaxed," said Osbourne. "At the start of the season, they were playing too tense and were afraid of making mistakes. The No. 2 thing is our transition and defense has improved greatly over the past couple weeks."

Wink (10-0) had more to offer than Crane did as the Lady Cats defeated the Lady Steers, 25-13, 25-19, 25-17.
However, Osbourne felt the Lady Steers were wearing down after having already played six matches in the past four days.
"I just don't think the girls were awake. I think they were very tired," said Osbourne. "We've been playing so many days in a row with the tournament we had over the weekend as well. I think I'm seeing this team get fatigued. We're probably going to need to take a little time off Wednesday and get them a good day of rest before we go to the San Angelo tournament."
Wink was dominant in the opening set, jumping out to an 11-4 lead and never taking its foot off the gas in a 25-13 win.
The Lady Steers put up more of a fight in the final two sets, though. In the second game, Big Spring got out to a hot start, leading 7-3. However, Wink answered with a 12-4 rally, taking a 15-11 advantage.
The Lady Steers kept within at least three for most of the remainder of the

set, but a late Wink surge propelled the Lady Cats to a 25-19 victory.
In the final set, the Lady Steers went down 10-4 at the start, but an 8-2 rally later in the match tied the game at 16.
Wink went on to win nine of the next 10 points, though, to remain undefeated on the season.
"The effort in the second and third sets showed me these girls care enough to battle back," said Osbourne. "I think they were really trying to get up, but they were worn out."
The Lady Steers will take part in the Nita Vannoy Tournament in San Angelo beginning Friday. It was unclear as of press time as to who and when the Lady Steers would be playing.
The tournament proves the Lady Steers with more opportunities to continue working on several facets of their game as they prepare for the district season.
"We're going to see some really good team in San Angelo. It will be some very high-powered volleyball," said Osbourne. "I want to continue working on our momentum control,

our transition, our passing and our blocking. We need a lot of work on blocking. We'll definitely be spending a heavy amount of time on blocking in practice. It's important to get these things taken care of now so that we're ready when district gets here."

Big Spring defeats Crane
25-22, 26-24, 27-29, 25-13
Big Spring stats
Kills (29): Macy Graves 10, Katelyn Villanueva 4, Desiree Anderson 5, Taylor Seaton 4, Valerie Ross 5, Belle Feaster 1.
Digs (28): Sloan Davis 10, Villanueva 1, Selena Gonzales 4, Cerbi Ritchey 4, Callie Shafer 1, Ross 6, Feaster 2.
Aces: Anderson 6, Davis 1.
Blocks (5): Graves 2, Anderson 1, Feaster 1, Ritchey 1.
Assists (27): Ritchey 18, Shafer 9.

Wink defeats Big Spring
25-13, 25-19, 25-17
Big Spring stats
Kills: Macy Graves 4, Katelyn Villanueva 3, Desiree Anderson 5, Taylor Seaton 2, Cerbi Ritchey 1, Callie Shafer 1, Valerie Ross 1.
Digs: Sloan Davis 7, Selena Gonzales 5, Villanueva 1, Ritchey 6, Anderson 1, Shafer 1, Tiffany Garcia 5, Valerie Ross 5.
Aces: Anderson 2, Villanueva 1, Davis 1.
Blocks: Graves 3, Ritchey 1.
Assists: Ritchey 12, Shafer 2, Ross 2.

PURKE

Continued from Page 1B

Rangers play the Boston Red Sox from a private suite at Rangers Ballpark.
In case he was unable to sign, Purke had committed to TCU in Fort Worth. Now it appears he will pitch for the Horned Frogs.
The Rangers will continue talks with representatives for another high pick, right-hander Tanner Scheppers from Fresno State. Scheppers, the 44th overall selection taken in the supplemental first round, has been pitching for St. Paul in the independent American Association.
Scheppers wasn't subject to Monday night's deadline, so the Rangers can continue to negotiate with him until the 2010 draft.

RANGERS

Continued from Page 1B

Minnesota All-Star first baseman Justin Morneau left in the fourth inning with an inner ear infection.
Twins manager Ron Gardenhire said the 2006 MVP is day-to-day after he began experiencing dizziness.
Gardenhire also said after the game that Twins starter Francisco Liriano (5-12) will go on the disabled list Tuesday with a tired arm. The left-hander gave up

seven runs, tying a career high, and seven hits in two innings.
"It will be a break both mentally and physically," Gardenhire said. "He's part of our present, but he's part of our future too. We don't want to do anything to hurt him."
It was Liriano's shortest start since lasting two-thirds of an inning April 24, 2008 against Oakland.
Liriano, Oakland's Trevor Cahill and Baltimore's Jeremy Guthrie are tied with the most losses in the AL.
Minnesota starting pitchers have lasted only

a combined 8 1-3 innings the past three games.
"I didn't say anything about my arm in the first inning," Liriano said. "I wanted to go four or five innings to save the bullpen."
After Hunter was taken out in favor of Darren O'Day, the Twins scored three times to come within 7-5.
Delmon Young had a bases-loaded walk and Nick Punto added a two-run single before the Rangers brought in Neftali Feliz to get the final out of the sixth.
Frank Francisco pitched a scoreless ninth to pick up his 18th save.

The Rangers (67-50) are 17 games over .500 for the first time since Sept. 26, 2004. The Rangers were in contention until the final week of the 2004 season, the last time the club made a serious playoff push.
"We're in territory we've never been before," Washington said. "We're learning and showing a lot of character."
Joe Mauer went 3 for 5 and homered in the first for the Twins, who have lost 12 of 16. He pushed his hitting streak to 14 games and raised baseball's best batting average to .380.

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HURD

Continued from Page 1B

got to play, then got hurt again.

While his body healed, Hurd also refreshed his mind with a renewed spiritual awareness of his Christian faith. And then went to work.
"I'm excited about him

because he prepares, he studies and he does everything possible to be the best," receivers coach Ray Sherman said. "He works hard. You've got to tell him to relax sometimes because he will overdo it sometimes. He'll push himself to the limit. Sometimes, I'll take him out and say, 'You've done enough.'"
Hurd has had plenty of highlights in training camps before, getting attention for his time with Owens as a rookie in California, then being

noticed by the home folks when the Cowboys moved camp back to San Antonio two years ago.
Camp injuries to other receivers gave Hurd a chance to make the team as a rookie, and his primary contributions during the season came on special teams. With Terry Glenn injured again in 2007, Hurd was mainly the No. 3 receiver (19 catches, 314 yards, one touchdown) and again played special teams.
Until the preseason opener in Oakland last week, though, Hurd hadn't caught a pass since the 2007 season finale.
"Everything felt good," Hurd said. "Got to knock off the rust and get back into game mode."
As for the highlight-worthy catches Hurd has been making, he even prepared for those. During offseason workouts with strength coach Joe Juraszek, Hurd worked on diving for the ball.
"If the ball is going to be out there, you can't be scared to go get it," Hurd said. "You can't worry about hitting your body and hurting your body. ... I just give all my effort I can, leave it out here on the field. I'll heal up in the training room."

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News in brief

Obama wants Mubarak to play a greater role in facilitating talks between Israel, Palestinians

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama is trying to restore Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak as the U.S. ace-in-the-hole in its decades-long effort to forge an elusive peace among Israel and the Arabs.

After a serious falling out over Bush administration pressure on human rights and democracy in Egypt, Mubarak is back in the U.S. capital for the first time in more than five years to meet with Obama on Tuesday. The relationship is far from healed, despite Obama and Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton having eased back on those touchy issues and Egypt showing greater willingness to help with the peace effort.

Adding to the delicacy of the talks are U.S. concerns about Egypt's future under the aging and increasingly frail Mubarak, who is 81 and has ruled Egypt for 28 years. He leads a country with an exploding population, ravaged by widespread poverty and high unemployment. He is believed to be grooming his son Gamal as successor.

Mubarak had been a regular visitor to Washington during the Clinton administration. Then he stayed away to protest the U.S. invasion of Iraq and President George W. Bush's intensified pressure to open the Egyptian political system and moderate its human rights policies.

White House spokesman Robert Gibbs said Monday that the Obama-Mubarak meeting should be seen as "continuing our outreach in the Middle East."

Security forces capture spokesman for Pakistani Taliban, dealing fresh blow to movement

ISLAMABAD (AP) — Security forces captured the Pakistani Taliban's top spokesman in an operation near the Afghan border, a government official said Tuesday, dealing another blow to the militants following the reported killing of their leader earlier this month.

The seizure of Maulvi Umar — the second arrest of a prominent Taliban figure in 24 hours — follows government claims of disarray in the militants' leadership over who should replace their chief, Baitullah Mehsud, after his reported death in a CIA missile strike on Aug. 5.

Umar was an influential aide to Mehsud, and intelligence officials said Tuesday they hoped to glean new information about the militant network from questioning him.

He was captured along with two associates in a village in the Mohmand tribal region Monday

night while he was traveling in a car to South Waziristan, a Taliban stronghold, said Javed Khan, a local government administrator.

"Maulvi Umar is in our custody, and he is being questioned," Khan told The Associated Press without giving any further details.

Former S. Korean President Kim Dae-jung, winner of Nobel Peace Prize, dies at age 85

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — Former President Kim Dae-jung, who survived assassination attempts during his years as a dissident and won the Nobel Peace Prize for his reconciliation efforts with communist North Korea, died Tuesday. He was 85.

Kim, who had been hospitalized with pneumonia since last month, died shortly after 1:40 p.m. (0400 GMT), said Park Chang-il, chief of Severance Hospital in Seoul. He said Kim suffered respiratory distress, a pulmonary embolism and multiple organ failure.

The Nobel laureate's wife, three sons and ex-aides were at his side, according to Park Jie-won, Kim's former presidential chief of staff and culture minister.

South Korean leaders, from friends to former foes, had been paying their respects for days at the hospital to a man whose epic career spanned South Korea's political upheaval, from the decades of harsh authoritarian rule to its transformation into a full-fledged democracy.

As a pro-democracy opposition lawmaker, Kim built a reputation as a passionate champion of human rights and democracy who fought against South Korea's military dictatorships.

Atlantic season's first hurricane gains strength, smaller systems soak Florida and Caribbean

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) — The first hurricane of the Atlantic season loomed far out in the ocean Tuesday, gaining power and moving on a track that forecasters said could take it close to Bermuda by the end of the week.

Hurricane Bill was expected to become a major storm in the next couple of days, with winds topping 110 mph (177 kph), following on the heels of two relatively weak systems that did little more than drop rain on the northeastern Caribbean and the Florida Panhandle. It had become a Category 2 storm Monday with winds whipping at 100 mph (160 kph) as it moved on a track expected to be near Bermuda by the end of the week.

Early Tuesday, Bill was centered about 810 miles (1,305 km) east of the Leeward Islands and moving west-northwest near 17 mph (28kph).

CISD

Continued from Page 1A

classrooms ready for students.

"The new wing won't be ready for the start of the new school year (Aug. 24), but we estimate that it should be complete a few weeks after school starts — hopefully, by mid-Sep-

tember," Brown said. "After that, we'll still have to demolish the old wing and replace it with a parking lot. We're hoping to be totally finished by Christmas break."

Renovations are complete at the band hall and are close to completion in the auditorium, while only detail work remains at the new athletic field house, Brown

said. The centerpiece of the high school renovations will be the new library, which will be available for use by community and civic groups as well as students and staff.

"To save money, with some of the projects, we used what we could, like lockers and furniture," Brown said. "But the library will be an entirely

new room ... and it's designed in such a way as to be available for a variety of uses. It's something the community can use and be proud of."

While workers rush to finish work at the high school, projects elsewhere are down to the final details.

Renovations at the elementary campus are

complete, while workers are busy laying tile at the junior high so that building will be ready by the time school, Brown said.

"Over the summer, workers discovered asbestos at the junior high, and that had to be abated, so our corridor there still needs tile," Brown said. "But it should be ready for the

start of school."

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

FISD

Continued from Page 1A

De-annexing a portion of their district and ceding it to a neighboring school system.

Consolidating the district's tax base with another school system.

Sending the money directly to the state for dispersal.

Sending the money to EdLink 18, a technology consortium that provides funds to purchase and maintain technology systems for West Texas school districts.

Voters will decide between the final two options Sept. 29. Trustees will consider the first three alternatives only if voters vote no to both ballot choices.

Johnson said voters can either approve one option or another, approve both options

(leaving the method of dispersal in the hands of the school board) or turn down both options.

Either of the two ballot options have certain advantages for the district, he said.

"In some years, it will actually be cheaper for us to send our money directly to the state, while in other years it will be cheaper to send the money to EdLink 18," Johnson said. "Another advantage to sending the money to EdLink is that some of that money will stay in West Texas."

Johnson is concerned, however, that the wording of the ballot options may confuse some voters.

The option allowing direct dispersal of funds to the state reads: "Authorizing the board of trustees ... to purchase attendance credits from the state with local tax revenues."

Johnson said the attendance credits FISD would purchase are a bookkeeping function only and would not artificially raise the district's attendance levels.

The ballot option allowing for dispersal to EdLink 18 reads: "Authorizing the board of trustees ... to educate students of other school districts with local tax revenues."

"If I was a voter and I saw those two options for the first time, my first reaction would be to vote 'no' to both," he said.

Considering the other three options, however, Johnson said it is imperative for supporters of the ballot measures to educate voters on the issues involved.

"The general concept of the election is a no-brainer," he said. "I really believe that if the

voters know what the issues are, they'll vote for one or both of the options."

In other business Monday, trustees approved:

- The budget and tax rate for the 2009-2010 fiscal year.
- The budget features \$9.3 million in expenditures — including the Chapter 41 payout and a \$1,000 raise for teachers.

Johnson warned, however, that the raises may not be a permanent addition to teachers' paychecks.

"Those raises are paid for, in the most part, by federal stimulus funds, and those are for two years only," he said. "There is a cutback built in in year three. Unless something happens in the next few years, those funds will not be available in the future."

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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.

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OTHER VIEWS

President was right first time on statements

The last time presidential "signing statements" made headlines was in 2006, when Democrats on Capitol Hill were in high dudgeon because they thought President George W. Bush was using the clever legal ploys as cover to bypass laws banning torture.

Signing statements are back in the news.

President Barack Obama is using them to avoid complying with provisions of new laws crossing his desk with which he disagrees, and some Democrats don't like that one bit, either. They're particularly annoyed that their own president is doing it. A recent president of the American Bar Association, H. Thomas Wells, shares their dismay. The ABA condemned signing statements in 2006 when Bush used them.

Signing statements were the creation of lawyers in the Clinton administration to avoid having to veto bills because a president might have relatively small problems with parts of them. Proponents contend they're more practical than presidential vetoes; opponents argue they're unconstitutional and say if presidents don't like something about a bill they should simply veto it.

It's been argued that Obama has not used the signing statements on matters as contentious as torture, and that is true. So far, the president has used them on a bill that tied funding for the World Bank with agreement that the administration would press the bank to comply with certain policies. They also have been used by Obama to declare that he does not have to agree to limits on who he may appoint to a commission, or to comply with restrictions limiting the number of U.S. troops placed under U.N. command. The president's defenders also make the case that he's using them sparingly.

One of Obama's obvious PR problems is that he was a critic of Bush's use of the practice. In the 2008 presidential campaign he said using them was an "abuse."

He was right the first time.

They are.

We think signing statements are a bad idea. They shouldn't be used by Obama or Bush — or any other president, for that matter.

It's not up to a chief executive to pick and choose which parts of a law he or she will enforce. That's not in the job description, and never should be.

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The Herald is always interested in 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.
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- We reserve the right to edit for style and clarity.
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- Letters should be submitted to Editor, Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721. They can also be e-mailed to editor@bigspringherald.com

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

May our words of praise, Lord, vibrate like sweet music to Your ears.

Amen

Who needs newspapers anyway?

The concept of the daily newspaper now seems a tad quaint, at least for today's computer-obsessed readers. Many marketers have had to create other channels for their advertising, and chintzy readers find they no longer need to plunk down 50 cents to learn what's going on in the world. They simply scan most everything on the Internet for free.

This may not be all to the bad. Newspapers have always been a notoriously suspect source of information, at least on important issues. They tend to reflect the financial and ideological interests of their owners, who more often than not support U.S. invasions, deregulation of corporations, undermining of unions, free trade and segregation of the populace into rich and poor.

On the plus side, they do produce a lot of copy: Sports, crime, crosswords, weddings, sales, obits, classifieds, weather, hearings, club news, entertainment, dog shows and all the basic flow of life. One day we'll miss that convenience, especially since, unlike TV, you can put the paper down and go back to pick up where you left off.

So fortunately the industry will not totally die. Lots of adver-

tising does not lend itself to TV or Internet. Thus small papers are likely to keep going for a long time based mostly on retail trade, and new weeklies are already popping up to fill empty geographic niches.

At the same time, a few non-profit foundations are testing the waters of investigative reporting. The idea is to produce unbiased national coverage available to any paper that wants it. Now that's a real plus. Even big newspapers might survive with some of that research overhead removed.

For serious journalistic progress though, ownership of those big outfits would also have to change, preferably switching into non-profit status along with the reporting. Our nation is not currently strengthened by having its published news strained through the personal filters of Rupert Murdoch, the Sulzbergers, the Grahams, the Zells, Sun Myung Moon or other big-time wheeler-dealers.

It's this corporate press as much as government that has gotten America lured into overblown hostility toward Iran, Iraq, Venezuela, Vietnam, Cuba, Russia and others.

Equally damaging is our media-fostered support of shady allies like Colombia, Georgia, Israel, Honduras, Nigeria and Saudi Arabia.

Of course, there would be risks in non-profit journalism too. Not all operators are as commend-

able as the "Christian Science Monitor" or the Poynter Institute (owner of the "St. Petersburg Times").

Suppose the Heritage Foundation or American Enterprise Institute decided to get into newspaper publishing with their conservative corporate backers. Papers could become a print replica of Fox News.

Meanwhile, in Washington other disquieting journalistic trends are accelerating. The slump in staffing at D.C. bureaus of major papers has been matched by a contrasting boom in staffing at specialized newsletters. These feed industry-related info to segments of big business. That's where the money is. Foreign news bureaus have sprouted too, with al-Jazeera now nearly matching the size of CBS' D.C. staff.

All these fast-moving changes in the industry will be hard for us readers to accept. We'll have to scan more specialized sources just to keep up. But it may be worth it. The "news" we get off the newsstand on seminal issues like war, health care, labor, economics, etc. is so biased that as a nation we have been led into making some very poor decisions. This present crisis may be our best chance to break free. (And yes, television is worse.)

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



WILLIAM A. COLLINS

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Nothing ventured, nothing gained

Sleeping the normal amount of hours at night stopped weeks ago, replaced mostly by sweating and running various success/failure scenarios over in my brain. On a good night I'd catch a few hours before heading into one store to catch up on email, paperwork and other correspondence before making the hour-plus ride to our about-to-be second location.

The inability to sleep coupled with a manic desire to work has always been part of my package of mental quirks as launch day for a new venture approaches. There's an enormous amount of stress involved in trying something different and the pressure I put on myself has gotten worse as the personal stakes have risen.

When I was a major part of launching a men's lifestyle Web site in 1999 with very little money and founders who seemed somewhat intent on replacing me right up until we actually launched, I had little to lose. My then girlfriend (current wife) and I rented an apartment, had no child and had not even gotten our first cat. I didn't

know enough to be scared and, frankly, failing in the Internet crazy days of the late '90s would have just meant taking a higher paying job at some other new company.

Now, my company, under my direction, has decided to launch a new store during the worst retail economy since the 1920s. Worse yet, it's an entirely different kind of store than our first, very successful location. Whereas our current store is the largest of its kind — carrying pretty much all of everything — the new one will be 1,000 square feet carrying a very focused selection of everything.

The new store is based on my theory that most local hobby shops and gaming stores close because they have too tight a focus — usually only selling whatever the owner collects or plays. Our new store (hopefully stores) will combine traditional hobbies like model building and trains with gaming, radio control planes, helicopters, cars and trucks along with collectible gaming and plain old toys.

Since nobody except us in a pretty different setting has used this exact mix of products (hobby and toys or hobby and gaming sometimes get mixed, but not usually all three) I am either a genius or an idiot. It's, of course, the fear that I may be an idiot that keeps me up at night running through various mental

spreadsheets as to what it will take to break even and waking up sweating in fear that we will build it and nobody will come.

The night before launch day was particularly sleepless as I became mentally convinced that no customer would ever come to our store. This made no sense as we had a visible location that had until its owner's recent tragic death had housed a successful hobby store. I also had commitments from local model, radio control and gaming clubs to show up and I was pretty sure my wife intended to stop by.

Nerves aside, there's a certain thrill to doing something contrarian. Opening a store in the worst economy since the 1920s often strikes people as foolish, but the rational part of me (as opposed to the panicky part) says that we sell quality products that people want and demand for toys, games and hobby items increases in a recession.

Of course, rational thought, does not occupy my mind in the middle of the night and I'm rapidly becoming a vampire who has a day job. If this store works, I hope to open hundreds more over the next few years. Someone should probably get a pot of coffee started.

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



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Kids' Crossword

1				2		3
4						
				5		
6						
7						

THIS DAY IN...



HISTORY

- 1775: KING GEORGE III OF ENGLAND SAID THAT THE AMERICAN COLONIES WERE IN OPEN REBELLION.
- 1902: THEODORE ROOSEVELT WAS THE FIRST PRESIDENT TO RIDE IN AN AUTOMOBILE.
- 1910: KOREA WAS ANNEXED BY JAPAN.



CAN DOGS SWEAT?

ACROSS

- Quality of being hot
- To be full of
- Swimming hole
- Saltwater body
- Anchor on TV

DOWN

- Very warm
- ___erature, measurement of heat in an object
- Object filled with air
- Warms earth

ANSWER: YES, THROUGH THE PADS OF THEIR FEET, BUT THEY MAINLY COOL OFF BY PANTING.

Answers:
ACROSS
1. heat 4. term 5. pool 6. sea 7. newsmen
DOWN
1. hot 2. temp 3. balloon 6. sun



HEAT INDEX

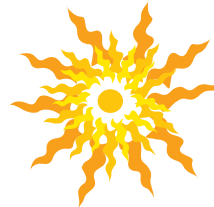
measurement that combines temperature and humidity

How they SAY that in...

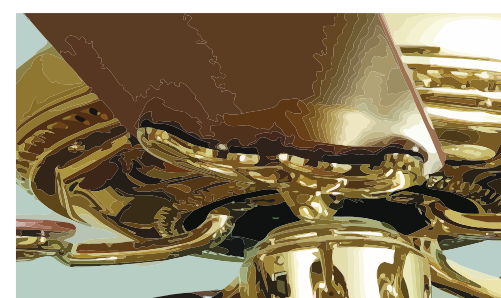
- ENGLISH:** Humid
- SPANISH:** Húmedo
- ITALIAN:** Umido
- FRENCH:** Humide
- GERMAN:** Feucht



THOSE SUFFERING FROM HEAT STROKE CAN NO LONGER COOL THEMSELVES DOWN BY SWEATING. IT CAN BE VERY DANGEROUS.



GET THE PICTURE?



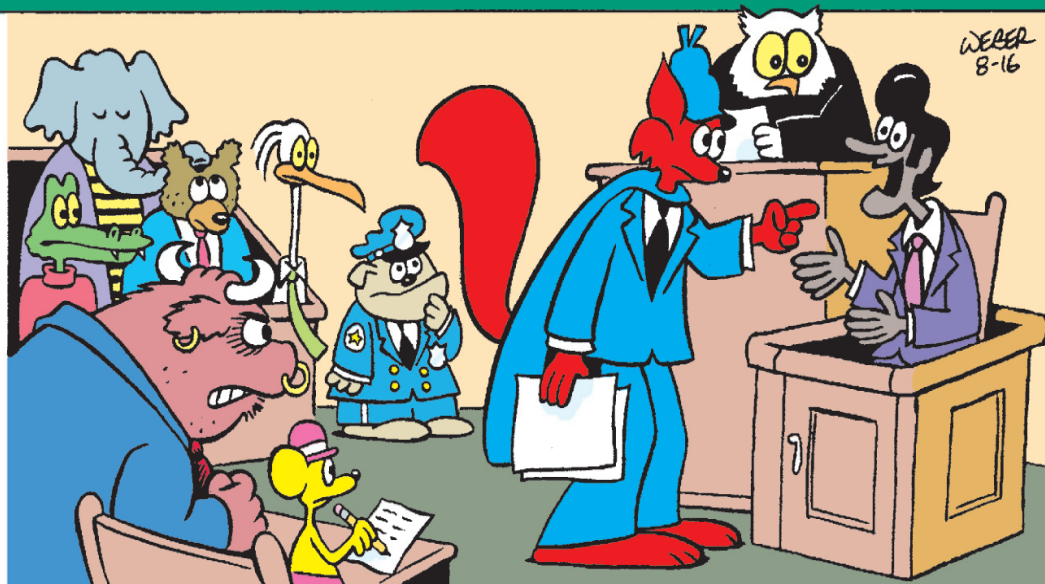
Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

ANSWER: CEILING FAN

SLYLOCK FOX and COMICS FOR KIDS

BY BOB WEBER JR.

Slick Smitty is charged with stealing from Buford Bull's china shop. But Smitty insists he has a receipt that lists every item he is accused of taking that day. A lie detector indicated he's telling the truth, but Slylock Fox knows that Slick Smitty could still be guilty. How?



Solution -- Smitty bought everything listed on the receipt. A short while later he returned to the shop and stole a duplicate of every item he had purchased earlier.

Find six differences between these panels.

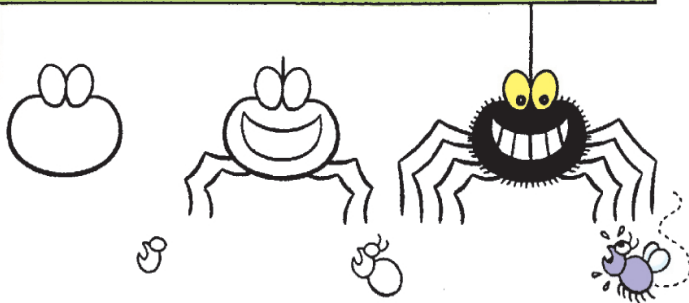


www.kidcartoonists.com

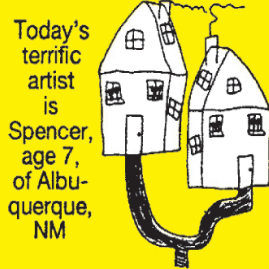


Answer -- Apron string, steam, tongue, pepperoni, boy's hair and chef's hat.

HOW TO DRAW a friendly spider and a nervous bug



YOUR DRAWING



Today's terrific artist is Spencer, age 7, of Albuquerque, NM

Submit your drawings at www.kidcartoonists.com

Which food do American kids ages 3-11 prefer over all other foods for lunch and dinner?

- Hot dogs
- Pizza
- Hamburgers

Answer -- (a) According to a Gallup poll.

Tomorrow's Horoscope

Mars, the warrior planet, and Uranus, ruler of powerful surprises, form a stressful aspect today, the effects of which will be felt through the 23rd. This is no time to let your temper get the better of you. Keep your cool. Make sure you have plenty of time to complete each task on your list. Calm yourself before you converse or travel.



HOLIDAY MATHIS

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Life presents you with tests and exercises to help hone your communication skills. Improving your communication will have a positive impact on every aspect of your life.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You'll be spending more time with the right people —

those who ponder the meaning of life, have interesting and exciting objectives and are likely to put an upbeat spin on things.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Avoid the kind of work that makes you responsible for overseeing other people's work and behavior. Today, you'll have better results doing things yourself. The rewards will be greater and the frustrations fewer.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You are crazy about your friends, you believe in their talents and abilities, and you will promote them at every turn. Make sure that you also take advantage of opportunities for your own advancement.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You'll be dealing with those who are not as outgoing as you. Make sure they are not taken advantage of. Be an advocate. Speak up for those who are reluctant to ask for what they

deserve. **VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Recently, you sacrificed your wishes for the good of the team. The move was an appropriate one at the time, but it doesn't have to be an ongoing trend. Choose an avenue that leads to pleasure and success.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Look to the horizon and tell your crew what's coming. People will depend on you for your ability to see the long view. You are the perfect one to coordinate the entire expedition.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You get caught up in the enthusiasm of those around you. So if you're not around people who are passionate and excited, you'll feel dull and muted. Also, positive reading materials will simulate an interpersonal experience.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You'll enjoy lay the groundwork for

others. You sort through the details and determine which ones are important. You also discover how to make complexities simple.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You'll be getting ready to give a performance that has the potential to change the game. Size up your competition and then assume that it is 10 percent more substantial. Practice diligently.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You will be mentally "on" when you need to be. When you don't, take advantage of the break and relax. Mindless pursuits serve an important purpose. Include more activities in your life that will loosen you up.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You'll strike upon an idea too exciting not to act on immediately. Don't give yourself too much time to think, plot and plan. Being too careful will cause you to stumble. Act with great gusto and

you'll win. **BIRTHDAY (AUGUST 18)**. This year has a flair for the unconventional. By the end of September, singles find offbeat romance, and couples make novel choices to spice up the relationship. Your needs change as you evolve through the fall. The changes you make in October help your finances and lifestyle to improve all at once. Taurus and Aquarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 30, 35, 1, 52 and 11.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS: "My friend's life is so dramatic and I just don't think I can take it anymore. She always seems to have a trauma going on. I feel guilty even mentioning this, since much of it seems to be out of her control. For instance, her brother died in an accident. Later, her mother flipped out and stole all of my friend's money. I was a good friend to her

during these tragedies. But a lot of other things happen that I think she brings on herself, like arguments with her neighbors and craziness with her boyfriend. I'm starting to resent her always being so emotionally needy. Am I a bad person if I just drop her as a friend? We're both Scorpios."

Scorpio is the sign of making clean breaks. If you have drop her, do it with love. But try this first: Cut back the amount of time you'll spend with this friend, while affirming to yourself, "I attract people who are happy, healthy and lucky, just like me." Your friend may show you a different side of herself. See the best in her and she might live up to it.

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.

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Annie's Mailbox

Dear Annie: I am a college student and have been dating a nice guy for almost a year. Unfortunately, "Cody" is more into our relationship than I am.

I have my reasons (Cody made some major mistakes that my heart has looked past, but my head has not), but what makes matters worse is I am deeply "in like" with a friend of Cody's. I believe this friend feels the same about me.

I've been in relationships since I was 15. I think it might be best, if and when I break things off with Cody, that I remain single for a while.

On the other hand, I am deeply worried that if I wait, I will miss out on this wonderful man. I feel awful for everyone involved and hope there is something you can tell me that would help. — *Bummed in Boston*

Dear Bummed: You have multiple things going on. First, you need to break off the relationship with Cody. You don't love him, you are unable to forgive him for whatever it was he did in the past, and you are interested in someone else.

Then you need to give your social life a rest, not only to see what it's like to be on your own, but because it's very bad form to go after Cody's friend so quickly.

If the guy is interested and sees that you haven't attached yourself to anyone else, he will come knocking when enough time has passed.

Dear Annie: My daughter was infected with her-

pes by her boyfriend. They have since broken up. Her doctor said it most likely was transmitted via oral sex.

She is still in the initial stages of coping emotionally, and I am doing my best to help her believe that in time things will not seem so terrible.

I know she is afraid of the day when she has to tell a new boyfriend. I've told her that anyone who loves her will educate himself and give the relationship a chance, but I understand how painful and discouraging a rejection would be, especially if it happens more than once.

Would you please ask your readers who have found themselves in the same situation to share their experiences?

Nothing I can tell her would have as much impact as hearing from people who have been there. — *A Sad Mom*

Dear Mom: Approximately one in five adults in the U.S. has herpes, so your daughter has plenty of company, and we are certain our readers will weigh in with their experiences.

In the meantime, contact the American Social Health Association (1-800-227-8922) at ashastd.org for information, support and suggestions on dealing with herpes — including how to talk about it with a new romantic interest.

Dear Annie: Twice recently, you misused the abbreviation "i.e.," so I thought I would try to straighten the matter out.

What you have done is use "i.e." when "e.g." was intended. The abbreviation "i.e." is a complete enumeration of ALL possibilities.

It stands for "id est," meaning "that is," which infers a complete list of what items answer the condition. But if the intent was to list a few examples, "e.g." is the correct term. It is an abbreviation of "exempli gratia," meaning "for example," or "example given," and lists representative items.

When you told "Wife of a Motor Mouth" to interest her husband in a hobby and added "i.e., photography or crafts that he can display," you implied that there were no other choices. Using "e.g." would have left the door open for thousands of other possibilities. — *Larry in Bakersfield, Calif.*

Dear Larry: Thanks for hauling us up short. As another Latin expert once informed us, *nostra culpa* is the correct way to say "We're sorry." We often see and hear "i.e." applied to mean "for example" and had no idea it was incorrect. We'll try to keep it straight in the future.

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

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Why not check this out? At the library

One of my favorite authors is Lindsey Davis who writes mysteries that take place in the time of the Emperor Vespasian, about 70 AD. In a review from Library Journal, Barbara Hoffert writes that even spies age, but fortunately Marcus Didius Falco — “informer” for the Roman emperor in the first century C.E. — is aging with grace. What makes Davis’s long-standing series so indelible is the expert blend of Falco’s wisecracking observations and crazy family life with some masterly suspense.

In “Alexandria” (M DAV L), Falco has taken his pregnant wife, two daughters and brother-in-law to Alexandria on what is ostensibly a vacation. (They’re staying at the house of his wayward uncle and the uncle’s partner.) In fact, Falco is charged with keeping his eye on things, and indeed trouble brews right away — the librarian of Alexandria’s great library is found dead in his sealed office. There’s been plenty of controversy surrounding the librarian already, and the controversy over who will succeed him turns bloody. Who knew that the race for a top library spot could be so intriguing? The mystery is intricately plotted, the characters are well drawn and Falco is as engaging a protagonist as ever, still tough but wiser and more reflective, too. Another winner for historical mystery fans.

This debut novel, “The Old Buzzard Had It Com-

ing.” (M CAS D) by Donis Casey, is a remarkably tactile historical mystery. It’s set in Oklahoma farm country in 1912. Harley Day, a generally disliked fellow, has been found dead in a snow bank.

Some people think old Harley drank himself to death. Alafair Tucker certainly believes that, and when Harley’s son, John Lee, is accused of murdering him, she flat-out doesn’t buy it. But then her own daughter, whose interest in young John Lee is far from casual, is also implicated. Is this a tragic misunderstanding, or is Alafair’s daughter involved in a murder conspiracy? Alafair Tucker, an aggressive and practical woman, makes

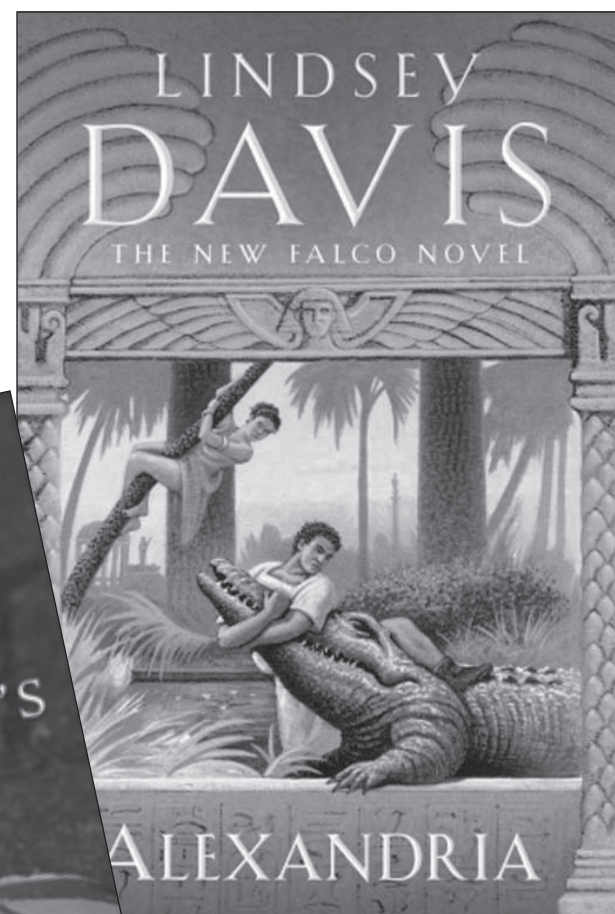
a very sympathetic protagonist, and the author’s depiction of time and place is so vivid that readers will swear they are smelling the brisk Oklahoma air and feeling the dirt under their feet. A lot of writers of historical mysteries tell us about the places their stories are set in; Casey actually takes us there. review is by David

Pitt, published in Publisher’s Weekly. I have read Casey’s book and it is a very nice period piece. The library also has “The Sky Took Him” (AUCD F CAS D), another Alafair Casey mystery.

I know that y’all think that I read each and every book that is reviewed, but that simply is not true! I utilize Amazon.Com quite a bit; that site usually has a review from a reputable source. Today’s review for “The Gerbil Farmer’s Daughter” (B ROB H) by Holly Robinson is written by S. Hanna, who contributed the following:

“I am a person who doesn’t get much time to read, but I put this book on my nightstand and read a chapter or two every night. It is just wonderful! Ms. Robinson has a delightfully wry sense of humor and she sure can turn a phrase to elicit a laugh. Her stories of growing up the picked-on, smart, “new” kid in a hick town in rural Massachusetts are touching and may resonate with many a reader. It really is a wonderful book!

“The book reminded me at various times of Shirley Jackson’s stories about home life, and



also Sarah Bird’s delightful book ‘The Yakota Officers’ Club’ about life as a military kid and the special difficulties of getting through normal adolescent rebellion within the confines of military life. And of course, the gerbils! As a member of the American Gerbil Society myself, I read the section on the AGS Show right away. Reading that section again AFTER reading the whole book made the story touching on

a whole new level. I sure wish Kinky could have been there to win a ribbon in the ball race. Definitely a must-read for anyone who’s grown up with a somewhat non-standard childhood and who emerged with their sense of humor not only intact but enhanced, as clearly happened to Holly Robinson!”

A really neat, interesting book has come in and the title is “The Library: An Illustrated History” (027.009 MUR S). Written by Stuart A.P. Murray, the book is described like this: through the ages, humanity has created, destroyed, rescued, neglected, discovered, stolen and cherished libraries — and no other institution so perfectly mirrors the human condition in any period of history. “The Library” tells the story of libraries and of the changing form and function of the book from era to era, whether clay tablets, parchment sheets, papyrus scrolls, glossy paper, recording tape or silicone chips. At the heart of the story of libraries and books is the story of the reader, who also has changed from era to era. It is a compelling and informative history.

Our Web site is www.howard-county.lib.tx.us. Howard County Library hours are 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Friday. We will start opening Saturdays, Sept. 12. The Internet/Video room is locked one-half hour before closing. The library is located at 500 S. Main St. Our phone number is 264-2260. If you need to renew or request a book, e-mail Johnny at hcr1ref@hotmail.com

Hollis McCright is director of the Howard County Library.

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.

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

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Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

All’s Swell That Ends Well

East dealer.
Neither side vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ K 8 3
♥ A 6 4
♦ J 10 9 2
♣ K 10 3

WEST
♠ J 9 5
♥ K 9 7 5 2
♦ 6 4
♣ A 8 7

EAST
♠ 10 7 6 2
♥ 10 3
♦ A 7 5 3
♣ J 9 4

SOUTH
♠ A Q 4
♥ Q J 8
♦ K Q 8
♣ Q 6 5 2

The bidding:
East South West North
Pass 1 NT Pass 3 NT

Opening lead — five of hearts.
One of the first tactical plays a beginner learns is to hold up a winner, especially at notrump. For example, if declarer has only the A-x-x in a suit that has been led by the opener and dummy has three or fewer small cards in the suit, it is standard procedure in most cases to refuse to take the ace until the third round. By doing so, declarer can sever enemy communications in the suit, which may prove decisive later in the play.

So valuable is the holdup play that it can sometimes prove advantageous even when declarer has two stoppers in the suit. An unusual application of this can be seen in

today’s hand.
West led a heart, dummy played low, and when East produced the ten, South allowed him to win the trick! This odd-looking play had the desired effect, as the contract could no longer be defeated.

In practice, East returned a heart, covered by the Q-K-A. Diamonds were then led until East took the ace, but since he didn’t have a heart to return, he shifted to a spade. Declarer won and conceded a trick to the ace of clubs to set up his ninth trick.

Observe what would have happened had South won the first trick. His normal play at this stage would be to attack diamonds to develop three tricks in that suit. After taking the ace, East would return his remaining heart, and regardless of how declarer played to that trick, West’s remaining hearts would become established. When South later tried for his ninth trick by leading a club, West would take the ace and cash his hearts for down one.

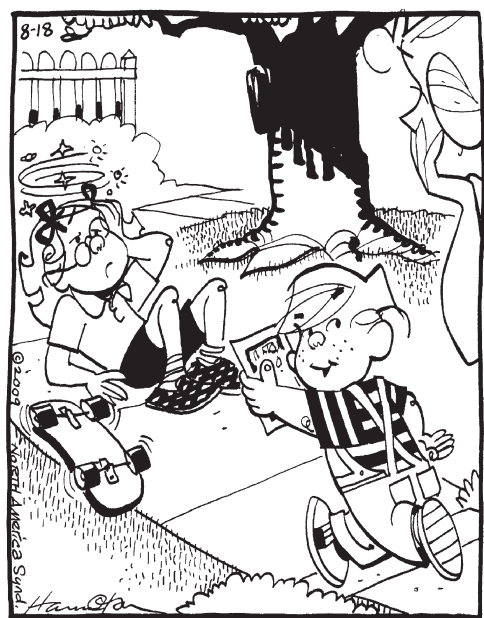
Thus, by treating the Q-J of hearts as the equivalent of a king, South’s first-round holdup play worked to perfection, effectively neutralizing the threat of the opponents’ heart suit. Note that the play would have worked equally well if the minor-suit aces were switched, failing only in the unlikely event that West held both missing aces as well as five hearts.

Tomorrow: Penny-wise, pound-foolish.

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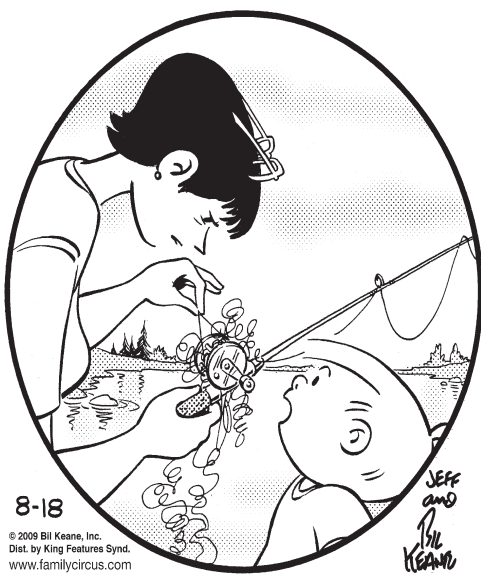
	WFAA (2) Dallas	KMID (3) Midland	UNI (4) Spanish	KPEJ (5) Odessa	KOSA (7) Odessa	KTLE (8) Telemundo	KWES (9) Midland	WTBS (11) Atlanta	KMLM (12) Odessa	KPBT (13) Odessa	DISC (20) Discovery	AMC (21) Classics	SPIKE (22) Spike TV	TNT (23) Atlanta	BET (26) Black Ent.	DISN (27) Disney	ESPN2 (28) Sports	ESPN (29) Sports
5:30	News ABC	News ABC	Locura	Lopez	News CBS	Noticias CBS	News NBC	Raymond	Scrivner	BBC	Cash Cab	Movie: Joe Kidd, John Saxon	CSI: Crime Scn	Bones	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Phineas Suite Life	Horn Interrupt	SportsCenter
6:30	News ABC	Jeopardy!	Gancho	Lopez	News CBS	12 Cora-zones	News NBC	Friends	Uri Harel	Business	Cash Cab	CSI: Crime Scn	Bones	Bones	Montana	Montana	Little League Softball: World Series	E:60
7:30	Entertain	Fortune	Two Men	Entertain	NCIS	Más Sabe el Diabolo	News NBC	Seinfeld	Dr. Young	Made	Made	Movie: Pale Rider, Carrie Snodgrass	UFC Un-leashed	Bones	Movie: Love for Sale, Mya	Montana	World Series	World Series
8:30	Be a Millionaire	Be a Millionaire	Nombro Amor	Hell's Kitchen	(:01) Big Brother 11	Pobres	America's Got Talent	Fam. Guy	Israel	Nova (DVS)	Swords: Life	UFC Un-leashed	HawthoRNe	UFC Un-leashed	UFC Un-leashed	UFC Un-leashed	UFC Un-leashed	UFC Un-leashed
9:30	Shaq Vs.	Shaq Vs.	Mañana es	More to Love	Medium	Victorinos		Fam. Guy	Light of the Southwest	P.O.V.	The Colony	UFC Un-leashed	Saving Grace	Game	Game	Phineas So Raven	Yearbook	SportsCenter
10:30	Primetime	Primetime	Aquí y Ahora	TMZ	Raymond	News	Noticias	News	Payne	Israel	Charlie Rose	Swords: Life	MAN	HawthoRNe	W. Williams	Suite Life	World Series	World Series
11:30	News	News	Impacto	Raymond	News	Noticias	News	Payne	Israel	Charlie Rose	Swords: Life	MAN	HawthoRNe	W. Williams	Suite Life	World Series	World Series	World Series
12:30	Nightline	Nightline	Noticiero	King-Hill	Late Show	Decisiones de	Decisiones de	Late Night-Jim	Sex & Smiley	Ministerio-Vida	BBC	Swords: Life	MAN	HawthoRNe	W. Williams	Suite Life	World Series	World Series
1:30	Insider	Jimmy Kimmel Live	La Escuelita VIP	Law Order: CI	Late Late Show	Decisiones de	Late Night-Jim	News	Israel	Church	Light of the Southwest	Weapon Masters	Disorderly Con.	Cold Case	W. Williams	Emperor Dragon	World Series	SportsCenter
2:30	News	News	Contra Viento	RENO 911	Insider	Pagado	Pagado	News	Israel	Church	Light of the Southwest	Weapon Masters	Disorderly Con.	Cold Case	W. Williams	Emperor Dragon	World Series	SportsCenter
3:30	News	News	Mujer...	Friends	Entertain	Pagado	Pagado	Poker After Dark	Israel	Church	Light of the Southwest	Weapon Masters	Disorderly Con.	Cold Case	W. Williams	Emperor Dragon	World Series	SportsCenter
4:30	News	News	Güereja	Friends	Entertain	Pagado	Pagado	Poker After Dark	Israel	Church	Light of the Southwest	Weapon Masters	Disorderly Con.	Cold Case	W. Williams	Emperor Dragon	World Series	SportsCenter

DENNIS THE MENACE



"I'M GONNA GIVE MARGALO HER 'I-TOLD-YOU-SO' CARD SHE GAVE ME YESTERDAY."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

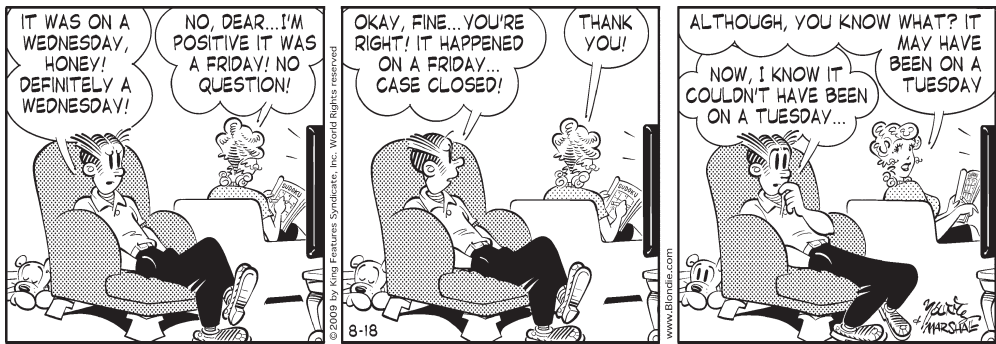


"Daddy always fixes it with a knife. He cuts the whole thing off and starts over."

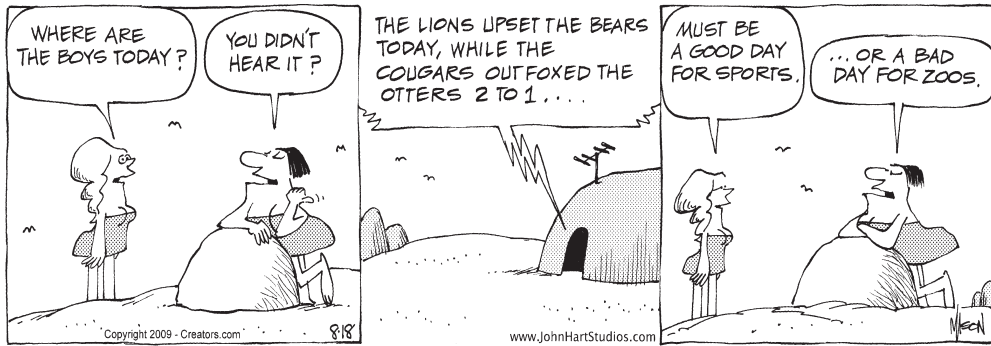
HAGAR



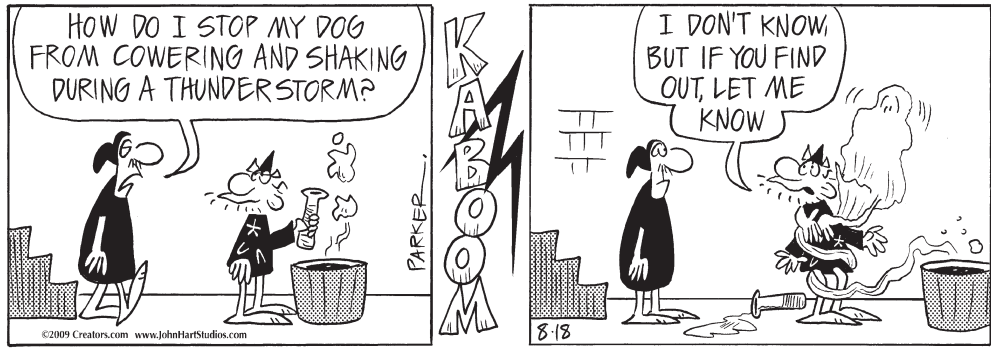
BLONDIE



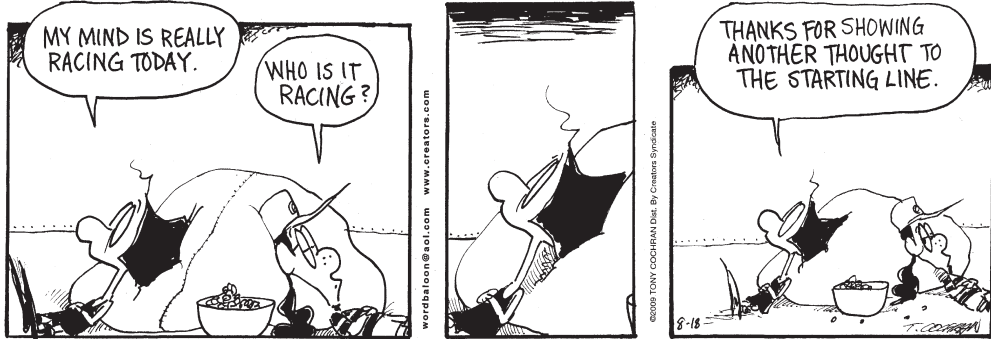
BC



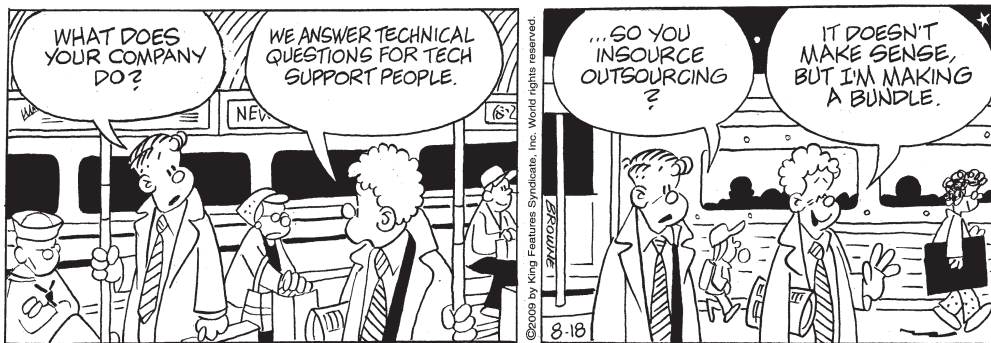
WIZARD OF ID



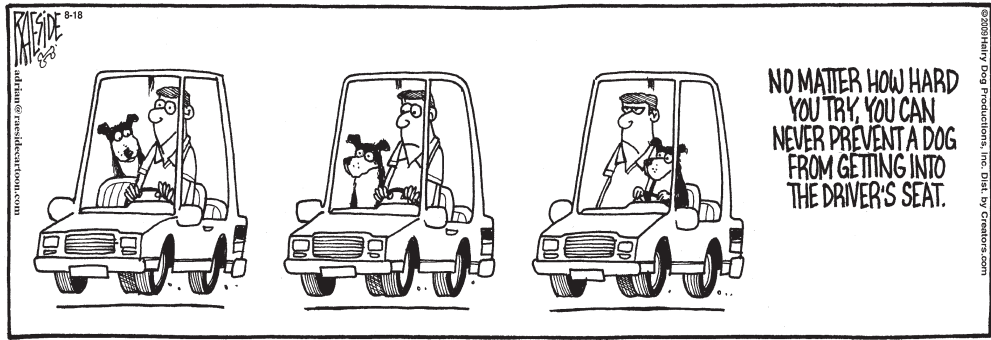
AGNES



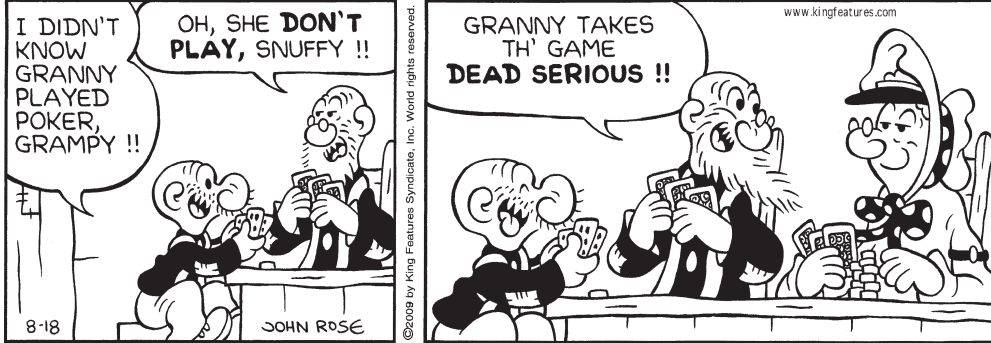
HI AND LOIS



THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BETLE BAILEY



This Date In History

Today is Tuesday, Aug. 18, the 230th day of 2009. There are 135 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Aug. 18, 1969, the Woodstock Music and Art Fair in Bethel, N.Y., which had fallen behind schedule, finally wound to a close after three nights with a midmorning set performed by Jimi Hendrix.

On this date:

In 1587, Virginia Dare became the first child of English parents to be born on American soil, on what is now Roanoke Island in North Carolina. (However, the colony Virginia was born into ended up mysteriously disappearing.)

In 1838, the first marine expedition sponsored by the U.S. government set sail from Hampton Roads, Va.; the crews traveled the southern Pacific Ocean, gathering scientific information.

In 1846, U.S. forces led by Gen. Stephen W. Kearny captured Santa Fe, N.M.

In 1894, Congress established the Bureau of Immigration.

In 1920, the 19th Amendment to the Constitution, which guaranteed the right of all American women to vote, was ratified as Tennessee became the 36th state to approve it.

In 1938, President Franklin D. Roosevelt and Canadian Prime Minister William Lyon Mackenzie King dedicated the Thousand Islands Bridge connecting the United States and Canada.

In 1958, the novel "Lolita" by Vladimir Nabokov was first published in New York by G.P. Putnam's Sons, almost three years after it was originally published in Paris.

In 1963, James Meredith became the first black student to graduate from the University of Mississippi.

In 1976, two U.S. Army officers were killed in Korea's demilitarized zone as a group of North Korean soldiers wielding axes and metal pikes attacked U.S. and South Korean soldiers.

In 1983, Hurricane Alicia slammed into the Texas coast, leaving 21 dead and causing more than a billion dollars' worth of damage.

Today's Birthdays: Former Interior Secretary Wally Hickel is 90. Former first lady Rosalynn Carter is 82. Movie director Roman Polanski is 76. Attorney and author Vincent Bugliosi is 75. Olympic gold medal decathlete Rafer Johnson is 74. Actor-director Robert Redford is 73. Singer Johnny Preston is 70. Actor Christopher Jones is 68. Actor Henry G. Sanders is 67. R&B singer Sarah Dash (LaBelle) is 66. Actor-comedian Martin Mull is 66. Rock musician Dennis Elliott is 59. Comedian Elayne Boosler is 57. Actor Patrick Swayze is 57. Country singer Steve Wilkinson (The Wilkinson) is 54.

Answer to previous puzzle

BARB	LATTE	ATTY
AREA	ACRES	PARE
SIFT	STONE	PLEA
HASHES	OUT	BAKER
OVERT PALS		
BABIES	HOLLAND	
OPAL	SHADE	BOO
RAIS	PEARS	SOOT
ERS	ERASE	TUNE
STABLES	SEATED	
ROMP	WEEDY	
GLOSS	DISCUSSES	
IOUS	PASSE	FOWL
VINE	STEED	OREO
ENDS	TERSE	REST

Newsday Crossword

FIGHTING WORDS by Sally R. Stein Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 Inquire

4 Check recipient

9 Jail unit

13 Dog's bane

14 Fields of expertise

15 Clarinet cousin

16 Sunup

17 Comprehend

18 Pistol sound

19 Wedding-party youngster

21 Sandwich breads

22 Light and breezy

23 Memorable period

25 City subways

28 With

30 Across, ballpark single

30 See 28 Across

33 Billion-selling cookie

34 Witch's bestowal

35 Poem of praise

36 Valentine's Day gift, perhaps

40 State w. of Montana

41 Greetings at sea

42 Well-ordered

43 Misérables

44 CNN offering

45 How some medicines are taken

47 Birthday number

48 Counterfeit coin

49 Ensnare

52 There-and-back journeys

58 Give assistance to

59 Introducer of acts

60 Largest continent

61 American (performer's TV showcase)

62 Makes angry

63 Repair

64 Short letter

65 Go first

66 Tennis-match part

DOWN

1 Jai

2 Stitched

3 Down Under hopper

4 Cell-phone predecessors

5 Grouping of items

6 Calendar span

7 Simplicity

8 Strong coffee

9 Hooded reptile

10 Online auction site

11 Solitary

12 Table supports

13 WWII-era president

20 Life story, briefly

24 Film holder

25 Exxon merger partner

26 Wear away

27 Houston's state

28 Harbor markers

29 Curved lines

30 Vacationer's lodging

31 Best possible

32 Impatient

34 Chicken

37 Pointed tooth

38 They support the team

39 Letter rearrange-ments

45 First-born

46 Boring routine

47 Granny Smith or McIntosh

48 Look of scorn

49 Like a dime

50 Hire a decorator for

51 Very much

53 Leave out

54 W. Coast school

55 "It's clear to me"

56 Quart fraction

57 Sorrowful

CREATORS SYNDICATE © 2009 STANLEY NEWMAN STANXWORDS@AOL.COM 8/18/09

Texas mother gets 99 years for mutilating son

HOUSTON (AP) — A Houston-area mother convicted of mutilating her infant by cutting off his genitals two years ago was sentenced Monday to 99 years in prison.

But minutes after the jury's sentence was read, Katherine Nadal, 28, yelled out that she did not hurt her son, prompting the boy's father to storm out of the courtroom.

Jurors deliberated for two hours Monday night before returning the sentence, which also included a \$10,000 fine. The same jury had convicted her last week of first-degree felony injury to a child.

The jurors chose among possible sentences ranging from probation to life in prison. Nadal, who shook her head as the jury foreman read the sentence, will have to serve at least 30 years before she is eligible for parole.

Prosecutors asked for life in prison. Nadal's attorneys did not request a specific sentence, instead asking the jury to not punish her out of hate or revenge.

Nadal had claimed the family dog, a 6- to 7-pound dachshund named "Shorty" was responsible for mutilating her then-5-week-old son, Holden Gothia, as he slept in his parent's bedroom in March 2007 at their suburban Houston apartment.

But prosecutors said she was high on drugs when she mutilated her son with an unknown sharp instrument. Authorities say Nadal, who had prior drug arrests, tested positive for cocaine, methadone and Xanax after the attack.

Holden survived, but the severed body parts were never found.

After the sentence was announced, Holden's paternal aunt, Patches DeShazo, who has custody of the now 2-year-old boy, read a victim impact statement in the courtroom.

"I am thankful by time you are eligible for parole you will be beyond childbearing years. It makes me crazy to this very day to hear you say I did not hurt

him," DeShazo said as she read her statement.

That prompted Nadal to yell back from the table where she sat with her defense attorneys: "I failed him. I did not hurt him."

The boy's father, Camden Gothia, then stood up and yelled to Nadal, "You abused him when he was in the womb," a reference to Nadal having taken drugs when she was pregnant with Holden. Gothia then left the courtroom.

DeShazo and her husband were given custody after his parents relinquished their rights. His father sees him regularly.

After the hearing, prosecutor Tammy Thomas told reporters that Nadal will never admit what she did.

"I don't know if this is justice to merit the damage," a teary-eyed Thomas said. "This is as close as we can get."



AP photo
Katherine Nadal listens to testimony during her trial in Houston.

Heat stroke blamed for death in Palo Duro Canyon

CANYON (AP) — Preliminary autopsy results indicate heat stroke killed a 24-year-old youth minister who died while hiking alone in Palo Duro Canyon.

Services will be held Thursday at Bacon Heights Baptist Church in Lubbock for Nathan Kyle Neel.

The Randall County Sheriff's Department said there were no signs of trauma on Neel, who went hiking Friday morning. His body was discovered a few hours later.

Neel this month joined the staff of New Home Baptist Church.

Austin clerk charged over beer theft suspect's death

AUSTIN (AP) — A 23-year-old clerk at an Austin convenience store was jailed Tuesday on a murder charge after the fatal shooting of a suspect in a beer theft.

Juan Hector Romero was in the Travis County Jail on \$250,000 bail. Electronic jail records had no indication of an attorney for Romero, who was arrested hours after Sunday's fatal shooting.

Investigators say Romero is charged with pursuing and shooting 22-year-old Jorge Luis Vielma, who allegedly dashed out of the store carrying a 12-pack of beer.

Austin police say Vielma was shot while in the parking lot and his body was later discovered in a vehicle discovered abandoned miles away from the store.

Sgt. Joseph Chacon says a grand jury will decide if it was reasonable to shoot and kill a person over some beer.

A sign taped to the door of the store said: "Due to

the high number of dishonest people grabbing and running away (and) stealing our beer, we must require prepayment for beer."

The Austin American-Statesman reported Tuesday that investigators say the clerk did not call police to report the theft or the shooting, he allegedly tampered with the security video and tossed the discarded beer into a trash bin.

A man who was with Vielma and allegedly made the 911 call to report the shooting was detained, but did not immediately face charges.

Mysteriously, Dallas 'Sunshine' found in Miami

MIAMI (AP) — A 77-year-old Dallas woman has been reunited with her dog after it mysteriously turned up in Florida.

A Miami Beach club promoter found Sunshine, a Yorkie mix, on a street corner and took her to the vet. A microchip traced the pooch to Jodi Head, more than 1,000 miles away in Texas.

The two were reunited Monday at Miami International Airport, where Sunshine happily shook her tail and licked Head's face.

Head, a dermatology lab courier, says she's amazed. Neighbors recently hosted some Sunshine State visitors, but that's the only connection she can make between her Sunshine and here.

For his help, Head gave \$200 to good Samaritan Micha Porat. He spent half of it getting papers for the pooch to fly home.

Judge plans to testify at death-row appeal trial

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — A Texas judge who closed her court before a death row inmate could file an appeal plans to testify at the ethics trial where she faces charges that could end her career.

Judge Sharon Keller, the presiding judge of the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals, is on trial herself nearly two years after refusing to keep the court open past 5 p.m. on Sept. 25, 2007, with Michael Wayne Richard's execution imminent and his lawyers scrambling to file an appeal.

Charged with five counts of judicial misconduct, Keller sat quietly at the defense table Monday, only standing to acknowledge that she planned to testify. She could take the stand as early as Tuesday.

State investigators opened the special hearing by accusing Keller of "willfully" circumventing protocol by ordering the court closed at the normal hour. Her attorney said Keller was simply referring to the time the building closed, and that another judge inside also may have known about the pending appeal.

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Monday Thru Friday 10:30 am - 2 pm & 4:30 pm - 9 pm, Saturday 10:30 am - 9 pm
(432) 517-4901

France launches info campaign to prevent swine flu

ANSWERS

- 1. False.** A slap is a form of assault. Texas law specifies that assault of another person, *including one's spouse*, is illegal.
- 2. False.** Battering (the same as assault) means causing bodily injury. Under Texas law, that includes causing pain. There does not have to be any visible injury at all.
- 3. False.** Many people who are violent toward family members never drink or use drugs. Others drink or use drugs but never batter. So we cannot say that alcohol or drugs cause family violence. However, about 60% of family violence cases also *involve* substance abuse; and when both are occurring, both are harder to stop.
- 4. True.** Children learn from their experiences-including violence. It is more likely that an adult man who was abused as a child or saw his mother being battered will abuse his wife or girlfriend.
- 5. False.** Of all the abused adults with visible injuries, 95% are women. While it's true that some women do hit men, it's the other way around in most cases.
- 6. False.** Battering causes more injury to women than auto accident, street mugging, and rape combined. More than one-third of women seen in emergency rooms have been recently battered.
- 7. False.** Threats, harassment, and assaults often escalate just after a battered woman leaves her abuser. Leaving can be the most dangerous time in the relationship. That's why it's important for her to go to a safe, secure place such as a battered women's shelter.
- 8. False.** Texas law permits immediate arrest for suspected family violence, and many police departments now make such arrests. An average of 75% of urban police time and 35% of rural police time is spent responding to family violence.
- 9. False.** Arrest and jail alone are not usually enough to make a batterer permanently stop being violent. Counseling is also necessary. However, arresting and jailing batterers is important because it temporarily stops their violence and lets them know that our society does not tolerate battering.
- 10. False.** One-half of American females experience family violence at some time in their lives; your daughter, sister, or neighbor could be next. That makes it your business. Family violence also touches your pocketbook. As a taxpayer, you are affected every time police answer a family violence call or a woman visits an emergency room because of battering.

What You Can Do To STOP Family Violence

- ▶ Call police *immediately* if you are aware of a battering in progress.
- ▶ Don't laugh at jokes that involve adults hitting each other. They're not funny anymore.
- ▶ Support your local battered women's shelter through contributing or volunteering.
- ▶ Tell your local, state, and national elected officials that you support strong laws against family violence and you want those laws enforced.
- ▶ Stay informed by joining the **Texas Council on Family Violence**. Call our office for a membership application.

Victim Services Of Big Spring
263-3312

200193

PARIS (AP) — France will launch a huge swine flu information and prevention campaign once schools begin reopening at the end of the month, authorities said Tuesday.

Officials will distribute 12 million posters to parents and students across the country of 63 million people, or roughly to every fifth person, Education Minister Luc Chatel told reporters.

Authorities will also instruct school communities on preventive hygienic measures, such as wiping one's mouth and nose with tissue when sneezing or coughing, washing hands regularly and avoiding contact with sick people.

"My responsibility ... is to inform, explain and assure the whole education community," Chatel said. He added that that government's goal was to make sure the public is alerted and warned about the swine flu threat, but was not panicking and "dramatizing" the issue.

Chatel reiterated the authorities' intention to order entire schools closed if as few as three students in one class,

or three students in one school who share lessons or eat lunch in the same cafeteria, fall ill with the flu. Schools will be reopened after six days and a thorough cleaning, he said. Such closures will be determined by local authorities on a case-by-case basis.

In case numerous schools are closed, lessons will be broadcast on state television and radio to help students keep up, Chatel said.

Chatel also said authorities have no plans so far to launch an obligatory, country-wide vaccination campaign for school children, saying that parents could opt to vaccinate their children individually.

France has had more than 690 confirmed cases of swine flu, including one death linked to the virus. But experts expect more outbreaks once the school year resumes and the regular flu season starts in the fall.

Laurence Danon, spokeswoman for the Health Ministry, said France was well prepared to cope with the virus and had enough anti-viral drugs in case of a major outbreaks. She would not give more details.

Study: Ibuprofen is best for kids with broken arms

MARILYNN MARCHIONE
AP Medical Writer

MILWAUKEE — Kids with a broken arm do better on a simple over-the-counter painkiller than on a more powerful prescription combination that includes a narcotic, a surprising study finds.

It tested ibuprofen, sold as Advil, Motrin and other brands, against acetaminophen plus codeine — a combo called Tylenol No. 3 that is also sold in generic form.

The children on ibuprofen did better, said the study leader, Dr. Amy Drendel of the Medical College of Wis-

consin in suburban Milwaukee.

"They were more likely to play, they ate better and they had fewer adverse effects," she said.

Results were published online Tuesday by the *Annals of Emergency Medicine*. Experts praised the study as one of the few to compare medicines that have been long used in children based on how they work in adults.

"We want to start with what's effective and less likely to cause problems," and in this case, it turned out to be a cheap, over-the-counter drug, said Dr. Knox Todd, an emergency medicine pain researcher at Beth Israel Medical Center in New York and a member of the American Pain Society's board of directors.

The results do not mean that ibuprofen beats acetaminophen for everyday pain relief in children or anyone else, though. The study tested a specific use — pain in the first three days after a broken arm — and the acetaminophen was combined with the narcotic codeine, not tested alone.

Still, it shows the best way to treat a very common problem: As many as one out of five kids will break a bone before age 10 — often, an arm.

Researchers randomly assigned 336 children ages 4 to 18 to go home with liquid versions of either ibuprofen or the acetaminophen-codeine combo after being treated for a broken arm at Children's Hospital of Wisconsin. Neither the children, parents nor

the doctors knew who received what treatment until the study ended.

Full results were available on 244 children. The portion who failed to get relief from their assigned medicine was roughly the same.

However, half of those on the combo medicine reported side effects — mostly nausea and drowsiness that can occur with narcotics like codeine — versus 30 percent of those given ibuprofen.

The ibuprofen users also had fewer problems eating, playing, going to school or sleeping. They and their parents reported more satisfaction with the treatment.

"A lot of emergency medicine physicians are afraid to give kids narcotics and a lot of parents are uncomfortable with narcotic medicine," so finding an effective alternative is good news, Drendel said.

The hospital and medical school paid for the study, and a hospital-related charity paid for \$10 Toys R Us gift certificates for each participant.

The study has nothing to do with limits on Tylenol for adults that were recently proposed by an advisory panel to the federal Food and Drug Administration, said Todd, who is a member of that panel.

"Acetaminophen when taken as directed is a very safe drug. The problem is people taking too much," or its inclusion in drugs that people might not be aware of, he explained.

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