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WEDNESDAY
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VOLUME 105, NUMBER 194

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HERALD photos/Steve Reagan

Above, Kristen Enriquez, left, and Ronnyesha Smith enjoy the tire swing at the ABC Park on West Fourth Street Wednesday morning. At right, Xavier Wilbert enjoys the slide. The children were from the Salvation Army's summer youth program.

Leaders needed

Applications being accepted for Leadership Big Spring

By **STEVE REAGAN**
 Staff Writer

Applications for the next Leadership Big Spring Class are being accepted through July 30, officials said.

Leadership Big Spring is a nine-month series of seminar and tours sponsored by the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce designed to help develop community leaders in this area.



Stewart

"We want to increase community awareness as to the many great things that Big Spring has to offer," said Vickie Stewart, one of Leadership Big Spring's organizers. "It also develops leadership skills. This gives people the knowledge and skills so they can become an active part of the community."

Up to 25 people will be accepted for the program. Cost is \$400 for chamber members and \$600 for non-members and applications can be obtained at the chamber office at 215 W. Third, Stewart said.

Among the scheduled activities for this year's class are:

- August and September — Participation in a Boy Scout "ropes" course designed to foster trust among class members.
- October — A tour of county agriculture sites and participation in the annual Ag Appreciation Day activities.
- November — Personal Development Day, in which class members work on developing social and interpersonal skills.

See **LEADERS**, Page 3A

BSISD board to take close look at proposed budget

□ Thursday's meeting will begin at 5:15 p.m. in the high school board room.

By **STEVE REAGAN**
 Staff Writer

It'll be the same — only different. The proposed 2010-2011 budget Big Spring Independent School District trustees will discuss during their Thursday evening meeting will look basically the same — from a day-to-day expenditure vantage point, anyway — as its predecessor. When you take into account \$60 million in voter-approved bond money, however, the new fiscal package will mark quite a change from recent history.

BSISD trustees will consider both the new budget and authorizing the sale of construction bonds when they meet at 5:15 p.m. Thursday in the high school

board room. Very few aspects of the district's operating budget will change going into the 2010-2011 budget cycle, said Sandra Waggoner, chief financial officer of the district.

Non-bond related expenditures are expected to increase by \$200,000 because of pay raises pencilled in for district employees and technology purchases, bringing the total package to approximately \$30.9 million, Waggoner said.

Thursday will mark the first time this summer that trustees will get a good, hard look at the proposed budget.

"Basically, we'll just go over with the board what's in the budget and where the increases are," Waggoner said.

Teachers, nurses and librarians are expected to receive a 3 percent pay raise in the coming fiscal year and other district employees should see a modest raise as well, Superintendent Steven

Saldivar said. "Everybody's getting a raise," Saldivar said.

On the debt service side of the budget is where things will be radically different.

Trustees are expected to formally approve the sale of slightly more than \$53 million of the \$60 million in bonds approved by voters in May. The district expects to receive proceeds from the bond sales in late August.

The reason trustees are holding off on selling the full \$60 million in bonds is that officials are hopeful the district will qualify for \$6.7 million in federal stimulus bonds earmarked for school construction later this year.

Receiving the stimulus bonds would not change the amount of principal the district would have to repay, but

See **BSISD**, Page 3A

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Texas Republican group aims to get more Hispanics elected

By **APRIL CASTRO**
 Associated Press Writer

AUSTIN— Eager to attract a growing Hispanic voting population in Texas, a new Republican group launched an effort Tuesday to recruit and train GOP candidates.

The Hispanic Republicans of Texas, led by George P. Bush, the

nephew of former President George W. Bush, said in addition to recruiting potential candidates, they would help financially with potential candidates around the state who are interested in running for school board or any other office.

"Hispanic leaders are disproportionately underrepresented as elected officials, especially as Re-

publicans," said Sonya Medina, a board member for the new group. "Hispanic Republicans of Texas was established to close the gap, to build leadership within the Hispanic community and ultimately to support those who are ready to serve as elected leaders in our state."

See **HISPANICS**, Page 3A



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Rangers improve to 5-1 since break

Texas keeps rolling with 8-0 win against Tigers

DETROIT (AP) — Tommy Hunter made Texas Rangers history.

Hunter became the first Ranger to pitch only as a starter and begin a season with seven wins and no losses, and Josh Hamilton hit another homer to help surging Texas beat the slumping Detroit Tigers 8-0 on Tuesday night.

"That's a great accomplishment because you obviously want to win every game, but a lot of it has to do with the guys behind me," he said. "You saw the plays they made, and they've done that every time I've been on the mound.

"They are the reason I'm 7-0, plus Josh keeps hitting homers every time I start."

Hamilton hit his 23rd hom-

er, Ian Kinsler cleared the fence for the second straight day — after doing it just four times this season — and David Murphy had a solo shot.

The AL West-leading Rangers are 5-1 since the All-Star break and are the only team in the majors with 50 wins since April 22.

"This is a good team," Detroit manager Jim Leyland said. "That's why they're leading the division."

Since the Tigers' last day atop the AL Central, they have lost a season-high seven straight and have followed a trend during the Leyland era.

Detroit has had at least a .500 record before the break in each of Leyland's five sea-

sons and hasn't had a winning record once after it.

"It's probably different (reasons) every year," Leyland said. "Two of those years, it wasn't what we wanted, but we still went to the World Series and played the 163rd game for the (AL Central) championship."

All-Star Miguel Cabrera is taking some of the blame for the latest slump after the break.

"Starting the second half in Cleveland, I didn't do my job," said Cabrera, who was 2 for 14 with two RBIs as the last-place Indians swept Detroit. "What I and we need to do is look in the mirror, turn it around, play more relaxed and make something hap-

pen."

The Rangers had plenty of players doing their jobs in the second of a three-game series.

Elvis Andrus hit Armando Galarraga's first pitch for a single, scored on Kinsler's triple and Hamilton followed with a sacrifice fly. Murphy's solo homer in the second put Texas up 3-0.

Nelson Cruz's RBI single in the sixth brought Hamilton home, providing the Rangers with more than enough offense.

But the Rangers stayed aggressive and turned the game into a rout with a four-run ninth against relievers Brad Thomas and Casey Fien, who was recalled earlier in the

day from Triple-A Toledo to take Brandon Inge's spot on the roster.

Andrus' suicide squeeze gave Texas a five-run cushion in the final inning, Kinsler's two-run homer and Hamilton's solo shot made it 8-0.

Detroit didn't have a hit off Hunter until Austin Jackson led off the fourth with a single.

"We couldn't get anything going," Jackson said.

The Tigers looked like they might score in the seventh, but Andrus dove to stop a sharply hit grounder between third and second and made a throw from his right knee to stunt the potential rally.

See **RANGERS**, Page 2B



Courtesy Photo

The 10 and under Big Spring Girls Softball All Star team placed second out of 28 teams at the 2010 West Texas All Star tournament held in Midland from July 14-18. Pictured left to right standing: Keelee White, Bree Franklin, Ysabel Soliz, Alexis Gaitan and Raegan Deel. Left to right, bottom row: Hunter Seymore, Caycey Moreno, Kendall Phillips, Cierra Martinez, Ashley Gonzales, Serenity Garcia and Destiny Mata. Coaches: Jaime Soliz, JD Gonzalez, Mike Mata and Jason Phillips. The girls earned second-place honors by defeating teams from Midland, Odessa, Coahoma, San Angelo, Andrews and Lubbock.

Ramirez pushes Cubs past 'Stros

CHICAGO (AP) — With the end of his long baseball career in sight, Lou Piniella endured a long emotional day. It ended with him leading the Cubs to its biggest comeback of the season.

Aramis Ramirez hit three homers and drove in seven runs to help Chicago rally to beat the Houston Astros 14-7 on Tuesday night hours after Piniella announced he will retire at the end of the season.

Ramirez hit two three-run homers and a solo shot. It was the fourth three-homer game of his career. The game started as a microcosm of the season for Piniella, who is calling it quits after 18 years in the majors as a player and another 22 as a manager.

"Sure it was. It was

emotional and draining, but it is over with and now my situation doesn't have to be disturbed anymore and we can concentrate on the team, which is important," said Piniella. "Component, I'm just a small piece of it. Let's hope we can continue to play and win some baseball games and make it fun for our fans."

Derrek Lee hit a go-ahead RBI double in the seventh and Geovany Soto tied the game with a solo shot in the sixth inning for the Cubs, who came back after trailing 7-1 in the fifth inning.

"I'm tired today, I really am. I really am, but I will get a good night sleep and I will be out here ready to go tomorrow."

See **ASTROS**, PAGE 2B

Cubs look ahead after skipper Lou Piniella says he will retire

CHICAGO (AP) — Just like a long line of predecessors, Lou Piniella thought he could lead the Chicago Cubs to that elusive championship and end a drought that dates to 1908.

Barring an epic turnaround, he can forget about that.

General manager Jim Hendry will get another shot, though.

New owner Tom Ricketts made that clear Tuesday, saying there won't be a change at the top after Piniella announced he's retiring at the end of the season and ending a long, colorful career.

"Jim is our general manager, full stock," Ricketts said. "He will be leading the effort to find our new manager for next year and will be our general manager going into next year."

Hendry, the GM since 2002, has come under scrutiny amid mounting losses the past two seasons. Big contracts to players such as Alfonso Soriano, Aramis Ramirez and Carlos Zambrano — not to mention signing Milton Bradley, who got banished late last season and ultimately traded to Seattle — have only added to the criticism.

Even so, Ricketts is counting on Hendry to lead the team out of the wilderness.

"I said at our opening press conference that Day 1 was Square 1 for everyone in the organization," Ricketts said. "I think from that day going forward, we had a very good offseason. I think Jim delivered on bringing in some players who contributed a lot this season. And we had a good offseason, no question."

"I think the second thing that I've seen the last eight months that gives me 100 percent confidence in Jim is that we have a good organization,"

he continued. "The way that you win consistently in baseball is to draft well, to develop players well and to bring those players up to the major leagues to give you flexibility in your payroll and trades. I think we have the organization in place. I have the highest confidence in everyone in our organization, and I think that speaks well of Jim."

Piniella sees hope for an organization that's gone more than a century without winning it all.

"Sooner or later, they'll break that barn door down and win a world champion-

ship," he said.

That was the plan when Chicago hired Piniella after the 2006 season. The Cubs won the NL Central in 2007 and 2008 before things fell apart, but without a title, Ricketts said no era could be viewed as a success.

"Our goal is to win a World Series," he said. "Our goal is to put a team on the field that can win the World Series every year. I can't envision an era without that and still calling it a success."

Now, they're trying to pick

See **CUBS**, Page 3B

Sports in brief

State Representative Joe Heflin Golf Tournament

This golf tournament will make its way to Big Spring on July 24 at the Comanche Trail Municipal Golf Course. Scramble is scheduled for 9 a.m. and lunch will be provided. RSVP to CassiDe Street at Heflin2010@yahoo.com or at 806-675-1583.

2-Person Low Ball

The Big Spring Country Club invites the community to participate in this event, which takes place July 24 through 25. The entry fee is \$60 per player plus the golf cart. Private carts are welcome. Entry includes barbecue on the course July 24. Field will be flighted by the first round score. Number of flights determined by number of entries. Call the Pro Shop at 267-5354 for more information or to enter a team.

Youth Basketball Tournament

The 2010 San Antonio Youth Basketball Championships will be conducted Aug. 6 through 8. This tournament is for boys and girls, third through 12th grade. Visit www.otcybc.com, email risingstars07@yahoo.com or call (979)417-3721 for more information.

Co-ed Softball Tournament

There will be a co-ed softball tournament Aug. 7 in Ozona. The entry fee is \$125 per team and the deadline to enter is Aug. 2. There will be prizes for first, second and third place winners. For more information call Chris at 325-763-6630 or e-mail him at CARDENAS_CHRIS@YAHOO.COM.

Big Spring Football Season Tickets

Get season tickets at the ATC. Previous season ticket holders can purchase tickets from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Monday through Thursday starting

July 26 and ending Aug. 9. General public ticket sales are from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Monday through Thursday starting Aug. 10 and ending Aug. 18. The cost is \$25 dollars per ticket book, which includes five home games. The last day to purchase will be Aug. 18. Any questions should be directed toward Kay Cook at 264-3662.

Athletic Physical Exams notice

Athletic physical exams are required by the University Interscholastic League for all athletes entering the seventh, ninth and 11th grades. This also includes any new person to athletics who has never completed a physical exam. Forms can be picked up at the Athletic Training Center. Once completed, the physical form must be turned in to coach Campbell in the training room or to Kay Cook, the athletic secretary. Prior to Aug. 2, equipment will not be checked out until physical is complete and on file in the training room. For more information, call 264-3662.

Obituaries

Evelyn M. Burnsed

October 3, 1914
Fannin County, Texas
July 19, 2010
Austin, Texas

Evelyn graduated from Honey Grove High School then attended and received her bachelor of science and masters of education degrees from Texas A&M University-Commerce, formerly known as East Texas State Teachers College. She taught for 40 years in Texas schools, including Honey Grove, Marshall, Gladewater, Odessa, eventually retiring in Abilene. The 20 years after retirement, Evelyn spent making many dear friends and serving the First Baptist Church in Abilene before moving to Austin to be near her family.

Evelyn was preceded in death by her husband, Rogers Burnsed in 1981; her son, Charles Burnsed of Big Spring in 1975; and her parents, Mr. and Mrs. C.H. Sanders of Honey Grove.

She is survived by her granddaughter, Tamara Burnsed Needles; great-grandson, Tyler Needles; and daughter-in-law, Joy Burnsed, all of Austin.

Visitation will be from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m., Thursday, July 22, 2010, at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home in Big Spring.

Graveside services will be held at 10 a.m., Friday, July 23, 2010, at Trinity Memorial Cemetery in Big Spring with Pastor Randy Cotton of Trinity Baptist Church officiating.

Condolences may be made at www.cookwaldenforestoaks.com.

Arrangements are under the care of Cook-Walden/Forest Oaks Funeral Home, 6300 W. William Cannon Drive, Austin 78749, (512) 892-1172.

Paid obituary

Kirby Loy Parker

Kirby Loy Parker, 47, passed away Monday, July 19, 2010, at Rapides Regional Medical Center.

He was preceded in death by his father, Carl Riley Parker and wife Ruth; mother Geraldine Parker; brother, C.R. Parker.

He is survived by his daughters, Amy Regina Parker and Tesa Kay McNeely; one granddaughter; brothers, Donnie Wayne Parker and Nathan Parker; and sisters, Nancy Stinson, Jacque Bristow, April Hicks and Misty Newlin.

To extend online condolences to the family, please visit us at www.magnoliafuneralhome.com

Jessie Joann 'Jo' Wyatt

Jessie Joann "Jo" Wyatt, 72, of Big Spring died Sunday, July 18, 2010, at her residence. Funeral services will be at 2 p.m. Thursday at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

She was born May 26, 1938, in Deering, Ga., to Mary and Ervin Myers. She lived most of her life in Georgia and Virginia, coming to Big Spring in 1995 from Keysville, Va., where she and her husband owned and operated a convenience store and deli. She had worked most of her life in the textile mills. She married Roy E. Wyatt, April 9, 1967. He preceded her in death Sept. 27, 2005.

She is survived by one daughter-in-law, Teresa Seago of Big Spring; two step-daughters, Debbie Melton and Vanessa Dix, both of Virginia; and two sisters, Susie Hall of Augusta, Ga., and Catherine Weeks of Eureka, Calif.; and four grandchildren, Lorenda, Cameron, Robin and Kimberly

In addition to her husband and parents, she was preceded in death by one son, Robert Seago.

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

Chester D. Urban

Chester D. Urban, 90, of Houston, formerly of Big Spring died Tuesday, July 20, 2010, in Houston. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Lottery

The winning numbers in Tuesday evening's drawing of the "Mega Millions" game were: 12-18-28-36-43, Mega Ball: 19.

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Tuesday night: Winning numbers drawn: 9-18-22-29-32. Number matching five of five: 0.

The winning Daily 4 numbers drawn Tuesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 9-6-1-6. Sum It Up: 22.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Tuesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 6-1-6. Sum It Up: 13.

Take Note

• The Salvation Army will take applications for its annual school supply program from Aug. 2-6 at the Army's headquarters at 811 W. Fifth. Application times are from 9 a.m.-noon and 1-3 p.m. For more information, call 267-8239.

• Youth at the Spring Creek Fellowship are conducting a shoe drive for Shoes for Orphan Souls through Aug. 1. Shoes for Orphan Souls is part of Buckner International and has distributed more than 2 million pairs of shoes to vulnerable children in the U.S. and to orphans in 69 countries. Shoes collected in the drive will be taken to Rock the Desert, set for Aug. 5-7 in Midland. Drop off boxes are located at Faye's Flowers (1013 S. Gregg) or Slaton Insurance (205 W. 15th). The drive accepts new shoes, socks and shoe strings. For more information, go to www.shoesfororphansouls.org or rockthedesert.com.

• New hours for the Chalet, Big Spring State Hospital's volunteer-run resale shop, are 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. Monday through Friday, and until 2 p.m. Saturdays. The Chalet is located at 110 East Second St. Sales from the shop are used to support patients during their stay at the Big Spring State Hospital. Donations of items are welcome.

• Each Saturday there is free admission to the Heritage Museum at 510 Scurry St. The museum is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturdays and from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Friday.

Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity Tuesday:

- TRAVIS COSPER, 32, 2524 Fairchild, was arrested on a warrant from another agency.
- JOHN PATRICK LAWLER, no age given, Houston, was arrested on a charge of public intoxication.
- MARK LEE CASTLEBERRY, 36, 407 S. Lancaster, was arrested on a charge of driving while intoxicated/open container and two warrants from other agencies.
- KEITH ANDREW HILARIO, 26, 1401 N. Highway 87 No. 703, was arrested on warrants charging failure to display operator license, failure to maintain financial responsibility, expired motor vehicle inspection certificate, speeding and four counts of failure to appear.
- LUIS ALBERTO GARFIAS, 22, 2305 Marshall, was arrested on a warrant charging no seat belt, failure to identify fugitive/false information, no driver's license (four counts), speeding and failure to appear (six counts).
- ASSAULT was reported in the 700 block of San Antonio.
- BURGLARY OF A VEHICLE was reported in the 1100 block of N. Aylesford.
- THEFT was reported in the 1000 block of S. Gregg, the 4800 block of W. Highway 80, the 400 block of Fourth and the 300 block of Austin.

Sheriff

The Howard County Sheriff's Office reported the following activity Tuesday (officials reported 63 prisoners in the county jail):

- MELITON VIERA, 46, was arrested on a motion to revoke probation for driving while license invalid.
- HARVEY DON ELLISON was arrested on a charge of assault/family violence.
- TRAVIS DEAN COSPER, 32, was transferred from BSPD after being arrested on a probation violation warrant.
- KEITH HILARIO, 26, was transferred from BSPD after being arrested on warrants charging failure to display driver's license, failure to maintain financial responsibility, displaying expired vehicle registration, speeding and failure to appear (four counts).
- MARK LEE CASTLEBERRY, 36, was transferred from BSPD after being arrested on a charge of driving while intoxicated/open container and a warrant charging contempt of court/non-payment of child support and driving while license suspended.
- LUIS ALBERTO GARFIAS, 22, was transferred from BSPD after being arrested on a warrant charging no driver's license, no seat belt, failure to identify fugitive/false information and three counts of failure to appear.
- JOHN PATRICK LAWLER, 47, was transferred from BSPD after being arrested on a charge of public intoxication.

Fire/EMS

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

- TRAUMA was reported in the 300 block of Piper. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 900 block of Lancaster. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAUMA was reported in the 1900 block of N. Highway 87. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1500 block of Sycamore. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1800 block of N. Highway 87. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 2600 block of Conally. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAUMA was reported in the 1700 block of Lancaster. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAUMA was reported in the 3200 block of Parkway. One person was transported to SMMC.
- VEHICLE FIRE was reported in the 1700 block of Scurry.

Support Groups

MONDAY

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

• Diabetes Support Group meets the second Monday of each month at 7 p.m. at Dora Roberts Rehabilitation Center, 306 W. Third St. Medical lectures and information for Type 1 and Type 2 Diabetics and caregivers. Call 267-3806 for information.

• Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) No. 21 meets at 5:30 p.m. at the First Christian Church at 10th and Goliad for weigh-in. The meeting begins at 6 p.m. Call 213-1342 or 263-6819.

TUESDAY

• Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m. and closed discussion meeting 8 p.m. to 9 p.m.

• Al-Anon, 615 Settles for family members and friends of alcoholics meets at 8 p.m.

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ASTROS

Continued from Page 1B

row," said Piniella.

Ramirez wasn't surprised to hear Piniella will retire after the season, but he was caught off guard that he announced it on Tuesday.

"Not really. Lou is what? (66). It was coming. I was surprised that he announced it during

the season, I thought he was going to wait until the end of the season," said Ramirez.

Starlin Castro led off the seventh with a double off the center-field wall off Astros reliever Brandon Lyon (5-4). Lee followed with an RBI double to left-center and scored on Alfonso Soriano's two-out RBI single to give the Cubs a 9-7 lead.

Lee also had a two-run single in the eighth and Ramirez hit his third home run of the game, a three-run shot off Astros reliever Gary Majewski.

The Cubs sent 10 hitter to the plate in the fifth and eighth innings.

Cubs reliever Andrew Cashner (1-3) pitched the sixth and seventh and retired all six batters he faced to earn his

first major league victory and Sean Marshall followed with a perfect eighth. Carlos Marmol pitched a scoreless ninth to close the game. The Cubs bullpen retired the final 12 batters in order to end the game.

After sitting through a long a five-run first inning in Monday night's blowout loss, Piniella had to endure a four-run second inning.

Comanche Trail Ladies Golf Association Update

Two teams tied with a 1-over par July 12. Dee Jenkins, Patsy Sharpmack, Ramona Harris and Gus Leonardi won on a scorecard playoff. The other team consisted of Connie Fowler, Shirley Long and Betty

Murphy.

In couples play July 15, Jimmy and Deanna Foresythe and Joe and Patsy Sharpmack won first place, shooting 3-under par. Earning second place with a 2-under par were Howard and Trish Gabbard.

Howard Gabbard shot closest to the pin on hole No. 3 and Donnie Long shot closest to the pin on hole No. 6.

NHL rejects Kovalchuk's 17-year deal

NEWARK, N.J. (AP) — Ilya Kovalchuk's plan to spend the rest of his career with the New Jersey Devils took a big hit just hours after the star forward's unprecedented deal was announced.

Kovalchuk beamed Tuesday during a news conference after receiving a 17-year, \$102 million contract with the Devils — the longest deal in NHL history. But before the day was finished, he was in limbo again.

Just one day after Kovalchuk and the Devils agreed to the record-setting contract, the league determined that it was illegal, a person familiar with the issues raised told The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the NHL hadn't made a formal announcement.

The contract was rejected because years of low salary at the end of the deal were added for the sole purpose of lowering the cap hit. The person added that it was determined that neither the Devils nor Kovalchuk believe he will play the final years of the deal at those terms. The All-Star was slated to earn only \$550,000 in each of the last five seasons of the contract that was to run through the 2026-27 season, when Kovalchuk will be 44.

Kovalchuk was to earn \$98.5 million of the \$102 million in the first 11 years of the deal.

Neither the Devils nor Kovalchuk's agent, Jay Grossman, commented after the contract was rejected.

Based on provisions in the collective bargaining agree-

ment between the players' association and the league, the union has five business days after being informed that the contract was rejected to file a grievance on behalf of Kovalchuk. The deal would remain voided if no grievance is filed or if an arbitrator agrees that the contract is illegal.

The arbitrator would have 48 hours to decide if the league was right to reject the contract. If the arbitrator agrees, the contract would be voided, and Kovalchuk would again be an unrestricted free agent.

Kovalchuk and the Devils both expressed relief earlier Tuesday that negotiations were over and that his long-term hockey future would play out in New Jersey. Now there is no assurance he will

ever play for the team again.

Kovalchuk smiled throughout a news conference at the Devils' home arena in which he officially returned to the team after a lengthy free-agent courtship. Kovalchuk finished last season with the Devils after being traded by the Atlanta Thrashers, who couldn't get him signed before he was set to hit the open market.

Kovalchuk dismissed money as a main factor in his decision to stay with New Jersey. He instead cited long-term security for him and his family and the opportunity to win the Stanley Cup with an organization that boasts three titles in 15 seasons. Kovalchuk's contract would have topped the 15-year deal goalie Rick DiPietro got from

the New York Islanders, and two-time NHL Most Valuable Player Alex Ovechkin's 13-year pact with the Washington Capitals.

Kovalchuk was to earn \$6 million each of the next two seasons, \$11.5 million for the following five seasons, \$10.5 million in the 2017-18 season, \$8.5 million for the 2018-19 season, \$6.5 million in 2019-20, \$3.5 million in 2020-21, \$750,000 the following season, and \$550,000 for the final five years of the unprecedented deal.

The Devils would have absorbed an annual salary-cap hit of \$6 million — the average amount per season.

That number was brought down because of the extended years at low salary at the end.

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RANGERS

Continued from Page 1B

Galarraga (3-3) gave up four runs and nine hits over 7 1-3 innings.

Even though he has won only once since his near-perfect game June 2, Leyland didn't sound discouraged about him.

"Galarraga gave us a chance to win," he said.

Hunter, meanwhile, made it tough for the Tigers to earn a much-needed victory.

The right-hander gave up just three hits and walked two over seven innings.

"Tommy Hunter gave us just what we needed," manager Ron Washington said. "Our bullpen was beat up, and he got us deep into the game with another great outing.

"He pitched well, the guys behind him played great defense and we put some runs on the board. That's about as clean a game of baseball as you

can play."

NOTES: Texas' Dustin Nippert says he didn't sustain any significant injuries when he was hit by a batted ball during Monday night's game against Detroit and agreed with the team's decision to put him on the 15-day DL for precautionary reasons. ... Texas, who had lost 11 straight at Detroit before winning in 14 innings on Monday night, have won a series at Comerica Park for the first time since 2007.

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Texas briefs

Second choked child dies, mom suspected

IRVING (AP) — Authorities say the 2-year-old daughter of a Dallas-area woman suspected of choking her two children has died.

A Dallas Medical Examiners Office spokeswoman says that Faryaal Akhter died Tuesday night at a local children's hospital.

Faryaal had been on life support since Monday, when her mother was accused of strangling 5-year-old Zain Akhter with a wire.

Irving police spokesman David Tull says the mother, 30-year-old Saiqa Akhter, is expected to be arraigned on Wednesday.

Police say Akhter called 911 on Monday and said she had done "something terrible" to her children.

The Dallas County Medical Examiners Office ruled Zain's death a homicide by strangulation and will conduct the autopsy on Faryaal later today.

Trial of father accused of starving kids opens

DALLAS (AP) — Opening statements are set to begin in the Dallas trial of a man accused of locking three children in a Dallas hotel bathroom for as long as nine

months.

Alfred Santiago is charged with injury to a child and continuous sexual abuse. Opening statements in his trial are scheduled to begin Wednesday in a Dallas County state district court.

Police found the three children shut inside a Dallas hotel bathroom last summer and believe they had been there for at least nine months. Officials say the 11-year-old girl and her half brother, ages 10 and 5, were emaciated and filthy.

The trial of the children's mother, Abneris Santiago, is scheduled to start after Alfred Santiago's trial. She's charged with injury to a child.

Dallas suburb sued over electoral system

DALLAS (AP) — A Dallas suburb that has repeatedly made national headlines over efforts to ban illegal immigrants from renting housing is having its city electoral system challenged in court again.

Farmers Branch is the target of a federal civil rights lawsuit that 10 Hispanic residents filed Tuesday in Dallas. The lawsuit alleges that the at-large system for electing the five-member City Council in Farmers Branch denies Hispanic residents representation.

The plaintiffs are calling for the city to

adopt a single-member voting plan.

According to the lawsuit, census figures showed that Hispanic residents made up 48 percent of the city's estimated population of more than 28,000 in 2008, with 25 percent of those residents being eligible to vote.

Census studies show that the Hispanic residents in Farmers Branch are concentrated in one section of the city. The lawsuit contends that citywide voting denies Hispanics in the community a council seat.

All five council members and the mayor are white. A previous lawsuit on the issue was dismissed.

Mayor Tim O'Hare, who has spearheaded the effort to ban illegal immigrants from renting housing in Farmers Branch, did not return a message from The Associated Press on Tuesday. However, city manager Gary Greer told The Dallas Morning News for a story posted online Tuesday night that he expected the city to win.

Fort Bliss soldier kills self in police standoff

EL PASO (AP) — A U.S. Army soldier has died after shooting himself in the chest during a standoff with local police.

Spc. Robert Nichols shot himself Monday night, El Paso police spokesman

Mike Baranyay said. The 24-year-old soldier was taken to William Beaumont Army Medical Center at Fort Bliss where he later died.

Baranyay said police went to Nichols' northeast El Paso home after getting a call about a suicide in progress. After officers heard several gunshots from inside the home, Nichols came out and later shot himself as police looked on.

A Fort Bliss statement issued Tuesday says he was a Phoenix native assigned to the Battery A, 2nd Terminal High Altitude Area Defense Regiment, 112th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, 32nd Army Air and Missile Defense Command at Fort Bliss.

BSISD

Continued from Page 1A

BSISD would realize a savings on interest payments due on the federal funds, Waggoner said. If the district does not qualify for the stimulus package, trustees will sell off the remaining portion of the gen-

eral obligation bonds at a later date, she added.

How the bonds will effect the overall tax rate is still to be determined, but Waggoner believes it will be less than the 35-cent increase district officials estimated prior to the bond election.

"We can't know for sure until we receive our certified values

and our bond rate, but we feel confident it will be below the 35-cent mark," she said. "But I would hate to say just how much below that mark it will be right now."

The district will have those figures finalized by the time trustees hold a public hearing on the new budget and tax rate on Aug. 12, Waggoner said.

In other business Thursday, trustees will consider:

- Approval of two new sports medicine classes.
- Recommendations for employment.

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

LEADERS

Continued from Page 1A

December — A tour of all county medical facilities, including Scenic Mountain Medical Center, the VA Medical

Center, Big Spring State Hospital and the Texas State Veteran's Home.

- January — A tour of city/county agencies.
- February — A tour of county educational agencies, including Howard College and the

three public school systems.

- March — A tour of county industrial facilities.
- April — A tour of utility and communication agencies.
- May — Local attractions such as the Heritage Museum, Hangar 25 and the Vietnam

Memorial will be visited.

For more information, contact the chamber at 263-7641.

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

HISPANICS

Continued from Page 1A

She said the group will assist with public speaking, interviewing skills and "basic political proficiency such as fundraising, networking and marketing."

Medina says the group so far has about \$50,000 on hand but plans to do more fundraising before the November elections.

Hispanics represent 37 percent of the Texas population and 40 percent of students in public schools, but none of the 96 Republicans in the Legislature is Hispanic.

In the most recent presidential election,

President Barack Obama won 63 percent of the Hispanic vote in Texas, compared to Republican Sen. John McCain's 35 percent. Nationally, Obama captured 67 percent of the Hispanic vote compared to 31 percent for McCain. It was a huge jump from 2004, when Democratic nominee John Kerry won Hispanics by 53 percent to 44 percent for Bush, a Texan who focused heavily on Hispanics.

Hispanic Republicans of Texas, which is not connected to the Republican Party of Texas, will not be involved in setting policy and leaders resisted answering questions about how Hispanics may be disen-

franchised by the hard-line approach to immigration reform adopted by some in the GOP.

"I think that's a real distraction for those that want to lump us as not being Republican," said Jacob Monty, an attorney who serves on the HRT's board of directors. "There are other issues that we're concerned about. Immigration is one of them, but we're also concerned about small businesses, the rising deficit — all of those issues are important to us it's hard to label us as just one-issue people because we're not."

Monty said Republicans have not done a good job of reaching the Hispanic community,

even though Hispanics generally share conservative values.

"When you look at the value of education, the value of patriotism, the value of religion, the value of being pro-life all of those are very Latino values ... we just need to do a better job of reminding our Latinos that Republicans don't have horns and don't all live in country clubs. There are a lot of Latinos that share those values and we need to do a better job of reaching them."

Democrats immediately criticized the effort as pandering and "more empty promises."

"With Rick Perry facing the toughest campaign of his career,

Republicans are trying to muffle the harsh anti-Hispanic rhetoric from the Texas Republican primary, the Arizona immigration debate and the Republican state convention," said Daniela Santoni, a spokeswoman for the Texas Democratic Party. "Hispanics have not forgotten that Republican message. It was sent loud and clear."

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DR. DAVID LONG, MD
FAMILY MEDICAL PRACTICE

We are pleased to announce Leslie Berry, Advanced Nurse Practitioner, has joined our office family.

Leslie has been in Big Spring for many years now. She was employed with Scenic Mountain Medical Center while receiving her Advanced Nurse Practitioner certification at Texas Tech University. We are very excited to have Leslie with us.

She is now accepting new patients. Please call or come by to pick up your new patient packet and schedule your appointment with Leslie today.

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Haden in as USC athletic director

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Southern California is cleaning house in its tarnished athletic department, throwing out much of what got the school in severe NCAA trouble.

Athletic director Mike Garrett and Reggie Bush's Heisman Trophy are the first two items to go.

In a letter to school supporters Tuesday, incoming USC president Max Nikias said Garrett will be replaced Aug. 3 by Pat Haden, the former Trojans quarterback who became a successful businessman and a member of USC's board of trustees. The school also will return its copy of Bush's trophy to the Heisman Trust, among several measures to disassociate itself

from the tainted tailback.

The NCAA cited Garrett's administration for a lack of institutional control while slapping the school with heavy sanctions last month, but Haden believes he can change the culture of a program that has been wildly successful and heavily scrutinized over the past decade.

"We're going to do better," said Haden, also the color analyst on NBC's Notre Dame broadcasts for the past decade. "We have to do better. We don't have any choices here. We stub our toe, there's going to be some problems."

USC was hit with four years of probation, a two-year bowl ban and severe football scholarship restrictions after the NCAA found serious rules

violations in the athletic department, primarily around the football and men's basketball teams. Most involved illegal benefits for Bush and O.J. Mayo, the talented basketball player who spent just one season at USC.

Haden said the school's plan to get rid of nearly all references to Bush and Mayo — right down to scrubbing their images from school murals and removing Bush's No. 5 jersey in its place of honor in the lobby of Heritage Hall — are all part of the NCAA's directive to disassociate the school from the athletes.

Bush's Heisman has been on display alongside the trophies won by Garrett, O.J. Simpson, Matt Leinart, Carson Palmer, Charles White

and Marcus Allen. It was still in place Tuesday, but will be gone by the time students show up on campus next month.

Nikias also doesn't start his new job until Aug. 3, but he's already at work reforming the Trojans' image.

"The Trojan Family honors and respects the USC sporting careers of those persons whose actions did not compromise their athletic program or the opportunities of future USC student-athletes," Nikias said.

After pledging support for new football coach Lane Kiffin, Haden said he realizes the enormity of his task in restoring credibility to USC, where the NCAA found numerous violations during the tenures

of football coach Pete Carroll and men's hoops coach Tim Floyd. After twice telling Nikias he didn't want to be considered for the job, Haden agreed to take it last week.

"We want to compete ferociously and win in every sport, but we want to do it ethically and within the rules," said Haden, a former Rhodes Scholar who became a venture capitalist after an NFL career with the Los Angeles Rams. "We're going to have a culture of compliance around here."

Every meeting is going to start with the No. 1 item as compliance. ... We're going to try to be perfect. When we make mistakes, we're going to fess up, and we're going to try to do better next time."

Armstrong might still have shot at stage win

PAU, France (AP) — Lance Armstrong came oh-so-close to the Tour de France stage win he's been yearning for in his final appearance, and one could still come with four racing days left.

The seven-time Tour champion ruled himself out of contention 10 days ago after struggling in the first Alpine challenge, and he's looking forward to retirement when the race ends in Paris on Sunday.

But Armstrong's coach says the American could win a stage.

"It's not yet finished," said Johan Bruyneel, manager of Armstrong's RadioShack team and the man who coached him during all his victories from 1999 to 2005.

"There's a single (mountain) stage left on Thursday ... we're going to try again," said Bruyneel, who also has coached the winner in nine of the last 11 Tours — including Spaniard Alberto Contador in 2007 and 2009.

Heading into the final rest day on Wednesday, Armstrong finished a respectable — even

impressive — sixth in Stage 16 on Tuesday by keeping up with and at times leading a break-away bunch that got out early in the 124-mile trek up four nasty Pyrenean peaks.

Tuesday's stage, which featured a 40-mile ride down from the Aspin pass, wasn't suited for a possible Armstrong win as long as he was surrounded by other — and mostly younger — riders.

After a plodding day of climbs, his 38-year-old legs weren't ready to battle the final bunch.

Serena hoping to play at US Open

(AP) — Serena Williams is hoping to recover from a right foot injury in time to play at the U.S. Open, the agent for the 13-time Grand Slam singles champion said Tuesday.

"Right now, we're taking it a day at a time. She's resting and recovering," agent Jill Smoller said in a telephone interview. "She's a fast healer."

The No. 1-ranked Williams had surgery last week in Los Angeles to repair deep cuts on her right foot. She tweeted Tuesday about spending a "5th day in bed. arghhhh"

The American was

hurt while she was in Munich this month — shortly after winning her fourth Wimbledon singles title on July 3, and before playing in an exhibition match against Kim Clijsters that drew a tennis-record crowd of 35,681 in Brussels on July 8.

"She will start training again as soon as she's healed," Smoller said.

Williams already has pulled out of three hard-court tournaments she was scheduled to enter in preparation for the U.S. Open. The season's last major championship begins Aug. 30 in New York.

She withdrew from the July 26-Aug. 1 event in Istanbul, the Aug. 9-15 event in Mason, Ohio, and the Aug. 16-22 event in Montreal.

The foot injury also led the 28-year-old Williams to miss the full World Team Tennis season for the Washington Kastles.

Generally, neither Williams nor her older sister Venus, a seven-time major singles champion, publicly discuss injuries.

Serena Williams already missed all of February, March and April this year because of a left knee problem. She is 25-4.

CUBS

Continued from Page 1B

themselves up while Piniella plans to move on after 18 years in the majors as a player and

another 22 as a manager.

Yankees manager Joe Girardi, the man Piniella beat for this job, has an expiring contract. So does the Los Angeles Dodgers' Joe Torre.

Bob Brenly, who man-

aged Arizona to a championship in 2001 and interviewed with the Cubs four years ago, is in the team's broadcast booth.

Bench coach Alan Trammell and pitching coach Larry Rothschild have both managed in

the majors.

There's a popular choice at Triple-A Iowa, where Cubs Hall of Famer Ryne Sandberg is managing, and Hendry said the former Most Valuable Player is in the running.

Woods, Bryant favorite star in U.S.

NEW YORK (AP) — Tiger Woods has dropped into a tie with Kobe Bryant as the favorite American sports star.

Woods had held the position alone since 2006, but the Los Angeles Lakers guard moved up from fourth last year to grab a share of the top spot, Harris Interactive said Tuesday.

LeBron James dropped from third to sixth in the company's survey of 2,227 adults conducted online from June 14-21, before he left Cleveland to sign with Miami. Retired NBA star Michael Jordan fell from second

to seventh.

Yankees captain Derek Jeter moved up one spot to third and quarterback Brett Favre went from ninth to fourth. Indianapolis quarterback Peyton Manning was fifth, up from seventh.

New England quarterback Tom Brady, who failed to make the top 10 last year, returned at No. 8, followed by New Orleans quarterback Drew Brees and NASCAR's Dale Earnhardt Jr.

NASCAR's Jeff Gordon and St. Louis first baseman Albert Pujols dropped out of the top 10.

Among female athletes, sisters Serena and Venus Williams were 1-2, followed by race car driver Danica Patrick, retired soccer star Mia Hamm and tennis stars Maria Sharapova and Anna Kournikova.

Volleyball player Misty May-Treanor was tied for seventh.

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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. Solution, tips and computer program at www.sudoku.com

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Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

It's So Easy to Go Wrong

South dealer.
North-South vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ 10 8 3
♥ 10 5
♦ A 8 7 5 3 2
♣ 8 4

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

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

SOUTH
♠ A K Q 9 6 2
♥ A 8 2
♦ K
♣ K J 3

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♠ 2 ♥ Pass Pass
3 ♠ Pass 4 ♠

Opening lead — king of hearts.

That views the same set of circumstances is nowhere demonstrated more vividly than in duplicate bridge, where all the contestants play the same deals. Even though the hands are identical, the bidding and play inevitably vary from table to table, and this in turn produces a wide variety of results.

Today's deal from a duplicate game is a typical example. Some pairs failed to reach a game in spades, and of those who did, less than half made their contract. Since

the failure to make 10 tricks was directly attributable to an error in declarer play, it is worthwhile to review it here.

The critical decision comes early. South wins the opening heart lead with the ace, cashes the diamond king, then leads a heart. West wins and returns a third heart, and declarer is now at the crossroads.

At those tables where the contract failed, South ruffed with dummy's ten, East overruffed with the jack, and a club return allowed West to score the A-Q for down one.

Of course, this method of play would have worked if West had been dealt the jack of spades (or East a third heart), so these declarers were a bit unlucky. But the correct approach does not depend on the element of luck to be successful.

The proper play when West leads the third round of hearts is not to trump at all, but to discard a club from dummy! West wins the trick (it doesn't help for East to trump), but South cannot now be stopped from making the contract.

At this point, he has three clubs in his hand and only one in dummy. Regardless of West's next play, South can concede a club, ruff a club in dummy and discard his last one on the ace of diamonds to bring in his game, losing only two hearts and a club all told.

Tomorrow: Two ways to skin a cat.

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In Sunday's Big Spring Herald



Preserving fun

Once commonplace in the 1940's across America, community canneries are making a comeback. People interested in growing their own food as well as food safety are finding that community canneries are both efficient and fun. Plus, family finances and no-cook tomato sauce.

AmericanProfile

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

Bill McClellan
News Editor

John A. Moseley
Managing Editor

OUR VIEW

We'll see you Thursday at 'After Hours'

It's time for another "Business After Hours" the chamber-sponsored program that brings together local merchants several times a year. As we've noted before in this space, we believe it is a worthwhile activity that allows the business community to meet, get to know each other and share ideas.

The general public is invited as well, and for them, it's an opportunity to get to know more about a local business. There will be a wine tasting of Llano Estacado wines, other refreshments and door prizes, and organizers encourage everyone to bring a friend.

Thursday's Business After Hours will be held from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at the Hampton Inn & Suites, located on the south frontage road of Interstate 20, just west of the intersection with U.S. Highway 87.

Business After Hours is an informal, come-and-go event. There are no programs; it is simply a time to get acquainted, so come by and have a tour of the hotel.

We encourage you to drop by Hampton Inn & Suites Thursday afternoon and have some refreshments. Sponsored by the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce, it's a good opportunity to get to know other merchants and learn more about the businesses themselves.

Besides, you'll not only have refreshments and good company, but have a shot at winning one of those door prizes.

So bring a stack of your business cards and a guest or two, and join us tomorrow afternoon for Business After Hours at the Hampton Inn & Suites.

We'll see you there.

HOW TO CONTACT US

The Herald is always interested in our readers' opinions.

In order that we might better serve your needs, we offer several ways in which you may contact us:

- In person at 710 Scurry St.
- By telephone at 263-7331
- By fax at 264-7205
- By e-mail Managing Editor John A. Moseley at editor@bigspringherald.com or News Editor Bill McClellan at newsdesk@bigspringherald.com.
- By mail at P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721

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- 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

May we take time out to figure out what is important in our life, Lord, through the study of Your word.

Amen

Love for Labor lost

Australia is the rare major economic power that, under Prime Minister Kevin Rudd, avoided a recession in 2009. The unemployment rate here is 5.1 percent. Yet the reigning Labor government is as fearful as Washington Democrats — with a national unemployment rate of 9.5 percent — of losing big in the next election.

Last month, Labor biggies, desperate over polls that showed their party losing in the next election, sacked Rudd and replaced him with Deputy PM Julia Gillard. Saturday, Gillard called an election for August 21. Polls show Labor with an edge, but it's not clear that the leadership switcheroo can save the left.

Why were Australian voters so dissatisfied that Labor ousted its leader? People question the low unemployment statistics. They say it hides endemic underemployment as Aussies have been forced to live on part-time work. And they blame the Rudd government for overreacting to global economic woes by overspending, and turning the federal surplus that he inherited from Prime Minister John Howard when he won office in 2007 into anxiety-inducing debt.

In 2008, the Rudd government passed a \$10 billion stimulus package to stave off a recession. But later stimulus add-ons, which pushed the total over \$70 billion, turned out to be flops. A

\$16 billion school construction program — run by Gillard — was infamous for incompetence and cost overruns — or as Aussies put it, no "value for money." A disastrous home insulation scheme bankrolled the installation of bad roofing that will have to be replaced and was linked to more than 100 fires and four deaths of installers working for fly-by-night-and-cash-the-government-checks operations.

Added up, the Labor stimulus package belied Rudd's campaign pledge to not repeat what he had referred to as Howard's "irresponsible spending spree."

Maybe Rudd could have survived those woes if he had not stumbled on climate change. You see, Rudd had framed the issue as "the greatest moral issue of our age." Then in the face of fierce domestic opposition and the collapse of the farcical Copenhagen climate talks — which produced nothing more than copious greenhouse gases — Rudd announced he would put off dealing with "the greatest moral issue of our age" until 2013, possibly.

He looked like a complete fraud.

Then came Rudd's proposed mining tax, which outraged vital industries, as well as officeholders of affected districts who felt they should have been consulted first. On taking over, Gillard quickly neutered that scheme.

In her weeks in office, Gillard also moved Labor's border-security plank from left — her old home — to center-right, where she now wants to appear to live.

Gillard's path to power is now under fire. Last week, allegations leaked about the June 23

meeting between Gillard, Rudd and Labor solon John Faulkner that led to Rudd's ouster. According to an unnamed source — whom Rudd denies is he — Rudd had told Gillard that he would step aside if he was flagging in the polls before a then-planned October election. He thought they had a deal. Then Gillard reneged.

La Gillard will not confirm or deny. Many voters may well regard Gillard's gambit as the stuff of hardball politics. Others especially voters from Rudd's Queensland, aren't happy that she deposed the bloke who won the vote.

The surfing/boxing/biking conservative opposition leader Tony Abbott paints the episode as a stain on Gillard's character. Abbott, a newbie to party leadership himself after a more open leadership fight, asked Saturday, how can we "trust Julia Gillard when even Kevin Rudd couldn't?"

Abbott also is hitting Gillard on the school construction boondoggle and Labor's big spending ways. "Failure to keep everyday spending under control is causing harm to everyday Australian families," he told The Australian.

Her slogan, delivered in her very measured way, is "moving forward." With his usual bluster, Abbott says, "The best way for Australia to move forward is for Labor to move out."

Whatever happens, this race will be quick and dirty.

E-mail Debra J. Saunders at dsaunders@sfchronicle.com.

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DEBRA SAUNDERS



No drama, not even angry

The BP oil disaster has been a divisive issue, but on one thing we're all pretty much agreed: President Obama doesn't give good mad.

For week after week, critics from Sarah Palin to James Carville have been exhorting him to lose it, to scream and yell and get red in the face and set his hair on fire. This, they feel, would show that he really cares (as nothing he's done so far has).

Well, he's tried. You have to give him that—he's tried. He's gone down to the Gulf Coast and met with citizens and spoken harsh words to BP, the oil company responsible for the mess. If I'm not mistaken he's even stamped his foot once or twice.

Then he told the nation that BP better watch out because he was forming a commission and it would have recommendations. And if that wasn't terrifying enough, he was going to make BP pay every dime the spill has cost citizens along the coast and recapture 90 percent of the oil already spilled.

All good, to be sure, but on an anger scale it barely moved the needle above the level of a Mr.

Rogers show.

It got me to thinking: How would other presidents have reacted to a multinational corporation based in a foreign country using our coastline for a toxic dump?

Take Ronald Reagan, for example. I'm sure that by this time they would have set him up in front of the cameras on a Mississippi beach, flanked by a pair of American flags with the oil slick behind him as a backdrop. And he'd say: "Mr. Hayward, suck up this oil." Or words to that effect.

Jimmy Carter, on the other hand, would have addressed the nation from the Oval Office (as President Obama did). He might have said:

"I am asking all of you to go to your church or synagogue or mosque or ashram, whatever, and pray for deliverance from this plague of oil. In addition I suggest that you get a length of yellow ribbon, dip it in oil—something you drain from your crankcase is fine—and tie it to a tree near your house. After all, it worked in the Iran hostage crisis."

Bill Clinton—He shows up unannounced at a Louisiana town meeting in his country clothes, puts his arm around the shoulders of the nearest shrimp fisherman, and says: "I feel your pain brother. I just want you to know that we're here for you. To help things along I'm leaving my wife Hillary here—there she is over

there in her wading boots and rubber jacket—and she'll be here 24/7 for the next few months. You got a problem, talk to her. I'll miss you, hon."

George W. Bush—He flies over the Gulf in Air Force One, looks out the window and says: "What oil spill? I don't see any oil spill, just a lot of brown water like we've got in the Red River back in Texas. Personally, I think that Tony Hayward is doing a heckuva job. Beside, Dick Cheney says that oil in the drinking water is good for the teeth."

Richard Nixon comes on TV and says: "I want to be very clear about this. I made a mistake. I left too many Democrats in charge of the Interior Department when I took over from the previous Democrat administration. I should have known better but I let my natural compassion get the better of me and this is the thanks I get. Well, no more Mr. Nice Guy. I am hereby getting rid of every last Democrat without union protection in the federal bureaucracy. We're going to bring honesty back to government whether they like it or not."

Some of those might have worked, some not, but one thing is sure. They'd have been as effective in stopping the oil leak as Obama has been.

Not very.

OtherWords columnist Donald Kaul lives in Ann Arbor, Mich.



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Addie Downs and Valerie Adler will be best friends forever. Or will they? A cruel remark in high school drive the two apart until Valerie shows up at Addie's door with blood on her sleeve. This is another smart, vulnerable book on best friends, second chances, and the sweet, sad ties to family. It is by Jennifer Weiner; the title is "Best Friends Forever" (F WEI J).

Some books on CD have just been processed and are ready to check out. Richard Paul Evans has "The Walk" (ACUD F EVA R) out. It is the story of a man who has lost everything and decides to walk from Seattle to Key West — not precisely a walk in the park. We have Tracy Chevalier's "Remarkable Creatures" (F CHE T) both in print and now in CD.

David Baldacci writes for the television industry as well as for recreational reading. "True Blue" (AUCD F BAL D) is a story of a hotshot Washington, D.C. policeman who was kidnapped and then framed for a crime. She connects with attorney Roy Kingman and they begin a touchy investigation of the death of a fellow lawyer. Baldacci's books are always fast-paced and good.

Two of Michael Connelly's books are available on CD: "Void Moon" (AUCD F CON M) and "Dragons" (AUCD F CON M). Another thriller writer is Dale Brown and we have "Executive Intent" (AUCD F BRO D), which also sounds good.

Dean Koontz's "Breathless" (F KOO D) is the story of Grady Adams, a simple man; a carpenter/craftsman who manages to provide for himself and his Irish Wolf-hound, Merlin, while working out of a converted barn. Living a relatively isolated life in the mountains of Colorado is perfect for Grady. One day while exploring, he stumbles onto two creatures unlike any he has ever seen. At first, he is unable to approach them before they flee. Over a few days though, he gains their trust and, the story is on. In time, Homeland Security and the Army become forces that Grady and his friends must deal with. Let's just say the story is captivating and once you're hooked you won't regret having picked up the

book. — This review is from Amazon.Com.

Another Koontz book just on the shelves is "Frankenstein: Lost Souls" (F KOO D). I have heretofore been unaware of his prior three books on the subject, but have since discovered his fourth volume in the series. Set in Rainbow Falls, Mont., Koontz's goofy, grisly fourth riff on the Frankenstein theme finds Victor — previously presumed dead but ap-

both sympathy and comic relief. That the "good guys" are instantly recognizable by their abundant compassion, generosity, and sense of humor and the "bad guys" by their fussy budget fastidiousness and dedication to efficient extermination of inferior humans helps lay the foundation for the humanitarian homilies that punctuate the narrative. Again, this review is from Booklist, from the Amazon.Com website.

Clive Cussler turned 79 on July 15, and is still going strong with his writing. Joined by Justin Scott in an Isaac Bell Adventure, "The Spy" (F CUS C) takes place in 1908 where international tensions are mounting. When a brilliant American battleship-gun designer dies in an apparent suicide, the man's daughter turns to the Van Dorn Detective Agency to clear his name. Evidence gathered by PI Isaac Bell, points to murder rather than suicide, and he is plunged into a breakneck intrigue with British, Japanese and German spies as well as Teddy Roosevelt's administration. I have not read this particular series, but know that if Cussler wrote it, it is good. Do check it out.

Lincoln Rhyme is a paraplegic, but that is not his identity. His identity is that of a world-class forensic pathologist. In "The Burning Wire" (M DEA J), an explosion at a power substation that destroys a bus — followed by threats of much worse violence unless Algonquin Consolidated Power and Light meets virtually impossible demands. Lincoln is pulled in two different directions: one to solve the crimes in NYC and then to solve the Watchmaker case in Mexico City. Rhymes' health is at risk and the stresses and strains drain him further. There is a surprising twist at the end and it will be interesting to see how it turns out in later books.

Howard County Library is open from 9 to 6, Monday through Friday. The Internet/Video room closes one-half hour before closing. The library is located at 500 S. Main and our e-mail address is reference@co.howard.tx.us.

Hollis McCright is director of the Howard County Library.



PARENT'S CORNER

Let their creative juices flow

In an administrative meeting recently we heard a presentation on the importance of creativity. With our emphasis on academics in today's educational philosophy little is done to encourage the creative abilities of our students.

As we think of creativity let's discuss what it really is. It is a state of being, a way of meeting the challenges involved in bringing any project to completion. A 4-year-old drawing a picture of a horse can be just as creative as a 40-year-old designing an office building. A mother singing to her 3-year-old is as creative as a director sensing the needs of two actors. Any one of these might be classified as being creative.

Creativity involves being open and aware of the task at hand. If our mind is racing with thoughts that are stressful it is almost impossible to get into the creative flow; but the soul seeks creative space to thrive.

I am amazed at how many children are already critical of their creative abilities.

We live in a culture where only the best is good enough. It's easy to see why children are inclined to give up before they start on a creative project.

We have stifled creativity with rules and regulations. We lose sight of the fact that for centuries people created products that were enjoyed for what they were rather than compared to what was considered to be the best.

We need to give children many opportunities to be creative without concern for the product. Look for process-oriented toys and projects for your children.

Allow creativity to develop without feeling of correctness or perfection. Leave room for their own creative touches.

An example would be a teacher friend of mine who allowed one of her students to pick a favorite story he had written, helped him see how to make the story clearer, corrected the spelling and made it into a little handmade book.

This activity encourages his newfound enjoyment in writing. She said older children will refine the process and can do a wonderful job of creating books using the computer. And remember the love of books will give your child many imaginative ideas for writing.

In this day of organized activities, it is extremely important that children be given time to use their imagination in what seems to us to be non-productive ways. Children need to spend hours pretending. Older children need time to daydream.

We should not allow them to completely fill their time with television, computer games and planned activities but to have time to develop and develop their creativity through imagination.

Imagination produces dreams which in turn produce the things we enjoy in our daily life.

Haven't you dreamed things in your imagination that would change the way you live?

So as the song says, Dream on Little Dreamer, dream on!

Darrell Ryan is the director of federal programs for Big Spring Independent School District.



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Petition seeks to have wolves howl across U.S.

BILLINGS, Mont. (AP) — Tens of thousands of gray wolves would be returned to the woods of New England, the mountains of California, the wide open Great Plains and the desert West under a petition filed Tuesday with the federal government.

The predators were poisoned and trapped to near-extinction in the United States last century, but have since clawed their way back to some of the most remote wilderness in the lower 48 states.

That recovery was boosted in the 1990s by the reintroduction of 66 wolves in Idaho and Yellowstone National Park. Yet as those first packs have flourished, increased live-

stock killings and declining big game herds have drawn sharp backlash from ranchers, hunters and officials in the Northern Rockies.

But biologists with the Arizona-based Center for Biological Diversity want to expand that recovery across the country. A few isolated pockets of wolves, they say, are not enough.

"If the gray wolf is listed as endangered, it should be recovered in all significant portions of its range, not just fragments," said Michael Robinson, who authored the petition. Robinson said the animals occupy less than 5 percent of their historic range in the lower 48 states.

The federal Administrative

Procedure Act allows outside parties to petition the government to act when species are in peril. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service spokesman Chris Tollefson, whose agency received the petition, said there was no deadline by which the agency must respond to the one filed Tuesday, which was signed by Robinson and another biologist, Noah Greenwald.

Tollefson also said an internal review was under way to figure out where wolves once lived and where they might be returned.

"We need to look at what is realistic and where the suitable habitat would be," Tollefson said.

The review will be complet-

ed by late 2010 or early 2011 and will contain recommendations but no final decision on whether to create new wolf populations, Tollefson said.

About 6,000 wolves live in the U.S. outside Alaska, with most of those in the Great Lakes and Northern Rockies, with only a few dozen in Arizona and New Mexico. They are listed as endangered except in Alaska, Idaho and Montana.

In early 2008, a similar petition was lodged by the Natural Resources Defense Council. In its rejection of that petition, the Fish and Wildlife Service said the Great Lakes and Northern Rockies programs had succeeded and any additional recovery ef-

orts would be "discretionary."

The Fish and Wildlife Service faces no deadline to respond to such petitions

Like the Bush administration, the Obama administration has pushed to end federal protections for wolves and return control over the animals to the states. But both administrations have been rebuffed in the courts. Federal judges have ruled repeatedly that the government failed to prove existing wolf numbers will ensure the population's long-term survival.

Wolves are notorious predators with a hunger for livestock, and experts say they could survive in most of the country if they were allowed.

Is human trafficking a punishable crime?

Human trafficking is considered a federal crime in the U.S. under the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) of 2000. The Trafficking Victims Protection Act was reauthorized in 2003 providing an additional \$200 million to be spent on fighting domestic human trafficking.

Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000

The Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 describes "severe forms of trafficking in persons" as:

- 1) sex trafficking in which a commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud or coercion or in which the person induced to perform such an act is under 18.
- 2) the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision or obtaining of a person for labor or services, through the use of force, fraud or coercion, for the purpose of subjecting that person to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage or slavery.

Do human trafficking victims qualify For benefits?

A person who is identified by law enforcement as a victim of 'severe forms of trafficking' may be referred for certification from the Health and Human Services Office of Refugee Resettlement.

They may be eligible for:

- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
- Medicaid
- Health Screening
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Food Stamps
- Refugee Cash and Medical Assistance
- Refugee Social Services
- Immigration Relief-Protection includes T Visa, U Visa, or Continued Presence Status

For Help and Resources in Texas

Health and Human Services Trafficking Information and Referral
1-888-373-7888

Catholic Social Service Network for Victims
anywhere in US: 202-541-3385

Mosaic Family Services, Inc.
Dallas
214-821-5393
www.mosaicservices.org

YMCA International
Houston
Trafficked Persons Assistance Program
713-339-9015 for victim services
*After 5 p.m. call 713-339-9783
www.ymcahouston.org

Federal Trafficking-Related Links

The Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000
www.state.gov/documents/organization/10492.pdf

The Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection and Reauthorization Act of 2003
www.state.gov/documents/organization/28255.pdf

Office of Refugee Resettlement Trafficking Efforts
www.acf.dhhs.gov/programs/orr/programs/actvict.html

Office for Victims of Crime Trafficking Effort
www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ovc/help/tip.html

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What is human trafficking?

Human trafficking (formerly known as trafficking in persons) is a form of modern-day slavery. It is the illegal trade in human beings through abduction, the use or threat of force, deception, fraud or sale for the purposes of sexual exploitation or forced labor. Victims include women, men and children.



What is the prevalence of human trafficking?

- Between 600,000 and 800,000 people are trafficked across international borders annually.¹
- Between 14,500-17,500 people are trafficked into the U.S. annually.²
- Human Trafficking provides organized crime annual profits between \$8-10 billion.³
- The U.S. is ranked as the third largest destination country for Trafficking.⁴
- Hundreds of thousands of U.S. citizens are estimated to be trafficked within the U.S.⁵

These are just best estimates. No one really knows the true numbers of trafficking victims.

1 U.S. Department of State. (2004). Trafficking in Person's Report June 2004 (Publication No. 11150), Washington DC: U.S. Government Printing Office.

2 Ibid.

3 Ashcroft, 2004

4 The Polaris Project. (2004). National Trafficking Alert System Criminal Justice Briefing Materials (Version 6), Washington, DC: The Polaris Project

5 Ibid.

How To Identify a Trafficking Victim

- Why and how did the person come into the country? Many victims have come willingly when promised a good job.
- How was the person recruited? Many victims are recruited by acquaintances from the same ethnic group or country of origin.
- Does the person have identification papers? Many times the traffickers have custody of the victim's documents and identification papers.
- Does the person owe money to their "employer?"
- When encountering a group, does a "spokesperson" tend to speak on the group's behalf and not allow anyone else to converse with authorities?
- Does the person seem submissive or fearful?
- Can you detect any physical or psychological abuse?



Is there a state law prohibiting trafficking?

- The 78th Texas State Legislature passed H.B. 2096 (Penal Code Ch. 20A.02), which prohibits trafficking.
- The law became effective Sept. 1, 2003.
- The offense is a second-degree felony, with an enhancement to a first degree felony for involving a child younger than 14 years of age, or of any trafficking offense that results in the death of a trafficked person.



Why don't trafficking victims just go to the police?

1. Most victims do not speak English and do not understand American culture.
2. Most victims do not know what city or state they are in because they are often forced to move.
3. Most victims have a strong sense of distrust of authorities for fear of deportation or from prior experiences with corruption within the system.
4. Most do not identify themselves as a victim.
5. Confidentiality is vital for victims of human trafficking.

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News in brief

Final votes loom after jobless benefits extension clears Senate hurdle

WASHINGTON (AP) — With a GOP filibuster safely broken, the Senate is poised to pass legislation restoring jobless benefits for millions of people unable to find work in the frail economic recovery.

Wednesday's vote is a formality after the Democratic-controlled Senate voted 60-40 Tuesday to move ahead on the bill. The measure would then go to the House for one final vote and on to President Barack Obama later this week.

At issue are payments averaging \$309 a week for almost 5 million people whose 26 weeks of state benefits have run out. Those people are enrolled in a federally financed program providing up to 73 additional weeks of unemployment benefits.

About half of those currently eligible have seen their benefits cut off since funding expired June 2. The jobless benefits are a lifeline to millions of people struggling to find work in what has so far been a largely jobless recovery.

"I can't tell you how relieved we will be when Congress passes this. We have in Pennsylvania about 200,000 people who have lost their unemployment compensation coverage because of their inaction," said Pennsylvania Secretary of Labor and Industry Sandi Vito. "Folks need this money for their mortgages, for food, and so our goal is to get them their payments as quickly as possible."

Sweeping financial overhaul about to become law; victory for Obama

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama aims to usher in a new era of consumer protections and banking restrictions Wednesday, checking off another legislative victory just before election-year politics overtakes the rest of his major agenda.

The president was set to sign a sweeping overhaul of financial regulations, a signature achievement that comes nearly two years after Wall Street's failures knocked the economy into the worst recession since the Great Depression.

The White House was planning a major signing ceremony featuring a long list of supporters of the legislation, including former Federal Reserve Chairman Paul Volcker and Robert Diamond, president of Barclay's PLC.

The law assembles a powerful council of regulators to be on the lookout for risks across the finance system and creates a new agency to guard consumers in their financial trans-

actions. It places shadow financial markets that previously escaped the oversight of regulators under new scrutiny and gives the government new powers to break up companies that threaten the economy.

Large, failing financial institutions would be liquidated and the costs assessed on their surviving peers. Borrowers will be protected from hidden fees and abusive terms, but also will have to provide evidence that they can repay their loans. The Federal Reserve will get new powers while at the same time coming under expanded congressional oversight.

Congressional report: U.S. doesn't effectively track funding — or impact — of Mexico drug aid

MEXICO CITY (AP) — The U.S. State Department has no effective way to measure the success of its billion-dollar program to help Mexico and Central America fight drug traffickers, a congressional report concludes.

Slow implementation of the program forced Mexico at least once to buy some equipment on its own while waiting for promised funds, according to the report from the Government Accountability Office, the investigative arm of Congress.

Nine percent of the \$1.6 billion promised under the Merida Initiative from 2008 to 2010 has been spent, according to the report, which is scheduled to be discussed Wednesday in Washington at a hearing of the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere.

The report said the State Department lacks adequate methods to determine if the initiative is making a difference in the drug war three years after then-President George W. Bush first launched it during a summit with Mexican President Felipe Calderon in the Yucatan Peninsula city of Merida.

"That's silly," said Rep. Eliot Engel, a Democrat from New York, who commissioned the report along with Republican Rep. Connie Mack, of Florida. "We need to find a way of measuring success."

BP says relief tunnel should reach blown-out well by weekend

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Three months into the disaster in the Gulf of Mexico, the federal government's spill chief says a relief tunnel should finally reach BP's broken well by the weekend, meaning the gusher could be snuffed for good within two weeks.

After several days of concern about the well's stability and the leaky cap keeping the oil mostly bottled up, retired Coast Guard Adm. Thad Allen said Tuesday that engineers concluded the risk of a bigger blowout was minimal and were getting closer to pumping mud into the column to permanently seal it.

"We continue to be pleased with the progress," Allen said in Washington, giving the go-ahead to keep the well cap shut for at least 24 more hours and possibly longer.

BP vice president Kent Wells said crews hope to drill sideways into the blown-out well and intercept it at the end of July.

The relief well is necessary to plug the well permanently.

After it's done, crews will begin the kill procedure, pumping mud and cement into the hole a mile underwater to seal it, which BP said could take

anywhere from five days to a couple of weeks.

Clinton announces new U.S. sanctions against defiant North Korea to stop nuclear proliferation

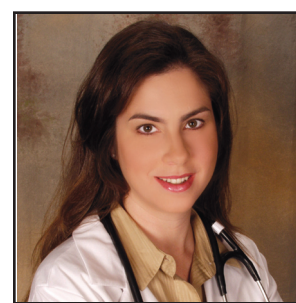
SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton announced Wednesday that Washington will impose new sanctions on communist North Korea in a bid to stem the regime's illicit atomic ambitions.

Clinton, speaking at a joint news conference in Seoul after holding unprecedented security talks with U.S. and South Korean defense and military officials, said the sanctions are part of measures designed to rein in the regime's nuclear activities by stamping out illegal moneymaking ventures used to fund the program.

ANNOUNCEMENT: Office Closure

Dr. Kim Bango

Family Physician
1608 W. FM 700, Suite D
Big Spring, TX 79720
Phone: (432) 263-0500
Fax: (432) 263-0501



It is with my deepest regrets that I am announcing the closure of my office, as of July 16th 2010. **My last day to be available to patients will be July 16th.**

Please take this time to begin choosing your new physician.

- Be reassured that your medical records will remain confidential and accessible at all times, even after our office closes, as they will be transferred to **Family Medical Center.**
- If you plan to choose a physician at Family Medical Center as your new family physician, no further action will be required to obtain or transfer records. These records will already be maintained with their staff. Otherwise, records are available as below:

Prior to July 16th, your records can be obtained by either:

- Choosing a new physician. At the new physician's office, ask to sign a request for medical records from our office. If we receive this written authorization before **July 16th**, a copy of your records will be directly transferred.
- Come to our office and sign a release to receive a copy of your records, before **July 16th.**

After July 16th, requests for records can be made to Family Medical Center as below:

Family Medical Center
2301 S. Gregg Street
Big Spring, TX 79720
Phone: (432) 267-5531
Contact: Kelly Hankins

Feel free to call our office during this transition for any questions or concerns. It has been a great pleasure providing for your health care needs. I wish future health and happiness to everyone.

Kim Bango, MD 10134

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The Families of Boe Lewis Payne & Bryon Patrick Payne

Would like to thank all the special people that helped out with the Benefit Sale at Bargain Mart and the Benefit Bake Sale on Saturday May 15, 2010.

We would also like to thank all the wonderful people who donated towards their funeral, the love and concern towards us and our loved ones from Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Thank you to all of God's special people and church groups that prayed for us and continue to do so.

There was such an outpouring of food and drinks from so many special people, friends and family to help with whatever needed to be done and taken care of.

I would like to thank Inspirations Flower Shop for their donation of flowers for my sons.

We would also like to express our gratitude for the proceeds that were over the expense of the funeral cost, that money was used to purchase a double Headstone for their graves.

We will be forever grateful for all the love and concern that we received during our time of sorrow.

May God bless & keep all of you forever & always
**Carolyn Payne & the families of
Boe and Bryon Payne**

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Legals

NOTICE OF APPLICATION
FOR FLUID INJECTION
WELL PERMIT

ConocoPhillips Company, 3300 N.A. Street, Building 6, Midland, TX 79705, is applying to the Railroad Commission of Texas for a permit to inject fluid into a formation which is productive of oil and gas. The applicant proposes to inject fluid into the Glorieta- San Andres formation, Chalk-Duncan, Well No. 9. The proposed injection well is located 6 miles East of Forsan, Texas, in the Howard Glasscock Field in Howard County, Texas. Fluid will be injected into the subsurface depth interval of 2201 feet to 3201 feet.
LEGAL AUTHORITY: Chapter 27 of the Texas Water Code, as amended, Title 3 of the Texas Natural Resources Code, as amended, and the Statewide Rules of the Oil and Gas Division of the Railroad Commission of Texas. Requests for a public hearing from persons who can show they are adversely affected or requests for further information concerning any aspect of the application should be submitted in writing, within fifteen days of publication, to the Environmental Services Division, Oil and Gas Division, Railroad Commission of Texas, P.O. Box 12967, Austin, TX 78711. (Telephone (512)463-6792). #6618 July 21, 2010

Saturn, the taskmaster of the zodiac, slips into a new sign every 24 months to 30 months. That's what makes today's transit into Libra so momentous. The aim will be "liberty and justice for all" as Saturn makes a study of his scales. Due to his retrograde pattern, he'll be in Libra for longer than he usually likes to visit — nearly three years.

ARIES

(March 21-April 19). Some people are content to be big fishes in little ponds. Not you. The itch to swim upstream is, like it or not, something you were born with. It may feel difficult now, but you'll love where you arrive.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Communication skills are in top form. Your loved ones know what you need and what you are able to give them. Your co-workers know where they stand and what's expected of them. All will run smoothly.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You have a brand-new favorite song. You haven't had a new one of those in a while. Why do you think that is? The heavens just reached down and handed you a reason to be happy. And you accepted.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You should be



HOLIDAY
MATHIS

wearing epaulettes, because you're definitely captaining your vessel right now. You have somewhere you're going, and no one rallies the deckhands like you do. Forward ho!

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Taking stock of your situation, you find there are some negative aspects, but much more to be happy about. Review what is going right. You have to admit, some would say your life is charmed. Dwell in your good fortune.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). An exciting opportunity might require something of a sacrifice — not by you, but by someone you love. Know that whatever you decide, the working it out will bring you both closer together.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You thought you were standing on quicksand, but it was just a little mud. Now that you've stepped out of it, the ground has become firmer and your pace has quickened. You won't get bogged down like that again.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Making fun of a very serious topic isn't always bad. Sometimes it's a way of coping with something that might otherwise be unbearable. Keep that in mind when a friend's levity seems woefully misplaced.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Have you ever had a celebrity encounter? If so, review

all you've learned. You are about to meet someone of renown, and you'll make a stellar impression.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Take your time. You are wise to resist the temptation to jump into the next new thing. You're a planner: Stick with what you know, and watch it work for you.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You won't submit to authority without question. You recognize that you may be more qualified to issue orders than those who are bossing everyone else around. If your objections are courteous and gentle, they will be accepted.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You are an uncapped fire hydrant. So much delicious energy is spilling out of you that it's refreshing everyone around. You feel like you can do anything. You can, and you will.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (July 21). You are conscious of the many treasures in your life, and your gratitude leads to happiness. A special relationship develops through the next seven weeks. Family events are sometimes raucous fun; other times, tender moments. You'll get instruction and learn a new skill in October. Wedding bells ring in January. Scorpio and Pisces people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 42, 35, 4, 50 and 16.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS: "What are

nodes in astrology? My north node is in my 10th house, in Virgo, and my south node is in my fourth house, in Pisces."

When we refer to the moon's nodes in astrology, what we're talking about are the points in your natal horoscope chart where the moon crosses from the north latitude to the south and back again. The north node is known as The Dragon's Head, and its location in your chart is your "Part of Fortune." This indicates where you are likely to have exceptional worldly success. The north node in Virgo in the 10th house suggests that you will find fame and honor through your own career efforts. This would be especially true if you work in the medical or agricultural fields, or if you work in a service industry like the military. The moon's southern node is called The Dragon's Tail and points to the area of your life in which you may struggle. A south node in Pisces in your fourth house indicates some sort of family discord, which could result in a loss of

property or inheritance. Positive and negative energies are in a tug-of-war at home.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Academy Award-winner Robin Williams started his career as a standup comic and recently returned to this first love with his wildly successful "Weapons of Self Destruction" tour. A Cancer with a Scorpio moon, comedy is a defense of his sensitive emotions. Mercury in Leo says that he loves an audience and the audience loves him back. Three hundred thousand fans came to see his latest tour!

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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Legals

RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS
OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL
OIL AND GAS DOCKET
NO. 08-0265736
IN RE: CONSERVATION AND PREVENTION OF WASTE OF CRUDE PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS IN THE STATE OF TEXAS
Austin, Texas
July 14, 2010
NOTICE OF HEARING
ON THE APPLICATION OF WICHITA WATER LLC
PURSUANT TO STATEWIDE RULE 81
TO CREATE, OPERATE, AND MAINTAIN A BRINE MINING FACILITY
STANTON BRINE FACILITY, WELL NO. 1, SPRABERRY (TREND AREA) FIELD, MARTIN COUNTY, TEXAS
AND OPPORTUNITY TO SUBMIT WRITTEN COMMENTS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to the public and to all interested persons that under the legal authority and jurisdiction of Title 3, Oil and Gas, Subtitles A, B, and C of the Texas Natural Resources Code, Chapters 26, 27 and 29 of the Texas Water Code, and TEX. GOV'T CODE ANN. art. §§ 2001 et seq. (2010), the RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS will hold a hearing on September 9, 2010, at 9:00 a.m. at the William B. Travis State Office Building, 1701 N. Congress Avenue, Austin, Texas. This hearing will be conducted in conformity with the TEX. GOV'T CODE ANN. art. §§ 2001 et seq. (2010). For room assignment, on the date of the hearing please check the bulletin board in the 1st Floor lobby. Persons planning to attend this hearing are urged to contact the applicant, Wichita Water LLC, immediately prior to the hearing date to confirm that the hearing will proceed on the scheduled date. Any interested person may

submit written comments regarding the proposed application. Any written comment must be filed in the Commission's Office of General Counsel, Docket Services, 1701 North Congress Avenue, Austin, Texas 78711 no later than 5:00 pm on the date of the hearing, August 27, 2010. Written comments can also be submitted by email to mark.helmuelter@rrc.state.tx.us or by fax set to 512-463-6989. Consistent with the provisions of Statewide Rule 81(i)(9), the Commission's responses to all written comments will be included in the proposal for decision issued following the hearing in this docket.

This hearing will be held to consider the application of Wichita Water LLC for a permit to create, operate, and maintain a brine mining facility to be known as the Stanton Brine Station, Spraberry (Trend Area) Field, located on the Interstate 20 access road between State Highway 137 and County Road 3451, just outside of the city limits of Stanton in Martin County, Texas.

The applicant has requested authority to produce brine through the injection of freshwater to dissolve salt from the Salado Salt formation located subsurface between approximately 1650 feet and 2500 feet. The applicant proposes to complete and case the well such that any injected fluid will be confined to the injection interval. Surface injection pressure will be limited to a maximum of 740 psig. The maximum allowable injection pressure at the casing seat will be limited to 0.8 times the overburden pressure at that depth. Should a permit be issued, the Commission will include other conditions and requirements as necessary, such as monitoring and reporting of the extracted brine, mechanical integrity testing of the well, groundwater monitor-

ing, and plugging and abandonment of the well. A copy of the draft permit prepared by the Oil & Gas Division is attached to this notice.

The Commission's Oil & Gas Division has reviewed the application, and has determined that, based on the information contained in the application, the proposed well and facility will not endanger surface or subsurface usable quality water as the application meets or exceeds the minimum requirements for casing the cementing the well to isolate the brine mining injection interval and the operating facilities are designed to prevent any uncontrolled discharge of brine at the surface.

If you have questions regarding this application, please contact the Applicant's representative, Sheila Hall at (806)894-3151 or 6701 Aberdeen, Suite 11, Lubbock, Texas 79424. If you have any questions regarding the hearing procedure or the submission of written comment, please contact the Railroad Commission, Office of General Counsel, at (512)463-6848.

IF A CONTINUATION IS NECESSARY, this hearing will proceed at the William B. Travis State Office Building, Austin, Texas, and, to the extent possible, on subsequent working days. The room number and exact time of the continuation will be announced on the record in this proceeding and recorded with Docket Services, Office of General Counsel, Railroad Commission of Texas.

PURSUANT TO SAID HEARING, the Commission will enter such rules, regulations, and orders as in its judgment the evidence presented may justify.

ANY REQUEST FOR POSTPONEMENT of this hearing must be received no later than five (5) working days prior to the scheduled date shown above. Copies of such

request must be forwarded to all parties shown on the service list.

TO APPEAR IN SUPPORT OF OR IN OPPOSITION TO THIS PROCEEDING, a party other than the applicant must file with Docket Services, Office of General Counsel, at least five (5) working days in advance of the hearing date. A copy of the notice of intent to appear should be served on the applicant and any other parties or record.

IF ANY PARTY DESIRES A WRITTEN TRANSCRIPT of the hearing by a Court Reporter, that party should notify Docket Services at (512)463-6848, at least five (5) working days in advance of the hearing date. If a written transcript is requested, the Commission may assess the cost of the transcript to one or more parties. Unless any party requests a written transcript, the record will be made by audio recording.

ANY INDIVIDUAL WITH A DISABILITY who needs auxiliary aids and services in order to have an equal opportunity to effectively communicate and participate in this hearing must request such aids or services at least two weeks prior to the scheduled hearing by notifying the Personnel office of the Railroad Commission of Texas by mail to P.O. Box 12967, Austin, Texas 78711-2967, or by telephone at (512)463-7327 or TDD No. (512)463-7284.

ALL EXHIBITS FILED AS A PART OF THE RECORD in this cause must be submitted in duplicate. Data in Commission records may be incorporated by reference, but the reference must be specific, and if it includes exhibits filed in prior proceedings before the Commission, a copy of such exhibit properly identified shall be submitted for this record.

#6621 July 21 & 28, 2010

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July 25, 2010

The Midland RockHounds and West Texas United Sockers are proudly announcing our "Howard County Night" special for the 2010 Baseball and Soccer Seasons. The aim is to foster community spirit and pride by hosting a night at Citibank Ballpark and Grande Communications Stadium (home of the RockHounds and Sockers, respectively) to recognize the essential members and organizations in the Howard County community.

Merchants may purchase specially printed "Howard County Night" tickets to distribute to employees and customers throughout the community. Merchants will also receive advertisement over PA announcements throughout the game as well as via local media.

Reserved Seat Tickets: \$5.00 (regularly \$7.00)

Tickets must be purchased in advance. Please mail or fax this form to:

Midland RockHounds
Attn: Sara Rader
5514 Champions Dr.
Midland, TX 79706
Ph: (432) 520-2255
Fax: (432) 520-8326

____ Yes, I'd like to purchase community night tickets at \$5.00 each!

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Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

____ Check Enclosed or CC# _____ Exp. Date: _____

____ (# of tickets) @ \$5.00 = _____ (total) Phone: _____

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Special Picnic option available! Picnic tickets available for groups of 10 or more at only \$10.00 each (includes ticket to the game and 2 hour all you can eat picnic).

Picnic option includes Hot Dogs, Peanuts, Popcorn, Soda and Cookies

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____ (# of tickets) @ \$10.00 = _____ (total) Phone: _____

*Other Picnic Options Also Available

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Annie's Mailbox®



KATHY MITCHELL
MARCY SUGAR

Why do I keep thinking about Liz? Am I missing something in my life? How do I approach this situation? — *Confused in the South*

Dear Confused: Driving by Liz's home has moved you from mildly wistful to potentially stalking. Your increasingly obsessive thoughts are actually more about you and being middle-aged. Liz is simply the catalyst for remembering your youth and wanting to turn back the clock.

Unless you are looking to wreck your marriage, you need to include your wife in this stroll down memory lane. Do not contact Liz in secret. Discuss it with your wife, and ask whether she'd consider meeting Liz and her husband for coffee to catch up on old times. That's the most you should do. And if your wife says no, forget it.

Dear Annie: My younger sister, "Ashley," has been involved in some pretty serious stuff. She's only 20 years old and already has been to jail, has been unfaithful to her husband, has neglected her two beautiful children, and most recently, she called the cops on our mother for no reason that we can discern.

Ashley refuses to answer our phone calls or talk to us about her problems. She doesn't seem to care about the people she is hurting, nor does she want to change. I am at a loss as to what I can do or say to help her. We were not raised this way, but Ashley has isolated herself from us. Could you please give me some advice before she does something she'll truly regret? — *Worried*

Dear Worried: If she hasn't regretted cheating on her husband, neglecting her children and ending up in jail, we can't imagine what she's waiting for. We think Ashley is immature and needs time to grow up. She married too young, had kids when she was a child herself and is now rebelling against her life. If the children are at risk, report it to the child welfare authorities. Otherwise, tell Ashley you are always available if she needs you, but beyond that, she has to work this out on her own. Sorry.

Dear Annie: I read the letter from "Help," whose husband leaves all the cabinets open. I can do her one better. My husband leaves the back door open — even in the winter at night. One time when he was making a new laundry room for me, I counted 13 times that he came and went, and he never once closed the back door. For good measure, he also leaves the dryer and microwave doors open with the interior lights burning.

This is my second marriage, and I keep telling myself that this one is so wonderful in every other way, the least I can do is close all the doors when he's done building me a new room. — *Canada*

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to annies-mailbox@comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Ste. 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045.

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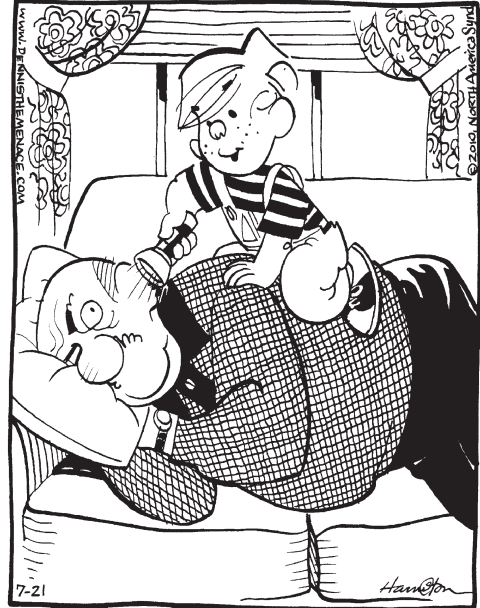
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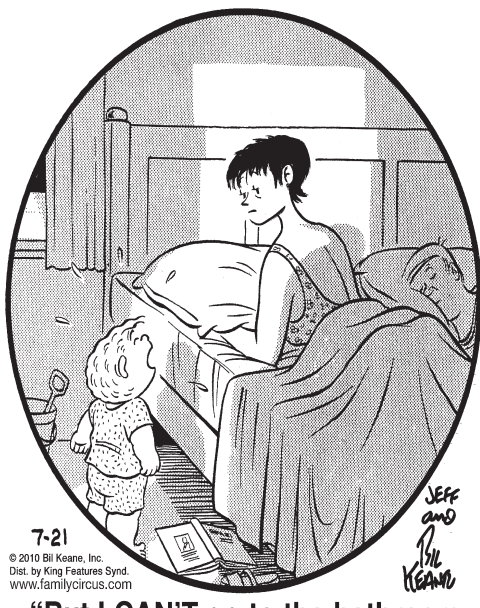
| | KMID (3) Midland | UNI (4) Spanish | KPEJ (5) Odessa | KOSA (7) Odessa | KTLE (8) Telemundo | KWES (9) Midland | WTBS (11) Atlanta | KMLM (12) Odessa | KPBT (13) Odessa | KWWT (14) Odessa | DISC (20) Discovery | AMC (21) Classics | SPIKE (22) Spike TV | TNT (23) Atlanta | BET (26) Black Ent. | DISN (27) Disney | ESPN2 (28) Sports | ESPN (29) Sports | |
|-------------|---------------------|---------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|----------------------|------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| 5:PM 30 | News ABC | Vida Notic. | Lopez | News CBS | Noticias | News King | King | CCM | World Business | King | Cash Cab | Movie: Ghost Ship, Desmond Harrington | Sports Knockout | Law & Order | 106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live | Deck Phineas | SportsNation | SportsCenter | |
| 6:PM 30 | Jeopardy! | Mi Pecado (SS) | Two Men | News Ent | A Corazón Abierto | News King | Seinfeld | Faye H. | PBS News-Hour | 70s Show | MythBusters | Movie: Outbreak, Morgan Freeman | UFC Un-leashed | Bones | Game | Wizards | NFL Live | MLB Baseball: Teams TBA. | |
| 7:PM 30 | Middle | Hasta que el Dinero | So You Think You Can Dance | Big Brother | El Clon | Minute to Win It | Payne | Upd | House | Top Model | MythBusters | UFC Un-leashed | Law & Order | Game | Movie: Waist Deep, Larenz Tate | Hannah | MLS Soccer: Teams TBA. | | |
| 8:PM 30 | Family Cougar | Soy Tu Dueña (SS) | Criminal Minds | CSI: NY | ¿Dónde Está Elisa? | Law & Order: SVU | Browns | Married... Married... | Dirty Jobs | Pros vs. Joes | Law & Order | UFC Un-leashed | Law & Order | Game | Deck | Hannah | 2010 ESPY's | Baseball Tonight | |
| 9:PM 30 | (01) Castle | Don Francisco | Simpsons Friends | News | Noticias | News | Lopez | Upd | Charlie Rose | Roseanne | MythBusters | Movie: Virus, Donald Sutherland | Players | CSI: NY | The Mo'Nique | Deck | SportsNation | SportsCenter | |
| 10:PM 30 | News Nightline | Impacto | Raymond Letterman | News | Noticias | News | Lopez | Upd | Dr. Young | Roseanne | MythBusters | Movie: They Live, Meg Foster | Knockout Sports | Leverage | Wendy Williams | Hannah | 2010 ESPY's | NFL Live | |
| 11:PM 30 | Jimmy Kimmel Live | Corazón Salvaje | Law & Order: SVU | Late | A Corazón Abierto | Late Night | Name | Israel | T. Smiley (Off Air) | Cops | Dirty Jobs | Movie: They Live, Meg Foster | Cops | Memphis Beat | Vick | Wizards | Suite Life | SportsCenter | |
| 12:AM 30 | Extra Paid | Amar sin Limites | King-Hill | Insider | Pagado | News | Deci | Sex & Sex/City | Charles | Video | Overhaul | Star Trek: Voyager | Hawthorne | Vick | Suite Life | Suite Life | Baseball | SportsCenter | |
| 1:AM 30 | Paid | Mujer... Cero | RENO 911 | Paid | Pagado | Poker After Dark | Lopez | Light of the Southwest | | | | | | | | | | | |

DENNIS THE MENACE



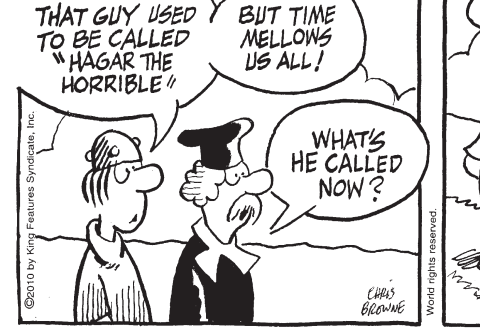
"Mrs. Wilson says you have a frog in your throat. Could I see if it's the one I lost?"

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"But I CAN'T go to the bathroom myself — this isn't our house!"

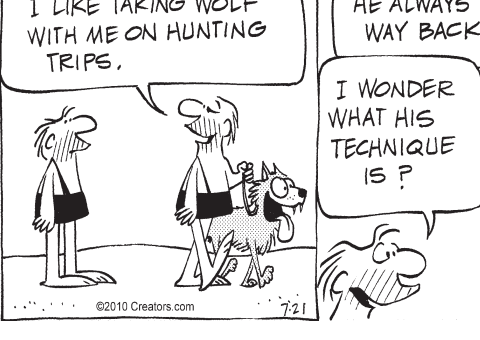
HAGAR



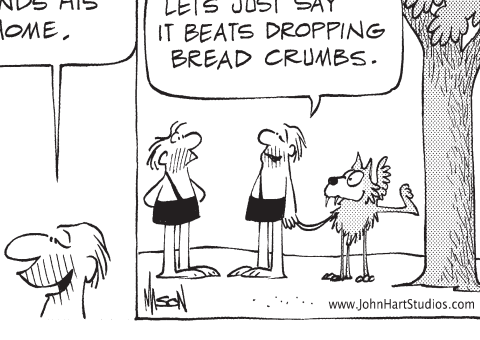
HAGAR THE NOT-SO-BAD!!



BC



BLONDIE



This Date In History

Today's Highlight in History:
On July 21, 1930, President Herbert Hoover signed an executive order establishing the Veterans Administration (later the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs).
On this date:
In 1861, the first Battle of Bull Run was fought at Manassas, Va., resulting in a Confederate victory.
In 1925, the so-called "Monkey Trial" ended in Dayton, Tenn., with John T. Scopes convicted of violating state law for teaching Darwin's Theory of Evolution. (The conviction was later overturned on a technicality.)
In 1944, American forces landed on Guam during World War II.
In 1949, the U.S. Senate ratified the North Atlantic Treaty.
In 1959, the NS Savannah, the first nuclear-powered merchant ship, was christened by first lady Mamie Eisenhower at Camden, N.J.

In 1960, Sirimavo Bandaranaike (see-ree-MAH'-voh bah-n-dah-rah-NY'-kah) became the world's first female prime minister as she was sworn in to head the government of Ceylon (now Sri Lanka).
In 1961, Capt. Virgil "Gus" Grissom became the second American to rocket into a sub-orbital pattern around the Earth, flying aboard the Liberty Bell 7.
In 1969, Apollo 11 astronauts Neil Armstrong and Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin blasted off from the moon aboard the ascent stage of the lunar module for docking with the command module.
In 1980, draft registration began in the United States for 19- and 20-year-old men.
In 1994, Britain's Labor Party elected Tony Blair its new leader, succeeding the late John Smith.
Today's Birthdays: Singer Kay Starr is 88. Movie director Norman Jewison is 84. Former Attorney General Janet Reno is 72. Actress Patricia Elliott is 68. Actor David Downing is 67. Actor Edward Herrmann is 67. Actor Leigh Lawson is 65. Actor Wendell Burton is 63. Actor Art Hindle is 62. Singer Yusuf Islam (formerly Cat Stevens) is 62. Cartoonist Garry Trudeau is 62. Comedian-actor Robin Williams is 59. Actor Jamey Sheridan is 59. Rock singer-musician Eric Bazilian (The Hooters) is 57. Comedian Jon Lovitz is 53. Actor Lance Guest is 50. Actor Matt Mulhern is 50. Comedian Greg Behrendt is 47. Rock musician Koen Lieckens (K's Choice) is 44. Rock singer Emerson Hart is 41. Country singer Paul Brandt is 38. Actress Ali Landry is 37. Actor Justin Bartha is 32. Actor Josh Hartnett is 32. Contemporary Christian singer Brandon Heath is 32. Reggae singer Damian Marley is 32.

Answer to previous puzzle

| | | |
|--------|---------|--------|
| SCAR | REDS | DELTA |
| LOGO | EXIT | AWARD |
| ELAL | APAR | RESO |
| DAILY | COLUMN | EDS |
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| | NUTTY | STABLE |
| MAN | NOHIT | SEAM |
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| ENTREE | STAIN | |
| | HINGE | IRANI |
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| SOLES | ETAL | ISEE |
| SWEDE | ESPY | NETS |

WIZARD OF ID



AGNES



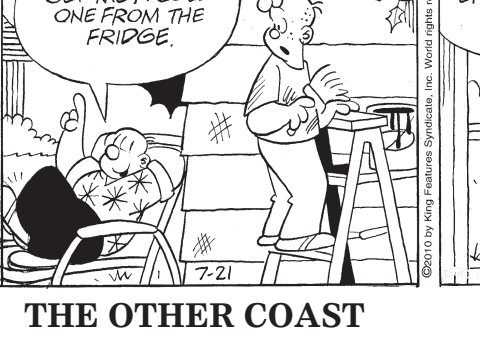
HI AND LOIS



THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BEETLE BAILEY



Newsday Crossword

- ACROSS
- 1 Unprincipled one
 - 6 Hoof-on-pavement sound
 - 10 Curtain-call group
 - 14 The Odd Couple neatnik
 - 15 Boffo review
 - 16 Choir voice
 - 17 West Pointer
 - 18 Technical-support caller
 - 19 Any day now
 - 20 Corporate hierarchy, e.g.
 - 23 Filbert, for one
 - 24 Cabinet wood
 - 25 Make a connection
 - 29 Window dressing
 - 32 Major work
 - 33 Napped fabric
 - 34 NFL's extra quarters
 - 37 Bully's policy
 - 41 Get 100 on
 - 42 Signaled goodbye
 - 43 Arbor Day honoree
 - 44 Trident prongs
 - 45 Give an OK
 - 47 Korean capital
 - 50 _ Baba
 - 51 Bodybuilder's subscription
 - 58 Kindergarten basics
 - 59 One way to promote a book
 - 60 i.e., for long
 - 62 Livorno "Later!"
- DOWN
- 1 Taco Bell alternative
 - 2 Type of tide
 - 3 Designer Gucci
 - 4 Penthouse asset
 - 5 Full range
 - 6 Pizza perimeter
 - 7 Hang in there
 - 8 Finito
 - 9 Home to llamas and vicuñas
 - 10 Fairy-tale home
 - 11 For all to hear
 - 12 Squirrel away
 - 13 Copier supply
 - 21 Feel guilty about
 - 22 Playful prank
 - 25 Capital of Italia
 - 26 Iliad or Odyssey
 - 27 High-speed sled
 - 28 Blond shade
 - 29 Fists, so to speak
 - 30 Marsh growth
 - 31 Billboard stuff
 - 33 Goalie's success
 - 34 Mean fellow
 - 35 In the past
 - 36 Editor's "Leave it alone"
 - 38 Ribbed fabric
 - 39 "The only animal that blushes"
 - 40 TGIF part
 - 44 University of Arizona site
 - 45 Menu phrase
 - 46 Judging, with "up"
 - 47 Kiss sound
 - 48 Ragtime composer Blake
 - 49 Sandra Bullock won one in 2010
 - 50 See eye to eye
 - 52 Sicilian peak
 - 53 Natural satellite
 - 54 Polly, to Tom Sawyer
 - 55 Worshiped one
 - 56 Infamous emperor
 - 57 Former US gas brand
 - 61 President pro _

SHOW OF FORCE by Fred Piscop

Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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