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# H BIG SPRING HERALD

**WEDNESDAY**  
**AUGUST 25, 2010**



**50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 SUNDAY**

VOLUME 105, NUMBER 224

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HERALD photo/Steve Reagan

Students walk between their classes at Howard College this morning. Today was the first day of classes for the Fall 2010 semester.

## Fed jury indicts Conroy

By **THOMAS JENKINS**  
 Staff Writer

A Big Spring man was indicted on two counts of producing child pornography by a federal grand jury last week, after officials with the U.S. Attorney's Office allege he enticed a female child to engage in sexually explicit conduct with him for the purpose of producing a video.

John Alan Conroy, 36, was first arrested by law enforcement officials July 3 on a charge of aggravated sexual assault of a child. Conroy was later taken into federal custody — where he remains — after allegations tied to the Dec. 27, 2009, incident identified in the indictment were made.

"After Conroy's arrest, we seized his computers as part of the investigation," said Don Williams with the Texas

See **CONROY**, Page 3A

## City council barks approval to animal ordinance changes

By **THOMAS JENKINS**  
 Staff Writer

The Big Spring City Council adopted a number of changes to the municipality's ordinance governing animal control Tuesday night by a unanimous vote, while passing first reading of a schedule of fees to accompany the new laws on a 5-1 vote.

The new ordinance provides definitions and regulations for animal rescuers and commercial animal



Sjogren

establishments, as well as requiring custodians to reside on the premises with dogs or cats. The ordinance would also require pet owners with more than eight cats and/or dogs to procure a no-cost permit from the city, as well as place limitations on selling or giving away animals on public or government property.

According to City Attorney Linda

Sjogren, the measures are designed to protect the well-being of the animals from poor and inhumane living conditions. Sjogren confirmed the change would make it against city ordinance for people to sell or give away cats or dogs in public places, such as the Wal-Mart SuperCenter parking lot.

The changes will also require owners of pet-oriented businesses — dog kennels, breeders, pet

See **CITY**, Page 3A

## Blast victims still critical

By **THOMAS JENKINS**  
 Staff Writer

A pair of oilfield workers remain in critical condition at University Medical Center following an explosion at an oil well near the Howard and Martin county lines Thursday morning.

According to Eric Finley, communications manager for University Medical Center in Lubbock, both men remain listed as critical.

The two men were identified as Fernando Zamor and Abel Garcia, according to Martin County officials. The ages and addresses for the two men

See **VICTIMS**, Page 8A

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## Free iTunes Texas education channel is up and operating

**SARAH PORTLOCK**  
 Associated Press Writer

HOUSTON — Texas students can now download podcasts, videos and other multimedia lessons directly from iTunes through a new online program aimed at providing free, supplementary coursework that can be accessed anywhere, state officials announced Tuesday.

The Texas Education iTunes U channel allows teachers to upload material from their classes to help students understand new concepts or do more research in a specific subject area. Students and parents can access the mate-

rial through home or school computers, and those with iPods can download the information to the handheld devices.

The state first met with Apple Inc. about three years ago. The governor's office and the Texas Education Agency began working on the project in November, finding and culling existing teacher training videos and programs for students, said agency spokes-

woman Debbie Ratcliffe.

"A lot of that content may already be out there, but it's either overlooked or hard to access," Gov. Rick Perry told about 50 students at Sharpstown High School in southwest Houston.

"This will really consolidate that information."

Teachers across the state can also trade tips and advice about lesson plans by posting and viewing each other's vid-

eos. Already, 146,000 teachers have signed up to participate and formed 5,000 subject groups, said Education Commissioner Robert Scott.

The only external costs associated with the program would be additional server space or production equipment, Ratcliffe said. Apple is currently hosting the files and videos that have already been created.

"Once we get a huge volume of content, then we would have to buy a server, but that's pretty far down the road," she said.

Other state agencies and

See **ITUNES**, Page 3A

**Already, 146,000 teachers have signed up to participate and formed 5,000 subject groups.**



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# Lady Steers dig out Game 5 to defeat Lamesa

BY ADAM COLEMAN  
Sports Editor

The Big Spring Lady Steers volleyball team had already dropped a match against San Angelo Central, and with Lamesa pressing for a win in five games later Tuesday night, it couldn't afford another one.

In their home opener in the Big Spring Junior High School gym, the Lady Steers bounced back from a 25-21, 25-23, 25-20 sweep from Central and beat Lamesa in five games, 25-19, 25-20, 21-25, 22-25, 18-16. Big Spring is at .500 (9-9) after Tuesday's action.

In both matches, momentum went back and forth. However, in the Central match, the more the Lady Steers kept hanging around, the more Central found a way to push them off.

That was most evident in the second game against the Lady Kats. At 23-22, the Lady Steers had a chance to get back into the match and

square it at one, but an error made it 24-22 and even though Big Spring got that 23<sup>rd</sup> point, Central finished the game off.

A Bridgette Tuitt kill gave Big Spring a 10-7 lead in the third game against Central, giving the Lady Steers hope they could still hang around in this match, but once again, no matter how much they stuck around, Central found a way to win.

There wasn't too much offense in this match, statistically. Desiree Anderson had seven kills, while Taylor Seaton, Tuitt and Cerbi Ritchey had five each.

The Lamesa match was a different story. The Lady Steers jumped out to a rousing 2-0 lead, dominating the first game 25-19 and taking the second game 25-20.

It looked like the Lady Steers were well on their way to a sweep of their own, but Lamesa wasn't done yet.

Lamesa rarely relinquished the lead in the third game, cruising to the 25-21 win. And Big Spring's loss of focus showed in the fourth game, too, with Lamesa all of a sudden having a chance to win the match.

The final game was close, but the Lady Steers won it on an Anderson kill.

Players were not available for comment, but Osborne said she was not pleased with the way the match against Lamesa went to five games, considering the Lady Steers were in position for the sweep.

In the Lamesa match, Taylor Seaton led the way with 17 kills, five blocks and five digs. Ross had 29 digs and Anderson had 20.

The Seminole tournament is on tap Friday and Saturday, with the opening match against Midland High at 11 a.m.

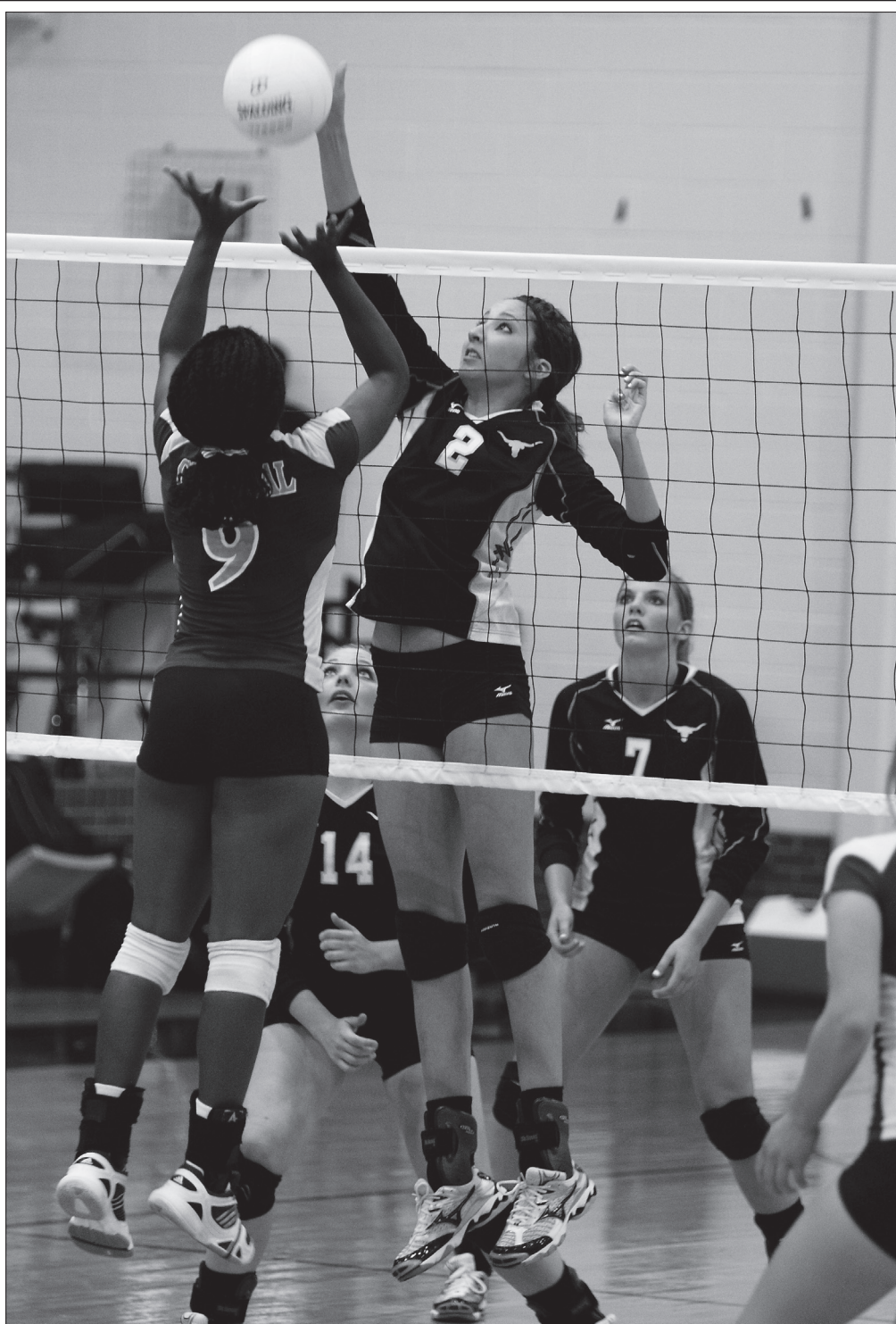


Photo Courtesy of Tony Claxton

Taylor Seaton attempts to spike the ball during the Big Spring volleyball team's match against San Angelo Central on Tuesday in the Big Spring Junior High School gym.

# Looks can be deceiving with Cowboys RBs

OXNARD, Calif. (AP) — Wade Phillips was talking about how players did in the last preseason game when he brought up how well running backs Marion Barber and Felix Jones have been doing.

Really? They combined for 17 yards on six carries against San Diego. They're averaging 2.9 yards per carry over three preseason games. Their longest run is nine yards.

But Phillips and running backs coach Skip Peete insist none of that matters.

Phillips said he's watching "the way they run, the moves they make, the power they're running with, the decisions

**"They're running hard, they're doing good. Obviously, you'd want to see a 10-12-yard average. But preseason, that doesn't usually happen."**

Skip Peete,  
Cowboys running backs coach

they're making."

Peete has a similar checklist: "Does he get up in there? Is he timid? Does he have the ability to make someone miss? Does he lower his pads?"

And by those measuring sticks, the Cowboys like what they've seen from their 1-2 punch in the backfield.

"They're running hard, they're doing good," Peete said Tuesday. "Obviously, you'd want to see a 10-, 12-

yard average. But preseason, that doesn't usually happen. ... In the preseason, you want to get them in shape, get them ready and then when we get to the regular season we'll take advantage of all their talents."

Led by Barber and Jones, the Cowboys averaged 4.8 yards per carry last season, tied for second in the NFL. Dallas was seventh in yards per game at 131.4.

Barber got nearly twice as many carries as Jones last season, a ratio that's likely to change this year. Jones has averaged more than six yards on every carry and reception in his two-year career, and the Cowboys want to see if he can keep that up with more action.

Jones has gotten ready for the added workload by bulking up. He's added about seven pounds, most of it upper-

body strength.

"It's muscle," Peete said. "It's not like he's lost a step. His speed and quickness are still there. You get worried if a guy gets taller and slower, but he hasn't lost a step."

Barber got thinner, dropping about eight pounds in hopes of picking up speed. He weighs about the same as he did as a rookie. He also weighs less than Jones, which is odd since he's the bruising power runner and Jones is the speedy slasher.

"Really," Peete said, "the weight doesn't matter."

See **COWBOYS**, Page 2B

# Hamilton, Young push Rangers past Twins and Pavano

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — The miscues in the field had no effect on Michael Young when he came to the plate.

Young made up for two errors with a tie-breaking RBI single in the seventh inning and the Texas Rangers beat the Minnesota Twins 4-3 on Tuesday night in a matchup of division leaders.

"I can make a mistake in the field and clear it

right away and move on," Young said. "It has nothing to do with what I'm going to do later in the game."

While the third baseman's errors in the fourth and sixth innings didn't lead to any Minnesota runs, Young's go-ahead hit off Carl Pavano (15-9) came after hardluck Rangers starter Colby Lewis was already out of the game.

"It would have been

nice to have gotten Colby a win. He's been pitching really well for us, and keeping us in every game," Young said. "Tonight it was two good guys going against each other having good years."

Young's two-out single ruined Pavano's sixth complete game of the season.

Darren Oliver (1-1) pitched 1 1-3 scoreless innings after relieving

Lewis with one out in the seventh and runners on second and third. Hard-throwing rookie Neftali Feliz worked the ninth for his 32nd save in 35 chances.

Lewis allowed three runs over 6 1-3 innings, missing on his seventh attempt at getting his 10th victory. Lewis left with the score tied, and is 0-5 with a 3.35 ERA in his last seven starts — a span when the Rangers

have scored a total of seven runs while he was still in the game.

The last win for Lewis was July 16 at Boston. The right-hander has gone at least six innings every time since, but left four games before Texas had even scored.

"I don't really care," Lewis said. "If we win every time I come out and pitch and get a quality start. The main goal is to get this thing

wrapped up and focus on the postseason."

Texas maintained an 8½-game lead in the AL West over Oakland, the largest division lead in baseball. Minnesota has a 3½-game lead in the AL Central over the Chicago White Sox, who beat Baltimore on Tuesday night.

Josh Hamilton hit his 29th home run for Texas

See **RANGERS**, Page 2B

## Sports in brief

### Big Spring Quarterback Club

The club meets every Monday at 7 p.m. All parents of football players 7th through 12th grade are encouraged to attend.

For more information, call Denise Carrillo at 816-1685.

### Ragball tournament

There will be a Ragball tournament Saturday and 29 at the Roy Anderson Sports Complex. Cost is \$10 per person, with a six-game guarantee.

All proceeds will go toward medical costs for Debbie Hicks, who is on dialysis and in need of a kidney transplant.

Register at the complex between 8:30 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. Saturday and games start at 10 a.m. that day. For more information, call Rodney Jones at 213-

3750 or James Statham at 213-7669.

### CYFA Football sign-ups

Remaining sign-ups for this league will be from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays and from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturdays. The last day to sign up is Sunday.

### Flag football league

The West Texas NFL Flag Football League is having sign-ups from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. Saturday.

The location Saturday is at the Coahoma Community Center. Ages are from 9 to 11 and this is a co-ed league.

Cost per player is \$40 and discounts are given for multiple children families.

This covers an NFL jersey, flags and there is no

fundraiser. Call Adam at 213-7186 or Leslie at 213-7157 for more information.

### Railroaders Golf Tournament

This tournament takes place Saturday at the Comanche Trail Golf Course. Prizes go to the first-place team, longest drive for man and woman and closest to the pin for man and woman.

Each player has a \$10 fee to play that will go to the BLET Auxiliary.

The organization also is accepting donations. Call Sandy Shifflett at 816-1606 for more information.

### Three-person scramble

The Gaines County Golf Course is hosting this event Sept. 11 and 12. Entry fee is \$80 per person plus the cart. Shotgun starts at 8:30 a.m. and 2 p.m. Call 432-758-3808 to enter.

# Obituaries

## Freda Blythe

Friday, Aug. 20, 2010, Freda Blythe, 39, of Midland earned her wings into our Heavenly Father's arms, with a host of family and friends by her side. Freda was diagnosed with breast cancer, which she fought and won, and in 2009 the cancer returned.



Freda was born Feb. 25, 1971, in Big Spring to Fred and Isabel Garza of Lenorah. She had been employed by the Midland County Sheriff's Office for fifteen years. She started her law enforcement career working in the detention center. She was then selected to transfer to patrol. While on patrol, she was the first female to promote and hold the rank of corporal. She was a member of the mounted patrol, where she held the rank of sergeant. She was also a member of the honor guard. Freda was a hostage negotiator and state representative for the International Association of Hostage Negotiators.

In 2005, Freda was among the many that traveled to Mississippi in the relief effort following Hurricane Katrina, where she provided for the needs of the elderly at the nursing homes that were affected. In 2008, Midland County deployed her to Presidio to assist with the relief efforts from the flood. She served her time assisting and returned home, but felt a strong tug to return and help on her own, so she started her own relief efforts. She got several friends together and made some contacts where necessities were donated for her to deliver.

In May 2008 she participated in the Police Unity Tour, traveling to New Jersey, where she rode in a 300 mile bike tour to Washington DC to honor Cpl. Abel Marquez, an OPD officer killed September 2007, who was one of three officers killed in the line of duty. During this time Freda was undergoing chemotherapy, but still trained daily, riding two miles a day.

Freda is survived by her parents, Fred and Isabel Garza of Lenorah; three brothers, Fred Garza Jr. of Midland, Joel Garza and wife Lisa of Big Spring, and Jimmy Garza of Lenorah; two nephews, Kyle and Shane Garza of Lenorah; three nieces, Brittany Garza of Lenorah, and Maegan and Makayla Garza of Big Spring; a very large band of brothers from the Midland County Sheriff's office; and a precious God son, Callen Blythe, who was the light of her life.

Waiting at the gates of Heaven, Freda was welcomed by her grandparents, Florencio and Coleta Garza, and Jose and Isabel Sanchez; and two dear mentors, Chief Deputy Clayton McKinney and Juvenile Investigator Terry Cowin, both of MCSO.

In lieu of flowers the family suggests donations be made to St. Jude Tribute Program, P.O. Box 1000, Dept. 142, Memphis, Tenn. 38148-0142.

The family will receive friends from 5 p.m. until 7 p.m., followed by a vigil service at 7 p.m. Wednesday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral mass will be at 1 p.m. Thursday at St. Stephen's Catholic Church with Msgr. James P. Bridges officiating. Burial will be at Trinity Memorial Park with honors by the Midland County Sheriff's Department, Midland Police Department and the U.S. Border Patrol.

Pallbearers will be Sheriff Gary Painter, Mike Kessler, Carlos Salgado, Edward Reyes, Kris Hoban, Jayden Perkins, Ron White and Trish Kessler. Honorary pallbearers will be the Midland County Sheriff Department.

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

*Paid obituary*

See Page 3A  
for police blotter

## Mary Ruth Robertson

Mary Ruth Robertson, 84, of Big Spring died Sunday, Aug. 22, 2010, at her residence. Memorial services will be held at a later date.

She was born Jan. 27, 1926, in McCamey and married John Robertson on March 11, 1946, in Johnson City. Mary loved golf and bridge and socializing with friends at the house.

She is survived by her husband, John Robertson of Big Spring; one son, John Walter Robertson of Honolulu, Hawaii; one daughter, Linda Gayle Zwelling of Phoenix, Ariz.; two granddaughters, Ryan Zwelling, OD, of Glenwood Springs, Colo., and Molly Zwelling of Golden, Colo.; and one nephew, Donald Dozier and wife Janelle of Austin.

She was preceded in death by one brother, Elton B. Dozier.

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

*Paid obituary*

## Belen Nunez Gonzales

Belen Nunez Gonzales, 74, of Big Spring died Sunday, Aug. 22, 2010, at her residence. Vigil services will be held at 7 p.m. Thursday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral mass will be held at 10 a.m. Friday at Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church. Burial will be at Mount Olive Memorial Park.



She was born Dec. 24, 1935, in Ruidosa, Texas, to Manuela and Manuel Nunez. She married Remigio "Raymond" Gonzales on Feb. 7, 1953, in Big Spring. He preceded her in death July 9, 2009. She was a member of Holy Trinity Catholic Church. She was a member of the Guadalupanas and a Cursillista, Ladies Altar Society, as well as being a previous Director of Catholic Youth Organization at St. Thomas Catholic Church.

She is survived by two sons, Juan Gonzales and wife Roxi of Forks, Wash., and Carlos Gonzales and wife Monica of Carlsbad, N.M.; four daughters, Anna Maria Shaffer and husband Mark of Tucson, Ariz., Maggie Gonzales and Janie Gonzales of Big Spring, and Nancy Perches and husband Severiano of Stanfield, Ore.; 10 grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; sister-in-law, Dora Perches of Big Spring; and a number of nieces and nephews.

In addition to her husband and parents, she was preceded in death by three brothers, Octavio Nunez, Julian Nunez and Filimon Nunez.

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

## Harvey Louis Brooks

Harvey Louis Brooks, 69, of Andrews passed away Saturday, Aug. 21, 2010. Graveside services will be held at Texas State Veterans Cemetery in Abilene at 9 a.m. Thursday, Aug. 26, 2010, with a memorial service following at Andrews Church of Christ in Andrews at 6 p.m. with Rick Cunningham, minister of 14th & Main Church of Christ of Big Spring, officiating.

Harvey was born Aug. 3, 1941 in Hobbs, N.M., and married Judy Ann Norton on Sept. 1, 1962. He grew up in Jal, N.M.

Survivors include his wife, Judy Brooks; and children, Melanie and Dean Wheeler, Angie and Kelly Long, and Tye and A'Lisa Brooks; and 10 grandchildren.

Arrangements under the direction of Elliott-Hamil Funeral Home in Abilene, with visitation to be held from 5 p.m. until 7 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 25, 2010.

You may view and sign guestbook at [www.elliott-hamilfuneralhome.com](http://www.elliott-hamilfuneralhome.com)

## Billy N. "Scottie" Scott Sr.

Billy N. "Scottie" Scott Sr., 81, of Big Spring died Monday, Aug. 23, 2010, at his residence. Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. Thursday, Aug. 26, 2010, at Baptist Temple Church with the Rev. Jim Wilkerson and the Rev. Jeff Stehle officiating. Interment will follow at Trinity Memorial Park.



The family will receive friends from 5: p.m. until 7 p.m. Wednesday at the funeral home.

He was born Feb. 25, 1929, in Ross City and married Patsy Maria Roger on June 8, 1949, in Big Spring.

Billy was a lifelong resident of Howard County and had worked at the Veterans Administration Medical Center as a dietetic supervisor for 38 years, retiring in 1985. He had served in the United States Army in the Philippines during World War II.

He was a member of Baptist Temple Church and had served as a deacon for many years.

Survivors include his wife, Patsy Scott of Big Spring; four sons, Bill Scott, Jr. and wife, Cherylanne, Kenny Scott and wife, Helen and Jamie Scott and wife, Janet all of Big Spring and David Scott and wife, Debbie of Aledo; one daughter, Debi Newell and husband, Carl of Big Spring; one sister, Anita Childers of Yuba City, California; 15 grandchildren and 19 great grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Joseph W. and Jewell Myers Scott; one son, Ronnie Scott; two sisters and two brothers.

The family suggests memorials be made to the Mission Fund at Baptist Temple Church, 400 E. 11th Place, Big Spring 79720.

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

## Sandra Kay Belew-Beckcom

Sandra Kay Belew-Beckcom, of Prairie Grove, Ark., died Sunday, Aug. 22, 2010. She was born in Big Spring, Feb. 17, 1954, to Colleen and Paul Belew.

She is survived by her husband, Michael (Leroy); daughter, Iris; son, Ethan and his wife Sarah; a grandson; mother, Colleen; stepmother, Dora; brother, Gary; and sisters, Cindi and Janet. She was preceded in death by her father, Paul; step-father, Arvin; grandmother, Betty; and a nephew.

Her memorial service will be held at 10 a.m. Aug. 27, 2010, at First Methodist Church of Prairie Grove. Donations can be made to Circle of Life Hospice, Springdale, Ark.

## Today's Weather

### Local 5-Day Forecast

Thu 8/26	Fri 8/27	Sat 8/28	Sun 8/29	Mon 8/30
<b>86/64</b>	<b>90/65</b>	<b>92/68</b>	<b>92/70</b>	<b>90/70</b>
Mainly sunny. High 86F. Winds NE at 5 to 10 mph.	Sunny. Highs in the low 90s and lows in the mid 60s.	Sunny. Highs in the low 90s and lows in the upper 60s.	A few clouds. Highs in the low 90s and lows in the low 70s.	Mix of sun and clouds. Highs in the low 90s and lows in the low 70s.
<b>Sunrise:</b> 7:17 AM	<b>Sunrise:</b> 7:18 AM	<b>Sunrise:</b> 7:19 AM	<b>Sunrise:</b> 7:19 AM	<b>Sunrise:</b> 7:20 AM
<b>Sunset:</b> 8:18 PM	<b>Sunset:</b> 8:16 PM	<b>Sunset:</b> 8:15 PM	<b>Sunset:</b> 8:14 PM	<b>Sunset:</b> 8:13 PM

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Grilled Gulf Shrimp Caprese  
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Jalapeno Soup  
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white cheddar rice, broccoli & lemon butter sauce \$25  
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roasted thigh, garlic mashed potatoes, cajun-jalapeno creamed corn \$20  
New York Strip au Poivre  
brandy-green peppercorn, bacon-green onion-horseradish mashed potatoes, asparagus \$27

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# Astros outlast Phillies in 16 innings

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — The Houston Astros' wild 4-2 win over Philadelphia lasted 16 innings, over 5 hours, and saw Phillies pitcher Roy Oswalt play left field and ground into the final out Tuesday night.

Oswalt became the first Phillies pitcher to play a position in the field in 39 years after Ryan Howard was ejected in the 14th inning.

"I'm not sure what I think about the whole situation," right fielder Jayson Werth said. "I think I'll take a nap, wake up refreshed and pretend the whole thing didn't happen."

Oswalt caught a routine fly ball from Astros catcher Jason Castro, earning a loud ovation

from the fans who remained. The last pitcher to play a position was Bill Wilson on Aug. 6, 1971. Oswalt was forced to go into the outfield with Philadelphia out of position players. Raul Ibanez took over at first for Howard.

"There's a saying in baseball, the ball will find you when you're out of position," said Ibanez, who also recorded a putout on a diving play at first base. "The ball found him and he caught it."

Oswalt didn't address the media after the game.

Phillies manager Charlie Manuel said he decided to put Oswalt in the outfield because of his athleticism. The

former Astros pitcher routinely shags fly balls in the outfield during batting practice.

Howard was tossed by third base umpire Scott Barry after being rung up on a check swing, the second one of the at-bat. He threw his bat and helmet after striking out for the fifth time, causing the ejection, then charged toward Barry, gesturing wildly. Howard finished the game hitless in seven at-bats with five strikeouts.

He left the clubhouse after the game and didn't speak with reporters.

"I've seen him mad, but never upset like that," Manuel said.

The Astros scored twice runs in the top of the 16th. They loaded

the bases with one out off David Herndon (1-3) on a single, hit batsman and walk. Chris Johnson grounded hard to third base, reaching on an infield single for the go-ahead run.

Houston scored again on Tommy Manzella's fielder's choice.

The Phillies got the tying run to the plate in the bottom of the inning after Placido Polanco walked with two outs. Houston intentionally walked Chase Utley to bring up Oswalt, who grounded to third to end the game.

Astros manager Brad Mills said he didn't have visions of a game-winning hit.

"I had visions of an out," Mills said. "I had

no visions of a hit."

Philadelphia was trailing 2-1 in the bottom of the ninth with two outs when Jimmy Rollins tied the game with a solo homer off Wilton Lopez, who was trying for a four-out save.

Carlos Lee homered and Bud Norris allowed one run in six innings for Houston, which led 2-1 heading into the ninth inning.

Before the wild extra innings, the Philadelphia continued to offer no support for starter Cole Hamels, and kept him winless since a 1-0 win July 11. The Phillies finally scored a run for him — their first in 25 2-3 innings while he was in the game — when Ibanez's two-

out double in the sixth scored Werth, who had singled.

Hamels left for a pinch hitter in the bottom of the seventh, after allowing two runs on five hits, including Lee's two-run homer in the fourth, and struck out eight.

Besieged by myriad injuries this season, the Phillies had their regular starting eight in the lineup for the first time since May 21, vs. Boston. It didn't help against the Astros, who took the first two games of a four-game set in Philadelphia.

Norris continued a three-start run of good pitching, allowing five hits and striking out four. He has a 2.25 ERA in that span.

## COWBOYS

Continued from Page 1B

Part of the reason for the — seemingly — sluggish start is a lack of use.

Dallas starters played one series in the preseason opener, two series the next week and lasted nearly a half against San Diego on Saturday night. Over those three games, Barber has

25 yards on eight carries and Jones has 15 yards on six carries. The third member of their three-man crew, Tashard Choice, has 69 yards on 18 carries; his average of 3.8 yards is the best of any running back.

"One of the things we try to do in practice every day is get ready for the season. Once we get to the preseason games, we're a little bit more basic," offensive coordinator Jason Garrett said. "That's just our approach. The biggest thing we want to see in the

preseason is evaluate our players. But any time you do anything, you want to do it well. That helps develop confidence."

Phillips and Peete stress that in the preseason games thus far the Cowboys have been "just running plays." That means they are calling a play and going with it regardless of whether it's the right call based on down, distance and the defense they're facing. Many plays wind up being doomed to fail, which is why they say it's difficult to

get an accurate read on what players are doing.

"Right now, we're trying to evaluate people, we're trying to evaluate plays, we're trying to evaluate schemes," Peete said. "We're installing our offense. There are a lot of different plays to be worked on. ... We're not scheming, saying, 'OK, if they line up like this, then we're going to do that.'"

Still, 40 yards on 14 carries by the two prime ballcarriers is a bit suspect.



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## RANGERS

Continued from Page 1B

and Andres Blanco had two doubles, driving in a run with the first and scoring the go-ahead run after the second.

Blanco went the opposite way for a one-out double in the seventh, a ball that landed on the left-field line, and scored on Young's single. Pavano got Hamilton on

an inning-ending infield popup, stranding two runners.

Pavano struck out five and walked two in his second complete-game loss this season.

"They put some good swings on some balls and I beat myself," Pavano said. "The home run was a good pitch, but other than that I gave up hits with two outs. That's the ball game right there."

The Twins tied the game at 3-all against Lewis after Delmon Young ended an 0-for-12 slump with an infield single to start the seventh.

Danny Valencia singled and Alexi Casilla doubled off the right-field wall before Oliver took over.

Rookie first baseman Mitch Moreland threw home to get Valencia after fielding Denard Span's grounder, and the Rangers went ahead in the bottom of that inning.

Hamilton hit the first pitch of the fourth over the left-center field wall for a 2-all tie. Texas went ahead later in the inning when Blanco's RBI ground-rule double followed two defensive lapses.



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## Police blotter

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

- JONATHON ERIC LANDRY, 19, of San Antonio, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of theft – shoplifting.
- FAYON M. HARRIS, 19, of Illinois, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of theft – shoplifting.
- PHILIP R. JACKSON, 19, of Illinois, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of theft – shoplifting.
- DANA MICHELLE HUDGINS, 31, of Coahoma, was arrested Tuesday on a warrant for harassment.
- EDWARD RANGEL JR., 29, of 1407 Lincoln, was arrested Tuesday on warrants for no driver's license when unlicensed (three counts), failure to appear (three counts) and failure to maintain financial responsibility.
- KRYSTAL KAY HENDERSON, 24, of 606 Center Point Rd., was arrested Tuesday on warrants for speeding, no driver's license when unlicensed and failure to maintain financial responsibility.
- SUSAN MICHELLE OSTERLOH, 34, of 111 Miller A Rd., was arrested Tuesday on a warrant for driving while license suspended/invalid – no insurance.
- KODY CHANCE JACKSON, 24, of 3217 Fenn, was arrested Tuesday on five warrants from other agencies.
- LETISHA KAY MENDEZ, 29, of 1905 Wasson Rd. Apt. 25, was arrested Tuesday on four warrants from other agencies.
- JESUS TIMOTHY BARRIENTES, 21, of 1407 Wood, was arrested Tuesday on warrants for consumption of alcohol by a minor and failure to appear.
- ALBERTO RIVAS, 51, of 610 N.W. Eight St., was arrested Tuesday on a charge of public intoxication.
- BENITA KAY PADRON SALAZAR, 37, of 3312 Drexel, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of public intoxication.
- RHETT D. DEDMON, 39, of 1006 E. 12<sup>th</sup> St., was arrested Tuesday on a charge of public intoxication.
- GARY LEON JETTON, 56, of 10000 S. Moss Lake Rd., was arrested Tuesday on two warrants from other agencies.
- JOSE ESPINOSA, age not provided, of 1511 Lancaster, was arrested Tuesday on charges of no driver's license when unlicensed and failure to maintain financial responsibility.
- THEFT was reported:  
In the 200 block of W. FM 700.  
In the 2600 block of S. Gregg Street.
- CRIMINAL MISCHIEF was reported in the 1600 block of Martin Luther King Blvd.
- BURGLARY OF A VEHICLE was reported:  
In the 3700 block of Connally.  
In the 2700 block of Ann Drive.
- DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE was reported:  
In the 10000 block of Moss Lake Road.  
In the 800 block of W. Interstate Highway 20.
- ASSAULT was reported in the 800 block of S. Owens.

## Sheriff

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

- Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 77 inmates at the time of this report.
- KELLY LEA MCDANIEL, 45, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on charges of displaying an expired registration, no valid inspection certificate and violation of a promise to appear.
  - MICHAEL MENDEZ, 34, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on a charge of driving while license invalid with a previous conviction or suspension.
  - DELMA ZAMORA, 30, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on a charge of common nuisance where alcoholic beverages stored.
  - KRYSTAL KAY HENDERSON, 24, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on municipal warrants for speeding, no driver's license and failure to maintain financial responsibility.
  - DANA MICHELLE HUDGINS, 31, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on a capias warrant for no safety belt for child passenger and a charge of harassment.
  - JOE VALENCIA, 47, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on a judgment/sentence for driving while intoxicated – second offense.
  - EUFEMIO ORTIZ, 18, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on municipal warrants for burglary of a habitation and unauthorized use of a motor vehicle.
  - KODY CHANCE JACKSON, 24, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on charges of speeding (two counts), driving while license invalid, no valid inspection certificate and failure to maintain financial responsibility.
  - SUSAN MICHELLE OSTERLOH, 34, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while license invalid with a previous conviction or suspension.
  - JUNIOR JONES, 24, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on charges of failure to appear (two counts), failure to maintain financial responsibility, driving while license invalid and two other warrants.
  - EDWARD ROBLEDO RANGEL JR., 29, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on municipal warrants for no driver's license (three counts), failure to appear (three counts) and failure to maintain financial responsibility.
  - JESUS BARRIENTES, 21, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on charges of minor consuming alcohol and failure to appear.
  - LATISHA KAY BUSTAMANTE, 29, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on warrants for allowing child to ride not secured by safety belt, failure to maintain financial responsibility, violation of a promise to appear and driving while license invalid.

- RANDALL KIRK KIRKHAM, 20, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on a charge of theft.
- RICKIE DAN PRUIETT, 50, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on a charge of issuance of a bad check.
- RAMIRO RAMIRO ZAZUETA-GOMEZ, 41, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on an Arizona warrant.
- BENITA KAY PADRON SALAZAR, 37, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.
- GARY LEON JETTON, 56, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on charges of violation of a promise to appear and criminal mischief.
- RHETT DAYLON DEDMON, 39, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.
- ALBERT RIVAS, 51, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of

## CITY

Continued from Page 1A

stores — to purchase a permit, which would require a visit from a city inspector to assure the living conditions are humane and not a public nuisance.

“During the last meeting we had a number of comments and suggested, and many of them made some very good points,” Sjogren told the council. “We got together and came up with some good changes. One of the main concerns was the issues surrounding owners and custodians, and we went through the ordinance, line by line, and used the term owner where the property rights or euthanasia of the animal might be an issue. We also added an exemption for the licensing of animals if they are here less than 30 days to address concerns about animals coming for dog shows.

“We also made an exemption for the 100-foot space requirement for temporary caging and training a dog. There was also some concern about animals in businesses, and whether or not there had to be someone on premises at all times. It doesn't have

to be where someone resides as long as it is an ongoing business and the animal isn't left for an extended period of time. We also exempted animal hospitals from the multiple-animal permit and added a requirement that requires all animals for which there is a rabies vaccine to be vaccinated, which is in addition to dogs, cats, horses and cows, which is already required.”

The new ordinance also abolished the animal control advisory committee, a long-standing board that had served the city since the 1970s.

And while first reading of the abolishment didn't sit well with advisory board member Ann Sanders, who spoke out against the measure vehemently, Sanders suggested the council approve the ordinance during Tuesday night's meeting.

“Since our chairman resigned during the last council meeting, being vice-chair, I've moved up to chairman,” Sanders told the council. “The working members of the advisory committee continue working on the animal control code with Linda (Sjogren) and her office, and I very much appreciate

public intoxication.

• VASQUEZ RUANO SALVADOR, 36, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on charges of failure to identify – giving false information and public intoxication.

• JOSE ESPINOZA, 41, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on charges of failure to maintain financial responsibility and no driver's license when unlicensed.

## Fire/EMS

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

- MEDICAL was reported in the 2500 block of Fairchild. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 3200 block of Parkway. One person was transported to SMMC.

them being so gracious. We've worked with them to make changes that will help responsible pet owners while providing for the safety and care of animals ... The working members of the animal advisory committee suggest the city council adopt the ordinance.”

While the new animal control ordinance garnered a unanimous vote, first reading of the ordinance setting a fee schedule for the new laws didn't go quite so smoothly, as the council passed first reading of the measure on a 5-1 vote.

Councilman Craig Olson voted against the schedule of fees, which included a permit fee for local animal-oriented businesses. Olson said he felt the fees were simply another tax being heaped upon the private sector of Big Spring, a resource he said local government is all too fast to bleed for funding.

Mayor Tommy Duncan said he could see both sides of the issue, but reminded Olson the increase in costs sustained by the city for having to conduct in-

spectations and completing the permit process would either be paid by the commercial owners that are a part of the animal business, or by the Big Spring taxpayers through the city's general fund.

Final reading of the fee schedule — which is available to the public through city hall — is expected to take place during the next council meeting.

### MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

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Freda A. Blythe, 39, died Friday. Visitation will be from 5 p.m. until 7 p.m. Wednesday with a Vigil Service at 7 p.m. Wednesday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral mass will be at St. Stephen's Catholic Church in Midland at 1 p.m. Thursday with burial at Trinity Memorial Park.

Belen Nunez Gonzales, 74, died Sunday. Vigil Services will be at 7 p.m. Thursday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral Mass will be at 10 a.m. Friday at Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church with burial at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

Sugar Brown, 80, died Monday. Graveside services were at 2 p.m. today at Trinity Memorial Park.

## ITUNES

Continued from Page 1A

nonprofit groups will also participate and upload content to the site. The state has partnered with PBS, the Smithsonian Institution and the National Archives, Scott said.

Any user can download the public, free materials the same way music and videos are accessed from the popular online store. Forum-based discussions between teachers will be

password-protected.

A Perry spokeswoman said all posted material will be vetted through the Texas Education Agency and work in conjunction with state-approved textbooks.

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# EDITORIAL

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

**Ron Midkiff**  
Publisher

**Bill McClellan**  
News Editor

**John A. Moseley**  
Managing Editor

## OUR VIEW

# Let's remember that voting is real patriotism

Are you truly patriotic? Yes, that's a question we seem to always be asking at this time of year, but it's an important one, because simply buying and displaying patriotic symbols ... just waving the flag isn't enough. The real test to determine how patriotic we here in West Texas is to simply look at the number of people who vote.

You see, exercising one's right to go to the polls, participating in the determination as to who those that will govern us are, is probably the most patriotic thing most of us will ever do.

And there's no question in our collective mind that voting is a far greater show of patriotism than waving a flag or wearing the red, white and blue.

So, if you aren't registered, get registered.

The cutoff date to register in order to vote in the November 2 general election will be here quicker than most realize — Oct. 4, to be exact.

That right, Howard County residents will have until the first part of October to register to vote in the November election. So, why are we stressing the need to register now, more than a month away from that deadline? Because, it's simply not a good idea to wait until the last minute.

Those wishing to cast a ballot in the coming election — which will include the governor's race, a Texas House of Representatives seat and a seat in Congress, not to mention a couple of county commissioner races and others locally — must register by the Oct. 4 deadline, according to Howard County Election Administrator Sandra Bloom.

If you're not sure about the status of your registration, find out. You can get more information by simply calling Bloom at 264-2273.

"If they haven't received their card or aren't sure if they're registered, all they have to do is come by the office," said Bloom. "They can fill out the voter registration card and their card should be mailed to them in time for the November election."

"For those who can't get out, they can call us and we'll mail them the form. They can fill it out and just mail it back to us. It's a very easy process."

Bloom said the registration cards require a Texas driver's license or identification card number, or the last four digits of the prospective voter's Social Security number.

Several local, state and national offices will be determined with our votes in November, so make sure you're registered this year and then make sure you go to the polls.

It is, after all, the truly patriotic thing to do.

## LETTER POLICIES

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## A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

May we think about You, Lord, before we leap into anything.

Amen

# Cuba visitors wear horse blinders

Whenever fellow Americans tell me, "I just came back from Cuba" or "I'm planning a vacation in Cuba soon," they obviously think they are paying me some kind of compliment.

Because I was born on that precious Caribbean island, they think such statements would lead to some sort of bonding. They don't know it makes me lose respect for them.

"Oh, really?" I usually reply, straining to be polite.

As they proceed to tell me about all the places they visited and the people they met, I usually am thinking about all the places they weren't allowed to see and all the people they were not allowed to meet.

Cuba's dungeons for political prisoners and chats with constantly harassed Cuban dissidents surely were not on their tourist itineraries.

People who try to talk to me about their visits to Cuba usually fall into three categories: Latino Americans who travel to Cuba by way of their own native homelands, Americans who go there (mostly illegally) through a third country or Cuban-Americans who visit their homeland more often than ever, thanks to an Obama administration relaxation of travel restrictions last year.

Obviously, I'm not impressed by their tours of my native homeland, because I know it required wearing moral horse blinders.

In my book, only Cuban-Americans who go home for emergency visits to sick or dying relatives are justified in going back there. All others are helping to subsidize one of the oldest repressive dictatorships in history.

When I go beyond asking my diplomatic question — "Oh, really?" — just to be clear, I tell my Cuba-visiting friends that there is no place I rather would see but that I rather would hold out until the island is free.

I tell my non-Cuban friends that I probably have much better reasons for wanting to go there.

But sarcastically, I also explain that I've managed to resist the temptation because I suffer from an illness called "principles" and that traveling to my country under the hideous regime from which I fled is bad for my health. Until Cuba is truly free, I'm not going to be traveling with them.

Non-Cubans who visit my country are generally either U.S. liberals who go on their revolutionary vacations because they think it's simply "a cool thing to do" or unscrupulous entrepreneurs, who tend to be Christian conservatives but would cut deals with Lucifer himself. When these leftists and capitalists are there — drinking mojitos, dancing to Cuban salsa and making strange bedfellows — they have no time to worry about the hardships of the Cuban people.

Perhaps their insensitivity can be blamed on ignorance. You really don't know what it's like to live under a communist tyranny until you have experienced it for longer than a couple of weeks, outside of a beach resort, enduring the choking grip of an iron fist.

But Cuban-Americans who go home for vacation should know better! They usually claim they go there to help their relatives, but they know that by subsidizing the regime, they are prolonging the suffering of all Cubans.

Most Cubans in the United States were granted U.S. political asylum because they claimed they had a "well-founded fear of persecution" upon returning to their homeland. Unless they already have become American citizens, I say that if they go back — proving they no longer have that fear — they should have their political asylum revoked and be forced to stay in Cuba. And if they have become naturalized Americans, they should be forced to abide by the same travel restrictions imposed on all Americans, who are mostly forbidden from traveling to Cuba.

Unfortunately, at least some of those restrictions are reportedly close to being loosened by the Obama administration, which seems ready to open a floodgate of horse blinder-wearing Americans traveling to my still-subjugated homeland. Some of them are so naive that they actually believe that American tourists

are going to liberate the Cuban people from the government's repression machine, when in fact they will be providing a lifesaving cash transfusion to a dying regime.

Tourists from all over the world have been going to Cuba for many years without putting a dent on the repression machine. What makes anyone think that Americans could do better?

Although Obama's move would be limited — easing travel restrictions only for academics, corporations, humanitarian groups and athletic teams to travel to Cuba — it would send a clear signal to Congress to begin lifting the U.S. economic embargo against the communist regime in Havana. And in Congress, there are many lawmakers — Democrats and Republicans — who have been waiting for such a signal from the White House.

But why such a dramatic shift in U.S.-Cuba policy? What have Fidel and Raul Castro done to show they are willing to ease their repression? It couldn't be because they recently agreed to release 52 prisoners of conscience — not when the whole world knows that it took the hunger strike death of one such prisoner, not when some of the released prisoners look like the survivors of Nazi concentration camps, not when it took international condemnation and many defiant and courageous marches by the prisoners' wives, mothers and daughters, not when everyone has seen how these women have been verbally and physically abused.

Doesn't it matter that Cuba's only "concession" illustrates just how vicious the Castro regime can be?

Apparently not if you are wearing horse blinders! And unfortunately, the Obama administration is getting ready to issue them to Cuba-bound travelers.

Oh, yes, there was one time when my "Oh, really?" reply didn't suffice.

"I just came back from a great vacation in Cuba," a former friend told me at a cocktail party, where the beverages had made me much more honest than normal.

"Oh, really?" I told her. "Shame on you!"

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# Call it rebranding the war in Iraq

The war in Iraq is over. Or so the government and most media outlets will claim Sept. 1, by which time thousands of U.S. troops will have departed the land of two rivers for other assignments.

With this phase of the drawdown, says President Barack Obama, "America's combat mission will end." The Pentagon is marking the occasion by changing the name of the Iraq deployment from Operation Iraqi Freedom to Operation New Dawn.

When Sept. 2 dawns, however, 50,000 of our troops will still be in Iraq.

The mission of these "non-combat" forces, according to the White House, will be to "train and advise Iraqi Security Forces; conduct partnered and targeted counter-terrorism operations; and protect ongoing U.S. civilian and military efforts."

These tasks sound an awful lot like what American soldiers are supposed to have been doing for much of the last seven years. With the exceptions of the initial invasion and the 2004 assaults on Fallujah, the Iraq War has had few large-scale battles. The Army and Marines have seen plenty of action, but most of it has been in raids on insurgent strongholds, which have frequently been called "partnered and targeted counter-terrorism operations."

One difference from past years is that American troops will rarely

conduct patrols, but most have already been confined to base for some time.

As with President George W. Bush's declaration of the end of "major combat" in May 2003, the close of the "combat mission" is a rebranding rather than a watershed moment.

For those 50,000 "non-combat" personnel and their families, the war won't be over, and it certainly will not be over for Iraqis.

True, the level of mayhem is nowhere near as high as it was from 2005 to 2007, when the country was wracked by multiple loosely connected anti-occupation insurgencies enveloped in a brutal civil war. But according to the Brookings Institution's Iraq Index, 1,125 Iraqi civilians were killed in war-related incidents in the first six months of 2010. Add to this number the hundreds of ordinary Iraqis who died in truck bombings and other attacks in July and August, the most lethal months for Iraqi civilians in some time.

The ongoing violence is rooted, as Iraqi politicians admit, in persistent civil discord. The sharp divides that produced the civil war were never bridged; indeed, the post-invasion political system has ensured that they will not be.

Washington has backed factions, chiefly Shiite Islamist and Kurdish parties, who want to consolidate their own power and care nothing about reconciling differences with their political opponents. The de facto ethno-sectarian quotas for official positions established under the supervision of U.S. occupation authorities in 2003 have contrib-

uted to the pervasive sense that politics in Iraq is a zero-sum game.

Six months and counting after the March parliamentary elections, the winning candidates have yet to agree on a new government.

Amid the bluntly expressed angst of these politicians that Iraq is not ready for U.S. troops to leave, the Obama administration insists that the drawdown is "firmly on track."

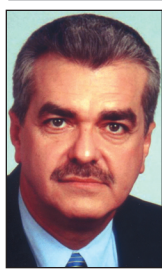
Obama is understandably determined to fulfill his campaign promise to remove Iraq from Americans' list of worries, but the change upon the advent of Operation New Dawn will be largely atmospheric.

The essential realities of the Iraq war remain the same: Iraq is oil-rich and strategically located at the head of the Persian Gulf. Its ruling elites are fractious and weak. Our continued troop presence is an insurance policy against disaster for the U.S.-sponsored Iraqi politicians, who would otherwise fear violent overthrow, and the White House, which would otherwise fear Iraq's takeover by unfriendly elements.

Whether or not they are engaged in combat, thousands of American soldiers could therefore be in Iraq for decades.

And last but surely not least, none of the foregoing has anything to do with the reasons Americans were given for invading Iraq in the first place.

Chris Toensing is editor of Middle East Report, published by the Middle East Research and Information Project.



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# Gulf waste heads to landfills

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — The cleanup of history's worst peacetime oil spill is generating thousands of tons of oil-soaked debris that is ending up in local landfills, some of which were already dealing with environmental concerns.

The soft, absorbent boom that has played the biggest role in containing the spill alone would measure more than twice the length of California's coastline, or about 2,000 miles. More than 50,000 tons of boom and oily debris have made their way to landfills or incinerators, federal officials told The Associated Press, representing about 7 percent of the daily volume going to nine area landfills.

A month after the oil stopped flowing into the Gulf, the emphasis has shifted toward cleanup and disposal of oily trash at government-approved landfills in coastal states.

Environmental Protection Agency officials say the sites meet federal regulations, are equipped to handle the influx of waste and are being monitored closely, although three sites have state environmental issues. State records show two are under investigation and one was cited in May for polluting nearby waters.

Some residents and experts question the wisdom of adding crude-covered refuse to dumps, since it could take years for potential problems to surface. They worry about the impact on groundwater if contaminants leach past liners enclosing the decaying garbage.

"Common sense would tell you you probably shouldn't keep dumping there if there are already problems," said Eric Schaeffer, a former head of the EPA's enforcement office who now heads a Washington-based legal advocacy group. "EPA needs to be able to say why despite the violations and discharges these are safe."

Weathered oil is less toxic than fresh oil, the EPA says, but can still contain some levels of benzene and other risky chemicals.

Both BP and the EPA are sampling the waste each week at the landfills, and the EPA and U.S. Coast Guard officials alike say so far it has not turned out to be hazardous. In some landfills, the spill waste is being mixed directly with regular household and industrial trash, which can contain chemicals, plastics and food.

It is too soon to tell if



KATHY MITCHELL  
MARCY SUGAR

**Dear Annie:** My 81-year-old mother passed away several months ago. One of her final wishes was that my older sister and I get along.

Sis inherited Mom's house, but she lives five hours away and didn't want it, so I purchased the house from the estate. I have a sentimental attachment to it, since my father built the place and that's where we grew up. I go there on my days off to do maintenance and upkeep.

My sister is welcome to stay there any time. She was there for Memorial Day and July 4th, and e-mailed that she plans to visit for Labor Day. I told her she is welcome, but the house costs me nearly \$400 a month in utilities, taxes, etc., and she should chip in something. She replied that Mom would not want her to pay to stay at the family home. She refuses to give me anything for expenses.

It isn't the money. It's the principle. I think \$15 a day is fair. If I happen to be at the house at the same time, I'm willing to split the cost in half. So, Annie, what do you say? — *Sam in Pittsburgh*

**Dear Sam:** This is the equivalent of your vacation home. Generally, when one invites a rela-

tive to stay, one doesn't charge them for the hospitality. However, if Sis is using the family home as a vacation destination, meaning she invites herself and goes when you are not there, it is similar to a hotel and she should pay accordingly. Her visits undoubtedly raise the water and electric bills, so it costs you money. We think \$15 a day is a terrific deal for her, and she should not complain.

**Dear Annie:** My sister and her fiance have been planning their wedding for two years. One of their few requests is that the men in the wedding party wear tuxedos. Our father is the only one refusing to do so, although cost is not an issue. He also has made it clear he isn't interested in participating in a father-of-the-bride

dance, and we're not even sure he'll walk her down the aisle.

My sister and my father have always had a wonderful relationship, and he approved of the wedding until he realized they were getting married "so soon." His behavior is embarrassing for our entire family. I don't think it's asking too much for him to wear a tux on such an important occasion. Should we just let him be his usual "easier not to" self and wear a suit? — *Tuxless in Bettendorf, La.*

**Dear Tuxless:** We'll grant that Dad sounds like a spoiled brat, but forcing him to behave like an adult will only create ill-will on the big day. He may have some unresolved issues that make him reluctant to participate in his daughter's wedding, so you may as well leave him alone. We

hope your sister will ask a male relative or her new father-in-law to step in for a father-daughter dance and any other such charming obligations that her father cannot be bothered with.

**Dear Annie:** "Cautious Canadian" was worried that "Nick," a sex offender, had keys to all the apartments in her building. Society doesn't deal well with sex offenders. It's difficult to find a balance between protecting others and allowing ex-offenders to live normal lives after they have served their time. Because so many re-offend, it's

hard to feel generous toward anyone who is in that category.

I don't think Nick should lose his job as the informal super, but he should not have keys to the apartments. Having such access will tempt him to re-offend. Also, if word gets out that Nick is on probation, he might be blamed for real or imagined thefts or damages for which he isn't responsible. I am, however, annoyed that "Canadian's" husband wasn't more protective. He's either naive or is disregarding her fears, possibly leaving her in danger. — *Cambridge, Mass.*

## Annie's Mailbox

# Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

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1 ♠	Pass	1 ♥	Pass
2 ♠	Pass	3 ♥	Pass
4 ♥			

Opening lead — jack of spades.

Let's say you're East defending against four hearts. Partner leads the spade jack, won by South with the king, and declarer plays three rounds of trumps, West following suit.

South next finesses the nine of clubs, which you duck, then the ten, which you win. You know from partner's high-low that declarer has the

missing club, and the question is what you can do at this point to stop the contract.

Obviously, you have to lead a diamond, and if you lead the jack, South goes down; if you lead anything else, he makes the contract. The jack return leaves South helpless, whether he covers with the queen or not. Either way you collect three diamond tricks.

But if you make the mistake of leading the ace or the eight instead of the jack, South makes the contract with perfectly normal play. He simply follows low if you lead the eight, or does the same a trick later if you cash the ace first.

The basis for the jack play is that in order for you to have any chance of collecting three diamond tricks, you must assume that partner has the king, and also the nine (or queen) to go with it. The jack lead caters to the K-9-x(x) possibility, while leading either of your other diamonds does not.

If declarer has the king instead of your partner, he will wind up with 12 tricks instead of 11, but that is a very small price to pay for trying to stop the opponents from scoring a game.

Tomorrow: Avoiding a guess.

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# su | do | ku

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Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9 with no repeats. That means no number is repeated in any row, column or box. Solution, tips and computer program at [www.sudoku.com](http://www.sudoku.com)

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

## EVERY STUDENT HAS THE RIGHT TO FEEL SAFE AT SCHOOL.

- ★ You have the power to make your school safer.
- ★ If you see sexual harassment - even if it isn't directed at you - ACT! Find safe ways to support the target of the harassment.
- ★ Don't participate in the put-downs, rumors and jokes at another person's expense.
- ★ Be an example to your classmates of how to treat people with respect!

## Students Taking Action for RESPECT.



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**Victim Services of Big Spring**  
**263-3312**  
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### What is Sexual Harassment?

ANY BEHAVIOR OF A SEXUAL NATURE THAT IS:

- unwanted, unwelcome, makes someone feel uncomfortable & occurs on a frequent basis
- unwanted telephone calls, love letters, electronic messages
- unwanted touching, grabbing, "panting"
- unwanted teasing, sexual jokes, rumors or sexual pressure

### Why Do Students Do It?

Students sexually harass because:

- of peer pressure
- they think it's funny
- they think everyone does it
- they don't know it's inappropriate
- they see similar behavior from other people in their lives and from TV

# su | do | ku

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## ANSWERS

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

211808

### What's the Big Deal?

Sexual harassment isn't just embarrassing, it can hurt a student's health, self-esteem & grades. It can also make the school an unsafe place.

### What To Do About It...

If someone is harassing you, tell them to stop. If you don't feel comfortable telling them to "stop," make sure you tell a teacher, counselor or principal immediately. Write down details about the harassment. Your parents or other trusted adults can also help you. Keep telling until someone helps you and the harassment stops!

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The day after a full moon can sometimes feel like the day after a raucous party. A cleanup effort will be in order. There are abandoned bottles and plates, forgotten sweaters, someone's lost cell phone and sometimes stray people, too. They all should be handled, either metaphorically or actually, as a part of today's agenda.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19). Your scene may seem, by all outward appearances, exactly the same as it was yesterday. But if you experience a greater measure of peace around your situation, it is in fact not the same at all. It is healing and much improved.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20). Even the best of friends sometimes fight. But you always have the option of either taking issue with another person's choices or letting it go. For today, you won't regret adopting a "live and let live" policy.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 21). You have excellent taste, and you will gladly share your recommendations. You are also sensitive to the different preferences of others and will tailor your opinions to your



HOLIDAY MATHIS

**Tomorrow's Horoscope**

specific audience.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22). Romance, fame, riches — the promise of these words is different in theory than in reality. You'll enjoy the reality more when you accept the ways in which it is different from the dream.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22). There's someone who gives you such a visceral charge that you'll feel like you can actually see the electronic particles dancing in the air around this person. Arrange to be around this person more often.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You'll be inspired to confess your feelings. Do this in a restrained manner as possible. Hints and innuendo are more fun than real information. You'll draw others in closer instead of scaring them away.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Your attention is so sweet that others can't help but crave it. When they don't get it, they go to extreme measures to bring you back around. That's the chief reason people around you are behaving so strangely today.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You'll feel things deeply and speak from your passion. Your words fly out faster than your brain can process them. This will produce interesting results now.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). There is no reason to change what's working great.

Continue in the same way until it stops producing results. Resolve to work through any restlessness you may encounter along the way.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). There are two kinds of citizens: those who do what's right because they might get caught and those who do what's right because it's who they are. Realize which type you are dealing with.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Usually, you strongly consider your audience before you speak. But your opinion will be so strong on a certain issue that you will be driven to state it exactly as you feel it, regardless of who may hear.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20). Sometimes you have to pull back your love and effort in order for others to understand your contribution. In other words, today your work will be best noticed when you do not do it.

**TODAY'S BIRTHDAY** (August 25). The work you do is important. You'll open the minds and hearts of others. You concentrate your creativity and manifest it in a form that will surprise and delight those around you. A sweet connection happens in the next 10 weeks. November brings a happy shift in your professional life. Social opportunity abounds in May. Aries and Leo people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 7, 20,

15, 33 and 18.

**AUGUST 25 CELEBRATION, OPICONSIVIA FESTIVAL:** In the early days of the Virgo solar transit, the tributes to the earth-sign goddess in her many forms begin. August and September are filled with harvest celebrations from various cultures around the globe, and this day marks the annual Opiconsivia festival of the ancient Romans. To those who know her well, the goddess Opiconsivia is called by her nickname "Ops," which brings to mind all sorts of lovely word associations like "opulence," "optimism" and "opportunity," all connected with the bounty and goodness available. "Ops" was celebrated by the Romans as the queen of bounty and goodness — the Earth Mother, the Great Mother of the Gods and the Great Goddess. On Aug. 25, the ancient Romans would tribute the Goddess by getting physically close to the earth — hugging it, if you will, by lying or sitting on the ground in an effort to feel the pulse of the Great Mother beating inside her. Today's trine between the sun and Pluto will encourage us to be thankful for the bounty that flows through our lives today, and will nudge our imaginations and creativity in a direction that will bring about new opportunities.

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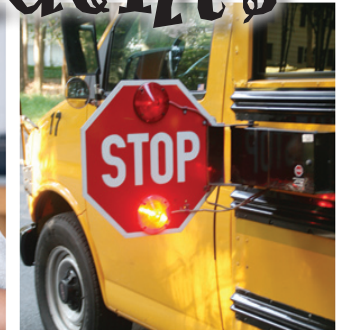
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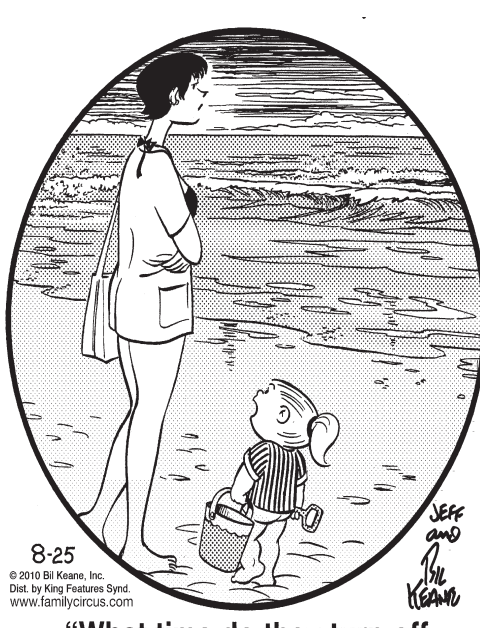
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5:PM	News ABC	Vida Notic.	Lopez	News	Noticias	News	King	CCM	BBC	King	Cash Cab	Aaron Eckhart	CSI: Crime Scene	Law & Order	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Deck Phineas	SportsCenter	Little League Baseball
6:PM	Jeopardy! Fortune	Llena de Amor (SS)	Two Men	News	El Cartel II	News	King	Mark	Business	King	Cash Cab		UFC 118: Count	Bones		Wizards Hannah	MLB Baseball: Teams TBA.	
7:PM	Middle	Hasta que el Dinero	MasterChef	Ent	Big Brother	Minute to Win It	Payne	Seinfeld	Cortes	70s Show	Man vs. Wild		UFC Un-leashed	Bones	Game Good	Good		Little League Baseball
8:PM	Family (01) Castle	Soy Tu Dueña (SS)		Criminal Minds	El Fantasma de	America's/ Talent	Browns	Light of the Southwest	Frontline (DVS)	Plain Jane	Man vs. Wild		Ult. Knock-outs	Dark Blue	Movie: Paid in Full, Kevin Carroll	Movie: Underdog		
9:PM	News	Impacto	Raymond	News	Noticias	News	Lopez	Uri Harel	Charlie Rose	Roseanne	Man vs. Wild		Knockout	Dark Blue	The Mo'Nique	Hannah	WNBA Basketball	Baseball Tonight
10:PM	Nightline	Noticiero	TMZ	Letterman	A Corazón Abierto	Jay Leno	Name	Jim	BBC	Bernie	Man vs. Wild	Rubicon	Knockout Sports	Leverage	Wendy Williams	Hannah	SportsNation	Baseball
11:PM	Jimmy Kimmel Live	Corazón Salvaje	Law & Order: SVU	Late	Decisiones	Late Night	Name	Israel	T. Smiley (Off Air)	Cops	Surviving the Cut	Movie: M*A*S*H, Sally Kellerman	CSI: Crime Scene	Memphis Beat	MS	Wizards	30 for 30	SportsCenter
12:AM	Extra	Tontas Cielo	Paid	Insider	Pagado	News	Sex & Upd	Charles		Cops	Surviving the Cut	Movie: M*A*S*H, Sally Kellerman	CSI: Crime Scene	Memphis Beat	MS	Wizards	2010 Poker	SportsCenter
1:AM	Paid	Mujer... Cero	RENO 911	Paid	Pagado	News	Lopez	Light of the Southwest		Videosomnia	Overhauled		Star Trek: Voyager	Leverage	Suite Life	Suite Life		

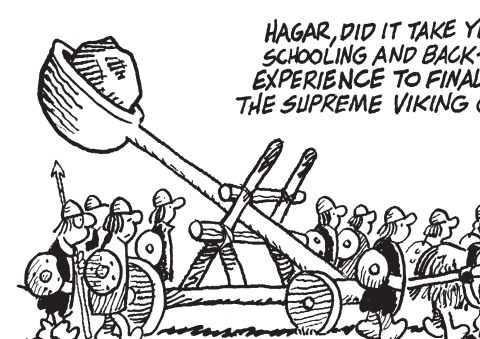
DENNIS THE MENACE



THE FAMILY CIRCUS



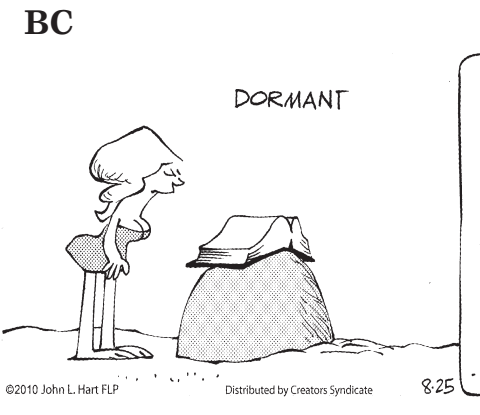
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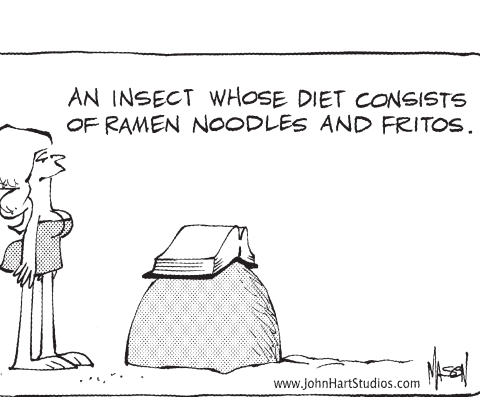
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WIZARD OF ID



AGNES



HI AND LOIS



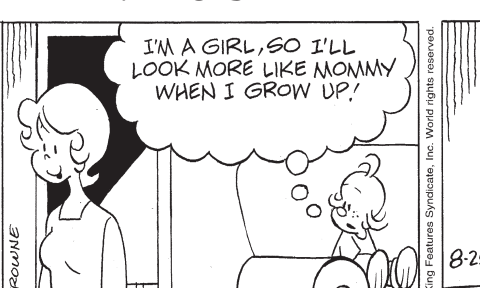
THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BEEBLE BAILEY



NEWSDAY CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- Angelic feature
- "Real" thing
- Sect member in a turban
- Where Mongolia is
- Chicago airport
- Innovator's inspiration
- Act cautiously
- Secrets stealer
- Diagnostic picture
- Pharaoh's domain
- Something hysterical
- Caveman discovery
- What a dieter might do
- Reheat in a microwave
- Blackjack player's request
- From \_\_\_ (completely)
- Reckon wrongly
- Is indebted to
- Legendary orator William Jennings \_\_\_
- Maple or mahogany
- Outer edge
- Addition word
- Natural satellites
- Three dots, in Morse code
- Become exhausted
- Small fruit pie
- Half of Mork's good-bye
- In the future
- Judge's order
- Picnic invader

DOWN

- Go for it, eagerly
- Et \_\_\_ (and others: Lat.)
- Rustling sound
- Gold-reserves fort
- "Darn it!"
- Miniseries opener
- Throw a fishing line
- Hems and \_\_\_
- PDQ relative
- Easter flower
- Wine-barrel wood
- Fifth president
- Doesn't play by the rules
- Crafty
- 8 www.aspc.a\_
- "Absolutely!"
- Military attack
- How doodles are drawn
- Seaweed that surrounds sushi
- Biblical verb
- Rust, for instance
- Avis alternative
- Tach readings
- Goat cheese
- Resolve, with "out"
- Seaside
- New Zealand birds
- Invoice lines
- Approval power
- State of weightlessness, for short
- Sports venue
- Reporters
- Become unfocused
- Litter's littlest
- Bean curd
- Gucci competitor
- Wall-calendar page
- Disquiet
- Chinese exercise system
- Spanish snacks
- Cracked open
- Polynesian dance
- Give off
- Fan noise
- \_\_\_ Karenina
- PFC's superiors
- Cell-phone written message
- Recipe amt.
- Erstwhile airline
- Pedigree-pup org.

This Date In History

Today is Wednesday, Aug. 25, the 237th day of 2010. There are 128 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Aug. 25, 2009, Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, the liberal lion of the U.S. Senate, died at age 77 in Hyannis Port, Mass. after a battle with a brain tumor.

On this date:

In 1825, Uruguay declared independence from Brazil.

In 1875, Capt. Matthew Webb became the first person to swim across the English Channel, getting from Dover, England, to Calais (ka-LAY'), France, in 22 hours.

In 1916, the National Park Service was established within the Department of the Interior.

In 1921, the United States signed a peace treaty with Germany.

In 1943, U.S. forces liberated New Georgia in the Solomon Islands from the Japanese during World War II.

In 1944, Paris was liberated

LOCOMOTION by Fred Jackson III

Edited by Stanley Newman  
www.stanxwords.com

OSCAR	BOMB	FADS
SHINE	OPER	ATOP
LURKS	REDO	ASIA
ONCLOUD	NINE	END
ELSE	ACREAGE	
AMP	DORM	OAF
MOOR	NOI	SLACK
INSEVENTH	HEAVEN	
SAYHI	TEA	TIDE
ADS	SSTS	DEW
SUNBEAM	ICES	
ANY	OVERTHEMOON	
SILL	ARIA	SIGMA
STOP	GIFT	ATRIP
YENS	ETTE	WHETS

# Why not check this out? At the library

Many of our new audio books on CD are ready for checkout. You may also find in print form. However, if you are making that last road trip, I do hope you are listening while you drive, rather than reading! A couple of Faye Kellerman BOCDs we have are "Day of Atonement" (AUCD F KEL F) and "Milk and Honey" (AUCD F KEL F). In "Day of Atonement," you will find Peter Decker on his honeymoon with Rina in an Orthodox Jewish community in Brooklyn. It is a very closed environment and when a young man goes missing, Peter is asked to find the troubled youth. "Milk and Honey" is similar in nature, but the age difference is immense. Decker finds a small child, abandoned and covered in someone else's blood and no one steps up to claim her. The path Decker takes will be a disturbing one.

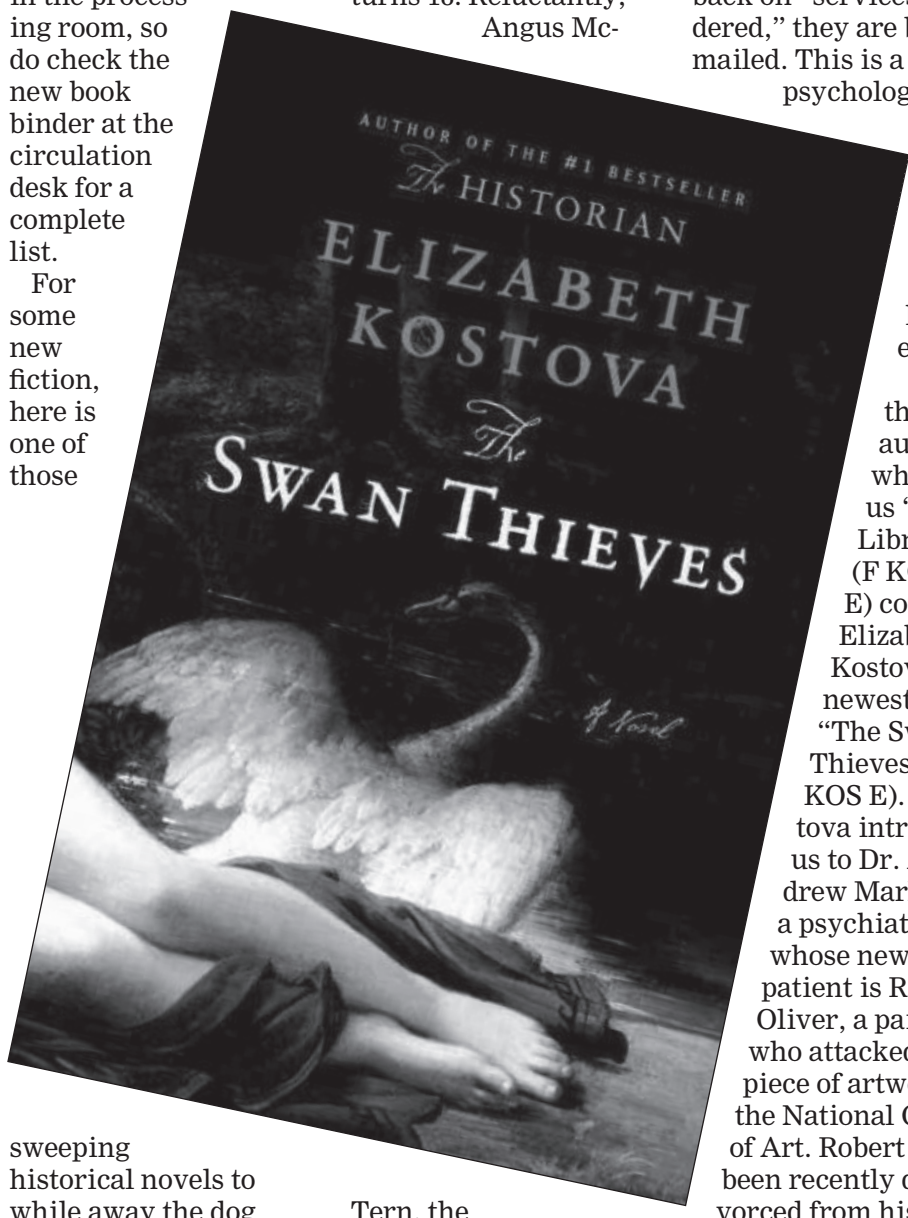


HOLLIS McCRIGHT

I have just read "Fever Dreams" (AUCD F PRE D) by Douglas Preston and Lincoln Child in print and found it very good. Twelve years after the death of his wife in Africa, Special Agent Prendergast goes home and discovers that her death was not an accident and their marriage was not what

he thought it was. An excellent read. More thrillers to listen to are "Wicked Prey" (AUCD F SAN F) by John Sandford and James Patterson's "Swimsuit" (AUCD F PAT J) and "Witch & Wizard" (AUCD F PAT J) This is very different from his usual stuff. More audio books are in the processing room, so do check the new book binder at the circulation desk for a complete list.

For some new fiction, here is one of those sweeping historical novels to while away the dog days of August. Jude Deveraux in "Days of Gold" (F DEV J) returns to the familiar historical romance ground as she traces the journey to America of the namesake of the fic-



tional town of Edilean, Va. English-born Edilean Talbot is very out of place when she arrives in 1766 Scotland to live with her uncle. A pressing problem presents itself when her uncle plans to marry off the rich, beautiful and well-educated Edilean to one of his unsavory friends the moment she turns 18. Reluctantly, Angus Mc-

done" (F McF C) by Cody McFayden. It features scarred FBI agent Smoky Barrett and a psychopath named "Dali" who abducts wives for men who wish to be rid of them and imprisons them for years in darkness and isolation, until life insurance proceeds are paid. If a husband goes back on "services rendered," they are blackmailed. This is a violent psychological thriller, not for the faint hearted.

From the author who gave us "The Librarian" (F KOS E) comes Elizabeth Kostova's newest book, "The Swan Thieves" (F KOS E). Kostova introduces us to Dr. Andrew Marlow, a psychiatrist whose newest patient is Robert Oliver, a painter who attacked a piece of artwork at the National Gallery of Art. Robert has been recently divorced from his wife Kate, has abandoned his latest girlfriend, and now refuses to speak. Since his patient refuses to talk, Marlow must delve into Robert's personal life to find the mystery

Tern, the highland hunk who laughs at Edilean even as he falls for her, helps her escape and accompanies her on a transatlantic voyage, acting the role of husband. On the flip side is "Aban-

doned" (F McF C) by Cody McFayden. It features scarred FBI agent Smoky Barrett and a psychopath named "Dali" who abducts wives for men who wish to be rid of them and imprisons them for years in darkness and isolation, until life insurance proceeds are paid. If a husband goes back on "services rendered," they are blackmailed. This is a violent psychological thriller, not for the faint hearted.

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coming, didn't you?) the two cases collide in an explosive manner. Summer is winding down and soon the library will be open Saturdays, beginning Sept. 11.

Hours will be 10 until 2 with the Internet/Video Room closing at 1:30. Remember us when research is necessary; Johnny is a whiz at finding materials.

The Friends of the Library book sale will be Sept. 24-26. Donations are trickling in; criteria for donations are good, clean, relatively new material. If assistance is needed in unloading books, please call before you come down or come inside and ask for help.

Howard County Library is open from 9 to 6, Monday through Friday. The Internet/Video room closes one-half hour before closing. The library is located at 500 S. Main.

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# News in brief

## Incumbent GOP Sen. Murkowski struggling in primary; newcomer wins Fla. GOP governor's race

WASHINGTON (AP) — Her re-election quest suddenly in jeopardy, Alaska Sen. Lisa Murkowski struggled to avoid becoming the latest incumbent lawmaker to be fired. She fought against a political novice with the backing of Sarah Palin and tea party activists in a stunningly tight Republican primary race.

With more than half of the precincts counted, little-known attorney Joe Miller, a decorated Gulf war veteran and self-described "constitutional conservative," led 51 percent to 49 percent in contest that, in the end, amounted to an Alaska-sized GOP family feud.

Murkowski would be the seventh incumbent — and fourth Republican — to lose in a year in which the tea party has scored huge victories in GOP Senate primaries and voters have shown a willingness to punish Republican and Democratic candidates with ties to Washington and party leadership.

It also was an outsider's night in Florida's GOP primary for governor, with big-spending upstart Rick Scott toppling veteran insider Bill McCollum, the state's attorney general who had the support of national party chiefs.

Five states — Arizona, Vermont and Oklahoma also voted — held nominating contests Tuesday, 10 weeks before the general election. The races highlighted dominant themes of this volatile election year, including anti-establishment anger and tea party challenges from the right.

## String of attacks targeting police kills 22 in Iraq as number of U.S. troops falls below 50,000

BAGHDAD (AP) — A string of more than a dozen attacks targeting Iraqi security forces stretching from one end of the country to the other killed 22 people and left scores wounded on Wednesday, police and hospital officials said.

There were no claims of responsibility, but the scale and reach of the violence, which comes a day after the number of U.S. troops fell below 50,000, underscored insurgent efforts to show their might as the American military presence in Iraq shrinks.

The deadliest attack occurred in north Baghdad where a suicide bomber detonated a car bomb in a parking lot behind a police station, killing 15 people, including six policemen and nine civilians. Another 58 were wounded in the attack in Baghdad's Qahira neighborhood, police and hospital officials said.

The explosion left a crater of about three meters in diameter, damaged two nearby houses and brought down segments of the concrete blast wall protecting the police station.

## Oily boom, trash from Gulf spill heads to landfills

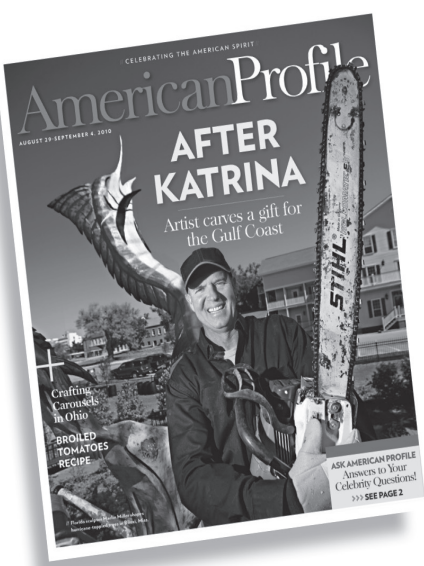
NEW ORLEANS (AP) — The cleanup of history's worst peacetime oil spill is generating thousands of tons of oil-soaked debris that is ending up in local landfills, some of which were already dealing with environmental concerns.

The soft, absorbent boom that has played the biggest role in containing the spill alone would measure more than twice the length of California's coastline, or about 2,000 miles. More than 50,000 tons of boom and oily debris have made their way to landfills or incinerators, federal officials told The Associated Press, representing about 7 percent of the daily volume going to nine area landfills.

A month after the oil stopped flowing into the Gulf, the emphasis has shifted toward cleanup and disposal of oily trash at government-approved landfills in coastal states.

Environmental Protection Agency officials say the sites meet federal regulations, are equipped to handle the influx of waste and are being monitored closely.

## In Sunday's Big Spring Herald



### Gift for the Gulf

After Hurricane Katrina destroyed the grand old oak shade trees of Biloxi, Miss., woodcarver Marlin Miller turned surviving tree trunks into works of art as a tribute to rebuilding the spirit of the Gulf Coast.

AmericanProfile

## CONROY

Continued from Page 1A

Rangers, one of the state agencies currently involved in the investigation. "The computers were turned over Texas Immigration and Customs Enforcement. They found the child pornography, which led to him being charged in federal court. That case is being handled by the

United States Attorneys Office Northern District out of Lubbock."

If convicted, Conroy faces a penalty of not less than 15 years imprisonment, nor more than 30 years imprisonment, and a \$250,000 fine per count. In addition, Conroy could be ordered to serve a lifetime of supervised release.

According to officials with the U.S. Attorney's Office, the case was

brought to the federal grand jury as part of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative launched in May 2006 by the Department of Justice to combat the growing epidemic of child sexual exploitation and abuse.

Williams declined to discuss the details of the either case — the federal case alleging the manufacture of child pornography or the charge of aggravated sexual assault of a child currently pending in Howard County — due to the ongoing investigation.

"All I can tell you about the aggravated sexual assault charge is the victim was under 14 years of age and the criminal activity took place in Howard County," he said. "Normally, in a child pornogra-

phy case like this, each child that was photographed is also considered a victim, so I can't go into their ages or any other information about them."

The charge of aggravated sexual assault of a child is expected to be handled in 118th District Court.

Conroy first found himself in the public eye in late November 2009, after claiming a bell ringer with the local Salvation Army verbally abused him and his children as they were leaving the Big Spring Post Office. The bell ringer was subsequently relocated to the sidewalk in front of the federal facility after Conroy argued the Salvation Army's operation on federal property was illegal.

## VICTIMS

Continued from Page 1A

have not been released by law enforcement officials.

According to emergency response personnel, the incident occurred at approximately 8 a.m. at an oil well located near FM 3900 — approximately 15 miles north of Stanton — in Martin County while a Basic Energy crew was preparing to perform maintenance on the well's pulling unit.

Finley confirmed the two men were transported to the UMC burn and intensive care unit and are currently listed in critical condition.

"Both men were brought in by air evacuation," Finley said. "They are currently being treated in the burn

and intensive care unit here at University Medical Center."

Martin County Deputy Sheriff and Emergency Management Coordinator Ashley Borgstedt said the accident is being investigated by the Occupational Safety and Health Association (OSHA).

According to Elizabeth Todd, public information officer for OSHA, the investigation into the accident continues.

"All I can tell you at this time is the investigation is open and ongoing," Todd said. "It is OSHA's practice not to make comments until the investigation is completed, and the investigators have up to six months to finish, so it could be quite some time before we release any findings."

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