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VOLUME 106, NUMBER 175

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HERALD photo/Amanda Moreno

Construction of the Boys and Girls Club facility at the Salvation Army is moving along. The red iron metal for the main structure of the building arrived this morning. According to Patsy Heckler, bookkeeper for the Salvation Army, the project is running slightly behind schedule. The project began in February and should be completed this summer.

Pops will go on with a bang

By **AMANDA MORENO**
Staff Writer

Pops in the Park will go on with a bang. There may not be fireworks for the Fourth in Howard County, but the Pops in the Park celebration will be able to take place as planned July 3, the Pops board has been assured.



"A professional show adheres to different laws than the private use of fireworks," said Fire Marshal Carl Condray. "In the past, the city and county have worked together to provide the coverage in this event and this year it will be the same joint effort."

At a recent county commissioners meeting, commissioners passed a no fireworks ban which will be

See **POPS**, Page 3A

Fundraiser to aid veterans

By **AMANDA MORENO**
Staff Writer

Crossroads area residents are invited to say thanks to area veterans and have some family fun in the process. From 5 p.m. to 11 p.m. Friday, the Disabled American Veterans Chapter 47 will be having a fundraiser at the Hog Heaven Party Barn. According to Mike Tarpley, junior vice commander, the DAV Chapter 47 is always in need of funds. All of the chapter's funds go toward offering assistance to the disabled veterans of the Big Spring community, Tarpley said. "Currently, we are collect-

ing funds in order to purchase a new van, which the DAV operates," Tarpley said. The DAV vans travel around the area and pick up disabled veterans who are receiving services from the VA Medical Center and are in need of transportation. The current van is running with more than 150,000 miles. The nearest vans are located in San Angelo and Hobbs, N.M. "This is a service provided free of charge to the disabled veterans," Tarpley said. "It's



Tarpley

one more way we can help." Funds are also used in order to provide financial assistance if needed, including utilities, rent and medical bills. All of the collected funds in some way go towards benefiting the DAV in their cause to help veterans. "The party barn has been donated to us by Tom Land and numerous other local businesses have already made donations," Tarpley said. During the event, there will be live and recorded music for entertainment as well as the opportunity to take home some nice items and an auction.

Items are being accepted and are much appreciated from community members and businesses. "Any type of donation will help," Tarpley said. "If there are any local musicians or bands who would like to add to our entertainment, we will welcome them." For those wanting to help provide entertainment should contact Tarpley. Also, any businesses wanting to make a monetary donation or donate items for the evening can contact Tarpley. "We are keeping this a family fun atmosphere," Tarpley said. See **VETERANS**, Page 3A

Tote bag giveaway planned


Herald Staff Report

Keep Big Spring Beautiful and Wal-Mart will team together Saturday in a fight against littering. The first 200 customers who bring five plastic bags to Wal-Mart between 10 a.m. and noon will receive a new tote bag. "Keep Big Spring Beautiful is once again honored to work with this wonderful project," said Pat Simmons, KBSB board member. "Thanks for doing your part in our effort to remove plastic bags from our community."

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To reach us:
Please call 263-7331. Office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. If you miss your paper, please call (432) 263-7335 before 6 p.m. weekdays and 10 a.m. Sunday.



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Large item pickup set Friday

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

The city of Big Spring's District 4 will be the focus Friday as city officials prepare to move through the area during its large item pickup program. The program will target District 4 — represented by Gloria McDonald — part of a six-month project designed to help residents get rid of items too large to be transported by usual means to the landfill. "Some of the more typical items we pick up are appliances that don't work anymore, couches and mattresses," said Chad Averette, code

enforcement supervisor for the city of Big Spring. "Those are the kind of things we can take to our landfill and we're allowed to pick up. However, we can't pick up any household hazardous waste. That means any kind of chemicals including lawn chemicals, car batteries and tires and things of that nature. We also won't be picking up any tree branches, shrubs or things like that." All items must be by the curb in the city's right-of-way no sooner than 24 hours before the scheduled pick up. Items need to be separated as much as possible for its trip

to the municipal landfill, added Averette. "To be placed on the pick up list, all residents have to do is call 264-2504 or 264-2501, and we'll get them set up," he said. "If they don't call and get on the list, we can't pick up their items." Averette said customers need to be aware of gas, water and electricity meters and lines when they put their large items out to be picked up. "A lot of time we have to bring in equipment to pick those large items up," he said. "If you cover the meters up, it's hard for us to know where

they are. Using the equipment makes the pick up go quicker and we want to make sure our employees are safe while they are picking these things up." Averette said he and his officers are looking at following a similar plan for District 5 in late July. For more information on the large item pickup program and maps of the six city districts, visit the city website at mybigspring.com or call 264-2504. Contact Staff Writer Thomas Jenkins at 263-7331 ext. 232 or by e-mail at citydesk@big-springherald.com



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Obituaries

Freddie Graham



Freddie Graham, 71, of Tarzan died Monday, June 20, 2011, at his residence. The family received friends from 6:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. Wednesday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Graveside services with military honors were held at 10 a.m. Thursday at Evergreen Cemetery in Stanton, with Derrick Looney officiating.

He was born July 11, 1939, in Knott to Bessie Lee and Virgil Graham. He was a veteran of the United States Army. He married Judy Hammon on March 3, 1960. He was a retired farmer, having lived most of his life in Howard and Martin counties. He was a Baptist.

He is survived by his wife, Judy Graham of Tarzan; one son, Randy Graham and wife Beverly of Midland; one daughter, Jody Rhoton and husband Brent of Sherman; five grandchildren, Katie Culifer and husband John of Tom Bean, Jamie Rhoton of Sherman, Brittany Graham, Chris Graham and Michael Graham, all of Midland; two great-grandsons, Johnathan Culifer of Tom Bean and Matthew Graham of Midland; four sisters, Virgie Burchell and husband Mudd of Big Spring, Marie Kirkham and husband Dean of San Angelo, Joyce King of Blytheville, Ariz., and Brenda Riddle and husband Gary of San Angelo; one sister-in-law, Jean Slate and husband Edward of Big Spring; one brother-in-law, John Hull and wife Laura of Frisco; and a number of nieces, nephews and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

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

Paid obituary

Cindi Moore



Cindi Moore, 57, of Big Spring died Wednesday, June 22, 2011, at her father's residence. She will be in state from 9 a.m. until 9 p.m. Friday, June 24, 2011, at Myers & Smith Funeral Home. The family will receive friends from 7 p.m. until 8 p.m. Friday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

She was born March 7, 1954, in Sherman to Hildred and John White. She has been a resident of Big Spring since July of 1968. She was a homemaker and a Protestant.

She is survived by one daughter, Skydra Terry Redden and husband John of Granbury; one son, Zac Terry and wife April of Big Spring; her father, Jerry White of Big Spring; three grandchildren, Brayden Redden and Cheyenne Redden of Granbury and Jayden Gutierrez of Big Spring; two sisters, Jerry Jo Shires and husband Roger of Denison and Nancy Lynn Penny and husband Paul of Hudson Oaks; one niece, Ashlyn Shires of Denison; and one nephew, Trey Penny of Fort Worth.

She was preceded in death by her mother, Hildred White, on June 26, 2005.

The family suggests memorials to Home Hospice, 111 E. Seventh St., Big Spring 79720.

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

Paid obituary

Support Groups

FRIDAY

• AA open discussion meeting from noon until 1 p.m. at 605 Settles. Open Big Book study meeting, 8 p.m. until 9 p.m.

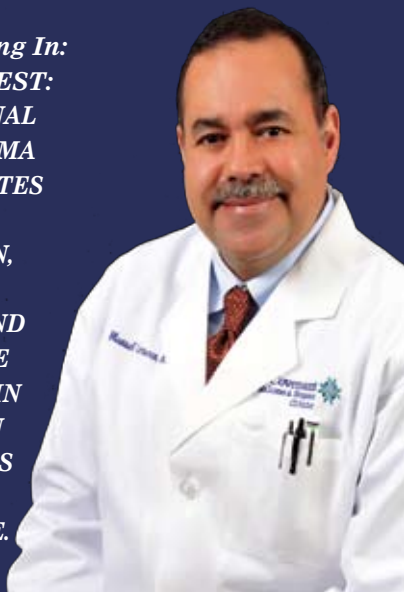
• Celebrate Recovery, a Christ-centered recovery program, is held at Cornerstone Covenant Church, 706 E 12th St. at 6:30 p.m. For more information, call at 264-0015 or visit www.cccbigspring.org

SATURDAY

• Alcoholics Anonymous open discussion meeting, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m. Open podium/speakers meeting 8 p.m. until 9 p.m. Open birthday night, no smoking meeting the last Saturday of each month at 8 p.m. Covered dish supper at 7 p.m.

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Police blotter

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

- PATRICK AARON RAMIREZ, 19, of 508 Abrams, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of burglary of habitation — assault.
- JACOB LEWIS JONES, 27, of 7011 Roberts Dr., was arrested Wednesday on a charge of theft more than \$50, less than \$500/shoplifting.
- GREGORY D. WILLMAN, 27, of 1315 E. 11th Place, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of theft more than \$50, less than \$500/shoplifting.
- RICKEY LOPEZ, 45, of 4207 Parkway, was arrested Wednesday on a warrant for no drivers license when unlicensed, driving while license invalid.
- FRANK LEE JACKSON, 52, of 1314 State Park Dr., was arrested Wednesday on a charge of theft more than \$50/shoplifting, disorderly conduct/noise.
- ALEJANDRO LARA RAMIREZ, 61, transient, was arrested Wednesday on a warrant from other agency.
- THEFT was reported in the 200 block of W. FM 700. In the 1500 block of Wood. In the 200 block of W. FM 700.
- CRIMINAL MISCHIEF was reported in the 400 block of E. Fourth Street.

Sheriff

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

- Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 75 inmates at the time of this report.
- JIM LLOYD POLLARD, 53, was transferred to the county jail by BSPD Wednesday on charges of possession of dangerous drug, theft, failure to appear.
 - JACE MINCE, 21, was arrested by HCSO Wednesday on a charge of no liability insurance.
 - GREGORY W. WILLMAN, 27, was transferred to the county jail by BSPD Wednesday on a charge of theft of property more than \$50, less than \$500.
 - JACOB LEWIS JONES, 27, was transferred to the county jail by the BSPD Wednesday on a charge of theft of property more than \$50, less than \$500.
 - ADAM VIERA, 27, was arrested by HCSO Wednesday on a charge of sentence/burglary of a building.
 - RICHARD RAMIREZ, 45, was arrested by HCSO Wednesday on a charge of sentence/driving while intoxicated.
 - RICKY RICARDO LOPEZ, 21, was transferred to the county jail by BSPD Wednesday on charges of no drivers license, driving while license invalid.
 - FRANK LEE JACKSON, 52, was transferred to the county jail by BSPD Wednesday on charges of theft less than \$50, disorderly conduct—noise.
 - MICHAEL EDWARD BAKER, 44, was transferred to the county jail by BSPD Thursday on charges of failure to appear, fail to maintain financial responsibility, driving while license invalid with previous conviction/suspension/without final restitution, city of Big Spring ordinance animal at large.
 - ALEJANDRO LARA RAMIREZ, 61, was transferred to the county jail by BSPD Thursday on charge of parole warrant.
 - AMANDA CHRISTINE WINKLER, 51, was transferred to the county jail by BSPD Thursday on a charge of public intoxication.

Fire/EMS

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

- MEDICAL was reported in the 2500 block of

Correction

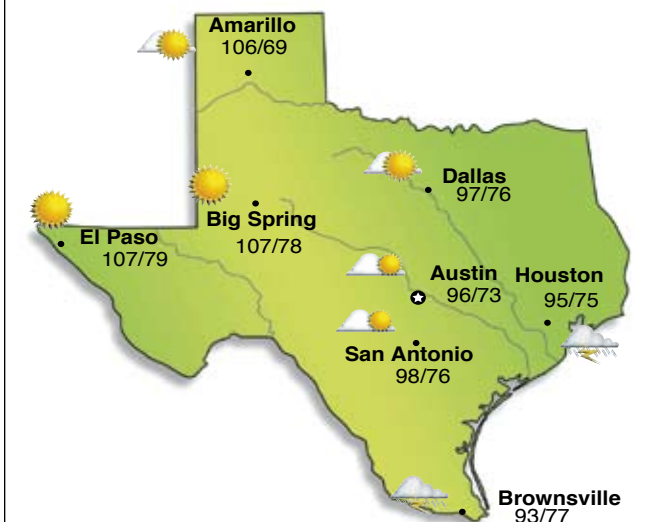
Wednesday's article on the Pride of Texas Carnival going on at College Park Shopping Center from 6 p.m. to 11 p.m. nightly through Sunday incorrectly stated that the rides are \$1 each. The article should have noted that tickets — not rides — are \$1 each and rides require three or four tickets for admission. Wristbands may also be purchased for \$20 before 10 p.m.

Today's Weather

Local 5-Day Forecast

| Fri 6/24 | Sat 6/25 | Sun 6/26 | Mon 6/27 | Tue 6/28 |
|--|--|--|--|--|
| 107/78 Mainly sunny. Near record high temperatures. High 107F. | 108/76 Sunny. Highs 106 to 110F and lows in the mid 70s. | 106/76 Windy with sunshine. Highs 104 to 108F and lows in the mid 70s. | 105/75 Sunny. Highs 103 to 107F and lows in the mid 70s. | 103/76 Sunny. Highs 101 to 105F and lows in the mid 70s. |
| Sunrise: 6:41 AM Sunset: 8:56 PM | Sunrise: 6:41 AM Sunset: 8:56 PM | Sunrise: 6:41 AM Sunset: 8:56 PM | Sunrise: 6:42 AM Sunset: 8:57 PM | Sunrise: 6:42 AM Sunset: 8:57 PM |

Texas At A Glance



Area Cities

| City | Hi | Lo | Cond. | City | Hi | Lo | Cond. |
|----------------|-----|----|-----------|-----------------|-----|----|-----------|
| Abilene | 102 | 76 | mst sunny | Kingsville | 94 | 75 | t-storm |
| Amarillo | 106 | 69 | mst sunny | Livingston | 97 | 72 | t-storm |
| Austin | 96 | 73 | pt sunny | Longview | 96 | 75 | mst sunny |
| Beaumont | 93 | 75 | t-storm | Lubbock | 105 | 72 | sunny |
| Brownsville | 93 | 77 | t-storm | Lufkin | 98 | 73 | pt sunny |
| Brownwood | 101 | 75 | mst sunny | Midland | 107 | 80 | sunny |
| Corpus Christi | 90 | 77 | t-storm | Raymondville | 95 | 75 | t-storm |
| Corsicana | 96 | 74 | mst sunny | Rosenberg | 95 | 75 | t-storm |
| Dallas | 97 | 76 | mst sunny | San Antonio | 98 | 76 | pt sunny |
| Del Rio | 100 | 78 | mst sunny | San Marcos | 97 | 74 | pt sunny |
| El Paso | 107 | 79 | sunny | Sulphur Springs | 96 | 76 | mst sunny |
| Fort Stockton | 106 | 76 | mst sunny | Sweetwater | 103 | 76 | windy |
| Gainesville | 96 | 75 | mst sunny | Tyler | 96 | 74 | mst sunny |
| Greenville | 95 | 74 | mst sunny | Weatherford | 98 | 74 | mst sunny |
| Houston | 95 | 75 | t-storm | Wichita Falls | 105 | 77 | windy |

National Cities

| City | Hi | Lo | Cond. | City | Hi | Lo | Cond. |
|-------------|----|----|-----------|----------------|-----|----|-----------|
| Atlanta | 88 | 67 | t-storm | Minneapolis | 79 | 60 | pt sunny |
| Boston | 67 | 60 | t-storm | New York | 82 | 69 | t-storm |
| Chicago | 70 | 58 | rain | Phoenix | 105 | 77 | sunny |
| Dallas | 97 | 76 | mst sunny | San Francisco | 66 | 53 | pt sunny |
| Denver | 89 | 59 | mst sunny | Seattle | 60 | 50 | pt sunny |
| Houston | 95 | 75 | t-storm | St. Louis | 79 | 66 | mst sunny |
| Los Angeles | 75 | 60 | pt sunny | Washington, DC | 90 | 68 | pt sunny |
| Miami | 90 | 78 | t-storm | | | | |

Carol. One person was transported to SMMC.

- TRAUMA was reported in the 3200 block of Parkway. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1900 block of Simler. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1800 block of N. HWY 87. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAFFIC ACCIDENT was reported at NCR 25 and 846. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 700 block of N. Douglas. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1800 block of N. HWY 87. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 3200 block of Parkway. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 500 block of Westover. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAUMA was reported in the 200 block of W. Marcy. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1100 block of E. 14th. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1400 block of Johnson. Service refused.
- TRAUMA was reported in the 2600 block of Albrook. One person was transported to SMMC.

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Take Note

• Sharon Chancy, campus curriculum coordinator at Bauer Elementary School, and her family lost their home and all their possessions to the wildfire that swept South Mountain on the evening of June 20. A fund has been established at the Big Spring Education Federal Credit Union to assist the family as they recover from this loss. To help, call 432-263-8393 or come by the FCU at 1110 Benton.

• A medical fund has been established at Big Spring Education Employee FCU for Maurine Pittman, who has been diagnosed with leukemia. She and her husband Gale are both off without pay at this time and may be for quite a while. Maurine is at Baylor Medical Center in Dallas at this time. To donate to the fund, call 432-263-8393 or come by the FCU at 1110 Benton.

• The Salvation Army is holding its annual fan drive and is in dire need of fans. Community members can donate new or used fans. Monetary donations are also welcomed. Donations can be made at the main office, located at 811 W. Fifth St., Monday through Friday between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.

• North Side Community Center has several openings for its summer school program. The program starts June 20 and will be held from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. For more information, call 263-2673.

• The Homeownership Preservation Foundation

(HPF) is an independent national nonprofit dedicated to helping distressed homeowners navigate financial challenges and avoid mortgage foreclosure. If you want to stop foreclosure and are in need of foreclosure help, the time to call 888-995-HOPE is now. The Homeowner's HOPE hotline is a counseling service provided by HPF to work with you to find a solution to your problem. HPF can provide counseling free of charge, in English and 170 other languages, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Free free foreclosure help, call the hotline.

• Coahoma High School alumni are planning an all-classes' reunion on Saturday, July 23 at Coahoma Elementary. Registration is from 9-10 a.m., followed by visiting, a short business meeting, a fund-raising auction, lunch, and a program honoring CHS Music Through the Years (band, choir, special singing and/or musical groups, etc.). Alumni with musical talents are encouraged to bring instruments or music to provide a couple of songs for attendees. Alumni are also asked to bring items for the auction. Please RSVP for the lunch and mail checks to: Coahoma Alumni Association, POB 488, Coahoma 79511 by July 1. Cost is \$10 per adult and \$5 for children age 8 and under. The Stampede has been reserved for additional visiting that evening for all CHS alumni from 6:30-11 p.m. Music from the 50s, 60s and 70s will be played, and food and sodas provided. For questions, contact: Joyce York Baumann at 432-816-1588 or jefnjoyce@yahoo.com; Rose Thixton Teeler at 432-393-5267 or at jrteeler@

yahoo.com; or Cindy Parrish Klaus at 432-466-1298 or cindyrklaus@gmail.com.

• Fridays are live band dance nights at Big Spring Senior Center, 1901 Simler. Senior adults are invited to an evening of fellowship (and good exercise) from 7:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. each Friday. Cost is \$6 per person. For more information or to find out what band is playing, call the Senior Center at 432-267-1628.

• Big Spring High School Class of 1981 will have its 30-year reunion Sept. 30-Oct. 1. For information, contact Mark Warren at 903-283-3326 or 903-843-5927, or e-mail mwarren@etex.net

• The Salvation Army has funding for Texas Military Personnel now serving or has served in Iraq or Afghanistan. The military member or their family member may apply at 811 W. Fifth St. or call 267-8239. The grant is funded by the TRIAD Fund of Permian Basin Area Foundation.

• The HCV Section 8 waiting list for the Big Spring Housing Authority is open. The authority is accepting new applications. The office is located at 201 NE Seventh in Big Spring.

• 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 Macaria Cantu at 263-4016 and leave a message.

POPS

Continued from Page 1A

extended through July 5. However, the fireworks display at the park will not fall under the ban. According to Condray, the fireworks used in the display reach a higher altitude than those purchased by the public.

"We need to give the public what they deserve. This celebration has meaning behind it. This is a thank you for those who have served," Condray said.

According to Zach Johnson, fireworks coordinator, public safety is the first and foremost importance when it comes to Pops in the Park. During the event, firefighters will be placed along the edge of the designated perimeter.

"The thing about this launch site and the outlined perimeter is that we are controlling the variables inside it,"

Condray said. "We go out two weeks before and we apply water to the area, cut down the brush and do prescribed burns as needed."

The perimeter is outlined by existing firebreaks, such as roadways, and needed firebreaks are added. There are plenty of personnel on hand, according to the fire chief, and this year, additional help will be available.

"We are going to have the Forest Service on the initial rollout. That will give us an additional five engines, an extra tanker and about 26 extra firefighters," said Tommy Sullivan chief of the Howard County Volunteer Fire Department. "With all the extra help and conditions, I feel good about putting on this event."

Mayor Tommy Duncan extended his concern to the Pops board members and reminded them nothing is fail safe, but with all the resources and experts believing this is an event that can

be put on safely he has no doubt it will be an exciting event.

"This is a wonderful thing for the community of Big Spring and I fully trust the experts. I am comfortable with these people and the decision they have made," Duncan said.

According to Condray, there has not been an incident during the Pops in the Park celebration since using the current launch site. The only variable unable to be controlled is the direction of the wind, but with the resources available the wind is not expected to be any added danger.

"Of course, we will look at all the variables and if the wind is not in our favor before the launch then the decision will be made not to launch, but we don't see it to be an issue. We are looking for this event to take place," Condray said.

"Even with our extreme conditions, there is no reason we can't do

this safely and still have a good show," Sullivan added.

The Big Spring Symphony and Chorus has started its rehearsals.

"We met last Tuesday and we are sounding good, but we are still small. If there is anyone else out there who wants to volunteer, we will accept them," said Keith Graumann, symphony conductor.

Rehearsals are from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. Tuesday at the First United Methodist Church.

Another feature during Pops will be a patriotic video production put together by Cindy Smith and Lane Bond. The presentation will be shown during intermission.

Also, The Fab4, a Beatles tribute band from Colorado, will open the pre-show at 6 p.m.

According to Pops in the Park Chairperson Jan Hansen, a fly-over this year will be among the other events. The paperwork has been completed and given

approval, but Ned Crandall is still in the process of finalizing a base and unit. However, a C130 is expected to be conducting the fly-over.

Brian Sweeney, Boy Scouts executive, will be in charge of finding Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts to carry the 50 flags for the ceremony. The five military service flags are expected to be carried by those who have served in that particular branch.

"This year's event is the only one in the area that is still scheduled," Condray said.

Organizers report some \$31,490 has been raised toward the goal of \$50,000. Sponsorships are also needed. To donate funds or your time, contact the Chamber of Commerce.

More details will be finalized at the Tuesday

meeting of the board.

Contact Staff Writer Amanda Moreno at 263-7331 ext. 234 or by e-mail at life@bigspringherald.com

VETERANS

Continued from Page 1A

sphere. There will be Christian and Country/Western music throughout the night," he said.

The event is free to the public and Hog Heaven will have barbecue plates available as well as

refreshments. Hog Heaven Party Barn is located on W. Highway 80.

The DAV will also be doing its annual Forget Me Not Drive in the fall, which is a collection similar to the poppies collection. More information will come as that fundraiser nears. The DAV is always looking for new mem-

bers as well. For anyone who is wanting to get involved with the DAV, contact Tarpley.

For more information or to donate to the DAV, contact Tarpley at 432-556-2227.

Contact Amanda Moreno at 263-7331 ext. 234 or by e-mail at life@bigspringherald.com

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AN ENCOURAGING WORD

 By Eddy Pitchford

Wise Words For Grads: Choices determine character. Friends influence choices. Integrity is vital. Popularity is not the determining factor of right and wrong. Decisions have eternal consequences. Do not confuse happiness with holiness. Sowing wild oats result in reaping regrets. Hard work is required. Faith must be watered. Alcohol makes promises it cannot keep. Role models must be chosen wisely. Truth is a non-negotiable. Attitude is up to you. A pure heart prompts pure speech. The Bible is the guide for living a life of joy and peace. Obeying God is always the right thing to do. Sin should not be trivialized or rationalized. The love of God is constant. The power of the cross is greater than the power of sin. Prayer is underused. The heart of the matter is the matter of the heart. Honor the past generations by helping the future generations. Procrastination should not be tolerated. Heaven and hell are real.

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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.

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OUR VIEWS

Our hats go off to the firefighters

This year has been a trying and tiring year for the Howard County Volunteer Fire Department and Big Spring Fire Department. This past Monday has proven to be one of the more testing fires the firefighters have been called out to.

The fire consumed more than 6,000 acres and required all local firefighters and outside help from surrounding county fire departments and the Texas Forest Service.

The firefighters have been working around the clock to ensure the safety of all those affected by the fire and doing their best to protect lives and structures.

The job is certainly not an easy one, but one each and every one of them is doing to ensure safety in the community they love.

These brave men and women have been putting themselves in harms way, taking their equipment to places others could not and would not go in order to fight off even more destruction. They have been pushing themselves and their equipment above and beyond. They have placed themselves in extreme conditions, in the high temperatures and have run themselves ragged without giving it a second thought.

As they continue to fight the fires, protect homes and their community, they have been receiving support from the community.

As a way of saying thank you, local businesses and residents have been setting up donation spots to ensure these brave souls are taken care of.

Richard Grove, deputy chief of the Big Spring Fire Department, gave this statement:

"The Big Spring Fire Department would like to extend its sincere gratitude for all the concern, prayers and support from the community during the recent brush fire. There were countless personal gestures and offerings from local businesses that although greatly appreciated are simply impossible to recall following the chaotic blur of activity. I would like to thank the individuals responsible for each and every bottle of water, every offering of food and every word of encouragement given during a challenging time for our firefighters and those agencies assisting us.

You make us all proud to serve and protect such a fine community, our home, Big Spring."

Each donation, kind word and gesture was given as a way of saying thank you.

Thank you for the countless hours. Thank you for taking on a dangerous situation in order to protect not only those you call friends, but even those you have never met.

The courageous acts you have performed, the tireless hours have not gone unnoticed. They are in fact very much appreciated.

On behalf of the community, we say thank you. Thank you for doing all you do. The community could not be what it is if it wasn't for the sacrifices and commitment put out by each and every one of you.

Citizens of Big Spring are proud to have such an amazing group of firefighters protecting us.

To all those who came out and offered their support from surround counties, we extend our gratitude.

This week has not been an easy one. The situation has been out of control, but you have stood and fought without backing down and there is no way to express just how grateful each and every community member is.

Thank you to all those in the Howard County Volunteer Fire Department and the Big Spring Fire Department. Our thanks also goes out to the law enforcement officials who spent their time ensuring the community and firefighters were safe.

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

May we put our beliefs in You, Lord,
into action.

Amen

No fireworks on the 4th of July

Fourth of July without fireworks?

At first glance the idea seems downright unpatriotic. What is Independence Day without families popping firecrackers and shooting bottle rockets in their back yards?

Granted, I've always felt we could do without those nasty, snake-like black pellets that grow to look like something excreted from my cat, or even those silly paper snap-things which are supposed to pop when thrown on concrete or another hard object, like your best friend's shoes.

This year families will have to forego the home exhibitions of fireworks and trying blindly to outdo the neighbors, thanks to a countywide ban on the sale, possession or use of the holiday mainstays.

That's right, no Roman candles, no fountains of glittering sparks, not even a lame bottle rocket to chase Aunt Gertrude around the yard, screaming until she accidentally — or, possibly, intentionally — spits her false teeth into the shrubs.

Like seat belt and motorcycle helmet laws, this ban is just one more way the government is chipping away at our civil

liberties. Doesn't the Constitution guarantee the right to bear arms? How many eyes and fingertips must be sacrificed before we recognize these glowing, flaming holiday party favors as arms?

Now, I'm willing to bet by this point in my column — assuming anyone made it past the first paragraph — there are two basic groups of readers: Those cheering in agreement and those ready to scrap their subscription in protest.

The sad part, however, is the vast majority of both groups have one simple thing in common: They haven't had to brave the flames and smoke of the recent onslaught of wildfires in and around the Big Spring area.

Is the ban a good idea? I'll go a step beyond that and say it's not only a good idea, it's a no-brainer.

With conditions as dry as they currently are, you could simply look at a mesquite bush the wrong way and it would burst into the kind of flames that would make Moses' burning bush blush with envy. To say conditions are critical may very well be the understatement of the year.

This brings us to a second disagreement among the citizens of Big Spring. If conditions are so dangerous as to warrant a ban on all fireworks, why are industrial-strength fireworks going to be allowed at Pops in the Park

this year?

Unfortunately, the answer to this question is far from clear.

On one hand, it's hard to imagine the July 4 holiday without the fireworks and music Pops in the Park offers each year. It feels, well... somewhat un-American.

On the other hand, how many homes — or, dare I say lives — is it worth to us to enjoy a fireworks display? Sure, they are beautiful, and few things fill us with the sense of awe as the lights and booms emanating from the sky. However, the thought of someone — whether it be a home owner or a firefighter — getting hurt seems like a pretty steep price to pay.

In all honesty, I really don't know which way to lean on this issue. However, I'm really interested to see what you — the readers and citizens of Big Spring and Howard County — think is the right thing to do? Should we go ahead with Pops in the Park, or should we cancel the fireworks and simply enjoy the symphony performance?

Visit the *Herald* website at www.bigspringherald.com to cast your vote one way or the other.

Fireworks? No fireworks? Let's see what our readers think.

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

Nothing is as it may seem

The weather isn't normally what I would talk about, but for some reason weather seems to be a relevant topic.

Then again, maybe it's not so much the weather that seems to be striking me, as the effects of the weather conditions.

This year has been different than any I can remember. The weather is one thing that never surprised me simply because it's one of those things that changes so often. At least that used to be the case. I remember a day when I saw all four seasons in one day. Well, the fact the weather isn't changing is a big surprise.

I know it's summer and the temperatures are supposed to be hot, but a 14-day streak of exceeding 100 degrees? I am all about hot temperatures, wearing shorts, flip flops and splashing around in the water, but there comes a point when it's too hot to even do that. We have reached that point.

Hot temperatures are nice when they hang around in the day and disappear at night, when they are broken up and vary between 80 degrees and 100 degrees. They're really nice when they are separated by a few days of rain. Instead, it has been hot, hotter and super dry. It's not the type of summer anyone expected.

It seems one part of the nation is being pounded with rain and the other is completely dry and burning up; literally.

It's funny how as kids we would sing "Rain, rain, go away, come again another day" and now, I am sure we are all taking back every time we sang that song.

I have never been one that enjoys thunderstorms or excessive rain, but it's amazing how excited I get when I see the chance of a thunderstorm in the area now. The smallest possibility of rainfall is an exciting thing.

I was able to experience a short rainfall last weekend, of course I had to travel outside of Big Spring to see it. It seems like other areas are being sprinkled with a few drops here and there, but Big Spring is in some sort of dome and isn't allowing rain.

When I experienced that small

amount of rainfall I was traveling. When it comes to storms and travel the idea is to get on the road and get away from the rain so I don't travel in it ... well, we found ourselves wanting to stick around in order to feel and see this thing called rain. Rain has become such a wondrous thing with the recent lack of it in our area. I admit, I forget what rain is like at times it's been so long.

Needless to say, we needed to get on the road and couldn't stick around for the rain, but the rain just happened to cross our path. It was only about five minutes of light rain, but it took everything we had not to pull the car over and get out in the rain.

Of course, mother nature never seems to amaze me. The hot temperatures are becoming a usual complaint, but even more so is the dry area which continues to burn. We have all seen the damaging effects of the dry weather, especially in the Boykin Road fire.

I sat there and watched the fire consume acres of land my mind couldn't help but wonder, how far is the fire going to stretch and what was going to be the end result.

The fire started right as I was leaving town and when I returned two hours later, the fire had spread to an unimaginable site. As I was taking photos because I knew as a journalist it's what my job entails, but as myself, just another citizen of the community, I sat there and questioned how much danger are we really in. I thought about all the fires I had been hearing about spreading across Arizona and in the other Texas counties and couldn't help but wonder, where was this fire going to rank on that list.

It was 4 a.m. and the fire was still burning strong. I was taking it all in, the flames, law enforcement, firetrucks, water trucks, the firefighters and all the spectators — the entire scene seemed like something out of a movie.

At one point, I was right in front of the flames, closer than I ever imagined I would be and as I snapped my photos my heart raced faster than it ever has before. The smoke grew thicker and the thoughts of the aftermath grew worse in my mind.

The next day, as the sun came up and a new day started, I looked at the damaged area in amazement. I found a new way of thinking — what was an

unimaginable scene with no certainty behind it and a unknown extent of danger had turned into a calm.

Somewhere in that calm I found a reassurance in the world. A new sense of hope. I looked at an area, which the night before had been consumed in flames. An area which could not be anything other than pure destruction and remnants of destruction, but instead I stared in amazement at an untouched building. It was surrounded by scorched earth; a building that had stood in the middle of flames and came out standing as beautiful as ever. I had to ask one question, how?

Later that night, as I sat at home expecting another uneventful night, I had the notion to step outside and look at the sky. It was a sky like I had never seen before, so full of clouds with the most unusual yet breathtaking forms. I looked up at the clouds with the sun behind them and couldn't help but realize, no matter how bad a situation may be, there is always a light and a calm to come.

Right about that time, my 5-year-old, who never ceases to amaze me, said "Looks like God decided to change the clouds. God just decided to make them that way."

I just couldn't help but smile and say "Yes, God decided to make the clouds like that."

I'm not sure why the clouds looked the way they did that night. I'm not sure why 6,000 acres burned out of control and caused the destruction it did, but I do know this;

We're in desperate need of rain. The destruction is only going to get worse, the danger more intense as time goes on without moisture.

Yet, I have a new appreciation for the rain. I have had my faith restored and my belief renewed. I have seen unimaginable things and I realize, maybe it's time I start paying attention to the little things and appreciating them more.

After all, nothing is certain — not the weather, not the destruction. But, if a building consumed by flames can make it out untouched, I'm pretty sure I can make it no matter what the situation may be.

Contact Staff Writer Amanda Moreno at 263-7331 ext. 234 or by e-mail at life@bigspringherald.com.



THOMAS JENKINS



AMANDA MORENO

News in brief

FBI arrests fugitive mob boss 'Whitey' Bulger

SANTA MONICA, Calif. (AP) — Boston mob boss James "Whitey" Bulger was captured near Los Angeles after spending the last 16 years on the run during an epic manhunt that served as a major embarrassment to the FBI and made the fugitive a global sensation as he constantly found a way to elude authorities.

The FBI finally caught the 81-year-old Bulger Wednesday at a residence in Santa Monica along with his long-time girlfriend Catherine Greig just days after the government launched a new publicity campaign to locate the fugitive mobster, said Steven Martinez, FBI's assistant director in charge in Los Angeles. The arrest was based on a tip from the campaign, he said.

The FBI had been conducting a surveillance operation in the area where the arrest was made, said police Sgt. Rudy Flores, who gave no details of the arrest.

FBI agents still swarmed around Bulger's building late Wednesday, hours after the arrests in a neighborhood of two and three-story apartment buildings.

Bulger lived on the third floor of The Princess Eugenia, a three-story, 28-unit building of one and two-bedroom apartments three blocks from a bluff that overlooks the Pacific Ocean. Neighbors said the couple hadn't stood out as unusual.

Obama to cut 33K troops from Afghanistan

WASHINGTON (AP) — Congressional Democrats are leading the criticism of President Barack Obama's troop withdrawal plan from Afghanistan, arguing that his timeline for bringing 33,000 U.S. troops home by next summer isn't fast enough.

An initial drawdown of 10,000 troops is expected to take place in two phases, with 5,000 troops coming home this summer and 5,000 more by the end of the year. An additional 20,000-plus are to follow by September 2012.

Democrats said that wasn't adequate.

"It has been the hope of many in Congress and across the country that the full drawdown of U.S. forces would happen sooner than the president laid out — and we will continue to press for a better outcome," said House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., leading a chorus of disgruntled Democrats who took the president to task, albeit politely.

From across the aisle, the Republican response to Obama's timeline for withdrawing tens of thousands of troops was measured. House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, warned Obama not to sacrifice the gains the U.S. has made in Afghanistan, while Arizona Sen. John McCain said the drawdown was too rash.

NY weighs gay marriage legalization vote

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP) — Dozens of gay couples are planning to converge on Albany Thursday to witness what would be a historic vote to legalize gay marriage in New York, the sixth state to do so and a potential bellwether in the national gay rights movement. But for that to happen, Gov. Andrew Cuomo's considerable political skills will be tested as never before to engineer one of the biggest social changes in a generation.

The Democrat has been using a kind of shuttle diplomacy to privately test proposals for additional religious exceptions within the Senate's Republican majority. He's talked to individual senators or small groups of lawmakers privately, breaking down barriers and letting them to take his message to others in the Republican caucus.

The proposed protections are aimed

at saving religious groups from discrimination lawsuits if they refuse to recognize gay marriage based on their principles.

Those exceptions — carve-outs in the political lexicon — are intended to coax the state Senate's Republican majority, most who oppose gay marriage, to allow the bill to the Senate where Cuomo thinks it will pass by a bipartisan vote led by Democrats. He's made the issue one of his primary objectives in his first year in office.

"Will the conference allow a vote to be taken, that's the threshold," Cuomo said Wednesday evening. "I'm pro-marriage equality, I'm also pro-First Amendment, I'm pro-church-state separation and I'm pro-religious freedom. So I also have the same concern."

Census estimates show sweeping race change

WASHINGTON (AP) — For the first time, minorities make up a majority of babies in the U.S., part of a sweeping race change and growing age divide between mostly white, older Americans and predominantly minority youths that could reshape government policies.

Preliminary census estimates also show the share of African-American households headed by women — made up of mostly single mothers — now exceeds African-American households with married couples, a sign of declining U.S. marriages overall but also continuing challenges for black youths without involved fathers.

The findings, based on the latest government data, offer a preview of final 2010 census results being released this summer that provide detailed breakdowns by age, race and household relationships such as same-sex couples.

Demographers say the numbers provide the clearest confirmation yet of a changing social order, one in which racial and ethnic minorities will become the U.S. majority by mid-century.

"We're moving toward an acknowledgment that we're living in a different world than the 1950s, where married or two-parent heterosexual couples are now no longer the norm for a lot of kids, especially kids of color," said Laura Speer, coordinator of the Kids Count project for the Baltimore-based Annie E. Casey Foundation.

Economic worries create problems for Obama

WASHINGTON (AP) — Increasingly troubled by the economy, more Americans are convinced the country is headed in the wrong direction and fewer approve of President Barack Obama's economic stewardship. The sentiments pose a new complication for the president's re-election hopes and create an obstacle to a recovery that relies in part on public perceptions.

For the first time this year, less than 50 percent of respondents to an Associated Press-GfK poll say Obama deserves re-election. The new poll shows a virtual split of 48-47 in favor, raising a new hurdle for the president as economic concerns strip away the gloss he briefly gained in May after the death of Osama bin Laden.

What's more, four out of five now believe the economy is in poor shape, with 36 percent calling it "very poor," a new high in AP-GfK polling.

The survey findings track with recent independent data that show a dip in consumer confidence, and they reflect the May uptick in unemployment and a stubbornly depressed housing market. Amid anemic hiring, high gas prices and financial turmoil in Europe, Americans are increasingly interested in saving — not spending — their money, adding yet another

constraint to the economic recovery.

Afghan analysis gives high marks to special ops

WASHINGTON (AP) — An Afghanistan intelligence analysis concludes that U.S. special operations raids and special operations-led outreach to Afghan villages are producing tangible results, but that larger counterinsurgency projects — like the billions of dollars spent to install a credible Afghan government — are lagging, The Associated Press has learned.

The Afghan National Intelligence Estimate produced early this year gives low marks to some of the set pieces of Gen. David Petraeus' counterinsurgency campaign. The general was to appear Thursday before the Senate Intelligence Committee for a confirmation hearing on his nomination as the next CIA director.

While the intelligence report notes the success of the special operations programs and finds conventional troops able to hold the territory they've taken, three U.S. officials who have read it say it notes far less progress on developing Afghan security forces able to hold their own or on installing an Afghan government able to serve its people. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss matters of intelligence.

The report, which covers the final quarter of 2010, says the special operations night raids, combined with village-by-village security operations, have shown more lasting progress in degrading the Taliban and its influence than attempts by conventional military forces to drive out militants, the officials say.

Residents evacuate ahead of historic flooding

MINOT, N.D. (AP) — Many of the thousands who have fled their homes as the Souris River spills into the North Dakota city of Minot have been scrambling to relocate in a region that boasts few vacancies in even the best of times, thanks largely to the state's

oil boom.

Officials said as many as 10,000 people had evacuated Minot by Wednesday, and while a few hundred were staying in temporary city shelters, many others were staying on friends' couches, under tents or even in vehicles.

Aquira Fritt, 23 years old and 7 1/2 months pregnant, planned to spend the night in a van with her boyfriend and 5-year-old son.

"There are no hotel rooms, no campers to rent, nothing," Fritt said Wednesday, shortly before emergency sirens blared to signal the evacuation deadline. "It's very stressful and it's very annoying."

Syrian troops backed by snipers enter village

GUVECCI, Turkey (AP) — Syrian activists said Thursday that troops backed by tanks and snipers have entered a village along the Turkish border as the regime expands its crackdown on a pro-democracy movement that has posed the gravest challenge to President Bashar Assad's rule.

Thousands of Syrian refugees have been flooding into Turkey as the government tries to crush the 3-month-old uprising.

The regime has blamed foreign conspirators and thugs for the unrest, but the protesters deny any foreign influence in their pro-democracy movement.

The Local Coordinating Committees, which track the Syrian protest movement, said Thursday that tanks had entered Khirbet al-Jouz and snipers were spotted on rooftops. The group cited residents on the ground in the village.

Syria has banned foreign journalists and restricted local media, making it nearly impossible to independently confirm the accounts.

On Thursday, AP Television News journalists on the Turkish side of the border saw armed men near the village and an armored personnel carrier on its outskirts.



Community Guide

A resource for newcomers to Big Spring and Howard County

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News in brief

Rain 'mixed blessing' in Texas wildfire fight

STONEHAM (AP) — Firefighters waited to see if rain forecast for Thursday would help or hinder their efforts to battle wildfires that have blackened tens of thousands of acres in Southeast Texas and forced thousands of people to evacuate their homes.

Crews also are hoping that their fire containment lines hold up, especially in Grimes County about 60 miles northwest of Houston, said Jason Curry, spokesman for the federal incident management team coordinating East Texas firefighting efforts.

That fire, which has burned about 5,300 acres and destroyed more than 70 homes and other buildings, was 75 percent contained Wednesday night, Curry said. Two people have been reported injured in the blaze.

More than 2 inches of rain fell on the county Wednesday and the National Weather Service predicted a 30 percent chance of scattered showers and thunderstorms in the area Thursday. More rain would be welcome, but a mixed blessing, Curry said.

"The mud hinders the movement of our equipment," he said.

Nonetheless, all but 26 of the state's 254 counties are under burn bans Thursday, due to an enduring drought that has left much of Texas tinder dry.

Houston 2012 budget includes hundreds of layoffs

HOUSTON (AP) — More than 700 city workers will lose their jobs as part of the 2012 Houston budget during lower tax collections and higher pension obligations.

The Houston City Council on Wednesday approved the \$1.8 general fund budget as part of an overall \$4 billion spending plan. The Houston Chronicle reports the other \$2.2 billion comes from city enterprise funds, such as airport and water utilities that generate user fees.

The budget, which takes effect July 1, is \$100 million less than the current spending plan.

Payment of some pension contributions will be deferred. Private donations will help keep more than a dozen pools and community centers open this summer.

Houston is the state's largest city with nearly 2.3 million people. The city has about 21,000 workers.

Corpus Christi transit to go high tech

CORPUS CHRISTI (AP) — People using public transportation in two South Texas counties will soon have a high-tech way to pay instead of relying mainly on cash.

The Corpus Christi Regional Transportation Authority on July 1 will introduce a magnetic card

system to ride buses.

The Corpus Christi Caller-Times reports riders in Nueces and San Patricio counties will be able to buy passes on board, instead of only at the RTA service center and some grocery stores. Bus drivers will no longer have to manually input fare information.

RTA spokeswoman Karina Paris says fixed-route bus rides, by year's end, will include free wireless Internet service.

The new fare boxes still will accept bills and coins and will issue bus passes that can be used immediately.

Perry addressing Latino government officials group

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Gov. Rick Perry is expected to address the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials about the growing Hispanic population in Texas.

The non-partisan group is holding its national convention in San Antonio. The country's changing demographics, growing educational needs and new sources of energy are the other main topics.

Perry will give the keynote address at noon on Thursday. Hispanic leaders in Texas have criticized Perry recently for sponsoring legislation that would require voters to produce a photo ID before voting and forcing local law police and sheriffs to enforce federal immigration laws. Critics say these measures will lead to racial profiling of Hispanics.

Hispanics make up 48 percent of the Texas population, and Republicans need their support more and more to win elections in the state.

Feds seek to join disabled rights suit over homes

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Advocates for nearly 4,500 developmentally disabled Texans living in nursing homes may be getting a powerful ally in their efforts to force state officials to move them into community-based facilities.

The Justice Department announced Wednesday that it has asked to be allowed to intervene in a federal lawsuit filed against the state that alleges developmentally disabled nursing home residents do not receive proper treatment or the opportunity to transfer to places better suited for their needs.

The lawsuit was filed in December on behalf of a 44-year-old mentally disabled man who has lived in a San Antonio nursing home for eight years, since a hospitalization required him to move out of the community-based home where he had previously lived and had a private bedroom.

The lawsuit claims the man's mental state has deteriorated since the move, leaving him in a "persistent sad mood" with no specialized services.

"Individuals with disabilities have a right to access appropriate community-based services, and the (Obama) administration is committed to helping them do so," Thomas Perez, head of the Justice Department Civil Rights Division, said in a statement announcing the department's request to intervene in the existing lawsuit.

"Unquestionably, it's quite a boost," said Steven Schwartz, a spokesman for attorney Casey Burton of Dallas, the lead lawyer representing the plaintiffs in the lawsuit, and the group Disability Rights Texas.

Man guilty in death of his family

FORT WORTH (AP) — A North Texas man has been convicted of capital murder in the deaths of his pregnant wife, daughter and father-in-law.

The Fort Worth Star-Telegram reports the penalty phase of John Hummel's trial began after the Tarrant County jury returned its verdict in Fort Worth Wednesday afternoon. Prosecutors are seeking the death penalty for the 35-year-old Kennedale man.

Prosecutors say Hummel fatally stabbed his 34-year-old wife Joy on Dec. 17, 2009, and fatally bludgeoned 5-year-old daughter Jodi and his 57-year-

old father-in-law Eddie Bedford with a baseball bat before torching their suburban Fort Worth home. Prosecutors say he killed his family so he could woo a woman he had met at a convenience store.

John Hummel was arrested Dec. 31, 2009, while trying to re-enter the United States from Mexico.

Southwest suspended pilot after radio rant

DALLAS (AP) — Southwest Airlines Co. suspended a pilot whose disparaging comments about gays and older flight attendants were transmitted over an air-traffic control frequency.

The pilot was talking with another crew member and apparently didn't realize that his microphone was on.

Southwest said Wednesday that the pilot was reinstated after going through diversity training. The incident happened in March and was reported this week by KPRC-TV in Houston.

The president of the Southwest flight attendants' union local said his group asked its lawyers Wednesday to consider filing a bias complaint with the federal government.

The union official, Thom McDaniel, said attendants "do important work and should not be demeaned by pilots, managers or anyone." He said Southwest tried to dismiss the pilot's comments by calling them a private conversation.

On a tape of the two-and-a-half minute rant, the pilot can be heard talking about wanting to socialize with co-workers but complaining that many were gay or too old or too heavy. Sometimes using profanity and slurs, he called them "a continuous stream of gays and grannies and grandes." An air-traffic controller in Houston told pilots in the area to check if their microphone was stuck open.

"The actions of this pilot are, without question, inconsistent with the professional behavior and overall respect that we require from our employees," said Southwest spokeswoman Brandy King. She said the pilot was reprimanded and suspended without pay, although she wouldn't say for how long. She said he apologized to air-traffic controllers and his bosses at Southwest.

Perry schedules speech in New Hampshire

AUSTIN (AP) — Texas Gov. Rick Perry has added a second early presidential nominating state to his travel schedule.

The Republican governor who is considering a White House bid has agreed to be in New Hampshire Oct. 28 to speak to the conservative Cornerstone Action Group.

Perry earlier this week scheduled a trip to South Carolina to deliver an Aug. 13 speech to a conservative blogger conference.

New Hampshire's February primary is one of the first nominating contests in the presidential race, along with Iowa and South Carolina. Candidates traditionally spend a lot of time visiting the states to make connections with voters and party leaders.

Face transplant recipient says recovery difficult

DALLAS (AP) — The North Texas man who received the nation's first full-face transplant three months ago says recovery from the surgery has been harder than he expected.

Dallas Wiens of Fort Worth tells The Dallas Morning News that he doesn't have the stamina he had before the surgery. In his words, "The surgery took more of a toll on my body than I thought it would."

But he says the newly transplanted tissue is slowly coming alive. The 26-year-old former electrician, whose face was destroyed in a 2008 electrical accident, says sensation came first to his left cheek — the worst-injured area.

Intensive physical and occupational therapy still lay ahead condition his facial muscles. But despite lacking full control of his face, it still feels like it's always been part of him.



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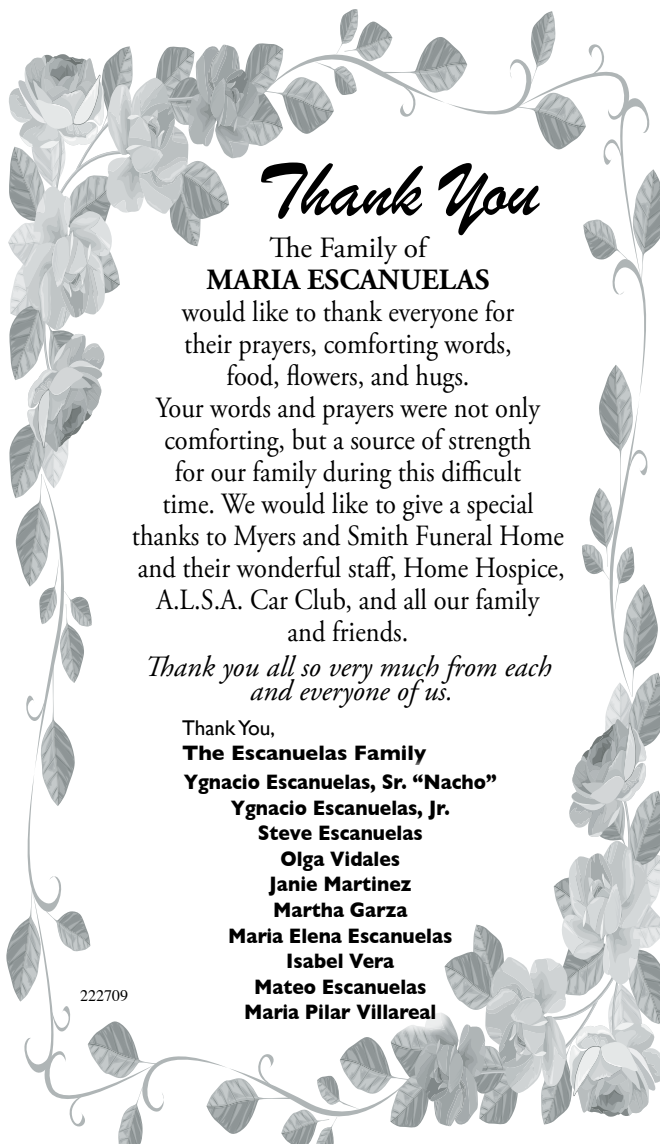
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The Family of
MARIA ESCANUELAS
would like to thank everyone for their prayers, comforting words, food, flowers, and hugs.

Your words and prayers were not only comforting, but a source of strength for our family during this difficult time. We would like to give a special thanks to Myers and Smith Funeral Home and their wonderful staff, Home Hospice, A.L.S.A. Car Club, and all our family and friends.

Thank you all so very much from each and everyone of us.

Thank You,
The Escanuelas Family
Ygnacio Escanuelas, Sr. "Nacho"
Ygnacio Escanuelas, Jr.
Steve Escanuelas
Olga Vidales
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Casual Cooking *with Kris Soliz*

Welcoming readers to my world where I enjoy simple, sometimes quick, but always delicious meals.

This week's recipe is inspired by some staples in our home,

Mexican food and chicken. A couple of weeks ago, I was sitting outside just hanging out with myself and thinking of new dishes and flavors to try. I came up with this recipe and I told my husband I would be making it in a couple of days. Now keep in mind my husband is a



KRIS SOLIZ

Wine and cheese fundraiser tonight at Hangar 25

Don't forget the wine and cheese fundraiser from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. tonight at Hangar 25 Air Museum.

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A John Deere Gator will be given away at the event. Tickets for that are \$25 each.

little picky in the taste bud department.

He asked, "what is florentine?"

I said, "It's spinach."

He suggested that he shouldn't have asked and I said "No, you shouldn't have."

Actually, he loves fresh spinach as a salad, but not once it is cooked.

So, disguised it with flavor and cheese, another staple and he was quite fine with new dish. I made homemade enchilada sauce but you can use canned. Keep in mind that there is no tomato sauce or chili powder in enchilada sauce.

I put everything but the sauce and cheese in a food processor and set the dial on fine. If you do not have a processor, hand chop everything super small and mix it together in a bowl.

Here is one step I do that is a little different when it comes to rolling the corn tortillas. A few years ago I was making some enchiladas and didn't have any oil to warm the tortillas in, so I grabbed a Ziploc freezer bag, placed two corn tortillas inside and a splash of water to steam them. I placed it

in the microwave and cook for 30-40 seconds. When opening the bag, be careful not to burn yourself from the steam. Dump them on a plate and separate them, add two more to the bag and a splash of water until you are finished. While each batch is in the microwave that gives me the time to fill and roll my tortillas.

We ate these with my homemade spanish rice, which I think is the best and will not give that recipe out. You have to have a few food secrets in life to keep things spiced up. Enjoy!

Mexican Chicken Florentine Enchiladas

- 2 to 4 boneless, skinless chicken breasts, cooked and chopped
- 2 tbs of menudo seasoning
- 3 green onions
- 3 garlic cloves
- 1 cup of bagged baby spinach
- 1 lbs of fresh cilantro
- shredded cheddar cheese
- 20 corn tortillas
- red enchilada sauce
- salt to taste

Cook chicken ahead if you can. Place in food processor or finely chop chicken, onion, garlic, spinach and cilantro. Set a large skillet with a splash of oil on medium/high and pour in the ingredients. Add menudo mix and salt to taste, stir well and warm through. Fill and roll your enchiladas with the chicken and some cheese, place in a baking dish and cover with red sauce. Top with a little more cheese and bake for about 25 minutes in oven at 350 degrees. Makes 16-20 enchiladas.

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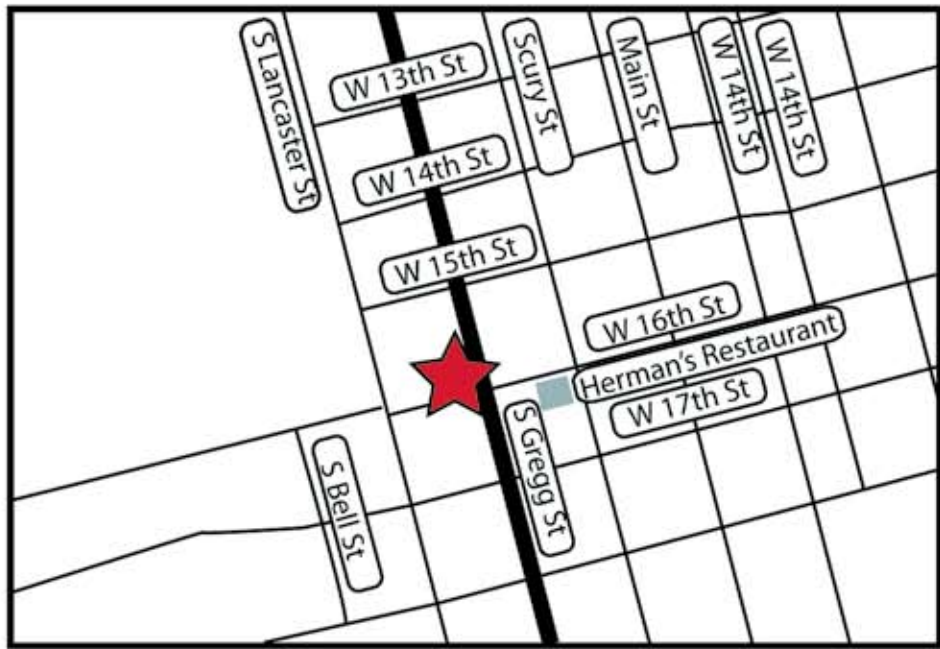
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GOP reps clash over abortion language

By WILL WEISSERT

Associated Press

AUSTIN — Texas House Republicans are fighting among themselves over language referring to abortions that is contained in a major health care reform bill — a clash that has delayed the measure and could even derail it as a special legislative session runs short on time.

At issue is the bill's language about abortions in cases of fetal abnormality. As approved by the House, the bill banned state funding for hospital districts that finance abortions except in cases where the life or overall health of the mother is at risk. A conference committee reconciling that version with one passed by the Senate

added a second exception in those cases where a fetus has a severe abnormality.

A group of lawmakers led by Bryan Hughes, R-Mineola, is worried the language on fetal abnormalities is too broad.

"We want to make the language as tight and as narrow as we can," Hughes said, adding that he had spoken with two pediatricians who expressed concern that, as the bill stands, it could allow for abortions of children with a variety of conditions, including Down syndrome.

The bill's author, Richmond Republican Rep. John Zerwas, said the bill's current language leaves determination of fetal abnormalities up to doctors.

Republicans control 101 of

the 150 House seats, and its members met Tuesday to discuss Senate Bill 7, which includes changes to Medicaid and calls for forming health care cooperatives and the privatization of health programs in South Texas. What was supposed to have been a short discussion lasted close to 45 minutes, and ultimately delayed the start of the House's afternoon session.

"It was one of the longest meetings we've had," Carrie Simmons, chief of staff for the caucus, said Wednesday.

Zerwas, himself a physician, said Hughes is holding out for a list of specific ailments that would allow abortions to be performed and, "I don't think lists like that are ever complete."

Hughes would not say if he wants an ailment list, only that "we're taking it seriously. There's a lot at stake."

According to the Legislative Budget Board, the entire bill could save Texas \$467 million, almost two-thirds of that coming from Medicaid, which is run jointly by the state and federal government.

The House next reconvenes Friday, but the Senate could vote to pass the conference committee version of the bill before then — meaning that the House couldn't make further changes without throwing the measure out and starting from scratch. The special legislative session is scheduled to end June 29.

"Our back could be up against the wall," Zerwas

said. "I'm a little concerned that we're running out of time here."

Zerwas said "a fairly sizeable" group of Republicans has sided with Hughes, though a formal count was not taken during the caucus meeting.

"They're willing to tank this whole bill because of this difference of opinion on this language and it is totally irresponsible in my opinion," he said. "This is happening when what could really be historic legislation in terms of its pro-life amendments has a chance to pass."

Democrats opposed the bill during the regular session and still oppose it, said Jessica Farrar, leader of the House Democratic Caucus.

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In brief

Senate moves to create redistricting commission

AUSTIN (AP) — Senators voted to create a non-partisan civilian commission to redraw Congressional districts. The measure passed 16-13 and now goes to the House for consideration.

Currently lawmakers draw Congressional districts every ten years, usually along partisan lines. Every new map since 1970 has ended up in federal court.

Sen. Jeff Wentworth's bill would have four members appointed by House Democrats and four members appointed

by a bipartisan Senate group.

A ninth, non-voting member would chair the commission, which would draw the maps.

The only person to speak against the bill was Republican Sen. Craig Estes who argued the bill violates the Texas Constitution.

GOP Caucus head plays hooky in Bahamas

AUSTIN (AP) — The leader of the Texas House Republican Caucus admitted Wednesday that he's been missing work while on a family vacation in the Bahamas, even as the chamber struggles to make quorum during the Legislature's special session.

Rep. Larry Taylor, R-Friendswood, said he has "been absent this week due to a family gathering that was scheduled months ago, well in advance of the special session being called."

The special session is scheduled to run through June 29.

"This gathering has great personal significance for my family and I could not cancel our plans," Taylor, an avid surfer who previously has publicly sung the praises of his hobby, said in a statement.

"The Republican Caucus is functioning just fine under the capable hands of our Vice Chairman, Myra Crownover, as called for under the Caucus by-laws," his statement said.

Taylor's chief of staff, Cari Christman, said he planned to be back in Austin on Friday. Taylor said he had not sought per diem reimbursement for the days when the House was in session but he was absent.

"All I can say is that Democrats are here, and we're working hard to protect the people of Texas against Perry's politically driven agenda," said Jessica Farrar, D-Houston, heads the House Democratic Caucus, referring to Gov. Rick Perry, who decides what matters lawmakers can consider during the special session.

Taylor missed a Republican Caucus meeting Tuesday where party lawmakers argued among themselves over abortion language in a key health care bill. That fight has kept the measure from a full House vote.

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Courtesy photo

Playmakers 99 12U fast pitch travel team took home 1st place honors recently at the ASA 8 Game in Midland.

Pictured standing from left: Alyssa Benitez (Snyder), Ysabel Soliz (Big Spring), Destiny Mata (Big Spring), Rylee Morales (San Angelo) and Kirstie Pierce (Snyder). Pictured kneeling from left: Karson Botts (Snyder), Kendall Phillips (Forsan), Chloe James (Snyder), Marisa Cruz (San Angelo) and Tenea Love (San Angelo). Not pictured: Kylee Davis (Snyder).

Rodeo to become conference sport

By **CINDY SMITH**

Special to the Herald

The Western Junior College Athletic Conference (WJ-CAC) has adopted Men's and Women's Rodeo as a WJ-CAC Conference Sport during their regularly scheduled spring meeting.

Within the conference, six of the 10 conference colleges participate in rodeo. The six colleges include Howard College, Clarendon College, Frank Phillips College, New Mexico Junior College, Odessa College and Western Texas College. Each school competes within the college rodeo Southwest Region.

"The Athletic Directors were in unanimous support to bring this forward to the WJ-CAC Presidents for approval," said

John Green, WJ-CAC conference commissioner.

The rodeos will still be conducted under the rules and guidelines of the National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association (NIRA).

The Southwest Region conducts 10 events each year, one of which is the highly regarded Howard College rodeo. The schedule, standings and other information in regards to the collegiate rodeo programs will continue to be found on the NIRA website.

"We're excited to add rodeo as a conference sport," said Britt Smith, Howard College athletic director and head baseball coach. "It won't change anything regarding the way

See **RODEO**, Page 2B

Astros pound Feliz, avoid sweep in Arlington

ARLINGTON (AP) — Rangers closer Neftali Feliz wanted the ball.

Even though he had thrown a season-high two innings the day before, Feliz insisted he was fine to pitch again Wednesday night and manager Ron Washington was willing to let him.

Feliz's velocity was there but his location wasn't, and the Houston Astros took advantage,

scoring four runs in the ninth inning to pull out a 5-3 victory.

"I felt good, but I just didn't have the good result," Feliz said. "My arm was OK. I didn't feel anything that wouldn't let me come in today."

Feliz (0-1) came in with a 3-1 lead and immediately gave up a double. He surrendered four hits, including a two-run homer to pinch-hitter Matt Downs, while

recording only two outs. It was his fourth blown save, total coming into this season.

Washington said before the game that Feliz looked "effortless" in throwing 35 pitches Tuesday night. He insisted afterward there was no carry-over effect.

"He's the closer," Washington said. "He was in the game. Just

didn't get it done."

The Astros were almost good to see Feliz.

"I'm sure his arm wasn't as live as it would've been on a fresh night," Downs said. "We were actually surprised to see him in there. We figured we would see somebody else. Thank goodness we did."

Houston was two outs from getting swept in the first half of the Lone Star Series, but wound

up heading home feeling pretty good about things. The Astros may have the worst record in the majors (28-48), but they have won 10 wins in their final at-bat and they just went 3-3 on this road trip. They are off Thursday before playing nine straight at home, all against AL teams, including three more against Texas.

"There's no doubt it's a confidence-booster,

just with the guys battling so much," Houston manager Brad Mills said. "That was sweet."

Carlos Lee greeted Feliz with a bouncer just over third base that rolled into the left-field corner for a double. Lee came home on a double by Chris Johnson before an infield single by Jason Michaels. Johnson scored on a passed ball

See **TEXAS**, Page 2B

West Texas fishing report

ALAN HENRY: Water lightly stained; 79-86 degrees; 3.04' low. Black bass are good on Texas rigs, jigs and Caroline rigs. Crappie are good on minnows and jigs. Catfish are fair to good on prepared bait.

ARROWHEAD: Water semi-turbid; 80 degrees; 5.67' low. Largemouth bass are fair on spinnerbaits and moving to shallower water. Some crappie are still spawning shallow and fishing is good off the dam, state park piers and Henrietta and Deer Creek bridges on chartreuse jigs or minnows. White bass are good and schooling. Blue catfish are good on cut shad while anchored in 5-20 feet and on juglines.

COLORADO CITY: 13.67' low. No report available.

FORT PHANTOM HILL: Water clear; 79-86 degrees; 4.31' low. Black bass are fair to good on medium running crankbaits, Texas rigs and drop shot rigs. Crappie are fair to good on live minnows. White bass are fair to good on chrome Rat-L-Traps. Catfish are good on nightcrawlers.

HUBBARD CREEK: 80-85 degrees; 10.53' low. Black bass are good on shaky head jigs, Texas rigs, spinnerbaits and medium running shad pattern crankbaits. Crappie are good on jigs and minnows over deeper structure. Catfish are fair to good on prepared bait and nightcrawlers.

NASWORTHY: No report available.

OAK CREEK: Water stained; 79-85 degrees;

9.14' low. Black bass are fair to good on topwaters early, later switching to Texas rigs, crankbaits and drop shot rigs. Crappie are good on live minnows and jigs. Catfish are fair to good on nightcrawlers and cut shad.

O.H. IVIE: Water stained; 81-87 degrees; 29.32' low. Black bass are good on weightless 5" Senkos, shallow running pattern crankbaits, Rat-L-Traps and Texas rigs. Crappie are fair to good on minnows and jigs. White bass are good on Rooster Tails. Catfish are good on nightcrawlers.

POSSUM KINGDOM: Water stained; 79-86 degrees; 2.27' low. Black bass are good on topwaters early, later switching to Texas rigs, jigs and deep diving H2O crankbaits. Crappie are good on minnows and jigs. White bass are fair to good on slabs and Little Georges. Striped bass are fair on live shad. Catfish are fair to good on cut shad and nightcrawlers.

SPENCE: 73.99' low. No report available.

STAMFORD: 1.75' high. No report available.

SWEETWATER: Water murky; 79-85 degrees; 8.45' low. Black bass are fair on jigs, Texas rigs, Carolina rigs and shallow running crankbaits. Crappie are fair to good on live minnows. Catfish are fair to good on prepared bait and nightcrawlers.

WHITE RIVER: Water stained; 81-86 degrees; 17.95' low. Black bass are fair on square bill crankbaits, jigs and Texas rigs. Catfish are fair on prepared bait.

U.S. to face Mexico for Gold Cup

HOUSTON (AP) — The United States and Mexico both turned to their stars to advance to the Gold Cup final.

The Americans defeated Panama 1-0 and El Tri beat Honduras 2-0 in Wednesday's semifinals, setting up another championship final between the two power teams of the CONCACAF region.

Mexico and the U.S. have won nine of the 10 Gold Cups contested since the biennial tournament took its current form in 1991. The United States beat El Tri 2-1 in 2007, and Mexico won 5-0 in the 2009 final.

"We know what the U.S. represents," Mexican forward Aldo de Nigris said. "We know it will be a tough

rival, but we have to worry about ourselves, and, for me personally, it provides extra motivation because I've never played one of these finals."

Before the Americans could think about Mexico, they had to redeem a stunning loss to Panama on June 11.

Clint Dempsey scored in the 77th minute off an assist from Landon Donovan, and the Americans earned a 1-0 victory on Wednesday. The United States has shut out its last three opponents since the 2-1 loss to Panama in the group stage.

"It was a really good team effort," American coach Bob Bradley said. "It was a hard game, for sure. I thought the

mentality of the group was looking for ways to win."

Freddy Adu made a long-awaited return to American soccer in the second half, and set up the winning play with a long, slanting pass to Donovan, who played in his 27th consecutive Gold Cup match to extend his own record.

Donovan was benched at the start for the second straight game, and joined the action in the second half. He tracked down Adu's cross, then threaded a pinpoint pass through the Panama defense to Dempsey, who slid as he redirected the ball into the low corner of the net.

"It was a great ball from

See **CUP**, Page 2B

BRIEFS

Free Junior Tennis Clinics

Free Junior Tennis Clinics will be held every Monday night from 5:30 to 6:30 at Figure 7. The cost is free and will be conducted by local coaches, players and pros.

Just bring a racquet (we have some if you don't). Balls and water will be provided. For more information, call Dana Jones at 432-557-3831.

Best of the Rest Golf Tournament June 25-26

Comanche Trail Golf Course presents their 31st annual Best of the Rest 2-man scramble golf tournament June 25-26.

The tournament is open to the first 80 teams that register and entrants will be pre-flighted. There will be food on the course each day.

Entry fee is \$200 per team.

For more information, call the pro shop at 432-264-2366.

Howard County A&M Club Westexags Shootout July 16

A golf tournament with a four-man Sherrill scramble format will be held July 16 at Comanche Trail Golf Course. The start time will be 8 a.m. The cost is \$75 per person (carts not included). Respond by July 1 to westexags@hotmail.com or by calling 432-263-7969.

Coahoma Girls' Softball All-Stars Annual Rag Ball Tournament June 24-26

The Coahoma Girls' Softball All-Stars are hosting their annual Rag Ball Tournament. The event will be held June 24-26.

Vendors are needed for the event.

For information, call Billy Newton at 325-207-2640 or Amy Overton at 432-816-1968.

Summer Rag Ball League Sign-ups through June 27

The 2011 Summer Rag Ball League is taking sign-ups through June 27. The games will be played Mondays and - if needed - Tuesdays. The season will last eight weeks and will feature a tournament at the end. Prizes will be given during the season.

For more information, call 432-816-0050.

Volleyball Camp July 25-28

BSISD's volleyball camp will be held July 25-28, between the hours of 8 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. The camp is open to students in grades 3-8 for a fee of \$25. T-shirts can also be purchased for \$10. Call 432-264-3662 for information.

TEXAS

Continued from Page 1B

before Downs' fourth homer of the season and the quick trot.

"I probably had a little adrenaline going at that time," Downs said. "It probably kicked in, a little excited."

Before that, the Astros hadn't homered in eight games, their longest such streak since August 1992.

Downs has reached safely in nine of his last 12 pinch-hit appearances (four hits, four walks and a hit by pitch). When Mills decided to pinch-hit for shortstop Clint Barmes, a .215 hitter, he knew who he was going to use.

"He's done a real good job off the bench, swinging the bat for us. That was a key spot for him," Mills said. "He's been hitting the ball out of the ballpark, but we just felt real confident with him putting a good swing on the ball, wherever it went."

That made a winner of reliever Mark Melancon (5-1), who pitched a perfect ninth after being given a lead. The right-hander had walked the

first two batters he faced when he took over to start the eighth before Michael Young's RBI double gave Texas a 3-1 lead.

The meltdown by Feliz wasted an impressive outing by Rangers starter Colby Lewis, who dealt with neck spasms while throwing seven scoreless innings.

Lewis said going with Feliz was "absolutely" the right move.

"That's his job, that's what he does," Lewis said. "It's one of those situations where it wasn't his night. It stinks that we didn't win. ... We had an opportunity and let it slip away."

Nelson Cruz put the Rangers up 2-0 when he led off the fifth with a 415-foot homer to left.

That was the 20th homer this season allowed by Brett Myers, who came into the game tied with Lewis for the most homers allowed this season. The Rangers got their first run on a wild pitch by Myers, who struck out six while allowing two runs over six innings.

Dave Bush benefited from a double-play grounder that got out Houston's two fastest runners after taking

over for Lewis, who allowed only three hits and struck out eight.

Bush gave up singles to pinch-hitter Angel Sanchez and leadoff hitter Michael Bourn to start the eighth. Sanchez scored when Jason Bourgeois hit into a double play that also got out Bourn. Bourgeois and Bourn have combined for 49 stolen bases.

Ian Kinsler led off the Texas first with a single and a stolen base. He went to third on a groundout and scored on a wild pitch while Adrian Beltre was at the plate before striking out to end the inning.

Notes: The four runs in the ninth were the most the Rangers have allowed all season. ... This was just the third time in 39 tries that Texas lost when leading going into the ninth inning. ... The Rangers had won four straight against Houston, and four in a row against the Astros in Arlington. ... Josh Hamilton's single in the fourth gave him a 17-game hitting streak in interleague games at Rangers Ballpark. ... Texas is off Thursday, then continues interleague play against the New York Mets.

CUP

Continued from Page 1B

Freddy to open up London," Dempsey said. "All I had to do was put my foot on it."

Panama lost to the Americans in the knockout stage for the fourth straight time. Coach Julio Dely Valdes said his team surprised the Americans in their earlier match, and the U.S. team was more focused this time.

"It was a very intense game, very few chances

for both teams," Dely Valdessa said. "I'm pleased with my team's performance, they fought until the very end."

Adu played for the national team for the first time since 2009.

Bradley said Adu struggled in early practices for the tournament, but has steadily regained his form.

"From the start of this camp, Freddy's made progress," Bradley said. "The opportunity (Wednesday) was earned on his part."

"You could see him

getting sharper, his confidence coming back. He was a nice part of the play that led to the goal.

"It's important for him, he earned this opportunity and I think everybody on this team feels good about that."

The United States is unbeaten in 22 of its last 24 games in the Gold Cup, a tournament with 12 teams from Central and North American and the Caribbean.

The Americans improved to 7-1-2 against Panama all-time.

Mexico is the only team to have beaten the U.S. in the knockout stage of the Gold Cup, with wins in 1993, '98 and 2009.

And the Mexicans have looked more dominant so far in this tournament, outscoring their five opponents by an aggregate score of 18-2.

Mexico had trouble with Honduras in the semifinal, with neither team scoring through 90 minutes of regulation.

De Nigris and Javier "El Chicharito" Hernandez scored off corner kicks early in overtime to propel Mexico into its third straight Gold Cup final.

RODEO

Continued from Page 1B

they conduct their sport, but it will give us a chance to reward their efforts in a new arena and give those student athletes the recognition they deserve."

As an official sport of the WJCAC, the rodeo teams will compete for a Western Junior College Athletic Conference Championship as well as individual honors such as being named to the WJCAC All Conference Team.

Howard College is no stranger to national recognition in the rodeo world as the 2010 All-Around Cowboy and Steer Wrestling Reserve Cham-

pion Jason Schaffer represented the Hawks as well as Kaci Smith (barrel racing) and Cullen Teller (team roping) who competed in the College National Finals Rodeo earlier this month.

Smith came home with an 11th place finish in the nation, while Teller secured the sixth place spot as a heeler in team roping.

"The sport of collegiate rodeo has great tradition and the WJCAC has such strong teams, this decision by the conference will allow us to highlight this great sport in a bigger, better way," said Green. "The talented cowboys and cowgirls from across the world will make for fierce competition to claim the title of WJCAC Conference Champion."

Williams defeats Krumm
in tough three-hour match

Advances to second round at Wimbledon

WIMBLEDON (AP) — After 15 years of coming to the All England Club, Venus Williams knows what it takes to pull out a tough match on the biggest stage in tennis.

Even though she only returned to tournament play last week after a five-month layoff with a hip injury, the 31-year-old Williams summoned all her experience and big-point savvy to rally for a three-set Centre Court victory that kept her in contention for a sixth Wimbledon title.

"In terms of feeling age, I definitely feel the experience of it all, and I think that's huge for me," Williams said after overcoming 40-year-old Japanese player Kimiko Date-Krumm 6-7 (6), 6-3, 8-6 in nearly three hours on Wednesday to move into the third round.

"The experience is very important on the court, because that's what really gets you to the win besides the skill and everything else. If anything, that's definitely an advantage."

In a match played with rain pelting the roof over Centre Court, Williams was down 5-1 in the first set before fighting her way back against a gritty opponent who pushed her around the court.

The first set lasted 65 minutes, the third went 69 minutes. Overall, the match took 2 hours, 56 minutes.

By comparison, Williams won her first match against Akgul Amanmuradova on Monday in 59 minutes.

Williams came up with big serves when she needed it against Date-Krumm, the second oldest woman to reach the second round here in the Open era after Martina Navratilova.

"More than anything I've learned I'm very competitive," Williams said. "Just no matter what the score, very positive. Just keep

fighting."

It was the first time the two players — who have a combined age of 71 — have met in their long careers.

The 57th-ranked Date-Krumm was a throwback Wednesday, hitting flat groundstrokes and sneaking into the net whenever she could for soft drop volleys.

"She just played unbelievable today," Williams said. "I just thought today was a perfect storm for her to try to get a win. Thankfully, I had some answers."

Date-Krumm made her Wimbledon debut in 1989, reached the semifinals in 1996 and retired later that year until her return in 2008.

"I played my tennis and (showed) I can fight with Venus also," she said. "She's a five-time champion here. She's a great player. So I can fight with her. It was a very, very good match for me."

Williams is in the opposite half of the draw from her sister Serena, a four-time champion who sobbed with relief after winning her first-round match on Tuesday. This was her return to Grand Slam tennis after nearly a year out with health problems.

"I think she showed that once you're a champion, you're always a champion," Venus said of her younger sibling.

"Regardless of what happened to her off the court, she still believes in herself. ... I don't think anybody else will ever understand what she's been through."

The tournament is about a dozen matches behind schedule due to rain delays, with more showers forecast Thursday.

Play on Centre Court is guaranteed because of the roof, meaning fifth-seeded Robin Soderling will lead off Thursday against 2002 champion Lleyton Hewitt.

They will be followed by French Open champion Li Na of China against Sabine Lisicki and six-time winner Roger Federer against Adrian Panatta of France.

The Court 1 schedule features matches involving Novak Djokovic, Jo-Wilfried Tsonga and 2004 champion Maria Sharapova.

Serena Williams is scheduled to play on Court 2 against Simona Halep of Romania. Top-ranked Caroline Wozniacki is also due on Court 2, against Virginie Razzano.

Other winners Wednesday included defending men's champion Rafael Nadal, fourth-seeded Andy Murray and three-time runner-up Andy Roddick.

They all won convincingly in straight sets. The roof remained over Centre Court for Nadal's 6-3, 6-2, 6-4 win over Ryan Sweeting of the United States.

"The Wimbledon Centre Court with the roof or without the roof, is probably the best court of the world," Nadal said.

Nadal's next opponent will be Gilles Muller of Luxembourg, who advanced after Canadian Milos Raonic retired with a hip injury while leading 3-2 in the first set Wednesday.

Muller is the only man other than Federer to beat Nadal at the All England Club since 2005.

Six years ago, Muller defeated the Spaniard 6-4, 4-6, 6-3, 6-4 in the second round. Nadal is 28-2 at Wimbledon since then, with both losses coming in the final against Federer.

"Was a long time (ago), but he beat me," Nadal said of Muller. "Gilles is a very dangerous player. He has a very good serve, good volley."

"He's especially very dangerous player in this kind of surface. So it will be tough match for me."

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Tomorrow's Horoscope

Mars squares off with Neptune, the dreamer, and the sun joins to form a harmonious trine. Some of our lofty expectations will be met. More often, the plot takes unexpected turns. The next three days are like a long summer roller-coaster ride — exciting highs and lows, thrills and dips, and occasional screams.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Maybe this is not exactly the life of your dreams, but when you assess your experiences with the people you love, look around at all you have acquired. You just may decide that this is the good life.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Instead of struggling with your inner critical voice (which, by the way, will be especially loud now), try to befriend it. Listen to what it has to say and respond, "I see your point, but I respectfully disagree."

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You can easily expand your intellectual horizons by simply avoiding mind-numbing activities such as losing yourself in entertainment you've already seen or in an ocean of Internet correspondence.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). If you feel distant from a person, you are less likely to care about whether or not your actions please that person. Create a closeness with loved ones that will make your relationship impervious to apathy.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You will be uplifted by the camaraderie of music. Go where you can listen to music with others. A song passes through you like an invisible thread, connecting you to your fellow music lovers.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). There's a rivalry going on. Emotions are high, alliances are clear, and everyone wants his own side to win.

Acknowledge how important this is to those around you, even though you may be ambivalent about the outcome.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). The correct answer is obvious, though many people around you will choose the incorrect response. Some will cave to the social pressure. Stand strong for what is right.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). The truth sometimes makes you cry, and you can move others to tears by stating the truth through your various means of self-expression. If you dabble in the arts, today's "dabblings" will be brilliant.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You do what you do because you want to love and be loved. Others may not respond in the manner you would prefer, but they still feel your intention and return the feelings.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Through routine activities, you connect with loved ones in a meaningful way. There is something sacred about the way you give your friendship, and others will honor it as such.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). In a group situation, there is a diffusion of responsibility. Because of the number of people involved, many won't be inclined to try as hard. However, if everyone gives it his best, you'll move mountains together.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You have to be exposed to an idea repeatedly before it will take hold and seem like an excellent idea. That's why repeatedly seeing people make a healthy choice will prompt you to do the same.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (June 23). You'll have specific tasks to accomplish this year. List them. You'll exist in your peak performance zone in July, so challenge yourself. Singles enjoy a mutual attraction in August that quickly turns into a relationship. Couples adventure together in August and connect with family, too.

Develop your talent in October. Capricorn and Aquarius people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 5, 2, 17, 30 and 16.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS: I subscribe to a service that alerts me to astrological changes that will affect my life. I received a letter in the mail that stated my luck would change on May 5, and my husband got very sick after that. He is in jail, but he was taken to a hospital. Now he is doing better and is back in jail. This service wants me to send more money for alerts next year. I want to know what will happen, but I'm afraid, especially since I can't do anything about it. What should I do? I'm a superstitious Scorpio."

Take back your power. Instead of waiting to find out what will happen and then reacting, decide what you want to happen and get to work. Each sign has a superpower. Scorpio's superpower is "transformation." And though you cannot change your husband, his health or the penal system, you can work on yourself and your own life. What improvements can you make to yourself and to your part of the

world? You may decide to seek guidance from external sources, but don't rely on them more than your own internal compass. You are wiser, more able and more magical than you know. Trust yourself.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Grammy Award-winner Jason Mraz fuses reggae, pop, rock, folk, jazz, hip hop and more to create a sonic style all his own. He'll now be singing "I'm Yours" to his fiancée, fellow singer/songwriter and former model Tristan Prettyman. Mraz was born under a soulful Cancer sun, and his natal Mercury, the communication planet, is in the witty, verbose sign of Gemini.

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

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♥ A 8
♦ 10 9 5 2
♣ Q J 10 9
WEST
♠ 7 4 3
♥ 9 5 2
♦ K Q J 4
♣ K 6 2
EAST
♠ 8 6
♥ 7 4 3
♦ A 7 6 3
♣ 8 7 5 3
SOUTH
♠ K J 9 5 2
♥ K Q J 10 6
♦ 8
♣ A 4

The bidding:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass 4 NT Pass
5 ♥ Pass 6 ♣

Opening lead — king of diamonds. There is nothing complicated about the mechanics of a dummy reversal. Nevertheless, it is one of the hardest plays to recognize because it runs counter to the way declarer usually proceeds in a suit contract.

Assume West leads the king of diamonds against six spades and continues with the queen, which South ruffs. Declarer starts with 11 sure tricks — five spades, five hearts

and a club — and it seems that he must rely on a club finesse for his 12th trick.

However, there is a line of play that offers a much better chance to make the slam — one that might allow South to score six trump tricks instead of the obvious five. Accordingly, at trick three declarer leads a spade to dummy's ten and ruffs another diamond. He then crosses to the queen of spades and ruffs dummy's last diamond.

This runs South out of trumps — he has led trumps twice and ruffed three diamonds — but that is precisely what he has been aiming for. He next leads a heart to dummy's ace and cashes the ace of spades, discarding the four of clubs. South then scores the remaining tricks with the ace of clubs and K-Q-J-10 of hearts.

It is certainly not easy to visualize at the outset that declarer can discard his potential club loser on one of dummy's trumps. That is why dummy reversals are so often overlooked.

Note that ruffing dummy's diamonds will be successful more often in the long run than relying on a club finesse. The latter approach wins half the time, while the spades will divide 3-2 two-thirds of the time.

Tomorrow: Two double-dummy problems.
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| 5:PM :30 | News ABC | Alma Notic. | Lopez News | News News | Noticias Noticiero | News News | King King | Israel Alan Lee | News Business | '70s Cash Cab | Cash Cab | Adams, Monica Potter | | Bones | 106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live | Phineas Good | Around Pardon | SportsCenter |
| 6:PM :30 | Jeopardy! | Cuando Me Wheel | Two Men Ent | News Ent | Caso Cer-rado | Millionaire | Seinfeld Seinfeld | Dr. Denis CCM | PBS News-Hour | Seinfeld Seinfeld | Deadliest Catch | | (:20) Jail Jail | Bones | | Wizards Good | College Baseball: 2011 NBA Draft | NBA Draft |
| 7:PM :30 | Wipeout | Teresa (SS) | So You Think Rules | Big Bang | Mi Corazón Insiste | Commun 30 Rock | Taladega Nights: Ricky Bobby | Dr. Denis Brad | Daytrip Parks | The Vampire Diaries | Deadliest Catch | Movie: A League of Their Own, Madonna | (:20) Jail IMPACT Wrestling | Bones | Movie: Baby Boy, A.J. Johnson | Wizards Good | NCAA World Series, Game 10: Teams TBA. | NBA Draft |
| 8:PM :30 | Expedition Imp. | Triunfo del Amor | Glee | CSI: Crime Scene | Herederos-Monte | Office Parks | Light of the Southwest | | Antiques Roadshow | Nikita | Swords: Life | | Bones | | Wizards Good | My Babysitter's a Vampire | MLS Soccer: Red Bulls at Sounders | |
| 9:PM :30 | Rookie Blue | El Equipo (SS) | Simpsons How I Met | The Mental-ist | La Casa de al Lado | Love Bites | Fam. Guy Fam. Guy | | Pioneers, Television | Payne Browns | Swords: Life | | Bones | | Wizards Good | | | |
| 10:PM :30 | News Nightline | Impacto Noticiero | How I Met Raymond | News Letterman | Noticias Titulares | News Jay Leno | Conan | CCM | Charlie Rose | Roseanne Roseanne | Deadliest Catch | The Killing | Baja 1000 MAN | CSI: NY | The Mo'Nique | Wizards | | |
| 11:PM :30 | Jimmy Kim-mel Live | Para Volver a Amar | Law & Order: SVU | Late | Decisions (SS) | Late Night | Lopez Tonight | Scrivner Schwarzw | World T. Smiley (Off Air) | South Pk South Pk | Swords: Life | (:02) Movie: A League of Their Own, Madonna | MAN | Franklin & Bash | Wendy Williams | Wizards | Baseball Tonight | SportsCenter |
| 12:AM :30 | Extra Paid | Destinando Amor | Raymond | Insider | Pagado | News | Conan | Moving for Christ | | TBA | Swords: Life | | Trailers MAN | CSI: NY | Movie: Baby Boy, A.J. Johnson | Hannah Deck | NFL Live NFL Yrbk. NFL Yrbk. | SportsCenter |
| 1:AM :30 | Paid | Mujer Cero | TMZ King-Hill | Ent | Pagado | Poker After Dark | Lopez Tonight | Light of the Southwest | | Influence Born | Cook County Jail | | The Shield | Rizzoli & Isles | | Deck | NASCAR | SportsCenter |

DENNIS THE MENACE

6-23

"DENNIS! DO YOU HAVE ONE OF THE CELL PHONES? WHAT'S THAT BUBBLING SOUND?"

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

6-23

"Your drawings aren't very accurate, but you do draw fast."

HAGAR

6-23

MOMMA, WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF YOU HAD IT TO DO ALL OVER AGAIN?

I'D WAIT AWHILE

UHP...

BC

6-23

THE WORLD WILL END TOMORROW

WHAT IF YOU'RE WRONG?

WHO'S GONNA KNOW?

WIZARD OF ID

6-23

THE KING IS GOING TO BE SO PROUD OF ME! NOT ONLY DID I GET ALL MY SOLDIERS HOME... I CAPTURED A SHIP

ONWARD, GENTLEMEN! SET A COURSE FOR THE NORTH!

HEY! BRING BACK MY DINGHY!

BLONDIE

6-23

IT SAYS HERE THAT MEN WHO EXERCISE DAILY ADD TWO TO THREE YEARS TO THEIR LIFE EXPECTANCY

AND WHAT DO THEY USE THOSE EXTRA YEARS FOR?

THEY TAKE NAPS ON THE SOFA

I'M ALREADY WAY AHEAD OF THE GAME

AGNES

6-23

ARE YOU STILL THE WORM WHISPERER?

NO... I AM NOW THEIR QUEEN.

DID THEY MAKE YOU PUT ON THAT OUTFIT?

NO... IT WAS MY DECISION. WORM QUEENS SHOULD LOOK REGAL.

I HEAR SOGGY-SOUNDING SQUEEKS.

WORM MOCKERY HAS A VERY ODD TONE.

HI AND LOIS

6-23

CONGRATULATIONS! YOU'RE BOTH NOW "RISING THIRD-GRADERS!"

DARN! I WAS HOPING TO STAY BACK.

I DON'T LIKE BEING IN THE SAME GRADE AS YOU EITHER.

THE OTHER COAST

6-23

I'D LIKE A MEDIUM COFFEE...

I WANT IT DECAF. NO MILK, NO FAT, NO SUGAR, 100 PERCENT ORGANIC BEANS, CERTIFIED GUARANTEED FAIR TRADE.

P-TOO! WHAT IS THIS?

WARM WATER.

SNUFFY SMITH

6-23

QUARRRK!! QUARRRK!!

IT'S A TREE FROG, JUGHAID!!

WHAT IS THAT, UNCLE SNUFFY?

QUARRRK!! G#*~*!!

AN! THAT'S A TREE FROG SWEARIN' AT YORE AUNT LOWEEZY!!

BEEBLE BAILEY

6-23

THE SPARK HAS GONE OUT OF MY MARRIAGE

TRY SOME ROLE-PLAYING

WHAT DID YOU WANT TO BE WHEN YOU WERE YOUNG?

HOWDY, MISS MARTHA!

HIT THE TRAIL, TEX

This Date In History

Today is Thursday, June 23, the 174th day of 2011. There are 191 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On June 23, 1961, the Antarctic Treaty, intended to ensure that the continent would be used only for peaceful purposes, came into force.

On this date:

In 1860, a congressional resolution authorized creation of the United States Government Printing Office, which opened the following year.

In 1931, aviators Wiley Post and Harold Gatty took off from New York on a round-the-world flight that lasted eight days and 15 hours.

In 1938, the Civil Aeronautics Authority was established.

In 1947, the Senate joined the House in overriding President Harry S. Truman's veto of the Taft-Hartley Act, designed to limit the power of organized labor.

In 1956, Gamal Abdel Nasser was elected president of Egypt.

In 1967, President Lyndon B. Johnson and Soviet Premier Alexei Kosygin (ah-LEK'-say koh-SEE'-gihn) held the first of two meetings at Glassboro State College in New Jersey.

In 1969, Warren E. Burger was sworn in as chief justice of the United States by the man he was succeeding, Earl Warren.

In 1972, President Richard M. Nixon and White House chief of staff H.R. Haldeman discussed a plan to use the CIA to obstruct the FBI's Watergate investigation. (Revelation of the tape recording of this conversation sparked Nixon's resignation in 1974.)

In 1985, all 329 people aboard an Air India Boeing 747 were killed when the plane crashed into the Atlantic Ocean near Ireland because of a bomb believed to have been planted by Sikh separatists.

In 2005, a divided U.S. Supreme Court, in Kelo v. City of New London, ruled that governments may seize property for private development projects.

Today's Birthdays: Singer Diana Trask is 71. Musical conductor James Levine (luh-VYNN') is 68. Rhythm-and-blues singer Rosetta Hightower (The Orlons) is 67. Actor Ted Shackelford is 65. Actor Bryan Brown is 64. Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas is 63. Actor Jim Metzler is 60. "American Idol" judge Randy Jackson is 55. Actress Frances McDormand is 54. Rock musician Steve Shelley (Sonic Youth) is 49. Actor Paul La Greca is 49. Rhythm-and-blues singer Chico DeBarge is 41. Actress Selma Blair is 39. Rock singer KT Tunstall is 36. Rhythm-and-blues singer Virgo Williams (Ghostowns DJs) is 36. Singer-songwriter Jason Mraz is 34. Rock singer Duffy is 27. Country singer Katie Armiger is 20.

Newsday Crossword

AT THE LAUNDROMAT by Billie Truitt
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

- 1 Verne hero
- 5 Buddy
- 10 Smooth-talking
- 14 Folklore brute
- 15 Gallic goodbye
- 16 Far from well done
- 17 Landed
- 18 Fancy wheels, for short
- 19 Fail to mention
- 20 "Okay, we're even"
- 23 Blaster's buy
- 24 Monopolize, with "up"
- 25 Home made of blocks
- 28 Common stat.
- 31 Jazz phrases
- 35 Have a look
- 36 Labour rivals
- 39 Abrupt transition
- 40 Abandon
- 43 Green Gables girl
- 44 Bob, for one
- 45 Earth-friendly prefix
- 46 En __ (together)
- 48 Sneaky
- 49 Female fox
- 51 Veggie on a vine
- 53 Recycling candidate
- 54 Come back as a member
- 63 Naval officer, for short
- 64 Magic practitioner
- 65 Azerbaijan's locale, in part
- 66 Risky business

DOWN

- 67 Corporate concern
- 68 Uncommuni-cative one
- 69 Nobelist Morrison
- 70 Assigantion
- 71 Lacerated
- 11 Priest of the East
- 12 Bearded bloom
- 13 Playwright Henley
- 21 Large bill
- 22 Relative of atm-
- 25 Five-pillared faith
- 26 Virginia Davis' film name
- 27 Relies (on)
- 28 Some solos
- 29 Close watch
- 30 Disney Concert Hall architect
- 32 UPS rival
- 33 Film genre
- 34 Watch in secret
- 37 "I finally get it!"
- 38 Somber
- 41 Columbus contemporary
- 42 Blazing stars
- 47 Suffix for slogan
- 50 Actually
- 52 See 56 Down
- 53 Tea holder
- 54 Kick back
- 55 Big show, for short
- 56 With 52 Down, movie plot device
- 57 Sign of sorrow
- 58 Just
- 59 Gets even
- 60 Munch Museum site
- 61 One not to be trusted
- 62 Titled woman

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