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MONDAY

MAY 7, 2012



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City to nix Atmos proposed hike

By THOMAS JENKINS
Staff Writer

The Big Spring City Council is expected to deny a rate increase requested by Atmos Energy's West Texas Division during its meeting Tuesday night, a move city officials say is necessary due to a breakdown in negotiations.

The council gave final approval to suspend the rate increase by a unanimous vote in late February, a move designed to give the city time to study the request, according to City Finance Director Peggy Walker.

Since the old GRIP (gas reliability infrastructure pro-

gram) tool — which was used by Atmos to increase rates for years — was done away with, Walker said systemwide rate increases such as these are now the only way for the gas provider to increase its rates.

"The proposed increase — not including the cost of gas to Atmos — is approximate-

ly 14.8 percent across the board," Walker said. "If you factor in their cost for the natural gas, the increase is about 18.17 percent, and it affects the entire West Texas region. Overall, the rate increase will total \$11.6 million, excluding the cost of gas."

Since the suspension, Walk-

er said Atmos had agreed to sit down with representatives of the city of Big Spring to negotiate a new rate, an agreement they have failed to make good on.

"The city is willing to allow a rate increase, just not an

See **CITY**, Page 3



HERALD Photo/Thomas Jenkins

Lanes of traffic on Gregg and Fourth Street were shut down Monday morning as crews with Price Construction — under contract with the Texas Department of Transportation — continued work on streets and curbs in the downtown area.

Four killed in SUV rollover along I-20

MIDLAND, Texas (AP) — Four people are dead after their sport utility vehicle rolled over on a stretch of Interstate 20 east of Midland.

The crash happened about 9 a.m. Sunday as the SUV was westbound on the interstate about 15 miles northeast of Midland near the Martin-Midland county line.

Martin County Sheriff John Woodward said the driver lost control of the SUV, which rolled and ejected two of the four adults inside.

A Texas Department of Public Safety statement indicated Kathryn Gragg, 58, of Black Mountain, N.C., was at the wheel of the vehicle. She and her husband, Harold Gragg, and passenger Sharon Crawford of West Haven, Conn., were dead at the scene. Crawford's husband, Phillip, died Sunday afternoon at a Midland hospital.

Gas prices fall

Special to the Herald

Average retail gasoline prices in Texas have fallen 5.7 cents per gallon in the past week, averaging \$3.63/g Sunday.

This compares with the national average that has fallen 2.9 cents per gallon in the last week to \$3.77/g, according to gasoline price website TexasGasPrices.com.

Including the change in gas prices in Texas during the past week, prices Sunday were 20.2 cents per gallon lower than the same day one year ago and are 19.8 cents per gallon lower than a month ago. The national average has decreased 13.4 cents per gallon during the last month and stands

See **GASOLINE**, Page 3

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SMMC open house set Thursday

By AMANDA MORENO
Staff Writer

Convenience and quality care are two qualities Scenic Mountain Medical Center hopes to exhibit this week.

SMMC will be hosting an open house from 4:30 p.m. until 6 p.m. Thursday. There will be a ribbon cutting as well.

"We want to invite the public to come out and see our remodel," said SMMC Marketing Director Kim Howell. "We want to remind people we are here, but also show people what all we have to offer."

About a year ago, an open house was held to allow the public to see the new digital mammography equipment purchased by SMMC. This year, visitors will once again

be able to view the mammography equipment and clinic, in addition to the newly designed Family Medical Center OB/GYN Department on the second floor of the clinic.

"Not only have we made the doctors' office waiting rooms and OB/GYN department more spacious, we have made access to our services more convenient when it comes to women's health," Howell said.

According to Ginger Silva, mammography technologist, bone density screenings and mammograms can usually be completed within 30 minutes and appointments can often be scheduled the same week a patient calls.

"We are getting busier so sometimes the wait is about a month, but if something

is wrong and needs to be checked we do our best to get appointments in within the same week," explained Mitzi Knight, RMT, Family Medical Center Practice manager.

"It's kind of a one-stop shop for all your woman health care needs," said Howell. "All the doctors are right here, which allows a woman to come in for her annual check-up and see her physician, usually in the same visit."

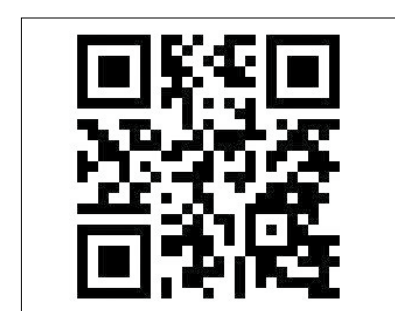
Howell, Knight and Silva said the main goal is to provide the most convenient, quality form of health care possible.

"We strive on providing superior health care with a hometown feel," Knight said. "Our girls working here care about their patients and it shows."

To find out more, meet the doctors and possibly set up a mammogram appointment, stop by the east wing on the second floor for the open house Thursday.

For more information, call 264-7180 or to schedule a mammogram or bone density screening, call 264-0602.

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



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Obituaries

Marie Chapman



Marie Chapman, 92, of Big Spring died Sunday, May 6, 2012. Graveside services will be held Tuesday at 2 p.m. at Trinity Memorial Park with Rick Cunningham officiating.

She was born April 1, 1920, in DeLeon, Texas, to Zonie and John Lancaster.

She and her twin brother, Marion Lancaster, were the youngest of nine children. When Marie was 2, the family came to Howard County in a covered wagon.

She married Maurice Chapman on Nov. 13, 1937, in Big Spring. They settled in the Moore Community and farmed there until moving into Big Spring in the late 1960s. Her husband preceded her in death July 9, 1993. She was a member of the 14th and Main Church of Christ.

She is survived by one daughter, Lana Money and husband Harry of Big Spring; one grandson, Eddie Money and wife Wendy of Pflugerville; and two great-grandchildren, Tanner Money of Beaumont and Sidni Money of Pflugerville.

In addition to her husband and parents, she was preceded in death by one daughter, Myra Lanell Chapman; three brothers, Marion Lancaster, Oren Lancaster and Alfred Lancaster; and five sisters, Elsie Smith, Eldora Zant, Johnnie Railsback, Myrtle Williams and Minnie Tredaway.

The family extends a special thanks to Dorothy Long, Gracie Leal, Harry Money, Loreta Yarbrough, Howard Whitley and Missy Whitley, along with Caring Hearts Home Health and Home Hospice.

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

Paid obituary

William August 'W.A.' Ringener



William August "W.A." Ringener, 92, of Stanton died Saturday, May 5, 2012, at his residence. Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. Tuesday, May 8, 2012, at the Downtown Church of Christ with Darel McWhorter officiating. Interment will follow at Evergreen Cemetery.

The family will receive friends from 6:30 p.m. until 8 p.m. Monday, May 7, 2012, at Gilbreath Funeral

Home.

W.A. married the love of his life, Alta Mae Bryant on Jan. 6, 1942, in Blum, Texas. W.A. was a veteran of the United States Army. He and Alta Mae settled in Big Spring, where he worked for a dairy before moving to Stanton, where he worked for Cap Rock Electric until his retirement in 1981.

After a short retirement, he was appointed City Judge of Stanton and served until retiring in 2000. He served as a deacon and an elder of the Downtown Church of Christ.

W.A. was preceded in death by his wife, Alta Mae; his parents; sisters, Pauline Martin and Anita Johnson; brother, J.M. Ringener; and a grandchild.

Survivors include daughters, Reba Long of Austin, Faye Moore and husband Barrett of Midland and Brenda Kendall and husband Kyle of Stanton; seven grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren; and siblings, W.J. Ringener Jr., Merle Ringener, Lillian Collum, Dairrel Ringener, Geraldine Bedell and Carolyn Williamson.

In lieu of flowers memorials may be sent to Martin County Senior Citizens, P.O. Box 1233, Stanton, Texas 79782; or Downtown Church of Christ, P.O. Box 575, Stanton, Texas 79782.

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

Nancy Elaine Robbins

Nancy Elaine Robbins, 68, of Big Spring died Sunday, May 6, 2012, at her residence. Her services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Police blotter

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

- BILLY MANN KIRK, 66, of 627 State, was arrested Saturday on a charge of driving while license suspended/invalid with a previous conviction.
- RICHARD JAMES WHITE JR., 35, of 315 E. Alice, was arrested Saturday on charges of public intoxication and possession of a controlled substance.
- ROLANDO ZAMORA JR., 22, of 1612 Bluebird, was arrested Saturday on warrants for disregarding a stop sign, failure to appear (two counts) and no safety seat system for child.
- ROBERT RUBEN SANCHEZ, 47, of 1023 Stadium, was arrested Saturday on a charge of public intoxication with three or more prior convictions.
- PAUL DANIEL LEE, 33, of 3907 W. Highway 80, was arrested Saturday on warrants for disregarding stop sign, displaying fictitious license plate and failure to maintain financial responsibility.
- RANDY EUGENE SPARKS, 40, of 1107 Lamar, was arrested Saturday on warrants for driving while license invalid and bail jumping – failure to appear (fine only).
- THEFT was reported:
In the 700 block of W. Interstate Highway 20.
In the 3600 block of W. Highway 80.
- BURGLARY OF A VEHICLE was reported in the 900 block of N. Lamesa Highway.
- ASSAULT was reported in the 500 block of Westover Road.

Sheriff

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

Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 55 inmates at the time of this report.

- STACEY LEAANN PRUITT, 22, was booked into the county detention center Friday by the BSPD on a charge of possession of a dangerous drug and JP warrants for driving while license invalid, driving without lights when required and violation of a promise to appear.
- SALVADOR ALBERTO PENA, 43, was arrested Friday by the HCSO on a charge of driving while intoxicated.
- FRANCISCO RENE GUERRERO, 31, was arrested Friday by the HCSO on a court order for contempt of court – disobedience of a court order.
- ARMANDO GARCIA, 27, was booked into the county detention center Friday by the BSPD on a municipal warrant for driving while license invalid.
- JUAN MANUEL NIETO, 37, was arrested Friday by the HCSO on a judgment/sentence for assault causing bodily injury – family violence.
- JACKIE DOYLE RICHEY, 49, was booked into the county detention center Friday by the BSPD on a charge of theft of property – more than \$1,500 and less than \$20,000.
- ARTHUR LYNN RICHARDSON, 48, was booked into the county detention center Friday by the BSPD on municipal capias warrants for expired motor vehicle inspection, failure to obtain Texas driver's license within 30 days and failure to maintain financial responsibility.
- BILLY MANN KIRK, 66, was booked into the county detention center Saturday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while license invalid with a previous conviction.
- RICHARD JAMES WHITE, 35, was booked into the county detention center Saturday by the BSPD on charges of public intoxication and possession of a controlled substance.
- RANDY EUGENE SPARKS, 40, was arrested Saturday by the HCSO on municipal warrants for driving while license invalid and failure to appear.
- PAUL DANIEL LEE, 33, was arrested Saturday by the HCSO on capias pro fines for disregarding a stop sign, displaying expired license plate and failure to maintain financial responsibility.
- ROLANDO ZAMORA JR., 22, was booked into the county detention center Saturday by the BSPD on municipal warrants for running a stop sign, violation of a promise to appear (two counts) and no safety seat system for child.

• ROBERT RUBIN SANCHEZ, 47, was booked into the county detention center Saturday by the BSPD on a charge of public intoxication with three prior convictions.

- EUGENE VANDERBILT JR., 45, was booked into the county detention center Sunday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while license invalid with a previous conviction or suspension and municipal capias warrants for driving while license invalid and expired motor vehicle inspection.
- JESSE JOE CUELLAR, 33, was booked into the county detention center Sunday by the BSPD on a Dawson County warrant for aggravated assault.
- KERRY JOE SHIPLEY, 49, was arrested Sunday by the HCSO on a charge of public intoxication.
- MONICA NICOLE MUNOZ, 23, was booked into the county detention center Sunday by the BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.
- GABRIEL LEE BARRAZA, 26, was booked into the county detention center Sunday by the BSPD on charges of driving while license invalid, driving while intoxicated and driving while license invalid with a previous conviction.
- FLORENCIO A. CARRILLO, 22, was arrested Sunday by the HCSO on municipal warrants for violation of school rules (two counts).
- HENRY TREVINO FRANCO JR., 20, was booked into the county detention center Sunday by the BSPD on charges of assault causing bodily injury – family violence, interfering with an emergency phone call, criminal trespass, criminal mischief – more than \$50 and less than \$500 and resisting arrest, search or transportation.
- ISRAEL LANDA, 25, was arrested Sunday by the HCSO on a charge of public intoxication and a Lubbock warrant for driving while intoxicated – second offense.
- FABIAN HILARIO, 20, was booked into the county detention center Sunday by the BSPD on a municipal warrant for failure to maintain financial responsibility.
- JAVIER MONTOYA, 63, was booked into the county detention center Sunday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while intoxicated – open container.
- STEVEN THOMAS SIMS, 29, was booked into the county detention center Sunday by the BSPD on municipal warrants for driving while license invalid, failure to appear (two counts) and displaying expired registration.
- BOBBY JOE HUTCHESON, 29, was booked into the county detention center Sunday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while license invalid with a previous conviction or suspension.

Fire/EMS

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

- MEDICAL was reported in the 600 block of Bell. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1700 block of Lancaster. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAUMA was reported in the 1300 block of Scurry. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1700 block of Lancaster. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1400 block of N. Highway 87. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1000 block of E. 15th Street. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAUMA was reported at an oil rig 30 miles south on Highway 87. One person was airlifted from the scene.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 300 block of Pine Road. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAUMA was reported in the 600 block of W. Ninth Street. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 400 block of Dallas. Service refused.

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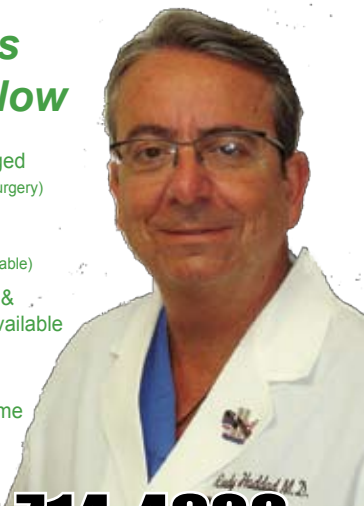
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► Nation/World briefs

House GOP plan cuts social programs to protect Pentagon

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Republicans who control the House are using cuts to food aid, health care and social services like Meals on Wheels to protect the Pentagon from a wave of budget cuts come January.

The reductions, while controversial, are but a fraction of what Republicans called for in the broader, nonbinding budget plan they passed in March. Totalling a little more than \$300 billion over a decade, the new cuts are aimed less at tackling \$1 trillion-plus government deficits and more at preventing cuts to troop levels and military modernization.

The House Budget Committee meets Monday to officially act on the measure, the product of six separate House panels. It faces a likely floor vote Thursday.

The measure kicks off Congress' return to action after a weeklong recess. The House will also vote on a spending bill funding NASA and the Justice Department and on legislation to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act. The Senate, meanwhile, has a test vote slated for Tuesday on a plan backed by President Barack Obama to prevent a doubling of college loan interest rates.

Fully one-fourth of the House GOP spending cuts come from programs directly benefiting the poor, such as Medicaid, food stamps, the Social Services Block Grant, and a child tax credit claimed by working immigrants. Federal workers would have to contribute an additional 5 percent of their salaries toward their pensions, while people whose incomes rise after receiving coverage subsidies under the new health care law would lose some or all of their benefits.

Twitter's role in presidential campaign beyond 140 characters

NEW YORK (AP) — (at)BarackObama is on Twitter. So is (at)MittRomney. And so are all the voters following the 2012 presidential contest, whether they know it or not.

Candidates, strategists, journalists and political junkies have all flocked to Twitter, the social networking hub where information from the mundane to the momentous is shared through 140-character microbursts known as tweets.

While relatively few voters are on Twitter — a study by the Pew Research Center found that about 13 percent of American adults have joined the site — it's become an essential tool for campaigns to test-drive themes and make news with a group of politically wired "influencers" who process and share those messages with the broader world.

Put simply: When a voter is exposed to any information related to the presidential contest, chances are it's been through the Twitter filter first.

"The subset of people on Twitter may be rela-

tively small, but it's a politically engaged audience whose influence extends both online and off," said Heather LaMarre, a University of Minnesota communications professor who studies social media. "It's not the direct message that has the biggest influence on people — it's the indirect message."

Stocks dive after Europe elections, disappointing U.S. jobs data

BANGKOK (AP) — World stock markets were pummeled Monday by election results in Greece and France that heightened uncertainty about Europe's ability to solve its debt crisis.

Signs of a faltering economic recovery in the U.S. compounded the dour mood while oil slid to nearly \$97 a barrel.

Japan's Nikkei 225 index plunged 2.8 percent to close at 9,119.14 — its lowest finish in three months — with the market's export sector also sapped by a rising yen. Hong Kong's Hang Seng slid 2.6 percent to 20,536.59.

Futures augured losses for Wall Street. Dow Jones industrial futures fell 0.8 percent to 12,857 and S&P 500 futures lost 0.9 percent to 1,350.90. Among European markets, Germany's DAX dropped 1.5 percent to 6,463.67 and France's CAC-40 shed 1.6 percent to 3,112.49. Britain's markets were closed for a public holiday.

Weekend election results in Greece sent tremors throughout Europe as voters punished the parties responsible for highly unpopular austerity measures instituted to prevent the country from defaulting on its massive debts and exiting the euro currency bloc.

Clinton presses India to cut oil imports from Iran to keep pressure on the Islamic republic

KOLKATA, India (AP) — U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton urged energy-starved India on Monday to reduce its Iranian oil imports to keep up pressure on the Islamic republic to come clean about its nuclear program.

Clinton told a town hall meeting in the eastern city of Kolkata that there's an adequate supply in the market for India to find alternative sources of oil. Clinton noted India has taken some steps to reduce its imports from Iran but she says the U.S. wants to see more.

"If there weren't an adequate supply ... we would understand, but we believe that there is adequate supply," she said.

India could face U.S. sanctions by the end of June if the Obama administration determines it has not made significant cuts in imports under a law aimed at squeezing Iran's petroleum industry to press the country to prove its nuclear program is peaceful.

India, with a growth rate of about 7 percent, has

a nearly insatiable need for oil. About 9 percent of its oil imports are from Iran, though officials say it has reduced its dependency on Iranian oil in recent months.

After 12 years on run, couple in Illinois Ponzi scheme caught in Arizona

TONOPAH, Ariz. (AP) — Acting on a tip, U.S. marshals in Arizona put an end to an Illinois couple's life on the lam, a dozen years after they fled punishment for running a Ponzi scheme that targeted friends, the elderly, and even family members, authorities said.

As fugitives, Nelson Grant Hallahan, 65, and wife Janet Hallahan, 54, lived in several states in the Southwest and had used a number of aliases, the Marshals Service said Sunday.

The two were arrested by deputy marshals Saturday afternoon in Tonopah, a desert community 50 miles west of Phoenix. Officials believe they hid in Arizona for the past couple years.

"The 12-year run from justice of the Hallahans, also known as the 'Mini Madoffs,' has come to an end," U.S. Marshal for Arizona David Gonzales said in a statement. "Their investment scams involving family, friends, and the elderly, ruined many lives."

The agency said it received a tip about their location after they were featured on "America's Most Wanted" the previous night.

New openness may take heavy toll on environment of Myanmar, one of Asia's least spoiled places

As many as 40,000 gorgeously plumed birds known as the Gurney's pitta thrive in the lowland rainforests of economically backward Myanmar. Across the border, Thailand's last five pairs are guarded around the clock against snakes and human predators.

The bird's status is among many reasons Myanmar is regarded as one of Asia's last bastions of biodiversity, and why environmentalists view the country's steps toward opening its doors with some fear.

Myanmar has avoided the rapid, often rampant development seen in Thailand and other parts of Asia because of decades of isolation brought on by harsh military rule. But as foreign investors begin pouring in, activists in what was once known as Burma say endemic corruption, virtually nonexistent environmental laws and a long-repressed civil society make it "ripe for environmental rape."

They hope that it will at least prove a race: pro-democracy reformers and conservationists are urging the government to put more safeguards in place against the unscrupulous eager to take advantage of their absence.

CITY

Continued from Page 1

increase as high as the one they are asking for," Walker said. "They agreed to meet with us to negotiate a new rate, but they have put us off and cancelled meetings. Unfortunately, we're coming up on a deadline that will force this issue to the Public Utility Commission of Texas, which is why the council is going ahead and taking steps to deny the rate increase in preparations for that next step."

Walker said this isn't the city's first time deferring to the steering committee. In fact, since doing away with the GRIP system, it's pretty much been par for the course.

"We've gone through this same process every year. They propose a rate increase and we suspend it, just like we're doing now," Walker said. "The steering committee will look at it, and when it's all said and done, the number agreed upon by both sides will be a lot lower than what's being thrown around right now. It's a lot like buying a car. That's really the only analogy I can think of to compare it to."

Also Tuesday, the council is to consider a resolution making some slight changes to the hours of operations to the Big Spring Aquatics Center.

According to Assistant City Manager Todd Darden, the resolution will call for the hours

of operation to change from noon until 8 p.m. on Sunday — the hours used during 2011 — to 1 p.m. until 8 p.m. during the coming summer season.

Darden said there won't be any changes to the cost of admission or pavilion rentals compared to last year, however, as the aquatics center prepares to open May 26.

The center is slated to be open to the public noon until 8 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, 11 a.m. until 8 p.m. Saturday and 1 p.m. until 8 p.m. Sundays. Admission is \$5 for ages 3 years and up.

"We've met with the folks from KBST and have been working on the plans for the Splash In, which is scheduled for May 26," Darden

said. "They assure us they have lots of fun things in store for the event, so we're really excited."

Drought conditions, which have forced many West Texas cities to adopt water restrictions, aren't expected to hamper use of the aquatics center this summer, according to Darden.

"We've discussed the matter with officials from the Colorado River Municipal Water District, and at this point we don't see any problem," Darden said. "We're in good shape as far as the aquatics center goes. Unfortunately, if an emergency situation should arise, that could change very quickly. However, we've managed to stay under the restrictions CRMWD has placed on

our water consumption so far, so we don't see any problems in the near future."

Tuesday's meeting is to begin at 5:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, located at 307 E. Fourth St. For more information, call 264-2401. Also, a complete copy of the meeting agenda can be found online at www.mybigspring.com

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

sudoku

ANSWERS

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

www.sudoku-puzzles.net

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Raul Martinez, 51, died Thursday. Funeral Services were at 10 a.m. today at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial at Mount Olive Memorial Park.

Marie Chapman, 92, died Sunday. Graveside services will be Tuesday at 2 p.m. at Trinity Memorial Park with Rick Cunningham officiating.

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GASOLINE

Continued from Page 1

15.9 cents per gallon lower than this day one year ago.

"I'd probably sound like a broken record at this point if I were to tell folks that crude prices breached and fell under \$100 late last week. I'm sure I'll be flooded with motorists asking why gasoline prices haven't fallen yet," chuckled GasBuddy.com Senior Petroleum Analyst Pat-

rick DeHaan. "Either way, it's great news for motorists — but some hot spots may burn motorists before they see any sizable relief. When I mention hot spots, I'm thinking of the West Coast — where supply has dropped considerably, causing tightness and perhaps higher prices. The rest of the country, however, should see short-term relief contin-

ue ahead of Memorial Day, easing unfounded fears of the national av-

erage hitting \$5/gal, or even \$4/gal," DeHaan said.

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Next education commissioner facing challenges

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — This summer Gov. Rick Perry will appoint a new education commissioner who will immediately face enormous problems and competing demands.

The state's much-criticized new standardized testing regime was suspended this year, school districts are suing the state over funding and parents are irate over school budget cuts. The new hire will also have to balance the governor's policy of frugality with school administrators' demands that he or she represent their needs in Austin.

The current commissioner, Robert Scott, announced last week that he will step down on July 2 after five "grueling" years directing the Texas Education Agency. And while he points out that he has served longer than any other commissioner in the last 20 years, observers say it's no mistake

he's leaving after he called the state's testing system a perversion of good intentions and apologizing for not getting more money for schools.

Jenny Caputo, spokeswoman for the Texas Association of School Administrators, hopes Perry will appoint someone who has served as a school district administrator or superintendent.

"There is no way you get around the political component of it, you're a political appointee," she said. "But we would hope that the governor would choose someone that would be a champion for public education."

She points out that while the commissioner does not set policy, he or she does lead the TEA, which administers state and federal funding to school districts, runs the standardized testing system, sets school ratings and col-

"We need to stop asking our leaders in education as well as educators across the state to do more with less. Our new commissioner needs to be someone who cares about the good of public education."

Jennifer Canaday, governmental relations manager for the ATPE

lects data on public schools. Like many of Perry's appointees, Scott served as the governor's education adviser before becoming commissioner in 2007. But he'd also spent years working for TEA be-

fore moving to the governor's staff.

Bill Hammond, president of the Texas Association of Business, says it's imperative that the commissioner share Perry's views.

"You need someone who is in line with the governor — that is critically important — and who is a strong supporter of accountability and rigorous standards," Hammond said.

Perry has made school accountability and efficiency hallmarks of his administration. The new STAAR test was supposed to be an improvement on the old TAKS test, by making it an end of course exam in some high school classes where it is part of the grade. But when parents, students and teachers protested that kids weren't ready this year, Scott granted a waiver allowing districts

to put off the test's counting toward grades until the 2012-2013 school year.

Hammond's organization has pushed hard for an accountability system that objectively measures not only how much a student has learned, but how well a school teaches. But teacher's groups complain that a single test is a high stakes system for evaluating students and schools and inevitably leads to teaching to the test.

"Testing should primarily be a diagnostic tool to show a teacher where he or she needs to emphasize with individual students," argued Clay Robison, from the Texas State Teachers Association. His group hopes the new commissioner will push for developing an accountability system that includes not only standardized tests, but also teacher peer reviews.

► State briefs

Most power restored after Central Texas storms

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Electricity has been restored to most customers following weekend Central Texas storms that knocked out power to about 3,000 homes and businesses.

Austin Energy officials say about two dozen customers were without power Monday.

Storms packing heavy rain and lightning rolled through the Austin area Saturday night. The utility says lightning damaged five transformers and the equipment was replaced Sunday.

Dallas hotel open after basement fire, nobody hurt

DALLAS (AP) — Authorities say a 10-story downtown Dallas hotel had to be evacuated but nobody was hurt after fire broke out in the basement.

A front desk clerk says the Hotel Lawrence was open for business Monday.

Dallas Fire-Rescue spokesman Jason Evans says Sunday night's fire was started by a malfunctioning dryer. Evans says smoke that was reported in the basement traveled up the main stairwell and went out the roof.

He says one sprinkler head activated and helped contain the blaze.

Hat passed to fund surgery for blinded cat

COLLEGE STATION, Texas (AP) — A Central Texas veterinarian is trying to raise money for surgery for a cat that had its eyes gouged and was left blind.

Dr. Agnes Rupley of College Station is donating her services to treat the 10-pound domestic shorthair tabby tomcat, which she's named Spirit. She tells The Eagle of Bryan-College Station that the 7-to-8-month-old male cat needs surgery costing up to \$2,000 to repair the trauma.

Spirit is playful, sweet-tempered and affectionate. But tissue is growing around the eyes, which Rupley

says were gouged with something larger than a needle, and a chronic inflammation can cause cancer.

No one has been arrested in the attack.

Donations can be made to the "Care 4 Spirit" fund at First Victoria Bank or at All Pets Medical & Laser Surgical Center.

1 dead, 3 hurt in Dallas home invasion, no arrests

DALLAS (AP) — Dallas police say one man has been killed and three of his relatives hurt in a home invasion by masked intruders.

Police say nobody has been arrested in Sunday's fatal shooting of Lorenzo Moreno.

Police say Moreno's wife and their adult son were beaten, along with the couple's teenage granddaughter. Police are trying to determine whether the girl had been feuding with some other youths and that she was the intended target.

Authorities say the three wounded relatives were treated and released from a hospital Sunday afternoon.

Baby found dead in San Antonio hotel

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Police say an autopsy has been ordered after a month-old baby was found dead at a San Antonio hotel.

San Antonio police say no obvious signs of trauma were discovered on the body of Demetrio Deleon. Police say the death does not appear to be suspicious but authorities are not sure why he died.

The San Antonio Express-News reports the boy's parents discovered him dead Sunday while at the Hotel Indigo. Police say the parents are from Del Rio and the family had been visiting San Antonio.

Lawmakers hear update on Medicaid spending

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Texas lawmakers will get a briefing on the current status of Medicaid, the health insurance program for the poor and disabled.

Experts on Monday will update a House Appropriation Subcommittee on the program that represents one of the largest segments of the state budget.

Last year lawmakers shorted the

program by roughly \$4.8 billion, hoping that Texas will get special waivers from the federal government. But that hasn't happened.

Officials with the Texas Department of Health and Human Services have predicted that lawmakers will need to come up with more than \$10 billion to cover the current deficit and increases in the next budget.

That could create another crisis when lawmakers meet next year to draft the next two-year budget. Last year the Legislature cut \$27 billion in state services.

2 youngsters lead deputies to bodies of 2 women

WESLACO, Texas (AP) — Two young children, one of whom told a passer-by "My mother is dead," have led South Texas deputies to a house where the bodies of two women were found, including the mother.

Hidalgo County Sheriff Lupe Trevino says the passer-by found the children, ages 5 and 6, wandering the street of their subdivision north of Weslaco about 7 a.m. Sunday. Trevino says that when the children told the person that they were going to their grandmother's house, the person asked where their parents were. That's when one replied that their mother was dead.

No identities have been released, but Trevino says a woman's abduction nearby is believed to be related to the double homicide. She escaped.

Robbers killed father in front of family

HOUSTON (AP) — Houston-area authorities are looking for suspects after four men robbed a suburban family and shot and stabbed the father to death in front of his family.

The incident happened just before midnight Saturday at an apartment complex in western Harris County, just outside Houston. Harris County Sheriff's Sgt. Phillipe Rivera says Victor Quevedo had just pulled the family car with his wife and 13-year-old daughter inside into a parking spot outside their apartment. Four men approached and demanded the family's wallets, purses and cellphones and demanded, the 41-year-old father struggled briefly with the men and was shot and stabbed.

NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO ESTABLISH ENERGY EFFICIENCY COST RECOVERY FACTOR AND FOR GOOD CAUSE EXCEPTION TO ENERGY EFFICIENCY SAVINGS GOAL FILED WITH THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF TEXAS

On May 1, 2012, Sharyland Utilities, L.P. (Sharyland) filed an application with the Public Utility Commission of Texas (Commission) for approval to establish an Energy Efficiency Cost Recovery Factor (EECRF) rider as permitted under P.U.C. Subst. R. 25.181(f), which allows for recovery of the costs of providing energy efficiency programs. The application has been assigned Docket No. 40364. Sharyland has requested that its proposed EECRF become effective on January 1, 2013.

In Sharyland's McAllen division, Sharyland is requesting an EECRF that, if approved, will be billed to retail electric providers (REPs) serving Sharyland's residential and non-residential customers. Depending on how such REPs treat the costs that would be incurred if this Application is approved, customers of those REPs may also be affected. In Sharyland's Brady, Celeste, Colorado City, and Stanton divisions, Sharyland is requesting an EECRF that, if approved, will be billed directly to Sharyland's residential and non-residential customers.

If Sharyland's Application is approved, the EECRF rates and schedules for 2013 in Sharyland's divisions will be as follows:

McAllen Division:

Rate Class	EECRF Charge
Residential Service	\$0.0012 per kWh
Optional Residential Service	\$0.0012 per kWh
Secondary Service	\$0.00075 per kWh

Stanton, Colorado City, Brady, and Celeste Divisions:

Rate Schedule	EECRF Charge
General Service (Rate Codes 110, 111, and 115)	\$0.0012 per kWh
Irrigation (Rate Code 440)	\$0.00075 per kWh
Commercial (Rate Codes 550, 552, and 559)	\$0.00075 per kWh
Large Power Secondary (Rate Codes 661 and 669)	\$0.00075 per kWh
Large Power Primary (Rate Codes 660 and 668)	\$0.00075 per kWh
Cotton Gin (Rate Codes 671 and 672)	\$0.00075 per kWh

Through the proposed EECRF, Sharyland seeks to recover approximately \$1,347,866, which consists of \$1,198,800 in expenses associated with Sharyland's energy efficiency programs that will be offered in 2013 and \$149,066 in expenses associated with Sharyland's energy efficiency programs in 2011 and 2012. Additionally, Sharyland seeks a good cause exception to the statutory energy efficiency goals that utilities are required to meet in 2012 and 2013 through their energy efficiency programs. The statutory goals that would apply to Sharyland without a good cause exception would require Sharyland to increase its budgets for energy efficiency programs significantly and exceed the EECRF cost caps provided in P.U.C. Subst. R. 25.181(f).

Persons with questions about this Application should contact Ms. Bridget Headrick, Director, Regulatory Affairs of Sharyland Utilities, at (866) 354-3335. A complete copy of Sharyland's application is available for inspection at Sharyland's corporate offices located at 1900 North Akard Street, Dallas, Texas 75201.

Persons who wish to intervene or comment upon these proceedings should notify the Public Utility Commission of Texas as soon as possible, as an intervention deadline will be imposed. Sharyland will propose an intervention deadline of May 31, 2012; however the Public Utility Commission of Texas will determine the intervention and comment deadline. A request to intervene or for further information should be made to the Public Utility Commission of Texas, P.O. Box 13326, Austin, Texas 78711-3326 and reference Docket No. 40364. Further information may also be obtained by calling the Public Utility Commission at (512) 936-7120 or (888) 782-8477. Hearing- and speech-impaired individuals with text telephones (TTY) may contact the Commission at (512) 936-7136. All communications should refer to Docket No. 40364.

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Steers take two, win bi-district



By BRIAN MCCORMACK

Sports Editor

LUBBOCK — The red hot Steers baseball squad, who had a flair for winning — and losing — in dramatic fashion throughout the season, made its two-game stint against the Iowa Park Hawks look like a cake walk.

Taking the first game by a score of 5-1, the Steers played another well-rounded ball game Saturday to win the second outing 9-3.

The heart of the BSHS lineup started off strong, as a pair of triples and a double led to a 3-0 lead in the first inning. But the Hawks answered back, scoring three runs to cut the Steers' lead to only one by the middle of the third.

With one out in the bottom of the third inning, Jarred DoPorto hit one off of the outfield wall. What would have been a triple was turned into an in-the-park home run with the help of an error credited to Iowa Park to make it a 5-3 game.

Brett Brorman singled to lead off the Steers' half of the fifth. Haegan Rodriguez doubled and Gunnar Kennedy hit a RBI single to score Brorman. Max Pappajohn hit into a double play, but picked up the RBI when Rodriguez crossed homeplate.

Joseph Morelion hit a single that he legged out to third base thanks to two throwing errors. DoPorto struck again, hitting a double to drive home the first run. Before the third out of the inning was recorded, the Steers had taken

Big Spring High School's baseball team celebrates after winning the bi-district trophy in Lubbock Saturday. The Steers defeated the Iowa Park Hawks by a score of 9-3 and will face Mineral Wells next in area playoff action.

HERALD photo/Brian McCormack

See STEERS, Page 10

Hawks take first place at Region 5 tourney

By BRIAN MCCORMACK

Sports Editor

LUBBOCK — The Howard College Hawks aren't used to having their backs against the wall, but that's the position they found themselves in Saturday during the regional tournament as they had to win three straight games to ensure the team a trip to the national championship in Utah.

After a 10-7 loss to rival Midland College on Friday, the Hawks rose to the occasion, downing El Paso Community College 12-1 to stay alive in the tourney.

Once again, HC found themselves mired in a battle with Midland. The Lady Chaparrals had the Hawks on the ropes in Game One of the rubber match.

Down 6-0, the Hawks started battling back.

Olive Naotala led the high-powered offense throughout the day. The NJCAA home run leader brought her total on the season to 32.

Naotala ignited the offense in extra innings by belting a two-run home run. Following suit were Jazzmin Arrant and Shelby Shelton for a total of three homers in a row. One out later, Kara Isbel hit a solo shot and by the time the eighth inning had ended, the Hawks led the stunned Lady Chaps 11-6.

That momentum was too much for Midland.

Starting the final game off with a bang, the Hawks sent eight runners cross homeplate in the first two innings. Naotala smacked another home run later in the game and the Lady Chaps couldn't put together a meaningful rally.

The Hawks won the deciding affair with an 11-5 victory.

With its consistent pitching, offense that can rival seemingly anyone and an impressive regional run behind them, HC Coach Kelly Raines is ready to compete against the best junior college teams in the nation.

"You never know what is going to happen, but we feel good," Raines said. "The girls did awesome. We knew we had to win three games, but we felt like we were the best team and we could do it."

As long as Raines has hitters such as Naotala, she believes her chances of bringing a national championship to Big Spring are good.

"Don't count us out," Raines added. We obviously have (Naotala), and they pitch to her. She has 32 home runs, if you want to pitch to her, great."

Howard College will be traveling to St. George, Utah, for the national championship tourney which is slated for May 17-19. Times and opponents will be announced.

Contact Sports Editor Brian McCormack at 263-7331 ext. 237 or by e-mail at sports@bigspringherald.com



HERALD photo/Tony Claxton

The Howard College softball squad poses with the championship plaque after winning three straight games to win the Region V tournament. The Hawks will travel to St. George, Utah to compete in the national championship tournament May 17-19.

Lady Buffs trample Littlefield, will face Alpine in quarterfinals

SEMINOLE — Another round of playoffs is behind the Forsan Lady Buffaloes as they defeated Littlefield 7-1 in Game Two on Saturday to complete the two-game sweep and advance to the regional quarterfinals.

Forsan Coach Shanna Taylor cites a solid game for both her defense and offense as the key to the victory.

"Overall it was a good game," Taylor said. "We played well

defensively, hit the ball well and Ashley (Buzbee) and Kayla (Tilley) are working well together as pitcher and catcher. Shelby Roemer hit a home run. We had no errors. We managed to put it all together."

Forsan will be meeting Alpine for the quarterfinal series in Crane. The first game will be held Friday, May 11 at 6 p.m. Game Two will begin at 1 p.m. Saturday, May 12.

Bulldogettes bounce Bushland to advance

LUBBOCK — The Coahoma Bulldogettes will have to face the Colorado City Lady Wolves in the area playoff round.

Having just defeated Bushland 9-2 Saturday, Coahoma is on a roll in the early stages of the postseason.

With the way the Bulldogettes have been playing, it seems like they could defeat anyone they are up against. But, if there is a team that has Coahoma's proverbial number, it may just be the Lady Wolves.

Colorado City has defeated the Bulldogettes twice this season during district play and earned the top seed designation in the hotly contested district which also includes Forsan.

Coahoma Head Coach Robb Glasscock doesn't seem to be phased about playing a best-of-three series against its district foe.

"We are getting better each week," Glasscock said. "We are playing a lot better now than we were the last two times we played them. We are just glad to be playing still. The pressure is off, and it's about having fun."

The Bulldogettes will have a chance to redeem those two losses in Big Spring at the high school softball field Friday at 7:30 p.m. The second game will begin Saturday 10 a.m. The if necessary third game will be played about 30 minutes after the second.

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NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR FLUID INJECTION WELL PERMIT

ConocoPhillips Company, P.O. Box 358, Borger, Texas 79008-0358 is applying to the Railroad Commission of Texas for a permit to inject fluid into a formation which is productive of oil and gas. The applicant proposes to inject fluid into the Sevens Rivers, Queen, Grayburg, and San Andres formations, Hyman, Sarah Well No. 48W. The proposed injection well is located 15 miles Southeast of Big Spring located in the Howard Glasscock (Consolidated) Field, in Howard County, Texas. Fluid will be injected into the subsurface depth interval of 1290 feet to 2430 feet. LEGAL AUTHORITY: Chapter 27 of the Texas Water Code, as amended, Title 3 of the Texas Natural Resources Code, as amended, and the Statewide Rules of the Oil and Gas Division of the Railroad Commission of Texas. Requests for a public hearing from persons who can show they are adversely affected or requests for further information concerning any aspect of the application should be submitted in writing, within fifteen days of publication, to the Environmental Services Section, Oil and Gas Division, Railroad Commission of Texas, P.O. Box 12967, Austin, Texas 78711. (Telephone (512)463-6792). #7370 May 7, 2012

Impulsiveness is not always wise. Then again, there are instances when a swift, strong alliance with gut instinct is sheer heroism. Things change for Mercury tomorrow. These are his last moments in Aries, and he won't return for a long while. This is a prime opportunity for boldly acting on a courageous impulse.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). **HOLIDAY MATHIS** Waiting around for others to approach you would be a mistake. Reach your hand out and say "hi." That's a start. Then ask for what you want. Keep moving from person to person until you find the one who can help you. **TAURUS** (April 20-May 20). Guard your place in a deal. Make sure your name is on the record. Get arrangements down on paper. You can be Mr. Nice Guy and still stand up for yourself. It's high time you did. **GEMINI** (May 21-June 21). You'll come



across special offerings from life the likes of which other people don't realize exist. It's as though the forces that be are reserving a bit of magic intended just for you. **CANCER** (June 22-July 22). You feel like a hunter. Stop stalking the object of your desire, and start building an irresistible lure to attract it instead. Your energy will best be spent in this manner, and you'll enjoy the process. **LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22). You'll work at a numbers game, and to a great extent, how well you do will depend on the way you play the odds. But never lose sight of what really matters: the usefulness and help you provide others. **VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You don't have the time, energy or resources to do everything you think you "should" do. Make a list and whittle it down. The time you spend in planning mode will be the key to your success. **LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You have one goal, and that is to find out how you can help the other person. This is crystal clear in your

mind, and it's the guiding principle that makes your day, and your relationships, run smoothly. **SCORPIO** (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). It will be easy to become myopic as to your own gifts and strengths. You are an expert in an area, but you don't realize it. It will take an observant and outspoken friend to point things out to you. **SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Bounty will come to you from multiple sources. You'll hardly know what to value more, as there are so many blessings to appreciate. Show gratitude in action. **CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You build a sense of scarcity around what you offer to others. This is not a ploy. You really can't accommodate everyone. But when you tell someone they can't have what you're offering, the person wants it more. **AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You're very persuasive now and will come up with the magic words to get people motivated. It helps when what you want for them is the same thing that they want for themselves.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). As much as you'd love to laugh and lollygag around with your friends, today you're serious about getting something done. You'll hardly crack a smile until you're sure you have it in the bag. **TODAY'S BIRTHDAY** (May 7). You'll notice in the weeks to come that you're more powerful. You'll influence others and, more importantly, comply with self-directives. A business deal wraps up favorably in June. August highlights family togetherness. Investments of energy pay off in July, and you'll apply a particular study to greatly improve your life. Scorpio and Aquarius people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 4, 19, 24, 13 and 35. **ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS:** "Why is astrology so popular now? I now know the sun sign of almost everyone I actually know on Facebook." Facebook reminds its users of friends' birthdays and announces sun signs on the profile pages of its users, making it easier than ever to decide who fits the profile

of their sign and how. The ancient art of astrology was formulated in a simpler age, when the stars were a fascination as strong as Facebook is now. Of course, people tuned into the heavens to learn about the seasons and, therefore, the weather and related information about planting, harvesting, travel and the like. But the stars were also a source of endless drama. To a civilization like the Greeks, for instance, stargazing was like watching a soap opera. Gods and goddesses interacted with humans and would rule planets and turn one another into constellations. These stories and stories from other cultures around the world evolved and intersected, and the result is a rich tapestry of time-tested beliefs, characteristics and associations that is the basis of astrology today. If you would like to write to Holiday Mathis, please go to www.creators.com and click on "Write the Author" on the Holiday Mathis page, or you may send her a postcard in the mail. To find out more about Holiday Mathis and read her past columns, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com. © 2012 CREATORS.COM

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"Classic" Ann Landers®: Reader warns to opt for cotton bed sheets over satin

Editor's Note: Hundreds of Ann Landers' loyal readers have requested that newspapers continue to publish her columns. These letters originally appeared in 1999.

Dear Ann Landers: Please warn your readers about the dangers of using satin sheets. I had them on my bed for years and never gave them a moment's thought. One morning as I lay on my stomach, I saw a towel on the floor and stretched down to pick it up. My body slid off the bed so quickly, I had no time to react. I broke my neck. I was told that I came very close to becoming a quadriplegic. Fortunately, the



ANN LANDERS

spinal cord was not severed. My doctors were superb, and I am slowly recovering. The next person may not be as lucky as I was, Ann. Please say something about this in your column. — *Opt for Cotton Sheets, Manchester, Conn.*
Dear Manchester: I have heard of freak accidents, but yours is one of the strangest. I've had satin sheets for years in my guest bedroom, and I have never known of anyone who slid off. Personally, I prefer cotton. It feels better, especially the pillowcases.
Dear Ann Landers: Here's a Gem of the Day that could save your readers a trip to the emergency room: Toothpicks are the object most people choke on. Dental floss is much safer and

works just as well. — *Fremont, Neb.*
Dear Fremont: Thanks for the input. What you have written could be one of the most important pieces of information my readers have seen in a long time.
Feeling pressured to have sex? How informed are you? Write for Ann Landers' booklet "Sex and the Teenager." Send a self-addressed, long, business-sized envelope and a check or money order for \$3.75 (this includes postage and handling) to: Teens, c/o Ann Landers, c/o Creators Syndicate, 737 3rd Street, Hermosa Beach, CA 90254. To find out more about Ann Landers and read her past columns, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com. ANN LANDERS® © 2012 CREATORS.COM

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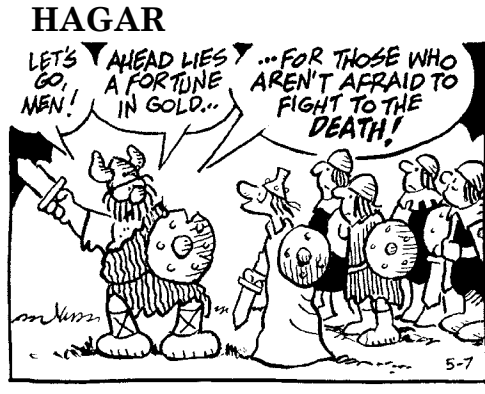
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5:PM :30	News ABC	La Mujer	Two Men	News	Noticias	News	King	Schwarz	Charlie Rose	King	American Chopper	CSI: Miami	DEA	The Mentalist	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Shake It Good	NFL32	SportsCenter
6:PM :30	Jeopardy!	Una Familia con Suerte (SS)	Big Bang	News	Caso Cerrado	News	Seinfeld	Van Impe	PBS News-Hour	Seinfeld	American Chopper	CSI: Miami	DEA	NBA Basketball: Playoffs, First Round: Teams TBA.	Wizards	NFL Live	MLB Baseball: Teams TBA.	
7:PM :30	Dancing With the Stars		Bones	2 Broke Girls	Una Maid en	The Voice	Family Guy	McGee	Antiques Roadshow	Gossip Girl	American Chopper	CSI: Miami	Police Videos	Movie: Storm the Yard 2: Homecoming	Jessie	30 for 30		
8:PM :30		Abismo de Pasión	House	Two Men Mike	Corazón Valiente		Family Guy		Antiques Roadshow	Hart of Dixie	American Chopper	CSI: Miami	Big Easy	NBA Basketball: Playoffs, First Round: Teams TBA.	Game	Fish	NFL Live	Baseball Tonight
9:PM :30	(01) Castle	La Que No	Simpsons	Hawaii Five-0	Relaciones Pelí	Smash	Family Guy		America Revealed	Cops	American Chopper	The Pitch	Big Easy	Game	Jessie			
10:PM :30	News	Impacto	How I Met	News	Noticias	News	Conan	House	Charlie Rose	'Til Death '70s	American Chopper	Mad Men	Police Videos	Game	Jessie	SportsNation	SportsCenter	
11:PM :30	Jimmy Kimmel Live	Hasta-Dinero	Law Order: CI	Late	Decisiones (SS)	Late Night	Office	Andrew	World	'70s	American Chopper	(04) The Killing	Big Easy	Inside the NBA	Wendy Williams	Wizards	Baseball Tonight	SportsCenter
12:AM :30	Extra	Mañana-Siempre	Raymond	Fam. Guy	Insider	News	Conan	Alan Lee	T. Smiley (Off Air)	South Pk	American Chopper	(12:04) The Pitch	Big Easy	The Mentalist	Movie: Caught Up, Joseph Lindsey	Good	NASCAR	SportsCenter
1:AM :30	Paid	La Jaula	American	Ent	Pagado	(06) Today	Seinfeld	Mark Blitz		All/World	American Chopper	(04) Mad Men	Police Videos	Southland	Random	Random	E:60	SportsCenter



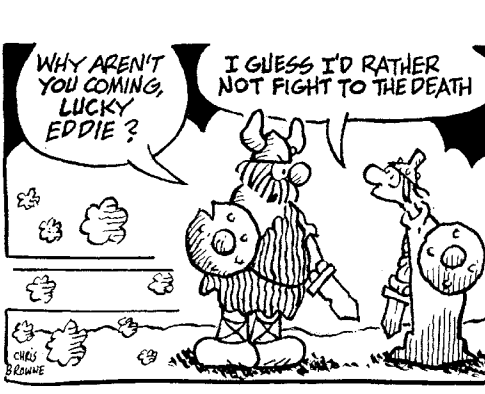
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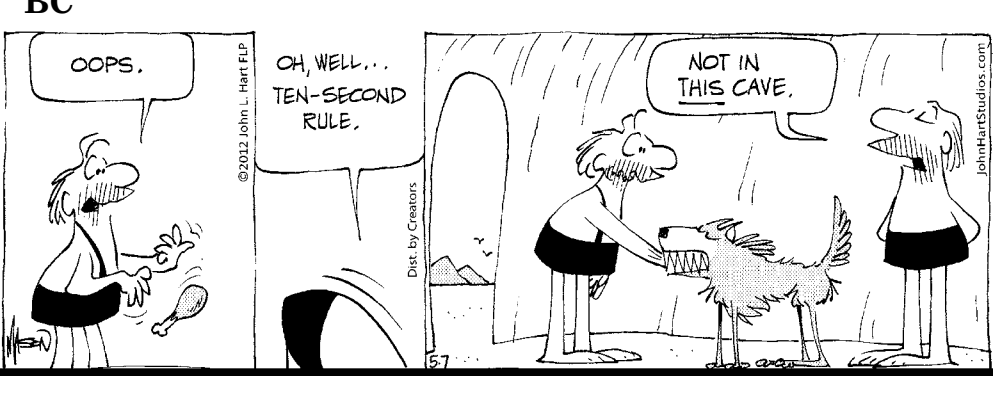
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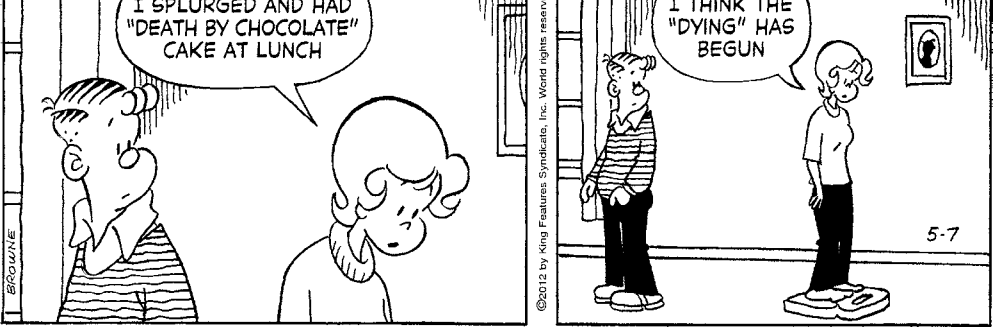
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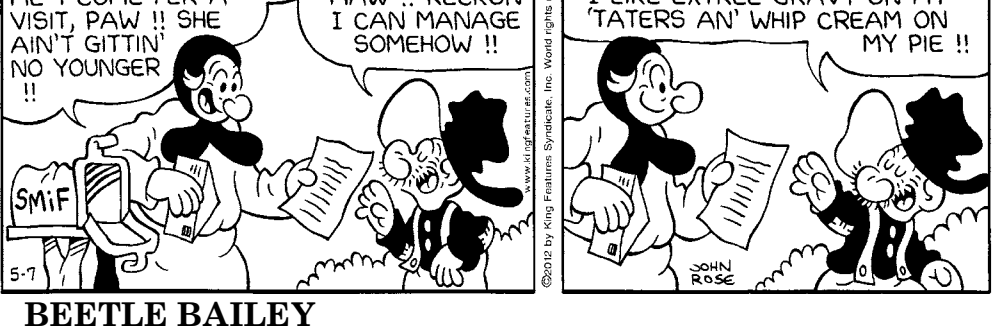
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This Date In History

Today is Monday, May 7, the 128th day of 2012. There are 238 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:
On May 7, 1812, English poet Robert Browning was born in London.

On this date:
In 1789, the first inaugural ball was held in New York in honor of President George Washington and his wife, Martha.

In 1824, Beethoven's Symphony No. 9 in D minor, Op. 125, had its premiere in Vienna.

In 1915, nearly 1,200 people died when a German torpedo sank the British liner RMS Lusitania off the Irish coast.

In 1941, Glenn Miller and His Orchestra recorded "Chattanooga Choo Choo" for RCA Victor.

In 1942, U.S. Army Gen. Jonathan Wainwright went on a Manila radio station to announce the Allied surrender

of the Philippines to Japanese forces during World War II.

In 1945, Germany signed an unconditional surrender at Allied headquarters in Rheims (rams), France, ending its role in World War II.

In 1954, the 55-day Battle of Dien Bien Phu in Vietnam ended with Vietnamese insurgents overrunning French forces.

In 1963, the United States launched the Telstar 2 communications satellite.

In 1975, President Gerald R. Ford formally declared an end to the "Vietnam era." In Ho Chi Minh City — formerly Saigon — the Viet Cong celebrated its takeover.

In 1977, Seattle Slew won the Kentucky Derby, the first of his Triple Crown victories.

In 1984, a \$180 million out-of-court settlement was announced in the Agent Orange class-action suit brought by Vietnam veterans who charged they'd suffered injury from exposure to the defoliant.

In 1992, the latest addition to America's space shuttle fleet, Endeavour, went on its first flight. A 203-year-old proposed constitutional amendment barring Congress from giving itself

a midterm pay raise received enough votes for ratification as Michigan became the 38th state to approve it.

Today's Birthdays: Former Sen. Pete Domenici, R-N.M., is 80. Singer Jimmy Ruffin is 73. Actress Robin Strasser is 67. Singer-songwriter Bill Danoff is 66. Rhythm-and-blues singer Thelma Houston is 66. Rock musician Bill Kreutzmann (Grateful Dead) is 66. Rock musician Prairie Prince is 62. Movie writer-director Amy Heckerling is 60. Actor Michael E. Knight is 53. Rock musician Phil Campbell (Motorhead) is 51. Country musician Rick Schell is 49. Rock singer-musician Chris O'Connor (Primitive Radio Gods) is 47.

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Newsday Crossword

MAKING CONNECTIONS by Gail Grabowski

Edited by Stanley Newman

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- ACROSS**
- 1 Fifty percent
 - 5 Competent
 - 9 Do figure-eights
 - 14 Computer operator
 - 15 Roofing timber
 - 16 Pester
 - 17 Coal source
 - 18 Largest continent
 - 19 Words of denial
 - 20 Racetrack postings
 - 21 Narrow neckwear
 - 23 Do a blacksmith's job
 - 25 Thin opening
 - 26 Orthodontist's degree: Abbr.
 - 28 Slangy "Tricked you!"
 - 33 "Am not!" retort
 - 37 Great Salt Lake state
 - 40 Methods
 - 41 Securities issued by the U.S. Treasury
 - 44 Long heroic tale
 - 45 Top-notch
 - 46 Balance-sheet plus
 - 47 River-mouth formations
 - 49 Finish first
 - 51 Atlas pages
 - 54 Liquid collected by bees
 - 59 Playing golf
 - 64 Opera solo
 - 65 Silk-like synthetic fabric
 - 66 Voice quality
 - 67 Take it easy
 - 68 Rode a ten-speed, for example

- 69 Region
 - 70 Strong wind
 - 71 Coasters on snow
 - 72 Appear to be
 - 73 Poems of praise
- DOWN**
- 1 Comical quality
 - 2 "All kidding _ _ _"
 - 3 Provides temporarily
 - 4 Right from the garden
 - 5 Belittled helper: Abbr.
 - 6 Highest quality homes
 - 7 Wild animals'
 - 8 High-tech message
 - 9 Serenaded

- 10 Shoelace problem
- 11 Prefix for freeze
- 12 Heavy book
- 13 Potato buds
- 22 Period after sunset
- 24 Air-freshener target
- 27 Japanese wrestling
- 29 Pairs
- 30 Metallic soda containers
- 31 Jekyll's alter ego
- 32 Manager's helper: Abbr.
- 33 Matured
- 34 Lasso, for example
- 35 Wicked
- 36 Religious group
- 38 Midmorning hour

- 39 All over again
- 42 Twangy, as speech
- 43 Ruination
- 48 Makes changes to, as a law
- 50 Pants measurement
- 52 Breads with pockets
- 53 Sleeper's noise
- 55 Ship's freight
- 56 Tire pattern
- 57 Airplane walkway
- 58 Evaluates
- 59 Spheres, in poems
- 60 Hammer target
- 61 Youngster
- 62 Worked to remove weeds
- 63 Leg joint

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Rangers fall to Indians, Darvish takes first loss

CLEVELAND (AP) — A glaring problem cost Yu Darvish and the Texas Rangers. Ubaldo Jimenez pitched seven scoreless innings and Asdrubal Cabrera hit a two-run double after the Rangers lost an infield popup in the sun as the Cleveland Indians handed Darvish his first major league loss, 4-2 Sunday.

Jason Kipnis homered off Darvish (4-1), who struck out a career-high 11 over six innings. Jimenez (3-2) walked four in the first three innings but settled down and permitted only two hits.

Johnny Damon's pop fell for a leadoff single in the third, leading to a three-run inning.

"If the ball goes into the sun, what can you do?" Darvish said through an interpreter.

"If this was the first loss ever in my life I would feel different," he said. "But I have experienced many losses. So now, I just prepare for my next game."

Darvish signed a \$56 million, six-year contract

with Texas in January. The Rangers also bid nearly \$52 million to gain negotiating rights to the 25-year-old right-hander, who was 93-38 with a 1.99 ERA in Japan.

"He pitched well enough to keep us in the game, but we didn't support him with runs," Rangers manager Ron Washington said. "Sometimes you can throw well and not get results."

Chris Perez pitched the ninth for his 11th consecutive save. He allowed one hit and was helped by a diving catch by right fielder Shin-Soo Choo on a sinking liner by pinch-hitter Adrian Beltre.

The Indians took the series from the two-time defending AL champions, who went 21-4 against them the previous three seasons. Cleveland has won three straight series and leads the AL Central.

"We played a terrific series," Indians manager Manny Acta said. "Anytime you take two of three from a team like that, it's very encouraging."

Jimenez was helped out of a two-on, one-out jam

in the first when catcher Carlos Santana threw out Josh Hamilton trying to advance to second on a pitch in the dirt. Jimenez then struck out Michael Young with a runner on third.

In the third, Jimenez issued three straight two-out walks, but got out of it when Young grounded out.

"If we could have put runs on the board when we had opportunities early, it may have been different," Washington said.

Jimenez struck out six and walked five overall, using a good breaking ball to put away Texas hitters. He retired 10 in a row before issuing a one-out walk to Mitch Moreland in the seventh. Jimenez finished off his day by striking out Yorvit Torrealba and Alberto Gonzalez.

"He was effectively wild," Washington said, adding that he's seen Jimenez shut down other good hitting lineups.

"That was no fluke. He's done it before."

Champion Mavs out after sweep by Thunder

JEFF LATZKE
AP Sports Writer

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — Starting the playoffs against defending NBA champion Dallas provided the Oklahoma City Thunder a chance to show how far they've come after losing to the Mavericks last year.

It didn't take long for the Thunder to finish off that challenge.

Oklahoma City handed the Mavs the first four-game sweep in franchise history, blowing through two games in Dallas to return the favor for last year's postseason heartache — win-

ning one in a blowout and one with a fourth-quarter comeback.

"It was a tough, tough series for us last year. Obviously we didn't get the outcome we wanted," All-Star point guard Russell Westbrook said. "It taught us a lesson."

"We needed to come back this year with a lot more toughness, and I think we did that this series, and this season, and hopefully we'll continue to do that."

First, the Thunder took a hard-earned day off Sunday while waiting to find out whom they'll face in the Western Conference semifinals. Kevin Durant and Co. won't know until at least Tuesday night, and possibly not until Saturday, whether it will be the Los Angeles Lakers or the Denver Nuggets.

The Lakers took a 3-1

series lead by winning 92-88 in Denver on Sunday night.

The Thunder won the season series against both potential opponents 2-1, losing to both in the final week of the regular season with top reserve James Harden out for the last part of the Lakers game and all of the Nuggets game after getting elbowed by L.A.'s Metta World Peace.

The sweep could give Oklahoma City its longest break of this lockout-shortened season. The only time the Thunder had more than three straight days off was a five-game layoff over the All-Star break.

The rest will be welcomed by center Kendrick Perkins, who left the clinching Game 4 victory Saturday night with a strained right hip.

"Perk is a big part of what we do," Durant said. "Just his leadership and toughness out on the floor was definitely missed in the second half, but his health is way more important to

us. More than anything, we just wanted to get the win for him."

"Hopefully these next few days he gets some rest and can be ready for the next series."

Perkins was considered day to day. He missed only one game all season after missing most of last season recovering after he had knee surgery and then re-injured the knee after his comeback.

"It's tough to see our big fellow go out, a guy that gives his all every single minute he's on the floor, gives his body for us," Durant said. "Hopefully, he's all right."

Already, the Thunder have cleared one enormous hurdle, the one that tripped them up in a 4-1 defeat in last year's Western Conference finals. The Mavericks changed since then, sticking with the same core but replacing center Tyson Chandler — this year's NBA Defensive Player of the Year — along with J.J. Barea, DeShawn Stevenson, Caron Butler and Peja Stojakovic.

Still, Oklahoma City was able to avoid the late-game struggles that allowed Dirk Nowitzki to guide Dallas to the series win last year.

"Since day one, since I got here, it's just all about building and growing and getting better every single day, and I think that's what we've done," Durant said.

"We're not satisfied. You've just got to keep pushing."

Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

Famous Hand

West dealer. Neither side vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ 4
♥ A Q 8 6 3
♦ J 10 8
♣ K J 8 4

WEST
♠ K J 10 7
♥ K 9 7 5 2
♦ Q 6 3 2
♣ —

EAST
♠ 5 3 2
♥ 4
♦ K 7 4
♣ A 10 9 6 5 2

SOUTH
♠ A Q 9 8 6
♥ J 10
♦ A 9 5
♣ Q 7 3

The bidding:
West North East South
Pass 2♥ Pass 2NT
Pass 3♣ Pass 3♠
Pass 3NT

Opening lead — two of diamonds.

Today's deal occurred in the 1990 world team championship final between Germany and the United States, narrowly won by Germany. The Germans got off to a slow start, though, losing heavily on this, the very first board of the 64-deal match.

When Jochen Bitschene and Bernhard Ludewig of Germany held the North-South hands, the bidding went as shown. North's two-heart opening showed five hearts, four clubs and 10-15 points, and two rounds later Ludewig found himself in three notrump.

Declarer won East's king of diamonds with the ace and led the heart jack, covered by the king and ace. A low heart was then led to the ten, after which Ludewig played a club to the king and East's ace, West discarding a spade.

West won his partner's diamond return with the queen and exited with a diamond to dummy's jack, but he found himself right back on lead on the next trick when Ludewig, spotting a sure-fire endplay, conceded the heart six to West's seven. After cashing his good diamond — the defenders' fourth trick — West had to return a heart from the 9-5 to dummy's Q-8 or lead a spade into South's A-Q. Either way, Ludewig was sure to gain his ninth trick.

This appeared to be an excellent result, but at the other table, with Germany now East-West, the bidding took an unexpected turn:

West North East South
1♥ Pass 3♣ Dble
Pass Pass Pass

West's one-heart bid showed 10-15 points with a heart suit and perhaps a minor suit on the side. East's three-club response was weak, and Charles Coon of the U.S. found the winning action by doubling. Mike Moss, North, was delighted to leave the double in, and when the smoke cleared, the Germans were down four for -800 and a 9-IMP loss on the deal.

Tomorrow: The misplaced king.
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See Sudoku Answers Page 3

sudoku

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9 with no repeats. That means no number is repeated in any row, column or box.

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

www.sudoku-puzzles.net

STEERS

Continued from Page 5

advantage of a series of Hawk errors — as well as a 8-3 lead.

The defense held Iowa Park scoreless for the remainder of the affair.

Big Spring scored its ninth run in the bottom of the sixth after two walks, a hit batsmen and a Kennedy single, and that was enough for the Steers to punch their ticket to the area playoff this week-end against Mineral Wells. Places and dates will be announced soon.

BSHS Head Coach Bert Otto exclaimed, "This is for Big Spring!", as he proudly lifted the golden bi-district trophy over his head.

In an emotional post-game interview, Otto — who along with his wife is adopting a baby girl this week — said "I give God the glory."

It's been a long time since a group of Steers have made a playoff run. Otto said it was around 16 years ago.

With Mineral Wells waiting for its chance to kill the Steers' playoff journey, Otto is confident in his team.

"We played well," he said. "We had a couple of shaky innings, but they showed resiliency and that's what you have to do in the playoffs. This is a great bunch of kids, I have said it all year, they are a different team."

Momentum is certainly on the side of the Steers. Adam Franco will be well-rested, and Garret Stuteville — who picked up the complete-game win Saturday — has been pitching well enough to stymie any opponent.

"You can never be without pitching in the playoffs," Otto added. "We were fortunate enough to get through a series with two pitchers."

Contact Sports Editor Brian McCormack at 263-7331 ext. 237 or by e-mail at sports@bigspringherald.com

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