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BIG SPRING HERALD

THURSDAY

JULY 8, 2010

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HERALD photo/Steve Reagan

Cars plow their way south on a waterlogged Scurry Street during Wednesday's rainstorm. Although Big Spring has received more than six inches of precipitation in recent days, that rainfall hasn't found its way to Colorado River Municipal Water District reservoirs, officials say.

CRMWD: what rain?

Grant says precipitation not finding its way to district's key reservoirs

By STEVE REAGAN
Staff Writer

Recent rains that waterlogged much of the area may as well have been a brief sprinkle, as far as Colorado River Municipal Water District officials are concerned.


Grant

Although more than six inches of rain have fallen on Big Spring in the past two weeks, precious little of that precipitation found its way to CRMWD reservoirs, General Manager John Grant said.

As of Monday, lake levels for the water district's three major reservoirs were as follows:

• Lake Thomas — 15,483 acre-feet of water (7.72 percent full).

• Lake Spence — 23,970 acre-feet of water (4.63 percent full).

• Lake Ivie — 223,309 acre-feet of water (40.28 percent full).

Those totals are virtually unchanged from recordings made before the recent rains, Grant said.

"Lake Thomas came up about a half-foot and Spence rose maybe two-tenths of a foot," Grant said. "And I don't think they got anything at Lake Ivie. The best thing the rains did for us is they decreased customer water usage."

The reason CRMWD wasn't a beneficiary from the recent rain is simple — the precipitation didn't fall in significant totals in the water district's catchment areas, which feed water to the reservoirs. Those catchment areas are mainly in Borden County (for Lake Thomas) and eastern Howard County/western Mitchell County (for Lake Spence).

"if we got any rain, it was a gentle rain," Grant said. "The heavier rains fell elsewhere."

With the ground so soaked, however, there is a chance lake levels could rise in the near future, he noted.

"If we can get some more showers in the next couple of weeks, we might see some runoff," Grant said.

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

Building dedications among highlights of SWCID reunion

❑ See reunion schedule, Page 3.

By CINDY SMITH
Special to the Herald

Howard College and SouthWest Collegiate Institute for the Deaf will take time out from its 30-year reunion activities being held this weekend to pay tribute to key individuals who played an important role in the development of SWCID.

The administration building was recently renamed by the HC Board of Trustees and on Saturday will officially take the name "Dr. Douglas J.N. Burke Education and Administration Building" through a dedication ceremony honoring Dr. Burke.

The men's and women's dorms will also be a focal point on Saturday in their own dedication ceremony. Already carrying the name Burke/Mehan, the dorms will be dedicated to Beatrice Burke, retired SWCID faculty and wife of the late Dr. Burke, as well as Robert Mehan, who served on both the SWCID and HC campuses during his tenure with the college.

"We are so fortunate to have had these remarkable individuals as a part of our SWCID history," said Dr. Cheryl T. Sparks, president of Howard College. "The 30-year reunion is a perfect time to step back in history and honor them for their special role in the development of SWCID and their efforts to get us where we are today."

The official ceremonies will begin at 11 a.m. in the Burke Education and Administration Building.

The public is invited and encouraged to attend. Immediately following the ceremonies, refreshments will be provided.

Reunion activities begin today on campus with opening ceremonies at 6 p.m. Activities will include booths, games and food. The public is invited.

For more information on the event visit www.howardcollege.edu or contact Cindy Smith at (432) 264-5034 or csmith@howardcollege.edu

'Raiders' postponed until July 31

Weather forces 'Ark' screening to search for drier times

By THOMAS JENKINS
Staff Writer

The tattered fedora and legendary leather bull whip will simply have to wait until the end of the month, as officials with the Big Spring Film Society announced today the Friday night screening of "Raiders of the Lost Ark" has been pushed back until July 31 due to the weather.

Brandon Johnson, spokesman and coordinator for the film society, said weather reports calling for heavy rains in the Crossroads area Friday convinced him and other society members to delay the screening, which is part of an ongoing Steven Spielberg retrospective.

"The weather just doesn't want to cooperate with any of the locally planned events lately," Johnson said with a laugh. "The annual Pops in the Park celebration was rained out last week, and now we're looking at the same situation with the 'Raiders' screening.

"We looked at simply pushing the screening back to Saturday, but that won't give us enough time to get everything out to the media. So we decided to reschedule the screening for July 31. Hopefully, by then, the rain will have moved on and we'll get some clear skies for a change."

The film society began its Spielberg retrospective more than a year ago, having held a screening of the Hollywood classic "Jaws" near the waters of Comanche Trail Lake and "E.T.: The Extraterrestrial" near the top of Big Spring's Scenic Mountain.

"When you look at the movie, there is a lot of stone and sand," he said. "I couldn't think of a better place to screen this film. Just like screening 'Jaws' next to the lake really added to the experience, I think the amphitheater is just going to make everything that much better. It's a memory families will carry with them for a very long time. We could have looked at moving the screening indoors, but I think that's just missing out on a tremendous opportunity to utilize the amphitheater. So, I suppose we'll just have to wait."

See '**ARK**,' Page 3

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Obituaries

Ima Jean 'Jeanie' Maddox



Ima Jean "Jeanie" Maddox, 94, of Portland, formerly of Big Spring died Tuesday, July 6, 2010, in a Portland, Texas, nursing home. Graveside funeral services will be held at 1 p.m. Friday, July 9, 2010, at the Peace Chapel at Trinity Memorial Park with the Rev. Walter McCall, pastor of Vincent Baptist Church, officiating.

She was born Nov. 3, 1915, in Fairy, Texas, and married R. Padge Maddox on June 2, 1940, in Lubbock. He preceded her in death Dec. 16, 1980. She moved to Big Spring in 1974 and had worked as a waitress and a homemaker. She moved to Portland in 1995.

Survivors include two sisters, Ruth Wirsching and husband Joe of Portland, and Pat Bradford of Vincent; and numerous nieces and nephews.

She was also preceded in death by five sisters, Inez Howell, Gertrude McGuffin, Glade Costin, Louise Ingram and Francis Barr; and one brother, J.C. Shepherd Jr.

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

Support Groups

THURSDAY

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

Lottery

Results of the Lotto Texas drawing Wednesday night:

Winning numbers drawn: 3-25-26-34-39-50.
Number matching six of six: 0.

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Wednesday night:
Winning numbers drawn: 6-14-20-21-35.
Number matching five of five: 1. Prize: $22,352.
Winning ticket purchased in: Grand Prairie.

The winning Daily 4 numbers drawn Wednesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 1-1-0-1. Sum It Up: 3.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Wednesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 9-2-0. Sum It Up: 11.

Police blotter

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

• JOHNATHAN STERLING JACKSON, 19, of 1719 Purdue, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of possession of marijuana – two ounces or less.

• RUBEN JAMES PEREZ, 17, of 1719 Purdue, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of possession of marijuana – two ounces or less.

• MICHAEL LEE PRESCOTT, 20, of 1719 Purdue, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of possession of marijuana – two ounces or less.

• RANNEL BRADLEY FOSTER, 21, of 427 E. Davis Rd., was arrested Wednesday on a charge of possession of marijuana – two ounces or less.

• FRANKLIN LAMARR CURTIS, 44, transient, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of public intoxication.

• DELIA SALAZAR ZARRAGA, 43, of 804 S. Johnson, was arrested Wednesday on warrants for no safety belt for child under 17 years, failure to appear and three warrants from another agency.

• DAVID NEAL BAIRD, 49, of 114 E. 16th St., was arrested Wednesday on charges of driving while intoxicated – open container and unlawfully carrying a weapon.

• DANA LANETTE MAYO, 24, of 511 Galveston, was arrested Wednesday on a warrant from another agency.

• BURGLARY OF A VEHICLE was reported in the 300 block of W. Fifth Street.

• THEFT was reported in the 1300 block of E. Fourth Street.

• ASSAULT was reported in the 1100 block of W. Interstate Highway 20.

• DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE was reported in the 4100 block of Parkway.

• BURGLARY OF A HABITATION was reported in the 1200 block of E. 17th Street.

Sheriff

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

Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 64 inmates at the time of this report.

• FRANKLIN LA MARR CURTIS, 44, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.

• DELIA SALAZAR ZARRAGA, 43, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on charges of failure to maintain financial responsibility, expired motor vehicle inspection certificate, no driver's license, unrestrained child under 18 years of age and violation of a promise to appear.

• LOLITA ALVAREZ SALAZAR, 40, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on a motion to revoke probation for driving while intoxicated – second offense.

• DANA LANETTE MAYO, 24, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of theft of property.

• JEREMY JAMES ARMSTRONG, 23, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of criminal mischief.

• DAVID NEAL BAIRD, 49, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on charges of driving while intoxicated – open container and unlawfully carrying a weapon.

• BILLY MANN KIRK, 64, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.

• TYE AUSTIN CASTLEBERRY, 24, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the Glasscock County Sheriff's Office on a charge of driving while intoxicated.

Today's Weather

Local 5-Day Forecast

Fri 7/9	Sat 7/10	Sun 7/11	Mon 7/12	Tue 7/13
75/68 Scattered thunderstorms in the morning becoming more widespread in the afte.	**84/69** Showers, maybe a rumble of thunder.	**85/70** Plenty of sun. Highs in the mid 80s and lows in the low 70s.	**87/71** Mix of sun and clouds. Highs in the upper 80s and lows in the low 70s.	**85/71** Times of sun and clouds. Highs in the mid 80s and lows in the low 70s.
Sunrise: 6:47 AM Sunset: 8:56 PM	Sunrise: 6:47 AM Sunset: 8:55 PM	Sunrise: 6:48 AM Sunset: 8:55 PM	Sunrise: 6:48 AM Sunset: 8:55 PM	Sunrise: 6:49 AM Sunset: 8:54 PM

Texas At A Glance



Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Abilene	82	71	t-storm	Kingsville	90	76	t-storm
Amarillo	81	62	t-storm	Livingston	93	72	t-storm
Austin	86	72	t-storm	Longview	90	74	t-storm
Beaumont	93	74	pt sunny	Lubbock	75	65	t-storm
Brownsville	89	77	t-storm	Lufkin	94	74	t-storm
Brownwood	88	72	t-storm	Midland	77	70	t-storm
Corpus Christi	89	78	t-storm	Raymondville	92	75	t-storm
Corsicana	86	75	t-storm	Rosenberg	92	75	t-storm
Dallas	88	75	t-storm	San Antonio	88	76	t-storm
Del Rio	80	73	t-storm	San Marcos	87	74	t-storm
El Paso	87	72	t-storm	Sulphur Springs	87	75	t-storm
Fort Stockton	80	68	t-storm	Sweetwater	80	70	t-storm
Gainesville	84	73	t-storm	Tyler	89	73	t-storm
Greenville	86	73	t-storm	Weatherford	85	73	t-storm
Houston	92	75	t-storm	Wichita Falls	82	72	t-storm

National Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Atlanta	96	74	mst sunny	Minneapolis	88	68	sunny
Boston	89	70	pt sunny	New York	88	75	pt sunny
Chicago	84	66	mst sunny	Phoenix	104	83	pt sunny
Dallas	88	75	t-storm	San Francisco	78	57	pt sunny
Denver	79	58	t-storm	Seattle	89	64	sunny
Houston	92	75	t-storm	St. Louis	87	70	t-storm
Los Angeles	76	63	pt sunny	Washington, DC	92	75	pt sunny
Miami	91	79	t-storm				

Fire/EMS

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

• TRAUMA was reported in the 400 block of Hillside. One person was transported to SMMC.

• TRAUMA was reported in the 400 block of Father Delaney. One person was transported to SMMC.

• MEDICAL was reported in the 300 block of Veterans. One person was transported to SMMC.

• TRAUMA was reported in the 1600 block of Oriole. One person was transported to SMMC.

• MEDICAL was reported in the 1600 block of Gregg Street. One person was transported to SMMC.

• MEDICAL was reported in the area of S. Highway 87. Service refused.

• MEDICAL was reported in the 3600 block of Connaly. One person was transported to SMMC.

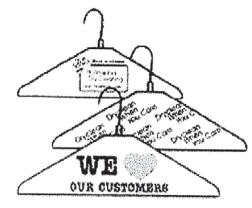
• MEDICAL was reported in the 700 block of E. 15th Street. One person was transported to SMMC.

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Angel Food orders

Angel Food orders will be taken from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. Friday and from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday. Orders are taken at North Birdwell Lane United Methodist Church, located at 2792 N. Birdwell Lane.

Delivery will from from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. July 24. Cash, money orders and Lone Star Cards are accepted as payment when the order is placed. You can also order online at angelfoodministries.com

Signature Box, $30

4.5 lb. whole chicken; 28 oz. cooked meat loaf with tomato sauce; 2 lb. lasanga with meat sauce; 1 lb. lean ground beef; four 6-oz. hamburger patties with cheese; 12-in. supreme pizza, 1 lb. all-meat hot dogs; 2 lb. frozen vegetables; 1 lb. baby carrots; 15 oz. baked beans; 6.5 oz. skillet meal helper; 1 head cabbage, 11 oz. breakfast cereal, 32 oz. shelf stable 2 percent milk; dozen eggs; dessert.

Senior Convenience Meals (fully cooked), $28

Fish sticks, rice/bean blend, broccoli and carrots; Boneless pork pattie, bbq sauce, sweet potatoes, peas and carrots; Red beans and rice, smoked sausage, carrots, brussels sprouts; Meat lasagna, carrots, green beans; ?Chicken parmesan, spaghetti, corn/red pepper blend, zucchini; Roaster chicken, red potatoes, lima beans, carrots/celery blend; Salisbury steak, graqvy, red potatoes, green pea/carrot blend, brussels spounts; Swedish meatballs, noodles, yellow squash/onions, brussels sprouts; Country herbed chicken, mashed potatoes, green peas, lima bean/red pepper blend; assorted desserts.

Allergen-Free Box, $23

1 lb. breaded chicken breast chunks; 1 lb. breaded formed chicken tenders; 1 lb. breaded cubed steak; 2 lb. breaded chicken drumsticks.

After School Box, $24

1.5 lb. fish sticks; 1.5 oz mini corn dogs; 1 lb. popcorn chicken; two 6.5 oz. peplperoni pizza; two 2.6 oz. peanut butter and jelly sandwiches; 14 oz. stuffed bread sticks; six mini moon pies; two 3.7 oz. twin cheeseburgers; two 2.2 oz. PBJ or Graham wafer.

Fruit and Vegetable Box, $16

2 red apples, 6 caramel apple dip, 3 Granny Smith apples, 3 pears, 3 navel oranges, 6-pk. raisins, 8 oz. trail mix, 1 lb. mini carrots, 4 chewy granola bars.

Special No. 1, $23

Four 10 oz. ribeyes; four 8 oz. sirloin strips.

Special No. 2, $22

Two 12 oz. New York Strips, four 8 oz. chopped beef steaks, four 8 oz. boneless pork steaks, 1 lb. chicken sausage.

Special No. 3, $21

10 lb. quick frozen chicken breasts.

Special No. 4, $21

3 lb. potatoes, 1 head lettuce, 1 lb. plums, 16 oz. salad dressing, 5 oz. salad croutons, 4 ears corn, 2 lb. bag onions, 1 large cantaloupe, 1 large honeydew melon, 4 lemons, 1 pineapple, 1 lb. carrots.

Special No. 5, $21

3 lb. split cornish game hens, 2.5 lb. split IQF chicken breasts, 1 lb. smoked sausage, 1.5 lb. country fried steak, 1 lb. broccoli florets, 1.3 oz. frozen fruit medley dessert.

Feds appeal sentence of powerful ex-Philadelphia Sen. Vincent Fumo

MARYCLAIRE DALE
Associated Press Writer

PHILADELPHIA — U.S. prosecutors took the rare step Thursday to appeal the sentence handed down to long-powerful state Sen. Vincent Fumo in a sprawling corruption case.

Fumo is serving a 4½-year sentence for defrauding the state Senate, a museum and a nonprofit of millions.

Prosecutors had sought at least a 15-year term for the Philadelphia Democrat, who was convicted last year of all 137 fraud and obstruction counts after a five-month trial. In an appeal filed Thursday, they call Senior U.S. District Judge Ronald Buckwalter's decision "unreasonable" and "unduly lenient."

The 67-year-old Fumo was convicted last year of using the victim groups to maintain his mansion, spy on political rivals, pay for yachting vacations and otherwise support his extravagant lifestyle.

"The corruption exposed in this case was breathtaking," prosecutors wrote in filing the 281-page brief. "Defendant Fumo, a 30-year member of the Pennsylvania Senate, used his control of a well-funded Senate committee and of a nonprofit organization he created and supported (Citizens Alliance for Better Neighborhoods), as well as his influence over another nonprofit institution, to support a lavish lifestyle and illegally amass political power."

Fumo's appellate lawyer, Peter Goldberger, said Fumo would pursue an appeal to his conviction since the government is appealing the sentence.

"We were ready to accept the conviction if they would accept the sentence," he said.

Prosecutors also appealed the one-year term Buckwalter gave to ex-Fumo aide Ruth Arnao.

The sentences were a fraction of the federal guidelines, which are based on the crimes and the defendant's criminal history. Prosecutors calculated that Fumo faced up to 21 to 27 years in prison, and Arnao, convicted of 45 counts, up to 10 to 12 years in prison. They also argued that Fumo's fraud topped $4 million, twice the fraud total assessed by the judge.

In their brief, they also said Buckwalter failed to explain how he calculated the fraud total or sentencing range.

The sentence provoked a firestorm in Philadelphia, where Fumo was perhaps the most powerful Pennsylvania lawmaker in a generation, controlling scores of jobs in and out of state government.

At sentencing in July, Buckwalter praised Fumo for his "extraordinary" public service and called co-defendant Ruth Arnao "remarkable" for moving from teen mother to Fumo top aide.

By comparison, U.S. District Judge William H. Yohn Jr. once called the conspiracy to destroy e-mail evidence in the case "egregious" and sentenced a low-level Fumo aide to 30 months for far fewer crimes than Arnao.

At Arnao's sentencing, Buckwalter disclosed that he had expected the uproar over Fumo's sentence a week earlier.

"I wasn't the least bit surprised. I knew it would be a tremendous firestorm of reaction against what I did," said the 74-year-old Buckwalter, who said he tries to live by the 19th-century virtues of "rugged individualism" and "antique courage."

He called his decisions "fair, not punitive" and questioned the notion of deterrence.

"There's been a whole lineup of Philadelphia politicians that have gone to jail, and it doesn't seem to deter crime," the judge said.

SWCID reunion

Today
1-4 p.m. Registration
6-8 p.m. Opening ceremonies, Activities Center
8-11 p.m. Social night, Activities Center

Friday
9-4 p.m. Registration
9-3 p.m. Exhibit booths, Kid's Art Contest
10-11 a.m., 2-3 p.m. Face Painting
10-11:30 a.m. Campus Tours
3:30-4:30 p.m. Deaf Link Workshop, Administration Building
6-7:30 p.m. Fiesta Dinner, county fair barns
8-9 p.m. Entertainment by Terrylene, county fair barns

Saturday
9-3 p.m. Registration, Exhibit Booths
9-10:30 a.m. Campus Tours
11 a.m. Building Dedication Ceremonies, Administration Building
1-3 p.m. Kids' Activities
2-3 p.m. SWCID Alumni Meeting, Activities Center
6-7:30 p.m. Babebue Gala Dinner, county fair barns
7:30-8:30 p.m. Entertainment by Mark Morales, county fair bars

Sunday
10:30-11:30 a.m. Church Service, Student Center

'Pacific,' 'Glee' top Emmy nominations

LOS ANGELES (AP) — "Glee," the spunky TV musical comedy about high school misfits and the teachers who shepherd them, was a top Emmy nominee Thursday with 19 bids, including for best comedy series and stars Matthew Morrison and Lea Michele.

The leading nominee was the gritty, unsparing World War II drama, "The Pacific," with 24 nominations.

Corrections

The Howard County Sheriff's Office reported in the July 6 edition that Raul Mendez Jr., 31, was transferred to the county jail by the Big Spring Police Department on charges of public intoxication, resisting arrest, search or transportation, evading arrest or detention and assault of a family/household member with a previous conviction. According to HCSO officials, the man's identity was later established as Vincent Infrain Alvarado, 30, and apologized for not removing the erroneous arrest name before reporting the arrest to the *Herald*.

•••

In Wednesday's story about the proposed Big Spring State Park nature center, Jerry Worthy was misidentified as Roy Worthy.

MYERS & SMITH
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Rev. Bill Ballard, 82, died Saturday. Funeral services were at 11 a.m. today at Baptist Temple Church with burial at Coahoma Cemetery.

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'ARK'

Continued from Page 1

Also part of the event, Johnson said he received one submission for the Indiana Jones short film contest.

"I've talked to the local filmmaker who was working on the short film, and he's very excited about having it screened," Johnson said. "We were a little disappointed we didn't get more entires this year, but I think this is just one of those things you have to let grow."

Following the "Raiders" screening, the film society will wrap up its season in August with yet another Spielberg classic sure to have area residents on the edges of their seats.

"The 'Jurassic Park' screening that will wrap up our Spielberg Retrospective — at least to an extent, as a lot of the movies Spielberg either wrote or produced are scheduled for screenings over the next few years — will be Aug. 28, and we'll be back atop beautiful Scenic Mountain," Johnson said. "I doubt the setback with 'Raiders' will affect that date, so we'll just keep pushing forward."

For more information on volunteering or the Big Spring Film Society, contact Johnson at (432) 213-0758 or by e-mail at cruiser1977@gmail.com. More information is also available at http://www.bigspringfilm.org

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

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Sunday Worship....10:20 AM
Sunday Worship....5:00 PM
Wednesday Class....7:00 PM
211443

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.

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News Editor

OUR VIEWS

SWCID? It's something to brag about

Not to brag, but Big Spring can boast a lot of recources other communities don't have. Think about it a moment. How many cities have a Veterans Administration hospital? State veterans home? State psychiatric hospital. Community college? State park? Federal prisons? OK, maybe prisons aren't something every community wants to shout about, but no one can dismiss the impact they provide when it comes to jobs and payroll.

How about the fact that Big Spring has an airport with an 8,800-foot runway capable of accommodating sizeable aircraft and for a few years now has been home to the U.S. Hang Gliding Nationals?

Did we mention a community college? Yes we did. Well, did how many towns, of any size, mind you, can boast of having a community college for the hearing impaired? Just one. That's right, Big Spring.

This weekend, SouthWest Collegiate Institute for the Deaf is holding its annual reunion and celebrating 30 years of educating individuals from all over the world. Thirty years. Wow.

There will be various activities, beginning with opening ceremonies at 4:30 p.m. today on the SWCID campus. Booths, games, food and a dance will be among the things to do. We suspect there will be lots of hugging and reminiscing, old friends seeing each other for the first time in a long time.

Significantly, at 11 a.m. Saturday, several buildings will be dedicated. The administration building will be renamed in honor of the late Dr. Douglas Burke, the school's first executive director. In fact, Dr. Burke was on board in 1979, though the first class wasn't held until September 1980. Here's an interesting sidenote: Dr. Burke was the first deaf person to serve as the leader of an educational institution in the nation. That's impressive, huh?

The dormitories at SWCID are named Burke/Mehan and the individuals representing them will be honored Saturday as well. The Burke in this instance is Beatrice, Dr. Douglas Burke's wife. She held numerous positions at SWCID over the years, including coordinator of tutorial services, associate professor of developmental/general studies and division chair.

The other individual is Dr. Robert Mehan, who came to the college as dean of instruction in 1983 and also made significant impact during the institution's early years.

A lot of other people were paramount in the formation of this college for the hearing impaired, too many to mention here, but these three certainly deserve to be honored for their tireless work.

So this weekend, Big Spring can brag on the Burke family, the Mehan family and on the dedicated adminstrators, instructors, staff, trustees — and yes, students — who have been a part of SouthWest Collegiate Instutute for the Deaf and its "parent and partner," Howard College. Without their efforts, then and now, none of this would have been possible.

The only community college for the deaf in the nation? It's in Big Spring.

Happy Birthday, SWCID!

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

May we take the steps to improve our life, Lord, through You and Your word. Amen

We need facts, not fiction



LINDA CHAVEZ

As someone who has long supported a major overhaul of our immigration laws, I'm sorry to say that President Obama's call this week for new legislation will only make matters worse. With unemployment hovering at almost 10 percent, the country is in no mood to increase the number of legal immigrants or temporary workers in the U.S. And short of doing so, we cannot fully solve the vexing problem of illegal immigration. But an open and honest debate on immigration is difficult with so much disinformation on the issue circulating.

Arizona Gov. Jan Brewer, for example, made the outrageous claim recently that "we all know that the majority of the people that are coming to Arizona and trespassing are now becoming drug mules. They're coming across our borders in huge numbers." But the facts don't bear her out. So let's examine some of the facts:

Illegal immigration is down, not up. Since mid-decade, illegal immigration at the Mexican border has declined drastically. Border apprehensions — one of the most consistent and accurate measures of illegal traffic — are at a 35-year low, down 54 percent since 2005. The peak period of illegal immigration — 1995-2000 — coincided with a major expansion in the U.S. economy, with jobs plentiful. Indeed, the 2008 recession and slow recovery have been as big a factor as beefed-up border security in drastically reducing illegal immigration.

Illegal immigration has not led to an increase in crime, nationally or in the communities in which large numbers of illegal immigrants reside. The popular perception that illegal immigration equals increased crime is one of the most persistent reasons many fear that illegal immigration is causing untold hardship to Americans. But the facts don't bear out the fears. Crime in the U.S. has been declining consistently over the last two decades, even while illegal immigration was increasing.

According to the latest FBI Uniform Crime Reports, overall crime declined nationally for the 16th straight year, with violent crime down 5.5 percent in 2009 And the figures for Arizona — ground zero in the immigration debate and the state that experiences the largest influx of illegal immigrants into the U.S. — show that violent crime has been falling steadily and is lower now than at any point since 1972. In Phoenix, violent crime declined by about 10 percent.

Half of the 10 lowest-crime big cities in the U.S. are in Border States: El Paso, San Jose, Austin, San Diego, and Los Angeles; and two others, New York and Denver, are home to large illegal immigrant populations as well. The crime statistics for El Paso are perhaps the most surprising. The city is the second-safest big city in America, according to FBI data, with a population that is 82 percent Hispanic, including nearly 30 percent who are immigrants, many of them illegal. What's more, El Paso sits just across the river from one of the most dangerous places on the planet, Ciudad Juarez. The drug-cartel crime that has driven murders in Juarez to make it the murder capital of the world — an appalling 242 in May alone — has not spilled over onto the streets of El Paso, however.

The U.S. Border Patrol has more resources than ever, and patrolling the Mexican Border is far safer than most law enforcement jobs. There are now more than 20,000 Border Patrol agents, making the agency the largest law enforcement contingent in the federal government.

According to a Customs and Border Protection study obtained by the Associated Press through a Freedom of Information filing, violent attacks against Border Patrol agents declined in 2009, and attacks against agents are far lower per capita than those against police officers and sheriffs, 3 percent compared to 11 percent, with the attacks against border agents consisting mostly of rock-throwing while gun and knife attacks were the predominant assaults against police.

These facts don't justify ignoring illegal immigration or pretending that there aren't costs associated with it. Every nation has the right — and obligation — to protect its borders. We must secure the U.S. border, but pretending that illegal immigration is fueling a crime wave or is at historic highs is just plain wrong.

Linda Chavez is the author of "An Unlikely Conservative: The Transformation of an Ex-Liberal." To find out more about Linda Chavez, visit the Creators Syndicate web page at www.creators.com.

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JERRY KILGORE — 263-0724; Work (Jerry's Barbers): 267-5471.
JIMMIE LONG — Home: 466-0793.
GARY SIMER — Home: 263-0260.

Say no to all the stunts



SUSAN ESTRICH

Trying to make news over the holiday weekend and trying to avoid the attention being paid to the latest gaffe from Republican National Committee Chair Michael Steele (who is "the gift that keeps on giving," according to former Democratic National Committee Chair and Pennsylvania Gov. Ed Rendell), Republican leaders put out the story that the president needs to take a trip to the border to see just how dangerous it is.

The only thing that could be more of a stunt than his taking that trip is the Republicans' call for him to do so.

However dangerous the border is — or isn't — the president would certainly not find out by going there. It's the job of the Secret Service to see to that. The Mexican gangs who have been killing each other, the irresponsible coyotes who take people's money and risk their lives — you can be sure they wouldn't be anywhere near the president.

Immigration reform is not going to pass in this Congress. Everyone knows that. A majority of Democrats support legislation to address both border security and the status of the 11 million people who live in this country but do not have papers: undocumented residents, as Democrats call them; illegal aliens, as Republicans prefer. But a majority of Democrats is not enough to pass anything in the Senate. There is not a single Republican vote there right now for doing what former Republican President George W. Bush tried to do just a few short years ago. And with no Republican support, nothing will happen.

The president is giving speeches about immigration not because he is pushing a bill, but to explain to Hispanic voters why he isn't.

The Republicans are making a fuss about a trip to the border not because they really want the president to go, but because they want to lay people's fears about border violence on the president's doorstep.

This is not about policy, not at all. This is about politics. Most stunts are.

If you're for comprehensive reform, you talk about providing a path to legalization. If you're against it, you talk about amnesty. Most people believe in the rule of law: that people who come here legally, who follow the rules and wait their turn, should be at the head of the line. Why reward those who violate the law?

Then you tell them the story of a mother whose children were born in the United States, who are themselves citizens, whose oldest son is serving our country in Iraq and Afghanistan, and they say yes, well, that's different. You tell them the story of young adults who came here as children and have lived their entire lives in this country, who are working hard, going to school, paying taxes, and they agree that of course we should not deport the high school valedictorian because his parents brought him here "illegally" as a child.

It's easy to wrap ourselves in the rule of law in the abstract. It's much harder when you hear stories — like the stories of so many of our grandparents and great-grandparents — of people who came to this country because they wanted a better life for their children, who worked hard and obeyed the law and paid their taxes and risked their lives so they could cut our grass or care for our children and offer their own children a better life.

The only way to address the immigration issue fairly is if we can put partisan politics aside, stop posturing, stop scoring points with language and stunts, and try to work together on a solution. That won't happen in an election season, no chance. But let's at least say no to all the stunts — and stunts about stunts.

To find out more about Susan Estrich and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate website at www.creators.com.

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News in brief

Mini-train acquired by Brownwood museum

BROWNWOOD (AP) — Visitors to a Brownwood museum might soon be able to ride the rails as another way to appreciate the train industry.

The Martin & Frances Lehnis Railroad Museum has taken delivery of a used miniature train that is large enough for people to ride.

Curator Mary Irving says the 7½ inch gauge train was purchased with bond money left over from a museum project.

Irving told the Brownwood Bulletin that the cost was $13,500. She says Wednesday's acquisition includes 2,000 feet of rail and 1,000 feet of finished track, three switches, a gasoline/hydraulic locomotive, three passenger cars and a caboose.

She says the next step will be to build the railroad on the museum grounds, with help from volunteers.

Brownwood is 130 miles southwest of Fort Worth.

Severanace deal for fired San Marcos city manager

SAN MARCOS (AP) — Fired San Marcos City Manager Rick Menchaca has accepted an $85,000 severance package and agreed not to sue over his dismissal.

The San Marcos City Council on June 24 voted to end Menchaca's employment, effective immediately. No reasons were given.

A June 1 evaluation, from council members, city staff and external evaluators, gave Menchaca an "average" rating.

Mayor Susan Narvaiz (nar-vize) initially said Menchada had declined a severance offer and planned to contact an attorney.

But the mayor, at Tuesday night's city council meeting, said Menchaca agreed to accept the severance deal and not pursue a lawsuit. He has declined comment.

Menchaca was city manager of Midland from 2000 to 2007.

Austin police DNA lab faces independent review

AUSTIN (AP) — Complaints by a former worker has prompted an independent review of the Austin Police Department's DNA lab.

Travis County prosecutors have begun notifying hundreds of defense attorneys about the allegations by a former DNA analyst that workers were allowed to do tasks that they were not trained to perform.

District Attorney Rosemary Lehmberg and Police Chief Art Acevedo said Wednesday they remain confident in the work of the Austin police crime lab. They said the ex-worker's allegations were reviewed internally during the spring and that the complaints were deemed unfounded.

Acevedo also says recent lab reviews by the FBI and the American Society of Crime Lab Directors found no deficiencies.

Rio Grande flash flood watch for Laredo

LAREDO (AP) — Laredo police went door to door to help evacuate low-lying areas as the rain-swollen Rio Grande rose to more than 25 feet above flood stage.

Lt. Ricardo Ramirez says the evacuation of about 30 homes, due to the flooding threat, started at 1 a.m. Thursday.

Ramirez told The Associated Press that no injuries have been reported. Two of Laredo's four bridges to Mexico remained closed.

The Laredo Civic Center was open as a shelter. Ramirez did not have numbers on how many people spent the night.

The National Weather Service says flood stage at the Rio Grande at Laredo is 8 feet. The level topped 34.6 feet early Thursday. The area was under a flash flood watch through Friday.

Gov. Rick Perry has activated Texas National Guard troops in Laredo in San Antonio, plus rescue swimmers.

Appeals court to hear drilling moratorium case

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — A federal appeals court is set to hear the Justice Department's bid to delay a judge's decision to overturn a six-month deepwater drilling moratorium.

A three-judge panel from the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans is scheduled to hear arguments Thursday from lawyers on both sides of a lawsuit filed by companies that oppose the Obama administration's temporary drilling ban.

The Interior Department says it halted new permits for deepwater projects and suspended drilling on 33 exploratory wells to protect the Gulf of Mexico from another environmental disaster while it studies the risks of deepwater drilling.

The government is asking the 5th Circuit panel for an order that would keep the moratorium in place while they appeal last month's ruling.

Texas tar ball prompts soil, water sampling

GALVESTON (AP) — Texas officials on Wednesday continued collecting soil and water samples along the state's coastline, part of their response plan after this week's confirmation that crude from the Gulf oil spill has made its way onto the state's shores.

Biologists with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department are collecting the samples to give them a data baseline they will use to assess the spill's effect on Texas if more tar balls and oil are found.

The sample collection began Monday after officials announced that test results confirmed tar balls found over the weekend along the Texas Gulf Coast were from the BP oil spill, said Winston Denton, a biologist with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

On Wednesday, Denton and other biologists wearing waders and rubber gloves gathered samples of dirt, water and various invertebrate animals such as mollusks at two Galveston beaches. The samples, placed in brown jars and plastic bags, will be sent to private labs for testing.

The data obtained will be used to develop plans "to minimize the impact on wildlife" should more oil hit the Texas shoreline, Denton said.

Samples are being collected over the next two weeks from Port Arthur near the Louisiana border to Port Isabel in south Texas, said Mike Cox, a spokesman for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

Texas officials continue waiting for test results of samples from five ships that hauled waste from the oil spill to the Galveston area. The results could determine whether the ships are the sources of the tar balls found in Galveston and the Bolivar Peninsula or if they came naturally on currents.

Democrats ask justices to toss Green Party case

AUSTIN (AP) — Texas Democrats asked the state Supreme Court on Wednesday to dismiss their efforts to keep statewide Green Party candidates off the November ballot, saying the court's recent decision to allow those candidates on the ballot makes their case moot.

But the state Democratic Party said it wasn't backing away from a lawsuit that accuses the Green Party of taking improper donations to fund its petition drive.

The Supreme Court ruled last week that the liberal third party could put its candidates on the ballot while the court considers whether it took improper donations. The court asked the Green Party to respond to Democrats' request by Thursday.

The Texas Democratic Party has sued the Green Party, alleging the petition drive required to get Green Party candidates on the ballot was a political ploy waged by Republicans to pull liberal votes away from Bill White, the Democratic nominee for governor. Democrats believe the Green Party accepted money from a group secretly backed by Texas Republicans.

The argument before the high court was separate from the lawsuit, which Democrats say they will continue in a district court for civil penalties.

"The Texas Democratic Party filed this lawsuit because Texans deserve to know who secretly spent over half a million dollars to influence the 2010 elections," said Boyd Richie, chairman of the Texas Democratic Party. "We are confident that when all the facts are established and the truth is known, the courts will see that this is a case where the Republicans had an obvious political interest and funneled secret funds into an illegal corporate effort to gain political advantage."

An attorney for the Green Party warned that the high court could still decide to keep the case. The party maintains that the donations were legal.

Most of state under flash flood watch Thursday

(AP) — It will be a wet Thursday in Texas, with most of the state under a flash flood watch, according to the National Weather Service.

Only the east Texas Piney Woods and the Edwards Plateau, South Plains and Trans-Pecos regions of West Texas are exempt from the flood watch. Meanwhile, the Rio Grande remains in flood with some low-lying neighborhoods along its shores having been evacuated.

High temperatures will be in the upper 80s over the eastern half of the state and upper 70s and low 80s over most of West Texas and the Panhandle. Winds will be east to northeasterly 10-15 mph.

North and south Texas will remain under a flash flood watch through Thursday night and Friday, but there will still be a 50 percent chance of rain over most of West Texas and the Panhandle through sunrise Friday. Lows will be in the mid-to-upper 70s over the eastern half of the state and upper 60s and low 70s in West Texas, except for low 60s in the Panhandle. Winds will be easterly 10-15 mph.

Firefighter recovering after Rangers Ballpark fall

FORT WORTH (AP) — A firefighter who tumbled about 30 feet from the Texas Rangers stands while trying to catch a foul ball received a hospital visit — and the ball — from team president Nolan Ryan on Wednesday.

Tyler Morris, 25, who works at the Lake Cities Fire Department near Dallas, was at Tuesday night's game with fellow firefighters when he fell over a second-deck railing.

He suffered a head injury and sprained ankle but no internal injuries, and was expected to be released from the hospital soon, friends said.

"Everything was happening so fast," said Kevin Conner, who attended the game with Morris. "The ball went over us and bounced off the seats ... and he went toward it. Then he flipped all the way around but grabbed onto the railing (before falling). That's what saved his life."

Conner said Morris had not been drinking at the game.

After Texas' Nelson Cruz hit the foul ball in the fifth inning of the game against the Cleveland Indians, the crowd gasped loudly, cried "Oh!" and stood up after Morris fell. Players and fans appeared worried and somber, and the game was delayed about 15 minutes.



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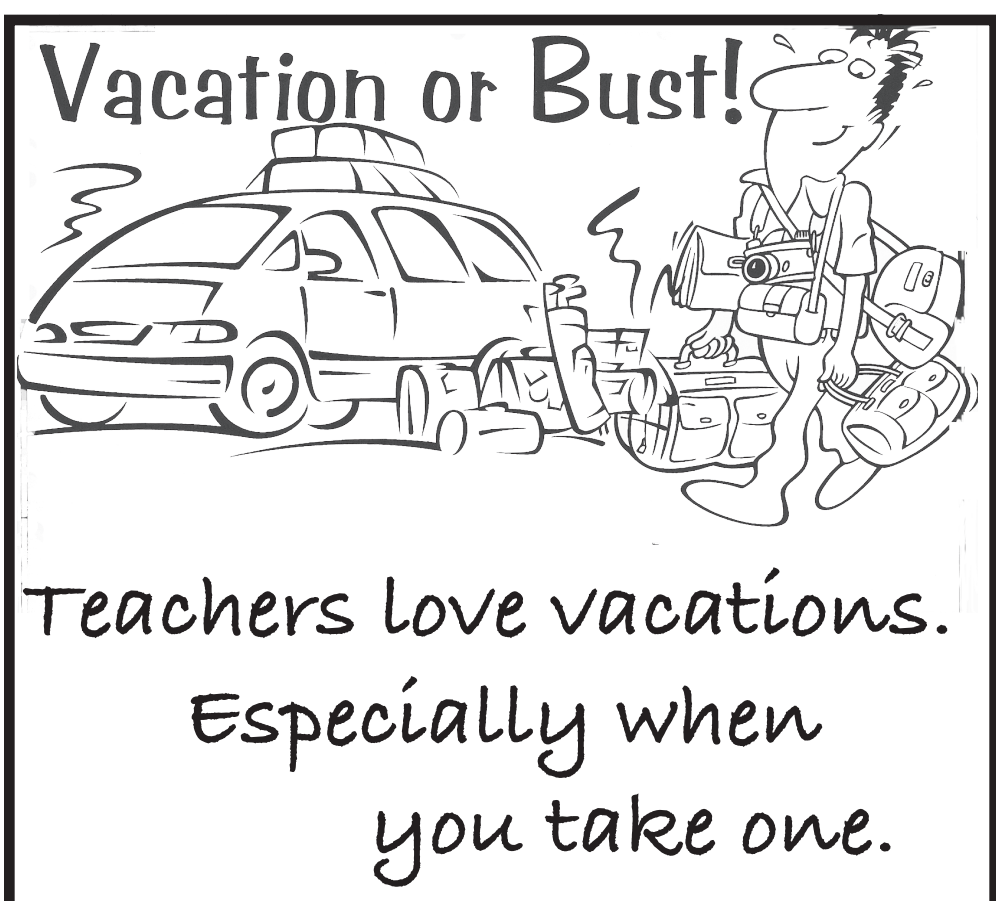
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Big Spring HERALD

News in brief

Moscow prison abuzz ahead of expected spy swap; NY court to decide fate of 10 arrested in U.S.

MOSCOW (AP) — Special riot police secured the perimeter of Moscow's Lefortovo prison Thursday and a gaggle of TV cameras and photographers jostled for the best position as the world braced for what could be largest spy swap since the Cold War.

A convoy of armored vehicles arrived in the morning at the prison, thought to be the central gathering point for people convicted of spying for the West, including nuclear researcher Igor Sutyagin, serving a 14-year sentence for spying for the United States.

Sutyagin's brother and lawyer say he was transferred to Lefortovo earlier this week to take part in the swap and could be flown out to freedom as early as Thursday. They said Sutyagin saw a list of 11 prisoners in Russia who are being traded for 10 people arrested in the United States for being unregistered Russian agents.

In New York, a federal court was to decide the fate of those 10 suspects later Thursday.

Officials in neither country would confirm an exchange was planned. But the machinations — including a meeting in Washington between U.S. officials and the Russian ambassador on Wednesday — had all the hallmarks as the two former Cold War antagonists moved to tamp down tensions stirred by the U.S. arrests.

Officials: 3 arrested in Norway al-Qaida bomb plot linked to failed NY, England attacks

OSLO (AP) — Three suspected al-Qaida members were arrested Thursday morning in what Norwegian and U.S. officials said was a terrorist plot linked to similar plans in New York and England.

The three men, whose names were not released, had been under surveillance for more than a year. Officials believe they were planning attacks with portable but powerful bombs like the ones at the heart of last year's thwarted suicide attack in the New York City subway.

U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder has called that one of the most serious terrorist plots since 9/11. On Wednesday, prosecutors revealed the existence of a related plot in Manchester, England. Officials believe the Norway plan was organized by Salah al-Somali, al-Qaida's former chief of external operations, the man in charge of plotting attacks worldwide.

The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the case. The Norwegian Police Security Service said only that the three were arrested on suspicion of "preparing terror activities."

Solution to oil under the Gulf sand: Some say do nothing and let nature clean it eventually

GULF SHORES, Ala. (AP) — A problem lurks under the sand on the Gulf Coast, but some argue the best thing to do is — nothing.

Walk to a seemingly pristine patch of sand, plop down in a chair and start digging with your bare feet and chances are you'll walk away with gooey tar between your toes. So far, workers hired by BP to clean oil off beaches have skimmed only the surface, using shovels or sifting machines.

The oil underneath is sometimes buried by the tides before workers can get to it. Now the company is planning a deeper cleaning program that could include washing or incinerating sand once the blown-out oil undersea well is plugged and the gusher stopped off the coast of Louisiana.

Meanwhile, BP managing director Bob Dudley said the spewing oil from the underwater well could possibly be stopped before the end of the month, but then said it's unlikely.

IMF raises 2010 global growth forecast but says Europe's debt crisis might stall recovery

BEIJING (AP) — The global economy is recovering faster than expected but Europe's debt crisis might stall the rebound and governments need to shore up shaky public confidence, the International Monetary Fund said Thursday.

The IMF raised its 2010 world growth forecast to 4.6 percent from 4.1 percent in April and boosted estimates for the United States and China. But its quarterly World Economic Outlook warned that "risks have risen sharply" and Europe has to quickly resolve debt problems and restore confidence in its banks.

Europe's problems "could spill over to other regions and stall the global recovery," said Jose Vinals, director of the fund's monetary and capital markets department, at a news conference in Hong Kong.

"Further credible and decisive policy action is needed to resume progress on financial stability and keep the economic recovery on track," Vinals said.

Risks so far are limited to financial markets and activity in other fields stabilized at a high level in May, the Washington-based fund said. It said industrial output and trade grew by double digits and there was a modest but steady recovery in developed economies and strong growth in emerging nations.

The fund raised this year's U.S. growth forecast from 2.7 percent to 3.3 percent. The outlook for Germany and other European nations that use the euro common currency was unchanged at 1 percent.

Catholic Church says Cuba agrees to free 52 political prisoners, nearly a third of all held

HAVANA (AP) — Cuba has promised the Roman Catholic Church it will free 52 political prisoners, slashing the number it holds by nearly a third in what would be the communist-run island's largest release of dissidents since Pope John Paul II visited in 1998.

Five would be released initially and they would go into exile in Spain, while the others would be freed over the next three or four months, said Havana's archbishop, Cardinal Jaime Ortega.

The deal struck Wednesday followed a meeting between President Raul Castro and Ortega. Also participating was visiting Spanish Foreign Minister Miguel Angel Moratinos.

"Today we announce with complete satisfaction that the objectives we have worked toward have been met," Moratinos said. A statement from the Spanish Embassy declared, "This opens a new era in Cuba with hope of putting aside differences once and for all on matters of prisoners."

Moratinos then wrapped up his two-plus days here, but did not take any freed prisoners back to Spain with him. He and Ortega said they weren't sure how long it would take for the first five prisoners to be released.

Human rights and opposition activists called the scope of the agreement a surprise.

Eastern Seaboard to get some relief from heat, though humidity will keep the weather swampy

NEW YORK (AP) — After four days of a steamy heat wave swamped much of the Eastern Seaboard, the likelihood of just 80- or 90-degree weather was sounding downright delectable.

The National Weather Service was forecasting less brutal heat throughout the region on Thursday, though it still was likely to be uncomfortably humid. The temperature was expected to dip overnight in New York but remain about 80 degrees in urban areas.

Heat waves are more oppressive in big cities because concrete, asphalt and steel absorb more solar energy during the day and are slow to release it after the sun goes down, offering people little relief at night.

On Wednesday, with triple-digit highs recorded from New York to Charlotte, N.C., roads buckled, nursing homes with air-conditioning problems were forced to evacuate and utilities called for conservation as the electrical grid neared its capacity.

In the nation's biggest city, Wall Streeters sweltered in business suits on subway platforms and senior citizens schlepped to grocery stores on streets that seemed like frying pans. The mercury hit 100 degrees by 3 p.m. Wednesday after topping out at 103 on Tuesday.

2 passengers missing from capsized duck boat in Pa. barge collision, 35 other people rescued

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Searchers plied the murky waters of the Delaware River early Thursday for two passengers missing from an amphibious sightseeing boat that was struck by a barge, flipped over and sank.

The 37 people aboard the six-wheeled duck boat were tossed overboard when the tugboat-pushed barge hit it after it had been adrift for a few minutes with its engine stalled, police said. Most were plucked from the river by other vessels in a frantic rescue operation that happened in full view of Penn's Landing, just south of the Ben Franklin Bridge.

The duck boat, which can travel seamlessly on land and water, had driven into the river Wednesday afternoon and suffered a mechanical problem and a small fire, officials said. It was struck about 10 minutes later by a barge used to transport sludge and sank to the bottom of the river.

The Coast Guard said it would search through the night for a 16-year-old girl and a 20-year-old man believed to have been aboard the duck boat. Senior Chief Bud Holden said Thursday that passenger interviews indicate the missing were members of a Hungarian tour group.

Report says state parole agents spoke with kidnapped woman but didn't follow up

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — California parole agents spoke to the woman who was held captive by a convicted rapist for 18 years and bore his two children but never bothered to follow up, according to a report obtained by The Associated Press.

The revelation, yet another embarrassment for the state corrections department in the case, details how parole agents missed another opportunity to rescue Jaycee Dugard. It was contained in documents obtained Wednesday under the California Public Records Act.

The report, prepared by the attorney general's office, was sent to lawmakers before their vote last week to settle with the Dugard family for $20 million

Dugard, now 30, said parole agents spoke with her during her captivity, and with the older of the two daughters she bore to Phillip Garrido.

su|do|ku

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♣ J 10 8

EAST
♠ 7 5 4
♥ 9 8 4 2
♦ 8 6 5
♣ Q 9 7

SOUTH
♠ A K J
♥ A K J
♦ A K Q 10
♣ A K 4

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
6 NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

Opening lead — ten of spades.

There's no harm in indulging in fantasy, so let's imagine you get dealt the South hand and open the bidding with six notrump. West leads a spade, and the question is how to give yourself the best chance to make the slam. Remember, you don't see the East-West cards, which theoretically could be divided in millions of different ways.

The best method of play is to win the spade lead with the king and return the four of clubs! One of your main hopes is that the clubs are divided 3-3, and the safest way of probing this possibility is by leading low initially. If you started out by playing the A-K-4 of clubs and the suit broke 4-2, you'd be down before you could test any other possibilities.

Let's say West wins the club and returns the nine of spades. You win with the ace and cash the A-K of clubs. If both defenders follow suit, dummy's six of clubs becomes good, and you're within a trick of making the contract. Next you cash the A-K-Q of diamonds, and, if the jack falls, the slam is in the bag. You later discard your jack of hearts on dummy's six of clubs.

If the jack of diamonds does not fall on your A-K-Q, you plan to rely on a heart finesse after discarding the diamond ten on dummy's club winner.

If the clubs are not divided 3-3, you still have a chance, though not a particularly good one. Cash the A-K-Q of diamonds and, if the jack drops, pray that the heart finesse will succeed.

That's really all there is to the play. The idea is to give yourself three different chances to make the slam rather than just one or two. By testing the clubs as described, you cannot be defeated until all three possibilities have been explored.

Incidentally, the odds against being dealt 32 high-card points are 6 million-to-1!

Tomorrow: Bidding quiz.

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ANSWERS

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

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Hamilton pushes hit streak to 27

ARLINGTON (AP) — Michael Young provided fans with another reason to fire up the computer and vote for him for his seventh straight All-Star berth.

Young homered, Josh Hamilton stretched his home hitting streak to 27 games and the Texas Rangers beat the Cleveland Indians 4-3 on Wednesday night.

Young came back refreshed after his first day off of the season with a two-run homer in the fifth that drew the Rangers even at 3.

Entering Wednesday, Young was in a 4 for 25 slump, and manager Ron Washington said Young wasn't playing up to his All-Star standards and needed a break.

"When you play baseball as much as these guys do sometimes one day's all you need," Washington said. "I tried as hard as I could to keep them out of the whole game because a whole day off means a lot to a baseball player."

Young, the Rangers' career hit leader with 1,768, is competing with four others for the final slot on the AL All-Star team.

"I enjoy the All-Star Game, so I'd like to go, don't get me wrong," Young said. "But it also would be nice to get the three days off."

Hamilton extended the second-longest home hitting streak in club history with an RBI single in the first. Al Oliver hit in 30 straight Texas home games in 1981.

Julio Borbon's two-out single in the sixth off rookie Mitch Talbot (8-8) put Texas ahead.

Cleveland's Jayson Nix homered for the fourth time in three games.

Earlier in the day, Texas team president Nolan Ryan visited a hospital to check on a fan who fell about 30 feet from the second deck while trying to catch a foul ball Tuesday night.

Tyler Morris, a 25-year-old firefighter, sustained a head injury and sprained ankle but no internal injuries in the fall. Morris was expected to be released from the hospital soon, friends said. Ryan gave Morris the ball he missed, too.

Colby Lewis (8-5) allowed two earned runs and six hits in six innings, striking out eight.

Alexi Ogando pitched a perfect seventh, Frank Francisco retired the Indians in order in the eighth and Neftali Feliz got three outs for his 23rd save in 25 chances.

"The bullpen came in and did exactly what they've been doing all year. They shut it down," Washington said.

The Rangers took two out of three from the Indians after losing four of their previous six.

"A team like this is not going to lose too many series in a row, with the bats we've got and what we've done on the mound," Lewis said.

Nix, claimed off waivers from the White Sox on June 24, batted only .163 with a homer and five RBIs in 24 games for Chicago. He's been more productive in his 12 games for the Indians with five homers and eight RBIs.

Talbot allowed four runs and seven hits in 5 2-3 innings, losing for the fourth time in his last five starts.

The pitch Talbot regretted was a fastball down the middle that Young knocked into the

See **HAMILTON**, Page 12



File Photo

Forsan's Ambra Hill is at-bat in one of the Lady Buffs' Class 1A state championship games this season. The Texas Sports Writers Association made it official and gave Hill, Longorio and Shelby Jones First Team All-State selections.

Astros cruise past Pirates

HOUSTON (AP) — The Houston Astros turned to the long ball after their starting pitcher went down with an injury.

Carlos Lee and Lance Berkman homered for the second straight game and the Astros hit a season-high four home runs in a 6-3 win over the Pittsburgh Pirates on Wednesday night.

Jeff Keppinger and Hunter Pence added solo shots for the Astros, who came in with a major-league low 50 homers this season.

"They always say they come in bunches, so we'll take 'em," Berkman said. "We've had a dearth of them to this point in the season. Any time you can get four or five home runs in a game, we'll take it."

Casey Daigle (1-1) pitched two scoreless innings in relief to earn his first victory since May 2004. Astros starter Brian Moehler left after three innings with a strained right groin.

Moehler said the injury was minor, and he'll take advantage of the upcoming All-Star break to heal carefully.

"It's nothing I'm overly concerned about," Moehler said. "It couldn't have come at a better time, with four days off and then four

See **ASTROS**, Page 12

Everyone on edge as LeBron James' Day arrives

AKRON, Ohio (AP) — More than two years of hype, drama, conjecture and expectation have dwindled to a few more hours.

LeBron James' big moment is here — not as an NBA champion but as a free agent. There will be no parade, no ring ceremony, no banner raising.

Instead, on a prime time made-for-TV special his handlers contracted with ESPN, James will announce Thursday night where he'll play next season and beyond. Fans from coast to coast will tune in to watch, with the ones in his home state of Ohio praying they won't have their hearts broken again.

The Decision, it's been dubbed.

In Cleveland, they can only hope it doesn't join The Drive, The Fumble, The Shot and The Move in the lexicon of sports misery.

James has kept everyone waiting. It's time to come clean.

"I'll be watching," said fellow free agent superstar Dwyane Wade, who agreed to re-sign with Miami on Wednesday and may be trying to recruit James. "We've scheduled it. I'll make sure I'm in front of the TV tomorrow at 9 to watch like everyone else."

James will announce his plans within the first 10 minutes of the special, Norby Williamson, ESPN's vice president of production, told The Associated Press. He said sportscaster Jim Gray, who was hand-picked by James' team, will handle the introduction, announcement and initial questions. A person familiar with the plans tells the AP the interview will take place at the Boys & Girls Club of Greenwich, Conn.

Not everyone plans to watch the big announcement by James. The story has dragged on and dominated the headlines for months. It's no wonder some have been turned off by his need for the spotlight and consider him a bit of a drama King.

"It's gotten ridiculous," Orlando coach Stan Van Gundy

See **LEBRON**, Page 12

Yankees' second baseman Robinson Cano out of Home Run Derby

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — Robinson Cano won't be swinging for the fences in the Home Run Derby.

While Cano insisted Wednesday his tweaked lower back is just fine and doesn't affect him at the plate, a decision by the Yankees brass had already been made for him. General manager Brian Cashman, manager Joe Girardi and hitting coach Kevin Long — with input from the training staff — opted to keep the All-Star second baseman out of the event Monday in Anaheim.

"He's not going to participate from what I understand," Girardi said. "We're concerned about his back and how that would affect it. ... We need this guy."

Yet Cano hadn't personally heard that from any of his bosses until early Wednesday evening before New York's series finale at Oakland. He acknowledged being frustrated that it took the team so long to tell him and he had to hear it first from the media.

Girardi and Cashman explained they had planned to talk to him at the ballpark Wednesday.

"I was upset because they hadn't told me," Cano said. "You want to know what's going on."

Cano was out of the lineup Wednesday for the first time all season to give him and his back a break. He injured the back Sunday against Toronto and has received some treatment. He had played in all 83 games so far after appearing in 161 last year.

Cano, who has hit a team-leading 16 home runs, had looked forward to the opportunity to be in the derby. He initially said he would be disappointed not to take part.

"Yeah, why not? It's the first time in your career, go there, have fun. It's something that might happen once in your life," he said.

Later, he said he agreed with the club's decision to protect him for the long haul. He said he would still enjoy watching others take their cuts in the derby.

"They don't want to take a risk out there with my back and lose me for the second half. I agree with them," he said. "The team comes first. Whatever I have to do for the team is no problem for me. I don't want to put myself in a situation where I get hurt."

Girardi said he is being cautious knowing how much the defending World Series champions will depend on Cano.

Sports in brief

Chubby Abrego Scholarship Fund Golf Tournament

The Chubby Abrego Scholarship Fund Golf Tournament takes place at 8 a.m. July 10 at the Comanche Trails Golf Course and will benefit Coahoma High School Athletes.

It is $50 per person, four person scramble. Prizes will be included. Call Rocky McCullough at 213-4868 or DeLoyd Hooser at 816-9051 for more information

State Representative Joe Heflin Golf Tournament

This golf tourney will make its way to Big Spring on July 27 at the Comanche Trail Municipal Golf Course. Scramble is scheduled for 9 a.m. and lunch will be provided. RSVP to CassiDe Street at Heflin2010@yahoo.com or at 806-675-1583.

Coahoma Ragball Tournament

There will be a ragball tournament July 9 and 10 at the Coahoma Little League Field. Sign-ups will continue at 5:30 p.m. Friday at the concession stand with games starting at 7 p.m. Contact Anthony Herrera at 213-1498 for more information.

2-Person Low Ball

The Big Spring Country Country Club invites the community to participate in this event, which takes place July 24 through 25. The entry fee is $60 per player plus the golf cart. Private carts are welcome. Entry includes barbecue on the course July 24. Field will be flighted by the first round score. Number of flights determined by number of entries. Call the Pro Shop at 267-5354 for more information. or to enter a team.

Youth Basketball Tournament

The 2010 San Antonio Youth Basketball Championships will be conducted Aug. 6 through 8. This tournament is for boys and girls, third through 12th grade. Visit www.otcybc.com, email risingstars07@yahoo.com or call (979)417-3721 for more information.

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Garage Sales

5 FAMILY Garage Sale: 309 Washington Blvd., Saturday 8:00-? Baby bed, china cabinet, queen size bed, sofa & love set, chester drawers, TV, decorations, rugs, toys, lots and lots of little girls clothes, glassware and lots of misc. Come See!!

610 EDWARD Blvd., Garage is on Matthews, Saturday and Sunday 7am-1pm. Too many items to list. Tools, futon bed frame, tanning bed, wheels etc.

BIG BIG BIG 6 Family SALE! 2221 Lynn. Baby clothes and toys (girls and boys), Toddler-5t boy clothing. Teen girls clothing. Furniture, decor, antiques just too much to list! All items are priced to go and are in excellent clean condition! No junk here! DON'T MISS THIS ONE! Sat. 7:00am-?

ESTATE SALE: Many treasures. Friday and Saturday 8:00-? 1709 Runnels.

ESTATE/MOVING SALE: 2 couches, coffee & end tables, chair, dining table 6 chairs, dinette 4 chairs, full bedroom suite, smaller upright freezer, 2 TVs. Saturday 8:00-Noon. 708 Birdwell.

GARAGE SALE: 1014 Baylor Blvd. Saturday 7:00am-? Furniture, toys, appliances, and knick-knacks.

GARAGE SALE: 1308 Marijo Avenue. Thursday & Friday 8-? and Saturday 8-1. American II Wuritzer Jukebox with very old 45 records (works), lg fish aquarium, china cabinet, clothes, toys and lots more.

GARAGE SALE: 8601 North Service Rd., Friday 7-5 and Saturday 8-Noon. Treadmill, antique national brass cash register w/stand, ladies Harley Helmet, scrubbs. Lots of nice clothes, children & adult. NO CHECKS.

Garage Sales

GIANT GARAGE Sale: 2508 Lynn Dr., Saturday ONLY 8-? Have everything from books, clothing, furniture, piano, movies, music, home accessories and much more.

MOVING SALE: Friday 8:00am. ONE DAY ONLY. Everything must go. 506 Scott Dr.

MULTI FAMILY Garage Sale, Saturday 7am-?, 707 Washington. Lots of clothing, knick-knacks, household goods, and miscellaneous items.

NEWLY MARRIED couple combining households. To much stuff! Furniture, appliances, quality kitchenwares, and much more! Something for every room in the house. 2706 Cindy Ln., SATURDAY ONLY 8am-3pm.

GARAGE SALE: 1606 Tuson, 7:00am-? Saturday Only! To much to list!

WEE-RUNS KIDS Consignment Sale: Buy or Sell new or gently used children's items-clothes, toys, baby equipment, furniture. Info: www.Wee-Runs.com or call 432-264-0588.

YARD SALE: 902 Baylor, Saturday 8:00-Noon. Tools, kitchen misc., microwave, electronics, clothing, knick-knacks, good stuff- Good Prices.

YARD SALE: 3614 Dixon Friday & Saturday, 7:00am-? Boys clothes 7 yrs. and under, snow & water skies, much more items!

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Tomorrow's Horoscope

The Rolling Stones said it best: You can't always get what you want. But getting what you need is more important. Such is the lesson of the current opposition of Venus in Leo and Neptune in Aquarius, which happens to be exact today. If you are one of these signs, don't be surprised if you now strongly disagree with a person of the other sign.



HOLIDAY MATHIS

ARIES (March 21-April 19). People who lash out do so out of fear. You are a bigger person. You'll offer your hand in friendship preemptively. It's the best defense against hostility. And this might actually turn out to be a good friend to have.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You're charmed. The sun is on your face, the wind is at your back, and the pretty people do double takes as you walk by. Don't let your attractiveness go to waste by staying in.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). For some, a lie told isn't always a bad thing; for you, it is. This is an admirable principle, but you may find yourself being tested when a loved one casually asks your opinion on a sensitive subject.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Everyone has been calling on you to help out. Normally, you're glad to lend a hand, but there's only one of you and a lot of them. Try saying no this time. It'll be good for you. Boundaries are important.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You don't hear what people are saying about you when you're not around. The details aren't as important as the words they're using: tenacious, dependable, hilarious.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). From time to time, you've been known to flirt harmlessly, just to be fun and social. Usually, though, you only flirt with a person you are truly interested in, and that's the kind of flirting you'll do today.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You have a special chemistry with someone, but it can't develop into anything more unless you communicate well with each other. It's not necessarily a personal relationship that's at stake; it's more likely about business.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You do love an orderly household. Unfortunately, your schedule prevents you from fully catching up. A solution is on the way in the form of someone who just wants to help you out.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Lately, life is like a Frisbee game — a constant chase. As soon as you catch it, you hurl it through the air again, and the chase is back on. You'll love this next toss.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). When someone exhibits a nervous shyness around you, you take it as a serious compliment — as you should. But don't let it go to your head, because that will ruin this perfect dynamic.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You don't need to improve yourself. However, learning a new skill just for the fun of it will open unforeseen opportunities. This doesn't have to be a long and involved process. Choose something relatively simple.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Encouraging words come at just the right time. All you have to do is let them sink in. You'll soon feel your willpower surge and your mind grow sharp. You're ready for action.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (July 8). Adventure will call this month. You strike a sweet balance between play and responsibility. Relationships delight you in August. The straightforward path won't appeal — you are far too creative and unique to do things the way everyone else does them. You will zigzag your way to an important achievement in November. Taurus and Scorpio people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 40, 11, 24, 31 and 18.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS: "What is the sign for Libra in Tarot?"

The ancient Greeks did not recognize the stars of Libra as being a separate constellation. Instead, they viewed them as part of the scorpion's claws in the constellation Scorpio. It wasn't until Julius Caesar came along that the Romans singled out Libra, represented by the scales of justice, as its own constellation. The Justice card in Tarot therefore represents Libra, and you can see the scales depicted on it. Both Justice and Libra have to do with balance, fair play and writing. Think of the words "liberty," "library" and even "limbo," that in-between place that's neither here nor there. There is another connection between Libra and Justice, and that is Libra's ruling planet, Venus. Traditionally, in addition to being associated with love, Venus also represents money and material pleasure. The card of Justice likewise connotes balancing one's checkbook and accounts, paying bills and taxes, and partnerships of all kinds, including business deals. There is also Venus' reputation for aesthetics to be considered. Aesthetics means the study of beauty, of things that are tasteful and pleasing to the eye. And what is beauty if not a graceful balance of form and randomness?

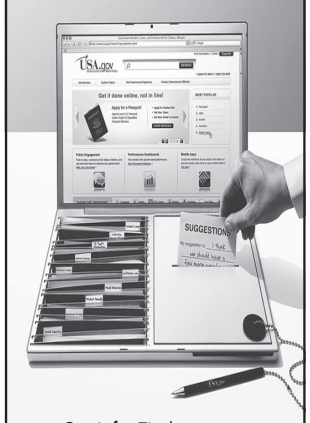
CELEBRITY PROFILES: Following in the footsteps of his parents, Jaden Smith is already a blockbuster movie star — and he's not even a teenager yet. He and Aries warrior Jackie Chan opened at No. 1 with "The Karate Kid," and the movie offers keep coming. Smith is a Cancer, with Mars in Cancer, as well, and Jupiter in Pisces. These undercurrents in his chart show depth of emotion and spiritual reverence.

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

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Annie's Mailbox ®

Dear Annie: My parents eloped 35 years ago, and my grandmother never forgave them. She disowned my mother and has never been part of our lives. Four years ago, my oldest brother also cut off contact with the family.

After losing two of the most important people in her life, my mother, who is bipolar, feels as if everyone is going to betray her at some point.

My two other brothers and I walk on pins and needles, worried that we will accidentally do something to hurt her. Mom has gone to counseling and is on medication.

Recently, my 5-year-old son was accepted to two excellent schools. Unfortunately, it puts us in a very tough situation. Mom works at one of the schools. She loves the place, but we don't feel it is as good a fit for our son as the other.

But we are afraid of hurting Mom by choosing the other school. Even talking about it will make her feel she is a terrible person for putting us in this situation.

My question is, is it worth the trouble to send our son to the school of our choice, or should we just send him to Mom's school?

She was so excited when he was accepted there that she cried tears of joy. It has given her something to look forward to, and I don't want her to be hurt again. — *Lost in Louisville, Ky.*

Dear Lost: You shouldn't have to sacrifice your child's education because you don't want to hurt Mom.



KATHY MITCHELL
MARCY SUGAR

On the other hand, the difference between the schools may be minor. Talk to Mom. Tell her you value her input, and ask her to help you compare the two schools with your son's personality and talents in mind.

Ideally, she will reach the same conclusion as you. But if not, do what is best for your child, and try to make it up to Mom in other ways.

Dear Annie: My husband has a high-level executive position that entails attending many public situations that involve eating.

Annie, he uses his fingers to push food onto his fork, and then he licks his fingers. He has done this at office banquets and dinners in fine-dining restaurants.

I have actually seen him pick up the food with his fingers and then put it on his fork.

It makes me think, why even use the fork? It's how he was brought up, because his mother does the same thing.

I was always taught to use my knife or a piece of bread to push the food when needed.

It embarrasses me when he does this, and I imagine he is embarrassing himself, as well. Is there any way to approach him about this? — *Sticky Situation*

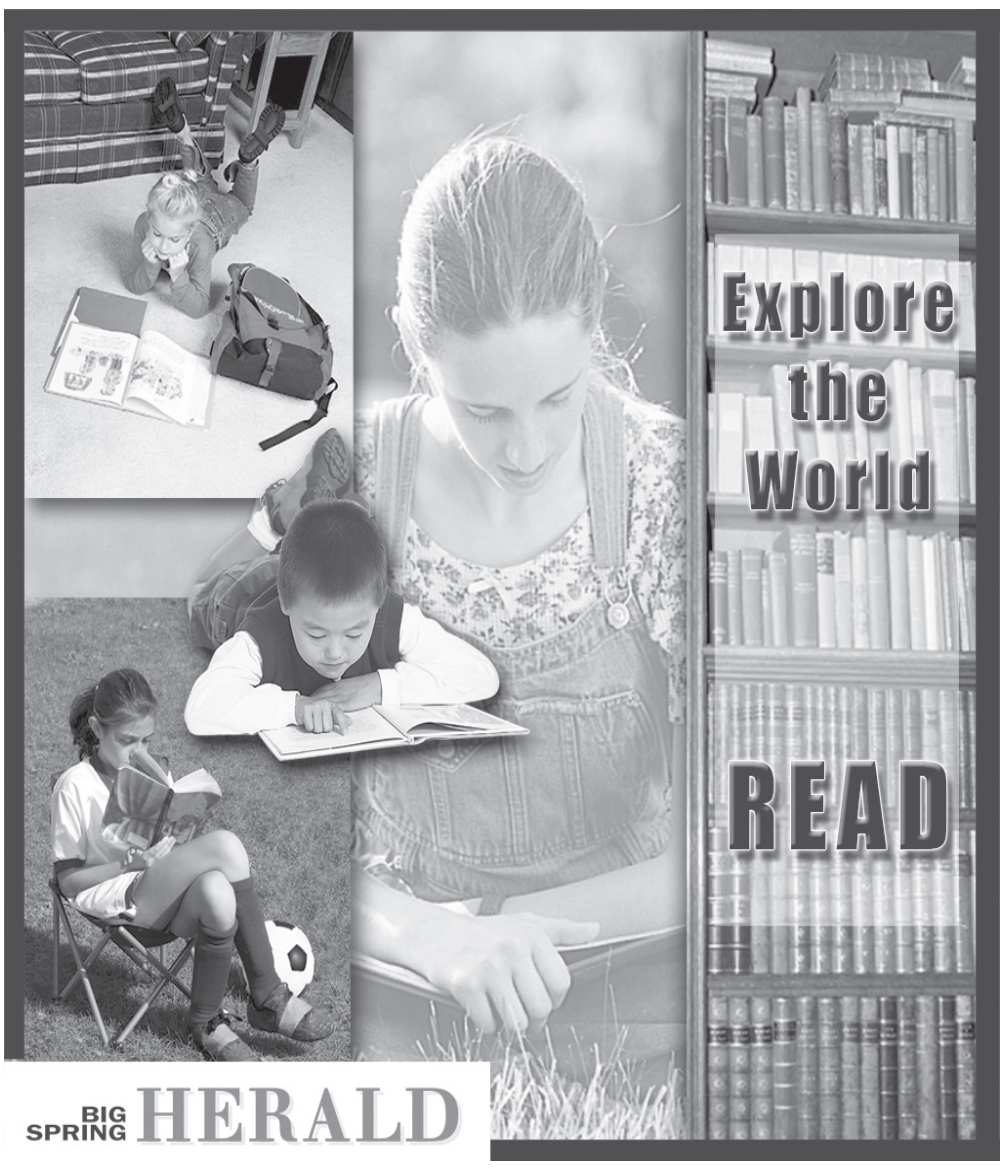
Dear Sticky: Be honest. Use this as an opportunity to educate your husband on the social graces he ought to have in the rarified circles in which he finds himself.

Tell him you love him and understand that he was never taught these things, but pushing his food with his fingers is considered poor manners and you don't want others to think ill of him.

Explain that it takes time to shed old habits, and offer to work with him at home, gently reminding and correcting him as needed. We hope he is amenable.

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, c/o Creators Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Ste. 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045. 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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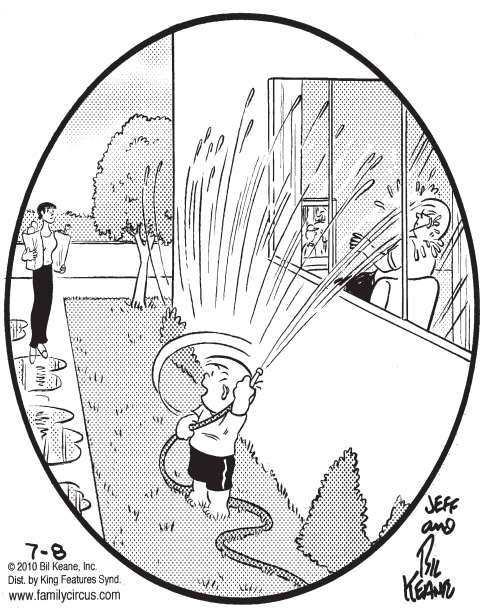
	KMID (3) Midland	UNI (4) Spanish	KPEJ (5) Odessa	KOSA (7) Odessa	KTLE (8) Telemundo	KWES (9) Midland	WTBS (11) Atlanta	KMLM (12) Odessa	KPBT (13) Odessa	KWWT (14) Odessa	DISC (20) Discovery	AMC (21) Classics	SPIKE (22) Spike TV	TNT (23) Atlanta	BET (26) Black Ent.	DISN (27) Disney	ESPN2 (28) Sports	ESPN (29) Sports
5 :PM	News	Vida	Lopez	News	Noticias	News	King	Granger	World	King	Cash Cab	er, Vanessa Williams	Sports	Law & Order	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Deck		SportsCenter
:30	ABC	Notic.	George	CBS	Noticiero	News	King	Brad	Business	King	Cash Cab		Knockout			Phineas		
6 :PM	Jeopardy!	Mi Pecado (SS)	Two Men	News	A Corazón Abierto	News	Seinfeld	Sala	PBS News-Hour	70s Show	Colossal Squid		Ways Die	Bones		Wizards	MLL La-crosse: All-Star Game.	
:30	Wheel		Two Men	Ent		Millionaire	Seinfeld	Charles		70s Show			Ways Die			Hannah		NFL Live
7 :PM	Wipeout	Hasta que el Dinero	Glee	Big Brother	El Clon	Commun	Movie: The Chronicles of Riddick	Upd	Texas	The Vampire Diaries	River Monsters	Movie: Outbreak, Morgan Freeman	Ways Die	Bones	Trey	Adventures of Sharkboy		World Cup Primetime
:30						Commun		Sprna	Parks				Ways Die		Trey			
8 :PM	Rookie Blue	Soy Tu Dueña (SS)	So You Think	CSI: Crime Scene	Perro Amor	Commun		Light of the Southwest	Antiques Roadshow	Moonlight	River Monsters		TNA Wrestling	Bones	Movie: Truth Hall, Tamara Curry			
:30						Commun										Phineas	MLS Soccer	
9 :PM	Boston Med	Rosa	Simpsons	The Mentalist	¿Dónde Está Elisa?	Commun	Fam. Guy		Suchet-Orient	Married...	Deadliest Catch			Movie: Twister, Cary Elwes		Phineas		Baseball Tonight
:30			Friends			Commun	Fam. Guy			Married...						Hannah		
10 :PM	News	Impacto	Raymond	News	Noticias	News	Lopez Tonight	Alewine	Charlie Rose	Roseanne	River Monsters	Movie: Virus, Donald Sutherland	Half Pint		The Mo'Nique	Wizards		SportsCenter
:30	Nightline	Noticiero	TMZ	Letterman	Titulares	Jay Leno		Van Impe		Roseanne			MAN			Deck	World Cup Primetime	
11 :PM	Jimmy Kimmel Live	Corazón Salvaje	Law & Order: SVU	Late	A Corazón Abierto	Late Night	Earl	Bill Cloud	World	Bernie	River Monsters		MAN	CSI: NY	Wendy Williams	Suite Life		Baseball
:30							Name	Swallow	T. Smiley	Cops			MAN			So Raven		NFL Live
12 :AM	Extra	Amar sin Límites	Paid		Deci		Sex &	Upd	(Off Air)	Cops	Deadliest Catch	Movie: Virus, Donald Sutherland	MAN	CSI: NY	Movie: Truth Hall, Tamara Curry	Cory		SportsCenter
:30	Paid		King-Hill	Insider	Pagado	News	Sex &	World		Video			MAN			Kim Poss	MMA Live	
1 :AM	Paid	Mujer...	Paid	Ent	Pagado	Poker After Dark	Lopez Tonight	Light of the Southwest		Videosomnia	Overhaulin'		(:08) The Shield	Certain Age		Repla	World Series	SportsCenter
:30	Paid	Cero	RENO 911	Paid	Pagado											School		

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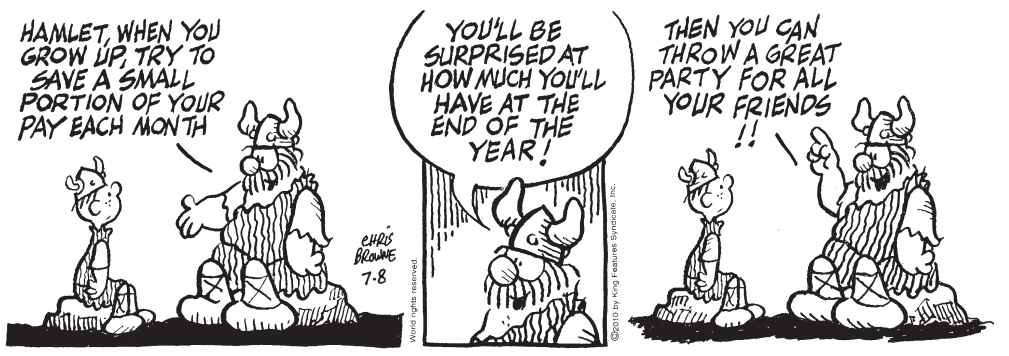
"DID YOU KNOW YOU HAVE WHISKERS IN YOUR EARS, TOO?"

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

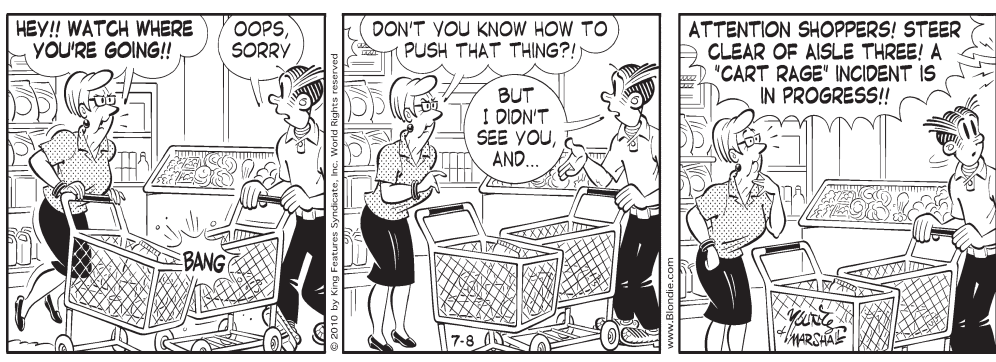


"There you go! Come on by, Mommy! I'm not gonna squirt you!"

HAGAR



BLONDIE



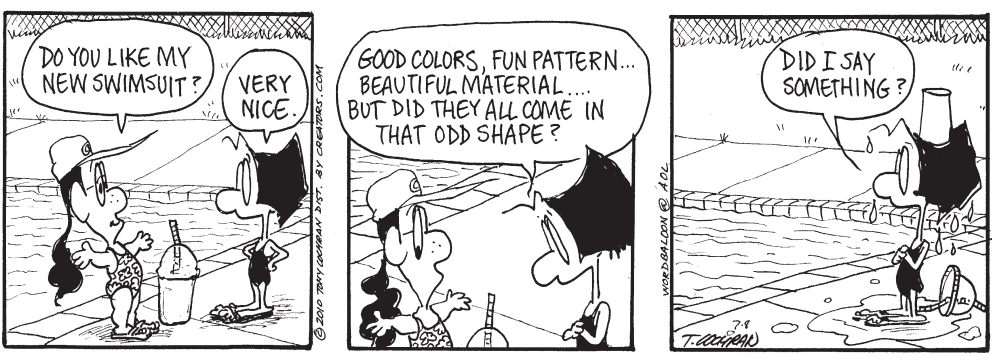
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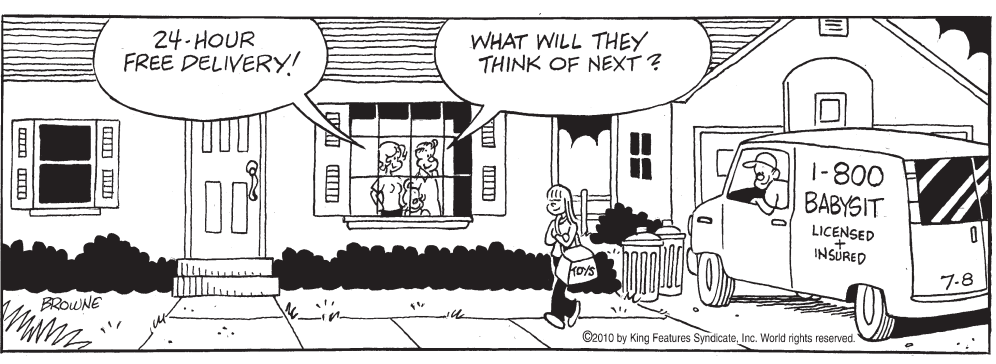
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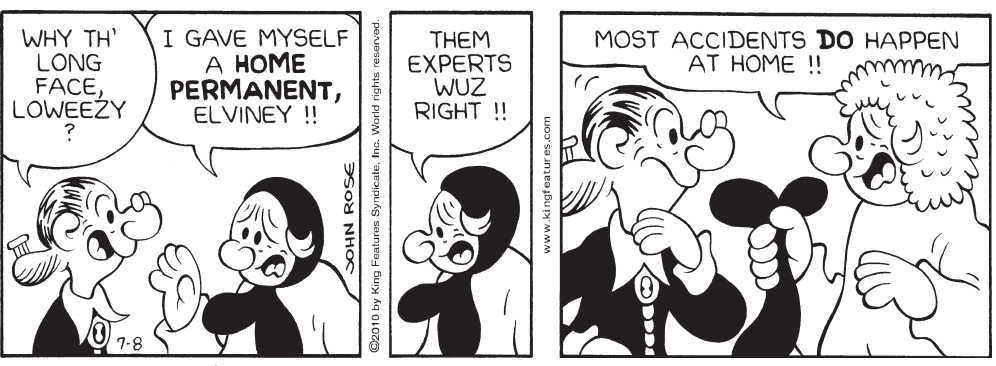
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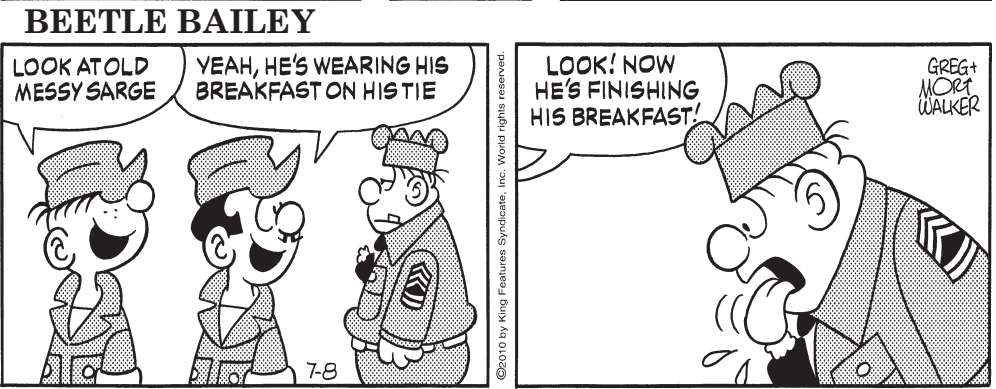
THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BEETLE BAILEY



This Date In History

Today is Thursday, July 8, the 189th day of 2010. There are 176 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On July 8, 1950, President Harry S. Truman named Gen. Douglas MacArthur commander-in-chief of United Nations forces in Korea. (But Truman ended up sacking MacArthur for insubordination nine months later, replacing him with Lt. Gen. Matthew B. Ridgway.)

On this date:

In 1663, King Charles II of England granted a Royal Charter to Rhode Island.

In 1776, Col. John Nixon gave the first public reading of the Declaration of Independence, in Philadelphia.

In 1853, an expedition led by Commodore Matthew Perry arrived in Yedo Bay, Japan, on a mission to seek diplomatic and trade relations with the Japanese.

In 1889, The Wall Street Journal was first published.

In 1907, Florenz Ziegfeld staged his first "Follies," on the roof of the New York Theater.

In 1919, President Woodrow Wilson received a tumultuous welcome in New York City after his return from the Versailles (vehr-SY') Peace Conference in France.

In 1947, demolition work began in New York City to make way for the new permanent headquarters of the United Nations.

In 1958, President Dwight D. Eisenhower began a visit to Canada, where he conferred with Prime Minister John Diefenbaker and addressed the Canadian Parliament.

In 1989, Carlos Saul Menem was inaugurated as president of Argentina in the country's first transfer of power from one democratically elected civilian leader to another in six decades.

In 1994, Kim Il Sung, North Korea's communist leader since 1948, died at age 82.

Today's Birthdays: Singer Jerry Vale is 78. Singer Steve Lawrence is 75. Actor Jeffrey Tambor is 66. Ballerina Cynthia Gregory is 64. Actress Kim Darby is 63. Children's performer Raffi is 62. Actress Anjelica Huston is 59. Writer Anna Quindlen is 58. Actor Kevin Bacon is 52. Rock musician Andy Fletcher (Depeche Mode) is 49. Country singer Toby Keith is 49. Rock musician Graham Jones (Haircut 100) is 49. Rock singer Joan Osborne is 48. Writer-producer Rob Burnett is 48. Actor Corey Parker is 45. Actor Billy Crudup is 42. Actor Michael Weatherly is 42. Singer Beck is 40. Country singer Drew Womack (Sons of the Desert) is 40. Christian rock musician Stephen Mason (Jars of Clay) is 35. Actor Milo Ventimiglia (MEE'-loh vehn-tih-MEEL'-yuh) is 33. Rock musician Tavis Werts is 33.

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Answer to previous puzzle

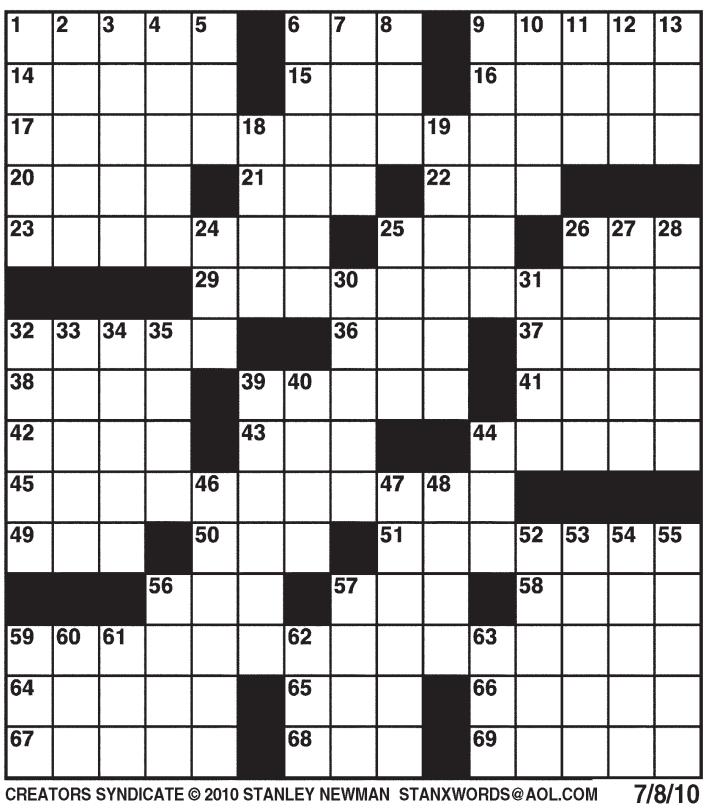
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Newsday Crossword

MOVIE MENAGERIE by David W. Cromer
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 Comparable
6 Biblical possessive
9 Stole fur
14 Robust
15 Victory sign
16 Bicycle part
17 Peter Sellers film of '59, with *The*
20 Raison d'__
21 It split from TimeWarner
22 Sphere
23 What a warranty may cover
25 Upper-left keyboard key
26 LP descendants
29 Mike Myers film of '03, with *The*
32 Illegal payment
36 "..__ gloom of night"
37 Exhaust
38 Liquefied rock
39 "__ luck!"
41 From the top
42 Bouquet
43 Guadalajara gold
44 Fashion designer Bill
45 Goldie Hawn film of '90
49 Sauce source
50 Animation frame
51 Factor in shortwave reception
56 Pt. of NATO
57 Sounds of contentment
58 Ricelike pasta
59 Al Pacino film of '75
64 Flying-saucer pilot
65 Meadow musing
66 TV journalist Sawyer
67 Crowded together
68 Go wrong
69 High points

DOWN
1 Bugs' pursuer
2 Price estimate
3 Take by force
4 Floundering
5 Caustic chemical
6 Regis or Oprah
7 Get well
8 So far
9 Burn superficially
10 *Pequod* captain
11 Legal profession
12 Golfer's concern
13 Remnant
18 The O'Haras' estate
19 Podiums
24 Cool stuff
25 Son of Seth
26 Marco Polo destination
27 Tests one's bravery
28 Hearty meals
30 Being dragged from the front
31 Bibliography abbr.
32 Ink spots
33 Shower accessory
34 Off-white
35 Shakepeare, notably
39 Without company
40 Not on paper
44 Founding Father, familiarly
46 Gas-pump word
47 Beatty/Hoffman film fiasco
48 Pretext
52 Boom preceder
53 Tourney type
54 Form of oxygen
55 Musical sounds
56 Fruit drinks
57 From a distance
59 Pop
60 Chihuahua cheer
61 Martini ingredient
62 Presidential nickname
63 Vitamin amt.



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Armstrong banks on experience at Tour

REIMS, France (AP) — After enduring early bad luck in his bid for an eighth Tour de France title, Lance Armstrong is now banking on experience and mental strength.

He knows that fortunes can change quickly in cycling's toughest event.

One day after a punctured tire cost him valuable time to his rivals — defending champion Alberto Contador of Spain and Andy Schleck of Luxembourg — the 38-year-old Armstrong had a quieter day, on the saddle at least, in Wednesday's fourth stage.

"Nothing to report. There was no wind, so, it's really an easy stage," was the brief summary from Armstrong's RadioShack team manager Johan Bruyneel.

But Bruyneel's words carried a heavy tinge of relief following the carnage that turned the Tour's opening few days into a crash-marred frenzy.

"Days like yesterday are so extreme there's nothing you can do," Armstrong said after completing Wednesday's stage drenched in sweat due to the sweltering heat. "I didn't want to have a third day in a row of bad luck, so ... nice that everybody stayed up (on their bikes)."

Another veteran, Italy's Alessandro Petacchi, won the stage.

Armstrong has little choice but to bide his time now, considering his position compared to other Tour contenders.

Although race leader Fabian Cancellara of Switzerland and second-place Geraint Thomas of Britain are expected to wilt in the French Alps on Sunday, Contador, Schleck and two-time Tour runner-up Cadel Evans of Australia all are ahead of Armstrong.

Evans is third, 39 seconds behind Cancellara, Schleck is sixth, 1:09 back, Contador ninth, 1:40 back, while Armstrong sits in 18th, 2:30 behind. It is an unfamiliar position for the American, considering how he dominated most of his seven straight Tour wins from 1999-2005.

But Armstrong has been around long enough not to get fazed by early setbacks, and long enough to know when to apply psychological pressure on his challengers.

"I think now you just got to pick up a few guys and focus on them ... it's easy to look at the GC (overall standings) and say, 'Gosh, there's 17 guys ahead of you,'" Armstrong said. "But for the most part the vast majority of them won't be there (at the end)."

Bruyneel, Armstrong's architect of those seven Tour wins, joined in the mind games by targeting Schleck — one of two brothers who usually compete in the race.

The other, Frank Schleck, had to pull out because of a broken left collarbone following a crash on Tuesday. Bruyneel suspects that might weaken his brother mentally.

"There's pros and cons, Andy Shleck got a lot of time but he loses his brother," Bruyneel said. "You don't know what the biggest advantage will be at the end, the two minutes or the help of his brother in the mountains.

"We lose time, but fortunately no one is injured."

LEBRON

Continued from Page 7

said. "It's almost like a parody of itself this whole situation now. Come on, an hour long? It takes 15 seconds to say I've decided to stay in Cleveland but we've got another 59 minutes and 45 seconds to, what? Promote LeBron James?

"As if we don't do that enough. Look, the guy's a great player and wherever he goes, my bet would be Cleveland, that place will be excited. But an hour-long special?"

James offered no hints about his plans on his final, full day of free agency. His secret remains safe, despite an information frenzy and growing speculation the 25-year-old superstar might join Olympic teammates Wade and Chris Bosh in Miami, a move that would rock the league.

That's exactly what new Cavs coach Byron Scott doesn't want. He showed up unannounced at James' summer camp at the University of Akron and spent an hour watching the two-time MVP and Cleveland players Jamario Moon, Danny Green, Christian Eyenga and assistant coach Chris Jent scrimmage.

> ***"Look, the guy's a great player and wherever he goes, my bet would be Cleveland, that place will be excited. But an hour-long special?"***
>
> Stan Van Gundy, Orlando Magic head coach

Scott, who was part of the Cavs' presentation team that wooed James last week at the megastar's business office in downtown Cleveland, said he did not speak with James but was keeping his fingers and toes crossed that James' loyalty to his home state will sway his decision.

"I'm always hopeful," Scott said.

Hope and home are what's sustaining Cleveland's die-hard fans. Although the Cavs could offer James $30 million more on a maximum-length contract than any other team, money might not be enough.

James wants to win championships. Without any salary-cap space, the Cavs, who also could try to swing a last-minute trade to make their roster more appealing to James, don't have enough money to acquire the Robin to his Batman.

But in Cleveland, this goes deeper than dollars.

James is one of their own. Although he led the Cavs through the most successful stretch in their 40-year history, the Akron native came up short in winning a championship and snapping the city's pro sports title drought dating to 1964. In Clevelanders' minds, James has unfinished business. If he decides to leave them dry, he will be viewed as a villain on equal footing with Art Modell who packed up the Browns and bolted for Baltimore.

In the other NBA cities where James' courtship has dominated the summer's headlines, fans will hope their teams did enough to land LeBron:

— The New York Knicks are counting on the magic of Manhattan, Madison Square Garden and their recent agreement with Amare Stoudemire.

— The New Jersey Nets appealed to James' global ambitions with Russian billionaire Mikhail Prokhorov, rap mogul Jay-Z — a close friend of James — a young roster and their planned move to Brooklyn.

— The Chicago Bulls, who at one point looked to be at the front of the line for James' services, have rising stars Derrick Rose and Joakim Noah and money to spend.

Spain beats Germany 1-0 in World Cup semifinal, faces Netherlands

DURBAN, South Africa (AP) — David Villa had his chances. So did Andres Iniesta. Even newcomer Pedro got off a couple of shots.

On a team filled with offensive threats, it was a defender who finally put Spain in its first World Cup final.

Good luck, Netherlands. Spain might be simply too loaded — and too good — to lose.

"I am sure Spain will win the title," Germany coach Joachim Loew said after Spain beat his team 1-0 in the World Cup semifinals Wednesday night. "They're the best team."

Loew won't get much argument. Not after the way the reigning European champions dismantled a team that had been rolling through South Africa, winning on Carles Puyol's thunderous header off a corner kick late in the second half.

Spain has been the best team in Europe — all the world, really — for much of the last four years. It's lost all of two games since November 2006, one a shocker to Switzerland in the group-stage opener. It clinched its first major title in 44 years by beating Germany at the 2008 European Championship. By an identical 1-0 score, no less.

But injuries to Fernando Torres and Cesc Fabregas had robbed the Spanish of some of their flair, so much so that some wondered if their time had passed.

This ought to put those doubts to rest.

"We can say Germany wasn't as good as we thought they'd be today," Spain coach Vicente del Bosque said. "But that is due to the excellent performance of our team."

The score may have been 1-0, but don't let that fool you. Spain dominated this game from the opening whistle. It pressured Germany relentlessly, and had a 13-5 advantage in shots on goal.

Finally, after coming oh, so close several times — including on back-to-back plays in the 57th minute— Xavi swung a corner kick right into the scrum in front of the goal in the 73rd. With fellow defender and Barcelona teammate Gerard Pique next to him and screening Germany goalkeeper Manuel Neuer's view, Puyol leaped and got his head on the ball.

With one mighty swing that sent his trademark long curls flying, Puyol buried the ball into the net.

As the Germans watched in dismay, the Spanish players gathered for a group hug at the edge of the box, bouncing up and down and rubbing each other's heads.

The Spanish fans, Queen Sofia included, let loose with a roar of jubilation that shook the Moses Mabhida Stadium.

"We've shown that in the big moments we can grow even more," Villa said.

When the final whistle sounded, the Spanish players on the field thrust their arms in the air while the substitutes raced out to join them.

ASTROS

Continued from Page 7

days after that."

Berkman has homered in three straight games, the first time he's accomplished that feat since he hit homers in four consecutive games between July 29-Aug. 2, 2007.

The slugger had arthroscopic surgery on his left knee in March and said he finally feels like it's back at full strength, helping him drive balls farther.

"I've really felt comfortable all year," he said. "I think getting a little stronger on my back leg, I'm able to stay on my back side a little bit longer and that certainly helps. Other than that, you get to a certain point in the season, at some point, you've got to make a little bit of a run and hopefully, I'm starting that."

Pirates starter Daniel McCutchen (1-4) allowed three of Houston's four homers in five innings of work. McCutchen was optioned to Triple-A Indianapolis after the game, the corresponding roster move after the Pirates acquired right-handed reliever Sean Gallagher.

"The few times I needed to execute a pitch, I didn't," McCutchen said. "Overall, in the big situations, they scored three runs with two outs and hit the home run. Oh well."

Keppinger extended his hitting streak to nine games with a solo homer in the first.

Berkman drew a two-out walk in the Astros' half of the third, and Lee followed with a homer to left, his 12th. Lee went 19 games and 71 at-bats without a home run before hitting a solo shot in Tuesday's 6-2 victory.

Left-hander Gustavo Chacin replaced Moehler for the fourth and Garrett Jones led off with a double. Pedro Alvarez walked before Ryan Doumit drove in Jones with a single to right to make it 3-1.

Ryan Church tied it with a double to the gap in left center, prompting boos from the sparse crowd at Minute Maid Park. Center fielder Michael Bourn made two sparkling catches to help Chacin escape further damage in the inning.

"It changed the game," Pittsburgh manager John Russell said of Bourn's defense. "We hit the ball really hard, we hit the ball right at them, and he made two great plays. It's unfortunate that we swung the bats pretty well, but we couldn't get anything out of it."

The Pirates loaded the bases with two outs in the fifth against Daigle, but Church struck out swinging.

Daigle's wife, U.S. Olympic softball star Jennie Finch, attended Wednesday's game along with the couple's son.

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HAMILTON

Continued from Page 7

seats.

"That was one of those pitches that got away from me and I paid for it," Talbot said.

Seven batters were hit by pitches in the first two games of the series, and Texas' Andres Blanco became the eighth when he was struck in the leg by Talbot's fastball in the second inning.

Indians manager Manny Acta was ejected by first base umpire Tim Timmons with two outs in the ninth for arguing a checked-swing call.

Acta had taken off his cap in the dugout and waved it after Timmons called a strike on a checked-swing by Jason Donald.