



Under review

Howard College officials make sure courses will transfer

By STEVE REAGAN
Staff Writer

Howard College officials are working to assure students that the credits they earn at HC will transfer to other colleges and universities.

To that end, Howard officials have instituted a regular review of the core curriculum, those courses most required to obtain a degree.



Sparks

The review is a relatively new requirement by the Southern Association of Colleges — which accredits courses offered by Howard and other community colleges — and is conducted every semester. College President Dr. Cheryl Sparks said.

"As part of the accreditation process ... we are evaluating our core to ensure that our students are making gains in their

education," Sparks said. Linda Conway, a college vice president and long-time English instructor, admitted she was resistant to the review when it was first mandated.

"When this started, we were hesitant about how effective it would be," Conway said, adding that as a teacher, she believes her grade should be the final say whether the student has successfully managed the course.

"But we have found areas we could improve," she conceded. "So we as a group made some changes to how we teach our courses ... and the scores have improved."

"When people ask us if our students are achieving their competencies, we can say, 'Yes, they are, and we have the scores to prove it,'" Conway said.

The review is district-wide, affecting not just the Big Spring campus, but San Angelo and SouthWest Collegiate

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LOOK-A-LIKE CONTEST



Riley Jenkins, 2, and his dog Sabine were among the contestants in the Dog and Master Look-Alike Contest at the Big Spring Gliding and Flight Festival at Hangar 25 Air Museum Saturday morning. The duo placed third in the contest.

Herald photo/Steve Reagan

Water rates showing little change in FY 2007 budget, manager says

Special to the Herald

Water rates will remain virtually unchanged under the FY 2007 budget approved by the Colorado River Municipal Water District board of directors.

The board has approved a budget of \$34,926,912 for Fiscal Year 2007,

which means water rates will remain about the same for the district's member cities.

"There are some minor changes because the rate formula takes into account variances in the amount of water each city used during the past year but overall, the rates are virtually unchanged," CRMWD

General Manager John Grant said.

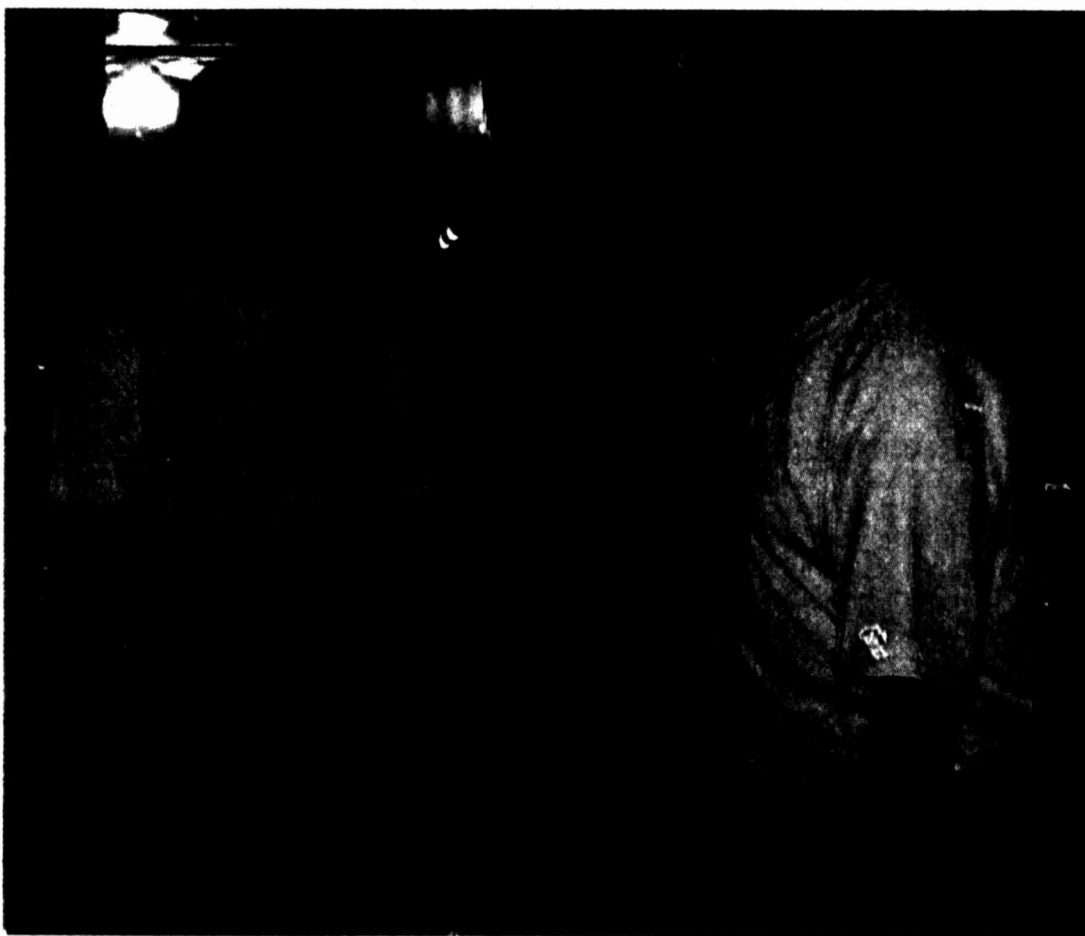
Just less than half of the district's budget is spent on debt service, while almost \$18.5 million is for operating expenses including pumping power.

"One of our most significant and

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Attila Bertok, left, is congratulated by David Glover, director of the U.S. Hang Gliding Championships, after placing first in the flex wing division of the event, which concluded Saturday in Big Spring. Canadian Brett Hazlett placed second while Andre Wolf finished third. Other division winners were John Simon, sports division; James Yocum, rigid class; and Greg Brown, single surface division.

Herald photo/Steve Reagan



Hungarian Bertok takes top honors from competition

By STEVE REAGAN
Staff Writer

Attila Bertok traveled a long way to get to Big Spring, but the trip was definitely worth it in the end.

Bertok, from Hungary, took home top honors in the top division of the U.S. Hang Gliding Championships, which concluded Saturday evening in Big Spring.

Bertok won the flex wing division, while Canadian Brett Hazlett finished second and Andre Wolf was third.

"I know it's a cliché, but I want to thank

everybody who made this possible," Bertok said. "I especially want to thank the great people of Big Spring. They are the nicest people I've ever met in my life."

The top three finishers in the other divisions were:

- Single surface — First, Greg Brown; second, Tony Degroot; and third, David Duke.

- Sport — First, John Simon; second, J.D. Guillemette; and third, Adrian Van Der Reit.

- Rigid wing — First, James Yocum; second,

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PUBLIC HEARINGS SET

Howard County Junior College District trustees will hold the first of two public hearings on the proposed tax rate for the 2006-2007 fiscal year when they meet at 12:30 p.m. Tuesday in the lobby of Dorothy Garrett Coliseum.

The district is proposing a tax rate of 24.284 cents per \$100 valuation, a decrease of more than 3 cents from the previous year.

However, because the new rate will still increase the district's tax levy, two public hearings on the issue are required.

The second public hearing is scheduled for 12:30 p.m. Friday in the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum lobby.

JUDGE HITTING OFFENDING TEENS WHERE IT HURTS

PORTAGE, Ind. (AP) — A judge fed up with teenage traffic violators is hitting them where it hurts — in the driver's seat — by sentencing them to the embarrassment of riding the school bus.

Porter Superior Judge Julia Jent got the idea after a girl in her court for a moving traffic violation appeared not to take seriously either the offense or the fine.

The judge said she knew she had found a way to reach the teen after she ordered her to park her car and ride the school bus.

"The girl cried outside my courtroom. I guess I found the right button," said Jent, who said she's trying to save the lives of

young drivers.

Jent not only orders teens ages 16 to 18 found guilty of traffic infractions to ride the school bus instead of driving to school, but also warns their parents that they could be held in contempt of court if they drive their child to school.

"Kid does crime, kid does time, and mom and dad can't get them out of it and don't have to feel guilty for not helping," Jent said.

If the teens comply, the case is dismissed. If they don't — and Jent has been checking with schools and bus drivers to make sure — then the teens' licenses are suspended and they are fined.

Obituaries

Malcolm Wesley "Mack" Tunnell



Malcolm Wesley "Mack" Tunnell, 69, of Stanton, died Saturday, Aug. 12, 2006, in a Midland hospital. Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. Tuesday, Aug. 15, 2006, at the First Baptist Church of Big Spring with Rev. Bill Shockley, pastor of Oakridge Baptist Church of San Antonio officiating and Rev. J.B. Shewmake of Tarzan assisting. Interment will follow at Trinity Memorial Park in Big Spring.

The family will receive friends tonight from 6:30 p.m. until 8 p.m. at the Gilbreath Funeral Home in Stanton.

He was born Nov. 13, 1936, in Big Spring and married Glynda Rose Welch July 27, 1956, in Tarzan.

Mack enjoyed farming and ranching, working cattle and fishing. What he enjoyed the most was entertaining his grandkids. He served on the Grady School Board for more than 12 years. He also served on the board of the Tarzan Co-op Gin for several years.

Two outstanding honors have been awarded to Mack. He was named Outstanding Farmer of Martin County in 1972, and honored for his work at Grady by the stadium being named MW Tunnell Field. He enjoyed drinking coffee early in the morning with his friends at Denise's Qwik Stop.

He was a member of Tarzan Baptist Church, where he served as a Deacon.

Survivors include his wife, Glynda Tunnell of Stanton; two sons and daughters-in-law, J.C. and Melinda Tunnell of Ft. Worth and Brad and Ginger Tunnell of Stanton; three daughters and sons-in-law, Wendy and Tony Sawyer of Lenora, Shelly and Matt Warren of Big Spring and Jogy and James Hill of Stanton; 13 grandchildren; two brothers-in-law, Benny Welch and his wife Latrell of Stanton and Eldon Welch and his wife Georgina of Tarzan; two sisters-in-law, Lou Tunnell of Houston and Gracie Percy and her husband, Sonny, of Oklahoma City.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Sterling and Lora Tunnell; a sister, Doris Tunnell; a brother, James Tunnell; a brother-in-law, Charlie Welch; and a sister-in-law, Barbara Welch.

The family suggests memorials to the PFC Clayton Welch Henson Memorial Fund, c/o Permian Basin Area Foundation, 550 W. Texas Ave., Midland 79701 or to a charity of ones choice.

Arrangements under the direction of Gilbreath Funeral Home of Stanton. Online condolences can be made at: www.npwelch.com

Paid obituary

Velma Forbes

Velma Forbes, 83, of Ackerly died Sunday, Aug. 13, 2006, at Covenant Medical Center in Lubbock. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Lottery

Results of the Lotto Texas drawing Saturday night:
Winning numbers drawn: 6-12-14-20-28-29
Number matching six of six: None
Estimated jackpot for Wednesday night drawing: \$19.

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Saturday night:
Winning numbers drawn: 8-10-16-17-28
Number matching five of five: 0
Next Cash 5 drawing: Tonight.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Saturday night, in order: 1-9-0

Weather

Today — Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Highs in the lower 90s. Southeast winds around 10 mph.

Tonight — Partly cloudy with scattered showers and thunderstorms.

Lows around 70. Northeast winds around 10 mph. The chance of rain is 40 percent.

Tuesday — Partly cloudy with a 2 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Highs in the mid 90s. Southeast winds around 10 mph.

Tuesday night — Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Lows in the lower 70s. Southeast winds around 10 mph.

Wednesday — Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Highs in the upper 90s. South winds 10 to 15 mph.

Wednesday night — Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Lows in the lower 70s.

Thursday — Partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 90s.

Thursday night — Partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 70s.

Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity between 10 a.m. Saturday and 7 a.m. today:

- **KENNETH MARUIZE DAVIS**, 32, of 1106 W. Third Street, was arrested Saturday on a charge of unauthorized use of a motor vehicle.

- **SHERRIE ANN THOMPSON**, 32, of Brumley Road, was arrested Saturday on a charge of public intoxication.

- **ROBERT WILLIAM GANG**, 59, of 203 Gang Drive, was arrested Saturday on a charge of public intoxication.

- **RAFAEL CRUZ LOPEZ**, 61, of 508.5 Father Delaney, was arrested Sunday on a charge of failure to identify.

- **KIMBERLY SHAWN STILLMAN**, 42, of Snyder, was arrested Sunday on a charge of driving while intoxicated.

- **CAREY ALEXANDER**, 50, of 3205 Cornell, was arrested Sunday on a charge of public intoxication.

- **MARTIN MORA**, 29, of 1401 Dixie, was arrested Sunday on a parole violation.

- **THEFT** was reported in the 300 block of Owens.

- **FAILURE TO IDENTIFY - GIVING FALSE INFORMATION** was reported in the 100 block of Second Street.

- **CRIMINAL TRESPASS OF A HABITATION/SHELTER CENTER** was reported in the 3900 block of Hamilton.

- **UNAUTHORIZED USE OF A MOTOR VEHICLE** was reported in the 1100 block of Third Street.

- **CRIMINAL MISCHIEF** was reported:

- in the 1300 block of Johnson.

- in the 2900 block of Highway 80.

- in the 600 block of 18th Street.

- **ASSAULT/CLASS C** was reported in the 2000 block of Gregg Street.

- **ASSAULT CLASS C/FAMILY VIOLENCE** was reported:

- in the 800 block of Interstate Highway 20.

- in the 1100 block of Lamesa.

- in the 600 block of 18th Street.

- in the 500 block of 14th Street.

Fire/EMS

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

- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 500 block of 17th Street. One person was transported to SMMC.

- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 400 block of Fourth Street. One person was transported to SMMC.

- **TRAFFIC ACCIDENT** was reported near the intersection of Interstate Highway 20 and Highway 87. Service was refused.

- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1200 block of East Third Street. One person was transported to SMMC.

- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1800 block of North Highway 87. One person was transported to the VAMC.

- **MEDICAL** was reported near the intersection of Third Street and Scurry. One person was transported to SMMC.

- **TRAUMA** was reported in the 1300 block of West Fourth Street. One person was transported to SMMC.

- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 2500 block of Chanute. One person was transported to SMMC.

- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1800 block of North Highway 87. One person was transported to the VAMC.

Take Note

- **BIG SPRING HIGH SCHOOL BAND BOOSTERS** will meet at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday in the high school band hall. If your student is a band member, you are a band booster. See you there.

- **SCENIC MOUNTAIN MEDICAL CENTER REFLECTIONS UNIT**, 1601 W. 11th Pl., will host a Business After Hours from 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. Thursday. Business After Hours is a Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce program designed to encourage networking and to showcase sponsors. Everyone is invited to exchange business cards.

Door prizes will be awarded and refreshments will be served.

- **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.

- **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).

Bulletin Board

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

TODAY

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

- Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) No. TX 1756 meets at 5:30 p.m. in the First Christian Church of Big Spring, 911 Goliad. A different program is offered every week. Enter through the south side door off 10th Street. Call 263-2786 for more information.

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

- DAV and Auxiliary Chapter 47 meets at 6:30 p.m. at 610 Abrams St.

- Christian Singles Fellowship meets from 7 p.m. until 9 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church Youth Hall. All singles in the community are invited for an evening of fellowship, food and table games.

- Prospector's Club work night begins at 7 p.m. at 606 E. Third.

TUESDAY

- Big Spring Rotary Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.

- Big Spring Band Boosters meets at 5:30 p.m. in the high school band hall. All band parents are invited to attend.

- Big Spring Art Association meets at 7 p.m. in the Howard County Library. All working artists and those interested in art are invited to attend.

- Order of the Eastern Star No. 67 meets at 7:30 p.m. at 221 Main.

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. in the Scenic Mountain Medical Center classroom for Stretch and Tone. Call 268-4721.

Sheriff's report

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

- **JOEL RUDY PEREZ**, 25, was arrested Friday by the HCSO on a violation of parole and a charge of bondsman off bond for assault.

- **ALLEN DAVID GILBERT**, 32, was arrested Friday by the HCSO on a parole violation.

- **JERRY DON DUFFER**, 19, was transferred to the county jail Friday by the BSPD on a charge of credit care abuse.

- **TIMMY WAYNE ROGERS**, 26, was arrested Saturday by the HCSO on a charge of assault - family violence.

- **AMANDA SALGADO**, 26, was arrested Saturday by the HCSO on a charge of issuance of a bad check.

- **FRED ALLEN PERRY**, 42, was arrested Saturday on a charge of driving while license invalid.

- **IRMA MORIN YANEZ**, 33, was transferred to the county jail Saturday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while license suspended/invalid - enhanced.

- **KRISTIE NICOLE GARZA**, 17, was transferred to the county jail Saturday by the BSPD on a charge of hindering the apprehension/prosecution of a known felon.

- **ROSENDO FRANCO**, 23, was transferred to the county jail Saturday by the BSPD on a Howard County warrant for criminal mischief.

- **ADRIAN ALDACO HERNANDEZ**, 28, was arrested Sunday by DPS on a charge of driving while intoxicated.

- **NATHAN CAHOON**, 45, was transferred to the county jail Sunday by the BSPD on a motion to revoke probation for driving while intoxicated - second offense.

- **KENNETH MARUIZE DAVIS**, 32, was transferred to the county jail Sunday by the BSPD on a charge of unauthorized use of a motor vehicle.

- **CHAD PUGA**, 21, was arrested Sunday by the HCSO on a motion to revoke probation for displaying a fictitious or counterfeit inspection/insurance document.

- **BRIAN MICHAEL GARZA**, 24, was transferred to the county jail Sunday by the BSPD on a Gonzales County warrant and motion for adjudication on a charge of forgery.

- **BURGLARY OF A BUILDING** was reported in the 300 block of Wood.

- **BURGLARY OF A VEHICLE** was reported in the 3100 block of South Anderson Road.

BIG SPRING HERALD

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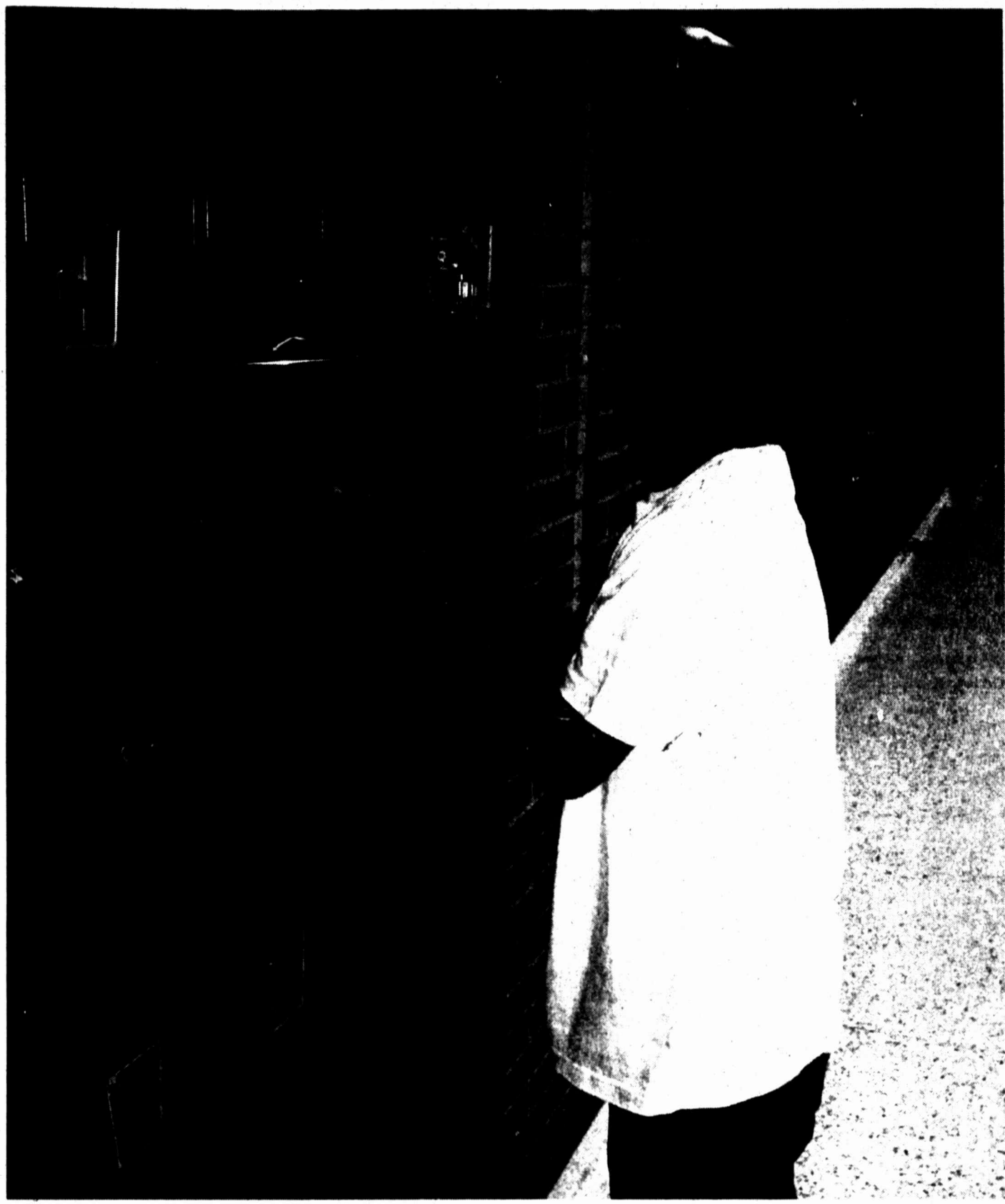
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GETTING READY FOR THAT FIRST DAY BACK



Gabriel Pena, an eighth grade student at Big Spring Junior High School, gets ready to head to class early this morning during the first day of school for area students.

War protesters hope to increase numbers despite Bush absence

By ANGELA K. BROWN
Associated Press Writer

CRAWFORD — Anti-war demonstrators said Sunday they hope that the end of President Bush's ranch vacation doesn't hurt attendance at their protest activities for the rest of the summer.

They urged those who oppose the war in Iraq to keep coming to their 5-acre campsite purchased last month by Cindy Sheehan, who resumed her protest a week ago.

Sheehan's first trek to the one-stoplight town last August during Bush's monthlong vacation turned into a 26-day vigil that drew more than 10,000 people and spurred counter-protests by Bush supporters.

A few hundred war opponents returned at Thanksgiving, when Bush was at his ranch, and again in April, the president's first Easter away from Crawford.

On Sunday, only about 100 protesters were camped on their land near downtown, about seven miles from the ranch, but they hope to increase their numbers.

"This is a victory for us that he is not here," said Kyle Johnson, 31, of Austin. "We've felt powerless to stop the war. Now we've spoken truth to power and made him run off, and I think it's going to feed the energy of this."

Bush arrived at his ranch Aug. 3 and returned to Washington on Sunday as previously scheduled, his shortest

summer vacation yet amid turmoil in the Middle East and an uncertain future for his Republican party in fall elections.

The president's schedule is not affected by the protesters' presence, White House spokesman David Almay said Sunday. "Our soldiers are fighting in Iraq to provide the Iraqi people the very right that those in Crawford are exercising, which is the ability to peacefully express their views."

After protesters found out about Bush's shorter Crawford vacation, they scrambled to move up their event, initially planned for the latter half of August after the Veterans for Peace convention in Seattle.

Sheehan, 49, returned to the camp for an interfaith service Sunday after being hospitalized for two nights for dehydration and after undergoing a minor gynecological procedure. She was greeted with hugs, cheers and shouts of "We love you, Cindy!"

"Even though George Bush isn't here, it's important still to get together and not just show him but show the world that there are Americans who want the violence in the Middle East to stop," Sheehan said.

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

24th & Johnson 267-8288

Velma Forbes, 83, died Sunday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

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- PINKETS OF THE BOMBARDIER (R) 4:06 7:00
- BORN (PG) 4:30 7:30
- THUNDERBOLTS: THE MIGHT OF HENRY DUNTY (PG-13) 4:30 7:30

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RATES

Continued from Page 1

unstable expenses is pumping power," said Grant. "In the volatile power market, a one-cent change in the cost per kilowatt hour translates to about \$1.4 million in our annual budget. The FY 2007 budget is based on our best estimates for the cost of power."

Grant said the district has also been able to avoid amending the FY 2006 budget in spite of rising power prices during the year.

"Fifteen months ago, when we prepared the FY 2006 budget, we were paying a fixed rate of just over 7 cents per kWh and it appeared power might cost around 8 cents per kWh. By the time our fixed contract expired about one month into the

Current water supplies are: 08/09/06

| | Contents | Percent Full | Full Capacity |
|--------|---|--------------|---------------|
| Thomas | Elevation 2,225.30 Acre-Foot 38,312 | 19.10% | 200,600 |
| Spence | Elevation 1,848.93 Acre-Foot 73,799 | 14.27% | 517,270 |
| Ivlie | Elevation 1,530.66 Acre-Foot 243,920 | 44.00% | 554,340 |

2006 budget, the market had changed dramatically. We were facing fixed contracts offers of 10 or 11 cents per kWh and we were frankly concerned that we might have to amend the 2006 budget," Grant said.

The district declined the fixed contracts, choosing instead to purchased some power blocks and buy the rest on the open market where prices can vary from 5 to 50 cents per kWh.

"We have always utilized pumping scenarios to draw from the least expensive water in our

system but we are taking it a step further. We are cycling pumps on to fill available storage at night or during off-peak periods when power rates are low and off in the peaks. We have worked very hard to avoid those peak cost periods," said Grant, commending the district's central control operators for accomplishing it while still maintaining adequate reserves throughout the system.

"Based on power bills through June 30, we ran about \$685,000 under budget for the first nine months of the budget

year. Three months of our peak demand season remains when we will have less flexibility but we are in a very good position at this point," he said.

Currently, the district's water supplies are declining as inflows have been low for the year. Grant said the district needs reservoir inflows to maintain its current power consumption pattern.

"We have had the luxury of using the closest

reservoirs for our deliveries because 2004 and 2005 brought good inflows to Lake Thomas and Spence Reservoir," Grant said. "This year has not produced any significant inflows and both lakes are declining again," he continued. "Some good late summer rains would do a lot to reduce demands and help us maintain the flexibility to keep our power costs down."

COLLEGE

Continued from Page 1

Institute for the Deaf, as well.

"The goal of this program is to help facilitate

transfer of course credit (to other institutions)," Conway said.

"I still believe my evaluation of a student ... is the most effective way of determining their competency (in class)," she said.

"But this has made me a better teacher ... It's helping us focus."

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

WINNERS

Continued from Page 1

Bowen Campbell; and third, Davis Straub.

Despite three days of rain that cut into flying time, David Glover, director of the event, called it a success.

"We had five days of great flying, and I'm really glad everybody stayed safe," Glover said. "And the people of Big Spring were great; they really

rolled out the red carpet for us, as I'm sure they will next year (when the world championships come to Big Spring)."

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

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**Hats off to all of you,
Bill and Margie Ward**

Shane, Karen and Stevi Ward, Bobby Franco

EDITORIAL

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

Susanne Reed
Publisher

John A. Moseley
Managing Editor

Bill McClellan
News Editor

OUR VIEWS

What a week! We can't wait for next year

It was nothing short of a tremendous week. A collection of the world's best hang glider pilots spent all of last week in Big Spring, taking part in the United States Hang Gliding Championships at McMahon-Wrinkle Airpark.

This was the fifth year in a row for the United States Hang Gliding Association to stage one of the sport's premier competitions in Big Spring.

And just as was the case at this time a year ago, there's little question that as a community we can't wait until they come back.

And they will be back. Returning next year for the World Championships — one of the factors that saw last week's collection of competitors the largest Big Spring has seen.

Those who didn't get a chance to go out and see the pilots being towed into the sky or maneuvering their wings for a landing definitely missed out. And if you failed to take advantage of the chance to take a ride on one of the ultralight tow planes or a tandem hang glider ride, that's an even greater shame.

Championships coordinator David Glover has made it clear that Big Spring will continue to be a favorite among with USHGA competitors, thanks not only to the ideal weather conditions West Texas skies usually provide, but the warm welcome our community continually offers its visitors.

We here at the *Herald* and many others in Big Spring can't wait until we see our high-flying friends return. We've had a blast and eagerly await next year's arrival of the World Championships.

In fact, we hope all the hang gliders left Big Spring knowing they are always going to be most welcomed guests.

What's more, we hope they have as good a time as we have.

How To Contact Us

The Herald is always interested in our readers' opinions. In order that we might better serve your needs, we offer several ways in which you may contact us:

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

LETTER POLICIES

The Herald welcomes letters to the editor.

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

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

You are a wealth of ideas and solutions, Lord, may we come to You in everything we do.

Amen

Embryos made to order?

Jennalee Ryan of Texas advertises "The World's First Human Embryo Bank" online. There's no need for would-be parents to settle for already-born babies or leftover embryos from couples with fertility issues. Ryan sent out a letter that explains, "Recipient parents will receive pictures of the donors as infants, and sometimes as adults; full medical background and health reports, and a family history." Her group, The Abraham Center of Life, uses sperm donors only with college degrees — although "most of them have doctorate degrees" — while most egg donors have some college.

O Brave New World that has such Petri dishes in it. Prospective parents can pick the sperm and the eggs to produce their designer babies. Ryan even says she can find a surrogate mother to carry the fetus to term.

Ryan would not give me the names of any clinic or any doctor with whom she works — so I could not verify that she can deliver on her claims. Buyer beware. But her announcement has bioethicists in a lather. In response to a British story on Ryan's work, the Weblog for the American Journal of Bioethics wrote, "Welcome back to the Wild, Wild West of Assisted Reproduction."

Art Caplan, director of the Center for Bioethics at the University of Pennsylvania, noted that even if Ryan is operating out of her own freezer, even if she is — excuse the pun — a "mom-and-pop entrepreneur, there will be bigger fish swimming in pretty soon." Why? "The demand is there. The behavior of people selling sperm and eggs is wild enough; there's no reason to think this isn't the natural next step in making babies: embryos to order." Aren't you selling designer

babies? I ask Ryan over the phone last week.

"Designer babies? Yeah. Why not?" she replies with a laugh. For years, she adds, sperm banks have required college degrees from donors, and she often uses a sperm bank that requires sperm from Ph.D.s. "Does that make it a designer baby because they have a Ph.D.? But why wouldn't I use someone with a Ph.D. versus a truck driver? It's all the same cost."

"You know why I did it? Because I could," Ryan explains. She started Abigail's Silver Spoons Adoptions, Inc. years ago, and while that enterprise continues, Ryan saw a new market in embryos.

If a couple tries to adopt a baby, but the birth mother changes her mind, that couple can be out \$10,000 — with no baby to show for it. If a couple wants to adopt a frozen embryo, the couple usually is screened by the embryo's parents (if you will) — and with frozen embryos the success rate is around 30 percent.

Ryan says that with proven egg and sperm donors, "medical experts predict that the pregnancy rate is closer to 70 percent." I'll ask the American Society for Reproductive Medicine about that, I tell her. Ryan says they'll confirm her number, but ASRM Sean Tipton spokesman flatly refuses to do so.

He wonders if Ryan is a third-party broker, because she is not a member of his medical group. No, she says, she is "a business."

It also turns out that the embryo bank is not really a bank. "When we say an embryo bank, it's not like a closet," Ryan explains. "We have embryos at different clinics." How many? Again, Ryan would not supply their names, but she says she has 32 embryos and "they're all spoken for." When she has another backlog and knows what her clients want, she'll cook up a new batch.

Caplan can't stand the language used in the embryo biz. Don't call them egg donors and sperm

donors, he says. Call them "egg sellers and sperm sellers." (In case you're wondering, Ryan's site lists the egg donor's fee as \$3,500 to \$15,000, although, "exceptional and repeat donors will often receive higher compensation.")

As for Ryan's statement that, "Egg donation is a safe, simple procedure that requires little more than several scheduled doctor appointments and the administration of fertility medication," Caplan disagrees. "That's too kindly a description," he says, citing women who have died using fertility drugs.

Caplan believes that the United States should be regulating the embryo trade. He asks: "Who the hell are they and how do we know that these numbers are true?"

William Hurlbut of Stanford University, a member of the president's Council on Bioethics, a White House advisory council, looked at Ryan's Web site and noted that the practices she advertises are happening, although, "This would be one of those realms where it would be pretty hard to detect fraud."

Caplan asks, "How do we get to the point where you go to jail if you go up to someone on the street and say, 'Do you want to buy my child for \$10,000?' You'd think they were barbaric, immoral, heinous people. But if they come down the street and say, 'Hey, there's an Internet site. Do you want to buy an egg, sperm and surrogate mother?' We think they're just entrepreneurs. What's going on here?"

I wonder: If would-be parents choose sperm and eggs to design an ideal child, what's next? Will there be a world led by designer babies and serviced by us undesigned folk?

Ryan tells me, "As of right now, there is no regulation. You know how it works? If there is no law against it, it's legal."

E-mail Debra J. Saunders at dsaunder@schronicle.com.
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Abby Cadabby makes me crabby

Oscar the Grouch got it right. The world is a grasping, craven, scrap heap of greed — and the street he lives on is no exception.

How else to explain Abby Cadabby, the "Sesame Street" muppet debuting today, one of just a handful of female characters this supposedly enlightened show has managed to come up with in 37 years? Abby is pink. She is pretty. She has wings. She's the Gisele Bundchen of the pre-school set. And just like Gisele, she's a marketer's dream.

"Abby is a Disney character with a PBS twist," says Susan Linn, spokeswoman at the Campaign for a Commercial Free Childhood. "The last thing girls need is another girly-girl fairy. Disney does that already." But since Disney has made a mint pushing that particular take on girlhood, Sesame Workshop decided to copy 'em.

Of course, it won't admit that! Would you, if you wanted parents to plunk their kids in front of your show every morning? "Get your sex roles here, then go buy the

gear!"

No, the official company rationale for Abby is that, as a fairy in training, she comes new to the neighborhood and must learn how to make friends — Lesson A — even as the old gang learns irreproachable Lesson B: They must accept someone who is different. Not so different that she is black, or fat, or tall for a girl, 'natch. Just different in that she's adorable and sparkly and tends to accidentally take flight when she's happy.

You know, just like a guy would. Right?

Puh-leese. Even Elmo isn't that silly and he giggles for a living. In pop culture, guys — even guys with ping-pong balls for eyes — are grounded. Girls?

"They're always given magical powers," says Sharon Lamb, co-author of "Packaging Girlhood." "Abby isn't getting her power from being competent or knowing a lot. She doesn't get a sword. All her power comes from fairy dust." At this rate, says Lamb, she'll grow up to be "I Dream of Jeanie" or maybe Samantha on "Bewitched" — women who succeed thanks to magic. In fact, "That's so magic!" is Abby's catchphrase. If you can't imagine a doll chirping that while batting her lashes, I dearly hope you are not a

buyer for Toys "R" Us.

Now I know all this may sound like a tempest in a T is for Teapot. After all, we're just talking about one little puppet on one little kids show, right? But think of what "Sesame Street" has represented for almost two whole generations: an earnest effort to teach kids not just to read, but to respect everyone's differences. It was the first TV show to have an integrated cast. Now it's sliding into stereotypes.

"PBS is supposed to be different," says Diane Levin, who is writing a book, "So Sexy, So Soon." "They're not supposed to be selling out." But the company plans to start marketing Abby books and then, if these do well, Abby toys, videos, accessories and eventually, probably bags of overpriced fairy dust.

Poo! Another aisle in the toy store goes pink and little girls are taught to dream of becoming pretty princesses.

That's magic, all right. The marketing kind.

Lenore Skenazy is a columnist at The New York Daily News (lskenazy@nydailynews.com).

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DEBRA SAUNDERS



LENORE SKENAZY



Alexis Pace, right, and her dog Munkey await the start of the Dog and Master Look-Alike Contest at the Big Spring Gilding and Flight Festival at Hangar 25 Air Museum. Alexis and her dog placed second in the event.



Junior Rogers and his dog Ugly were winners in the Dog and Master Look-Alike Contest at the Big Spring Gilding and Flight Festival Saturday morning at Hangar 25 Air Museum.



A young visitor to the Big Spring Gilding and Flight Festival takes advantage of the pneumatic slide at the first-ever event, which was held at Hangar 25 Air Museum Saturday morning.

Microsoft selling consumer version of professional software tools that are used to create video games

By MATT SLAGLE

AP Technology Writer

DALLAS (AP) - Hoping to spur interest among video game enthusiasts, creative types and students, Microsoft Corp. said it plans to offer a consumer version of the professional software tools used to create video games for its Xbox 360 console.

The XNA Game Studio Express program, an offshoot of the company's more robust XNA Framework, will be available Aug. 30 for a \$99 annual subscription, the company announced Monday.

The software, which requires a Windows PC to operate, will let anyone with the desire create their own video games and then share them on Microsoft's Xbox Live online game service, said Peter Moore, a Microsoft vice president.

"It's our first step of creating a YouTube for video games," Moore said, referring to the wildly popular free online video sharing Web site. "It will give you everything you need to bring your game to life on Xbox 360."

The program would be a first for consoles, which traditionally have been the exclusive domain of skilled programmers, artists and designers.

Moore said the program is basic compared to the pro tools, which cost tens

of thousands of dollars.

Though it's designed to eliminate much of the tedious hand-coding involved in making a game from scratch, some basic programming skills are still going to be needed for the consumer version.

Analysts cautioned that making a game — a multidisciplinary process requiring artists and animators, programmers and mathematicians — will never be easy.

"It's going to allow very talented individuals to actually be able to do a game in a few weeks instead of taking years and spending millions of dollars," said Richard Doherty, research director at the Envisioneering Group.

Moore described the games users would be able to make as rudimentary. He said future plans may include additional

software packs consumers could buy to tweak their games.

Microsoft will regulate the content for appropriateness and intellectual property issues, but users will own their work, Moore said.

Rob Enderle, an analyst with the Enderle Group, said such software could get younger people more interested in choosing video game development as a career.

"There's a problem where kids have stopped

getting excited about getting into software development," he said. "One way to get kids excited about it is to give them something they want to do. A lot of kids play video games."

Moore said several schools, including Southern Methodist University in Dallas, the University of Southern California and Georgia Tech, already plan to incorporate the software into their curriculum this fall.

Contract Bridge

Famous Hand

South dealer.
Neither side vulnerable.
NORTH
♠ 6 4
♥ 4 2
♦ J 7 5
♣ A K J 8 7 5
WEST EAST
♠ 3 ♠ K Q J 10 8 7 5
♥ 8 7 ♥ 9 6 3
♦ Q 10 9 8 6 4 2 ♦ —
♣ 10 9 6 ♣ Q 4 3
SOUTH
♠ A 9 2
♥ A K Q J 10 5
♦ A K 3
♣ 2

The bidding:
South West North East
2♥ Pass 3♣ 4♣
6

Opening lead — three of spades.

This deal was played in an Indonesian pair championship many years ago. The declarer was L. Spier of Holland, who got to six hearts as shown and found a very unusual way to make the slam.

Spier won the spade lead with the ace and drew three rounds of trumps, discarding a club from dummy. He then cashed the ace of diamonds, on which East showed out.

East's original distribution thus became an open book — he had started with seven spades, three hearts and no diamonds, and therefore had to have exactly three clubs.

The good news was that dummy's clubs could be established by playing the A-K and ruffing a club; the bad news was that there was no visible entry to dummy to cash the clubs once they were established.

One possible approach to the play was for South to cash all his trumps and the king of diamonds, forcing East to come down to four cards. If East discarded down to one spade and three clubs, the rest would be easy. A spade would put him on lead, and his forced club return into the A-K-J would hand declarer the contract.

The trouble with this was that if East came down to two clubs and two spades, South would have to guess whether to play the A-K of clubs to drop the queen (if East had it), or to finesse the jack (if West had the queen).

Spier solved the problem in brilliant fashion, finding a sure way to produce 12 tricks. At trick six he led a club to the ace, then cashed the king and discarded the king of diamonds on it! A club ruff established the suit, and the diamond three was then led toward dummy's J-7.

West took the queen, but since he had only diamonds left, he had to return one to dummy's jack. This allowed Spier to dispose of his two spade losers on dummy's minor-suit winners, and the slam came rolling home.

Tomorrow: The better way.
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Uterine fibroids: An overview

Uterine fibroids are among the most common tumors in women. These noncancerous growths in the uterus may appear during childbearing years and are not associated with an increased risk of uterine cancer. As many as three out of four women have uterine fibroids; most are unaware of them as they often cause no signs or symptoms. However, in rare instances, fibroids can require emergency treatment if they cause sudden, sharp pelvic pain.



ERIC BYERLY, MD

The most common signs and symptoms of uterine fibroids are:

- Heavy menstrual bleeding;

- Prolonged menstrual periods or bleeding between periods;
 - Pelvic pressure or pain;
 - Urinary incontinence, frequent urination or urine retention;
 - Constipation; and
 - Backache or leg pains.
- Fibroid location influences a woman's signs and symptoms. Fibroids that grow into the inner cavity of the uterus (submucosal fibroids) are thought to be primarily responsible for prolonged, heavy menstrual bleeding. Fibroids that project to the outside of the uterus (subserosal fibroids) can press on the bladder or ureters, causing urinary symptoms. If fibroids bulge from the back of the uterus, they can press either on the rectum, causing constipation, or on the spinal nerves, causing a backache.

Though doctors do not

know exactly what causes fibroids to grow, research and clinical experience point to several factors. Reproductive hormones produced by the ovaries, including estrogen and progesterone, appear to promote the growth of fibroids. Other chemicals that help the body maintain tissues, such as insulin-like growth factor, may affect fibroid growth.

There is not one single best approach to treating uterine fibroids, but there are several treatment options.

- Since fibroids are not cancerous, rarely interfere with pregnancy and tend to shrink after menopause, watchful

waiting is the best option for most women.

- Having a hysterectomy, the removal of the uterus, remains the only proven permanent solution for uterine fibroids.
- Medications for uterine fibroids target hormones that regulate the menstrual cycle. Therefore, medications may shrink the fibroids, but not eliminate them all together.

Because fibroids are not cancerous and usually grow slowly, you have time to gather information before making a decision about treatment. The option that is right for you depends on a number of factors. Before making a decision, con-

sider the pros and cons of all available treatment options in relation to your particular situation. If you have questions regarding uterine fibroids, contact your physician for further information.

Sources:
National Women's Health Information Center
www.WomensHealth.gov

WebMD
www.webmd.com

MayoClinic
www.mayoclinic.com

SCENIC MOUNTAIN MEDICAL CENTER

Tag ensures hat provides adequate sun protection



Special to the Herald

Wearing a hat can be not only trendy and stylish, but also provides a means for effective sun protection.

Statistics show that more than 90 percent of all skin cancers are caused by sun exposure, yet less than 33 percent of Americans routinely use sun protection. The Headwear Association, in partnership with The Skin Cancer Foundation, has created a special hat hangtag program that ensures you are purchasing a hat that protects your face, ears and neck from the risk of sun damage and skin cancer.

"Wearing protective clothing, including a broad-brimmed hat, is an essential part of a complete sun protection regimen," said Perry Robins, MD, president of The Skin Cancer Foundation. "That's why we are delighted to be partnering with the Headwear Association on this awareness program."

Tips for buying a sun-protective hat

"There are several million Skin Cancer Foundation hat hang tags in circulation in the U.S.," said Art Gardner, past president of The Headwear Association.

To be sure you are purchasing a sun-protective hat, look for this hang tag and follow these tips:

- Size — A hat with a minimum 2 1/4 inch brim can provide adequate sun protection for the neck, face and ears.
- Shape — Hat shapes that protect better against ultraviolet radiation (UVR) are ones that curve down to follow the contours of the head and neck.
- Color — Hats should

have dark under brims. The dark color absorbs more of the reflected UVR and adds better protection.

- Material — The material of a hat should be cool and durable. Fabrics should be tightly woven or lined with fabric that has been tested for sun protection.

Although hats block up to 97 percent of direct UVR, they cannot provide full protection against indirect or reflected UVR. So in addition to wearing a hat, it is important to shield the rest of your

skin from sun exposure. The Skin Cancer Foundation recommends the following:

- Seek the shade, especially between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.
- Apply a broad-spectrum SPF 15 or higher sunscreen every day.
- Apply 2 tablespoons of sunscreen to your entire body 30 minutes before going outside, and reapply every two hours.
- Cover up with clothing and UV-blocking sunglasses.

About The Skin Cancer Foundation

The Skin Cancer Foundation is the only global nonprofit organization solely devoted to the prevention, detection and treatment of skin cancer. The mission of the foundation is to decrease skin cancer incidence and mortality by means of public and professional education, medical train-

ing and research. For more information about membership opportunities, visit www.skin-cancer.org, or call 1-800-SKIN-490.

su | do | ku

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

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• Coffee @ Gale's - 10:00 AM
• "BUNKO" - 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM

August 21 * Monday
• Games - 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

August 22 * Tuesday
• Mall Walking - 8:00 AM
• Supper Club "Spanish Inn" - 5:30 PM

August 23 * Wednesday
• Sit & Be Fit - 10:30 AM
• Senior Appreciation Day - 11:30 AM
• Lunch-N-Learn - 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

August 24 * Thursday
• Mall Walking - 8:00 AM
• Coffee @ Gale's - 10:00 AM

August 25 * Friday
• Shopping - Midland 9:00 AM - ??
• Lunch @ "Clear Springs"

August 28 * Monday
• Phantasia's Jewelry Sale - SMMC Hospital Lobby - 7:00 AM - 7:00 PM

August 29 * Tuesday
• Mall Walking - 8:00 AM
• Supper Club "Red Mesa" - 5:30 PM
• Phantasia's Jewelry Sale - 7:00 AM - 4:00 PM

August 30 * Wednesday
• Sit & Be Fit - 10:30 AM
• Senior Appreciation Day - 11:30 AM

August 31 * Thursday
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• Coffee @ Gale's - 10:00 AM

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Sports

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Do you have an interesting sports item or story idea? Call Troy Hyde at 263-7331. Ext. 237. Email results to: sports@bigspringherald.com

Page 7
Monday, August 14, 2006

IN BRIEF

Registration starts for youth football

Sign-ups for the Crossroads Youth Football Association will be held from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Friday at the Big Spring Mall.

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

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

Annual skateboard contest scheduled

Registration has begun for the third annual Big Spring Skateboard Contest set for 6 p.m. Friday at the YMCA.

Registration is \$7 per entrant. Contestants will be divided into two age groups — 15 and younger, and 16 and older. Prizes will be awarded to the top three skateboarders in each age group.

The deadline to enter is 5 p.m. the day of the event.

All contestants will be required to wear helmets.

For more information, call the YMCA at 267-8234.

Soccer sign-ups now under way

Youth Soccer League registration for players between the ages of 4 and 13 began Saturday and continue through Aug. 19 at the Big Spring Mall next to Serendipity.

Registration will be held from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday and from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday.

Over 80 Scramble slated at BSSC

An Over 80 Scramble benefiting the Big Spring Shrine Club has been scheduled for Aug. 19-20 at the Big Spring Country Club.

The combined ages of each two-person team must be 80 or more.

Entry fees are \$60 per player plus golf cart rental. Players can bring their own carts.

Play will begin with a 1 p.m. shotgun start both days.

Entry fees include barbecue on the course both days.

For more information, call 267-5354.

Season tickets now on sale at BSHS

The general public may purchase tickets beginning today at the Big Spring High School Athletic Training Center.

Sales are from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Thursday.

For more information call Kay Cook at 264-3662.

Quarterback Club meetings slated

Big Spring High School's Quarterback Club will meet at 7 tonight at the BSHS Athletic Training

Romo plays well in preseason audition

OXNARD, Calif. (AP) — After three years of watching, Tony Romo is off to a good start in proving he has learned what it takes to play quarterback for the Dallas Cowboys.

Romo took all the snaps for the Cowboys in their preseason opener Saturday night and guided Dallas to a 13-3 victory over the Seattle Seahawks. He completed 19 of 25 passes for 235 yards and a touchdown.

"I'm pleased that we won," Romo said. "That's the bottom line for me."

After a sloppy first series that included two incompletions, Romo completed his next 12 passes. That included a 9-yard touchdown to Patrick Crayton and a scrambling third-down pass to rookie Sam Hurd that had kept the drive going.

"He fumbled two snaps — you can't do that," coach Bill Parcells said. "Other than that, I thought he got us out of some trouble. ... I thought he generally managed the game. He moved around in the pocket himself. So, that was good. I'm glad I got him the

work." Romo has been Mr. Preseason for the Cowboys the last three years, making the club in 2003 as an undrafted rookie out of Eastern Illinois.

He crept up the depth chart, passing Drew Henson for No. 2 behind Drew Bledsoe, but has only gotten on the field as a holder and to run out the clock on some inconsequential game-ending series. He's yet to throw a pass in a game that counts, raising anticipation among fans under the theory that the backup

quarterback is almost always the most popular guy in town.

"I just wanted to get a good look at him," Parcells said. "You have been dying to see him."

At 34 and going into his team-high 14th season, Bledsoe didn't mind the night off. With new leading receiver Terrell Owens out with an injury, it wasn't like the tandem were missing a chance to get their timing down. Although Bledsoe got the playing itch during warmups, he

See ROMO, Page 8

Rangers complete sweep of Mariners

By DAVID JIMENEZ

Associated Press Writer

ARLINGTON — Texas has stayed in the American League West race with its solid play against division foes.

The Seattle Mariners may have fallen out of postseason contention because of their inability to win against their rivals.

Michael Young hit a tiebreaking two-run triple, Gary Matthews Jr. drove in three runs and the Rangers beat the slumping Mariners 10-6 Sunday night to complete a four-game sweep.

Carlos Lee also drove in three runs for Texas, which won its fifth straight game and remain five games behind division-leading Oakland in the AL West. The Rangers have scored 51 runs during their winning streak.

Texas improved to 19-14 within its division — including an 8-2 mark against Seattle.

"We're playing a good brand of baseball right now," Texas manager Buck Showalter said. "We're hoping to have some fun in September. We still have half the month of August before we can make a run at this thing."

Seattle has lost 13 straight games against the AL West and is 10-25 in the division. The Mariners were last swept Sept. 15-18, 2005, against the Rangers. That was also Texas' last four-game sweep.

The Mariners fell a season-high nine games out of first place.

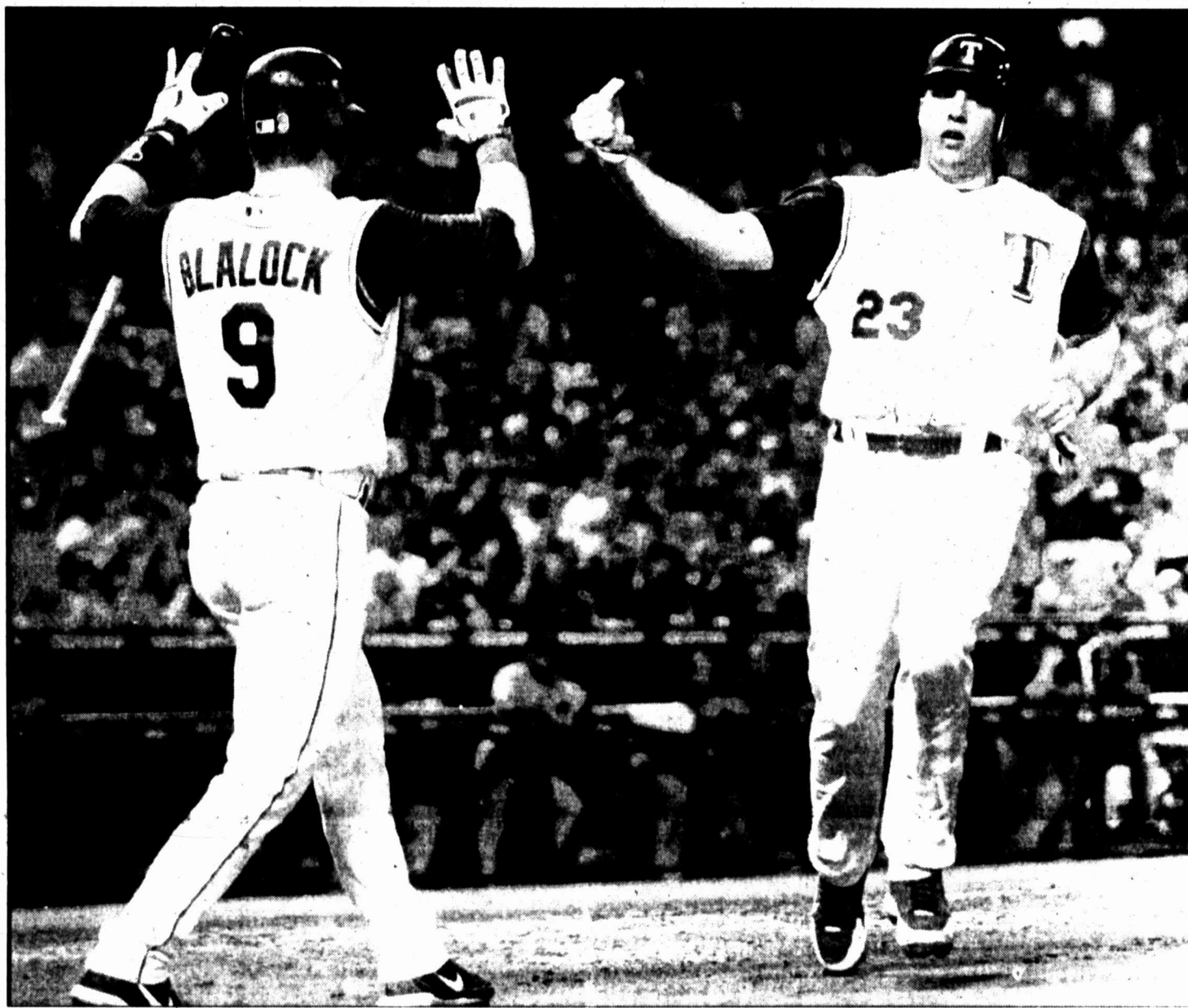
"We've got a lot of baseball still to play," Seattle manager Mike Hargrove said. "We're not done. We've got a long uphill battle ahead of us."

Young's triple off Felix Hernandez gave the Rangers a 5-3 lead in the fifth inning and put Kevin Millwood (11-8) in the winner's circle.

Millwood gave up three runs in six innings. He allowed eight hits and struck out four to win at home for the first time since June 16.

"It will go down as a quality start," Millwood said. "But for me, there's

See RANGERS, Page 8



Texas Rangers Mark Teixeira and Hank Blalock celebrate after Teixeira scores a run in the bottom of the fifth inning against the Seattle Mariners Saturday.

Padres take 7-2 win over Astros

HOUSTON — Woody Williams likes being home on the road.

The San Diego right-hander pitched seven strong innings in another successful homecoming, leading the Padres over the Houston Astros 7-2 Sunday.

"I feel comfortable here," said Williams, whose home is about 25 minutes from Minute Maid Park. "There's nothing like being at home."

Williams (5-4), who was born in Houston and went to the University of Houston, scattered eight hits, struck out three and walked none.

Just six days before his 40th birthday, Williams, who lives in nearby Fresno in the offseason, upped his career record against the Astros to 11-6, his second most wins against any team. He has

12 against Milwaukee. Williams improved to 9-3 at Houston's current home, which is the most victories by an opposing pitcher.

"I know I've always felt this way when I have pitched here," Williams said. "It's always nice to sleep in your own bed and be with your family."

Manager Bruce Bochy has noticed Williams' comfort level at Minute Maid.

"He just has pitched great here," Bochy said. "I guess he likes that home cooking."

"I know it's always a busy time for him when he's here. But it seems he's always pitched well here and he manages to stay focused."

The Astros won't argue that.

"We just couldn't put anything together against

him," Eric Munson said. "It was just one of those days. Woody really pitched good. You have to give him credit. He's a good veteran pitcher and he's got a pretty good idea of what he's doing out there."

Mike Cameron hit a two-run homer and finished with three hits for the second straight game for San Diego, which won two of three in the weekend series.

"I like it here," Cameron said. "I hate the grass, but otherwise this place has always treated me well."

"Winning these last two games couldn't have been better for us, especially after losing the first four on this trip. Now we can go home for two weeks against teams in our own division. We can only build on these two wins."

It was bad for the Astros, who had won four straight and eight of 10 before dropping two.

"We've still got a lot of good things going on right now," manager Phil Garner said. "We'd at least like to have won the series while we're at home, but we couldn't seal the deal. Now we've got to get back on track."

Brandon Backe (3-2) lasted five innings for Houston, allowing three runs and nine hits. He walked two, hit a batter with a pitch and struck out three.

"I didn't actually think Backe pitched poorly," Garner said. "They had a couple of bloop hits and they battled pretty good at the plate and actually hit some good pitches that they probably shouldn't have hit. It was a good day for them."

Wilson makes a new name for himself at International

By ARNIE STAPLETON

AP Sports Writer

CASTLE ROCK, Colo. — Dean Wilson went from unknown playing partner to champion with a 6-foot putt at the International.

The 36-year-old Hawaiian, previously best known for being paired with Annika Sorenstam at the 2003 Colonial, earned his first win on the PGA Tour on Sunday.

He birdied the second hole of a sudden-death playoff at Castle Pines, topping Tom Lehman, who was trying to become the first Ryder Cup captain to win a PGA Tour event during his term

since Jack Nicklaus won the Masters in 1986.

Before that, most people associated Wilson with being Sorenstam's playing partner when the LPGA standout became the first woman in 58 yards to play on the PGA Tour

"That was always a positive for me, playing with her, and that was a great experience," Wilson said. "But that's what I always kept telling myself: 'Dang it, I got to win a tournament so I can be known for something else.'"

Now he is. After Lehman missed a 30-foot putt for birdie, Wilson, whose previous best finish was a tie for

third at the 2004 Texas Valero Open, sank a 6-footer — "It looked like about 12" — to cap a long and arduous journey that began in his hometown of Kaneohe, Hawaii.

He spent eight years trotting the globe before qualifying for the Japanese tour, where he won a handful of tournaments, and "finally got my Tour card here just four years ago at age 32. So it was quite a battle," Wilson said. "It is just really satisfying to be here holding the trophy."

And the \$990,000 winner's check.

Lehman would've vaulted into seventh place in the Ryder Cup

standings with a victory. But the captain of the U.S. team that will travel to Ireland next month to try to bring home the cup for the first time since 1999 said he had no intention of playing had that happened: "My putting is just a little bit too erratic."

It did Lehman in on the par-5 492-yard 17th hole in regulation where he was short on an eagle putt that would have wrapped up his first win since the 2000 Phoenix Open.

Lehman hit a 5-iron to within 15 feet and figured he had the five-point eagle in his pocket.

See WILSON, Page 8

White Sox play like Series champs, tighten AL Central race

By The Associated Press

All of a sudden, the Chicago White Sox are chasing more than a wild-card berth.

The World Series champions played like serious AL Central challengers, with Freddy Garcia pitching the White Sox past the slumping Detroit Tigers 7-3 on Sunday for a three-game sweep.

Down by 10 games in the division last Monday, Chicago pulled within 5 1/2 games of the first-place Tigers. With their sold-out crowd chanting, "Sweep! Sweep!" the White Sox won their fourth in a row.

"We're going to keep fighting to the end, whether it's in a ballgame or whether it's in a pennant race," said Jermaine Dye, who hit his 31st home run.

Detroit still has the best record in the majors. But the Tigers also have their longest losing streak of the season at five.

"We got what we deserved this weekend," Tigers manager Jim Leyland said.

In other American League games, Boston held off Baltimore 11-9, Los Angeles beat New York 5-3, Oakland downed

Tampa Bay 3-1, Cleveland routed Kansas City 13-0, Texas defeated Seattle 10-6 and Minnesota blanked Toronto 5-0.

In National League games, it was: San Diego 7, Houston 2; Pittsburgh 7, St. Louis 0; Los Angeles 1, San Francisco 0 in 10 innings; Cincinnati 7, Philadelphia 5 in 11 innings; New York 3, Washington 1; Atlanta 7, Milwaukee 4; Florida 6, Arizona 5; and Chicago 8, Colorado 7.

Williams, who lives in nearby Fresno in the off-season, upped his career record against the Astros to 11-6, his second most wins against any team. He improved to 9-3 at Houston's current home.

Garcia (11-7) won for the first time in six weeks and Bobby Jenks closed for his major league-leading 33rd save. Alex Cintron delivered two key early hits that set back the Tigers.

"They have to be tired playing like that every day," Cintron said. "Sooner or later, they're going to have a bad week. They're going through that right now."

The White Sox improved to 9-3 against Detroit this season. The teams play seven more

times down the stretch. Tigers starter Zach Miner (7-3) left after 5 1-3 innings. His catcher, Ivan Rodriguez, also got an early exit when he was ejected for the first time this year.

Red Sox 11, Orioles 9

At Fenway Park, Mike Lowell hit a grand slam in the first inning and made a nifty play for the final out to help Boston finish off a three-game sweep.

Red Sox star Manny Ramirez had his hitting streak end at 27 games. He might've been credited with an infield single, but he jogged down the line on a squibber that pitcher Todd Williams bobbled and threw away.

Baltimore scored twice in the ninth and had the bases loaded when Lowell backhanded Melvin Mora's hard grounder down the third-base line and threw to first.

Jon Lester (6-2) won for the first time in five starts and Jonathan Papelbon held on for his 31st save. Daniel Cabrera (5-8) gave up Lowell's fifth career slam — the Orioles have allowed 10 slams this season, the most in the majors.

Angels 5, Yankees 3
At Yankee Stadium, rookie Jered Weaver improved to 8-0 as Los Angeles again handled New York.

The Angels are 4-2 this season against the AL East leaders. And at 53-50, they're the only team to hold a winning edge over the Yankees since Joe Torre became their manager in 1996.

Weaver became the first pitcher to win his first eight career decisions since Livan Hernandez did it for Florida in 1997, and Francisco Rodriguez relieved got his 30th save. Chien-Ming Wang (13-5) gave up 13 hits in 5 1-3 innings.

Alex Rodriguez hit his 454th career homer, moving him past injured Yankees teammate Gary Sheffield for 30th place on the all-time list.

Athletics 3, Devil Rays 1

At Oakland, Eric Chavez hit his first homer in nearly a month and the Athletics held their lead in the AL West.

Esteban Loaiza (6-7) pitched eight strong innings as the A's won for the ninth time in 10 games. Tampa Bay lost its

sixth in a row. Chavez hit a two-run homer in the seventh to pin the hard-luck loss on Tim Lincecum (4-4). Huston Street got the final three outs for his 29th save.

Indians 13, Royals 0

At Cleveland, Travis Hafner hit his sixth grand slam — tying the single-season record set by Don Mattingly in 1987 — and the Indians scored 11 times in the first inning.

The first 10 Indians to bat all scored against Luke Hudson (5-4). Hafner highlighted the burst with his 35th homer.

It was the biggest first inning by the Indians since they scored 11 against Baltimore in 1954. The team record for an opening inning is 14 runs against Philadelphia in 1950 — that's tied for the AL mark and is one shy of the modern major league most.

Rookie Jeremy Sowers (4-3) shut out Kansas City for six innings.

Twins 5, Blue Jays 0

At the Metrodome, Brad Radke pitched seven sharp innings and Minnesota ended its

three-game losing streak. Radke (12-8) gave up only five hits despite recent soreness in his right shoulder. Michael Cuddyer homered and Jason Tyner had three hits for the Twins, who had lost five straight at home.

Dodgers 1, Giants 0

At Dodgers Stadium, Russell Martin homered to lead off the 10th after Greg Maddux and Jason Schmidt matched zeros for eight innings.

Martin drove a 1-0 pitch from Vinnie Chulk (0-1) over the fence in left field for his sixth homer.

Takashi Saito (5-2) intentionally walked Barry Bonds with one out and nobody on in the top of the 10th, then retired Moises Alou and Shea Hillenbrand.

The NL West-leading Dodgers have won 15 of 16 games.

Reds 7, Phillies 5

At Philadelphia, Juan Castro and Ken Griffey Jr. drove in runs in the 11th.

Philadelphia's Ryan Howard hit a two-out RBI single in the ninth to tie it at 5.

WILSON

Continued from Page 7

"It looked so fast and it was so shiny going down the hill, and I hit a beautiful putt right on line and it came up about four inches short," Lehman said. "I was quite shocked that I could leave that putt short. I didn't think there was any way I could leave it short."

His tap-in for birdie tied him with Wilson at 34 points.

Under the modified Stableford scoring system that is used nowhere else on the PGA Tour, golfers at the International get five points for eagles, two for birdies, nothing for pars and minus-one for bogeys and minus-three for double-bogeys or worse.

"It's a good thing I had this format this week," said Wilson, who would have been 9 under in stroke play, where Lehman would have won it at minus-13.

Steve Flesch, who missed a 12-footer for birdie on No. 18, tied for third with Daisuke Maruyama at 32 points, followed by Stewart Cink with 31.

Cink's fifth-place finish moved him up to 12th in the Ryder Cup standings heading into the final qualifier, next week's PGA Championship, in Chicago.

Next year, the International moves up to the Fourth of July weekend, a change that tourna-

ment founder Jack Vickers hopes will attract Tiger Woods to Castle Pines for the first time since 1999.

Ernie Els, however, said some overseas players, including himself, will find it hard to come back to the majestic mountain course.

"It's going to help the American players. It's going to hurt the international players because that time of the year we've got some big tournaments in Europe," Els

said. "So, it's going to hurt the tournament, I think."

Corey Pavin predicted a solid field even without many of the European stars because the July 2-8 slot formerly held by the Western Open always

drew top-notch talent. "I think there will be more Americans," Pavin said.

"I think not being a week before a major and being two weeks before the British Open will be good."

RANGERS

Continued from Page 7

a lot of things I could have done better. I was not putting the ball where I wanted it."

Millwood was the beneficiary of some great defense from Matthews, who made a leaping catch near the wall in left-center in the fifth to rob Adrian Beltre of extra bases.

Matthews, who has made several highlight-reel catches in center this season, also had a three-run double in the second. "It was pretty close to going out," Matthews said. "Maybe it would have been off the top of

the wall. I thought I had a good shot at it and then I lost it for a minute. You just have to time your leap to get the ball at its highest point."

Kenji Johjima and Ben Broussard homered for the Mariners.

Hernandez (10-10) allowed seven runs in 5 2-3 innings. The right-hander yielded six hits, struck out eight and walked four in a career-high 117-pitch outing.

After giving up three runs in the second, Hernandez retired the next six before Ian Kinsler led off the fifth with a single. Matthews then walked to set the stage for Young, who lined an 0-1 pitch to deep center for a triple.

Young came home on Lee's single, and the Rangers added a run in the sixth when Matt Stairs scored on a wild pitch.

In the seventh, Lee doubled, stole third and came home on an error to put Texas on top 8-3. He hit a two-run single in the eighth.

"I'm encouraged by the way we're playing," Matthews said. "We seem to be rolling on all cylinders."

Hernandez seemed to be cruising as he struck out four of the first seven hitters he faced.

Broussard's homer and Ichiro Suzuki's RBI single gave Seattle a 2-0 lead in the second. Broussard added a sacrifice fly in

the third.

Notes: Showalter said after the game that RHP Kip Wells will have his scheduled start Thursday pushed back until at least Saturday. Wells, who twisted his left foot Friday night, will see a foot specialist Monday to further determine his status. Edinson Volquez will start Thursday for Texas. ... Seattle's Ichiro Suzuki, who was 1-of-14 in the first three games of the series, had two hits. ... Texas' Mark Teixeira saw his 36-game streak of reaching base come to end. He was 0-for-5 with three strikeouts. ... Former heavyweight champion Evander Holyfield threw out the ceremonial first pitch.

ROMO

Continued from Page 7

stood on the sideline watching Romo.

"He played about as I expected," said Bledsoe, in his second year playing with Romo. "He's very efficient in practice and he's a smart guy. He needed to show he could come in and play winning football for this team. And he did that tonight."

Dallas players were off Sunday. They return to practice in Oxnard on Monday, starting their last week of training camp with an afternoon workout.

Owens' status is uncertain.

He hasn't practiced since Aug. 2 because of a hamstring problem that didn't show up on an MRI but continues to nag him.

Owens and several other injured players stayed in California receiving treatment instead of joining the team in Seattle.

"Terrell Owens knows only one way of practicing, and that's 100 percent," Cowboys owner Jerry Jones said. "As he goes into his career, if he

can step out there and go at 75 or 80 percent, that could be real productive, but he only knows one way. I visited with some of his medical people, and he has recognized that would be good for him, but he can't do it. With the way he's practiced with us, you'd have

thought he was competing in the Super Bowl. It's not a criticism of him; that's just how he practices."

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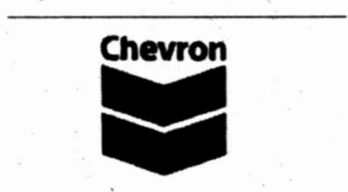
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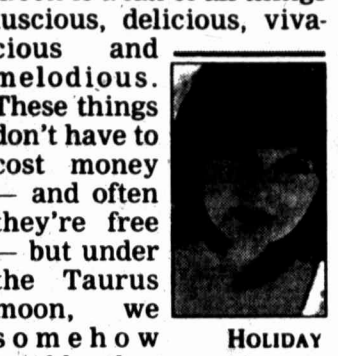
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BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

The sensual Taurus moon is a fan of all things luscious, delicious, vivacious and melodious. These things don't have to cost money - and often they're free - but under the Taurus moon, we somehow would rather spend money on them, anyway. Maybe the thinking is that people tend to appreciate what they've paid for over what's given to them.



HOLIDAY MATHIS

ARIES (March 21-April 19). The stars suggest you'll be tipped today, even if you're not the kind of professional whose pay normally includes a gratuity. You'll receive little gestures, extras, pointers and, best of all, tangible shows of appreciation.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Can you hold two opposing ideas in your mind at the same time and still more or less function? If so, you'll have no problem with what the planets have in store for you today.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Certain people have such an inspiring affect on you that after you've connected with them, it's almost impossible to get to sleep at night. Enjoy this vivid feeling, as it's quite out of the ordinary.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). A degree of fame is in the stars for you over the next three days. You might get your name in

Tomorrow's Horoscope

the company newsletter, the local paper or be talked about in the most interesting circles.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Do what you must to raise your visibility. When you broadcast your talents, you make it easier for opportunities to find you. Tonight brings the chance to take your leisure-time hobbies seriously.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Actually, you don't need dedication or tenacity or discipline in order to achieve your goal. What you need is passion. If the prospect of having the result you desire doesn't light your heart on fire, it's time to take it off the list.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You're versed in how your services can help others. If you can deliver this message to five people today (with your usual charm, of course) you open new avenues for money to flow to you.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Your expectations of those close to you are on the rise today. Is it so unreasonable to want a love who can bring home the bacon and fry it in a pan? The stars urge you to request such things - a little louder, please!

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). It's the perfect time to reconsider the thing you once thought was so funny. Your signmate Winston Churchill said, "If all the requisites are joined, from whence a perfect joke must spring, a joke's a very serious thing."

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You're attractive to many, but be careful

with whom you get involved. The wrong influence makes you act very unlike yourself. Romance runs hot and cold. Soon, you'll have to call it what it is - an infatuation.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Sticking to the plan might be just plain stupid. Instead, you're flexible, checking to make sure it's working along the way. Gemini and Cancer people are instrumental in your success.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). The important things get done when you involve at least one other person. Give in to an overwhelming urge to team up. You're likely to experience a power greater than the sum of its parts.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS: "I read an interpretation of my natal chart that I recently purchased online. It described some of my planets as "personal" and others as "generational." What's that supposed to mean?"

In our solar system, the planets closer to the sun have very different characteristics from the planets that transit beyond the "asteroid belt," a band between Mars and Jupiter where asteroids orbit. The planets closer to the sun - Mercury, Venus, Earth and Mars - are rocky, smaller and don't have much in the way of moons and rings. These planets change more frequently in relation to their position to the earth, which is why astrologers call them "personal" planets - their affect is felt differ-

ently from person to person. Whereas the transition of outer planets happens infrequently - a planet can stay in the same sign for seven to 20 years and more - so their affect is read for a whole generation of people. The outer planets are Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune and Pluto. It is also notable that celestial bodies beyond Pluto have been discovered in our solar system, causing disagreement among scientists about what exactly constitutes a planet. Astrology is an ever-shifting study as our knowledge of our place in the universe grows!

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Like many Leos, Madonna is utterly incapable of being boring. With her latest hit "Confessions on a Dance Floor," she reminds a new generation what put her on the map as Our Lady of Divine Dances. This year, I see her developing products for children that focus on expressing creativity through dance and music, thus helping to conquer the societal problem of inactivity in the under-10 set.

If you would like to write to Holiday Mathis, please go to www.creators.com and click on "Write the Author" on the Holiday Mathis page, or you may send her a postcard in the mail. To find out more about Holiday Mathis and read her past columns, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com. © 2006 CREATORS SYNDICATE, INC.

Annie's Mailbox : Advice for those in need

Dear Annie: My husband, "Logan," and I are in our early 30s and happily married for three years. We both are college-educated, well-paid professionals. Our sex life is great, and I trust my husband implicitly. However, he has one quirk that bothers me.



KATHY MITCHELL
MARCY SUGAR

Logan shows a significant interest in my winter outerwear - specifically my coats. When I remove my coat, he always holds it and takes it to the closet. I notice that he somehow manages to touch the lining each time. When I have friends in, he becomes the "coat-check man" so he can touch all the coats before taking them upstairs to a spare room. When I see the coats later, they always are laid down so that the linings, monograms and labels are showing.

This past Christmas, my present was a beautiful full-length mink. Logan helped me select the lining (an elegant satin), the monograms and the placement of the labels. Several times, I have come home from work and noticed that my coats have been moved around in the closet. Logan has admitted trying on the mink "just to see how it feels."

I really don't care that he likes my coats, but sometimes his actions concern me. Do I have a problem, and should I be worried? - Joy in Kentucky

Dear Joy: Your husband appears to have a coat fetish. He likes the texture, the lining, the fabric, the details. If Logan thinks it may get out of hand, he can talk to a therapist in order to get to the bottom of it. But we say it's harmless, and you have no reason to worry, as long as he doesn't start pulling coats off other people.

Dear Annie: I am friends with "Tandy," whom I have known for a short time. Tandy invited me and my husband for

and birthdays you can bring presents, but if gift-giving is not arranged in advance, it is unreasonable to expect reciprocity. Since you know Tandy has no intention of following the rules of hospitality etiquette, you have our permission to stop.

Dear Annie: Your answer was reasonably good to "Baffled in the Northeast," the wife whose husband sucked his thumb. However, low self-confidence can also be a driving force.

I am a very successful person, working in the aerospace industry, yet it took until the age of 56 for me to finally break this habit. I believe it was the lack of self-confidence in my ability to meet my standards. When I finally targeted my retirement date, the problem was easily broken because the pressure to succeed was gone. The lady's husband is not alone. - W. in South Carolina

Dear W.: We were surprised to hear from so many adult thumb-suckers. Apparently, this habit is more common than we would have suspected.

Dear Annie: I have been married to "Mike" for 10 years. This is a second marriage for both of us, and we each have one teenager from our previous marriages.

When I met Mike, in addition to a great physical attraction, I was totally won over by the way he seemed to accept everything about me, but in retrospect, I can see the problems started even before we married. I just ignored them.

Mike has a temper, and though he has never been physically abusive, he was verbally abusive to me and to my son. He constantly put him down, always comparing him unfavorably to his own child, berating and belittling him in front of others. If I said anything, the response always was,

"Get over it." I don't know exactly how it happened, but I did just that - I got over it and over him. My heart shut down, and I lost all desire for any physical contact with him.

The problem is that now, when I am ready to walk out, my son has found a way to deal with Mike, and their relationship has reached a point where they both seem satisfied and happy. Unfortunately, I am not. I cannot forgive Mike for the way he treated us in the past, I cannot forgive myself for allowing him to treat my son the way he did, and I am totally incapable of reigniting the love and passion I felt for him. I barely tolerate him. When he touches me, I want to scream.

Mike knows I'm at the edge. He told me he would kill himself if he lost me. That guilt is what keeps me here. I know he is trying now, but I just don't care anymore. What can I do? - Cold Heart

Dear Cold Heart: You shouldn't stay with Mike because he's manipulating you or because your teenage son now gets along with him. Your son will be leaving the nest soon, and then it will be just the two of you. You have to determine if Mike's efforts to be a better person are enough to rekindle your feelings. To do that, you must forgive yourself as well as Mike and see what's left. Please go with him for counseling and find out before you give up.

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

MONDAY

Table with 28 columns (WFAA, KMID, UNI, KPEJ, KOSA, KTLT, KWES, WTBS, KMLM, KPBT, DISC, AMC, SPIKE, TNT, BET, DISN, ESPN2, ESPN, SCIF) and 7 rows (6-12) listing TV programs and channels.

DENNIS THE MENACE



"YEAH, HE'S CUTE, BUT I LIKE MY OLDER MODEL BETTER."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"I shoulda brought my kite."

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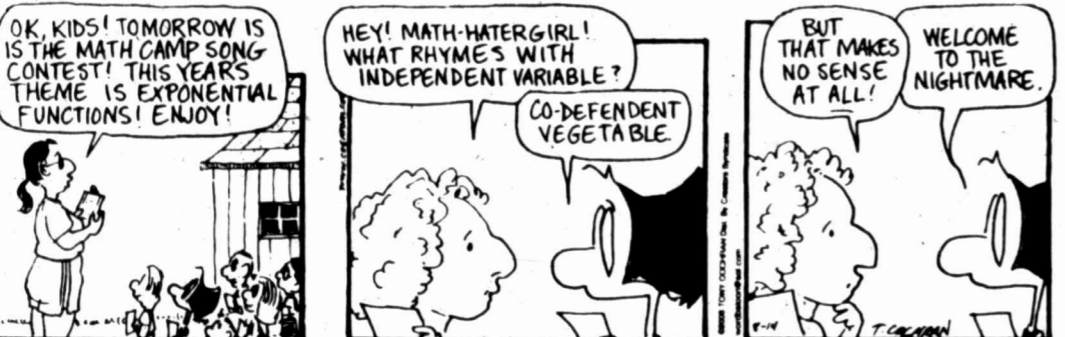
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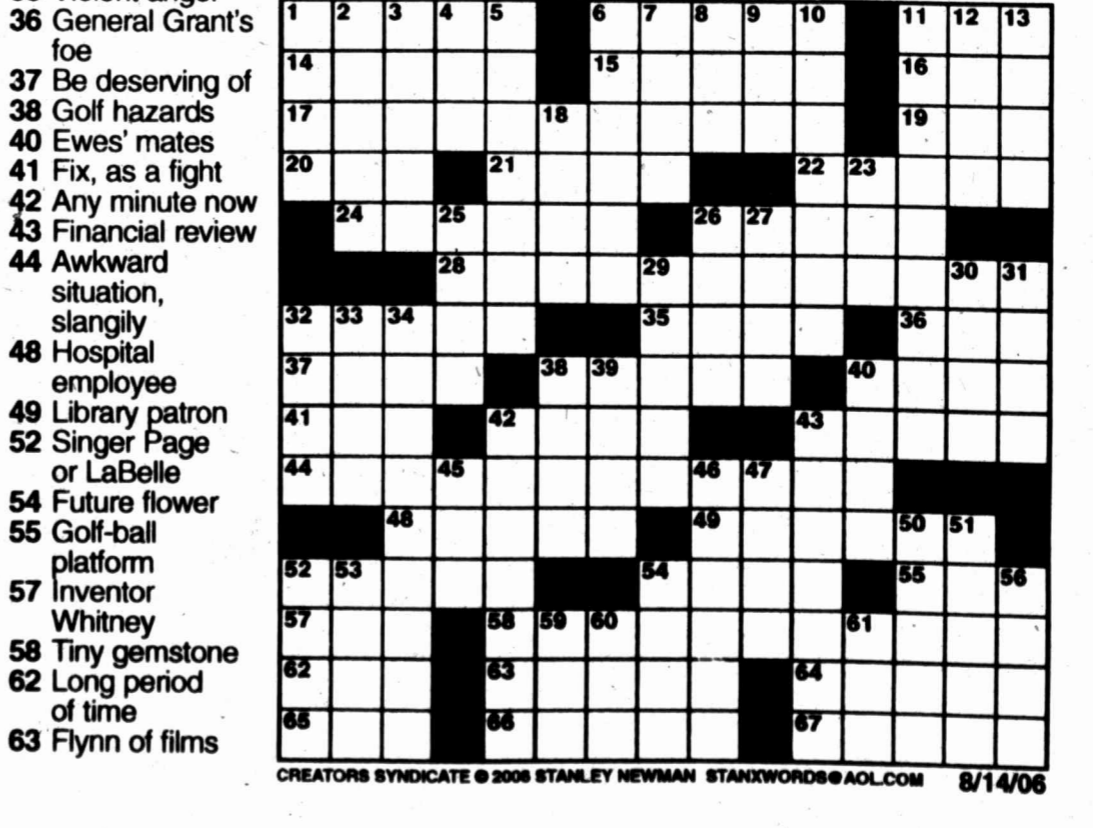
Today is Monday, Aug. 14, the 226th day of 2006. There are 139 days left in the year. Today's Highlight in History: On Aug. 14, 1945, President Truman announced that Japan had surrendered unconditionally, ending World War II.

arrived in Northern Ireland to intervene in sectarian violence between Protestants and Roman Catholics. In 1973, the U.S. bombing of Cambodia came to a halt. In 1980, workers went on strike at the Lenin Shipyard in Gdansk, Poland, in a job action that resulted in the creation of the Solidarity labor movement.

Actress Alice Ghostley is 80. Singer Dash Crofts is 66. Rock singer David Crosby is 65. Country singer Connie Smith is 65. Former jockey Robyn Smith Astaire is 62. Comedian-actor Steve Martin is 61. Actress Susan Saint James is 60. Singer-musician Larry Graham is 60. Actor Antonio Fargas is 60. Author Danielle Steel is 59. "Far Side" cartoonist Gary Larson is 56. Rock singer-musician Terry Adams (NRBQ) is 56.

Newsday Crossword

- ACROSS 1 A: the present time 'legal payment place a wager Musical drama Tablecloth material 16 Noteworthy time 17 One who breaks into a vault 19 Feel poorly 20 -mo replay 21 "Get me out of ___!" 22 Pound fraction 24 Small sofa 26 Cat in the Hat creator 28 Best man's salute 32 Tartan pattern 35 Violent anger 36 General Grant's foe 37 Be deserving of 38 Golf hazards 40 Ewes' mates 41 Fix, as a fight 42 Any minute now 43 Financial review 44 Awkward situation, slangily 48 Hospital employee 49 Library patron 52 Singer Page or LaBelle 54 Future flower 55 Golf-ball platform 57 Inventor Whitney 58 Tiny gemstone 62 Long period of time 63 Flynn of films 64 "Fame" singer Cara 65 Pod vegetable 66 Drill instructor, slangily 67 Like the Vikings



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