

BIG SPRING HERALD

VOLUME 102, NUMBER 119

TUESDAY, AUGUST 8, 2006

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50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 WEEKEND



INSIDE

Owens says he is likely to miss the Cowboys' first preseason game. Page 7

Post Office to hold Passport Fair on Aug. 26

By THOMAS JENKINS
Staff Writer

Crossing the border between the United States and neighboring countries is about to get a little more complicated, according to Big Spring Postmaster Gary Crittenden.

"Starting Dec. 31, a passport or other secure accepted document will be required for all air and sea travelers crossing borders to and from Mexico and Canada," said Crittenden.



CRITTENDEN

However, the Big Spring Post Office will be doing its part to make sure area residents meet the December deadline with passport in hand, as local postal officials prepare to hold a passport fair Aug. 26.

"The fair will be from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. in the lobby of the Big Spring Post Office, located at 501 S. Main Street," said

Crittenden. "Extended hours on a Saturday will offer those customers who can not leave work during the week an opportunity to apply for a U.S. passport.

"We'll have different stations for people to visit, with everything from passport photos to informational booths. Normally, the process would take approximately 30 minutes per person. However, by doing it this way, we can cut that time down to about 10 to 15 minutes per person."

Crittenden said citizens filing for a passport for the first time will be required to:

- Apply in person. Minors under 14 years of age must also apply in person with both parent and guardian.
- Complete application form DS-11, which is available at the post office. However, applicants should not sign the form.
- Bring proof of U.S. citizenship, which can include a previous U.S. passport, a certified U.S. birth certificate or a cer-

tificate of naturalization or citizenship.

- Proof of identity, which includes certificate of naturalization or citizenship, a current, valid driver's license or government or military ID. Minors must also show proof of identity.
- Two identical passport photos, which will be provided by the Post Office for a \$15 fee. However, if the picture is taken

See **PASSPORTS**, Page 3



Hang gliding pilots move their gliders to the safety of a nearby hangar Monday afternoon after uncooperative weather forced officials to shut down flex wing competitions during the U.S. Hang Gliding Championship at McMahan-Wrinkle Airpark. Monday marked the first time in several years the hang gliding competition's daily task had to be canceled because weather.

HERALD photo/Thomas Jenkins

GROUNDED!

Unusual weather forces officials to scrap Day 2 of Championships

By THOMAS JENKINS
Staff Writer

Mother nature just wasn't in her usual cooperative mood Monday afternoon, as thunderstorms managed to rain out the second day of competition during the U.S. Hang Gliding Championship at McMahan-Wrinkle Airpark.

Championship organizer and director David Glover, who has brought the contest to Big Spring for the past several years in a row, said the onset of bad weather breaks a rather impressive chain of flight days for the area.

"For the past five years that we've flown (in Big Spring), we've been able to fly almost every day," said Glover. "In the past we've been able to take off and get almost all of the gliders in the air. This is pretty unusual. It's probably the first

time in about 40 different tasks that we've had to call it before the task actually began.

"There was just too much uncertainty with the over-development (of the weather) and some of the clouds getting too tall. To make it a safe, fair and fun meet, we decided to cancel it."

Here are the current results of the United States Hang Gliding Championships begin staged at McMahan-Wrinkle Airpark. Competition was cancelled Monday due to threatening weather.

- Flex Wing**
1st Place — Gerolf Heinrichs (Austria), 41 points
2nd Place — Brett Hazlett (Canada), 39 points
3rd Place — Attila Bertok (Hungary), 17
- Rigid Wing**
1st Place — Oliver Gregory, 503 points
2nd Place — Mark Stump (U.S.), 505 points
3rd Place — James Yocom (U.S.), 506 points
- Sport Division**
1st Place — John Simon, 260 points
2nd Place — Alex Diez, 265 points
3rd Place — Brian Vitola, 262 points

And while the normally dry and docile weather associated with Big Spring hasn't been able to hold out for the competition, Glover said it's only part of the reason pilots enjoy coming to the city each year.

"We originally came to Big Spring because the weather was so good, and

it's still consistently one of the best competition hang gliding sites in the world," said Glover. "We want to fly every day in perfect, puffy clouds, but the weather is what it is, and we simply can't control it.

"The city and facilities are still second to none. We love being here. We're just looking forward to that good weather again, which will hopefully be here today."

Glover said attempts to use global positioning satellite technology — powered mainly by cell phones — to track the pilots as they race via the Internet haven't been as successful as he'd like, but it's something he expects to see improve in the coming year.

"Last year we had a system set up by radio and global positioning

See **GLIDING**, Page 3

HC trustees place bond vote on hold

By STEVE REAGAN
Staff Writer

Howard College trustees may have to call for a bond election to pay for facility renovations, but it won't be this year.

Trustees officially pulled the plug on any chance for a 2006 bond election during their regular meeting Monday in Garrett Coliseum's East Room.

Howard College officials are looking at a bond election to at least pay for part of a proposed \$23 million price tag to finance construction and renovation projects on the Big Spring campus.

But with three other taxing entities expected to hold bond elections in November, college officials apparently decided the ballot was getting too crowded for their taste.

"A bond election is definitely possible, but not for November," HC President Dr. Cheryl Sparks said. "We will look at holding one either May or November 2007."

Architectural consultants released preliminary cost estimates for the planned renovations, which cover a wide variety of infrastructure needs on the Big Spring campus.

- These include:
- Renovation of the campus gas/water/sewer distribution system.
 - General chiller/cooling upgrades
 - Campus-wide heating, ventilation and air conditioning controls systems.
 - Science laboratories and science building piping.
 - New co-ed dormitory.
 - Remodeling of the

Proposed budget may call for drop in tax rate

By STEVE REAGAN
Staff Writer

Howard College officials are within weeks of putting the finishing touches on a budget for the 2006-2007 fiscal year.

The tentative budget package calls for about \$100,000 in increased expenditures, mostly through raises for college employees, according to Dr. Cheryl Sparks, the college's president.

"We are recommending salary increases for employees of \$1,200," Sparks said. "That includes their normal 'step' increases."

The \$21.8 million budget will be fueled by a proposed tax rate of 24.12 cents per \$100 valuation, a decrease of more than 3 cents from the previous year, Sparks said.

Even with the rate cut, sharply higher property valuations mean the district will bring in even more money than last year.

Budgets for the three main campuses — Big Spring, San Angelo and SouthWest College Institute for the Deaf —

See **BUDGET**, Page 3

interior of the student union building.

- Renovation and construction of classrooms in the practical arts building.
- Renovation of the administration building.
- New boilers in eight buildings.

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www.bigspringherald.com

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Loss of Alaska oil field puts pressure on prices

By MARY PEMBERTON
Associated Press Writer

ANCHORAGE, Alaska — The fast rise in oil prices after BP's announcement that it was shutting down one of its biggest oil fields for repairs that could take months appeared to have leveled off Tuesday morning.

Oil prices fell in several markets, but the price was still more than \$1 above last week, putting pressure on prices at the pump.

Light sweet crude for September delivery on the New York Mercantile Exchange slipped 33 cents to \$76.65 a

barrel in electronic trading by midday in Europe. September Brent at London's ICE Futures exchange fell 40 cents to \$77.90 a barrel.

BP said it discovered corrosion so severe that it will have to replace 16 miles of pipeline at the huge Prudhoe Bay oil field. The news Monday put pressure on prices at the pump during the peak summer driving season and prompted the government to consider dipping into its emergency stockpile.

Most of the crude oil produced out of Alaska's North Slope each day goes to refineries in Washington, California and Hawaii, said Joe Sparano, presi-

dent of the Western States Petroleum Association, a trade group based in Sacramento, Calif.

Sparano said it's too soon to tell how the shutdown will ultimately affect consumers. "Until we know the full extent of any necessary repairs and how long they might take, it's impossible to predict what the impact might be," he said.

The average U.S. retail price of a gallon of unleaded, regular gasoline was \$3.036 on Monday, near its all-time high of \$3.057, reached Sept. 5 after Hurricane Katrina hit the Gulf Coast.

See **OIL**, Page 5

Obituaries

Oneita A. Sledge

Oneita A. Sledge, 93, of Big Spring went to be with the Lord Monday, Aug. 7, 2006, at Parkview Manor Nursing and Rehabilitation Center. Graveside Services will be 10 a.m. Wednesday at Trinity Memorial Park with Don Brodie and Rev. Dennis Teeters officiating. The family will receive friends from 6 p.m. until 7 p.m. Tuesday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

She was born March 29, 1913, at Royse City to Charlie and Fannie Allen. Oneita grew up and graduated from school at Royse City. She married Paul D. Sledge on Jan. 1, 1938.

They moved to Big Spring in 1939 from Royse City. Mr. Sledge died June 26, 1969. She married Eddie Shoemaker on March 17, 1996. He also preceded her in death on Jan. 11, 2000.

Oneita worked for over 25 years in the catalog department at Sears-Roebuck Company in Big Spring. She was a very active member of the First Baptist Church of Big Spring since 1939. Oneita taught Sunday school for more than 40 years and sang in the choir.

In more recent years, she was a part of the Saints Alive Singers and a member of L.L.L. at First Baptist Church. Oneita's hobbies were traveling, crocheting and tatting. She tatted bookmarks for everyone she knew, telling them to put it in their Bible and think of her when they read the Bible. She enjoyed dominoes, especially "80," and in later years Bingo at Park Place. Oneita had a very competitive spirit and loved winning.

She is survived by two daughters, Andre Clark and husband Sidney of Big Spring, and Carla Beall and husband Paul of Richardson; four grandchildren, David Sink, Jamie Kelley and husband Wade, Brandon King, and wife Sharon, and Misty Rhoton and husband Kevin; and nine great grandchildren.

In addition to her parents and husbands, she was preceded in death by her sister, Roberta Robinson.

Pallbearers will be David Sink, Brandon King, Kevin Rhoton, Wade Kelley, Ross Rhoton and Jake Rhoton. Honorary pallbearers will be James Sink, Nicholas King and Caleb Kelley.

The family suggests memorials to The First Baptist Church, 705 W. FM 700, Big Spring 79720; or the American Cancer Society, c/o Lucy Bonner, P. O. Box 2121, Big Spring 79721.

The family will be at 2707 Coronado. Arrangements are by Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Pay your respects online at www.myersandsmith.com
Paid Obituary

W. O. Tyler

W. O. Tyler, 76, of Midland, formerly of Coahoma died Saturday, Aug. 5, 2006, at Scenic Mountain Medical Center. Graveside services were held at 11 a.m. today at Lawnhaven Memorial Gardens in San Angelo.

He was born Nov. 14, 1929, in Waxahachie to Doc Tyler and Ruby Allen Tyler. He was a Veteran of the U.S. Army. He was the purchasing agent for Cival's Tank for over 35 years.

He lived his early years in Coahoma, lived over 50 years in Odessa, and moved to Midland for the last three years.

He is survived by two sons, Charley Tyler and wife Jere of Farmington, N.M., and Don Tyler and wife Suzanne of Midland; and four grandchildren.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife, Cindy Bush Tyler, on May 18, 2004.

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

Police blotter

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

• **BILLY WALTON**, 23, of 1705 State, was arrested Monday on a local capias warrant and held for the HCISO.

• **THEFT** was reported: in the 1200 block of 11th Place, in the 200 block of W. Marcy and in the 2000 block of Gregg Street.

• **CRIMINAL TRESPASS** was reported in the 400 block of Fourth Street.

• **CRIMINAL MISCHIEF** was reported in the 1200 block of Pennsylvania.

• **BURGLARY OF A VEHICLE** was reported in the 400 block of Eighth Street.

• **BURGLARY OF A HABITATION** was reported: in the 200 block of Sixth Street and in the 100 block of 16th Street.

Sheriff's report

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

• **RAUL GARCIA SIMENTAL**, 41, was arrested Monday by the HCISO on a charge of driving while intoxicated.

• **DEVON LEE BUTLER**, 21, was arrested Monday by the HCISO on a motion to revoke probation for possession of marijuana - more than 2 ounces less than 4 ounces.

• **ENRIQUE ABEL DEJESUS**, 27, was arrested Monday by DPS on a charge of theft by check.

• **MARK RYERSON**, 18, was arrested Monday by the HCISO on a motion to revoke probation for failure to identify - giving false information.

• **BRIAN ZACHRY PIERCE**, 41, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on Lamb County warrants for failure to appear and possession of marijuana - 2 ounces or less and a charge of contempt of court - disobedience of a court order.

• **CHRISTIAN SWORD HERNANDEZ**, 19, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on a charge of evading arrest or detention.

• **JULIAN JESUS MEDRANO**, 28, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on charges of failure to identify - giving false information, evading arrest or detention with a vehicle and a Midland County warrant for unauthorized use of a motor vehicle.

• **BRANDY LEE HUBBARD**, 17, was arrested Monday by the HCISO on charges of burglary of a building and evading arrest or detention with a vehicle.

• **JACOB MICHAEL LANG**, 18, was arrested Monday by the HCISO on a charge of theft.

Fire/EMS

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

• **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1900 block of North Highway 87. One person was transported to SMMC.

• **TRAFFIC ACCIDENT** was reported near the intersection of Highway 80 and Airpark. One person was transported to the VAMC.

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

• **TRAFFIC ACCIDENT** was reported in the 400 block of State Street. One person was transported to SMMC.

• **TRAUMA** was reported in the 1600 block of Avion. Service was refused.

Take Note

• **MEET THE TEACHER** at Coahoma Elementary School is Thursday. Multi-Age Meeting for kindergarten through third grade is at 5:30 p.m. in Cafeteria. Meet the Teacher for prekindergarten through six grade is from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. School starts Monday at 7:55 am

• **CHRIST COMMUNITY FELLOWSHIP IS COLLECTING INFANT CAR SEATS AND CARRIERS.** These are given to new mothers who cannot afford them. To donate your old or new car seats and carriers, call Karen Allen at 263-3517 or leave a message at Christ Community Fellowship, 263-love. All donations are appreciated.

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

• **THE MITCHELL COUNTY REUNION** will be held Sept. 30 in the Colorado City Civic Center, 157 W. Second St. Reservations may be made with the Colorado City Area Chamber of Commerce, at 325 728-3403. The speaker will be Elsie Ann (Ramsdell) Scaife, a former Mitchell County resident and a member of the 1944 graduating class.

• **NEW LIFE MINISTRIES** Church of God in Christ is holding a soup kitchen every second and fourth Tuesday from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at 204 N.W. 10th. The meal is free. Call 264-0771 for more information

• **SANDS-ACKERLY EX-STUDENTS HOMECOMING 2006** will be Sept. 30. The committee is in the process of updating address files. Contact Dorothy Rogers at 1608 W. FM 2230, Big Spring, or call 432 399-4312. We need correct mailing addresses for the homecoming letters. We would also like to have ex-teachers' addresses.

• **FORSAN EX-STUDENT ASSOCIATION ANNUAL ALL-CLASS REUNION** is Aug. 5. Names, addresses and class years for Forsan exes are needed. Submit information or pictures for a newsletter before June 15

to Ida Lou Raney, 5216 Dawson Dr., Big Spring or call 432 267-2414, Jimmy Anderson at 432 267-6143 or Opal Stout at 325 574-2150, or e-mail hiraney@ccrom.net.

• **THE PET PATROL** helps locate lost pets and owners of found pets. To volunteer or for more information, call Melanie Gambrell at 267-PETS (7387).

• **HANGAR 25 AIR MUSEUM IS COLLECTING RECIPES** to be included in a 2006 cookbook which will display memories of Big Spring over the years. Share your memories and your recipes. Contact the Hangar at 264-1999 for recipe forms.

• **BIG SPRING HIGH SCHOOL Class of 1991** is looking for fellow classmates for the 15-year reunion. If you or anyone you know has not been contacted by the reunion committee members please get in touch with us. Kendra (Williams) Rutledge 263-9955, Kim (Bailey) Rios 264-6129, or Kerry (Burdette) Rodriguez 263-6100.

• **BIG SPRING HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1986 20th REUNION** needs addresses and contact information for classmates. Call Kelly at 816-4540.

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Bulletin Board

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

WEDNESDAY
• Optimist Club meets at 7 a.m. in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.
• Senior Circle meets at 10:30 a.m. at Scenic Mountain Medical Center for Sit and Be Fit Chair Aerobics. Those 50 years and older are invited to attend. Call 268-4721.
• Senior Circle meets at 11 a.m. at Scenic Mountain Medical Center classroom for Stretch and Tone. Call 268-4721.
• Downtown Lions Club meets at noon at the Howard College Cactus Room.

Weather

Today - Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Highs in the mid 90s. South winds 10 to 15 mph.

Tonight - Partly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. Lows in the lower 70s. South winds 10 to 15 mph.

Wednesday - Partly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. Highs in the upper 90s. South winds 10 to 15 mph.

Wednesday night - Partly cloudy. Lows in the mid 70s. South winds 10 to 15 mph.

Thursday - Mostly sunny. Highs around 100. South winds 10 to 15 mph.

Thursday night - Mostly clear. Lows in the lower 70s.

Friday - Partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 90s.

Friday night - Partly cloudy. Lows in the mid 70s.

Saturday - Partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 90s.

Saturday night - Partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 70s.

Lottery

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Monday night:
Winning numbers drawn: 4-19-20-32-37.
Number matching five of five: None.
Next Cash 5 drawing: Tonight.

Results of the Texas Two Step drawing Monday night:
Winning numbers drawn: 6-13-25-27. Bonus Ball: 34.
Number matching four of four, plus Bonus Ball: None.
Estimated jackpot for Thursday night drawing: \$700,000.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Monday night, in order: 2-7-2.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Monday afternoon, in order: 9-9-2

su | do | ku

© Puzzles by Pappocom

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

5	2	1	3	4	
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3	8		6		7
8	6	2	4	5	
	7			1	
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BIG SPRING HERALD

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GLIDING

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systems that were meshed together so we could show the race on the Internet," said Glover. "The cell phone companies started creating something that was similar, and right now we have a couple of guys trying it out, but it's really only in the testing phase and it's not working as well as last year."

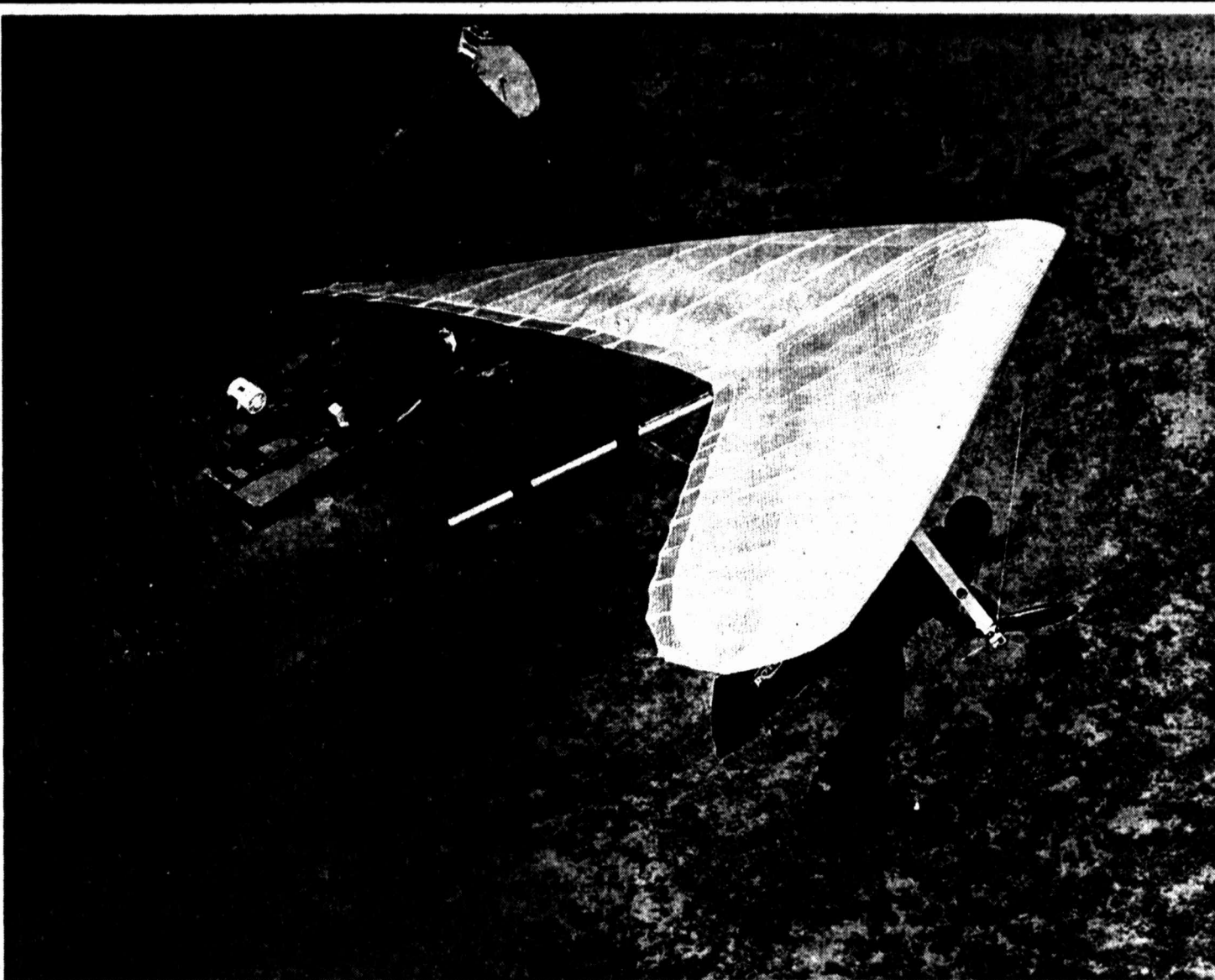
"We hope to get a sponsor for the world competition next year and have it on the top 10 pilots. That way people around the world can see this race happening in Big Spring on an interactive map. We'll have to see how it goes. There are a lot of other things to think about before next year."

Glover said he is hesitant to look beyond this year's national competition to the world championship, which is slated for next year in Big Spring.

"Our main focus right now is just to get through this year's meet safely," said Glover. "Once we do that, we'll sit down with Bobby McDonald, Jim Little and the city to make sure we have everything lined out."

"The airport facility, the Internet service from Basin 2-Way Radio, support from the Whitten people and the support from the people in Big Spring has just been tremendous. All we need is a little bit of good weather and everything else just tends to take care of its self."

Expected to draw more



This hang glider pilot circles near a pumpjack while coming in for a landing Monday afternoon during the U.S. Hang Gliding Championship. The flex wing competition was canceled due to bad weather.

HERALD photo/Thomas Jenkins

than 100 pilots, Glover said the world championship not only brings new notoriety for Big Spring, it brings new headaches for him and his event team.

"We can have up to 150 pilots in the world competition," said Glover. "That means we're going to have to come up with a way to have two (take off) lines, whether they are

next to each other or at an alternative location.

"Right now, one of the best solutions seems like taking down a section of the fence, because then we could put gliders on both sides of the taxi way and land the tug planes in the middle."

"We're expecting approximately 95 percent of the pilots next year to be foreign," he added.

"It's going to bring a lot of people here to see Big Spring from around the world."

As for the weather, Glover said he still sees Monday — with its bad weather and uncompleted task — as a success.

"As long as it's a safe meet and people have a good time, it's success-

ful," said Glover confidently. "We love coming to Big Spring and we're really looking forward to coming back next year."

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

'Meet the Teacher' slated in Coahoma

COAHOMA — A "Meet the Teacher" event has been scheduled at Coahoma Elementary School for 5:30 p.m. Thursday in the school cafeteria.

The multi-age meeting is for students in kindergarten through the third grade.

A "Meet the Teacher" for pre-kindergarten through sixth grade will be from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Classes begin at Coahoma schools at 7 a.m. Monday.

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

24th & Johnson 267-8200
W. O. Tyler, 76, died Saturday. Graveside services will be at 11 a.m. Tuesday at Lawnhaven Memorial Gardens in San Angelo.
Oneita A. Sledge, 90, died Monday. Graveside services will be at 11 a.m. Wednesday at Trinity Memorial Park. The family will receive friends from 6 p.m. until 7 p.m. Tuesday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

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BUDGET

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are balanced, Sparks added.

College officials plan a series of public hearings on the new budget and tax rate on Aug. 15 and Aug. 18. Final approval of

the financial package is expected Aug. 28.

In other business, trustees approved:
• Updates to the master plans for all three campuses.

• The budget for the Howard County Appraisal District.

• An evaluation of the district's core curricu-

lum.

• Summer enrollment and contact hour figures.
• Bids and catalog and handbook changes.

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

BOARD

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Total estimate for the projects is listed at \$23.3 million, according to figures released by Freese and Nichols, the architectural firm advising the district on this project.

Sparks said the college is unlikely to try financing the entire \$23 million through a bond election. Using revenue bonds, performance contracts and other alternative revenue sources could account for

almost half the needed financing.

"We are looking at all sources of revenue for this project," Sparks said.

As things stand now, Sparks and trustees are eyeing the possibility of financing \$13 million of the project through a bond election, with the rest financed through other sources.

Despite not calling for a bond election at this time, trustees said the issue must be faced sooner or later.

"There's a lot of different ways to get these projects going," said Trustee

Murray Murphy. "We are looking at some major overhauls. We have aging facilities ... Maybe it's time for us to hold our hands up and say, 'We have needs at Howard College, too.'"

College district voters have not faced a bond election since they authorized construction of Garrett Coliseum in the mid-1970s.

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

PASSPORTS

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at a different location or ahead of time, it must meet strict government requirements.

Applicants will also be asked to pay a fee of \$97 for anyone 16 years old or older, and \$82 for children age 15 or younger, according to Crittenden.

"The new requirements were developed by the U.S. State Department and Department for Homeland Security," said Crittenden. "A lot of people don't even know they can get their passport through the post office. However, more than 80 percent of all the pass-

ports issued by the State Department come through the post office."

For more information on passport requirements or the fair, contact the Big Spring Post Office at

267-7391.

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

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EDITORIAL

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

Susanne Reed
PublisherJohn A. Moseley
Managing EditorBill McClellan
News Editor

OUR VIEWS

Aggie Auction was reminder of A&M's best

Something very impressive took place recently in our community. And while it was reported in our newspaper, it seems certain to us that not enough was made about what took place during the Howard County A&M Club's annual scholarship fund auction.

No, we're not really referring to the more than \$40,000 the club raised with its seventh annual Aggie Auction.

No, not the more than 100 bidders.

And no, not even the lengthy list of impressive auction items that included a trip for two to the 2007 Masters practice rounds in April of next year; a Florida trip that included a week in a condominium owned by local Aggie do-gooders Mike and Jeanne Niklasch; an Earl Campbell autographed jersey; and guitars signed by music legends Ted Nugent and Billy Gibbons.

All those things are very impressive, but not what tugged at our heartstrings.

No, what really impressed us was the attention a new endowed scholarship drew attention from bidders.

The 85th item to go on the auction block was simply the naming rights for the \$25,000 endowed scholarship.

When all was said and done, Hayes Stripling, who was a yell leader for the Aggies and graduated from A&M in 1949, had earned the honor.

If you ask us, Stripling has done a great many wonderful things in our community, often very quietly. Furthermore, as any Aggie yell leader, he is an avid supporter of his alma mater. So there's not much question in our minds that it would certainly be fitting if an endowed scholarship at A&M were named for him.

Instead, Hayes expressed his desire to name the scholarship in honor of a dear friend, Paul Shaffer, who graduated from Texas A&M in 1952 and is currently battling cancer.

There's an old saying that you'll never see an Aggie who's down and out. That's because and Aggie may get down from time to time, but there's always another Aggie right there to help him back up on his feet.

That too is one of the really impressive things about Texas A&M and its former students. And that's why even died in the wool University of Texas exes can't help by admire their arch rivals at times like these.

That's why the Texas A&M alumni association is known as the Association of Former Students. Once an Aggie ... always an Aggie.

And we're proud to call these Aggies our friends and neighbors here in Howard County.

LETTER POLICIES

The Herald welcomes letters to the editor.

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

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

May we dwell carefully on how important You are to our life, Lord.

Amen

Don't think outside the college box

Imagine, if you can, that slightly more than half of the public voted Democratic in the last presidential election, yet some 80 percent of higher education's social scientists voted Republican. In that universe, you would expect the left to demand changes in university hiring practices so that academia would nurture greater diversity so as to better represent the American community.

Then step back into the real world, where academia has become a solid bastion of the Left, as demonstrated by two articles in the latest issue of the scholarly journal *Critical Review*. One article presents a survey of academic social scientists that reports that 79.6 percent of 1,208 respondents said they voted mostly Democratic over the last 10 years, with 9.3 percent voting Republican.

Call that a near monopoly marketplace of ideas.

A second article studied the voter registration of California college professors and found that the ratio of registered Democrats to Republicans (among professors located in voting registers) is 5 to 1. Let it be noted that the researchers made an effort to include schools reputed to be right-leaning. Some disciplines demonstrated more orthodoxy than others — with sociology departments showing a ratio of 44 Democrats to 1 Republican, but economics departments employing 2.8 Democrats for each member of the GOP.

Is it bias or self-selection? The two libertarian-leaning economics professors who conducted the California survey, San Jose State University's Christopher R.

Cardiff and George Mason University's Daniel B. Klein, don't believe there is one quick, easy answer to that question, although they definitely see what Cardiff described as "subconscious bias."

"I think, partly, it is self-selection," said Klein over the phone Wednesday. He sees "something about intellectuals and hubris and conceit" in academia — with political scientists pumping themselves up as savvy saviors of a public sorely in need of their enlightened views. While liberal professors often think that they are open-minded, Klein believes that they also often think that "we're smarter" than those outside of academia, which gives them a right to "discriminate against people who get it wrong."

As a result, Klein asserts, an economics major might present a paper that argues that the New Deal deepened and prolonged the Great Depression, with supporting data, but "no matter how solid the research was, there's no way that would impress them." In their group-think, many social scientists marginalize heterodox thinkers.

Cardiff knows conservative professors "who are afraid to share their point of view," lest their colleagues turn on them. "You've got this situation where universities are professing to support intellectual freedom, academic freedom, when in reality there's a chilling effect on actual political discussion."

Many professors see their universe as expansive and novel. Yet, Cardiff noted, "if you're only getting one point of view, you're living in an echo chamber." The worst of it is, the most ideologically pure professors have so isolated themselves that, according to Cardiff, "a lot of these folks don't realize there are other opinions out there."

I run into this all the time when

I hear from readers who think that I am biased — I am, I am supposed to be, I write for the opinion page — while they are neutral. (They're not, they're biased, too.)

I've also run into my share of journalists who believe that journalists tend to be liberal because liberals are smarter. It simply doesn't occur to them that editors tend to not hire reporters who don't fit into the well-worn liberal mold.

The *Critical Review* articles bared two disturbing trends: First, left-leaning academics are more orthodox than right-leaning academics. Klein, and Charlotta Stern of the Institute for Social Research in Stockholm, who conducted the social-scientist survey, polled academics about their views on where government intervention works best. They found "almost no diversity of opinion among the Democratic professors."

Republicans — no surprise — demonstrated more ideological diversity. GOP scholars also are more likely to work outside the university — and that's no accident.

Second, as Klein succinctly put it, "It's going to become more lopsided in the future." Cardiff and Klein looked at the younger ranks in academia — tenure-track and associate profs — and found the ratio of Ds to Rs to be even greater.

So the future could see state universities morph into today's UC Berkeley, where Cardiff and Klein found 445 Dems to 45 Repubs. Group-think will further marginalize any free thinkers.

If you think outside the box, you work outside the institution. That's where academia is heading.

E-mail Debra J. Saunders at dsaunders@sfchronicle.com.

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Don't forget important summer things

All ready for that vacation trip? Don't forget your bathing suit, the suntan lotion ... and the mail!

It's summer! Time to head for the beach! Let's see ... don't forget your bathing suit! Better pick up a bottle of suntan lotion, too, 'cause you don't want to get sunburned! And while you're packing the towels, clothes and other items you'll need for your vacation ... don't forget your mail!

Bills and other important mail left unattended in the mailbox can hurt a lot worse than the sun! Loss of valuables

and identity theft can be an expensive, inconvenient, and painful proposition. And unattended mail can be an invitation to burglars, a sign that you are not home, flashing like a neon sign: "Come on in and help yourself!"

The good news is, the Postal Service has a quick-and-easy online answer to protecting your mail while you're on vacation.

Just go to the Postal Service Web site — USPS.com. Then click on "Hold Mail" in the "Receiving Your Mail" column and fill out the information. Be sure to indicate how long you want your mail held — from a minimum of three days to a maximum of 30 days. The online service electronically notifies your local Post Office to safely hold your mail until the date you want delivery resumed.

If you are going to be gone for two weeks or more, you may also want to consider signing up for Premium Forwarding Service.

With Premium Forwarding Service, your mail goes on vacation with you. For a \$10 fee and \$10.40 per week, all of your mail is collected for you and sent to your temporary address each week by Priority Mail. Items sent to you by Express Mail, Registered Mail or Certified Mail and large parcels will be rerouted to your temporary address individually.

Have a great vacation! And don't forget your mail!

Gary Crittenden is postmaster in Big Spring. His weekly column centers around the history of and services offered by the United States Postal Service.

Mel needing Haters Anonymous

The scariest thing about Mel Gibson is that you know lots of people think the same thing: Jews are responsible for all the wars; they run everything. He gets in trouble and his first reaction is to blame a Jew instead of taking responsibility. People do it; countries do it. The only difference is that Gibson got caught red-handed.

An example needs to be made of him. An example of everything that is wrong with a spoiled, self-indulgent, out-of-control, vicious hater.

The question is: Will it be? Or will he be forgiven? Blame booze. Sure. But who put those thoughts in his head? And could it have come at a worse time? Am I the only one who wonders whether Israel is being set up?

The question in Hollywood is whether the Jewish community, which does control so much of this town and of which many members have been Jewish in name only, as well as the non-Jewish community, will do anything about the man who slandered them in his drunken stupor. So far, one studio head has been quoted by name in the press. Just

one. Where are the rest? Maybe waiting to see if he has a second act coming (for cheap).

Will they forgive him? Will they help him?

Why bother? One word. It has nothing to do with sympathy, sickness or anything else of that nature. Money. Greed. Or in polite company, business.

Alcoholism is a disease, but hatred is a curse.

Alcoholics deserve help. Haters deserve to be shunned, dropped, dismissed, ties severed. Is there another word?

Why is this so hard in Hollywood? Is it because the competition doesn't have any values either?

Which call would you like to have been on: The one between Gibson and his Jewish agent, or the one planning strategy with his Jewish publicist? How much self-respect can those men have if they still work for him?

At some point, you have to stand up and be counted.

It doesn't matter how much "talent" someone has. I don't care how "good" he is as an actor, how "troubled" he is as a person, how "sorry" he is for what he said, how full of "remorse" he will be for what he's done, or how many good works he does in the future. This was a guy with a record. This was a guy with a megaphone, with the ability to influence others, a guy who swore up

and down that he wasn't an anti-Semite, a guy who made a movie that people challenged on precisely these grounds, who held himself out as someone to be trusted.

He has a movie coming in December. Will you see it? Who cares how good it is? Why put a penny in his pocket? Why send the message that he should ever work again?

And then there's that project he had so far done nothing on, that project about the little historical incident his father (who, he says, never told him a lie) says never happened, the Holocaust.

Why did Disney give him a project about the Holocaust? Well, you know why — to clean him up. They're the ones with the December movie. They want to make him look better. The woman whose life it was based on had never even met him. Hollywood.

But the real question about Hollywood is whether this will be one of those moments when people stand up for something, or one when they see the chance of a bargain. Mel Gibson usually makes \$20 million a picture. The speculation is that he'll be willing to work for 20 percent of that.

Websites are buzzing about how quickly the phones will be ringing at his agency with offers.

No one's betting on principle.

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Internet's losses due to hacker attacks again dropping

For the fourth year in a row, losses due to network compromises and hacker attacks fell, according to the annual CSI - FBI Computer Crime and Security Survey. However, analysts say the steady decline isn't cause for celebration.

While the dip may partly be due to improved security and greater diligence against attacks, organizations are increasingly unwilling to report compromises or security incidents for fear that could affect their business.

Hey, who likes to admit they screwed up, right?

As Gartner vice president Rich Mogull warns, these survey findings should be viewed with "extreme skepticism."

The CSI/FBI survey found that two-thirds of all attacks are external, mostly financial fraud — spam and phishing — and unauthorized access to information, which amounts to hackers breaching security and malware infections that transmit data outside a company.

What's especially worrisome is that hackers are co-opting automated penetration testing tools to find previously undiscovered vulnerabilities, according to a report issued by Secure Computing.

Tools such as Core Security Technologies' Impact and the open-source Metasploit Project use a process called "fuzzing" to brute-force applications to quickly find vulnerabilities. For example, take the Metasploit Project, which was able to announce a new Microsoft Internet Explorer vulnerability

daily in July. External threats are keeping security managers awake at night, but that may be changing. Security vendor Utimaco Software's survey of 400 IT security experts found that 61 percent say guarding against internal security threats is a growing concern.

As if keeping up with the bad guys weren't bad enough. Who needs enemies when you have employees!

Of course, there's always teenagers to worry about. No, really.

Two teenagers were arrested Saturday in the theft of a laptop and hard drive containing sensitive data on up to 26.5 million veterans and military personnel, according to authorities.

The government-owned equipment was stolen May 3 during a burglary at the Maryland home of a Veterans Affairs employee. The laptop and hard drive were turned into the FBI June 28 by an unidentified person in response to a \$50,000 reward offer.

Funny, how large rewards tend to inspire people to be honest.

The equipment contained the names, Social Security numbers and birth dates of veterans discharged since 1975, in what was the worst-ever breach of government data.

Jesus Alex Pineda, 19, and Christian Brian Montano, 19, both of Rockville, Md., were arrested early Saturday. Pineda was charged with first-degree burglary and theft over \$500. Montano was charged with first-degree burglary, conspiracy to commit first-degree burglary, theft over \$500, and conspiracy to commit theft over \$500.

Police said charges were pending against a third male suspect who is a juvenile.

Being a veteran myself, you realize what this

means, right? Jesus and Christian stole my Social Security number. I wonder what the juvenile's name is... OK, I won't go there.

Authorities said the suspects did not specifically target the VA employee's home in Aspen Hill, Md., and did not realize the hard drive contained veterans' information until the case was publicized.

The VA announced last month that the FBI has determined with a high degree of confidence that the files were not compromised.

A high degree of confidence, eh? Oh boy.

And, as miffed as I might be about my personal information ending up in the hands of a couple of second-rate burglars, I have to admit I'm just glad I don't shop at Dollar Tree outlets.

Cyber-thieves who hacked into the ATM information of at least 800 retail customers in California and Oregon have stolen as much as \$700,000 from personal accounts during the last two months, according to police reports.

People who used ATM cards to purchase items at Dollar Tree, a national retail store chain, in Modesto and Carmichael, Calif., and Ashland, Ore., have turned in reports of unauthorized withdrawals in the computer-based scam.

Brady Mills, supervisor of the Sacramento field office of the U.S. Secret Service, confirmed earlier this week that the agency is investigating the thefts and that the bureau has been on the case for about two months.

But Mills would only say that the case is "ongoing" and wouldn't offer any more details about possible suspects or about the process in which the money was stolen.

Dollar Tree Stores is a U.S.-based chain of retail

stores headquartered in Chesapeake, Va. As of July 29, 2006, Dollar Tree operates 3,156 stores in 48 states.

Dollar Tree customers in Modesto began reporting unauthorized ATM withdrawals from their bank accounts on June 12, a report in the Modesto Bee newspaper said. Local police said that more than 600 accounts were drained of approximately \$500,000, according to the report.

On Aug. 1, police in Ashland confirmed that at least 200 people lost more than a total \$200,000 due to unauthorized bank account withdrawals after shopping at Dollar Tree stores in the Rogue Valley region of southern Oregon.

Although the details of how the cyber-thieves actually pulled off the Dollar Tree scam are not publicly known, there are some common scenarios that have been known to be troublesome for the ATM/credit card companies and their customers, according to Dr. David Taylor of enterprise data security specialist Protegrity in Stamford, Conn.

"I'd say it's most likely that an insider's information was compromised somehow," Taylor said.

Thomas Jenkins, a South Carolina transplant still fumbling through a case of Texas culture shock, is a Staff

Writer for the Big Spring Herald by day and rock guitarist for local band Rustic Circle by night.

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



THOMAS JENKINS

Contract Bridge

The Delicate Art of Defense

North dealer. North-South vulnerable.

NORTH
♦ J 4 3
♥ A J 9
♦ 10 8
♠ A K J 7 6

WEST
♦ A Q 9 5
♥ 6 4 2
♦ A K J 7
♠ 10 5

EAST
♦ 8 7 6
♥ 7 5
♦ Q 5 4 3 2
♠ 9 4 2

SOUTH
♦ K 10 2
♥ K Q 10 8 3
♦ 9 6
♠ Q 8 3

The bidding:

North East South West
1♦ Pass 1♥ Pass
2♥ Pass 3♥ Pass
4♥

Opening lead — king of diamonds.

The defenders often signal each other during the play in an effort to find the best defense. Without signals, and without the use of other standard agreements designed to overcome the natural advantage of the declarer, it would be next to impossible for the defenders to function effectively.

Take this case where South is in

four hearts and West leads the king of diamonds, on which East plays the five. What should West do next?

If he continues with a low diamond, East wins with the queen and returns a spade, and the contract goes down one. But if West cashes the ace of diamonds at trick two, or does anything else, the defense collapses, because there is then no way for West to score more than one spade trick.

How can West possibly know that his best play at trick two is a low diamond? Certainly, it is an unusual play, but it is far from a shot in the dark.

For West, who is searching for a clue to the most effective defense, it should not be difficult to figure out that East signaled possession of the queen of diamonds by playing the five on the king. It is true that a five, a relatively low card, would not usually be construed as a positive signal.

But when West studies the first trick, he observes that the 4-3-2 are missing. It is surely reasonable for him to assume that East has one or more of these cards and hence is signaling that he has the queen. Since West urgently needs a spade lead from East, he underleads the ace and so defeats the contract.

Tomorrow: The possible vs. the impossible.

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TAR

OIL

Continued from Page 1

Gasoline futures also rose, indicating the market expects further increases.

The Energy Department said it is prepared to provide oil from the government's emergency supplies if a refinery requests it. "If there is a request for oil we'll certainly take a serious look at that," spokesman Craig Stevens said.

The government has about 700 million barrels in storage on the Gulf Coast to be used in case of a serious supply disruption. The Energy Department in the past has lent some of the oil to refineries when there were disruptions.

Bob Malone, chairman of BP America, said that in a worst-case scenario, it could take weeks or months to replace the pipelines. But the company said it will try to put portions of the network back into operation as they are repaired.

"We estimate it could take between 2-3 months to get it back on line," Bruce Lanni, an industry analyst with A.G. Edwards, wrote in a research note. "However, there are no assurances that it will return to current capacity, given the complexities and age of the reservoirs."

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Bush: Cease-fire must not let Hezbollah keep Lebanon grip

By NEDRA PICKLER
Associated Press Writer

CRAWFORD — President Bush said Monday any Mideast cease-fire must prevent Hezbollah from strengthening its grip in southern Lebanon, asserting "it's time to address root causes of problems."

Bush urged the United Nations to work quickly to approve a resolution to stop hostilities that have been raging between Israel and Hezbollah for more than three weeks and killing hundreds.

A draft resolution proposed by the United States and France faced opposition from Lebanon and other Arab nations because it would not call for the withdrawal of Israeli troops from Lebanon.

Bush indicated he wants Israel to stay until an international force is

deployed that can assist Lebanon in taking over control of the southern part of the country, where Hezbollah's operations are based.

"Whatever happens in the U.N., we must not create a vacuum into which Hezbollah and its sponsors are able to move more weapons," Bush said in a joint news conference with Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice. "Sometimes the world likes to take the easy route in order to solve a problem. Our view is, it's time to address root causes of problems. And to create a vacuum is unacceptable."

Bush's remarks came in his first appearance since the draft resolution was circulated Saturday morning.

He and Rice spoke to reporters in a helicopter hangar on his ranch, where he is in the midst

of a 10-day vacation, as one of the crickets that are so plentiful here hopped around at their feet.

Rice, who arrived here Saturday for talks with Bush, departed Texas to return to Washington.

"We understand that this has been a very emotional and indeed devastating and tragic set of circumstances for Lebanon and for Israel, and obviously the parties have views on how to stop this," Rice said.

"Their views are not going to necessarily be consonant about how to stop it," the secretary said. "The international community has a view. But of course we're going to take a little time and listen to the concerns of the parties and see how they can be addressed."

Bush dressed in suit and tie for the press conference — a departure

from the casual dress and more restricted media access that are typical at the ranch. In part, the appearance was designed to show the president is engaged even when he is away from the White House. But Bush has left the negotiations to Rice and other diplomats and has not spoken with the prime ministers of Lebanon or Israel about the U.N. resolutions.

"Condi is handling those conversations, and she's doing a fine job of doing so," Bush said. The international force Bush wants would be authorized in a yet-to-be-drafted second resolution at the United Nations, a document the United States hopes will pass quickly after the cease-fire resolution.

That first resolution calls for "a full cessation of hostilities" based on "the immediate cessation

by Hezbollah of all attacks and the immediate cessation by Israel of all offensive military operations."

But it makes no explicit mention of an Israeli withdrawal, and it implicitly allows Israeli defensive operations.

"I understand both parties aren't going to agree with all aspects of the resolution," Bush said. "But the intent of the resolutions is to strengthen the Lebanese government so Israel has got a partner in peace."

Rice played down differ-

ences on the draft, saying it is a firm foundation that both sides can accept once "issues of timing and sequence" are worked out.

The resolution calls in the longer term for a buffer zone in southern Lebanon, which Hezbollah controls and where Israeli troops are now fighting. Only Lebanese armed forces and U.N.-mandated international troops — once they are deployed — would be allowed in the zone.

GOP abandons fight to take DeLay off ballot

By SUZANNE GAMBOA
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — For Texas Republicans, it's Tom DeLay or nothing.

The party bowed to that reality Monday after Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia rejected its request to block an appeals court ruling keeping DeLay's name on the November congressional ballot.

That ended the Republicans' court fight, but not the question of whether the former House majority leader will return to the campaign trail.

It's up to DeLay now to decide whether to jump back in the race to retake his House seat or withdraw, leaving no Republican on the ballot.

"Tom DeLay can end this uncertainty once and for all by deciding whether he will run or withdraw from the race," said Boyd Richie, Texas Democratic Party chairman.

Under indictment on money laundering charges in Texas, DeLay won a March primary election that made him the Republican nominee for Congress from his home district near Houston. In June, he resigned from Congress and said he would not seek re-election.

Democrats had sued to keep DeLay on the ballot, with the former lawmaker's legal troubles, including about his associations with convicted ex-lobbyist Jack Abramoff, becom-

ing a symbol for claims of Republican corruption.

In an interview late Monday, Jim Bopp Jr., the attorney who argued the Republican Party's case, warned Democrats, "Be careful what you ask for."

Bopp said Democrats "insisted he run for Congress, now it's up to voters to decide if Democrats are going to be happy" on Election Day.

DeLay has previously hinted that he would run if forced to stay on the ballot. The district is heavily Republican, but DeLay must contend with mounting legal bills while trying to raise campaign cash.

If he returns to Congress, he faces a possible ethics investigation into privately funded overseas trips he took. House ethics committee leaders said in May they would have investigated allegations about the trips had DeLay not resigned.

Records have shown that Abramoff or his clients financed some of DeLay's travel.

DeLay has denied any wrongdoing in relation to Abramoff or the Texas indictment.

He could still withdraw from the race, leaving the Republican Party with no candidate on the ballot to face Democrat Nick Lampson, a former House member from Beaumont. Libertarian candidate Bob Smither also is running.

DeLay has to decide by Aug. 25. Democrats were undaunted by the prospect of facing him in November and claimed victory.

"Given the choice between facing the voters and facing the courts, DeLay chose the courts and lost handily," said Bill Burton, spokesman for the national Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee.

DeLay and Texas Republican Party Chairwoman Tina Benkiser were not immediately available for comment.

Lampson's campaign manager said the former congressman is looking forward to an "issue-based" campaign in which Lampson will raise any issues they think voters need to know.

"People know who Tom DeLay is. The challenge

for us is to get out there and make sure we define Nick Lampson before they can run an inevitable smear campaign."

Benkiser's effort to replace DeLay on the ballot was turned back in a series of court decisions.

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Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Increase
The HOWARD COLLEGE will hold a public hearing on a proposal to increase total tax revenues from properties on the tax roll in the preceding tax year by 7.90 percent (percentage by which proposed tax rate exceeds lower of rollback tax rate or effective tax calculated under Chapter 26, Tax Code). Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property and the tax rate that is adopted.

The public hearing will be held on August 15, 2006 at 12:30 PM and August 18, 2006 at 12:30 PM at Dorothy Garrett Coliseum Lobby.

The members of the governing body voted on the proposal to consider the tax increase as follows:

FOR: Dr. John Freeman, Chairman; Murray Murphy, Vice Chairman; Marie Ethridge, Secretary; Harold Davis; Donald B. McKinney; Dr. Charles O. Warren

AGAINST: PRESENT and voting: ABSENT: Michael Flores

Comparison of Proposed Budget with Last Year's Budget
The applicable percentage increase or decrease (or difference) in the amount budgeted in the preceding fiscal year and the amount budgeted for the fiscal year that begins during the current tax year is indicated for each of the following expenditures categories:

Maintenance and operations	0.49% increase
Debt service	0.00% increase
Total expenditures	0.49% increase

Total Appraised Value and Total Taxable Value as calculated under section 26.04, Tax Code

	Preceding Tax Year	Current Tax Year
Total appraised value* of all property	\$1,450,481,315	\$1,879,276,554
Total appraised value* of new property**	\$3,439,748	\$8,805,862
Total taxable value*** of all property	\$1,241,381,687	\$1,518,981,240
Total taxable value*** of new property**	\$3,084,748	\$6,447,020

Bonded Indebtedness
Total amount of outstanding and unpaid bonded indebtedness \$0

Tax Rates

Adopted tax rate for the preceding tax year	\$0.27300 per \$100 in value
Proposed tax rate for the current tax year	\$0.24120 per \$100 in value
Difference in the proposed tax rate and the adopted tax rate for the preceding tax year	\$(0.03180) per \$100 in value
Percentage increase or decrease in the proposed tax rate and the adopted tax rate for the preceding tax year	(11.65%) (Decrease)

These tax rate figures are not adjusted for changes in the taxable value of property.

Comparison of Residence Homestead Values
Average appraised and taxable values on residence homesteads are compared from the preceding tax year and the current tax year.

	Preceding Tax Year	Current Tax Year
Average residence homestead appraised value	\$33,005	\$34,847
Homestead exemption amount for the taxing unit (excluding special exemptions for persons 65 years of age or older or disabled)	\$6,601	\$6,969
Average taxable value of a residence homestead (excluding special exemptions for persons 65 years of age or older or disabled)	\$26,404	\$27,878

Comparison of Residence Homestead Taxes
The taxes that would have been imposed in the preceding tax year on a residence homestead at the average appraised value (excluding special exemptions for persons 65 years of age or older or disabled) are estimated to be \$72.08. The taxes that would be imposed in the current tax year on a residence homestead appraised at the average appraised value in the current tax year (excluding special exemptions for persons 65 years of age or older or disabled), if the proposed tax rate is adopted, are estimated to be \$67.24. The difference between the amount of taxes on the average residence homestead in the current tax year, if the proposed tax rate is adopted, and the preceding tax year would be a decrease of \$4.84 in taxes.

* "Appraised value" is the amount shown on the appraisal roll and defined by Section 1.04(8), Tax Code.
** "New property" is defined by Section 26.012(17), Tax Code.
*** "Taxable value" is defined by Section 1.04(10), Tax Code.

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Page 7
 Tuesday, August 8, 2006

IN BRIEF

Junior high football equipment hand out

Junior high football coach John Richard Sparks has announced that football players in seventh and eighth grade will be issued equipment Wednesday and Thursday.

The eighth graders will get theirs from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Wednesday and the seventh graders will go Thursday at the same time.

For more information, call 264-4135.

Registration starts for youth football

Sign-ups for the Crossroads Youth Football Association has begun at the Big Spring Mall.

Registration for the league, which is open to players and cheerleaders in grades K through 6, will be held from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the mall.

Registration dates for the league are:

- Friday, Aug. 18 — 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.
- Saturday, Aug. 19 — 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

For more information, contact Daphne Coates at 714-4688.

Hunter education class this weekend

The next hunters education course will be held Saturday and Sunday, beginning at 8 a.m. in the Big Spring Area of Commerce building.

Cost of the course is \$15 per person.

State law requires that persons wishing to hunt in Texas who were born Sept. 2, 1971, or later must successfully complete a hunters education course.

Students must be 12 years of age to be certified.

For more information, contact Steve Poltevin at 264-7033 during the evening hours.

Season tickets now on sale at BSHS

Fans of the Big Spring Steers football team who have had season tickets in the past can begin purchasing tickets for the upcoming season at the Big Spring High School ATC.

Previous ticket holders have until Thursday to purchase tickets. The general public may purchase tickets on Aug. 14.

Tickets can be purchased at the ATC from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Thursday.

For more information call Kay Cook at 264-3662.

Correction

In Monday's edition of the Herald, a story concerning the City Golf Championships left out the name of one of the top women finishers in the Ladies Championship Flight.

Cassie Guinn finished the tournament with a 188 total and was tied for fourth place with Tammy DePauw, only to lose on a scorecard play-off.

NFL owners hear from commissioner hopefuls

By BARRY WILNER

AP Football Writer

NORTHBROOK, Ill. — Paul Tagliabue cracking jokes? The search for a new NFL commissioner sure must be going well.

Tagliabue was in a jovial mood Monday after the five finalists to replace him made presentations to the 32 owners.

Tagliabue, who announced his retirement in March, is confident the process will conclude by Wednesday, and he can head off to the Far East on vacation.

"I think it's been a very balanced and thoughtful and businesslike process, with not a lot of contention," Tagliabue said. "There were different points of view, nothing out of the ordinary."

Tagliabue then noted that the order of interviews for Tuesday was selected out of an NFL helmet, not a fish bowl, as was pre-

viously done — a clear sign of progress.

He also kidded about the new uniforms for game officials unveiled Sunday night in the Hall of Fame game as being Armani rejects.

The final interviewing process was expected to take at least five hours Tuesday. The favorite to become the league's fourth commissioner since World War II is Roger Goodell, Tagliabue's main assistant. The other candidates are Gregg Levy, the league's outside counsel; Fred Nance, a Cleveland lawyer who helped broker the return of the Browns to that city in 1999; Robert L. Reynolds, vice chairman of Fidelity Investments; and Mayo O. Shattuck III, a financier who was involved in the sale of the Baltimore Ravens by Art Modell to Steve Bisciotti.

At least 22 of the 32 owners

must vote for a candidate for him to get the job.

Each of the five contenders were to spend an hour with four groups of eight owners for in-depth interviews.

Each of the eight groups will include two members of the search committee and will be composed of owners with various interests: AFC/NFC or high-revenue, low-revenue teams all will be included in each group.

Tagliabue said he "wouldn't think I'd endorse" anyone.

"I might express some opinions," he said. "We haven't reached that. If I'm asked to give my views on a certain question, I will."

All five candidates addressed the owners and answered questions for about 45 minutes apiece. Several owners said they were impressed by all of the potential successors to

Tagliabue, and the commissioner said he thought a vote could happen by Tuesday afternoon.

"I learned a lot," said Steve Tisch, co-owner of the New York Giants. "These are five very qualified candidates. All were articulate, energetic and extremely impressive."

The owners also unanimously approved these voting procedures:

- If no one gets the required votes on the first ballot, all five candidates will remain in contention for at least two more ballots.

- After that, Tagliabue and the search committee will determine if any candidates should be dropped from subsequent ballots, and whether to vote by open roll call.

- They also could ask each owner to rank the candidates in order of preference.



Dallas' Terrell Owens, left, works with strength coach Joe Juraszek during the Cowboys' training camp Monday in Oxnard, Calif. Owens sat out a fifth straight practice because of soreness that set in Wednesday.

MCT photo/Ralph Lauer/Fort Worth Star-Telegram

Dallas to be minus Owens for few weeks

By JAIME ARON

AP Sports Writer

OXNARD, Calif. — Terrell Owens said Monday that his nagging hamstring injury likely will keep him out of the Dallas Cowboys' preseason opener Saturday night in Seattle.

"I would say so," he said. "I'm not 100 percent, so I really wouldn't risk it. That's just not being smart."

Owens sat out his fifth and sixth practices Monday morning because of soreness that set in Wednesday. He said he can't give a timetable for when he expects to return, but noted that "September is when I'm needed."

An MRI taken Saturday showed no damage, but Owens isn't taking any chances.

He's having his healing.

inducing hyperbaric oxygen chamber shipped from Dallas to his training camp hotel room. He's also going beyond the team's training and medical staff, flying in folks from Atlanta. One of his doctors examined him last week and several more of his team of specialists are on their way.

"I just got to go with the people I'm comfortable with," said Owens, who

has never before had a hamstring injury. "Not to discredit the training staff here, but I know my body and how it responds to the treatment that they give me and what's best for me."

Owens said many of the people he's turning to are the same ones who helped him recover from a severe leg and ankle injury far sooner than anyone expected,

enabling him to play for the Philadelphia Eagles in the February 2005 Super Bowl.

"So I feel very confident that I'll be ready for the season," Owens said. "I want to be on the field. Right now, I can't push it. I'm not going to push it. I'm going to be smart about it. Just talking to some of my friends, their

See DALLAS, page 8

A's Ellis ends slump, Oakland dumps Texas

By GREG BEACHAM

AP Sports Writer

OAKLAND — Mark Ellis felt like a spectator while the Oakland Athletics roared off on their latest winning streak. The second baseman's slump finally ended with two clutch hits — and the A's roll shows no signs of slowing.

Ellis drove in four runs with a homer and a bases-loaded double, leading the surging A's to a 7-4 victory over the Texas Rangers on Monday night.

Milton Bradley also homered and drove in two runs for AL West-leading Oakland, which won for the eighth time

in nine games in the opener of a 10-game homestand. The A's went 5-1 on the road last week against division rivals Los Angeles and Seattle — no thanks to Ellis, who was batting .192 since the All-Star break.

But Ellis did most of the A's offensive work from the ninth slot in the batting order against Texas. He also made a sparkling play in the field, sprinting to grab Ian Kinsler's popup near the foul line in the ninth.

"Sometimes when you're in a prolonged slump like I've been, you don't feel you're contributing," Ellis said. "It was nice to be a part of it."

Woods hits half-century in Tour wins

By DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

It was the one time Tiger Woods could be accused of setting the bar too low.

He is three weeks away from the 10-year anniversary of his pro debut — "Hello, world," he said on Aug. 27, 1996, in Milwaukee — when his only goal was to earn his PGA Tour card without having to go through qualifying school.

The first victory came six weeks later in Las Vegas when Davis Love III became the first of his many victims. By the end of his first full year on tour, Woods already had six victories and one major championship. That's a career for Tom Lehman.

And Woods has shown no sign of stopping.

After five full years, he was at 29 victories and six majors, and he was the youngest to win the career Grand Slam.

Ten years, three swings, two coaches and one marriage later, Woods hit another milestone Sunday when he collected his 50th title on the PGA Tour, a victory that looked like so many others. He overpowered the course, built a 54-hole lead and dared anyone to catch him.

About the only thing he couldn't do was grasp the magnitude of the milestone.

"I've had a lot of just really wonderful things happen to me on tour in my career so far in 10 years," Woods said. "Been very blessed. Started out my career just hoping to get my card and I was able to do that. And lo and behold, I got on a nice little run."

"It's been a great ride, really."

It has been a ride like no other. At 30 years and seventh months, Woods became the seventh player — and the youngest by three years — to hit the half-century mark in PGA Tour victories. Jack Nicklaus was 33 when

See TIGER, page 8



WOODS

DALLAS

Continued from page 7

trainers said take your time because this can become a nagging injury."

Team vice president Stephen Jones said the organization is OK with Owens bringing in his own medical staff.

"We've had that going on for 15 years, where guys have certain guys that they like to have work on them," Jones said. "That's certainly nothing new for us. It's all part of the business."

Owens said the Cowboys knew he brought in someone else last week, but he didn't know if they knew about the next wave of helpers.

"I have to do what's best for me regardless of what anybody thinks," Owens said. "These are the guys I'm very comfortable with. I'm very confi-

dent in the things that they bring to the table and their knowledge of my body because they've been with me for awhile. My health is the most important thing, despite what anybody else thinks."

Jones said he's not questioning Owens' aches despite a negative MRI.

"You've got to trust a veteran player to know his body and to know what he needs to do to prepare himself," Jones said.

"You certainly have to respect something like that from a guy who has been as successful as he has."

T.O.'s status report may have come as news to coach Bill Parcells, who said "I don't know" in response to most questions about Owens' health during his daily news briefing.

"I know everything I need to know," he said. "Well, there's nothing more to know. Maybe not knowing exactly is all

I'm capable of knowing at this point." Parcells said all his information about his new star receiver's health has come through the trainer.

"I haven't spoken with Terrell about it," Parcells said. "At some point, I will if I have to."

Parcells said that's how he always deals with injuries, even with players he's known for a long time.

During both practices Monday, Owens rode a stationary bicycle — along with fellow starting receiver Terry Glenn, who missed Monday's practices with blisters on his feet — and did some exercises with team strength and conditioning staffers.

"Riding this bike every day I feel like Lance Armstrong or Floyd Landis," Owens said. The reference to the disgraced Landis drew some laughs, even from Owens, prompting him to add: "Everything's legal."

After team workouts, Owens went to catch balls shot from a machine. Following the morning session, he started far away from the machine and took a step closer after every ball. He did the same drill on his knees, too.

The Cowboys already were concerned about their depth at receiver, with question marks after third-stringer Patrick Crayton.

On Sunday, they worked out Freddie Mitchell, Owens' friend and a former Philadelphia teammate.

Dallas also made a roster move Monday, dropping fourth-string quarterback Jeff Mroz and replacing him with Matt Baker, a rookie from North Carolina who was released last week by Houston. Undrafted rookie linebacker Kai Parham also was released.

Also Monday, linebacker Rocky Boiman fractured his right thumb during the afternoon workout.

TIGER

Continued from page 7

he captured his 50th career victory at the 1973 PGA Championship.

"Tiger Woods is so talented that if we cut holes in the asphalt, he'd find ways to win," former Ryder Cup captain Hal Sutton said in a recent interview. "You can't get away from Tiger no matter what you do."

He has won nine times in a playoff. Nine other victories were by at least five shots. Woods has 10 victories in his native California, nine in his adopted home of Florida and he used to win more often in Ohio than the Bengals.

"We haven't seen an equal of that in the last I don't know how many years," Jim Furyk said after finishing three shots behind at Warwick Hills. "Definitely, my era hasn't seen it."

The number that identifies Woods — for now —

is his 11 majors. He has been chasing Nicklaus' benchmark of 18 majors since he picked up his first one at the 1997 Masters. Now, however, the 50 victories brings Sam Snead's record of 82 career victories into view.

That's a goal that means just as much to Woods.

He showed how much he was paying attention to the record books last year in the parking lot at Doral, when asked if he knew about Snead's record for victories.

"Eighty-one," Woods replied. "No! It's 82 now because of the British Open."

Indeed, the PGA Tour a few years earlier decided to retroactively count the British Open as an official PGA Tour event, which bumped Snead's tally to 82 and took Nicklaus (second place on the all-time list) from 70 to 73.

Greatness ultimately is measured by majors, which is why 18 resonates more than 82. But at this

rate, Woods might reach Snead's mark before he gets to Nicklaus.

"That's also a big number," Woods said. "It's going to be a lifetime, a career, basically, to get to that point and attain something like that. It doesn't happen overnight, and it's not going to happen next year. It's going to take a long time. It took me 10 years to get here. Hopefully, I can continue playing well over the next 10, 20 years."

At this rate, he won't need that much time.

Woods had two seasons with only one victory (1998 and 2004), both times while revamping his swing. Otherwise, he has won at least four times every year on the PGA Tour.

His 50 victories came in 196 starts, a winning rate of 25.5 percent.

Woods has won 11 majors in 39 starts as a pro, winning 28 percent of the time. But he only gets four cracks a year, and at his current rate, he would

need seven more years to break Nicklaus' record in the majors.

A lot of that depends on the competition, which now seems to be recycled.

Phil Mickelson, Vijay Singh, David Duval and Ernie Els have all taken their cracks at Woods, and all but Mickelson have replaced him at No. 1 in the world ranking at one time or another.

But as Sutton said, there's no getting away from Woods.

Since 1996 when he turned pro, Woods has won more times than Singh (26) and Mickelson (20) combined.

And he still has some work left before he puts in his full 10 years. It starts next in the PGA Championship at Medinah, where Woods won in 1999 for his second career major, and is followed by the Bridgestone Invitational, a tournament Woods has won four times in eight trips to the meaty South Course at Firestone.

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Bedtime Stories

GLADYS AND AGNES OTTER GET INTO TROUBLE

Gladys and Agnes Otter were two little otters who just loved to play. They would play on tree limbs, scampering to and fro trying to run as fast as they could without falling off the big limbs.



Sometimes they did fall off. But they would just brush the dirt off and take off running across the branches again. Gladys would beat Agnes sometimes, and Agnes would beat Gladys every once in awhile. They loved to play on those tree branches.



Both of them loved to play in the water, too. That is one thing an otter can do very well. And they can swim really fast.

They can swim on top of the water. They can swim under the water. They can swim up the creeks and rivers. They can swim down the creeks and rivers. They raced each other all the time, each one trying to beat the other. Sometimes Gladys would win. Sometimes Agnes would win. Sometimes neither would win because each one swam just as fast as the other. They loved to swim in the water, and under the water, up the streams, and down the streams.

One cloudy, dreary, rainy day, they were out playing again in a big river. Otters don't mind it when it rains and the day is cloudy and dreary. They even like it better sometimes because that just means more water to play with. This day was going to be just a little different.

They swam and swam up the river, getting farther and farther away from home. Just as they went around a bend in the

river, they decided to get out of the water for awhile and dry off since the rain had stopped and now the sun was shining brightly.

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The warm sunshine felt so good. They had tired of swimming and decided to walk back home. But which way was home? They were two tired little lost otters. They walked and walked as the sun became brighter and brighter, and hotter and hotter. Otters do not like to stay out of the water too long and these two little otters had been in the hot sun for a very long time now. They were feeling awful by now. What would they do?

"I know," said Gladys. "See that condor flying up there? Let's ask him where we are. He can fly very high and maybe even see our home from way

up there." "Can you talk condor talk?" asked Agnes. "I can't!" "No, I can't," said Gladys. "And I am getting really worried now. We don't even know if we are walking in the right direction for home. We are in really serious trouble, aren't we?"

Now, that old condor flying around up there was no ordinary condor. He was Homa Jr., the Condor. He had saved many, many little animals before and he also saw that these two little otters were in deep trouble. He knew where they lived because he had seen them many times before when he was flying so high. He was about to save two more little animals. What a condor! Down he swooped, towards the little otters. As he got closer and closer to them he slowed down so as not to frighten them. Then he landed just a few feet away from Gladys and Agnes, and slowly walked over to them. He very gently picked up each one in his

claws. Somehow they knew that Homa Jr. was not going to hurt them. Maybe it was that soft look in his eyes. Then up,

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up and away, flying higher and higher until even Gladys and Agnes could see their home. Homa Jr. flew them right to their favorite stream. Slowly, slowly he came closer and closer to the water. Then as if he had completely stopped, he let Agnes and Gladys go, falling into the water. They were not frightened because they had jumped from higher places than this to the water many times. Homa Jr. knew this because he had seen them do it many times, too!

The water felt so good to these little otters. They smiled and waved to Homa Jr. That was their way of saying, "Thank

You." Homa Jr. understood. And he also understood that one day he would come back and play with these two little otters for he loved to play, too.

Gladys and Agnes felt much better now, and they had a new friend. They could still play as much as they wanted, but they would be very careful about where they played. They did not want to ever get lost again. But even if they did, you can bet that Homa Jr. was watching and would be glad to help.

It's getting dark now around the stream. Gladys and Agnes are getting ready for bed. They have brushed their teeth. Did you? They had already taken their bath earlier, in their favorite stream. Did you? You took a bath in their favorite stream? Just kidding. They hugged each other. Did you hug your family? And finally they said, "Good Night!"



Wacky Facts

■ The Corn Palace in Mitchell, S.D., is redecorated every year with themed murals made by local artisans from corn, grains and grasses. When winter comes, birds and squirrels munch away the exterior.
—World Almanac for Kids

KID NEWS

Chatter Box

"Everyone has certain foods they can't live without; for me, it's ice cream and my homemade triple-chip cookies. And when I need a salty, crunchy fix, nothing beats Doritos."
—Actress Kristen Bell ("Veronica Mars"), in Shape.

In The News

Scientists discover 110-million-year-old spider web

TIME FOR KIDS How long have spiders been weaving their webs? Two thousand years? Or maybe 10,000? The answer: Scientists recently found the oldest known spider web, and its 110 million years old! The spider web was found in Spain. It was fossilized inside a pencil-thin rod of amber. The fossil dates back to the Cretaceous period.

A LOOK AT THE SPIDER'S STICKY SPIRAL

Scientists believe the web, which looks like a sticky spiral, was hanging in the air when it was preserved. The web has given researchers many details about spiders and how they have affected flying insects around them over time.

Scientists are excited by how much was discovered inside the fossil. The amber preserved 26 silk strands that make up the spider web plus glue droplets produced by the spider to better trap its prey. The fossil also includes the spider and its prey: a fly, a mite, a beetle and a wasp.

SPIDERS AND INSECTS

Why is this finding so exciting to scientists? Today, an average spider eats small flies, bees, wasps and beetles. Three out of those four were found preserved inside the amber fossil. This tells us that the relationship between spiders and insects has remained strong over the 110 million years since the fossil was preserved.

How have spiders affected the insects around them? "Spiders today have a huge impact as predators on insect populations, along with birds and bats," said David A. Grimaldi, a scientist who described the discovery in the journal Science.

Here's one example: Butterflies have scales that make sure they won't stick to a spider's web. This helps protect the butterfly. The discovery of the amber fossil shows that butterflies grew scales around the same time this web was made — 110 million years ago!

—Pavan Shandrasani

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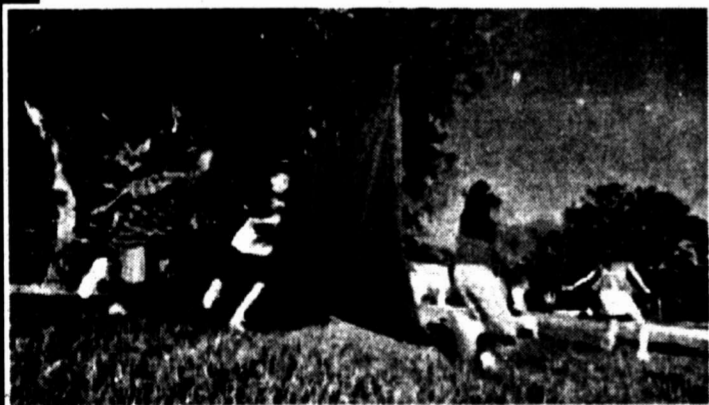
Time together in the twilight

Summer evenings may just be one of Mother Nature's best gifts to fun-loving families, as the lingering daylight and cooler temperatures transform after-dinner time into prime time for outdoor play. To take advantage of the bonus hours, grab your family — and the other kids in your neighborhood — and try these great energy-burning games from FamilyFun magazine. Play the first in the last bit of daylight, and the other two in twilight or darkness. All three games are a perfect way to end a long summer day.

ANNIE ANNIE OVER

Part ball game, part tag, this activity is sure to become a summertime favorite. Players can't see what happens once they've thrown the ball to the other team, so the element of surprise is a big part of the fun.

- **Number of players:** Four or more
- **What you need:** A large, soft playground ball and an obstacle that players can run around but can't see over or through, such as a shed or a sheet hung on a rope.
- **How to play:** Divide the players into two teams and have them gather on opposite sides of the shed or sheet. One team tosses the ball over the obstacle while shouting "Annie, Annie Over!" The other team tries to catch the ball before it hits the ground. If they're successful, they all race around the obstacle in one direction — without warning the other team — and attempt to tag them by hand or with the ball. Meanwhile, those players make for the safety of the other (now vacant) side of the structure. Any tagged members must join the other team and that team throws next. If the receiving team doesn't catch the ball, they don't run, but simply take their turn throwing to the other side. The team that ends up with all of the players



wins.
* **Variation:** For younger players, give the throwing team a heads-up on whether they should run by having the

receiving team call out "Catch!" or "Miss!" after each throw.

FIREFLY

In this nocturnal game of chase, a flashing light is the clue to catching an elusive quarry.

- **Number of players:** Three or more
- **What you need:** A flashlight
- **How to play:** Once it's dark, give a chosen player (the firefly) a flashlight and have her head away from the group with the light off, silently counting to 60 as she goes. When she reaches 60, she must flash the light once. The rest of the players then count to 100 before setting out in pursuit of the firefly, who tries to avoid capture by hiding and changing directions. But here's the catch: she must continuously count to 60, flashing the light each time she reaches the end of her count. The first person to tag the firefly takes her place for the next round.

• **Variation:** Have the firefly alternate flashing the light with chirping. To find her, the other players will have to listen as well as watch.



STATUES

See who can keep a straight face in this after-dark game in which life imitates art.

- **Number of players:** Four or more
- **What you need:** A flashlight
- **How to play:** Select a player to pretend to be a tour guide and another to be a tourist in a darkened museum. All of the other players will be statues on display in the museum. While the guide and the tourist turn their backs, have the statues spread out and each strike a pose. The guide must then lead the tourist among the artwork, shining the light on the stock-still players and describing them with silly names and funny stories of what they depict, all in an attempt to make the statues laugh or catch them moving. As in most museums, there's no touching allowed, but the guide is encouraged to quickly — and unexpectedly — move his light among the sculptures to try to catch one unawares. If a statue does move or make a noise, he or she is out. The last remaining statue wins and becomes the next guide.

• **Variation:** To mix things up, call for a "Statue Shuffle" and turn off the flashlight for 30 seconds. In the

PHOTOS COURTESY OF FAMILYFUN MAGAZINE

Puzzle Play

CAMP UNSCRAMBLE

Summer and fall are great times to go camping. □ Unscramble the things you may need for your trip.

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Business Opportunity

The Big Spring Herald always need dependable carriers for various routes. Must have insurance and reliable transportation.

Apply in person.
Contact Duane McColium
710 Scurry (432)263-7331



Cemetery Lots

1 LOT at Trinity Memorial Park in Machpelah area. Call (972)986-6495, 972-679-8406.

Help Wanted

CHURCH SECRETARY needed. Apply at Texas Workforce Network, 310 Owens. (432)263-8373.

CHILD CAREGIVER Day and Evening positions. Apply in person at Jack & Jill, 1708 Nolan. Prior applicants, please re-apply. No phone calls please.

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Help Wanted

CANTEEN CORRECTIONS now hiring for Supervisor positions. Starting pay is \$9.37. Training provided, 3 or 5 day work week. Excellent Benefits! Must be able to pass background check and have a relatively clean credit report. Contact Debby Greer at (432)263-2366 or TWC 432-263-8373 ext. 215.

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All shifts available
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E.O.E.

CUSTOMER SERVICE Rep needed. Sales and office experience a plus. No insurance experience required, will train. Mon.-Fri. 9:00-5:00. Apply in person, 1900 S. Gregg, Suite B.

DRIVERS BE HOME DAILY. Coastal Transport is a leader in transport of LPG Asphalt & Petroleum Products. Coastal serves high profile accounts & needs dedicated professionals to join our growing team in Big Spring. Quality 23 with class A & One year driving experience. Inquire about Sign-on Bonus up to \$4000. Call Jay at 888-527-7221.

DRIVERS NEEDED. All shifts. Great hourly pay, plus \$1.75 over delivery. Other positions available. Apply in person, Papa Georgio's Pizza, 2602 S. Gregg. (432)263-2222.

Help Wanted

DUNCAN DISPOSAL - Now hiring a driver for the Coahoma area. Need at least a Class B CDL. Experience Preferred for a driver's position. Please come by the Duncan Disposal office/yard at 1104 N.W. Broadway, Coahoma, Tx - Monday-Thursday 2p-4p and on Fridays 1p-3p to apply in person. Must be able to pass mandatory DOT and corporate drug testing requirements. No phone calls please.
The job includes 40+ hours weekly Mon.-Fri.; with some Sat. mornings. An hourly rate with benefits package is available. Equal Opportunity Employer.

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HILLCREST CDC is looking for Full & Part-time Caregivers. Mon.-Fri. If you are energetic and love kids please come apply. Must have high school diploma or GED. Hillcrest CDC, 2000 West FM 700.

POLLARD CHEVROLET Parts Department has a full-time position open. Computer knowledge & some heavy lifting. Some heavy lifting insurance. Benefits: Health & Life insurance, 401(k). Apply in person, 1501 East 4th St.

Help Wanted

LOOKING FOR a person to work in an office in graphic design creating ads for Oilfield Services with Adobe. Hours 8:00am-5:00pm with 1 hour for lunch. Monday-Friday. Salary is paid each week. Applying at 210 South Lancaster also bring references.

LVN II
The Texas Department of State Health Services WIC Program is seeking a Licensed Vocational Nurse (LVN) with a current license to practice in the State of Texas for the position of Competent Authority (CA) in the Big Spring WIC Clinic. The CA supervises all aspects of the WIC Clinic, performs physical assessments, determines eligibility for WIC services, conducts individual and group nutrition education, income screening, and outreach activities. Will assist in the supervision, training, and evaluation of clerical staff. Travel requirements 5%. Monthly salary \$2021.00 - \$2221.00. Apply online at <https://rm.access.hr.hhs.state.tx.us>. For additional information contact Tonja Winn, WIC Director at 432-571-4110. PRN#34040 CLOSING DATE: 8/14/06 EEO/ADA

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SOUTHWEST STYLING Station at 1001 East 11th Place has an opening for Hair Stylist. Contact Denise (432)213-5017.

SPORTS EDITOR to cover high school and college sports for The Big Spring Herald. The candidate should have writing experience and the ability to take photos and design pages using NewsEdit Pro and QuarkXpress. Salary based on experience. Benefits. Please email resume and writing clips to editor@bigspringherald.com or mail to John A. Moseley, Managing Editor, Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, Texas 79721.

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602 LINDA LANE, 3 bedroom, 1 bath, tile floors, CH/A, washer & dryer connections. Fenced yard. \$495. month, \$395. deposit. Call (432)263-8005 or 816-1330.

MOREN @ (432)267-7380. 2 Bedroom, 1 bath Homes @ 3006 Cherokee, 501 East 13th, and 1210 Wood. Call for more information.

NICE, REMODELED three bedroom, two bath, CH/A home. 1 acre, water well, den with fireplace. Sandsprings. Rent or Sale. Erlene Baker, (325)625-2876, Work (325)625-4181.

SEVERAL OFFICES available. Call (432)263-6514, 517-0038, (432)770-5656.

SUNSET RIDGE APTS
Family Friendly
Playground!
Paragon Security
August Special
1st Month Free
2 Bdrm \$295
1 Bdrm \$245
(432)263-2292

Real Estate for Sale

1313 OIL Mill Road. 3 Bedroom with apartment in rear, CH/A, fenced yard. \$50s. Call (432)267-5759.

140 ACRES Prime creek bottom land. LOTS of DEER. Howard County. \$1000.00 per acre. Contact Sue at the Real Estate Shop (432)263-7653.

2 Thru 6 Bedroom Brick Homes. No Down Payment. Owner Financing. Bad Credit OK. 6 Month warranty. Call Maria (432)263-3461.

2911 NAVAJO Drive. Owner will pay closing cost. 3 Bdrm, 1 bath, 20x20 shop/carport, fenced backyard on oversized lot. Call (432)263-0369 leave message Call 816-6021.
3 BEDROOM, 2 BATH. FOR CLOSURE Only \$20,500! For listing Call 800-749-8106 ext F906.

4206 THEO - By Owner. Quite neighborhood. Like new. 3 bedroom, 2 bath, fireplace. New inside. Nice yard. \$93,000.00. (432)264-0330 or 816-9969.

517 FOSTER Custom Built (Cohama), 2400 sq. ft, 3/2.5, Ranch style, fireplace, metal roof, large master bedroom & bath includes Jacuzzi bath. \$180k. (432)517-0604, 394-4924.

711 N. Tubb Rd. Three bedroom, two bath, one acre, water well, remodeled. \$32,000. Call (432)213-4460.

BEAUTY SHOP in excellent location. \$7,500. O.B.O. Call 432-213-6236.

COAHOMA 3/2/2, large game room, large shop with RV storage, 2 carports, storage shed, storm cellar on a large lot. \$122,000.. Call (432)816-1120.

FOR SALE - Beautiful custom built home on 20 acres. 4 Bedroom, 2 bath, formal dining, gourmet kitchen with maple cabinets & sealed limestone counter tops. Family room has tall ceilings. Built in Big Screen Television. Great water well. Call Jeannie Rutledge (432)270-1478.

FORECLOSURE 2 bedroom, only \$23,000! For Listings 800-749-8106 ext. S-384.

FOUR BEDROOM Foreclosure. Only \$29,000!! For listings call 800-749-8106 ext. F-086.

NICE LOT 60x190 in excellent location of 4th Street. 500 McEwen. \$1500. Cash or Terms. Call Bill Crane (432)213-0426.

OWNER FINANCE- 1409 Sycamore 3 Bdrm, 2 bath, CH/CA, wood floors, fireplace, \$30,400.00. Easy Terms. Call (325)325-893-1973.

RANCH WANTED: Borden County & East to North East. Must have Game, Electricity, Water, Good Access. Call Mike Parish 817-831-0371.

RENT TO Own in Forsan. Large 3 bedroom, 2 bath, spacious living room & kitchen, close to school. \$450 month. Call (210)861-5547 or 210-657-1225.

Tomorrow's Horoscope

On this full-moon eve, under the altruistic influence of Aquarius, our focus shifts. We were thinking of ways to rule the world, and now we're more concerned with how to save it. The most obvious way is one that might not come up, so let me just mention it here. Save yourself. If each person can manage to do that, we'll all be saved, indeed!

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Today's planets have a baffling influence. Breaking away from your daily routine will give you a whole new perspective. Bending your own rules a little can help straighten things out a lot.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You do so much for everyone. So where is your appreciation? No one gets thanked for being a martyr. Put yourself first for a while, and watch what happens.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You truly will accomplish what you set your mind to. Setting your mind to something worthy takes focus, prioritizing and planning. Don't forget that step, or you'll be setting your mind to silly things all day.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). The stars suggest you play it safe with personal communication. Write down your thoughts before sharing them. Don't send heartfelt letters. Hold on a few days so you can reread them before licking the stamp.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Wouldn't it be cool if you could turn a rather boring relationship into a higher kind of love? Now you can! Start by adopting a new role as provocateur, instigator and mischief-maker.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Forgiving is easier than forgetting, but today it's hard to do either one. Your foes list is short, but it would be better if it were nonexistent. Consider tearing up the score sheet and moving on.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). A friend counts on your discretion. This is normally no problem for you, but today, you'll be tempted to spill the beans. Travel is an excellent remedy for your restless spirit. You rejuvenate and

OWNER FINANCE. Newly remodeled two bedroom, one bath, corner lot. 1400 Mesa, Big Spring. Low down, low monthly. (432)556-7829.

STARTER or INVESTOR Home - 2 Bedroom, hardwood floors, garage, fenced yard. \$20's. Call Doris at (432)270-8920, 263-6525 or Home Realtors 263-4663.

THREE BEDROOM, two bath, foreclosure. Only \$20,500. For listings 800-749-8106 ext. S-382.

Services Offered
TAMI'S BOOKKEEPING Service - Monthly Write-ups, payroll, weekly or bi-weekly, financial statement and quarterly reports. All your bookkeeping needs. Call Tami 432-685-0767. www.tamis-bookkeeping.com

2) New 2005 7 Passenger Vans \$9,500 Off!
Bob Brock Ford
500 W 10th 267-7124

1992 HONDA ACCORD only \$1200! For Listing, 800-749-8104 ext. N-237.
1996 HONDA Accord only \$1500! Alloy wheels, 35MPG! For Listing, 800-749-8104 ext. A106.

Financing Available 267-5588
2001 Ford Explorer Sports Trac 2 Wheel Drive, Fully Loaded, 88,000 Miles \$10,900
2000 Chevy Blazer S-10 2-Door, Fully Loaded, LS Package, New Tires In House Financing Available \$16,900
2003 Dodge Ram 1500 4 Door Quad Cab, Low Mileage, New Tires \$15,900
2003 Toyota Camry XLE Fully Loaded, One Owner, 4 Cylinder, CD Player, Automatic, 88,000 Miles, One Owner. \$15,900



HOLIDAY MATHS

feel more loving because of it. **SCORPIO** (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Usually, when people talk with you, they're sharing, but sometimes, they're stealing - holding you hostage with their rant. Making your boundaries clear will help you stick to your original schedule, which is best for everyone.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22- Dec. 21). You're hilarious. Funnier than you've been in weeks. Don't waste the funny on people who typically don't get you anyway. Find your core audience, and work it.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Your theme song is the old standard "Don't Fence Me In!" You're empowered to cast off emotional restrictions and rebel against binding agreements (or even casual commitments).

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Friends play a role in making your ideas come to life. Aesthetics also come into the equation. If the old look is getting tired, polish it. Anywhere people gather for the purpose of health is great for your love life.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Something wonderful happens. A brave person walks a mile in your shoes and gives you deserved respect. OK, so maybe it's not a mile - or a block - but this person does try on your shoes. You appreciate the gesture.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS: "I'm a Gemini and in love with a beautiful Libra lady. We've been together for quite some time now, and are still in bliss. Is it really possible for our relationship to be this near perfect? Or should I expect to touch the ground soon?" Gemini and Libra are about as harmonious a match as can be found, but get this: Both signs are about the Yin and Yang. The scales balance one another. The twins reflect one another. So, it's only natural that you hold the belief that where there is, as you say, "bliss," there must be another side to it - every emotion has an equal and opposite emotion, right? Maybe, but the equal and opposite reaction may not come from your love life. For instance, perhaps you will bind together in your bliss and form a unifying front against worldly dragons of peril. Or, maybe your bliss turns into respect, then familiarity, then wonder and friendship and enchantment - every feeling allowing you to conquer the shadows that lurk in your own heart. One thing is certain, if you believe there's something wrong with being happy, you'll create a reason to be unhappy. So focus your keen Gemini intellect on all the reasons you deserve this.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Leo is a royal sign, which is why Leos Antonio Banderas and wife Melanie Griffith are king and queen of Hollywood's hot couples. His birthday and hers are only a day apart, but they are born in different years, so their charts featured as many differences as similarities. This year, Banderas continues to make both his queen and his adoring audience swoon with his charismatic-cat style.

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ANSWERS

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2003 Dodge Ram 1500 4 Door Quad Cab, Low Mileage, New Tires \$15,900

2003 Toyota Camry XLE Fully Loaded, One Owner, 4 Cylinder, CD Player, Automatic, 88,000 Miles, One Owner. \$15,900

TUESDAY

Table with 24 columns representing different TV channels (WFAA, KMD, UNI, etc.) and rows representing time slots from 6:30 AM to 12:30 AM. Each cell contains the channel name and the program being aired.

DENNIS THE MENACE



"HEY, DAD! I CHANGED MY MIND! COME AN' GET ME!"

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"Mommy, when will vacation be over? 'Cause know what I'm getting? School-sick!"

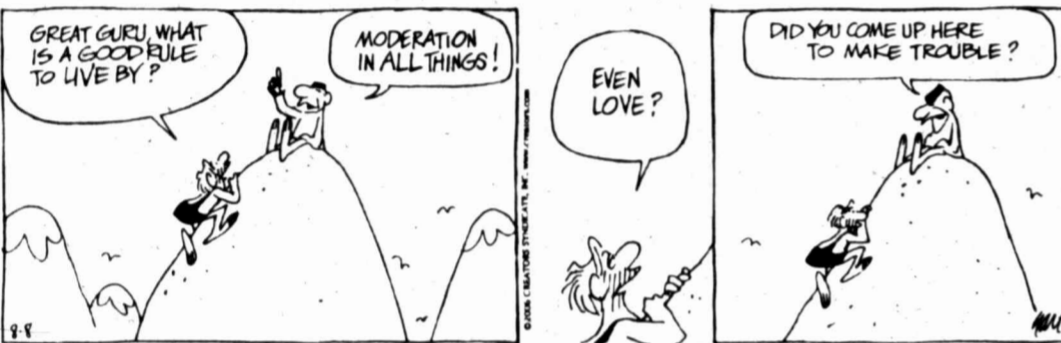
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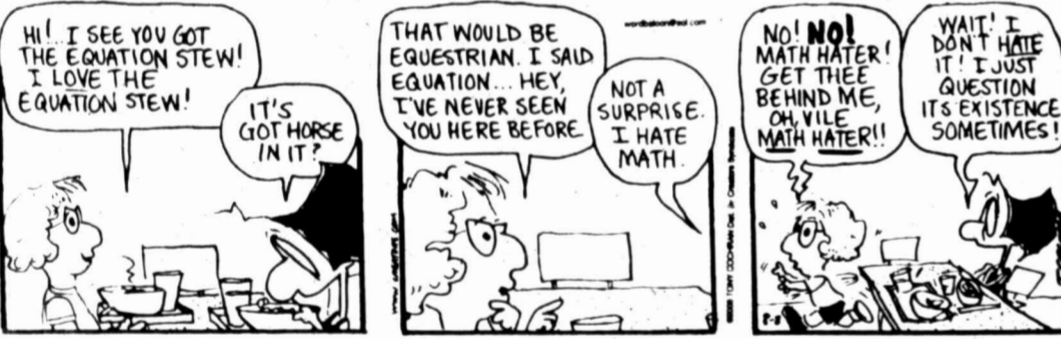
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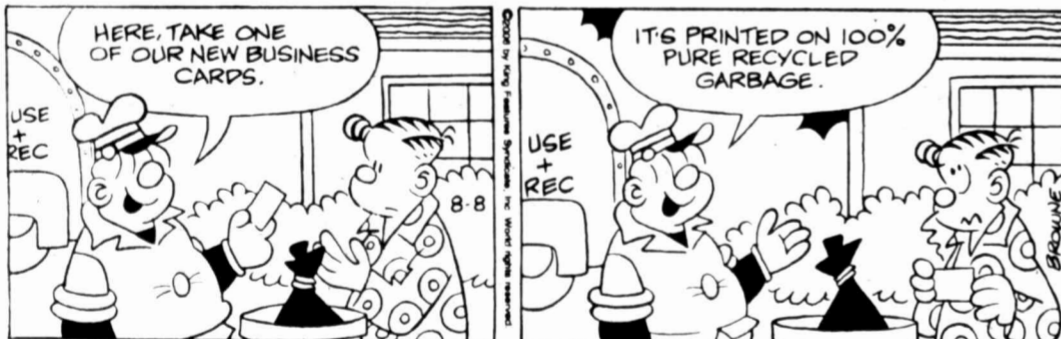
WIZARD OF ID



AGNES



HI AND LOIS



THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BETLE BAILEY



This Date In History

Today is Tuesday, Aug. 8, the 220th day of 2006. There are 145 days left in the year. Today's Highlight in History: On Aug. 8, 1974, President Nixon announced he would resign following damaging new revelations in the Watergate scandal. On this date: In 1876, Thomas A. Edison received a patent for his mimeograph. In 1942, six convicted Nazi saboteurs who'd landed in the U.S. were executed in Washington, D.C.; two others received life imprisonment. In 1945, President Truman signed the United Nations Charter. In 1945, the Soviet Union declared war against Japan during World War II. In 1963, Britain's Great Train Robbery took place as thieves made off with 2.6 million pounds in banknotes. In 1968, Richard M. Nixon was nominated for president at the Republican national convention in Miami Beach, Fla. In 1973, Vice President Spiro T. Agnew branded as "damned lies" reports he had taken kickbacks from government contracts in Maryland, and vowed not to resign - which he eventually did. In 1978, the U.S. launched Pioneer Venus 2, which carried scientific probes to study the atmosphere of Venus. In 1991, the slain bodies of former Iranian Prime Minister Shahpour Bakhtiar and his chief of staff were found in Bakhtiar's residence outside Paris. In 1994, Israel and Jordan opened the first road link between the two once-warring countries.

Country singer Phil Balsley (The Statler Brothers) is 67. Actor Larry Wilcox is 59. Actor Keith Carradine is 57. Rhythm-and-blues singer Airrion Love (The Stylistics) is 57. Country singer Jamie O'Hara is 56. Movie director Martin Brest is 55. Actor Donny Most is 53. Rock musician Dennis Drew (10,000 Maniacs) is 49. TV personality Deborah Norville is 48. Actor-singer Harry Crosby is 48. Rock musician The Edge (U2) is 45. Rock musician Rikki Rockett (Poison) is 45. Rapper Kool Moe Dee is 44. Rock musician Ralph Rieckermann is 44. Rock singer Scott Stapp is 33. Country singer Mark Wills is 33.

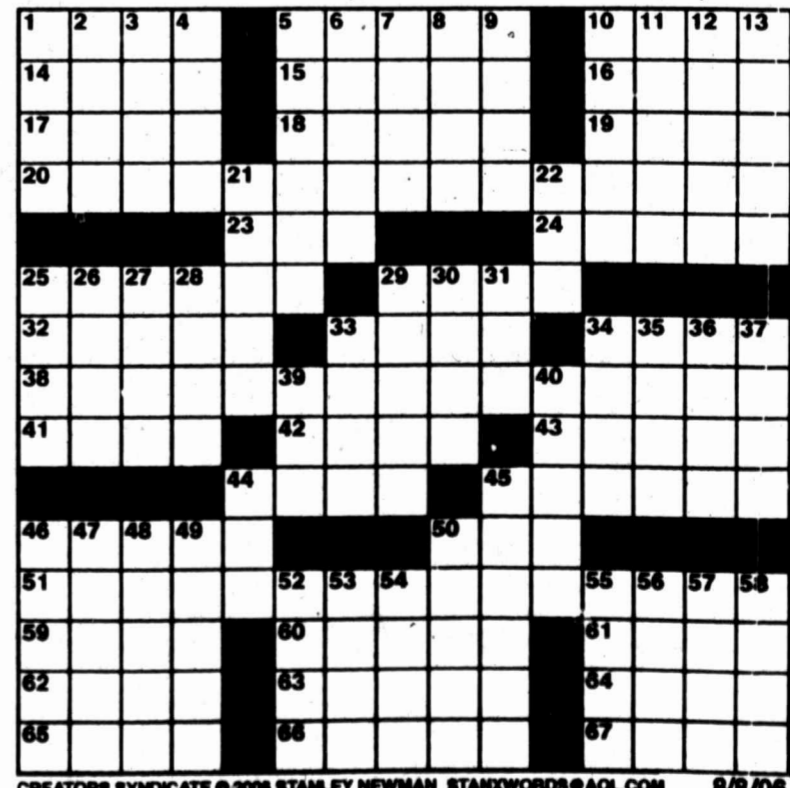
Birthdays: Producer Dino DeLaurentiis is 87. Actress Esther Williams is 85. Actor Richard Anderson is 80. Joan Mondale (wife of former Vice President Walter F. Mondale) is 76. Actress Nita Talbot is 76. Singer Mel Tillis is 74. Actor Dustin Hoffman is 69. Actress Connie Stevens is 68.

Newsday Crossword

- ACROSS
1 Farm harvest
5 Once more
10 Capital of Peru
14 Leaf-gathering tool
15 Totaled
16 Yale or Harvard: Abbr.
17 Stare at
18 Pass, as a law
19 Spaceshot agcy.
20 In charge, as in a family
23 Pas' spouses
24 Top of an ocean wave
25 Adorable kids
29 Aid in wrongdoing
32 Dramatic musical work
33 Pool sticks
34 "___ the night before Christmas..."
38 Doing poorly at a casino
41 Pantry pests
42 Gobbles up
43 British coins
44 Snake-like swimmers
45 Most sensible
46 Long stories
50 Nightclub routine
51 Very conservatively
59 Lawyer: Abbr.
60 Ohio city
61 Neighborhood
62 At any (nevertheless)
63 A+ or B-
64 Window ledge

WHAT'S ON TODAY?

WHAT'S ON TODAY? by Sally R. Stein Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com
40 Minor quarrels
44 Point opposite WNW
45 Parts of a play
46 Neck-warming cloth
47 Church platform
48 Must, slangily
49 So far
50 Battery terminal
52 Touches with a baseball
53 Cajun vegetable
54 Kind of vaccine
55 Immense
56 Only four-letter Great Lake
57 Offer at retail
58 Statuesque



By TH... Staff V... The Council version... projects... Tuesday... bring voters... financ... project... cates... In a... c... voted... favor... street... project... a... recrea... Novem... eral... expect... mately... council... first r... nance... election... Bu... By TH... Staff V... Smol... city li... thing... Spring... move... that w... public... In a... Tuesd... council... mousl... new... an ide... Knox... menta...