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Page 7

VOLUME 102, NUMBER 192

FRIDAY, JULY 7, 2006

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50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 WEEKEND

Martin County past, present to come together

By STEVE REAGAN
Staff Writer

Stanton is inviting all of its old settlers to "come home again" Saturday.

The 76th annual Martin County Old Settlers Reunion will temporarily increase the population of Stanton beyond

its noted claim of "3,000 friendly people and a few old soreheads," officials say.

Aside from the reunion, which draws many descendants of original settlers to town, various Stanton High School exes use the event as the platform for class get-togethers.

"Usually, about 10 to 15 class-

es hold their reunions," said City Manager Danny Fryar.

"We'll be busy all evening." The Lupe and Luisa Garza family is the special honoree at this year's event, A.L. "Bud" Lindsey said.

The Garzas came to Martin County in the early 1940s and raised a family of nine chil-

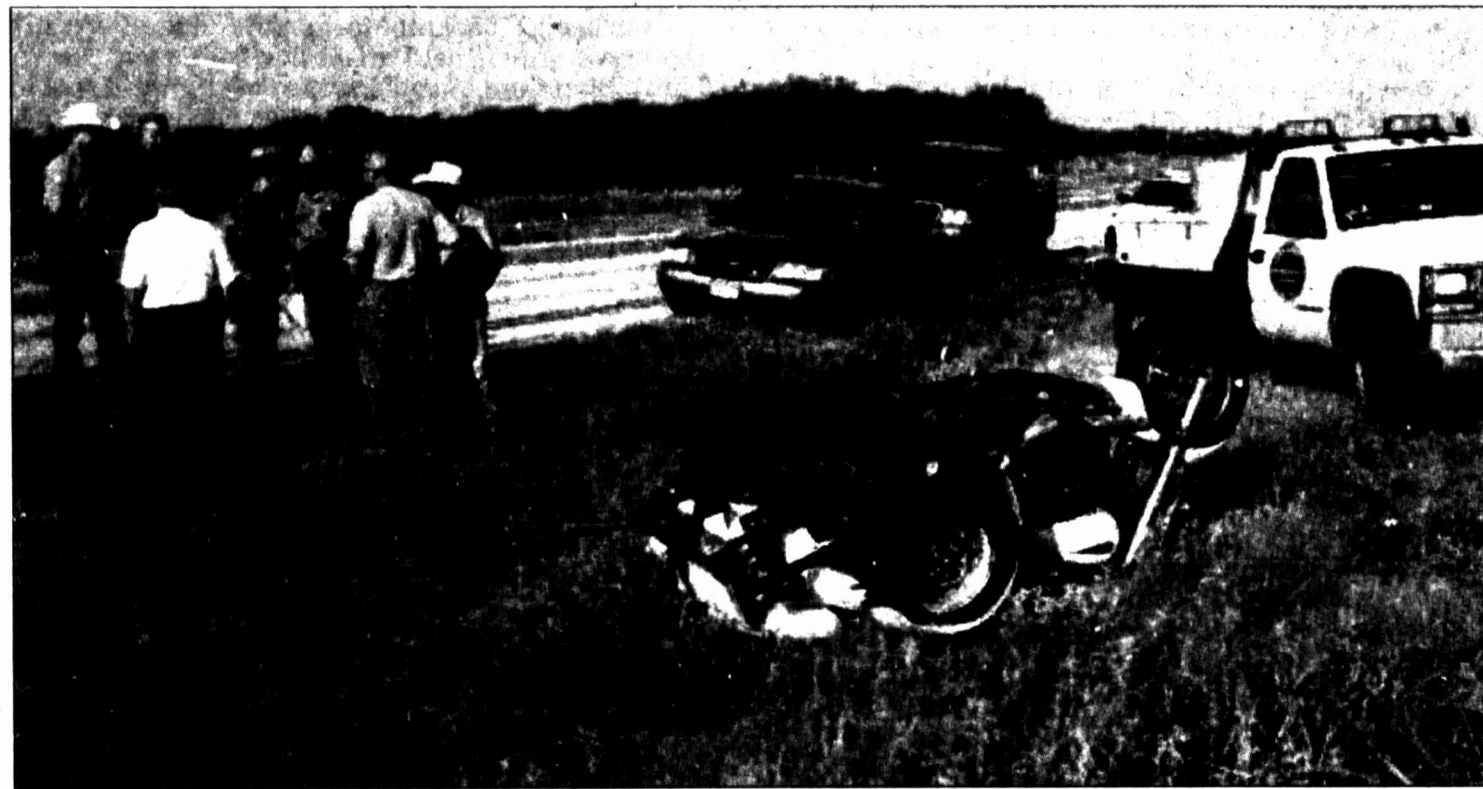
dren, many of whom still reside in the county, Lindsey said.

The reunion will kick off with the annual parade through the downtown area at 10 a.m. Entries will reflect the theme of this year's parade: "Come Home Again: Honoring All Past and Present Martin County Schools."

Floats from the Garza family and various class reunions will be featured during the parade, as well as the SHS marching band, antique cars and tractors and children's bicycles.

Grand marshal for this year's parade is Imogene Evans, a

See REUNION, Page 3



Herald photo/Steve Reagan

Emergency response personnel investigate the site of a two-vehicle accident on Interstate 20 east of Coahoma Thursday morning. The driver of the overturned motorcycle was admitted to Scenic Mountain Medical Center, officials said.

Sweetwater man injured in mishap

Driver of 18-wheeler cited for failure to control speed

By STEVE REAGAN
Staff Writer

A Thursday morning motorcycle-truck collision east of Coahoma sent a Sweetwater man to a local hospital.

Cyrus McCreight of Sweetwater was admitted to Scenic Mountain Medical Center Thursday following a wreck involving his motorcycle and an 18-wheeler, according to Department of Public Safety

reports.

DPS Trooper Kneel Stallings said the accident occurred at 8:21 a.m. Thursday at the 190 mile marker of Interstate 20 just east of Coahoma.

Stallings said both vehicles were westbound on the interstate when the 18-wheeler, driven by Michael Taylor of Odessa, changed lanes to pass McCreight's motorcycle. The truck clipped the rear of the cycle, sending McCreight into the median.

Units from Big Spring Emergency Medical Service, Howard County Sheriff's Office and DPS quickly converged on the scene. McCreight was transported by EMS ambulance to the hospital, where he was subsequently admitted.

Taylor was cited for failure to control speed, Stallings said.

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

Militant leader captured

Iraqi forces, backed by U.S. troops, make successful raids

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — Iraqi forces backed by U.S. aircraft battled militants in a Shiite stronghold of eastern Baghdad early today, killing or wounding more than 30 fighters and capturing an extremist leader who was the target of the raid, Iraqi and U.S. officials said.

In another operation, Iraqi troops backed by U.S. soldiers arrested a top regional commander of a Shiite militia near Hillah, a U.S. statement said. The moves appeared part of a crackdown on sectarian militias blamed for the escalation in Shiite-Sunni violence that has led to fears of civil war in recent months.

Bombs and a mortar round struck three Sunni

mosques in Baghdad and northeast of the capital, killing at least nine people and wounding seven, authorities said. The explosions hit the mosques despite a four-hour driving ban in the capital aimed at preventing such attacks that often target the main weekly Islamic religious service.

Meanwhile a Sunni cleric was abducted in Baghdad, a powerful religious leader said in his sermon, denouncing the attack. Ahmed Abdul Ghafour al-Samaraiie, the head of the Sunni Endowment, the state agency responsible for Sunni mosques and shrines, said he had been

See IRAQ, Page 3

Big Spring soldier escorts President Bush at Fort Bragg

By THOMAS JENKINS
Staff Writer

Most every parent is proud to hear their child tell them they've decided to serve in the armed forces.

Of course, it's a different kind of pride when your child tells you he spent the July Fourth holiday escorting the President of the United States through Fort Bragg Army Base in North Carolina.

That's exactly the type of report Big Spring resident Debbie Burrow, mother of 36-year-old Army Major Guy

Matthew Burrow, received from her son.

"Matt was the escort officer for the White House team for the president's visit to Fort Bragg," said Debbie Burrow. "So he was basically in charge of making sure everything was set up and went right for President Bush and his staff."

Burrow said her son, a 1988 graduate of Big Spring High School and a 1992 graduate of West Point, told her everything went smoothly.

"There are always a few road blocks," said



D. Burrow

Burrow. "But he managed to knock them all down. It went very smoothly while he was there. He (Matt) had a meal with the president, and was asked to escort him to the table and sit at the table with him."

"He (Matt) and the other soldiers had a meal and served him (Bush) a birthday cake while he was there, since his birthday was the following

See BURROW, Page 3



Seated at the head of the table, Army Major Guy Matthew Burrow — a 1988 graduate of Big Spring High School — watches as President George W. Bush shows off his birthday cake during a special July Fourth visit to Fort Bragg.

INDEX	
Classified	10-12
Features	5
Obituaries	2
Opinion	4
Sports	7-8
To reach us: Please call 263-7331. Office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. If you miss your paper, please call (432) 263-7335 before 7 p.m. weekdays and noon Sunday.	



Find us online at:
www.bigspringherald.com

COOKOFF SET SATURDAY

A barbecue cookoff to benefit veterans will be held Saturday at the Eagles Lodge, 703 W. Third St. Categories include brisket, ribs, chicken and jackpot beans. Fee is \$25 to enter all meat categories or \$10 to enter beans category and individual meat categories.

Judging will begin at noon. Barbecue plates will be served to the public beginning at noon. The cost will be \$7 per plate.

All proceeds will benefit the Veteran's Television Fund. For more information, call 264-4824. Sponsors are the American Legion Post 506, Cossacks Motorcycle Club and Eagles Lodge Post 3188.

DELAY'S NAME TO STAY

AUSTIN (AP) — The Texas Republican Party must keep Tom DeLay's name on the November ballot, even though the former congressman has dropped his re-election bid and moved out of state, a federal judge ruled Thursday.

DeLay, the former House majority leader who resigned June 9 and is under indictment, won the Republican primary for his district in March but decided against re-election a month later.

GOP leaders want another Republican to replace DeLay on the ballot and say state election law allows them to select one because DeLay has moved out of Texas. They are appealing the decision.

FARMERS MARKET

The Farmer's Market opens Saturday at Heart of the City Park in downtown Big Spring.

The market will be open about 7 a.m. each Saturday and Tuesday morning through October, organizers say.

Offered will be fresh farm-grown fruits and vegetables, plus other fare such as sausage, jerky, eggs and breads.

Saturdays, organizers are planning a variety of other activities, including an ice cream eating contest, home canning demonstration, a garage sale and more.

For more information on the farmer's market or to schedule an event in relation to it, contact Kelly Zant at 816-4540.

Obituaries

Fr. Ray Stanley Wilhelm



Fr. Ray Stanley Wilhelm, OMI, 74
Has gone home to chant God's praises
- July 5, 2006.

The son of Raymond M. Wilhelm and Alma (Dreier) Wilhelm, Ray Wilhelm was born Feb. 3, 1932, in San Antonio. After graduating from St. Mary's Parochial School, he went to St. Anthony's Junior Seminary in San Antonio. He entered the St. Peter's Novitiate at Mission in 1951, where he took his first vows May 31, 1952.

His philosophy and theology courses were pursued at DeMazenod Scholasticate (now Oblate School of Theology) in San Antonio. It was there that he took perpetual vows May 31, 1955. Upon the completion of his theology studies, he was ordained a priest by Archbishop Robert E. Lucey at St. Mary's Church, San Antonio, June 1, 1958.

Fr. Ray's first obedience was in 1959 as a professor at DeMazenod Scholasticate. In the spring of 1960, he went to Catholic University, in Washington, D.C., for higher education, and in November of 1960, he went to the Studium Superius Generale in Rome and obtained a degree in canon law at Gregorian University in June of 1962. He was transferred to DeMazenod Scholasticate - Oblate College of the Southwest in San Antonio as bursar and professor in September 1962. Other assignments included: assistant pastor to Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Harlingen; pastor to St. Ignatius Parish in Ranchito; pastor to Sacred Heart in McAllen; associate pastor of the Immaculate Conception Cathedral in Brownsville, and pastor to St. John the Baptist in San Juan.

In January of 1986 he served as the associate director of college level seminary formation program at St. Edwards University, Austin. In 1988 he was assigned as Parochial Vicar to St. Louis of France Cathedral in New Orleans, then in 1990 to St. Patrick's Parish in Houston. In 1991, he was associate director of San Juan Shrine in San Juan. He then served a six-year term as pastor at St. Ann's in Colorado City. In June of 2000, he was assigned and remained until his death Parochial Vicar at Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church and Shrine in Midland. Fr. Ray was also an Official of the Matrimonial Tribunal of the dioceses of Brownsville, San Antonio and San Angelo. He was Defender of the Bond of Marriage for the Texas Appellate Court in San Antonio and had also been a local Oblate Superior in several Texas districts.

"Fr. Ray was a committed and faithful servant of the Church, especially as Missionary Oblate to Mary Immaculate," said Fr. Ed DeLeon, pastor at Our Lady of Guadalupe. "He always gave 110 percent if not more. He was a true confessor, and people always felt God's mercy especially in the confessional. He was an excellent preacher and a good friend."

Fr. Ray is preceded in death by his parents, Raymond and Alma Wilhelm, J.P. Wilhelm, Edwin Wilhelm. E.V. Tumlinson, his uncles, and Maggie Schlein, his aunt.

He is survived by his sister, Mary Oswald and brother-in-law, Louis Oswald of Houston, his three nephews, Brent A. Oswald, of Houston, Kelly V. and Stacey Oswald of Houston, Louis A. and Crystal Oswald of Littleton, Colo., and his dearest friend, the Rev. Frank Montalbano, OMI of San Antonio.

"Fr. Ray was so special, so knowledgeable, so educated," said Toni Bustillos, a parishioner at Our Lady of Guadalupe and a friend of Fr. Ray. "You could ask him anything and he would tell you, and if he didn't know, he would find out. He was so gentle and always such a loving and kind person."

A Rosary, to be led by Fr. Ed DeLeon, pastor of Our Lady of Guadalupe Church and Shrine, will be held Friday, July 7, 2006, at 7 p.m., at Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church and Shrine in Midland. A Mass of Resurrection will be held Saturday, July 8, 2006, at 11 a.m. at Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church and Shrine in Midland with The Most Rev. Michael D. Pfeifer, OMI, Bishop of San Angelo, the principal celebrant and Fr. Ed DeLeon, homilist.

Fr. Ray's body will be taken to San Antonio for additional services. A Rosary will be held at the Oblate School of Theology's Immaculate Conception Chapel Sunday, July 9, 2006, at 7 p.m. His Mass of Resurrection will be celebrated on Monday, July 10, 2006, at 10 a.m. at The Oblate School of Theology's Immaculate Conception Chapel followed by burial at the Oblate Community Cemetery on the same grounds in San Antonio.

In lieu of flowers, make donations to Our Lady of Guadalupe Shrine, Midland. Arrangements are under the direction of Ellis Funeral Home, 801 Andrews Hwy., Midland 79701. To place on-line condolences visit www.mem.com.

Paid Obituary

Weather

Tonight...Partly cloudy. Lows in the upper 60s. Southeast winds around 10 mph.
Saturday...Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 90s. Southeast winds around 10 mph.
Saturday night...Partly cloudy. Lows around 70. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.

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Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity between 7 a.m. Thursday and 7 a.m. today:

- **FREDDIE RAMOS**, 21, of 4000 West Highway 80, was arrested Thursday on a charge of criminal mischief - family violence.
- **SUNDAY CASAREZ LUNA**, 18, of 2521 Ent, was arrested Thursday on a charge of possession of marijuana - two ounces or less.
- **ALLEN JOE DARDEN**, 41, of 15010 North County Road 41, was arrested Thursday on charges of failure to identify and displaying a fictitious inspection certificate.
- **CODY WADE VICKERS**, 24, of 2911 West Highway 80, was arrested Thursday on two local warrants.
- **ANDREW LAWRENCE RAMIREZ**, 22, of Round Rock, was arrested Friday on a charge of driving while license invalid.
- **VIOLATION OF A PROTECTIVE ORDER** was reported in the 600 block of 16th Street.
- **THEFT** was reported:
 - in the 1100 block of Lamesa.
 - in the 300 block of Owens.
- **RESISTING ARREST, SEARCH OR TRANSPORTATION** was reported in the 500 block of 14th Street.
- **POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA - TWO OUNCES OR LESS** was reported in the 2500 block of Ent.
- **POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA - TWO OUNCES OR LESS IN A DRUG FREE ZONE** was reported in the 300 block of Fourth Street.
- **POSSESSION OF A CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE IN A DRUG FREE ZONE** was reported in the 300 block of Fourth Street.
- **FAILURE TO IDENTIFY - GIVING FALSE INFORMATION** was reported in the 1500 block of Third Street.
- **CRIMINAL MISCHIEF - FAMILY VIOLENCE** was reported in the 4000 block of Highway 80.
- **CRIMINAL MISCHIEF** was reported in the 500 block of 14th Street.
- **BURGLARY OF A HABITATION** was reported in the 2500 block of Gunter.

Sheriff's report

The Howard County Sheriff's Office reported the following activity:
Note: An arrest log for the HCSO was not available at press time.

Fire/EMS

The Big Spring Fire Department and Emergency Medical Services reported the following activity:

- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 2000 block of State. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **TRAFFIC ACCIDENT** was reported near the 190 mile marker of Interstate Highway 20. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 2000 block of Ricabaugh. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 300 block of Third Street. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1900 block of Martin Luther King Boulevard. One person was transported to the VAMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 300 block of Rannels. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 400 block of Birdwell Lane. Service was refused.

Take Note

- **FIRST CHURCH OF GOD YOUTH GROUP** will hold a car wash behind McDonalds from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday. The money will help fund a trip to the International Youth Convention. McDonalds is giving ice-cream cones with each wash.
- **NEW LIFE MINISTRIES Church of God In Christ** is holding a soup kitchen every second and fourth Tuesday from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at 204 N.W. 10th. The meal is free. Call 264-0771 for more information.
- **ROAD TO RECOVERY**, sponsored by the American Cancer Society, seeks volunteers to drive cancer patients to treatment in Midland. This requires just a few hours commitment each month. To volunteer, or to request a ride for treatment, call LaWanda Hamm at 263-7827.
- **THE PET PATROL** helps locate lost pets and owners of found pets. To volunteer or for more information, call Melanie Gambrell at 267-PETS (7387).
- **BIG SPRING HIGH SCHOOL STEER BAND 10-YEAR REUNION** for classes 1970 to 1980 is planned July 28-29. Send name and addresses to Steer Band Reunion P.O. Box 103 Big Spring. 79721 or go to the Web site www.bigspringsteerband.org. For more information or to leave a message, call 263-2205.

Bulletin Board

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

TODAY
• Genealogy Society of Big Spring meets at 7 p.m. in the Howard County Library, 500 S. Main.
• Big Spring Masonic Lodge No. 1340 meets at 7:30 p.m. at 2101 Lancaster.

FRIDAY
• Signal Mountain Quilting Guild meets from 9 a.m. until about 3 p.m. at St. Mary's Episcopal Church. Call 267-1037 or 267-7281 for more information.
• AMBUCS meet at noon in La Posada Restaurant.
• Greater Big Spring Rotary Club meets at noon in the Big Spring Country Club.
• Spring City Senior Citizens country and western dance from 7:30 p.m. until 10:30 p.m. All area seniors are invited.

SATURDAY
• Farmer's Market opens at Heart of the City Park, 7 a.m. or earlier.
• Martin County Old Settler's Reunion parade, 10 a.m., downtown Stanton.
• Barbecue cookoff to benefit the Veterans Television Fund, held at the Eagles Lodge, 703 W. Third. Plates are \$7 each, served beginning at noon. Cookoff categories include brisket, ribs, chicken and jackpot beans. Call 264-4824 for entry information.
• Big Spring Cruisers cruise Gregg Street and at the Sonic Drive-In beginning at 6:30 p.m.
• Eagles Lodge Dance at 8:30 p.m. at 703 W. Third.
• Big Spring Squares. Call 263-6305 for more information.

MONDAY
• Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) No. 21 meets at 5 p.m. in the Dora Roberts Rehabilitation Center, 306 W. Third for weigh-in. The meeting begins at 5:30 p.m. Call 1-800-392-8677 or 263-0391 or 263-1758.

Lottery

Results of the Texas Two Step drawing Thursday night:
Winning numbers drawn: 2-9-24-32. Bonus Ball: 28.
Number matching four of four, plus Bonus Ball: 0.
Estimated jackpot for Monday night drawing: \$350,000.

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Thursday night:
Winning numbers drawn: 9-10-13-18-27.
Number matching five of five: 0.
Next Cash 5 drawing: Friday night.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Thursday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 7-2-2

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© Puzzles by Pappocom

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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News briefs

Ex-soldier charged in Iraq rape, killings enters not guilty plea

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) — The case of a former Army private charged with slaying and raping an Iraqi woman and killing her family will be presented to a grand jury this month, a prosecutor said.

Steven D. Green, who grew up in Midland, entered a plea of not guilty through his public defenders Thursday. He also waived a detention hearing and a preliminary hearing, and agreed that his case would be prosecuted in the Western District of Kentucky.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Brian Butler said the case would be presented before a grand jury sometime in mid-July, probably in Paducah.

U.S. Magistrate Judge James Moyer set an arraignment date of Aug. 8 in Paducah for Green, who was arrested Friday by FBI agents in Marion, N.C.

Green answered Moyer's questions about his inability to pay for an attorney, saying he has about \$6,000 in a checking account and owns a 1995 Lincoln Town Car.

"I don't have anything else," he told the judge. According to a federal affidavit, Green and other soldiers targeted the Iraqi young woman after spotting her at a traffic checkpoint near Mahmoudiya. Green is being tried in federal rather than military court because he no longer is in the Army.

Military officials concluded Thursday that since Green had received his final discharge papers, he was no longer under the control of the Army and would not be subject to a court martial. No other soldiers have been charged in the case.

One killed in oil well accident

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — One oil field worker was killed and two others were injured Thursday when a malfunction at a southwestern Oklahoma oil rig sent pipe careening through the facility, authorities said.

Caddo County Undersheriff Walt Brown said the accident was reported at 3:47 p.m. at an oil well drilling operation near Hinton, located about 50 miles west of Oklahoma City. The well, owned by Dominion Exploration and Production Co. of Oklahoma City, was being drilled by Patterson-UTI Drilling Co. of Snyder, Texas, officials said.

Preliminary reports indicate that piping was being pulled out of the drilling area when a brake gave way, allowing the material to fall down on the rig platform. "Some stuff came crashing down through the rig," Brown said.

Andrew Lee Scott of Weatherford was killed in the accident, the Caddo County Sheriff's office confirmed late Thursday. A dispatcher didn't know his age.

Sheriff Gene Cain identified the injured workers as Jonathan Jones of Gracemont and William Pittman of Hinton. Cain said they had been pulled off the rig but the extent of their injuries was not immediately known.

Matt Skinner, spokesman for the Oklahoma Corporation Commission, which regulates the oil and gas industry, said the accident will be investigated by the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

"It's like any other workplace accident," Skinner said.

Last year, OSHA issued citations against Patterson-UTI Drilling and proposed penalties totaling \$187,000 for safety violations that led to a worker's death in August 2004 at the company's oil rig site in Hinton.

according to a report on OSHA's Web site. Citations included failure to remove a defective forklift from service which resulted in the death of the worker and serious injury to another.

OSHA said then that 11 fatalities had occurred at Patterson-UTI Drilling's various Texas, Oklahoma and Wyoming rig sites in the previous three years. OSHA has cited the company with 17 safety violations and proposed penalties totaling \$725,900.

Police say they've identified body of likely killer

KERRVILLE (AP) — A body found in a burned out car was identified Thursday, and authorities said they believe the man was the killer of a mother and her son found dead in a mobile home.

Sandy D. Smith, 44, was identified through dental records, said Kerr County Chief Deputy Clay Barton. The preliminary cause of death was carbon monoxide poisoning from the car fire, and Smith likely committed suicide, said Barton, adding that a notebook found outside the car was believed to include a suicide note. He said the contents of the note were unclear.

"We are satisfied that our suspect is deceased," Barton said.

The victims in the mobile home were identified as Tina M. Clark, 32, and her 13-year-old son, Derick T. Lackey. Authorities were called to the mobile home shortly before 11 a.m. Wednesday after Clark's 5-year-old daughter called saying she couldn't wake up her mother or brother.

Barton said Clark and Lackey died of blunt trauma to the head and that no weapon has been found.

Clark and Smith had been dating, Barton said, and the car in which Smith was found belonged to Clark.

Barton said that after leaving Clark's home, Smith burglarized a business where he used to work, stole checks and cashed one for \$525.

Child Protective Services has approved the 5-year-old staying with a family friend until other arrangements can be made, said Mary Walker, a CPS spokeswoman.

Authorities say they disrupt plan to attack NY tunnels

WASHINGTON (AP) — Authorities have disrupted planning by foreign terrorists for an attack on New York City tunnels, two law enforcement officials said Friday.

FBI agents monitoring Internet chat rooms used by extremists learned in recent months of the plot to strike a blow at the city's economy by destroying vital transportation networks, one official said.

Lebanese authorities, acting on a U.S. request, have arrested one of the alleged plotters, identified as Amir Andalousli, the other official said. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because the investigation is still under way.

Sen. Charles Schumer, D-N.Y., said, "This is one instance where intelligence was on top of its game and discovered the plot when it was just in the talking phase."

The planning for the tunnel attacks was first reported by the New York Daily News in its Friday editions, the first anniversary of the attacks on the London transportation system that killed 52 people.

It was unclear how far along the planning was.

got to be buddies with a couple of members of the president's staff."

According to Burrow, one of the biggest surprises about the visit was the president's appetite, which didn't seem to suffer despite a tough schedule.

"When they got to the cafeteria, Matt told me he went through the line just like everyone else," said Burrow. "He ate the same food the soldiers were eating — salad, fried chicken and ribs — and according to Matt, he ate well."

"I figured he would just barely eat. That's what I tend to do at a banquet-type gathering. But he ate well and then had birthday cake with them."

Contact Staff Writer Thomas Jenkins at 263-7331 ext. 232 or by e-mail at citydesk@bigspringherald.com

REUNION

Continued from Page 1

longtime Stanton resident and retired kindergarten teacher.

Among other scheduled activities are a tractor pull at the Farmer's Co-Op Gin west of town at 1 p.m. and children's activities in the downtown

area throughout the afternoon, Fryar said.

A catered dinner will be served at 6 p.m. in the Martin County Community Center, followed by a dance at 8:30 p.m. featuring the music of Mike Payne and his band.

Contact Staff Writer Steve Reagan at 263-7331.

IRAQ

Continued from Page 1

informed that Sheik Alaa of the Ibn Taimya mosque had been kidnapped at a checkpoint.

The U.S. military said the raid in Baghdad's Sadr City slum was launched to apprehend "an insurgent leader responsible for numerous deaths of Iraqi citizens." He was arrested after a gunbattle between Iraqi forces and insurgents, the U.S. said.

There were no casualties among U.S. or Iraqi soldiers, the Americans said.

U.S. officials did not identify the insurgent leader but residents of the Shiite neighborhood said he was Abu Diraa, a commander in the Mahdi militia of radical cleric Muqtada al-Sadr.

The U.S. statement said the militant leader was involved "in the transfer of weapons from Syria into Iraq" in an effort to break away "from his current insurgent organization." The statement did not mention any U.S. role in the raid, but residents said they could hear American aircraft providing cover.

In a statement Thursday, the U.S. said

Iraqi and U.S. forces also arrested Adnan al-Unaybi, commander of a Mahdi militia force south of Baghdad. The statement said he was arrested north of Hillah, about 60 miles south of Baghdad.

An al-Sadr aide, Sheik Abdul-Hadi al-Darraj, denounced the Baghdad raid, saying 11 civilians were killed and dozens wounded as U.S. jets fired on the area as people were sleeping on their roofs because of the searing summer temperatures and electricity shortages.

"This is a big escalation from the American side," he said. "I condemn all the silence toward such violations and I call for the withdrawal of the American forces."

There were conflicting casualty figures. Lt. Kadim Abbas Hamza of the Sadr City police said fighter planes also fired from the air and nine people, including a woman, were killed and 14 were wounded. He also said eight people were arrested.

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BURROW

Continued from Page 1

day. He was really super excited about it."

Burrow said her son had plenty of time to work out the nervous tension involved in such a huge project long before the president ever arrived.

"I don't think he was nervous by the time the president's team got there," said Burrow. "They started setting up on the Thursday before his visit — it took that long to get everything coordinated for the visit."

"He (Matt) said it was amazing. He said it was almost like being on that television show, 'West Wing.' He was working right there with the staff and he really

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Church News

First Presbyterian Church

Dan Miracle will speak on text taken from mark 6:1-13 Sunday.

Sunday School begins at 9:45 a.m. and Take Ten is at 10:35 a.m.

Youth Synod Workshop will be held in Tulsa, Okla. Caitlin Jones and Meredith Morgan will serve as representatives from our church. They will meet and work with teens from all over the Synod of the Sun. The meeting concludes Friday.

There will be committee meetings Wednesday as well as Bible study at 5:17 p.m. and choir practice at 6 p.m.

First Presbyterian Church is located on Runnels between Seventh and Eighth streets. The phone number is 263-4311.

The youth group will hold a car wash behind McDonalds Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The money will help fund a trip to the International Youth Convention. McDonalds is giving ice-cream cones with each wash, providing their

parking lot and giving free advertisement. Floyd feels that he has been called to full-time ministry. He believes this summer will give him experience that will help him further determine the avenue of service to which the Lord is calling him. The past month has been a busy one for him with the Youth Evangelism Conference and working in Vacation Bible School at CBC. He continues to be busy with many youth activities, including planning for a camping trip in July. The youth of the church will also be attending a week-

Floyd feels that he has been called to full-time ministry. He believes this summer will give him experience that will help him further determine the avenue of service to which the Lord is calling him.

College Baptist

Bobby Floyd has joined the staff of College Baptist Church as youth minister for the summer. He is a recent graduate of Texas Tech where he majored in communication studies and minored in music.

A native of Lovington, N.M., Floyd's family includes his parents and an older sister, her husband and son. The youth minister says his family includes his two dogs, who have accompanied him to Big Spring.

end of music, "Rock the Desert," July 27-29. A garage sale is set for Saturday in the church parking lot.

Twelve powers manifested by Jesus and His 12 disciples will be the focus of study at 2 p.m. each Sunday at the center located in the Railroad Plaza downtown.

St. Mary's Episcopal Holy Communion will be celebrated at 9:30 a.m. Father James Liggett's sermon for Sunday will

be "Your Ministry."

Friends of Unity

The Vestry will meet at 6 p.m. Monday in the Parish Hall. For more information about St. Mary's Episcopal, call 267-8201 or visit www.stmarysbst.org. St. Mary's is located at 1001 South Goliad.

St. Mary's Episcopal

Holy Mission Revival Pastor Pauletta Allison and Prophetess Debra Fowler will hold an old-fashioned Holy Ghost explosion revival at 7:30 p.m. July 11-14 at 302 E. 11th Place. For more information, call 267-3672.

Green Gospels

Environmental movement in the religious mainstream

By BRIAN MURPHY

AP Religion Writer

ATHENS, Greece — More than a decade ago on an Aegean island, the spiritual leader of the world's Orthodox Christians made a startling proposition: That pollution and other attacks on the environment could be considered sins.

At the time, the idea earned him little more than a nickname — the "green patriarch."

It's no longer such a radical view.

Eco-friendly attitudes have increasingly moved into the mainstream of many faiths — from Muslim clerics urging water conservation in the fast-growing Gulf states to evangelical preachers in the United States calling attention to global warming.

Next week, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I will lead another high-profile group of religious leaders, scientists and activists on a trip to examine the interplay of faith and ecology. The weeklong voyage along the Amazon starting next Thursday will be Bartholomew's sixth green journey since the first in 1995 to the Greek island of Patmos — where biblical tradition says the book of Revelation was compiled.

The efforts of Bartholomew and others have energized some of the most lively theological explorations in recent years — with fresh studies and interpretation of Scripture along environmental lines. The global movement also offers rare common ground for religious groups at a time of confrontation on issues from gay clergy to suspi-

"You are not going to find anyone saying, 'Well, there is no moral connection between religion and the environment.' All the faiths can bring something to the table."

ensions between the Muslim world and the West.

"The environment brings a sense of urgency and shared purpose that few other issues can bring," said Mary Evelyn Tucker, a co-founder of the Forum on Religion and Ecology, a group that will begin a relationship with Yale University in September. "It cuts across all religious traditions."

Evidence of an expanding environmental ethos can be found in nearly every faith.

In New York, the Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life draws clear links between Judaic traditions and the battles to ease global warming. In China, a Buddhist conference in April urged greater emphasis on environmental protection. Hindu religious scholars have raised alarms about possible environmental fallout from the rapid moderniza-

tion in India. In June, Pope Benedict XVI told a crowd in St. Peter's Square to shun "fake freedoms which destroy the environment and man," though he did not elaborate.

In Iran, Grand Ayatollah Yusef Saanei said it was "the duty of every Muslim" to protect the environment. Many fatwas, or religious edicts, across the Muslim world echo similar Quranic readings that God entrusted humans to protect the earth.

"Religion is built on story telling. The stories reach people in ways that academics or activists or NGOs cannot," said Victoria Finlay, a spokeswoman for the Alliance of Religions and Conservation, a London-based group founded by Prince Philip, the husband of Queen Elizabeth.

"It took a while for the two sides to begin to

understand each other. But now the NGOs and others recognize what a powerful force religion can play."

Among the alliance's current projects is encouraging Muslim imams in Kenya to denounce the widespread use of dynamite to catch fish and push for a return of traditional nets, which trap large fish but allow smaller, breeding-age fish to escape.

"The environment is a great unifier," said the Rev. James Keenan, a Boston College moral theologian who is hosting a meeting of more than 400 Catholic scholars in Padua, Italy, starting Saturday. "You are not going to find anyone saying, 'Well, there is no moral connection between religion and the environment.' All the faiths can bring something to the table."

Bartholomew's trip hopes to draw the attention of religious leaders to the critical pressures facing the Amazon, includ-

ing clearing pristine rain forest for farmland. One goal is to tap the immense reach of Brazil's Pentecostal and evangelical-style churches, which continue to chip away at the Roman Catholic majority.

In the United States, many evangelical leaders have discovered the message of ecology — drawing links between the biblical command for proper stewardship of the Earth and environmental activism.

The Evangelical Environmental Network — best known for its clean-air campaign "What Would Jesus Drive?" — opened a new effort earlier this year against global warming, the Evangelical Climate Initiative, which drew some of its most prominent supporters to date, including the Rev. Rick Warren, author of the runaway best seller "The Purpose Driven Life."

But some skepticism remains within the evangelical community.

Christian leaders with close ties to the Bush administration, calling themselves the Interfaith Stewardship Alliance, said "the science is not settled on global warming," and argued that most evangelicals do not back the call for regulating greenhouse emissions. Among the alliance's supporters are James Dobson, founder of Focus on the Family, and the Rev. Richard Land, head of the public policy arm of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Still, small acts indicate the mood of many congregations, like the Unitarian church in Lewisburg, Pa., that's looking for a new building.

The congregation recently sold its historic home and is working with an architect who specializes in designing "green" places of worship. It techniques include recycled construction materials and aligning the structure to use the maximum natural light.

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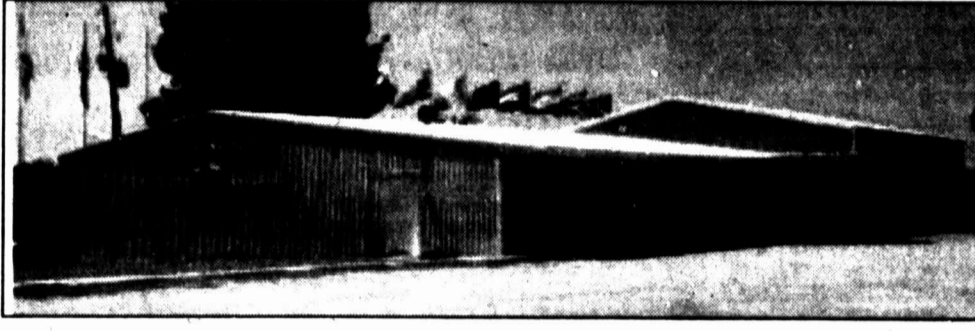
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Sports

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

Page 7
Friday, July 7, 2006

IN BRIEF

Softball tourney set for July 15-16 at Cotton Mize Park

The first-ever Ball Busters Softball Tournament will take place July 15-16 at Cotton Mize Field inside of Comanche Trail Park.

The tourney costs \$125 per team and trophies and T-shirts will be awarded to the top three teams. There is also a six home run limit.

For more information, contact Amador Rios at 432-466-1128, Pete Carrillo at 432-816-1245 or Abel Rios at 432-213-2115.

BSHS announces softball camp for middle of July

Big Spring head softball coach Jennifer Reyes, along with her assistant coaches, will be having a softball skills camp Monday through Friday.

The camp will run from 8 a.m. to noon daily and is for first through ninth graders. It also costs \$25 per participant.

For more information, call 263-8527 or 270-2711.

HC sets boys summer basketball camp dates

The Howard College men's basketball coaching staff and players will be conducting two camps this summer and both camps will take place this month.

For more information, call 264-5040. Enrollment is limited.

Sam Houston State hires veteran coach

HUNTSVILLE, (AP) — Mark Johnson, who led Texas A&M to two College World Series appearances, was hired Thursday as Sam Houston State's head baseball coach.

Johnson was fired last year as coach of the Aggies after the team finished second to last in the Big 12 with a 30-25-1 record.

Johnson had a record of 876-433-3 over two decades with Texas A&M, leading the team to the College World Series in 1993 and 1999 and to 13 NCAA playoff appearances.

"Obviously, I'm excited to get back into coaching with this opportunity at Sam Houston State University," Johnson said in a statement. "When I visited Sam Houston during the interview I was very impressed with the people and the university. They share my vision, and it's going to be a great fit."

Johnson played professional baseball with the Mets from 1967-69 and before joining the Aggies was an assistant coach at New Mexico, Arizona and Mississippi State.

Astros move closer to Cardinals after victory

By CHRIS DUNCAN

AP Sports Writer HOUSTON — The Houston Astros had just enough offense and plenty of defense to beat the St. Louis Cardinals.

Mike Lamb homered in the first inning and Lance Berkman made two pinpoint throws from right field in the Astros' 4-2 victory Thursday night, their fifth win in six games.

Taylor Buchholz (6-6) pitched six solid innings for Houston and Brad Lidge got four outs to earn his 21st save and 14th in his last 15 oppor-

tunities. Shortstop Adam Everett made two nice plays in the ninth to finish off the Cardinals.

"We played a very sound, solid defensive game," Houston manager Phil Garner said.

Jim Edmonds homered for St. Louis, which lost for the 10th time in its last 11 road games. Edmonds led off the seventh against reliever Chad Qualls with a liner off the wall in right, but Berkman gunned a perfect strike to Craig Biggio for the putout at second.

Earlier, Berkman threw out Scott Rolen at third as

he tagged up following Edmonds' fly out.

"My philosophy is just to get it on its way and hope it lands somewhere in the vicinity of the base," Berkman said. "That worked out twice tonight."

Berkman is the lone Astro on the NL All-Star roster and he'll compete in Monday's Home Run Derby. He doesn't mind being known for his bat more than his glove.

"All I can do is keep making plays," he said. "I'm not sitting up nights thinking, 'I hope somebody thinks I can play

defense."'

A fielding gaffe by Cardinals second baseman Aaron Miles, meanwhile, fueled the Astros' go-ahead rally in the fourth.

Chris Burke walked to lead off and Berkman was hit by a pitch. A run scored when Miles couldn't handle Preston Wilson's groundball. After a walk, the second run scored on a double play grounder by Morgan Ensberg.

The Cardinals' starting pitchers had an 8.30 ERA in their last 15 games and Sidney Ponson (4-4)

looked like he might be in for a rough night when Lamb hit his eighth homer to right in the first. Ponson did not allow a home run in his last five starts.

But Ponson pitched well after that, lasting six innings and giving up only three more hits.

"Sid pitched well enough to win," Rolen said. "We're not putting runs on the board and it's not a good formula. It's something we've got to turn around."

Ponson seemed most

See ASTROS, Page 8

Woods struggles, Mickelson in hunt at Western Open

By ANDREW SELIGMAN

AP Sports Writer LEMONT, Ill. — Phil Mickelson was feeling better. Tiger Woods was still frustrated.

Mickelson showed little carry-over from his U.S. Open collapse while shooting a 4-under 67 in the first round of the Western Open on Thursday. Woods wasn't as fortunate.

While Mickelson was one shot out of the lead, Woods struggled to a 1-over 72 in his first tournament since missing the cut at the U.S. Open last month.

"I know what I'm doing wrong, just having a hard time stopping it," Woods said.

Joe Ogilvie, Lucas Glover, Daniel Chopra and David McKenzie were tied for first after shooting 66 on the 7,326-yard course at Cog Hill. Davis Love III and Vijay Singh joined Mickelson at one back, along with Charles Warren, Stephen Leaney and Robert Allenby.

Defending champion Jim Furyk, who finished in a tie with Mickelson and Colin Montgomerie at

the U.S. Open, was at 2 under.

Mickelson, starting from the 10th tee, bogeyed his first two holes but ended his round with an eagle on No. 9.

"I bogeyed the first few holes, but I knew I was hitting the ball well," he said. "I hit some good shots coming in to make some birdies and turned at even, and then my last nine holes I was able to make a couple of birdies. It was a fun round today."

It ended in spectacular fashion on his last hole, rather than a spectacular meltdown.

Mickelson, who double-bogeyed the final hole at the U.S. Open in Mamaroneck, N.Y., to drop from first to a three-way tie for second, sent a tee shot to the middle of the fairway. Then, he drove a 4-wood that rolled past the lip of the cup and stopped about 5 feet beyond the hole 271 yards away.

"I was just trying to get on the green and the ball ended up rolling by the pin," said Mickelson, who made the putt.

The ending made up for the rough start. And it



Tiger Woods reacts to just missing a chip-in on the 4th hole in the first round of the Cials Western Open Thursday. Woods shot a 1-over 72 for the round.

was a step toward putting aside the loss at the Open.

"The great champions that play the game of golf all have to have one thing in common," said Rick Smith, Mickelson's swing coach. "They have the ability to rebound. And they know it's going to make it tougher. ... They come back."

Mickelson spent some time at home in California with his family

after the U.S. Open. Then, he practiced at Royal Liverpool, which will host the British Open later this month. Now he sees his game, which has been off since his win at the Masters, coming around.

"I didn't feel like I played very well a couple weeks ago," Mickelson said. "I haven't really struck it the way I wanted to since the Masters."

Woods took nine weeks off between the Masters and U.S. Open to tend to his ailing father, who died in May, and then went a month without picking up a club.

Although he thought he was prepared for the U.S. Open, the rust showed. At 12 over, he failed to make the cut in a major for the first time in 10 years as a

See GOLF, Page 8

One more

• Mauresmo, Henin-Hardenne set to play in Wimbledon final

By STEPHEN WILSON

AP Sports Writer WIMBLEDON, England — When Amelie Mauresmo and Justine Henin-Hardenne met in a Grand Slam final less than six months ago, there was no match point or exuberant celebration.

The match ended when Henin-Hardenne retired because of stomach pain trailing 6-1, 2-0 at the Australian Open in January, handing the Frenchwoman her first major title.

The two will contend for the Wimbledon title Saturday, with Mauresmo trying to win outright this time and Henin-Hardenne bidding to complete a career Grand Slam by securing the only major championship missing from her collection.

"I think it's good," Mauresmo said. "She probably feels very happy about it also, to have an opportunity to have revenge after the final of Australia."

The third-seeded



France's Amelie Mauresmo, left, defeats Croatia's Ivana Abramovi 6-0, 6-0, in their first round match at Wimbledon in London, Great Britain June 28. No. 1 Mauresmo will play No. 3 Justine Henin-Hardenne in the tournament's championship match.

Belgian, who has won five Grand Slam titles, is doing her best to forget what happened in Melbourne.

"I want to think about myself and another opportunity to win another Grand Slam and win Wimbledon for the first time," she said. "But I'm not thinking about what happened a few months ago because the situation is different."

That's what the men will try to do Friday when they play the semifinals.

Three-time defending champion Roger Federer, riding a 46-match win streak on grass, was due up first on Centre Court against 34-year-old Swede Jonas Bjorkman, the oldest semifinalist since Jimmy Connors in 1987.

Two-time French Open champion Rafael Nadal was paired against Australian Open runner-up Marcos Baghdatis in the second semi. Nadal is bidding to become the first Spaniard to win the title here since Manolo

Santana in 1966, and the first player to win the French and Wimbledon in the same year since Bjorn Borg in 1980.

Henin-Hardenne has won five of her nine matches against Mauresmo, but this will be their first meeting at Wimbledon and on grass.

Henin-Hardenne beat Belgian rival Kim Clijsters 6-4, 7-6 (4) Thursday for her 17th straight win, and 13th

See TENNIS, Page 8

Mavs, Pacers swap players

• Daniels gets dealt to Indiana for Croshere

By CLIFF BRUNT

Associated Press Writer INDIANAPOLIS — The Dallas Mavericks, looking for a solid backup to Dirk Nowitzki, plan to trade Marquis Daniels to the Indiana Pacers for Austin Croshere.

Daniels' agent, Glenn Schwartzman, said Thursday the deal cannot become official until Wednesday, when teams can complete trades and sign free agents.

Croshere was entering the final year of his five-year contract that pays him nearly \$7 million a year. He spent nine seasons with the Pacers, the longest of any current player, and averaged 7.5 points and 4.3 rebounds a game.

Daniels averaged 9.3 points in three seasons with the Mavericks. He can play both guard spots and small forward but had trouble getting playing time after Avery Johnson became coach.

Daniels signed a six-

See TRADE, Page 8

GOLF

Continued from Page 7

professional. Woods ended Thursday's round with a birdie. His approach shot landed a few feet beyond the hole, rolled past the cup and settled on the edge of the green, about 10 feet from the hole. An easy putt ended a frustrating day.

Woods was even through 13 holes but bogeyed the next two. His tee shot from the par-5 15th sailed wide right into bushes, so he hit a provisional. When the original ball was located, Woods declared it unplayable and went back for a third tee shot.

Woods lamented "beautiful" putts early on that sailed right over the edge of the hole.

"My distance control wasn't good, my direction wasn't good," he said. "I hit the driver halfway



KRT photo/John Smerciak, Chicago Tribune
Joe Ogilvie hits his tee shot on the 17th hole in the first round of the Clalls Western Open Thursday. Ogilvie is tied for the lead after the opening round.

decent today. (I) just didn't take advantage of my irons when I had the opportunity."

TENNIS

Continued from Page 7

consecutive Grand Slam match without dropping a set. She can become the first player in the Open era to win the French Open and Wimbledon back-to-back without losing a set.

More importantly, Henin-Hardenne is in line to become only the 10th woman to win all four Grand Slam titles in her career. She's won the French Open three times and U.S. Open and Australian Open once each.

"I don't have anything to prove to anyone anymore," Henin-Hardenne said. "I think I proved enough on the tennis court the fighter I am, how much I can compete. There's always a lot of determination. It's just about myself, and I hope I can win this title."

She reached her first Slam final at Wimbledon in 2001, losing to Venus Williams.

"A lot of things have changed," she said. "It's been five years. I've improved so much and grown up a lot and done

great things in my career already. I was very young and not mature at all at that time. I hope we can both be in our best shape and show good tennis to the crowd."

Mauresmo, who had lost in the semifinals in her last three appearances at Wimbledon, has a reputation for tightening up and losing big matches. It looked as though that might happen again Friday when she squandered the second set after leading 3-1 and holding three break points against 2004 champion Maria Sharapova.

But Mauresmo came out stronger in the final set and held on for a 6-3, 3-6, 6-2 win.

"This is an important step for me," she said. "I found myself again in a tense situation and was able to turn it around. I'm especially proud of that. It's probably one of my most important victories."

Now Mauresmo will be part of a unique weekend for France: going for the Wimbledon title while the French soccer team plays for the World Cup title against Italy on Sunday.

"I hope it's the French week," she said.

ASTROS

Continued from Page 7

disappointed with the walk to Burke that started the Astros' two-run fourth.

"It's my fault to walk the leadoff guy," he said. "Percentage-wise, they always come around to score."

Buchholz, meanwhile, wasn't as sharp as he was in his last start, when he allowed two hits in seven innings in a 7-0 win over Texas.

He beamed Cardinals catcher Yadier Molina

leading off the third and Molina was replaced by Gary Bennett. Molina suffered a mild concussion and St. Louis manager Tony La Russa said it was doubtful he would play on Friday.

With one out in the fourth, Albert Pujols smashed a hard single to left and Edmonds followed with his 10th homer. Berkman didn't move as he watched the towering blast sail into the upper deck, putting the Cardinals up 2-1.

Buchholz allowed three hits and struck out three and retired seven of the last eight Cardinals he

faced.

Ensborg and Everett led off the seventh with singles and La Russa replaced Ponson with Josh Kinney. Ponson walked four and struck out four.

Pinch-hitter John Rodriguez led off the eighth with a double off Astros reliever Dan Wheeler. David Eckstein bunted Rodriguez to third and Wheeler struck out Chris Duncan before intentionally walking Pujols. Lidge came on and Rolin lined out to end the threat.

Wilson capped the scoring with an RBI single.

TRADE

Continued from Page 7

year, \$38-million contract with the Mavericks in the 2004 offseason.

He will join a team that drafted Shawne Williams and James White last month. Williams and White signed with the Pacers on Thursday.

"That's a great opportunity to play for a great coach and for a great team," Schwartzman said. "Marquis feels with the moves they've already made and the fact that they're going younger and more athletic, that they're going to be a tough team to play against."

Daniels averaged a career-best 10.2 points this season in a career-high 29 starts.

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Tomorrow's Horoscope

BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

The moon in Sagittarius and Jupiter's recent direct motion through Scorpio bode well for an eye-opening weekend. What appeared yesterday as a wall now looks more like a secret passage, gate or window. The opportunity may have been there all along, but seeing it differently allows you entry.

HOLIDAY
MATHIS

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Your incredible patience pays off, wait a minute. *You? Incredibly patient?* OK, well, relative to your normal tolerance level for the feeling of anticipation, you're patient.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Your work helps people, and therefore, you help people. Usefulness is the highest compliment.

You won't waste time patting yourself on the back. You're on to the next thing and the next thing and the next thing.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). People like to listen to the pleasing, confident sound of your voice. This is a good thing because the more people who listen, the more fans, love interests, friends and clients you acquire.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You are very close to success. Don't give up! If your plan doesn't seem to be going well, don't bail on the mission. You're not the judge right now — time is, and time has not spoken its side yet.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Your impulses guide you to safety. From what, you're not sure. Hopefully, these impulses aren't based merely on what is comfortable, because all the good stuff is outside your comfort zone.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Inside each person is

an older, wiser voice and a whimpering 2-year-old. Your maturity could assault your youthful whims now in such a way that makes you unsure which way to go. The planets favor the kid.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You have occasion to pause and wonder — take it, lavish in it, love it. Such a magical opportunity is not rare by any means, but it is hardly ever observed and scarcely taken. Be the exception.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Your creativity is a whirling entity conspiring with the universe to better your life in every way. There's no time for questions. Go where the spirit moves you. Trust yourself. Also, you can trust a Pisces.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Powerful personalities sway you. Consider yourself impressed. This is not to say that you must do what anyone says. You're

your own person, always have been.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Fearless moves take you into new territories — safe ones leave you frustrated and much the same as last week. If you're hanging out with silly birds, ruffle some feathers.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Forget about being practical for a day. Wishing *can* make it so, no matter how adamantly the reasonable part of you objects. Let your dream win, and let a Leo help.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Love is in the stars, and especially for those Pisces people who have been experiencing a dry spell. It starts by thinking someone close by is "cute." You're right about that.

WEEKEND LOVE FORECAST: ARIES: Adventurous souls like you, who truly want to welcome the new, will make room for it quickly. TAURUS: Your atmos-

phere hums with surprises and opportunity. GEMINI: You might find yourself waiting around for someone less daring. It's worth the wait if this person's organized and methodical way will make your journey smooth.

CANCER: Just because something didn't work out in the past doesn't mean it can't in the future. LEO: It's truly the little things that matter. VIRGO: All relationships are picking up momentum, especially love relationships. LIBRA: Be kind to yourself. Affirm that you can have the best. SCORPIO: Competition is stiff on the romantic front, and you're absolutely up to it! SAGITTARIUS: It's a glorious weekend, but all things being equal, you'd rather not have to leave the house. CAPRICORN: If it's meant to be, the relationship will stand today's test of wills. AQUARIUS: Those around you are responsive to your voice; use

power carefully. PISCES: Even if you do nothing, it all works out.

COUPLE OF THE WEEKEND: Sagittarius and Cancer people appear to have nothing in common. One likes to travel, one prefers to stay at home. One is inspired meeting new people; the other is fortified by the closeness of familiar old pals. So what happens when they decide to make a romantic go of it? Sheer brilliance. They stretch each other in ways that makes each a better, more rounded and happier individual.

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.

Annie's Mailbox ®: Advice for those in need

Dear Annie: I have an 11-year-old daughter who is being ostracized at school by two Queen Bees. These girls have power over several other girls in their grade, and a handful will not talk to my daughter. Previously, she was friends with some of them. My daughter is a good student and a truly nice girl with a heart of gold. She is not the only one they treat this way.

I am friendly with the mothers of the other girls. I already tried broaching this subject with one of them, and it was a disappointment. The mother, with whom I was very close and who used to call me numerous times, suddenly stopped all commu-

KATHY MITCHELL
MARCY SUGAR

nication. That was nearly three years ago.

Is it worth trying to talk to the other mothers, or do I just let it go? I can't believe these women are aware of their daughters' behavior or are happy

about it. I would certainly want to know if my child treated others badly.

I have taught my daughter to make friends with the other girls in her grade, who are all very nice. Nevertheless, she feels bad and wants to be frier ls with everyone. This is a small school in a small town, and these girls will be together through high school. I would like to see them make peace. — Mom in the Middle

Dear Mom: This can be such a difficult age for girls, and it is common for cliques to form. Considering the one mother's response to you, we don't wonder where her daughter's Queen Bee attitude comes from.

Yes, by all means, talk to the other mothers, but do not accuse their daughters of being cruel. Simply say your daughter misses their friendship. You also can report bullying (and ostracizing others falls into that category) to the school authorities. Other than that, Mom, you are wise to encourage your daughter to form friendships with the other children in her class. She needs to believe she has a lot to offer, no matter what the Queen Bees say.

Dear Annie: My mother always taught me to remove the price tag when wrapping a gift. I have a relative who, despite her sophistication, never removes the price tag. We always are aware of exactly how much (or how little) was spent.

I think my mother was right. What do you say? — Price Tag Shy

Dear Price Tag: Of course your mother was right. People who deliberately leave on the price tags want you to know how much they spent. Since your relative has been doing this for quite some time, there's no point in making a fuss ("Why, Aunt Bess, the blouse is lovely, and I see it cost \$6.99!"). Just say thank you.

Dear Annie: This is in response to "English Spoken Here." I am a nurse and director of a large hospital's human resource department. In response to the ever-growing nursing shortage, hospitals are hiring foreign nurses to meet staffing shortfalls, and a large number are from the Philippines. This practice is not without controversy, and language and cultural barriers are the primary cause of friction.

It is the health organization's responsibility to integrate these nurses into the workforce, encourage English classes and, if necessary, conduct cultural sensitivity training for all staff. Foreign nurses who come to the U.S. often work long hours at a decreased rate of pay, and are without family and peer support. While the language barrier can be frustrating and, in some instances, dangerous, it is important that the staff make every effort to ensure quality care. It is also important for this nurse to go to her supervisor or HR department and report what is happening.

I appreciate the frustration of the writer, but more than likely, these Filipino nurses are aware of her feelings and are reluctant to be inclusive. I, too, recommend she try a different tack and learn more about the Filipino culture. — Been There, but Things Got Better

Dear Been There: Thanks for the insight. It helps when one can see both sides of the issue.

Dear Annie: I am a junior in high school and am fortunate enough to have a wonderful girlfriend, "Dana" and I have been together two years. I want to continue this relationship, and so does she.

We have always argued (that's part of any relationship), but lately we have been fighting all the time. We can't go anywhere without having some kind of an argument. It has gotten so bad that I have started to yell and hang up the phone.

Somehow we always find something to fight about. I think we just need to learn to let go of small things. We get mad at each other so easily. Please help us in any way you can. — At Each Other's Throats

Dear At Each Other's Throats: A healthy relationship doesn't involve all this constant conflict. People who are compatible do not get angry over every little thing. You and Dana have been together since you were freshmen. Maybe you are picking at each other because one of you is looking for an excuse to break up. There is nothing wrong with telling Dana that you care about her, but all this fighting means both of you need a time out from one another. Try it and see if it helps.

Dear Annie: I am one of seven adult children, and our mother is recently widowed. Lately, Mom has been complaining a lot that her children do not call her. Here are my reasons for not calling more often, and I know I'm not alone:

Ninety-nine percent of the time, Mom does nothing but whine, complain, scold, lecture, criticize, berate, belittle, gossip, demean, etc. The other one percent, she says, "Why are you calling me? Don't you know I'm busy now?" I can't win.

Annie, if she were nicer to talk to, I would call more often. After all, she is my mother and I'm not without a heart. But I don't believe the fact that I am her child gives her the right to let me have it

with both barrels and then expect me to keep calling back.

I guess my problem is that I can't figure out why she can't figure it out. Anything I can do? — Mystified

Dear Mystified: Has your mother always been this way, or only since she has been widowed? Is it possible she is still grieving and needs some professional help to find pleasure in life again? If that's the case, please look into it for her. Otherwise, you simply must tell her that her negative and critical attitude makes phone conversations unpleasant. Promise to call more often if she will be nicer, and should she slip into old habits, gently remind her.

Dear Annie: I could have written that letter from "Discarded Wife." I, too, had been married for nearly 30 years when my husband asked for a divorce. I was shocked, hurt and angry. And yes, there was another woman involved.

However, I never completely blamed the other woman. I had to be honest and admit that our marriage had not been truly happy for some time. I did some soul searching and had therapy, and discovered that I really did not want someone who was not in love with me.

Two years later, I am a lot happier. The most positive aspect was getting a job, minimum wage and all, and finding out that I could take care of myself. Has it been hard? You betcha. But discovering how capable I am has been wonderful. It would be easy to blame the other woman for all the trouble, but my ex-husband was obviously unhappy. Tell "Discarded Wife" to seek therapy and look at this as a chance to discover a brand-new her. — Tossed Away but Doing Well

Dear Tossed Away: You certainly figured out how to make lemonade out of lemons. Kudos for turning a negative into a positive and making the best of your life.

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

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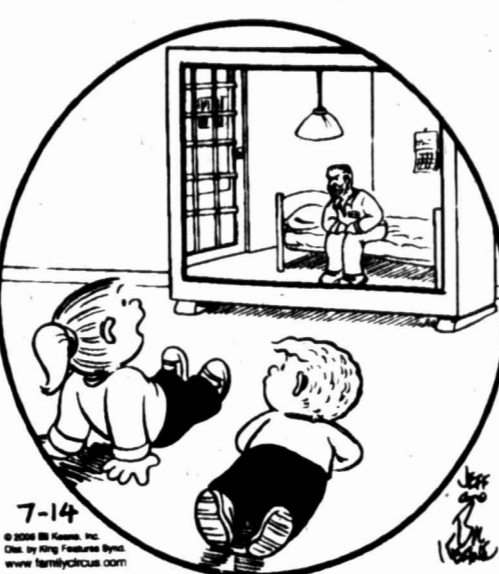
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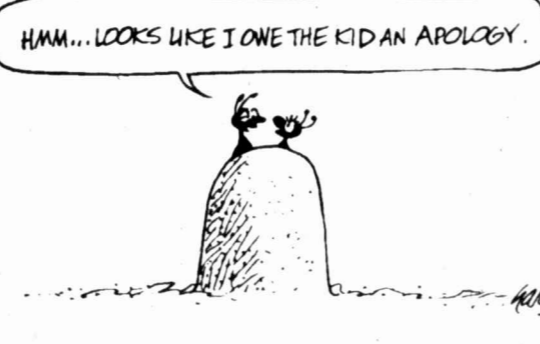
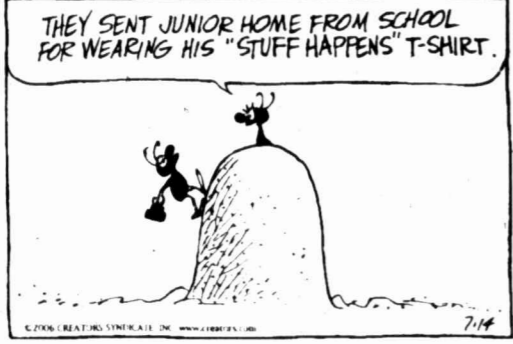
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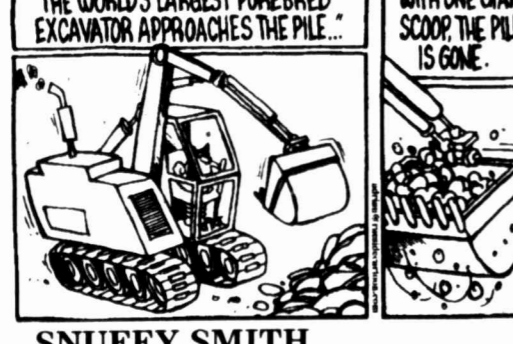
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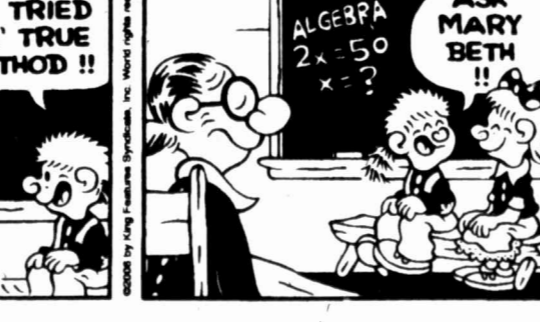
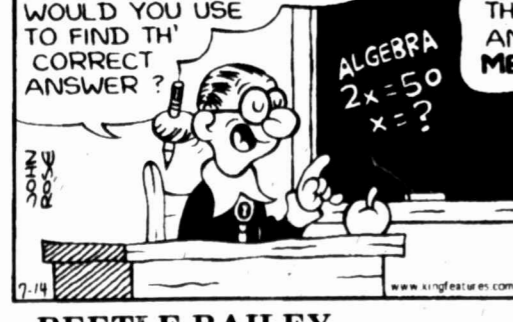
HI AND LOIS



THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BEEBLE BAILEY



This Date In History

Today is Friday, July 14, the 195th day of 2006. There are 170 days left in the year. Today's Highlight in History: On July 14, 1789; during the French Revolution, citizens of Paris stormed the Bastille prison and released the seven prisoners inside.

overthrew the monarchy. In 1965, the American space probe Mariner 4 flew by Mars, sending back photographs of the planet. In 1965, U.S. Ambassador Adlai E. Stevenson Jr. died in London at age 65.

Shaw is 54. Movie producer Scott Rudin is 48. Country musician Ray Herndon (McBride and the Ride) is 46. Actor Jackie Earle Haley is 45. Actor Matthew Fox is 40. Rock musician Ellen Reid (Crash Test Dummies) is 40. Rock singer-musician Tonya Donnelly is 40. Actress Missy Gold is 36. Rhythm-and-blues singer Tameka Cottle (Xscape) is 31. Hip-hop musician Taboo (Black Eyed Peas) is 31.

Newsday Crossword

FOR BASTILLE DAY by Donna Levin Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS 1 Letter encl. 5 Designer bag name 10 Shipbuilding wood 14 Support beam 15 Squelched, as a squeak 16 Yemeni capital 17 Faneuil Hall nickname 20 Explosive sound 21 Hoffman film 22 Goes for 25 Soon-to-be grads. 26 Will's Bagger Vance costar 28 Shakespearean prince 30 See the light 34 Mambo king Puente 35 Apollo preceder 37 Cellular material 38 Democracy, per Plato 41 Sportscaster Berman 42 Squeal on 43 Pain in the neck 44 Parisian pancake 46 _-mo 47 Levee 48 Stuart Little monogram 50 C-3PO, e.g 52 Uncomfortable situation 56 Wound up 60 Sigma Chi, for one 63 Hit the road 64 Aquarium denizen 65 Ripped

- 10 Fearsome fly 11 Hearing things 12 Against 13 The Court Jester star 18 Booty 19 Infamous Italian surname 23 Property crimes 24 Usual 26 Silas Marner, for example 27 Make amends 29 Bar serving 31 Ruse (primarily) 33 Actor Diggs 34 Powder for baby 35 _ long way (last) 36 Bar morsel 39 Whom Ken Jennings questioned 40 Excoriated 45 Former Spanish coin 47 Designer from Normandy 49 Floats, as an aroma 51 Plethora 52 I-80, e.g. 53 Droxie alternative 54 Mind 55 Trap in a corner 57 Symbol of Great Britain 58 To be, to Marie 59 Colors 61 Absorbed, as costs 62 Color or corn starter

Crossword grid with numbers 1-66 and a list of clues.

PISCES: nothing, it THE gittarius le appear in com- to travel, stay at inspired ople; the d by the iliar old happens e? Sheer stretch rays that ter, more pier indi-

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