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HERALD

VOLUME 103, NUMBER 248

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Drug, alcohol abusers can get treatment

By VALERIE AVERY

Special to the Herald

West Texas Centers for MHMR — the primary mental health care provider for 23 counties in rural West Texas — often needs assistance finding resources for people with substance abuse issues.

“Many of our consumers who live with mental illness also have substance abuse issues or co-occurring disorders, meaning they live with mental illness and with substance abuse,” said Shelley Smith, West Texas Centers CEO.

“We often find that one illness feeds off another. The substance abuse is used to self-medicate the mental illness and make them feel better. But it’s just a cycle that is very difficult to care for and break. We work closely with our consumers in finding the best care for their substance abuse disorders.”

One such resource for West Texas’ consumers is SAMHSA or the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Service Administration.



Smith

“Substance use disorders take an enormous toll on our community and it is time that we support those who need our help.”

SAMHSA is an arm of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The federal agency operates an online and toll-free service which locates substance abuse treatment facilities.

Participating in treatment and recovery programs for substance use disorders is as effective as receiving treatment for other chronic conditions, Smith said. However, many people do not seek treatment for a number of reasons. Nearly 21 mil-

See **ABUSE**, Page 3A



HERALD photo/Steve Reagan

A worker unloads reinforcement bars off a pallet at the site of the future Howard County Jail on West. Highway 80. Construction on the jail, which began in earnest this summer, should be completed by mid-2009.

Mum's the word

No comments at county court public hearing

By THOMAS JENKINS
Staff Writer

Despite proposing a tax rate nearly 5 cents more than the rollback rate, Howard County commissioners finished up their second and final round of public hearings Monday morning with no objections from area taxpayers.

Last month, commissioners agreed to a proposed tax rate of .5362 cents per \$100 valuation, eclipsing the effective rate of .4134 cents per \$100 valuation and exceeding this year's rollback rate of .4912 cents per \$100 valuation. The rate is expected to produce an additional levy of \$2.7 million more than last year's rate, according to county officials.

The first public hearing on the proposed tax rate — held Sept. 8 — drew several questions from area taxpayers in the audience, including local agriculture producer Donnie Reid, but no objections. Monday's special meeting of the court followed a similar path.

According to County Judge Mark Barr, ongoing litigation between Alon USA — owner of the Big Spring Refinery and one of the county's biggest taxpayers — and the Howard County Appraisal District concerning what the petrochemical company claims is inflated valuations has made the 5-cent jump in the tax rate necessary.

And though 118th Dis-

See **COUNTY**, Page 3A

Candidates here for Town Hall meeting

By THOMAS JENKINS
Staff Writer

With just more than three months until the 81st Legislature is convened in Austin, Representative Joe Heflin and Senator Kel Seliger will be holding a town hall meeting Thursday at the Hall Center for the Arts on the Howard College campus.

Set for 5 p.m., both Seliger, the Republican Senator for District 31, and Heflin, the Democratic State Representative for House District 85, say the meeting is an excellent chance for area residents to express their concerns

What: Town Hall meeting with State Rep. Joe Heflin and State Sen. Kel Seliger.

Where: Hall Center for the Arts, Howard College campus.

When: 5 p.m. Thursday.

for the coming legislature.

“Town hall meetings are a very effective way to communicate our activities to our bosses — the people — and get their input as we approach the upcoming legislative session,” said Seliger.

“Our joint meeting reflects the importance of legislators from each chamber working together to best meet the needs of the people in the areas we jointly represent.”

Heflin agreed, saying he's pleased to have a chance to meet with Howard County residents.

“It's exciting to have this opportunity to meet with the people of Big Spring,” said Heflin. “I look forward to visiting with them about their concerns for next session.”

According to Willia Ledford, district administrative aide to Heflin, Drew Darby, state repre-

sentative for District 72, has also been invited to speak during the town hall meeting.

“Representative Darby serves with Joe (Heflin) on the Property Tax Relief and Appraisal Reform committee,” said Ledford. “Joe asked him to be at the town hall meeting because he felt he could help answer some of the people's questions on tax reform.”

Both Seliger and Heflin are up for re-election in November. Seliger will face Libertarian candidate Lauren Poindexter, while Heflin is set to square off against Republican nominee Isaac M. Castro.

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Please call 263-7331. Office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. If you miss your paper, please call (432) 263-7335 before 7 p.m. weekdays and noon Sunday.

Dine Out Day Friday

Pappa Georgios Pizza in the Coronado Plaza is this week's Dine Out Restaurant assisting the United Way for Big Spring and Howard County.

Proceeds from Friday's sales at Papa Georgio's will benefit United Way.

A live band will be playing at the restaurant Friday night. Future participating restaurants will include Cowboy's Steakhouse and Greg's Grill,



Pastels by penguins

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP) — This art is created not by hands, but by paws and claws.

Paintings featuring the brush strokes and paw prints of animals such as snow leopards and sea lions from zoos around the nation will be sold Tuesday.

The sale is part of an online auction at auctionnetwork.com to raise money for zoo conservation. It is sponsored by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums.

Spokesman Steve Feldman says zoo keepers have long used painting as a way to mentally stimulate animals.

Poll workers sought

The Howard County Elections Office is in need of poll workers for several precincts to help out in the Nov. 4 general election.

Workers are needed for Precinct 304, the Elbow polling location, and for Precincts 404, 405 and 406 at the Jonesboro Fire Station.

If you would be interested in working during the election, contact the elections office at 264-2273.





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Wild win

Dallas outlasts Eagles in wacky shootout

By **STEPHEN HAWKINS**
AP Sports Writer

IRVING — The Dallas Cowboys gave up two touchdowns in a 14-second span. Terrell Owens didn't catch a pass after halftime, Jason Witten spent time in the locker room tending to a separated shoulder and Roy Williams broke his arm. Meanwhile, Brian Westbrook scored three TDs, a healthy Donovan McNabb made plays with his legs and his arm and rookie receiver DeSean Jackson accomplished something that hadn't been done in 68 years. Yet, somehow Dallas managed a 41-37 victory over the Philadelphia Eagles in a wild, wacky game between NFC East rivals in the last home opener at Texas Stadium for the Cowboys.

"It was fun — once we won," quarterback Tony Romo said. "Well, it is one in the bank for us," coach Wade Phillips said. "You never know when one of these will come back to mean a lot."

Not until the Cowboys (2-0) snuffed out a double-lateral play on a fourth-down pass near midfield with 37 seconds left, after sacking McNabb on two of the previous three plays, was the victory secured.

"We knew if we kept chasing him at some point somebody would get him," line-

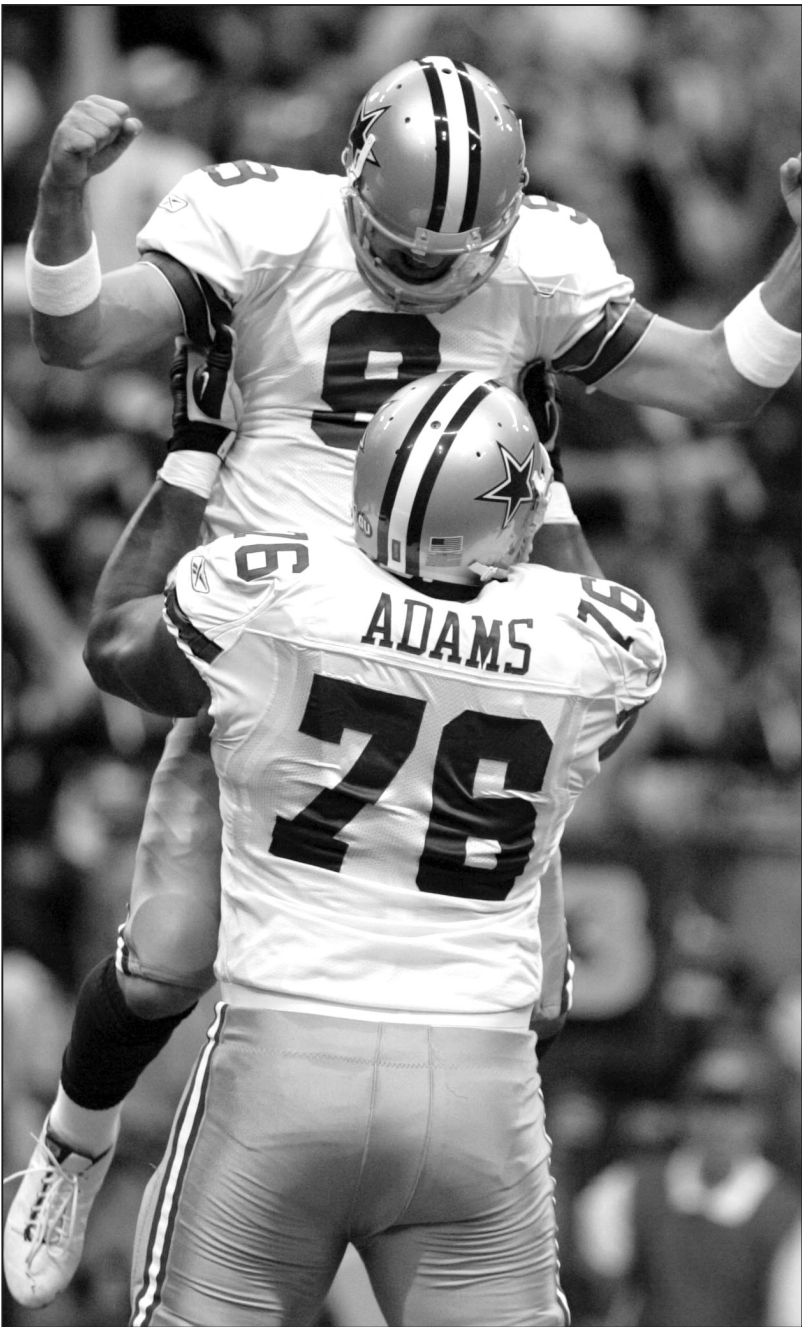
backer Bradie James said. Finally. Westbrook's final TD was a 1-yard run, with a second-effort surge over the goal line, that put the Eagles up 37-31 in the opening minute of the fourth quarter. That was the sixth lead change of the game, but not the last.

After Nick Folk kicked a 47-yard field goal to get Dallas within 37-34, Westbrook fumbled on the next possession. The Cowboys went 67 yards, 32 of that on Witten's catch to the 5, with Marion Barber shuffling through the right side from a yard out with 4:35 left. Barber also had a 17-yard TD catch in the third quarter.

Philadelphia (1-1), coming off an impressive romp in its opener, went from trailing 14-6 to leading 30-21 just before halftime.

"These were two great teams going at it," McNabb said. "There are a lot of positives we can take from this game. But that's not important right now. What we need to do is focus on working on the negatives. That's going to make us a better team."

Witten was back on the field before halftime, after leaving for X-rays, and had a 42-yard catch down the middle of the field to set up Folk's 51-yard field goal just before the break. The Pro Bowl tight end finished with seven catches for 110 yards.



AP photo/Donna McWilliam
Dallas Cowboys quarterback Tony Romo (9) celebrates with teammate Flozell Adams after throwing for a touchdown against the Philadelphia Eagles in the first quarter of an NFL football game in Irving Monday. The Cowboys won 41-37.

"Little shoulder pops out and that's nothing," Owens said. "It just shows you how tough the guy is."

Owens had 89 yards on three catches, including a 4-yard score and a 72-yard touchdown on Dallas' first series that he punctuated with the

kind of arm-flapping celebration he used to do for Philadelphia. His first TD moved him into second place on the NFL's career receiving touchdown list; he finished at 132, still well behind Jerry

See **COWBOYS**, Page 2B

Young no more

Older Collins makes Titans a contender

Maybe this is a terrible thing to say, but Vince Young's injury is the best thing to happen to the Tennessee Titans so far this season.

The drama surrounding Vince has been well chronicled the past few days and many questions have been formed with the leading subject being about his mental health and supposed desire to take his own life.

Speculating about someone's life is nothing to jest at and there's no need to further dive into that topic. The one question every sports analyst seems to avoid is a much simpler one.

Are the Titans better without Vince Young? Instead of answering that question, everyone attempts to delve into the depths of Vince's mind, wondering if the quarterback really did want to take his life.

Not to sound indignant, but who cares? Obviously, no one wants the great college quarterback to take his life and it's probably time to leave him alone about the whole topic. It's not one for public opinion. If he has some mental anguish, then let Vince deal with it privately. Let's not throw it around a table of NFL experts who have no right to dissect anything other than game film.

The only question these pundits are entitled to answer is the one stated above.

So, are the Titans better without Vince Young?

In this writer's opinion, yes they are. Let's answer an amendment to that question. How much better?

That depends on the level of commitment the Titans are willing to show Kerry Collins. However, based on Titans Head Coach Jeff Fisher's latest comments Monday, it sounds like Tennessee could be a lot better without Vince.

"We're going to get Vince back, get his knee back, work with him, get him back involved in the offense," Fisher said. "But Kerry's going to go ahead and play for us until either he struggles or whatever else happens. Yeah, you saw by the way he played. In light of everything, it just makes sense to go with him."

"(Vince has) got to get back," Fisher continued. "He's eventually going to be under center for us. When that happens, I don't know. For right now, Kerry's our quarterback."

With this statement, it is now assumed Collins will be the quarterback in Tennessee as long as the team keeps winning. Expect to see 35-year-old veteran calling the signals for the Titans for 17 more games then.

With this commitment, Fisher just took his team from a 6-10 season to one of the AFC's top contenders.

Look at the facts. Tennessee boasts one of the best running back combinations in the NFL. Rookie Chris Johnson is one of the fastest players in the league and is a game breaker. Complimenting Johnson is one of the NFL's better goal line and short yardage backs LenDale White.

Tennessee's running back duo is very similar to Pittsburgh's usage of Willie Parker and Jerome Bettis in the 2005 season. The Parker/Bettis combo netted the Steelers a win in Super XL.



JONATHAN HULL



AP photo/Jack Dempsey
Denver Broncos quarterback Jay Cutler fumbles the ball during the fourth quarter of an NFL football game against the San Diego Chargers in Denver Sunday. The Broncos beat the Chargers 39-38 after referee Ed Hochuli mistakenly ruled this play was an incomplete pass.

His bad

NFL says Hochuli will be graded down

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Ed Hochuli's acknowledgement that he erred on a call late in Sunday's San Diego-Denver game will mean lower grades for one of the NFL's highest profile referees.

"Officials are held accountable for their calls. They are graded on every play of every game," NFL spokesman Greg Aiello said Monday. "Ed has been an outstanding official for many years, but he will be marked down for this call. Under our evaluation system, an official's grades impact his status for potentially working the playoffs and ultimately whether or not he is retained."

The play occurred with the Broncos at the Chargers 1-yard-line in the final minute. Denver quarterback Jay Cutler dropped back to pass, the ball slipped out of his hands, bounced off the grass and into the arms of San Diego linebacker Tim Dobbins.

Hochuli ruled it an incomplete pass. Replay ruled it a fumble, but it was spotted at the 10-yard line, where the ball hit the ground, and given to Denver because the rules did not permit possession to be awarded to San Diego because the whistle had blown.

See **HOCHULI**, Page 2B

See **TITANS**, Page 2B

Sports in brief

Three hole-in-ones at Comanche Trail

Three hole-in-ones were hit at Comanche Trail Golf Course in the past five days.

The first occurred Thursday on the 11th hole, where Daniel Silen hit the fourth ace in his lifetime. He used a 6-iron. The shot was witnessed by Jim Roger and Carlos Dimidjian.

The second ace came off the club of Trish Gabbord, who knocked in her first hole-in-one. She used a heaven wood to ace the third hole Saturday. Her husband

Howard witnessed the event.

The final hole-in-one of the week occurred Sunday on the 11th hole. John Slentz used a 5-iron to hit his first ever ace. The event was witnessed by Jim Roger, Jack Birdwell, Ariel Luna and Robert Jackman.

Howard College schedules mini-cheer camp and Battle

Howard College is preparing to host its annual mini-cheer camp as well as the Battle of the Cheerleaders Sept. 20.

The cheer camp is for girls from kindergarten through sixth grade. Registration is from 8-9 a.m. Sept. 20 with the actual camp lasting from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Cost is \$25.

All campers will then perform at the Battle of the Cheerleaders set to begin at 6 p.m. Sept. 20. The Battle is open to any organized cheer squad at the high school or junior high levels.

Beginning this year, a traveling trophy will be awarded to the winner.

Admission is \$3 with students, cheerleaders and sponsors being admitted free.

Obituaries

Naoma Coleman

Naoma Coleman, 86, of Big Spring died Sunday, Sept. 14, 2008, at her residence. Funeral services will be at 2 p.m. Thursday at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial at Trinity Memorial Park.

She was born April 29, 1922, in Goldthwaite. She had been a resident of Big Spring since 1926. She and her husband, parents and daughter have been in the restaurant business in Big Spring continuously since 1928, including Miller's Pig Stand, Webber's Root Beer Drive In, Terry's Drive In, the Downtowner Café and Red Mesa.

She is survived by one daughter: Cindy McGuire and her husband Keith; two grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband: Fred Coleman Sr.; one son: Fred Coleman Jr.; and one sister: Yvonne Scherer.

The family suggests memorials to Compass Hospice, 1003 East FM 700, Big Spring 79720.

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

Juan Garcia Rios

Juan Garcia Rios, 97, of Big Spring, formerly of O'Donnell, died Monday, Sept. 15, 2008, in a local hospital. A rosary will be held Tuesday, Sept. 16, 2008, at 7 p.m. at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel. Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 17, 2008, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel with the Rev. Bernard Gulley officiating. Interment will follow at Borden County Cemetery, Gail.

He was born March 8, 1911, in Dilley and married Paula Esqueda Jan. 27, 1945. in LaSalle County. She preceded him in death April 25, 2001.

Juan grew up in Dilley and moved to O'Donnell in 1958 then came to Big Spring in 1998. He was a farmer and a Catholic.

Survivors include one son and daughter-in-law, Roby and Jan Rios of Coahoma; two grandsons; one sister, Lilia Deanda of Dilley; and one brother, Jesus Martinez of Dilley.

He was also preceded in death by one brother, Santiago Rios.

The family suggests memorials be made to the Big Spring State Hospital Volunteer Services Council, PO Box 231, Big Spring 79721.

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

Steve James

Steve James, 51, of Big Spring died Sunday, Sept. 14, 2008, at the Veterans Administration Medical Center. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Fire/EMS

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

- MEDICAL was reported in the 700 block of Interstate Highway 20. Service refused.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 300 block of N.E. Ninth Street. Service refused.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 600 block of Washington. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1600 block of W. 11th Place. One person was transported to the VAMC.
- TRAUMA was reported in the 700 block of Highland. Service refused.

Bulletin Board

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

TODAY

- Big Spring Band Boosters meets at 5:30 p.m. in the high school band hall. All band parents are invited to attend.
- Big Spring Art Association meets at 7 p.m. in the Howard County Library. All working artists and those interested in art are invited to attend.
- Order of the Eastern Star No. 67 meets at 7:30 p.m. at 221 Main.

Your Local Weather

Wed 9/17	Thu 9/18	Fri 9/19	Sat 9/20	Sun 9/21
 82/54 Sunshine and some clouds. High 82F. Winds SE at 5 to 10 mph.	 81/54 Sunshine. Highs in the low 80s and lows in the mid 50s.	 81/56 Sunshine. Highs in the low 80s and lows in the mid 50s.	 82/58 Sunny. Highs in the low 80s and lows in the upper 50s.	 82/58 Sunshine. Highs in the low 80s and lows in the upper 50s.

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Take Note

- The public is invited to Places and Pleasures — Republican Party Headquarters — from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. today. Food and drinks will be provided and Republican candidates will be there. Places and Pleasures Travel Agency is located at 222 S. Main.
- Scenic Mountain Medical Center's Relay for Life team is selling cookbooks to raise funds for the American Cancer Society. The cookbooks can be purchased at the PBX operator's booth for \$10 apiece. For more information, contact Beverly Grant at 268-4952.

- A fund has been established at Big Spring Education Employees Federal Credit Union for Sheena Hill, who lost most of her possessions in a recent house fire. Mail donations to Big Spring Education Employees FCU, 1110 Benton, Big Spring 79720 or call 263-8393.
- Ackerly Lunch Bunch will meet at 10 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 27 at 14th and Main Church of Christ Fellowship Hall at 1401 S. Main St. in Big Spring. Lunch will be catered by Al's and Son Barbecue and served at noon. Cost will be \$11 per plate, including dessert and drink. RSVP to Betty Pitts at 267-1449 or Sissy Jones at 213-4452.
- HATS (Hope After The Sadness), an American Cancer Society Resource Room is now available at First Methodist Church. This center provides information and valuable resources for those affected by cancer. This HATS ministry, established in memory of the late Rev. Dr Shane Brue, maintains a room with free hats, wigs and head coverings available for check-out by those dealing with hair loss due to cancer treatment. Other services and resources are also available. Contact the "Hat Lady," Marci Lykken at 267-2915.

- A medical expense account has been established at Cosden Federal Credit Union for Kody Jackson, who was recently disgnosed with lymphoma in his right knee. He has no medical insurance and must start chemotherapy and radiation treatment as soon as possible. Kody is the son of Susan and Johnny Jackson. For more information, contact Cosden FCU at 264-2600.
- The Texas Department of State Health Services is conducting a community health survey. The information will be used to study barriers to health care and other public health issues. Your personal information will not be used, other than the comments portion of the survey.

- The Path, faith-based addiction recovery, meets at 6:30 p.m. at Spring Tabernacle Ministries, 1209 Wright St.
- Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m. and closed discussion meeting 8 p.m. to 9 p.m.
- Al-Anon, 615 Settles for family members and friends of alcoholics meets at 8 p.m.

- WEDNESDAY**
- RSD (Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy, a chronic pain disease), a new support and informative group meets at 213 Circle. Call Lucy at (432) 517-9207 for more information.
- THURSDAY**
- Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m.



HERALD photo/Tony Claxton

Big Spring High School crowned its homecoming queen and king Friday night at halftime of the Steers' football game at Memorial Stadium. Chelsea Franco (left) was elected the 2008 queen, while Josh Wilson was named king.

Lottery

Results of the Texas Two Step drawing Monday night: Winning numbers drawn: 16-28-29-31. Bonus Ball: 4.

Number matching four of four, plus Bonus Ball: 0.

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Monday night: Winning numbers drawn: 4-12-18-27-32.

Number matching five of five: 0.

The winning Daily 4 numbers drawn Monday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 3-7-4-2. Sum It Up: 16.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Monday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 8-1-4. Sum it Up: 13.

Support Groups

TUESDAY

- Grief share, sponsored by Home Hospice and the First Presbyterian Church, Seventh and Runnels (north end door), meets at 6 p.m.. Drop-ins are welcome. For more information, contact Sherry Hodne3tt at 264-7599.

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

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THURSDAY

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Police blotter

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

- ERIC DEAL, 42, of 5700 Cedar, was arrested Monday on four local citations.
- SHALYN WALTON, 20, of 1804 Settles, was arrested Monday on a local capias warrant.
- NINA MARQUEZ, 25, of 200 E. 11th Place, was arrested Monday on charges of no driver's license and failure to maintain financial responsibility.
- JUSTIN MEEK, 22, of 200 E. 11th Place, was arrested Monday on a charge of interfering with official police duties.
- MELISSA PUGA, 40, of 1409 Settles, was arrested Monday on a charge of possession of a controlled substance.
- UNATTENDED DEATH was reported in the 700 block of Interstate Highway 20.
- TAMPERING WITH EVIDENCE was reported in the 3200 block of 11th Street.

Sheriff's report

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

Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 58 inmates at the time of this report.

- ROBIN CAROL HICKS, 29, was arrested Monday by the HCSO on a charge of theft by check.
- LESTER CLAUDE DUFFER, 28, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on a charge of burglary of a building.
- JOEY EUGENE MATA, 21, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on a charge of burglary of a habitation.
- HENRY RAMIREZ, 52, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on a charge of burglary of a building.
- MELVIN WILLIAM BIDDLE, 46, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on a charge of theft.
- COREY PRESTON HOFFPAUIR, 31, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on a charge of burglary of a building.

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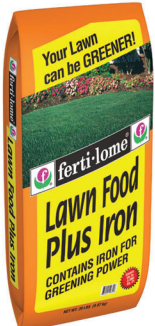
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TITANS

Continued from Page 1B

Also consider Tennessee’s defense, which is capable of slowing any offense in the league. The Titans D ranked fifth against the run last season and 10th vs. the pass. They recorded 40 sacks last season, good enough for seventh in the league, and forced 34 turnovers, ranking sixth.

Tennessee finished 10-6 in 2007, making the playoffs only

to be eliminated in the first round. The problem?

The Titans gave the ball away as much as they took it. The offense was guilty of 34 turnovers with 18 resting on the shoulders of one man — Vince Young.

Thus far in 2008, the Titans are 2-0, the defense has looked relentless and the running game appears unstoppable. Tennessee is currently plus-two in turnover differential, but mostly because Vince is now on the sideline.

He threw two picks in the sea-

son opener against Jacksonville and appeared ready to give the Jags an opportunity to set up and score a late touchdown that would have stolen a victory from the Titans.

However, Vince injured his knee, forcing Collins into the game on a crucial third and 15. Collins responded by hitting tight end Bo Scaife for 44-yards on a screen pass, leading to a 1-yard touchdown plunge by White that essentially iced the game for Tennessee.

Who knows if Vince makes that play, but with the way the

game was going, it’s hard to be confident he would have.

Collins simply manages a foot-ball game and makes plays with his arm when needed. That’s all Tennessee needs right now with the team it has built.

Young still hasn’t learned how to read defenses. He played in a zone-read system at the University of Texas, meaning he had to survey one side of the field. If a receiver wasn’t open on that side, then Vince simply pulled down the ball and ran. That doesn’t work in the NFL.

Collins is everything Vince

isn’t right now. He’s calm, experienced and smart on the field. He won’t cave when fans start to boo him. He understands blitz packages and hot reads. Most importantly, he knows to throw to players in jerseys similarly colored to his own.

A commitment to Collins means a pledge to winning. It could also translate into a berth into the Super Bowl.

Of course, it doesn’t matter who represents the AFC in the Super Bowl anyway.

The Cowboys already have that thing won.

COWBOYS

Continued from Page 1B

Rice’s record of 197.

Williams, the five-time Pro Bowl safety, fractured his right forearm while making a tackle on a kickoff return in the third quarter.

He could miss at least three games.

McNabb was 25-of-37 for 281 yards with a touchdown, matching Ron Jaworski’s club mark of

175 career TD passes. He also was sacked four times, including those two on the final series.

“He played his heart out and he played good,” coach Andy Reid said.

Jackson caught six passes for 110 yards, becoming only the second player in NFL history to open his career with consecutive 100-yard games. The other was Don Looney, also for Philadelphia, in 1940.

But midway through the second quarter, after Owens’ sec-

ond TD put Dallas up 21-20, Jackson’s early celebration cost him a score. Jackson turned an apparent 61-yard TD into a 60-yard catch because he dropped the ball before crossing the goal line.

The ball was placed on the 1, and Westbrook scored on the next play.

“I’m just young and I’m trying to learn the best I can,” explained Jackson, who was one of the first to congratulate — and thank — Westbrook. “I’m out there having fun.”

Westbrook ran 18 times for 58 yards and two touchdowns, and caught six passes for 45 yards and another score.

Cowboys rookie Felix Jones returned a kickoff 98 yards for a touchdown, but Romo’s miscues allowed Philadelphia to go ahead.

Asanta Samuel’s interception followed by a pass interference call against the Cowboys, set up McNabb’s 6-yard TD pass to Westbrook on the first play of the second quarter.

After Isaiah Stanback botched

the ensuing kickoff to leave the Cowboys inside the 5, Romo bobbled the ball and lost control of it trying to hand off to Marion Barber. The ball rolled into the end zone, where Romo picked it up before being hit by Brian Dawkins and dropping it again. Chris Gocong recovered for a touchdown and a 20-14 lead.

“As a team we pushed through it and overcame some adversity that I put us in,” said Romo, who finished 21-of-30 for 312 yards.

“So it was good to see.”

HOCHULI

Continued from Page 1B

Denver went on to score, convert a 2-point conversion and win 39-38.

The play also is likely to be reviewed in the offseason by the league’s competition committee, which normally reviews all controversial plays.

Forexample, until March 2007, down by contact plays were not reviewable. That rule was changed so

that they were reviewable, and if a fumble occurred even after the whistle blew, the team recovering it got possession

San Diego coach Norv Turner said he spoke with NFL officials Monday and that the Chargers sent in video of the plays in question.

“As for things that occurred during the game, in my mind, they’re done,” Turner said. “We sent the plays in to the league that we had in question. We expect to get a response

back. Anything that we talk about or anything that is discussed in terms of any of the rules or any of

the calls isn’t going to change the outcome of that game. That game is going to be 39-38, forever.”



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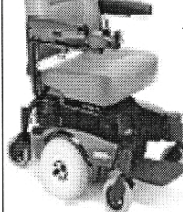
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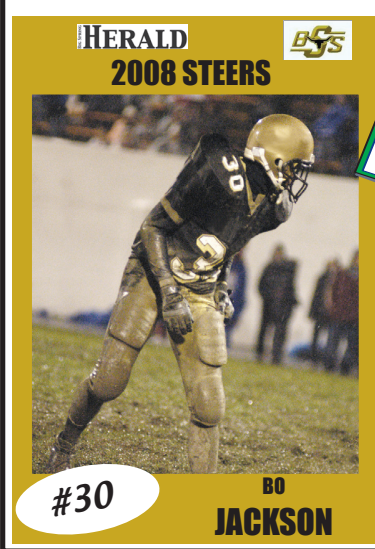
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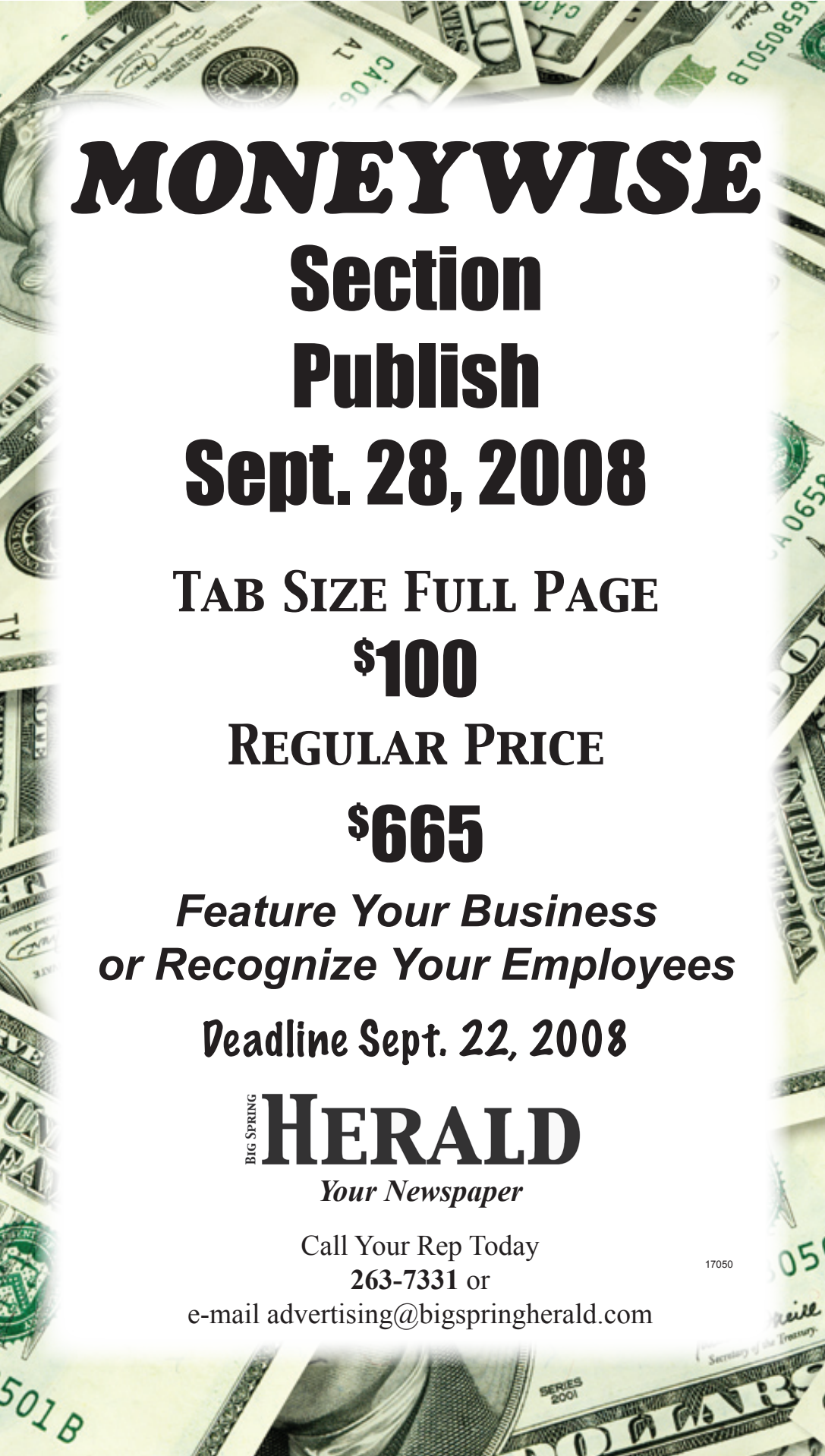
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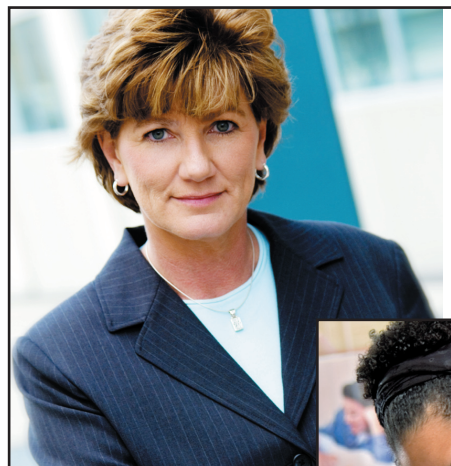
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COUNTY

Continued from Page 1A

trict Court Judge Robert H. Moore III confirmed he delivered a \$218 million valuation to attorneys on both sides of the suit last Thursday — falling between the district’s claim of \$320 million and Alon’s claim valuations should be closer to \$152 million — Barr said what will happen with the refinery’s 2008 taxes is unknown.

“As you all know, Judge Moore has a judgment of \$218 million against Alon USA,” said Barr. “Whether they (Alon) will appeal it or the appraisal district will appeal it is still up in the air. To make a long story short, we don’t know anymore (this week) than we knew last week.

“They (Alon) have until Sept. 18 to file suit on their 2008 valuation, which is

ABUSE

Continued from Page 1A

lion people needed but did not receive treatment at a specialty facility in 2006, according to the 2006 National Survey on Drug Use and Health: National Findings.

The study found that one year following treatment; clients reported a significant reduction in their alcohol and drug use, increases in employment and income, and less chance of homelessness.

September is National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month. The month recognizes the benefits of alcohol and drug use disorder treatment, congratulates the contributions of treatment providers and promotes the message that recovery from alcohol and drug use disorders can be achieved through partnership and open communication, Smith said.

A substance use disorder means that a person is dependent on or abuses alcohol and/or drugs, including nonmedical use of prescription drugs.

Addictions affect millions of people every year, with 69 percent of Americans reporting that they

\$275 million. We should know more after Thursday, whether they have filed suit or haven’t, at which time we’ll pretty much know what they are going to pay. If they file suit, we’ll call them and ask them what they are going to pay. And that’s about where it sits right now. We’re right back where we started.”

Alon USA paid approximately \$225,000 in taxes last year — based on an undisputed assessment of \$80 million that was reduced to \$54 million by abatement agreements — considerably less than the \$1 million levied against the company, according to county officials.

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

know someone who struggles with alcohol or drugs. In 2006, 22.6 million people aged 12 or older were living with a substance use disorder in the past year, making it more common than coronary heart disease.

Fortunately, many people find refuge in treatment and long-term recovery. In 2006, 4 million people aged 12 or older received some form of treatment. Similar to other chronic disorders, substance use disorders are medical conditions that can be treated, and more importantly, for which recovery is possible.

“Treatment for substance use disorders is effective and necessary to sustain a healthy and productive society,” Smith said. “Substance use disorders take an enormous toll on our community and it is time that we support those who need our help. Real people in our community are affected by substance use disorders. The renewed hope that springs from long-term recovery truly can make a difference in helping more families get healthy.”

West Texas Centers does not operate alcohol and drug addiction programs but strongly supports

Family looking for missing relative

Herald Staff Report

A Big Spring family is looking for a relative who has been missing for several days.

Michael Wilson Carl, 24, formerly of Big Spring and now a Midland resident, has been missing since Saturday evening. Family members say he was in Big Spring for a family gathering Saturday and left to go to work on a Big Dog drilling rig near Stanton.

Carl was to have met his driller in Stanton and the two were then to go to the rig, family members said. The driller said Carl never arrived. Calls to Carl’s cell phone have been un-



Michael Carl

returned.

Carl is described as being 6-feet tall and weighing 180 pounds. He has brown eyes. He was driving a 2001 cream-colored Ford Expedition.

Anyone having any knowledge of his whereabouts is asked to call the family at (432) 935-6481 or any law enforcement agency.

the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, which operates the online and toll-free locator service. To find help for yourself or a loved one, call 1-800-662-HELP or visit www.findtreatment.samhsa.gov .

Smith said that the State of Texas also promotes a toll-free, statewide hotline: (877) 9-NO DRUG (877/966-3784) or by going online at http://www.tcada.state.tx.us/treatment/index.shtml.

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Ricky Rawls, 52, of Big Spring died Friday, Sept. 12, 2008, at his residence. Funeral Services will be at 11 a.m. Tuesday at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

Naoma Coleman, 86, died Sunday. Funeral Services will be at 2 p.m. Thursday at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial at Trinity Memorial Park.

Steve James, 51, died Sunday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

Look Before You Leap

North dealer.

Neither side vulnerable.

NORTH

♠ A J 4

♥ A 8 5

♦ A K 7 3

♣ K 10 2

WEST

♠ Q 7 3

♥ K 9 7 6 3

♦ J 9 4

♣ 6 4

EAST

♠ K 9 8 6

♥ 10 2

♦ Q 10 5 2

♣ A 8 3

SOUTH

♠ 10 5 2

♥ Q J 4

♦ 8 6

♣ Q J 9 7 5

The bidding:

North

East

South

West

1 ♦

Pass

1 NT

Pass

Opening lead — six of hearts.

After you’ve played bridge a while, you learn — usually through bitter experience — that reflex-action plays should be carefully avoided. There is no reward for speed in bridge, and long experience shows that it’s far better to think first of what you’re about to do before you actually do it.

Consider this deal where West led a heart against three notrump. Declarer played low from dummy, taking East’s ten with the queen. He next played a club to the king, but when East wisely held up his ace and

After ducked the next club, South found himself in dire straits. He could establish the club suit if he wanted to, but since he had no subsequent entry to his hand, he was out of business. Soon after, South finished down two.

The sad part of the affair was that nothing could have stopped declarer from making nine tricks if he had played the hand correctly. All he had to do to assure the contract was to play the ace of hearts from dummy at trick one, resisting the temptation to let the lead run to his hand. By doing so, he would have preserved the Q-J of hearts, one of which was certain to provide him with an entry to his clubs later on.

After taking the heart ace, declarer plays clubs until the ace is dislodged. Regardless of which defender wins the club, no return can prevent declarer from scoring four clubs, two diamonds, two hearts and a spade for a total of nine tricks.

A heart return establishes an entry to the closed hand immediately, while a diamond return allows declarer to win in dummy and establish the heart entry himself. A spade return similarly causes no problem, since the 10-5-2 facing dummy’s A-J-4 assure South that, no matter which defender wins the club and shifts to a spade, he has the necessary intermediate cards to assure the contract.

Tomorrow: Avoiding a finesse.

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No foul play anticipated in death of transient

By THOMAS JENKINS
Staff Writer

Police officials say no foul play is suspected in the death of a transient man whose body was found behind the Travelcenters of America truck stop located on Interstate Highway 20.

Aubry Lee Schuster, 73, was found in a pasture located behind the truck stop shortly after 11 a.m. Monday, according to Sgt. Tony Everett, public information officer with the Big Spring Police Department.

“The man had a dog with him, and he had the dog tied up near where his body was found,” said Everett. “Someone heard the dog barking and called animal control. The animal control officer that responded found his body.”

Everett said an autopsy has been ordered, but there’s no evidence to suggest foul play at this time.

“He was a pretty sick, elderly man,” said Everett. “From the looks of things, he just laid down in the field and passed away. We’ll know more once the autopsy is completed.”

Contact Staff Writer Thomas Jenkins at 263-

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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

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YOUR VIEWS

Buyer beware

On the campaign trail and during their convention, Republicans have touted private enterprise as the solution to America’s health care crisis — despite evidence that within the government’s Medicare program, private enterprise is causing more problems than it’s solving.

Exhibit A is the \$8.5 billion in extra payments that taxpayers will make this year to private insurance companies that cover some elderly Medicare patients.

The extra payments — over and above what it costs for traditional Medicare coverage — average nearly \$1,000 for each person enrolled in a so-called Medicare Advantage plan that private insurance companies sell. Between 2004 and 2008, those extra payments added almost \$33 billion to Medicare’s costs, according to a recent review by the non-partisan Commonwealth Fund.

Exhibit B: The baffling and opaque marketing materials that private companies are using to sell stand-alone Medicare prescription drug plans. Eighty-five percent of the marketing materials fail to meet federal standards for fairness and clarity, according to a recent inspector general’s report. The result: customers don’t know what they’re buying.

Some background: In 2003, the Republican-controlled Congress passed a Medicare prescription drug benefit that greatly expanded the role of private health insurance companies in the federal health program for the elderly.

Only private insurance companies are allowed to offer drug coverage under that law. They do so through stand-alone plans or through Medicare Advantage policies that combine drug benefits with other traditional Medicare coverage.

Participation by private insurance companies was supposed to provide “competition” for traditional Medicare. In theory, that would be a fine idea.

But reality is that this “competition” has come at a steep cost for taxpayers. That’s because Congress added extra fees to entice private companies to “compete.”

About one of every five Medicare participants now is enrolled in a Medicare Advantage plan, which costs about 12 percent more per enrollee than traditional Medicare. The fastest-growing kind of Medicare Advantage plan, called a private fee-for-service plan, costs an average of 19 percent more than traditional Medicare.

Extra payments to private insurance companies have jumped from \$3.9 billion in 2004 to \$8.5 billion this year. With so much money at stake, insurance companies have cranked up the advertising pressure, often in misleading ways. People with mental disabilities and dementia have been sold Medicare coverage they didn’t need and don’t want.

Federal and state governments have begun to crack down on high-pressure sales tactics used to sell Medicare Advantage plans. Insurance commissioners in at least 39 states have received complaints about such sales tactics, which are illegal.

Congress twice tried to cut the overpayments last year and direct the money to expand health insurance for children. President George W. Bush vetoed both bills. He threatened to veto another attempt to cut the overpayments this year.

The federal government is obliged to closely monitor private insurance companies that market to Medicare enrollees to ensure that they meet their legal obligations. But audit after audit has shown it has failed to do so.

Medicare exists to provide health insurance to millions of elderly Americans who either couldn’t obtain or couldn’t afford it otherwise. There are legitimate concerns about the program’s costs, especially with baby boomers reaching retirement age.

But if Congress and Mr. Bush truly were concerned about cutting costs, why make extra payments to private insurance companies? If they are concerned about protecting the elderly, why not enforce existing regulations requiring that marketing materials be complete, accurate and understandable?

Under the Bush administration, Medicare has become a subsidy program for private insurance companies that pressure seniors to sign up for overpriced coverage.

Now, the people who brought lax oversight and overpayments for Medicare have another theory they’d like to test: If government just would get out of the way, private enterprise would solve the nation’s health care crisis.

Will it work any better for everyone’s health care than it has for Medicare? Don’t bet on it.

THE ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

Old enough to fight, old enough to drink

At age 18, an American can enlist in the military, vote, sign a contract, get married, have an operation — hey, in California, a 14-year-old can have an abortion without telling her parents — but he cannot buy a beer. Not legally, anyway.

It makes absolutely no sense, and it is shameful that my generation, which won the right to vote at age 18, continues to infantilize people who are allowed to make life-and-death decisions on every issue, save one. We believe in rights — except for college-age kids — even if they are serving in the military.

Enter the Amethyst Initiative, pushed by former Middlebury College President John McCardell and signed by more than 100 college presidents, which is pushing for Washington “to reopen public debate over the drinking age.” According to McCardell, it is time for Washington to reconsider a 1984 measure, signed by President Ronald Reagan, that withheld 10 percent of highway funds from states that had a legal drinking age lower than 21.

The reason for the Amethyst Project — named for a gemstone believed to be “an antidote to the negative effects of intoxication” — is simple. Many college officials do not believe that the 21-year-old drinking age works. They believe that most students break the law. Worse, McCardell argues, they believe that the age fosters a “culture of dangerous,



DEBRA SAUNDERS

clandestine binge-drinking.”

Does the law work? How many kids break it? More than half of 18-to-20-year-olds, according to the Department of Health and Human Services’ latest survey on drug and alcohol use, reported that they drank alcohol in the last month alone, despite legal prohibitions. College students were more likely to drink than their same-age peers not attending college. So apparently it doesn’t work. I submit that there is something wrong — something that breeds contempt — with a law that most people break.

The primary opposition to the initiative comes from Mothers Against Drunk Driving. MADD argues that if the drinking age is lowered, then more high school students will drink. That may well be true. Although it does seem that teens have scant trouble finding alcohol — or illegal drugs — as it is. The same national study found that close to 30 percent of 16- and 17-year-olds drank alcohol in the past month, while 13 percent smoked marijuana.

MADD also argues that the 21-year-old drinking age saves lives. Amethyst Initiative’s McCardell argues that there was no big dip in fatalities when the drinking age was raised. Instead, there has been a small steady decline in drunk-driving fatalities over the years as MADD’s work rightly has stigmatized drunk driving — the term “designated driver” came into use in the 1980s — and improved car safety has saved lives as well.

MADD Chief Executive Officer Chuck Hurley notes that several studies have found that the 21-year-old drinking age saves lives.

As the Associated Press reported, a survey of research from the

United States and other countries by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention concluded that the 21-year-old drinking age has saved lives.

By that account, then, raising the drinking age to 25 or 30 or 40 would save lives, too. But there is this thing called freedom. And freedom should apply to men and women old enough for military service, old enough to get married and old enough to have had an abortion (four years before).

There is something nasty in the way MADD takes on the critics. “Parents should think twice before sending their teens to these colleges or any others that have waved the white flag on underage and binge-drinking policies,” MADD President Laura Dean-Mooney warned. This is MADD’s way of trying to stifle debate.

MADD execs also have charged that university presidents want to rethink the drinking age to make their lives easier — as if they don’t care about students — or to protect against legal liability. Now maybe the argument that lowering the age will reduce binge drinking is just plain wrong, but it also is false to argue that the 21-year-old limit has stopped teen drinking.

How can we trust 18-year-olds to vote or run for office, but not to legally buy a beer?

*E-mail Debra J. Saunders at dsaunders@sfcronicle.com. To find out more about Debra J. Saunders, and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.
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Don’t assume racism if Obama loses

What a strange country. Last month, one of our two major political parties nominated an African American as its candidate for president of the United States. Historic progress to be celebrated? Apparently not. A few weeks and polls later, and some are already bemoaning the rampant racism that might keep a black man from ascending to the presidency.

Hey, Barack Obama could not have clinched the nomination without votes from white Americans. The other party isn’t supposed to just concede the election based on skin color. Voters shouldn’t have to choose based on race when they disagree on issues or believe a candidate isn’t up to the job.

But expect to see the bemoaners looking to the heavens and saying, “We’re not ready.”

Baloney. Maybe it’s Obama who’s not ready and the people who recognize that — men and women, whites and blacks, Hispanics and Asians — are just fine.

There was no racial angst when three black Republicans fell short in statewide races in 2006. No “Shame on you, America” when Ken Blackwell and Lynn Swann lost for governor in Ohio and Pennsylvania, respectively, and Maryland Lt. Gov. Michael Steele was defeated in his U.S. Senate race.

Republicans and conservatives don’t count on the racial scorecard? They should, because they put the lie to the claim that people won’t vote for a candidate because of race. That includes Republicans and conservatives. Even people in Pennsylvania’s infamous “T,” the much-deided region between Philadelphia and Pittsburgh.



KEVIN FERRIS

All three black men lost decisively in 2006. Swann’s and Blackwell’s opponents won with 60 percent of the vote, Steele’s with 54 percent. Swann was an untested political newcomer. Blackwell’s party at the state level was embroiled in corruption scandals. The three ran in the worst year for Republicans since 1974.

Was race the deciding factor in these unsuccessful campaigns? Probably not. Look at how mixed the CNN exit-polling data are.

Blackwell had twice run successfully statewide, but he was beaten badly in ‘06, losing almost across the board, regardless of voters’ race, economic status or religion. He took only 40 percent of the white vote.

Steele, who had also won statewide before, did considerably better, winning 50 percent of the overall white vote. He took 54 percent of the white male vote, 46 percent of the white female vote, 63 percent of the white Protestant vote and 58 percent of the white Catholic vote.

Closer to home, Swann received 43 percent of the white vote, 46 percent of the white male vote, and 40 percent of the white female vote. He lost white Catholics 42 percent to 58 percent, but won white Protestants, 56 to 44.

Among African American voters, Steele won 25 percent; Blackwell, 20 percent; Swann, 13 percent.

Swann won some rural and up-state Republican counties, but was crushed in the southeast. He lost Philadelphia 89.4 percent to 10.6 percent.

What, 89 percent of Philadelphians don’t like black guys?

Or is it that they couldn’t support a candidate — who happened to be black — whose resume didn’t measure up to the office he sought?

Maybe they just disagreed with Swann on the issues?

Some counties in the “T” were willing to elect a black candidate

with no governing experience who they trusted on abortion, guns, taxes and limited government.

The southeast wouldn’t elect a conservative black candidate with no executive experience. And the world shrugged. No deluge of racial angst, no peering into America’s troubled soul.

How about giving voters in 2008 the same consideration?

Don’t assume racism if people question Obama on the company he keeps: a 20-year membership in a church where anti-American rhetoric was spewed and then sold in the gift shop; boosting his political career from the home of an unrepentant domestic terrorist from the ‘60s.

Don’t assume racism because voters don’t think a junior senator with great potential but no major accomplishments is ready to be leader of the Free World and a war-time commander in chief.

Don’t assume racism if voters question his military acumen. Yes, a 16-month drawdown of forces looks doable — now.

But to get to the point where winning seemed possible, others had to make tough decisions on troop levels and strategy. In the meantime, Obama glibly sang the same tune for years, even when his plan would have meant certain victory for al-Qaeda in Iraq.

Yes, it’s a strange country, but Americans have shown they will vote for the person they believe is ready for the job, the one who will best represent their interests, regardless of race.

Don’t blame them if Obama loses. Blame his poor judgment and lack of experience.

Kevin Ferris is commentary page editor of the Philadelphia Inquirer. Readers may write to him at: PhiladelphiaInquirer, P.O. Box 8263, Philadelphia, Pa. 19101, or by e-mail at kfj@phillynews.com.

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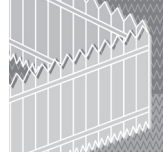
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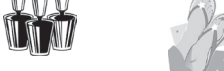
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Bird Poop: A red-tailed hawk survives shooting

Wary of the person with the long stick, the large raptor shifted its weight atop the utility pole. The weathered wood had offered safety and a secure place for its talons to grip against the winds during the night. As its strong legs and feet pushed forward, the bird used its long, broad wings to capture a gust of wind to begin its spiraling flight upwards. A second later the noise of the stick was followed by the stinging impact in the bird of prey's wing, chest, and head.

Trying to control its descent, the raptor fought to reach an area of tall, dense growth. As it nosedived into careless weeds and thistles, it could feel the pull on its feathers as spring and summer seeds left the parent plants to grab a ride to a new destination. Once its feet had touched the ground, the bird cowered and crept even further into the maze of dry stalks and crisp leaves. Hidden at last, it remained low to the ground until the crunching of the person's feet faded, then disappeared.

Rover, call me an ambulance — dog calls 911

PHOENIX (AP) — “Man’s best friend” doesn’t go far enough for Buddy — a German shepherd who remembered his training and saved his owner’s life by calling 911 when the man had a seizure.

And it’s not the first time Buddy has been there for owner Joe Stalnaker, a police officer said Sunday.

On a recording of the 911 call Wednesday, Buddy is heard whimpering and barking after the dispatcher answers and repeatedly asks if the caller needs help.

“Hello, this is 911. Hello ... Can you hear me? Is there somebody there you can give the phone to,” says the dispatcher, Chris Trott.

Police were sent to Stalnaker’s home, and after about three minutes Buddy is heard barking loudly when the officers arrived.

As morning led to late afternoon, the raptor instinctively sought its way out of the heavy foliage. Once clear, its effort to fly barely gained a foot or two of height. The pain in its wing, chest and head prevented further attempts.

Looking at its surroundings, the bird saw ahead an enticing post on the other side of a barbed wire fence. After walking under the bottom strand, and using its remaining energy, the raptor jumped and flapped its wings. With its talons, it grabbed and pulled its body to the top of a wooden stub left behind when a new fence was installed. Exhausted by this exertion, the raptor slept.

The view from her kitchen window offered seasonal colors and occasional wildlife. As she finished the dishes, the woman noticed that once again, a bird was using that old post from another era. It wasn’t the first hawk that had landed there, but it certainly was the largest.

Later, she noticed the bird had not moved. Curious, she left the kitchen. Even the back door shutting did not alarm it. Since the raptor was absolutely still, she called Parks & Wildlife. Describing her location as three miles south of Midland on the Rankin Highway, the woman felt something was wrong with the bird and asked if a game warden could come.

Scottsdale police Sgt. Mark Clark said Stalnaker spent two days in a hospital and recovered from the seizure.

“It’s pretty incredible,” Clark said. “Even the veteran dispatchers — they haven’t heard of anything like this.”

Clark said police are dis-



Almost two feet in length, with a wingspread of 4-5 feet, the red-tailed hawk mates for life, or until the death of one of the pair. The remaining bird then seeks another mate.

Approaching the red-tailed hawk, the officer noticed its lethargy. Even with its eyes open, the bird was not responsive. Using his leather gloves, the warden easily pinned the bird’s wings to its body and placed it in a carrier.

Upon examining the hawk, we found the wings held equally to the body. No joints were affected, but a small spot of blood was between an elbow and shoulder. Another stain was evident on the face.

By this time, we had discovered the feathers were matted with bristly seeds and stickers. Having experienced the sharp barbs of “goat heads” ourselves, we had to remove the debris before continuing. It was evident the hawk had been on the ground, in

dense growth.

In running our fingers over the chest and belly, we could feel small lumps beneath the skin. So many aspects of this hawk’s physical condition were unexplained. But we did have our suspicions, in spite of a feathery enigma.

What we did know was that the red-tailed hawk was female. Larger than a male, she weighed a little over three pounds. Brown above, she was creamy white below. Her belly was streaked with small, brown-shaped hearts that seemed to form a fashionable sash. Typical was her brown back mottled with white. Her chestnut red tail was a sign of maturity.

Refusing to eat on her own, the hawk required force-feeding. Her

based Paws with a Cause, which trains assistance dogs, and trained him to get the phone if he began to have seizure symptoms.

strength in resisting any handling was notable. Since we suspected a hairline fracture in the wing with the spot of blood, we did not like having to hold her. There was no other choice.

Due to the weather and other obligations, we were delayed in taking her to South Plains in Lubbock. On the fifth morning, we noticed a change. Alert and no longer passive, the red-tailed hawk was feisty. Placing a platter of mice in her carrier, we left the room. An hour later the plate was clean.

Upon arriving at the center, the hawk was taken to their veterinarians for x-rays. A call later that afternoon confirmed that the red-tailed had been shot. Pellets fractured the wing bone that had knitted properly. Another pellet had entered her nasal cavity. The bumps on the chest and belly were caused by the same type of ammunition. With time, her prospect for release

was good. On the way home, we saw numerous red-tailed hawks due to migration. Soaring over the cotton and grain sorghum fields, the birds landed on utility poles. With their eyesight, they could see mice, rats, and rabbits at a remarkable distance. One would suddenly lift upward as it used an updraft to hold it aloft. After hovering, it would use several powerful wing beats to accelerate and glide before descending toward unsuspecting prey. Having the injuries defined, we gained answers regarding what had caused the various wounds. With its reputation in controlling rodents well known, there could never be an acceptable explanation of why a person would shoot such a beneficial bird.

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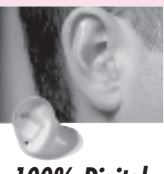
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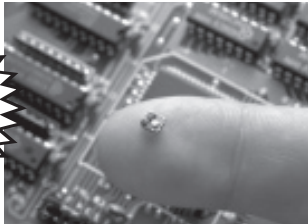
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Yesterday's full moon energies embolden Aries moon beginnings today. It's as though we're surfers who have been observing a wave on the ocean, watching it roll in, and now we're positioned to stand up and ride. Remarkably, this action involves little effort, just getting "on board" with a plan or project. Our intuitive legwork has prepared us.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You're not a huge fan of wanting, but it's helpful to be a little bit hungry now. A large appetite for life ensures that your experiences will be juicy and full. It's lucky to connect with a Taurus.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Doing good in the world comes at a personal cost, but you weren't expecting this to be easy. You gladly do what's necessary to make a situation right. Sagittarius is on your side.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Your professional reputation precedes you. You'll be offered lucrative work. There's a way to handle multiple commitments, though it will take some sorting out and delegating. Your organizational skills save the day.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You're bold and inventive. Give dynamic ideas a try, if only for a day. Move the furniture.



HOLIDAY
MATHIS

Tomorrow's Horoscope

Open new accounts. Change your style of dressing or talking. You raise your energy and stir up new interest from others.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You want to deliver quality, but obsessing and worrying over details that will have little effect in the end won't raise the integrity of your project. Know when to say when. Your first instinct will be correct.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You have the right idea about how to persuade people to your way of thinking. Because of this, you seal a deal or convince a friend to take action. Your success key is simple: You genuinely care.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You're very specific about what you need. You can afford to wait until someone gets it right. With your sweet, patient attitude, people are motivated to give you exactly what you want.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Your creative spirit is a restless child. What captures your imagination one minute might bore you half an hour later. Flit from interest to interest until you land on a fascination so deep it can hold you a while.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You flirt! You want to make people smile and your social banter is sparkling — you're just plain irresistible. By the end of the day, there are new members of your fan club.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Usually you're

the leader. But when you're not in charge, you have a special way of relating with the person who is. Authority figures may now rely on you for advice or assistance.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You have an unbelievably easy time with the chores that most others find frustrating. It's not just because you're talented, though that's part of it. It's because you see the problem in a totally different way. **PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20). The person who finishes first is not always the winner. There is something valuable to be gained through patience and humility. Quiet, selfless acts build your inner strength.

ASTROLOGICAL TOPICS: Your Egyptian zodiac sign. **Dates: Jan. 1-7; Jun. 19-28; Sept. 1-7; Nov. 18-26. Sign: the Nile.**

The Nile is still the source of life, and Egypt's wealth. Likewise, Nile people enrich those around them, enjoy tranquil surroundings and are spiritually inclined. As the Nile used to flood every year, wiping out disease and renewing life, those born need to shake things up now and then — in the name of progress.

Dates: Jan. 8-21, Feb. 1-11. Sign: Ra.

The sun god (and star of Egypt) Ra was endowed with generosity and strength. Ra people reassure others, making them great leaders. Those under this sign lead by example and empower others to do the same.

Great blessings and opportunity in life are secured for Ra-born.

Dates: Jan. 22-31; Sept. 8-22. Sign: Mut.

Depicted as a white vulture atop kings' crowns, this mother goddess held sway over Egypt's entire royal legacy. Thus, Mut people are authoritative figures who honor the physical and mystical nature of life. They inspire others with a rare blend of hopefulness and realism. Come back for more tomorrow!

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Virgos are notoriously humble, but they also might think they're the best at what they do. This isn't a contradiction! Though Virgo-born are quick to brush off compliments, their methodical craftsmanship gives them bragging rights. In singer Marc Anthony we see the dedication and pride of Virgo. With Mars also in flamboyant Leo, Marc exudes showmanship and confidence — even if he doesn't feel it.

Holiday Mathis is the author of "Rock Your Stars." If you would like to write to her, 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 ®: Advice for those in need

Dear Annie: My 28-year-old divorced daughter will be getting married soon. Occasionally, my husband and I baby-sit our 6-year-old granddaughter. During our weekly visits, our granddaughter sometimes tells us things that are a little disturbing. The most recent thing she said was, "Last night it was thundering and lightning and I was scared, so Daddy Bob told me to come in and sleep with him and Mommy in their bed."

I slept in the middle and Daddy Bob just wears his underwear to sleep." Later, when our daughter came to pick up our grandchild and they were getting ready to leave, I casually mentioned what her daughter had said.

She rolled her eyes at me and said I was being overly protective, that her fiance wears shorts to bed, not his underwear, and that I always think the worst. I changed the subject, but I wonder,

Annie, am I worried over nothing? — Gram

Dear Gram: You aren't being over-protective, you are being attentive. In this instance, however, we doubt anything is going on. Crawling

into bed with Mommy and Daddy is perfectly natural, and you can't expect Daddy to be wearing jeans.

Unless Daddy is naked, or likes to crawl into your granddaughter's bed, it seems innocent. Of course, you should keep an eye out for signs of abuse with any child, but please don't encourage your granddaughter to tell you detailed stories about her stepfather's sleeping habits.

There is always the slight possibility she will start to create

information in order to please you.

Dear Annie: My husband and I have lived in a nice neighborhood for 42 years. Our 93-year-old neighbor, "Ralph," is alone because his wife became ill and he was unable to take care of

her. Her loving family took her out of town to help her. The problem is, Ralph is constantly at my door, ringing the bell, banging on the siding, looking for us in my garden, in my shed, in my driveway, in our face.

We can't sit on our patio and relax. He is driving us crazy. My husband is retired and spends a lot of time caring for the yard and garden.

This man is in his back pocket. We are trying not to be nasty. Ralph has two children who do not come around often.

He needs supervision. This man is not the responsibility of the neighbors. How should we handle this? — Going Crazy in Pennsylvania

Dear Going Crazy: Ralph is lonely and has not adapted to living by himself. We're assuming this is a second marriage and the "loving family" that took Mom doesn't include the two children who don't visit Ralph.

Can you get in touch with his kids? Suggest they look into programs that will occupy Ralph, not only so he doesn't annoy the neighbors, but to give him some mental and physical stimulation.

You also can call Adult Protective Services and ask someone to check

and make sure Ralph is managing on his own. We know he's not your responsibility, but please do this anyway.

Dear Annie: I read the letter from "Elizabeth," who asked about permitting a 4-year-old boy to use the urinal in the men's room. As a mother of two sons, I often had the same dilemma.

I have also stood outside restroom doors waiting for my boys, although not when they were as young as 4. Wouldn't it be nice if they would make a stall in the ladies room with a urinal for these situations?

Most restrooms now have diaper-changing stations, so let's progress a little more. There are a lot of women who are single parents or mothers shopping or traveling with children.

It certainly would ease our minds to be able to let our little boys do this under our supervision. — Mom in Missouri

Dear Mom: It's a sweet idea, but probably cost-prohibitive. (Any builder who's interested could put the urinal in one of the stalls so little boys using the facilities don't disturb curious little girls.)

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

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Wacky Facts

- The Model T is introduced Oct. 1, 1908.
- The moving assembly line for the Model T gets under way in 1913.
- More than 15 million Model T's are sold by the end of the automobile's production in 1927.

KID NEWS

Chatter Box

"Anyone who stops learning is old, whether at 20 or 80. Anyone who keeps learning stays young. The greatest thing in life is to keep your mind young."
— Henry Ford, *brainyquote.com*.



In The News



PHOTOS COURTESY OF OVERDRIVE

Bookmobile travels across America

This fall, the Digital Bookmobile hits the road for a tour of libraries across the country. Its mission: To raise awareness about the wide variety of downloadable media offered by local libraries and to get communities revved up for e-reading.

The tour kicked off in New York City's Central Park in August. Throughout the next year, libraries in more than 40 cities will welcome the bookmobile as it promotes online reading across the country.

TIME
FOR KIDS

The Digital Bookmobile's "Gadget Gallery" helps to illustrate the easy access to digital books.

TOURING THE INTERNET HIGHWAY

OverDrive, a company that provides digital media services to libraries, schools and book publishers worldwide, is the driving force behind the bookmobile. The traveling exhibit is a high-tech take on the traditional bookmobile. Instead of housing ordinary library books, the 74-foot, 18-wheel tractor-trailer carries five interactive, Internet-connected computer stations. At these stations, visitors can browse eBooks (electronic books), listen to audiobooks and music, and preview movies that are all part of their local library's online catalog. Guests also can learn how to use MP3 players, cell phones and other portable devices to take digital downloads on the go.

Steve Potash heads OverDrive. He says the bookmobile was created to help libraries spread the word about their digital download services. Every day, more and more people download eBooks and audiobooks from their libraries' virtual branches, but a significant number of library cardholders don't know the option exists. The Digital Bookmobile will help readers "discover all of the wonderful, premium material — feature films, popular music, newly released novels — that their library has to offer," Potash told Time For Kids. "And they will realize the great value that their library is providing to them."

SO LONG, LATE FEES!

All that's needed to start checking out downloadable content from a library's digital catalog is a library card and a computer with Internet access. Virtual branches never close, offering users a vast selection of media 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Plus, when the due date comes around, digital titles delete themselves from your computer and return themselves.

So, what are you waiting for? Go to **digitalbookmobile.com** to find out if the Digital Bookmobile is traveling to a city near you. Then, "come discover, come explore, and come enjoy," Potash says. "It's there, and it's free."

— Vickie An

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An American Girl Place ...
for boys

By ERIC GWINN
Chicago Tribune

What would an American Girl Place for boys look like?

Instead of \$100 dolls for sale, you might see a wall of flashy footlong muscle cars, a container of fat tires, a display rack of exotic rims and threatening exhaust pipes. Instead of shrieks of delight, you might hear the whine and whir of a powered hex wrench as all those pieces were put together to make one tricked-out ride.

In other words, it might look like Ridemakerz, a chain of toy car shops with 11 outlets open around the country and another opening in October. The company's Web site also allows visitors to create custom cars, which are shipped unassembled so kids (and adults!) can put them together at home.

When the seventh store in the Ridemakerz chain



PHOTOS COURTESY OF RIDEMAKERZ

opened this spring in Schaumburg, Ill., it proved popular not just with boys but also their dads, sisters and moms at a "sneak peek" event the day before the grand opening.

"The (pink) Rascal was our biggest seller," said Larry Andreini, Ridemakerz' ZEO — that's "CEO" with a "z"; to woo the preteen crowd, the company markets its "rimz" and "decalz," "enginez" and "ridez."



Trucks start at \$15, cars at \$12, and plastic accessories ring up at \$2.50 to \$10 apiece. The hood scoops, wheelie bars and other accessories attach to the vehicles by magnet or a special snap-on system and don't affect performance. Their stylized shapes add to the Ridemakerz' slightly over-the-top look.

They're not as fast — or expensive — as the 50-mph cars craved by hard-core hobbyists who buy from stores such as www.atomicmods.com.

Ridemakerz is for the beginner who wants to choose from more than 600 million possible combinations of cars, parts and decals and to go to ridemakerz.com to compare cars and plan Ridemakerz parties.

Yes, parties. Ridemakerz offers several price options for throwing a bash where guests get to choose and customize their own "ridez." Prices start at \$12 per guest and go as high as \$30 per guest, but if you want to upgrade with a radio-controlled option you'll have to tack on another \$25 for each ride.

Bring your own tea and doll.



Foosse Challenger

It's been 100 years since the Ford Model T made its debut, changing American culture forever. It was a sturdy, practical car, and the first one that was reasonably affordable for average American drivers.

But riding in a Model T is a lot different from cruising in a minivan! Fans can take a spin back in time in a variety of historic roadsters at Greenfield Village, part of The Henry Ford in Dearborn, Mich. The Henry Ford is a historical entertainment complex that includes the historic village, the Henry Ford Museum, Ford factory tours, a research center and more. What better place to celebrate the Model T during its birthday year?

We began with a ride in one of the many Model T's at the village. Our driver, Janice Warju, has been specially trained, because a Model T isn't like the car your mom and dad drive. For starters, we saw three pedals — not just two like in today's automatic cars —

Take a ride back in time

but Warju gave us a smooth ride, probably about 15 mph. (Warju said the Model T is able to go up to 45 mph.)

Passenger Brooke Everly, 10, of Seabrook, S.C., said kids should check out the ride — but she wished the Model T could go "a little faster."

"Still, it's fun," she said with a big grin.

The Model T is so celebrated, not just because it was a popular and good car, but because it totally changed life in America, explained Bob Casey, the curator of transportation at The Henry Ford.

"Lots of people were working on cars in their sheds and barns, and he (Henry Ford) became one of them ... and basically he got in on the ground floor of the new technology. ... and rather than go to work in someone

else's industry, he helped build a brand-new industry," Casey explains.

You can catch a re-created scene with actors' voices portraying the famous founder and city leaders, along with real film footage in the nearby Ford Motor Co. building. You'll also see a re-creation of Ford's Bagley Avenue workshop.

Don't miss the "Exploded" Model T. There's no real explosion, but a huge Model T hangs from the ceiling, as if suspended in air, with every part pulled apart so

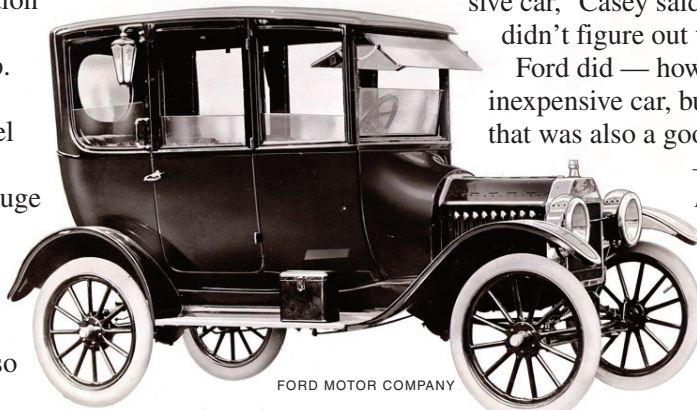
you can see what went into the magnificent machine.

You can take part in "What's My Assembly Line?" — a chance to put together a mini Model T!

After all, it was the Model T, as Casey says, that is credited with starting the whole idea of mass production.

"Other people had the idea of an inexpensive car," Casey said, "but they didn't figure out the way Henry Ford did — how to make an inexpensive car, but (make) one that was also a good car."

— Cathy Collison,
Detroit Free Press
Check out
www.thehenryford.org for more on the T.



FORD MOTOR COMPANY

	WFAA ⁽²⁾	KMID ⁽³⁾	UNI ⁽⁴⁾	KPEJ ⁽⁵⁾	KOSA ⁽⁷⁾	KTLE ⁽⁸⁾	KWES ⁽⁹⁾	WTBS ⁽¹¹⁾	KMLM ⁽¹²⁾	KPBT ⁽¹³⁾	DISC ⁽²⁰⁾	AMC ⁽²¹⁾	SPIKE ⁽²²⁾	TNT ⁽²³⁾	BET ⁽²⁶⁾	DISN ⁽²⁷⁾	ESPN2 ⁽²⁸⁾	ESPN ⁽²⁹⁾
	Dallas	Midland	Spanish	Odessa	Odessa	Telemundo	Midland	Atlanta	Odessa	Odessa	Discovery	Classics	Spike TV	Atlanta	Black Ent.	Disney	Sports	Sports
5:PM	News ABC	News ABC	Locura	Lopez	News CBS	Noticias	News NBC	Friends	Scrivner	News Business	Cash Cab	Murder by Numbers, Michael Pitt	CSI: Crime Scene	Law & Order	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Phineas	Horn	SportsCenter
6:PM	News Jeopardy!	News Jeopardy!	Noticiero Querida	Lopez	News CBS	Noticiero	News NBC	Raymond	Uri Harel	Cash Cab	Cash Cab		CSI: Crime Scn	Law & Order		Phineas	Interrupt	
7:PM	Entertain	Fortune	Enemiga	Two Men	News CBS	12 Cora-zones	News NBC	Raymond	Dr. Young	News-Lehrer	Made					Suite Life Montana	Football	E:60
8:PM	Wipeout	Wipeout	Diablo-Gua-pos	House	NCIS	El Juramento	The Biggest Loser: Families	Fam. Guy	Israel	Nova (DVS)	Dirty Jobs	Movie: Two Weeks Notice, Alicia Witt	CSI: Crime Scn	Law & Order	Movie: Young Cesar, Sam Sarpong	The Cheeshaq Girls: One World	Minor League Baseball: Bricktown Showdown.	Series of Poker
9:PM	Primetime: UFOs-Believing	Primetime: UFOs-Believing	Fuego en la Sangre	Fringe	Big Brother 10	Doña Bar-bara		Fam. Guy	Victory		Dirty Jobs		Movie: Star Wars VII: Return of the Jedi, Carrie Fisher	Law & Order		Wizards		Series of Poker
10:PM	News	News	Aqui y Ahora	TMZ	Without a Trace	Sin Senos	Law & Order: SVU	Fam. Guy	Light of the Southwest	P.O.V.	Dirty Jobs	(-15) Movie: Matchstick Men, Alison Lohman		Law & Order	Comic Some	Wizards Life De	Baseball Tonight	
11:PM	Nightline	Nightline	Impacto	Raymond	News	Noticias	News	Frank TV	Israel	Charlie Rose	Made			Raising the Bar	Movie: Young Cesar, Sam Sarpong	Suite Life Montana	Madden	SportsCenter
12:AM	Insider	Jimmy Kim-mel Live	Noticiero	King-Hill	Late Show	Titulares	Tonight Show	Frank TV	TBA		Made					NASCAR	Baseball	
1:AM	Jimmy Kim-mel Live	Extra	La Hora de la Risa	Order: CI	Late Late Show	Decisiones	Late Night	Sex & Sex	Ministerio-Vida	Smiley Smiley	Dirty Jobs	(-45) Mad Men	Movie: Without a Paddle, Dax Shepard	Without a Trace	Cory	Replace	NFL Live	SportsCenter
2:AM	News	Paid	Amarte-Pecado	RENO 911	Insider	Programa Pagado	News	Movie: The Postman, Larenz Tate	Israel	(Off Air)	Dirty Jobs	(-45) Movie: Murder, Inc.		Without a Trace	Comic Some	Kim	Series of Poker	
3:AM	Paid	Paid	Clasicos	Friends	Entertain	Paid	Poker After Dark		Church	Light of the Southwest			Deep Space 9	Hell Date	Emperor Dragon	NHRA Drag		SportsCenter

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"MY MOM'S STILL PRETTY SMART, EVEN IF SHE DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT FOOTBALL."



“Daddy, will you let some of the air out of this? It’s too hard for my head.”

HAGAR



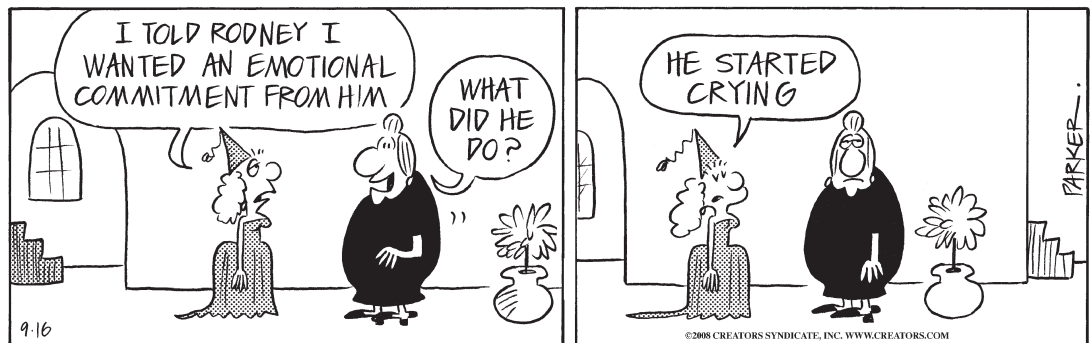
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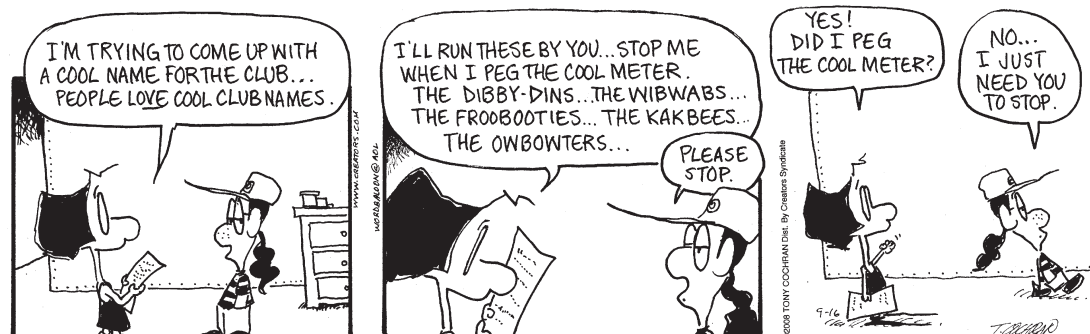
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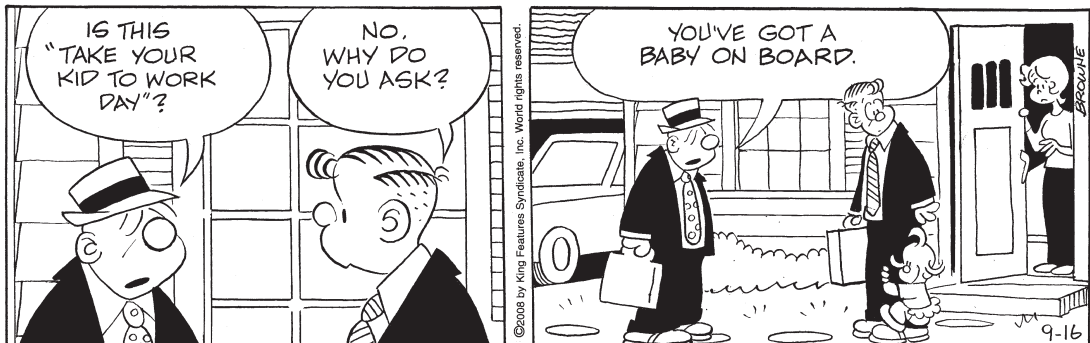
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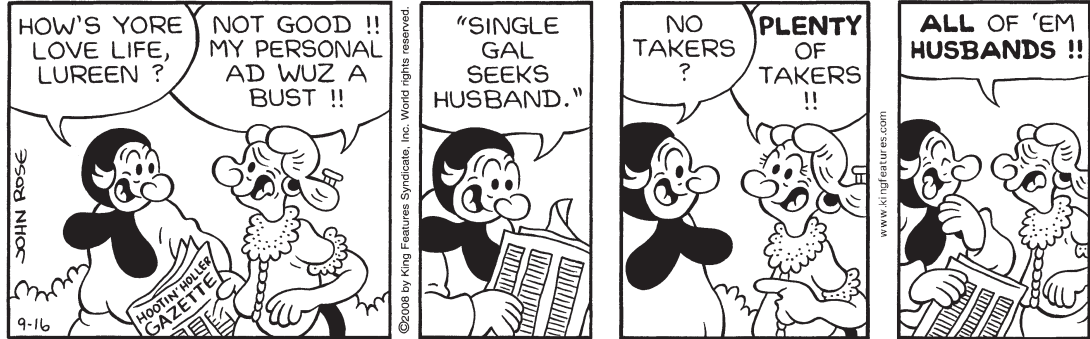
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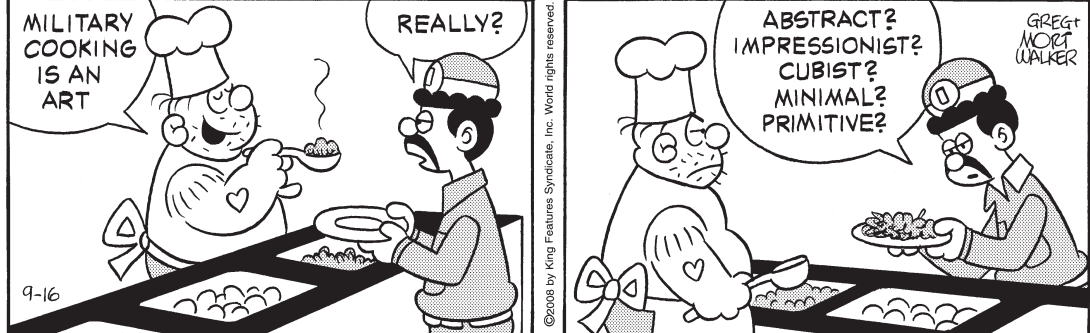
THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BEETLE BAILEY



This Date In History

Today is Tuesday, Sept. 16, the 260th day of 2008. There are 106 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

One hundred years ago, on Sept. 16, 1908, General Motors was formed in Flint, Mich., by William Durant.

On this date:

In 1498, Tomas de Torquemada, notorious for his role in the Spanish Inquisition, died in Avila, Spain.

In 1810, Mexico began its successful revolt against Spanish rule.

In 1893, more than 100,000 settlers swarmed onto a section of land in

warmed onto a section of land in Oklahoma known as the "Cherokee Strip."

In 1919, the American Legion was formally chartered by an act of Congress.

In 1940, President Roosevelt signed into law the Selective Training and Service Act, which set up the first peacetime military draft in U.S. history. Samuel T. Rayburn of Texas was elected Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives.

In 1966, the Metropolitan Opera opened its new opera house at New York's Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts.

Newsday Crossword

ON DECK by Billie Truitt
 edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

- 1 Treaties
6 Shaker
contents
10 Feeling blue
13 Sneezer's
sound
14 Juliet's love
15 Pub brew
16 Step
17 ___ and
kicking
18 Enthusiast
19 Where one

Scoundrel

- 62 Soar without an engine
- 63 Rainbow shape
- 64 Continuously
- 65 Like Swiss cheese
- 66 Complete collection
- 67 "Wish you ___ here"
- 68 Stockholm resident

6 Was a

- dealer in
7 Friend, in
Mexico
8 Prying tool
9 One end of
a sock
10 Out of danger
11 "Ah, me!"
12 Fender flaw
14 Start of a
summer
shower
20 Not at all
smooth
21 Have some (c
25 Job for a
detective
26 Black eyes
27 "Holy cow!"
29 ___ yesterday
(gullible)
30 Aware of
31 Take a break

32 Opposite of

- fem.
33 Neighborhood
34 Flower stalk
36 Torn off
39 Soft-drink
 flavor
40 Nun's attire
46 Chuckles
48 Steak
 choice
49 Raring to go
51 Nimble
52 Lent a hand
53 Keep ___ on
 (watch)
54 Prejudice
55 Small part of
 a large farm
56 Religious
 faction
58 Melody
59 What winds do
61 Use the oars

