

**MONDAY**

July 30, 2001

**WEATHER**

Tonight:



PARTLY CLOUDY

TONIGHT 77°-80° TOMORROW 100°-103°

**NRA donates funds to help area 4-H group**

The National Rifle Association has given a grant in the amount of \$5,000 to the Howard County 4-H Shooting Sports Club.

The money was donated to assist in starting a 4-H .22 rifle project. Several 4-H youth will be beginning a project teaching gun safety and shooting skills. The money will be utilized to buy guns and build a range.

Facility construction will get under way hopefully in mid January. Volunteer assistance is building necessary equipment which will be donated by Howard County 4-H Adult Leaders. Carvin Kellar, Paul Allen, and Okla Thornton will be project leaders.

Shawn Cooley, chairman for the Howard County friends of the National Rifle Association, presented a check to Howard County 4-H Club Adult Leader President Steve Bibb earlier this month.

**WHAT'S UP...**

**TODAY**

Big Spring Evening Lions Club meets at 6:30 p.m. 1607 East Third.

**TUESDAY**

Intermediate Line Dance class, 9 a.m., Senior Citizens Center.  
Big Spring Rotary Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room.

**WEDNESDAY**

Optimist Club, 7 a.m., Howard College Cactus Room.  
Sit and Be Fit Chair Aerobics, 10 a.m., Scenic Mountain Medical Center cafeteria. People 50 and older are invited to participate.  
Big Spring Downtown Lions Club, noon, Howard College Cactus Room. Call Terry Hansen.  
Big Spring Duplicate Bridge Club, meets every Wednesday.

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**Martin County fund to assist school children with supplies**

By **LYNDEL MOODY**  
Staff Writer

STANTON — The deadline for parents to register to receive free school supplies for their elementary students in the Stanton, Glasscock or Grady school districts is Tuesday.

"The Martin County Community Fund and assisting agencies will assist close to 100 school children from the Stanton,

Garden City and Grady elementary schools with school supplies for this year," said Bob Deavenport of the MCCF.

From pens to glue and crayons, school supplies were purchased to fit the needs of each student for his grade, Deavenport said. Also a backpack will among the items be included with the supplies.

Parents who think they might qualify can register by calling West Texas

Opportunities at 756-2588 before 5 p.m. on Tuesday.

Several contributors gave funds to the local school supplies drive, including grants from West Texas Food Bank, Abell-Hangar and the Hext Foundation.

Local contributors include the staff of the Texas Tech University Health Clinic and the Stanton Lions Club; both organizations made a \$250 donation.

Also Texas Tech University Health Science

Center in Odessa donated a gift of 700 school supply items on behalf of Odessa employees.

Deavenport said the project received several local individual contributions as well.

Volunteers will be handing out school supplies on Aug. 6 for those who register by Tuesday at the Stanton Housing Authority meeting room at 408 E. Carpenter.

Students in the Stanton,

Glasscock and Grady school districts head back to school on Aug. 16.

For additional information on the project, contact Deavenport at 756-3254.

The MCCF keeps in stock food and other necessary items such as toothpaste or soap for needy residents of Martin and Glasscock counties.

Volunteers for the organization also delivery grocery items for those residents who are home bound.

**Drought devastates cotton crop**

By **ROGER CLINE**  
Staff Writer

Despite small amounts of rainfall around Howard County over the weekend, area cotton crops are just about done for.

"The current situation is this," David Kight, Howard County Agricultural Extension Agent said.

"As far as the acreage we have, 50 percent is zeroed out and another 35 percent is going to be zeroed out. A total of about 85 percent is going to be, that's my opinion."

Kight said that irrigated cotton and the remaining 15 percent of dry land cotton could have some potential for production.

"Every day that goes by without rain at this point is detrimental," he said.

Most of the dry land cotton that still has potential to produce is that which was planted a little later, Kight said.

"There's an area in the north central part of the county that got more rain than the rest of the county," he said. "Some of it was planted later than the rest. Cotton plants progress chronologically. The younger cotton has not had as many fruiting positions and it has not had as great a moisture requirement as the older plant. It's stressing, but it's not stressing as bad as the older plants."

Crop insurance agent Dois Ray agreed with Kight's assessment. "Right now the best cotton I've seen, it looks like a quarter-bale per acre will be about the tops," he said. "That would probably be a high estimate right now, but on a good year it's not anything for this land to make a bale or a bale and a half per acre."



Howard County is expected to lose as much as 85 percent of its regular dry land cotton crop this year due to heat and lack of rainfall. Farmers of fields like this are filing insurance claims to recoup some of their losses.

Ray said many of the farmers are making claims against their insurance. The insurance guarantees a certain yield per acre, and then pays off depending on what percentage of the crop is salvageable, he said.

"If, say their guarantee is 250 pounds (per acre) and they make 125 pounds, we pay the difference," Ray said.

The payoff is based on an estimated cotton market price of 60 cents per pound, he said. Depending on the type of insurance and the premium paid, farmers can collect between 50 and 85 percent of the 60 cents per

pound of cotton less than the guarantee that is harvestable.

"Most producers buy the 65 percent policy because for the premium they pay, they get the best coverage," Kight said. "So, they're going to take a 35 percent reduction. Most of those checks are assigned to them as well as to the financial institution they're involved with. So it's not just free and clear money."

Kight said the farmer's problems impact the whole community.

"The bad thing about this is that when a farmer is in a situation like this, there

is no advantage to any of the businesses in town because he doesn't have any money so he's not spending any money," he said.

"Chemicals, cotton gins, they're not going to the movie as often, they're not going out to eat as often. They're not buying as many clothes. They're not buying a new truck."

Ray agreed. "It's a no-win situation any way they go about it right now," he said.

"There's not much hope for a farmer making a profit in a year like this, any way you go about it."

**Corps filling family needs for school; help needed**

By **LINDY BARR**  
Staff Writer

With needy children numbering in the hundreds, the Salvation Army will continue to accept back-to-school donations until Friday, Aug. 10.

The program assists the needy families of Big Spring with school supplies.

"This has gone very well, so far we have got about \$1,800 in monetary donations and lots of school supplies," said Capt. Russ Keeney, commander of the Salvation Army of Big Spring.

According to Keeney, the Salvation Army received 80 to 100 applications this year. There is one family per application, with some families having up to six children.

The Salvation Army accepted applications for the program all last week.

"We did have a few late applications but we did accept them," said Keeney.

"This program is great, it just seems to help ease the strain on the low-income homes of Big Spring," said Keeney.

Children that are going Back-To-School still need the following items donated: pencils, scissors, wide-rule-notebook paper, glue, 2-inch notebooks, school boxes, pens, zipper bags, folders, erasers, map colors, markers dividers, manilla paper, tissue, and construction paper.

"Our slowest item seems to be the tissue. Sometimes people forget that tissue is a

See **CORPS**, Page 2

**Electric deregulation pilot program now expected to kick off on Tuesday**

AUSTIN (AP) — After three delays, the state's entrance into the deregulated electric market begins Tuesday.

At 12:01 a.m., officials of the state's electrical grid planned to begin switching customers who signed up for Texas' electric deregulation pilot program to new electric competitors.

The Legislature created the pilot program to give power companies several months to test their systems before full-scale deregulation begins Jan. 1 for most of the state.

The Electric Reliability Council of Texas, which manages the grid, gave the go-ahead last week.

"We have done all of the testing, so have our market participants," said ERCOT Chief Operating Officer Sam Jones.

"We just need to get it done and get down the

road."

Deregulation for the first time will let customers choose their electric provider much like they select a long-distance telephone carrier.

Customers who signed up for the program should receive the first bills from their new power company in late August or early September, depending on the company's billing cycle, said ERCOT spokeswoman Jennifer Taylor.

Companies began recruiting customers in February.

Under the program, up to 5 percent of electric customers can switch power companies.

The pilot program starts nearly two months after its first scheduled start date of June 1. The numerous delays were caused by computer problems.

Some of the problems included glitches in the set-

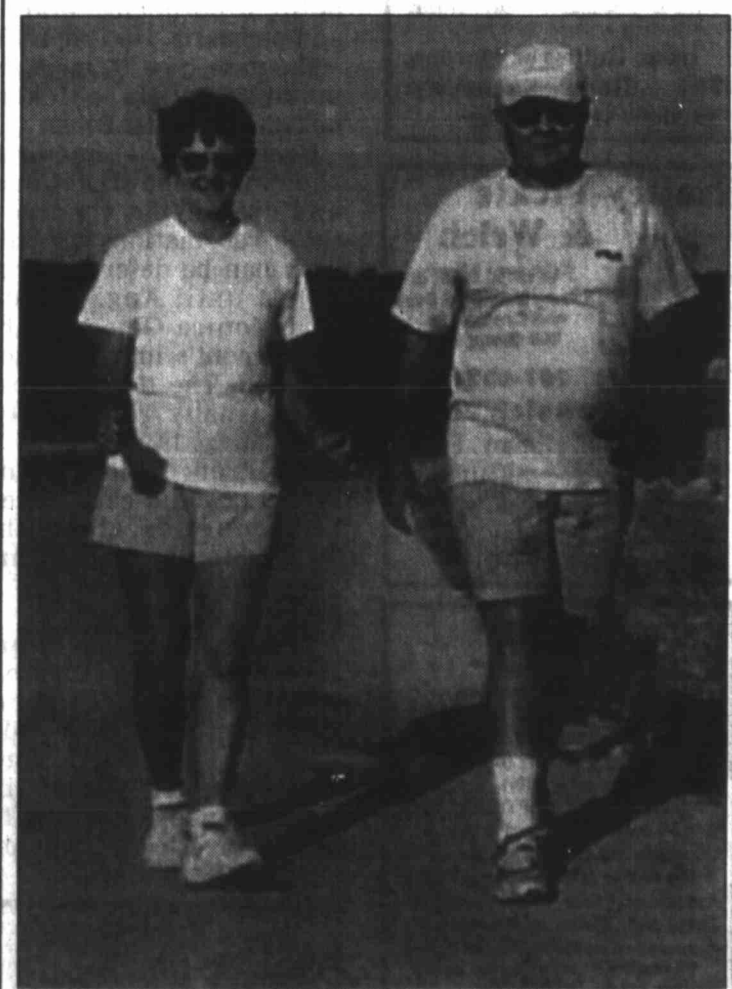
tlement and billing processes, and problems in communicating service-change orders from electric providers to ERCOT's central facility in Austin.

Officials believe the state will be ready for full-scale deregulation next year, when all customers of investor-owned utilities such as TXU, Reliant and CPL will be able to switch.

While the delays were unfortunate, "we think waiting until all the systems are ready will let us provide good customer service," said Eleanor Scott, spokeswoman for Austin-based Green Mountain Energy.

ERCOT officials are confident the program will run as planned.

"Of course, there are some things that you can't work out in a practice mode," Taylor said. "You just have to ahead and launch the pilot program."



Jerry and Katie Grimes walk the trail on Scenic Mountain early this morning in Big Spring State Park.

JULY 30 2001



# Government private officials sound alarm over 'Code Red' worm

WASHINGTON (AP) — Government and corporate officials are urging users of some Microsoft operating systems worldwide to guard against the "Code Red" worm that could cause widespread slowdowns and sporadic outages on the Internet.

"The Internet has become indispensable to our national security and economic well-being," Ron Dick, head of the National Infrastructure Protection Center, an arm of the FBI, said Sunday. "Worms like Code Red pose a distinct threat to the Internet."

Along with posting various

warnings on their Web sites, federal officials and representatives of Microsoft Corp. were holding a news conference Monday to publicize their efforts.

The government routinely works with private companies to issue warnings about new computer viruses and attacks by hackers, but the high-profile warning in this case was unprecedented.

While the actual infection rate is unknown, it is believed to be in the hundreds of thousands of Internet-connected computers. In just the first nine hours of its July 19 outbreak, it infected more than

250,000 systems.

The government-funded Computer Emergency Response Team said the worm is predicted to start spreading again Tuesday at 8 p.m. EDT.

"This spread has the potential to disrupt business and personal use of the Internet for applications such as electronic commerce, e-mail and entertainment," a CERT advisory warns.

Officials are frustrated that even though a software inoculation was made available over a month before the worm's first attack, many computers are still defense-

less. The patch, which will protect computers, can be found on Microsoft's Web site.

The worm defaces Web sites with the words "Hacked by Chinese." While it doesn't destroy data, it could be modified to do so. At least two mutations have already been found.

Code Red exploits a flaw discovered in June in Microsoft's Internet Information Services software used on Internet servers. It is found in Windows NT and 2000 operating systems.

Only computers set to use the English language will have their

Web pages defaced and users of Windows 95, Windows 98 or Windows Me are not affected. For the first 20 days of every month, the worm spreads. From the 20th on, it attacks the White House Web site, trying to knock it offline.

On the Net: National Infrastructure Protection Center: <http://www.nipc.gov>  
Microsoft Security Patch: <http://www.microsoft.com/technet/security/bulletin/MS01-033.asp>  
Code Red technical data: <http://www.digitalisland.net/codere/dalart>

# Four men killed when tractor explodes at Ohio fairground

MEDINA, Ohio (AP) — An antique steam-powered tractor exploded at a fairground, killing four men and injuring about 50 others a day before one of Ohio's oldest and largest county fairs was to officially open.

The Sunday blast, which hurled hot oil and shrapnel up to 100 yards away, came on the eve of the 156th Medina County Fair, an annual event which drew 120,000 people last year.

"Our sympathies go out to the people. My emotions right now are going crazy," said Fair President Dave Bertram. The fair was opening Monday despite the accident but would start two hours late because more time was needed for preparations, officials said.

Sheriff Neil Hassinger said investigators would

examine the remnants of the tractor, built in 1918.

"We'll just leave nothing unturned," he said.

But the investigation would be complicated because the operators of the equipment were killed, authorities said.

"We lost the expertise," said James R. Bigam, head of security at the fair.

The fair was open Sunday only for horse races and setting up exhibits. The gates were open to all, however, so many people were there.

"It sounded like a big boom. I heard all kinds of people crying, people screaming," said Brian Witt, 15, of Medina, who suffered burns to his arms and face.

About 50 people were injured, and fairgoers rushed to aid bloodied and

blackened victims until they could be taken to hospitals. "Everybody was just trying to help everybody out," said oncology nurse Patty Potts.

The injured included two police officers who were about to cite the tractor's driver for operating the heavy vehicle on city streets, Fire Chief Bill Herthneck said. The officers were standing by the engine and talking to the driver when the explosion happened about 6:30 p.m., he said.

The tractor that exploded was to be part of an outdoor exhibit on steam-powered engines. The vintage equipment is a common feature at county fairs across the Midwest.

Authorities kept people off the fairgrounds Sunday

night as crews working under bright lights cleared scraps of burned metal from the exhibition area.

The dead were identified as Cliff Kovacic, 45; his son, William, 27; Alan Kimble, 46; and Dennis Jungbluth, 58, all Medina County residents. Three of the men died at the scene; the fourth died at a hospital.

Gene Sulzener, director of the Medina Life Support Team, which coordinates county emergency medical services, said the injured suffered mostly burns and broken bones from the shrapnel.

Medical helicopters from as far away as Pittsburgh carried the injured to hospitals. Surgeons were aboard some of the helicopters, said county Coroner Neil Grabenstetter.

Nine people remained hospitalized Monday morning at Children's Hospital Medical Center of Akron,

one of them in serious condition. Six other hospitals reported treating or admitting 39 people.

# Giving up his children to wed not an option

Dear Ann Landers: I am a 37-year-old, twice-divorced male with four wonderful kids. My track record with marriage hasn't been terrific, so now I am very careful about finding the right woman.

Last year, I became involved with "Stacy." She has been supportive and wonderful to me. She stood by me through some difficult times, and I would not have made it without her. Last week, I asked Stacy to marry me. She made it very clear that she would never marry me as long as I was involved in raising my children. She wants me to give up what little custody I have and not see the children anymore. She agrees that I could pay child support, but says she doesn't want my time spent on anyone except the two of us and any children we may have together.



ANN LANDERS

years of evening classes, but it didn't train me to do anything worthwhile.

I went back to work for my father, but I am bored out of my mind. I know I am capable of more. I took some job-placement tests, but it seems I have no aptitude for what interests me, and no interest in what I am qualified for. How can I get out of this trap? -- Totally Stuck in Minnesota

Dear Minnesota: Go back to the person who did your placement tests, and ask for his or her advice. I urge you to stay in your current job, but keep looking on the side for something you are truly comfortable with. If you need more education or training in order to fill the gap in your "aptitude," get it.

Dear Ann Landers: My husband and I have been invited to a cousin's wedding next month. We need to find a baby sitter for our three young children, but we just moved to this area and don't know many people. My in-laws have suggested hiring our 16-year-old nephew. He's a responsible kid, but he is already baby-sitting for his younger brother and two other cousins. I am reluctant to add three more kids to the mix, especially since one of them is a toddler.

This seems like too much for one teenage boy to handle. Am I being overly protective? Please tell me what to do. -- Cautious Mom in Wisconsin

Dear Wisconsin Mom: Ask the "responsible kid" if he has a responsible friend he can recommend. Most 16-year-olds know several experienced baby sitters. If he can't help you, ask a neighbor, the parents of one of your children's classmates or the school principal. Interview first, and make an educated decision.

Drugs are everywhere. They're easy to get, easy to use and even easier to get hooked on. If you have questions about drugs, you need Ann Landers' booklet, "The Lowdown on Dope." Send a self-addressed, long, business-size envelope and a check or money order for \$5.00 (this includes postage and handling) to: Lowdown, c/o Ann Landers, P.O. Box 11562, Chicago, Ill. 60611-0562. (In Canada, send \$6.00.) To find out more about Ann Landers and read her past columns, visit the Creators Syndicate web page at [www.creators.com](http://www.creators.com).

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# 11 injured when car plows into restaurant

JOHANNESBURG, Mich. (AP) — A woman's sandal lay among dishes, condiment bottles and splintered wood after a driver crashed her car through the wall of a northern Michigan restaurant, injuring herself and 10 people inside.

"It looks like a bomb went off in here," said Leonard Pohutsky, the owner of the Old Depot restaurant in this town.

The accident occurred Sunday as a lunchtime crowd of about 40 tourists and churchgoers packed the converted train depot. A 38-year-old woman from Johannesburg missed a sharp curve, then shot through the parking lot and into the restaurant, state

police said.

Four people who were inside remained in critical condition late Sunday.

"It just came around the corner and didn't even try to turn," said Melvin Slagel, 50, who lives nearby and saw the aftermath. "There were no skid marks or black marks or anything. She drove straight across — at a pretty good speed it looks like."

Witnesses told state police the woman's 1994 Pontiac sedan was traveling 50 to 60 mph, Trooper Michael Nasser said. The posted speed limit is 25 mph.

The car went airborne when it hit the steps at the restaurant's entrance, sending it into the ceiling and collapsing part of the roof

before it trapped customers and workers against a back wall.

"The entire car went right in the middle of the dining room," Slagel said. "It was close to being full, and it's tiny, so there was nowhere for people to go."

About 20 people pushed the car onto its side to free two victims trapped underneath, Pohutsky said.

The injured, including members of two families, were taken to Otsego Memorial Hospital in Gaylord, hospital spokeswoman Jan Korhase said.

Three children — a 6-year-old girl, a 2-year-old boy and a 6-month-old girl — were airlifted to Hurley Hospital in Flint with head injuries and listed in critical condi-

tion Sunday night, Hurley spokeswoman Stephanie Motschenbacher said.

Their father, 33, was upgraded from critical to serious condition late Sunday, Motschenbacher said. The mother, 28, was treated for cuts and bruises and released.

Three members of another family were taken to Blodgett Memorial Medical Center in Grand Rapids. Korhase said they were a woman, 29, with critical head injuries; a man, 38, with serious chest and abdominal injuries; and a girl, 6, who suffered bone fractures and was in stable condition. Another family member, a 10-year-old boy, was treated for minor injuries and released.

## HOROSCOPE

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY Tuesday, July 31:**  
Others respond to your overtures. Many times, you will feel as if a dream is about to be fulfilled thanks to your unusual drive and creativity. Do not go backward. Zero in on what you want. You have flair and skill when expressing yourself. Your naturally dramatic style soars. Others enjoy listening to you. If you are single, you love love and will make sure to include it in your life. Still, carefully check out a new person. You might be mistaken about him. If attached, your relationship will heat up, especially if you devote quality time to your sweetie. Plan getaways. **SAGITTARIUS** is hot stuff.

The Stars Show the Kind of Day You'll Have: 5-Dynamic; 4-Positive; 3-Average; 2-So-so; 1-Difficult

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19)  
\*\*\*\*\* Your mind works like a whip, processing and coming up with so many suggestions and answers. You're on a roll during the next few weeks. Accept the challenge of sorting through puzzles and impossible situations. You'll find a way. Tonight: Surf a favorite site or two.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20)  
\*\*\*\* Someone comes down hard on you. You have blinders on, especially when your partnership is involved. Seek acceptable solutions by studying what you like to do together. Someone speaks out. Tonight: Talk over dinner.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20)  
\*\*\*\* Others might be touchy and somewhat difficult. Ask yourself honestly whether you are feeding that energy or calming the situation. Proceed while asking questions in a

nonaggressive way. Once another feels safe, inner thoughts can come out. Tonight: Accept an invitation.

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22)  
\*\*\* Don't avoid a long-overdue project that can and will positively affect your health and well-being. Take your well-being as seriously as you take your work. Success inevitably results. Reorganize. Break away from confusion. Ask questions. Tonight: Walk, jog or swim, but get exercise!

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22)  
\*\*\*\* Others confuse your intent or don't hear what you say (even if they listen). With Mercury, the planet of communication, in your sign, you won't stop trying. As a result, you will welcome success because of your creativity and endurance. Tonight: Pretend it's still the weekend.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)  
\*\*\* You're forced to juggle several different interests and come to a conclusion as to your priorities. A family member drives a hard bargain. Know when you need to say "no." You might be over-tired or feel pressured. Stop. Take a walk, or opt for a power nap. Tonight: At home.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)  
\*\*\*\* You're inclined to speak your mind. A child or loved one could be taken aback by what you say. You develop an unusually hard or sharp edge as pressure builds. You're on the right track as you put your foot down on nonsense. Tonight: Swap the day's war stories with a friend.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)  
\*\*\* Family members mean well, but ultimately they do not support you in

a long-term project. Think in terms of success and making what you want happen. Visualize and start creating greater financial security. You might need to be firm. Tonight: Order in.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)  
\*\*\*\* Star in your own script, not one that someone else writes for you. Claim your own power, especially when facing vagueness and change. Your directness and energy carry a project of yours to the finish line. Your ingenuity peaks in the next few weeks. Tonight: Smile away.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)  
\*\*\* Slow down rather than make an error. You could easily trip yourself up if you're not careful. How you say what you feel could make all the difference in the outcome of a problem. Discussions lead in new directions, if you can listen clearly. Tonight: Keep money out of the mix.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)  
\*\*\*\* You might honestly be confused by the behavior of another. What might be

true is that you are wearing rose-colored glasses and have difficulty seeing this person truthfully. Focus on your long-term desires. Tonight: Follow an impulse.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20)  
\*\*\*\* Direct your energy toward success and expanding your circle of friends. You display unusual sensitivity and high energy. Follow the lead of someone whom you know often comes through for you. Enlist those around you in an important project. Tonight: In the limelight.

**BORN TODAY**  
Industrialist Henry Ford (1863), comedian Tom Green (1971), actress Lisa Kudrow (1963)

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EDITORIAL

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

FIRST AMENDMENT

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

Ken Dulapey  
Publisher

John A. Moseley  
Managing Editor

Bill McClellan  
News Editor

OUR VIEWS

Corps project great success, thanks to you

The Salvation Army is in need of ahh, tissue. Well, that's not all, of course, but it seems that during all of the donations the Corps received in its back-to-school project, someone forgot to mention something that all teachers know very well: kids use a lot of boxes of tissue.

Salvation Army Capt. Russ Keeney said that most of the teachers who turned in lists asked for up to three boxes per student. So if you have a box or two lying around...

The real reason we are mentioning the Salvation Army and its back-to-school program, however, is to let our readers know that some \$1,800 and a lot of school supplies were donated by the kind folks in Howard County. That's a super job, and those who pitched in, either by donations of money or supplies, are to be commended. Once again, Howard County has met the challenge and a few hundred children will be assisted with pencils, paper, notebooks, glue, erasers, crayons, construction paper, scissors and other supplies.

Salvation Army officials are still taking a count, but Keeney said some 80 to 100 families signed up for the program. Many have two or more children. Some of the families have up to six children, he said. They'll be getting those supplies on Aug. 13.

In the meantime, school supplies and donations are always in demand as youngsters will need them throughout the year. If you'd like to help, bring supplies or a monetary donation to the Salvation Army at 811 W. Fifth St. or call 267-8239.

Great job, Howard County. Through your efforts, these children will get a better start to the new school year. And that pays off for all of us in the long run.

OTHER VIEWS

A broad grant of amnesty for Mexican people living illegally in the United States — strongly urged by the Mexican government — should be met with fierce opposition in Congress.

Such mass amnesty programs for illegal aliens should be unacceptable in this country. They encourage even more illegal immigration.

The Bush administration, wanting to overhaul immigration policies affecting Mexican people's travel across the border, is reviewing a plan that would give legal status to as many as 3 million Mexican people living illegally in the United States. It would be a record-breaking level of amnesty for

illegal aliens. Amnesty is a mistake that not only is unfair to immigrants who abide by immigration laws and enter this country legally but sends a message to the world that the United States rewards those who break this country's own laws to get here. It rewards lawlessness. It says this country stands on the side of criminals.

While Bush considers the Hispanic vote important to his 2004 re-election bid, he should draw no distinction between Mexican people and anyone else entering this country illegally, and he should consider any blanket amnesty as unacceptable.

HERALD-JOURNAL, SPARTANBURG, S.C.

Trying to sort out Social Security

I'm afraid Karl Rove's timing is off. You can't pass a huge tax cut tilted heavily toward the rich and then announce Social Security is about to go belly-up. People make the connection.



MOLLY IVINS

If only he'd waited 'til next year — the Washington press corps can't remember anything longer than six months. But Rove has cut it too fine this time: — people are just now getting their rebate checks and hearing that Social Security is a disaster area at the same time.

Furthermore, the peppy idea of putting Social Security money into the stock market doesn't look all that good since the market has lost about \$3 trillion in the current downturn. Pffft! Hey, let's put our retirement money into that sucker and watch it shrink!

The Bush commission has the singular distinction of being comprised entirely of people who already agreed with George W. Bush that Social Security needs to be privatized. Let me count the ways this is a truly bad idea.

One (and this is the leading reason for proposing

this daft notion in the first place), it will take a huge amount of money out of Social Security and put it into Wall Street brokerage firms. You know how brokers work: They make money when you buy, and they make money when you sell. A no-lose proposition for them. Literally billions in commissions await them, and that's the lobby that's pushing the privatization scheme.

Social Security happens to be run at a minuscule administrative cost (yes, government does do some things right). If we break off some of the money into private accounts, administrative costs and brokerage fees will eat more of our money.

Second, you know perfectly well a lot of people will get ripped off if they control their own retirement money. Older people are particularly vulnerable to con artists — it'll be a gold mine for gold mines, diamond finds and every other cockamamie, pie-in-the-sky scheme that's ever come along. Think only the feeble-minded will lose? Who lost money in high tech? Wasn't it all those brilliant young hotshots we kept hearing about? Wasn't it the NASDAQ that went down 60 percent?

Then there is the unhappy set of matching numbers to be considered. The Bush tax cut (35 percent to the richest 1 percent of the people) will eventually cost

about \$170 billion in annual revenues. The estimated SS shortfall by 2038 comes to \$180 billion. Maybe if you invest your \$300 rebate (setting aside the 28 percent of you who aren't getting any money and the other 12 percent who will get less than \$300) in the stock market, you'll be able to retire in a few years.

But don't count on it. You will hear more lies, damn lies and statistics about the state of Social Security in the coming months and years than even Mark Twain could have dreamed of. The Social Security trustees, on whose numbers the Bush commission relied, are using an exceedingly grim forecast. Nevertheless, it makes more sense to use those forecasts than to use Rosy Scenario and assume there's nothing we need to do about it.

According to the experts at the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, and everybody else, we do have real, long-term problems with Social Security that need to be addressed now, but we are nowhere near a crisis — and the crunch is further out than the Bush commission says.

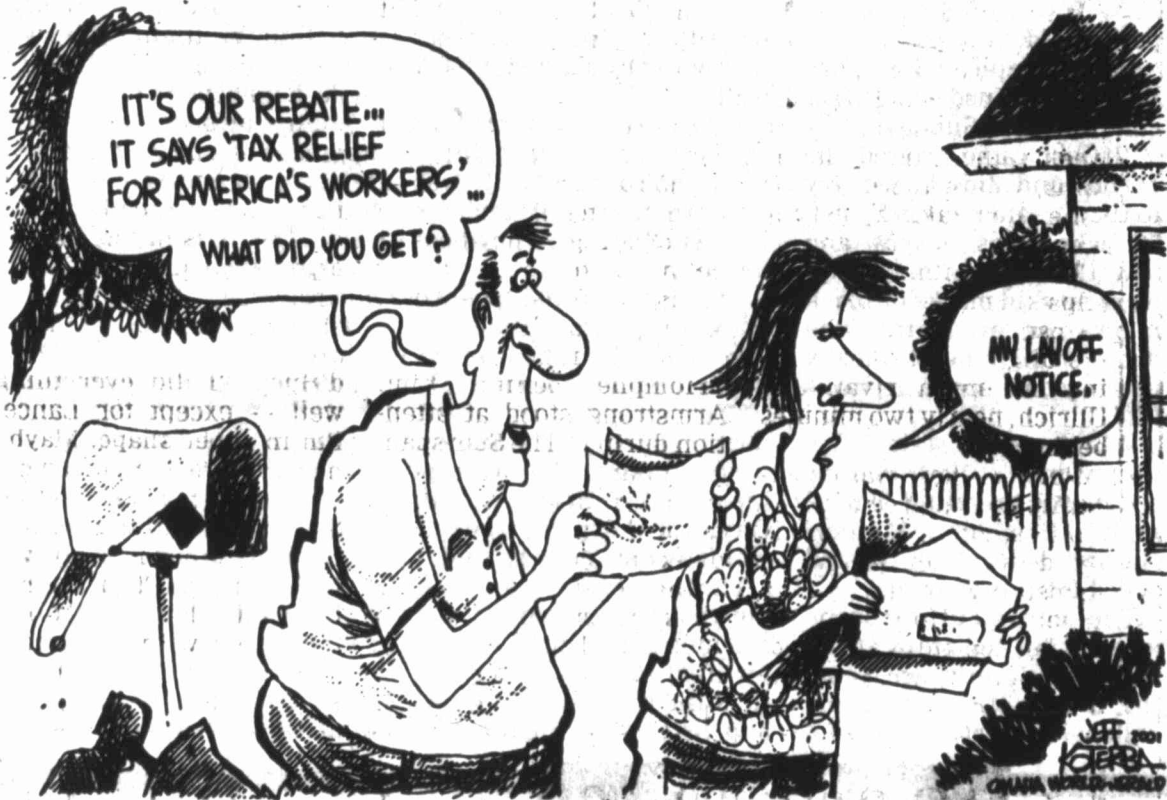
Republicans have traditionally accused Democrats of fear-mongering on Social Security. Unfortunately, the Republicans have now taken it up.

The most unfortunate thing about the commission report is not just that it's

misleading, but that it further polarizes a debate that will have to be solved by both parties. The commission announces doom in 2016, because that's when the line-of-payroll tax receipts crosses SS outgo, but they are not counting interest from the enormous SS surplus, which should be by then \$5 trillion. As Alan Blinder, former vice chair at the Federal Reserve, said cheerfully Wednesday, "That's not chopped liver."

Henry Aaron, author of an excellent book on Social Security and a senior fellow at Brookings Institute, says our situation is like that of a family saving for the college education of the kids. That education may well cost more than the family's current income, but the two things you do about it are to pay down the mortgage (the national debt) and increase your savings. So by the time the kids get to college, you're in financial shape to afford it.

Ken Apfel, former SS commissioner, says the good news politically is that Congress is now treating Social Security as a separate entity, rather than as part of the total federal budget. (Who said "lock-box"?) But the Bush tax cut is so large it may tempt Congress into using the Social Security surplus to finance government operations, and then we would be in the soup.



Confusion undermines democracy

In Portland, Ore., a school board member makes blatantly anti-Semitic remarks and we immediately realize that much more than ignorance and bigotry are at work. We know that American democracy is at risk.



JACK ANDERSON

School districts hire highly educated, experienced administrators, who in turn report to and take orders from the local school board. But what qualifications are required for school board membership? There are no education or experience requirements. The same is true for virtually all elected offices in the United States.

The problem increases as the office level diminishes. So whereas the public will over-scrutinize a presidential contender, a school board contestant is all but ignored. The result is that relatively low-paying civic

offices do not regularly attract the best-qualified people, and even if they did, a disengaged public would not be sufficiently discerning to tell the difference between the qualified and the unqualified. Hence, a bigot thrives in Portland. And if you take a hard look at your own local officials, you may well find some of them to be unqualified, ignorant, bigoted, minimally educated, wholly lacking in experience — or even people with shady or criminal pasts.

This is not what the Founding Fathers had in mind.

They assumed that the best and brightest would commit a portion of their time to public service. They did not envisage the concept of professional politicians, and, for all their brilliance, they did not anticipate the dramatic growth of cities to the point that elected officials would be strangers to the electorate. But they are.

How many people can name — let alone claim to know — their local school board members, council members, county board mem-

bers, or state legislators? In fact, most people cannot even name their member of the House of Representatives.

It is this public ignorance that is undermining the republic. One solution is to dramatically decrease the number of elected offices. Mayors and county executives could be empowered to appoint people to lesser offices. The fear is that such an empowered mayor would act without constraint. In fact, the opposite would be true because the mayor would literally serve at the pleasure of the electorate.

Further, because a mayor or county executive would be so powerful, people would increase their scrutiny. This would contrast with the current diffusion of confusion where too many people are running for too many offices.

Some localities even elect judges, a method that would be equivalent to electing school principals. Yet, most people have been smart enough to realize that where qualifications matter the most, appointees are better than electees.

ADDRESSES

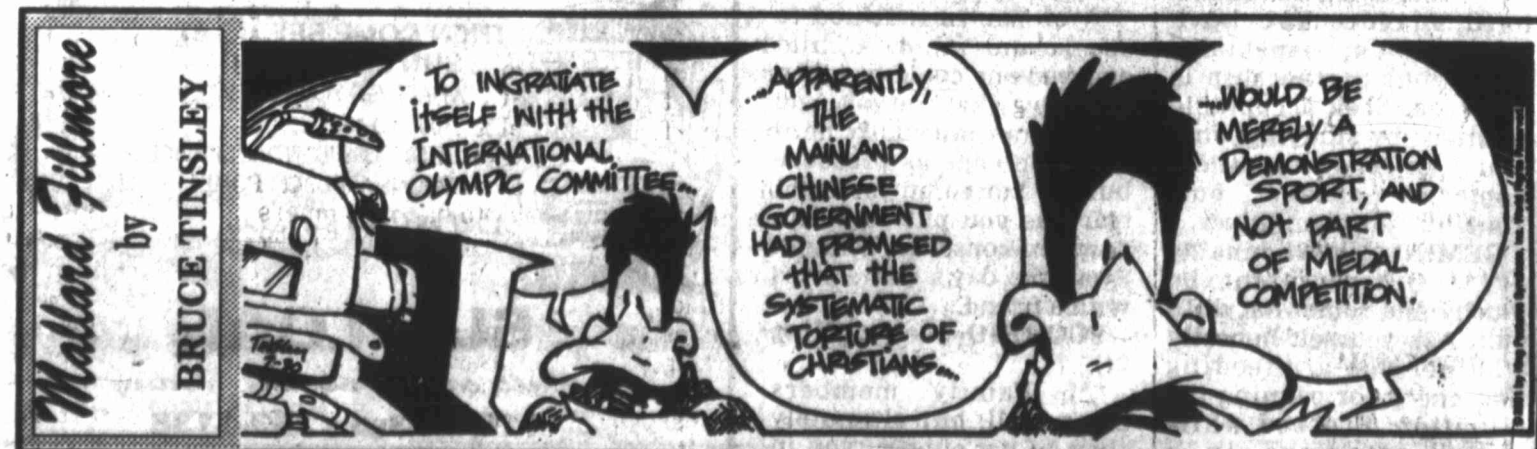
- **GEORGE W. BUSH**  
President  
The White House  
Washington, D.C.
- **PHIL GRAMM**  
U.S. Senator  
370 Russell Office Building  
Washington, 20510  
Phone: 202-224-2934.
- **KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON**  
U.S. Senator  
703 Hart Office Building  
Washington, 20510  
Phone: 202-224-5922
- **CHARLES STENHOLM**  
U.S. Representative  
17th District  
1211 Longworth Office Bldg.  
Washington, 20515.  
Phone: 202-225-6605.
- **HON. RICK PERRY**  
Governor  
State Capitol  
Austin, 78701  
Phone: 1-800-252-9600.
- **BILL RATLIFF**  
Lt. Governor  
State Capitol  
Austin, 78701  
Phone: 512-463-0001; Fax: 512-463-0326.
- **ROBERT DUNCAN**  
Senator  
Texas 28th District  
401 Austin, Suite 101  
Big Spring, 79720.  
Phone: 268-9909; (800) 322-9538, (512) 463-0128.
- **DAVID COUNTS**  
Representative  
Texas 70th District  
P.O. Box 338  
Knox City, 79529  
Phone: (940) 658-5012.

- BIG SPRING CITY COUNCIL**  
Russ McEwen, Mayor — Home: 263-0907; Work (Russ McEwen Insurance): 267-1413.  
Greg Robinson, Mayor Pro Tem — Home: 267-6009; Work (Ponderosa Restaurant): 267-7121.  
Oscar Garcia — Home: 264-0026; Work (Cornell Corrections): 268-1227.  
Stephanie Horton — Home: 264-0306; Work (VA Medical Center): 263-7361.  
Chuck Cawthon — Home: 263-7490; Work (Chuck's Surplus): 263-1142.  
Tommy Tune — Home: 267-4652; Work (Howard College): 264-5000.  
Joann Smoot — Home: 267-6965; Work (BSISD);

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 at johnmoseley@bigspringherald.com.
- By mail at P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721



**IN B...**  
**Mixed golf planned Aug...**  
The 2001 Guy Couples Golf Tournament will be held Aug. 11 through Aug. 12, at the Country Club. The entry fee is \$180 per team, plus a \$10 cart fee. Prizes will be given to the top three flight. Awards given to the top by both male and female golfers. The club pin shot by both females will be prizes. Registration 11:30 a.m. Saturday. The shotgun start both Saturday and Sunday. Golfers can practice round on Aug. 10, as part of the regular Scotch which is a mixed foursome. The cost is \$180 cart fee.

**YMCA swim seeks comp...**  
The Big Spring Swim Team is competing in meets. Practice sessions held Monday through Thursday morning at the YMCA pool. To be eligible, youngsters must be able to complete the YMCA pool. For more information call the YMCA.

**ACS still offers Texas Golf P...**  
The American Society is again offering the Texas Golf Package. Holders of more than 680 round 289 courses in the state. Both the Country Club and Comanche Trail Course are part of the program. Forms are available at two local golf courses. For more information call 1-800-ACS-...

**Cody Ohlgraben all-around th...**  
CHEYENNE — Cody Stephenville, the all-around champion on Sunday of the Frontier Days riding home \$22,300. He won the title with a time of 41.8 seconds in the third round of steer riding. Lan Lajeunesse, 85 points and back riding a final day of Lajeunesse, Utah, racked with 246 points at the rodeo, while Sunday. The first person to congratulate his traveling partner Wardell of Idaho, who finished with 84 points. "I couldn't be for Lan," Wardell said. "He made a today and real this." Wardell finished overall with behind Red resident Bobb. The steer went to Trevo Pueblo, Colo. year's all-around.

**ON THE**  
**Television**  
WNBA  
7 p.m. — On Miracle at Clear Rockers, FXS.  
**BASKETBALL**  
7:30 p.m. — Coaches All-Star ESPN, Ch. 30







MONDAY												JULY 30																																																																																																																																																																																						
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DENNIS THE MENACE



"HEY, MOM! IT'S ONE OF THOSE LIVE COMMERCIALS."

FAMILY CIRCUS



"Why are we pickin' these for Mommy if they're Daddylions?"

HAGAR



BLONDIE



B.C.



GEECH



WIZARD OF ID



HI AND LOIS



GASOLINE ALLEY



SNUFFY SMITH



BEETLE BAILY



THIS DATE  
IN HISTORY

The ASSOCIATED PRESS

Today is Monday, July 30, the 211th day of 2001. There are 154 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On July 30, 1945, during World War II, the USS Indianapolis was torpedoed by a Japanese submarine; only 316 of 1,196 men survived the sinking and shark-infested waters. (The Navy recently exonerated the Indianapolis' captain, Charles Butler McVay III, who was court-martialed and convicted for failing to evade the submarine that sank his ship.)

On this date: In 1729, the city of Baltimore was founded.

In 1792, the French national anthem "La Marseillaise," by Claude Joseph Rouget de Lisle, was first sung in Paris.

In 1844, the New York

Yacht Club was founded.

In 1864, during the Civil War, Union forces tried to take Petersburg, Va., by exploding a mine under Confederate defense lines. The attack failed.

In 1932, the Summer Olympic Games opened in Los Angeles.

In 1942, President Franklin Roosevelt signed a bill creating a women's auxiliary agency in the Navy known as "Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service" - WAVES for short.

In 1965, President Lyndon Johnson signed into law the Medicare bill, which went into effect the following year.

In 1975, former Teamsters union president Jimmy Hoffa disappeared in suburban Detroit. Although he is presumed dead, his remains have never been found.

In 1975, representatives of 35 countries convened in Finland for a conference on security and human rights that resulted in the Helsinki accords.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Dick Wilson ("Mr. Whipple") is 85. Actor Richard Johnson is 74. Actor Edd "Kookie" Byrnes is 68. Blues musician Buddy Guy is 65. Movie director Peter Bogdanovich is 62. Feminist activist Eleanor Smeal is 62. Former Rep. Patricia Schroeder, D-Colo., is 61. Singer Paul Anka is 60. Jazz musician David Sanborn is 56. Actor Arnold Schwarzenegger is 54. Actor William Atherton is 54. Actor Jean Reno is 53. Actor Frank Stallone is 51. Actor Ken Olin is 47. Actress Delta Burke is 45.

Answer to previous puzzle

KRAYING	AMISTAD
MOLOKAI	DICTATE
AILMENT	STEERER
SLAT	EGAN
ODIN	EMBLEMS
SORVINO	UPSET
THESECRET	GARDEN
IND	THE ADE
ROSIETH	RIVER
KNAVE	PRETEND
CHEDDAR	ESTH
HALO	AQUA
ASTOUND	CARRIERS
STORMED	APPOINT
TEMPLOT	TELLING

Newsday Crossword

FABRICATIONS by Shirley Soloway  
Edited by Stanley Newman

- ACROSS
- 1 Be adjacent to
  - 5 Collision
  - 10 Concerning
  - 14 "it!" ("Amen!")
  - 15 Undue speed
  - 16 Asian weight
  - 17 Indulge in idle fancies
  - 19 Suit to
  - 20 Not digital, as a watch
  - 21 Bringing up
  - 23 Tennis divider
  - 24 relief
  - 26 a tie (require overtime)
  - 27 1983 Streep film
  - 29 Decimal point
  - 32 Change location
  - 35 Roman household god
  - 36 Actress Ryder
  - 38 "... partridge in tree"
  - 40 Commandment count
  - 42 Certain fisherman
  - 43 ALF's home planet
  - 45 Holstein or Guernsey
  - 47 Miscellany
  - 48 Letter holder; Abbr.
  - 49 Hide, in a way
  - 52 Poetic Muse
  - 54 Compass direction; Abbr.
  - 55 Oklahoma city
  - 58 Like Swift's works
  - 60 Clothes alterer
  - 62 Canine sounds
- DOWN
- 1 Nile dam
  - 2 Trailblazer Daniel
  - 3 WWII sub
  - 4 Let slip
  - 5 Painter Marc
  - 6 Urban vermin
  - 7 Fireplace residue
  - 8 Sound system
  - 9 "In stock today!"
  - 10 Video-game name
  - 11 Ellington tune
  - 12 Promgoer, usually
  - 13 Designer Cassini
  - 18 Asian desert
  - 22 Tatum, in Paper Moon
  - 25 Card game for three
  - 27 Cloth joiner
  - 28 Demolish
  - 30 "Dedicated to the Love"
  - 31 Poi source
  - 32 Auntie of fiction
  - 33 Ready for business
  - 34 Mel Tormé's nickname, with "The"
  - 37 Theater light
  - 39 Airplane tracker
  - 41 Protuberance
  - 44 Fingernail edger
  - 46 Chinese dumplings
  - 50 Butterfly producer
  - 51 Withdraw, as from a habit
  - 53 Gets up
  - 55 Dale (Robin Hood friend)
  - 56 "Nothing"
  - 57 City in Provence
  - 58 Window frame
  - 59 Singer Guthrie
  - 61 Slanted type; Abbr.
  - 64 Prefix for pod
  - 65 Actor Danson

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