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BIG SPRING **HERALD**

TUESDAY
JUNE 24, 2008

VOLUME 103, NUMBER 176

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County considers capital crime insurance

By STEVE REAGAN
Staff Writer

Howard County commissioners are considering joining an 85-county public defender task force in order to hold down costs of capital murder cases.

The goal of the task force is for counties to pool their resources to help pay for the rising costs of providing defense counsel for public defenders in capital death penalty cases.

Jack Stoffregen, an attorney with the West Texas Regional Public Defender for Capital Cases task force, addressed commissioners during their Monday meeting and said his organization could end up saving the county tens of thousands of dollars by providing qualified cases.

"The cost of capital cases to counties is enormous," he said, estimating that Howard County would end up spending anywhere between $80,000 and $200,000 per death penalty trial.

The cost to Howard County taxpayers would be slightly more than $53,000 over a four-year period, he noted.

For that cost, the task force would provide two defense attorneys, a mitigation specialist and an investigator to anyone charged with a capital crime.

Stoffregan likened participation in the task force to an insurance policy.

"If the county gets a death penalty case, this will save it a tremendous amount of money," he said. "If not, it will be like the premium you pay on an insurance policy."

That ideal appealed to Howard County Judge Mark Barr.

"It would be like any other kind of insurance," Barr said. "It would be good if you needed

See **COUNTY**, Page 3A

HERALD photo/Steve Reagan

Howard College President Dr. Cheryl Sparks, left, and John Freeman, president of the board of trustees, discuss an agenda item during the trustees' monthly meeting Monday afternoon on the college campus.

HC trustees give OK to renovations

Work begins in June for major upgrades

By STEVE REAGAN
Staff Writer

Let's get to work.

That was the message signaled by Howard College trustees during their monthly meeting Monday as they gave the green light to more than $20 million worth of renovations and upgrades to the Big Spring campus.

District voters approved the renovations in a May 2007 bond election and trustees and college officials have been busy planning the best ways and means of spending that money ever since.

With Monday's OK, however, planning will take a back seat to work.

A massive upgrade of plumbing, electrical, heating and ventilation systems across campus begins in earnest in July. Those projects, which will comprise the lion's share of the $21 million bond price tag, should be completed

See **HC**, Page 3A

Few attend town hall meeting on accessibility

By STEVE REAGAN
Staff Writer

Call it the town hall meeting that wasn't.

The second of three planned town hall meetings to discuss accessibility concerns with city streets and buildings was held Tuesday evening, but one important detail was missing.

People.

Only one person addressed the city's Americans with Disabilities Act Advisory Committee during the abbreviated meeting at Dora Roberts Community Center.

The committee is tasked with gathering citizen input and making recommendations concerning accessibility and compliance with ADA regulations on city streets and facilities.

Accessibility has become a major issue because the city is about to start work on a $9 million street renovation project in the central part of Big Spring.

"Texas law states that if you pursue major renovation to streets or buildings in a dollar value greater than $50,000, you must submit that proposal for ADA approval, then pass an accessibility inspection," said Bill Noonan, an architect with Parkhill, Smith and Cooper

See **ADA**, Page 3A

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Flea market planned to promote mall

By ALEX NEWSOM
Herald Intern

This just in, Big Spring has a mall ... when did that happen?

A community indoor flea market will be taking place in the Big Spring Mall between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Saturday. Seven booths are already reserved, and people can still register until Friday at 5 p.m. Not only will there be booths, there will also be a car wash with proceeds going to next year's Relay For Life and a blood drive outside in the parking lot.

Booths prices are determined by size: a 10 by 10 costs $25, a 12 by 12 costs $45 and a 24 by 12 is $65. Arts and crafts, baked goods, and Christian T-shirts and jewelry are among the things beings sold so far.

The idea was born in an

Spalding

attempt to not only bring more shoppers to the mall, but to show people that there really is a lot more to the mall than most people think. The Big Spring mall is currently home to 14 businesses: Gregg's Grill, Serendipity's, Cinemark 4, Techno Salon, Bealls, Hallmark, Sears, Merle Norman, Blum's Jewelers, Attitudes Hair Designs, Family Dollar, Seams So Nice, Sprint and Hollywood Nails.

"A lot of people don't realize how much we have," said Lara Spalding, the mall's manager and the person in charge of organizing the indoor flea market. "They think we just

See **MALL**, Page 3A

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Sports

BIG SPRING HERALD

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

Cowboys' Jones subject of controversial Imus remark

By CRISTIAN SALAZAR
Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK — Don Imus, responding to criticism about racial remarks on his radio program, said on the air Tuesday he was trying to "make a sarcastic point" about unfair treatment of blacks in the criminal justice system but had been misunderstood.

Imus resurrected his radio career six months ago with a pledge to mend the wounds caused by a racist and sexist comment he made about a women's basketball team.

On Tuesday he said he was following the spirit of that promise by calling attention to the unfair treatment of blacks — in this case the arrests of suspended Dallas Cowboys cornerback Adam Jones.

"What people should be outraged about is that they arrest blacks for no reason," Imus said Tuesday. "I mean, there's no reason to arrest this kid six times. Maybe he did something once, but everyone does something once."

He called the flurry of criticism surrounding the comments "ridiculous" and said that his program's cast is now more diverse than ever — and includes a black producer and two black co-hosts, a man and a woman.

"How insane would I have to be? What would I be thinking?" Imus wondered aloud.

The latest comments by Imus to come under scrutiny were aired on Monday's broadcast. During a conversation about Jones' run-ins with the law, Imus asked, "What color is he?" Sports announcer Warner Wolf said Jones — formerly known as Pacman — is "African-American." Imus responded: "There you go. Now we know."

The on-air exchange came months after Imus' return to work on a new show on WABC-AM following his firing from MSNBC and CBS Radio for calling the Rutgers University women's basketball team "nappy-headed hos."

When he returned to work, Imus gave a lengthy on-air apology and pledged to use his new show to foster an open dialogue on race relations.

Co-host Karith Foster, who is black, came to Imus' defense

See **IMUS**, Page 2B

Team USA confident in search of gold

AP photo/Russel A. Daniels

Mike Krzyzewski, head coach of the USA team, second from left, talks with Carmelo Anthony of the Denver Nuggets during a news conference in Chicago where the U.S. Olympic basketball team was announced Monday. Anthony and Dwyane Wade, right, of the Miami Heat were among the 12 players selected. At left is Jerry Colangelo, managing director of USA Basketball.

By ANDREW SELIGMAN
AP Sports Writer

CHICAGO — MVP Kobe Bryant has a shot at another big prize after falling short of the NBA championship, and he'll have plenty of help along the way.

LeBron James is there. Dwyane Wade, too.

They will lead a U.S. Olympic basketball team that was announced Monday and hopes to capture the gold medal in Beijing in August after a third-place showing in Athens four years ago.

The team already has "re-established itself" on an international level, USA Basketball managing director Jerry Colangelo said during a news conference.

The next step is to bring home the gold, and the U.S. will send a deep, versatile team to China. Carmelo Anthony and Jason Kidd were also among the 12 players chosen from a pool of 33.

See **USA**, Page 2B

IN BRIEF

Sandlot boys softball team raising funds

The Big Spring Sandlot boys softball team is on a quest to reach the Youth Slow Pitch World Series in Fayetteville, Ark., and is asking for the assistance of the community.

The team is holding a carwash at Advance Auto Parts starting at 8 a.m. Saturday.

They will also be selling burritos, and there will also be opportunities to win prizes such as a hydraulic jack, battery charger and tickets to Schlitterbahn.

If you want to just give a donation, call Ben Flores at 816-1262 or Diane at 264-0353.

C. G. A. sets scholarship tournament

The Chicano Golf Association is holding their 18th annual scholarship tournament Saturday and Sunday at the Big Spring Country Club.

The format is a two-person scramble and cost is $75 per player. Mulligans can be bought for $5 a piece.

Bob Brock Ford is sponsoring Hole No. 3 Saturday with any participant that hits a hole-in-one receiving a 2008 vehicle.

There are closest-to-pin prizes awarded on holes 3, 7, 13 and 16.

All proceeds for the tournament goes to a scholarship fund for local students.

For more information, call Sammy Reyna at 267-5627 or Gilbert Rodriguez at (432) 853-5504.

Pitcher's slam leads M's over Mets

By MIKE FITZPATRICK
AP Baseball Writer

NEW YORK — Felix Hernandez's wild night began with one stunning swing and ended after a frustrating injury.

Hernandez hit the first grand slam by an American League pitcher in 37 years, then left with a sprained ankle before he could qualify for a win Monday night in the Seattle Mariners' 5-2 victory over the New York Mets.

Facing a fellow ace from Venezuela in his first plate appearance this season, King Felix connected off Johan Santana with two outs in the second inning to give Seattle a 4-0 lead.

"My approach? Just swing. I closed my eyes," Hernandez said. "I was happy, and I was thinking that's all I need — four runs."

Hernandez clapped his hands when the ball cleared the fence and rounded the bases in glee. After the game, he said he figured it was his first homer since Little League.

"We were all so pumped up," winning pitcher Ryan Rowland-Smith said.

The opposite-field shot to right-center also was the first home run by a pitcher in Mariners history, and the first slam by an AL hurler since Cleveland's Steve Dunning went deep against Oakland's Diego Segui on May 11, 1971, according to the Elias Sports Bureau.

"He had a pretty good swing," Santana said. "The pitch was out of the strike zone, it was up like it was supposed to be, and all of a sudden, the ball leaves the park. There's nothing you can do about it."

In other games Monday, it was Arizona 2, Boston 1; the Los Angeles Angels 3, Washington 2; and Kansas City 8, Colorado 4.

In the only National League game, the Milwaukee Brewers beat the Atlanta Braves 4-1.

Three innings later, Hernandez sprained his left ankle while covering home plate on a run-scoring wild pitch. Carlos Beltran slid hard into the feet of Hernandez, who hobbled away from the play and crumpled to the turf.

He tried a painful warmup pitch,

AP photo/Seth Wenig

Seattle Mariners hurler Felix Hernandez pitches during the second inning of the Major League Baseball game against the New York Mets Monday at Shea Stadium in New York. Hernandez hit a grand slam to lead the Mariners to a 5-2 victory.

then spiked his cap to the ground in frustration. The 22-year-old right-hander departed one out short of being eligible for a win and had to be helped to the dugout by team trainers.

Later, Beltran said he called Hernandez to check on him.

"It happened so fast," Beltran said. "I wasn't really watching anything except home plate. After I watched the replay, I saw that he was blocking the plate and I caught him with my spikes."

X-rays were negative and Hernandez expects to make his next scheduled start.

"Sure, I'll be there," he said.

Roy Corcoran relieved Hernandez and worked 1 1-3 hitless innings. Rowland-Smith (2-1) struck out three in two perfect innings, and Arthur Rhodes earned his first save since 2006 with Philadelphia.

Beltran's RBI single off Sean Green cut it to 5-2 in the ninth before Rhodes fanned Carlos Delgado and Damion Easley with two on.

Jose Lopez added a run-scoring single for the Mariners, who improved to 12-25 on the road and 2-2 since manager Jim Riggleman replaced the fired John McLaren.

The Mets fell to 3-3 under interim skipper Jerry Manuel, who managed his first game at Shea Stadium since taking over when Willie Randolph was fired last week.

"We will definitely have to make some adjustments offensively," Manuel said.

Santana (7-6) allowed five runs — one earned — and seven hits in seven innings. It was his third loss in 16 starts with New York when giving up one earned run.

The Mets have dropped his past four outings, and the two-time Cy Young Award winner is 0-3 in that span.

"I felt better tonight than I felt for the whole season," Santana said. "We didn't execute the way we're supposed to."

Just before Hernandez homered, an error by third baseman David Wright extended the second inning. Wright also grounded into an inning-ending double play and struck out looking.

Manuel said Wright appears tired and won't start Tuesday night. Wright is the only major leaguer to play every inning this season, though he made one start as a designated hitter.

"Jerry knows the game. I'll get a blow and hopefully come back refreshed," Wright said.

The last NL pitcher to hit a grand slam also did it at Shea Stadium. Dontrelle Willis, then with Florida, accomplished the feat on July 7, 2006.

Diamondbacks 2, Red Sox 1

At Boston, Dan Haren allowed two hits over seven shutout innings and outpitched Josh Beckett.

See **MLB**, Page 2B

Tuesday Page 1B.indd 1 6/24/08 11:08:14 AM

Obituaries

Kawana Newman

Kawana Smith Newman, 86, of Big Spring, died Sunday, June 22, 2008, in an Odessa hospice facility. Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Wednesday, June 25, 2008, at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel with the Rev. Daniel Armstrong, pastor of First United Methodist Church of Stanton, and the Rev. David Harp, pastor of First Baptist Church of Stanton, officiating. Interment will follow at Trinity Memorial Park.

She was born July 13, 1921, in Burkburnett and married Thomas E. Newman on March 8, 1941 in Stanton. He preceded her in death Jan. 20, 1975.

Kawana was a member of the former Home Demonstration Club of Lomax and a member of First United Methodist Church of Stanton. She was a homemaker.

Survivors include two sons, Tommy Newman and wife, Marilyn of Stanton, and Fred Newman and wife, Debra of Big Spring; three grandsons, Kevin Newman and wife, Mandy of Stanton, Robert Newman and wife, Cyndi of Pleasanton, and Tye Newman of San Angelo; one granddaughter, Kody Newman of Stanton; two great-granddaughters, Dakota of Stanton and Arianna of Pleasanton, and three great-grandsons, Keith of Pleasanton and Flint and Tristan, both of Stanton.

She was also preceded in death by her parents, Wallace Risher Smith and Ina (Smitty) McGowan; her stepfather, Fred McGowan; and two grandsons, Kendall Newman and Clinton Newman.

The family suggests memorials be made to Home Hospice, 111 East Seventh, Suite A, Big Spring 79720.

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

Paid obituary

Steve Madry

Steve Madry, 43, of Big Spring died Saturday, June 21, 2008, at Odessa Regional Medical Center in Odessa. Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. Tuesday at Midway Baptist Church with the Rev. Ricky Hope, of First Baptist Church of Lillian, and the Rev. Jim Binnix, of Midway Baptist Church, officiating.

Steve was born Oct. 17, 1964, in Marshall. He graduated from Big Spring High School and Howard College. Steve was employed at Madry Motorplex, was a lifetime resident of Big Spring and was a Baptist.

Steve is survived by two daughters, Wendy Walker and her husband Jason of Honolulu, and Stevi Madry of Big Spring; two grandchildren, Lanai Walker and Kai Walker, both of Honolulu; his mother, Beverly McMahon and her husband Clyde, of Big Spring; his father, Chick Madry and his wife Carole of Big Spring; two brothers, Mike Madry, and Brad Madry and his wife Tabitha, all of Big Spring; two nieces, Tori Gauer and Breana Madry, both of Big Spring; two nephews, Austin Madry of Big Spring and Forrest Madry of Lubbock; and three brothers of the heart, Ricky Hope and his wife Danna of Lillian, Craig McMahon and his wife Molly of San Antonio, and Cavan McMahon and his wife Donna of Fredricksburg.

The family will be at 19 Village Road and also at 1102 Derrick Road.

Pallbearers will be James Sawyer, Lance Sanders, Marvin Casey, Tommy Madry, Randy Madry and Ralph Madry.

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

Paid obituary

Louis Aguilar

Louis Aguilar, 61, of Big Spring died Sunday, June 22, 2008, at Scenic Mountain Medical Center. Prayer service will be at 7 p.m. Tuesday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral services will be at 2 p.m. Wednesday, June 25, 2008, at Myers & Smith Chapel with the Rev. Maria Socorro Rios of Templo Belen officiating. Burial will be at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

He was born Dec. 23, 1946, in Knox City to Victoria and Jose Aguilar. He married Juanita Alvarado April 16, 1965 in Big Spring.

He had worked as a cook at the Pancake Patio and at the original Truck Stop on West Highway 80. Later he worked as a roofer. He was a lifetime resident of Big Spring.

He is survived by his wife, Juanita Aguilar of Big Spring; two daughters, Gracie Aguilar and Janie Aguilar, both of Big Spring; two sisters, Rebecca Hinojos and her husband Ricardo of Phoenix, and Victoria Vance of Fort Worth; two brothers, Raul Aguilar and Albert Aguilar, both of Big Spring; four granddaughters; one great-grandson; and numerous nieces and nephews.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by two sisters and one brother.

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

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Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity Monday:

• JINNFER BUSTAMANTE, 27, 1401 Dixie, was arrested on two warrants.

• ERNEST CLARK, 68, 4000 W Highway 80 #C, was arrested on a charge of public intoxication.

• DENNIS AUSBIE, 47, 903 Sgt Paredez, was arrested on a charge of public intoxication.

• DEBRA SHAEFFER, 39, 1408 Nolan, was arrested on charges of public intoxication and drug paraphernalia.

• LAURA YANEZ, 29, 1511 Stadium, was arrested on a charge of driving while license invalid.

• ASHICK CROSS, 18, 801 W FM 700, was arrested on a warrant.

• MARIO CASTILLEJA, 30, 2609 Wasson, was arrested on a charge of driving while license invalid.

• RONALD LEE SIMONEK, 53, 3611 Hamilton, was arrested on two warrants and a charge of driving while license invalid.

• WANDA BROWN, 35, 538 Westover, was arrested on charges of possession of drug paraphernalia and illegal dumping.

• ASSAULT CLASS C/FAMILY VIOLENCE, was reported in the 2100 block of Runnels.

• ASSAULT CLASS C/FAMILY VIOLENCE, was reported in the 1300 block of State.

• DRIVING WHILE LICENSE INVALID/DWI RELATED, was reported in the 300 block of Sgt. Paredez.

• DRIVING WHILE LICENSE INVALID/DWI RELATED, was reported in the 4200 block of Highway 80.

• EVADING ARRESTED/DETENTION, was reported in the 400 block of Westover.

• FAILURE TO IDENTIFY/FUGITIVE GIVING FALSE INFORMATION, was reported in the 400 block of Westover.

• FRAUD USE/POSSESSION OF IDENTIFYING INFORMATION, was reported in the 4100 block of Dixon.

• INSURANCE IMPOUND, was reported in the 400 block of 4 Street.

• POSSESSION OF DANGEROUS DRUGS, was reported in the 1500 block of Wasson.

• POSSESSION OF DRUG PARAPHERNALIA, was reported in the 300 block of Sgt. Paredez.

• THEFT, was reported in the 300 block of Gregg.

• THEFT, was reported in the 700 block of Creighton.

• THEFT, was reported in the 2900 block of I-20.

• THEFT, was reported in the 2000 block of Gregg.

Sheriff's report

The Howard County Sheriff's reported the following activity:

• LAURA LEUNA YANEZ, 29, was transferred by the BSPD on driving while license invalid/DWI .

• BRUCE DWAYNE VANHOUTEN, 35, was arrested by the DPS on charge of theft by check.

• ASHICK KATRIAL CROSS, 18, was transferred by the BSPD on charges Texas Youth Commission parole violation.

• WILLIAM RYAN LOCKS, 33, was arrested on charges of family violence and driving while license invalid.

• PATRICK GARRET FERGUSON, 39, was arrested on charges of marijuana possession, no driver's licenses, and possession of drug paraphernalia.

Fire/EMS

• MEDICAL was reported in the 200 block of Nolan, and one person was transported to SMMC.

• MEDICAL was reported in the 400 block of 1st, and one person was transported to SMMC.

• TRAUMA was reported in the 1200 block of Lancaster, and service was refused.

• GRASS FIRE was reported in the 2500 block of Langley, and was out on arrival.

Support Groups

TUESDAY

•The Path, faith-based addiction recovery, meets at 6:30 p.m. at Spring Tabernacle Ministeries, 1209 Wright St.

• Life Recovery, a non-denominational Christian group of recovering alcoholics and addicts, meets at 7 p.m. at the St. Paul Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall.

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

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

WEDNESDAY

• RSD (Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy, a chronic pain disease), a new support and informative group meets at 213 Circle. Call Lucy at (432) 517-9207 for more information.

THURSDAY

• Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m.; women's meeting; 6:30 until 7:30 p.m. Non-smoking closed discussion meeting, 8 p.m. until 9 p.m.

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Bulletin Board

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

TODAY

• The Powwow Committee of Big Spring meets at 7 p.m. at St. Paul Lutheran Church annex, 809 Scurry, or the fellowship hall at 810 Scurry. Call Robert Downing at 263-3255 for information.

WEDNESDAY

• Optimist Club meets at 7 a.m. in the Howard College Cactus Room.

• Free blood pressure screenings from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the Salvation Army, 811 W. Fifth St., provided by InHome Care.

• Senior Circle meets at 10:30 a.m. at Scenic Mountain Medical Center for Sit and Be Fit Chair Aerobics. Those 50 years and older are invited to attend. Call 268-4721.

• Downtown Lions Club meets at noon at the Howard College Cactus Room.

• Duplicate Bridge Club meets at 1 p.m. in the Big Spring Country Club.

• Eagles Lodge Ladies Auxiliary meets at 7 p.m. in the Eagles Lodge, 703 W. Third.

THURSDAY

• Gideon International Big Spring Camp U42060 meets at 7 a.m. in Herman's Restaurant.

• Kiwanis Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room.

• League of United Latin American Citizens LULAC Chapter 4791 meets at 5:30 p.m. at the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce. For more information, contact John Ybarra at 264-1628. The public is invited.

Lottery

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Monday night:
Winning numbers drawn: 17-18-27-30-37.
Number matching five of five: 1.
Prize per winner: $25,927.
Winning tickets sold in: Poteet.

The winning Texas Two Step numbers drawn Monday by the Texas Lottery: 13-17-26-32. Bonus Ball: 30.

The winning Daily 4 numbers drawn Monday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 1-6-7-8. Sum It Up: 22.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Monday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 1-2-2. Sum It Up: 5.

Take Note

• The Big Spring Mall will be sponsoring a blood drive Saturday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. All donors are needed. Everyone gets a opportunity to win a Vegas Trip for two. All donors gets a Vegas T-shirt.

• June is Prostate Cancer Awareness Month. Any group that would like to see a program on the topic can contact Bill Birrell at 263-0659. He has an 18-minute American Cancer Society VCR tape edited by Sidney Poitier.

• Ex-Students Homecoming at Forsan High School will be held Aug. 2. For more information, contact Jimmy Anderson at Professional Pharmacy at 267-2546 or at his residence, 267-6143.

• Mobile Meals needs volunteers to deliver meals Monday through Friday between 9 a.m. and 10 a.m. The organization delivers approximately 70 meals each day and needs drivers to donate just one hour per week. Mobile Meals also needs back-up volunteers to fill in when regular drivers can't make it. For more information, contact Macaria Cantu at 263-4016.

• Road to Recovery, sponsored by the American Cancer Society, seeks volunteers to drive cancer patients to treatment in Midland. This requires just a few hours commitment each month. To volunteer, or to request a ride for treatment, call Nancy Koger at 267-7809.

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Ana Ivanovic OK with expectations

By STEPHEN WILSON
AP Sports Writer

WIMBLEDON, England — As a new Grand Slam champion and new No. 1, Ana Ivanovic has a new perspective on the game as she seeks to win Wimbledon for the first time.

The 20-year-old Serb lived up to her billing on the opening day at the All England Club, beating Rossana de Los Rios 6-1, 6-2 in less than an hour on Centre Court on a sun-splashed day that also featured victories by Roger Federer, Novak Djokovic and Serena Williams.

The top-seeded Ivanovic is fully aware that she comes into the event carrying high expectations as a title favorite.

"It's very challenging for me," she said. "That's something new and very exciting. I'm very happy to be taking every challenge I get. I think I'm still basically the same person."

Ivanovic reached the semifinals here last year and made her breakthrough last month, winning the French Open for her first major championship. She took over the No. 1 ranking for the first time after the French and is now a marquee name in a women's field that is more open than usual following the retirement of former No. 1 Justine Henin.

"Obviously now coming especially as the top seed, lots of people just expect you to win," Ivanovic said. "When you tell them, I still just want to play match by match, they think it's just a cliche. You have to work hard, especially on grass. Everything is happening so fast. A lot of players can be dangerous. You have to be alert and focused from the first point on."

Along with the prestige of being No. 1 comes the pressure, something she sees as working to her advantage.

"You have to see pressure for what it is," Ivanovic said. "If you see it as a positive thing, it means that you put yourself in a position to do something memorable."

Motivation should be no problem for defending champion and four-time winner Venus Williams, who was set to kick off her title defense Tuesday on Centre Court against British wild card Naomi Cavaday.

Serena Williams, a two-time Wimbledon champ, won her first-round match Monday, beating Kaia Kanepi 7-5, 6-3. She feels back at home on grass after her humbling third-round exit on clay at the French Open.

Maria Sharapova, the 2004 champion, was paired against Stephanie Foretz of France on Court 1 on Tuesday.

Among the men, Rafael Nadal — coming off his fourth straight French Open championship and first grass-court title at Queen's Club — was up against 122nd-ranked German qualifier Andreas Beck.

Two-time runner-up Andy Roddick faced Argentina's Eduardo Schwank, making his Wimbledon debut.

The man they are all chasing, Federer, began his bid for a sixth straight Wimbledon crown by beating Dominik Hrbaty 6-3, 6-2, 6-2 for his 60th straight grass-court win and 35th consecutive victory at the All England Club.

In the enduring image of day 1, Hrbaty — realizing it could be his last time on Centre Court — sat in a chair alongside Federer during the final changeover at 5-2 in the third set. The two old friends and former doubles and practice partners chatted and laughed.

No. 3-ranked Djokovic — the Australian Open champion who could face Federer in the semifinals — overcame a poor second set and beat Michael Berrer 7-5, 2-6, 6-3, 6-0.

Lleyton Hewitt, the 2002 winner and the only champion in the men's draw other than Federer, labored for 3½ hours to subdue Robin Haase in five sets, 6-7 (4), 6-3, 6-3, 6-7 (1), 6-2.

David Nalbandian was the highest seeded player — at No. 7 — to lose Monday, falling 6-4, 6-2, 6-4 to Canada's Frank Dancevic.

Advancing among the women were No. 4 Svetlana Kuznetsova and 2006 champion Amelie Mauresmo. Five lower-seeded women went out, including No. 12 Patty Schnyder.

AP photo/Anja Niedringhaus

Ana Ivanovic of Serbia reaches for a return to Rossana de los Rios of Paraguay, during their Women's Singles, first round match on the Centre Court at Wimbledon, Monday.

MLB

Continued from Page 1B

The Diamondbacks, swept by Minnesota last weekend, have won seven of their past 21 road games. Boston dropped to 1-3 on its six-game homestand after winning 19 of its previous 22 at Fenway Park.

Haren (8-4) struck out five in winning his fifth consecutive start. Brandon Lyon got his 16th save.

Arizona broke a scoreless tie in the seventh on Chris Young's RBI double and Chris Snyder's run-producing groundout. Beckett (7-5) gave up two runs in eight innings, striking out eight.

Brewers 4, Braves 1

At Atlanta, Ben Sheets (9-1) pitched a four-hitter and retired his final 16 batters for his NL-high third complete game. Mike Cameron hit a two-run homer off Jo-Jo Reyes (3-5), who lasted only 2 1-3 innings.

Angels 3, Nationals 2

At Washington, Garret Anderson's eighth-inning single drove in the go-ahead run. John Lackey (5-1) allowed two runs — one earned — in eight innings before Francisco Rodriguez earned his major league-leading 31st save.

Royals 8, Rockies 4

At Kansas City, Mo., Brian Bannister (7-6) earned his third straight win and Mark Teahen hit a three-run homer as the Royals won for the eighth time in nine games — all against NL clubs. Kansas City's 10-3 record is the best in interleague play. Jose Guillen also homered.

USA

Continued from Page 1B

They were joined by the Detroit Pistons' Tayshaun Prince, along with Carlos Boozer, Chris Bosh, Dwight Howard, Chris Paul, Michael Redd and Deron Williams.

"It was a very difficult selection process," Colangelo said. "When you have as many outstanding players as we have in this country — to select a group of 12 is obviously going to leave out a number of outstanding people."

The Pistons issued a statement from Prince in which he said he was "honored to be selected."

"I take great pride in being given the opportunity to represent my country, and I strongly believe that with the team that has been assembled, the United States will be represented well," Prince said.

The team was selected without a tryout. It will have a minicamp this week in Las Vegas and meet there July 20-25 to train and play an exhibition against Canada before heading overseas. The Americans open Olympic play against China on Aug. 10.

Although the Americans captured the gold at the Sydney Games in 2000, they no longer dominate international play as they once did.

The talent gap has narrowed and many top players have chosen to not play for the national team in recent years.

Now, the U.S. team appears loaded. Then again, the Americans went 5-3 in Athens and lost for the first time since NBA players started competing in 1992 even though they had James, Anthony, Wade and Tim Duncan.

That group got routed by Puerto Rico before losing to Lithuania and Argentina, but this one is confident it will take the gold.

"It's really the world's game. We think we're the best at playing that game," said coach Mike Krzyzewski, warning that "unless we show the respect to the rest of the world that it is the world's game" there will be no gold medal.

Wade and Anthony said they didn't know what to expect in Athens.

"I've always seen greatness in the Olympics, but that was never one of my dreams," Wade said. "I never really expected to be on the Olympic team, especially in my first year. I didn't have a clue what I was getting into. ... Now, we respect the game so much. We respect the team basketball that they play internationally so much."

Anthony saw the 2004 Games as a chance to have "some of the best workouts in the summertime with the best players in the world" and went there thinking "the USA is supposed to win everything."

"Going through that experience really helped me to learn the international game," Anthony said.

He's part of a team that includes one of the best shooters (Redd) and defenders (Prince).

There are role players and scorers, including the two biggest.

Bryant will play in his first Olympics after winning his first MVP while leading the Los Angeles Lakers to the finals. James averaged 30.0 points, just enough to beat Bryant for the scoring title.

Those two, along with Anthony, Kidd and Dwight Howard, started for a team that went unbeaten in the Olympic qualifying tournament last year. Eight of the 12 players headed to Beijing played on that team and six played in the 2006 world championships.

"We're a team already," Krzyzewski said. "The thing that this program has done is ... provide continuity and relationships. ... We'll hit the ground running."

Phoenix forward Amare Stoudemire withdrew from Olympic consideration, apparently concerned about pushing his body too hard after knee surgery in 2005 and 2006. So did Detroit's Chauncey Billups, who would have had a tough time making the team given the backcourt depth.

Wade's season ended in March because of a sore left knee that had been bothering him since surgery in 2007. He started working out in his hometown Chicago in May, and James and Paul joined him to help sharpen his game. Colangelo visited recently and left convinced the 6-foot-4 guard was healthy.

"This was to see how far along he had come in his rehab," Colangelo said. "That was the whole thing. Plus, I had a little conversation I wanted to have with him. We took care of that. I watched him work. I saw him do a few things in terms of explosiveness that showed me that he was pretty much back."

Trainer Tim Grover has been working out with Wade. Colanagelo said Grover assured him the Miami Heat star will completely ready when the team gathers in Las Vegas next month.

"I feel great," Wade said.

And he'd feel even better with a gold medal dangling from his neck.

IMUS

Continued from Page 1B

during Tuesday's broadcast, saying, "People who interpret what you said as racist clearly didn't hear the whole thing, and they don't know who you are and what the program is about — and they obviously haven't been listening."

Jones told The Dallas Morning News in Tuesday editions that he's upset by Imus' comments and plans to pray for the radio host.

"I'm truly upset about the comments," Jones said. "Obviously Mr. Imus has problems with African-Americans. I'm upset, and I hope the station he works for handles it accordingly. I will pray for him."

WABC and Citadel Broadcasting Corp. Vice President Phil Boyce said Monday that it was unlikely the broadcasters would take disciplinary action against Imus.

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News in Brief

Supreme Court declines to hear border fence lawsuit

McALLEN (AP) — A U.S. Supreme Court decision paving the way for a 670-mile federal fence along the U.S.-Mexico border drew swift criticism from environmentalists, who promised to make another legal stand in Texas.

The justices turned down a plea Monday to hear a lawsuit opposing a two-mile section of the fence in Arizona brought by the Sierra Club and Defenders of Wildlife.

The section of fence in question in that case has already been built and even if the court had taken the case, oral arguments would not have been heard until October.

But Monday's decision could have the most immediate implications for Texas, where opposition has been most widespread and fence construction is expected to begin next month.

The Audubon Society has already said that if the fence is built as planned in South Texas it would have to close its 557-acre Sabal Palm Audubon Center near Brownsville. The center would be left entirely in the no man's land behind the fence north of the Rio Grande.

The Nature Conservancy's Lennox Foundation Southmost Preserve also would be affected, as would portions of the 90,000-acre Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge, assembled over decades along the river to protect one of the most biologically diverse ecosystems in the country.

"We were all pinning a lot of hope on something happening at the Supreme Court level," said Merriewood Ferguson, a Brownsville environmentalist who has spent 25 years working to protect habitat near the river. "We're not giving up hope, there's just too much at stake."

The case rejected by the high court Monday involved a two-mile section of fence in the San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area near Naco, Ariz.

Trial in East Texas sex club postponed

DALLAS (AP) — The next trial of an East Texas swingers club accused of forcing children into sex shows was postponed Monday amid new allegations that the foster father to the young victims molested other children.

But prosecutors said that California child sex charges against John Cantrell, who has custody of three siblings who allegedly performed inside the club, has nothing to do with their case in Texas.

Cantrell, 64, was charged last week with sexually assaulting two of his foster children in 1990. Margie Cantrell, his wife, has denied the allegations.

Margie Cantrell first told authorities in 2005 about what the children — who are now ages 12, 10, and 7 — revealed to her about having being forced into sex inside the windowless rooms of a former daycare.

"What does the fact that he was investigated 18 years ago, when the victims in our case were not even alive, have to do with the guilt or innocence of these defendants on trial today?" Smith County District Attorney Matt Bingham said.

State District Judge Jack Skeen Jr. pushed back the start of Patrick Kelly's trial until June 30, granting a request by Kelly's attorneys to allow time to investigate the charges against John Cantrell.

Texas Child Protective Services has temporarily forbidden the foster parent to see the children. Cantrell has bonded out of Wood County Jail and is awaiting extradition.

"Our investigation is open and CPS is taking steps to prevent his access to the children," Shari Pulliam, a spokeswoman for the agency, wrote in an e-mail.

Group demands apology after sandwich flap in Odessa

ODESSA (AP) — Leaders of the Black Cultural Council say volunteers and the black community felt "humiliated" after two health department food inspectors threatened to put a stop to a Juneteenth celebration over questions about food preparation for 600 free barbecue sandwiches.

Council President Jo Ann Davenport-Littleton said health inspectors told them it was illegal for the group to serve the sandwiches because they were not prepared at the site where they were served.

Gino Solla, the county's top health official, said state law prohibits any food service operation from having food prepared in a private home for public consumption.

"I hate that it happened," Davenport-Littleton said in a story for Tuesday's edition of the Odessa American. "I wanted people to go away talking about how great the celebration was this year. All you heard was 'They were going to deny us barbecue. Here we are in modern-day slavery again.' "

The council, which has contracted with an individual to prepare the food offsite for the past 11 years, was eventually able to serve the sandwiches Thursday after police were called to the center and a "heated" argument with the inspectors, the newspaper reported. The group is demanding an apology.

Solla said he won't apologize.

UN Security Council declares fair presidential vote impossible

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Outraged at the turmoil in Zimbabwe, the U.N. Security Council declared that a fair presidential vote is impossible because of a "campaign of violence" waged by President Robert Mugabe's government.

The 15-nation council Monday unanimously said it "condemns the campaign of violence against the political opposition ahead of the second round of presidential elections," which has resulted in the killing of scores of opposition activists and other Zimbabweans.

The move came after opposition leader Morgan Tsvangirai withdrew from the vote — reportedly fearing for his safety — and police raided his Harare headquarters, hustling away dozens of his supporters.

George Sibotshiwe, a spokesman for Tsvangirai, said the politician had received a tip that soldiers were on the way to his home Sunday, after he had announced he was pulling out of a presidential runoff against President Robert Mugabe scheduled for Friday. Tsvangirai had said widespread, state-sponsored violence against his supporters made the vote impossible.

Sibotshiwe would not reveal the source of the tip, and said the soldiers' intentions were unclear.

Philippines officials: Only bodies found under ferry toppled during powerful cyclone

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — Divers wriggled into an upside-down ferry Tuesday and found bodies but no survivors three days after the vessel capsized during a powerful typhoon with more than 800 people aboard, officials said.

The bodies included what appeared to be one of the ship's officers still clutching a radio, coast guard Commodore Luis Tuason said, adding that two bodies had been retrieved.

Hundreds of people are feared to have been trapped when the ship suddenly tilted and went belly up Saturday at the height of the powerful storm that left 163 people dead in flooded communities in the central Philippines.

Foreclosure aid, drawing broad support, faces Senate test-vote, intramural squabbles

WASHINGTON (AP) — A plan to help hundreds of thousands of homeowners avoid foreclosure is drawing bipartisan support in the Senate, setting the stage for high-stakes negotiations among congressional Democrats.

The far-reaching housing plan faces a Senate test-vote Tuesday, when it could also come to a final vote. The disputes among Democrats over key details, however, as well as a veto threat from the White House will almost certainly push any final agreement into July.

Conservative "Blue Dog" Democrats are concerned about how to pay for the measure, while members of the Congressional Black Caucus — most of them liberal — call it "unacceptable."

COUNTY

Continued from Page 1A

it and a normal expense when you didn't."

Commissioners have until Aug. 15 to decide whether to join the task force and Barr said the court would take up the matter in the near future.

In other business, commissioners:

• Rejected a proposed three-year partial tax abatement for Western Motels, Inc., which is planning to build a 48-room Luxury Inn motel on N. Highway 87. The agreement would have provided a 90 percent abatement the first year, 70 percent abatement the next year and 50 percent abatement the final year.

The abatement has been approved by the City of Big Spring and Howard College.

Barr and Commissioner Jerry Kilgore both objected to the abatement because they said they were reluctant to provide abatements to retail establishments, thus setting a precedent for future requests.

• Approved the sale of two county vehicles.

• Agreed to go out on bids for an insurance provider.

• Declined to institute a fireworks ban at this time. Barr warned residents, however, that if they were caught setting off fireworks on a public road or right of way — or on private property without the owner's permission — they would be subject to a $500 fine.

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

HC

Continued from Page 1A

by January 2010.

In addition, trustees approved three stages of building construction and renovation.

The first major project, construction of an addition to the science building, should begin in November and take about a year, officials said. The $75,000 addition will house chemistry and microbiology laboratories.

Phase two calls for extensive renovation to the administration building annex, Horace Garrett Building and the student union building. Work on those projects should be completed by late May 2009.

The final phase will call for renovation of the administration and practical arts buildings. If enough bond money is left after that work is done, renovation of the music building will occur sometime in 2010.

The campus-wide work will undoubtedly create some disruptions, but trustees adopted a "sooner the better" attitude toward the projects.

"This is going to inconvenience students and, undoubtedly, everyone else on campus," Trustee Murray Murphy said. "But it's vital to get this accomplished as soon as possible. The sooner we get on it, the faster things will return to normal on campus."

College President Dr. Cheryl Sparks said officials will have to take a creative approach to scheduling during the next two years, moving classroom space around, depending on the amount of work being done on a particular building.

"For instance, in order to begin work on the main science building, we'll have to finish work on the addition first," she said. "That will give us the swing space so that once it's complete, we can get out of the main building."

All projects are scheduled to be completed by October 2010, Sparks said.

In other business, trustees approved:

• Renewal of memorandums of understanding with the college's foundations.

• Bids for food service and door replacement on the San Angelo campus and equipment containers, janitorial supplies and athletic equipment and supplies for Big Spring.

• Creation of four new personnel positions, three at the San Angelo campus and one (a history instructor) at Big Spring.

• Re-appointment of the firm of Lee, Reynolds and Welch as the college's auditor.

• A three-year partial abatement for Western Motels Inc, which has plans to construct a 48-bed Luxury Inn motel on N. Highway 87.

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

ADA

Continued from Page 1A

who is advising the city on the process.

Assistant City Manager Todd Darden said work on the street renovation is scheduled to begin in August and last a year. Aside from renovating the roadways, attention will be placed on accessibility features such as curb ramps and "curb cuts" — areas on street intersections specially graded to allow wheelchair access — he said.

And city officials are looking at addressing accessibility beyond the upcoming street project.

"If there are any funds left over after the street renovation, I would like us to look into the possibility of installing curb ramps at City Hall and the municipal auditorium," Darden said. "We're looking at some of our facilities in our current budget ... We're trying to secure grant money to address some of these issues."

City Attorney Linda Sjogren said the public hearings were part of a three-tier process in the city's efforts to address accessibility issues in Big Spring. Committee members will eventually incorporate citizen input into their recommendations, which will be submitted to the city council later this summer.

Those recommendations will primarily address ADA compliance on city streets; the committee also plans to submit a report on accessibility issues in city buildings later this year.

"That's why citizen input in those areas is so important," Sjogren said.

The third and final town hall meeting is scheduled for 5:30 p.m. July 7 at Bauer Elementary School.

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

MALL

Continued from Page 1A

have a little bit, but we have more than they think."

Another surprising thing regarding the mall is that the new Techno Salon, that opened in January, is more than just a 24-hour fitness center as one might assume. It also has a hair and nail salon, massage therapy, and even a little boutique.

According to Spalding, the mall is also expected to gain two more businesses in the next few months. Maribel's Handbags and More will be moving in around August, and a bakery is also expected to move in soon.

Spalding said that this is a great way to gain activity at the mall. "The mall is rebuilding and we'd like to try to create a positive atmosphere."

For more information on the indoor flea market or to rent a booth space, contact Spalding at the mall office, 267-3853.

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Steve Madry, 43, died Saturday. Funeral Services were at 11:00 AM Tuesday at Midway Baptist Church.

Louis Aguilar, 61, died Sunday. Prayer Service will be at 7:00 PM Tuesday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral Services will be at 2:00 PM Wednesday at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

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-First Amendment

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

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Publisher

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Managing Editor

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News Editor

OUR VIEWS

Public apathy a luxury we cannot afford

Public apathy, unfortunately, is alive and well in Big Spring. That was demonstrated all too well Tuesday evening at a town hall meeting that was remarkable only by the number of people who weren't there.

The meeting, hosted by the city's ADA Advisory Committee, was held to get citizen input on how best to address accessibility issues on city streets and facilities. What was particularly sad about the meeting is that the number of committee members easily outnumbered audience members.

Why is this issue so important and why should we complain about citizen apathy?

For starters, the city is about to spend a lot of money — $9 million, to be exact — upgrading city streets. That's our money, folks, and we should at least let city officials know how we want it spent.

Secondly, as the median age of Big Spring residents increases, issues such as accessibility to city facilities becomes even more important. Maybe features such as curb ramps strike some as a convenience, but for those with disabilities, they are a vital necessity.

We can hear some of the arguments now. "The city's going to do what it wants to do, anyway, so why should we bother?" one might say. "What difference will my voice make?" others might ask.

And those folks are absolutely right — if they sit on their hands and do nothing. On the other hand, if we raise our concerns and make our voices heard, we can make sure the money will be spent in the best possible way in a manner that will help the greatest amount of people.

The ADA committee will hold one more town hall meeting at 5:30 p.m. on July 7 at Bauer Elementary. That will be the last chance for citizens to provide their input on this vitally important matter.

We strongly urge you to attend.

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• KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON
U.S. Senator
703 Hart Office Building
Washington, D.C.
20510-4305
Phone: 202-224-5922

• JOHN CORNYN
U.S. Senator
517 Hart Office Building
Washington, D.C.
20510-4305
Phone: 202-224-2934

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

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Governor
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Phone: (512) 463-2000

• JOE HEFLIN
State Representative
Texas 85th District
P.O. Box 2910
Austin, 78768
Phone: (432) 213-2897 or
(512) 463-0604

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

We are never alone, Lord, when we have You.
Amen

Bush shouldn't bind successor on Iraq

President Bush has basically left to his successor the difficult job of deciding when and how quickly to withdraw the bulk of U.S. troops from Iraq.

Carl P. Leubsdorf

At the same time, his administration is pressing to complete a controversial agreement some critics fear would commit the U.S. to a long-term presence there, regardless of the November election result. The administration rejects that interpretation, contending the proposal would merely give future administrations the option of keeping troops there, if they wish.

The issue has arisen because a United Nations resolution authorizing U.S. troops to be in Iraq expires at the end of 2008.

The U.S. seems more eager to complete a follow-up agreement than the Iraqis, who have slowed the discussion by raising questions — including whether it's time for Iraq to assume greater responsibility for its security.

To be sure, there are arguments on both sides of the substance of the proposed pact.

As The Washington Post noted Sunday, U.S. ties with Iraq help to counter Iranian efforts in the region. Nevertheless, this hardly seems like the kind of long-term decision a lame-duck administration should make, especially without congressional approval.

Adding to the irony, the Iraqi parliament will have a say in whether the agreement goes through; the American Congress won't.

The administration, while possibly open to some consultation with lawmakers, argues that formal action is not required since the proposed pact is like U.S. status-of-forces agreements with other countries where forces are stationed.

Yet there are significant differences. Unlike arrangements with such countries as Japan and South Korea, the 150,000 American troops in Iraq are deeply involved in combat to maintain security. And there are major domestic differences over how long to continue that role.

Indeed, the future of U.S. troops in Iraq hinges on the November vote to elect Mr. Bush's successor, though many analysts believe the gap between Barack Obama's plan for a phased withdrawal and John McCain's opposition to any pullout schedule may be narrower than their rhetoric suggests.

The U.S. is not the only place where there is split opinion over the future of its military role. It has become a major issue in Iraqi elections expected this fall, with some government critics exaggerating the extent to which an agreement would ensure a long-term U.S. presence.

But the basic disagreement is over such details as the degree to which the Americans would need Iraqi approval for future military operations.

Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki says the U.S. wants access to 58 military bases, control of Iraqi airspace and immunity from prosecution for U.S. troops and private contractors. The Bush administration has retreated on some of that.

The debate is further complicated by the growing evidence that things in Iraq, while still not ideal, are getting better, in part due to the increased military operations known as the "surge." But that progress has its limits.

In a recent editorial commending the improvement and warning against "a precipitate withdrawal," The Economist also said the Iraqi invasion it initially backed and subsequent occupation remains "a debacle."

Iraq's government, it added, "is still fractious and in many places corrupt" and that life for Iraqis lacks many necessities and remains "under threat of violent death," as Tuesday's car bombing in Baghdad showed.

The editorial also said continued improvement might make Obama's phased withdrawal plan "more feasible." Even some administration backers think the time may be near that Iraq can survive a major troop reduction.

In the meantime, however, it might be better for all concerned to negotiate a short-term extension of the U.N. authority and let the next U.S. administration work out a more permanent arrangement.

After all, either Barack Obama or John McCain will determine the U.S. end game in Iraq, not Bush.

Carl P. Leubsdorf is Washington bureau chief of the Dallas Morning News. Readers may write to him at the Dallas Morning News Washington bureau, 1325 G Street NW, Suite 250, Washington, D.C. 20005, or via e-mail at: cleubsdorf@dallasnews.com.

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Using troops to block Medicaid reform

By DENNIS G. SMITH
The Heritage Foundation

What does Medicaid have to do with funding our troops? Nothing, of course. So why have congressional leaders taken the latest defense spending bill and attached a moratorium on seven Bush administration rules to curb funding abuses in the program?

Perhaps they're hoping to avoid an honest debate about the way Medicaid is being abused.

State officials have been exploiting loopholes in the program, using federal taxpayer dollars to pay for a variety of their activities, ranging from school construction to juvenile justice camps. That's why the Department of Health and Human Services issued the rules — to end such abuse. So state officials began working with special-interest and advocacy groups to stop the rules and keep $15 billion (over five years) in federal dollars flowing into their coffers.

These rules hardly portend a major overhaul: The federal government is projected to spend $1.2 trillion over the next five years. The rules represent a savings of about 1 percent and a modest attempt at entitlement reform by requiring some long-overdue accountability. Yet even that has proven to be too much for green-eyed state officials.

Opponents of the proposed rules are distorting the facts. Why? To scare citizens into believing, for example, that their schools would no longer provide medically necessary services to disabled children. Not true; the proposed rules address only administrative overhead costs, not actual services that the schools are required to provide. Medicaid would continue to pay for these services.

Opponents also claim the rules would threaten "safety net" hospitals. That's hard to imagine: The rules affecting hospitals represent only about 33 hours of Medicaid spending each year by the federal government. Some also speculate that the nation's hospital emergency rooms would close. In fact, the rules are designed to ensure that hospitals get to keep the money they're paid, rather than being coerced into paying the states' share of these emergency-room costs.

Lawmakers aren't disputing the mountains of evidence of abuse found over the past decade by the Government Accountability Office and the Office of the Inspector General at HHS. They're simply ignoring these watchdog agencies. State Medicaid directors, concerned about the lack of accountability when taxpayers' dollars flow through separate state and local agencies, privately concede the need for federal action. But too many state officials want to get as many federal dollars as possible. So they don't question, for example, whether something called "Milieu therapy" is a wise expenditure, or whether small-engine repair or tracking down juveniles with outstanding warrants should be billed to Medicaid.

If Congress stops the Medicaid rules by amending the defense spending bill, it will have demonstrated its inability to control unnecessary spending — and abdicated its role to set sound policy. Congress shouldn't surrender policy decisions to consultants who dream up new schemes that designate as "Medicaid" any state or local problem in search of funding, or to high-priced lawyers paid to draft ambiguous amendments for state bureaucrats who rely upon the lack of clarity in federal rules as their defense.

By blocking these rules, Congress also would be sending taxpayers an unmistakable signal: that lawmakers have no interest in standing up to special interests, particularly the unions in hospitals and schools, and tackling the desperate need to reform entitlement programs, including Medicaid.

Finally, by blocking these rules, Congress would undermine the federal-state partnership in Medicaid. The federal government would be reduced to a mere revenue collector for state officials and their special-interest allies, who are limited only by their own creativity for burying any activity within the $350 billion Medicaid program. Don't be surprised, when the next state budget crisis comes along, to find Medicaid paying for elderly prisoners moved into nursing homes.

State officials are supposed to pay their fair share of Medicaid. It's easy for them to expand eligibility, provide more benefits, or increase payments to providers if they can get someone else to pay the bill.

It speaks poorly of Congress that it cannot conduct its business through regular order and process. Medicaid is to a war supplemental bill as a basketball is to a buffalo. What need is there for committees of jurisdiction, or for Congress to even meet, except to vote on a single omnibus appropriations bill that is fully loaded? Transparency should be a key feature of a highly performing health care system.

Yet special interests are intent on distorting the debate — while their allies in Congress hide important Medicaid policy decisions in a special funding bill for our troops.

Dennis G. Smith, former director of the federal Center for Medicaid and State Operations, is a senior fellow in health care reform at The Heritage Foundation's Center for Health Policy Studies. Readers may write to the author in care of The Heritage Foundation, 214 Massachusetts Avenue NE, Washington, D.C. 20002; Web site: www.heritage.org. Information about Heritage's funding may be found at http://www.heritage.org/about/reports.cfm.

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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:

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- 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.
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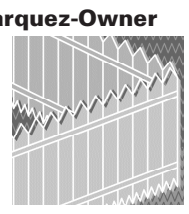

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Tale of the western screech-owl

Bird Poop

BEBE MCCASLAND

As the winds increased, the bird huddled against the trunk of a live oak. Unable to find a woodpecker's hole, it gripped a branch with its large feet as tightly as it could.

Increasing in velocity, the gusts shook the canopy that provided not only a daytime refuge, but protection from the rain and small hail that followed. After swaying and undulating violently, the tree returned to its statuesque presence beside the river.

Fluffing its feathers into their proper place again, the bird sidled away from the center of the oak. Since its hunting for rodents and insects had been postponed because of the storm, it jumped into a void in the tree and made a rapid descent to the ground.

When the homeowner looked through her picture window toward the river, she noticed a small gray bird standing on the lawn. Quietly opening the back door, the woman realized the visitor to her backyard was an owl. Since its eyes were closed, she wondered if it had been a victim of the turbulent winds.

Having promised nasty weather, the forecasters had been accurate as to its severity. Thus, Diane Tracy's call from San Angelo was not unexpected. Working within the guidelines of my state permit, she had received from Parks & Wildlife a fledgling kestrel and a screech-owl. When we met her and husband, Dale, in Sterling City, she added that she had been told the owl was found on someone's lawn near the river.

Inside a carrier, the small raptor, which we assumed was a western screech-owl, stared at us with its bright yellow eyes. With mottled gray wing feathers and heavily streaked chest and belly, it resembled an upright chunk of tree bark. Accents included white spots on its shoulders, a dark facial rim, black bill, and ear tufts that could be upright or almost hidden.

After our menu of small mice had been devoured, we took the screech-owl and the kestrel to Gail Barnes in Lubbock. Placing the kestrel with other fledglings, she wondered if the owl might possibly be a whiskered screech-owl. Wanting to contact an ornithologist with Texas Tech for a positive identification, she promised to call.

Placed in a mew after a thorough examination, the owl surprised Gail by its flight ability. She phoned to say she could find nothing wrong with it. The ornithologist verified the bird as a first year, female, western screech-owl that had strayed. Placement in a heavily forested area in the Davis Mountains, or further west, would be appropriate.

A question continued to plague me. Where on the Concho River was the screech-owl found? Through Diane's persistence, we discovered the owl had not been found in San Angelo, but Christoval, some 14 miles to the south.

With this information, Gail contacted the ornithologist again. Could the western screech-owl be released where it was found? She immediately told us the good news.

Courtesy photo

Found in the Trans-Pecos, western Edwards Plateau, and Tom Green County in the Concho Valley, the western screech-owl is a lover of water. During the night, it has even been seen drinking and bathing in backyard birdbaths.

During its two-week stay in Lubbock, the owl exercised and "fattened up" on a nightly menu of baby mice. Ready for its return to the tree-lined river in Christoval, we checked weather reports before heading south.

On a weekday, the heavily timbered riverside park was deserted except for one campsite. Towering live oaks and pecans lent shade to an undergrowth of buckeyes. After research on everyone's part, it was definitely a suitable area for the smallest of owls.

Although it was a very breezy day, the huge trees offered a fairly calm environment under their spreading limbs and foliage. Opening the carrier gate, I could see the owl glaring intently at me through the sides of the container. It didn't budge.

Deciding to take the top off, we loosened the side closures. The owl continued to stare at me with total disdain.

When Gail mentioned it had given her "the eye," I was uncertain until that moment just what she meant. The owl's total aloofness and contempt was directed toward me. Then it glanced upward and saw the trees.

Having a choice of a straight or crooked trail to freedom, the bird chose the latter. Banking first to the left, then right, its silent wings propelled it around and through the understory growth as it rose quickly to disappear among the trees. In seconds, its lengthy odyssey had ended.

Bebe McCasland is federally andstate licensed to rehabilitate wild birds.

Some wounds are because friends refused to let go

Parent's Corner

DARRELL RYAN

Some years ago, on a hot summer day in south Florida, a little boy decided to go for a swim in the old swimming hole behind his house.

In a hurry to dive into the cool water, he ran out the back door, leaving behind shoes, socks and shirt as he went. He flew into the water, not realizing that as he swam toward the middle of the lake, an alligator was swimming toward the shore.

His father, working in the yard, saw the two as they got closer and closer together. In utter fear, he ran toward the water, yelling to his son as loudly as he could. Hearing his voice, the little boy became alarmed and made a U-turn to swim to his father. It was too late. Had he known the term "mayday" this would have been the time to use it for just as he reached his father, the alligator reached him.

From the dock, the father grabbed his little boy by the arms just as the alligator snatched his legs. That began an incredible tug-of-war between the two. The alligator was much stronger than the father, but the father was much too passionate to let go. A farmer happened to drive by, heard his screams, raced from his truck, took aim and shot the alligator.

Remarkably, after several weeks in the hospital, the little boy survived. His legs were extremely scarred by the vicious attack of the animal. And, on his arms were deep scratches where his father's fingernails dug into his flesh in his effort to hang on to the son he loved.

The reporter, who interviewed the boy after the trauma, asked if he would show him his scars. The boy lifted his pant legs. And then, with obvious pride, he said to the reporter, "But look at my arms. I have great scars on my arms, too. I have them because my Dad wouldn't let go."

Many of us can identify with that little boy. We have scars, too. Not from an alligator, but the scars of a painful past. Some of those scars are unsightly and have caused us deep regret. But some wounds are because friends and loved ones, in the midst of our struggle, have refused to let go. They have held on, sometimes by their silent support and childhood training to protect us and provide for us in every way.

Sometimes we foolishly wade into dangerous situations, not knowing what lies ahead. The swimming hole of life is filled with peril and we forget that the enemy is waiting to attack. That's when the tug-of-war begins.

We must never forget that we must not judge another person for his scars, because we don't know how he got them. We never know where other people are in their lives and what they are going through.

So as a parent or friend we must "be there" and support and love them through their difficulties and not let them go.

By the way, have you ever wondered why ships and aircraft in trouble use the term "mayday" as their call for help? Well, this comes from the French word m'aidez -meaning "help me" and is pronounced "mayday." Now you know!

Darrell Ryan is drector of federal programs for Big Spring Independent School District. Contact him at 264-3600.

sudoku

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9 with no repeats. That means no number is repeated in any row, column or box.

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

Odds & Ends

Ohio man repays borrowed gas after 34 years

SOUTHINGTON, Ohio (AP) — An Ohio couple has been repaid for a liquid asset they shared 34 years ago.

Violet and Harold Goff of Southington say a man showed up at their home recently and explained that he'd appeared at their door in 1974 when he was 17 and had run out of gas.

Back then, Harold Goff got a five-gallon can of gasoline for Jeffrey Hardin. Goff remembers telling the teen to make sure to pay it back.

Hardin still lives in the area and told the Goffs the debt had remained in the back of his head. So, he presented them with a plastic, five-gallon container of gas.

Harold Goff notes that he made a good investment, since the gas and container once worth about $5 are now worth $25.

Inmate falls through ceiling into police office

ALTON, Texas (AP) — Authorities say an inmate trying to flee a Texas city jail crashed through the ceiling into a police chief's empty office.

Police say 17-year-old Jesus Albert Suarez Chavez and 22-year-old Roman Orozco Martinez tried to escape through air conditioning ducts of the Alton city jail around 3 a.m. Saturday, but had been spotted by a dispatcher monitoring security video.

One of the inmates fell through the ceiling into the office of Police Chief Baldemar Flores. The second inmate was trying to get into the vent.

Flores said he didn't know which inmate fell through the ceiling, only that the vents were very small.

Chavez and Martinez are charged with burglary.

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Tomorrow's Horoscope

BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

HOLIDAY MATHIS

It's a common belief that hard work equals success. So why do some works appear to go unrewarded? Today's helpful meeting of Saturn and the Cancer sun explains: when you give your heart and soul to a persistent, focused effort, there's always a payoff -- and often unexpected ones. Get clear about what you are trying to accomplish.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Making a friendship pact is not only for fourth-graders. There's something you might enjoy promising to your nearest and dearest, and there's an equally enjoyable demand they would, in turn, request of you.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). It's easy to know what your duty is. It's harder when you're in the realms above and beyond the call of duty to know what to do. But you have a sense about this now and will blaze the trail.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). There are exceptional people you have yet to meet who live within a mile of you. The timing hasn't been right to bump into these types until today. Sparkling conversation bubbles forth from this union.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Working alone, you'll run out of ideas. Keep your eyes peeled for people who are trying to accomplish a similar aim to the one you have been chasing. Competition drives you to make extraordinary choices.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You're drawn to controversy. If it's scandalous, edgy or just unorthodox, it excites you -- and you're not the only one. Tonight, whatever you do, don't blend in. You're sure to bond with fellow thrill seekers.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You're figuring out how to coexist with someone. Try as low-key an approach as you can think up. Threats and ultimatums won't work anyhow. Saying what you will do, then doing it is a genius plan.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). The politics of friendship plays a key role in today's events. Of course itís always better to take the high road, but your own bias might prevent you from making this your first choice. It's never too late for a course correction.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Youíre an expert at figuring out the motives of complicated characters. You feel where someone is coming from and then stay one step ahead of the game. Tonight, your style wins approval from a tough critic.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Stay on the lookout for someone who will be a fabulous influence on you, encouraging you to learn, earn and burn (calories!) These are the habits that make you feel self-expressive.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You're like a radio station with a 24-hour request line. The endless stream of suggestions may inspire you to lay down some new personal boundaries. The best ideas are the ones you come up with around 3 p.m.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Easy does it. There's no need to feel guilty for sleeping in or taking naps. You need more than the usual amount of rest now to recharge your body and heal your mind.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Being a nerd is cool. You care enough to learn everything about your subject of interest, and that's the attitude that will spring you ahead at work. Mesmerize the powers that be with your in-depth analysis and study.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: The folksy, soft and soothing music of Carly Simon is dreamy. And as her astrology proves, songwriting -- indeed poetry -- is as much about being a wordsmith as listening to one's heart. Oh, that's why it sounds so sweet! With the sun, Mercury and Saturn in Cancer, she's super attentive to her feelings. However, her Saturn works so hard to understand and give form to those same emotions that inform her songs.

Holiday Mathis is the author of "Rock Your Stars." If you would like to write to her, please go to www.creators.com.

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Annie's Mailbox ®

KATHY MITCHELL
MARCY SUGAR

Dear Annie: My husband and I are in our early 30s and have three kids. I am very sociable, but my husband is not. When we were dating, we went to other couples' homes for cards, pool or darts. His friends were all retirement age, but they still were fun to be around.

Now we've moved back to our hometown, and many of our friends are doing the same. This should be a great opportunity to socialize with people our own age, but my husband would rather sit in front of the TV. If I invite people over, he makes everyone feel unwelcome. On the rare occasions when we go out, he accuses me of sleeping with any man I talk to.

I am about to lose my cool. I'm only asking to get together with friends once every month or two, but it's too much for him. I feel like I'm in jail. I resent his ridiculous accusations, which indicate a lack of respect for me. He will not consider counseling. I have tried for four years. The way he treats me makes me worry that he isn't the best role model for our kids, but I still believe they need their father. What do I do? -- Suffering in N.D.

Dear N.D.: Not everyone is social and there are a variety of reasons why. However, if your husband is unwilling to address the issue and, worse, prevents you from deriving enjoyment from your friends, it is a problem. It's possible he fears losing you (hence the retirement-age friends) or has an anxiety disorder and the accusations are intended to convince you to stay home with him. You can get more information through the National Institute of Mental Health at 1-866-615-6464.

Dear Annie: My boyfriend and I (both in our 50s) live together. Five years ago, we purchased a home in another state and will move there when he retires in two years. In the meantime, I sold my house and moved into his.

My boyfriend is a widower. He has a large picture of his late wife hanging near the entryway. I asked him to take it down out of respect for me. He says that would be disrespectful to his late wife's memory. What is your opinion? -- Unhappy Housemate

Dear Unhappy: Yes, he should move the picture to a less prominent place. It won't be disrespectful to his late wife, but leaving it in the entryway is disrespectful to you. It sounds like he may be having some difficulty letting go. You are moving into a new home in two years. Perhaps you can compromise. Leave the picture where it is with the understanding that when you relocate, it will be hung elsewhere. Have something more current ready to replace it. His late wife is no threat to you. Please treat his memories delicately.

Dear Annie: "Tired of Drama" said her adult brother, "George," claimed to be terminally ill and wanted the parents to remortgage their home in order to give him money. She feared her parents would end up losing their house.

Since the parents have paid off the house, the most logical solution is a reverse mortgage. The only sacrifice would be a reduction in the amount of inheritance she and her siblings would receive from the ultimate sale of the family home.

With a reverse mortgage, the mortgage company buys the house from the parents and pays them a monthly income as long as they live there. When the house is sold, the proceeds go to the mortgage company. My wife and I have a reverse mortgage and our children are fully supportive. Of course, George may not be so supportive, but it still could be the best solution. -- Cape Coral, Fla.

Dear Cape Coral: Reverse mortgages are loans paid back from the equity on your home. A monthly sum isn't likely to satisfy George, so the parents would have to take a lump sum upfront, which can be quite costly in fees. And if the parents don't keep up with the taxes and insurance, they could default. However, it is definitely an option worth looking into. Thanks.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to anniesmailbox@comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, P.O. Box 118190, Chicago, IL 60611.

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Making smart decisions during pregnancy

Pregnancy can be a very exciting time, and some women feel overwhelmed by warnings and advice from family and friends. However, following certain widely-recognized guidelines can significantly impact the health of mother and baby, minimize complications and birth defects and shorten the recovery process. In fact, babies born to mothers who do not receive prenatal care are five times more likely to die and three times more likely to be of low birth weight.

DR. KEITH LEDFORD

One of the most important steps a woman can take to ensure a healthy pregnancy is to establish a healthy lifestyle before pregnancy. This includes avoiding tobacco, drugs and alcohol, following a healthy diet, exercising regularly and maintaining a healthy weight. Women who are planning to become pregnant should schedule a thorough physical examination with a physician. These professionals are an excellent source for advice on lifestyle changes and healthy practices that will contribute to a healthy pregnancy.

Folic acid, a form of Vitamin-B, plays an integral role in preventing neurological defects, such as spina bifida. Adequate levels of folic acid are especially important in the first few weeks of pregnancy, before most women are even aware they have conceived. This is why most physicians recommend a daily multi-vitamin with iron that contains at least 400 micrograms of folic acid for all women of child-bearing age. Consult with your doctor for prenatal vitamins containing the highest level of folic acid

In addition, most physicians recommend dietary changes during pregnancy. Women are generally advised to avoid foods that may carry certain bacteria, such as listeria. Listeria is commonly found in foods such as ready-to-eat or undercooked meat, poultry, or seafood, and can lead to a serious infection called listeriosis, which has been linked to miscarriages, premature births, fetal blood poisoning and birth defects. Women who are pregnant should heat all deli meats until steaming and avoid unpasteurized milk products and soft cheeses (brie, feta and blue cheese) throughout pregnancy. Raw seafood, as sushi and undercooked meat products should also be avoided.

Seafood known to contain high levels of mercury is also prohibited during pregnancy. Fish such as shark, swordfish, king mackerel and tilefish often contain high levels of mercury, a toxin that can harm a developing fetus, and should be avoided during pregnancy. Fish such as snapper, halibut, canned albacore tuna and tuna steaks may have some mercury, but are safe to consume once a week. Catfish, salmon, cod, pollock, mahi mahi, shellfish and canned light tuna are considered lowest in mercury and are safe for consumption twice a week.

Pregnant women should continue to exercise unless otherwise instructed by a physician. Women who are active often enjoy an easier labor and shorter recovery time after birth. Most women can continue walking, swimming or cycling throughout their pregnancy, but should avoid activities that involve high impact, or those that could lead to falling.

Additional pregnancy restrictions often include the following:

• Avoid using chemicals, such as hair dye.

• Avoid hot tubs or saunas. These are considered high-bacteria environments.

• Avoid optional x-rays as radiation can be harmful to the developing fetus.

• Avoid cleaning out cat litter boxes as this is linked to a disease known as toxoplasmosis, which can cause miscarriages, stillbirths and birth defects.

• Get adequate rest. Fatigue is common during pregnancy.

• Consider getting a flu shot, which will also protect the unborn child.

• Wear a seat belt correctly, with the lap belt across the hips under the belly.

Pregnancy is an exciting time of change, but those changes can be challenging. It is important to remember that the sacrifices during pregnancy are worth the end result — a happy, healthy baby. Consult your physician about plans to become pregnant and follow his or her advice before, during and after pregnancy because women who receive routine, adequate prenatal care are at much less risk for complications and much more likely to deliver a healthy baby.

A staff member at Scenic Mountain Medical Center since 2003, Dr. Keith Ledford is board-certified in obstetrics and gynecology. His office is located at 1501 West 11th Place, in the Malone and Hogan Clinic.

Quail Dobbs and Carylon Frerich take their duties seriously as ice cream judges for Scenic Mountain Medical Center's Rodeo Day Thursday. Winners were Loma Jean Wynn, Kasi Walker and Cindy Torres.

SMMC Employees Diana Cobos and Amy Huitt race for the finish line in the three-legged race.

A grill, a green salad, a great dish

By DANA JACOBI
American Institute for Cancer Research

One of my all-time favorite dishes illustrates how, using the right combination of ingredients, simple dishes can be outstanding. It is a dish I discovered while traveling in Italy and it is made using just four ingredients.

The dish, in essence, is lean beef seared on a grill and topped with fresh arugula. The meat is pounded so thin that a four-ounce serving will cover an entire dinner plate. The accompanying arugula is dressed with just enough olive oil and lemon juice to make the greens glisten. Italians heap this salad on so generously that it hides most of the meat under its tangled mound.

The combination of flavors in this dish and the contrast of cool salad over sizzling meat make a perfect pairing. In France, meat pounded until thin and grilled this way is called a paillard. The French prefer using veal, while I make this dish with a chicken cutlet. Pounding it vigorously to a uniform thickness assures that it cooks evenly. A touch of cooking spray or a light brushing of oil over the cutlet prevents it from sticking to the grill or drying out.

For the salad, French cooks pile on mesclun, a colorful mixture of baby greens. I prefer using arugula, which Europeans call rucola, roquette or rockette. Like broccoli, it contains indoles — phytochemical compounds which, according to some laboratory research, may play a role in fighting cancer.

Many stores carry baby arugula. If it's not available at your market, regular arugula torn into bite-size pieces is equally delicious. Chill the greens, use the best olive oil possible and serve it promptly, as arugula wilts quickly. This minimalist dish will delight with its simple yet bold flavors.

Grilled Chicken with Arugula and Lemon Vinaigrette

4 packed cups baby arugula leaves
2 packed cups baby spinach leaves
6 Tbsp. fresh lemon juice
1/2 tsp. salt
1/4 tsp. ground black pepper
1 Tbsp. extra-virgin olive oil
1 lb. skinless and boneless chicken breast, cut into 4 pieces
Cooking spray, preferably olive oil

Heat grill to medium-high heat. If using a ridged grill pan indoors, set over high heat until very hot.

In large mixing bowl, combine arugula and spinach. Cover and refrigerate.

In small bowl, whisk lemon juice and salt until salt dissolves. Add ground pepper and whisk in oil until combined. Set dressing aside.

One at a time, place each piece of chicken breast between two pieces of wax paper. Using the flat side of a meat mallet (or bottom of a small, heavy skillet), pound chicken until evenly 1/8-inch thick.

If chicken pieces are thick, turning over several times may be necessary. Coat chicken lightly on both sides with cooking spray. If desired, season lightly with salt and pepper.

Grill chicken until white in center, turning it once, about 3 minutes each side.

While chicken grills, pour dressing over greens. Using tongs, turn until well coated. To serve, place one piece chicken on each of 4 dinner plates. Mound 1/4 of salad on top of each.

Makes 4 servings.

Per serving: 170 calories, 5 g total fat (1 g saturated fat), 4 g carbohydrate,

27 g protein, 1 g dietary fiber, 390 mg sodium.

Dana Jacobi is author of "12 Best Foods Cookbook" and contributor to "AICR's New American Plate Cookbook: Recipes for a Healthy Weight and a Healthy Life."

Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

There's Only One Right Play

East dealer.
Neither side vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ 10 5
♥ J 7
♦ K Q J 7 4 2
♣ Q J 10

WEST
♠ A 4 2
♥ 9 8 3 2
♦ 8
♣ K 8 7 5 2

EAST
♠ Q 9 8 7
♥ 10 6 5 4
♦ A 6 3
♣ 6 3

SOUTH
♠ K J 6 3
♥ A K Q
♦ 10 9 5
♣ A 9 4

The bidding:

East	South	West	North
Pass	1 NT	Pass	3 NT

Opening lead — five of clubs.

One of the most common failings of many declarers is the tendency to deal with each suit separately rather than assess the play of the hand as a whole.

Take this case where declarer won the opening club lead with dummy's ten and played the K-Q of diamonds, hoping the defense would take the ace. But East uncharitably ducked both diamonds, leaving South with an impossible task.

When he tried leading the ten of spades from dummy, East covered with the queen, and the king lost to West's ace. A spade was returned, and South could now do no better than cash eight tricks.

Declarer lost the contract on the very first trick when he should have won the club lead with the ace instead of dummy's ten.

South should realize that the contract is not likely to be made unless the diamonds can be run, and should not rely exclusively on the hope that the opponents will take the first or second diamond lead. He should allow for the possibility that either defender might have been dealt three or four diamonds to the ace and might not take the first two diamond offerings.

The purpose of playing the club ace at trick one is to ensure a subsequent club entry to dummy in case the diamond ace is held up. Thus, in the actual case, South leads three rounds of diamonds after winning the opening club lead. East takes the ace and can do nothing to injure declarer. If he returns a club, dummy automatically acquires an entry to cash the good diamonds.

If East returns a heart instead, declarer wins and leads a club to force his way into dummy and again has 10 tricks. And if East chooses to return a spade, South plays low from his hand to obtain the same result.

It all goes back to what declarer does at trick one. If he mechanically follows low from his hand and then starts to think, he will soon learn to his sorrow that the opportunity to make his game has already passed him by.

Tomorrow: Solving a defensive problem.

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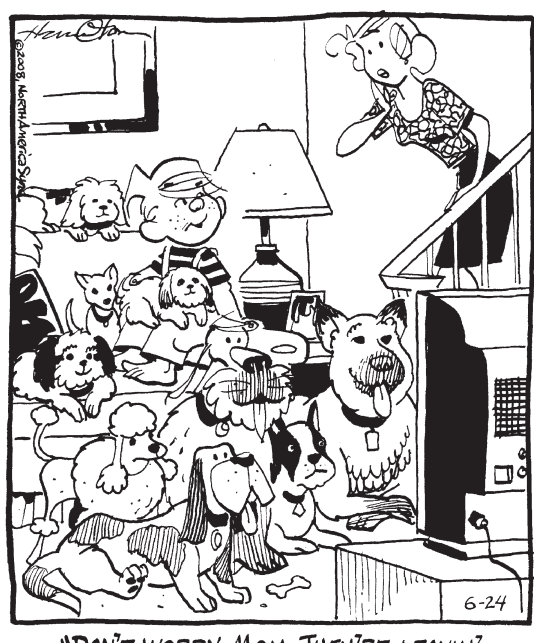
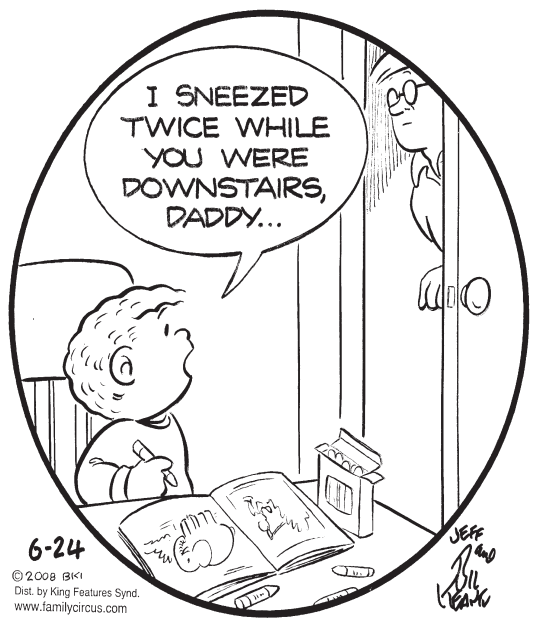
	WFAA (2) Dallas	KMID (3) Midland	UNI (4) Spanish	KPEJ (5) Odessa	KOSA (7) Odessa	KTLE (8) Telemundo	KWES (9) Midland	WTBS (11) Atlanta	KMLM (12) Odessa	KPBT (13) Odessa	DISC (20) Discovery	AMC (21) Classics	SPIKE (22) Spike TV	TNT (23) Atlanta	BET (26) Black Ent.	DISN (27) Disney	ESPN2 (28) Sports	ESPN (29) Sports
5 :PM :30	News ABC	News ABC	Locura Noticiero	Simpsons King-Hill	News CBS	Noticias Noticiero	News NBC	Friends Raymond	Scrivner Uri Harel	News Business	Cash Cab Cash Cab	**Movie:** *The Princess Bride*	CSI: Crime Scn	Law & Order	106 & Park: Live From the Red Carpet	Life De Life De	NASCAR Burning	SportsCenter
6 :PM :30	News Entertain	Jeopardy! Fortune	Querida Enemiga	Simpsons Two Men	News Entertain	12 Corazones	News Millionaire	Raymond Raymond	Dr. Young Hagee	News-Lehrer	Made Made		CSI: Crime Scn	Law & Order		Wendy Wu: Warrior	Interrupt Sportscenter NBA Draft Special	College Baseball: NCAA World Series Champ. -- Teams TBA
7 :PM :30	Wipeout	Wipeout	Diablo-Guapos	Hell's Kitchen	NCIS	La Traicion	Deal or No Deal	Fam. Guy Fam. Guy	Israel Victory	Nova (DVS)	Deadliest Catch	**Movie:** *Two Weeks Notice, Alicia Witt*	CSI: Crime Scn CSI: Crime Scn	**Movie:** *What Women Want, Marisa Tomei*	BET Awards '08	Wizards		
8 :PM :30	Survived-Game	Survived-Game	Fuego en la Sangre	Hell's Kitchen	48 Hours Mystery	Victoria	America's Got Talent	Fam. Guy Fam. Guy	Light of the Southwest	Frontline/ World	Deadliest Catch		CSI: Miami			Montana Suite Life	WNBA Basketball: Comets at Silver Stars	
9 :PM :30	Primetime	Primetime	Aquí y Ahora	TMZ Raymond	Without a Trace	Sin Senos		Office Office		P.O.V.	After the Catch	(:15) **Movie:** *Mr. Holland's Opus, Jay Thomas*	CSI: NY	**Movie:** *What Women Want, Marisa Tomei*	After Party	Wizards Life De	Destination	Baseball Tonight SportsCenter
10 :PM :30	News Nightline	News Nightline	Impacto Noticiero	Two Men Raymond	News Late Show	Noticias Titulares	News Tonight Show	My Boys Sex &	Israel Miller	Ribbon	Deadliest Catch					Suite Life Montana		
11 :PM :30	Insider Jimmy Kimmel Live	Jimmy Kimmel Live	La Hora de la Risa	Law Order: CI	Late Late Show	Decisiones	Late Night	Sex & Friends	Ministerio-Vida	Smiley Smiley	Deadliest Catch		CSI: Crime Scn		Baldwin 106 & Park: Live From the Red Carpet	So Raven Phil	NASCAR Poker	Baseball NFL Live
12 :AM :30	News	Extra Light	Niña Amada Mia	RENO 911 Lopez	Insider	Programa Pagado	News	**Movie:** *Eight Legged Freaks*	Israel Church	(Off Air)	Deadliest Catch	Mad Men (:45) **Movie:** *The Graduate, Katharine Ross*	Star Trek: Voyager	Without a Trace		Replace Kim	Series of Poker	SportsCenter
1 :AM :30	Paid Paid	Paid Paid	Clasicos Humor	RENO 911 King-Hill	Entertain Paid	**Pelicula:**	Poker After Dark		Light of the Southwest		After the Catch		Deep Space 9	Without a Trace	After Party	Emperor Dragon	Series of Poker	SportsCenter

DENNIS THE MENACE



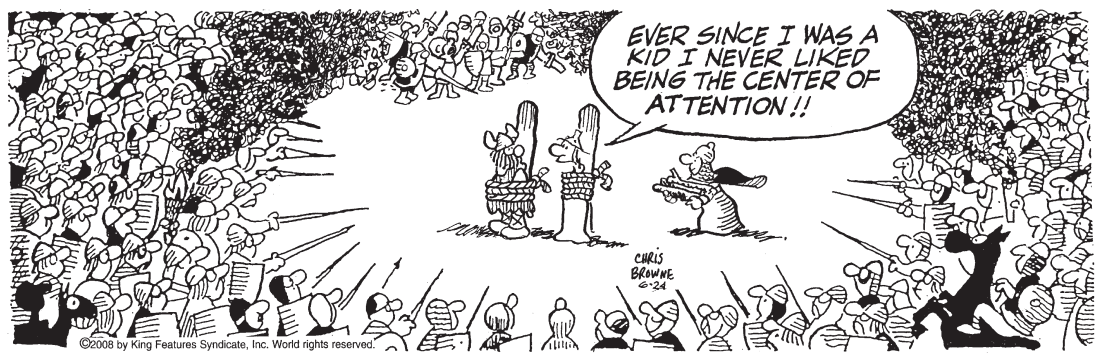
"DON'T WORRY, MOM. THEY'RE LEAVIN' AFTER THE DOG FOOD COMMERCIAL."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

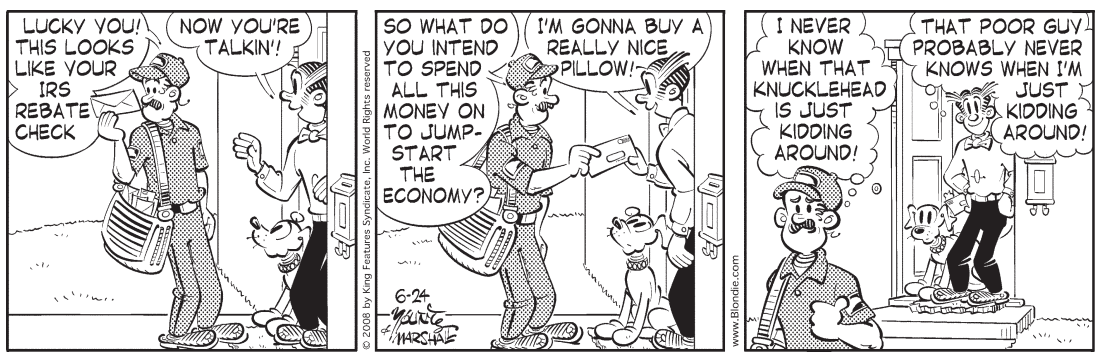


"...so you owe me two 'Bless you's.'"

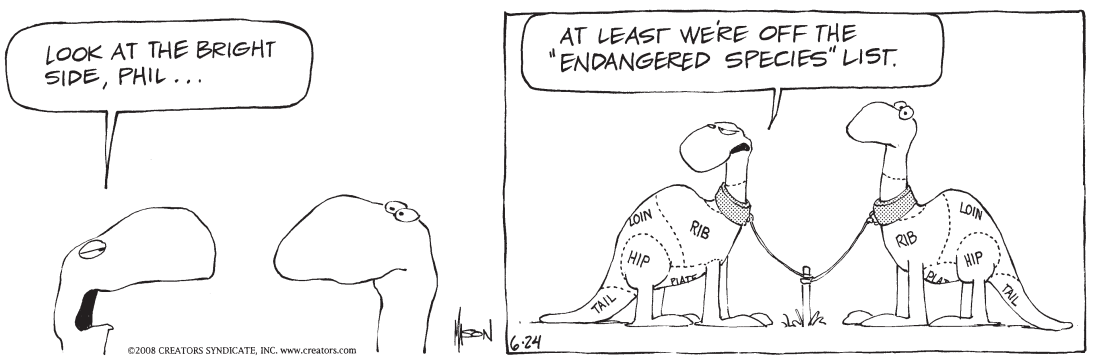
HAGAR



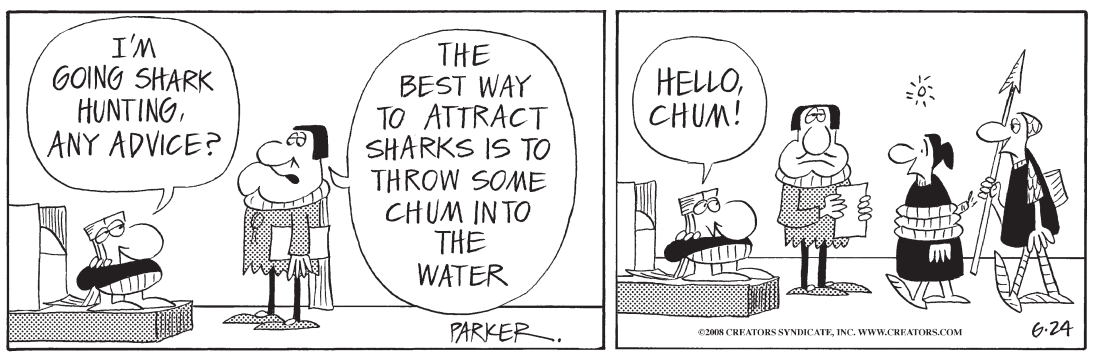
BLONDIE



BC



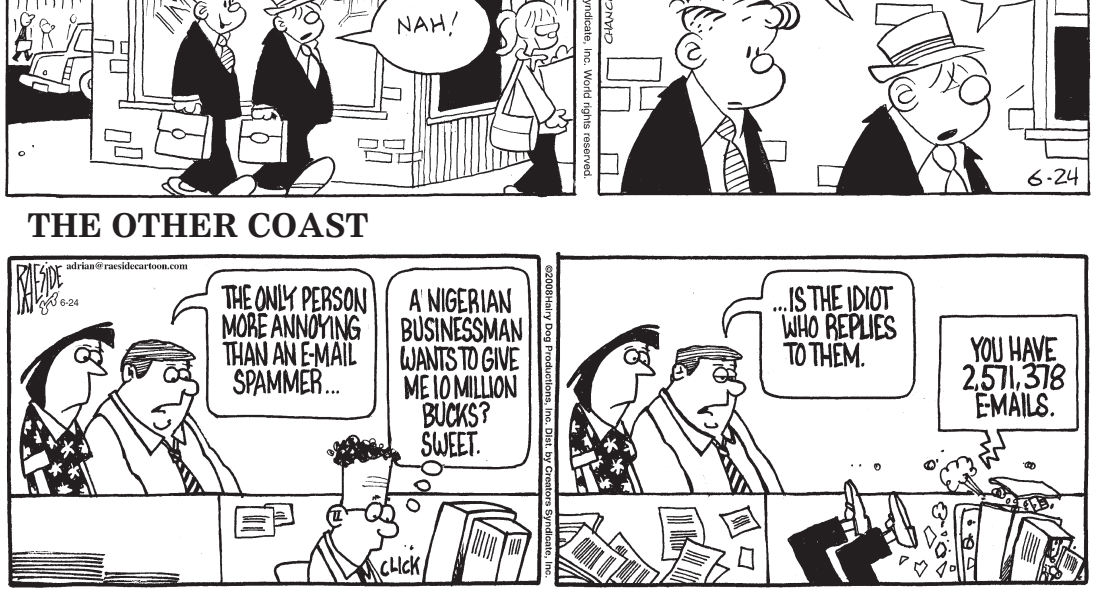
WIZARD OF ID



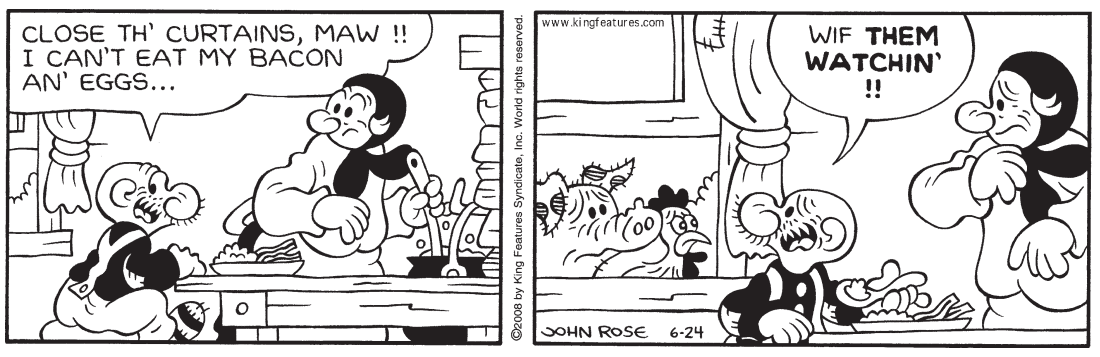
AGNES

HI AND LOIS

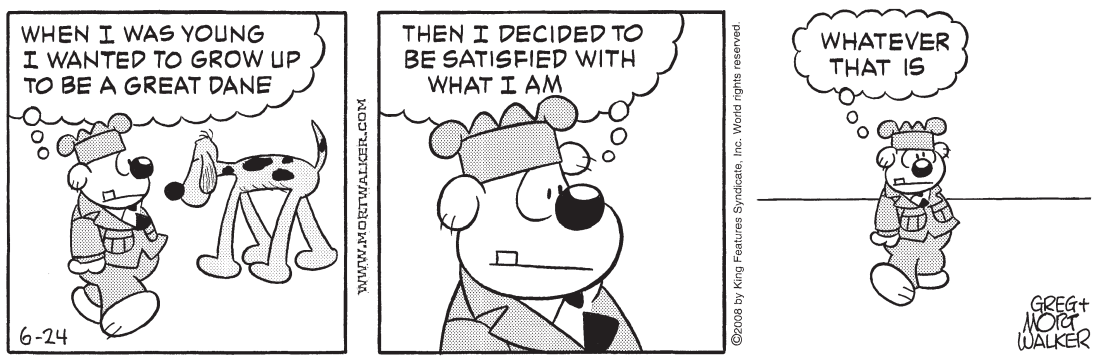
THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BEETLE BAILEY



This Date In History

Today is Tuesday, June 24, the 176th day of 2008. There are 190 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On June 24, 1948, Communist forces cut off all land and water routes between West Germany and West Berlin, prompting the western allies to organize the massive Berlin Airlift.

On this date:

In 1314, the forces of Scotland's King Robert I defeated the English in the Battle of Bannockburn.

In 1509, Henry VIII was crowned king of England.

In 1793, the first republican constitution in France was adopted.

In 1807, a grand jury in Richmond, Va., indicted former Vice President Aaron Burr on charges of treason and high misdemeanor (he was later acquitted).

In 1908, the 22nd and 24th president of the United States, Grover Cleveland, died in Princeton, N.J., at age 71.

In 1940, France signed an armistice with Italy during World War II.

In 1948, the Republican National Convention, meeting in Philadelphia, nominated New York Gov. Thomas E. Dewey for president.

In 1968, "Resurrection City," a shantytown constructed as part of the Poor People's March on Washington, D.C., was closed down by authorities.

In 1975, 113 people were killed when an Eastern Airlines Boeing 727 crashed while attempting to land during a thunderstorm at New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport.

In 1983, the space shuttle Challenger — carrying America's first woman in space, Sally K. Ride — coasted to a safe landing at Edwards Air Force Base in California.

One year ago: Charles W. Lindberg, one of the U.S. Marines who raised the first American flag over Iwo Jima during World War II, died in Edina, Minn., at age 86.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Al Molinaro is 89. Comedian Jack Carter is 85. Movie director Claude Chabrol is 78. Actress Michele Lee is 66. Actor-director Georg Stanford Brown is 65. Rock musician Jeff Beck is 64. Singer Arthur Brown is 64. Rock singer Colin Blunstone (The Zombies) is 63. Musician Mick Fleetwood is 61. Actor Peter Weller is 61. Rock musician John Illsley (Dire Straits) is 59. Actress Nancy Allen is 58. Reggae singer Derrick Simpson (Black Uhuru) is 58. Actor Joe Penny is 52. Reggae singer Astro (UB40) is 51. Singer-musician Andy McCluskey (Orchestral Manoevres in the Dark) is 49. Rock singer Curt Smith is 47. Actress Danielle Spencer is 43. Actress Sherry Stringfield is 41. Singer Glenn Medeiros is 38. Actress-producer Mindy Kaling is 29. Actress Minka Kelly (TV: "Friday Night Lights") is 28. Singer Solange Knowles is 22.

Thought for Today: "Self-denial is indulgence of a propensity to forego." — Ambrose Bierce, American author-journalist (1842-1914?).

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Answer to previous puzzle

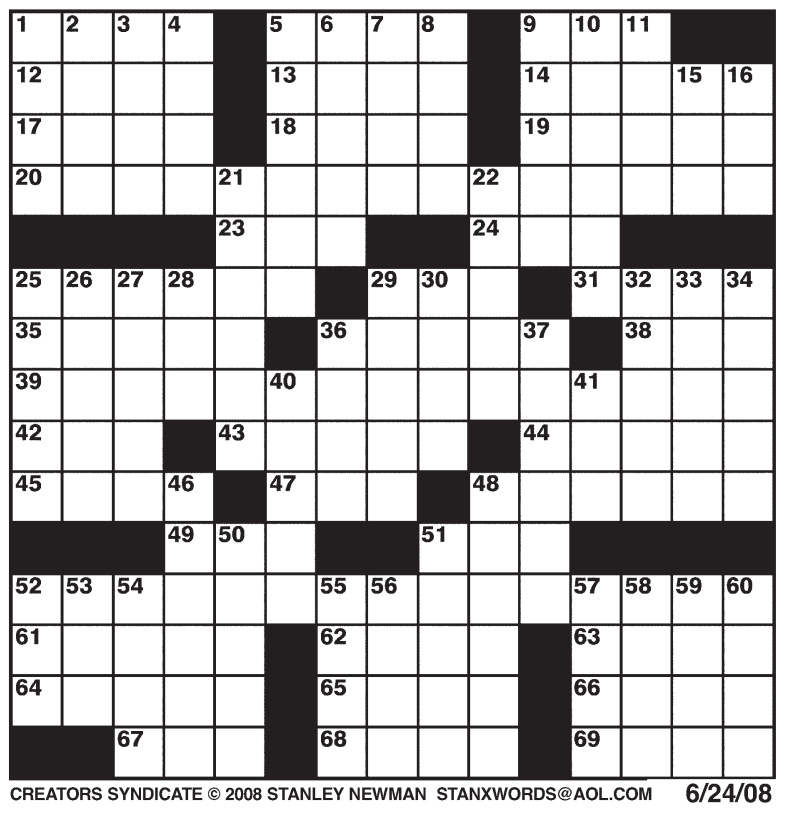
C	A	T	E	R		W	A	S	P		A	L	D	A
O	R	A	T	E		O	D	I	E		T	I	E	R
A	I	R	C	U	R	R	E	N	T		T	R	E	E
L	A	P		B	U	M	P		S	A	H	A	R	A
			D	E	S		T	A	H	O	E			
A	C	T	O	N	E			D	O	L	L	O	P	
S	H	U	N	S		A	T	O	P		A	L	A	S
P	I	T	T		A	R	A	B	S		T	I	L	E
S	L	O	B		R	I	P	E		S	E	V	E	N
	D	R	E	A	M	S			D	E	S	E	R	T
		F	I	R	E	S		O	C	T				
D	E	A	R	M	E		H	A	L	O		E	W	E
R	A	C	E		S	H	O	R	T	N	O	V	E	L
U	S	E	S		T	O	O	T		D	R	I	L	L
M	E	S	H		S	E	T	S		S	E	L	L	S

Newsday Crossword

SUMMER DAY by Sally R. Stein
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 Crow sounds
5 Clock sound
9 Shirt sleeve
12 Frequently
13 West Coast sch.
14 __ Loa (Hawaiian peak)
17 Tra __
18 Lion sound
19 Otherwise
20 A sum of 20
23 Marks, as a ballot
24 Ice-sport org.
25 Come back to a club
29 Encountered
31 Flows back
35 Declares solemnly
36 Sprite
38 Sound of delight
39 A sum of 20
42 Suffix for suburban
43 Look after
44 Group of mountains
45 Astronauts' org.
47 Train lines: Abbr.
48 Prepares to check e-mail
49 Waikiki neckwear
51 Sample of soda
52 A sum of 20
61 Current style
62 Toward sunrise
63 Hawaiian island
64 Given testimony
65 Sore spot
66 Stack
67 Complete collection
68 Onion covering
69 Constellation component

DOWN
1 Young cow
2 Jai __
3 Dog's wild cousin
4 Numerical fact, for short
5 Large soup dish
6 Computer images
7 Applaud
8 Communism theorizer Marx
9 Pennsylvania sect
10 Church fund-raiser
11 Tax-free bond, briefly
15 Thanksgiving mo.
16 Munched on
21 Has life
22 No later than
25 Arrested
26 Lloyd Webber musical
27 Common surname like Smith
28 Be obligated to
29 After-dinner snacks
30 Trade show
32 Blessings
33 Beatnik's drum
34 Luster
36 Jury member
37 Where Italy is
40 Like haunted houses
41 Droop
46 Enticing quality
48 Pay attention
50 Occurrence
51 Raw fish dish
52 They're connected to DVD players
53 "That's amazing!"
54 Swelled heads
55 Pod veggies
56 Don't have
57 Little devils
58 Running pace
59 Dance done in grass skirts
60 Wedding-cake level



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