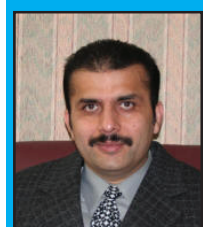




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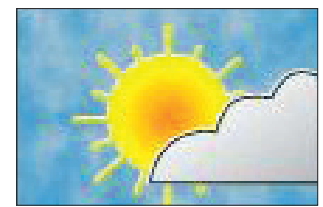


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BIG SPRING HERALD

TUESDAY

JULY 27, 2010



VOLUME 105, NUMBER 199

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County OKs \$23,000 aid to WTCMHMR

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

Howard County commissioners approved a resolution Monday morning supporting West Texas Centers for Mental Health and Mental Retardation and providing the state agency with a contribution of more than \$23,000.

County Judge Mark Barr presented the resolution to commissioners, saying WTCMHMR plays a vital role in the mental health of the Texans it serves.

"I feel like this resolution is very important to all of the counties that West Texas MHMR serves, especially Howard County," Barr told the court. "As most of you are already aware, the state has cut their budget by between 5 and 10 percent this year. With the Big Spring State Hospital right here, the effects of those cuts will be felt heavily in Howard County. When the state hospital is full and can't accept any

HERALD Photo/Thomas Jenkins

Howard County commissioners discuss a number of financial issues with County Auditor Jackie Olson during its meeting Monday morning.

See **COUNTY**, Page 3

Fuqua: Proposed city budget balanced

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

Big Spring City Manager Gary Fuqua presented the proposed 2010-2011 budget to the members of the city council during a special meeting Monday evening, garnering a number of unofficial thumbs-ups.

Despite a sub-par year for the city's utility fund — which will most likely find itself more than \$230,000 in the red by the end of the current budget year — thanks to problems with the municipal water system that began last year — city administration was able to offer up a fiscal plan that is not only balanced, but could also see the



Fuqua

municipal tax rate dip below \$1 per \$100 valuation for property owners.

Based on a tax rate of \$0.9995 per \$100 valuation — down 1.34743 cents from the current tax rate of \$1.01 — the fiscal plan is expected to serve the city's needs for the coming year, but on a very tight margin, according to Fuqua.

"As long as the council doesn't mind us (the city staff) coming back to the them if something breaks and saying, 'Hey, we're going to need a budget amendment,

the proposed budget will work," Fuqua told the council members. "This is going to create a challenge for the city administration during the coming year. We're going to have to be very frugal. However, I think it can be done."

While the slight drop in property taxes may come as a welcome relief for city residents, municipal water customers may see that savings quickly float away, as expected increases in costs from the Colorado River Municipal Water District will almost certainly spell a hike in water rates.

According to Fuqua, CRM-WD officials are estimating

an 8.5 percent price hike in what the city pays the water district for the raw water, estimated to cost the city of Big Spring — and its water customers — a whopping \$271,000.

Fuqua presented several options to the council, proposing to make up the difference by spreading the cost increase between water consumption rates, as well as base rates for both residential and commercial customers. One option would see a 25-cent increase in the residential base rate, a \$5.25 increase in the commercial base rate, and a dime tacked

See **CITY**, Page 6

Ag commissioner candidate to be here Wednesday

HERALD Staff Report

Hank Gilbert, Democratic candidate for Texas Agriculture Commissioner, will be in Big Spring on Wednesday during a tour to unveil his reform package for the Texas Department of Agriculture.

Gilbert will address interested citizens at 4:15 p.m. at the Heritage Museum, 510 Scurry St.

Gilbert will be on a 23-community tour which includes San Angelo, Midland, Odessa and Lubbock.

BP replaces CEO; reports \$17 billion loss

JANE WARDELL
AP Business Writer

LONDON (AP) — BP's much-criticized CEO Tony Hayward will be replaced by American Robert Dudley on Oct. 1, the company said Tuesday as it reported a record quarterly loss and set aside \$32.2 billion to cover costs of the devastating Gulf of Mexico oil spill.

BP said the decision to replace Hayward, 53, with the company's first ever non-British chief executive was made by mutual agreement.

In a mark of faith in its outgoing leader, BP said it planned to recommend him for a non-executive board position at its Russian joint venture and will pay him 1.045 million pounds (\$1.6 million), a year's salary, instead of the year's notice he was entitled to.

"The BP board is deeply saddened to lose a CEO whose success over some three years in driving the performance of the company was so widely and de-

servedly admired," BP Chairman Carl-Henric Svanberg said in a statement.

Svanberg said the April 20 explosion of the Macondo well on the Deepwater Horizon platform run by BP in the Gulf of Mexico has been a "watershed incident" for the company.

"BP remains a strong business with fine assets, excellent people and a vital role to play in meeting the world's energy needs," he said. "But it will be a different company going forward, requiring fresh leadership supported by robust governance and a very engaged board."

Besides permanently plugging the oil leak and cleaning up the spill and the company's image, Dudley will oversee the sale of \$30 billion in assets over the next 18 months to bolster the company's finances.

Appearing briefly outside BP's London headquarters with Hayward and Svanberg, Dudley said that sealing the well was his priority and that he planned to

focus on building relationships on the Gulf Coast and in Washington D.C.

"There's no question that we are going to learn a lot from this ... and I'm sure there will be changes," Dudley told reporters, as Hayward and Svanberg looked on without speaking.

Hayward, who has a Ph.D in geology, had been a well-regarded chief executive. But his promise when he took the job in 2007 to focus "like a laser" on safety came back to haunt him after the explosion on the Deepwater Horizon rig killed 11 workers and unleashed a deep-sea gusher of oil.

He became the lightning rod for anti-BP feeling in the United States and didn't help matters with a series of gaffes, raising hackles by saying "I want my life back," going sailing, and giving what was viewed as an evasive performance before U.S. members of Congress

See **BP**, Page 3

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Obituaries

Marjorie Elam Hollingsworth

Marjorie Elam Hollingsworth, 90, of Big Spring died Friday, July 23, 2010, in a local hospital. Graveside funeral services will be held at 1 p.m. Thursday, July 29, 2010, at the Peace Chapel at Trinity Memorial Park.

The family will receive friends from 7 p.m. until 8 p.m. Wednesday at the funeral home.

She was born July 3, 1920, in Groesbeck, Texas, and married Robert Clyde Hollingsworth on Jan. 19, 1941, in Gregg County. He preceded her in death Feb. 20, 1985.

Marjorie grew up in Savoy, Texas, graduating from Savoy High School and moved to Big Spring in 1956 from Kilgore. She worked as a realtor for a number of years before working with her husband at his certified public accounting office. She enjoyed playing bridge and played for many years.

She was a member of First Christian Church. Survivors include two daughters, Bobbie Deel and husband Corkey of Big Spring, and Dell Hollingsworth and husband Paul Raffeld of Austin; a special friend, John Arista of Big Spring; her sister-in-law, Jayne Estes of Grand Prairie; two granddaughters, Tere Robitaille and husband Sgt. 1st Class Steve Robitaille of Harker Heights, and Kim Vincent and husband Malcolm of Midland; three great-grandchildren, Morgan Vincent and Miles Vincent, both of Midland, and Lyndi Robitaille of Harker Heights.

She was also preceded in death by her parents, John and Alberta Elam; and one brother, John Elam.

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

Paid obituary

Marilyn Sue Taylor

Marilyn Sue Taylor, 90, of Big Spring died Sunday, July 25, 2010, in a local nursing home. Graveside funeral services will be held at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, July 28, 2010, at the Peace Chapel at Trinity Memorial Park with the Rev. Charles Harrington, pastor of First Church of God, officiating.

She was born Oct. 11, 1919, in Big Spring and married Roland M. "Bob" Taylor on March 2, 1944, in Tyler. He preceded her in death March 20, 1999.

Mrs. Taylor attended the First Church of God for many years. She enjoyed painting and visiting with friends and family.

She is survived by two sons, Norris L. Pennington and family of Gladstone, N.M., and Roland L. Taylor and family of Chesapeake, Va.; and her brother, Joe E. Davis of Marion, Ala.

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

Fabris A. Moore

Fabris A. Moore, 92, of Big Spring died Monday, July 26, 2010, in a local hospital. Her services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Andrella Perez

Andrella Perez, 86, of Big Spring died Saturday, July 24, 2010, at Lamun Lusk Sanchez Texas State Veterans Home. A prayer service will be held at 7 p.m. Tuesday at Myers & Smith Chapel. A funeral service will be held at 11 a.m. Wednesday at Iglesia Bautista Central with burial at Trinity Memorial Park.

She was born June 4, 1924, in Karnes City to Guadalupe and Theodoro Olvera. She married Candido Perez on Aug. 6, 1943, in Willacy County. They came to Big Spring in 1972 from Sebastian. He preceded her in death July 9, 1970.

She was a homemaker and an active member of Primera Iglesia Bautista. She was active in the Women's League and the music program at the church.

She is survived by her two sons, Daniel Perez and wife Paula, and David Perez, all of Big Spring; three daughters, Ruth Viera and husband Precilliano Jr. of Portales, N.M., Rachel Jaramillo and husband Ector, and Magdalena Pena and husband Sammy, all of Big Spring; two brothers, Eddie H. Olvera and wife Rebecca of Ft. Wayne, Ind., and T.H. Olvera and wife Lucy of Rio Hondo; one sister, Seferina Ramirez of Mesquite; 21 grandchildren; 43 great-grandchildren; and a number of nieces and nephews.

In addition to her husband and parents, she was preceded in death by one daughter, Margarita Gonzales; three brothers, Isaac, Apolonio and Refugio Olvera; and two sisters, Isabel Gomez and Lydia Olvera.

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

Esteban M. Martinez Jr.

Esteban M. Martinez Jr., 66, of Big Spring died Thursday, July 22, 2010, in Galveston. Vigil services will be held at 7 p.m. Wednesday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral service will be held at 2 p.m. Thursday at Sacred Heart Catholic Church with Deacon Johnny Arguello officiating. Burial will be at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

He was born Aug. 23, 1943, in Alice, Texas, to Julia and Esteban Martinez Sr. He married Sara Juarez on March 17, 1987. He moved to Big Spring in 1987 from Midland. He had sold cars at Sewell Ford and had been a disc jockey for KWEL Radio. He was a truck driver and

had owned Martinez Transport. He and his wife had also owned Nana's Kitchen. He was a Catholic.

He is survived by his wife, Sara Martinez of Big Spring; three daughters, Jacinda Martinez of the home, Jessica Hernandez of Big Spring and Veronica Bustillos of Fort Worth; four sons, Esteban Martinez III and wife Lucy, and Rudy Martinez, all of Midland, Roberto Martinez and wife Jessica of Stanton, and Marcelo Hernandez of Big Spring; mother, Julia Martinez of San Antonio; mother-in-law, Dora Juarez of Big Spring; one brother, Guillermo "William" and wife Sylvia of Midland; mother of his children, Irene Flores of Dallas; one aunt; 15 grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; and a number of nieces, nephews and cousins.

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

Billy Nelson

Billy Nelson, 38, of Big Spring died Sunday, July 25, 2010, at his residence. His services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Police blotter

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

• ROBERT LUIS SALAZAR, 43, of 1205 Harding, was arrested Monday on a charge of filing a false report with a peace officer or law enforcement employee.

• DANIEL VERA FLORES, 41, of 907 E. 15th St., was arrested Monday on warrants for assault – family violence, failure to appear (five counts), expired license plate, expired driver's license and failure to maintain financial responsibility.

• MATTHEW RODRIQUEZ, 17, of 410 Aylesford, was arrested Monday on a charge of evading arrest or detention.

• GARY WAYNE BRITO, 17, of 3902 E. Highway 350, was arrested Monday on a charge of possession of marijuana – two ounces or less.

• PATRICK RIOS JR., 21, of 602 Abrams, was arrested Monday on a charge of public intoxication.

• THEFT was reported:

In the 400 block of E. Fourth Street.

In the 400 block of E. Fourth Street.

In the 700 block of W. Interstate Highway 20.

In the 200 block of W. FM 700.

• ASSAULT was reported:

In the 400 block of E. Fourth Street.

In the 2600 block of Ent Drive.

• CRIMINAL MISCHIEF was reported in the 200 block of Union.

Sheriff

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

Note – Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 77 inmates at the time of this report.

• ROBERT LUIS SALAZAR, 43, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on a charge of making a false report to a police officer or law enforcement employee.

• DARRICK DEWAYNE MOSLEY, 42, was arrested Monday by the HCSO on a blue warrant for violation of parole.

• DANIEL V. FLORES, 41, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on charges of assault – family violence, failure to appear (five counts), displaying an expired registration, failure to maintain financial responsibility and expired driver's license.

• DEVON LEE BUTLER, 24, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on charges of public intoxication, possession of drug paraphernalia and driving while license invalid.

• MATTHEW RODRIGUEZ, 17, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on a charge of evading arrest or detention.

• GARY W. BRITO, 17, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on a charge of possession of marijuana – two ounces or less.

• DANIELLE RAE MEIR, 20, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on a charge of theft.

• PATRICK RIOS, 21, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.

• JOHNDAVID RIGDON, 21, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on a charge of violation of school rules.

Fire/EMS

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

Note: This list includes calls from July 23-26.

• TRAUMA was reported in the 600 block of Abrams. One person was transported to SMMC.

• MEDICAL was reported in the 2600 block of Carol. One person was transported to SMMC.

• TRAUMA was reported in the 1300 block of Mobile. One person was transported to SMMC.

• TRAUMA was reported in the 1400 block of E. Sixth Street. One person was transported to SMMC.

• MEDICAL was reported in the 700 block of Pine. One person was transported to SMMC.

• MEDICAL was reported in the 900 block of Johnson. Service refused.

• GAS LEAK was reported in the 3200 block of W. Ninth Street.

• MEDICAL was reported in the 1500 block of Stadium. One person was transported to SMMC.

• TRAUMA was reported in the 1500 block of Stadium. One person was transported to SMMC.

• MEDICAL was reported in the 1500 block of Sycamore. One person was transported to SMMC.

• TRAFFIC ACCIDENT was reported 15 miles north of Big Spring on N. Highway 87. Two people were transported to SMMC.

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Bird Poop: A Canadian goose loses the battle

The July afternoon promised to be another scorcher. With the ringing of the phone came a concerned plea. "It's floating on its side. Can't seem to right itself," said a country club employee.

To try to diagnose a problem occurring some 60 miles away was going to be a combination of past experiences and just plain luck. Advising the man to call Parks & Wildlife and the local animal control facility, I knew they could assist in getting the bird out of the water.



BEBE McCASLAND

Not 15 minutes later was another call. After telling me that help was on the way, the grounds keeper added, "It's such a magnificent bird." Having described how pitifully it paddled around in circles, I heard him sigh as I mentioned it could be the result of botulism.

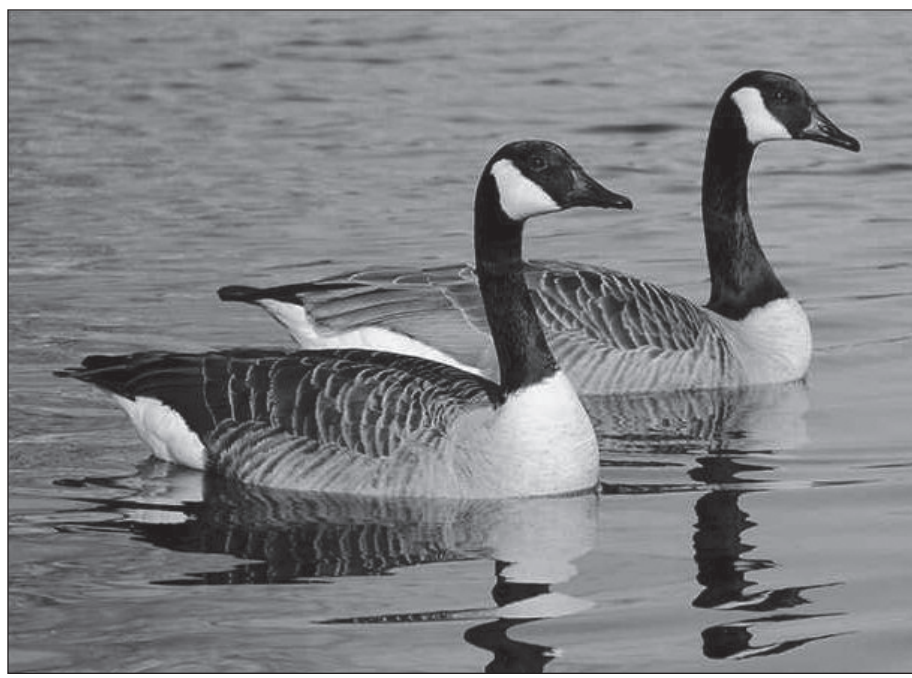
A game warden several years earlier had not only described the same type of symptoms, but had waded waist-deep through golden algae in an area lake to capture a floundering white peli-

can. With no use of its legs and feet, it, too, had been close to drowning before the officer intervened.

With the next call I learned that animal control had been successful in netting the large bird. Asking the employee if he would be permitted to take it to a local veterinarian, he readily replied, "Oh, yes. Call you back later."

His previous descriptions of size and coloration led me to think the bird was a Canada goose. Most noticeable on its black head and neck were the white bands leading from the throat upward to highlight its cheeks. Above, the goose was a grayish-brown. Below its lighter varying shades of grayish-brown to off-white were tinged with a light barring.

Mostly seen in our area during late fall and winter, the goose and its summer presence were a question in the making. Possibly easier to ascertain was the para-



Courtesy photo

Once seen mostly during fall and winter, the Canada goose is now sometimes found in areas of West Texas during the summer. Flying long distances in V shaped flocks, the bird is easily recognized. As an opportunist in finding food, it feeds on waste grains in the winter, emerging greenery during spring and insects, crustaceans and small fish that bodies of water provide.

lytic disease that it might be harboring.

In sandhill cranes, we had seen it as limberneck. Muscular weakness had left the migrants unable to raise their heads. Whether from decaying organic matter, temperature, or other environmental conditions, a potent toxin threatened unsuspecting wildlife.

Almost two hours passed

before the next call. During that time, I reminisced about a fishing trip to Possum Kingdom Lake. Anchored among the remains of barren trees not far from the shoreline, we were ready one evening to head back to our cabin. As Art reached to start the motor, we heard them.

Gliding over the boat and settling in the still water beyond, 10 Canada geese

sought the isolated cove for their overnight stay. Rather than disturb the "honkers" by starting the motor, we carefully untied our rope and drifted for a while on the current. Only when we had gained some distance did we start the engine.

To experience the heavy yet graceful geese on the lake's surface as night approached had been a pleasurable moment for us. Perhaps the grounds keeper had also been privileged to enjoy such a tranquil setting with the bird he was trying to save.

From the veterinary clinic, the employee finally called. With the Canada goose losing its battle with an unrelenting bacterium, euthanasia had been recommended.

After telling him such dangers are in nature, and that we also have had to learn some events are beyond our control, I realized he was unable to continue our conversation for just a moment. Then his voice was strong as he said, "At least I know that I tried." Through his empathy for the bird, he had faced the inevitable.

Bebe McCasland is author of The Scoop from Bird Poop. She is federally and state licensed to rehabilitate wild birds.

Big Spring man's death investigated

HERALD Staff Report

A 38-year-old Big Spring man was pronounced dead at his residence Sunday evening after law enforcement officials say he hanged himself.

Billy Nelson, 38, of 602 George, was pronounced dead at the scene at approximately 7 p.m. Sunday, according to officials with the Big Spring Police Department.

According to Big Spring Fire Department and EMS records, a report of trauma was reported at the residence at approximately 7 p.m. Sunday. Police officials said Nelson's body was discovered by a family member. An autopsy is expected to be performed in Odessa this afternoon, according to police officials.

BP

Continued from Page 1

in June.

In a statement on Tuesday, Hayward said it was right that BP embark on its next phase under new leadership.

"The Gulf of Mexico explosion was a terrible tragedy for which — as the man in charge of BP when it happened — I will always feel a deep responsibility, regardless of where blame is ultimately found to lie," he said.

On top of the payout, Hayward retains his rights to shares under a long-term performance

program which could eventually be worth several million pounds if BP's share price recovers. The stock has lost around 35 percent, or \$60 billion, in market value to around \$116 billion since the well explosion. The stock started out marginally higher on Tuesday, but was trading almost 1 percent lower at 413.35 pence in afternoon trade on the London Stock Exchange.

Hayward, who will remain on the board until Nov. 30, will also be entitled to draw an annual pension of 600,000 pounds from a pension pot valued at around 11 million pounds.

Svanberg described

Dudley, 54, who was thrown out of Russia after a battle with shareholders in the company's TNK-BP joint venture, as a "robust operator in the toughest circumstances."

Currently BP's managing director, Dudley grew up partly in Hattiesburg, Mississippi, and has so far avoided any public missteps.

He spent 20 years at Amoco Corp., which merged with BP in 1998, and lost out to Hayward on the CEO slot three years ago.

Dudley will be based in London when he takes up his appointment and will hand over his present duties in the United States to

Lamar McKay, the chairman and president of BP America.

BP said the \$32.2 billion charge for the cost of the spill led it to record a loss of \$17 billion for the second quarter, compared with a profit of \$4.39 billion a year earlier.

COUNTY

Continued from Page 1

more patients, they are going to end up in our jails."

Barr went on to read the resolution to the court, which included some rather shocking statistics.

"One in five people will be treated for a mental illness this year," Barr read aloud. "I strongly recommend we approve this resolution."

Commissioner Jerry

Kilgore made the motion for approval, with a second coming from Commissioner Jimmie Long. The vote was unanimous.

Also Monday, commissioners approved the 2010-2011 renewal of the health and employee benefits pool, which included an increase of \$129,230.

According to Barr, the commissioners court considered making changes to the pool, but was advised not to by officials with the Texas

Association of Counties.

"We looked into changing it, but TAC strongly advised us not to," Barr told the court. "If we did try to make changes to it, this could turn out to be Pandora's box."

And while the increase was hefty — almost 14 percent, according to Long — Kilgore said it's the first increase he's seen in the pool in some time.

"We went quite a while without seeing an increase in this," Kilgore told the court.

According to County Treasurer Teresa Thomas, commissioners had to make a decision on how to handle the pool Monday morning.

Commissioner Gary Simer made the motion to approve the measure, with a second coming from Kilgore. The vote was unanimous.

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

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Chester D. Urban, 90, died Tuesday. The family will receive friends from 6:00 until 7:00 PM Sunday (August 1) at Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Vigil services will be at 7:00 PM Sunday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral mass will be at 10:00 AM Monday at Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church. Burial will be at Trinity Memorial Park.

Esteban M. Martinez, Jr., 66, died Thursday, July 22, 2010, in Galveston. Vigil Services will be at 7:00 PM Wednesday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral Service will be at 2:00 PM Thursday at Sacred Heart Catholic Church with burial at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

Andrella Perez, 76, died Saturday, July 24, 2010. A prayer service will be at 7:00 PM Tuesday at Myers & Smith Chapel. A funeral service will be at 11:00 AM Wednesday at Iglesia Bautista Central with burial at Trinity Memorial Park.

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EDITORIAL

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

Ron Midkiff
Publisher

John A. Moseley
Managing Editor

Bill McClellan
News Editor

OUR VIEW

Hangar 25's Kid's Klub is special event

A program focusing on our nation's patriotic holidays entitled "Remembering" will be offered at the Hangar 25 Air Museum next week as part of its 2010 Kid's Klub Summer Workshop.

Hangar 25 is still accepting registrations for the workshop. Space is limited to 20 participants, and as of Tuesday morning, half had been filled.

Kid's Klub is the facility's annual summer youth program — for youngsters ages 8 to 12 — and is slated for Aug. 2-6. Each day's activities will begin at 9 a.m. and continue until noon.

According to new Hangar 25 Administrator Joy Hays, registration for the program is required by phone or in person.

Each year, Hangar 25 sponsors the Kid's Klub as a patriotic summer activity teaching about men and women who have and who are serving in the Armed Forces. Children learn through hands-on craft projects, fun activities and talks from visiting veterans.

The focus this year will be on learning about the patriotic holidays and how we observe them.

Craft activities will center on the poppy flower as a symbol of remembrance among veterans of the United States and Great Britain.

Hangar 25 officials are encouraging members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Legion Auxiliary, Royal British Legion or other community veteran organizations to volunteer for the event.

For registration or volunteer information call 264-1999 or go by the museum at 1911 Apron Drive. The museum is open from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and 9 a.m. and to 3 p.m. on Saturdays.

We here at the Herald encourage readers to give their children a special treat this summer by grabbing one of the last 10 or so spots still available for the workshop.

Chances are it will be something they remember the rest of their lives.

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

With You, Lord, all is well that ends well.

Amen

Safeguarding our ports a must

Often, homeland security is thought of in terms of protecting the physical borders that run between the United States and our neighbors. However, we must not overlook the critical importance of maritime ports to our nation's safety. Both because they serve as gateways into the United States and because they facilitate much of our nation's international trade, American ports are potentially vulnerable spots that must be carefully guarded.

The U.S. maritime transportation system is a vital asset to our national economy, and it employs over 13 million American workers. There are more than 300 ports dotted along the Atlantic, Pacific and Gulf Coasts of the United States. Some 2 billion tons of domestic, import and export cargo pass along their docks and through their waterways each year. This commercial activity contributes to \$742 billion to the U.S. gross domestic product.

In Texas, there are 28 seaports from Houston and Galveston down to Brownsville, including three of the busiest ports in the United States. Our state's economy depends on the viability of this maritime transport system.

Each year, more than 500 million tons of cargo move through Texas seaports. This flow of commerce keeps more than a million Texans employed and accounts for over \$180 billion in revenue. The products of Texas farms

and ranches pass through these portals as they are shipped to marketplaces across the globe. Ports also facilitate the import and export of many other products vital to Texas' economy, including petroleum and chemical supplies, electronics and machinery, dairy products, fertilizers and more.

The Port of Houston, a 25-mile complex comprised of the Port Authority of Houston and more than 150 private industrial companies, ranks first in foreign waterborne tonnage and leads the nation in U.S. imports. It also houses one of the world's largest petrochemical complexes as well as part of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve.

Houston shipping channel businesses account for almost 800,000 jobs and have an economic impact of nearly \$120 billion.

Because these ports are so valuable, we must ensure their security. One terrorist incident at a U.S. port could result in a significant loss of American life, impact surrounding coastal communities and catastrophically affect our nation's economy.

The Brookings Institution recently estimated that if terrorists detonated a weapon of mass destruction at an American port, besides the devastating loss of life, it would cost the U.S. economy a crippling \$1 trillion.

One important way we are working to keep seaports safe is through the Port Security Grant Program, which helps our nation's ports assess security risks and make preparations for emergencies or attacks.

Since 2002, Texas has received more than \$200 million in competitive Port Security Grants, primarily to secure petrochemi-

cal facilities.

In 2006, I cosponsored the SAFE Port Act, sweeping port security legislation that the full Senate passed and was signed into law. The bill authorized random inspection of containers, established minimum standards and procedures for security containers in transit to the United States and implemented an improved container targeting system.

I also added an amendment, which became law, to add hundreds more Customs and Border Protection officers to inspect incoming shipments.

On Sept. 30, 2010, many of the critical provisions that have helped American ports operate safely for the past four years will expire. As the senior Republican on the Senate Commerce Committee, I have begun work with my colleagues to reauthorize those expiring provisions and explore new ways to bolster the security of our nation's seaports.

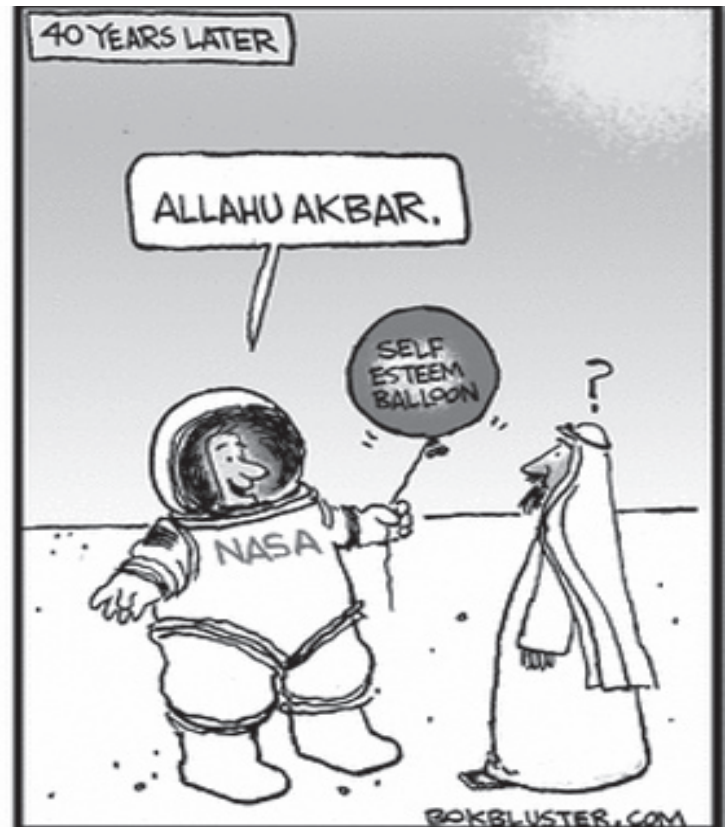
As we undertake this critical task, I hope we can work cooperatively with the Department of Homeland Security, including the Coast Guard and Customs and Border Protection, with state and local governments and with key industry stakeholders to put systems in place that will preserve ports' security and viability.

American seaports are essential to our long-term economic growth. We must ensure that they have the resources to meet the homeland security challenges of the 21st century.

Kay Bailey Hutchison is the senior U.S. Senator from Texas and is the ranking member of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation.



KAY
BAILEY
HUTCHISON



What would you change?

Change — some people dread it, and others can't get enough. It may be much like the idiom, "One man's trash is another man's treasure." When it comes to what we would alter or why we would make a modification, the answers vary because we all have different things we value, want, need and consider important.

Unlike some empty nesters, I'm one of those who can't get enough change. Even when I'm not actively seeking it, I feel a hunger for it. And this often results in my imagination working overtime, wondering what I could change — replace, remodel, reorganize or improve and do differently. Certainly, there are things I would never trade about my life. I adore my husband — one fact that is firm and fixed. Unfortunately, my dear husband is one of those folks who dreads change, so there are times his feelings impact the possibilities of what I would and can change in my own life.

Furthermore, sometimes what I think I might like to change and what I feel I can or would are different. When this happens to any of us, I think it's important to examine why we feel we can't or wouldn't make a change. What's stopping us?

When I mention to my husband something I'm thinking about changing, he often responds with, "Why now?" And my response to him is always, "Why not?"

I think it's the "Why not?" question that must be answered when we're hesitant to make a change. And when I find my hesitancy is based on a fear, that's when I become determined to conquer the fear.

Many times in my life I've let fear stop me from reaching some goal or aspiration. Since I can't go back and change all the things I wish I had done, and living in regret is completely pointless, today my resolve is fierce when I'm faced with a fear that is trying to hold me back.

In short, I simply can't allow fear to be what stops me from making a change!

Now, I do believe in making informed and educated decisions. And there could be information that might stop me from making a change.

It could also be that certain changes really are better at one time than at another. So, if a desired change shouldn't happen today, it doesn't mean that at some point in the future, that desired change couldn't or shouldn't happen.

But one thing is for sure, my friends — do not let fear paralyze you with uncertainty, indecisiveness and inaction. We must stop fear before it stops us.

It's helpful to look at your fear straight on and examine what it is telling you. Perhaps your

fear is saying, "You can't do it or it will be too difficult." "You're afraid of what others will think." "You will fail." "You will be wrong." "You won't like the outcome."

Some people say that fears can be rational and logical and are a helpful instinct that protects us from danger. I don't think it is fear that makes decisions and actions rational, logical and safe, but rather knowledge, understanding, common sense as well as divine inspiration and revelation that serve us well.

At least from my own experience, I've found that fear is irrational and baseless. It is some illusive belief that would stop me from making my life better — happier, more satisfying, more interesting, more productive, more fun.

Changes are a natural — and can be a progressive — aspect throughout our life. Making a well thought-out change need not be feared but welcomed, explored and enjoyed.

Asking ourselves "Why not?" when considering some change can be very telling. We just may find that there really isn't a good enough reason not to!

Annette Bridges is a freelance writer who lives in North Texas. A mother and former public and homeschool teacher, she was first published by the Dallas Morning News after becoming an empty nester when her daughter left for college in 2001, she has since written weekly columns for numerous websites, newspapers and magazines.



ANNETTE
BRIDGES

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What's the Difference?

There are four things different between Picture A and Picture B. Can you find them all?



Answers: 1. flavors of ice cream 2. "ice" missing 3. bowlie bigger 4. missing hair on boy

THIS DAY IN...



HISTORY

- 1847: BRINGHAM YOUNG AND FOLLOWERS ARRIVE AT THE GREAT SALT LAKE.
- 1866: TENNESSEE BECOMES THE FIRST CONFEDERATE STATE READMITTED TO THE UNION.
- 2002: DEMOCRAT JAMES TRAFICANT IS EXPELLED FROM THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.



98 PERCENT OF ALL HOUSEHOLDS PURCHASE THIS FROZEN DESSERT.

ANSWER: ICE CREAM

New Word

sorbet

dessert made from frozen fruit juice or water and sugar

How they SAY that in...

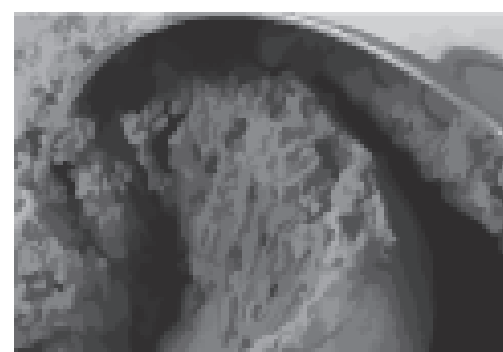
- ENGLISH:** Sweet
- SPANISH:** Dulce
- ITALIAN:** Dolce
- FRENCH:** Doux
- GERMAN:** Süß

Did you know?



THE THREE MOST POPULAR ICE CREAM FLAVORS ARE VANILLA, CHOCOLATE AND BUTTER PECAN.

GET THE PICTURE?



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

ANSWER: CHOCOLATE ICE CREAM

SLYLOCK FOX and COMICS FOR KIDS

BY BOB WEBER JR.

Slick Smitty claims the piggy bank he's accused of stealing from Josh's house belongs to him. Even if Smitty wiped away Josh's fingerprints from the bank, how will Slylock Fox prove Slick Smitty is lying?



WEBER 7-25

HOW TO DRAW a daydreaming dog



YOUR DRAWING

Today's terrific artist is Emma Mchenry of Sacramento, CA



Submit your drawings at www.kidcartoonists.com

The surface of a penny is made of copper. The core of a penny is made of ...
a) lead
b) brass
c) steel
d) zinc
e) platinum

Answer -- (d)

Find six differences between these panels.



Answer -- Newspaper, ball, hat, bone, steam and clock.

The fourth Find the six differences collection is here. Send \$4 (check/money order in U.S. funds made payable to King Features) with your name and address to Six Differences No. 4, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando FL 32853-6475

Take note

• The Salvation Army will take applications for its annual school supply program from Aug. 2-6 at the Army's headquarters at 811 W. Fifth. Application times are from 9 a.m.-noon and 1-3 p.m. For more information, call 267-8239.

• Youth at the Spring Creek Fellowship are conducting a shoe drive for Shoes for Orphan Souls through Aug. 1. Shoes for Orphan Souls is part of Buckner International and has distributed more than 2 million pairs of shoes to vulnerable children in the U.S. and to orphans in 69 countries. Shoes collected in the drive will be taken to Rock the Desert, set for Aug. 5-7 in Midland. Drop off boxes are located at Faye's Flowers (1013 S. Gregg) or Slaton Insurance (205 W. 15th). The drive accepts new shoes, socks and shoe strings. For more information, go to www.shoesfororphansouls.org or rockthedesert.com.

• New hours for the Chalet, Big Spring State Hospital's volunteer-run resale shop, are 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. Monday through Friday, and until 2 p.m. Saturdays. The Chalet is located at 110 East Second St. Sales from the shop are used to support patients during their stay at the Big Spring State Hospital. Donations of items are welcome.

• Each Saturday there is free admission to the Heritage Museum at 510 Scurry St. The museum is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturdays and from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Friday. For more information, call 267-8255.

• Mobile Meals is in need of volunteers to deliver meals to the homebound elderly in Big Spring. If you can donate at least one hour a week, call Mac-

aria Cantu at 263-4016 and leave a message.

• If you were laid off between December 2008 and March 2010 and are interested in training, contact the Workforce Solutions Permian Basin office in Big Spring at 263-8373 or 1-800-749-8373. Training dollars are available to assist those affected by the layoffs and ultimate plant closure.

• The mission of CASA of West Texas is to promote and support quality volunteers who speak for the best interest of abused and neglected children in court in an effort to find each child a safe, nurturing and permanent home. We currently have 55 children in foster care without a volunteer. We need your help! A class is forming in Howard County and we need at least 27 volunteers to fill this need. If you're interested in volunteering please contact Suzy Milliken at 1-877-316-8346 or visit www.BecomeCASA.org or www.casawtx.org.

• Legal Aid of Northwest Texas is accepting appointments from 2 p.m. until 5 p.m. the first and third Wednesday of each month. Individuals seeking legal advice for matters concerning family law, divorce, custody and child support issues, social security cases, employment and housing may contact the office to schedule an appointment. Criminal cases are not accepted. Anyone recently served with legal documents should call the office immediately at 800-926-5630 or 432-686-0647.

• Big Spring and surrounding counties are in critical need of foster families. Foster parents are the caretakers for the children in the community who have been abused or neglected. For more information on becoming foster parents or adoptive fami-

lies, call the Children's Protective Services office at 263-9669.

• Attention military personnel and dependents: The Salvation Army currently has funding for Texas military personnel now serving or who have served in Iraq and Afghanistan. Members or dependents may apply at the Salvation Army Office, located at 811 W. Fifth St., or call (432) 267-8239. The grant is funded by the TRIAD Fund of Permian Basin Area Foundation.

• Bring joy and kindness to others by becoming a Compass Hospice volunteer. Help those at the end of life's journey. Make a difference in someone's life. Call 263-5999 to begin your journey.

• The Permian Basin Foundation has awarded West Texas Opportunities Inc. \$130,000 through the Texas Resources for Iraq Afghanistan Deployment fund. WTO will assist current and former military personnel serving in Iraq or Afghanistan and their families. Funding will serve Howard, Martin, Andrews, Borden, Dawson, Ector, Fisher, Gaines, Glasscock, Midland, Mitchell, Nolan, Scurry and Upton counties. For more information, contact Diana Martinez or Debbie Wilson at 110 Johnson in Big Spring or call (432) 267-9536.

• HATS (Hope After The Sadness), an American Cancer Society Resource Room is available at First Methodist Church. This center provides information and valuable resources for those affected by cancer. This HATS ministry, established in memory of the late Rev. Dr. Shane Brue, maintains a room with free hats, wigs and head coverings. Contact the "Hat Lady," Marci Lykken at 267-2915.

CITY

Continued from Page 1

on to the current \$2.70 consumption rate.

The council is expected to discuss the possible rate increase in-depth during tonight's budget session, scheduled to follow the regular council meeting that begins at 5:30 p.m.

The proposed budget would also provide for a sludge removal belt press and related equipment for the city's water treatment facility, a project estimated to cost approximately \$1.1 million. City officials said the addition will

hopefully help the city avoid problems with the municipal water's turbidity similar to those experienced earlier in 2010.

The \$1.1 million will come from the city's capital revolving fund, according to City Finance Director Peggy Walker.

Also part of the 2010-2011 budget is \$500,000 earmarked for renovations at the municipal auditorium to bring the facility into ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) compliance.

According to Fuqua, the money will come from the city's Conventions and Visitors Bureau's motel tax fund.

The new budget also in-

cludes salary and benefit increases for city employees totaling more than \$500,000. Fuqua was quick to point out to the council the salary and benefit increases will not be distributed across the board in the form of a cost-of-living increase, but instead, will be doled out as part of the municipality's merit pay increase system, rewarding employees who receive favorable reviews.

The proposed budget also includes a 5 percent pay increase for all police officers, firefighters and emergency medical technicians — with the exception of both the fire and police chiefs — to their base salaries.

The narcotics task force developed by the Big Spring Police Department during the 2007-2008 budget session will also see an increase in funding, as the 7.321 cents from the tax rate currently devoted to the program gets bumped up to 9.15 cents.

The proposed budget also provides \$382,000 for a landfill compacting tractor. The purchase includes a \$115,000 buy-back option after five years, according to Fuqua, and will help extend the life of the existing landfill facility for an additional two years.

The fiscal plan includes \$1.6 million currently earmarked for renovations to the Troy Hogue Law Enforcement Cen-

ter, according to Fuqua, who said city officials are looking at a number of options to revamp its police station, including use of the old elementary school facility near the McMahan-Wrinkle Airpark on Airport Road.

The council is expected to present its questions concerning the proposed plan tonight following the regularly scheduled meeting in the council chambers, and, if necessary, continue with a budget session Wednesday evening at 5:30 p.m.

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



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BIG SPRING HERALD

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Congressman Randy Neugebauer invites you to his next Town Hall Meeting:

Tuesday, August 3 | 2:30pm - 3:30pm

Hall Center for the Arts | Howard College Campus
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Town Halls are community events open to the public where we discuss your concerns about the direction of our nation and share ideas to build a better future. Representatives of my staff will also be available to assist with veterans' benefits, social security concerns, and many other issues.

I hope you will join me at this Town Hall Meeting.



19th CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Romo: super comes before elite



AP Image

Tony Romo believes he has already accomplished a lot with the Cowboys and hopes a Super Bowl appearance is next on the list.

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Tony Romo finally has a playoff victory for the Dallas Cowboys to go with his three Pro Bowl selections.

The former undrafted quarterback is coming off another record-breaking season in which he also had a career-low nine interceptions while taking every snap for the NFC East champions. He has a 38-17 record as a starter.

Certainly biased Wade Phillips already considers Romo an elite quarterback — “I think Tony’s there,” the coach unabashedly said at the start of training camp.

Yet after only 3½ seasons as a starter, Romo knows it will take a lot more than what he has done already to be discussed in such terms. He expects to be judged by wins, Super Bowls “and

things of that nature.”

“I love the tradition and the history of the game,” Romo said. “So for me, you set out to accomplish certain goals and right at the top the only way to be included in any talk of anything is to go out and win a championship.”

Maybe this will be the season Romo can add that to his glowing yet incomplete resume.

With 20 of 22 starters back from last year’s division winner that defeated Philadelphia in the playoffs, there are expectations that Dallas could end a 15-year Super Bowl drought and become the first host team to play for the championship. The next Super Bowl is at Cowboys Stadium in February.

Romo has even gotten caught up in the excitement, telling a crowd

of more than 22,000 at the Alamodome for a kickoff event the night before training camp began that, “We’ll see you at the Super Bowl in Dallas.”

Pro Bowl tight end Jason Witten, one of Romo’s best friends since they arrived as rookies together in 2003, was caught a bit by surprise by Romo’s proclamation. Not the sentiment, of course, but the fact he claimed it so publicly.

“He’s excited. I think he’s confident in where he’s at, and he’s confident where everybody else is at and really grabbing everybody else and bringing them to the level he’s playing at,” Witten said. “That’s the sign of a great quarterback and really what he’s trying to do. With

See **ROMO**, Page 12

Matt Garza pitches 1st no-hitter in Rays history

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP) — The Tampa Bay Rays finally wound up on the right side of a memorable pitching performance.

Matt Garza threw the first no-hitter in franchise history and the fifth in the major leagues this season, beating the Detroit Tigers 5-0 Monday night.

“We needed one. I don’t care who it came from. We just needed one for our own confidence,” Garza said, mindful that the Rays have been held hitless four times

in their 13-season history — three times in the past year. “The guys are just as excited as I am. It’s fun.”

The 26-year-old right-hander faced the minimum 27 batters in his 106th career start, allowing only a second-inning walk to Brennan Boesch, for a team that’s often been on the wrong end of pitching gems lately.

Two of the no-hitters tossed against the Rays since July 2009 were perfect games. They didn’t manage a hit Monday

off starter Max Scherzer until Matt Joyce’s sixth-inning grand slam.

“It was one of those days where everything lined up,” Garza said. “The defense made great plays. I really can’t say enough about them.”

Garza (11-5) was the latest to shine in the Year of the Pitcher. The last time there were at least five no-hitters in a season was 1991, when Hall of Famer Nolan Ryan threw one of seven in the big leagues that year, according to STATS LLC.

It’s only the third time in major league history that a team has been involved in three no-hitters during one season. The 1917 St. Louis Browns and Chicago White Sox were involved in three — all against each other.

It’s also the first time in 37 years that two no-hitters have occurred in the same AL ballpark in one season. After going 1,006 games without one at Tropicana Field, two have been tossed in the last 11 games at the hitter-friendly dome.

“The guy obviously made history for Tampa, congratulations to him,” Detroit manager Jim Leyland said, adding that Garza dominated the Tigers with “high fastball after high fastball.”

Garza, the 2008 AL championship series MVP, rebounded from one of his worst outings this season to win his fourth straight decision and tie a career best for victories. He retired pinch-hitter Ramon Santiago for the final out on an easy fly ball to right

fielder Ben Zobrist, who made a terrific running catch in the third to rob Danny Worth.

“That ninth inning,” Garza said, “I kept telling myself, ‘Just finish it, just finish it, just battle, battle. If it’s meant to happen, it’s going to happen.’”

Garza’s teammates mobbed him near the performance that left the New York Mets and San Diego Padres as the only big league teams with-

See **GARZA**, Page 12

Cubs cruise past Astros 5-2

HOUSTON (AP) — Chicago Cubs pitcher Carlos Silva wasn’t happy after losing two straight games. He never lost confidence that he could turn things around.

On Monday night he got back on track, yielding five hits and one run with four strikeouts to get his 10th win of the season as the Cubs beat the Astros 5-2.

Geovany Soto drove in two runs and Alfonso Soriano had two doubles and an RBI to help in the win.

“If those two games were going to take me out of the year I’ve been having, then I’m very poor in my mentality,” Silva said. “So that’s why I said: ‘I’m not concerned at all.’ We’re human. We’re going to

have bad games and the only thing you’ve got to do is keep working and that’s what I do.”

Cubs manager Lou Piniella was impressed with his work.

“Quite an improvement over his last start,” Piniella said of a game where he allowed seven hits and five runs in one inning against Houston. “We were expecting a better performance and we got it.”

Carlos Marmol allowed one hit in a scoreless ninth inning for his 19th save in 23 opportunities.

Soto bruised his left foot and left the game in the middle of the sixth inning after fouling a pitch off of it earlier in the game.

Piniella said Soto

would be doubtful for Tuesday’s game but they hope he can return on Wednesday.

Derrek Lee doubled with one out in the third inning and scored when Marlon Byrd grounded into a force out. Byrd scored when Soriano hit his second double of the game that made it 4-1.

Soriano doubled in the second inning after Byrd walked. Soto scored both of them with his double to the corner of left field to give Chicago a 2-1 lead.

Ryan Theriot hit his first home run of the season on a solo shot to left field in the sixth inning that pushed Chicago’s lead to 5-1. It was his first home run since

See **ASTROS**, Page 12



File Photo

Forsan’s Dillon Kennedy runs for a first down in one of the Buffs’ games last season. Forsan will start its football season up with two-a-days beginning Aug. 2.

Sports in brief

Youth Basketball Tournament

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

Co-ed Softball Tournament

There will be a co-ed softball tournament Aug. 7 in Ozona. The entry fee is \$125 per team and the deadline to enter is Aug. 2. There will be prizes for first, second and third place winners. For more information call Chris at 325-763-6630 or e-mail him at CARDENAS_CHRIS@YAHOO.COM.

Big Spring Football Season Tickets

Get season tickets at the ATC. Previous season ticket holders can purchase tickets from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Monday through Thursday starting

July 26 and ending Aug. 9. General public ticket sales are from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Monday through Thursday starting Aug. 10 and ending Aug. 18. The cost is \$25 dollars per ticket book, which includes five home games. The last day to purchase will be Aug. 18. Any questions should be directed toward Kay Cook at 264-3662.

Athletic Physical Exams Notice

Athletic physical exams are required by the University Interscholastic League for all athletes entering the seventh, ninth and 11th grades. This also includes any new person to athletics who has never completed a physical exam. Forms can be picked up at the Athletic Training Center. Once completed, the physical form must be turned in to coach Campbell in the training room or to Kay Cook, the athletic secretary. Prior to Aug. 2, equipment will not be checked out until physical is complete and on file in the training room. For more information, call 264-3662.

Over 80 Scramble

The Big Spring Country Club invites everyone to participate in its over 80 scramble on Aug. 14 and 15. It benefits the Big Spring Shirne Club. Combined ages of the 2-person team must be 80 or higher. Entry fee is \$60 per player plus the golf cart. Private carts are welcome. There is a 1 p.m. shotgun start both days. Entry includes barbecue on the course both days. For more information call the Pro Shop at 267-5354.

City Golf Championship

Any Howard County resident and anyone who is currently an annual member at the Big Spring Country Club or at the Comanche Trail Golf Course can play.

The event takes place July 31 and Aug. 1. and the entry fee is \$40. The entry fee does not include the cart.

Call the Comanche Trail Pro Shop 264-2366 for complete details.

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Mercury, our cosmic messenger, will be in an exceptionally wonderful mood -- a mood that will continue for months to come. Mercury enters Virgo, the realm of the sky and also the sign where it is exalted. The ancient Babylonians would be pleased with this planetary aspect, which was celebrated in their day as an auspicious omen.



HOLIDAY MATHIS

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Everyone has something to say, but you are wise to ignore all but the most loyal. Seeming friends have their own agendas. Meanwhile, your heart has not once lied to you.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Getting dressed up will be a tremendous confidence-booster. So what if the occasion is casual? You find a way to look amazing in a T-shirt. The good things that happen are a direct consequence of your self-confidence.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). A romance is heating up. If it's not yours, it's that of someone you know. Either way, it's going to be an interesting couple of weeks. Just don't let any of the parties involved get too carried away.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). An unexpected invitation flatters your vanity. You didn't know this person thought of you as a friend. Take him or

her up on the offer. This could develop into an extremely enriching connection.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Break out the good dishes - you have some special company to look forward to. A gathering of good friends is a melting pot of future possibilities. Eat well and enjoy.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). In the past, you have often waited until the last minute to do something important. The time crunch put you in a panic and made you work harder than you would have had to otherwise. Here is an opportunity to do differently.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Reach out to family members. They've been thinking about you, and you've been thinking about them, too. You'll be surprised at the amount of good that will come of a single phone call.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). A friend's slip-up discloses some information you weren't meant to hear. Nothing too crazy, but it still bothers you. Consider letting it go. Now is not the best time to address it.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You are a fierce competitor. That's why most people think you're headed straight for the top. With your combination of natural talent and discipline, you'll prove them right.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Taking the long way home isn't a matter of choice. It will be necessary for you to go a great distance, either physically or mentally, before the day is over. Thankfully, you won't get lost, not even

once. **AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). The stars seem to stand still for you -- a perfect backdrop for your busy life. You're like a comet: gleaming in the sky but moving fast and focused toward the places you want to be.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Your friends are there for you as a fallback, but this is a moment when it benefits you most to go it alone. You'll make it through with flying colors and will have a great story to tell at the end.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (July 27). Your confidence grows this year. You'll act because you have to. In the end, you'll realize you are better off because you had to rise above circumstantial limitations. A devoted love will go where you go. Singles meet fantastic prospects through friends or a computer dating service. Finances improve in January. Aries and Cancer people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 31, 44, 39, 27 and 20.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS: "I'm dating the prettiest girl at my school. And since I am new at this high school, I think it's especially awesome that someone so popular thinks I'm cool. The problem is that she sometimes keeps me waiting for days to see her. She'll say she wants to get together, and then we text and try to get a plan together, and then the day goes by and the next day and sometimes the whole weekend, and the date doesn't happen. This is how it usually goes, but the times when we do wind up getting together make it

all worthwhile. My parents say she's playing me and I shouldn't let anyone string me along. What do you think? She's a Gemini, and I'm a Taurus."

I'm inclined to side with your parents. Taurus and Gemini can be a good match, but things clearly aren't working in this relationship. Taurus needs stability, not games, promises that don't pan out and general flakiness. And while you pine away for this girl, there are probably a dozen others who would treat you with more consistency and respect. Make some new friends. Your high school experience will be greatly improved.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Academy Award-winner Helen Mirren recently confessed, "I don't really like romantic movies very much, and I hate talking about feelings, so I'm definitely a man in disguise." Mirren's Leo sun is accompanied by intellectual air sign influences like an Aquarius moon and Venus and Mars in Gemini. This British beauty is all the more attractive for her feminine strength and intelligence.

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

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Annie's Mailbox : Advice for those in need

Dear Annie: I am 18 years old and have been hiding a dirty secret from my parents for two years. When I started dating my current boyfriend, I developed the nasty habit of smoking. At first, it was easy hiding it from my parents, but it's getting a lot harder and riskier now.

My father wouldn't understand, and it would absolutely break his heart if he knew. My mother is beginning to ask why my boyfriend and I so often say we're going out to get a cup of coffee. We're really going out so I can smoke.

My boyfriend is also tired of the lies, but doesn't want my parents to think it's his fault I started smoking. I am not ready to quit yet, so that would make confessing even harder. What should I do? -- Bad Habit

Dear Bad: Your parents probably can smell the smoke on your hair and clothes, and over time, smokers can develop yellowing teeth and fingers, so you might not be hiding as much as you think. And quitting will become more

difficult the longer you wait. That said, you are 18 years old and an adult. Your choices, even bad ones, belong to you. Hiding your addiction has obviously become too stressful, so confessing will allow you to get the deception off your chest, even if it disappoints your parents. It's time to face the music, honey. Good luck.

Dear Annie: When I was 16, the school nurse noticed I had high blood pressure, so my doctor proceeded to run some tests. He explained that high blood pressure can damage the kidneys and informed me that mine were only working at about 50 percent capacity. He told me a transplant would be necessary in the future.

His words didn't hit home until 13 years later, when my kidneys actually failed and I ended up on dialysis. Life as I knew it came to a halt. Luckily for me, my cousin Darlene came to my rescue and donated her

kidney in March of 2000. Since then, I have a new appreciation for life. I don't take anything for granted. I've run marathons and played volleyball. And I learned about the biennial National Kidney Foundation U.S. Transplant Games -- an Olympic-style event for transplant recipients of all ages. I became determined to participate so I could show the world what organ donation makes possible.

I won medals in track and field and helped lead my team to gold in volleyball in the past two Transplant Games events. This summer, I will travel to Madison, Wis., for the 2010 National Kidney Foundation U.S. Transplant Games, July 30-August 4, where I will once again compete in track and field, racquetball and volleyball.

Please tell your readers about the Games. For more information, and to learn about organ donation, they can contact the National Kidney Foundation at 1-800-622-9010 or visit transplantgames.org -- Holly Miyagawa, California

Dear Holly: We are happy to tell our readers about the transplant games and hope they will contact the National Kidney Foundation. We wish you the best of luck breaking your record from last year.

Dear Annie: This is for

"Still Miss Him," who didn't want her mother to remarry after Dad died.

I had been married for 41 years when my husband passed away after a long illness. Eighteen months later, I met a widower who had been married 46 years. We were together for five years. I do not regret this relationship, as he gave me everything my first husband couldn't. He was a loving and devoted man and filled every corner of my life with great memories. I will miss him forever.

Please tell that daughter to be happy for her mother. A second chance at life doesn't always come around. -- Life Is for the Living

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to anniesmailbox@comcast.net or write to: Annie's Mailbox c/o Creators Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Ste. 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045. To find out more about Annie's Mailbox and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

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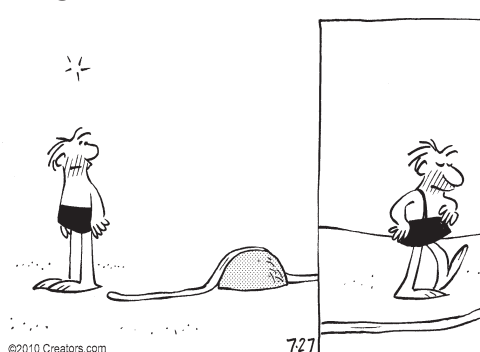
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5 :PM	News ABC	Vida	Lopez	News	Noticias	News	King	Scrivner	World	King	Deadliest Catch	Thurman	Texas Ranger	Law & Order	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Deck Phineas	Nation	SportsCenter
6 :PM	Jeopardy!	Mi Pecado (SS)	Two Men	News	El Cartel II	News	King	Uri Harel	Business	King	Deadliest Catch		Deadliest Warrior	Bones		Wizards	NFL Live	E:60
7 :PM	Wipeout	Hasta que el Dinero	Hell's Kitchen	NCIS	El Clon	Break-through	Fam. Guy	Upd	NOVA (DVS)	One Tree Hill	Deadliest Catch	Movie: The Specialist, James Woods	Deadliest Warrior	Bones	Movie: Mada's Family Reunion, Lynn Whitfield	Movie: The Shaggy Dog	WNBA	2010 Poker
8 :PM	Primetime: Fam	Aquí y Ahora (SS)	Simpsons Friends	The Good Wife	¿Dónde Está Elisa?	Office	Office	Office	POV	Married... Married...	(01) The Colony	(45) Movie: Executive Decision, John Leguizamo	Deadliest Warrior	Hawthorne	Memphis Beat	Trey	Sonny	Baseball Tonight
9 :PM	News	Impacto	Raymond	News	Noticias	News	Lopez	Mark Cortes	Charlie Rose	Roseanne	Deadliest Catch	Pros vs. Joes	Hawthorne	The Mo'Nique	Hannah	SportsNation	SportsCenter	
10 :PM	Nightline	Noticiero	TMZ	Letterman	A Corazón Abierto	Jay Leno	My Boys	Ministerio-Vida	World T. Smiley (Off Air)	Bernie	Deadliest Cops	Sports	Memphis Beat	Wendy Williams	Hannah	2010 Poker	Baseball	
11 :PM	Jimmy Kimmel Live	Corazón Salvaje	Law & Order: SVU	Late	Decisiones	Late Night	My Boys	Sex & Upd	Church	Cops	The Colony	(45) Movie: CSI: Crime Scene	CSI: NY	Movie: Penitentiary, Hazel Spears	Wizards	2010 Poker	SportsCenter	
12 :AM	Extra	Amar sin Limites	Paid King-Hill	Insider	Pagado	News	Sex & Upd	Church	Light of the Southwest	Heartland Thunder			Star Trek: Voyager	Hawthorne	Suite Life	2010 Poker	SportsCenter	
1 :AM	Paid	Mujer...	Paid	Ent	Pagado	Poker After Dark	Lopez	Light of the Southwest							Suite Life	Baseball	SportsCenter	

DENNIS THE MENACE

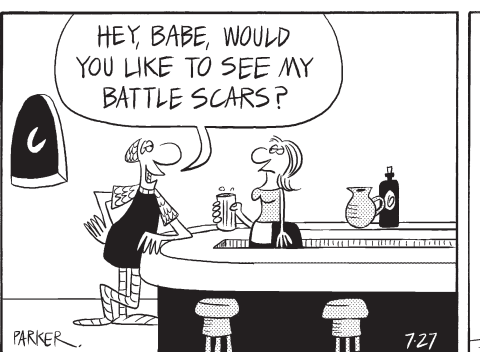


"THE DOCTOR WILL SEE DENNIS NOW. HE'S PUT IT OFF AS LONG AS HE COULD."

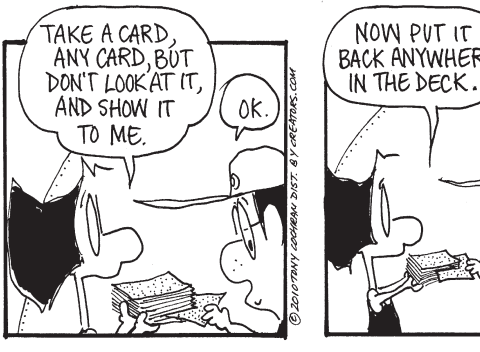
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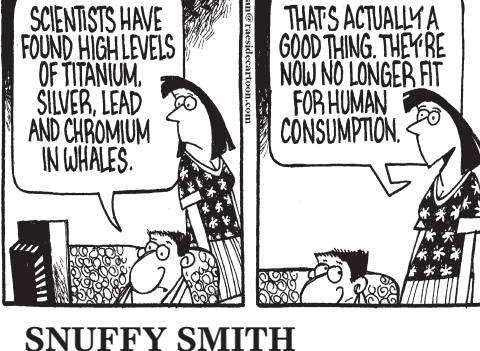
AGNES



HI AND LOIS



THE OTHER COAST



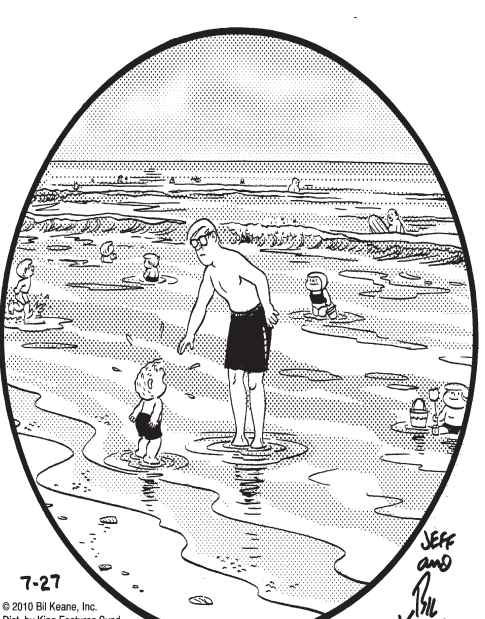
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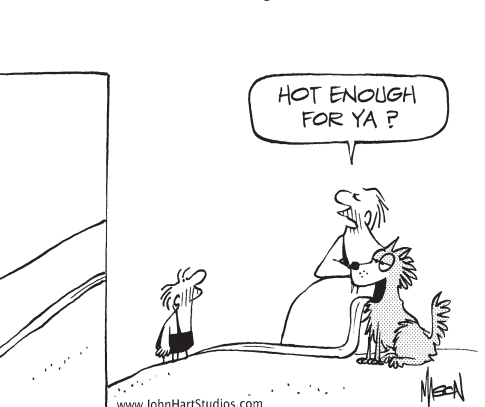
BEEBLE BAILEY



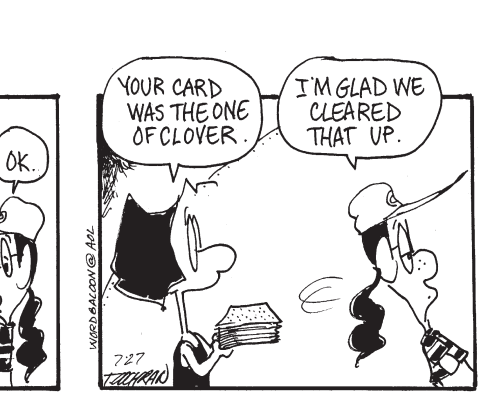
THE FAMILY CIRCUS



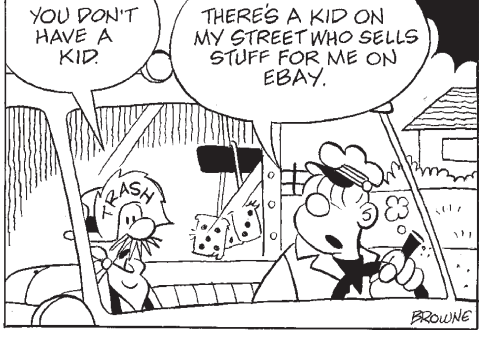
"Not so far out, Daddy, not so far out!"



AGNES



HI AND LOIS



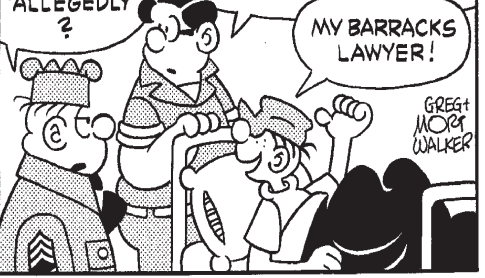
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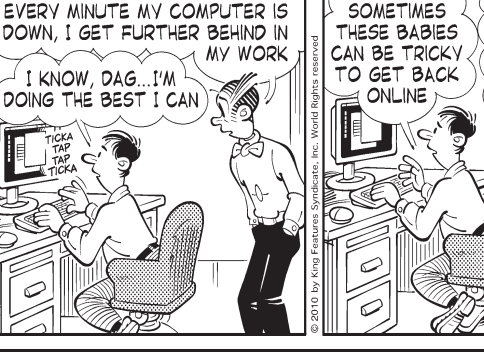
BEEBLE BAILEY



HAGAR



BLONDIE



This Date In History

Today is Tuesday, July 27, the 208th day of 2010. There are 157 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On July 27, 1960, Vice President Richard M. Nixon was nominated for president on the first ballot at the Republican national convention in Chicago.

On this date:

In 1789, President George Washington signed a measure establishing the Department of Foreign Affairs, forerunner of the Department of State.

In 1794, French revolutionary leader Maximilien Robespierre was overthrown and placed under arrest; he was executed the following day.

In 1866, Cyrus W. Field finished laying out the first successful underwater telegraph cable between North America and Europe (a previous cable in 1858 burned out after only a few weeks' use).

In 1909, during the first official test of the U.S. Army's first airplane, Orville Wright flew himself and a passenger, Lt. Frank Lahm, above Fort Myer, Va., for one hour and 12 minutes.

In 1919, race-related rioting erupted in Chicago; the violence, which claimed the lives of 23 blacks and 15 whites, lasted until Aug. 3.

In 1940, Bugs Bunny made his "official" debut in the Warner Bros. animated cartoon "A Wild Hare." (There had been previous incarnations of the "wascally wabbit," but this is considered the first definitive example of his now-familiar persona.)

In 1953, the Korean War armistice was signed at Panmunjom, ending three years of fighting.

In 1967, President Lyndon B. Johnson appointed the Kerner Commission to assess the causes of urban rioting, the same day black militant H. Rap Brown said in Washington that violence was "as American as cherry pie."

In 1974, the House Judiciary Committee voted 27-11 to adopt the first of three articles of impeachment against President

Richard Nixon, charging he had personally engaged in a course of conduct designed to obstruct justice in the Watergate case.

In 1980, on day 267 of the Iranian hostage crisis, the deposed Shah of Iran died at a military hospital outside Cairo, Egypt, at age 60.

Today's Birthdays: TV producer Norman Lear is 88. Rhythm-and-blues singer Harvey Fuqua (FYOO'-kwah) is 81. Actor Jerry Van Dyke is 79. Sportscaster Irv Cross is 71. Actor John Pleshette is 68. Singer Bobbie Gentry is 66. Actress-director Betty Thomas is 62. Olympic gold medal figure skater Peggy Fleming is 62. Copyright 2010, The Associated Press.

Answer to previous puzzle

ACID	SATAT	SPOT
NONO	ALONE	TARA
TOTO	LOGON	ASAP
SPORTSFAN	AISLE	
MOATS	PUNT	
ORGANS	HARSHER	
WARN	OPERA	EVE
LIE	ADDRESS	HOP
ESE	MODEL	TAKE
TENANTS	GRETTEL	
SLOE	STEAM	
REHIT	DIRTYPOOL	
ARAB	AREAS	ELSE
MIDI	DOGIE	SELF
SEES	SPENT	TOOT

Newsday Crossword

- ACROSS**
- 1 Gush forth
 - 5 Price
 - 9 Manufacturing site
 - 14 Prefix for dynamics
 - 15 Barber's concern
 - 16 Tint
 - 17 Mix together
 - 18 Castaway's spot
 - 19 Like a chimney
 - 20 Mediocre author
 - 23 Fake
 - 24 Butterfingers' cry
 - 25 "Relax, soldier!"
 - 27 Dairy-farm newborn
 - 30 Arrested
 - 32 Healing plant
 - 33 Flinch
 - 34 Distress-signal letters
 - 37 Wasn't fooled by
 - 41 Double curve
 - 42 Take by force
 - 43 Cleopatra's river
 - 44 Slyly spiteful
 - 45 Slimmed down
 - 47 Tropical fruit
 - 50 Impudence
 - 51 Miles away
 - 52 "Stop it!"
 - 58 Varieties
 - 60 Sea lion's relative
 - 61 Approximately
 - 62 From head
 - 63 Nativity trio
 - 64 Take it easy
 - 65 Flared dress
- DOWN**
- 1 Pageant entrant's accessory
 - 2 Animal rights org.
 - 3 Explorer called "the Red"
 - 4 Study thoroughly
 - 5 Bird sounds
 - 6 Desert haven
 - 7 River sediment
 - 8 Nest location
 - 9 Some laptops
 - 10 Untie, as shoelaces
 - 11 "Welcome to Hawaii!"
 - 12 ___ much (less)
 - 13 "Go ahead and ask"
 - 21 Misfortune
 - 22 Cattle farm
 - 26 Stadium level
 - 27 Lawyer's assignment
 - 28 "Sad to say ..."
 - 29 Stormy weather systems
 - 30 Like a posh hotel
 - 31 Poker-pot starter
 - 33 Smidgen
 - 34 Business attire
 - 35 Make eyes at
 - 36 Molt
 - 38 "My word!"
 - 39 Score around 75 on an exam
 - 40 Having a single floor
 - 44 Milk container
 - 45 Showy flower
 - 46 "This ___ test"
 - 47 Spaghetti, for example
 - 48 "___ and his money ..."
 - 49 First of a series
 - 50 Developmental phase
 - 53 West Point initials
 - 54 Rip
 - 55 Triple-decker cookie
 - 56 US' cold-war adversary
 - 57 Beach bag
 - 59 Observe

PARTING WORDS by Billie Truitt

Edited by Stanley Newman

www.stanxwords.com

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14				15					16			
17					18				19			
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51					52	53	54			55	56	57
58				59	60					61		
62					63					64		
65					66					67		

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

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

Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

A Very Strange Game

South dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ Q 10 4 3
♥ J
♦ A 7 4 2
♣ 10 6 3 2

WEST
♠ A J 8 6
♥ K 8 7 5
♦ K 10
♣ A 9 5

EAST
♠ K 9 7 5 2
♥ Q 10 6 4 3
♦ —
♣ 8 7 4

SOUTH
♠ —
♥ A 9 2
♦ Q J 9 8 6 5 3
♣ K Q J

deal where he doubled five diamonds and then watched declarer make the contract with an overtrick. The only trick West got was a club.

West was naturally despondent about this result. Had he passed five diamonds, instead of doubling, he would have lost only 620 points instead of 950.

However, West's self-esteem was restored when he learned that the bidding at the second table had gone:

South	West	North	East
1♦	Dble	3♦	4♦
6♦	Dble		

West's hopes of beating six diamonds at this table certainly were more promising than those of the West who doubled five diamonds at the other table. He was, of course, unlucky to find that his K-10 of trumps were nullified by the presence of the ace of diamonds in the North hand rather than in South's.

So the East-West pair at the first table wound up gaining 590 points on the deal when their North-South teammates at the second table scored 1,540 for bidding and making a slam on 20 high-card points.

Verily, bridge is at times a very strange game.

The bidding:
South West North East
1♦ Dble 1♠ Dble
2♦ Pass 3♦ 3♥
4♦ 4♥ Pass Pass
5♦ Dble

Opening lead — five of hearts.

In team-of-four events, you can't tell at once how you fared in a particular deal. Regardless of how you've done at your table, the net result is known only after you compare your score with the result at your teammates' table.

Consider West's emotions on this

Tomorrow: A collaborative effort.

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A&M's Johnson sees no burden as best of Big 12

IRVING (AP) — Texas A&M quarterback Jerrod Johnson bears no burden under the label of best in the Big 12, even if his predecessors were Heisman Trophy winners, high NFL draft picks or both.

He's not even afraid to call himself the best quarterback in the nation going into the 2010 season. He figures if he does end up being that good, he will accomplish the only thing he cares about — winning.

"My biggest goal is just to leave a winning legacy," Johnson said Monday at Big 12 media days. "As far as being a guy that lives in Texas and my dad playing for A&M, just leave a lasting impression at Texas A&M. And I think the best way to do that is to win games."

The Big 12 total offense leader last year, Johnson put a late-season scare in the Texas Longhorns on their way to the BCS championship game.

"My biggest goal is just to leave a winning legacy."

Jerrod Johnson, Texas A&M quarterback

But the Aggies finished with a losing record for the second year in a row after getting blown out by Georgia in the Independence Bowl.

Johnson passed for 3,579 yards and was second among Big 12 quarterbacks with 506 rushing yards — numbers solid enough to make him the preseason offensive player of the year pick by Big 12 media. He's in a spotlight filled last year by Oklahoma's Sam Bradford and Texas' Colt McCoy. He believes stats didn't set his former opponents apart. Winning did.

"I think that I shouldn't deserve the award if I'm not winning games," said Johnson, whose father, Larry Johnson, played receiver and defensive back for the Aggies in the 1970s.

"Wins are 70 to 30 more important than play. If you can get a win by throwing two passes per game, I think that's a huge deal."

Texas A&M coach Mike Sherman did set one specific number for his quarterback: a 70 percent completion rate. Johnson finished just shy of 60 percent last year, but news of that number didn't phase him.

"My goal is to complete enough passes to win a game," Johnson said. "I won't worry about the 70 percent, but I think it's along the lines of you play well and if you look back and you've completed 70 percent, then our goals should be accomplished."

EYES ON TEXAS: Nebraska coach Bo Pelini said he "wasn't

real happy" about the phrase "Beat Texas" being used in a school-produced video promoting the Oct. 16 home game against the Longhorns as the annual "red out" game.

Tensions will be high that Saturday in Lincoln, Neb., because the Cornhuskers lost to the Longhorns on a game-ending field goal in the Big 12 championship game when officials added 1 second after the clock expired.

The Texas reference has since been removed, and Pelini and the players who joined him for media day spent most of their time reminding everyone that Nebraska plays five games before Texas comes to town.

"We have a lot of things to do before we even consider Texas or worry about that football game," said Pelini, who said he was unaware of the video when first asked about it because he was on vacation.

ROMO

Continued from Page 7

that, good things will happen."

While it is still obvious that Romo has the same goal as owner Jerry Jones, the quarterback has since insisted that he wasn't making any predictions.

On the same stage that night, after having tried to temper his obvious expectations earlier that day during an hour-long news conference, Jones flashed one of his three Super Bowl championship rings to the cheering crowd and yelled it was time to get another one.

Among the big reasons Jones can anticipate such things is the escalating play of Romo,

the eighth starting quarterback for Dallas since Hall of Fame and three-time Super Bowl champion Troy Aikman played his last game in December 2000.

Romo, who turned 30 this offseason, has already shattered the team record by throwing for at least 300 yards in 24 games. He had eight last season, when he also set new single-season marks for completions (347), attempts (550) and yards (4,483).

His career quarterback rating of 95.57 is more than 12 points higher than two-time Super Bowl champion Roger Staubach, who is second on the Cowboys list.

And Romo is only now in his fourth training camp as the incumbent starter. This time with

some postseason success to build off of, though the playoff victory over the Eagles was followed by a dismal loss in Minnesota.

"It's significant, but I think the victory was the culmination of a good season," Jones said. "Really it was the whole season in my mind that was very significant in profiling Tony. Just his maturation, his decision-making, his skills and I would say that he's continued to work on different, for a lack of a better word, nuances."

Asked what areas of improvement made him the proudest, Romo said "there's 30 I could probably run off." Among

those he mentioned were his footwork, an arm angle change, decision-making and experience in certain situa-

tions.

"Without any specific one, you're not quite where you need to be. I'm still learning in some ways," Romo said.

"But at a certain point, stuff starts to catch up with it all and hopefully you have a good mix of it and you're consistent enough day in and day out to have a chance."

Romo is definitely taking better care of the football, with a career-low six fumbles (four lost) last season along with his fewest interceptions.

Another huge factor is continuity, since this will be the fourth consecutive season in offensive coordinator Jason Garrett's system. Romo has thrown for 12,142 yards and 88 TDs in his 45 games the past three seasons.

ASTROS

Continued from Page 7

last June, a span of 700 at bats, which was the longest active streak without a homer in the major league.

Michael Bourn doubled before scoring on a single by Lance Berkman that made it 1-0 in the first inning. Hunter Pence drove in a run on a single in the seventh inning to get Houston

within 5-2.

Chris Johnson singled in the first inning to extend his career-long hitting streak to 10 games. He is the first Houston rookie to reach the mark since Luke Scott did it in 2006. He added a second single in the eighth inning.

Converted reliever Wesley Wright (0-1) allowed eight hits and four runs in five innings in his second career major league start. He was replaced by Nelson

Figueroa, who gave up three hits and a run in two innings.

"Wesley was throwing the ball well and had good stuff," Houston manager Brad Mills said. "He was getting behind hitters throwing his fastball in the second and third innings, and that was crucial. He couldn't use his curveball."

Wright said he might have been a little worked up for this start against the Astros.

GARZA

Continued from Page 7

-out a no-hitter. The Rays began play in 1998 — the Padres in 1969 and the Mets in '62.

The closest Detroit's injury-depleted lineup came to a hit was Worth's two-out liner, but Zobrist made a leaping grab above his head as he ran toward the wall.

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ANSWERS

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