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BIG SPRING

WEDNESDAY

AUGUST 19, 2009



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VOLUME 104, NUMBER 221

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United Way goal \$300,000

Annual campaign kicked off Tuesday

By STEVE REAGAN

Staff Writer

This year's United Way campaign is not going to use the economy as a crutch. Despite a downturn in

the economy, directors announced an increased goal for this year's campaign during the 64th annual kickoff luncheon Tuesday at First United Methodist's Garrett Hall.

Tim Yeats, president of the UW board, told the crowd of about 200 people that this year's campaign goal is \$300,000, an increase of \$50,000 from last year's goal.

"The temptation is to say you can't give as much because of the economy or some other reason, but the reality is that the need is greater than ever," Yeats said. "People have asked me, 'Why did you raise your goal?' To me, it all goes back to our campaign slogan — 'Now more than ever.'

"Our needs are increasing

... maintaining the status quo on donations will not satisfy the needs of the agencies that United Way serves," he add-

"The temptation is to say you can't give as much

because of the economy or some other reason, but the reality is that the need is greater than ever."



—Tim Yeats, board president

Agencies that receive funds from the United Way are the American Red Cross West Texas Division; Buffalo Trail Council of Boy Scouts of America; CASA of West Texas; Council on Aging; Dora Roberts Rehabilitation Center: Howard County Humane Society; Isaiah 58; Northside Community Center; Salvation Army; Victim Services; Westside Community Center; Westside Day Care Center; Girl Scouts; and YMCA of Big Spring.

Yeats stressed that the United Way campaign is all about local people helping local peo-

"One of the things I worry about is the misconception that United Way is some nameless, faceless organization in New York or somewhere which takes our donations and sends the money somewhere else," he said. "Nothing could be further from the truth ... Money raised in Howard County stays in Howard County."

Whether funds go to help a crime victim or a mother who can't afford day care or someone needing low-cost physical rehabilitation, the United

See UW, Page 3A



HERALD photo/Lyndel Moody

Motovational speaker and humorist Suzie Humphreys grimaces as she tells a joke during Tuesday's United Way of Big Spring and Howard County luncheon.

Howard College will host noted educator

By CINDY SMITH

Special to the Herald

Erin Gruwell of The Freedom Writers Foundation as part of a joint professional development activity with local school districts Thursday at 1 p.m.

The event, open to the public, is free of charge to anyone who would like to attend and is scheduled to be held on campus at Dorothy Gar-

A welcome reception was



Gruwell. teacher known for her work fostering an educational philosophy that valued and promoted diversity, will be pre-

senting to staff and faculty from Howard College, Big Spring, Coaho-

See **GRUWELL**, Page 3A

City settles ADA lawsuit Trio speak out against proposed tax rate

By STEVE REAGAN

A lawsuit charging the city of Big Spring with failure to maintain disability access to public buildings has been settled, officials announced.

The announcement came at the end of a four-hour city council meeting Tuesday night.

A trio of plaintiffs — Judy Durham, Kathy Barg and suit against the city in 2008, McEwen said that, as part of charging officials with failure to bring several public buildings, including city hall and the municipal auditorium, into compliance Americans With Disabilities Act regulations.

The lawsuit, filed July 29, 2008, in 118th District Court, directly resulted in the closure of the municipal auditorium.

Deatia Smeltzer — filed Big Spring Mayor Russ the settlement, the city will not have to pay damages but will assume a portion of the plaintiffs' legal fees.

McEwen said officials had been working for some time to bring public buildings into compliance with ADA regulations prior to the lawsuit and will continue

See CITY, Page 3A

Freshman orientation set Thursday

Big Spring High School freshman orientation will be held from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. Thursday at Big Spring High School.

freshman stu-Incoming dents and their parents are invited to attend. This is an opportunity to meet the faculty and staff of BSHS, and to become familiar with the facilities. Students will receive their schedules and parents will receive a High School Parent Guidebook.



held for the new associate director and chief of staff of the West Texas VA Health Care System, known as the VA Medical Center, Tuesday afternoon in the Outpatient Clinic waiting area. Pictured from left, are Albert Colmeman, New York native Dr. Martin Schnier, VAMC chief of staff, Douglas Paxton, associate director, and Cari Guerra. Paxton, who came from Baton Rouge, La., was appointed to the position Aug. 3.

HERALD photo/Lyndel Moody





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SPRING HERALD

Do you have an interesting sports item or story idea? Call Jonathan Hull at 263-7331, Ext. 237. Email results to: sports@bigspringherald.com

Page 1B Wednesday, August 19, 2009

Mauer, Young powers Twins past Rangers

SCHUYLER DIXON

Associated Press Writer

ARLINGTON — Joe Mauer had a new power partner Tuesday night, and the combination helped the Minnesota Twins spoil Ivan Rodriguez's return to the Texas Rangers.

With AL RBI leader Justin Morneau sidelined by an ear infection, Mauer homered twice and Delmon Young had a tying two-run double and a go-ahead two-run homer to lead the Twins past the Rangers 9-6.

Minnesota piled up 12 hits and eight runs in the sixth, seventh and eighth innings as part of a rally from a 5-0

"To come back like we did, hopefully we can gain some momentum from it," said Mauer, whose team snapped a three-game losing streak. "The guys kept at it and we put up enough runs to win."

Minnesota's late-inning offensive surge must have seemed all too familiar to Rodriguez. The 14-time All-Star catcher watched from the bench after accepting a trade earlier in the day from Houston. He returned to his original franchise seven years after leaving in the wake of three consecutive last-place finishes marked by some of the worst pitching in baseball.

These Rangers have been different, stalking AL ERA

See **RANGERS**, Page 2B



Texas Rangers outfielder Julio Borbon, bottom, beats the throw to Minnesota Twins second baseman Nick Punto as Borbon steals second in the first inning of an AL baseball game Tuesday in Arlington. Borbon had three steals in the Rangers' 9-6 loss.

Romo focused on protecting football better

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Tony Romo can talk about doing a better job of protecting the football. He can also do certain things in practice.

Next comes trying to make that translate into games for the Dallas Cowboys quarterback who had 21 turnovers (14 interceptions and seven lost fumbles) in 13 games last season, not counting six fumbles recovered by him or a teammate.

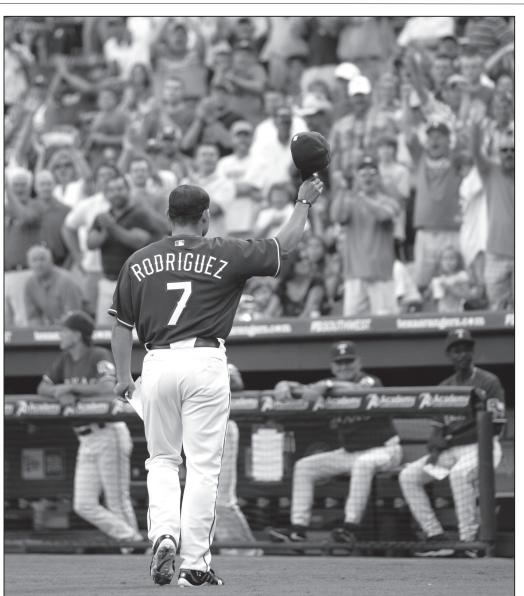
Like he has throughout training camp, Romo on Tuesday deliberately and consciously tucked the ball into his body with two hands during team drills when under pressure from defenders who aren't allowed to

Surrounded in the pocket on one play, he pulled the ball in tight until just before throwing a completion. Romo did the same thing while rolling out to his right near the goal line a few snaps later, instead of holding the ball away from his body with one hand while running like he has before.

The only indication that he might do it in a game came on his touchdown pass in the preseason opener against Oakland. Flushed out of the pocket, Romo moved to his left and pulled the ball into his body before spotting Jason Witten.

"I was wondering during the game and it came true. I was able to protect the ball. ... I started to move to the left and kept it inside my core," Romo said. "It was good to have that instinctful thing happen to see something that you've practiced come to fruition.'

That was only one play during Romo's second and final series of the preseason opener, but still encouraging for the Cowboys.



Ivan "Pudge" Rodriguez tips his cap as he receives a standing ovation from fans in attendance at the Texas Rangers baseball game agaisnt the Minnesota Twins Tuesday in Arlington. The Rangers acquired Rodriguez, who began his career with the club, in a trade with the Houston Astros earlier in the day.

Pudge comes home

Rangers acquire popular catcher from Astros

SCHUYLER DIXON

Associated Press Writer

ARLINGTON — Ivan Rodriguez is

coming home to the Texas Rangers. The 14-time All-Star catcher who started his career with the Rangers at age 19 was acquired in a trade Tuesday with the Houston Astros for minor league pitcher Matt Nevarez and two players to

be named. "It's been a long time," said Rodriguez, who was with the Rangers from 1991-2002. "I'm glad that I'm back."

See PUDGE, Page 2B

Cowboys rookie kicker Buehler outruns DB

The Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO — Dallas Cowboys rookie kicker David Buehler won from 50 yards out — racing a defensive back, not kicking a field goal.

After practice Tuesday, Buehler (BEE-ler) outran rookie defensive back DeAngelo Smith in a 50-yard dash by a step. Smith says Buehler beat him "fair and square," but that there will be a rematch.

Buehler, like Smith a fifth-round pick by the Cowboys in April, isn't the average kicker. He ran a 40-yard dash in 4.57 seconds at the NFL combine and had 25 repetitions bench-

pressing 225 pounds. Smith and Buehler have lockers next to each other, and the two have been sharing verbal jabs throughout camp. Buehler has grown a mustache that Smith dubbed the "lipsweater."

Buehler joked afterward that his mustache provided an aerodynamic advantage.

Sports in brief

BSHS holding Community Pep Rally at Memorial Stadium Monday

Big Spring High School is hosting a Community Pep Rally at Memorial Stadium at 8 p.m. Monday. All fall sports teams will be recognized including junior high squads.

The booster clubs will be there selling Steer

Last Chance Ragball Tournament occurring Friday and Saturday

Cotton Mize Field will serve as the location for the Last Chance Ragball Tournament Friday and Saturday.

Team registration will start at 7 p.m. Friday and costs \$10 per player.

Forsan fieldhouse.

For more information, call Angel Gonzales at 213-1781 or Dominique Gonzales at 288-0209.

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

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

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 in-

Crossroads Youth Football

signups slated for this month The Crossroads Youth Football Association has begun signups for football players and cheerlead-

ers 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

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

Coahoma flag football league holding signups this month

from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Aug. 29.

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 jer-

sey. There will be no fundraiser.

Call 213-4193 with any questions.

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.

Obituaries



Ruben T. Martinez Sr., 52, of Big Spring died Saturday, Aug. 15, 2009, in Big Spring. Vigil services will be at 7 p.m. Wednesday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral mass will be at 2 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 20, 2009, at Sacred Heart Catholic Church with Monsignor Bernard L. Gully officiating. Burial will be at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

He was born June 19, 1957, in Howard County to Paula and Victor Martinez Sr. He was a lifetime resident of Howard County, except for 10 years in Denver, Colo. He was a farmer and a member of Holy Trinity Catholic Church.

He is survived by his wife, Gloria Hernandez of Big Spring; one son, Ruben "Potsi" Martinez Jr. and his wife, Jessica, of Denver, Colo.; four daughters, Yvette Escobar and her husband, Ceasar, and Julie Martinez, all of San Antonio, Stephanie Martinez and her husband, Jesus, of Denver, Colo., and Ruana Martinez of Big Spring; his father, Victor Martinez Sr. of Big Spring; three brothers, Victor Martinez Jr. and his wife, Mary, and Jessie Martinez and his wife, Janie, all of Big Spring, and Mike Martinez and his wife, Carmen, of Forney; six sisters, Rosa Flores and her husband, Jessie, Mary Rodriguez and Lolly Martinez and her husband, Gilbert, all of Big Spring, Isabel Haro and her husband, Robert, of Flower Mound, Gloria Rodriguez and Janie Bentancur and her husband, Baraulio, all of Midland; and six grandchildren.

In addition to his mother, he was preceded in death by one brother, David Martinez, and two brothers-in-law.

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

Sheriff

The Howard County Sheriff's Office reported the following activity Tuesday (officials reported 87 prisoners in the county jail):

- ROSE ELLAN ARMSTEAD, 48, was arrested by deputies on a charge of assault Class C/family vio-
- ERNEST CLARK, 69, was transferred from BSPD after being arrested on a charge of criminal
- JIMMY DUBOSE, 47, was transferred from BSPD after being arrested on a parole violation warrant.
- SYLVIA EVANS, 22, was transferred from BSPD after being arrested on charges of displaying expired registration, three counts of violating promise to appear, failure to maintain financial responsibility and disregarding a stop sign or stop light.
- JOSEPH FLORES, 24, was arrested by deputies
- on a charge of terroristic threats. • JAIMY JOHNSON, 46, was transferred from
- BSPD after being arrested on charges of evading arrest or detention, criminal trespass and possession of drug paraphernalia.
- WINNIE KNOX, 47, was transferred from BSPD after being arrested on a charge of theft over \$50 but less than \$500.
- LESLIE ROBERT LLOYD, 43, was transferred

See **SHERIFF**, Page 3A



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Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity Tuesday:

- ERNEST CLARK, 69, transient, was arrested on a charge of criminal trespass.
- JAMES ARTHUR BROWN, 46, 1222 W. Third, was arrested on two local warrants.
- LESLIE LLOYD, 43, 303.5 E. Ninth, was arrested on a charges of possession of a controlled substance and no insurance.
- SYLVIA EVANS, 22, 1503 Cherokee, was arrested on four local warrants.
- WINNIE DENISE KNOX, 47, 1002 S. Runnels, was arrested on a charge of theft.
- CHRISTOPHER HOBSON, 30, Mississippi, was arrested on a Mississippi warrant.
- ASSAULT CAUSING BODILY INJURY was reported in the 300 block of Main.
- ASSAULT CAUSING BODILY INJURY/FAM-ILY VIOLENCE was reported in the 2300 block of Wasson.
- CRIMINAL MISCHIEF was reported in the 1500 block of Sycamore.
- CRIMINAL TRESPASS was reported in the 2600 block of Gregg and the 700 block of Interstate 20.
- EVADING ARREST/DETENTION was reported in the 700 block of Interstate 20.
- POSSESSION OF DRUG PARAPHERNALIA was reported in the 700 block of Interstate 20.
- POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA/TWO OUNCES OR LESS was reported in the 1800 block of Run-
- TERRORISTIC THREAT was reported in the 600
- THEFT was reported in the 200 block of FM 700 (two cases), the 1700 block of FM 700 and the 2300 block of Wasson.

Lottery

The winning numbers from Tuesday's Mega Millions drawing were: 4, 5, 26, 37 and 56. The Mega Ball number was 25.

Today's Weather

Local !	5-Day F	orecas	t	
Thu 8/20	Fri 8/21	Sat 8/22	Sun 8/23	Mon 8/24
The state of the s	Zigasii.	Zining The state of the state o	William St.	William State of the State of t
100/70 Mostly sunny skies. A stray after- noon thun- derstorm is possible.	95/69 Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 90s and lows in the upper 60s.	96/70 Sunshine. Highs in the mid 90s and lows in the low 70s.	97/70 Mainly sunny. Highs in the upper 90s and lows in the low 70s.	95/70 Abundant sunshine. Highs in the mid 90s and lows in the low 70s.
Sunrise: 7:14 AM Sunset:	Sunrise: 7:14 AM Sunset:	Sunrise: 7:15 AM Sunset:	Sunrise: 7:16 AM Sunset:	Sunrise: 7:16 AM Sunset:

8:22 PM 8:21 PM

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PUDGE

Continued from Page 1B

The 37-year-old Rodriguez signed a one-year, \$1.5 million contract with the Astros in March and went on to hit .251 with eight home runs and 34 RBIs in 93 games. But the Astros have faded in the NL playoff chase, while the Rangers went into Tuesday night's game against Minnesota with a onegame lead in the AL wild-card race.

The trade surprised Rodriguez and the Astros.

"You trade away your starting catcher, it could send mixed messages," Houston infielder Geoff Blum said. "This time of year is when you're looking to make additions, if you feel your team is close enough. We didn't do that. We chose to make a subtraction."

Rodriguez is one of the most popu-

lar players in Rangers history, winning 10 of his 13 Gold Gloves with them. He helped lead the franchise's only three playoff teams in 1996, 1998 and 1999, when he won the AL MVP award.

Rodriguez caught 1.426 games in Texas, second in club history to Jim Sundberg's 1,495. He hit .305 with 215 home runs and 829 RBIs with the

He left when the club refused to offer salary arbitration after the 2002 season.

He signed with Florida and immediately won a World Series, then went to another World Series in five seasons with Detroit.

But Tuesday night was back in a dark blue uniform with "Texas" across the front, getting a big ovation when he brought the lineup card to home plate before the game. He was available off the bench.

"It's huge for our fan base," infielder Michael Young said. "He might be the best player in the history of our organization and probably the most popular. This is just a great move on all fronts.'

Rangers outfielder David Murphy said he will give up his No. 7, the number Rodriguez wore throughout his time with the Rangers and much of his career. Murphy said he'll switch to No. 14.

Known to fans by his childhood nickname "Pudge," Rodriguez got several standing ovations Arlington in June when he set the major league record for games caught with 2,227.

Rangers manager Ron Washington said Rodriguez would back up Taylor Teagarden, who became the starting catcher when Jarrod Saltalamacchia went on the disabled list last week. Rodriguez agreed to waive his notrade clause after telling the Rangers he could accept a backup role.

"He was the Johnny Bench of his era," Washington said. "And I still think he has the ability to do some great things. He's not that old."

The prognosis on Saltalamacchia led to the Rangers to consider bringing Rodriguez back. General manager Jon Daniels said Saltalamacchia has symptoms of thoracic outlet syndrome, which affects nerves near the shoulder and neck and can cause numbness in the arms.

Rangers infielder Hank Blalock had surgery to remove a rib because of the condition two years ago, but Daniels said Saltalamacchia has a milder form that can be treated with rest and rehabilitation. The team plans to have him back in September.

Teagarden grew up in the Dallas suburb of Carrollton when Rodriguez was in his prime with the Rangers.

"Watching him play when I was a kid, you idolized him," Teagarden said. "I have a chance to learn some things about how he handles himself on the field."

allowing Omar Vizquel to score. Jesse Crain escaped further damage by getting Marlon Byrd on a flyout with the bases loaded.

The key out against Byrd led to

Crain (4-4) getting the win, and Joe

Nathan pitched a scoreless ninth for his 30th save. It was his first save opportunity in August. Ian Kinsler hit a three-run homer for Texas, and speedy leadoff hitter

Julio Borbon went 3 for 4 with four steals, giving him nine hits and seven steals in three starts since Friday.

Carl Pavano gave up five earned runs in four innings, but that was quite a bit better than his only other appearance in Arlington. Pitching for Cleveland the first week of the season, he gave up nine runs in one inning of a 12-8 loss to the Rangers.

RANGERS

Continued from Page 1B

leader Seattle while surging to the lead in the wild-card race. Tuesday night's loss dropped Texas into a tie with Boston for the wild-card lead.

Scott Feldman was working on another one of those strong Texas pitching performances, but he let the game get away in the sixth. It was the largest blown lead of the season for the Rangers. The trouble started in the fourth

inning when Mauer hit the first of his two leadoff homers. It was one of four extra-base hits against Feldman, who had allowed nothing but singles in his first three August starts. In the

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sixth, four singles by the Twins preceded Young's tying two-run double.

"I was probably just a little too predictable with some of my pitches," Feldman said. "I just couldn't really get a rhythm going.'

The Twins fell behind again briefly before taking the lead for good in the

Mauer started the decisive inning with a tying home run off Jason Jennings, the 25th homer for Mauer and part of a 3 for 5 night that kept his major league-leading average at .380. "Mauer's amazing," Twins manag-

er Ron Gardenhire said. "He's putting some great swings on it. We've run out of things to say. He's playing Little League baseball in the big leagues where everything's a hit. It's incredible.'

Brendan Harris, who replaced Jason Kubel after Kubel fouled a pitch off his left knee in the first inning, followed Mauer's second homer with a single. Two outs later, Young's drive off Jennings (2-4) bounced off the top of the right-center field wall into the Rangers bullpen for an 8-6 Twins "That was my mistake for letting

(Mauer) get to me," Jennings said. "The one to Young, I was just trying to get ahead." The Rangers had retaken the lead

6-5 on a strange sequence in the sixth. With runners on first and second, Michael Young hit a dribbler to the right of the mound, and Twins reliever Philip Humber flipped the ball toward a vacated third base. The ball rolled to the wall behind the bag,

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> 2006 GMC Canyon Crew Cab 4X4 SLE - Red, V-6, All Power, One Seats, Rear Air, Fully Equipped. Owner w/27,415 Miles. Was \$18,995 NOW \$16,995

2005 Chevrolet Silverad Owner w/36,000 Miles. NOW \$19,995 Was \$24,995

2004 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 L.S. Reg. Cab - Pewter, V-6, Premium Package, Local Trad Automatic, A/C, 58K Miles. NOW <u>\$11,995</u>

 $\star\star\star\star$ CARS $\star\star\star$ 2008 Ford Fusion SEL - Silver w/Gray Leather, All Power, 37K Miles,

Extended Warranty Available. Was \$17.995 NOW \$16,995

2007 Saturn Aura XE - Red Jewel Tint w/Tan Cloth, V-6, Local One Efficient Sedan. Was \$15, 995 NOW \$14,995

2006 Saturn ION3 - Silver w/Gray Leather, One Owner, Great Gas Saver, Make Great First Car, Low Miles. Was \$12,995 NOW 11,995 Was \$14,995

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* * * CARS * * *

2008 Ford Focus SE - White, w/Gray Cloth, Ford Program Unit, Like 2004 F250 Crew Cab XLT Powerstroke Diesel - Blue/Silver, Local 2006 Nissan Sentra 1.8S - Silver, Cloth, Automatic, 66,000 Local New Only 12,000 Miles Miles. — Come See NOW 8,995

2006 Chrysler 300 Touring Sedan V-6 - Beautiful Pearl White With Gray Leather Interior, Luxury, Only 58,000 Miles...

Was \$16,995

Door Sports Car, NOW \$13,995 **2004 Nissan Altima SE V-6** - Gold with Black Leather, Sunroof, Only

56,000 Miles.

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* * * SUV'S * * *

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2005 GMC Yukon XL - Beautiful Maroon With Leather, Third Row

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S. 4X4 - White, Local One Owner, Like New, Only 31,000 Miles. Was \$25.995 NOW \$20,995

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NOW \$15,995 2005 Ford Explorer Sport Trac XLT - Red, w/Gray Cloth, All Power,

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2004 Nissan Murano SE - Black/With Gray Cloth, Only 78,000 Miles, Come And Drive This Best Selling SUV.

NOW \$14,995 Owner, 100,000 Mile Warranty Remains, Only 23,000 Miles On This 2004 Chevrolet Tahoe LT 4X2 - Gray, w/Gray Leather, All Power, One Owner, Only 60,000 Miles.

> Was \$20,995 2003 Nissan Xterra SE - Blue, w/Gray Cloth, One Owner, Like New. NOW \$11,995

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Fire/EMS

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

- TRAFFIC ACCIDENT was reported in the 300 block of Tulane. Service was refused.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1800 block of N. Highway 87. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAUMA was reported in the 1700 block of Lancaster. Service was refused.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 3200 block of Parkway. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1800 block of Alabama. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 900 block of Scurry. Service was refused.
- TRAUMA was reported in the 800 block of Willia. Service was refused.

SHERIFF

Continued from Page 2A

from BSPD after being arrested on charges of possession of a controlled substance and no in-

- DEBRA LOPEZ, 30, was arrested by deputies on a charge of public intoxication.
- JOSHUA ALLEN NOBLE, 22, was arrested by deputies on a charge of possession of marijuana less than two ounces.
- JACKIE DOYLE RICHEY, 46, was arrested by deputies on a charge of issuance of a bad check.
- CODY ALAN WINGO, 21, was arrested by deputies on a charge of consumption of alcohol

UW

Continued from Page 1A

Way helps a large cross-section of people in Howard County, he noted. "This is not something for just a few people,"

Yeats said. "It touches each and every one of Featured speaker for the event was Suzie Hum-

phreys, who admitted that she was a "D-minus" student in high school, but has enjoyed a career that includes hosting her own TV talk show and spending 20 years with radio station KVIL in Dallas before becoming a popular motivational

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

JP: Preliminary autopsy indicates suicide

Herald Staff Report

Preliminary autopsy results indicate a Big Spring man died earlier this week from a selfinflicted gunshot wound.

Ruben Martinez Sr., 52, died Saturday evening as a result to single gunshot wound to the head, said Quail Dobbs, Howard

County Justice of the Peace.

Martinez was found in a shed behind a relative's home on N. Bell Street around 9 p.m. Saturday evening. Dobbs declared him dead at 9:30 p.m.

Dobbs received preliminary results from an autopsy Tuesday. "The preliminary results say

Mr. Martinez' injuries were consistent with a self-inflicted wound," Dobbs said. However, Dobbs said he will

hold off on an official ruling as to the cause of death until he receives the final autopsy report. Funeral arrangements for

Martinez are being handled by Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

News in brief

Wave of blasts rock Baghdad, killing at least 58, wounding nearly 300 people, Iraqi police say BAGHDAD (AP) — Iraqi police and medical of-

ficials say that a series of explosions have struck Baghdad, killing at least 58 people and wounding nearly 300 others. The attacks in the Iraqi capital started shortly af-

the finance ministry in northern Baghdad and then minutes later, near the foreign ministry next to the heavily fortified Green Zone. The officials say the deadliest blast was a car bomb explosion near the foreign ministry, which killed dozens and wounded hundreds. The officials

ter 10 a.m. on Wednesday, striking near first near

say the toll is expected to climb. They say five other explosions, mostly from car bombs, tore through Baghdad, killing at least eight people and wounding dozens more.

The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to release the information.

Analysis: Liberals say 'no more compromise,' call for end to one-sided health care negotiation WASHINGTON (AP) — Frustrated liberals have

a question for President Barack Obama and Democratic lawmakers: Isn't it time the other guys gave a little ground on health care? What's the point of a bipartisan bill, they ask, if we're making all the concessions?

A case in point:

Sen. Charles Grassley, a key Republican negotiator on health care, was on a winning streak as Congress recessed for August, having wrung important concessions from Democrats, including an agreement not to tax employer-provided health insurance and a limit to demands on drug companies.

How did Grassley reciprocate? With an attack that struck Democrats as stunning and baseless. Grassley told an Iowa crowd he would not support a plan that "determines when you're going to pull the plug on Grandma." The remark echoed conservative activists who wrongly claim a House health care bill would require Medicare recipients to discuss their end-of-life plans with doctors. For liberals supporting far-reaching changes to

the nation's health care system, it was another sign that months of negotiations have been a one-way street. It's time to move on without Republicans, they say.

Hurricane Bill strengthens to Category 4 storm; winds whipping near 135 mph out in Atlantic

MIAMI (AP) — Hurricane Bill became a Category 4 storm as it rumbled across the Atlantic early Wednesday with maximum sustained winds near 135 mph.

And forecasters say the dangerous hurricane could get even stronger.

The National Hurricane Center said people in the Leeward Islands should monitor Bill's progress, though the core of the storm was expected to pass well to the northeast of the islands late Wednesday and early Thursday.

"The wind sheer is light and the waters are warm," Todd Kimberlain, a forecaster at the center, said Tuesday. "Those are two essential ingredients not just for the formation, but also the maintenance, of hurricanes."

Early Wednesday, Bill was centered about 460 miles east of the Leeward Islands and moving westnorthwest near 16 mph.

Space officials abort launch of South Korea's first rocket minutes before liftoff

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — Space officials aborted South Korea's first rocket launch just minutes before liftoff Wednesday.

The scheduled launch, just months after North Korea was widely criticized for firing its own rocket in defiance of the United Nations, had threatened to raise Pyongyang's ire. North Korea said it would keep a close eye on the international response to Seoul's rocket launch.

CITY

Continued from Page 1A

those efforts in the future.

"We were working toward a resolution of the issues anyway," McEwen said. "We were doing everything we could to resolve those issues when we were sued."

The current status of municipal buildings will not be effected by the settlement. McEwen said the auditorium will remain closed and ADA modifications will continue to be made at other sites.

"There will be no difference between our pre-, during or post-

to work on the issues. We recognize that we have ADA problems with our buildings and we'll continue to work toward a resolution." The settlement was

unanimously approved by the council. Also Tuesday, the

council held public hearings concerning the proposed budget and tax rate for the 2009-2010 fiscal year. While no comments were raised concerning the budget, plans to maintain the city's tax rate at \$1.013 per \$100 valuation drew fire from three local residents.

Tommy Duncan, Rita Brown and Aubrey objected

lawsuit efforts," he said. to proposed plans to non-critical functions "We're going to continue keep the rate at its current level (instead of dropping it to the effective rate of 95.08 cents) and use the extra revenue to jump start construction of a new city pool.

> "Times are hard," Duncan said. "I'm on a fixed income and as my taxes increase and as the price of gas increases, I have less money to meet my other expenses ... at this time, I don't think we can afford this pool."

Instead of increasing revenues, the city should be tightening its belt. Brown said. "I think the city needs

to look at ways to reduce expenses, like maybe shutting down

one or two days a week, like some other cities have done," she said. In his comments.

Weaver said he was "stupefied" that soon after retiring obligations from a 2002 bond, the city is still maintaining its current tax rate.

In reply, McEwen said the decision to build a new pool was in keeping with the city's obligation to "providing for our youth."

Further planning and discussion on a new pool will take place during an Aug. 27 work session, Finance Director Peggy Walker said.

In other business, council members approved:

Extending current iuvenile curfew for another three years.

• Bids to purchase an animal control truck, two ambulances and a "Jaws of Life" hydraulic rescue tool.

 Appointment of council members Manuel Ramirez and Joann Staulcup to a committee charged with finding ways to reduce vandalism of city property.

• Spending a combined \$350,000 to finance improvement to the water treatment and wastewater treatment plants.

Contact Staff Writer Steve Reagan at 263-7331 ext. 234.

MYERS & SMITH **FUNERAL HOME** & CHAPEL

24th & Johnson 267-8288 Ruben T. Martinez, Sr. 52, of Big Spring died Saturday, August 15, 2009. Vigil Services will be at 7 p.m. Wednesday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral Mass will be at 2 p.m. Thursday at Sacred Heart Catholic Church with burial at Mt. Olive

Memorial Park.



GRUWELL

Continued from Page 1A

ma, Forsan and Grady ISDs as well as county and city staff. As a new teacher, Gruwell

worked with a diverse group of students and encouraged them to rethink rigid beliefs about themselves and others and redefine their futures. The students shattered typical stereotypes and became critical thinkers, aspiring college students and citizens for

change. They called themselves the "Freedom Writers" — in homage to civil rights activists "The Freedom Riders" — and published a book, "The Freedom Writers Diary."

Erin and her students have appeared on numerous television shows, including Oprah, The Rosie O'Donnell Show, Prime Time Live with Connie Chung, Barbara Walters' The View, Good Morning America, and CSPAN's Book TV. Her class has been featured on National Public Radio and in national newspapers and

People magazine. Paramount "Freedom Pictures released Writers" in January 2007, a film based on the story featuring Hilary Swank as Erin.

Erin's latest book "Teaching Hope," Stories from the Freedom Writer Teachers and Erin Gruwell," will be available for sale along with the original book, "The Freedom Writers Diary." Gruwell will be available for book signing following the presentation. Visit www.howardcollege.edu for more information.



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Announcements

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Cemetery Lots

NEW AD

2 CEMETERY plots- \$1,725.00 each- "Garden and Machpelah" Trinity Memorial Park. Call (432)943-2340.

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Garage Sales

BACKYARD GARAGE Sale: 907 East 15th, Fri. & Sat. 8-2. Clothes all sizes (men & women), knick-knacks, shoes, purses, a few scrubs (large & small sizes), lots of misc. Cokes & burritos.

GARAGE SALE/ Bake Sale: 1003 East FM 700. Home baked goods, hand painted crafts made by volunteers. Lots of clothes, toys, etc. All Proceeds go to Alzheimer's. Saturday 8-12.

GARAGE SALE: 1801 Mittel, Saturday 7:00am-? Bed, table, lots of cookie jars and lots of misc. items.

GARAGE SALE: Saturday 7-11 at 707 Culp in Coahoma. Precious Moments figurines, home decor, picture frames, boy/girl baby clothes 0-24m, toys, children's books, tires off Ford F-150, lots of misc.

MOVING SALE/ 2 Family Sale: 4565 North FM 2212 just South of Ackerly, Saturday 8am-2pm. Clothes, some furniture, misc. household items and more.

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ing for a go-getter to sell advertising in our retail department.

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Electrician needed. Top pay!! Health, Dental, Vision, and Life Insurance PAID! Apply in person at 2205 Garden City Hwy. in Midland or contact Justin at 432-254-8186 for more information.

Help Wanted

Don's Tire & Truck
Service Inc.,
Service Rd. I-20 Exit 178

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EZ PAWN, Now Hiring 2 Full time & 1 Part Time Sales and Loan Representatives. Must have High School/GED, pass background & drug test. Apply online at www.ezpawnjobs.com

HILLCREST CDC has

Part-time Child giver position available, Mon-Fri. Must have high school diploma or GED. Hillcrest CDC, 2000 West FM 700

NEEDED EXPERIENCED office worker, bookkeeping, accounts receivable, payables, payroll. Non-smoking, P.O. Box 541, Big Spring, TX. 79721.

NEIGHBORS CONVENIENCE Store now hiring cooks, cashiers, stockers. All Shifts. Apply at 3315 E. FM 700.

NURSERY Worker needed for First Baptist Church-Coahoma, Sunday and Wednesday. Must be 18 yrs. old. Call (432)394-4348.

PART-TIME CAREGIVER for Christian childcare center. Also hiring for substitute preschool teachers to work on an as needed basis. Apply in person at 118 Cedar Rd. Must have a high school diploma.

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RELEASE OF Information Clerk in Big Springs area. Experience in a Medical Records Department or Doctor's Office a must. Fax resume to

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800-873-1831.

Help Wanted

WEST TEXAS Opportunities, Inc. is taking applications for a driver. Applicants must have a high school diploma or GED, must have a good driving record, be well-organized, dependable, and either have a Class C-CDL license with passenger endorsement or be able to obtain one at WTO,I expense within 75 days of hiring. Applicants must obtain a Medical Examiner's Certificate, at WTO,I expense, before hiring and renew it every two years thereafter. Ability to speak Spanish is desirable. Drivers must successfully complete CPR/first aid training within 60 days of employment. Pre-employment substance abuse testing required. A criminal background check will be conducted. Interested applicants may call Karen Faulkner at 877-270-2426 to have an application mailed to them. applications Completed should be mailed to the WTO,I office at P.O. Box 1308, Lamesa, TX 79331 and will be accepted through Tuesday, August 25, 2009. WTO,I is an equal opportunity employer.

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1501 JOHNSON 3/2, \$650/mo, \$350 deposit. Call (432)714-4001 for info.

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Our View

Library is still in need of book sale donations

elp has been asked for and donations of books for the annual Friends of the Library book sale in September have begun to come in, but it seems a reminder is a good idea.

That's because Friends of the Library, a nonprofit organization that provides supplemental support for the Howard County Library, uses funds raised during the book sale to provide the library resources not provided by county commissioners' budgeting process.

There's no question financial support of that kind is now more important than ever before.

The Friends of the Library has helped financially support the library's summer reading program for children in addition to a number of other projects.

That kind of support, however, depends on the generosity of Howard Countians.

So, if you have books you can donate to the organization's sale, simply go by the Howard County Library and leave them during regular business hours, Monday through Friday. And if at all possible, it would help if donors box their books.

Howard County Librarian Hollis McCright said the group is looking for "nice, used books." That means books being donated need to be in good condition.

Again, the organization is asking that people not donate Reader's Digest condensed books, National Geographics or other magazines.

In addition, anyone wishing to join the Friends of the Library — dues are just \$5 a year. Meetings are held at noon on the fourth Thursday of each month.

For more information about the book sale or any of the library's programs, call 264-2260.

This year's book sale will be held the weekend of Sept. 18-20 in the library's basement and we hope readers will take that opportunity to add to their personal libraries.

As we've noted before, by doing so, they'll not only be enriching their lives, but the lives of others as well.

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- offer several ways in which you may contact us:
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A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

May we be thankful for the many blessings that You give us, Lord.

More government, higher taxes?

he most important issue facing our country today is health care reform. Like many of my colleagues. I believe that health care reform should be done in a careful, constructive, and bipartisan way.

Unfortunately, the Democrats' health care reform proposals meet none of those standards. That is why we are seeing Americans across the country voice their concerns in town hall meetings and in letters and phone calls to Congress.



BAILEY Hutchison

Americans from every walk of life know that the Democrats' plan will lead to more government, more taxes, and more expensive health care. Even the Congressional Budget Director advises against this approach, stating that the Administration's proposal fails to make the fundamental changes needed to reign in skyrocketing costs of government health care programs. I am particularly concerned

about the impact of this legislation on the fiscal health of our country and the cost burden it will place on our small businesses and their employees.

The Administration's proposal contains tax penalties and fees on small businesses that are not able offer health insurance. To pay these added costs, many small businesses could be forced to decrease workers wages, hire fewer employees, implement layoffs, or cut into other benefits. And some employers will have to pay a tax even if they already provide health insurance! A Kaiser Family Foundation survey found that roughly three in five small businesses will be hit with new taxes under the Democrats proposal.

Imposing new taxes on small businesses promises to wreak havoc on our economy. By raising taxes on some small businesses as high as 45 percent, they will be paying 10 percent more than what major corporations pay — and the U.S. corporate rate is among the highest in the world.

Instead of giving this power to the government, we should be helping employers provide more affordable health insurance options to their employees. We especially need these options for Texans. Texas ranks in the bottom five states for adults who receive health insurance coverage through their employers.

For this reason, I co-sponsored the Small Business Health Plans Act, which will make it easier for small businesses to purchase more affordable health insurance. Under our bill, small companies will be allowed to form insurance pools across state lines, expanding negotiating power and health insurance options for small businesses. This legislation will not only

lower health care costs for small businesses; it will also increase the number of Americans with health insurance. But this bill should be part of a larger solution.

To that end, we must empower

patients with the freedom and ability to make informed choices. All Texans should have the flexibility to choose the health care plan that is best for themselves, their families, and their pocketbooks.

That's why I am also an original co-sponsor of a bill that will allow all Americans to deduct 100 percent of their health insurance premiums as long as they purchase qualified private health coverage. Just as tax benefits are given to employers for providing health insurance. tax benefits should be available to those who purchase coverage from the individual market. While research shows a tax credit would provide a greater incentive for those seeking health insurance, an above-theline deduction is a positive start

The solution to health care issues is not to give more power to the government; the solution is to give more power to the American people and small businesses. They deserve a system that lives up to the idea that America has the best health care in the world

We should reject the Administration and Democratic Leadership's hasty, costly and poorly crafted legislation.

We should be working toward a bipartisan plan grounded in the principles of choice, competition, patients' rights, and reducing costs.

I will not support a plan that fails to encompass these principles, and I encourage my colleagues to stand likewise.

Kay Bailey Hutchison is the senior U.S. Senator from Texas.



Obama in national park paradise

hen Barack Obama was 11, his mother and grandmother took him and his half-sister Maya on the most American of family vacations a road trip that included Yellowstone and the

Last week, Obama passed on that gift as he took his wife, daughters Malia and Sasha as well as Maya and her family on a four-day trip

Grand Canyon.

to two of America's most breathtaking national parks. "It was nice the

entire family was



DEBRA SAUNDERS

Park Service spokesman Gerry Gaumer noted — not just the immediate family, but the extended family. "Rather than a presidential visit, it seemed more like a vacation."

Cynics may observe that the geyser and canyon photo ops provided middle-American balance to the Obamas' summer vacation, a weeklong retreat on the tony Martha's Vineyard.

Who cares? It's always a plus when elected officials spend time in an environment where mountains dwarf their accomplishments,

is indifferent to their status. According to some reports. visits to America's 391 national parks — the list also includes Washington's National Mall and the Golden Gate National Recreation Area — are down, and couch-potato syndrome is to

Gaumer produced statistics that show, yes, visits were down to 274 million last year from highs of 287 million visits in 1999 and 1987, but they've also risen, as park attendance is "cyclical" and subject to changing travel patterns.

Some things don't change in Yellowstone. Montana Gov. Brian Schweitzer had some sage advice for Obama on his trip to Old Faithful.

As the Democratic governor told the Associated Press, he advised Obama "to watch his kids' faces, and not the geyser, and you will never forget the expression on their faces when that thing goes off." The same can be said for a

teen's first look at a moose with two calves or a toddler's sighting of a mountain goat at the side of Glacier National Park's Goingto-the-Sun Road.

For adults, there is the quiet pleasure of watching time stand still as the sun sinks behind a

snow-kissed ridge. Enough already. I can write

So I move to the familiar territory of policy dispute, this time: How should Americans pay to

maintain the parks? The National Park Service annual budget is around \$2.3 billion — with a mere \$186 million coming from entrance and campground fees, according to the NPS's Brandon Flint. Many parks are free. The most expensive parks charge a per car fee e.g., \$25 at Yellowstone for a week. Seniors can get a lifetime pass for \$10.

Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar launched the system's first fee-free weekends this year. The last of three ended Sunday. The idea was to give financially strapped families some economic relief — and as far as that, the idea worked fine, although a purist would argue that the parks should be charging more for the sort of destinations people spend a lot to reach, not less.

Entrance to Yellowstone should cost a family more than a night at the movies. As for the lifetime senior pass, it's a boondoggle and should be eliminated Let retirees pay what parents with young kids have to scrape together. I don't think many families would complain. For one thing, they'd be too relaxed.

E-mail Debra J. Saunders at dsaunders@sfchronicle.com. COPYRIGHT 2009 CREATORS **SYNDICATE**

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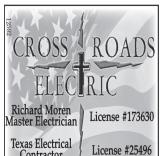
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Bird Poop: Something's in my chimney!

fter our evening meal, we went ∟outside to enjoy the cool evening and what it might have to offer. Standing in the

driveway, I heard the famil iar avian twittering before looking upward. Late summer

from high

Веве rains had brought not only relief

McCasland

temperatures, but also the insects that offer a snack for one of the swiftest of fliers. With long, slender wings, the whirling birds were driven by an insatiable appetite. Unlike the barn

swallows with their graceful, fluid flight, these darters seemed to tilt from side to side. Erratic in their pursuit of flying insects, the birds would glide after a burst of rapid wing beats. Repeating this over and over, the brownish-gray aces were in a hurry to complete their dining in the waning light of a July day.

Soon both the sunlight and birds were gone. The cool breeze that followed, along with having watched the summer spectacle, led to a remembrance of another year.

"There's a bird in my fireplace," said the worried caller. Having noticed it behind the glass doors, the woman was afraid it would die. Telling her I would come, I grabbed some old sheets, several nets, and a flashlight.

By the time I reached her home, the rain had stopped. From the sidewalk leading up to her porch, I could see not only the neighborhood spread out below, but parts of our city as well. Low, puffy clouds on the horizon threatened more rain as I entered her front door.

At one end of the living room was the brick fireplace. The ledge extending from the hearth offered an ample place to kneel or sit while hopefully catching an errant bird. Spreading sheets over her lush, beige carpet, I asked her to hold another sheet over me. "Press it against the brick as I open the glass screen."

Although I had removed numerous barn owls from firesides, this was the first time to rescue a very frightened chimney swift. "The damper is open. That's how the bird came down into your fireplace," I called to her.

Slowly opening the doors, I wedged one side of my body into the gap I was creating. Having cautioned

the woman that the swift might manage to get past the sheet, and me, I hoped I could grab the bird rather than have it fly through the house. Even though it might leave through the propped-open front door, I wasn't sure it would do it.

Tiring from its efforts to find an exit from the sooty enclosure, the swift bounced off the glass several times. With the flashlight showing me where it

was, I waited until it grabbed the grate with its tiny, clawed feet.

Normally, while the bird clung upright to the walls of a chimney, its short tail would rest against the surface. In trying to remain vertical without this stabilizing effect, it teetered on the rough surface. Reacting to its momentary lull in flying, I managed to grab the chimney swift.

Relieved to have both the bird and me out of her fireplace, the woman was eager to see the swift. Noticing the tiny spikes on the end of its tail feathers,



Courtesy photo

to nothing?" she com-

mented. "Less than an

ounce," I answered.

final look, I opened

After she took one

my hand. As if blessed

with unlimited energy,

Not only feeding in the air, the chimney swift drinks, bathes, mates, fights, and with its feet, snatches twigs off trees for nests, while in flight. Resembling half a cup, its nest is made of twigs held together and to the wall of a chimney by its sticky saliva.

> and its feet with four forward toes, she could now understand how they helped the bird maintain its hold on the inner surface of a chimney.

Walking outside to release the swift, we felt the cool breeze that followed the diminishing clouds. As I turned the bird, the woman noticed the slight sheen on its feathers. Its black wings were a striking contrast to its lighter neck and breast. Although it was a small bird, she was amazed when I opened its tiny bill to show her its gaping mouth.

"Guess it weighs next

the swift flew upward and circled her home. "What if it goes back in my chimney?"

Telling her I had closed the damper, I mentioned that the swifts would probably leave some time in September. Once they had migrated, she could have the chimney capped. Without enough natural nesting sites, such as hollow trees, the specie had adapted by using manmade structures. The choice was hers.

Seventeen years have passed since that rescue. In letting us know someone might be having a similar problem, our answering machine recently recorded, "My chimney's making some of the strangest sounds!"

Bebe McCasland is federally and state licensed to rehabilitate wild birds.

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Bear attacks woman in Colorado home

officers looking for a bear that forced its way into a home and attacked the homeowner, and may have been behind other break-ins in the Aspen area this summer.

unidentified woman suffered deep scratches to her back and chest when the bear struck at her late Monday but she didn't have to be hospitalized, said Randy Hampton, spokesman for the Colorado Division of Wildlife.

Hampton said the bear forced its way in through French doors that were closed but not locked. Based on how it entered the house and its description, officers believe the same bear may have entered and tried to break into other homes in the area. They plan to euthanize the

"Bears that break into

homes bears that are aggressive toward people are too dangerous to relocate," division's wildlife manager Perry Will said.

Bears are normally tagged the first time they're caught getting in trash or being a nuissance in some other way. If they strike again, they're put down. However, Hampton said any time bears show aggression toward humans, wildlife officers will try to kill them.

police Aspen wildlife officers have been busy with bear calls all summer. Hampton said finding a bear in a car or a house — either because it broke open a door or walked in through an open door is a daily occurrence.

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Hamptonsaidtheresort town has one of the most aggressive campaigns to educate people about living in bear country, including the danger of not securing trash or leaving bird feeders outside. He said the city is also urging residents to lock their doors in the relatively low-crime community. However, he said even if a few people don't cooperate, it's impossible to keep the bears at bay despite all those efforts.

Monday's wildlife officers say the woman was in her home at about 10:10 p.m. when she passed by the entryway on her way to her home office. She told them her dog began barking and then she was confronted by a largebear.Shescreamed and then turned to open the front door to get the bear to leave and

scratching her. She fled to a bedroom upstairs and called 911.

The bear remained in the house for a short time and left as police responded.





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contribute to

the success.

both as an

and as part

of the group.

Recognize

individual

yourself

humor.

Think

victory

Rally

accomplishments

Approaching your goals

from this quirky angle

ARIES (March 21-April

together

After

19). Your team will win.

to

TAURUS (April 20-May

20). Sometimes, things

just go wrong and no one

is to blame. And even if

someone is to blame, it

won't do any good to

blame them. Instead, use

today's events to get in

touch with your sense of

21). A loved one will

share opinions with you,

some of which have to do

with your behavior.

person might have a

point. If you encounter

criticism, it is likely to be

constructive and helpful.

22). You are made of

stardust. That material

may be billions of years

old, but it still wants to

shine. Acknowledge your

need to be luminous and

attractive. Commit to the

CANCER (June 22-July

whether

this

GEMINI (May 21-June

novel

the

HOLIDAY

MATHIS

produce

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Tomorrow's Horoscope

These are the last days action that is sure to of the Leo sun. Tomorrow dazzle everyone around. brings the new moon in **LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22). Leo. The theme centers You'll connect with around publicity and others in the moments of

fame. Decide how you silence. That's why would like to be known pauses in conversation are truly golden. You will in the coming months. Make a specific list of be luckiest when you speak as little as possible and throughout this peaceful that you will be growing into. day.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). It's possible you've been expecting yourself to perform without taking the preliminary measures that would allow you to be at your best. Stretch your body and mind to gear up for this active

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. Your attachments will benefit you. Whether you work to maintain a material possession or endeavor to improve a relationship, the energy and feeling you put into it will bring satisfying results.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You may experience feelings of disillusionment as a large organization shows vou its less-than-glamorous side. You can still feel great your about contribution, though. As they say, it's not about the war, it's about the

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You will gain energy from the spirits of nature, even if you're in the city. Take a moment to watch the grace of birds circling on high, the elegant pattern of leaves or the peaceful way the grass recognizes the wind.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You have talent. Team that with passion and discipline and you'll be both paid and praised for your contribution. Two out of three qualities won't do. Show your Signed, Gender-Blind."

belief in yourself by following through.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You'll inclined to share all you have. If others do the same with you, accept the gift and keep the flow of abundance open. Libra Sagittarius and particularly generous.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You will thrive when you work with another person to accomplish a common goal. Deciding on that goal will be key. It may take a while, but it's an important step in your process not to be missed.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (AUGUST 19). You handle what was getting in the way of your Worrying success. matters disappear over the next five weeks find fantastic you solutions and pursue bigger, more important challenges. Your finances perk up with a savvy deal in October. December brings harmony in your family and old grudges get buried. Scorpio and Pisces adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 7, 10, 33, 45 and 19.

ASTROLOGICAL

QUESTIONS: "I'm an Aquarius girl and it drives me crazy when people say that girls and guys can't really be friends. I've always gotten along with guys better than girls. It's true that some of my guy friends have boyfriends, too. But some of them have never been boyfriends and never will be. It breaks my heart when we have to stop being close because a girlfriend or wife gets jealous. How can I stay close with my guy friends even when they have

others?

If any girl can be "just friends" with a guy, it's Aquarius. Friendship is her thing and sometimes will even prefer very close friendships to romantic love. That said, even though you are freethinking, progressive Aquarius, you are not gender-blind truly because you purposely choose male friends over female ones. If you are being completely honest, you might discover that you like making other girls jealous, and that is part of your attraction to male friendships. I advise you to cultivate some female friendships to become more balanced, fair and real in your relationships.

CELEBRITY

PROFILES: Edward Norton has played the bad guy and the good guy, both to stellar effect. he's really But spectacular when he plays the crazy guy. His disturbed

characterizations movies like "Fight Club" and "American History X" are both chilling and thought provoking. Norton is a Leo with Mercury, communication planet, in meticulous indicating that he's a perfectionist when it comes to his work.

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

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Wise Latina' wins pop culture support

LAURA WIDES-MUNOZ AP Hispanic Affairs Writer

phrase of U.S. Supreme MIAMI (AP) — Wise Court Justice Sonia So-

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.

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



By Steve Becker

Penny-Wise, Pound-Foolish

NORTH WEST ♥J 10 9 5 ♦ O 10 9 8 2 **♣**ÀKQ The bidding: South North Ĕast West

North dealer.

Both sides vulnerable

Pass Pass Opening lead — jack of hearts. There are some deals where play-

ers tend to suffer from a blind spot. Take this typical case from a duplicate game The deal was played at 26 tables.

but our story concerns itself only with the 11 tables where the contract was six diamonds played by South. West invariably led the jack of hearts against the slam, after which nine declarers went down one, while at

two tables South made the contract. The play went quickly at the tables where the slam was defeated.

In each case, declarer covered the heart lead with the queen and took East's king with the ace. The queen of diamonds was then finessed, losing to the king, and East returned a heart to set the contract.

At the tables where the slam was made, South also led the trump queen at trick two but went up with the ace after West followed low. Declarer then led the spade queen from dummy and finessed. When the queen held, declarer continued with the jack. East covered with the king, taken by the ace, and South cashed the ten of spades, discarding a heart from dummy. He then conceded a trump to the king and so finished with 12 tricks.

Both successful declarers realized that the trump finesse was a red herring that did not offer nearly as good a chance to make the slam as the spade finesse did. If the spade finesse won, the slam was made, period. But if the diamond finesse won, declarer was still not yet home, and unless the opposing clubs were divided 3-3, he would have to try the spade finesse

While a successful diamond finesse might gain South 20 points, it could also lose the 1,370 points for making the slam — which is exactly what it cost each of the nine declarers who tried the trump finesse.

Tomorrow: Declarer takes the bait.

tomayor's Senate confirmation hearings has since taken on a life of its own, generating sales of T-shirts, note cards, dog jerseys and even thongs.

Sotomayor uttered her now famous words several occasions — and her critics on many more. And while the newest Supreme Court Justice sought to explain the phrase, her supporters have embraced it.

"At 55, I better have some wisdom," said Joyce Saenz Harris, a retired food writer in Dallas who recently bought a "Wise Latina' T-shirt.

"It just kind of struck me as funny," said Saenz Harris, whose family originated from Mexico. "I have known a lot of wise Latinas in my life: my mother, my grandmother, my aunts. I thought, 'Hey this is something I identify with, something I can aspire to."

Amy Maniatis, vice president for the online marketplace cafepress. com, one of several sites that allows people to create and sell T-shirts and other products, says the company has continued to see a growth in "Wise Latina" and other Sotomayor products over the last month, with a total of more than 4,500.

That's small potatoes compared to the 1 million items for former Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin, last year's Republican vice presidential candidate, but far more than the 300 for Samuel Alito, the last Supreme Court judge confirmed.

"We tend to see the site as a cultural barometer," she said. "This is the first time we've seen an outpouring support for a Supreme Court justice."

Among the spinoff items: "My Mother is a Wise Latina," "I'm marrying a wise Latina." and "I'd rather be a Wise Latina," Tshirts, as well as "Wise Latina in training," onesies. Latina Magazine is offering a limited edition T-shirt.

There's even a T-shirt with disgraced South Carolina Gov. Mark Sanford chalking up his affair with an Argentinean journalist to taking advice from a "Wise Latina."

Meanwhile, at least three Wise Latina Facebook sites have popped up, spawning discussions about images of Latinas in the media.

Sotomayor used the phrase most notably in a 2001 speech in which she told Hispanic law students she hoped: "a wise Latina woman with the richness of her experiences would more often than not reach a better conclusion than a white male who hasn't lived that life."

To those who opposed Sotomayor's selection to the court, the words seemed proof she'd put experience personal above the law. To those who supported her nomination, they were simply an effort to convey pride in her roots.

For other Latinas, the latter opinion seems to have stuck, although sale numbers for "Wise Latina" products are



AP Photo/Seth Wenig **Nova Gutierrez of New York** poses for a picture in her "Wise Latina" shirt.

hard to come by because the products are mostly home-designed.

"It's catching on with the local community. It's supposed to be demeaning, like our Sen. John Cornyn implied, but it's not for us," said Texan Joanna Cattanach, 28, whose birth father is Mexican-American and who sells baby-pink "Wise Latina" T-shirts through a link on her blog, Chick Talk Dallas.

Michelle Gonzalez Maldonado, who teaches Latin American studies at the University of Miami, says the phrase has taken off because it evokes an image of Hispanic women not usually seen in pop culture.

"In Hispanic culture, there is such a veneration of the older Latina figure. She represents that," she said.

And the phrase's popularity goes beyond the Puerto Rican community, said Nova Gutierrez, a Chicana teacher and New York City gallery owner who has seen small but steady sales of

"I have friends who are not Latina who are saying 'Oh I want one of those," Gutierrez said.

BIG SPRING HERALD

Rob Dougherty, an Irish-American from Pueblo, Co., started selling the T-shirts through the online site Zazzle. com before the confirmation hearings even started.

"If someone had made a similar remark about being a wise Norwegian, Scotsman, Greek or other there wouldn't have been this furor," he said. "But since it's about one of the groups who have been discriminated against recently, I guess people think she wants revenge."

The popularity of the phrase is about more than simply pride in Sotomayor, said Charlton McIlwain, professor of media and culture at New York University.

McIlwain describes it as a backlash to conlawmakers servative who gave the phrase a negative spin. In that, the phrase is part of a broader tradition of minority groups reclaiming phrases used to disparage them. He cited the gay community's adoption of the word queer, or some black Americans' use of the N-word.

"I think one thing many people are doing, Latinas and the Latino community in general, is reframing the phrase and saying: 'Hey, when we talk about the wise Latina, we're not trying to show that somehow we're better than others, but we want to associate being Latino with something that's wise and good."

In Sunday's



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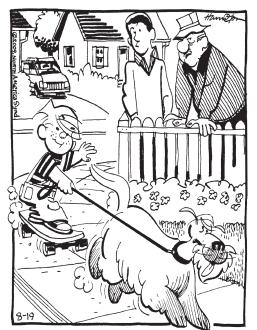
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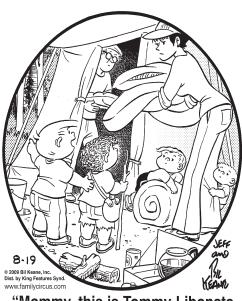
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_	:PM	News	Jeopardy!	Gancho	Two Men	News	12 Cora-	News	Seinfeld	Mark	News-Lehrer	MythBusters		Bill: Vol. 1,	Movie: The	Live	Montana		
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-	:PM	Be a Mil-	Be a Mil-	Nombre	Bones	Christine	Más Sabe el	Outrageous	Payne	Israel	Time Team	MythBusters			Quest for the Spear		Montana	World Series Final	IBA.
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40	:PM	News	News	Impacto	Raymond	News	Noticiero	News	Movie:	Israel	Charlie Rose	MythBusters			Leverage	W. Williams	Suite Life	Yearbook	SportsCenter
10	:30	Nightline	Nightline	Noticiero	King-Hill	Late Show	Decisiones	Tonight Show	Daddy's Little	Dr. Young	1						So Raven	Yearbook	
4.4	:PM	Insider	Jimmy Kim-	La Escuelita	Law & Order		de		Girls	CCM	BBC	Man vs. Wild		CSI: Crime	Dark Blue	Movie:	Life De	SportsNation	Baseball
11	:30	Jimmy Kim-	mel Live	VIP		Late Late	Decisiones	Late Night-		Israel	Smiley		Chisum,	Scn		Nora's Hair	Cory	1	NFL Live
10	:AM	mel Live	Extra	Contra	RENO 911	Show	de	Jim	Sex &	Israel	(Off Air)	Verminators	Christopher George	Amazing	CSI: NY	Salon	Replace	Yearbook	SportsCenter
12	:30	News	Paid	Viento	Paid	Insider	Pagado	News	Sex &	Sanchez	1		George	Video			Kim	Yearbook	1
4	:AM	Paid	Paid	Mujer	Friends	Entertain	Pagado		Movie:	Light of the]	Weapon	1	Disorderly	Cold Case	W. Williams	Emperor	X Games	SportsCenter
	:30	Paid	Paid	Güereja	Paid	Paid	Pelicula:	Dark	Feeling Min-	Southwest		Masters	Movie: Pat-	Con.			Dragon		

DENNIS THE MENACE



"THE DOGISTRAINED. THE KID ISN"T."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"Mommy, this is Tommy Libonate from the RV by the lake. Can he stay overnight?"

HAGAR



BLONDIE







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BC



WIZARD OF ID

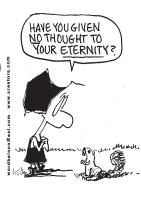












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BEETLE BAILEY





This Date In History

Today is Wednesday, Aug. 19, the 231st day of 2009. There are 134 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight History:

On Aug. 19, 1909, the first automobile races were run at the just-opened Indianapolis Motor Speedway; the winner of the first event was auto engineer Louis Schwitzer, who drove a Stoddard-Dayton touring car twice around the 2.5mile track at an average speed of 57.4 mph.

On this date:

In 1812, the USS Constitution defeated the British frigate Guerriere off Nova Scotia during the War of 1812. In 1918, "Yip! Yip! Yaphank,"

a musical revue by Irving Berlin featuring Army recruits from Camp Upton in Yaphank, N.Y., opened on Broadway.

In 1929, the radio comedy program "Amos 'n' Andy," starring Freeman Gosden and Charles Correll, made its network debut on NBC-Blue.

In 1934, a plebiscite in Germany approved the vesting of sole executive power in Adolf Hitler.

In 1942, during World War II, about 6,000 Canadian and British soldiers launched a disastrous raid against the Germans at Dieppe, France, suffering more than 50-percent casualties. In 1949, the Federal

Communications Commission prohibited so-called "giveaway" radio and TV shows, saying they violated lottery laws. (The U.S. Supreme Court overturned the ban in 1954, ruling that giveaway shows fell short of being lotteries because participants did not pay in order to try to win prizes.)

In 1955, severe flooding in the northeastern U.S. claimed some 200 lives.

In 1960, a tribunal in Moscow convicted American U2 pilot Francis Gary Powers of espionage.

In 1976, President Gerald R. Ford won the Republican presidential nomination at the party's convention in Kansas City.

In 1991. Soviet hard-liners announced to a shocked world that President Mikhail S.

Gorbachev had been removed from power. (The coup attempt collapsed two days later.)

Today's Birthdays: Actor L.Q. Jones is 82. Actress Debra Paget is 76. Tennis coach Renee Richards is 75. Baseball All-Star Bobby Richardson is 74. Actress Diana Muldaur is 71. Rock musician Ginger Baker (Cream, Blind Faith) is 70. Singer Johnny Nash is 69. Actress Jill St. John is 69. Actor and former U.S. Sen. Fred Thompson is 67. Singer Billy J. Kramer is 66. Country singersongwriter Eddy Raven is 65. Rock singer Ian Gillan (Deep Purple) is 64. Former President Bill Clinton is 63. Tipper Gore, wife of former Vice President Al Gore, is 61.

2009 The Associated Press. Answer to previous puzzle

D	Α	W	N		G	R	Α	S	Р		В	Α	N	1
R	Τ	N	G	В	Ε	Α	R	Ε	R		R	Υ	Ε	ŀ
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Newsday Crossword

64 River to the

recklessly

66 Ouija-board

answer

67 Came to a

68 Oversized

DOWN

1 Typewriter

settings

capital

5 Lander on

7 Edmonton's

Ararat

city

prov.

2 Scandinavian

3 Take the lead

volume, often

close

Seine

65 Drive

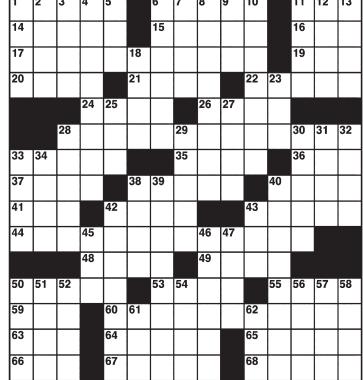
ACROSS

- 1 Puccini opera 6 German spa city
- 11 Get-up-and-go 14 Furrier John
- Jacob
- **15** Split to wed
- **16** Words to wed by
- 17 Beach-party
- activity
- 19 Backtalk
- 20 Place into cubbyholes
- she blows!" 22 Boston
- hoopsters, for short
- **24** 10K or marathon
- **26** New Jersey university
- 28 Kilt wearer's dance
- 33 Superior to **35** Stadium section
- **36** Free (of)
- **37** Wine variety
- **38** Classroom
- sphere **40** Philbin cohost
- **41** 911 respondent
- **42** Muffin variety
- 43 Fraidy-cat 44 Musical talent
- 48 Neuwirth of
- Cheers **49** Word-processor
- command 50 Dental
- hygienist's advice
- **53** Put on guard **55** Scoop holder 59 Jar topper
- **60** Short distance 63 "What's more . . .'

- hanger 9 Mini-LPs 10 Sanka
- alternative **11** Aspirin unit 12 Cut and paste
- **13** Confections on sticks
- **18** Engrave with acid
- 23 Photo blow-up: Abbr. 25 Ripen
- **27** Just beat **28** Party throwers **29** Without a
- partner 4 Hatch, as a plot **30** From Waterford **56** Like some
- **31** Just beats 6 Old Testament 32 Aussie's
 - greeting 33 Carpet-store computation

- **HEAVE-HO!** by Fred Piscop Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com
- 8 Impromptu coat 34 Stage failure 38 Chuck-wagon offering
 - 39 Breaking news **40** Bullet bounce
 - 42 Confessional phrase
 - 43 Guideline: Abbr. **45** Dictionary abbr.
 - 46 Turned to mush 47 Rustic lodgings 50 Scold severely
 - 51 One of five in a limerick **52** Racetrack
 - figures **54** Actress Hathaway
 - thermometers Scotia
 - 58 Flock females
 - **61** Get some sun **62** Erstwhile airline

8/19/09



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Texas news in brief

Jewelry stolen in Houston stuffed into teddy bears

HOUSTON (AP) — Some jewelry stolen in Houston turned up stuffed in teddy bears shipped to Florida.

Houston police investigator Paul Reece says the four suspects are from the Orlando area, where three were arrested. Reece said Tuesday the suspects allegedly had traveled to Texas to target pawn shops.

Police say three men face charges

Police say three men face charges of aggravated robbery with a deadly weapon over a March 16 armed hold-up. Some people in the store were tied up as cash and jewelry were stolen.

Houston police say the fourth sus-

pect, who remains at large, is also wanted over a Feb. 14 pawn shop holdup.

Law officers in Orlando confiscated an overnight shipment of teddy bears and located the jewelry. Further investigation linked the stolen jewelry to the Houston robberies and the suspects, police said.

Museum resource center in Dallas on JFK killing

DALLAS (AP) — A resource center will open in the former Texas School Book Depository for researchers and others studying archives of the JFK assassination.

President John F. Kennedy was fatally shot on Nov. 22, 1963, during a motorcade through Dallas.

Dallas County Commissioners on Tuesday approved a request from the Sixth Floor Museum, located in the building, for space for a reading and media room.

The museum's resource center will be on the first floor what is now the county administration building.

Executive director Nicola Longford previously told commissioners that she has been contacted "by researchers all over the world." The museum's collection includes about 35,000 items.

The Warren Commission concluded in 1964 that Lee Harvey Oswald fired

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three shots at Kennedy's motorcade from the former depository.

Neb. man convicted of sex assaults on niece, 12

COLUMBUS, Neb. (AP) — A 42-yearold man found guilty of sexually assaulting his teenage niece at his former home in Monroe will be sentenced next month.

Judge Robert Steinke of Platte County District Court found the man guilty of two counts of first-degree sexual assault. Each count carries a maximum penalty of 50 years in prison.

Authorities say the man assaulted his then 12-year-old niece several times over a year beginning in June 2007. The girl is 14 and lives in Midland, Texas, now.

The Associated Press is not using the man's name so the identity of the girl is protected.

Court papers say the girl told Texas authorities that her uncle cajoled her into sex when she and her mother stayed with him in Monroe. She also said she feared he would harm her if she told anyone.

Abilene man dies in shootings in Wichita Falls

WICHITA FALLS (AP) — A suspect was sought after gunfire during a party in Wichita Falls left one person from out of town dead and another wounded.

Wichita Falls police say the shootings happened early Wednesday at a house.

Sgt. Joe Snyder told The Associated Press that detectives had "very strong leads" on a suspect. Snyder declined to elaborate.

Police say 18-year-old Andrew Gonzales of Abilene was transported to United Regional Hospital in Wichita Falls, where he died. Police say a second victim, 20-year-old Alex Estrada of Abilene, was hospitalized with

multiple gunshot wounds.

Police say 911 calls were received around 1 a.m. Wednesday about shots being fired. Witnesses were being interviewed at the scene.

Snyder had no figures on how many people were on hand, other than it was a "large party."

Cleanup following tornado in Beaumont

BEAUMONT (AP) — Cleanup continues in Beaumont after a tornado flipped vehicles in parking lots and damaged some stores.

Repairs continued Wednesday from the fast-moving storm that left behind no serious injuries. Roof damage was reported at a

Kohls Department Store and a Wal-Mart from the tornado, which swept into the area Tuesday afternoon. Montra Lockwood with the National

Weather Service told KBMT-TV that

the entire event probably lasted less than five minutes. Christus St. Elizabeth Hospital received 10 patients Tuesday afternoon. Spokeswoman Jacquelynn Conger

nor cuts and abrasions.
Utilities checked for gas leaks and repaired power lines.

says most of the injured suffered mi-

Worker dies in flooded Conroe tunnel

CONROE (AP) — One worker died after a rainstorm flooded a tunnel at a construction site in Conroe.

Law officers did not immediately release the name of the man whose body was recovered Tuesday night.

Justice of the Peace Trey Spikes says the accident happened after a drill bit became stuck and workers tried to free it.

A fast-moving storm dumped rain on the site and filled a pipe and the tunnel. Conroe Police Chief Ken Kreger says the water quickly "came in from everywhere."

The Occupational Health and Safety Administration will investigate.

Texas sheriff accused of incompetence won't resign

ed Hockley County sheriff said he won't resign and plans on fighting civil charges of incompetence and abuse of power.

David Kinney says he was not aware of nor responsible for the behavior of two of his deputies arrested on drug trafficking charges.

Two Hockley County deputies were

arrested last month on federal drug charges related to a major methamphetamine ring. About a third of the deputies are either under federal indictment or investigation or been fired, according to a petition for Sheriff David Kinney's removal.

Speaking to supporters Monday

on the Hockley County Courthouse lawn, Kinney said for him to "take responsibility for others is crazy."

District Judge Blair Cherry signed an order Thursday temporarily ousting Kinney as sheriff.

Cyber command activated

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — The new cyber command at Lackland Air Force Base has been activated.

A ceremony was held Tuesday for the 24th Air Force, which will employ about 400 people and will focus on defending Air Force networks against attacks.

San Antonio Mayor Julian Castro said "what Silicon Valley is to software and San Diego is to biotech, San Antonio is to cyber."

Lackland was selected over five other U.S. sites.

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Annie's Mailbox ®

Dear Annie: I have been with an amazing man for many years. "Todd" is funny and sweet, and my family adores him. However, I continue to question our relationship because, although he's very motivated, he lacks the follow through.

Todd has started and stopped numerous careers

and changed his course of school study more times than I can count. I, on the other hand, have finished two degrees and started a career. He is in the exact same place he was when we started the relationship. My family loves him so much that they make excuses for his situation. They say, "Give him time," but it's been four years. Am I being too picky? Should I be happy that I have found someone who treats me well? And if I do give him more time, how long do I wait for him to get his act together?

I believe Todd may have ADD. He mentioned he was diagnosed as a teen but stopped taking the medication because it "made him jittery." I'm sure many advances have been made in the treatment of ADD within the last 10 years. How can I approach him about seeking help again with-

out hurting his feelings or making him defensive? Restless and Waiting

Todd, you ought to be able to discuss your con-

cerns honestly with him. Ask if he is bothered by his inability to stick with a specific career. Mention that adult ADD can be problematic, that there might be medication that works better for him and that, along with behavior modification, he could find ways to be more focused. Then decide wheth-

> er Todd's other qualities make up for this particular irritation, because we can't promise it will change. Not every man has to be the ambitious breadwinner.

> Dear Annie: My wife quit smoking a year ago. However, she has recently started buying and using nicotine gum.

I have not been able to summon the courage to talk to her about this and ask about her reasons. She is a professional who works hard in the medical industry. It scares me that she is using this chemical. Based on current information, do you think I have reason to worry? — Nervous Nick

Dear Nick: Maybe. Replacement nicotine gum is better for her health than smoking, but it's

not intended for long-term use, which has been associated with insulin resistance, severe allergic **Dear Restless**: If you are planning to marry reactions and possible cardiovascular problems. If your wife is chewing the gum because she is having

cigarette cravings and plans to use it temporarily, she should be OK. Please don't be afraid to express your concerns to her.

Dear Annie: "Desperate in Pennsylvania" said she is experiencing an annoying click while swallowing. I suggest she consult with a hospital-based speech/language pathologist who specializes in swallowing disorders. The therapist might suggest a swallowing study in conjunction with radiology to view the mechanics of the swallow and ultimately offer a few simple compensatory techniques involving head positioning that may minimize the clicking. A physician's referral to get the ball rolling would be appropriate. — Retired SLP in Ft. My-

Dear Ft. Myers: Thanks for your suggestion.

Here are two more: From Michigan: I urge "Desperate" to make an appointment with a neurologist as soon as possible. It's possible she has something called "Arnold-Chiari I Malformation," a rare condition where the brain is pushed into the spinal column, restricting spinal fluid flow. I know because my son has it. A neurologist can help.

Maryland: I recently experienced the same clicking in my throat, as well as in my ears. Under the care of an ENT, I suffered with these symptoms for nine months, all the while treating sinus infections and allergies. Finally other symptoms showed I had acid reflux, even though I never suffered from heartburn or typical reflux symptoms.

Dear Annie: I'm 19 years old and haven't had a real conversation with my father in five years. My parents divorced when I was 3, and I saw my father every other weekend until I was 14 and realized he was an alcoholic.

The only time he ever called was to ask me to talk to my mother about dropping the tremendous amount of back child support he owed. He also became violent toward me more than a few times. We've been estranged ever since.

Recently, Dad found out he doesn't have much longer to live. He has asked to see me so he can make amends. I am not sure.

On one hand, what will I gain by pushing him away? On the other, if we reconnect, I will undoubtedly grieve over his death. I don't want to regret making the wrong decision. What should I do? — **Unsure Daughter**

Dear Daughter: Go see him. Believe it or not, you will grieve for your father one way or the other, so you may as well give him the opportunity to atone. You'll feel better for having done what you could to effect a reconciliation.

Dear Annie: I'd like to respond to "At the End of My Rope," who has severe irritable bowel syndrome. If her medications are not working, perhaps

she has been misdiagnosed. I was told I had IBS and figured out on my own that I have celiac disease (gluten intolerance), even though tests came back negative. After two years of abdominal pain, night sweats, diarrhea, pain in my legs (apparently a calcium deficiency caused by celiac disease), I am healthy as long as I am strict about not eating white or wheat flour products, barley, rye and oats. She also should see whether she is

lactose intolerant. Doctors are often too eager to give out medications to fix a symptom rather than have the patient do an elimination diet to determine what the food triggers really are. — Healthy Now with Self-Diag-

Dear Healthy: Quite a few readers suggested the writer may have gluten intolerance. Read on for

more suggestions: From Boston: I, too, struggled with IBS for years and took every medication under the sun. Nothing helped. Finally, I realized much of my stress was coming from my emotionally abusive husband. I filed for divorce and was nearly back to normal the

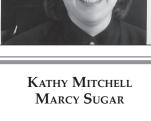
next day. Florida: I would be up all night in excruciating pain every three days. Sometimes these attacks would happen while I was in social situations, and that was embarrassing and frightening. After going to doctors for 25 years, I finally found a cure in a nontraditional manner. I went to a nutritionist who was also a psychologist and hypnotherapist. I learned to eat according to the glycemic index and lost 17 pounds. With tapes to use at home, I learned self-hypnosis to calm myself down. Then, with the blessing of my doctors, I went to a wonderful Chinese doctor for acupuncture and Chinese herbs. It was a miracle! It took a few months, but I have not had an attack in eight years.

California: I, too, have IBS, but don't take any medication. I accept myself as I am. I keep extra pairs of underwear with me and a plastic bag for ones I may soil. I always keep a bathroom within sight and visit frequently, regardless of how I'm feeling. I refuse to hurt my health by trying not to pass gas. Trust God and smile.

Shreveport, La.: I am a pharmacist whose 100-year-old mother was diagnosed with IBS 30 years ago. She suffered with this malady until a year ago, when I suggested to her physician we try her on a probiotic. Every evening, she takes one unit of Activia (there are others). Her improvement has been nothing short of amazing.

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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