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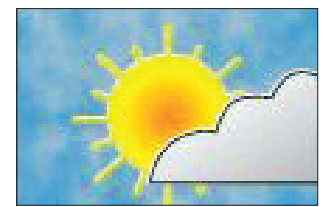

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H BIG SPRING HERALD

THURSDAY

AUGUST 20, 2009



VOLUME 104, NUMBER 222

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Old West exhibit to debut

Wine and cheese reception from 2-4 p.m. Saturday

By **STEVE REAGAN**
 Staff Writer

The Old West lives again — at least for a time. Cowboys and Indians, stagecoaches, wagon train, cattle drives and more will be depicted in art when the Heritage Museum displays a collection of contemporary Western works beginning later this week. Approximately 12 prints from the Connally Collection of Western art will be on display at the museum from Saturday through Sept. 19, said Museum Director Nancy Raney. Former Texas Gov. John Connally personally selected the works in this collection. The paintings were then reproduced into signed and numbered prints. Big Springer Jerry Worthy purchased a set of prints several years ago, but kept them in storage until recently, when his friend, Jimmy Anderson, created customized frames for the art. “I collect Western art ... and I bought this collection locally several years ago,” Worthy said. “What impressed me was that Connally selected them from a very wide array of Western art.” Twelve reproductions will be on display at the museum. Each of the prints are numbered and signed by the artists, Worthy said. The collection will debut



Jerry Worthy looks at a print from the Connally Collection of Western art. Twelve prints from contemporary artists will be on display at the Heritage Museum beginning Saturday.

with a wine and cheese reception from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Raney said. “We’re honored to have Mr.

Worthy bring this collection to the museum for display,” she added.

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

Tax free holiday coming

State’s annual sales event begins Friday

By **STEVE REAGAN**
 Staff Writer

Parents looking for school clothes and supplies for their youngsters will get a bit of a break from the state of Texas. The state’s annual sales tax holiday, in which most clothing, footwear and school supplies priced under \$100 can be purchased tax-free, will held Friday through Sunday. According to information released by Texas Comptroller Susan Combs, the law exempts most clothing and footwear priced under \$100 from sales and use taxes, which could save shoppers about \$8 on every \$100 they spend. Effective this year, in addition to clothes, footwear and some backpacks, Texas families also get a sales tax break on most school supplies priced at less than \$100 purchased for use by a student in an elementary or secondary school. This includes paper, pens, pencils, calculators book bags, binders, erasers and other standard school supplies, officials said. Also tax-exempt are backpacks. The list of eligible clothing remains fairly unchanged from last year. Among the items that qualify for tax-free status are:

See **HOLIDAY**, Page 3A

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Democrats to push health care

Obama says there is a ‘core ethical and moral obligation’

CHARLES BABINGTON
 Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama is still talking compromise on a comprehensive health care bill to extend coverage to nearly 50 million Americans who lack it and contain rising costs. Privately, Democrats are preparing a one-party push, which they feel is all but inevitable. Obama urged religious leaders Wednesday to back his proposals, arguing that health coverage for Americans is a “core ethical and moral obligation.” He prepared for a pep talk to a much larger audience of liberal activists, whose en-

thusiasm is in question. Polls continued to show slippage in support for the president’s approach, although Americans expressed even less confidence in Republicans’ handling of health care.

The administration said it still hopes for a bipartisan breakthrough on its goals of expanding health coverage, controlling costs and increasing competition among insurers. In private, however, top Democrats said a bipartisan accord seems less likely than ever when Congress reconvenes next month.

See **HEALTH**, Page 3A



President Barack Obama speaks during a rally to gain support for a comprehensive health care bill.

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Cowboys breaking camp after 3 weeks in Alamodome

STEPHEN HAWKINS

AP Sports Writer

SAN ANTONIO — Cowboys coach Wade Phillips promised that this training camp would be much tougher and that he would be more involved. He kept his promises.

Dallas wrapped up three weeks of training camp Wednesday in the Alamodome with their 31st workout in 22 days; there were two workouts on half of those days. There was a two-day stretch in that span when they had the preseason opener in Oakland followed by their only day off.

"I am trying to do what helps this team. It's a long season and the mental toughness is part of it," Phillips said. "I say the mental part of it.

When you get tired, that's when the mental process comes in. I thought it was good for our guys. I think they have come through it well."

Phillips, who is also now his own defensive coordinator, is going into the final year of his contract after a season when the team went from being a preseason Super Bowl favorite to missing the playoffs.

His players noticed the new, tougher sessions this time around.

"This camp has been like two of the other camps put together. I haven't heard anyone call this one cupcake," linebacker Bradie James said.

"It's been a lot more detailed collectively," added tight end Jason Witten. "I think we've made it harder. ... It's been a great focus and minimum dis-

tractions."

With Terrell Owens and Adam "Pacman" Jones gone, the HBO "Hard Knocks" cameras at another camp and pop singer Jessica Simpson no longer shadowing starting quarterback Tony Romo, it was a drama-free three weeks in San Antonio.

"We definitely needed less drama. The dramatics, the saga, the soap opera, that's pretty much gone," James said. "We are still America's team and there will be things that come up. But this camp has been strictly football."

The Cowboys broke camp relatively healthy. Fullback Deon Anderson had arthroscopic surgery last week on his left knee, but cornerbacks Terence Newman (groin) and Mike

Jenkins (ankle) returned to practice this week after missing the preseason opener.

Dallas plays its preseason home opener Friday night against Tennessee, which will be the first NFL game played in the new \$1.1 billion Cowboys Stadium. They resume preseason workouts after that at their Valley Ranch facility, where they haven't practiced since a canopy at the indoor practice facility collapsed May 2.

The likable Phillips, who has tried to downplay his tougher stance, believes his team is responding to the challenge after the disappointment of last season.

See **COWBOYS**, Page 2B

Playing spoiler

Twins ruin Pudge's return to Texas lineup

SCHUYLER DIXON

Associated Press Writer

ARLINGTON — Pardon the Minnesota Twins if they don't get all sentimental about Ivan Rodriguez's return to the Texas Rangers.

Denard Span hit a tying double before sliding past Rodriguez with the go-ahead run in the sixth inning when the throw beat Span to home plate but Gold Glove catcher, completing Minnesota's rally for a 5-4 victory Wednesday night.

The Twins' recovery from a 4-0 deficit ruined Rodriguez's first start for the



AP photo
Minnesota Twins outfielder Denard Span, left, collides with Texas Rangers catcher Ivan Rodriguez, who is unable to hold on to the ball, while home plate umpire Ron Kulpa watches during the sixth inning of an AL baseball game in Arlington Wednesday. Span scored on a Orlando Cabrera single to right in the 5-4 Twins win.

Bourn shines in Astros win

HOUSTON (AP) — Michael Bourn was the Houston Astros' catalyst from his first at-bat against Florida on Wednesday night.

The leadoff man had three hits, two stolen bases and two runs scored in the Astros' 6-3 win over the Marlins. Bourn also made a dazzling catch in center field.

The Marlins reached 10 hits for the 15th straight game, matching the longest streak since the St. Louis Browns had one that long in 1937, according to the Elias Sports Bureau.

But Florida committed three errors and stranded 16 runners, both season highs.

Humberto Quintero hit a solo homer, and Lance Berkman, Jeff Keppinger and Miguel Tejada drove in runs for the Astros.

Jose Valverde worked around a bases-loaded jam in the ninth for his 17th save in 21 chances.

Sponsors standing by Eagles even after signing controversial QB Vick

By DAN GELSTON

AP Sports Writer

PHILADELPHIA — The Philadelphia Eagles' sponsors are standing by their team. That doesn't mean anyone is ready to put extra money in Michael Vick's pockets.

The Eagles had prepared for a backlash after signing the convicted dog-fighting ringleader last week. But public Vick is disgraced in the court of public opinion — the one that drives lucrative endorsement deals — his addition has not jeopardized the team's corporate support.

None of the more than four dozen Eagles sponsors had pulled out as of Wednesday, said Marlyse Fant, Eagles

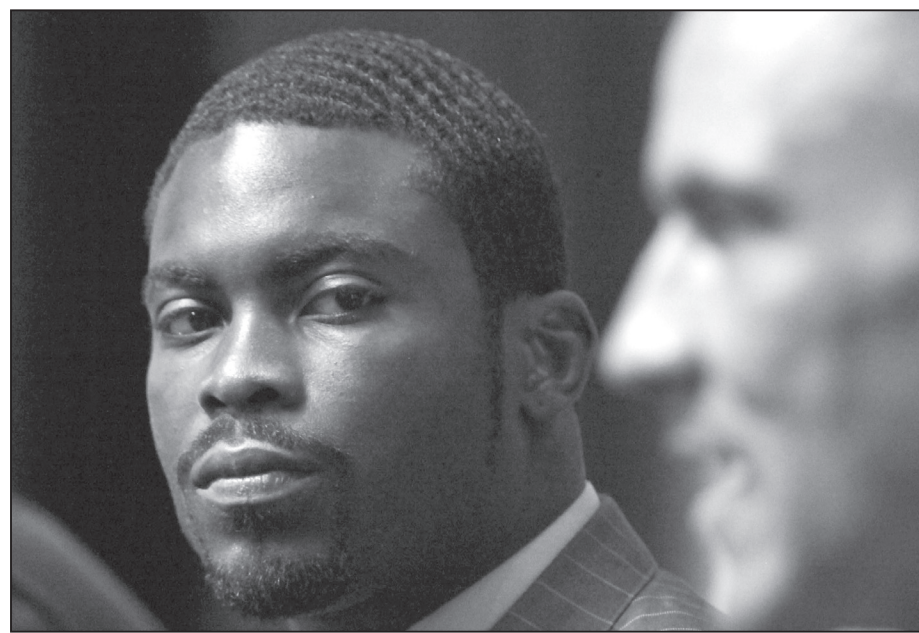
vice president of sales and service.

The Eagles heard from about 15 to 20 sponsors on Friday, a day after Vick signed, most simply wishing they had been given advance notice to pass on to their customers.

"Our clients have been in close contact with us to stay up to date on information coming from the team, and most have noticed a significant reduction in their own volume of customer inquiries since Friday," she said on Wednesday.

The Eagles took a proactive approach, sending a letter to their top customers last week asking them to have faith that the team was not acting recklessly.

See **VICK**, Page 2B



AP photo/Matt Rourke
New Philadelphia Eagles quarterback Michael Vick looks toward his mentor, former NFL coach Tony Dungy, during a news conference as he is introduced in Philadelphia Friday.

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 Gear.

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.

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 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 is 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 player and includes an NFL jersey. There will be no fundraiser.

Call 213-4193 with any questions.

Big Spring's Sharpnack shines at Permian Basin Ladies Playday

Big Spring's Patsy Sharpnack played in the Permian Basin Ladies Association Playday at Sunset Country Club in Odessa Tuesday and represented Comanche Trail Golf Course well.

Sharpnack came in second in net scores in the third flight, shooting a 65.

Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity Wednesday:

- CALIBER VIGNEAU, 21, 610 Tulane, was arrested on a charge of theft.
- ASSAULT BY CONTACT was reported in the 1500 block of Robin (two reports) and the 1900 block of Highway 87.
- ASSAULT CLASS C/FAMILY VIOLENCE was reported in the 1300 block of Baylor.
- DEADLY CONDUCT was reported in the 1400 block of Bluebird and the 1000 block of N. Main.
- TERRORISTIC THREAT was reported in the 1200 Lloyd.
- THEFT was reported in the 200 block of FM 700.

Sheriff

No report from the Howard County Sheriff's office was available today.

Fire/EMS

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

- MEDICAL was reported in the 1000 block of E. 17th. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1400 block of Stadium. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1300 block of Lexington. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 3500 block of Piper. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1600 block of Lancaster. One person was transported to SMMC.
- GRASS FIRE was reported in the 100 block of South Gregg.
- STRUCTURE FIRE was reported in the 1500 block of Highway 350.

Take Note

- 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 and other area 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.

Support Groups

- 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.

Bulletin Board

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

FRIDAY

- Signal Mountain Quilting Guild meets from 9 a.m. until about 3 p.m. at 1019 Nolan St. Call 267-1037 or 267-7281 for more information.
- AMBUCS meet at noon in La Posada Restaurant.
- Greater Big Spring Rotary Club meets at noon at the Howard College Cactus Room.
- Dance at the Senior Center, 1901 Simler, from 7:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.

SATURDAY

- Big Spring Shrine Club meets at 6:30 p.m. at Goliad and First streets for a meal with a meeting to follow.
- Eagles Lodge Dance at 8:30 p.m. at 703 W. Third.
- Big Spring Squares. Call 267-7043 or 263-6305 for more information.

SUNDAY

- The Powwow Committee of Big Spring meets at 2 p.m. at St. Paul Lutheran Church annex, 809 Scurry, or the fellowship hall at 810 Scurry. Call Robert Downing at 263-3255 for information.

MONDAY

- Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) No. 21 meets at the First Christian Church at 10th and Goliad, in the dining hall on the east side of the building. Weigh-in starts at 5:30 p.m. and the meeting begins at 6 p.m. There is a different program each week. For more information, call 213-1342 or 263-6819.
- The Concerned Citizens Council meets at 7 p.m. at the Howard County Library. For more information, call 264-6116.
- Prospector's Club work night begins at 7 p.m. at 606 E. Third.

TUESDAY

- Big Spring Rotary Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room.

WEDNESDAY

- Optimist Club meets at 7 a.m. in the Howard College Cactus Room.
- Free blood pressure screenings from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the Salvation Army, 811 W. Fifth St., provided by InHome Care.
- Downton Lions Club meets at noon at the Howard College Cactus Room.
- Duplicate Bridge Club meets at 1 p.m. in the Big Spring Country Club.
- Eagles Lodge Ladies Auxiliary meets at 7 p.m. in the Eagles Lodge, 703 W. Third.

THURSDAY

- Gideon International Big Spring Camp U42060 meets at 7 a.m. in Herman's Restaurant.
- Kiwanis Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room.

Lottery

The winning numbers drawn in the Lotto Texas drawing Wednesday night: 5 - 16 - 28 - 38 - 40 - 42.

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Wednesday night: Winning numbers drawn: 7 - 8 - 13 - 16 - 34 .

The winning Daily 4 numbers drawn Wednesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 2 - 6 - 6 - 5. Sum It Up: 19.

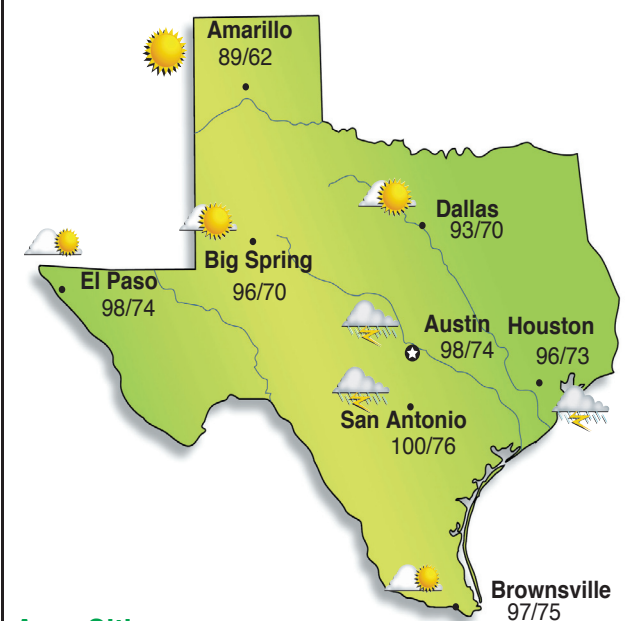
The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Wednesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 0 - 0 - 2. Sum It Up: 2.

Today's Weather

Local 5-Day Forecast				
Fri 8/21	Sat 8/22	Sun 8/23	Mon 8/24	Tue 8/25
96/70 Generally sunny despite a few afternoon clouds. High 96F.	97/70 Mainly sunny. Highs in the upper 90s and lows in the low 70s.	96/71 Sunny. Highs in the mid 90s and lows in the low 70s.	96/70 More sun than clouds. Highs in the mid 90s and lows in the low 70s.	95/70 A few clouds. Highs in the mid 90s and lows in the low 70s.
Sunrise: 7:14 AM Sunset: 8:23 PM	Sunrise: 7:15 AM Sunset: 8:22 PM	Sunrise: 7:16 AM Sunset: 8:21 PM	Sunrise: 7:16 AM Sunset: 8:20 PM	Sunrise: 7:17 AM Sunset: 8:19 PM

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Texas At A Glance



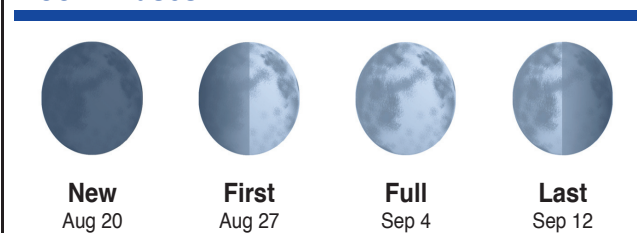
Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Abilene	96	71	mst sunny	Kingsville	100	75	pt sunny
Amarillo	89	62	sunny	Livingston	93	68	t-storm
Austin	98	74	t-storm	Longview	86	65	t-storm
Beaumont	92	72	t-storm	Lubbock	94	67	sunny
Brownsville	97	75	pt sunny	Lufkin	89	68	t-storm
Brownwood	95	70	mst sunny	Midland	96	73	mst sunny
Corpus Christi	97	78	t-storm	Raymondville	100	76	pt sunny
Corsicana	91	67	t-storm	Rosenberg	96	73	t-storm
Dallas	93	70	mst sunny	San Antonio	100	76	t-storm
Del Rio	100	79	t-storm	San Marcos	99	74	t-storm
El Paso	98	74	pt sunny	Sulphur Springs	88	66	mst sunny
Fort Stockton	95	72	pt sunny	Sweetwater	94	69	mst sunny
Gainesville	93	66	pt sunny	Tyler	88	64	t-storm
Greenville	90	65	mst sunny	Weatherford	94	68	mst sunny
Houston	96	73	t-storm	Wichita Falls	95	66	sunny

National Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Atlanta	82	68	t-storm	Minneapolis	70	54	rain
Boston	84	73	t-storm	New York	85	73	t-storm
Chicago	71	58	rain	Phoenix	104	81	mst sunny
Dallas	93	70	mst sunny	San Francisco	78	59	pt sunny
Denver	84	57	sunny	Seattle	70	55	pt sunny
Houston	96	73	t-storm	St. Louis	77	60	mst sunny
Los Angeles	77	63	pt sunny	Washington, DC	89	73	t-storm
Miami	91	80	t-storm				

Moon Phases



UV Index

Fri 8/21	Sat 8/22	Sun 8/23	Mon 8/24	Tue 8/25
11	11	11	11	11
Extreme	Extreme	Extreme	Extreme	Extreme

The UV Index is measured on a 0 - 11 number scale, with a higher UV Index showing the need for greater skin protection.

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VICK

Continued from Page 1B

"We appreciate the complexity this creates for some partners and premium clients and ask that you join us in our support and optimism for Michael as he commits himself to showing Philadelphia and the country he is a changed human being," team president Joe Banner said in the letter.

Reaction from Eagles sponsors has varied.

Radio rights holder 94-WYSP said it has had "little to no reaction" from the station's sponsors. PepsiCo Inc. said in a statement that Vick's illegal activities were "cruel and degrading" but backed the team.

"As sponsors of the NFL, we have the utmost confidence that the senior leadership at the NFL will continue to appropriately address this issue," Pepsi said.

Sponsors understood the move from a football standpoint.

They do not hold the same view of Vick. The brutal nature of his crimes — which included electrocuting, drowning and hanging dogs that underperformed in fights — are not likely to soon fade from the public's memory.

"He's too toxic for most companies to even consider taking a chance on him," said David Scott, who specializes in sports business and marketing

as executive director of the USC Sports Business Institute.

Once a \$130 million player, Vick was a corporate America favorite as the star quarterback of the Atlanta Falcons. His image was used to market everything from sneakers to sports drinks, usually aimed at the coveted 18 to 34 male demographic.

The Falcons paid Vick \$23 million in 2005 and Forbes estimated his total compensation that year at \$37.5 million with endorsements.

RANGERS

Continued from Page 1B

Rangers since the last game of the 2002 season and came a day after they rallied from 5-0 down to spoil the catcher's arrival in a trade with Houston. This time, the come back also ruined a three-hit night for Rodriguez.

"Wins like this are very important for our team," Twins manager Ron Gardenhire said. "The last two nights we've battled against a very good team."

Span was on second base when Orlando Cabrera singled to Rangers center field Marlon Byrd. His throw reached the plate on one hop just as Span was starting his slide, and the ball glanced off Rodriguez's glove.

"I left it a little too high," Byrd said. "I know I need to hit the grass and give Pudge a better hop. It's a game of inches."

The Rangers fell a game behind Boston in the AL wild-card race.

Scott Baker (11-7) escaped trouble three times to keep the Twins close. He gave up nine hits and four runs and struck out six in 5 1-3 innings.

After Rodriguez started a string of four straight singles that gave the Rangers a 3-0 lead in the third, Baker settled down and retired the heart of the Rangers lineup in order.

Rodriguez's double in the fourth gave Texas a 4-0 lead and put runners at second and third with no outs. Two infield groundballs and a strikeout later, Baker was out of trouble again. In the fifth, Baker escaped a one-out triple by Hank Blalock with strikeouts of David Murphy and Ian Kinsler.

"That start could have very easily gone south fast," said Baker, who won his fifth straight decision. "But I continued to make good pitches and for the most part it worked out."

Baker's resilience paid off in the sixth, which started with consecutive doubles from Michael Cuddyer and Joe Crede. After Rangers starter Kevin Millwood got two outs, No. 9 hitter Nick Punto reached base for the third straight time with a single

that scored Crede to make it 4-3. Span's double scored Punto to tie it.

The Twins wiped out a Texas lead with a four-run sixth for the second night in a row. As a result, Millwood (9-8) fell to 0-7 lifetime against the Twins.

"It's important to get a win every night," Rangers manager Ron Washington said. "We thought we had wins the last two nights."

Jose Mijares pitched a career-high 2 2-3 innings, allowing no hits and striking out three to protect Minnesota's one-run lead. Joe Nathan pitched a perfect ninth for his 31st save and second in two games after going all of August without a save chance.

Fans, including one displaying a sign that said "We missed you Pudge," cheered wildly all night for Rodriguez, who played the first 11 seasons of his career with the Rangers.

The crowd had barely settled from a standing ovation before Rodriguez's first at-bat when he singled on a grounder up the middle leading off the third inning. Rodriguez went to third on a single by Elvis Andrus and

scored on Julio Borbon's bloop single. Michael Young followed with a two-run single to right, giving the Rangers a 3-0 lead.

"I've seen it before," Washington said. "I don't think anyone around here is surprised. He did a great job back there tonight."

Rodriguez was challenged defensively on tough back-to-back plays in the top of the third.

He made the first, jumping up to grab a slow roller by Delmon Young on the first-base foul line and making the throw with Young blocking his view. Carlos Gomez followed with a bunt that was ruled a single after Rodriguez couldn't make the bare-hand pickup.

NOTES: Twins 1B Jason Morneau missed his second straight start with recurring dizziness stemming from an inner ear infection. Morneau continues to take medication and is day to day. ... The Rangers put LHP Eddie Guardado on the disabled list with left knee inflammation and recalled RHP Willie Eyre from Triple-A Oklahoma City. The Guardado move was retroactive to Saturday.

COWBOYS

Continued from Page 1B

"I talk to them every day

and every night. It's been discussed, what we're trying to do and how we're trying to do it," Phillips said. "When I ask them to do things, they've responded. I think that's the way it ought to be coaching-

wise certainly, and player-wise. I feel good about our players and our camp."

Like so many others, James had a difficult time imagining the easygoing Phillips getting tougher and being

effective.

After offseason workouts and training camp, James no longer is wondering.

"He's almost like a new coach. He knows what's at stake. He knows we have to

have a winning season," James said. "He's been different. He said he was going to be different. I didn't know how he was going to pull it off, but he has. I'm just trying to deal with this guy."

DINING AROUND TOWN

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State briefs

Some Texans paying to file unemployment claims

AUSTIN (AP) — Texans using private online sites to file unemployment claims are paying for help they could get from the state for free and risk losing their privacy, said the head of the Texas Workforce Commission.

The private jobless claim sites are legal, but they could be trying to get information from people to sell it to others for financial gain, Workforce Commission Chairman Tom Pauken told the Houston Chronicle.

"They are just taking advantage of the situation," Pauken said. "There's always somebody trying to figure out an angle."

The three-member commission this week decided to allow a woman to backdate her jobless claim after she initially provided information to a private Web site and her claim was delayed.

It took one month before the woman began questioning other unemployed people she knew who had started receiving their benefits, and nearly three months before she correctly filed with the state.

People eligible for benefits get them based on the date they file, commission spokeswoman Ann Hatchitt said.

Some businesses may charge a fee to file unemployment claims. Filing for benefits through the Texas Workforce Commission is free.

The commission is looking into contacting Google to see whether the search engine can help make sure this type of site "doesn't bubble up to the top" in searches, Pauken said.

Austin firetrucks must go speed limit, fully stop

AUSTIN (AP) — Some union leaders question a new Austin city policy that says firetrucks responding to calls must drive the speed limit and fully stop at intersections.

Austin Fire Department Chief Rhoda Mae Kerr said the policy is meant to improve safety for firefighters and motorists.

But Steven Truesdell, president of the Austin

Firefighters Association, told the Austin American-Statesman that firefighters' discretion is being curtailed.

"We don't understand if they have some impetus for making these changes," Truesdell said. "They haven't discussed it with us."

Previously, Austin firefighters could drive up to 10 mph over the posted speed limit. Vehicles were not required to stop at intersections, but operators were told to make sure other drivers knew the emergency vehicles needed to proceed.

Kerr said she does not believe that the policy, which took effect Aug. 11, will affect response times.

"It is all about making sure that everyone goes home," Kerr said. "It helps keep our people safer, not only the firefighters, but the community as well."

The new policy is based largely on a 2003 report in EMS Responder magazine, fire department spokeswoman Michelle DeCrane said. The report concluded EMS vehicles going the speed limit and stopping at intersections were operated safer and had limited significant delays.

4 Katrina evacuees who got Winfrey help charged

HOUSTON (AP) — A spokeswoman for "Oprah's Angel Network" expressed disappointment that four Hurricane Katrina evacuees allegedly committed fraud.

Three women from Houston and one from La Place, La., are accused of wrongfully obtaining federal rental assistance after buying new homes financed by the charity.

Network spokeswoman Angela DePaul of Chicago told The Associated Press on Thursday that she was disappointed to learn of the alleged actions by a few homeowners.

DePaul says officials with Oprah's Angel Network "remain proud of and committed to the hundreds of families we've been able to help through our hurricane rebuilding efforts."

TV personality Oprah Winfrey's charity partnered with Habitat for Humanity to build and fur-

nish homes for about 65 families forced to relocate to Houston after 2005 hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

A&M treats trained bear with toothache

COLLEGE STATION (AP) — A not-so-grizzly dental patient at Texas A&M was laid out and sedated to care for his big teeth and avoid his huge paws.

Veterinarians at Texas A&M on Wednesday did a root canal procedure on Tibore (TEE'bor), a 17-year-old North American black bear.

Owner Lana Steeples says the trained bear showed signs of discomfort when he ate and drank, so she "worried he needed some dental work done."

KBTX-TV reports experts at the Texas A&M veterinary hospital welcomed the furry patient, weighing several hundred pounds.

Dr. Johnathon Dodd says it's very common for wild animals to have dental problems because of their aggressive nature. Dodd says animals "fight, they chew on things, they chew on bones, they break teeth."

Texas officer kills self after abducting ex-girlfriend

BROOKSHIRE (AP) — A Texas school district officer suspected of abducting his ex-girlfriend let her go moments before committing suicide Wednesday, authorities said.

According to investigators, Julio Reyes, 38, abducted Rachel Hillsman, 24, in front of her 7-year-old daughter and the couple's 13-month-old child Tuesday morning in Brookshire, about 35 miles west of Houston. Authorities said Reyes dragged her into his pickup truck and drove away.

Hillsman is also an officer with the Katy school district and was in uniform. She was dropping her children at her mother's house before going to work, Waller County Sheriff Glenn Smith said.

Shortly after Hillsman's abduction, officials launched a statewide manhunt and established roadblocks in the Brookshire area. They found Reyes on Wednesday afternoon while checking several vacant homes near Hillsman's house.

HEALTH

Continued from Page 1A

Obama was to promote his plans Thursday in a conference call and online address to supporters that could draw huge numbers of listeners. He also was to speak with Philadelphia-based radio talk show host Michael Smerconish, who will broadcast from the White House. Smerconish is generally seen as a conservative, although he endorsed Obama last year and supports abortion rights.

Vice President Joe Biden was meeting with health care professionals in Chicago on Thursday to push the administration's proposals. He also planned to announce nearly \$1.2 billion in grants to help hospitals transition to electronic medical re-

ords. Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius was to join him.

Former presidential candidate Mitt Romney said Thursday that Obama is struggling to get a health care bill because he has been too deferential to the liberal wing of his party. Romney, who may challenge Obama in 2012, said on CBS's "The Early Show" that "if the president wants to get something done, he needs to put aside the extreme liberal wing of his party."

Some Democrats said Democratic researchers have concluded lately that a strong-arm tactic on Senate health care legislation that would negate the need for any GOP votes might be more effective than previously thought.

The strategy, called "reconciliation," allows senators to get around

a bill-killing filibuster without mustering the 60 votes usually needed. Democrats control 60 of the Senate's 100 seats, but some moderate Senate Democrats have expressed reservations about the Democratic-backed health care overhaul plan.

And two of their members — Robert Byrd of West Virginia and Edward Kennedy of Massachusetts — are seriously ill and often absent. Kennedy sent a letter Tuesday to Massachusetts leaders asking that they change state law to allow someone to be quickly appointed to his seat in Congress "should a vacancy occur."

While always contentious, reconciliation lets the Senate pass some measures with a simple majority vote. Non-budget-related items can be challenged, however,

and some lawmakers say reconciliation would knock so many provisions from Obama's health care plan that the result would be "Swiss cheese."

Democratic aides say they increasingly believe those warnings are overblown.

On Wednesday, Jim Manley, spokesman for Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., warned Republicans that reconciliation is a real option. The White House and Senate Democratic leaders still prefer a bipartisan bill, he said, but "patience is not unlimited and we are determined to get something done this year by any legislative means necessary."

In a conference call with liberal religious leaders Wednesday, Obama disputed claims that Democratic bills would create govern-

ment "death panels" for the elderly, offer health care for illegal immigrants or fund abortions.

"I know that there's been a lot of misinformation in this debate and there are a some folks out there who are, frankly, bearing false witness," Obama said. "I need you to spread the facts and speak the truth."

Administration officials and congressional Democrats were deeply discouraged this week when key Republican lawmakers seemed more critical than ever about various Democratic-drafted health care bills pending in the House and Senate. They said they still hope Senate Finance Committee efforts to craft a bipartisan compromise can succeed, although private remarks were more pessimistic.

Many Republicans believe that millions of Americans, and especially the GOP's conservative base, ardently oppose Obama's health care plans, which they consider too costly and intrusive.

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HOLIDAY

Continued from Page 1A

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- Diapers.
- Dresses.
- Gym suits and uniforms.
- Hooded shirts and sweatshirts.
- Jackets and jeans.
- Ties and neck wear.
- Pajamas.
- Shirts and shoes (including sandals, slippers, sneakers, tennis and walking).
- Socks and underclothes.

Items that will not be tax-exempt include:

- Accessories such as barrettes, ponytail hold-

ers, wallets and watches.

- Belt buckles (without the belt).
- Cloth, lace, knitting yarns and other fabrics.
- Handbags and purses.
- Laundering and dry cleaning services.
- Leather goods (except belts with buckles and wearing apparel).
- Sports equipment such as baseball cleats and pants, football pads and bowling or golf shoes.

Lay-away plans can be used to take advantage of the tax holiday.

For more information and a complete list of eligible items, visit the comptroller's Web site at: www.window.state.tx.us/taxinfo/taxpubs/

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EDITORIAL

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

Ron Midkiff
Publisher

John A. Moseley
Managing Editor

Bill McClellan
News Editor

OUR VIEW

Tax exempt weekend is back again!

Everyone likes holidays and not paying taxes — we are, after all, only human. And that's why this weekend will be one of the busiest for Texas retailers, thanks to the sales tax holiday.

The state's annual sales tax holiday, in which most clothing and footwear priced under \$100 is exempted from sales and use taxes, will be held tomorrow through Sunday.

And this year, the state has finally added school supplies and back packs to the list of items which can be purchased tax free, if they're priced under \$100.

In other words, parents and grandparents outfitting children for school can save themselves about \$8 for every \$100 they spend in virtually everything children need to begin school.

So, you can bet virtually every clothing and shoe retailer in Big Spring, as well as those selling school supplies, will participate in the annual event. Remember, the weekend always approaches Christmas-season levels of sales.

According to the State Comptroller's Office, customers will receive the tax break on individual items, regardless of the total amount they buy. For example, sales tax is not due if a customer buys six shirts priced at \$99.99 each. But full tax is due on any item sold for \$100.

Also excluded from the sales tax holiday are accessories such as jewelry and watches, items that are carried rather than worn (such as handbags and briefcases), clothing rentals and repairs and alterations.

A list of some tax-free items would include baby clothes, belts, boots, caps/hats, coats and wraps, diapers, dresses, gloves, gym suits and uniforms, hooded shirts and sweatshirts, hosiery, jackets, jeans, jerseys, jogging apparel, neckwear and ties, pajamas, pants and trousers, raincoats, robes, shirts, shoes, socks, shorts, suits, swimsuits, underclothes and work clothes and uniforms.

Items that will be taxed include accessories, baseball cleats and pants, belt buckles (without belt), buttons and zippers, cloth and lace, knitting yarns and other fabrics, dry cleaning services, football pads, golf gloves, handbags and purses, helmets and leather goods.

Of course, neither of those lists is complete, should anyone want clarification concerning the tax free holiday, they can call the comptroller's office toll free at 1-800-252-5555 or visit the comptroller's Web site at www.window.state.tx.us/taxinfo/taxpubs/tx98_490/tx98_490.html

LETTER POLICIES

The Herald welcomes letters to the editor.

- Limit your letters to no more than 300 words.
- Sign your letter.
- Provide a daytime telephone number, as well as a street address for verification purposes.
- We reserve the right to edit for style and clarity.
- We reserve the right to limit publication to one letter per 30-day period per author.
- Letters that are unsigned or do not include a telephone number or address will not be considered.
- Letters should be submitted to Editor, Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721. They can also be e-mailed to editor@bigspringherald.com

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

You, Lord, follow through with Your promises. May we trust in You.

Amen

Two problems we must deal with

America has two problems to deal with in the health care debate, and only one of them relates to health care. The other is our increasing inability to have a conversation with each other without screaming, vilifying, threatening and boycotting.

It's getting scary out there, and I'm not just talking about death panels or whatever they are.

I'm talking about the civility that is the essence of democracy.

Liberals and conservatives have been busing people to each other's events since I started working in politics.

They've been hiring professionals to promote "grassroots" involvement since long before the Internet made it easier.

Are the protests at staged events staged?

Maybe. Who cares?

Nancy Pelosi was plainly

wrong to attack the protestors as "un-American." The White House strategy of dismissing them has long since been proved unwise.

But that's no excuse for turning civil discourse into something ugly.

Increasingly, I find myself hearing from people who say they hate Barack Obama. And Nancy Pelosi.

Not disagree with them. Not plan to vote against them.

Hate them.

There are serious and credible stories about the increased threats to the president's safety.

Of course, it's not just the right doing this.

Only yesterday, a friend asked me whether I had read the disgraceful op-ed by the founder of Whole Foods in The Washington Post.

Actually, it was in The Wall Street Journal, and I had read it. While I took issue with a number of points in it, I was actually pretty interested in how he manages to provide health insurance for his workers.

Today I read that because of the article, his stores are being

boycotted. How dare he offend his liberal customer base?

Hello? Liberals should boycott a business that provides health insurance to its workers because its founder doesn't agree with the Obama health care plan?

And then maybe conservatives should boycott businesses run by Obama supporters.

And then what?

Warring grocery stores?

It would be silly if it weren't so serious.

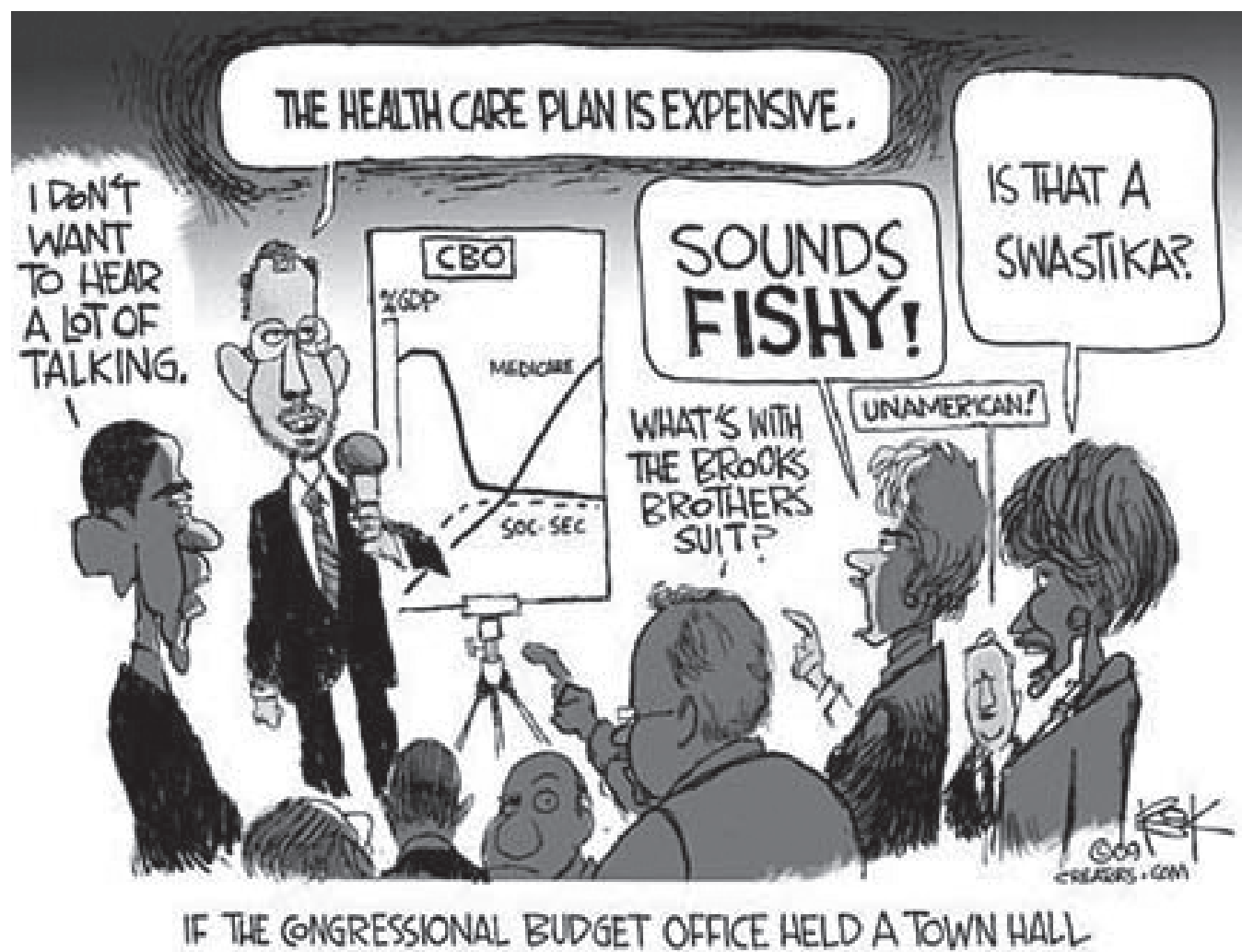
Obviously, there are town meetings where no one screams and they don't get covered on television.

You can always blame the media for covering us when we're at our worst, but that's the nature of the beast.

It's a reason for everyone to lower their voices, lower the temperature and resolve that, one way or another, our differences will not destroy us.

It's also the only way we stand a chance of working through any kind of reform effort that will be acceptable in the long run.

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Who really speaks for family farms?

My family has farmed in Missouri for over a century and I currently raise livestock and grain on 800 acres in Howard County, Mo. But folks like me always seem to get drowned out in Washington, D.C., by commodity groups purporting to represent my interests.

The American Farm Bureau bills itself as the "voice of agriculture." A seemingly innocent-sounding group called the National Milk Producers Federation (NMPF) calls itself "the only nationwide expression of dairy farmers." These organizations spend millions in lobbying and donating money to politicians. In the halls of Congress, in the federal agencies, and in presidential administrations, representatives from these groups exert undue control over the agenda for food and agriculture policy.

It is near impossible to convince D.C. politicians that these corporate interests do not represent the interests of family farmers. Until now.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) recently concluded 13 listening sessions to hear farmers' input on the despised National Animal Identification System (NAIS) that calls for us to electronically tag and track the movements of every one of our animals.

Factory farms, however, are allowed one group lot ID for their thousands of animals.

More than \$130 million of taxpayer money has been wasted on this radical, corporate-driven bureaucracy that originated from the National Institute for Animal Agriculture, a group

comprised of — surprise, surprise — the Farm Bureau, National Pork Producers Council (NPPC), NMPF and agribusinesses such as Cargill.

Only a gigantic outcry from farmers has stopped NAIS from becoming mandatory by its proposed 2009 date.

At listening sessions across the country, including one in Missouri attended by more than 300 people, nearly 80 percent to 90 percent of producers were united in their adamant disapproval of NAIS and how it would do nothing to address animal disease or food safety.

The few folks in the crowd willing to go on record for their support of NAIS were uniformly from the likes of NPPC, Farm Bureau and NMPF allies. That should tell the media, Congress, USDA and the Obama administration to quit listening to these interest groups and think of them as representing family farmers!

Why do we have such a broken food system that allows for deadly E. coli in our meat and now peanut butter? Why have factory farms been allowed to proliferate like viruses in rural America?

Because these interest groups have been allowed to use their false façade representing America's "farmers" to con politicians into buying their disastrous policies, while simultaneously conning the media into thinking that they speak on behalf of those farmers.

Now they have conned USDA, President Obama and members of Congress into thinking we need a mandatory NAIS program.

These same corporate farm groups have opposed more testing for mad cow disease, opposed increased inspection of meat processing plants where most food borne illnesses start and continue to thwart any efforts

to address antibiotic abuses on factory farms.

Meanwhile, they advocate for free trade agreements that bring in foreign animals from countries with known disease outbreaks like foot-and-mouth. Thus, the folks most responsible for breeding animal disease are now trying to shift responsibility from corporate meatpackers and factory farms onto the backs of America's independent family farmers through NAIS.

Since 2006, NPPC has donated more than \$350,000 to federal politicians and spent more than \$3 million in lobbying. NMPF has spent \$2.2 million in lobbying, including for a mandatory NAIS, even while dairy farmers suffer their worst crisis since the Great Depression.

We are thankful that USDA took the time to listen to the voices of family farmers instead of relying on the same old corporate interest groups.

Given the growing chasm between our corporate farm groups and real family farmers, NAIS is only the tip of the iceberg when it comes to bad farm policy that emanates from Washington.

So the next time you hear that "farm groups" oppose cracking down on antibiotics, or that they want to water down environmental regulations over factory farms or that we need another free trade agreement the likes of the one with Colombia, just remember whose interests these folks really represent — and it's not rural America.

Rhonda Perry is a livestock and grain farmer from Howard County, Mo. She serves as program director of the Missouri Rural Crisis Center, a member of the National Family Farm Coalition. The National Family Farm Coalition (NFFC) was founded in 1986 to serve as a national link for grassroots organizations working on family farm issues.



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Dear Margo: Sick of the tall remarks

Dear Margo: My daughter is 8 years old and probably 4 inches taller than girls her age. She also has large feet. We have lived in Indiana, Michigan and now Wisconsin and still get the rude comments about how tall my daughter is. One neighbor, when he first saw her, said he thought she was 10 or 11, and said it in front of her! I suggested she tell people she likes being tall, but I can see that the remarks bother her.



MARGO HOWARD

We were at a birthday party and the mother of the birthday girl kept telling me how tall my daughter was and how tall I was, as if we didn't know.

Another woman at this party said, "Wow, you must have a hard time with sizes."

When we lived in Michigan, there were two queen-bee types who went on and on about how tall my daughter was to other women at a school function, which I took as an attempt to make my daughter out to be different.

One of them even focused on her feet, her shoe size probably being larger than kids her age. How do I get the rude tall remarks to stop? Any good comebacks so people know they are being rude or out of line? — *Tired of Hearing It*

Dear Tired: One can never stop rudeness, and ever was it thus. People always say dumb things without thinking. (I know I have.)

As for the height and large feet, that's how people described Jackie O. I would kill to be tall, but I do understand it's hard on little girls when they feel "different" from the girls in their class.

I would try showing your daughter fashion magazines where most of the models are tall. And since you, yourself, are tall, you can tell her you've always regarded it as a plus.

Explain that most of the girls will catch up, and her growth spurt may be happening early. As for a comeback, try, "I know that being short is difficult, but I'm sure your daughter will grow." — *Margo, sassily*

The Departure of Desire

Dear Margo: I am a 24-year-old woman, married for three years. I love my husband, and we have two young children.

We are pretty happy, though not exceptionally so, but we hardly ever have sex.

There is nothing wrong with my husband; actually, he would like it to be every day. I find myself thinking about other men and wondering what it would be like to be "together."

I even think about having affairs, although I don't think I could

bring myself to do it. I think about one day being divorced.

I just don't feel very attracted to him. Before we got married, our sex life was great. After the birth of our first child, it was pretty good again.

Then after my second child, it became nonexistent. When we do have sex, I just go along with it so he'll stop asking for a few days.

I feel bad for him and am afraid he might find somebody else to give

him satisfaction.

I just don't know what to do. Counseling is an obvious choice, but we have no insurance. I feel like my marriage will end if this does not change. Advice? — *No Libido*

Dear No: Something has turned you off your husband and you need to find out what it is. First, hunt down the institutions in your area that offer free mental health care.

There are also books

that deal with your problem, as well as online support groups.

Peer counseling can be surprisingly effective. You haven't been married long enough for sex to be old hat, so something else is going

on. (Maybe caring for two little kids?)

My feeling is that if it was good once, it can be good again. — *Margo, optimistically*

Dear Margo is written by Margo Howard, Ann

Landers' daughter. All letters must be sent via e-mail to dearmargo@creators.com. Due to a high volume of e-mail, not all letters will be answered.

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 Inside The Big Spring Mall

Tomorrow's Horoscope

Under the Leo new moon, image is king. You may suddenly be inspired to make yours over in subtle or sensational ways to fit the fresh version of you that you're conjuring up in your mind. If you look the part, others might just assume it's who you are — and that includes you. The outer change will spark an inner transformation.



HOLIDAY MATHIS

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You'll be reminded of a time when you behaved in a way that seems very foreign to the way you are now. The tinge of conscience you feel about this incident could lead you to a noble act.

TAURUS (April

20-May 20). Empty out the contents of your busy mind onto a master list. You can't get organized or create an effective schedule until you know the scope of what you're dealing with. Get it all out on the table.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You'll be getting down to business. Time is money. You do not wish to waste minutes in explaining to others how best to work with you. You deal best with experienced people, so seek them first.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). The one you love seems to be able to handle things alone. But don't believe it for a second — this person needs you, too. Together, you are stronger than the sum of your individual strengths.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). The ones who are less fortunate will remind you how lucky you are. Those who have lost

will help you appreciate what you have — people to love and a purpose to your life. Gratitude will raise your spirits higher.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). When you know that someone will enhance your experience of life, giving is effortless. In contrast, it's not so easy to tend to someone who behaves in a displeasing way. Unconditional love takes true grit.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You expect one thing and get another. It's beautiful. Life would be such a bore if you knew exactly what you were going to get. There's at least one more twist in the story, so don't close the book on this one just yet.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You'll be more sensitive both emotionally and physically. There's a strong tie between what you eat and how you think.

Feed yourself often and healthfully through the day.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You are willing to do almost anything for those you've decided to let into your inner circle. That's why you've chosen only a few select people to join those cherished ranks. Today, you'll consider adding one more.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Not usually one to follow the crowd, you'll find huge benefits from doing just that, so long as the group in question is generally high-minded with an altruistic goal. Sign up. The gains are immediate.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Relationships take an unpredictable turn. You'll be loved back in a different way than you gave love. This is one of your favorite kinds of surprises. It's what keeps you coming back.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Everything has a place. You wouldn't put laundry soap in the refrigerator. Social and emotional matters also require organization. Recognize how you feel about someone and decide how this person fits into your life.

T O D A Y ' S BIRTHDAY (AUGUST 20). You don't have to search very long or hard to find inspiration, as your muses seem to be chasing you down. There's so much to be passionate about, including a relationship with a special someone. Your optimism improves your job situation. It gives you satisfaction to come to the rescue of family in November. Gemini and Cancer adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 40, 2, 14, 35 and 16.

C E L E B R I T Y PROFILES: Amy Adams has been twice

nominated for an Academy Award and this astrologer predicts she will win it eventually for a role in which she must transform herself physically — think Charlize Theron in "Monster." Adams has her natal sun and Venus both in Leo, indicating heart and beauty. But with lucky Jupiter in Pisces, it is her ability to transform that will bring excellent fortune.

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

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Annie's Mailbox

daughter (who has also become a Mormon).

The kids aren't permitted to have sex before marriage, and apparently, his parents don't trust them to spend time together. So they have developed their relationship through e-mail, texting, Skyping and playing games on the Internet.

They have not actually seen each other in a year. Her whole life seems to be on hold while they figure out how they can be together.

This seems to be avoiding the issue rather than facing it.

As a parent, I am unhappy to see this kind of relationship. It seems over the top.

He is withholding himself from her, and we don't know why she puts up with it. Why can't she have a normal relationship? — *Unhappy Mom*

Dear Unhappy: A religious restriction on premarital sex is fairly common and hardly a bad thing. Long-distance relationships can be difficult, but frankly,

if they are getting to know each other through other forms of communication, it could be the basis for an excellent friendship.

At this age, we agree they should not tie themselves up with someone who is essentially unavailable, but your daughter is 19 and an adult.

You may not understand or agree with her choices, but they are hers to make, and we urge you not to be overly critical or it could backfire.

Dear Annie: One of my sons seems very self-centered. He and his family live across the country, and we travel to see them for brief, pleasant visits a few

times a year, always taking them out to dinner.

However, when Mother's Day or my birthday roll around, I'm lucky to get a phone call. Sometimes my son will say they're "trying to think of what to get me," but nothing ever materializes.

I don't need expensive baubles, but a gift card to a restaurant would show they are thinking of me.

Right now, it feels as if I don't matter to them. My husband is treated the same way.

We do have frequent telephone conversations with our son and daughter-in-law and feel part of their lives.

But I'm tired of being the only one who remembers these special occasions.

We get along very well, so I don't understand this. — *Grandma May Just Send Cards This Year*

Dear Grandma: We suspect your son has an arrangement with his wife where she takes care of her parents and he handles his.

Some men are notoriously bad at remembering birthdays and holidays, and this may be why you get the occasional phone call but little else.

Since you have an otherwise wonderful relationship and don't need the gifts, please don't make this an issue.

Dear Annie: You recently printed responses to "Not Harold and Maude," who asked about relationships between older women and younger men.

My wife, who is 14 years older than I am, left that column on my desk.

I know I am too late to chime in, but I wanted you to know that she is

my jewel. I write words of love to her every day. When we first met (on a Friday), I handed her a rose, and I've given her a rose every Friday since.

She told me that single rose means more than a dozen on Valentine's Day. She says I show my love every day and some women only hear it a few times a year. She's my love, my Friday Rose. — *Mike in Illinois*

Dear Mike: Rest assured, it's never too late to chime in with adoring words like those.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column.

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DIY cigarettes? Some smokers start growing tobacco

STEVE SZKOTAK

Associated Press Writer

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) — Something unusual is cropping up alongside the tomatoes, eggplant and okra in Scott Byars' vegetable garden — the elephantine leaves of 30 tobacco plants.

Driven largely by ever-rising tobacco prices, he's among a growing number of smokers who have turned to their green thumbs to cultivate tobacco plants to blend their own cigarettes, cigars and chew. Byars normally pays \$5 for a five-pack of cigars and \$3 for a tin of snuff, the seed cost him \$9.

"I want to get to where I don't have to go to the store and buy tobacco, but I'll just be able to supply my own from one year to the next," Byars said.

In urban lots and on rural acres, smokers and smokeless tobacco users are planting Virginia Gold, Goose Creek Red, Yellow Twist Bud and dozens of other tobacco varieties.

Although most people still buy from big tobacco, the movement took off in April when the tax on cigarettes went up 62 cents to \$1.01 a pack. Large tax increases were also imposed on other tobacco products, and tobacco companies upped prices even more to compensate for lost sales.

Some seed suppliers have reported a tenfold increase in sales as some of the country's 43.3 million smokers look for a cheaper way to get their nicotine fix in a down economy. Cigarettes cost an average of \$4.35 a pack, home growers can make that amount for about 30 cents.

It's the latest do-it-yourself movement as others repair their own cars, swap used clothes and cancel yard work services to save money.

"Cigarette smokers say, 'Yeah, we're going to die of cancer, but do we have to die of poverty as well?'" said Jack Basharan, who operates The Tobacco Seed Co. Ltd. in Essex, England. Virtually all of his increased tobacco seed sales have been in the U.S., he said.

Provided the tobacco isn't sold or traded, the Food and Drug Administration doesn't regulate homegrown tobacco. Most people grow for cigarettes, but some blend their own cigars and chew.

The FDA and U.S. Department of Agriculture don't keep statistics on home growers, though seed suppliers and Internet buzz suggest strong interest.



AP Photo/Michael H. Miller
Scott Byars of Corinth, Miss., snaps the tops of his homegrown tobacco plants in his garden beside his home.

Seedman.com has sold more than 100,000 packets of tobacco seeds this year, compared with 22,000 in all of 2008, president Jim Johnson said. The Gautier, Miss.-based company offers 40 varieties of tobacco from around the globe and packages various flavor blends for first-time growers.

A grower who purchased one of Johnson's Oriental and Turkish blends for \$24.50 could satisfy a pack-a-day habit for more than three years, according to Johnson's calculations.

However, growing and processing tobacco can challenge even the best gardeners. The nearly microscopic seeds must initially be grown inside and transplanted after the threat of frost has passed.

A seed started in March can be harvested, hung to dry and ready to smoke as soon as October. Some anxious growers have been known to microwave leaves to hasten the drying. For purists, the leaves can be cured, or aged, like a fine wine for up to three years.

"It's actually very labor intensive," said Ed Baker, general manager of Cross Creek Seed Inc. in Rafeord, N.C., the No. 1 tobacco seed supplier in the U.S. "There's a reason why cigarette companies make all that money. If it was that easy, everyone would be growing their own tobacco."

Cross Creek has seen a big increase in seed requests from home growers but it sells in volume. Its smallest seed offering is 90,000 seeds for \$170.

Novices and veterans can find smoker-friendly havens like howtogrowtobacco.com, a Web site that offers growing and curing tips, often including angry posts over ever-increasing taxes and smoking restrictions.

Many would not discuss their crops with The Associated Press, fearful a high profile would invite government scrutiny and taxes. Others proudly share stories and post photos.

Arthur Skora, 42, records his success growing and curing in Greenwood, Wis., on a how-to DVD he sells online.

"Most of the people who are ordering are just getting fed up with prices and basically they're not going to take it anymore," Skora said.

Saving money wasn't the only motivation for Matt Schoell-Schafer, a landscape architect in Kansas City, who has 50 plants growing in his urban garden.

"It's not being a victim to their manipulation of this product," said Schoell-Schafer, 34, who enjoys an occasional cigar or cigarette. "So I'm sort of liberating myself by growing it myself."

Some growers contend their tobacco concoctions are safer than commercial products, which have a stew of additives ranging from colorings and oils to ammonia.

"The quick answer to that is no," said Thomas Glynn, director of cancer science and trends at the American Cancer Society. Glynn knew of only one study of the health risks of homegrown and commercial blends — and it concluded no difference in safety between the two.

Homegrown tobacco can also contain fungus and mold, which can cause chronic bronchitis and other ailments, Glynn said.

Philip Morris USA, the nation's No. 1 cigarette maker, and other big companies are unlikely to shudder. Philip Gorham, a tobacco industry analyst with the investment research firm Morningstar, said he had no data on smokers who switched to homegrown. But he doesn't see it as a mass movement.

"It's one thing to switch from a premium brand to a discount one. It's quite another to switch from buying a manufactured product to roll your own," Gorham said.

At VirtualSeeds.com, Joyce Moore said she typically sold tobacco seeds as ornamental plants to gardeners who appreciated their elephantine leaves. This year, her Astoria, Ore.-based company was overwhelmed by orders from tobacco users slammed by "the market collapse, the recession, then getting hit with exorbitant tobacco taxes."

Moore doesn't use tobacco herself but has no misgivings about her business.

"If I sold doughnuts in a bakery would I feel guilty because fat people come in and buy them?" she asked. "It just happens to be a very good year for tobacco seeds."

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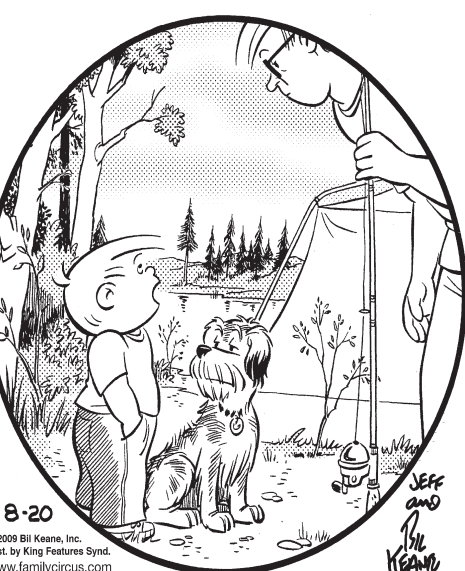
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5 :PM	News ABC	News ABC	Locura	Lopez Lopez	News CBS	Noticias Noticiero	News NBC	Raymond Friends	Granger Brad	BBC Business	Cash Cab		CSI: Crime Scn	Bones	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Phineas and Ferb	Horn Interrupt	SportsCenter
6 :PM	News ABC	Jeopardy!	Gancho	Two Men Two Men	News CBS	12 Cora-zones	News NBC	Friends Seinfeld	Brad Sanchez	News-Lehrer	Made in America		CSI: Crime Scn	CSI: NY		Montana	ATP Tennis: W&S Financial Group Masters	Fantasy Draft
7 :PM	Be a Millionaire	Be a Millionaire	Nombre Amor	NFL Preseason Football: Eagles at Colts	Big Brother 11	Más Sabe el Diabolo	30 Rock Parks	Friends Seinfeld	Israel Sprna	Texas Antiques Roadshow	American Loggers	Lonesome Dove	UFC Un-leashed	CSI: NY	Movie: ATL Mykelti Williamson	Montana	Boxing: Bowe vs. Holyfield II	
8 :PM	Grey's Anatomy	Grey's Anatomy	Mañana es		CSI: Crime Scn	Pobres	Office 30 Rock	Friends Friends	Light of the Southwest	Antiques Roadshow	American Loggers		TNA iMPACT!	Movie: Sea-biscuit, Chris Cooper	Movie: New Jack City, Judd Nelson	Life De	SportsNation	Baseball Tonight
9 :PM	(:02) Private Practice	(:02) Private Practice	Fosa		(:01) The Mentalist	Victorinos	Law & Order	Movie: You, Me and Dupree		Chasing-Search	Man vs. Wild				Game	Wizards	Revolution at Sounders FC	SportsCenter
10 :PM	News Nightline	News Nightline	Impacto Noticiero	Raymond King-Hill	News Late Show	Noticias Titulares	News Tonight Show		Israel Van Impe	Charlie Rose	American Loggers		Police Chases		W. Williams	Suite Life So Raven		
11 :PM	Insider Jimmy Kimmel Live	Jimmy Kimmel Live	La Escuelita VIP	Law Order: CI	Late Late Show	Decisiones de Famosos	Late Night-Jim	Sex & Sex & Sex & Sex	Bill Cloud Swallow	BBC Smiley (Off Air)	American Loggers	Movie: Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid	Inglorious Game	Movie: Sea-biscuit, Chris Cooper	Movie: New Jack City, Judd Nelson	Life De	SportsNation	Baseball Tonight
12 :AM	News Paid	News Paid	Contra Viento	RENO 911 TMZ	Insider	Pagado	News	Movie: The Hand That Rocks the Cradle	Israel LightWrd				MAN			Replace	NASCAR	SportsCenter
1 :AM	Paid	Paid	Mujer... Güereja	Raymond	Paid	Pelicula: El	Poker After Dark						MXC			W. Williams	Emperor Dragon	SportsCenter

DENNIS THE MENACE



"I THINK I'LL CALL MRS. WILSON AND ASK IF I CAN EAT WITH THEM."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

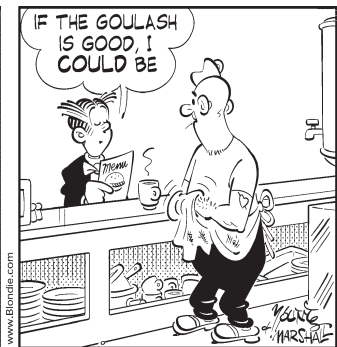


"Where can I buy a postcard? Grandma said to be sure to send her one."

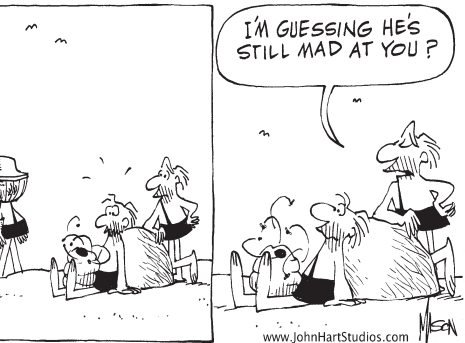
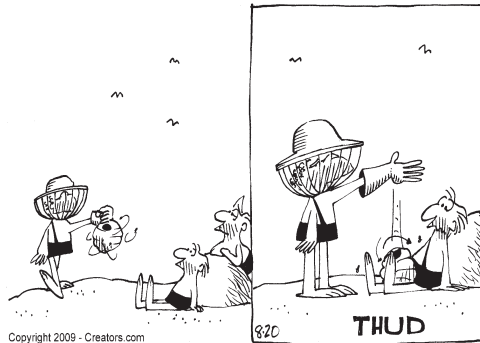
HAGAR



BLONDIE



BC



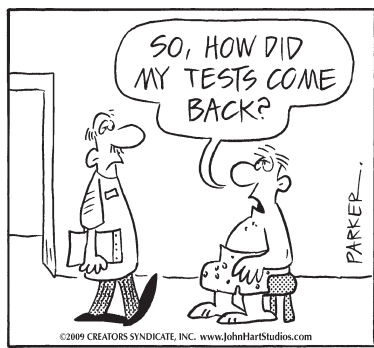
This Date In History

Today is Thursday, Aug. 20, the 232nd day of 2009. There are 133 days left in the year. Today's Highlight in History:

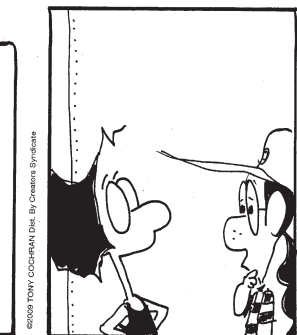
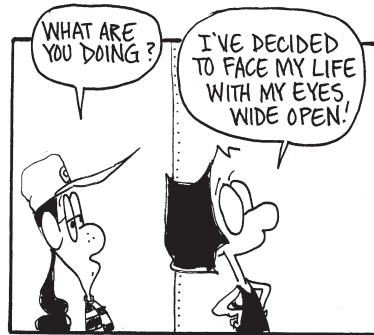
paid tribute to the Royal Air Force, saying, "Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few."
In 1955, hundreds of people were killed in anti-French rioting in Morocco and Algeria.
In 1964, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Economic Opportunity Act, a nearly \$1 billion anti-poverty measure.
In 1977, the U.S. launched Voyager 2, an unmanned spacecraft carrying a 12-inch copper phonograph record containing greetings in dozens of languages, samples of music and sounds of nature.
In 1979, Diana Nyad succeeded in her third attempt at swimming from the Bahamas to Florida.
In 1989, entertainment executive Jose Menendez and his wife, Kitty, were shot to death in their Beverly Hills, Calif., mansion by their sons, Lyle and Erik. Fifty-one people died when a pleasure boat sank in the River Thames in London after colliding with a dredger.
British conservationist George Adamson, 83, was shot and killed by bandits in Kenya.
Today's Birthdays: Writer-producer-director Walter

Bernstein is 90. U.S. special envoy George Mitchell is 76. U.S. Rep. Ron Paul, R-Texas, is 74. Baseball All-Star Graig Nettles is 65. Broadcast journalist Connie Chung is 63. Musician Jimmy Pankow (Chicago) is 62. Actor John Noble is 61. Rock singer Robert Plant (Led Zeppelin) is 61. Rock singer Doug Fieger (The Knack) is 57. Country singer Rudy Gatlin is 57. Singer-songwriter John Hiatt is 57. Actor-director Peter Horton is 56. TV weatherman Al Roker is 55. Actor Jay Acovone is 54. Actress Joan Allen is 53. TV personality Asha Blake is 48. Actor James Marsters is 47. Rapper KRS-One is 44. Rock singer Fred Durst (Limp Bizkit) is 39.
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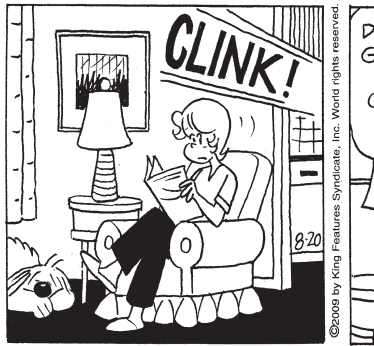
WIZARD OF ID



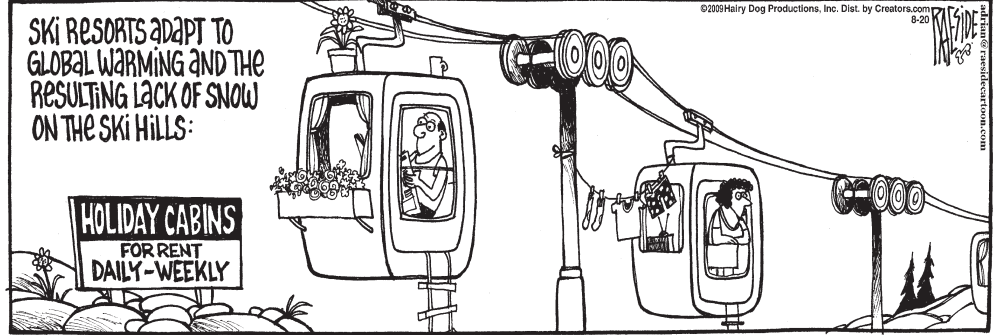
AGNES



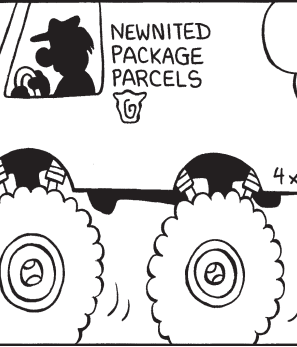
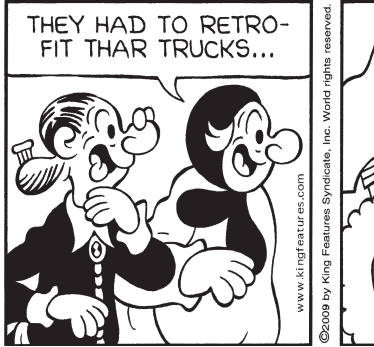
HI AND LOIS



THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BETLE BAILEY



Newsday Crossword

ACROSS

- "Take ___!"
- Radio-active ones
- Not quite a majority
- Shakespearean villain
- Towel material
- Peter and the Wolf duck
- Put your best foot forward
- Erode
- American Leaguers
- The Jetsons' dog
- "I'm all ears!"
- Fresh words
- Cinderella coachmen, at midnight
- Brings into play
- Decorator's concern, perhaps
- Dryer-trap material
- Cockeyed
- Put your best foot forward
- Fix, as a pump
- Second banana of a sort
- Big Ten sch.
- Make ready
- "I Loves You Porgy" singer
- Shia or Sunni
- Most judicious
- Prom styles
- Mukluk wearers
- GPS reading
- Put your best foot forward
- Genealogist's project
- Tuck, for one

DOWN

- Carol contraction
- "Fat chance!"
- Before now
- Skyline highlights
- Thicken, as cream
- Tell-all book, often
- Extremity
- Off the beaten path
- Catch
- Waikiki locale
- Explorer Tasman
- Handed-down history
- Come clean, with "up"
- Fed. auditor
- Nada
- Note below B
- Cup
- companion
- Fearsome fly
- Wine partner
- Musical intervals
- Emcee's need
- Drained
- Romanian Rhapsodies composer
- Swaggers
- Like Abner
- Iliad warrior
- Bribe
- Unevenly balanced
- Dry run
- Eliminate all doubt
- Shells out
- Alcott girl
- Explode
- Dos Passos trilogy
- CPR pros
- Horse's father
- Patella's place
- Lith. and Lat., once
- Tin Tin
- Paper + cardboard + glue
- Computer-screen pixel
- Sine ___ non
- Pvt.'s superior

MODEL BEHAVIOR by Robert A. Doll
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
14				15					16				
17			18					19					
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54							55	56			57	58	59
60						61					62		
63						64					65		

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▶ Class Reunions

Class of 1959

Coordinators for the Big Spring High School Class of 1959 50th year reunion scheduled for Sept. 18 and 19 are seeking information on the following BSHS grads. Anyone with information should contact Pat Rogers Anderson at 267-6143 or by e-mail at pja01@suddenlink.net

Carol Aston
Peggy Autrey Burrow
Karen Baldwin Argo
Mary Ruth Barrington Kennemur
Warren Boyd
Nancy Branch Hope
Ronnie Buie
Lewis Burns
Brent Clark
Linda Corwell
Bill Cooper
Eva Corrales Merriet
Mary Kay Cunningham Shocklee
Nancy Eldridge
Billy Ellison
Gabriel Fierro
Janie Griffin Dillon
Marilyn Hall
Ronnie Hammack
Joan Heise
Rosie Hinojos
Jerry Hinson
Judy Jennings Allen
David Leppert
Glenda Mahoney
Larry McNeill
Jerilyn McPherson
Joe McWilliams
Lynn Miller
Dawn Moore Grant
Larry Morgan
Victoria Palomino Padilla
Joe Perry
Wesley Phillips
Amelia Rosas Johnson
Marvin Simmons
Bessie Smith
Lougenia Smith Langdale
Nell Sneed Bronaugh
Shirley Thurman McPhaul
Mary Jane Trego Delozier
Sylvia Valdez

Class of 1968

The BSHS Class of 1968 is trying to locate correct addresses for the following classmates. Anyone with information on these classmates is asked to call Jeanie Johnson Knocke at 432-213-0698 or Nancy Mathis Marshall at 432-263-8053.

Adams, Mike
Anderson, Billy
Anderson, Regina (McKinney)
Benjamin, Myrla
Bentley, David
Carrasco, Thomas
Chapman, Olan
Cooper, Margaret
Cunningham, Melissa
Dalton, Jerry
Dixon, Joyce
Flores, Fermin
Fuller, Nancy (Osmulski)
Garcia, Freddie
Hardison, Suzanne
Helton, Linda (Wright)
Hodnett, Don
Johnson, Danny
Johnson, Norma (Michaels)
Keene, Charles
Lopez, Joe
McComb, Carol (Drinkwater)
McMurtrey, Larry Don
Macklin, Richard
Maneely, Cynthia
Majors, Theresa
Meek, Ray
Merrick, Beverly
Miller, Helen (Burchfield)
Minnick, Jimmy
Molpus, Kathy (Bryan)
Moncada, Herlinda (Rodriguez)
Morris, Janice (Butterfield)
Oliver, Diana
Ortega, Orlando
Raines, Toinette
Sokolewicz, Stephanie
Stone, Chuck
Sudberry, Patty
Tidwell, Sheila (LaRochelle)
Williams, Gay (Garcia)
Worsham, Ray

Class of 1969

The BSHS class of 1969 will be having a reunion Sept. 18-19. Below is a listing of names we cannot find addresses for. If you have this infor-

mation, contact Shelane Roberts, Class of 1969 at (432) 267-2798 or 267-6013.

ROBERT AARON
MARY ANN ABREO (FICKE)
STEVE AUSTIN
RUTH BAILEY
SHIRLEY BALDOCK
JUDY BARBER
RHONDA BARGER
JESSIE LADD BENNETT
LINDA GAIL BENSON
MIKE BOLTE
BRENDA BRADBURY
DWIGHT BROWN
JAMES BROWN
SHERRY BUFORD
ALLEN BUNN
MARY BETH BURCHAM
DOUGLAS LEE BURNETT
BOBBIE BEATRICE BYRD
CANDACE CAROTHERS
JIMMY RAY CARTER
YVETTE CASILLAS (PADILLA)
LUCY CERVANTES
ROB CHAPMAN
EMA CHAVEZ
GWEN CLARK
ELODIA CORRALES (CHERRY)
LARRY COTTON
BENJAMIN RUSH CROCKER
ALANDA DEANS
MARY JANE DE LA GARZA (GARCIA)
LINDA DENNIS
SANTA DIAZ
ALFRED DOPORTO
JANIE DUKE
RODNEY DUNNAM
PETRA DURAN
DEBRA ERHARDT
MICHAEL EVANS
CLIFTON RAY FIDLER
PATIE LUE FINKE
JIMMY FORTUNE
MARVA ELIZABETH FOSTER
DEBBIE FRITZ
LARRY FROMAN
LAURA FULBRIGHT (JONES)
CHRIS GILBERT
WANDA SUE GIPSON
KATHERINE GRESHAM (LACK-EY)
DARWIN GRIFFIN
NANCY JO HALL
THOMAS HAM
THERESA HEARD
BILL HENRY
DONALD HICKSON
DAVID HILARIO
IASCUILA HILARIO
LEWIS HINOJOS
MIKE HUBBARD
DALE HUGHES
ARTHUR HUSE
CHARLES C. HYDEN
DORIS ANN JENKINS
DEBORAH ANN JENSEN
HELEN JOHNSON (RAY)
NANCY KASCH
JAMES KELLY
JUANICE ANN KEY
CATHY KIRBY (MURRAY)
BERTHA KIRK
JOAN KNIGHT (RIDGWAY)
VICTORIA LYNN KNOEPFEL
DAVID LEAL
MARY FRANCIS LEE
JOY LEGG
KENNETH CLARLES LE ROY
BARBARA LONG
MIMI LUVANO (VERA)
NORMA LUVANO
PATRICIA MACKLIN (WINGERT)
ROBERTA HAZEL MARKS
STELLA MARTINEZ (RUSHING)
GERALD MATIN
ELIZABETH MCCARRA
NANCY MCWHORTER
WANDA JANE MESIMER
GENE WILLARD MEYERS
EARSIE JEAN MILLER
THOMAS MOLINA
CAROLYN ANN MONTGOMERY
KAREN MARIE MOORE
IRENE MUNOZ (MCCURDY)
LARRY NEWTON
DORIS VIRGINIA NOBLE
MARY JANE OVALLE
ROSALINDA PALOMINO
JOHN PANNEL
GORGE ANNN PATTON
RICHARD BARRY PAYNE
ROGER DALE PEACOCK
ANGELINA CARMEN PHILLIPS
CYNTHIA JANE PINSON
SARA ELIZABETH POHL
CATHY POOLE
ARTHUR PORRAS
MICHAEL PROCTOR
ALBERT RAMIREZ
PAULA RAMIREZ
LARRY RAY

COY REAGAN
MARY RHODES
OPHELIA ALVAREZ RIOS
DEOLA MAUREEN RIVERS
TERRY JOAN ROBERTSON
PAM ROWLAND
KAREN JOYCE RUSSELL
LARRY RUSSELL
GREGG RYAN
JENNIFER SCHNEIDER
ADELYNE SCOTT (LEWIS)
MARK SHAVER
LARRY SLOAN
GARY SMITH
GERALD WAYNE SMITH
GWENTHE GAYLE SMITH
STANFORD STEWART
WENDELL STEWART
TOMMY SWITZER
DAVID TALBOTT
LARRY TAYLOR
ROBERT GALE THOMPSON
FIDEL TOVAR
JESSE TREVINO
ANTONIO SUBIA VALENCIA
CARL VAN VLEET
RICHARD VERA
JOYCE WALKER (GIBBS)
HERBERT WARD
ROY LEE WARREN
GLEE WEBB
JAMES WEBB
BETTY L WELCH
JOE WEST
MICHAEL DAVID WIGGINS
ROCKY WOOLEY
MANUEL YBARRA

Class of 1979

Big Spring High School Class of 1979 is having its 30-Year Reunion Sept. 18-19. We are still missing information on several classmates. Please contact Cheryl Carter Joy at joycheryl79@hotmail.com (432) 267-7755 or Debbye Salazar Valverde at debbyeval@bigspringchamber.com if you have any information on any of the following people:

Deborah Adams
Pedro Amaro Jr.
Yolanda Arriaga
Annetta Baker
Jimmie Barrier
Terri Beard
James Bedford
Brenda Begley
Dale Brown
Jim Brown
Steven Bryant
Teresa Burroughs
Connie Butler
Scott Campbell
Kyle Casey
Angela Cavnar
Sandra Chaney
Paul Cisneros

Joni Cline
Toni Cline
Carol Cone
Teresa Deel
Doyce Draper
Dan Dugan
Robert Evans
Paula Fields
John Fleckenstein
Abel Garcia
Ben Garcia Jr.
John Garcia
Roseann Garver
Michael Gomez
Marion Halecker
Patricia Hamilton
Sandra Harbin
Johnny Hardeman
Gilbert Hernandez
John Hernandez
Nora Hernandez
Rudy Hilario
Keila Hill
Jamie Hulan
Randy Hurrington
Marla Jackson Hickman
Brian Jenkins
Terry Jenkins
Debra Jimenez
Arva Jones
Jimmie Jones
Charles Leyva
Bill Little
Ronald Little
Angela Loftis
Cheryl Loper
Mary Loper
Celina Lucio
Donna Lunsford
Mark Madigan
Mark Martin
Lawrence Martinez
Antonio Mata
Dianne Mayo
Kevin McLaughlin
Janine McDonald
Ricardo Mendoza
Kirona Montgomery
Maria Moreno
Roberta Morgan
Larry Marrow
Cynthia Mullins
John Murray
Richard Myers
Arna Nanny
Randy Nelson
Kevin Nolting
David Norvelle
Frankie Noyola
Nat Nunez
Craig Orr
Eva Osberg
Vanessa Osburn
Tonya Partee
Niru Patel
Ray Perez
Debra Puga
Eddie Puga
Ramiro Ramos

Rhonda Ray
Ronnie Rayos
Luis Rivera
Robin Rivers
Cynthia Roberts
Randall Roberts
Dorothy Rodriguez
Michael Rogers
Oscar Rubio
Raul Rubio Jr.
Ysa Rubio
David Salazar
Ramon Saldivar
Donald Sawyer
Steven Schooler
Teresa Sherman
Lynn Shipman
Ruth Slape
Denise Smith
Larry Smith
Todd Smith
David Spencer
Brenda Stephens
Sharon Stephens
Terry Stockton
Stephen Strain
Teresa Strowd
Mark Sundry
Orlando Tercero Jr.
Darla Thomason
Paula Thompson
Christi Turner
Ellen Turner
Jacob Valenzuela
Cindy Vasquez
Sandra Vasquez
Scott Vick
Robert Villereal
Kirk Wade

Billy Ward
Charles Waters
Gary Don Weeks
Connie Welch
Kerry Whitley
Marta Whitten
Debra Wiggins
Rhonda Willbanks
Arthur Williams
John Willis
Mary Ann Witowski
Emmett Woodard
Christopher Wooten
Anthony Wright
Mark Young

Class of 1989

The Big Spring High School Class of 1989 is looking for members to attend a 20-year reunion in September. Contact Christy Alexander Brown at (972) 567-8037 or Irma Moreno Garcia at (432) 816-5321 with your updated information.

Class of 1999

We are currently seeking Class of 1999 classmates from Big Spring High School. Our 10-year reunion will be Sept. 18-19. Please send your mailing information to bshs1999@gmail.com to receive information on the reunion or contact Jennifer Davidson at (432) 213-0257.

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.

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

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Garden City • Grady • Sands

PUBLISH DATE:
Thursday, August 27, 2009
DEADLINE:
Friday, August 21

Full Page: \$665.00
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COLOR \$125.00 EXTRA

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BIG SPRING HERALD
432-263-7331

Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

Declarer Takes the Bait

South dealer.
Neither side vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ 9 8 3
♥ Q 10 5 4
♦ K Q 6 5 2
♣ 6

WEST
♠ K J 5 4
♥ J 8 7
♦ J 9 8 3
♣ 10 4

EAST
♠ Q 7 6
♥ K 9 2
♦ 10
♣ Q J 9 7 5 2

SOUTH
♠ A 10 2
♥ A 6 3
♦ A 7 4
♣ A K 8 3

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♣ Pass 1 ♦ Pass
2 NT Pass 3 NT
Opening lead — four of spades.

A defender should try to make life as difficult as possible for declarer by masking the location of key honor cards. This can be done in a variety of ways, but the goal is always the same: to present declarer with more than one option in the hope that he will choose the wrong one.

Today's deal from a team event provides a case in point. West led a spade against three notrump, declarer taking his ace on the third round. Nine tricks were assured if the diamonds were divided 3-2, so South cashed the A-K. This revealed the 4-1 break, leaving him with only seven winners.

There was no point in continuing diamonds, since the defenders would then be certain to score five tricks (three spades, a diamond and a heart) before declarer could score nine. South therefore turned his attention to the heart suit, cashing the ace and then leading a low heart to the ten (he would have done better to lead a low heart to the ten first). Instead of taking the king, however, which would have given declarer an easy nine tricks, East followed smoothly with the nine!

This left declarer in a quandary. If East actually had the king, the winning play was to continue with a low heart from dummy.

But if West had the K-J remaining, the contract could be made only by crossing to the ace of clubs and cashing the king before leading another heart toward dummy. West could take the king and cash a spade, but since he would have no clubs at that point (presumably having started with four spades, four hearts and four diamonds), he would next have to lead a heart or a diamond to dummy, giving South the contract.

Declarer thought long and hard, and finally chose the latter approach. But when he played the A-K of clubs and led a heart, East produced the king and cashed three good clubs to score a well-deserved two-trick set.

Tomorrow: Test your play.
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News in brief

Taliban attacks dampen Afghan vote turnout; Karzai favored to win, but Abdullah turnout high

KABUL (AP) — Taliban threats appeared to dampen voter turnout in the militant south Thursday as Afghans chose the next president for their deeply troubled country. Insurgents launched scattered rocket, suicide and bomb attacks, violence that closed some polling sites.

Low turnout in the south would harm President Hamid Karzai's re-election chances and boost the standing of his top challenger, former Foreign Minister Abdullah Abdullah. Turnout in the north appeared to be high, a good sign for Abdullah.

International officials have predicted an imperfect election — Afghanistan's second-ever direct presidential vote — but expressed hope that Afghans would accept it as legitimate, a key component of President Barack Obama's war strategy. Taliban militants, though, pledged to disrupt the vote and circulated threats that those who cast ballots will be punished.

A voting official in Kandahar, the south's largest city and the Taliban's spiritual birthplace, said voting appeared to be 40 percent lower than during the country's 2004 presidential election. The official asked not to be identified because he wasn't authorized to release turnout figures. Associated Press journalists reported low turnouts in Kabul compared with longer lines seen in the 2004 vote.

Scattered reports of violence trickled in from around the country, including a rocket that landed near voters in Helmand province and an explosion at a voting site in Kabul. Clashes in Baghlan province closed voting sites and killed police.

Cancer-stricken Sen. Kennedy asks Mass. leaders for speedy process to replace him in Congress

BOSTON (AP) — A cancer-stricken Sen. Edward M. Kennedy has written a poignant letter to Massachusetts leaders asking that they change state law to allow a speedy replacement of him in Congress.

The note has been sent to Gov. Deval Patrick and the state's Senate president and House speaker at a time when Congress is considering an overhaul of the nation's health care system, a life cause of Kennedy's.

The letter acknowledges the state changed its succession law in 2004 to require a special election within five months to fill any vacancy. At the time, legislative Democrats were concerned then-Republican Gov. Mitt Romney would be able to fill any vacancy created as Democratic Sen. John Kerry ran for president.

But Kennedy writes "it is vital for this commonwealth to have two voices speaking for the needs of its citizens and two votes in the Senate during the

approximately five months between a vacancy and an election."

While Democrats hold a potentially filibuster-proof margin in Congress, the outcome of a health care reform bill could hinge on a single vote.

Scottish government says decision set to be announced in Lockerbie bombing case

EDINBURGH, Scotland (AP) — A decision has been reached in the case of Lockerbie bomber Abdel Baset al-Megrahi and will be announced Thursday, the Scottish government said. British news networks reported that he would be released on compassionate grounds.

Scottish Justice Minister Kenny MacAskill said he had informed the families of the victims that he had made a decision about what to do with the terminally ill al-Megrahi and would make a formal announcement Thursday afternoon in Edinburgh, the Scottish capital.

Sky News television reported Wednesday that al-Megrahi will be released from prison on compassionate grounds. The BBC has also previously reported that al-Megrahi would be set free on compassionate grounds, adding that his release had been expected before the end of the week. Neither network cited the source of its information.

The Times of London reported Thursday that the private jet of Libya's leader, Moammar Gadhafi, was scheduled to collect al-Megrahi at Glasgow Airport if he was released following MacAskill's announcement.

The airport confirmed that a plane from Tripoli had booked a slot to land on Wednesday, but did not land.

An official at Glasgow who spoke on customary condition of anonymity said that no similar slots had been booked on Thursday or Friday. Nearby Prestwick airport said it was not aware of any flights arriving Thursday from Libya.

Aircraft headed toward deadly collision over Hudson as controller joked about barbecuing a cat

WASHINGTON (AP) — Two minutes after he cleared a private plane for takeoff and a fateful flight over the Hudson River, an air traffic controller at New Jersey's Teterboro Airport was on the phone with a woman in the airport operations office, joking about barbecuing a dead cat.

"We got plenty of gas in the grill?" the controller asked. "Fire up the cat."

"Ooh, disgusting, augh, that thing was disgusting," the woman responded.

According to a draft government transcript obtained by The Associated Press, the two continued to banter until seconds before the private plane collided with a tour helicopter over the Hudson.

Nine people — three members of a Pennsylvania family in the plane and five Italian tourists and a pilot in the helicopter — died in the Aug. 8 accident.

Bicycle bomb kills 2 in Baghdad

BAGHDAD (AP) — A bicycle bomb exploded near a restaurant in Baghdad Thursday killing two people in a deadly reminder of Iraq's security problems as the death toll rose to at least 101 from a string of blasts the day before that mainly targeted heavily guarded government buildings.

More than 500 people also were wounded when

nearly simultaneous truck bombs struck Iraq's Foreign and Finance ministries on Wednesday — the deadliest day of coordinated bombings in more than a year.

The bloodshed dealt a devastating blow to the Iraqi government's efforts to take advantage of security gains to return Baghdad to normal after years of sectarian warfare.

Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki blamed Sunni insurgents linked to al-Qaida in Iraq and said the attacks were designed to foil plans to reopen streets and remove concrete blast walls from Baghdad's main roads by mid-September.

He said the Iraqi government must reassess security measures — the first government acknowledgment that the moves may have been premature so soon after U.S. troops left the cities at the end of June.

Administration developing plans to wind down clunker rebates program

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Obama administration is developing plans to wind down the popular Cash for Clunkers program and could announce by Friday when the incentives will no longer be available.

Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood said Wednesday the department would announce within 48 hours how it intends to discontinue the program that offers car buyers rebates of \$3,500 or \$4,500 for trading in older vehicles for new, more fuel-efficient models. Department officials met with car dealer trade groups on Wednesday to discuss how the program will eventually end and respond to complaints over a backlog of rebate payments to dealers.

Through early Wednesday, auto dealers have made deals worth \$1.81 billion and are on pace to exhaust the program's \$3 billion in funds in early September.

The incentives have generated more than 435,000 vehicle sales but dealers want a clear plan on when the rebates will no longer be available so they don't end up on the hook for any of the incentives.

"We want to make sure that dealers know when we're getting close" to running out of the money that was allocated for the program, LaHood told reporters.

White House projects lower deficit

WASHINGTON (AP) — The federal budget picture will look slightly better next week. Relatively speaking.

The White House plans to announce the federal deficit will still be a record breaker, at \$1.58 trillion, for the current 2009 fiscal year. But the amount is about \$262 billion less than officials predicted earlier this year.

That's mostly because the administration erased a \$250 billion contingency fund it had penciled into the budget in case Wall Street needed more government help in getting out of the financial crisis.

While the numbers still represent a tremendous amount of red ink, they would give the administration the opportunity to say its policies have prevented a more extreme financial crisis and eliminated the need for further bank infusions.

Nonetheless, the deficit amount is a huge obstacle for an administration trying to undertake massive policy overhauls in health care and the environment. And the true impact of deficits lies in the coming years.

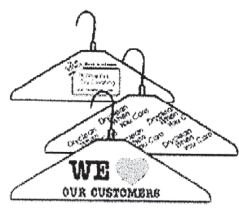
"We want to make sure that dealers know when we're getting close" to running out of the money that was allocated for the program, LaHood told reporters. LaHood said he recognized that "dealers are frustrated. They're going to get their money."

The National Automobile Dealers Association said its trade group met with Transportation officials to discuss dealer concerns about reimbursement delays and ways of fixing the problems. NADA spokesman Charles Cyrill said the association "stressed the importance of addressing — as soon as possible — how the program will end, including the possible suspension of the program."

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