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TUESDAY

AUGUST 7, 2012



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City to hold line on taxes

Employee pay raises are planned

By **STEVE REAGAN**
 Staff Writer

Big Spring city officials are adopting a "just say no" approach to tax increases this coming year. The city council gave its tentative approval to a new budget that is both balanced and features a slight dip in the tax rate during its annual workshop Monday night. Among other things, the new budget features a pay raise for employees (the first in two years), \$500,000 for water line replacement, set-aside money to purchase property for landfill use and almost \$4 million designated for water purchases.

But the most important feature, at least in the eyes of city leaders, is the fact that the new budget gives taxpayers something of a break — increased property valuations will allow the city to lower its tax rate while collecting the same amount of revenue as the previous year.

The proposed tax rate for the coming fiscal year is 89.5 cents per \$100 proper-



Big Spring City Manager Gary Fuqua, left, holds a copy of the proposed 2012-2013 budget while addressing the city council during its workshop Monday evening.

ty valuation, a 5-cent decrease from the current fiscal package.

By going with the "effective" tax rate (the rate which will raise the same amount of revenue as the previous year), the city is the only major taxing

entity in Howard County which will not increase its tax levy for the coming fiscal year, City Manager Gary Fuqua said.

See **CITY**, Page 3

I-20 wrecks mount

By **AMANDA DUFORAT**
 Staff Writer

STANTON — Traffic on Interstate 20 is flowing again after being shut down by not one, but three pile-ups Monday afternoon. between Midland and Stanton Monday. There was reported to be about 15 vehicles involved in the three accidents, which took place near mile marker 152, near Stanton..

The first accident was reported around 2:30 p.m. and included five cars and two 18-wheelers. One woman had to be airlifted from the scene and was eventually transferred to a hospital in Lubbock in critical condition. According to other media reports, the woman was driving an SUV which was dragged about half a mile down the westbound lane.

Upon processing the first accident, authorities witnessed a second collision which included seven cars and one 18-wheeler. The 18-wheeler was carrying methane, a flammable chemical, and began leaking on the roadway after it rolled over. According to other media reports, Union Pacific shut down its rail line in the area while hazmat crews cleaned up the spill.

Once traffic was diverted to the access roads, a third wreck occurred. According to reports, the heavy traffic on the access road produced by the two existing accidents on the interstate created the scene for a vehicle to slam into the back of an 18-wheeler. The woman driving the vehicle had to be airlifted to Medical Center Hospital in critical condition.

Clean up of the interstate had traffic taking alternate routes for several hours. The roadway was opened again about 10:45 p.m. Monday.

Martin County Sheriff John Woodward did not immediately return calls from the Herald this morning.

Also, no updates had been given as to the condition of the two female drivers transported to area hospitals. No fatalities had been reported from the accidents as of this morning.

Editors Note: This report was compiled from several media sources.

Contact Staff Writer Amanda Duforat at 263-7331 ext. 234 or by e-mail at life@bigspring-herald.com

Higher valuations help county; employees to receive pay hike

By **STEVE REAGAN**
 Staff Writer

Howard County commissioners approved a slight increase in the tax levy during

their budget workshop Monday morning.

Commissioner gave a tentative OK to a new tax rate of 33 cents per \$100 valuation, a sharp decrease from 43.7 cents the previous year. Because of of higher property valuations, however, the new rate will bring in more tax money.

The higher levy will not automatically translate into increased tax bills, County Judge Mark Barr quickly

noted. "Some people will see a tax decrease," he said. "Mineral values account for more than half of the tax (levy) increase."

The major target for the increased funds will be the road and bridge department, which is expected to receive about \$500,000 more this coming fiscal year to deal with deteriorating roads in the county.

"We've got some roads, par-

ticularly in the northwest part of the county, that because of heavy oilfield traffic are just about totally broken up," Barr said. "So we felt we had to do something to repair them ... and, unfortunately, that takes a lot of money."

"We have to maintain the county's roads, and things aren't getting any cheaper in that area," he added.

Barr held out the poss-

See **COUNTY**, Page 3

Boots and Bling kickoff nears

By **AMANDA DUFORAT**
 Staff Writer

Take your pick — boots or bling?

The United Way of Big Spring and Howard County will be hosting its 68th annual campaign kick off — Boots and Bling — at the Big Spring Country Club Aug. 18 at 7 p.m.

"Plans are coming together rather nicely. We are getting donations in already for the silent auction, ticket sales are progressing well and if it keeps going this way we will have another successful event," Executive



Stewart

Director Sandy Stewart said. This year, 300 tickets are being sold. They can be purchased for \$25 a person from any board member. During the kickn off, the 16 agencies supported by the local United Way will be announced and recognized. The goal for the upcoming campaign will also be revealed.

"Last year we set our goal at \$275,000 and we surpassed that with more than \$295,000," United Way President Debbie Wegman said. "We won't reveal next year's goal until the night of the kick off, but I can say that we

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Obituaries

Sharon Gonzalez



Sharon Gonzalez, 64, of Big Spring, died Thursday, Aug. 2, 2012, in Lubbock, Texas. Funeral services will be at 2 p.m. Wednesday at Myers & Smith Chapel with the Rev. Pat Ray, pastor of Prairieview Baptist Church, and Herb McPherson, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church, officiating. Burial will follow in Mount Olive Memorial Park.

She was born Aug. 28, 1947, to Pat and Russell Wetmore in Glendale, Calif. She married Juan Gonzalez on Feb. 14, 1979, in Big Spring, Texas. She has been a resident of Howard County for 34 years. She was a member of Prairieview Baptist Church. She was a homemaker.

She is survived by her husband, Juan Gonzalez of Big Spring; her mother, Pat Schilling of Pismo Beach, Calif.; one sister, Diana Mays and husband Stephen of Carson City, Nev.; and two nephews.

She was preceded in death by her father.

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

Lacy Edwards



Lacy Edwards, 69, of Big Spring died Monday, Aug. 6, 2012, at his residence. The family will receive friends from 6:30 p.m. until 8 p.m. Wednesday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Funeral services will be at 10:30 a.m. Thursday at Myers & Smith Chapel with Rick Cunningham and Patrick Robinson officiating. Burial with military honors will be at Trinity Memorial Park.

He was born Oct. 26, 1942, in Sikeston, Mo., to Virginia and Jack Edwards. He has been a resident of Big Spring for 25 years, moving from Snyder. He was a veteran of the United States Navy and the Air Force, serving in Vietnam with both. His medals and awards included: Air Force Gallantry Unit Award, Vietnam Gallantry Cross, Vietnam Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal, The Air Force Longevity Service Medal, The Air Force Good Conduct Medal, The Navy Good Conduct Medal, Joint Meritorious Unit Medal and The National Defense Medal.

He graduated from Western Texas College in Snyder. He worked for Texaco in Snyder and worked for CRMWD after he moved to Big Spring. He married Darlene Pirkle on Feb. 9, 1997, in Big Spring. He attended 14th & Main Church of Christ.

He is survived by his wife, Darlene Edwards of Big Spring; three children, Michael Edwards and wife Janet of Sikeston, Mo., Stacey Snelson and husband Jason of Cowetta, Okla., and Paul Edwards and wife Tracy of Troy, Ill.; three step-sons: Jay Pirkle and wife Linn of Albuquerque, Kevin Pirkle and wife Elsa of Donna and Kris Pirkle and wife Andrea of Amarillo; his mother: Sue Yerges of Sikeston, Mo.; two sisters: Sharon Duncan of Sikeston, Mo. and Sue Ann Lawrence and husband Frank of Chicago, Ill.; 12 grandchildren; and mother-in-law Georgia Lankford of Big Spring.

He was preceded in death by his father; one sister, Bonnie Edwards; his step-father, Royce Yerges; and brother-in-law, Dale Duncan.

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

Police blotter

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

• NICOLE ASHLEE WADE, 26, of Odessa, was arrested Monday on a charge of graffiti-pecuniary loss less than \$500.

• RACHEL RAMIREZ RODRIGUEZ, 33, of 1002 N. Main St. 1, was arrested Monday on a warrant for no drivers license when unlicensed, bail jumping/failure to appear/fine only (two counts), failed to maintain financial responsibility.

• THEFT was reported:
In the 600 block of N.E. Second Street.
In the 1700 block of S. Monticello.
In the 800 block of W. Sixth.

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.

• NICOLE ASHLEE WADE, 26, was transferred to the county detention center Monday by BSPD on a charge of graffiti: pecuniary loss less than \$500.

• JEFFERY S. WALLING, 42, was arrested Monday by HCSO on a charge of driving while intoxicated second.

• TYLER WAYLAND SMITH, 18, was transferred to the county detention center Monday on charges of possession/purchase use of tobacco by a minor, no driver's license (two counts), fail to maintain financial responsibility, violate promise to appear, failure to appear (seven counts), capias/minor consuming alcohol, capias/possession of drug paraphernalia.

• BLAKE RYAN LYLE, 30, was arrested Monday by HCSO on a charge of fraud use/possession identifying information.

• RACHEL RAMIREZ RODRIGUEZ, 33, was transferred to the county jail by BSPD on a charge of no liability insurance, no driver's license (two counts), violate promise to appear, failure to appear (two counts), failure to maintain financial responsibility.

• JASON DEAN DANIELS, 35, was arrested Tuesday by HCSO on a charge of possession of dangerous drug, possession of controlled substance between four grams and 200 grams, capias pro fine/fail to maintain financial responsibility (two counts), capias pro fine/driving while license invalid (four counts), capias pro fine/display expired registration (two counts), capias pro fine/expired motor vehicle inspection and capias pro fine/safety seat system-child younger than 8 or less than 4'9".

Fire/EMS

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

• MEDICAL was reported in the 800 block of Hwy 80. One person was transported to SMMC.

• MEDICAL was reported in the 900 block of E. 15th Street. One person was transported to SMMC.

• MEDICAL was reported in the 1000 block E. 14th Street. One person was transported to SMMC.

• MEDICAL was reported in 300 block of Veterans Boulevard. One person was transported to SMMC.

• MEDICAL was reported in the 2600 block of Dow. Service refused.

• Baptist Temple Church has set Vacation Bible School for Aug. 11. Sign ups will be from 8:30 a.m. until 9 a.m. Class will run from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. Lunch and snacks will be provided with the closing ceremony from 2 p.m. until 3 p.m. Parents and family are invited. Vans will run. Call 267-8287 and leave message with name and number for a call back.

• Northside Community Center will be offering after school program starting Sept. 5 from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Free ESL or SSL will be offered from 10 a.m. until noon Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Free basic computer sessions will be Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 a.m. until noon and 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Call 263-2673.

• The Compassionate Friends is a grief support group for those who have lost a child. The local chapter will meet Tuesday at 7 p.m. at First Baptist Church. Please use the doors on the southeast corner of the family life center.

• The Friends of the Library of Howard County request donations of books in good condition for the book sale to be held Sept. 14-16. If you have books to donate take them to the Howard County Library, Monday through Friday during regular library hours. Please no National Geographic magazines, other magazines or condensed books. Friends of the Library is a non-profit organization which provides supplemental support for our public library outside the budget furnished by Howard County. At the present time the Friends is financially supporting the library's summer reading program.

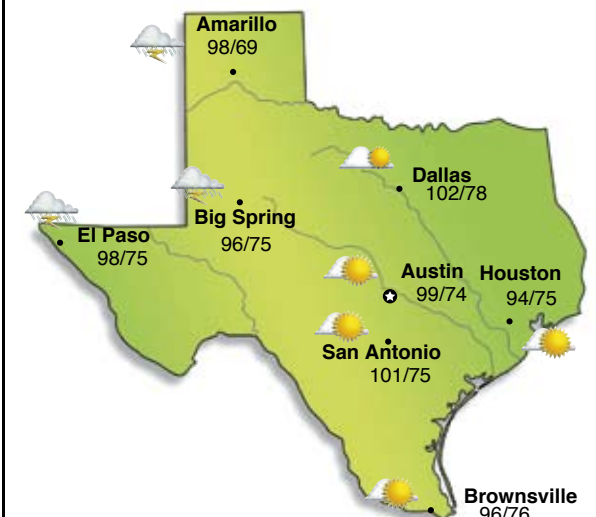
Today's Weather

Local 5-Day Forecast

Thu 8/9	Fri 8/10	Sat 8/11	Sun 8/12	Mon 8/13
96/75 Isolated thunderstorms. Highs in the mid 90s and lows in the mid 70s.	101/74 More sun than clouds. Highs 99 to 103F and lows in the mid 70s.	103/74 Sunshine. Highs 101 to 105F and lows in the mid 70s.	104/75 A few clouds. Highs 102 to 106F and lows in the mid 70s.	101/75 Mix of sun and clouds. Highs 99 to 103F and lows in the mid 70s.
Sunrise: 7:06 AM Sunset: 8:37 PM	Sunrise: 7:07 AM Sunset: 8:36 PM	Sunrise: 7:07 AM Sunset: 8:35 PM	Sunrise: 7:08 AM Sunset: 8:34 PM	Sunrise: 7:09 AM Sunset: 8:33 PM



Texas At A Glance



Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Abilene	101	76	t-storm	Kingsville	99	75	sunny
Amarillo	98	69	t-storm	Livingston	96	72	mst sunny
Austin	99	74	mst sunny	Longview	97	75	pt sunny
Beaumont	94	75	mst sunny	Lubbock	95	69	t-storm
Brownsville	96	76	mst sunny	Lufkin	97	75	mst sunny
Brownwood	101	75	pt sunny	Midland	98	77	t-storm
Corpus Christi	95	78	sunny	Raymondville	99	76	sunny
Corsicana	100	75	pt sunny	Rosenberg	94	74	mst sunny
Dallas	102	78	pt sunny	San Antonio	101	75	mst sunny
Del Rio	102	81	mst sunny	San Marcos	99	75	mst sunny
El Paso	98	75	t-storm	Sulphur Springs	100	76	pt sunny
Fort Stockton	98	73	pt sunny	Sweetwater	98	74	t-storm
Gainesville	102	75	pt sunny	Tyler	98	77	pt sunny
Greenville	100	74	pt sunny	Weatherford	101	75	pt sunny
Houston	94	75	mst sunny	Wichita Falls	104	76	t-storm

National Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Atlanta	87	70	t-storm	Minneapolis	78	64	t-storm
Boston	88	70	cloudy	New York	86	74	cloudy
Chicago	85	66	pt sunny	Phoenix	109	88	sunny
Dallas	102	78	pt sunny	San Francisco	68	56	pt sunny
Denver	92	62	sunny	Seattle	70	57	mst sunny
Houston	94	75	mst sunny	St. Louis	97	75	pt sunny
Los Angeles	88	69	sunny	Washington, DC	92	75	pt sunny
Miami	89	79	mst sunny				

Moon Phases



UV Index

Thu 8/9	Fri 8/10	Sat 8/11	Sun 8/12	Mon 8/13
11	11	11	11	11
Extreme	Extreme	Extreme	Extreme	Extreme

The UV Index is measured on a 0-11 number scale, with a higher UV Index showing the need for greater skin protection.

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Our assistance is not possible without the generosity and cooperation of the wonderful people of this county. Anyone who wishes to join the Friends of the Library, stop by the library for an application. Dues are \$5 a year.

• Registration of students new to Big Spring Independent School District is being held Mondays through Thursdays at the Student Registration and Records office at the old Goliad Intermediate School, 2000 S. Goliad. Parents of students who were not registered as of May 25 must register their children before the start of the new school year Aug. 27. Required records include: Student's Social Security number, birth certificate and shot record, as well as parent's driver's license and proof of residency. Call 264-3622 for more information.

• An account has been established at Big Spring Community Federal Credit Union in the name of Glenda Berger, who was recently diagnosed with inoperable lung cancer. Donations will be used to help defer medical costs and mounting bills. All donations are greatly appreciated. Call Big Spring Community Federal Credit Union at 800-299-6761.

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NEXT CLINIC VISIT 8-9-12

News in brief

Temple president, officers who tended wounded and killed gunman, hailed amid shootings horror

MILWAUKEE (AP) — His community under attack, Sikh Temple of Wisconsin president Satwant Singh Kaleka fought back with all his strength and a simple butter knife, trying to stab a murderous gunman before taking two fatal gunshots to the leg.

Shot nine times and left for dead as he tended to a wounded victim outside, Oak Creek Police Lt. Brian Murphy tried to wave off his colleagues' aid, insisting worshippers indoors needed their help more.

Under fire in the temple parking lot, 32-year veteran Oak Creek police officer Sam Lenda took aim and shot back, downing the gunman who refused to drop his weapon after killing six people as they gathered for Sunday services.

Kaleka, Murphy and Lenda — one dead, one critically injured and one physically unharmed — are being hailed as heroes for saving lives in the shootings that sent more shockwaves through the nation just two weeks after a gunman killed 12 people inside an Aurora, Colo., movie theater. Police say gunman Wade Michael Page, a 40-year-old Army veteran and former leader of a white supremacist heavy metal band, unloaded a 9 mm handgun at the temple. They have not determined a motive.

What they have done is hailed the actions of those caught in the crossfire.

Md. music label removes music by temple gunman

BALTIMORE (AP) — A Baltimore label that distributed music by the gunman in the Wisconsin Sikh temple shooting says it has removed all of the band's music from its website.

Label 56 also issued a statement saying it does not seek attention through "shock value" and has worked to encourage people to take a positive path.

The label also asks people not take what the gunman did as honorable or respectable, or think that "we are all like that."

Authorities say Wade Michael Page, who was killed at the scene of the temple shooting, played in white supremacist heavy metal bands.

Page also described himself as a member of the skinhead group "Hammerskins Nation," according to the SITE Monitoring Service, a Maryland-based firm that searches the Internet for extremist activity.

NASA rover transmits low-resolution video of touchdown on Mars

PASADENA, Calif. (AP) — NASA's Curiosity rover has transmitted a low-resolution video showing the last 2 1/2 minutes of its white-knuckle dive through the Martian atmosphere, giving earthlings a sneak peek of a spacecraft landing on another world.

As thumbnails of the video flashed on a big screen on Monday, scientists and engineers at the NASA Jet Propulsion let out "oohs" and "aahs." The recording began with the protective heat shield falling away and ended with dust being kicked up as the rover was lowered by cables inside an ancient crater.

It was a sneak preview, since it'll take some time before full-resolution frames are beamed back depending on other priorities.

The full video "will just be exquisite," said Michael Malin, the chief scientist of the instrument.

NASA celebrated the precision landing of a rover on Mars and marveled over the mission's flurry of photographs — grainy, black-and-white images of Martian gravel, a mountain at sunset and, most exciting of all, the spacecraft's white-knuckle plunge through the red planet's atmosphere.

Tropical Storm Ernesto swirls off Honduras as authorities warn of

flood danger from rains

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras (AP) — Tropical Storm Ernesto swirled along Honduras' northern coast early Tuesday, staying offshore and bringing the threat of torrential rains as it headed toward landfall as a possible hurricane near Mexico's border with Belize.

Nicaraguan authorities moved some people from low-lying areas, while Honduran officials urged people along its Caribbean coast to stay alert.

With Ernesto predicted to stay at sea while passing along Honduras' northern coast during the day, Honduran authorities were monitoring the storm but there were no immediate plans to evacuate people, Roberto Diaz, operations chief of the country's Contingencies Commission, said Monday night.

"We don't think it is necessary to evacuate people at this point," Diaz said. "We don't want to create collective panic ... and we think that ordering an evacuation would create hysteria that would affect the population more than the storm itself."

Authorities sent enough food packages to the sparsely populated area to feed 600 families for two weeks, Diaz said.

Court date set for Ohio man accused of shooting wife in her hospital bed; autopsy is pending

AKRON, Ohio (AP) — An Ohio man suspected of shooting his wife in the head in her hospital bed was scheduled for his first court appearance as police awaited autopsy results that could affect the charge against him in the possible mercy killing.

Police said the results of an autopsy, expected to occur Tuesday or Wednesday, could cause the attempted aggravated murder charge against John Wise to be upgraded to a more serious type of murder charge. Wise was to appear in Akron Municipal Court on Tuesday.

Barbara Wise, 65, was incapacitated and in the intensive care unit before her husband of 45 years stood at her bedside and shot her on Saturday.

CITY

Continued from Page 1

That fact generated praise from council members.

"Anything over the effective rate is a tax increase, no matter what anyone tells you," Craig Olson said. "And I congratulate (Fuqua and his staff) for avoiding that."

"I think this is pretty much a tribute to you and your staff for working harder and smarter," Mayor Tommy Duncan told Fuqua. "Through your efforts, we're able to bring costs down."

Among the highlights of the proposed budget are:

- Pay raises — The council approved a 3 percent pay raise for all employees (excepting senior staff) and held the door open for even more pay increases.

Faced with an annual turnover rate of about 30 percent, Fuqua said the city has to do something in order to retain its employees.

"We're losing them about as fast as we can get them," he said. "And we're losing them in all

departments — the police department, fire department, sanitation and other sections, as well."

The oil boom is the major culprit behind the employee exodus. City officials concede they cannot compete with the oil industry when it comes to salaries, but they also believe they had to do something to encourage employee retention.

"This won't help us compete with the oil field, but it will at least show our employees we appreciate their efforts," Fuqua said.

The city may not stop at a 3 percent pay hike — prodded by Olson and fellow council member Marcus Fernandez, the council said it would approve a 4 percent salary increase as long as the tax rate remains at the effective level.

Fuqua sounded optimistic that the additional money can be found.

"One of the things we'll have to look at is property values," he said. "If they come in higher than current estimates, we should be able to (provide funds for the additional pay raises). Another thing is

we were very conservative in estimating sales tax revenue for the coming year. It might very well come in higher than anticipated.

"But even if we need to go back through all the funds and make some more cuts, we'll be very motivated to do so," he added.

- Water line replacement — Having replaced water lines on Third and Fourth streets and Birdwell Lane during the current fiscal year, the city will take aim at other areas in the coming 12 months.

Assistant City Manager Todd Darden said officials are eyeing the west end of town and the area surrounding the water treatment plant as possible sites for future water line replacement.

- Landfill purchases — Fuqua said the city landfill will be full in about four years, and since the permitting process for opening a new landfill also takes about four years, he said the city is reaching a critical stage in deciding the future of the facility.

He said the city basically has two options — either purchase a new plot of land somewhere

in the county or purchase land adjacent to the current landfill.

The advantage to the first option is that a entirely new landfill would give the city about 100 years of effective use. The downside, Fuqua added, is that no one wants to sell their property for use as a garbage dump.

The second option has the downside of a shorter shelf life — only 30 years of effective life — but may be more doable, Fuqua said.

"Whatever we decide, we have to do it fairly quickly," he said. "We'll have to reach a decision by the end of the year."

- Red ink — Some funds are likely to continue to have deficits this year, including Emergency Medical Service, service center and senior citizen center.

Since the city is obligated by law to respond to ambulance calls, Fuqua said there is little chance of reducing the EMS deficit in the near future.

With regards to the service center, which maintains and repairs city vehicles and equipment, Fuqua said a possible way to reduce the

red ink is to contract out those services.

The senior citizen center, however, presents different problems. Fuqua said outlays to the center have almost doubled since the city took over operational responsibility from the county in 2008, but structural issues and other problems with the facility make a solution problematic.

In addition, Fuqua fears the county may discontinue its annual \$75,000 subsidy to help with operational costs.

"If the county subsidy ceases, we may have to evaluate the viability of the entire program," he conceded.

Overall, however, Fuqua expressed satisfaction with the proposed budget.

"I thought the process went fairly well," he said. "The supervisors and department heads brought in very realistic budget requests and the council gave us instructions on what they wanted us to do. We went through all that, and I think we met all the goals they set for us."

The city's new budget will be formally adopted

in September.

Contact Staff Writer Steve Reagan at 263-7331 ext. 235 or by e-mail at reporter@bigspringherald.com

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

24th & Johnson 267-8288

Otilia H. "Tila" Alvarado, 84, passed away Friday. Funeral Mass was at 10 a.m. today at Holy Trinity Catholic Church. Burial followed at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

Sharon Gonzalez, 64, died Thursday. Funeral services will be at 2 p.m. Wednesday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Burial will follow in Mount Olive Memorial Park.

Lacy A. Edwards, 69, died Monday. The family will receive friends from 6:30 p.m. until 8 p.m. Wednesday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Funeral services will be at 10:30 a.m. Thursday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Burial with Military Honors will follow at Trinity Memorial Park.

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COUNTY

Continued from Page 1

ibility that commissioners may earmark even more money for road improvements before the budget is formally

adopted in September.

In addition to roads, another area commissioners targeted was salaries, tentatively agreeing to give all employees (except elected officials) a \$1,000 annual raise. This marks the first time in two years

county employees will see a raise in their pay, County Auditor Jackie Olson said.

The remainder of the county budget remains largely unchanged compared to the previous year, officials said. Barr said commissioners

will continue work on the new fiscal package at their next meeting Monday, but didn't expect any major changes between now and formal adoption.

"We'll still be fine-tuning the budget a bit, but for the most part, we've

got the main ingredients in place," he said.

Contact Staff Writer Steve Reagan at 263-7331 ext. 235 or by e-mail at reporter@bigspringherald.com

BOOTS

Continued from Page 1

are very confident in the fact the community will be there to support us as they always have been."

Those attending the kick-off will get to enjoy a night of entertainment by the Freeride band, heavy hors d'oeuvres, cash bar and a silent auction.

"We had a lot of compliments from people last year and they really

seemed to enjoy the evening so we are doing it again," Wegman said.

Though plans are coming together according to schedule, Wegman and Stewart said do-

nations are still being sought for the silent auction. To donate items, call Stewart at 267-5201 or bring donations to the United Way office at 215 W. Third.

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

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EDITORIAL

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

LETTER POLICIES

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- Sign your letter.
- Provide a daytime telephone number, as well as a street address for verification purposes.
- We reserve the right to edit for style and clarity.
- We reserve the right to limit publication to one letter per 30-day period per author.
- Letters that are unsigned or do not include a telephone number or address will not be considered.
- Letters should be submitted to Editor, Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721. They can also be e-mailed to newsdesk@bigspringherald.com

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

May we not compromise Your principles, Lord.

Amen

Politically and otherwise, the mountain west swings

When the sun goes down, the new Mountain West comes out swinging.

Denver's Larimer Square and LoDo (Lower Downtown) district turns into a multicultural Mix-master of educated professionals, ordinary folk and tourists jamming bars, hamburger joints, steak palaces and French bistros. Meanwhile, armies of largely Spanish-speaking immigrants work the kitchens and vacuum the deserted offices. For all the legends of the spacious West, the region is one of the most urbanized.

And it is getting more so, which is why once-dependably Republican Colorado is in the "leaning who-knows-where" category in the upcoming election. Similar demographic trends are visiting Nevada and New Mexico. And although Arizona remains Republican, that could change, as well.

An influx of newcomers has "raised educational levels, replaced older with younger generations and powered the rise of metropolitan areas where the overwhelming majority of the Mountain West population now lives." So writes Ruy Teixeira in "America's New Swing Region: Changing Politics and Demographics in the Mountain West," published by the Brookings Institution.

The Democrats hope a growing coalition of white college graduates and immigrants will deliver Colorado to Barack Obama. Recent polls show the president and Republican Mitt Romney

some perceive as anti-business rhetoric by the president. What they do at the polls on Nov. 6 is anybody's guess, but these are the sort of people who show up.

The demographic changes are certainly a wind at the Democrats' back. From 2000 to 2010, minorities' share of eligible Colorado voters rose nearly 3 percent. Working-age college graduates gained 2 percent. In the same period, the portion of eligible white voters who did not graduate from college — a group generally favorable to Republicans — fell almost 6 percent.

The problem for Republicans here goes beyond the new arrivals' tendency to vote for Democrats. It is a Republican Party that has moved away from the Western kind of conservatism, which is strongly libertarian (government stay out of our lives), to a social conservatism, which is strongly not.

Also, the environmentalism of even traditional conservatives in this physically magnificent region ought not be underestimated. Many meat-eating, tax-cutting and regulation-slashing entrepreneurial types moved here precisely to be near the skiing and natural beauty. They might have felt comfortable in the party of Theodore Roosevelt and Richard Nixon, but nationally, today's Republicans have largely abandoned the conservation ethic.

You see that inner conflict in places like Arapahoe County, one of the most politically unpredictable counties in this up-for-grabs state. Southeast of Denver, Arapahoe is home to many comfortably middle-class professionals in the tech, insurance and other white-collar industries. Such voters seem torn by concern over quality-of-life issues and discomfort at what

some perceive as anti-business rhetoric by the president. What they do at the polls on Nov. 6 is anybody's guess, but these are the sort of people who show up.

The candidates' strategies follow the demographic realities. Romney has been avoiding metro Colorado while campaigning in the still staunchly Republican rural eastern counties and Grand Junction on the Western slope. Obama is all over the Front Range Urban Corridor, which includes (north to south) Fort Collins, Boulder, Denver, Colorado Springs and Pueblo.

After the horrific theater massacre in Aurora, both candidates officially suspended campaigning. Romney surrogate Florida Sen. Marco Rubio called off a planned visit. The Obama campaign temporarily halted advertising, though its claims to have stopped politicking did not entirely convince. Having already held a news conference to offer the nation's sympathies to the victims, Obama then flew to Colorado to personally comfort the victims' families, his motorcade passing through town.

In any event, both the Romney and Obama campaigns plan a return to normalcy this weekend. The volleys of political ads should be back, and the swinging new Mountain West will see little rest for the next 100 days.

To find out more about Froma Harrop, and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate web page at www.creators.com.

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America is not ready for hospice

We must reject President Obama's death verdict on America's future. It is ailing under his policies, but it is not too late; it will recover.

Obama ran on a platform of unmitigated optimism — a promise to usher in a brighter day for America. But there could hardly be a greater contrast between his pledge and his performance in office, between his commitment to the nation and his current abandonment of all hope. He has breached his contract with the electorate and must be fired.

It isn't just that Obama's policies have failed; it's that he has essentially given up and is asking us to accept a lesser America going forward, as if resigned to the fatalistic belief that America has begun an inevitable and unavoidable decline.

His policies are smothering the economy. He isn't merely denying the allergy-induced asthma patient her breathing treatment; he is holding his hand over her mouth and suffocating her. But he is also using his bully pulpit to proliferate despair, because to claim he's working against ineluctably destructive forces is the only remaining excuse he can offer after 3 1/2 years of blaming Bush.

He is basically saying, "Look, I know we aren't so prosperous as we once were, but that's just the way it's going to be from now on, so you might as well re-accept me, because at least I'm realistic about it and I will make the pain more tolerable by redistributing it throughout the body politic in a more equitable manner."

He wants the voters to believe that 8 percent unemployment is the new 5 percent. He actually boasts that he is the most frugal president in the past 60 years, using the tortured logic that be-

cause he "inherited" a \$1 trillion deficit, he should be praised as long as his deficits don't get too much above \$1 trillion — as if \$1 trillion deficits are the new balanced budget.

A president who believed that America's greatness is recoverable and expandable — a chief executive determined to lead us back to national restoration — would reject the crippling notions of national impotency that Obama has embraced. He would seek to inspire a sense of mission in the people to restore American prosperity.

But for Obama to do that would be tantamount to conceding his failures. For him to embark on a true message of hope and change, he would have to campaign against his own deplorable record and chart a new course. Instead, he's taken the easy way out: resignation and despair, coupled with a relentless propaganda effort to convince voters, in essence, that our best times are behind us.

Though there are many differences between Barack Obama and Jimmy Carter, they are strikingly similar in their poor economic records and even more so in their shared pessimism and bearishness on America.

That is why it is so important for Mitt Romney, in addition to focusing a bright light on Obama's failed record and connecting the dots between his policies and that record, to challenge and obliterate Obama's message of hopelessness and stagnation.

He must, in his own way, grow increasingly Reaganesque in the sense of violently rejecting Obama's death verdict on America and vigorously proclaiming that despite this astonishing mess Obama has created, it is not too late to turn things around and that America's best days can be still ahead of us.

Romney must make clear to the American people that Obama is like the hospice provider who has come in to make America's last days more comfortable,

dispensing pain medication limitlessly (in the form of ceaseless spending and expanding the welfare state) because there is no downside to addicting a terminal patient. Romney should say that this national grim reaper has delivered the wrong diagnosis and that he must be asked to vacate the premises.

America is not dying of old age or an irreversible disease; she has just been administered a debilitating cocktail of drugs, and we must wean her off them and allow her to heal and regain her natural strength and vitality.

The good news is that in contrast with Obama's empty promises of "hope and change," Romney can make a persuasive case that America can rebound and soar to new heights — because it happens to be true. By his implementing pro-growth tax and spending policies, structurally reforming entitlements, rolling back the regulatory state and using the bully pulpit to re-befriend America, its entrepreneurship, its businesses, its domestic energy producers, its greatness and its people, we would see an unprecedented restoration of America's pride and an economic explosion.

We don't have to accept 8 percent unemployment as the new 5 percent. We don't have to accept \$1 trillion deficits as the new norm. We don't have to accept the suicidal notion that we can't reform our entitlement programs and bring our budget into solvency. Romney has begun to sound those themes, and I hope he doubles down on them in the last three months of the campaign.

David Limbaugh is a writer, author and attorney. His latest book, "The Great Destroyer," has been on the New York Times best-seller list for six weeks. To read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

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FROMA HARROP



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Kid Scoop FIT & FUN

Guy Fieri's Cooking with kids

Tacos with a Twist

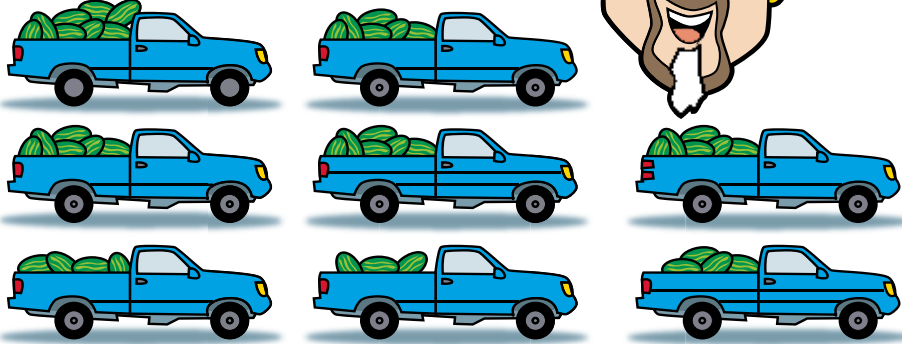
Watermelon is a hot-weather treasure and a taste of summer that goes as good in a taco as it does in a fruit salad. Give it a try with your family!

LET'S DO THIS!
Work on this page with a parent. Cooking together builds creativity and confidence!



Lettuce as a taco shell? You bet!

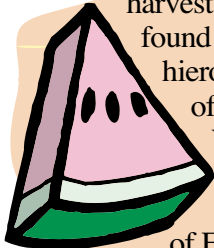
Find the two twin trucks. Look closely!



Standards Link: Visual Discrimination: Find similarities and differences in common objects.

History of Watermelon

The first recorded watermelon occurred nearly 5,000 years ago in Egypt. Pictures of this harvest and the melon are found in hieroglyphics on walls of ancient buildings. Watermelons were often placed in the burial of Egyptian kings to nourish them in the afterlife.



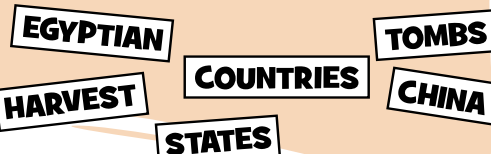
tenth century, watermelon found its way to _____, which is now the world's number-one producer of the fruit.

The United States currently ranks fourth in worldwide production of watermelon. Forty-four _____ grow watermelons with Florida, Texas, California, Georgia and Arizona consistently leading the country in production.

From ancient Egypt, watermelons spread throughout _____ along the Mediterranean Sea by way of merchant ships. By the _____

Standards Link: Math: History: Students know types of foods used now and in the past.

Replace the missing words.



Seed Spittin'

Who spit their watermelon seeds the furthest? Add up the numbers from each kid to his or her seeds. The one with the highest total wins!

Standards Link: Math: Calculate sums.

WATERMELON PORK TACOS IN LETTUCE SHELLS

Recipe Courtesy Guy Fieri

Prep Time: 35 min
Cook Time: 3 min
Makes: 4 tacos



STUFF YOU'LL NEED:

FOR THE PORK:

- 2 lbs. pork tenderloins, silver skin trimmed, cut into 1-inch-thick slices
- 1 tbs onion powder
- 1 tsp red pepper flakes
- 1 tbs ground pepper
- 2 tbs chopped ginger
- 1 tbs seeded and minced serrano chile
- 2 tbs minced fresh garlic
- 3 tbs soy sauce
- 2 tbs oyster sauce
- 1/2 tsp toasted sesame oil

GETTING STARTED

Combine all the pork ingredients in a re-sealable plastic bag and marinate for 30 minutes. Make the salsa while marinating.

GRILL IT!

Preheat grill to medium heat. Remove the pork from the marinade, pat dry and grill for 2 minutes on one side. Turn and grill 1 more minute (or until internal temp. is 140°F.) Remove from heat and let rest 3 minutes before cutting into 1/2-inch cubes.

DINNER IS SERVED

Use 4 large, sturdy romaine-heart leaves for the taco shells. Fill with pork and top with salsa.

WATERMELON SALSA

- 2 tbs rice vinegar
- 1/4 cup olive oil
- 1 tbs soy sauce
- 1/4 tsp toasted sesame oil
- 1 cup small (about 1/4 inch) watermelon cubes
- 1/4 English cucumber, seeded and cut into 1/4-inch cubes
- 1 Hass avocado, pitted, peeled and cut into 1/4-inch cubes

Whisk together the rice vinegar, olive oil, soy sauce and sesame oil in a medium bowl. Gently fold in the watermelon, cucumber and avocado. Refrigerate until chilled.

Extra! Extra! Fitness Scavenger Hunt

Look through the newspaper to find:

- A picture of someone playing a sport
- someone who looks healthy
- a place to exercise

Standards Link: Research: Use the newspaper to locate information.

Double Double Word Search

WATERMELON LETTUCE HARVEST VINEGAR AVOCADO SESAME OYSTER SUMMER SALSA TOMBS CHINA TASTE WALLS PORK SOY

Find the words in the puzzle. Then look for each word in this week's Kid Scoop stories and activities.



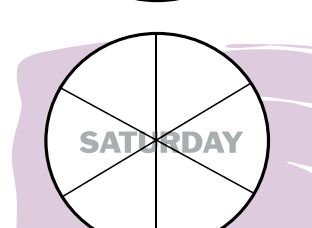
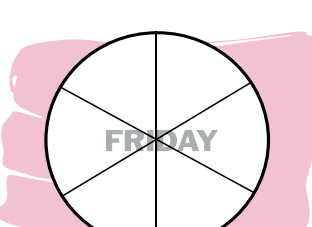
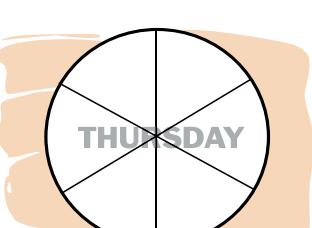
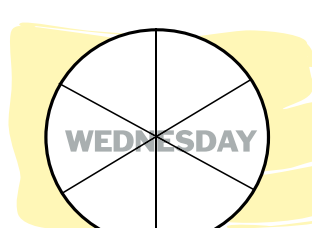
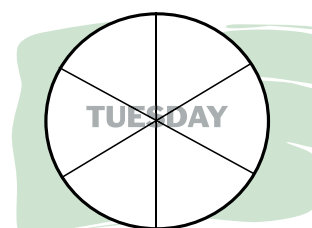
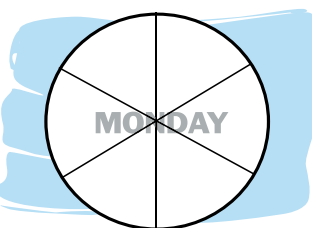
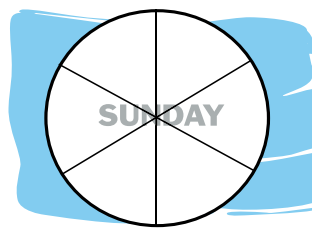
Standards Link: Letter sequencing. Recognized identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

SUPER CIRCLES

Can you do something physically active for one hour every day of the week?

Complete the circle charts below, one for each day of the week. Each wedge in the charts equals 10 minutes.

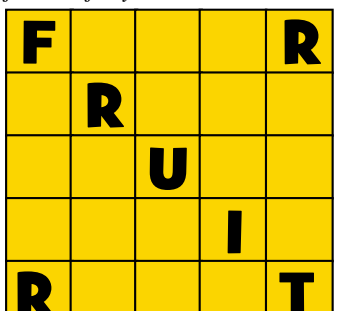
If you dance for 20 minutes, color in two wedges. If you play basketball for one hour, fill in an entire circle.



Standards Link: Health: Know how to maintain and promote personal health.

Kid Scoop-doku

Complete the grid by using all the letters in the word FRUIT in each vertical and horizontal row. Each letter should only be used once in each row. Some spaces have been filled in for you.



Write On! Cave Curiosity

Imagine you are stranded on a tropical island. While exploring, you find a deep, dark cave. To your surprise, inside it is a ...
Finish this story.

When do you stop on GREEN and go on RED?

Use the code to discover the punch line!

A = 8	G = 33	I = 17	M = 16	O = 30	R = 4	T = 24	W = 21
E = 19	H = 2	L = 29	N = 11	P = 26	S = 15	U = 5	Y = 28

21 2 19 11 28 30 5 4 19 19 8 24 17 11 33

21 8 24 19 4 16 19 29 30 11

For more ideas about cooking with kids, visit www.cwkfoundation.org

Bird Poop: An outstanding replica

Having been called to pick up two birds, the Animal Control officer slowed, then stopped, in front of the address he had been given. When no one answered his knock on the door, he walked around to the back yard.

With no response to his voice or another knock on a door, it was obvious. No one was home.

Having circled the premises, he had not seen the two birds that had prompted a call.

After using a phone number written under the street address, he reached an occupant of the house. "Look in the rabbit hutch at the front of the house," was the person's directive.

At first glance, the structure had been empty. When he looked a second time, he thought to check the corner purposely hidden as a sleeping area. A mound of white fluff was snuggled in the corner.

Difficult, but not impossible to reach, he struggled to gather the fuzzy beings. With his fingertips, he managed to coax the bundle up into the palm of his outstretched hand.

As one of the two nestlings awakened, he was apprehensive of the state of the other sibling. It did not move.

Once he had removed both from the hutch, he realized that only one had survived this traumatic situation. Obvious was the fact that these birds had been taken from their nest.

When the officer called Diane Tracy, a licensed permittee, to say he had an owl for her, she set some tiny, baby mice out to thaw. Looking inside the carrier housing her



Courtesy photo

This nestling Swainson's hawk was first covered only with white down. At six weeks of age, its wings and back are starting to feather out among its downy coat. As a summer hawk, it has a ravenous appetite for grasshoppers. Sometime in early September it will begin its

new arrival, she informed the officer that it was not an owl. "That's a hawk!"

Telling me about the ravenous appetite of the little raptor, Diane said that she and husband, Dale, would make the drive from San Angelo to Sterling City the next morning for a transfer. Relating that the chick was just starting to feather out, she added that it was mostly down, with black bill, yellow legs and feet.

Since most of its weight was concentrated in the lower portion of its body to keep it from falling out of a nest, the struggling youngster appeared to be all bottom. "It's a big baby."

Location and time of year indicated one of two species. Both Swainson's hawks and red-tailed hawks were in her

locale.

Since we each were exactly 43 miles from Sterling City, our anticipation grew upon reaching the town's city limits. Often, both of us turned into the park on the south side of town within minutes of each other.

As I lifted the nestling from Diane's carrier, I could feel it had good body weight. It was about six weeks old.

Extending its wings and checking the emerging colorations underneath showed no apparent, dark leading edges directly below the shoulders.

There were visible signs of a chestnut-brown bib emerging across a creamy chest. The nestling raptor was a Swainson's hawk.

In comparison, a red-tail would have had evidence of a

dark edge between shoulder and elbow and no bib. As Art watched us eliminate the tell-tale signs of a given specie, he added, "Look at the head. It has to be a Swainson's."

Often we had handled red-tails whose heads are as flat as anvils on top. The slight variation in shape was another identifying factor.

Once home, we placed the nestling on the scales. Its weight of 543 grams confirmed that its parents had fed it well.

For six days we enjoyed its company. Then its delivery to Gail Barnes in Lubbock could insure it would be placed with other Swainson's hawks to learn the way of raptors. It was not to be.

The drought of 2011 had spread to 2012. The absence of an appreciable number of

that specie in the Lubbock area meant our youngster had no surrogate parent or siblings from which to learn.

Although it was feathering out during the last of June, it was a lonely figure inside its mew. Observed by Clint Boal, a volunteer who is a licensed master falconer, the hapless nestling signaled that without interaction with its own specie, it would not survive nor be able to migrate on its own.

Both Clint and Gale had studied the success in Alabama and other areas of placing nestlings in their own specie's nest. Since a surrogate had not come to the center, the bird could be taken to one.

Because of the drought, the three Swainson's nests known to Clint in the Lubbock area were inactive. Determined to see to the needs of this youngster, he found that a nest in Amarillo was active and thriving.

After some 20 days at the wildlife center, the Swainson's was placed in the nurturing atmosphere of a promising home to the north. Its acceptance and daily routine were and are being monitored daily by a graduate student.

With its brown upper parts and head, in contrast to its pale belly, it is showing in its short flights its light wing linings as they contrast against its dark flight feathers.

Having been deemed an owl, the Swainson's hawk is still in the nest area as July turns to August.

From a rabbit hutch to a lofty aerie, its odyssey from San Angelo to the Texas Panhandle has given it the opportunity to become an outstanding replica of its specie.

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

Parents Corner: Native American history

I love history and I am especially enthralled in the study of the Native American. I have always been told that I am part Choctaw, and even though I have yet to find my lineage, I am proud to proclaim the heritage.

Recently, I was reading where many states across our country are encouraging schools to weave American Indian history and culture into their curriculum. Washington State is one of a handful that requires it. Its state education office has created an extensive online library of information about local and regional tribes to help make that happen.

Similar resources have been created by other states, including Montana, Wisconsin, Arizona, New Mexico, Oklahoma and South Dakota. The efforts are designed to recognize Native American history as an important element of state and local history, and to offer teachers a way to localize and enliven their American history classes.

The director of the Washington State office of Indian Education says his state's new curriculum goes beyond Pocahontas and General George A. Custer to share a deeper Native American story with students, and to help restore native pride, combat negative stereotypes and create culturally relevant coursework which appeals to Indian students, including many who lag behind their peers in academic achievement.

The curriculum goal is to find ways to infuse tribal knowledge and history into classrooms and make it flexible and easy for teachers to use. About 2.6 percent of Washington's students identify themselves as American Indian or Pacific Islander. The Washington tribal education website offers lesson plans for various age groups and gives teachers the option of spending a few hours or several months on the topic.

It also offers suggestions to engage local tribes in their studies and encourages teachers to work closely with local tribes and Indian education programs and invite tribal members to speak to their students.

One teacher, who has been piloting the new Washington curriculum in her history classroom for several years, says her students have grown to appreciate both

local history and Indian stories and can relate better to some of the news of today that pertains to area tribes. She passes around hand-made buttons, scarves and other commemorative gifts, and shares photos of canoes gliding through the natural beauty of the Pacific Northwest.

She answers questions and talks in vivid detail about her experiences on the water, like the time a seal attacked a canoe.

She is a member of the Klallam tribe, which has lived along the nearby Elwha River for centuries. Canoeing was central to the culture of the Klallam, who were expert canoe makers and relied on the boats for travel and fishing.

She conveys this to her students not by reciting facts, but by bringing history to life. And she says nearly

the same experience can take place in any school in the U.S., using the ready-made Native American curricula available on the Web for interested teachers.

Her students, native and non-native, say the Indian curriculum makes their social studies class more interesting and relevant, and they especially enjoy learning about the history of their own community.

Texas hasn't joined the movement to include Native American history into the school curriculum, but it could happen sometime in the future.

In the immortal words of Yogi Berra, "The future ain't what it used to be!"

Darrell Ryan is director of federal programs for the Big Spring Independent School District.



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Steer Football 2012

- Aug. 17 — Lubbock High (Scrimmage) (T), 7 p.m.
- Aug. 24 — Lubbock Estacado (Scrimmage) (T) 7 p.m.
- Aug. 31 — Ft. Stockton (T), 7:30 p.m.
- Sept. 7 — Midland Christian (H), 7:30 p.m.
- Sept. 14 — Lakeview (T), 7:30 p.m.
- Sept. 21 — Andrews (Homecoming), 7:30 p.m.
- Sept. 28 — Seminole (H), 7:30 p.m.
- Oct. 5 — O P E N
- Oct. 12 — *Abilene Wylie (H), 7:30 p.m.
- Oct. 19 — *Snyder (T), 7:30 p.m.
- Oct. 26 — *Sweetwater (H), 7:30 p.m.
- Nov. 2 — *Greenwood (H), 7:30 p.m.
- Nov. 9 — *Monahans (T), 7:30 p.m.

*Denotes district game

To submit a calendar item, please call 263-7331, ext. 235, or e-mail reporter@bigspringherald.com



HERALD photo/Brian McCormack

With temperatures already nearing 100 degrees, BSHS Coach Chris Joslin instructs some Steers during the first practice of the season Monday. Football and volleyball preseason opens statewide this week.

Darvish struggles as Rangers fall to Boston

BOSTON (AP) — Texas starter Yu Darvish admits he isn't the same pitcher he was in Japan.

The Rangers right-hander is no longer a reflection of the hurler he was during his first month in the majors, either.

Mired in a prolonged slump, Darvish struck out the first two batters he faced Monday night, but struggled the rest of the way, allowing six runs on a career-high 11 hits, including seven doubles, in a 9-2 loss to the Boston Red Sox.

After a sensational start to his career, going 4-0 with a 2.18 ERA in five April outings, Darvish (11-8) is 1-3 with a 7.76 ERA over his last five.

"I come over here and make the effort to adjust to the major leagues. I've been open, tried a lot of different things, but in the end, the Rangers acquired me for the pitcher that I was, that I am in Japan," Darvish said through a translator.

"So just looking back on it, preparing and pitching the way I can — mentally and physically — that's something that I want to bring back and try to continue to do in my next outings."

Darvish struck out nine and walked four, throwing a career-high 123 pitches, 75 of them strikes, and surrendered RBI doubles to Carl Crawford and Adrian Gonzalez, and Jacoby Ellsbury and Dustin Pedroia in the fourth.

"Earlier it was command. Tonight it was just getting hit. Simple as that," Texas manager Ron Washington said of Darvish's recent troubles. "The line score doesn't look good, but he threw strikes. He used all his pitches, and his secondary stuff, when he threw them for strikes, they hit them. His fastball, when he threw them for strikes, they hit them."

"Tonight just wasn't Yu Darvish's night. Tonight was the Boston Red Sox' night. But if

he goes out there pounding the strike zone like he did tonight, I will take it."

Darvish admitted to tinkering with his routine Monday, taking the field for warmups earlier than usual, something he did in Japan.

"It's hard to turn the page and become a new pitcher in one single day," Darvish said. "The results weren't there today, but this is something that's going to be a baby step to go toward that. I'm going to keep on working on that and stay focused."

At least on the surface, Washington isn't concerned.

"It's a long season. It's 162 games. He'll get the ball 10 or 11 more times and we'll just keep working as I said and see where it goes from there," the manager said. "But worry? No, I'm not worried. When adversity hits, you got to step up and we feel like

See **RANGERS**, Page 12

Padres sale agreement in place, needs MLB approval

Padres sale agreement in place, needs MLB approval BERNIE WILSON, AP Sports Writer

A group headed by former Los Angeles Dodgers owner Peter O'Malley and including pro golfer Phil Mickelson reached agreement Monday to buy the San Diego Padres from John Moores.

The purchase price is believed to be around \$800 million.

O'Malley is the son of Walter O'Malley, who bought the Brooklyn Dodgers in 1950 and moved them to Los Angeles before the 1958 season.

"An agreement has been confirmed but is not yet finalized. It has to be voted on," Padres senior vice president, public affairs Sarah Farnsworth said after San Diego beat the Chicago Cubs 2-0 Monday night.

Major League Baseball owners must approve the agreement. They are scheduled to meet later this month.

U-T San Diego first reported Monday night that a purchase agreement had been signed.

The purchase price

apparently includes the \$200 million in upfront money the Padres received from Fox Sports San Diego in a \$1.2 billion, 30-year TV deal.

The agreement came months after Jeff Moorad's attempt to buy the team on a layaway plan fell apart. Moorad's deal with Moorad, who began his attempted purchase of the club in 2009, was valued at about \$500 million.

The price for this sale was inflated thanks to the deal with Fox and the recent sale of the Dodgers for \$2 billion.

Moorad's divorce forced him to put the team on the market in 2009.

Moorad had owned 51 percent of the team while a minority group, once controlled by Moorad and then by local businessman Ron Fowler, owned 49 percent. Fowler is expected to join the O'Malley group.

Fans hope a change in owners can turn around the Padres, who regularly have had one of baseball's lowest payrolls and have largely struggled since reaching the 1998 World Series.

Douglas gets chance for 3rd gold on beam

LONDON (AP) — Gabby Douglas knows how to deliver.

After bobbling and wobbling her way across the balance beam this summer, the bubbly 16-year-old promised she'd get things cleaned up in time for the Olympics.

Sure enough, not only is Douglas in Tuesday night's beam final, it might just get her a third gold medal.

"If I can just do what I did in the all-around finals or team finals, then I'll be good," she said. "I'm going to get a lot of rest, just rest up, and do a lot of therapies and relax my body and hopefully prepare for that."

Uneven bars may be Douglas' signature event — it's her altitude sickness-inducing release moves that earned her that "Flying Squirrel" nickname, after all — but it's balance beam that's made her a star. Her consistency and monster scores on the gymnastics' equivalent of the tight rope were key as the Fierce Five won the team title, the first by the Americans since 1996, and her confident routine two days later gave her the all-around gold, a first for an African-American gymnast.

She's been so good, in fact, that beam, not bars, was considered her best chance for a third gold — even before Monday's lackluster showing in the uneven bars final.

Douglas finished last in the eight-woman final, the excitement and emotion of the previous week finally catching up with her.

"You get toward the end of the Olympics and you get kind of drained," she said. "I wasn't mad at myself for bars finals, even if it wasn't enough for a medal."

A medal on bars was always a long shot for Douglas, let alone another gold one. Eventual medalists Aliya Mustafina, He Kexin and Beth Tweddle have far more difficult routines, and Douglas would have needed to be perfect while they made a slew of mistakes.

Instead, her routine Monday lacked its usual electricity, and she stalled as she pirouetted on the high bar. It was the briefest of hesitations, and she

quickly recovered. But she needed every last decimal point she could get, and that cost her a bunch.

A step on her dismount didn't help and, after politely smiling at the judges, she quickly walked off the podium and headed straight for the sidelines and her gym bag. Her score of 14.900 was the lowest in the field.

"I've got two gold medals. Overall that's very good," Douglas said. "I made a mistake and could have fought harder."

No one will ever say that about Mustafina and Tweddle, whose gold and bronze medals were as much a testament to their grit and determination as to their dazzling athletic skills.

Mustafina's zing came less than 18 months after she blew out her knee, an injury so serious it made her question whether she'd even be able to compete here, let alone show the class and elegance that once made her the world's most fearsome gymnast. Tweddle finally won the Olympic medal that had eluded her for so many years, including a heart-break four years ago that nearly broke her spirit.

"I tried to say it didn't matter if I didn't medal, but I've got every other title to my name," Tweddle said. "I can now say I would have been devastated walking away with no medal. I am going to sleep easy tonight."

In men's competition, Arthur Zanetti gave Brazil its first medal in gymnastics, upsetting "Lord of the Rings" Chen Yibing for the gold on still rings. South Korea's Yang Hak-seon added Olympic gold to his world title on vault.

Mustafina was so dominant at the 2010 world championships it seemed impossible she wouldn't overwhelm the field again in London. She left those worlds with a medal in all but one event, including the all-around gold, and her haughty attitude was as entertaining as her gymnastics skills.

Six months later, however, she blew out her left ACL at the European championships, putting her chances of simply competing in London in doubt.

"Sometimes I did," Mustafina said when someone asked if she ever considered quitting. "But these urges left me quickly."

Nats drop Astros in 11th inning

HOUSTON (AP) — The Houston Astros keep finding ways to lose.

Monday night it was one disastrous play in the 11th inning of a 5-4 loss to the Washington Nationals.

Roger Bernadina scored when Houston made two errors on the same play, paving the way for the Nationals to pick up their third straight win.

Houston has now lost 31 of the last 35 games.

"Games like that, you hate to see them get away like that," Astros manager Brad Mills said. "That probably made this one a little bit tougher."

Ryan Zimmerman had two hits and two

RBI's, and Michael Morse added two hits for Washington.

Wilton Lopez (3-1) pitched a perfect 10th inning before Bernadina led off the 11th with a single.

On Kurt Suzuki's bunt attempt, Brett Wallace and Lopez collided before Wallace threw the ball past first base and down the right field line.

Right fielder Brian Bogusevic's throw home was high, allowing Bernadina to score for a 5-4 lead.

"I think they were just trying to do a little too much," Mills said. "And that's going to happen, especially in a game like that."

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Tomorrow's Horoscope

There's a snappy freshness alive in this Aries moon day, a sense that new possibilities should be snatched up as quickly as they arrive — and they will arrive often. Venus slips into Cancer where she'll help us make domestic and relationship improvements through September 6. Mercury ends his retrograde, too. Hooray!

ARIES (March 21-April 19). The requirements made of you may not seem all that appealing at first, but if you find a way to make them interesting, you evolve. To self-actualize is to enjoy the thing that you must do.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). There are no insignificant mysteries of life, so delve into the area that interests you. The answer to some small problem could be the miraculous cure for what ails the world.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You'll be involved in a complex activity that stretches your skills, helps you grow and fulfills your potential. You'll invest many hours to excel at this endeavor, and it will be worth it.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). No life is without sorrow, but you'll feel comforted in the knowledge

that sorrow won't stick to you; it will pass. Knowing this, you are willing to risk more to reach the heights of happiness.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). True power is the ability to empower others. There are those who will benefit big time from learning what you've known for so long. You'll hone your leadership skills as you teach others to help themselves.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Someone erroneously told you, "To get the fruit, you have to climb the tree" — or something akin to that. The truth is that sometimes the fruit hangs low, and all you have to do is reach up and pluck it off.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Keeping up with people is harder than it should be. You have so many ways to stay in touch, and yet your responsibilities and distractions make it challenging to find the time. But try. You'll be glad you did.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You won't progress without accepting a risk. This comes as no surprise, as you've taken similar risks in the past and done quite well indeed. Now you thrill to the challenge.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Loved ones are not always as thoughtful as you might like, and yet you find a way to forgive. Also, you'll provide an opportunity for them to make up for their mistakes.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You'll put a positive spin on things. It's not really optimism; it's practicality. Seeing the best takes just as much energy, but makes you and everyone else feel better in the process.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). A case of the "super-strong humans" will dictate your morning action. Your impulses are powerful, and your motives are so deeply rooted that you may not even be consciously aware of them.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). It's only human nature to be suspicious of or even repelled by weak attempts at action. But boldness attracts support. You'll be inspired by a courageous move.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Aug. 7). You'll love the companionship this month, and new friends send you in adventurous directions. You will find many opportunities for advancement in September as you apply your enterprising nature. Avoid extremes in November. Family unity is featured in 2013. A bold move in June puts money in your pockets. Aries and Sagittarius people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 17, 4, 39, 20 and 14.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS: "I'm a Cancer. Will I meet 'the one' this year?"

It is impossible for earthlings to see the surface of Venus without the use of radar,

because she cloaks herself in thick clouds. But one thing is certain: Venus is hot, and she knows it. This is especially true when she slips into the realm of Cancer today highlighting her softer, more nurturing qualities. New attractions will arise out of this transit, which lasts until September 6. This is awesome news for your love life, dear Cancer. You, like Venus, are hot. Do you know it? This Venus transit will invigorate your love life for the next four weeks. For you, this transit will feel extremely personal, and you take best advantage of it by focusing on what makes you you. By highlighting your unique beauty, you become a magnet for the love you seek. As for "the one," I think you're going to have much more fun if you think in terms of "the many," as you are a diverse diva with the ability to mesh well with a variety of people. Venus will favor you as you keep an open mind.

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

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Annie's Mailbox

Dear Annie: For the past seven years, I've worked for "Joe" and his assistant, "Nancy." Nancy recently took a four-month leave due to stress and anxiety. During her absence, Joe and I went to lunch a few times and dinner on one occasion. Nothing romantic happened.

I planned to let Nancy know at the time, but didn't think it was important enough to send an email. I left her a voicemail to call me and hoped we'd get together during her leave. Unfortunately, I didn't get the chance.

When she came back, Nancy accused me of "swooping in" and taking over Joe. I have tried talking to her, but she's angry that I didn't tell her during her leave.

I explained that I tried, but she never called me back. She claims I crossed her territory and now can't be trusted. She believes I was plotting all along. I also suspect that

she is spreading rumors about me, saying I want to sleep with Joe. That's not true.

I am trying my best not to let this bother me. Joe has spoken to her, but I don't have any idea what he said. The problem is, it is extremely uncomfortable in the office now. Although I love my work, I may need to look for a new job.

It upsets me that someone could be so cruel, even though I tried my best to be supportive during her leave. Any suggestions for coping with Nancy? — *Co-worker*

Dear Co-worker: Nancy seems very proprietary toward Joe, and unless they are a romantic couple, he should set her straight.

Her behavior is unprofessional and disruptive. But you are not entirely blameless. Having lunch and dinner with your boss could be misconstrued, and you were well aware that this

would bother Nancy. You should have made a greater effort to speak to her during her absence.

Apologize sincerely for unintentionally stepping on her toes, reassure her that you have no interest in Joe, and then let her make the next move.

If time does not alleviate the situation, you may opt to take it up with human resources.

Dear Annie: My husband is retired, while I still work four days a week. He hires someone to cut the grass, but I trim the bushes, pull the weeds, wash the windows and do all the housecleaning and laundry. He will help cook because I don't have time and he likes to eat.

So what does he do all day? He hangs out with his friends, goes for a walk or to the gym, attends Bible study classes and visits the sick. I think maybe I should get sick and see if he will visit me. —

Overworked in Ohio

Dear Ohio: While it's admirable that your husband visits the sick, he apparently believes that retirement means he is free from all obligations except those he willingly chooses. This is unfair to you. First try talking to him about it, explaining that you see no reason to have two jobs while he has none. Tell him that pitching in and doing his share will help your marriage. But you also are taking on more than you need to. If you can afford it, hire someone to do the more difficult, time-consuming chores. Leave his laundry where it falls, and let him handle it. You can make choices, too.

Dear Annie: "Disgusted in Louisiana" took issue with your response to "Desperate Housewife" that all couples need to tend to their marriages and flirt with their spouses. I am sorry to

hear how unhappy she is.

I have been married to the love of my life for 50 years. Yes, perhaps the passion from long ago is gone, but we flirt, snuggle and have "date night," and my heart still flutters when he enters the room. I cannot imagine my life without him. Growing old together is exactly what we treasure. — *Happy in El Paso*

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please email your questions to anniesmailbox@comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 737 3rd Street, Hermosa Beach, CA 90254. To find out more about Annie's Mailbox and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

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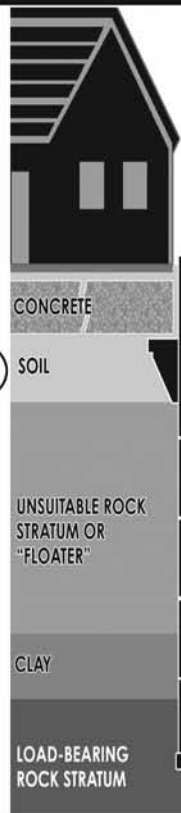
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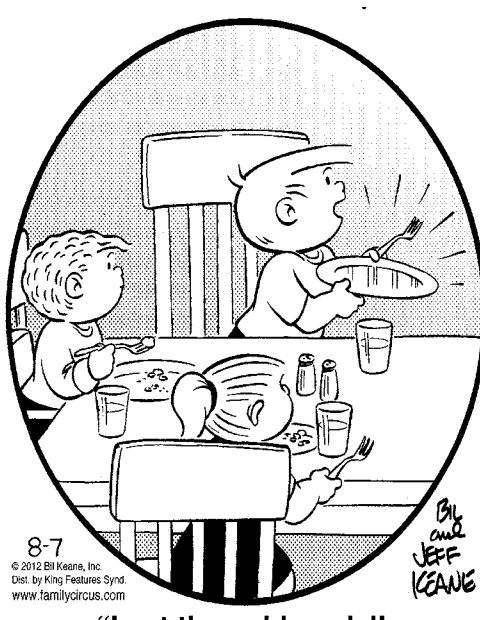
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5:PM	News ABC	Casa Notic.	Two Men CBS	News CBS	Noticias Noticiero	News King	King Schwarzw	Justice King	Charlie Rose King	King Deadliest Catch	hind Enemy Lines, Gabriel Macht	Repo	Franklin & Bash	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Phineas Good			SportsCenter	
6:PM	Jeopardy!	Un Refugio	Big Bang Ent	News Ent	Caso Cer-rado	News Olympic	Seinfeld Seinfeld	Dr. Diana Yohan	PBS News-Hour	Seinfeld Seinfeld	Deadliest Catch	Repo	Franklin & Bash	Movie: Four Brothers, Andre Benjamin	ANT Farm Vampire	SportsNation	Elite 11 QB Camp		
7:PM	Middle Wheel	Por Ella Soy Eva	MasterChef (DVS)	NCIS (DVS)	Rosa Diamante (SS)	XXX Summer Olympics: Gymnastics, Track and Field, Beach Volleyball.	Big Bang Upd	Big Bang Alewine	History Detectives	Heart of Dixie	Deadliest Catch	Movie: Hidalgo, Louise Lombard	Repo	Rizzoli & Isles	Good Shake It Code 9	Little League Baseball	World/Poker		
8:PM	Last Man Trust Us	Abismo de Pasión	Simpsons How I Met	Person of Interest	Pablo Escobar		Big Bang Conan	Big Bang Conan	The National Parks: America's Best Idea	The L.A. Complex	Deadliest Catch	Repo	Rizzoli & Isles	Movie: Hot Boyz, Jeff Speakman	Gravity	2012 Home Run Derby	Baseball Tonight		
9:PM	News Nightline	Impacto Noticiero	How I Met Raymond	News Letterman	Noticias De'siones		Big Bang Conan	Big Bang Conan	Charlie Rose	Til Death	Deadliest Catch	Movie: Sahara, Penélope Cruz	Repo	Rizzoli & Isles	Shake it Jessie		SportsCenter		
10:PM	Jimmy Kimmel Live	Hasta-Dinero	Law Order: CI	Ferguson	Juegos Olimpicos de Verano XXX	News Summer Oly.	Office Conan	Office Conan	World T. Smiley (Off Air)	70s South Pk	Deadliest Catch	Repo	CSI: NY	Wendy Williams	ANT Farm Vampire	Baseball Tonight	SportsCenter		
11:PM	Extra Paid	Mar de Amor (SS)	Raymond Fam. Guy	Insider			XXX Summer Olympics	Seinfeld	Upd McGee	South Pk Focus 4	Deadliest Catch	Repo	CSI: NY	Movie: Belly 2: Millionaire Boyz Club	Deck Good	NFL Live	SportsCenter		
12:AM	Paid	La Jaula	American Ent					Seinfeld	Light of the Southwest	Homecoming	Deadliest Catch	Movie: Deliverance, Ned Beatty	Repo	Rizzoli & Isles	Fish	World/Poker	SportsCenter		
1:AM	Paid	Par Ases	TMZ	Paid	Pelicula:														

DENNIS THE MENACE



"DID YOU HAFTA GO TO SCHOOL TO LEARN HOUSEKEEPIN', MOM?"

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



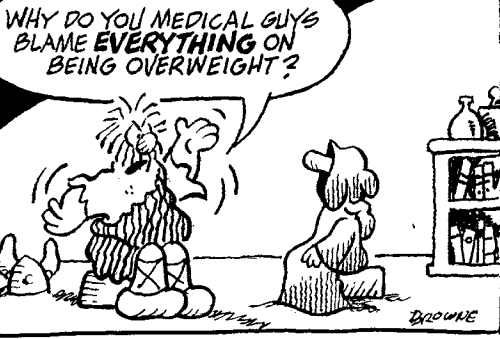
"I get the gold medal! I finished first!"

HAGAR



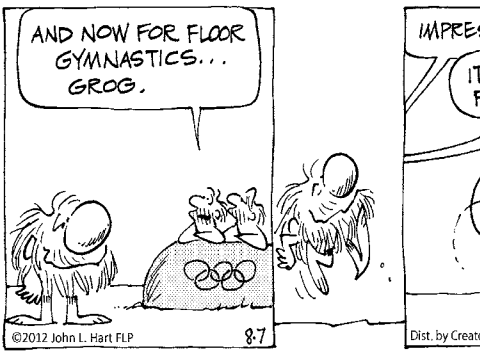
HOW CAN I GET RID OF MY DANDRUFF, DR. ZOOK?!

BLONDIE

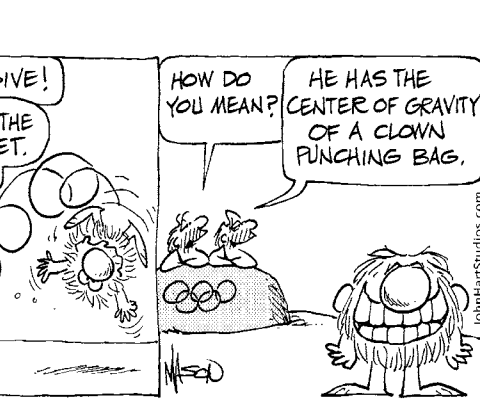


WHY DO YOU MEDICAL GUYS BLAME EVERYTHING ON BEING OVERWEIGHT?

BC

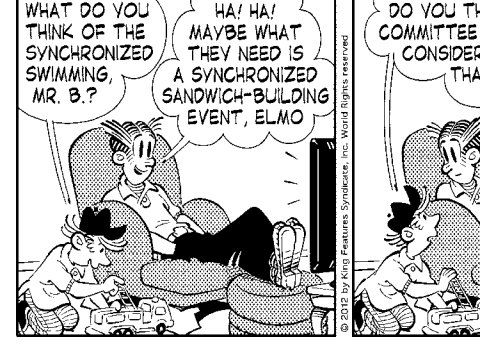


AND NOW FOR FLOOR GYMNASTICS... GROG.

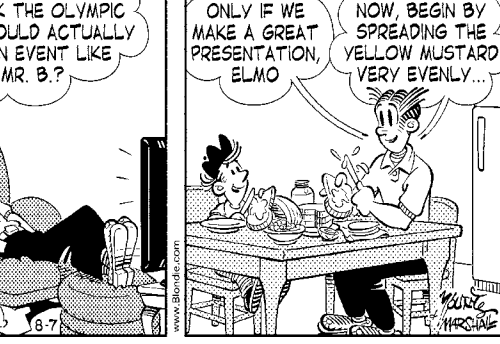


HE HAS THE CENTER OF GRAVITY OF A CLOWN PUNCHING BAG.

BLONDIE



WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THE SYNCHRONIZED SWIMMING, MR. B.?

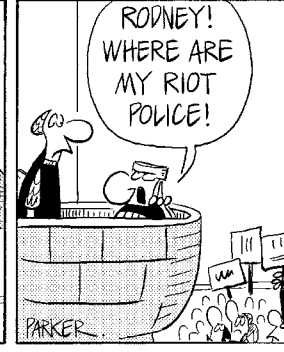


ONLY IF WE MAKE A GREAT PRESENTATION ELMO

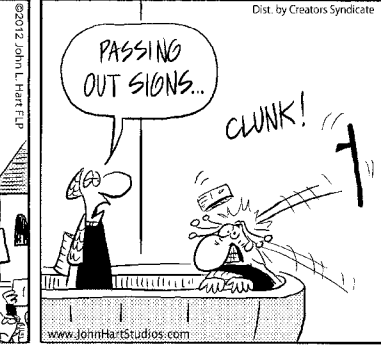
WIZARD OF ID



THEY ARE STILL AT IT?



RODNEY! WHERE ARE MY RIOT POLICE!



PASSING OUT SIGNS... CLUNK!

AGNES



HM... WHAT DISSOLVES GLUE THAT WON'T HARM HAIR?

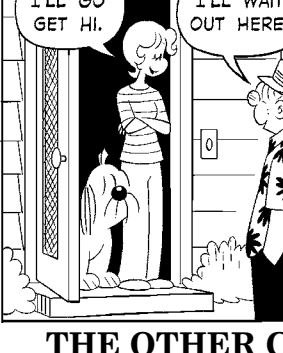


I GUESS WE WILL JUST HAVE TO CUT IT OUT OF THERE, THEN, WON'T WE?

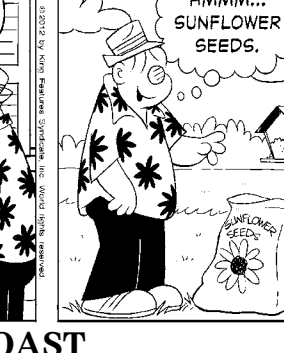


SHOULD I USE PINKING SHEARS OR THE TOENAIL CLIPPERS?

HI AND LOIS



HMMM... SUNFLOWER SEEDS.



MOM! WE GOT A BIGGER PROBLEM THAN SQUIRRELS!

THE OTHER COAST



DON'T FORGET, KOKO. WHEN WE SEE A SHOOTING STAR, WE MUST MAKE A WISH.

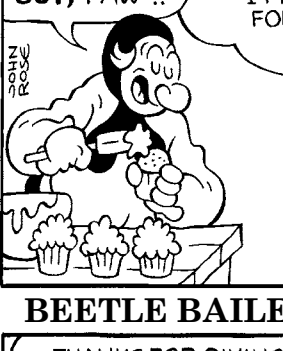


LOOK! THERE'S ONE NOW! WHAT SHALL WE WISH FOR? A CURE FOR ALL KNOWN DISEASES?



OK, MAYBE JUST A NEW ROOF.

SNUFFY SMITH



CAKES ARE OUT, PAW !!

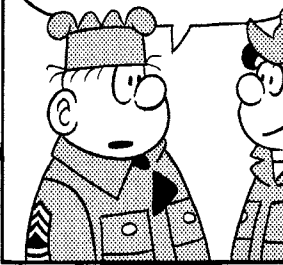


CUPCAKES ARE IN !!

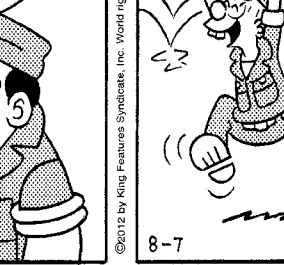


JEST CALL ME MISTOPHER TRENDY !!

BEEETLE BAILY



THANKS FOR GIVING ZERO A PEP TALK, PLATO



NOW, HOW DO YOU TURN IT OFF?!

This Date In History

Today is Tuesday, Aug. 7, the 220th day of 2012. There are 146 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Aug. 7, 1942, U.S. and other allied forces landed at Guadalcanal, marking the start of the first major allied offensive in the Pacific during World War II. (Japanese forces abandoned the island the following February.)

In 1822, the famous feud between the Hatfields of West Virginia and the McCoys of Kentucky erupted into full-scale violence.

In 1912, Theodore Roosevelt was nominated for president by the Progressive Party (also known as the Bull Moose Party) in Chicago. New Jersey Gov.

Woodrow Wilson accepted the Democratic presidential nomination at his summer home in Sea Girt. Sergei Prokofiev premiered his Piano Concerto No. 1 in D-flat major in Moscow.

In 1927, the already opened Peace Bridge connecting Buffalo, N.Y., and Fort Erie, Ontario, Canada, was officially dedicated.

In 1947, the balsa wood raft Kon-Tiki, which had carried a six-man crew 4,300 miles across the Pacific Ocean, crashed into a reef in a Polynesian archipelago; all six crew members reached land safely.

In 1959, the United States launched the Explorer 6 satellite, which sent back images of Earth.

In 1961, Yale psychology professor Stanley Milgram began conducting his controversial human behavior experiments concerning obedience toward authority figures.

In 1962, President John F. Kennedy awarded FDA official Dr. Frances O. Kelsey the Distinguished Federal Civilian Service Medal for her diligence in blocking approval of thalidomide, a sedative found to cause severe birth defects.

In 1964, Congress passed the

Gulf of Tonkin resolution, giving President Lyndon B. Johnson broad powers in dealing with reported North Vietnamese attacks on U.S. forces.

In 1971, the Apollo 15 moon mission ended successfully as its command module splashed down in the Pacific Ocean.

In 1998, terrorist bombs at U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania killed 224 people, including 12 Americans.

Today's Birthdays: Writer-producer Stan Freberg is 86. Magician, author and lecturer James Randi is 84. Former MLB pitcher Don Larsen is 83. Bluesman Magic Slim is 75. Actress Verna Bloom is 73.

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Answer to previous puzzle

CHEF	ABBOT	LAMP
LUAU	CRABE	ABOO
ASHN	TIDES	BOAS
WHEN	SMARTMOUTH	
	YEAST	SORTS
SAMBAS	VIP	
AFOOT	BEAT	LOSE
IRON	LIFE	OPAL
DONE	LIFT	EVENS
	SIT	TWINGE
PSALM	ALIEN	
KINDOF	BLUE	GRAB
EXAM	LAIRES	CUBA
PIKE	ASSETS	USES
TEEN	METRO	PETS

Newsday Crossword

SPY FRICTION by Sally R. Stein
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS**
- 1 Soak up some sun
 - 5 Balloon-bursting sound
 - 8 Winter Olympics sleds
 - 13 *Robinson Crusoe* author
 - 14 Live and breathe
 - 15 Music with singing sopranos
 - 16 Merge
 - 17 Get married
 - 18 Like hot fudge
 - 19 Barely making ends meet
 - 22 Zodiac's Aries
 - 23 Pub order
 - 24 ACLU concerns
 - 27 College official
 - 29 Leave town
 - 32 Peek-__ hairstyle
 - 36 Shakespeare's river
 - 38 Brown photo tint
 - 39 With 41 Across, liquid used in massage
 - 41 See 39 Across
 - 43 "The show is starting!"
 - 44 Mixer with scotch
 - 46 Wall Street org.
 - 47 Be present at
 - 49 Twisty paper puzzle
 - 51 Briny body of water
 - 52 Yale student
 - 54 Racetrack bet
 - 59 Buffet holders
 - 63 Type of tooth
 - 65 Baby in blue
- DOWN**
- 66 Offend the nose
 - 67 Warn
 - 68 "How delicious!"
 - 69 Elm and eucalyptus
 - 70 Thumbs-up votes
 - 71 Wild equine
 - 72 Gentle
 - 10 Environmental science
 - 11 Before, in poems
 - 12 Speak
 - 13 Do some housecleaning
 - 20 "In other words . . ."
 - 21 Went first
 - 25 Threesomes
 - 26 No longer edible
 - 28 Typical amts.
 - 30 Upper-left laptop key
 - 31 Lowly worker
 - 32 Music with singing sopranos
 - 33 Montana city
 - 34 Progress
 - 35 Woodwind instrument
 - 37 Nothing, in Mexico
 - 40 Quaint hotel
 - 42 Lounged around
 - 45 Foreboding harm
 - 48 2 on a telephone
 - 50 Lives and breathes
 - 53 Neighbor of Egypt
 - 55 Houston baseballer
 - 56 Fire department boss
 - 57 Basic principle
 - 58 Poses a question
 - 60 Rabbit relative
 - 61 __ and crafts
 - 62 Workout centers
 - 63 Will perhaps
 - 64 Bullfight cheer

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
13					14			15				
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			59	60	61		62					
63	64				65			66				
67					68			69				
70						71		72				

U.S. men stay unbeaten, rout Argentina 126-97

LONDON (AP) — Excused to leave the post-game news conference, Chris Paul said thank you, walked to the end of the dais, lost his balance and nearly fell.

He stayed on his feet. Disaster averted. "Don't get hurt," American coach Mike Krzyzewski said, relieved to see his starting point guard was OK.

The Americans are fine, too. They haven't had a

major misstep in this tournament. They can't afford one now.

Draining five 3-pointers, one deeper than the next, Kevin Durant scored 17 points in the third quarter and finished with 28 as the U.S. men's team made a defense-be-damned statement before entering the medal round with a 126-97 win over pesky rival Argentina on Monday night.

With their fourth

blowout in five games, the Americans (5-0) moved into the quarterfinals, where they'll meet Australia (3-2) on Wednesday night and proclaimed that if anyone is to beat them in the days ahead they're going to have to outshoot these run-and-gunslingers from the U.S.

Two games after Carmelo Anthony's record-setting performance, it was Durant's turn to put on a show.

Once Durant got hot, there was nothing Argentina could do.

"Anybody in their right mind, when he gets shooting the ball like that, there's only one thing to do: Get the ball to him," Paul said.

"Luckily, we have a team that has the presence of mind to get it to him. He's unbelievable. We have to yell at him to shoot the ball and as you see, he usually makes it."

Leading by just one at halftime, the U.S. outscored Argentina (3-2) 42-17 in the third quarter, which began with LeBron James flexing his muscles inside. James scored seven quick points, forcing the Argentines to play defense a little closer to the basket. They moved and Durant made them pay.

He hit consecutive 3s to make it 85-66, sending center Tyson Chandler high-stepping from the

U.S. bench toward the baseline and making Andre Iguodala belly flop to the floor. Moments later, Durant was at it again, hitting two more long-range shots in succession, the second one seemingly from Piccadilly Circus.

"Once I caught it and shot it, it just felt good," Durant said. "I was in rhythm. I really didn't pay attention to where the line was. When I caught that ball, I was going to shoot it. It was a great pass and I'm glad I made it."

The U.S. only had one tough game, beating Lithuania 99-94, a close call that seemed to awaken the Americans after routs of France, Tunisia and the historic, 156-point annihilation of Nigeria.

In pool play, there was

a margin for error.

It's gone, and Durant said the Americans know they aren't invincible.

"We can be beat if we don't come out and play the way we're supposed to play," he said. "You've got to always turn it on, you can't just turn it on in the third quarter. We have to be focused and ready."

In the other quarterfinals, Russia, which lost for the first time in the tournament when Australia's Patty Mills made a 3-pointer as time expired, faces Lithuania. Spain plays France in a rematch of the Spaniards' victory in last year's European championship, and in another rematch from last summer, South American rivals Argentina and Brazil meet.

Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

A Necessary Assumption

North dealer.
North-South vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ 5
♥ Q 10 6 3
♦ A J
♣ K Q J 10 9 7

WEST
♠ Q J 10 8
♥ K 9 4
♦ 8 6 4 2
♣ A 2

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

SOUTH
♠ A K 7 4
♥ 8 5
♦ K Q 9 7
♣ 8 5 4

The bidding:
North East South West
1♥ Pass 1♦ Pass
1♥ Pass 1♠ Pass
2♣ Pass 3NT

Opening lead — queen of spades.

To be a good bridge player, one must be willing to make assumptions about the layout of the unseen cards, even if the desired layout seems unlikely at best. To do otherwise would be self-defeating.

Here is a typical case. Let's say you're West and lead the queen of spades against South's three-notrump contract. Declarer wins with the ace as partner contributes the discouraging deuce. Declarer now leads

a club, which you duck, but you are forced to win the next club with the ace.

You are now at the critical point of the play. You can see that if you continue with a spade, declarer will almost surely make the contract, scoring five club tricks, two spades and an unknown number of diamonds (the suit he bid initially).

To beat the contract, your side must therefore take four heart tricks before declarer regains the lead, and this involves making an assumption about South's heart holding. To be precise, you must assume that South has no more than two hearts, and that he does not have the ace or jack, because if you credit him with either of these cards, you are, in effect, conceding the contract.

Once your thinking brings you this far, the rest is easy. With the Q-10-6-3 of hearts in the dummy, you can work out that you can't score four heart tricks if you lead either the king or the four first, assuming declarer plays correctly.

So, by the process of elimination, you are compelled to shift to the nine of hearts at trick four. If you do that, declarer cannot prevent you from scoring four successive heart tricks regardless of what he does, and the contract is defeated.

Tomorrow: The Blackwood Convention.
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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	4			7		6	5	
3	5			4	8			1
				2		9		
	8			4	3	1		
		3	2		1	5		
	1	4	5				9	
		1		3				
9			7	1			8	3
6	3		4				7	9

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RANGERS

Continued from Page 7

he'll step up."

Pedroia had three of Boston's eight doubles, Ellsbury and Crawford two each and Gonzalez one as the Red Sox increased their major league high to 248 doubles, 35 more than the second-place New York Mets. Crawford and Gonzalez drove in three runs each.

Aaron Cook (3-5) regained control of his sinker after going 0-4 in his previous five starts. Of his 21 outs, 15 came on groundballs. He allowed six hits, walked two and struck out one.

The strong game by the Red Sox — both hitting and pitching — came on a night in which owner John Henry issued a

statement supporting first-year manager Bobby Valentine.

In an email to reporters, Henry said that management is not making a managerial change, and he cited numerous injuries as one reason for the team's struggles. He also said it is "simply wrong" to blame Valentine for the team's troubles, and "we all" share responsibility.

The Red Sox have hovered around .500 most of the season and have never been in first or second place in the AL East.

The Rangers took a 1-0 lead in the second on a double by Nelson Cruz and an RBI single by David Murphy. But they managed just two hits in Cook's remaining five innings while the Red Sox were taking a 5-1 lead. Texas was hitless in four straight innings before Adrian Beltre started the ninth with his 19th homer of the year.

The Red Sox went up 6-1 in the seventh when Pedroia led off with his third double and scored on Gonzalez's single.

They added three runs in the eighth with the runs coming in on a double by Crawford, a single by Gonzalez and a sacrifice fly by Cody Ross.

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sudoku

ANSWERS

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

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