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# BIG SPRING HERALD

VOLUME 102, NUMBER 203

THURSDAY, JULY 20, 2006

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50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 WEEKEND



**INSIDE**  
Local athletes set to show off abilities in Garden City Page 7

## Housing Authority, Crossroads to locate in same office

By THOMAS JENKINS

Staff Writer

If you're looking for Paul Pryor, he's about to be a lot easier to find.

According to Pryor, who serves as director for both the Crossroads Housing Corporation and Big Spring Housing Authority, currently located at 711 E. Third Street in the Western Building, the two local organizations are about to



Pryor

get one address.

"We're going to move the housing authority operation into the same office as Crossroads Housing Corp.," said Pryor. "I serve as director of both organizations, and from a logistics stand point, it just made sense to have both operations under

one roof."

Pryor said the two organizations, which will be located at 201 N.E. Seventh Street no later than Aug. 1, will share space, but that's all.

"This isn't a merger of the two organizations," said Pryor. "Both will remain it's own separate operation, they will just be sharing space. They will offer the same services they did before the move. It will make it

easier for everyone involved, including me.

"Previously, I was having to spend the mornings at the Housing Authority and then the afternoons at Crossroads, but now both organizations will have access to me for eight hours every day, and in one location."

Pryor said phone numbers for both organizations will also stay the same, with hours set

for 8 a.m. until 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

"It's not a situation where people are going to have to learn a new phone number," said Pryor. "We'll be taking the existing number for the housing authority with us when we move."

The move will also help the local housing authority save

See OFFICE, Page 3



Birds aren't the only creatures that fly through the air in Big Spring, as this pilot takes to the wind during last year's U.S. Hang Gliding Association Championship at McMahon Wrinkle Airpark. The competition will be held in Big Spring once again Aug. 6 through Aug. 12.

## Big Spring gears up for USHGA championship event next month

By THOMAS JENKINS

Staff Writer

Competitors from across the United States will begin arriving in Big Spring next month as the U.S. Hang Gliding Association prepares to hold its annual U.S. Hang Gliding Championship at McMahon-Wrinkle Airpark.

Bobby McDonald, chairman of the local event committee, said the competition — which is slated for Aug. 6 through Aug. 12 — will follow a similar schedule as years

past, with the exception of a pair of new competitions.

"Years ago, when this first started... we told David if he would help grow Big Spring, we would help him grow the sport of hang gliding," said McDonald. "And that has been our mantra now for all of these years."

"This year we're going to do the regular hang gliding event, and then we're going to add to it. The mayor (Russ McEwen) came up with the idea we should try to add

something to it. So we talked to David, and they have done this elsewhere, and it sort of connects with Big Spring history."

That history, according to McDonald, goes all the way back to the beginnings of Webb Air Force Base.

"During World War II, when the bombardiers came here to train, they had no armaments to train with," said McDonald. "So they

See GLIDERS, Page 3

## Work Unemployment rate up slightly, TWC contends

By BILL MCCLELLAN

News Editor

The Howard County unemployment rate experienced a slight increase from the pervious month's figure, as did most counties in the region, according to the Texas Workforce Commission. It's a trend that should reverse itself soon, said the local employment network manager.

"The labor force statistics for this area should change in the next few months as Solitaire, StarTek and Fiber Glass systems complete their hiring and expansion projects," said Virginia Belew, Workforce Network area manager. "Interested applicants



Belew

should remain encouraged by the opportunities available at these companies."

The latest figures received from the TWC are

from May.

They show unemployment at 5.6 percent for Howard County, compared to 5.5 percent for April of this year and 5.4 percent for May of 2005.

Howard County had a civilian labor force of 13,063 in May, 12,325 of whom were employed. The remaining 738 seeking employment equals a 5.6 unemployment rate.

The statistics show

See JOBS, Page 3

### May unemployment

Howard County	05/06	04/06	05/05
Civilian Labor Force	13,063	13,108	13,299
Employment	12,325	12,392	12,577
Unemployment	738	716	722
Unemployment Rate	5.6%	5.5%	5.4%

## Marines to help evacuate Americans from Lebanon

By JOE PANOSSIAN

Associated Press Writer

BEIRUT, Lebanon — U.S. Marines landed in Beirut today to help evacuate Americans onto a Navy ship bound for Cyprus in the second mass U.S. exodus from the battle-torn country.

About 40 U.S. Marines arrived at a beach just north of Beirut

in a landing craft and picked up 300 Americans who they ferried to the amphibious assault ship USS Nashville just off the coast. The Nashville is supposed to sail for Cyprus with about 1,000 Americans.

Some evacuees were Lebanese-Americans who had taken their children to their homeland for the first time, only to be surprised by the

fighting that erupted after Hezbollah militants captured two Israeli soldiers.

Hundreds of people, some with shirts draped over their heads to protect themselves from the sun, gathered on the beach. A U.S. Embassy official, speaking through a megaphone, pleaded for patience, reassuring the crowd that all those who registered to be evacuated

would be assisted.

"We are frustrated and disappointed, but we are O.K.," said Bob Elazon, an Illinois resident who complained the U.S. evacuation was badly organized.

Elazon, who left his native Lebanon 34 years ago, was with his 20-year-old daughter, Anna, who was visiting the country for the first time. His wife departed just before the fight-

ing erupted.

The first plane carrying U.S. evacuees landed outside Baltimore early Thursday, and eager family members waited to greet the 145 Americans aboard the charter flight from Cyprus.

Some 900 Americans arrived in Cyprus early today aboard a luxury cruise ship —

See LEBANON, Page 3

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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.

### UNDER WEST TEXAS SKIES

The NewsWest 9 Under West Texas Skies road tour is slated Friday afternoon and evening at Heart of the City Park.

Events will include a street dance featuring X-tremo, a local tejano band, and Los Greengos, a local rock group.

Other events will include hot dog and ice cream eating contests, an ugly dog contest and a look alike contest. United Blood Services will be on hand for anyone who wants to donate blood.

In addition, there will be temporary tattoos, face painting and train rides for children.

Everyone is invited.

### VETERAN OF THE MONTH

Allen C. James, who served in the Air Force from 1941 to 1946, has been named Veteran of the Month for July by Hangar 25 Air Museum.

A reception will be held in his honor at 6 p.m. Thursday, July 27, in the museum's briefing room. The public is encouraged to attend.

James is a World War II veteran who served during the Battle of the Bulge. He retired from Cosden after 38 years of service and has been a long time member of the Howard County Sheriff's Posse.

For more information on the reception, the veteran of the month program or Hangar 25 Air Museum, call 264-1999.

### MOLLYPALOOZA HELPS TEEN

DENVER (AP) — A date with Esquire's "The Sexiest Woman Alive" and "7th Heaven" star Jessica Biel raised \$30,000 to help a teenager who lost her leg in a prom night limousine accident.

Denver media reported the winning bid Tuesday came from a man identified only as John.

In all the event dubbed "Mollypalooza" raised \$38,000 help Molly Bloom's family with medical expenses, organizers told the television stations and the Rocky Mountain News.

Bloom lost a leg and part of her pelvis in the May 13 accident and was undergoing rehabilitation at a Denver hospital.



## Obituaries

## Stewart L. 'Andy' Anderson



Stewart L. "Andy" Anderson, 74, of Big Spring, died Monday, July 17, 2006, in the Veteran's Administration Hospital. Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m., Friday, July 21, 2006, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel with the Rev. Clydell Chapman, pastor of Northside Baptist Church of Odessa, officiating. Interment will follow at Trinity Memorial Park.

He was born Jan. 25, 1932, in Kirby, Wyo., to Albin and Harriett Anderson. He married Sharon Kirkpatrick Sept. 3, 1959, in Casper, Wyo. She preceded him in death Aug. 4, 1999.

Stewart served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War and received a Purple Heart. He then returned to Wyoming and worked for Conoco. He came to Big Spring in 1965 with Conoco and made this his home. He retired in 1985.

He helped coach in the National League for the Yankees baseball team for several years. He helped in the building of the National League ballpark. His other great love was helping his son, John, with his race car and attending the races. He was a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and Disabled American Veterans.

Survivors include two sons, John Anderson, of Big Spring, and James "Jim" Anderson and daughter-in-law Ronda Anderson, of Cypress; one daughter, Colleen Barton and son-in-law Mike, of Big Spring. He is also survived by one granddaughter, Lindsey Barton of Big Spring; three grandsons, Tyler Anderson, Philip Anderson and Calvin Anderson, all of Cypress; one sister, Rose Dye; and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, five sisters, three brothers and one infant child.

Pallbearers will be Bert Hillger, Jimmy Stewart, Rick Dominguez, Ed Meiser, Gaylon Knowlton and Gary Prater.

The family suggests memorials be made to the American Lung Association of Texas, P.O. Box 26460, Austin 78755-0460; or to the Disabled American Veterans, 807 W. Maine Ave SW, Washington, D.C. 20024.

Arrangements are under the direction of Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring. Online condolences can be made at: [www.npwelch.com](http://www.npwelch.com).

*Paid obituary*

## Elfa S. Cantrell

Elfa S. Cantrell, 92, of Early, formerly of Big Spring, died on Monday, July 17, 2006, in a Brownwood nursing home. Graveside funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. Friday, July 21, 2006 at Trinity Memorial Park with Pastor Carroll Kohl, retired Lutheran minister, officiating.

The family will receive friends from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. Thursday at the funeral home.

She was born on Aug. 25, 1913, in Aleman and married Ray H. Cantrell on Aug. 28, 1949 in Priddy. He preceded her in death on Nov. 13, 1981.

Mrs. Cantrell lived in Big Spring from 1949 until moving to Early in 2001. She taught school in Shive, Priddy, and Big Spring.

A member of St. Paul Lutheran in Big Spring, she was baptized on Sept. 14, 1913 at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Aleman, and confirmed on March 24, 1929 at Zion Lutheran Church in Priddy.

Survivors include a sister-in-law, Opal Schrank of Hamilton; six nieces and nephews, Gordon Schrank and wife, Yvonne of St. Cloud, Minn., Sandra Barnes and husband, Don of Arlington, N. L. Schrank and wife, Gay of Austin, Gayland Schrank and wife, Billie of Early, Marcia Gore and husband, Martin of Comanche, and Gwen Eilers and Melvin, Jr. of Priddy; 10 great-nieces and nephews; and 11 great-great-nieces and nephews.

She was also preceded in death by her parents, Bruno and Lyedia Schrank; three brothers, Norman, Raymond, and Victor Schrank, and a sister-in-law, Cleone Schrank.

Arrangements under the direction of Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring. Online condolences can be made at: [www.npwelch.com](http://www.npwelch.com).

*Paid obituary*

## Gerald (Jerry) Merrick

Gerald (Jerry) Merrick, 64, of Decatur, died Monday, July 17, 2006, in Decatur. Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Friday, July 21, 2006, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel Big Spring with the Rev. Jimmy Withers, pastor of Aurora Baptist Church of Decatur, officiating and Derrick Looney, pastor of Forsan Baptist Church, assisting. Interment will follow at Trinity Memorial Park.

He was born May 8, 1942, in Big Spring. Gerald was raised in Ackerly and graduated from Ackerly High School. He served in the Army National Guard and served as a tank commander as a lieutenant. He had farmed in the Ackerly area for many years until 1975, when he moved to Plainview. He owned and operated Merrick Cattle Company for five years in Big Spring and Plainview. He had lived in the Decatur and Bridgeport area for the last 10 years. He was a member of Aurora Baptist Church of Decatur.

Survivors include his daughter, LeAnn McNutt of Plainview; his son, Bryan Merrick of Plainview; his parents, R.A. and Mamie Lee Merrick of Ackerly; his fiancée, Frances Brenda Ferguson of Boyd; three sisters, Joyce Turner of Ropesville, Julie Merrick of Lubbock and Jo Nell Rowlett of Bedford; four brothers, Jimmy Merrick of Amarillo, Johnny Merrick of Ackerly, Jackie Merrick of Mesquite and Jake Merrick of Hinton, Okla.; and two grandchildren.

The family suggests memorials be made to the Martin County Emergency Medical Service of Ackerly, P.O. Box 67, Ackerly 79713.

Arrangements are under the direction of Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring. Online condolences can be made at: [www.npwelch.com](http://www.npwelch.com)

## David Hart



David Hart, 100, of Big Spring, died Tuesday, July 18, 2006, at Trinity Haven in Midland. Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Friday at Myers & Smith Chapel with the Rev. Herb McPherson, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church, officiating. Burial will be at Mount Olive Memorial Park.

He was born Jan. 17, 1906, at Harrison, Ark., to Effie Mae and Page Hart. He married Mable Statham and she preceded him in death in 1989. He worked for the city of Big Spring for 20 years, retiring in 1962. He was a member of Calvary Baptist Church.

He is survived by two daughters, Mary Mundell and Jean Neely, both of Odessa.

In addition to his wife and parents, he was preceded in death by one son, Gerald Hart; one sister, Virgie Majors and one brother, Arvin Hart.

Arrangements are by Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Pay your respects online at [www.myersandsmith.com](http://www.myersandsmith.com).

## Clim C. Shanks

Clim C. Shanks, 86, of Big Spring, died on Wednesday, July 19, 2006, in a local hospital. Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday, July 22, 2006 at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel. Interment will follow at Trinity Memorial Park.

The family will receive friends from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. Friday at the funeral home.

He was born May 11, 1920, in Harbin and married Ruby Hale July 23, 1960 in Hobbs, N.M. She preceded him in death Feb. 11, 2000.

Clim was a member of the Dairy Queen Coffee Club and was an avid hunter and fisherman. He was a Baptist.

Survivors include four brothers and sisters-in-law, Autov and Mary Shanks of Devils River, Charlie and LaRue Shanks and Wade and Dorothy Shanks all of Big Spring, and Grover C., Jr. and Doylean Shanks of Lake Brownwood; one sister and brother-in-law, Jimmie and Leonard Burks of Big Spring; two sister-in-laws, Charlene Shanks of Big Spring, and Florene Shanks of Comanche; and numerous neices and nephews.

He was also preceded in death by three brothers, John W. Shanks, Howard Shanks and Doyle Shanks, and two sisters, Mae Shanks and Norene Guill.

Arrangements under the direction of Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring. Online condolences can be made at: [www.npwelch.com](http://www.npwelch.com).

## Take Note

• **THE ACKERLY WIND ENERGY PROJECT** is holding a meeting at 7 p.m. Tuesday, July 25, at Pal's Corner in Ackerly.

All landowners are invited and encouraged to attend.

• **THE MITCHELL COUNTY REUNION** will be held Sept. 30 in the Colorado City Civic Center, 157 W. Second St. Reservations may be made with the Colorado City Area Chamber of Commerce, at 325 728-3403.

The speaker will be Elsie Ann (Ramsdell) Scaife, a former Mitchell County resident and a member of the 1944 graduating class.

• **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

• **SANDS-ACKERLY EX-STUDENTS HOMECOMING 2006** will be Sept. 30. The committee is in the process of updating address files. Contact Dorothy Rogers at 1608 W. FM 2230, Big Spring, or call 432 399-4312. We need correct mailing addresses for the homecoming letters. We would also like to have ex-teachers' addresses.

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## Police blotter

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

- **DAVID YANEZ**, 38, of Lubbock, was arrested Tuesday on two Howard County warrants and two local warrants.
- **ROBERT SANCHEZ**, 42, of Colorado City, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of public intoxication.
- **DANIELLE FREITAG**, 17, of Forsan, was arrested Tuesday on a local citation.
- **IRMA DAWSON**, 44, of 809 Wyoming, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of public intoxication.
- **TERRY LOUDERMILL**, 48, of 2203 Cecilia, was arrested Wednesday on three local warrants and a local capias warrant.
- **CRIMINAL TRESPASS** was reported in the 800 block of Interstate Highway 20.
- **CRIMINAL MISCHIEF** was reported:
  - in the 1200 block of Barnes.
  - in the 1600 block of Martin Luther King Boulevard.
- **ASSAULT CLASS C/FAMILY VIOLENCE** was reported in the 1500 block of Scurry.

## Sheriff's report

The Howard County Sheriff's Office reported the following activity:

- **ANTHONY ALPHONSO LEWIS**, 27, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on a charge of bondsman off bond for possession of a controlled substance.
- **SCHEMICKIN MARIE CROSBY**, 24, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on a charge of bondsman off bond for possession of a controlled substance.
- **MICHAEL ANGELO GARZA**, 18, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of burglary of a building.
- **DAVID YANEZ**, 38, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on charges of violation of a protective order - two counts.
- **WHITE ZACHARY TERRY**, 28, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on charges of evading arrest or detention and possession of a controlled substance.
- **ANDREW JUAREZ JR.**, 17, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of burglary of a building.
- **MARTIN SANCHEZ GONZALES**, 44, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on a parole violation.

## Fire/EMS

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

- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 3200 block of Parkway. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **TRAUMA** was reported in the 2600 block of Central. Service refused.
- **MEDICAL** reported in the 2600 block of Central. One person was transported to SMMC.

## Weather

Tonight...Partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 70s. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph. Friday...Mostly sunny. Highs in the upper 90s to around 100. South winds around 10 mph. Friday night...Mostly clear. Lows in the lower 70s. Southeast Winds around 10 mph in the evening becoming light and variable. Saturday...Partly cloudy with isolated showers and Thunderstorms. Highs in the mid 90s. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph. Saturday night...Partly cloudy with isolated showers and Thunderstorms. Lows in the upper 60s. Sunday...Partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 90s. Sunday night...Partly cloudy. Lows in the upper 60s. Monday...Partly cloudy.

## Lottery

AUSTIN (AP) — Results of the Lotto Texas drawing Wednesday night:

- Winning numbers drawn: 3-4-7-17-19-33.
- Number matching six of six: 0.
- Number matching five of six: 45. Prize: \$920.
- Number matching four of six: 2,058. Prize: \$30.
- Number matching three of six: 35,516. Prize: \$3.

AUSTIN (AP) — Results of the Cash 5 drawing Wednesday night:

- Winning numbers drawn: 1-8-29-30-34.
- Number matching five of five: 2.

AUSTIN (AP) — The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Wednesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 3-4-7.

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POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, TX 79721. Periodicals postage paid at Big Spring, Texas.  
USPS 1431-48 USPS 0065-940 ISSN 0746-8811  
BY THE MONTH HOME DELIVERY: \$8.65 monthly; \$83.42 yearly (includes 10% discount). MAIL SUBSCRIPTIONS: \$12.50 monthly Howard & Martin Counties; \$13.25 elsewhere.



**JOB**

Continued from Page 1

12,392 people working out of a potential labor force of 13,108 in April.

Statewide, unemployment was at 4.9 percent for May, while the Permian Basin Workforce Development Area was listed at 4.4. The national rate was 4.4 percent.

"Within the Permian Basin

Workforce Development Area, there are 182,668 employed individuals, compared to last year's figure of 176,559," noted Belew.

Area county unemployment rates for the month include Midland, 3.5 percent; Ector, 4.3; Martin, 5; Dawson, 7.3; Borden, 4.9; Glasscock, 5.3; Andrews, 4.1; and Upton, 4.2.

"Currently, the local Workforce Network has 128 jobs open. All job seekers are encouraged to utilize the system, whether employed or

unemployed," said Belew. "New job listings are received daily and opportunities arise for those who have been discouraged with the type of jobs available in the past, or for those exploring new career opportunities.

"By this date, we have seen an increase of job seekers as a result of school dismissing for summer break and temporary summer workers. Our labor exchange report indicates we have 1,189 active job seekers

registered with the WorkinTexas system. There is an additional 139 who are in the process of completing their application. Therefore, employers are encouraged to continue to list their job openings with the local Workforce Network," Belew added.

Job seekers interested in any listings in WorkinTexas.com may contact Carla Gross or Mary Gregg for more information and referrals.

"We continue to have a criti-

cal demand in our area for construction workers, heavy equipment operators, correctional officers, diesel mechanics, oil-field workers, journeyman plumber, electrician and welders, instructors, customer service representatives, nursing and food service supervisors," said Belew.

Contact News Editor Bill McClellan at 263-7331 ext. 235 or by e-mail at [newsdesk@big-springherald.com](mailto:newsdesk@big-springherald.com)

**GLIDERS**

Continued from Page 1

built a circle out where FM 700 is close to the hospital. It was really big. They would fly those airplanes and drop flour sacks. Hangar 25 Air Museum actually has a picture of that taking place.

"It's going to be called spot landing, which they will be doing Saturday, Aug. 5. Spot landing is where hang gliders — from 4 p.m. until 5 p.m. — will be launched and those who wish to participate will try to hit a target. They can't let their wings touch the target, and it has to be measured. I'm told it's a very difficult thing to do. There's a cash prize for the winner and the public will be able to view it."

Careful not to leave out the pilots of the ultralight aircraft, which are used to tow the hang gliders into the air, McDonald said they will go back to their flour sack beginnings.

"For at least five days after that, we're going to have the Prairie Pup Precision Pflour Plop," said McDonald. "The name was designed by a committee, and it's a humorous way of saying they are going to target-drop flour sacks in front of the public from the ultralight. They will also compete for a cash prizes on a daily basis."

McDonald said instructional flights, both for the hang gliders and the ultralights, will be available to the public on a limited basis through the private pilots.

"These activities are sponsored by the USHGA

members, not the city of Big Spring or the committee," said McDonald. "The pilots charge the fees for these instructional flights. People who want to go up can register at the air terminal and the USHGA people will get them set up."

Competition organizer and director David Glover said the pilots are looking forward to coming back to Big Spring, not just for the hospitality, but for the premier flying conditions.

"It's an interesting crossroad between community and the flying conditions that keep bringing the pilots back to Big Spring," said competition organizer and director David Glover.

"The community support was so good and the pilots felt so welcome that they really enjoyed the time they spent on the ground. Also, the conditions are

so special here that people can fly really high up in the air and there are really strong thermals. So they really enjoyed the time they spent in the air as well.

"The consistency of the conditions here means we can fly everyday," he added. "We're not winded or weathered out. The sun hits the ground and the ground heats up, so thermal layers of air go up. The base of the clouds are really high, which means we can fly up really high into the air and the thermals are strong, so you don't have to fly around too much before you hit a thermal that pushes you up."

"Our desire is to see how long we can stay up and then fly around a course as quickly as we can. It just has the right combination of meteorology and geography to allow

us to fly for a long time and fly fast. The men and women who come here just love the flying. It's excellent."

Glover said it's unusual to have the national championship in the same place at all, much less several years in a row.

"It's very unique to have the Hang Gliding Nationals ever go back to the same location," said Glover. "much less go back to the same location the very next year. It was because the pilots had such a great time and felt that this is such a good venue for testing the skills of the best pilots in the nation to find out who is really national champion."

Glover said the real "icing on the cake" will be in 2007, when Big Spring will play home to the World Championship.

"The world championship has only been held in the U.S. once in the last 30 years, so it's a real honor to have it coming to Big Spring in 2007," said Glover. "We're expecting approximately 125 pilots or more to come from all over the world to compete."

Contact Staff Writer Thomas Jenkins at 263-7331 ext. 232 or by e-mail at [citydesk@bigspringherald.com](mailto:citydesk@bigspringherald.com)

**LEBANON**

Continued from Page 1

the first mass U.S. evacuation from Lebanon since the Israeli airstrikes started more than a week ago.

It was among dozens of cruise ships evacuating thousands of foreigners from Lebanon. Some 8,000 of 25,000 U.S. citizens in Lebanon have asked to leave. So many people were leaving Lebanon that boats were forced to line up outside Beirut harbor and had to wait before docking in nearby Cyprus.

Exhausted and shaken, the Americans stood in line at the harbor in Larnaca, dragging their luggage and their children as they waited to be told where they would sleep and when they might leave.

Many worried about relatives left behind in Lebanon.

"This war is unfair. It's unfair if you see buildings fall and there are

people inside," said Mona Kharbouche, a mother of two who said she had left behind her mother, two sisters and a brother.

Elderly people in wheelchairs, a young woman on a stretcher and her right arm in a cast, and women with toddlers were the first to disembark from the Orient Queen nearly two hours after it tied up.

Catherine Haidar said she had been visiting her husband's native Lebanon with their four daughters, ages 9-17, for the first time in 13 years. They

were staying at house that shook from the bombings.

"I didn't want to leave because I thought that if there were 25,000 Americans in Lebanon, maybe the Israelis would think twice about what they were hitting," said Haidar, of Orange County, Calif.

Ann Shebbo, a U.S. citizen who lives in the United Arab Emirates, said she and her husband left relatives behind in the Shouf Mountains.

"There is a guilt feeling about leaving. I wanted to

leave because of my children," said Shebbo. "The Lebanese people should not suffer this way."

The Americans departed two days after the first Europeans left on ships. An estimated 13,000 foreign nationals have been evacuated from the war-torn country.

Brig. Gen. Carl Jensen, who is coordinating the U.S. evacuation, said more than 6,000 Americans will have been taken out of Lebanon by the weekend. The Nashville is one of several Navy ships assisting with the evacuations.

Military helicopters have flown some 200 Americans to Cyprus.

Amid complaints the U.S. effort had lagged, American officials made clear that fears about Americans traveling on roads in Beirut, especially at night, and on roads to Syria had led to some of the delays.

Most evacuees are leaving by sea as officials from several countries deemed the overland route to Syria too dangerous and Israel knocked Beirut's airport out of service last week by bombing its runways.

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Josh Williamson, 21, died Sunday. Funeral Services were at 10:30 AM Thursday at Life Church with burial at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

David Hart, 100, died Tuesday. Funeral Services will be held at 2:00 PM Friday at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

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

**OFFICE**

Continued from Page 1

something that's becoming increasingly hard for the agency to come by — money.

"We were leasing the office where we've been located all this time," said Pryor. "However, budget cuts have forced us to look for new ways to save money. By moving the housing authority into the same building as Crossroads, we'll not only save the money we were using to lease the office, we'll save on things like utilities.

"This will also help centralize our locations and services, putting us closer to Max Webb and the Northside Community Center because we serve many of the same customers. We really feel like it will be beneficial to everyone involved."

The Big Spring Housing Authority can be reached at 263-4090, while Crossroads Housing Corp. can be reached at 267-2206.

Contact Staff Writer Thomas Jenkins at 263-7331 ext. 232 or by e-mail at [citydesk@bigspringherald.com](mailto:citydesk@bigspringherald.com)

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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.

Susanne Reed  
Publisher

John A. Moseley  
Managing Editor

Bill McClellan  
News Editor

## OUR VIEWS

## Salvation Army school supplies effort needs help

With the start of the new school year less than a month away, we need to remember that one of the most important things we can give children is an education.

And with that in mind, it's time to be thinking about making sure our children have everything they need when school bells begin ringing in August.

Sadly, there will be too many families in Big Spring who simply cannot afford what many of us take for granted — providing their children with the necessities such as paper, pencils, notebooks, crayons, scissors, rulers and the like.

That's where the Salvation Army steps in. Last year, the organization handed out school supplies to several hundred Big Spring children from kindergarten through the eighth grade and this year Capt. Russ and Linda Keeney expect they'll need to provide supplies for even more.

And that means the call is now going out for donations for the program. While donors can purchase school supplies and bring them to the Salvation Army offices for distribution, it should be noted that monetary donations are preferred.

The Salvation Army is a tax-exempt organization and therefore can purchase more supplies with the same money than individuals. Applications from parents or guardians of students in need of school supplies will be taken for two days, Aug. 10-11, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the Salvation Army building located at 811 W. Fifth.

Applicants will need to bring some information with them when they register, such as a birth certificate or Medicaid card and Social Security card for each child, as well as proof of residency, income, expenses and a photo ID for the person applying for the program.

Those who qualify will be able to pick up their children's supplies and take them home that day.

If you know of a family in need of help, encourage them to take advantage of this opportunity. Without those supplies, children will be at an immediate disadvantage.

And please remember, if you can help out by donating money for the effort, please do so.

Think of it this way, donations to the Salvation Army school supplies program are an investment. They are an investment in education, an investment in a child's future and an investment in our community's future.

## HOW TO CONTACT US

The Herald is always interested in our readers' opinions. In order that we might better serve your needs, we offer several ways in which you may contact us:

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

## LETTER POLICIES

The Herald welcomes letters to the editor.

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

## A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

dom and do Your will.

our wis

Amen

## Who is the real threat to America?

Sometimes you have to just wonder if these liberal geniuses at the New York Times and elsewhere have the slightest scintilla of common sense, let alone goodwill. At a time when the global conspiracy of Islamic terrorists to wage war against the civilized world is on display for all to see in Israel, the New York Times chooses, once again, to downplay — if not dismiss — that threat and, instead, demonize President Bush.

For several years the Democratic leadership and the mainstream media have been depicting President Bush as a power-hungry executive who "tramples on" the Constitution. But the New York Times, in its July 16 editorial, wrote, "It is only now, nearly five years after Sept. 11, that the full picture of the Bush administration's response to the terror attacks is becoming clear. Much of it, we can see now, had far less to do with fighting Osama bin Laden than with expanding presidential power."

Maybe Charlie Sheen has become a shadow member of the editorial board. Sheen, you will recall, recently demonstrated he had his father's penchant for radical left-lunacy when he hinted that a U.S. government conspiracy was behind the 9/11 attacks. Twenty Muslim hijackers just couldn't have pulled off the attacks absent collusion with the government.

Well, go ahead and write Sheen off as a fringe leftist kook if you choose, but when the leading liberal editorial page of the nation is saying things just as maliciously preposterous, it's hard to describe

far-left kooks as "fringe" anymore.

To say that Bush has been aggressive in the war on terror as a means to gaining more power for himself and not to defeat the terrorist threat is shockingly paranoid. And there's more. The Times cites a piece by Jane Mayer in the New Yorker describing how this grandiose Bush scheme to usurp power from the other two branches of government "grew out of Vice President Dick Cheney's long and deeply held conviction that the real lesson of Watergate and the later Iran-contra debacle was that the president needed more power and that Congress and the courts should get out of the way. To a disturbing degree, the horror of 9/11 became an excuse to take up this cause behind the shield of Americans' deep insecurity."

Folks, if this doesn't give you insight into leftist thinking today and the obstacles we face among our own people in the war on terror, perhaps nothing will. While you're trying to figure out whether it was the sinister Cheney or the hapless Bush who hatched this scheme to ratchet-up executive power, you might ponder what motive either has to expand the presidency, since Bush will be out in two years and Cheney has no presidential aspirations. As a gift to Hillary, perhaps?

The Times' Bush/Cheney paranoia is only exceeded by its misapprehension of the nature of the terrorist threat. What it really appears exercised about — beyond its sheer hatred for George Bush — is that we are treating terrorists as the enemy instead of criminal defendants who are entitled to the full spectrum of constitutional rights.

The Times is furious that President Bush eavesdrops on

these people without a warrant, tracks their finances and maintains the Geneva Conventions don't apply to them.

The editors wrote, "Undoing the Geneva Conventions would further endanger the life of every member of the American military who might ever be taken captive in the future." Excuse me, but how could anyone who understands the terrorist mindset believe that by showing kindness to terrorists they'll pose less of a danger to American soldiers captured in the future? Terrorists don't negotiate, and they don't abide by rules or "conventions"; they torture and slaughter human beings for sport.

And our refusal to extend the Geneva Conventions to those not covered by them now and who themselves don't honor them will certainly not cause any civilized enemies we may encounter in the future to mistreat our troops. Of course, the idea that we're going to have civilized enemies in the foreseeable future is pure fantasy.

The Times wants Congress to condemn President Bush for his "excesses," including his treatment of Gitmo detainees. It sees his refusal to extend the Geneva Conventions to the terrorists as part of his executive arrogance rather than a good faith, reasonable, and much more commonsensical view of the Conventions than that of the majority of the Supreme Court. That's because it regards Bush, not Osama bin Laden and his armies, as the real threat to America. And that tells you all you need to know about the Times.

To find out more about David Limbaugh, please visit his Web site at [www.davidlimbaugh.com](http://www.davidlimbaugh.com).

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## ADDRESSES

• **GEORGE W. BUSH**  
President  
The White House  
Washington, D.C. 20500

• **KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON**  
U.S. Senator  
703 Hart Office Building  
Washington, 20510  
Phone: 202-224-5922

• **JOHN CORNYN**  
U.S. Senator  
Washington, DC 20510

4305  
Phone: 202-224-2934

• **RANDY NEUGEBAUER**  
U.S. Representative (19th  
Cong. District)  
1510 Scurry  
Big Spring  
Phone: (432) 264-0722

• **RICK PERRY**  
Governor  
State Capitol, Room 2S.1  
P.O. Box 12428  
Austin, 78711  
Phone: (512) 463-2000

• **KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON**  
U.S. Senator  
703 Hart Office Building  
Washington, 20510  
Phone: 202-224-5922

• **PETE LANEY**  
State Representative  
P.O. Box 2910  
Austin, 78768  
Phone: (512) 463-0604

• **KEL SELIGER**  
State Senator  
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## Economic democracy just buried

Haven't had so much fun reading a book since I was 12 and found "The Three Musketeers."

Thomas Frank's "One Market, Under God" is a populist romp over the most delicious idiocies of the past decade. The obligatory subtitle is "Extreme Capitalism, Market Populism and the End of Economic Democracy," which doesn't sound promising, but this is a ring-tailed toter.

The book is a delicious chronicle of the hubris of capitalism in our time, and it contains some of the most savagely funny cultural criticism I have ever come across.

Of course, it's really not fair — all Frank has to do is quote them: business as God, technology as divinity, the New Economy as the end of history. We live in a culture that produces books like "God Wants You to Be Rich" and "Jesus, CEO."

What's startling about this book is the extent to which we're so surrounded by this nincompoopery but don't even notice it.

How many TV ads for stock brokerages do you suppose you've seen in the past 10 years? Anything about them strike you as funny?

It should have. The specific subtext of the IBM-is-God ad is so outrageous that it could gag a maggot. But I, for one, never even thought about it until I read Frank's dissection of it.

Much of this book has the charm of the child who pointed out that the emperor was wearing no clothes. It's been a long time since anyone commented on the obvious with such gleeful disrespect:

"Very little of the 'New Economy' is new. What the term describes is not some novel state of human affairs but the final accomplishment of the longstanding agenda of the nation's richest class. ... Once Americans imagined that economic democracy meant a reasonable standard of living for all — that freedom was only meaningful once poverty and powerlessness had been overcome.

"Today, American opinion leaders seem generally convinced that democracy and the free market are simply identical. ... What's 'new' is this idea's triumph over all its rivals: the determination of American leaders to extend it to all the world; the general belief among opinion-makers that there is something natural, something divine, something inherently democratic about markets."

One of his most useful observations concerns why politics in the '90s was so often surreal — populism got stood on its head. Anyone who questioned the Great God Market was held to be an "elitist." Pointing out that the majority of American workers either lost ground or barely kept up with inflation during the '90s was considered bad form, like belching in church.

While the likes of Rush Limbaugh and George Gilder raged against "elitists," CEO compensation during the decade went from 85 times more than what average blue-collar employees received in 1990 to 475 times what blue-collar workers received in 1999.

Any old populist can rage against the gross maldistribution of wealth; Frank's special contribution is his mordant examination of the cultural snow job that accompanied the redistribution of wealth to the rich.

Just one symptom of how deeply this nonstop propaganda has affected us lies in the fact that the new president and Congress are on the verge of repealing the estate tax. Gee, taxing estates — what an un-'90s notion.

The tax affects the 1.5 percent of Americans with estates of more than \$2 million; they can pass along the first \$2 million tax-free but have to pay now-lowered taxes on the rest. The people who brought us welfare reform on the grounds that getting \$8,000 a year to raise three kids is very bad for a mother's moral fiber now tell us that Junior, who never worked a day in his life, needs to inherit \$200 million tax-free. And anyone who thinks otherwise is an elitist.

The redistribution of wealth upward keeps getting worse. Under President Bush's tax proposal, the richest 10 percent of Americans will get 60 percent of the benefits of the tax cut. And this is at the end of a decade in which the rich have made out like bandits while everyone else stalled.

We all know why such decisions are made: The political process no longer represents the people — it represents money. It's been bought. While we were being sold a bill of goods about how the market "empowers" us because we get to choose between the mint-flavored and the cinnamon-flavored toothpaste, thus expressing our individuality, we lost something important in our vision of a just society.

Frank, being a good populist, is also an optimist. He doesn't think we've really lost the vision of economic democracy — it just sort of got buried beneath the bull.

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# KNOCKOUT

## This eye-catching new Saturn roadster holds lots of promise

By STEVEN COLE SMITH

The Orlando Sentinel

Let's get this on the record first: The 2007 Saturn Sky is a knockout. Though it shares a platform and a powertrain with the Pontiac Solstice — also a knockout — General Motors designers made the two roadsters look quite different but equally appealing.

During a 1,100-mile weekend round trip, people asked about the car at most every stop. And the majority were impressed with the price — slightly more than \$23,000 to start, and loaded, as the test Sky was, \$26,074.

This under-\$25,000 sports car market has been the near-exclusive domain of the Mazda Miata since 1990. Now, with the Sky and Solstice, there are two legitimate challengers.

And although the price of the pair is appealing, good luck finding them for list price — that's how hot they are.

It's easy to praise the styling of the Sky.

The rest of the car? Well, not quite as easy.

The engine is the GM corporate 2.4-liter, 177-horsepower four-cylinder. The standard transmission is a five-speed manual, and a five-speed automatic, which the test car had, is an \$850 option.

### 2007 SATURN SKY

Base price: \$12,550.

Price as tested: \$15,590.

EPA rating: 34 mpg city, 39 mpg highway.

Details: Front-engine, front-wheel-drive sedan with a 1.5-liter, 106-horsepower 4-cylinder and a 4-speed automatic transmission.

The manual Sky has an EPA rating of 20 mpg in the city, 28 mpg on the highway. The automatic is rated at 22 mpg city, 26 mpg highway. We averaged 24.1 mpg in mostly highway driving.

The engine is powerful enough, but it's slightly rough and quite loud, and not in a sporting way. Under acceleration, the exhaust note sounded rather agricultural, like my father's old Chevrolet Cavalier when there was a hole in the muffler. I recall the Solstice, which I tested with a manual transmission, sounded better. The automatic transmission was smooth, but reluctant to downshift. If you want performance, you'll want to wait for the Sky Red Line, which will be offered with a 2.0-liter, 260-horsepower



The 2007 Saturn Sky

four-cylinder late this year. But the current 2.4-liter engine gets the job done.

Handling is very good, with standard 18-inch tires and wheels, and a firm suspension that offers a decent ride on smooth asphalt. But on rough concrete freeways, it's jarring, and that sort of pavement accentuates tire noise. At highway speeds, even on the smoothest pavement, you'll have to crank the stereo up to hear it.

Even after more than 1,100 miles in slightly more than 24 hours, the leather-trimmed bucket seats were still comfortable. The rest of the interior was not quite as

endearing. Storage space is at a minimum, consisting of mostly unusable little trays at the bottom of the door sills, a small glove compartment, and a hard-to-reach compartment between the seats at the rear of the interior. Instruments and controls are fine, but viewing the gas gauge in the daytime is like sighting through a gun scope. At night, when it is lighted, it's fine. To the car's credit, even though the Sky is small, we never really felt cramped.

The trunk space, though, is downright amusing. Saturn claims 5.4 cubic feet of room, and there probably is, but it's a half-foot there, a half-

foot here. Even the smallest roll-on airport suitcase won't fit. Having had a Solstice, we knew that for our trip, we needed to pack several small, soft-sided bags. And this is with no spare tire — instead, Saturn gives you a can of sealer and a little electric air compressor.

Drop the top — open the trunk, flip a lever at the windshield, lower the top into the trunk and close it — and you lose 3 of those 5.4 cubic feet of trunk space.

But really, is anyone buying a Saturn Sky for luggage space and over-the-road capability? This is a car that loves top-down Sunday cruising and handles well-enough

to make winding roads a lot of fun.

A little more sophistication, though, and the Sky would be even more fun. The air conditioning moaned and groaned, the flip-down panel over the gas cap didn't close quite right, and there was a little body shake when you drove over rough road tracks.

These are things you don't get in a Miata, but Mazda has been building those for 17 years.

Give General Motors another year: mechanically, the Solstice and Sky should be as good as they look.

Distributed by Knight Ridder/Tribune Information Services

## Odds & Ends

JACKSON, Wyo. (AP) — Every year, as the sun sets on the Teton County Fair, the moons come out: as many as 10 streakers dart around the demolition derby on the fair's last day.

This year, law enforcement officers are pledging a crackdown.

Teton County Attorney Steve Weichman said a growing number of people have told him they didn't think that "drunk, crazy and naked streaking" is a "great, normal, fun thing."

Opposition to the streaking has grown since last year's derby, he said, when a deputy used a Taser to apprehend a 21-year-old, dropping him to the dirt as he streaked with a fire extinguisher before a crowd of 3,500.

Posters for the July 30 fair office warn that at this year's fair, any public nudity will bring a charge of misdemeanor child endangerment, punishable by up to a year in jail and a \$1,000 fine.

Jackson Police Chief Dan Zivkovich said streaking doesn't have to be tolerated. "We just think it's time to take control of the event again and say this really is intended to be a family event," he said.

GRAPEVINE (AP) — Army Staff Sgt. Paul Marler wasn't surprised to see his wife at the airport when he returned home from Iraq, but he certainly wasn't expecting her in a wedding dress.

Melissa Marler surprised her husband of five years with a vow-renewal ceremony right there at Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport on Tuesday.

"Wow," he said after seeing Melissa after he got off the plane after a

seven-month tour in Iraq. Melissa, who admitting to being "nervous, scared," carried yellow roses and shed a few tears of joy. Her husband was wearing fatigues.

Airport officials provided a cake and a chaplain. The Grand Hyatt DFW offered the hotel's presidential suite for the night.

Melissa, 25, said she and her 28-year-old husband

have spent just one other anniversary together. The other times he was on duty in Cuba, Korea and Bosnia.

The couple, of Killeen, wed on July 15, 2001.

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## Iranians consider nuclear package

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — Iran said Thursday it would formally respond Aug. 22 to a Western package of incentives aimed at resolving the standoff over its suspect nuclear program — the first time the Islamic republic has set a specific date for its reply.

The Supreme National Security Council, Iran's top security decision-making body, also threatened that the country would reconsider its nuclear policies if sanctions were imposed by the United Nations.

The council did not elaborate, but Iranian officials repeatedly have suggested that Tehran may withdraw from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty and stop cooperating with U.N. inspectors.

"The package of incentives requires a logical time to study it ... Aug. 22 has been set for declaring (our) views," the council said in a statement read on state-run television.

"In case the path of confrontation is chosen instead of the path of dialogue ... and Iran's definite rights are threatened, then there will be no option for Iran but to reconsider its nuclear policies."

The statement came a day after Russia said the U.N. Security Council is in no rush to pressure Iran over its nuclear program, striking a more conciliatory tone than the United States as diplomats began discussing a resolution to put legal muscle behind demands that Tehran suspend uranium enrichment.

The United States and some of its allies accuse Iran of seeking to produce highly enriched uranium and plutonium for nuclear weapons. Tehran says its nuclear program is peaceful and aimed at generating electricity.

In Thursday's statement, Iran said it plans to generate 20,000 megawatts of electricity through nuclear energy in the next 20 years.

The Western nations on June 6 offered Iran a package of incentives — including advanced technology and possibly even nuclear research reactors — if Tehran suspended enrichment.

But the frustrated powers agreed last week to send Iran back to the U.N. Security Council for possible punishment, saying Tehran had given no sign it would bargain in earnest over its nuclear ambitions.

Iran has said the incentives package was on an "acceptable basis" for negotiations.

Hard-line President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad initially said Iran would respond to the package in mid-August, but the republic then pushed back its response.

The United States has accused Iran of stalling while it continues to pursue suspect technology, but Tehran accused Washington on Thursday of putting up "obstacles."

The Iranian council said special committees in key state agencies were still studying the offer.

# Indonesia recovers from latest tsunami

PANGANDARAN, Indonesia (AP) — Rescue workers dug through the ruins of this tsunami-devastated town in search of bodies Thursday, as frightened locals woke up from a third night spent in hillside camps. A mass burial was held for some of the 531 people killed by the waves.

Some tsunami survivors scoured the Pangandaran beach for nails, wood, tin — anything they could use to start rebuilding their lives.

"We need a family shelter," said Sakiman, 71, who was among tens of thousands waiting to return home. "The camps are crowded, inconvenient. We've received donations of rice and noodles, but can't cook them because the water is too dirty."

Hundreds stood at the edge of a mass grave, some covering their mouths, as unidentified corpses were lowered into the ground. The bodies were photographed and tagged in case relatives later wanted to claim them.

A magnitude 7.7 earthquake triggered Monday's tsunami, which smashed into a 110-mile stretch of Java island's southern coast, destroying scores of houses,

restaurants and hotels. Cars, motorbikes and boats were left mangled amid fishing nets, furniture and other debris.

Police and army teams with dogs and mechanical equipment continued to hunt for bodies in the ruins, while others took their search to the sea, going island to island in search of people listed among the missing.

The death toll stood at 531, said Maman Susanto of the government's disaster coordinating board.

The government has come under fire for failing to warn residents about the impending disaster or, in at least one case, misinforming the public about the sequence of events in its aftermath.

Vice President Jusuf Kalla claimed most people fled inland after feeling the tremor, so "in actual fact there was a kind of natural early warning system."

But Sri Rahayu, 34 — like most others interviewed by The Associated Press — said she did not feel the earthquake that struck deep beneath the Indian Ocean 150 miles southwest of Java's coast.

She said she would not have known what was happening if her neighbor hadn't run out in panic screaming "The water is raising! Run!"

"I am traumatized," said Rahayu, who escaped with her 5-year-old daughter and is now living in a makeshift tent camp overlooking Pangandaran. She said she would not return home until "the government announces formally it is safe."

The tsunami has taken away the jobs of tens of thousands who worked in shops, bars or gave surfing lessons to vacationers.

Businessman Sirkusumo Sudjanarko, 58, who owns the Bunga Laut seaside hotel on Pangandaran, said his business has been devastated.

"I lost my bungalow and restaurant just like that," he said, estimating the damage caused at roughly \$110,000. "Tourists are going to avoid this place for at least three years."

Lilianti Bachtiar, who runs the Grand Mutiara Hotel with her American husband Oscar, saved her grandchildren by grabbing them from their rooms and running to the second floor when

she heard neighbors screaming.

"The waves broke down the walls and washed away the car. We don't have a business anymore. It will be at least a year before we have recovered," she said from a run-down motel in Banjar, a nearby city.

Her family all survived, but she identified the body of a former employee at a temporary morgue.

Indonesia was hardest hit by a 2004 tsunami that killed at least 216,000 people in a dozen Indian Ocean nations — with more than half the deaths occurring in Aceh province on neighboring Sumatra island.

Though the country started to install a warning system after that disaster, it is still in its early stages.

Indonesia has been hit by a series of disasters — natural and man-made — since 2002.

Al-Qaida-linked militants have killed at least 260 people in terrorist attacks, the devastating 2004 tsunami that struck Sumatra island left at least 131,000 dead and a May earthquake on Java killed 5,800 people.

## Pentagon slow to address burden on citizen soldiers, leaders say

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — The top commanders of the National Guard and Reserves said Wednesday that laws and policies aren't changing fast enough to reflect the increasing demands on citizen soldiers.

"I think we're moving too slowly," Vice Admiral John Cotton, chief of the Navy Reserve, told the Commission on the National Guard and Reserves. "I think we're not changing and shaping our forces for the threats that are out there today."

The 13-member commission is charged by Congress with assessing how well the units are equipped and organized. It began a yearlong review in March to address future roles and missions.

Commission Chairman Arnold L. Punaro, a retired Marine Corps major general, said one of the independent commission's challenges is making recommendations for updates in laws to reflect that the Guard and Reserves have become increasingly "operational" rather than "strategic."

"Basically what you're saying is ... the Pentagon's not moving fast enough to make all these necessary changes?" Punaro asked the panel.

"In a word, yes," responded Lt. Gen. Jack Bergman, commander of the Marine Forces Reserve.

Punaro said pay sys-

tems and categories need more flexibility as members of the Guard and Reserves are called on more often for the same tasks as active duty troops, instead of previously existing to augment and reinforce.

There has been testimony about some reservists who were getting a regular paycheck in their civilian lives but didn't see a check for weeks after they were called to duty, Punaro said.

Lt. Gen. Jack Stultz, chief of the Army Reserve, said equipment and funding levels have to be able to support units that are now required to be trained and ready for deployment on a regular basis.

Cotton also testified that the pool to draw reservists from is too small. He said only 28 percent of the nation's youth is eligible for military service because of physical fitness and skill requirements.

The Guard and Reserves need to focus on recruitment and retention to widen the pool and keep good personnel around, he said.

"We're all competing for

the same folks," he said. "So that if we have someone, we have to cherish their service and keep them."

Lt. Gen. Craig R. McKinley, director of the Air National Guard, said there must be enough funding to keep reservists operating at the pace they have been or a draft could be possible.

"What is the cost if we don't support our Guard and reserve?" McKinley said during discussions about funding for the units. "I believe it would be a debate over conscription."

McKinley said his force of 106,800 men and women is being funded at adequate levels to remain operational.

"I'm not saying the sky is falling," he said. "I'm saying the system works ... we want that to continue."

Wednesday's hearing was the commission's first outside of Washington. Another field hearing is planned this fall in San Diego.

Enlisted personnel told the panel that the benefits afforded reservists are key in decisions to re-enlist.

## Contract Bridge

From the Mailbox

South dealer.  
North-South vulnerable.  
NORTH  
♦ A K 3  
♥ 9 4 2  
♦ K Q 8 7  
♠ A K J  
WEST  
♥ 9 6  
♦ 8 7 5 3  
♥ 6 4 2  
♠ 6 5 3 2  
EAST  
♦ Q J 10 8 7 5  
♥ K Q J 6  
♦ —  
♠ 8 7 4  
SOUTH  
♦ 4 2  
♥ A 10  
♦ A J 10 9 5 3  
♠ Q 10 9

The bidding:  
South West North East  
1♦ Pass 3♦ 3♠  
Pass Pass 4NT Pass  
5♥ Pass 7♦

Opening lead — nine of spades.  
Dear Mr. Becker: I been reading your column lately, and I figure you play pretty good. I wanted to ask your opinion about a hand we played at the club yesterday.  
The way I look at it, my partner shouldn't have bid seven. This don't make no sense to me because here we got a 700-point rubber stashed away and 750 for a small slam, and he takes a shot at losing the whole bundle to try and make a big slam. This don't seem like a good percentage bet to me.

But there I am, and I gotta do the best I can. I look the dummy over and I see I have to lose a heart because I can't eat it, unless maybe I can con these guys out of it.

The fellow sitting East, his name is Charlie Four Cents, can't beat his way out of a paper bag. If I can give him the business, I got a chance, because he really don't know from nothing.

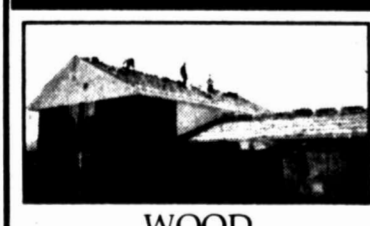
So I win the spade lead and start pulling trumps, and I keep on playing them till I don't have any more left, hoping Charlie will get mixed up. Next I play the A-K-Q of clubs, and when I cash the queen, Four Cents starts to look worried. You see, dummy by this time has the K-3 of spades and nine of hearts, and I have the four of spades and the A-10 of hearts. Charlie don't know what to throw, because he's got the Q-J of spades and K-Q of hearts.

Would you believe it, Mr. Becker, he threw the queen of hearts and made my A-10 good, and I have wrapped up the grand slam? I tell you this fellow Charlie don't know what time of day it is. Should my partner have bid seven? Yours truly, Butch O'Doul.

Dear Butch: I don't think so, but I wouldn't squawk if I were you. Just keep playing your cards the way you played them here, and Four Cents will have no cents in no time. SB.

Tomorrow: Bidding quiz.  
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### IN BRIEF

#### B.S. YoungLife sets annual golf toumey

The seventh annual YoungLife golf tournament will take place Saturday and Sunday at the Big Spring Country Club.

The toumey will have a 1 p.m. shotgun start each day and costs \$75 plus cart fee, but private carts are welcome. The field is limited to 36 teams.

For more information or to enter, contact Larry Bryan at 267-5354.

#### Hunter education course scheduled

A hunter education class has been scheduled for Saturday and Sunday at the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce building.

For more information or to register, contact Steve Poitevent at 264-7033 during the evening hours.

#### Softball toumey set for later this month

The first-ever Ball Busters co-ed softball tournament will take place at Cotton Mize Field inside Comanche Trail Park July 28-30.

The entry fee is \$125 per team. There will be first, second and third place trophies awarded and T-shirts will also be given out as prizes.

For more information, contact Jessica Dunn at 264-0816 or Amador Rios at 325-201-1365.

#### New volleyball coach sets parent-player meeting

New Big Spring volleyball coach Amanda Whitaker has announced a parent-player meeting with anyone planning on being involved with the high school volleyball program this upcoming season.

The meeting will take place Tuesday, Aug. 1, at the Big Spring Athletic Training Center at 7 p.m. There will be an ice cream dinner, as well.

For more information or questions, call coach Whitaker at 325-864-1467.

#### Big Spring ISD sets dates for buying football tickets

Fans of the Big Spring Steers football team who have had season tickets in the past can begin purchasing tickets for the upcoming season at the Big Spring Athletic Training Center.

Previous ticket holders have until Aug. 10 to purchase tickets. The general public may purchase tickets starting Aug. 14.

Tickets can be purchased through Kay Cook at the ATC from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Thursday.

For more info, call Cook at 264-3662.

## Local athletes set to showcase talent in G.C.

### • Texas looks for more dominance at All-Americas Bowl

By TROY HYDE

Sports Editor

Calling all local talent. The 11th annual All Americas Bowl football game returns to Garden City Saturday night. The annual six-man game, which features high school graduated seniors, will take place and several local athletes will be showcasing their abilities



WALKER

on the gridiron. Several more will show their round ball talents as the fourth annual basketball game will also take place in Garden City this weekend, beginning Friday at 6 p.m. with the girl's game and 8:15 p.m. with the boy's contest.

The 11th edition of the football game Saturday will feature players from Texas versus players from "the World" in a six-man battle.

The Texas team features four local players. Garden City standouts Cory Multer, Cade Doss and Dusty Walker will all play in the game as will Sands all-district member Cevan Smithson.

Other notable players on the Texas squad include Robby Garcia of Grandfalls-Royalty, Cole Martinson and Dillon Rankin of Throckmorton and Josh Conner of Robert Lee. The quarterbacks are expected to be Cody Barrett of Quitaque and Glen Hill of Aspermont.

The Texas team will be coached by new Garden City head coach Vance Jones and Garden City assistants Koby Abney, Josh Fee, Alonzo Garcia and Jimmy Fine. Jones coached at Aspermont last season and brings



HERALD file photo/Troy Hyde  
Tanner Mayes of Zephyr runs the ball during last year's All-Americas football game in Garden City. Mayes earned MVP honors in the game as the Texas all-stars defeated the World all-stars, 60-46. Texas will try to win again in Garden City Saturday night at 7:30 p.m. in the 11th annual event.

#### 11th annual All-Americas football game

Saturday, 7:30 p.m. in Garden City

#### 4th annual All-Americas basketball game

Girl's game: Friday, 6 p.m.

Boy's game: Friday, 8:15 p.m.

The basketball games will also be in Garden City

two former players — Hill and Chad Hayes — to the annual event.

The World team has players from Texas private schools, but also features players from New Mexico, Canada, Nebraska and Arkansas. The team features three

quarterbacks — Joe Don Wilcox of Levelland, Tucker Iverson of Bassett, Nebraska, and Mike Poriotis of Grand Prairie.

The World squad will be coached by Greenville Christian Academy's Larry Uland and his staff at the school.

Uland will have two players in the game as Jesse Hayre and Bryan Moyer represent Greenville academy.

The Texas team has scored a lot of points in the two previous games played in Garden City. Texas won the game last year, 60-46.

The football players arrived in Garden City Tuesday afternoon and have stayed with host parents since then. The teams have had workouts each day to prepare for the game and the World all-stars will be intro-

duced during halftime of the girl's basketball game Friday and the Texas all-stars will be featured at halftime of the boy's game.

The lone local girl in this summer's basketball game will be Garden City's Tracy Eggemeyer. She will play for the West all-stars and be joined by Klondike's Mackenzie Gregory, Water Valley's Alix Flores and Layni Roever, Whitharral's Allison Gross, New Home's Stefani White, Dawson's Sara Meadows and Grandfalls-Royalty's Kristy Kester.

The East all-stars feature two players from Rule and Robert Lee as well as players from Jayton, Throckmorton, Highland and Aspermont.

The East girls will be coached by Shea Baucom of Highland and Deborah Ramon of Klondike will lead the West squad.

Garden City's Shaun Maxie and Sands' Santos Ybarra highlight the boy's game as both local athletes will play for the West all-stars this year. Borden County's Austin Tarleton will join Maxie and Ybarra as will Whitharral's Scott Kristinek, two players from New Home and one player each from Fort Davis and Dell City.

The East all-stars are highlighted by Westbrook's Josiah Hannon and Cory Hemphill of Paducah.

The tallest player on the floor will play for the East as Water Valley's Jarrod Minton will take up plenty of space in the lane, standing 6-feet-8.

New Home head coach Shawn Harrison will coach the West boys, while Brian Davis of Vernon Northside will lead the East boys.

## Clemens wins Hall of Fame battle against Maddux

By RICK GANO

AP Sports Writer

CHICAGO — Roger Clemens outpitched Greg Maddux in a rare matchup of 300-game winners and the Houston Astros beat the Chicago Cubs 4-2 on Wednesday night.

Clemens (2-3) threw six shutout innings to earn his 343rd career victory and move into sole possession of eighth place on the career list. He allowed three hits, walked one and struck out five.

Maddux (7-11) allowed seven hits and three runs in seven innings with no walks and three strikeouts. He lost his sixth

straight decision and hasn't won since June 9. Maddux, who turned 40 in April, threw 102 pitches and remained at 325 wins.

Craig Biggio hit the 49th leadoff homer of his career — already an NL record — on Maddux's second pitch of the game, and the Astros went up 3-0 in the sixth on a two-run double by Preston Wilson.

Clemens, less than a month from his 44th birthday, threw 85 pitches on a humid 85-degree night. Flashbulbs popped all over Wrigley Field as he delivered his first pitches in the first inning, fans figuring they may never see such a his-

toric matchup again.

And the Rocket can still bring it when needed. When Juan Pierre singled and stole second in the sixth inning, giving the Cubs a potential rally, Clemens threw a 91 mph pitch to strike out Derrek Lee and then got Aramis Ramirez to ground out sharply to second.

It was the second meeting in as many seasons between two of the game's greatest right-handers, both of whom entered Wednesday's game with losing records.

Maddux beat Clemens 3-2 on April 29, 2005, in Houston. Before that game at Minute Maid Park, the last time two

300-game winners met was 1987, when Steve Carlton, then with Minnesota, faced Don Sutton, pitching at the time for California.

And before Clemens and Maddux met last season, the last matchup of 300-game winners in the National League came in 1892 between Philadelphia's Tim Keefe and St. Louis' Jim "Pud" Galvin.

Maddux, a 15-time Gold Glove winner, handled seven comebackers, including a bunt from Chris Burke that he picked up and threw to third to get Mike Lamb. Lamb led off with an infield single and stole

second in the sixth.

But with two outs, Aubrey Huff singled Burke to third and Wilson followed with his two-run double to right center to make it 3-0.

Chicago's Todd Walker, who entered the game as pinch hitter in the sixth, hit a two-run homer off reliever Trever Miller with two outs in the eighth to pull the Cubs within 3-2.

The Astros added a run in the ninth when Wilson doubled, moved up on a sacrifice and scored on Adam Everett's squeeze bunt.

Brad Lidge pitched the ninth for his 22nd save in 26 chances.

## Rangers get come-from-behind victory in Toronto

TORONTO (AP) — Kevin Millwood earned his 10th win and Gary Matthews Jr. hit a go-ahead double in a four-run seventh inning Wednesday, leading the Texas Rangers to a 5-4 victory over Toronto on a troubling night for the Blue Jays.

Shea Hillenbrand was cut by the club after he was chastised during a team meeting and he refused to sit in the dugout with his team-

mates.

Hours before, Hillenbrand criticized the organization and said he expected to be traded. The designated hitter and corner infielder was upset because he wasn't in the starting lineup for the second consecutive game and nobody in Toronto's front office congratulated him on adopting a baby girl last weekend.

Hillenbrand was designated for assignment during the game and was not

in the locker room afterward.

Hillenbrand was batting .301 with 12 homers, 15 doubles and 39 RBIs. The Blue Jays have 10 days to trade, release or send him outright to the minors.

Mark DeRosa hit a tying homer for the Rangers, who rallied from a 3-1 deficit. Akinori Otsuka pitched the ninth for his 20 save in 22 chances.

Lyle Overbay homered for the Blue Jays, who have lost two straight.

Millwood (10-5) allowed three runs and six hits in seven innings, striking out five and walking none. Vicente Padilla also got his 10th win for Texas on Tuesday.

Vernon Wells cut it to 5-4 with an RBI double off Francisco Cordero in the eighth.

Overbay followed with an infield single, but Cordero escaped the jam by getting Gregg Zaun on a fly to center.

Gerald Laird doubled in

the third and scored on an error by Blue Jays second baseman Aaron Hill.

Reed Johnson's two-run double in the fifth gave Toronto a 3-1 lead.

The Rangers rallied in the seventh on DeRosa's two-run homer off Casey Janssen (6-9) and Matthews' two-run double off Justin Speier.

Janssen allowed five runs — four earned — and six hits in 6 2-3 innings. He's winless in his last four starts.



# That's Racin'

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Go online and check out [www.thatstracin.com](http://www.thatstracin.com) for the latest information and news on stock-car racing, updated daily.

"He didn't live up to what he preaches, and that's move over and let a faster car go ... He came down on us a little bit. I came up on him a little bit, and we hit."

— Ryan Newman, on his crash with Tony Stewart in Sunday's Lenox 300.



## Good, but not great

### Assessing the performance of the 2006 Nextel Cup rookie class

By JIM UTTER  
McClatchy Newspapers

This year's Nextel Cup Series rookie class was touted as possibly one of the best ever. So far, the original seven-member group has been successful, but not spectacular. Joe Gibbs Racing's Denny Hamlin became the first member of the class to earn a Cup win, taking a victory in June at Pocono Raceway, site of Sunday's Pennsylvania 500. Hamlin also has two Busch Series wins this season.

So far, Hamlin and Martin Truex Jr., who won the Busch race at Talladega, Ala., are the only drivers of the class to earn any victories in NASCAR's top three series in 2006. It has been a bumpy but memorable season for most.

Brent Sherman, who started the year with BAM Racing, didn't make it past the season's eighth race. Hamlin, who grew up on the short tracks of Virginia, has been the surprise top performer, while all but David Stremme has at least one top-10 finish.

Hamlin is also the only rookie who appears in contention for a spot in the Chase for the Nextel Cup, the 10-race playoff that determines the series champion. Since his win last month at Pocono, he has flirted in and around the top 10 in points, which guarantees participation.

"I think it's tough because everyone who's doing that in and out thing (of the top 10) every week, they're running the same position every single week. So it's just whoever is going to eliminate bad luck is going to get in there," said Hamlin, 25.

"We're trading spots every single week. I think in years' past there's kind of been a gap of the top-10 guys, then there is everybody else, 11th through 15th. There's going to be a lot of good guys that are not going to make it."

The rookies continue to make strides. Two weeks ago at Chicagoland, three rookies finished in the top 10 — Reed Sorenson (seventh), Clint Bowyer (ninth) and J.J. Yeley (10th) — for the first time this season.

Richard Childress Racing's Bowyer, 27, and Sorenson, a 20-year-old native of Peachtree City, Ga., who drives for Chip Ganassi Racing, have been close on Hamlin's heels.

Bowyer started the year with a sixth-place finish in the Daytona 500 and earned a career-best fifth at Phoenix. He has struggled in qualifying, with seven starts of 30th or worse.

"It's been a lot of ups and downs but we're starting to get things smoothed out," Bowyer said. "We've had a rough month-and-a-half where we ran good but just didn't get a good finish."

"We've had the speed. It feels good to finally get things turned around in the last couple of weeks."

Sorenson and his Chip Ganassi Racing teammate, Stremme, both appeared headed to strong finishes last weekend at New Hampshire utilizing new short-track cars.

Sorenson led 31 laps and was running third



Nextel Cup rookie Denny Hamlin celebrates his victory in the Pocono 500 at Pocono Raceway.

### RANKING THE NEXTEL CUP ROOKIES

A comparison of the 2006 Nextel Cup rookie class:

Driver	Team	Wins	Top fives	Top 10s	Series points	Rookie standings
Denny Hamlin	Joe Gibbs Racing	1	3	7	12th	1st
Clint Bowyer	Richard Childress Racing	0	1	5	16th	2nd
Reed Sorenson	Chip Ganassi Racing	0	1	4	22nd	3rd
Martin Truex Jr.	Dale Earnhardt Inc.	0	0	1	23rd	4th
J.J. Yeley	Joe Gibbs Racing	0	0	2	27th	5th
David Stremme	Chip Ganassi Racing	0	0	0	35th	6th



but ran out of fuel when a late-race caution forced a green-white-checkered overtime finish. Stremme finished 11th — his career best.

Both drivers say they have faced unexpected circumstances this season. "I think the competition in Nextel Cup is kind of one of the things that is kind of an eye opener for me," Sorenson said. "Each and every week if your car is not awesome you're really struggling to get in the top 15 or top 10."

Said Stremme: "Probably the biggest thing is how guys show lack of respect on the track but then they get out of the car and they're like,

'Oh, I'm sorry.' I got wrecked at Martinsville and all of a sudden I'm turning right and I get told 'I'm sorry.'"

Though J.J. Yeley's has just two top-10s and a best finish of eighth at California, he has been in contention for several Busch Series wins this season.

Truex, a two-time Busch champion, has not been able to capitalize on the success enjoyed this season by Dale Earnhardt Jr., his teammate at Dale Earnhardt Inc. Truex's best finish was eighth at Texas.

Last week: 8.

2. **Kasey Kahne (car No. 9):** Becoming accomplished at making bad days decent ones. Last week: 5.

4. **Jeff Burton (car No. 31):** If this team can ever win a race, it would legitimize it as a championship contender. Last week: 6.

5. **Kyle Busch (car No. 5):** Finally found just enough patience at Loudon to convert a good run into a victory.

6. **Greg Biffle (car No. 16):** Only finished worse than 11th once since Talladega. Last week: 7.

7. **Mark Martin (car No. 6):** Fourth at Loudon got him back a few of the points that had got away in recent races. Last week: 9.

8. **Dale Earnhardt Jr. (car No. 8):** Driver put on good face after his engine failed at New Hampshire. No

need to panic yet. Last week: 4.

9 & 10. **Tony Stewart (car No. 20), Kevin Harvick (car No. 29), Jeff Gordon (car No. 24) and Denny Hamlin (car No. 11):** Right now it seems like these are the guys who're fighting for the final two positions in the Chase. Don't count Carl Edwards out quite yet, either. Last week: 3, 11, 11 and 12, respectively.

For the rest of the top-40 rankings, go online and visit [www.thatstracin.com](http://www.thatstracin.com).

### RANKINGS

#### THAT'S RACIN'S TOP PICKS

1. **Jimmie Johnson (car No. 48):** The next stretch of races is where this team has lost momentum the past couple years. Last week: 1.

2. **Matt Kenseth (car No. 17):** Yes, he got a raw deal at Chicagoland, but it's time for us to move on. Last week: 2.

## Patience pays off for race winner Kyle Busch

One of the most fascinating elements of auto racing is just how often patience equates with success.

That, of course, could not be more counterintuitive. The whole point of the sport is to go faster than everyone else. But sometimes, that's absolutely the worst thing a driver can try to do.

Sunday's Lenox 300 at the New Hampshire International Speedway illustrated that point in two ways.

Late in the race, Kyle Busch found himself seventh on a restart behind six cars that hadn't pitted in apparent hopes that the fuel in their cars would miraculously regenerate. It was already an established fact that Busch's Chevrolet was the strongest car on the track. At the least, the strongest one left with a chance to win after other challengers had gone out with mostly self-inflicted wounds.

Busch, who is barely 21 years old, hasn't always been able to control his youthful exuberance and find the right mixture of aggressiveness and

patience. There were times Sunday when he pushed the issue a little more than necessary.

"I know we had a great car, and I knew whoever got to the front first was going to have the best shot at winning the race," Busch said. "You want to make sure that you bide your time, but you're patient enough that you don't get yourself in trouble, but you're aggressive enough to where you can get there first."

Busch was getting pressure from Greg Biffle and Denny Hamlin, too, but once he got far enough in front of them to feel comfortable, he settled in. Busch wasn't back to the lead yet, but he figured he'd get another caution. If those in front of him stopped for fuel, he wouldn't have to pass them. If they didn't stop, Busch figured — correctly — he'd get them



anyway. Earlier in the afternoon, on the other hand, Tony Stewart found himself with Ryan Newman in his rearview mirror.

Newman had made a pit stop and had fresh tires, so he was trying to use the tires to make up ground. Stewart, who was leading the race, knew Newman had fresh tires. But in Stewart's mind, Newman had made his Dodge difficult to pass in the early laps when Stewart's Chevrolet was significantly faster. Therefore, Stewart decided he would not cut Newman any slack as Newman tried to get back one of the laps he was down.

The result? Stewart and Newman wrecked.

The crash dashed Newman's hopes for climbing back into the Chase picture. For that reason alone, he should have done more to avoid

the incident. But Newman had only an outside shot at the Chase anyway. Stewart, on the other hand, certainly had a much better chance to win Sunday and almost certainly was strong enough to finish in the top five.

Instead, Stewart finished 37th and is now outside the top 10 in the standings.

Stewart undoubtedly doesn't see it this way, but it doesn't matter whether he's right about Newman not giving him enough room before the Lap 90 incident ruined his day. It doesn't matter whose fault the wreck was, because the fact that Stewart didn't avoid it was far more costly.

Stewart and his team won the championship last year by racing with intelligence and consistency. Consistency requires patience. The teams that are most consistent and patient over the next two months are going to be the ones who advance into the Chase.

### THIS WEEK'S RACE

**PENNSYLVANIA 500**  
Where: Pocono Raceway, a 2.5-mile triangular-shaped paved flat track located in Long Pond, Pa.

When: Sunday at 2:10 p.m. (all times ET).  
Qualifying is 3:40 p.m. Friday.

TV: TNT.  
Radio: Motor Racing Network.  
Purse: \$4,936,658.  
Last year's winner: Kurt Busch.

Worth mentioning: Brian Vickers has five straight top-10 starts at Pocono, the longest current streak.  
Jeff Gordon has competed in 27 races at Pocono and led 841 laps in those races, the most of all drivers.



### POLL POSITION

#### THIS WEEK'S QUESTION

Who do you think is the best driver of this season's Nextel Cup rookie class?  
Cast your vote at: [www.thatstracin.com](http://www.thatstracin.com)

#### LAST WEEK'S QUESTION

Danica Patrick's future — whether it's with NASCAR or not — has been in the headlines a lot. If it were your call, which way would you help steer her career?  
Number of votes: 5,848

Response	No. of votes	Percent
What's the big deal? She still has a lot to prove on the track.	2,493	42%
Patrick should stay where she is, in open-wheel racing.	1,157	20%
NASCAR would be her best bet.	1,101	19%
Doesn't matter to me. Let's just line 'em up and race.	1,031	18%
Maybe she can hook up with a Formula One team.	66	1%

### STOP 'N GO

#### WHO'S HOT

- **Matt Kenseth:** Second in points. A year ago he was 16th. Now that's progress.
- **Kyle Busch:** May still have some growing up to do, but should be considered a serious championship contender.
- **Jeff Burton:** Has done everything but win this season and that should come soon.

#### WHO'S NOT

- **Tony Stewart:** Those who thought some drivers were "locks" for the Chase need only look here.
- **Jamie McMurray:** Is this really one of the Roush Racing teams?
- **Joe Nemechek:** Even when he runs good this season he finishes bad.

— Jim Utter

### BY THE NUMBERS

#### NEXTEL CUP POINTS LEADERS

The top-40 drivers as of July 16:

Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1. Jimmie Johnson	2789	21. Scott Riggs	1905
2. Matt Kenseth	2721	22. Reed Sorenson	1897
3. Jeff Burton	2478	23. Martin Truex Jr.	1883
4. Kyle Busch	2455	24. Dale Jarrett	1817
5. Mark Martin	2451	25. Bobby Labonte	1775
6. Kasey Kahne	2445	26. Jeff Green	1738
7. Dale Earnhardt Jr.	2428	27. J.J. Yeley	1736
8. Kevin Harvick	2408	28. Robby Gordon	1709
9. Jeff Gordon	2342	29. Dave Blaney	1621
10. Greg Biffle	2342	30. Joe Nemechek	1614
11. Tony Stewart	2331	31. Kyle Petty	1571
12. Denny Hamlin	2324	32. Sterling Marlin	1556
13. Carl Edwards	2196	33. Jeremy Mayfield	1555
14. Kurt Busch	2136	34. Ken Schrader	1506
15. Casey Mears	2091	35. David Stremme	1420
16. Clint Bowyer	2024	36. Michael Waltrip	1366
17. Jamie McMurray	1985	37. Travis Kvapil	1252
18. Brian Vickers	1974	38. Scott Wimmer	1129
19. Ryan Newman	1966	39. Tony Raines	1123
20. Elliott Sadler	1963	40. Terry Labonte	891

#### BUSCH SERIES POINTS LEADERS

The top-20 drivers as of July 15:

Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1. Kevin Harvick	3082	11. Jason Leffler	2075
2. Carl Edwards	2784	12. John Andretti	2042
3. Clint Bowyer	2705	13. Jon Wood	1975
4. Denny Hamlin	2687	14. Ashton Lewis	1965
5. J.J. Yeley	2636	15. Todd Kluever	1951
6. Greg Biffle	2398	16. Reed Sorenson	1918
7. Paul Menard	2373	17. David Green	1908
8. Kyle Busch	2211	18. Stacy Compton	1858
9. Johnny Sauter	2220	19. Burney Lamar	1851
10. Kenny Wallace	2140	20. Danny O'Quinn Jr.	1828

NEXT RACE: Saturday, Goody's 250, Martinsville, Va.

#### TRUCK SERIES POINTS LEADERS

The top-10 drivers as of July 15:

Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1. Todd Bodine	2161	6. Ron Hornaday	1905
2. David Reutimann	2044	7. Jack Sprague	1898
3. Johnny Benson	1988	8. David Starr	1872
4. Rick Crawford	1930	9. Terry Cook	1864
5. Ted Musgrave	1913	10. Dennis Setzer	1835

NEXT RACE: Aug. 4, Power Stroke Diesel 200, Indianapolis.



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### Business Opportunity

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### Garage Sales

**3 FAMILY** Garage Sale: 215 Becker Rd. (Sand Springs), Friday & Saturday 8:00-4:00. Furniture, carpet, new & used clothing, tools, birdbath, household items, lots of misc.

**4 FAMILY** Backyard Sale: 2604 Ann, Saturday 7:00-7:00. Men's / boys jeans & T-shirts, dresses, wedding dress & etc., dishes, shoes, household items, linens and more.

**BARN SALE:** Friday & Saturday 8:00-12:00. Trailers, tools, building materials, welder. 2504 N. Birdwell & Loop Road.

### Garage Sales

**GARAGE SALE:** 1304 Virginia, Sat. 8:00-7. House hold items, clothes, knick-knacks, lots of misc.

**GARAGE SALE:** 2501 Ann, Saturday 7:00-7. Bedding, clothes & shoes, tools, movies, DVD's, books, too much to list.

**GARAGE SALE:** 2905 Goliad in Highland, Saturday Only 8:00-7. Furniture, Jr. Clothing, and Household items.

**GARAGE SALE:** 8am-7, 605 Washington Blvd. Children & adult clothes, lots of misc.

**INSIDE SALE,** 1903 S. Gregg. Thursday 1-6, Friday 10-6 & Saturday 10-2. More scrubs have been added 50% off on lots of merchandise. Come make a deal with us.

**LARGE 2 Family** Garage Sale: Many useful men & women items at Bargain Prices. No Junk. Friday & Saturday No sale before 8:00am., 5101 Wasson Road.

**MOVING SALE:** 804 Saunders (Coahoma), Saturday 7:00-7 & Sunday 1:00-7. Don't Miss this One. A little of everything.

**MULT. FAMILY** Garage Sale: 5612 Murphy Road (11th Place Ext. too Midway Rd. turn on Cameron follow to Murphy Rd., Friday & Saturday 8:00-7. Furniture, treadmill, swing set, round sound system, MP3 player, clothing, lots more.

**MULTI. FAMILY** Garage Sale: 101 Maple (West of Coahoma Bank). Look for signs. Friday & Saturday 7:00-7. Lots of misc. items.

### Garage Sales

**SATURDAY ONLY!** 8:00-7 Two Family Yard Sale: Toys, baby gear, stroller, swing, sand box, rideable toys, furniture, stereo, system, rugs, art, kitchen stuff. 505 Highland.

**YARD SALE:** 109 Jefferson, Saturday 5:50am, Really!!!! Ya'll Come Now, Ya Hear.

### Help Wanted

**ACCOUNTANT NEEDED** for Big Spring Oil Company. With Holidays and Limited Benefits. Monday thru Friday 8:00-5:00. Please send resume to P.O. Box 1888, Big Spring Texas 79721.

**ALL POSITIONS,** full or part time, all shifts available. Apply at 3315 E. FM 700, Neighbors Convenience Store.

**MARTIN COUNTY** Hospital Home Health (Stanton) is looking for a full time registered nurse. \$1000-\$1500 sign on bonus. Bilingual preferred, but not required. Hours are Mon-Fri, 8:00-5:00. Some call. Please call Allison Williams, DON at (432)756-3259 or fax resume to (432)756-4510.

### Help Wanted

**CANTEEN CORRECTIONS** now hiring for Supervisor positions. Starting pay is \$9.37. Training provided, 3 or 5 day work week. Excellent Benefits! Must be able to pass background check and have a relatively clean credit report. Contact Debby Greer at (432)263-2366 or TWC 432-263-8373 ext. 215.

**CASHIER NEEDED** Bilingual preferred also need 2 Detail car persons. Apply in person, Downtown Car Wash, 1301 East 4th.

**COME JOIN** our Parkway family. Now accepting applications for Medication Aides. Competitive pay. Please apply in person. 3200 Parkway.

**CPA FIRM** has position available for experienced Bookkeeper or Junior Accountant. This is a position with growth opportunity. Please reply to P.O. Box 1431/146, Big Spring, TX 79721-1431.

**PFI IS** looking for MIG and Stick Welders. Apply in person at 1305 East Airpark Dr., Big Spring Texas.

### Help Wanted

**DRIVERS BE HOME DAILY.** Coastal Transport is a leader in transport of LPG Asphalt & Petroleum Products. Coastal serves high profile accounts & needs dedicated professionals to join our growing team in Big Spring. Qualify 23 with class A & One year driving experience. Inquire about Sign-on Bonus up to \$4000. Call Jay at 888-527-7221.

**EVENING CASHIER** full time/part time at WES-T-GO. Vacation and benefits available. Starting pay \$5.15 per hour. Apply in person, 1800 Gregg.

**EXPERIENCED HOT** Oiler with CDL Hazmat certification. Sign on Bonus. Call (432)683-4996 between 8:00-5:00, Monday thru Friday.

**FULL TIME** position for Sales/Decorator in busy floor covering store. Must be good with numbers and work will with people. Salary based on experience. Send resume to 309 Rocco Road, Big Spring, Texas 79720.

### Help Wanted

**MANAGEMENT TEAM** wanted for apartment complex. Need to be handy. Call Ron (432)935-1273 or 267-5444 to set-up interview.

**MIDWESTERN SERVICES, Inc.** Tank Cleaners needed. In & out of state travel & work 60+ hrs. per week. Transportation to and from job site. Hotel paid & \$175 a week per diem. Hourly wage & bonuses. 100% drug free. EOE. Apply at 749 South County Rd. 221, Snyder, Texas.

**MUDLOGGER - GEOLOGIST** W. TX, E. NM, Min 3yrs Exp Excellent Pay & Benefits. Resume to: Career@RileyGeo.com or call 432-238-8066.

**NEW POSITION** for a Part-Time Teller in Big Spring. Qualified applicants should be available to work Monday - Saturday. Must be customer service oriented and have cash handling and sales experience. Apply at American State Bank, 1411 Gregg Street.

### MAINTENANCE PERSONNEL

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**TRANSIT MIX Concrete** has an opening for a Mixer Driver at our Big Spring location. Must have a CDL license, good driving record and verifiable work history. Full benefit package and 40 hour guarantee offered with wages starting at \$10.25 or with 6 months mixer driving experience \$10.75. Apply at Transit Mix Concrete: 605 N. Benton, Big Spring (432)267-6348. Transit Mix Concrete is an EOE/AA employer.

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Pets

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**4221 HAMILTON.** 3 bedroom, 1-1/2 bath. Call (432)267-3841 or 517-0642.

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Real-Estate for Sale

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**2715 ANN.....** Awesome 3/2 with fireplace better than new. A must see. Nice. Home Realtors (432)263-1284.

**5020 WASSON** Road - House and land. AS IS - Lots 9-14. Call (432)263-6208 leave a message. No Owner Finance.

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8	7	4	6	1	9	5	2	3

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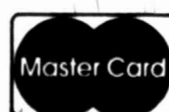
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Tomorrow's Horoscope

BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

The moon in Gemini has so much to say, you may feel his presence around the proverbial water cooler, burning through the phone line or chatting up the neighborhood. So many words, so little info. It's the connection that counts. Hopefully, it'll be pleasant, friendly and funny. Also, Venus in Cancer promotes a loving family exchange.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19). By practicing what you're good at, you make the world a better place. Not necessarily because your labor bears fruit, but because when you use your talent, you unconsciously give others permission to do the same.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20). Your curious eyes

search into dark shadows, around blind bends and into souls of strangers. There's little you can't see or know if you're determined. Some are charmed by your powers; others are afraid.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 21). This is no bland day. A year from now, you'll still remember it. There are clear choices before you. The stars suggest that if you're going to tell people the truth, at least be funny.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22). In fleeting, forgetful moments you feel lost, as though there isn't a person on earth who knows how to get you to where you're supposed to be. Then, you remember your purpose. A Taurus helps with this.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22). Your inventive approach to work adds a higher level of sophistication to what you produce. Minor daily tweaks over the range of a few weeks result in a huge impact and even a raise.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Beware of a friend who is of the "fair weather" variety — interested in you for your status. This person worships the ground you walk on, so long as that ground is covered by a red carpet.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You're socially very successful when you break the rules of etiquette. Your informality makes others feel comfortable. One person in particular is deeply endeared.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You might be too close to your work to step back and identify the "you" in it. So when someone comments about your work, listen carefully, noting how they experience you.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). A competitive associate has to strain to keep up with you. Does knowing this make you feel smug? Probably, but don't show it. Humility is what turns colleagues into fans.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-

Jan. 19). Do you feel you've been passed over by the powers that be? Your time is coming, dear Capricorn. Be nicer to yourself, and you'll attract the attention you're looking for.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Beware of those who say you're "so lucky." You spent your whole life working up to this moment. Luck had very little to do with it. Align with those who understand how unique you are.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20). Follow your own instinct. It may be wrong — some instincts are. If you're going to make a mistake, at least let it be your mistake and not someone else's.

**ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS**: "Does every sign have psychic gifts? I'm a Pisces with a Cancer moon, and I was told that I'm psychic, but I don't think I am. Also, someone told me that I would be a good channeler because I have a very high vibra-

tion. Is that true?"

I believe that everyone is psychic to varying degrees. The water signs, Scorpio, Cancer and Pisces, are considered to have the most psychic potential, but there are extraordinarily gifted psychics of all signs. Also, there are plenty of Scorpio, Cancer and Pisces people who do not use their intuition at all. Being psychic is about relying on your intuition and trusting the information you know, even if you don't know how you know it. The way to developing extrasensory talents is by validating your inklings and acting on them, valuing your dreams and exercising your imagination and visioning skills. Channeling is one psychic discipline that you may already do without realizing it. When you write or create art, you're channeling. You've heard artists say they don't know where the inspiration comes from? That's

because they're unconsciously pulling it in from the high, as you say, vibration of the collective unconscious.

**CELEBRITY PROFILES**: Funnyman David Spade pokes fun at the celebrity world he lives in on Comedy Central's "Showbiz Show." Self-deprecation is part of a comic's job, and with Mercury in the sign of entertainment, Leo, and his moody, emotional Cancer birth sign, he's definitely in the right vocation. I see the popularity of the "Showbiz Show" allowing Spade to become host of a TV event like the Emmys.

If you would like to write to Holiday Mathis, please go to [www.creators.com](http://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](http://www.creators.com).

Annie's Mailbox ®: Advice for those in need

Dear Annie: I'm 16 and a sophomore in high school. I'm very shy and have a limited group of close friends. Recently, I met a great guy who also is very shy, and we have a lot in common. I usually clam up around people, but I have no problem opening up to "Zeke." We get along great and have fun together, and we never run out of things to talk about.

The problem is, Zeke is 18 and just graduated. My dad insists he's too old for me, and now I'm not allowed to see him again. I've told Dad he is welcome to meet Zeke. I've even asked if I could invite Zeke over for a nice family dinner where we could all get to know him, but Dad won't hear of it. He says I'll just have to get over him and find someone my own age.

I don't know what I'll do if I'm forced to stay away from Zeke. I would be happy if we could just see each other as friends, but Dad won't allow that, either. Do you have any suggestions? — Desperate in Ohio

Dear Desperate: It may be hard to see right now, but Dad really does have your best interests at heart. He thinks a college man may put pressure on you to have a more intimate relationship than you are ready for, and you know that's a genuine possibility. However, we



KATHY MITCHELL  
MARCY SUGAR

think your offer to have Zeke come over for a family dinner is a good idea, and we hope Dad will change his mind about that.

Either way, you can remain friends with Zeke through phone calls and e-mail, and once you graduate, you will be free to see each other socially if you are still interested. Hang in there, honey.

Dear Annie: I recently shaved my head for a cancer fundraiser at my college. I was happy to do it and, though it was quite an adjustment, everyone at school was very supportive.

currently looks awful and can tell they think so, too.

I am becoming really self-conscious and want to explain to them that I shaved my head for a good reason, but I don't want to blow my own horn about the brave thing I did. Any ideas? — Bald in Boulder, Colo.

Dear Bald: You don't have to say or do anything. If people are shocked by your hairstyle, who cares? (SET ITAL) You (END ITAL) know why you shaved it and should hold your head up with pride. In a few weeks, it will have grown out sufficiently to be less surprising. Of course, if your parents would like to inform the neighbors about your good deed, let them. It's a parent's prerogative to brag a little.

Dear Annie: My 90-year-old mother also fell prey to sweepstakes entries. She lost thousands of dollars buying magazines, videos, books and useless household items in a vain attempt to win money. When we tried to reason with her, it only made her lie to us.

Our solution was to contact Publishers Clearing House, Reader's Digest and all the other companies individually, by phone or Internet, and ask that Mom's name be removed from their mailing lists. We asked for confirmation by fax or e-

mail, and included a stern warning that legal action will be taken if they do not comply. It takes four to eight weeks for it to work.

We regularly check Mom's mail for sweepstakes offers, and although she still manages to enter an occasional contest, the costs are now nominal. I hope this helps another family. Shame on these companies that prey on our elderly. — Sad But Wiser

Dear Sad: Our thanks to you and others who wrote in with similar suggestions.

Dear Annie: My husband and I have been married for three years. We have a good marriage, without major problems. The problem is that for our entire marriage, "Ted" has made comments about other women. He constantly talks about how attracted he is to them and jokes about how he'd like to have sex with them. He will even say these things to other women right in front of me, which makes me uncomfortable. I feel as if everyone is thinking we must have a lousy marriage and that Ted is not content with me. And if he is doing this in front of me, what does he do when I am not around?

Ted says he is "just joking" and there's no reason for me to be upset, because I have nothing to

worry about. I've told him repeatedly that his comments make me feel inadequate and insecure about myself and our marriage, but he continues.

Recently, Ted told me that in the past few weeks, he has been having erotic dreams about other women — and not just faceless women, but women we know. He said he dreamed he had sex with these women in his workplace and even in our home. He insists he has never cheated on me and has no intention of ever doing so, but this kind of behavior makes me wonder.

I have tried not to turn this into a big issue, but it bothers me tremendously. We are both in our early 20s. Is this just a young-guy thing, or should I be concerned? — Worried Wife

Dear Worried: It's not a young-guy thing, it's an immature-guy thing. Ted is an emotional adolescent. This doesn't mean he is looking to cheat, but there is the possibility that another woman will take his comments as an invitation and there could be trouble. Since there is no way to predict whether or not he'll ever grow up, you have to decide whether he's worth it as is.

Dear Annie: I am exhausted from being used as a babysitter for my grandchildren. What

happened to the days of hiring a sitter so you could go out?

We already raised our children and don't need to raise our grandchildren, too. Saying "no" doesn't mean we love them less, but my husband and I need time to ourselves. Babysitting once a week is more than enough. We may not work 40-hour weeks like we used to, but we still have jobs, and are tired and exhausted when we get home. Not to mention, we just don't have the energy anymore.

Can't we be grandparents who spoil our grandkids and then send them home? Isn't that what grandparents are supposed to do? — Tired Grandparents, USA

Dear Tired: You are not alone. Some grandparents love to babysit, but not all of them. Parents who demand too often that Grandpa and Grandma take care of the kids show a lack of consideration. Of course, when there is an emergency, we hope the grandparents will step in, but otherwise, they are not automatic sitters, and parents who learn this early will maintain a better relationship.

Dear Annie: Here's something for your readers. My grandfather, who died in 1907, had the following printed in all his books (author unknown), along with his name and address:

If thou art borrowed by a friend, quite welcome he shall be.

To read, to study, not to lend, but to return to me.

Not that imparted knowledge doth diminish learning's store,

But books I find, if often lent, return to me no more.

I don't know how well it worked as a method of getting his books back, but I also keep a signed receipt. — Doctor in New Albany, Ind.

Dear Doctor: People often forget whose books they have borrowed or where they put them. It's never a bad idea to stick a reminder inside the cover. Thanks.

# The Spider

During Mark Twain's days as a newspaperman, he was the editor of a small Missouri paper.

One day, he received a letter from a subscriber stating that he had found a spider in his paper and asked if this was an omen of good or bad luck.

Twain replied, "Finding a spider in your paper is neither good nor bad luck. The spider was merely looking over our paper to see which merchant was not advertising so that he could go to that store, spin his web across the door and lead a life of undisturbed peace ever after."

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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](mailto:anniesmailbox@comcast.net), or write to: Annie's Mailbox, P.O. Box 118190, Chicago, IL 60611. To find out more about Annie's Mailbox, visit [www.creators.com](http://www.creators.com). © 2006 CREATORS SYNDICATE, INC.

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THURSDAY

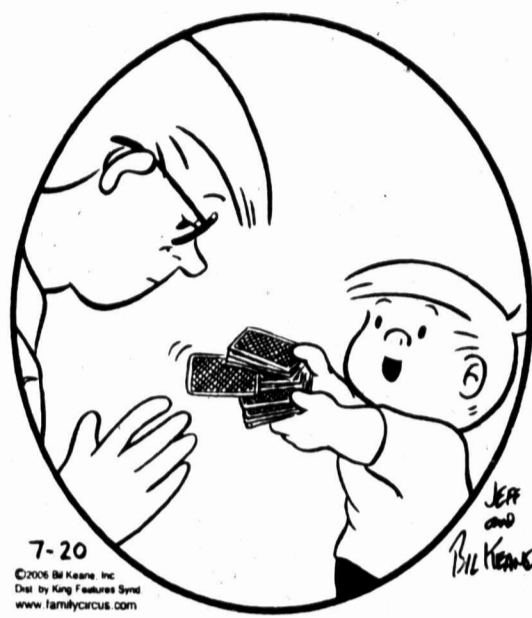
Table with 28 columns representing different TV channels (WFDA, KMID, UNI, KPEJ, KOSA, KTLN, KWES, WTBS, KMLM, KPBT, DISC, AMC, SPIKE, TNT, BET, DISN, ESPN2, ESPN, SCIF) and 12 rows representing time slots from 6:30 AM to 12:30 AM. Each cell contains the channel name and the program being aired.

DENNIS THE MENACE



"CAN I KEEP 'IM, MOM? HE'LL BE A GOOD PET UNTIL HE CROAKS."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

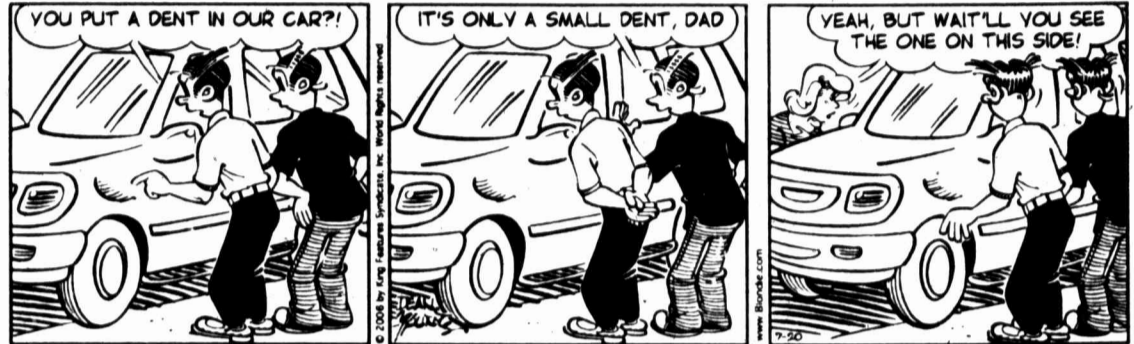


"Pick a card, Daddy, ANY card!"

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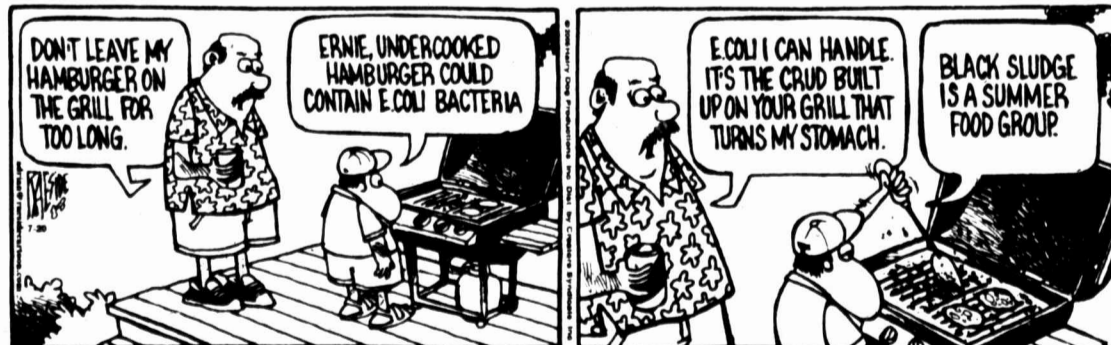
AGNES



HI AND LOIS



THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BETLE BAILEY



This Date In History

Today is Thursday, July 20, the 201st day of 2006. There are 164 days left in the year. Today's Highlight in History: On July 20, 1969, Apollo 11 astronauts Neil Armstrong and Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin became the first men to walk on the moon...

assassinate Adolf Hitler with a bomb failed as the explosion at Hitler's Rastenburg headquarters only wounded the Nazi leader. In 1944, President Roosevelt was nominated for an unprecedented fourth term of office at the Democratic convention in Chicago.

musician Paul Cook (The Sex Pistols) is 50. Actress Donna Dixon is 49. Country singer Rodney Foster is 47. Actor Frank Whaley is 43. Rock singer Chris Cornell is 42. Rock musician Stone Gossard (Pearl Jam) is 40. Actor Reed Diamond is 39. Actor Josh Holloway ("Lost") is 37. Singer Vitamin C is 37. Actor Simon Rex is 32. Actress Judy Greer is 31. Actor Charlie Korsmo is 28. Actor John Francis Daley is 21. Actress Billi Bruno is 10.

Answer to previous puzzle: A crossword grid with words filled in.

Newsday Crossword

HUGS & KISSES by Shirley Soloway Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS: 1 Stinging insect, 5 Desi Arnaz's birthplace, 9 Hall monitor's request, 13 Blunt blade, 14 Unwritten test, 15 In any way, 17 Mattress support, 19 Renée, in Chicago, 20 Banderas film of 2001, 21 Apple-pie order, 23 Pro vote, 24 Went through, as an article, 25 For each, 26 Raucousness, 29 Newcastle's river, 31 "Wow!", 33 Jaws island, 35 Hugely annoying, 39 Judd Hirsch sitcom, 40 Many racetracks, 41 One who's against, 42 Clear in court, 44 Spread, as finger paint, 45 TV promo word, 46 Perry's creator, 48 Any ship, 49 In shape, 51 Sounds of surprise, 53 Court fig., 55 Electrical accessory, 57 Straddling, 61 Italian island, 62 Hunters' helpers, 64 Fox teen series, 65 Model, 66 Layer of paint, 67 Greek mountain, 68 Some verses, 69 Irish singer, 10 Place for positrons, 11 Some reeds, 12 Playground feature, 16 Not-nice look, 18 Religious devotion, 22 Former African capital, 24 Money-back offers, 26 E-mail info, 27 Cinerama descendant, 28 Watergate hearings evidence, 30 Sort of star, 32 River Kwai locale, 34 Fork part, 36 Padre or Astro, 37 Six-sided state, 38 Kingly address, 40 Word form for "straight", 43 Unusual things, 44 Donnybrook, 47 Mascara target, 49 Sure thing, 50 Neighbor of 37 Down, 52 Monteverdi opera, 54 Cessation of hostilities, 56 They're paid to play, 57 Wheel connector, 58 A part of, 59 6/6/44, 60 Part of "to be" in Spain, 63 Like the Curiosity Shop

