

MONDAY

August 9, 2004

WEATHER

Tonight:



PARTLY CLOUDY

TONIGHT 71°-73° TOMORROW 92°-93°

BRIEFLY

Doctor reception planned Tuesday

A reception honoring Dr. Aung M. Thein, board certified radiologist, will be held from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Tuesday in the Scenic Mountain Medical Center lobby. The public is invited; refreshments will be served.

Salvation Army taking donations

The Big Spring Salvation Army is accepting donations for its annual "Back to School" program, which provides school supplies for area low-income students. Donations can be made at the Salvation Army office, 811 W. Fifth Street. Corps officials expect to help more than 400 students with their back to school items this year. For more information, call 267-8239.

Cossacks, Legion plan benefit run

The Permian Basin Chapter of the Cossacks Motorcycle Club and American Legion Post 506 will hold a benefit auction and "in-house" poker run for local resident Virginia King, who has been diagnosed with cancer.

The benefit will be held Saturday, Aug. 21, beginning at noon at the Legion Post, located at 3203 W. Highway 80. Southern fried catfish will be served.

Proceeds from the event will go to help King and her family meet medical and other costs.

For more information concerning the fund-raising event, contact Benny at 432-213-0654.

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Council to take steps toward approving budget

By THOMAS JENKINS

Staff Writer

The Big Spring City Council will take the first steps to approve its 2004-2005 budget Tuesday with a discussion concerning the proposed 3-cent tax hike and calls for public hearings to address the tax rate and budget.

Tuesday's discussion comes on the heels of the release of the certified taxable values from the Howard County Tax Appraiser's Office. Like most area entities, the city saw a decrease in its certified values, a decline Big Spring Mayor Russ McEwen said came as no surprise to him or other council mem-



MCEWEN



HORTON

bers. "We worked with (Howard County Appraiser) Mr. (Keith) Toomire's office closely, so we anticipated a slight decrease in values," said McEwen. "The final numbers were actually better than we had expected. "The drop in taxable value won't effect the budget we've been working on one bit. This is something that we took into consideration throughout the budgeting process."

The city saw a \$414,132 loss in values, as the 2003 value of \$412,491,025 dropped to \$412,076,893 in 2004.

The council is also expected to call for public hearings that will address the tax hike, along with the proposed budget for 2004-2005.

McEwen said although the proposed 3-cent tax hike comes only one year after a 3-cent raise was issued, he believes the average home owner is by no means being "targeted."

"This tax raise is going to amount to about \$120,000 for the general fund," explained McEwen. "The average value of a home in

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National hang gliding champion Curt Warren, right, receives his trophy from United States Hang Gliding Association's National Championships coordinator David Glover at an awards ceremony Saturday night. The ceremony ended six days of competition at the McMahon-Wrinkle Airpark. Ultralight flights for \$50 and hang gliding flights for \$100 are still available for the general public at least through today at the airpark terminal.

HERALD photo/Lyndel Moody

Gliding wraps with plans to return in 2005

Curt Warren of Florida 2004 USHGA national champion

By LYNDEL MOODY

Staff Writer

As competitors ended the United States Hang Gliding Association's National Championships with a celebration Saturday night, one of the biggest round of applause and even a standing ovation went to the town of Big Spring.

"This is our third year and our second nationals and we couldn't be any happier," said USHGA event coordinator David Glover. "The guys got seven days of flying, 100 percent safety record and the community, the town, the airport couldn't have done more to make us feel welcome. We all love coming to Big Spring."

After six days of competition, Curt Warren of Florida was crowned the national champion.

"The best thing about this is you're doing what you like. You're travel-

ing, you're flying and you're hanging out with your friends," said Warren, a flight instructor. "Everyone wins."

Warren flew a total of 5,511 kilometers during the week-long competition held at the

McMahon-Wrinkle Airpark, which was 55 more than second-place finisher Robin Hamilton of Great Britain and almost 450 km more than third-place winner Dustin

Martin of the United States.

Photos and journals of his time at the competition are available for viewing on Warren's Web site, warrenwind-sports.com

"We got to fly every day and that was really important to us," Warren said. "We got a few light days and then we had a few classic Texas days with strong air and that's

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Like to try hang gliding? Get out to the airpark!

By LYNDEL MOODY

Staff Writer

Although the United States Hang Gliding Association's National Championships ended Saturday, those wishful adventurers who haven't taken a flight in the open Big Spring sky have another chance

"We're going to try to give flights to the public at least through today and possibly longer," said Ron Knight, hang gliding flight instructor from North Carolina.

Ultralight flights are \$50 and hang gliding flights are \$100. Hang gliding flights, which will reach an altitude of 2,500 feet, include a

roll of film containing pictures of the flight.

"I would say take the tandem flight because you get the best of both worlds," Knight said. "You get towed by the ultralight, we're released from the ultralight and

See GLIDING, Page 3A

Memories flow at Forsan reunion

By LYNDEL MOODY

Staff Writer

The faces may be a little older, but the friendships stayed unchanging as old Forsan High School classmates reunited Saturday for the All-Class Reunion.

Nellie Welch McDowell, a member of the Class of 1958, has attended every biennial reunion held in past eight years.

"My class, we all love each other. We gather because we still love each other," McDowell. "There

are 10 boys and four girls in the class. We're still good friends and we're still all married to the same people."

More than 100 people packed the high school, junior high cafeteria for the day-long event to catch up on all the happenings of their former high school buddies.

Event organizer Boyce Hall, Class of 1938, said the reunion represents nine decades of classes spanning the history of the school, which began in 1928.

"We look at old pictures and we talk about old

See REUNION, Page 3A



HALE



HERALD photo/Lyndel Moody

Former classmates and spouses visit at the Forsan High School All-Class Reunion Saturday. Pictured are Lorin McDowell, left, his wife, Nellie Welch, Class of 1958; Pat Anderson and her husband, Jimmy, Class of 1958.

Obituaries

Willie Lee New Grant



Willie Lee New Grant, 80, of Coahoma went to be with the Lord on Sunday, Aug. 8, 2004, surrounded by her family. Graveside funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 10, 2004, at the Coahoma Cemetery with the Rev. Elwin Collom, pastor of First Baptist Church of Coahoma, officiating.

Willie was born on Feb. 24, 1924, in Sparsburg, to Clem and Thelma Thomas. She married Thomas Jefferson New on June 3, 1939, and he preceded her in death on Nov. 26, 1966. She then married Loyd Ray Grant on Feb. 24, 1972, and he preceded her in death on March, 5, 1994.

Willie lived most of her life in the Big Spring and Coahoma area. She worked for the Coahoma school system for many years and also the city of Coahoma. She became a Howard County Justice of the Peace in 1983 and retired in 1994 from office to care for her ailing husband. She loved being a justice of the peace and everyone that she had worked with.

She was an avid Texas Ranger fan.

Survivors include four sons and two daughters-in-law, Roy and Cheryl New of Big Spring; Steve New, Tommy New, and Rocky and Sheri New, all of Coahoma; three daughters and sons-in-law, Ann and Bo Trawick of Merkel, Patsy and Charles Burns of Abilene and Rhonda Quay and Jerry Baker of Odessa; 11 grandchildren, 20 great grandchildren and five great great grandchildren; one sister-in-law, Nelda Thomas of San Antonio; one aunt, Geraldine Parrish of Big Spring; several nieces and nephews and many friends.

Willie's family was her pride and joy. The following poem, written by an anonymous writer, was the way she wanted to express her feelings to her family.

"To Those I Love and Those Who Love Me"

When I am gone, release me, let me go. I have so many things to see and do. You must not tie yourself to me with tears. Be thankful for our beautiful years. I gave to you my love. You can only guess how much you gave to me in happiness. I thank you for the love you each have shown, but now it's time I traveled on alone. So grieve awhile for me, if grieve you must, then let your grief be comforted by trust. It's only for time that we must part, so bless the memories within your heart. I won't be far away for life goes on, so if you need me call and I will come. Though you can't see or touch me, I'll be near, all my love around you, soft and clear. And then, when you must come this way alone, I'll greet you with a smile and say, "Welcome Home."

Willie was also preceded in death by her parents, stepfather, Curtis Thomas; one brother, Billy Paul Thomas and one sister, Johnnie Faye McComas.

The family suggests memorials to Home Hospice, 600 S. Gregg St., 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

Joel Tyrell "Ty" Murrill



Joel Tyrell "Ty" Murrill, 21, of Big Spring died Friday morning, Aug. 6, 2004, in an automobile accident in Glasscock County. Funeral services will be at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday at Myers & Smith Chapel with Rick Cunningham, minister of 14th and Main Church of Christ, officiating. Burial will be at Trinity Memorial Park. The family will receive friends from 7:30 until 8:30 p.m. today at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

He was born Jan. 26, 1983, in Big Spring. He was a lifetime resident of Howard County, except from 1983 until 1993, when he lived in Carlsbad, N.M. He graduated from Forsan High School in 2001, and was a part of a band with Jimmy and Tim Shanks, starting in high school. His hobby and talent was music and he could play all types of instruments. He had been employed by Patterson Drilling and he was a Baptist.

He is survived by his mother Donna King of Big Spring; his father, Kris Murrill of Carlsbad, N.M.; four brothers, Justin Vogel of Big Spring, Colby Vogel of Fountain Valley, Calif., Zac Leslie of Dallas, and Michael Murrill of Carlsbad, N.M.; two sisters, Riley King of Big Spring and Misty Castenada of Carlsbad, N.M.; grandmother, Mildred Pate of Carlsbad, N.M.; three nieces and one nephew; and special friends, Dennis, Reba, Casey, Taylor, and Zack Bristow, all of Big Spring.

Pallbearers will be Casey Bristow, Taylor Bristow, Zack Bristow, Jimmy Shanks, Tim Shanks, and R.C. Smith. Honorary pallbearers will be Jarred Stevens, Jason Stevens, Dustin Baker and Jarred Hopper.

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

Paid obituary

Weather

A chance of rain is forecast across much of the Lone Star State on Monday, according to the National Weather Service.

A 20 percent chance of rain was expected in the Permian Basin with highs in the upper 80s. It should be partly cloudy at night with lows in the upper 60s.

Jesse James Perkins



Jesse James Perkins, 23, of Big Spring died Saturday, Aug. 7, 2004, in an oil-field accident in Upton County. Funeral services will be at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday at Myers & Smith Chapel with the Rev. Dennis Teeters, pastor of First Baptist Church, officiating. Graveside services will be at 4 p.m. Wednesday at Abernathy Cemetery in Abernathy with the Rev. Joel Perez of Northside Baptist Church officiating.

He was born June 20, 1981, in Hobbs, N.M. and moved to Big Spring two years ago. He was employed by Robinson Drilling and he was a Baptist.

He is survived by his mother, Tina Perkins of Big Spring; father Howard "Jesse" Perkins of Elysian Fields; two brothers, Jason Perkins of Big Spring and Chris Perkins of Lubbock; two sisters, Jessie and Christine Perkins, both of Elysian Fields; grandmother, Letha Smith of Abernathy; great grandmother, Rosie Brown of Abernathy; several nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles and cousins.

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

Geri Sue Lasater

Geri Sue Lasater, 41, of Big Spring died Sunday, Aug. 8, 2004, in the Hospice House of Odessa. Her services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity between 8 a.m. Saturday and 8 a.m. today:

- **RONALD LOUIS JONES**, 49, of 13060 Gail Highway, was arrested Saturday on four local warrants.
- **DAVID RODRIGUEZ**, 35, of 601 S. Douglas, was arrested Sunday on a charge of public intoxication.
- **PAMELA KAY LEFLER**, 21, of 1307 Mulberry, was arrested Sunday on charges of public intoxication and assault - Class C.
- **THEFT** was reported:
 - in the 1200 block of E. 11th Place.
 - in the 1800 block of Gregg Street.
 - in the 1100 block of Lamesa.
 - in the 500 block of Westover Road.
 - in the 300 block of Owens.
- **ASSAULT CLASS C** was reported:
 - in the 400 block of Fourth Street.
 - in the 1100 block of S. Gregg Street.
- **CRIMINAL TRESPASS** was reported in the 400 block of Edwards.
- **CRIMINAL MISCHIEF** was reported:
 - in the 2500 block of Gunter.
 - in the 1500 block of Sycamore.
 - in the 1500 block of Benton.
 - in the 200 block of Ninth Street.
- **BURGLARY OF A VEHICLE** was reported:
 - in the 500 block of Westover Road.
 - in the 500 block of Runnels.
- **ASSAULT WITH INTENT TO CAUSE BODILY INJURY** was reported in the 10000 block of Moss Lake Road.
- **BURGLARY OF A HABITATION** was reported in the 1200 block of E. 19th Street.
- **UNAUTHORIZED USE OF A MOTOR VEHICLE** was reported in the 1500 block of Fifth Street.

Lottery

Results of the Lotto Texas drawing Saturday night: Winning numbers drawn: 6-11-15-16-44. Bonus Ball: 15.

Number matching five of five, plus Bonus Ball: 0. Estimated jackpot for Wednesday night drawing: \$18 million.

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Saturday night: Winning numbers drawn: 1-3-6-7-11.

Number matching five of five: 1. Prize per winner: \$33,398. Winning tickets sold in: Waco. Next Cash 5 drawing: Tonight.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Saturday night: 9-5-5

For all of your news, sports and local information

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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

• Senior Circle meets at 4 p.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.

• Community Awareness meeting to announce the expansion of the Howard County Chaplaincy Program and to recruit volunteers to support various aspects of the Chaplaincy Program at 5:30 p.m. in the Dora Roberts Community Center.

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

• Big Spring Band Boosters meet at 5:30 p.m. in the Big Spring High School band hall.

• Take Pounds Off Sensibly (TOPS) No. TX 1756 meets at 5:30 p.m. Monday in the 11th and Birdwell Lane Church of Christ. A different program is offered every week, and anyone 7 years old or older is welcome to attend. Please enter through the north-west door. Call 263-2786 for more information.

• Coahoma Lions Club meets at 6 p.m. in the Coahoma Community Center at 306 North Ave.

• Evening Lions Club meets at 6:30 p.m. in the La Posada Restaurant.

• Archeology Society for Howard and Borden counties meets at 7 p.m. in the Howard County Library Community Room in the basement. Call 270-2615 for more information.

• Concerned Citizens Council meets at 7 p.m. at 500 S. Main St., in the Dorothy Lamb Meeting Room of the Howard County Library. The public is welcome.

• Big Spring Commandery No. 31 meets at 7:30 p.m. at the Masonic Temple at 221 1/2 Main St. Dinner begins at 6:30 p.m.

• Big Spring Assembly No. 211 Social Order of Beauceant meets at 7:30 p.m. in the Masonic Temple at 221 1/2 Main St. Dinner begins at 6:30 p.m.

Sheriff's report

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

• **JOSS MACHADO MOLINA**, 30, was arrested Friday by the HCSO on a charge of failure to identify - giving false/fictitious information.

• **FAVIAN ANDREW URIAS III**, 18, was transferred to the county jail Friday by the BSPD on a charge of unauthorized use of a motor vehicle.

• **GARY D. THIGPEN**, 25, was arrested Friday by the HCSO on a charge of contempt of court.

• **KAILEE MICHEL RADLOFF**, 18, was transferred to the county jail Friday by the BSPD on a charge of criminal mischief - more than \$500 less than \$1,500.

• **TIMOTHY NEIL ACUFF**, 21, was transferred to the county jail Friday by the BSPD on charges of assault by physical contact and failure to identify - giving false/fictitious information.

• **KERRIE LEA BHUIYAN**, 34, was transferred to the county jail Friday by the BSPD on a charge of issuance of a bad check.

• **DANIEL CALE LEWIS**, 39, was arrested Saturday by DPS on a charge of public intoxication.

• **LORI LYNN CASSTEVEENS**, 25, was transferred to the county jail Saturday by the BSPD on a charge of criminal trespass of a habitation.

• **JOHN MANUEL SOLIS**, 18, was transferred to the county jail Saturday by the BSPD on charges of bailman off of bond for obstructing a highway passage and failure to identify as a fugitive from justice - intentionally giving false information.

• **SPENCER LEE COKER**, 33, was arrested Saturday by the HCSO on charges of evading arrest or detention, driving while license suspended/invalid - enhanced, reckless driving and failure to stop at a stop sign.

• **MICHAEL HEATH ANDERSON**, 27, was arrested Saturday by the HCSO on charges of evading arrest or detention and a violation of parole for burglary of a habitation.

• **ROY DWIGHT BIDDLE III**, 43, was arrested Saturday by the HCSO on a charge of driving while license suspended.

• **CRIMINAL MISCHIEF** was reported:

- in the area of E. County Road 34.
- in the 5100 block of Callahan.

TEXAS NE

'Passion' confes: RICHMOND (AP) the movie "The Pa prompted him to c his girlfriend and r suicide faces trial week.

After seeing the told Fort Bend Co tives of an elabo Ashley Nicole Wils suicide.

Leach, 21, was se Tuesday in the Ja 19, was found dea after she had appar The Harris County Office had ruled th the case was close

Police, two mont closed, videotaped that prosecutors e ing the trial befor Brady Elliott.

"There are nume crime scene that c sion, things that ' to the killer," assi Greg Gilleland, w case, told the H Monday's editions

Missing Marine

SMITHVILLE (A a Texas soldier m the Vietnam War thanks to help f who told authorit Marine 2nd Lt.

GLIDING

Continued from Pag

then we fly freely The flights, gi the past six day been very popu the public so far said.

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what we real Everyone will l home happy and back."

Volunteer co Bobby McDonald helping to bring back to Big Spr year, said the co were a real joy with.

"It went wo and we hope tha

COUNCIL

Continued from Pa

Big Spring is mately \$30,000 going to cost th homeowner an : 75 cents per don't feel like w ing a burden homeownes wi Council

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times and the talk about tl women they Hale said with "And the ol they talk at regretful the catch old so-a had to settle Harry. That makes it so m

Contact Sta Lyndel Moody ext. 234, or b reporter@big.ald.com

Prayer to the 1 Pray nine Hall Mary s with a lit candle an favors, one econom and on the eight da ninth, let the candle Even without faith the: O.H.1

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TEXAS NEWS BRIEFS

'Passion' confession trial starts

RICHMOND (AP) — A man who said the movie "The Passion of the Christ" prompted him to confess to strangling his girlfriend and making it appear as a suicide faces trial in the slaying this week.

After seeing the film, Dan Leach II told Fort Bend County sheriff's detectives of an elaborate plan to make Ashley Nicole Wilson's death look like a suicide.

Leach, 21, was scheduled to go on trial Tuesday in the Jan. 19 slaying. Wilson, 19, was found dead in her apartment after she had apparently hanged herself. The Harris County Medical Examiner's Office had ruled the death a suicide and the case was closed.

Police, two months after the case was closed, videotaped Leach's confession that prosecutors expected to admit during the trial before state District Judge Brady Elliott.

"There are numerous details from the crime scene that corroborate his confession, things that would only be known to the killer," assistant district attorney Greg Gilleland, who is prosecuting the case, told the Houston Chronicle in Monday's editions.

Missing Marine's remains coming

SMITHVILLE (AP) — The remains of a Texas soldier missing in action from the Vietnam War have been identified thanks to help from a former enemy who told authorities where to find him.

Marine 2nd Lt. Donald John Matocha

of Smithville was killed in a firefight in April 1968 on Dong Ma mountain in what was then the Republic of South Vietnam. His nephew is scheduled to escort his remains home on Sept. 16.

The Defense Department had essentially given up on the hunt for Matocha's remains by 1993. Retired Army 1st Sgt. Hattie Johnson, a case officer with the Marine Corps, casualty office in Washington, D.C., said the military had run into a dead end.

"They had exhausted all means of looking," Johnson said in Sunday's edition of the Austin American-Statesman.

Then in 1996, Nguyen Van Loc, a 58-year-old farmer who had been a squad leader of the 320th Division of the People's Army of Vietnam, appeared at the Army's POW/MIA office in Hanoi. He said he'd found a dead American on Dong Ma mountain in the spring of 1968 and helped bury him in a bomb crater.

Matocha's grave was found in March, and dental records established positive identification. A green plastic canteen, a plastic bottle of insect repellent and the soles of a pair of American jungle boots also were found, Johnson said.

Neugebauer touts business skills

WASHINGTON (AP) — Rep. Randy Neugebauer can trace his step-by-step climb to Congress to his days growing up in Lubbock when he mowed lawns and built wooden frames to hold outdoor trash cans to earn spending money.

He took those entrepreneurial skills a step further as a young man when he started his own homebuilding business and later became leader of a state home-builder's association.

Those successes led to politics. He served on the Lubbock City Council. He spearheaded a coalition of cities and businesses that worked for passage of legislation creating the Ports-to-Plains corridor, an 830-mile route stretching from Mexico to Denver. And, last year he was elected in a special election to his first term in Congress.

Now, the Republican faces a competitive November re-election challenge in District 19 from Rep. Charlie Stenholm, an Abilene Democrat with 25 years in Congress. But Neugebauer's confident the skills that got him to the U.S. House will keep him there.

Movie chain plans expansion

AUSTIN (AP) — The movie theater chain that hosts "Spaghetti Western and Spaghetti Feasts" and "Hong Kong Cinema and Cuisine" wants to take its dinner-and-a-movie concept to a national audience.

With a slightly new name but same attitude, Austin-based Alamo Drafthouse Cinemas Ltd. plans to expand to San Antonio this month, and by early next year to Tyler, San Angelo, Waco and Corpus Christi. The company also is working on deals in Colorado, Oklahoma and Florida, with the eventual goal of 200 U.S. franchises.

It's an ambitious project for a small chain founded in 1996 with one screen that showed second-run films and played host to eccentric events — like a showing of "Jaws" at Lake Travis, where moviegoers watched the film from inner tubes while swimmers under the water pinched their legs.

"They love cinema more than just

about any theater that exists in the country," said Harry Knowles, who hosts events at the Drafthouse and is the creator of the "Ain't It Cool News" film Web site. "They have an independent spirit and an outside the norm sensibility that is quirky enough to fit with my own."

The Drafthouse is a movie house and restaurant under one roof. Moviegoers can order beer, wine, burgers, sandwiches and pizza (with names such as "Porky's" pepperoni and "Poultrygeist" chicken pesto) at their seats as they watch a movie. Bench-style wood tables run in front of each row of seats.

Working to stem knockoff flow

HOUSTON (AP) — Federal inspectors are working to stem the flow of knockoff Louis Vuitton and Coach handbags and other items coming from Houston, which lags behind only New York and Los Angeles in supplying counterfeit products to the rest of the nation.

Last year, U.S. Customs Enforcement officials seized fake goods valued at \$22 million in the Houston area alone.

Nearly all of these seizures led to Harwin, a retail area in the western part of the city where police in the past five years have made 70 arrests on counterfeiting charges, the Houston Chronicle reported Sunday.

Harwin shopkeeper Zheng Xiao Yi was convicted in July of trafficking in counterfeit merchandise after customs inspectors seized his cargo containers. Inside, inspectors found Dinacell batteries, made to look like Duracells, counterfeit Spider-Man figures and Nike slippers.

GLIDING

Continued from Page 1A

then we fly freely."

The flights, given for the past six days, have been very popular with the public so far, Knight said.

"They told me a lot of people were interested in it from last year," he said. "I came here expecting people happy to fly and this is one of the friendliest places I've been to."

Flights will be available after 3 p.m. Those wishing to participate can go

to the McMahon-Wrinkle Airport terminal.

"We like to wait until the conditions are fairly calm so no one gets nervous bumping around," Knight said. "I like it a little bit but the passengers get a little nervous."

Overall, his passengers

have thoroughly enjoyed their flights, Knight said. He encourages anyone considering a ride but feeling a little tentative about it to take that chance.

"There are some people a little naturally reluctant to go because they think

they have a fear of heights but I have a fear of heights," he said. "I don't walk to the edge of the cliff. I crawl to the edge."

"It's almost like surreal," he continued. "Once they see how calm it really is. We launch. We slow-

ly, gradually move away from the earth and they all tell me the same thing 'this is nothing that I thought it would be. This is fantastic.'"

Contact Staff Writer Lyndel Moody at 263-7331, or by e-mail at reporter@bigspringherald.com

FINISHED

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what we really like. Everyone will be going home happy and coming back."

Volunteer coordinator Bobby McDonald, who is helping to bring the event back to Big Spring next year, said the competitors were a real joy to work with.

"It went wonderfully and we hope that the next

one will be as wonderful as this one was," McDonald said. "They came from every spectrum of society and it was a delight to have them here in our town."

Glover said a number of different entities and people helped make the competition a success.

"The Red Bull people made a difference and even the Basin 2 Way Radio doing the wireless Internet," he said. "They made a difference in the

way our people stayed in touch. The Super 8 Motel was fantastic. Blue Bell Ice Cream — the popsicles were nice when it got hot out there."

"The volunteers and the spirit of the town of Big Spring make the biggest difference," he continued. "(Airport Manager) Jim Little and Bobby McDonald are just god-sends to our sport and us wanting to come back to Big Spring for the U.S. Nationals."

Plans are also under way to entice the 2006 world championships to the town but whether Big Spring is selected or not, Glover is certain the city hasn't seen the last of the flying giant-winged competitors.

"The venue is just too good," he said. "The airport facility, the hangar, the flying conditions. We really like being here. We're going to see the possibility of putting in a bid for the world champi-

onship and maybe we can work with the town and the state and put together a competitive bid that will bring it to here versus taking it to Europe or Australia or South America."

Full results of the competition can be seen at www.ozreport.com

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

COUNCIL

Continued from Page 1A

Big Spring is approximately \$30,000. So it's going to cost the average homeowner an additional 75 cents per month. I don't feel like we're passing a burden on to the homeowners with this."

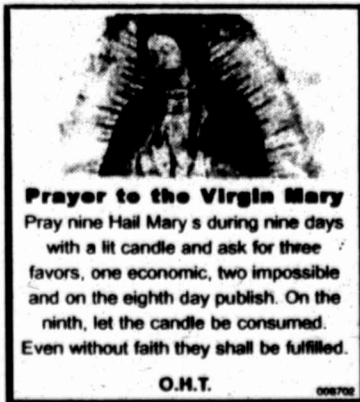
Council member Stephanie Horton supported McEwen's call for the tax increase, which was agreed on by the council during a July budget work session, citing inflation and improvements to the city as a worthy cause for the hike.

REUNION

Continued from Page 1A

times and the men will talk about the young women they chased," Hale said with a laugh. "And the old women, they talk about how regretful they didn't catch old so-and-so and had to settle for old Harry. That's what makes it so much fun."

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



Prayer to the Virgin Mary
Pray nine Hail Mary's during nine days with a lit candle and ask for three favors, one economic, two impossible and on the eighth day publish. On the ninth, let the candle be consumed. Even without faith they shall be fulfilled.

"I think the budget has been going pretty good," said Horton. "Yes, we do have a lot of increases, especially things like gasoline, and it takes a lot of gas to run a city. I also feel like we're doing some improvements and where we have improvements it's going to cost more."

"I'm really pleased that they didn't go up on the water rates. I'm really pleased about that because that's one of my pet peeves. I feel like we have a really good budget this year and I think we can justify everything in there — the necessity of the things that are in the budget."

Also on the council agenda:

- Final reading of a resolution authorizing and directing the mayor to execute an interlocal agreement with the Big Spring Independent School District for drug dog services.

- Final reading of a resolution authorizing the mayor to execute a contract with Parkhill, Smith and Cooper for professional engineering services under the direction of the Texas Community Development Program.

- Currently tabled - Final reading of an ordinance amending Ordinance No. 20.01, Zoning ordinance by amending Article 9, entitled "Political Signs."

- Currently tabled

Final reading of an ordinance amending Ordinance No. 20.01, Zoning ordinance by amending Article 9, entitled "Sign Regulations."

- Call for a public hearing for fiscal year 2004-2005 property tax rate.

- Presentation of Moore Development for Big Spring quarterly update and the 2004-2005 annual budget.

- Consider directing the city manager to forward resolutions to TML for the 2005 Legislative Session.

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EDITORIAL

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

Susanne Reed
Publisher

John A. Moseley
Managing Editor

Bill McClellan
News Editor

OUR VIEWS

Take part in
this year's
county fair

Whether you find enjoyment in passive ways such as admiring art or more active ways like crafting your own jewelry, there's little doubt that the Howard County Fair will have something to make you smile.

The fair doesn't officially begin until Aug. 25, but for those planning to enter items, time is growing short. For instance, for those young ladies who would like to be the next fair queen, the deadline to enter is Wednesday, Aug. 18. That's because actual crowning of the queen takes place before the fair, on Aug. 21.

Entries for most other events — art and photography, baked goods, canned goods, agriculture products, hobbies and crafts — are made the day before the fair opens.

What we're saying here is there is still plenty of time, but start getting prepared now so that in a week you won't be scurrying around in a panic.

One thing we know is that Howard County has some wonderful cooks, great gardeners and superb craftsmen. This is the best time of the year to show off your talents. Whether it be photography — did you know there are categories to enter pictures of your pets? — cross stitching, wood burning, doll making or whatever, this is the perfect venue.

It's also a great family activity. Dad can enter his woodworking project, Mom can submit her tote painting, little Johnny his photo of Humphrey the iguana, Susie the shadow box she made, Grammy her blueberry creme pie and Grandpa that wood carving of the Settles Hotel he's so proud of.

Then, after all the entering is done, it will be time to relax and take in the sights, see what everyone else has entered, visit all of the booths and take in some of the nightly entertainment — Jody Nix and the Texas Cowboys, the Colgate Country Showdown, entertainer Janae and the Battle of the Cheerleaders. Don't forget the Kountry Kids Contest, tractor pull and the lamb, steer and goat shows.

For entry information on the fair, contact the county extension office at 264-2236 or fair director Nancy Howard at 353-4448.

We hope you'll take part in this year's Howard County Fair. It's great family fun with your friends and neighbors.

HOW TO CONTACT US

The Herald is always interested in our readers' opinions.

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

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

LETTER POLICIES

The Herald welcomes letters to the editor.

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

Inside Report: Kerry plays Nixon

Democratic insiders privately complained that when John Kerry indicated last weekend he had a secret plan to return U.S. troops from Iraq, he sounded too much like Richard Nixon 36 years ago.

Asked by Wolf Blitzer on CNN's "Late Edition" how long it would take to fulfill his promise to bring "significant numbers of troops back within the first term," Sen. Kerry replied: "I'm not going to lay out my whole plan here. I need to be able to negotiate as a president." In 1968, Republican presidential candidate Nixon implied he had a secret plan to end the war in Vietnam that could not be revealed.

On the same interview program last Sunday, Kerry running mate John Edwards made matters worse after Kerry's comment by saying: "We have a real plan — he has a real plan about what America needs to do in Iraq."

House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi has been talking about making a concerted campaign to taunt her Republican counterpart, House Speaker Dennis Hastert, for not moving fast enough on the independent 9/11 commission's recommendations.

Democratic congressional sources say Pelosi would like to reconvene the House to complain that Hastert has been traveling the

country in a sales promotion campaign for his new book ("Speaker: Lessons from 40 Years in Coaching and Politics") instead of getting to work on anti-terrorist legislation. Whether Pelosi can actually bring the House back into session without the consent of the Republican majority seems doubtful, however.

Hastert, on the eve of his book tour, did seem slower than other top officials in reacting to the commission report.

Republican strategists, believing that Laura Bush is a major campaign asset, is sending her to six battleground states. She will be in Langhorne, Pa., Grafton, Wis., Toledo, Ohio, St. Cloud, Minn., Royal Oak, Mich., and Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Mrs. Bush may be the least controversial first lady since Mamie Eisenhower half a century ago. But she is willing to go on the road by herself as a campaigner, unlike such predecessors as Mrs. Eisenhower and Bess Truman.

In contrast, Teresa Heinz Kerry attracts ardent supporters but also breeds controversy. Last week, she berated hecklers in Milwaukee, prompting her husband to call them "goons."

John Kerry's official Web site last week deleted his advocacy of homosexuals in the military after the Orlando (Fla.) Sentinel reported on this disclosure of the Democratic presidential candidate's position.

Before the language was eliminated, the Web site said bringing gays into the military was one of

Sen. Kerry's "priorities." The page on homosexual issues had gone on to say: "John Kerry opposed the Clinton administration's Don't Ask Don't Tell Policy. He was one of the few senators to testify before the Senate Armed Services Committee and call on the president to rescind the ban on gay and lesbian service members."

Kerry does not mention the issue in his speeches, and the party platform is mute on gays in the military.

Key Republican state legislators in Kansas who supported a state tax increase were defeated in Tuesday's primary by challengers who signed the anti-tax pledge of the Americans for Tax Reform (ATR) and were supported by ATR.

Two state senators and two House members were defeated, including Rep. William Kassebaum. The son of former U.S. Sen. Nancy Kassebaum and grandson of 1936 Republican presidential candidate Alf Landon, Kassebaum headed the pro-tax hike coalition. This is the latest chapter of a bitter internal ideological battle that has been waged inside the Kansas Republican Party for many years.

A footnote: Conservative Republican Sen. Sam Brownback of Kansas will face a Democrat in November who is perhaps more conservative than he is. Retired railroad engineer Robert Conroy won the Democratic primary over the party's choice though he had no money and did not campaign.

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(432) 268-9909

HOWARD COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OFFICE — 264-2200.

Filling Ingersoll's role a little

Molly Ivins is on vacation. The following column was initially released in November 1999.

"I know there's no evidence that shows the death penalty has a deterrent effect, but I just feel in my gut it must be true." — A very, very high-ranking Texas public official

Well, good buddy, let's go with your gut; why bother with the evidence?

I bring this up not to argue the death penalty chestnut one more time, but as an interesting example of the thesis of Wendy Kaminer's book, "Sleeping With Extra-Terrestrials: The Rise of Irrationalism and Perils of Piety."

Kaminer, a wonderfully funny social critic, takes on a host of threats to rational thought, including our fascination with angels, aliens, near-death experiences, junk science, the recovery movement and aspects of the computer culture. Her short book demolishes New Age inanities, various conspiracy theories and, in general, a pantheon of lunacy that would do credit to 14th-century Europe. But she's funny and sort of nice about it all, as well as honest enough to admit that she goes to a practitioner of homeopathic medicine.

The book is advertised as pointing out "the amusing and ominous effects of our deference to spiritual authorities and resistance to critical thinking" — including the association of religious belief with virtue. That means, in these parlous times, that it will inevitably be attacked as anti-religious.

Not long ago, I spoke to a group of librarians and, in the course of running down censorship threats from various quarters, cited several examples of censorship by religious fundamentalists. Afterward, an angry woman approached me and, her voice shaking with pas-

sion, announced, "I am a Christian!"

"So am I!" I replied, beaming upon my co-religionist, who was much taken aback.

She was apparently prepared to be personally insulted because I had described some fundamentalists as well-meaning but total knotheads — as though Jimmy Swaggart, Jim and Tammy Faye Bakker, the alarming number of preachers and priests who turn out to be child molesters, and the many other religious leaders who have proved to be lazy, drunk, adulterous, hypocritical or plain silly do not exist.

Not all religious leaders, of course, just some — perhaps almost as many as in, say, an equivalent pool of CPAs. What's wrong with recognizing that?

An interesting companion read is Joan Acocella's rather horrifying book, "Creating Hysteria: Women and Multiple Personality Disorder." In the 1980s, in this "advanced industrial nation," we went through a form of craziness as bizarre as ghost dancing, the last Lakota Sioux defiance in the face of extermination. The Lakota had a pretty good excuse; we didn't.

The "recovered memory" movement, manipulated by dubious psychologists — another form of authority to which we are overly reverential — led not only to an outbreak of multiple personality disorder but to even more noxious and hideous hysteria about "satanic ritual abuse." This astonishing example of mass hysteria, in which 5-year-old children were led by self-deluding adults to tell outrageous tales of sexual torture and murder, should give us all pause about our own credulity.

Kaminer reports that a survey by Redbook in 1994 found that 70 percent of Americans believed in the existence of abusive satanic cults. Thirty-two percent rationalized the absence of proof by explaining that "the FBI and the police ignore evidence because they don't want to admit the cults exist."

Naturally, the 1994 government report finding no evidence to sup-

port the existence of such cults was dismissed as a cover-up, like official investigations of UFO sightings. To the eternal shame of this country, there are still people in prison for satanic ritual abuse, even though the whole phenomenon has been thoroughly debunked.

In journalism, we like to remember the cool-headed heroes who painstakingly proved that it was all hysterical swill (special credit goes to two Texans, Lawrence Wright and Debbie Nathan). But the fact is that many in the media helped spread the contagion of hysteria, not least by our infamously "objective" reporting of those telling obviously insane lies.

Kaminer notes another unhappy legacy of the recovered memory movement: "denials of deeply felt beliefs — about spaceship crashes or child abuse — are apt to be considered confirmation of their truth. Mistrust of official reports debunking myths about satanic ritual abuse or visitations by extraterrestrials, does not represent healthy, reasoned skepticism of government. Rather, it indicates an utter lack of skepticism about fantastic allegations of abuse, or tales of aliens among us."

Kaminer considers all this deeply discouraging evidence of the rise of irrationalism in America. I am more in the "this glass is half-full" school myself.

I do think it would help if we had a public voice attacking the excesses of religion equivalent to the great 19th-century atheist Robert Ingersoll (who was once the Republican vice presidential candidate; try to think of a prominent atheist politician today).

Madalyn Murray O'Hair was both so angry and batty that my reaction was, "Thanks, I'll take the Baptists."

But I see no reason why religious leaders should not be held to standards of logic, even if mystery and faith are admitted as part of the argument. Katha Pollitt and Kaminer between them begin to fill the Ingersoll role.

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By APRIL CAS

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State, plaintiffs set to argue cases on school finance

By APRIL CASTRO

Associated Press Writer
AUSTIN — Texas' method of funding public schools is going on trial.

Hundreds of Texas school districts, both rich and poor, have joined the lawsuit against the state, arguing that Texas has fallen short of its constitutional responsibility to provide "a general diffusion of knowledge."

Attorneys for the state contend that Texas has met and exceeded the basic minimum requirements set forth in the Constitution.

The trial was set to begin Monday and could last more than a month.

Whatever the final ruling of Judge John Dietz, the decision is expected to be appealed to a higher court.

"We just look forward to the opportunity to put forth the state's case and to put on evidence of the progress and achievement that Texas public education has made," Assistant Attorney General Jeff Rose said.

The suing districts argue that schools in Texas are underfunded and that a local property tax cap amounts to an illegal statewide property tax that limits districts' ability to raise any additional money.

"Texas must invest the resources in these children today. Otherwise, not only will we fail these children but we will also fail the future of Texas," said Hector Villagra, an attorney for the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund,

which represents several poor districts in the case.

The plaintiffs first filed suit challenging the share-the-wealth system three years ago. At the time, a state district judge rejected the suit because just 19 percent of the state's school districts had reached the cap of \$1.50 per \$100 in assessed land value. That percentage has more than doubled to 48 percent.

The Texas Supreme Court ruled last year that the districts should be allowed to argue their case. Hundreds of Texas school districts have since signed on as plaintiffs.

The so-called Robin Hood plan depends on property taxes to pay for schools' maintenance and operations costs, using money from property-wealthy districts to fund poorer districts.

The state Legislature has tried unsuccessfully to find an alternative that will give homeowners property tax relief while ensuring that all schools have enough money. A special session called by Gov. Rick Perry ended in June without a solution.

Republican House Speaker Tom Craddick has said he believes it would be best for lawmakers to take up the issue after the court rules.

The current funding system was passed by the Legislature in the early 1990s. Since then, schools have been subject to new curriculum standards that have all added to the financial burden on districts.

Terror prosecutors thwarted by Washington, records show

By JOHN SOLOMON

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON

Behind the scenes of the first major terror trial after Sept. 11, frontline prosecutors complained bitterly they had not received needed help from the Justice Department and were prevented from introducing some of their most dramatic evidence in the courtroom, internal memos show.

As a result, jurors in the trial of four men accused of operating a terror cell in Detroit never heard testimony from an Osama bin Laden lieutenant or saw video footage of European operatives casing U.S. landmarks. Prosecutors believed both would have connected the defendants to al-Qaida.

The department's terrorism unit "provided no help of any kind in this prosecution," the U.S. Attorney's office in Detroit wrote in one memo, claiming that superiors in Washington hindered the case and sent a lawyer who chose to play basketball rather than assist prosecutors at trial.

The Detroit case ended last summer with the convictions, hailed by the Bush administration, of three men who were accused of operating a sleeper terror cell that possessed plans for attacks around the world.

A fourth defendant was acquitted, however, and only two of the four men originally arrested were convicted of terrorism charges. Now the convictions are in jeopardy because of an internal investigation into allegations that defense lawyers

were denied evidence that could have helped them.

Whatever the outcome, internal documents obtained by The Associated Press and more than three dozen interviews with current and former officials detail how the differences between Washington and the field office kept important evidence from being shown to jurors.

"We were butting heads vigorously with narrow-shouldered bureaucrats in Washington," said Assistant U.S. Attorney Richard Convertino, the lead Detroit prosecutor. He now is under investigation by superiors in the capital.

"There was a series of evidence, pieces of evidence, that we wanted to get into our trial that we were unable to do. Things that would have strengthened the case immeasurably, and made the case much stronger, exponentially," Convertino told the AP.

For instance, the FBI had learned before the trial that Ibn al-Shaykh al-Libi, al-Qaida's training camp chief, told interrogators after his capture that bin Laden had authorized an attack on the Incirlik air base in Turkey where U.S. military jets flew missions over Iraq for the past decade, Convertino said.

The interrogation was deemed important because the FBI found in the Detroit terror cell's apartment sketches of the same Turkish base, including flight patterns of U.S. jets. Al-Libi's testimony would have connected the Detroit defendants to a planned al-Qaida attack, Convertino said.

But, he said, al-Libi was "spirited off from Afghanistan to Egypt and we were not able to interview him or use him as a witness."

Turkish authorities recently told the AP that their own evidence shows bin Laden personally authorized an attack on the base but later abandoned the plan because security was heightened. U.S. officials raised security at Incirlik within days of the Detroit discovery, Air Force officials say.

Justice officials declined comment, citing a partial gag order the trial judge has imposed in the Detroit case. But internal memos show Washington frequently criticized the Detroit prosecutors as "not adequately supervised" and providing "minimal cooperation."

In another example, prosecutors obtained a videotape showing that an al-Qaida cell broken up by Spanish authorities in 2002 had video surveillance of the same American landmarks that were found on a video with the Detroit cell.

The Spanish and Detroit tapes, obtained by the AP, show surveillance of casinos in Las Vegas; various landmarks in New York, including the World Trade Center; and Disneyland in California. Both tapes showed nearly identical footage of security, information on how cars could access the landmarks and other footage potentially useful for staging an attack.

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Red Adair, world-renowned oil well firefighter, dies at 89

HOUSTON (AP) — Paul N. "Red" Adair, who earned the nickname "Hellfighter" for having never met an oil well fire he couldn't cap and whose story inspired John Wayne to portray his life on screen, has died.

Adair, 89, died Saturday of natural causes at a Houston hospital, his daughter, Robyn Adair, told The Associated Press early Sunday.

He is credited with battling more than 2,000 land and offshore oil well fires. His death-defying feats included battling the July 1988 explosion of the Piper Alpha platform that killed 167 men in the stormy North Sea, 120 miles off the coast of Scotland.

Former President George H.W. Bush called Adair a true hero.

"So many times he went into harm's way to save others," he said. "I particularly remember his service to mankind in Kuwait when the oil fields, set ablaze, first

devastated the Persian Gulf. Red Adair was a friend, a wonderful human being and a patriot. He will be sorely missed."

Adair's teams were among the first of 27 teams from 16 countries that spent eight months capping 732 Kuwaiti wells after the Persian Gulf War in 1991. His expertise helped greatly shorten an operation that had been expected to last three to five years, saving millions of barrels of oil and stopping an intercontinental air pollution disaster.

"He knew his talents for putting out oil-well fires was a God-given gift and he was thankful for that," Robyn Adair said in Sunday's edition of the Houston Chronicle. "He was very energetic and quick on his feet."

Adair revolutionized the science of snuffing and controlling wells spewing high-pressure jets of oil and gas, using explosives, water can-

nons, bulldozers, drilling mud and concrete. He was the first to cap an underwater well and the first to cap a floating vessel. He led the industry in developing modern equipment and firefighting techniques, including the semi-submersible firefighting vessel.

"It scares you: all the noise, the rattling, the shaking," Adair once said, describing a blowout. "But the look on everybody's face when you're finished and packing, it's the best smile in the world; and there's nobody hurt, and the well's under control."

Adair's prowess inspired the title of the 1968 John Wayne movie based on his life, "The Hellfighters."

"That's one of the best honors in the world: To have The Duke play you in a movie," Adair said.

Adair's career began in 1938 at an Oklahoma oil field where he was working as a roughneck for 30 cents an hour.

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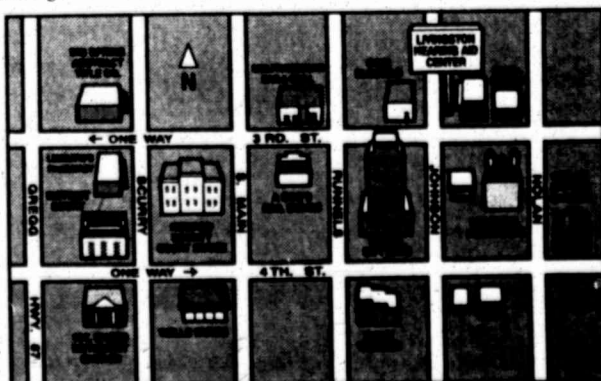
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AUGUST 2004

Mentors make a difference for children

Guidance is something all children need as they make their way through increasingly complicated times, and when that guidance comes from a mentor it can be especially effective, says a Texas A&M University psychologist.

Jan Hughes, a professor in Texas A&M's Department of Educational Psychology, says mentoring can provide a child with a sense of self-worth as well as a model for positive social behaviors and values. In addition, she says for many children the time spent with a mentor translates into less time unsupervised by an adult.

Some studies have estimated that as many as one-half of the more than 35 million young people in the United States between the ages of 10 and 18 could benefit from having a mentor.

Mentoring programs, Hughes explains, are more effective for some youth, such as those lacking a close adult in their life, than others who are

already delinquent or aggressive.

The National Mentoring Partnership reports that children who have relationships with mentors are less likely to get involved with drugs, more likely to get better grades at school and more likely to raise their personal goals. "Big Brothers/Big Sisters school-based mentoring" found that more than 60 percent of mentored children developed increased self-confidence, improved relationships with adults, were more likely to trust their teachers and developed more positive attitudes toward school.

Hughes cites similar findings and says she believes well-administered programs that include specific components have such benefits.

"Mentors should be screened, trained and supervised, and mentoring programs need to last at least one year and involve regular contact — at least one hour a week," she says.

Hughes says informal mentoring — mentoring that isn't provided through established programs like Big Brothers/Big Sisters — is very common in children's lives, often taking the form of a relationship with a teacher, coach, neighbor or relative. Formal mentoring programs can be found as part of school-based programs, religious activities, workplace programs, youth organizations and youth sports.

If a parent seeks a mentor for his or her child, that parent should know the mentor well, or the mentor should be well-known by a close friend of the family because the parent can't do the type of screening of which established programs are capable, Hughes explains.

Parents should expect their children and their children's mentors to engage activities that involve a high degree of interaction, for example playing a board game or basketball as opposed to just watching a movie, she says. She also

recommends that children be exposed to activities that build their competencies such as building a model car or playing a musical instrument.

Hughes says the mentoring experience can be a positive experience for the child and the mentor, providing new perspectives and insight for both parties, but she cautions potential mentors not to assume that the relationship will come easy.

"Mentoring a child who is grateful for your time, compliant with your rules and who is easy to engage in conversation is easy and rewarding for the mentor. However, children who most need a mentor don't possess these characteristics," Hughes notes. "A mentor must make a commitment to work on the relationship and to persist in the face of such obstacles when working with troubled youth."

Growing Up is a service of Texas A&M University.

Massage: A gentle touch with children

By DAFFODIL J. ALTAN

Los Angeles Times

LOS ANGELES — Massage therapist Shay Beider's clients are usually attached to gawky high-tech machines, intravenous tubes or seated in wheelchairs.

Today, her 4 p.m. appointment is with David Johnson. The 5-year-old, who grabs at the netting around his bed and grunts softly, is relearning how to talk and walk after a hit-and-run accident in April left him in a coma.

Beider rubs scented almond oil into her hands and closes her eyes. As David reaches for a yellow plastic toy box, Beider adjusts her arm underneath his small back and leans in at an angle so she doesn't disturb his movements.

"It doesn't look like a spa massage," Beider says. "The essence is compassion."

Indeed, massage has a different face when it comes to some of L.A.'s sickest children.

Most kids will spend about a month in Childrens Hospital Los Angeles' rehabilitation "dome," a medley of rooms huddled around a small, indoor courtyard with giant skylights. They come here to recover from a variety of afflictions — accidents, severe burns, multiple strokes. Johnson was hit by a car while he was crossing the street.

Many of the children are experiencing severe pain for the first time in their lives and are on heavy doses of medication. For nearly a year, however, they've had another option for pain relief: massage therapy.

Childrens Hospital Los Angeles is the first medical center in the state to offer free massage therapy to young patients. (The hospital refers to it as "compassionate touch.") Beider and the other therapists work for the Heart Touch Project, a nonprofit group in Santa Monica that was founded to



Shay Beider massages the back of David Johnson, 5, of Palmdale, Calif., hospitalized in April after being struck by an automobile.

Los Angeles Times photo/Robert Caplin

provide free therapeutic massage for HIV patients.

Although several California hospitals use some form of massage, most refer patients to outside therapists. The patients usually pay themselves, because massage is generally not covered by health insurers. Nationally, 90 percent of hospitals in a recent survey reported that patients pay out of pocket for massage.

During the last decade, massage therapy has gained growing acceptance at U.S. hospitals as research has shown that therapeutic touch can not only ease pain, but also induce weight gain, alleviate depression and boost the immune system.

"It's only recently that scientific studies have been conducted to document and indeed show that touch has important

implications for improving health and well-being," says Maria Hernandez-Reif, co-director of the Touch Research Institutes at the University of Miami School of Medicine.

Dozens of studies by the Touch Research Institutes have found that massage can enhance growth of premature infants, diminish pain for fibromyalgia patients and decrease glucose levels in diabetics, among other findings.

The National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine, a branch of the National Institutes of Health, is sponsoring several studies on the effects of massage on adults and children.

Dr. Michael Joseph, associate director of the Comfort and Pain Management Program at Childrens, says the hospital's plan is to bring massage therapy

to any patient who might benefit. "We have much bigger goals," Joseph says.

Four years ago, Beider was planning to attend medical school and was shadowing a Childrens Hospital surgeon. She remembers how terrified a little girl looked in the operating room before surgery. "There are so many procedures that are painful," says Beider, who thought that a pre-surgery massage might have calmed the girl. "To have a basic, human, deep, gentle touch can have a real impact."

Children who endure long hospital stays become anxious about having their bodies touched because they associate it with the pain of needles and surgery, Beider says. She started lobbying for a children's massage program after her experience with the young girl.

"Our goal was really to integrate a more Eastern-thinking intervention into a more Western-thinking institution," says Jeffrey Gold, a clinical psychologist at Childrens.

There was some initial resistance to the idea, Joseph acknowledges. "There were things that were said like, 'There's never going to be a massage therapist that touches my patient,'" he says. "Basically we had to write a policy that made the institution comfortable." And the challenges didn't stop there. "It took months and months just to figure out what oil we were going to use for the infant massage," Joseph says.

The hospital has been cautious in other ways. The volunteer therapists must undergo an FBI background check and gain approval from several hospital committees before working with children. After therapists receive hospital privileges, doctors can request that they work with their patients.

The massage therapists receive additional training at Heart Touch to prepare them for working with the children and their families.

Today isn't Beider's first session with David. So she starts out like she usually does: greeting David warmly and talking with his mother, Barbara Johnson, a single mom with six other children who drives from Palmdale to see her son once a week. Although parents can stay for the massages, Johnson opts to go for a walk today. Her departure prompts David's nervous cries.

Beider focuses her eyes on David's tiny lower back and gently pushes her hands under his shirt. She whispers quietly and walks around him, turning her attention to the crumpled left hand he keeps close to his body. He lies back and cheerily chats with her, forgetting for a moment that his sounds are incompatible with her words.

Taking longer to grow up

By GREGORY MOTT

The Washington Post

Aw, grow up — You didn't imagine it: It really does take kids longer to reach independent adulthood these days. But research shows that's not your fault — or theirs.

A study published in the summer issue of *Contexts*, a journal of the American Sociological Association, finds that young men and women today are much less likely than earlier generations to have achieved by age 30 the traditional benchmarks of adulthood: leaving home, finishing school, getting married, having a child and being financially independent. Using U.S. Census data, researchers Frank J. Furstenberg Jr. of the University of Pennsylvania and colleagues conclude that 31 percent of men and 46 percent of women had met these benchmarks in 2000, compared with 65 percent of men and 77 percent of women in 1960.

Get a job — Exclude marriage and parenthood — no longer regarded as essential markers of adulthood, say experts and surveys — and the gap lessens. But a

substantial difference (12 percentage points for men, 10 for women) remains, the researchers said. This difference, they write, is not attributable to a slacker ethos among the young, or to coddling by parents (though they do note that delay is more common among young people from middle- and upper-class families).

"The primary reason for a prolonged early adulthood is that it now takes much longer to secure a full-time job that pays enough to support a family," the researchers write. The parents and grandparents of today's twentysomethings, they note, had greater access to well-paying jobs with benefits as well as government assistance for higher education and affordable housing.

Move out — Furstenberg and his team — members of the Network on Transitions to Adulthood and Public Policy, funded by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation — recommend expansion of military and alternative national service programs to help more young people cross the bridge to adulthood.

New rules require surgeons to take timeouts

By SANDRA G. BOODMAN

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Patients who check in to the nation's hospitals have new protections against one of the most devastating and preventable medical errors — surgery on the wrong body part. Rules imposed July 1 by the agency that accredits most of the nation's hospitals, as well as some surgery centers, require specific actions designed to prevent wrong-site surgery.

Regulations issued by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO) require that doctors "sign their site" — writing "yes" or their initials on the operative site with a surgical pen after conferring with a patient just before surgery.

The new rules also require that the medical team take a "timeout" in the operating room to verify the identity of the patient, confirm the procedure to be performed and ensure that all necessary equipment is present.

Hospitals whose staffs fail to comply with the procedures could face the loss of their accreditation, an action that would imperil their funding. The new rules are an effort to stem an alarming increase in the number of reports of operations conducted on the wrong body part, the wrong procedure or even the wrong patient.

Every year since 1995, JCAHO officials say, they have seen a rise in voluntary, confidential reports of such mistakes, which experts believe are significantly underreported. Determining the precise number is impossible because there is no mandatory national reporting system for medical errors, although a few states, including Florida, require that cases be reported to state officials.

In 1998, 16 wrong-site cases were reported to JCAHO, compared with 75 last year. Cases included the removal of the wrong breast and a non-cancerous kidney, a biopsy on the wrong side of the brain and surgery on the wrong

patient.

While wrong-site surgery constitutes only a fraction of the estimated 98,000 medical errors that kill hospitalized patients annually or of the approximately 60 million surgeries performed in the United States, medical experts say it is indefensible because it is so easy to prevent.

Three months ago doctors at a Sarasota, Fla., hospital performed a cardiac catheterization on the wrong patient after failing to verify the patient's identity, according to officials at the Florida Agency for Healthcare Administration. The case was one of 23 wrong-site errors reported to the state as required by law in the first three months of 2004, according to the agency's Web site.

By requiring all doctors to follow basic standard procedures prior to starting surgery, the commission has borrowed a long-standing requirement from commercial aviation, which orders pilots to follow a prescribed checklist prior to takeoff.

Sp

IN BRIEF

BSISD sets for season ticket

Big Spring ISD scheduled its football season ticket sales.

The general may purchase tickets at the A Training Center Monday, Aug. 20 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. (closed noon p.m.). However, Friday sales are a.m. to noon only. For question: Kay Cook at 264-

Howard College Important date

Howard College set up an important event this month.

The athletic event will have set-up at the County Fair Aug. 20 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. (closed noon p.m.). However, Friday sales are a.m. to noon only. For question: Kay Cook at 264-

BSYFL and C to host compete

The Big Spring Football League the Dallas C will be host local Pepsi/NF pass and kick off Aug. 21, field north of the. The registration starts at 8 a.m. contest is free and girls 8-15.

For more in contact George I. 264-7313 or by e-mail BSYFL@msn.com

Howard College cheer camp

Howard College cheer camp through sixth will be held at the Dorothy Coliseum. Registration event will be a.m. and the D Cheer class starts at 8 a.m.

The cost is \$5 a lunch and vnis shoes.

For more tion, contact Berry at 264-50

Coahoma Booster to

The Athletic Boost will be meet p.m. Monday Coahoma Cafe

parents are come and join and help support 2004-05 Bulldo

Coahoma's Bulldogs nig take place August 23. There will al ice cream sup

Big Spring Club sets go

The Big Shrine Club its annual go ment Septem which is a ch past dates.

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IN BRIEF

BSISD sets football season ticket dates

Big Spring ISD has scheduled its dates for football season ticket sales.

The general public may purchase season tickets at the Athletic Training Center starting Monday through Aug. 20 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. (closed noon to 1 p.m.). However, all Friday sales are from 8 a.m. to noon only.

For questions, call Kay Cook at 264-3662.

Howard College sets important date

Howard College has set up an important event this month.

The athletic department will have a booth set-up at the Howard County Fair Aug. 25-28. The booth will be used to promote the Hawks Flight Club and to begin the selling of athletic season tickets. They will be at the fair from 4 p.m. to 10 p.m. Aug. 25-27 and from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Aug. 28.

BSYFL and Cowboys to host competition

The Big Spring Youth Football League and the Dallas Cowboys will be hosting the local Pepsi/NFL punt, pass and kick competition Aug. 21, at the field north of the ATC.

The registration starts at 8 a.m. and the contest is free to boys and girls 8-15.

For more info, contact George Lopez at 264-7313 or by e-mail at BSYFL@msn.com.

Howard College sets cheer camp dates

Howard College's cheer camp for first through sixth graders will be held Aug. 28 at the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum.

Registration for the event will begin at 8 a.m. and the Dance and Cheer class starts at 9 a.m.

The cost is \$25. Bring a lunch and wear tennis shoes.

For more information, contact Linda Berry at 264-5024.

Coahoma Athletic Booster to meet

The Coahoma Athletic Booster Club will be meeting at 7 p.m. Monday in Coahoma Cafeteria. All parents are needed to come and join the club and help support the 2004-05 Bulldogs.

Coahoma's "meet the Bulldogs night" will take place Monday, August 23, at 7 p.m. There will also be an ice cream supper.

Big Spring Shrine Club sets golf date

The Big Spring Shrine Club will host its annual golf tournament September 25-26, which is a change from past dates.

ON THE AIR

Event, Time	Station
Football, 6:00 p.m.	1450
Event, Time	Station
Baseball, 7:00 p.m.	1450
Event, Time	Station
Baseball, 7:00 p.m.	1450

Elway, Sanders leads Hall of Fame class

By BARRY WILNER

AP Football Writer

CANTON, Ohio

There was no escape this time for the resourceful John Elway and the slippery Barry Sanders. And they were thrilled about being caught flatfooted.

Elway and Sanders, along with Carl Eller and Bob Brown, were inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame on Sunday. Both Elway and Sanders made a mockery of defenses throughout their record-setting careers, while Brown was one of the premier blockers of his era. Eller was a star defensive end with the Purple People Eaters in Minnesota.

"I'll call him the best ever to play the game," Elway said of Sanders. "I wish I could have played with Bob Brown, and I am glad I didn't have to play against Carl Eller."

Elway is the first Bronco to be inducted, and thousands of fans wearing blue or orange No. 7 jerseys filled Fawcett Stadium. They chanted his name, cheered every time he was shown on the scoreboard, and listened intently as Elway's daughter,

Jessica, 18, told them how her father taught his children to be tough.

Then Elway took the stage for what seemed like a Broncos home game.

"I have to be totally honest, I have never heard that in Ohio before," he joked at the beginning of an emotional speech in which he paid tribute to his late father, Jack, his first coach, and the rest of his family; to his city; to his team; and to his teammates.

"For every guy who ever stepped on the field with me, I accept this honor today on behalf of all of you," Elway said. "Thanks for protecting me, catching my passes, defending our goal line, sharing our highs and lows. And thanks for not losing confidence in me when I lined up for a snap as a rookie behind the left guard."

When he retired after guiding Denver to its second straight NFL title — and his fifth Super Bowl appearance — he had led his team to more victories (148) than any quarterback in history. Elway engineered 47 game-winning or tying drives in

the fourth quarter or overtime. He threw for 51,407 yards, more than 30 miles, and 300 touchdowns.

Sanders rushed for more than 1,000 yards in all 10 of his seasons with the Detroit Lions. But at 31, he walked away from the game in 1999 and, Sunday, became the third-youngest Hall of Fame inductee, behind Gale Sayers and Jim Brown.

Known for his unfathomable moves that led to long, darting runs, Sanders said his one regret about leaving the game so early was not playing in a Super Bowl. The Lions reached the NFC title game in 1991, but that was as far as Sanders got.

Introduced by his father, William, as "the third-best running back who ever lived," Sanders credited his dad for "the great lesson that allowed him to be a great player."

"He said 'Son play the game the way it is supposed to be played,'" Sanders recalled. "Don't be afraid to make mistakes. Go out and play the way you are capable of."

Sanders was capable of 76 100-yard rushing per-

formances, 15,269 yards rushing overall and five 1,500-yard seasons.

Eller retired in 1979 after 16 NFL seasons. A five-time All-Pro who played in six Pro Bowls and four Super Bowls, he made a habit of recovering fumbles, grabbing 23 in his career.

Eller, an admitted former substance abuser who became a drug counselor in Minneapolis, stressed the importance of education and of serving as a role model in his strong speech.

"I want to use this platform to help young African-American males to participate fully in this society," he said. "I want their direction to be headed to the great universities of our nation, not to the prison and jail cells. They must know they are part of the establishment, not separate from it."

"I haven't given up on you. ... Be the winners."

Brown, a native of near-by Cleveland, made five All-Pro teams and six Pro Bowls playing for the Eagles, Rams and Raiders. A ferocious run blocker and pass protector, Brown was nicknamed "Boomer" for his

Candidates for
2005 NFL Hall of
Fame

1. Dan Marino
2. Steve Young
3. Michael Irvin
4. Derrick Thomas
5. Charles Haley
6. Darryl Johnston
7. Steve Atwater
8. Kevin Greene
9. Chris Doleman

"The Hall of Fame committee will decide in February which of the above players will be inducted next summer.

hits.

"I brought the need to be the best (and) an uncompromising work ethic," he said. "I'm proud and privileged to have my name mentioned with such offensive linemen as Art Shell, Gene Upshaw, Jim Otto and Ron Mix. Better has not been born yet."

Then turning to the other Hall members, he added: "I am thrilled and eager to embrace you, my band of brothers."

UNT quarterback
killed in car crash

CALVERT (AP) — A University of North Texas quarterback was killed early Saturday morning after his vehicle crossed into oncoming traffic and collided head-on with an 18-wheeler in Central Texas.

Andrew Smith, a 21-year-old from Bay City who was expected to compete for starting quarterback this fall, was pronounced dead at the scene.

The pre-dawn accident happened on Texas Highway 6, about five miles north of Calvert, which is 48 miles southeast of Waco.

"This brings everything back into perspective," UNT athletic director Rick Villarreal told the Denton Record-Chronicle for its Sunday editions. "The players are all kids and they are vulnerable. Regardless of what you can do on the field, nothing is promised. He will be missed."

A Texas Department of Public Safety accident report said it is not known why Smith's 2003 Ford pickup crossed into oncoming traffic.

The report said Smith was not wearing a seat belt and was thrown from the truck when it hit the tractor-trailer.

The 18-wheeler's driver was treated for minor injuries at the scene, the report said.

Smith was in his third year at UNT, where he

had started as quarterback 16 times, said Eric Capper, a spokesman with the university's athletic program. Smith had two years of eligibility left to play for UNT.

"He was a significant player, and was loved by his teammates," Capper told the Waco Tribune-Herald for its Sunday editions. "He was going to continue to be an important part of the team, and we will miss him."

Smith was an honorable mention all-state pick at Bay City, Texas, High as a senior when he led his team to the Class 4A Division I state title.

In 2001, Smith spent his first year at UNT as a redshirt. The next year, he began the season as a backup, but was thrust into the starting lineup when starter Scott Hall was injured in UNT's season-opener.

Smith led the Mean Green to an 8-4 record as starting quarterback, including a 24-19 win over Cincinnati in the New Orleans Bowl. The win was UNT's first in a bowl game since 1946.

"What Andrew did for us as a player paled in comparison to what he brought to the team as a person," UNT offensive coordinator Ramon Flanigan said. "He was unselfish and a hard worker. You don't find a lot of kids like that who play quarterback any more."

U.S. basketball team gets hard fought victory

By CHRIS SHERIDAN

AP Basketball Writer

ISTANBUL, Turkey

One week before its opener at the Athens Games, the U.S. men's Olympic team took a step backward.

The American team blew most of a 14-point fourth-quarter lead against a Turkish team missing Hedo Turkoglu, one of its two NBA players, before coming away with a 79-67 victory

Sunday.

This was not an encouraging win for the Americans, who again struggled against a team that didn't even qualify for the Olympics — just as happened earlier on their European trip against Germany.

A 19-8 run that included several 3-pointers narrowed Turkey's deficit to 68-65 with 3 1/2 minutes left before the U.S. team turned up its defensive

pressure to close out the game.

Tim Duncan led the United States with 16 points and Allen Iverson scored 13, with no one else reaching double figures.

What was most alarming was the way the team's core of youngsters, including LeBron James, Carmelo Anthony and Dwyane Wade couldn't stop the home team from making a game of it down

the stretch. Turkey's rally ended only after Duncan and Iverson, the U.S. team's elder statesmen, returned.

With Turkoglu out because of a broken nose, Ibrahim Kutluay led Turkey with 19 points and Serkan Erdogan added 17. Both players combined for a flurry of 3s that thrilled the a crowd of about 10,000 at the hot, cramped Abdi Ipecki Arena.



HERALD photo/Troy Hyde
Members of the Big Spring volleyball team huddle up during a timeout at the Lady Steers' hosted scrimmage Saturday at the junior high. Several schools took part in several matches, which included a Big Spring varsity vs. junior varsity match. The Lady Steers' first regular season match of the year takes place Tuesday in Abilene.

Benson "serves" jail
time for misdemeanor

AUSTIN (AP) — Texas running back Cedric Benson completed the terms of his eight-day jail sentence Saturday without spending any time behind bars.

Benson was sentenced to jail Friday after pleading no contest to misdemeanor criminal trespassing during the 2003 season.

But due to jail crowding, he was able to avoid jail time by earning four days credit for good behavior, two days time served when he was arrested and two days for checking in Friday and Saturday, Travis County sheriff's department spokesman Roger Wade

said.

Wade said Benson checked in at the Travis County Correctional Complex in Del Valle Saturday morning and was released a short time later after paying his \$1,000 fine.

The 21-year Midland native was arrested and charged in October, when police said he kicked down the door of an Austin apartment in a failed attempt to recover a plasma television he had reported stolen.

Benson is expected to report to campus on Monday with his teammates and participate in Tuesday's first preseason practice.

Jones wins
in Germany

By ROY KAMMERER

Associated Press Writer

MUNICH, Germany

Marion Jones won twice Sunday in her first competition in more than three weeks, capturing the long jump and running the second leg for a U.S. 400-meter relay team that had the best time in the world.

Jones helped lead the United States to victory in a meet against Germany and France. The meet was used by U.S. coaches mostly as a chance to practice relays before the Athens Games, which begin Friday.

Jones leaped 22 feet, 4 1/2 inches on her last attempt to win the long jump. That was much shorter than the 23-4 she jumped to win at the U.S. Olympic trials in July.

Jones, a three-time champion at the 2000 Sydney Olympics, has qualified only to compete in the long jump in Athens. She also hopes to be selected for a relay team, and there's a chance she could take a spot in the 100 if Torri Edwards is banned because of a drug suspension.

Chicago's Maddux reaches 300 victories against Giants

By JANIE McCauley
AP Sports Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — Greg Maddux relied on guts, guile and his bullpen to win his 300th game because he never quite found the pinpoint control that has defined his stellar career.



MADDUX

Maddux calmly overcame a shaky start to become the 22nd major league pitcher to reach 300 victories, leading the Chicago Cubs over the San Francisco Giants 8-4 Saturday.

"Obviously, to win 300 games, you've got to have a lot of help. I've played on a lot of good teams, and a lot of times, you're only as good as the guys behind you. Today was a good example," Maddux said.

He is the first National Leaguer to accomplish the feat since Philadelphia's Steve Carlton in 1983. Roger Clemens was the last to do it on his fourth attempt for the New York Yankees June 13 last season.

He left in the sixth with a 6-3 lead, no outs and two runners on, bumping fists with manager Dusty Baker.

But Maddux didn't acknowledge the cheering, sellout crowd as he headed into the dugout and then on to the clubhouse to wait out his fate after throwing 82 pitches.

The Cubs' relievers came through.

Jon Leicester and Kent Mercker escaped the jam with Chicago ahead 6-4. Mercker retired Ray Durham on a popup to end the inning.

Kyle Farnsworth got Dustin Mohr to ground out with the bases loaded in the eighth, and LaTroy Hawkins secured the win with a scoreless ninth.

After the final out, Cubs fans held up a large "W" banner, and a graphic recognizing Maddux's achievement was shown on the center-field scoreboard. But Maddux never came back onto the field.

"I didn't really pitch all that good today," Maddux said. "It was a total team effort. It was great to see."

And Chicago's potent lineup rallied from a three-run deficit to help Maddux (11-7) win his fourth straight decision and improve his career record to 300-170.

"It's more of a sense of relief more than anything," Maddux said.

He allowed four runs and seven hits in five-plus innings, striking out three and walking three.

Maddux is the second Cubs pitcher to reach 300 wins. Grover Cleveland Alexander achieved the feat in his last win of the 1924 season, a 7-3, 12-inning victory over the New York Giants.

Everybody thought it would be easier for Maddux once the Giants moved ace Jason Schmidt up a day to pitch Friday, then called up rookie right-hander Brad

Hennessey to make his major league debut.

But that wasn't the case through the early innings, when Maddux labored and never looked comfortable on the mound, and Hennessey (0-1) got two early strikeouts against Sammy Sosa.

Maddux had already allowed five hits and walked three through three innings, throwing 61 pitches.

Then the Cubs started the fourth with three straight hits, including Todd Walker's two-run double.

Chicago tied the game at 3 on Aramis Ramirez's RBI single in the fifth, then Derrek Lee hit a go-ahead double off the wall in right-center to chase Hennessey, who received a standing ovation as he left.

In the next inning, Corey Patterson hit a two-run homer to give the Cubs a 6-3 lead.

Moises Alou added a two-run homer in the eighth.

It wasn't easy. Maddux, who has won four NL Cy Young Awards, needed 29 pitches to get out of the first.

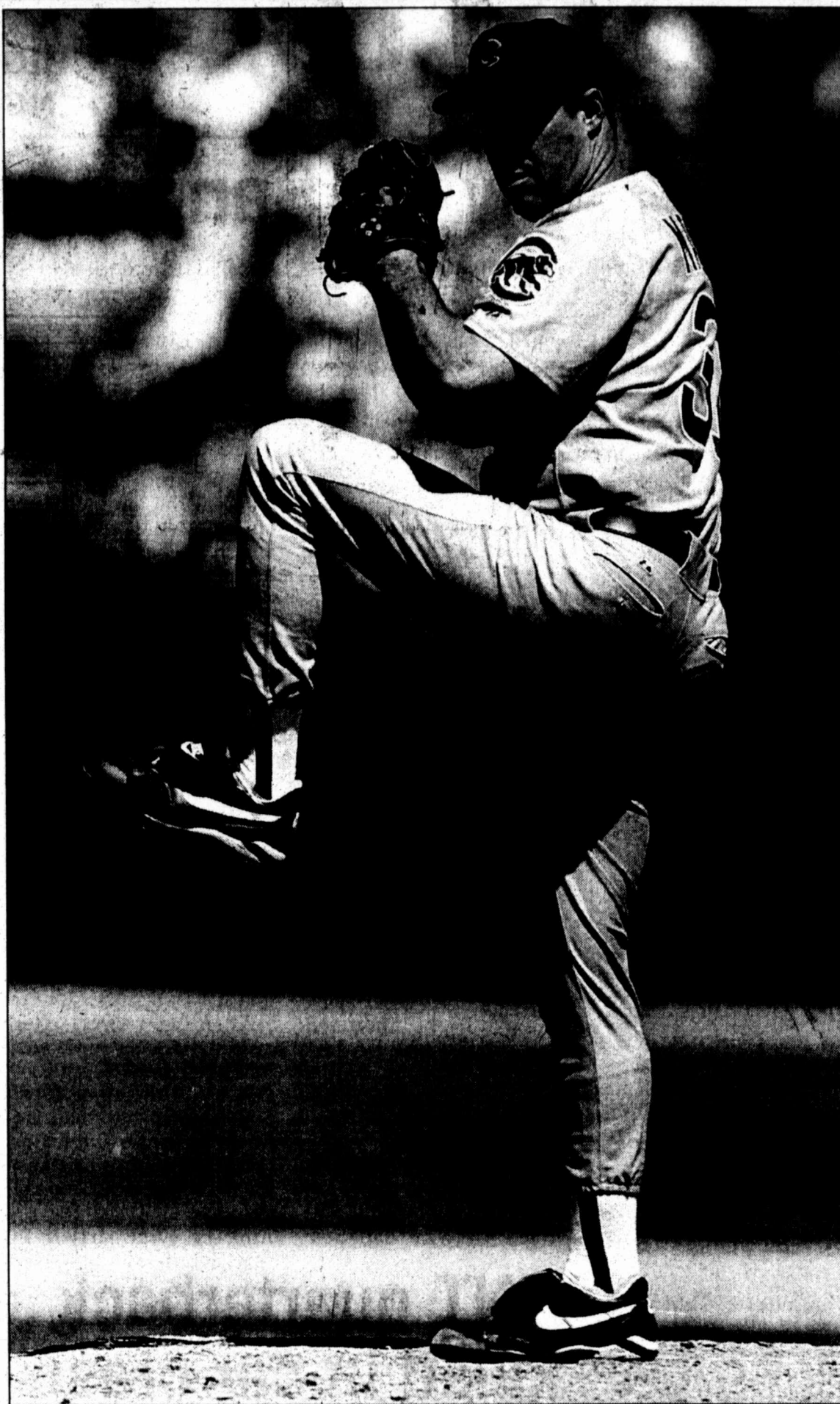
Durham led off with a triple off the wall in right-center. Maddux then struck out Ricky Ledee swinging before walking J.T. Snow.

That brought up Barry Bonds, who hit a sacrifice fly to center to score Durham for a 1-0 lead.

It was Bonds' 18th career RBI against Maddux.

Edgardo Alfonzo followed with a double before A.J. Pierzynski's foul out to left.

Maddux was picked by the Cubs in the second round of the 1984 amateur



The Cubs' Greg Maddux pitches against the San Francisco Giants in the sixth inning of their game Saturday at SBC Park in San Francisco. Chicago beat San Francisco 8-4 and Maddux won his 300th game.

KRT photo/José Carlos Fajardo, Contra Costa Times

He has a major league record 16 straight seasons with 15 or more wins — the last 11 with Atlanta. He rejoined the Cubs as a free agent in February.



Cubs' fans stay after the game to show their support for pitcher Greg Maddux after he won his 300th game Saturday

You deserve a factual look at . . .

Egypt

Is it a factor for peace in the Middle East?

In 1979, under the stewardship of President Jimmy Carter, Israel and Egypt signed the Camp David peace treaty, by which Israel committed itself to yield the Sinai to Egypt, together with all its material and strategic assets. The whole world hoped that this historic handshake would indeed finally bring peace and tranquility to the troubled Middle East.

What are the facts?

An implacable enemy. Egypt is Israel's most implacable enemy. It was the key player and military leader in the 1948 assault on the nascent Jewish state. Almost miraculously, Israel was able to defeat the combined Arab might. Egypt remained in occupation of the Gaza strip.

But thirsting for revenge, Egypt — together with Jordan and Syria — attacked Israel again in 1967. In a brilliant campaign that will be studied in war colleges for centuries, Israel, in six days, utterly destroyed the Arab war machine. At the end of that war, Israel stayed in possession of the vast Sinai.

Instead of licking its wounds, Egypt, after its rout in the Six Day War, almost immediately engaged in a war of attrition against Israel. That war lasted for years. Egypt never ceased in its attempt to destroy Israel. The hostility culminated once again on Yom Kippur of 1973, when the Egyptian armed forces, in coordination with Syria, once again launched a major war against Israel. Israel once again prevailed. Only urgent intervention by the United States and others brought about a truce and prevented the total annihilation of the Egyptian force.

In the 1979 Camp David peace treaty Israel yielded the Sinai to Egypt together with all the assets it had developed there. Still, Israelis of all political persuasions were almost giddy with hope and anticipation that their most implacable enemy had opted for peace. Finally, the talented people of Israel could now bring the promise and the potential of the Jewish homeland to full fruition.

A terrible disappointment. The disappointment was almost immediate. Anwar Sadat was assassinated by one of his own terrorist countrymen. He had to die, for no other reason than for having denied the Arab mantra: No peace, no negotiation, and no recognition of Israel.

Israel had envisioned its peace with Egypt as that between the United States and Canada. But that was not to

be. Right from the very beginning, travel was harshly discouraged and strictly controlled by Egypt. Trade was non-existent. Israel's ambassador to Cairo was under virtual house arrest. He was never included in any official function. The Egyptian press, tightly controlled by the government, initiated an orgy of anti-Semitic publicity, highlighted by hateful cartoons rivaling those of the "Stürmer," the notorious Nazi hate sheet. There hasn't been an Egyptian ambassador in Israel for over three years.

Egypt is no friend of the United States. It consistently votes against our country's interest in the forums of the United Nations. In order to get Egypt to agree to the Camp David peace in 1979, the United States committed itself to aid Egypt to the tune of \$2.2 billion per year. Only about \$.9 billion of that is earmarked as "economic aid." The balance, over \$1.3 billion, is for military aid.

Egypt has the largest armed forces in the entire Middle East, in manpower and in equipment. It has recently supplemented its navy with eleven new battle cruisers. It has placed four recent orders for F-16's, totaling 190 new planes. It has acquired 180 Hawk and 1,000 Hellfire missiles. It has already received delivery of 24 Apache helicopters and it expects to receive twelve more. The armored corps is comprised of the most modern U.S. tanks. Egypt is bordered by Libya, Sudan and Israel. It doesn't take much imagination to figure out against which of these countries all of this armament, all of this military power is directed. It's toward Israel, of course.

What does the U.S. hope to accomplish by arming this mortal enemy of Israel, which is still bent on the destruction of the Jewish state? Since Israel is the one immutable ally of the United States in the entire region, a country we can always count on, it is hard to understand why our government would be participatory in Israel's possible destruction. It makes no sense at all.

There can be no question that Egypt is once again girding for war against Israel — either alone or with the enthusiastic collaboration of other Muslim nations. Legislation has been introduced in Congress to reduce and eventually eliminate altogether the \$1.3 billion annual military aid that Egypt receives from us. But even if that were to succeed, it may already be too late. If Egypt does indeed launch war against Israel, it could ultimately include weapons of mass destruction. It is up to the world to prevent this disaster, if it is still possible.

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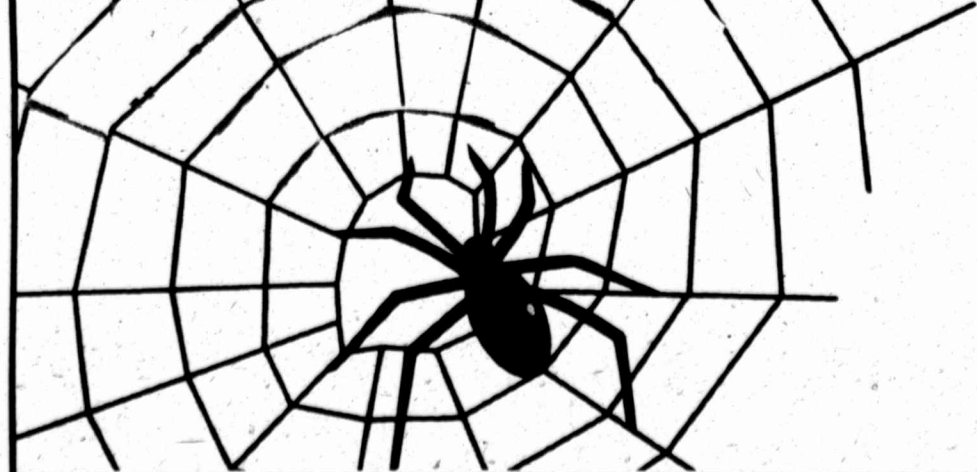
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During Mark Twain's days as a newspaperman, he was the editor of a small Missouri paper.

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



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Legals

NO. P-13,184
ESTATE OF LEWIS NIXON, DECEASED IN THE COUNTY COURT OF HOWARD COUNTY TEXAS

NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF THE ESTATE OF LEWIS NIXON, DECEASED

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary upon the Estate of Lewis Nixon, Deceased, were granted to LETHA NIXON on the 4th day of August, 2004, by the County Court of Howard County, Texas. All persons having claims against said estate are hereby requested to present same to her within the time prescribed by law. The post office address for these purposes is:

Estate of Lewis Nixon, Deceased
c/o Crenshaw, Dupree & Milam, L.L.P.

P.O. Box 1499
Lubbock, Texas 79408-1499
Attention: Jack McCutchin, Jr., P.C.
LETHA NIXON, Independent Executor of the Estate of Lewis Nixon, Deceased
#4293 August 9, 2004

PUBLIC NOTICE
The Big Spring Housing Authority (BSHA) has completed the base document of its 2005-2009 Five Year Plan and seek citizen input for the FY 2005 Annual Plan. The Five Year Plan describes the mission over the next five years while the Annual Plan provides details about immediate operations, resources, program participants strategy for operational concerns, resident's needs & concerns, & goals for the upcoming year.

The BSHA is requesting community input identifying local housing needs, gaps in housing & any related service improvements. The Plan will also serve as a planning tool, community guide to policies & program activities & submissions to HUD for future grant funded activities. Comments will be used to address goals & concerns for the upcoming 2005 - 2009 Annual & Five Year Plans. The PHA will submit any revisions to the Plan directly to the Department of Housing & Urban Development.

A Public Meeting will be held 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, 12 August, 2004 at the Big Spring Housing Authority, 711 E. 3rd St., Big Spring, TX 79720. All written medium comments must include contact name & phone.

Please address questions, comments & concerns pertaining to this Public Notice to: Monica Sanchez, Interim Director at: 263-4090, (fax)263-4098, or E-Mail: mcs@bscra.com
#4294 August 9 & 10, 2004

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Tomorrow's Horoscope

BY JOYCE JILLSON

Mercury retrograde in Virgo, where it will remain until Sept. 2. It's the little things that make a difference. Paying attention to the finest details will help the gears of life



Joyce Jillson

run smoothly, and ignoring the small points will create instant chaos. This is a terrific time to develop an appreciation for all the elements of life we take for granted.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Around every turn, there is someone eager to complicate your thinking, not out of maliciousness but because of a need to validate their own faulty reasoning. Strive to use the elegance of simplicity to accomplish your work.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). The stars reinforce your steadfast personality. If you were thinking of dropping a project, you will now have the steely resolve to cross the finish line. Nothing can frighten or deter you once you've put your plan in writing.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You do things that other people admire, though they may not say so out loud. Look in the mirror, and give yourself the recognition you deserve. Watch out for a tendency to choose inappropriate rewards, though.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Your opportunities are strong, but other factors may obscure them from your view. Open

your eyes wide! Let today be a wake-up call to you. Whatever you've let slip is now in danger of getting out of your grasp.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Your entire psyche is honed to make good luck happen. Take a chance on off-the-wall prospects. The old way wasn't working so great anyhow, now was it? You meet someone new while extending your kindness.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Some dreams are elusive, like shooting stars. Make a resolution that yours will not wind up a notion that you thought up one day and never acted upon. Get working.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). An activity to which you devote many hours today is not only difficult and time consuming; it's often thankless. The commitment you show is a testament to your character, though, and in the end, you won't be sorry for your efforts.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Once a realization comes to you, there's no looking back. You could be struck with the idea that you're breaking your back to chase and maintain a lifestyle or unnecessarily putting up with a person's antics.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). There are things you've got to change in order to make it all work now. If you're willing to let go of preconceived notions of your perfect world, you'll find that something even better takes its place.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Whether it's getting to know your

teenage children better or relating to clients from a foreign land, in some way, you'll be peering into a different culture. Soak up the details, especially the lingo and values of this group.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). It's a vivid day, one that will go down in the memory banks. You're in the mood for adventure and flights of poetic fancy and will seek companions who know how to deliver on such high demands.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You're so stimulated by knowledge that learning is one of the most crucial things you can do now for your happiness. When you're happy, you're also extremely attractive. So find ways to broaden your horizons.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS: "I'm a female born June 10, 1954. In 1999, I purchased my own business. A few days later, my father, a Scorpio, died of cancer. After that, everything has been downhill, including my relationships and business. I have reached the end of my rope. I'm gay, so that should explain most of my family history -- no partners right now or children. Is there anything in my chart that I can look forward to?"

Yes. But, first, you've got to make an effort to educate yourself. Gemini like you need constant mental stimulation and are usually the most satisfied at the beginning of a venture when there is plenty of learning to do -- just think about how happy and stimulated you were every day when you

were first starting your business. Well, it's time to tap into that again by selling the old and getting into something new. Taking specialized classes, perhaps in sales and marketing, will help you re-invigorate your business so that it's in fine shape to be sold. Then, enrolling in more courses will not only show you a new path but will introduce you to potential love partners. I encourage you to heal a rift within your family in October. It's not worth carrying the grudge anymore.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: This year, accomplished and intellectual comedian Steve Martin isn't pooch-pooching physical comedy. He's literally bending over backward to take on the role of Inspector Clouseau originated by comedy great Peter Sellers. He also stars this year in the film "Shopgirl," based on the novella he wrote. His characteristic Leo stamina has helped keep him engaged in the comedy game, both written and physical.

If you would like to write to Joyce Jillson, please go to www.creators.com and click on "Write the Author" on the Joyce Jillson page, or you may send her a postcard in the mail. To find out more about Joyce Jillson and read her past columns, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

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Annie's Mailbox : Advice for those in need

Dear Annie: I am a 54-year-old father of two children: a daughter who is in her fifth year of college and an older son. My wife recently returned to school and is not working. I've borrowed money for the past six years to cover everyone's tuition, but it is becoming increasingly difficult to pay the bills at the end of the month.

We allowed our daughter, "Marla," to go out of state to school to be near a boyfriend who ended up living overseas. We finally moved her back home because we could not afford the out-of-state tuition and living expenses. Marla has a new boyfriend and has been staying with him. Meanwhile, I am borrowing money to pay for an apartment she doesn't use and a car she "simply can't do without." She has a part-time job and a small college loan, but we still end up sending money to cover unexpected expenses or pay off a credit card.

I do not approve of Marla living with her boyfriend and have asked her to move back to her apartment. She says she's an adult now and should be free to make her own decisions. I feel that by providing financial support, I am encouraging her to behave in a way I disapprove of.

I wish Marla could see that I give advice out of love and respect. Instead, I feel slapped in the face. According to my wife and kids, I am a spoilsport with an outdated sense of values. What do you say? -- Set Me Straight

Dear Set: Marla is entitled to make her own choices, whether or not you approve. There's no reason, however, that you have to pay for them. If Marla wants to be treated

KATHY MITCHELL
MARCY SUGAR

as an adult, tell her such responsibility includes handling her own finances, and you certainly don't want to stand in the way of her independence. Then close the checkbook and step aside, Dad. It's time to let her grow up.

Dear Annie: For the entire 12 years of our marriage, my husband has slept on our couch with the remote in his hand. I have begged and pleaded, but he says it's a habit from childhood. Now I say nothing and go to bed alone.

Our children are beginning to notice that Daddy and Mommy don't sleep together, and I think that's a bad example to set. Worse, our physical relationship has been deteriorating over the years, and I'm sure this is one reason why.

I feel disconnected in our marriage and often think about living alone or finding someone else. Can you give me any advice and hope? -- Bedroom Loner

Dear Loner: Your husband may need the "white noise" from the TV in order to fall asleep. If you don't have a TV with a remote in your bedroom, consider adding one (with headphones) and see if that helps. If you already have one, or

if Hubby refuses to change his habit, you might as well make an appointment with a marriage counselor, because it doesn't sound as if the situation is going to improve anytime soon.

Dear Annie: You printed a letter from a woman whose young sister-in-law, "Nadia," has mysterious illnesses and frequent surgeries. Please tell her to refer Nadia to a rheumatologist to see if she has fibromyalgia, a syndrome that causes inflammation of the muscles, ligaments and tendons that surround the bone.

I am now 48 years old and had fibromyalgia for 15 years before it was properly diagnosed. I've had elbow, knee, shoulder and stomach surgeries due to the inflammation, and am in pain 24 hours a day. If this is Nadia's problem, she will need a lot of support and

understanding. Tallahassee, Fla.

Dear Tallahassee: Thank you for providing another possibility. For more information, readers can contact the National Fibromyalgia Association (fmaware.org) at 2200 N. Glassell St., Suite A, Orange, CA 92865.

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

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	WFAA (2)	KMID (3)	UNI (4)	KPEJ (5)	KOSA (7)	KTLE (8)	KWES (9)	WTBS (11)	KMLM (12)	KOCV (13)	DISC (20)	AMC (21)	SPIKE (22)	TNT (23)	BET (26)	DISN (27)	ESPN2 (28)	ESPN (29)	TMC (250)
	Dallas	Midland	Spanish	Odessa	Odessa	Telemundo	Midland	Atlanta	Odessa	Odessa	Discovery	Classics	Spike TV	Atlanta	Black Ent.	Disney	Sports	Sports	Premium
6	News (CC)	News (CC)	La Mujer de Madera	King of the Hill	News Ent. Tonight	Pasion de Gavilanes	News Seinfeld (CC)	Seinfeld (CC)	Joseph Good John Hagee	News-Lehrer	Big (CC)	Movie: The Man From	Wildcat Police Videos	Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	Live BET.com	Sister, Sister That's-Raven	MLB Baseball: Teams Ic	Monday Night Countdown	Holden (CC)
7	NFL Preseason	NFL Preseason	Marana de la Noche	North Shore (CC)	Still Standing Yes, Dear	Prisonera	Fear Factor (CC)	Raymond Raymond	Update/Israel Sam Peak	Aniques Roadshow	Monster House	Movie: The Man From	Wildcat Police Videos	Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	Movie: Squeeze	Movie: Air Bud: Golden	Little League World Series: (CC)	Great Lakes Final	Movie: Dirty Rotten
8	Hall of Fame Game	Hall of Fame Game	Amarte es Mi Pecado	Trading Spouses	Raymond Two-Half Men	Gitanas	For Love or Money (CC)	Movie: Excess Baggage	Light of the Southwest	Bicycle Corps	Monster Garage	Movie: The Man From	Wildcat Police Videos	Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	Movie: Squeeze	Movie: Air Bud: Golden	Little League World Series: (CC)	Great Lakes Final	Movie: Dirty Rotten
9	Broncos vs. Redskins	Broncos vs. Redskins	Cristina	70s Show Dharma-Greg	CSI: Miami	Protagonistas	Noticias Laura	News The Tonight Show	Austin Powers: International	Magic Never Ends-Lewis	American Chopper	Movie: The Man From	Wildcat Police Videos	Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	Movie: Squeeze	Movie: Air Bud: Golden	Little League World Series: (CC)	Great Lakes Final	Movie: Dirty Rotten
10	News (CC) Nightline	News (CC) Nightline	Primer Impacto Noticias Univ.	70s Show Raymond	Becker (CC) Spin City	The Late-Late Show	Al Rojo Vivo	Man of Mystery	Booker T. Tommie	Sign Off	Monster Garage	Movie: The Man From	Wildcat Police Videos	Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	Movie: Squeeze	Movie: Air Bud: Golden	Little League World Series: (CC)	Great Lakes Final	Movie: Dirty Rotten
11	Ent. Tonight Jimmy Kimmel	Ent. Tonight Jimmy Kimmel	En las Meiores Familias	Blind Date	Blind Date	Blind Date	Blind Date	Blind Date	Blind Date	Blind Date	Blind Date	Blind Date	Blind Date	Blind Date	Blind Date	Blind Date	Blind Date	Blind Date	Blind Date
12	AM Oprah Winfrey	AM Oprah Winfrey	AM Oprah Winfrey	AM Oprah Winfrey	AM Oprah Winfrey	AM Oprah Winfrey	AM Oprah Winfrey	AM Oprah Winfrey	AM Oprah Winfrey	AM Oprah Winfrey	AM Oprah Winfrey	AM Oprah Winfrey	AM Oprah Winfrey	AM Oprah Winfrey	AM Oprah Winfrey	AM Oprah Winfrey	AM Oprah Winfrey	AM Oprah Winfrey	AM Oprah Winfrey

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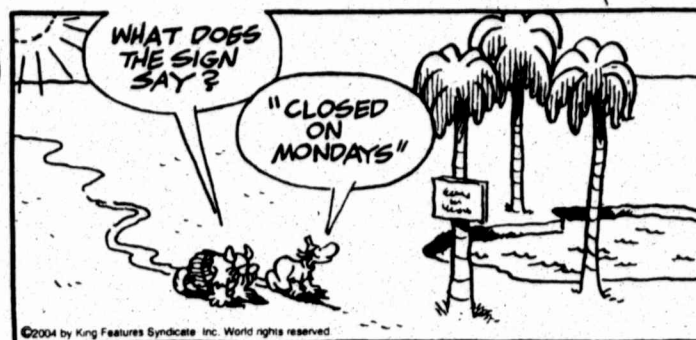
BC

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"The helmet isn't for my bike. It's for somersaults."

HAGAR



BLONDIE



This Date In History

By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, Aug. 9, the 222nd day of 2004. There are 144 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Aug. 9, 1945, three days after the atomic bombing of Hiroshima, Japan, the United States exploded a nuclear device over Nagasaki, killing an estimated 74,000 people.

On this date: In 1790, the Columbia returned to Boston Harbor after a three-year voyage, becoming the first ship to carry the American flag around the world.

In 1842, the United States and Canada resolved a border dispute by signing the Webster-Ashburton Treaty.

In 1848, the Free-Soil Party nominated Martin Van Buren for president at its convention in Buffalo, N.Y.

In 1854, 150 years ago, Henry David Thoreau published "Walden," which described his experiences while living near Walden Pond in Massachusetts.

In 1902, Edward VII was crowned king of England following the death of his mother, Queen Victoria.

In 1936, Jesse Owens won his fourth gold medal at the Berlin Olympics as the United States took first place in the 400-meter relay.

In 1944, 258 black American sailors based at Port Chicago, Calif., refused to load a munitions ship following the explosion of another ship that killed 320 men, two-thirds of them black. (The sailors were court-martialed, fined and imprisoned for their refusal.)

In 1969, actress Sharon Tate and four other people were found brutally murdered in Tate's Los Angeles home; cult leader Charles Manson and a group of his disciples were later convicted of the crime.

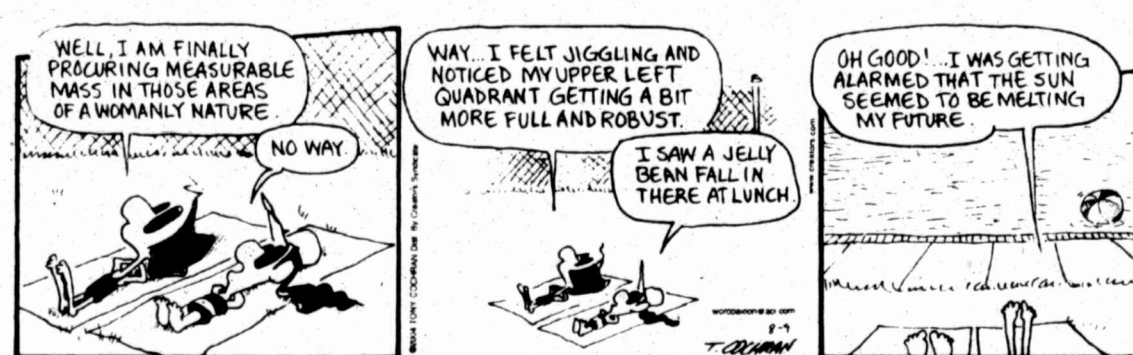
Today's Birthdays: Former baseball manager Ralph Houk is 85. Country singer-songwriter Merle Kilgore is 70. Rhythm and blues singer Billy Henderson (The Spinners) is 65. Jazz musician Jack DeJohnette is 62. Comedian-director David Steinberg is 62. Actor Sam Elliott is 60. Boxing Hall-of-Famer Ken Norton is 59. Singer Barbara Mason is 57. Actress Melanie Griffith is 47. Actress Amanda Bearse is 46. Rapper Kurtis Blow is 45. Singer Almee Mann is 44. Singer Whitney Houston is 41. Actor Pat Petersen is 38. Football player Deion Sanders is 37.

Answer to previous puzzle
ABOLISH DASHING
GORILLA ELEANOR
RELATION BICYCLE
NET AEGEAN SHOE
TREAD OASIS ANN
SODS RUSE MARGE
SKATE LARGER
COMINGS FORGERY
APOGEE DIRTY
SEINE SARI LASS
HRS LOCHS AESOP
MATS HALTER HOE
ETERNAL ANEMONE
RESTORE IGNORED
ESTATES DRAPERY

WIZARD OF ID



AGNES



HI AND LOIS



THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BEETLE BAILEY



Newsday Crossword

SQUEEZE PLAY by Gail Grabowski

Edited by Stanley Newman

ACROSS

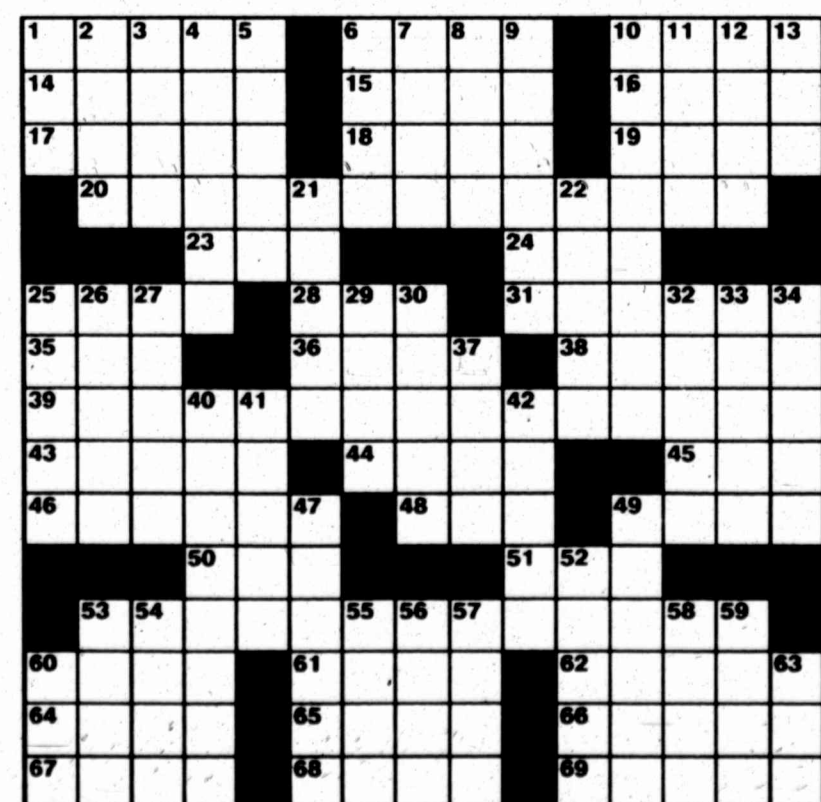
- 1 Sand-trap club
- 6 Admired celebrity
- 10 Ticket portion
- 14 Perfect
- 15 Something prohibited
- 16 Fictional plantation
- 17 Angers
- 18 Soda flavor
- 19 Gymnast Korbust
- 20 Battalion or brigade
- 23 Above, in poetry
- 24 Chicago-to-Detroit dir.
- 25 Reach across
- 28 Sound of discomfort
- 31 Chains of hills
- 35 Ancient
- 36 Toledo's lake
- 38 Mea
- 39 Shangri-Las song of '64
- 43 Enthusiastic
- 44 Chianti, e.g.
- 45 Fish eggs
- 46 Enter
- 48 Carpenter's tool
- 49 Veterinary patient
- 50 Score 100% on
- 51 Airport information: Abbr.
- 53 Toast topping
- 60 Gravy holder
- 61 Feel concern

DOWN

- 1 Hairpiece
- 2 Dutch cheese
- 3 Food store
- 4 Four quarts
- 5 Commercial cow
- 6 Ancient South American
- 7 Cabinet cover
- 8 Part of SRO
- 9 Slip-on shoe
- 10 Accumulated
- 11 Perfumed powder
- 12 Craving
- 13 Lamb's sound
- 21 More faithful
- 22 Confined, slangily
- 25 Boot bottoms
- 26 Skirt fold
- 27 Proverb
- 29 Get bigger
- 30 '60s stereos
- 32 Blinding light
- 33 Orlando attraction
- 34 "Land alive!"
- 37 Sicilian erupter

40 Left the

- premise
- 41 Author Jong
- 42 Ax wielder
- 47 Big game-show prize
- 49 party (sleepover)
- 52 Used a keyboard
- 53 Feeling peeved
- 54 Folk story
- 55 Hay unit
- 56 Chapters of history
- 57 Monthly payment
- 58 Substantially
- 59 Dole (out)
- 60 Cradle, e.g.
- 63 Primary color



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