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VOLUME 108, NUMBER 239

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High over Big Spring skies

Hang gliding championships return Aug. 4-10

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
 Staff Writer

The skies over Big Spring and Howard County may be quiet now, but soon they will be abuzz with a world of activity, as the 2013 U.S. National Hang Gliding Championship prepares to get under way Aug. 4-10.

According to U.S. National Hang Gliding organizer Belinda Boulter, the championship — which will be held at the McMahon-Wrinkle Airpark for the 11th year in a row — will feature more than 40 hang glider pilots from all over the U.S., as well as Canada, Mexico, Australia and Norway.

"We're very excited to be coming back to Big Spring," Boulter said. "We receive so much support while we're there and the conditions are just amazing for hang gliding."

Assistant organizer and hang gliding competitor Davis Straub said Texas has what he believes to be the best hang gliding conditions in the United States.

"We come back to Big Spring because of the excellent competition



HERALD file photo

Pilots from the U.S., Canada, Mexico, Australia and Norway will compete in the U.S. National Hang Gliding Championship at McMahon-Wrinkle Airpark.

and soaring conditions in August in Big Spring," Straub said. "We also come back because the town is so welcoming. Big Spring gives us support that no other city in the U.S. provides and the local committee does a lot of work to make our event happen. The airport facilities are excellent and make for a safer competition and an inviting atmosphere, and Airport Manager Jim Little goes out of his way to make us welcome there.

"We feel that Texas is the state with the best hang gliding condi-

tions in the world — it is the site of many world records, and I have a world record I set in there, as well — and we are happy to see the continued development of hang gliding facilities in Luling, Columbus, Sealy, Georgetown, Hearne and west of Austin."

Straub said West Texas also offers some rather unique weather conditions which make flying easier and more fun for the competitors.

"I particularly enjoy flying in

See **GLIDING**, Page 3

Chaplains needed

Emergency Corps is seeking three dedicated people

By **BILL McCLELLAN**
 Managing Editor

Needed: Individuals who have compassion, love and understanding of others in every situation imaginable, and who share a close walk with their maker.

The Emergency Services Chaplain Corps is needing to replace three emergency chaplains, who, as ministers, have been transferred out of Big Spring.

"We need three, but I'll train up to four," Sr. Chaplain Joel Miller, who heads up the program, said.

There are not a lot of qualifications — it's not necessary to be an ordained minister — but candidates for emergency chaplain obviously have to be mature enough to handle the often tragic situations they encounter, and must pass an intensive background check.

"And to serve, it's got to be a call from God because of the things they do," Miller said.

Chaplains in the corps — seven strong now and hopefully soon to be 10 — are put on a rotational list and are on 24-hour call when their time comes around.

See **CHAPLAIN**, Page 3



Miller

Commissioners study road woes

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
 Staff Writer

Howard County commissioners discussed a number of financial issues facing the government entity in the

coming year during Monday's budget meeting, as the court looks to develop its fiscal plan for 2013-2014.

One of the most pressing issues facing the court in the coming year will be maintenance and much-needed repairs for county roadways, as the recent boom in the oilfield has increased traffic exponentially.

"The idea right now is to set aside approximately \$500,000 a year toward road maintenance and repairs," County Judge Mark Barr said. "However, the amount of damage to the roadways is estimated

at more than \$20 million and growing. Obviously, there are no easy or quick answers for this problem. It's just something we're going to have to deal with and try to get ahead of."

The court recently gave the go-ahead for the county to begin charging for permits — deemed road use agreements — that will have the companies using the roadways paying at least a portion of the overall bill to repair them.

"The road use agreement calls for all new access entrances which intersect county roads for commercial

purposes — except agricultural related industries — are requested to apply with the county for a permit before the entrance is built," Barr said. "The construction of the entrances must conform with county road and bridge requirements and a fee of \$4,500 shall be paid by the applicant at the time the permit is issued."

Barr said the road use agreements also includes permits for new oil and gas wells, with vertical wells requiring a fee of \$7,500 and horizontal wells requiring a fee of \$20,000.

"No permit is required if

the sole entrance of the lease where the well is located is not accessed from a county road," Barr said. "The idea behind this road use agreement is to place a portion of the fiscal burden on the companies and corporations which are using the roads and causing a large amount of the damage, instead of county taxpayers having to bear the entire burden."

"These oil and transport companies are the ones benefitting from the boom and it only seems fair they

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Six Flags investigating roller-coaster death

JAMIE STENGLE
 Associated Press

DALLAS — Nearly a dozen people reported being injured in the last five years while riding the Texas roller coaster from which a woman fell to her death last week, though the most serious injuries appear to be a concussion and muscles strains due to jost-

ling, state records show.

Six Flags Over Texas reported 14 injuries involving the Texas Giant roller coaster between April 2008 and April 2013, according to Texas Department of Insurance records. Three of those injuries happened either before or after the ride, such as tripping on the steps leading to the

roller coaster.

It wasn't immediately clear how many of those injuries prompted the ride to be shut down, department spokesman Jerry Hagins said. If an injury requires medical attention and involved the actual ride, the ride must be closed until it gets a new safety inspection, he said.

"Our role is to make sure that happens," Hagins said, adding that the Texas Giant was currently closed and wouldn't reopen until the department sees a new safety inspection report.

Amusement park safety analyst Ken Martin noted that

See **DEATH**, Page 3

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Obituaries

Edward Cruz



Edward Cruz, born Nov. 22, 1916, in Brownsville, Texas, peacefully embraced God on July 19, 2013, at the VA Hospital in Kerrville, Texas. Ed faithfully served our country in the United States Air Force through World War II, where he was an ace gunner on a B-25 strafer in Korea and Vietnam. He retired as a master sergeant in 1971 with 30 years of service.

After retirement, Ed served his community of Big Spring for years as a volunteer until his wife became homebound. His hearty laugh and fun-loving nature uplifted anyone who came in contact with him.

Ed is survived by two children, a son, F. Edward Cruz and wife Jean and a daughter, Marie Christine Jones; a granddaughter, Syndie Solis; two grandsons, Ethan (Ryan) Cruz and Brandon (Dina) Cruz; a great-granddaughter, Alyssa Cruz; and a great-grandson, Tino Cruz.

He was preceded in death by his parents, three brothers, three sisters and three wives.

Funeral services will be held at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel on Wednesday, July 24, 2013, at 10 a.m. with the Rev. Joey Bacon officiating. Interment will follow at Trinity Memorial Park.

The family will receive friends from 6 p.m. until 7 p.m. Tuesday at the funeral home.

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

Paid obituary

Vincent G. Fernandez Sr.



Vincent G. Fernandez Sr., 90, of Big Spring died Sunday, July 21, 2013, in Midland. The family will receive friends until 9 p.m. Tuesday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Memorial services will be held at a later date.

He was born July 19, 1923, in Glidden, Texas, to Rosalia and Joseph Fernandez. He married Emma Aguirre on Nov. 6, 1945, in San Antonio. She preceded him in death Nov. 15, 1984. He moved to Big Spring in 2003. He was a Catholic and a World War II U.S. Army veteran. He worked in construction and was a long haul truck driver.

He is survived by three sons, Vincent Fernandez Jr. of Big Spring, Richard Fernandez of San Antonio and Raymond Fernandez Sr. of Monroe, Ga.; two daughters, Hilda Kellogg of Houston and Linda Joyce Vasquez of Kennesaw, Ga.; two brothers, David Fernandez of Ponte, Texas, and Johnny Fernandez of Austin; one sister, Margarita Franco of Houston; 24 grandchildren; 54 great-grandchildren; and 12 great-great-grandchildren.

In addition to his parents and wife, he is preceded in death by three sons, Joe Steven Fernandez, Archie Fernandez and Edward Fernandez; one daughter, Alice Fernandez; and two brothers, Jacob Fernandez and Jesse Fernandez.

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

Miguel Angel Gonzalez

Miguel Angel Gonzalez, infant son of Rufina and Miguel Belarmino Gonzalez, died Saturday, July 20, 2013. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Pedro G. 'Pete' Gonzales

Pedro G. "Pete" Gonzales, 61, of Big Spring died Monday, July 22, 2013. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Police blotter

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

- JOHN ALLEN SILEN, 21, of 3224 Cornell, was arrested Monday on a charge of possession of marijuana less than or equal to 2 ounces.
- JASON RAY PAYNE, 34, of 1509 Stadium, was arrested Monday on a warrant from another agency.
- CRIMINAL MISCHIEF was reported at the 900 block of South Birdwell.

- CRIMINAL MISCHIEF was reported at the 1500 block of Sycamore.
- BURGLARY OF A COIN OPERATED MACHINE was reported at the 1900 block of Wasson.
- HARRASSMENT was reported at the 5800 block of Oak.
- THEFT was reported at the 2000 block of South Gregg.
- CRIMINAL MISCHIEF was reported at the 1900 block of Wasson apartment 59.
- MINOR ACCIDENT was reported at the corner of Tucson and Settles.
- DISTURBANCE was reported at the 600 block of West 17th Street.
- ASSAULT was reported at the 1600 block of Martin Luther King.

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.

- JOHN ALLEN SILEN was booked Tuesday by the BSPD on a charge of possession of marijuana.
- JASON RAY PAYNE was booked by the BSPD Wednesday on a motion to revoke probation on a charge of evading arrest/detention.
- ANTHONY KAWIKA TILTON was booked by the DPS on a charge of driving while intoxicated third or more and unlawful carrying a weapon.
- DONISHA ROSHU MCGEE was booked by the BSPD on a charge of failure to maintain financial responsibility.

Fire/EMS

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

- MEDICAL was reported Friday at the 1900 block of North Highway 87. One patient transported to SMMC.
- TRAFFIC ACCIDENT was reported Friday at the corner of Birdwell and FM 700. One patient transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported Friday at 1900 block of Martin Luther King.
- TRAFFIC ACCIDENT was reported Saturday at exit 169 and Interstate Highway 20. Two patients transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported Saturday at the 400 block of Armstrong. One patient transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported Saturday at the 900 block of North Lamesa Highway. No patient found.
- MEDICAL was reported Saturday at the 3200 block of Parkway. One patient transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported Saturday at the 1800 block of North Highway 87. One patient transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported Sunday at the 2000 block of Old Highway 80. One patient transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported Sunday at the 2500 block of Fairchild. One patient transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported Sunday at the 200 block of East Third. One patient transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported Sunday at the 700 block of Sage. One patient transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported Sunday at the Salvation Army. One patient transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported Sunday 3 miles south of Rural Route 33. One patient transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported Sunday at the 500 block of West Fourth. One patient transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported Sunday at the 200 block of Sand Lane. One patient transported via Air Evac.
- MEDICAL was reported Sunday at the 200 block of North Aylesford. One patient transported to SMMC.
- STRUCTURE FIRE reported Sunday at the 1100 block of North Aylesford. Extinguished.
- MEDICAL was reported at the 3800 block of Hamilton. One patient transported to SMMC.
- TRAFFIC ACCIDENT was reported Monday at mile marker 169 and Interstate Highway 20. One patient transported via Air Evac.
- MEDICAL was reported Monday at the 500 block of North Lamesa Highway. One patient transported to SMMC.

Take Note

- Mitchell County Senior Citizen Dance, Colorado City Civic Center, 157 East 2nd Street, Colorado City, Texas. July 25, (fourth Thursday of each month) 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. \$5 per person. Bring snacks to share. Mike Porter and friend, Kevin Rainwater will perform.

- The Red Hat Club of Big Spring will meet at 6 p.m. July 25 at 2709 Carol Drive. For more information call 263-0020.

• Spring Creek Fellowship will hold a fundraiser, "We Sent Our Harts to Zambia," Aug. 3 at Big Spring State Park. Pre-registration will guarantee a commemorative T-shirt. Registration and sign in will be at 8 a.m. on top of Scenic Mountain. Entry fee is \$30. Race will begin at 9 a.m. Awards for all participants. Medals for the top three finishers. For more information, contact Shawn Hart at 432-238-0642 or Lauren Hart at 432-213-0790. Proceeds will be used to send the Harts to Zambia.

• Spring of Siloam Christian Women's Job Corps is accepting applications for its fall semester classes through the final week in August. For more information, call 432-517-4627.

• The Howard County Sheriff's Posse will meet at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 6 at Crispy's Cafe, located near the intersection of Birdwell Lane and FM 700. The local group is looking for new members and would like to encourage anyone interested in joining to attend the meeting. For more information on the Howard County Sheriff's Posse or the meeting, contact Steve Gray at 432-213-6104 or Bert Sheppard at 432-263-4483.

• Diabetes and Nutrition will be the August Healthy Woman event in Room 215 at Scenic Mountain Medical Center. Paula Sue Sisson, new SMMC dietitian, will be the featured speaker. Find out about inpatient and upcoming outpatient services regarding diabetes and nutritional consultations. The event, set Aug. 8 with a Lunch n Learn at 11:30 a.m. and refreshments and light snacks at 5:30 p.m., is free to the public, as always. For more information or to RSVP, call 268-4842 or 268-4721.

• Parenting classes will be held in room A-10 at Howard College from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. on the first and third Monday of each month. For more information, call 263-2673 and ask for Linda.

• Howard County Fair Association is seeking volunteers to help with the Howard County Fair which will be held Sept. 26-28. To find out more information or to volunteer, contact Jamey Stegall at 214-717-9210 or jamey.stegall@gmail.com. The fair association is also accepting applications for exhibitors at the fair. All booths rent for \$100. Contact Stegall for more information.

• Big Spring and surrounding counties are in need of foster families. Foster parents are the caretakers for the children in the community who have been abused or neglected. For more information on becoming foster parents or adoptive families, call the Children's Protective Services office at 263-9669.

• Crossroads Hospice is in need of volunteers. Volunteers are the backbone of the hospice team, by bringing light and love into people's lives. For more information on joining, contact Eva Robison at 432-263-5300 or come by 421 S. Main.

• Do you have a minute? An hour? How about making a difference in someone's life? Become a hospice volunteer. One hour a month can make a difference. Whether it's visiting a patient or working in the office or helping with a craft, you can make a difference. We can work around your schedule. If interested, please call Kara Daniels at Compass Hospice, 432-263-5999, or apply in person at 602 S. Main St.

• You don't have to be a senior citizen to enjoy country-western dancing. The Big Spring Senior Center hosts a dance every Friday from 7:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. A different band will be featured every night. Dancing is a fun way to exercise, so come enjoy the fun and meet new friends. Cost is \$8 per person. For more information, call 267-1628.

• Mobile Meals is in need of volunteer delivery drivers. If you can donate one hour per week to help deliver meals to the elderly, call Macaria Cantu at 263-4016.

• Spring Tabernacle Ministries, 1209 Wright St., has a brief, inspirational message before giving away food and clothing on Thursday mornings. It's a great way to work off community service and get help, too. Be there at 9 a.m.-11 a.m. and get two for one plus a rehab meeting.

• Home Hospice is seeking volunteers. Volunteers are needed for in office duties as well as sitters, deliveries and crafts. To find out more information or to volunteer contact Manny Negron at Home Hospice by calling 264-7599.

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Texas briefs

Palo Duro Canyon State Park getting 3 bridges

CANYON, Texas (AP) — A state park in the Texas Panhandle will be getting three bridges to help improve the flow of traffic along crossings that can flood during storms.

The Amarillo Globe-News reported Tuesday the improvements are scheduled to start this fall at Palo Duro Canyon State Park.

Officials with the Texas Department of Transportation say two bridges should be finished by next March. Park Superintendent Cory Evans says work will start next summer on the third water crossing.

Bust yields cocaine hidden in truck battery

LA GRANGE, Texas (AP) — A South Texas woman faces a drug charge after about 12 pounds of cocaine turned up hidden in the battery of her vehicle bound for Houston.

The Fayette County Sheriff's Office says Alma R. Presas of La Joya (luh HOH'-yuh) had her three elementary school-age children along when she was arrested Monday near Flatonia.

A deputy stopped the woman for a traffic violation and officials say Presas seemed very nervous. She allowed a search. Officers found cocaine with a street value topping \$100,000.

Presas was charged with possession of a controlled substance and freed on \$10,000 bond.

Man charged, cigarette burned Austin police horse

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — A Central Texas man has been charged with using a cigarette to burn the neck of an Austin police horse along entertainment-popular Sixth Street.

Investigators say 23-year-old Tyrone Branch Jr. of Austin has been charged with interference with a public service animal. The horse named Drago suffered a burn mark on its neck during the incident early Sunday but no serious injury.

An affidavit says police were in the process of arresting a woman and some nearby pedestrians became upset. An officer saw Drago jerk its head in response to being burning and Branch was arrested. Details on why the woman was arrested weren't immediately available.

CHAPLAIN

Continued from Page 1

The chaplains respond when requested by the police department, sheriff's office, Department of Public Safety, emergency room, hospital,

fire department, peace justice or any other emergency service. They help counsel victims and their families as well as handle death notifications.

The corps can also assist individuals with gasoline up to \$75, a night's stay in mo-

tel, limited basic food or a \$50 bus ticket. It does not provide cash at all.

"We can also perform marriages," Miller said with a smile. "But that's not very often."

New chaplains — like the ones Miller hopes will be ap-

plying — are required to undergo 32 hours of training. It's in house, so to speak, and can be accomplished at the student's convenience. Miller, who offices at the new law enforcement-jail facility, is in charge of the training.

"Volunteering with us is

ner scheduled for Aug. 10. This is just a small way of saying thank you to the Big Spring community."

Area residents who would like to get a taste of the winds during this year's championship will get their chance, according to Boulter.

"We will again be offering tandem discovery flights early and late in the day, as weather permits," Boulter said. "Members of the general public fly with a certified tandem instructor, towing up to about 2,500 feet and flying for about a half hour. Tandem flights will cost \$100 and for an additional \$35 people will receive an SD card filled with either still photos or video of their flight. Contacts for tandem discovery flights are Jonny Thompson at 252-207-9597 and Russell Brown at 352-516-8616. Remember, however, tandem flights are dependent on the weather."

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

COUNTY

Continued from Page 1

shoulder some of the repair costs associated with the tremendous increase in truck traffic. Of course, these agreements won't even come close to generating fees equal to the costs, but it will certainly help."

Barr said work on the

2013-2014 budget has been under way for some time, however, work in earnest won't begin until the county receives certified values from the Howard County Tax Appraisal District.

"Until we have those numbers to work with, we really don't have a solid idea what kind of funds the county will have to work with in the coming year," Barr said.

"That makes it pretty tough to develop a plan. However, we're hoping to have them very soon. It's just a matter of waiting now."

Also during Monday's meeting, the court met with candidates currently vying for the unexpired term of Justice of the Peace Precinct 2 Quail Dobbs, who recently announced he would be stepping down

at the end of the year.

Commissioners met with four of the eight candidates in executive session, with plans to meet with the remaining four during their next meeting in approximately two weeks.

According to Barr, all of the candidates meet the necessary requirements to take Dobb's position, which centers largely around the Sand

Springs and Coahoma area.

"I feel like all eight of these candidates are quality applicants," Barr said. "Not only can they fill the unexpired term, I feel like they would have little problem getting themselves elected to the position when that term is over. That was something the court was very big on going into this appoint-

a very satisfying way to get a blessing from God," said Miller.

Anyone interested in volunteering or learning more about the Emergency Services Chaplain Corps is encouraged to call Miller at 432-213-1221.

ment." Dobbs has served as justice of the peace for Precinct 2 since Jan. 1, 1999, and was re-elected twice. He will retire effective Dec. 31

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

DEATH

Continued from Page 1

such injuries are self-reported, so it's hard to gauge their accuracy. He also said such numbers don't include "near-misses."

"The numbers that we hear about are typically the tip of the iceberg," he said.

Walter Reiss, an amusement park ride safety inspector, added that fatal accidents on roller coasters "are very unusual and infrequent."

"Most times that you have death accidents, it was something either ignorant or human error," he said.

The investigation is ongoing into how Rosa Ayala-Goana fell while riding the roller coaster Friday evening at the Six Flags amusement park in Arlington, a western suburb of Dallas. A witness told local media that Ayala-Goana expressed concern moments before the 14-story ride began that the safety bar had not completely engaged.

The Tarrant County medical examiner's office confirmed Monday that the 52-year-old Dallas resident was the victim in the accident, and that she suffered "multiple traumatic injuries" during the fall.

A man who identified himself as Ayala-Goana's son declined comment Monday when approached at her home.

Six Flags Entertainment Corp. President and CEO Jim Reid-Anderson said Monday that company was using "both internal and external experts" to investigate the accident, but he offered no details during a conference call to discuss the company's earnings.

In an email to The Associated Press later Monday, Six Flags spokeswoman Sharon Parker said the company "will not release any details pertaining to the investigation until it is complete."

Meanwhile, Six Flags has temporarily closed the Iron Rattler roller coaster at its Six Flags Fiesta Texas in San Antonio. The decision came late Friday after officials heard about the accident in Arlington, Fiesta Texas spokeswoman Sydne Purvis said Monday.

Purvis said it's a precautionary move until the Texas Giant investigation is completed. Both roller coasters are wooden structures with steel rails.

The Texas Giant first opened in 1990 as an

all-wooden coaster but underwent a \$10 million renovation in 2010 to install steel-hybrid rails before reopening in 2011. The coaster, which can carry as many as 24 riders, has a drop of 79 degrees and a bank of 95 degrees.

Reiss, the amusement park expert, speculated that either Ayala-Goana managed to slip out from behind a locked mechanism or that the harness mechanism failed and it opened.

"Right now, I would say investigators are probably tearing apart every inch of that train and every harness mechanism, and inspecting and testing every millimeter of those harness mechanisms to find out whether the potential even exists for her harness to have failed or for any other harness to have failed," Reiss said.

"At the end of the day, it comes down to whether or not the person fits," he added. "If the harness locks normally, without forcing it, it's OK. And the final say is up to the ride operator to tell you, 'I'm sorry, you can't ride.'"

The roller coaster was issued its most recent safety permit in February and was in compliance with state regulations that require an annual inspection by a qualified engineer, according to state records. Proof of those inspections also must be submitted to the Texas Department of Insurance.

Hagins noted that Texas has an insurance-based regulatory system for amusement park rides and that the ride also was in compliance with rules that require \$1 million liability insurance.

The Dallas Morning News has reported that officials with the roller coaster's car manu-

facturer, Gerstlauer Amusement Rides in Germany, were set to come to Texas to inspect the ride. The company could not be reached late Monday by phone and an email was not immediately returned.

Don Hankins, of Lakeland, Fla.-based PLH & Associates, Inc., who inspected the roller coaster in February, did not return a call to The Associated Press on Monday.

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2	4	8	7	3	1	6	9	5
3	6	1	9	5	4	7	8	2
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POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, TX 79721. Periodicals postage paid at Big Spring, Texas.

USPS 1431-48 USPS 0055-940 ISSN 0746-6811
BY THE MONTH HOME DELIVERY: \$9.00 monthly; \$97.20 yearly (includes 10% discount). MAIL SUBSCRIPTIONS: \$14.58 monthly Howard; \$18.33 elsewhere.

EDITORIAL

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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- 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.
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DAILY PRAYER

May we remain diligent about reading Your word, Lord, for our life.

Amen

Opposing extremism is not extremism

Less The New York Times for, yet again, selflessly exposing the political fault lines of the GOP and encouraging it to become more like the Democratic Party so it can start winning presidential elections again. I'm trying not to laugh.

In his piece "Has the G.O.P. Gone Off the Deep End?," Thomas Edsall lines up establishment Republican after establishment Republican to testify to the "extremism" of the dominant forces in the party. And he blames conservative talk radio, one of the few remaining bastions of sanity in this country, for the GOP's demise.

Thomas Doherty, "political enforcer for the former New York governor George Pataki," tells Edsall he has "come to the conclusion that (the) party has elements within it that dislike homosexuals and think America is still in the 1940s." Nice.

Tom Korologos, a GOP lobbyist, says the Republicans' "rigidity is killing them."

Jeb Bush chastises Republicans because many people believe they "are anti-immigrant, anti-woman, anti-science, anti-gay, anti-worker ... (and) because those voters feel unloved, unwanted and unwelcome in (the) party." Et tu?

Bob Dole says that even Ronald Reagan wouldn't be accepted in today's Republican Party.

Former GOP congressional staffer Mike Lofgren says the GOP is "becoming less and less like a traditional political party" and "more like an apocalyptic cult." I suppose Edsall considers Lofgren credible because he made these observations on the extremist liberal website Truthout.

Edsall mentions other insider critics, but you get the idea: Republicans are mean-spirited, bigoted, rigidly authoritarian, ideological, regressive, anti-intellectual, misanthropic extremists who will never win the presidency again unless they become more like Democrats.

The Times' take on this is to be expected. But shame on the "Republicans" Edsall quotes to denigrate the Republican Party from the left and slander conservatives as bigots and rubes.

The pitfalls of public exercise

The most memorable scene in Alfred Hitchcock's "North by Northwest" is Eva Marie Saint hanging from the side of Mount Rushmore in a perfectly tailored red suit, sheer stockings and pumps. The character hadn't planned for that situation, but her dress was nonetheless deemed proper, circa 1959, for touring South Dakota's Black Hills. In the previous Chicago and New York City shots, she, Cary Grant and most everyone else wore business or evening attire. No shorts, no flip-flops, not even jeans without rips.

America's distinctive city, suburb and rural cultures — so clearly drawn in the early episodes of "Mad Men" — have since blurred into a blob of "activewear." Sweaty joggers now race down Park Avenue at cocktail hour. Sophisticated urbanites once confined "working out" to indoor gyms, baseball fields or tennis courts. Now even private gyms put exercise bicycles in street-facing windows, so passersby can see the members checking their pulse. Exercising has become another activity to "share" with the world.

Is this a good development? For cosmopolitans, an allure of cities is the drama of being part of a street scene in which others are fellow players. Formality in downtown dress has pretty

The irony is that the Republican Party has become less conservative over the years. The party's presidential difficulties can just as convincingly be attributed to its failure to articulate a principled, inspiring conservative message.

Over the past decades, we've witnessed a steady, incremental advancement of liberalism and statism — a steady centralization of power in the federal government and a consequent erosion of our individual liberties. It is liberals and their Democratic Party that have become increasingly extreme — especially since Obama's election. If anything, the Republican Party has become too tolerant of these alarming changes.

Have any conservatives advocated "fundamental transformation" of America? No, we merely want to restore the principles and policies that made America great, the abandonment of which are leading to its destruction.

We are advocating, essentially, the same principles we were during the Reagan years, not because we're stuck in the past but because these principles are timeless and historically validated as effective to produce the greatest liberty, prosperity and national security.

Look at what the Obama left advocates and/or presides over today: open borders, abortion on demand (even at very late stages), federal deficits averaging \$1 trillion, obstruction of entitlement reform, same-sex marriage, divisive identity politics, universally failed socialized medicine, the politicization of the Internal Revenue Service and its targeting of political opponents, a head-in-the-sand political correctness that forces us to deny not only that we are at war with jihadis but that they are in a war with us (e.g., Fort Hood shooter), the glamorization of terrorists on the cover of a liberal culture publication, booing God, hailing Satan, imposing a new normal for frightening levels of unemployment, sabotaging the entire conventional energy industry, endless schemes of growth- and liberty-stifling taxation, class warfare, the demonization of Christians and the suppression of their religious liberties, runaway food stamps and other programs to increase government dependency and reduce productivity and growth,

an exploding bureaucratic and regulatory state, increasing usurpations of power by the executive branch to circumvent a duly elected legislative branch, an activist Supreme Court, and the constant erosion of the Constitution and the rule of law.

Conservatives, on the other hand, want the border actually to be enforced; market forces to be restored; protection of the unborn; reasonable restraints, far from extreme, on federal spending; a fair, simple and less corrupt tax code; racial colorblindness; essential structural entitlement reform; serious reductions in the administrative and bureaucratic "branch" of government; to remove burdens to economic growth; unemployment at historically acceptable levels; a restoration of the separation of powers; a judiciary that will honor its duty to interpret and not make laws; the unshackling of coal, oil, natural gas and other reliable energy sources; market reforms for health care; peace-through-strength national security and defense policies; and counterterrorism policies based on reality, not rooted in fantasy idealism, pacifism, appeasement or a negative view of America.

People who still love America as founded are horrified with the ongoing destruction of this country. They are beside themselves that nothing is sacred anymore and that our entire world is being turned upside down by secular, relativist forces in the seductive name of progressivism and enlightenment.

They want their political leaders to stand up and stop this madness, not cower, pander and cater to the forces leading us over the cliff to national ruin.

Call us extreme for trying to stop the true extremists. Proudly guilty as charged.

David Limbaugh is a writer, author and attorney. His latest book, "The Great Destroyer," reached No. 2 on the New York Times best-seller list for nonfiction. Follow him on Twitter @davidlimbaugh and his website at www.davidlimbaugh.com. To read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

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much collapsed, but turning public downtown places into exercise arenas seems another step toward weakening the communal spirit.

Some are objecting for other reasons. Denver, for example, has cracked down on group exercise sessions being held in its public plazas and parks. It seems that fitness instructors were conducting business on taxpayer-owned property without a permit or paying a fee.

But money issues aside, there are the aesthetic issues. Must residents and office workers step around large groups of sweating, grunting workout enthusiasts on a city plaza? As for the big, leafy urban parks, they generally provide places for sport, but they're also there for picnics and quiet reflection.

On weekends, the pastoral drives in New York's Central Park become a veritable Tour de France, as Lycra-bottomed cyclists race around the loops. Pedestrians trying to cross the drives (closed to vehicular traffic) take their lives in their hands as the pelotons whiz by. And if the bikes don't get them, the marathoners may.

Speaking of bicycles and New York City, the addition of bulky bike-share stations on densely packed city streets is nothing short of insane. In some neighborhoods, there's barely room on the sidewalks for all the pedestrians and baby carriages. As New York becomes a "biking city," more and more bicycles chained to poles clutter the walkways. The city's bike lanes are sweet, but they mean less room

for the vehicles essential to the functioning of a modern society.

Perhaps Portland, Ore., can pull it off. Manhattan cannot. We know that some enjoy bike transportation. Good for them. But giving this minority so much public space in a packed urban center makes no sense. The way the vast majority of New Yorkers get around is by walking, mixed with public transportation and taxis.

A chief rationale for promoting such activities on public urban spaces is health. "Nobody needs any discouragement to get active and healthy," a group exerciser in downtown Denver told a reporter. "If somebody can put their shorts on and get out the door, people should be clapping."

Some cite the obesity epidemic as reason to applaud pushups in plazas and biking down broadways. But rewind "North by Northwest." The one person needing to drop pounds was Hitchcock himself, trying to get on a bus. The 1959 masses in ties and suits, stocking and dresses, looked fitter than their 2013 replacements. That's probably because they just walked more and ate less.

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Kid Scoop Together:

The Four Cs

Diamonds are the hardest natural materials known and they are the most popular of all the gemstones for jewelry because of their brilliance. They can only be scratched by another diamond.

They are valued by their cut, color, carat and clarity.

Cut

The most common cut is known as the "brilliant." This has 58 facets or surfaces and the light reflected in the surfaces splits into the colors of the rainbow.

Color

Most diamonds contain some color and the most common are shades of yellow or blue. A colorless diamond is both rare and expensive.

Carat

A carat is a measurement of weight. 142 carats make one ounce. A diamond that weighs a full carat is worth more than one that weighs slightly less.

Clarity

A completely clear diamond is said to be flawless but that is rare and most diamonds have spots or bubbles.

You're a GEM!

You know you have a birthDAY. Did you know you also have a birthSTONE? A special gem stone has been selected to be the birthstone for each month of the year.

Discover Your Birthstone

1. Find the month you were born in the box below.

2. Next to your birthday month, there are two symbols. The first symbol shows you which horizontal line to follow on the Intergalactic Gem Stone Locator Grid. The second symbol tells you which vertical line to follow.

3. The gem at the point where the two lines meet is your personal birthstone!

- ▼ ● January
- ▲ February
- ○ March
- ■ April
- ★ || May
- ■ June
- ★ ○ July
- ▲ August
- ▼ || September
- ■ October
- ▲ November
- ○ December

Standards Link: Math; measure time using calendars. Reading Comprehension; follow simple written directions.

I brought precious Alphadots from planet Cryz Tahl to trade for gem stones from earth, but I dropped them all over this page. How many can you find?



INTERGALACTIC GEM STONE LOCATOR GRID

▲		■	●	
Topaz		Pearl		
	Sapphire		Aquamarine	
▼	Amethyst		Garnet	
●	Emerald	Diamond	Ruby	
★	Peridot	Opal	Turquoise	
●				

Color the Birthstones

- Garnet – purplish red
- Amethyst – purple
- Aquamarine – greenish blue
- Diamond – white
- Emerald – green
- Pearl – white
- Ruby – red
- Peridot – light green
- Sapphire – blue
- Opal – blue and green and white
- Topaz – orangish yellow
- Turquoise – light blue

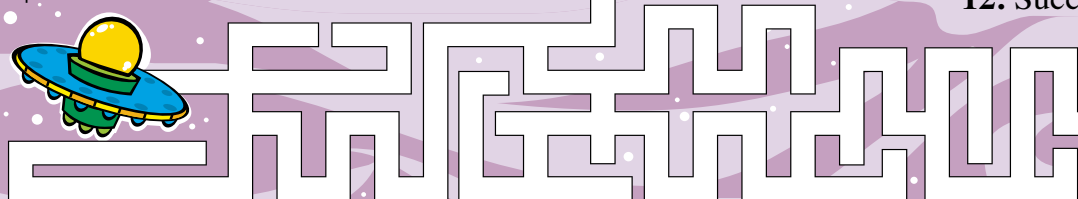
Standards Link: Reading Comprehension; follow written directions. Matching.

Birthstone Meanings

Each birthstone has a special meaning. To find out, do each math problem, put your answer on the line next to each gem and then find the answer in the list on the right.

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| 13 - 9 = ___ Garnet | 18 - 16 = ___ Ruby |
| 7 - 2 = ___ Amethyst | 9 - 6 = ___ Peridot |
| 4 + 3 = ___ Aquamarine | 11 - 10 = ___ Sapphire |
| 4 + 4 = ___ Diamond | 2 + 4 = ___ Opal |
| 15 - 6 = ___ Emerald | 8 + 2 = ___ Topaz |
| 16 - 5 = ___ Pearl | 16 - 4 = ___ Turquoise |

Standards Link: Health; connect personal characteristics that contribute to positive self-esteem. Math: Calculate sums and differences.



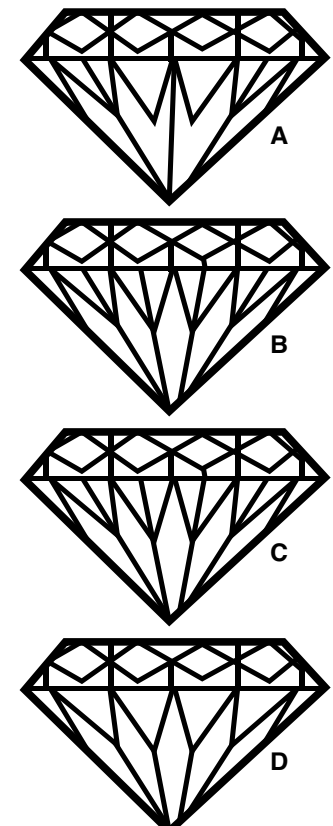
1. Good thinking
2. Contentment
3. Married happiness
4. Dependability
5. Sincerity
6. Hope
7. Courage
8. Innocence
9. Love
10. Loyalty
11. Health
12. Success

Extra! Extra! Words That Sparkle

Look through the newspaper for words that attract you to read more. The words could be used to attract you to an ad or a story. Can you find five? Use these words to write a story.

Standards Link: Vocabulary Development; recognize words and phrases that show rather than tell events.

Find the two identical diamonds.



Standards Link: Visual Discrimination; identify similarities and differences in common objects. ANSWER: B & C

Kid Scoop-doku™

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

S	T	O	N	E
T				S
			S	
				T
E				O

Birthstone Survey

My birthstone is: _____

My friend's birthstone is: _____

My teacher's birthstone is: _____

My pet's birthstone is: _____

Family member birthstones: _____

Standards Link: Research; locate information through interview and investigation.

Double Double Word Search

Find the words in the puzzle, then in this week's Kid Scoop stories and activities.

AQUAMARINE	B	I	R	G	A	R	N	E	T	S
GARNET	A	P	E	R	I	D	O	T	U	D
AMETHYST	M	T	R	H	S	E	T	O	R	I
DIAMOND	E	N	I	R	A	M	A	U	Q	A
EMERALD	T	Y	H	N	L	E	E	Z	U	M
PEARL	H	B	P	E	A	R	L	A	O	O
RUBY	Y	U	P	S	P	A	Q	P	I	N
PERIDOT	S	R	A	U	O	L	I	O	S	D
SAPPHIRE	T	M	S	N	O	D	A	T	E	T
OPAL										
TOPAZ										
TURQUOISE										

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

FROM THE LESSON LIBRARY

Fact and Opinion

A newspaper publishes both facts and opinions. Look through the newspaper for three examples of each. Discuss with a parent how you can tell the difference.

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension; Distinguish between fact and opinion.

RIDDLE RHYMES

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HEAT AND PRESSURE,
TAKE THEIR TOLL,
CREATING BEAUTY,
FROM A LUMP OF COAL!

What am I?

ANSWER: A diamond.

Write On!

Finders keepers?

Imagine that you find a diamond ring at the park. You know it's worth a lot of money, but someone clearly lost it. What would you do?

Bird Poop: A kite lost from flight gets help

Nearing the refinery on Interstate 20, the woman noticed ahead something in the middle of her lane. Finally close enough to recognize it as a bird, she steered her RV toward the shoulder to avoid hitting it.



BEBE
MCCASLAND

Installed to remind motorists they were wandering out of the right lane, the grinding, noisy rippled pavement included her in its warning. Once over the rattling vibration, she brought the large vehicle to a stop.

In her outside mirror, she was horrified to see a semi approaching the bird. Then she realized not one, but two trucks were hurtling toward it.

Even though she quickly jumped from the driver's side to the pavement and started waving her arms, the oncoming drivers had no choice. Automobiles to their left prevented them from any evasive action.

Horrified as the lumbering mammoths rushed over the bird, she was amazed to find it still standing. The

turbulence from their passing had nearly blown her to the pavement.

Using the pause in traffic, the woman ran toward the bird. In her hurry to remove it from the sweltering pavement, she grabbed it with her bare hands. Only then did the bird begin to scream in protest.

The walk back to her vehicle seemed much further now. She suddenly realized how much distance she had covered while slowing and stopping the RV.

Once inside, she placed the bird in a cardboard box. With the advantage of modern technology, the woman searched for help.

After telling me she was in front of the refinery on the Interstate, she described what she thought was a young hawk. "Its head is white and streaked with black," she continued. Marked with rusty-brown hues, its creamy breast was a notable contrast to its gray wings and darker primaries.

Telling her it was a fledgling Mississippi kite, I added that during the middle of July, many of the young have left the nest, but are still dependent upon their parents. Neither

the refinery nor the Interstate were appropriate habitats, so intervention was critical.

Since I lived in the southwest part of town, Animal Control, on the east, was the closest available help. Assuring the woman I would try to get someone to meet her and take the kite, I added otherwise, I would come.

Fortunately, an officer was at the shelter. In a few minutes, she was driving toward the RV on the Interstate. Not long after that came a phone call that the kite was in hand.

Taking the roving youngster was always a difficult choice. Its parents might have chosen to abandon it, or perhaps could not find enough food for themselves and two offspring. If left to fend for itself, it would starve because it did not have the stamina or skills to hunt and find prey.

Placed with other young kites and recovering adults, it would have somewhat of a chance to adopt the behavior and guidance needed to have a successful migration to South America in the fall. Three days later, the kite was delivered to Lubbock.

The "kite season" of 2012 turned out to be one of the busiest ever.



Courtesy photo

A fledgling Mississippi kite is perched on a roost at the wildlife center. Its white head streaked with black, and its creamy breast marked with rusty-brown hues, create a contrast to its gray wings and darker primaries. Seen more often are its parents with their ash colored heads, gray bodies, charcoal colored tails, red eyes, and yellow legs. The kite's name is derived from the area of the United States where it was first documented and its soaring abilities.

Twenty more youngsters and their situations would warrant our handling them.

By October, other species of raptors then had our attention due to fall migration. The day before Halloween, our phone rang.

Introducing herself as "Lee," the woman's voice was familiar. "July, Interstate 20, in front of the refinery," she continued.

Wanting to know how the kite had fared, she was delighted to know it had been released

with several adults and juveniles as they prepared for their long journey south. Hopefully, they had attained the gliding and soaring abilities to reach the tip of South America.

"In the future, you'd hardly recognize the kite you saved."

Resembling its parents, its head would be a light gray accented with dark eye patches and red eyes. With a soft, darker gray body, and charcoal colored wing parts and tail, its appearance would be absolutely striking.

"Are you back in Big Spring?" I asked. "Yes. I'm in the gas business," Lee said. Having to travel so much, she had tired of living in one motel room after another. With her RV, she had brought her home with her.

Especially grateful for the Animal Control officer who had responded so quickly, she added that she looked forward to coming to or through Big Spring again. Then she paused. "Such an opportunity to hold that bird. And to think, I nearly hit it!"

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

Wallet returned to Utah man 44 years later

OGDEN, Utah (AP) — A Utah man has his wallet back 44 years after leaving it behind in an apartment in Tooele County.

William Jones told Ogden's Standard-Examiner that he received a call out of the blue from a stranger who said she found it.

The 66-year-old Jones said opening the wallet a few weeks later released a flood of memories. He found IDs, family photos and receipts, including one that showed he paid \$1,600 for a 1965 Mustang.

The stranger turned out to be Traci England Nelson, the granddaughter of the apartment landlord in 1969, when Jones moved out of the unit to pursue another job in northern Utah.

Nelson said her grandfather, Deloyd England, rented to Jones and other employees of Utah's Tooele Army Depot and was used to seeing them leave items behind.

England put the wallet in a storage locker in hopes of returning it to its owner, but the wallet wasn't discovered until after he died in 2000.

Jones said he's glad Nelson tracked him down because the wallet brought back good memories, including ones about his 1965 Mustang.

"I had a lot of good times in that car ... For her to take all that time to find me is incredible," he told the Standard-Examiner.

He recalled getting off the swing shift at the Army depot with his friend and cruising up and down State Street until 3 a.m.

"(We were) chasing women, of course," he said. "When we were in the Mustang they'd follow us around. Not that we got any dates. They probably liked the car more than anything else."

Nelson said her grandfather put other items left behind by tenants in the storage locker, including photo albums, a wedding registry and yearbooks. She's currently trying to track down the owner of a box of photos.

"I came across all these treasures and I couldn't possibly throw these away," she said.

Enlightened by love

For the past two weeks we have been studying the English word "love" and have discovered there are many variables in this single word that we may not have thought about.

We have studied philia, ludus, pragma, philautia and eros. In this column I would like to present three additional types of love: storgic, manic and agape.

Storgic lovers are friends first. Storgic love develops gradually out of friendship, and the friendship can endure beyond the breakup of the relationship. Storgic lovers are friends, and sometimes cannot pinpoint the moment that friendship turned to love.

Storgic lovers want their significant others to be their best



DARRELL
RYAN

friends and place much importance on commitment and find their motivation to avoid committing infidelity is to preserve the trust between the partners. Children and marriage are seen as legitimate forms of their bond. Sex is of lesser importance than in some of the other love styles but involves respect and understanding for the other person.

The advantage of storgic love is the level of intimacy between the partners. The disadvantage of storgic is the lack of true passion.

The next form of love is manic. Manic lovers often have low self-esteem and place much importance on their relationship. Manic lovers speak of their partners in possessives and superlatives, and feel they "need" their partners. Love is a means of rescue, or a reinforcement of value.

Manic lovers often discover their partners by haphazard means and they will avoid committing infidelity for fear of discovery. They view marriage as ownership, and children as either competition or a substitute for their lover. Sex is a reassurance of love.

Manic lovers are often anxious or insecure, and they can be extremely jealous. Manic lovers respond well to therapy, and often grow out of this style. The advantage of manic love is intensity.

The disadvantages include jealousy, possessiveness, and insatiability. In its extreme, mania becomes obsession or codependency.

The final form of love I would like to present to you is agape love. Agape is a more generalized form of love. It's not about exclusivity but about love for all of humanity. Agapic love is self-sacrificing, all-encompassing love.

Agapic lovers are often spiritual or religious people. They view their partners as blessings and wish to take care of them and will remain faithful to their partners to avoid causing them pain and often wait patiently for their partners after a break-up. Marriage and children are sacred trusts, and sex is a gift between two people.

The advantage of agapic love is its generosity. A disadvantage is that it can become martyrdom. Martyrdom for principle may be acceptable; however,

martyrdom to maintain a relationship is considered psychologically unhealthy.

As we have studied the word "love," we have discovered that love is not one thing but many and each taking on separate characteristics. Each has its advantages and disadvantages and can but will not necessarily morph from one type to another; however, all love is a kind of passionate commitment that we nurture and develop. That's why it is more than just a powerful feeling.

Without the commitment, it is mere infatuation. Without the passion, it is mere dedication. Without nurturing, even the best can wither and die.

The paradox of love is that it is supremely free yet attaches us with bonds stronger than death. It cannot be bought or sold; there is nothing it cannot face; love is life's greatest blessing. I hope you have enjoyed this study in the word "love" as much as I have. It's been quite enlightening.

Darrell Ryan is the director of school safety for the Big Spring Independent School District.

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Darvish shuts down Yankees



Texas' Yu Darvish delivers a pitch during Monday's 3-0 shutout of the New York Yankees in Arlington. Joe Nathan picked up his 31st save of the season.

AP photo

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — The slumping Texas Rangers — a couple of boosts for their starting rotation.

Yu Darvish returned from a 15-day break by allowing only two singles over 6 1-3 scoreless innings and Texas beat the New York Yankees 3-0 Monday night.

"You could see he was fresh," manager Ron Washington said. "He was certainly sharp. Sharper than I thought he would be."

Also, the Rangers announced right before the game that they had acquired right-hander Matt Garza from the Chicago Cubs.

"Last few years when we get pitchers like him we go to the World Series," said Nelson Cruz, who homered. "So that's good news."

Darvish (9-4), who last pitched July 6 before going on the disabled list with a right trapezius strain, struck out four and walked two. He left after allowing consecutive batters to reach in the seventh, having thrown 60 of 90 pitches for strikes.

The Yankees could have to face the newest Texas ace before they leave town. Garza, pulled from his scheduled start for the Cubs at Arizona on Monday night, is likely to make his Texas debut on Wednesday night.

"You've got to commend (general manager) Jon Daniels and the group the way it worked to try to put this to-

gether, and they got us what we needed," Washington said. "We got a tremendous starting pitcher."

The Rangers had lost seven of eight games, getting swept at home in a three-game series by Baltimore over the weekend after the All-Star break.

Milwaukee's Ryan Braun, the 2011 National League MVP, was suspended without pay for the rest of the season and the postseason Monday, the start of sanctions involving players reportedly tied to a Florida clinic accused of distributing performance-enhancing drugs. Cruz is among more than a dozen other players also targeted by MLB for having connections to the now-closed anti-doping clinic in Miami.

"I guess it is what it is. I don't have any comment," Cruz said when asked about Braun.

Cruz also said he's "playing the same way. We're playing to win. We're in the race so I come to the ballpark thinking about winning. So that's my goal."

Three relievers wrapped up the three-hitter that was the eighth shutout of the season for the Rangers. All-Star closer Joe Nathan pitched the ninth for his 31st save in 32 chances.

Texas had reliever Robbie Ross warming up while

See **SHUTOUT**, Page 12

Local briefs

Youth Football Association sign-ups being held now

Crossroads Youth Football Association is holding sign-ups for players and cheerleaders at the Big Spring Mall. Dates include July 27, from 2 p.m. until 6 p.m.; Aug. 3, from 2 p.m. until 6 p.m.; Aug. 10, from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. and Aug. 17, from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. The league is open to children in kindergarten through 12-years-old. Cost is \$85 for flag football (ages 5-7); \$160 for tackle football (ages 8-9 and 10-12) and \$125 for cheer.

BSHS season tickets on sale

Beginning Monday, Steer football fans can pick up their season tickets at the Athletic Training Center. The books — which can be purchased Monday through Thursday, from 7:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m., until Aug. 23 — cost \$20 apiece and includes admission to all four home games, rapid access to the stadium and guaranteed seating in Section C. Call the athletic office at 264-3662 for more information.

BSHS equipment fitting sates set

Equipment fittings for Big Spring football players will be held July 29-Aug 1, at the athletic training center. All students playing football are to report to the ATC on one of those dates between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. to receive their gear.

Comanche Trail Golf Course to hold City Championship tourney

Howard County resident holding a membership to the Big Spring Country Club or Comanche Trail Golf Course is invited to play in the 36-hole individual play City Championship tournament Aug. 3-4.

There will be three divisions: Mens, Senior Mens and Women. Tee Times can be made for Saturday at player convenience, while Sunday will be flighted according to Saturday's scores.

Entry fee is \$40 per person. For more information, contact the pro shop at 264-2366.

Sports physicals due by Aug. 5

If your son or daughter is in grade 7, 9 or 11 and plans to participate in a fall sport, completed physical examination records must be turned in by Aug 5. The fifth also marks the start of two-a-day practices for most fall sports in the area. Big Spring parents can contact Jim Campbell at 264-3627 for more information.

BSHS Volleyball camp coming up

Big Spring Athletics will hold a summer volleyball camp July 29-August 1 for grades 3-9 at the junior high gymnasium. Grades 3-6 will be instructed from 8:30 a.m. until 10 a.m., while the 7-9 camp will be from 10:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m.

Registration is \$25 per child with T-shirts available for \$10 apiece.

Big Spring athletic camps are open to children enrolled in other schools.

Braun accepts 65-game suspension

NEW YORK (AP) — Ryan Braun stood on a spring training field and proclaimed he was innocent of using banned testosterone.

"I would bet my life," he said then, "that this substance never entered my body at any point."

Seventeen months later, he accepted a 65-game suspension from baseball and admitted, "I am not perfect. I realize now that I have made some mistakes. I am willing to accept the consequences of those actions."

The 2011 National League MVP was suspended without pay for the rest of the sea-

son and the postseason Monday, the start of sanctions involving players reportedly tied to a Florida clinic accused of distributing performance-enhancing drugs.

Attention quickly turned to who's next? Will Alex Rodriguez or any of the other players tied in media reports to the Biogenesis of America clinic get disciplined and, if so, when?

"I'm pretty sure Braunie won't be the last," Detroit All-Star outfielder Torii Hunter said. "It's going to be for the next 100 years, somebody's going to try to beat the system, and as long as they keep

catching guys, the system works."

Braun, a five-time All-Star, accepted a penalty 15 games longer than the one he avoided last year when an arbitrator overturned his positive test for elevated testosterone because the urine sample had been improperly handled.

More than a dozen players were targeted by MLB following a report by Miami New Times in January revealing relationships between Biogenesis and major leaguers. When Yahoo Sports reported in February that Braun's name was listed in Biogenesis' records, Braun said his lawyer had re-

tained clinic owner Anthony Bosch as a consultant. Braun issued a statement that said "I have nothing to hide."

MLB Commissioner Bud Selig announced Braun's suspension, citing the outfielder for unspecified "violations" of both baseball's drug program and labor contract. Braun's ban will cost him about \$3 million of his \$8.5 million salary. With the Brewers in last place in the NL Central, they aren't likely to have any playoff games for him to miss.

"I wish to apologize to anyone I may have

See **BRAUN**, Page 12

WNBA's rookies boosting attendance

NEW YORK (AP) — Midway through their first WNBA season, Brittney Griner, Elena Delle Donne and Skylar Diggins are already leaving their mark.

And not only on the court. They are helping the league boost viewership, attendance and merchandise sales.

"I think we've seen that they've had an impact on the game and the league," WNBA President Laurel Richie said.

Television household ratings have doubled on ESPN2 as compared with last season.

"A lot of people are tuning in and watching our games and coming to our games," Griner said.

"When I go into a sports bar some of the people I wouldn't think

would watch women's basketball are there watching."

"That's humbling," Griner said. "Just to know I have so many fans out there buying my jersey means a lot. It means I'm doing something right."

While Griner hasn't been able to help the Mercury much on the court lately, Delle Donne has been instrumental in guiding the Chicago Sky to their first playoff appearance since the franchise began in 2006.

The Delaware star is averaging 18.6 points and shooting nearly 95 percent from the foul line.

Rangers acquire Garza from Cubs for 3 players

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — The Texas Rangers finally have Matt Garza in their starting rotation.

Texas acquired Garza from the Chicago Cubs in a trade completed Monday, getting a pitcher they had long coveted just more than a week before the July 31 non-waiver trading deadline and several days after it initially appeared that the two teams had a deal in place.

"He's an extremely talented pitcher that's had success in the toughest of divisions and the biggest of stages, who's throwing the ball as well as anybody right now," Rangers general manager Jon Daniels said.

"It's a power repertoire, a little bit of a different look from what

we've got, and he was available."

The 29-year-old right-hander provides a boost to a starting rotation plagued by injuries and a team that slipped three games behind Oakland in the AL West after being swept in a three-game weekend series at home against Baltimore.

Texas sent the Cubs rookie right-hander Justin Grimm, top prospect third baseman Mike Olt and Class-A pitcher C.J. Edwards.

There will also be at least one player to be named later, possibly two, depending on who is chosen by Chicago.

"We paid a steep price in talent to acquire Matt, but we did so knowing that we've got other guys in the system," Daniels said.

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Tomorrow's Horoscope

Void-of-Course Daydreams

Yesterday's exciting astral events will take a while to process, and the void-of-course Aquarius moon is in absolutely no hurry. Just as a hologram can be projected onto mist or fog to eerie and spectacular effect, the void-of-course moon is the perfect diffused atmosphere in which to project our dramatic Leo sun fantasies.



HOLIDAY MATHIS

ARIES

(March 21-April 19). The knowledge you obtain only makes you want to know more. This interest will soon turn into a passion, and the passion will very quickly make you an expert.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). A pecking order is being established, and you may not agree with it. Why, you wonder, should anyone get pecked? Your presence will change this order but

not deactivate it.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). It is said that "love enters through the eyes." Whether this love is fresh or came about many years ago, your eyes will be delighted by the sight of a certain someone.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Some believe that saying "I love you" actually dilutes the emotion instead of conveying it. Today you will act to show, not tell, your love. The message will ring out loud and clear.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Too much introspection all at once gets wearying. Do something, preferably unrelated to what's on your mind. Solve an entirely different problem, and you'll find that the first issue moves along in a good direction.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). There are good reasons to hold back the floodgates of personal confession, the primary one being that it's just not cool. Ask yourself who will benefit from learning this something about yourself, and proceed only if the

answer is too compelling not to.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You're not looking for ways to increase your popularity and social success, and yet you'll naturally gravitate to the habits that attract people. You'll gain friends whether you want them or not.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Family banter is often less than supportive, but the presence of an outsider can curb that, as everyone acts a little nicer when there's a witness. Besides, it's just bad form to bicker in front of a stranger.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). In bowling, the difference between a strike and a gutter ball is only a couple of feet. If you lose today, it will be a near-miss situation. So correct your approach and keep trying. You have this.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You'll spend time in the land of business, where the main concerns have to do with sales, leads, revenues and profits. You're becoming

increasingly comfortable with a deal — keep working on it.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You'll be lucky when you relate to older people. Someone with silver in her hair has gold in her heart that she'll share with you when you make the effort to reach out.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You are not interested in making anyone feel bad about themselves in comparison to you. So your style is not to say anything about your accomplishments unless asked — and even then you'll downplay them.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (July 23). You exhibit amazing flexibility and will stretch to handle many projects at once. In order to keep from being overburdened, end one project before you start another and get rid of responsibilities along the way. You'll win a prize in the next 10 weeks. In September, you'll be paid well for your work and in more ways than just money. Aries and Scorpio people adore you. Your

lucky numbers are: 5, 4, 23, 40 and 11.

DEVELOP YOUR INTUITION, PISCES: It may seem counterintuitive, but the best thing Pisces can do to develop his or her sixth sense is build up layers of protection that will serve as a strong psychic defense. Pisces is already so sensitive and open to ethereal information that what is needed is a filtering system that will limit the amount of input Pisces absorbs and processes.

The last sign of the zodiac is an amalgamation of all the signs before it, which is why Pisces relates so well to others. It's as though the fish have a piece of each sign in them, and they naturally empathize with whatever the other signs are going through. The open awareness and emotional connection that Pisces radiates also makes Pisces highly impressionable. In short, Pisces picks up on people's karma and takes it on.

Psychic protection can be established through

mindfulness, though it helps to create a ritual that will increase attention to this matter. One such ritual is to wear a talisman for protection. Imagine that this talisman radiates a bubble of spiritual energy around Pisces that is sealed with a membrane allowing only the best and highest energies to permeate Pisces' realm.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Daniel Radcliffe has earned hundreds of millions of dollars playing literature's most famous wizard, and his strong natal chart supports the accomplishment. His sun, Mercury, Venus and Mars are all in Leo, the sign of the entertainer and show business. Saturn, Uranus and Neptune are all in Capricorn, the sign of business moguls. A fiery Aries moon suggests an endless supply of passion and energy.

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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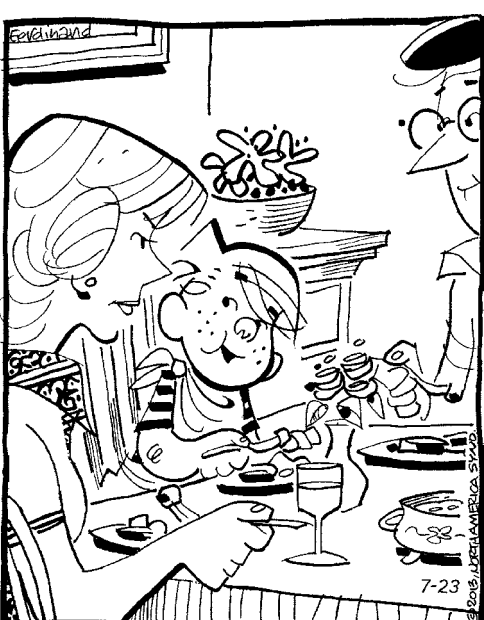
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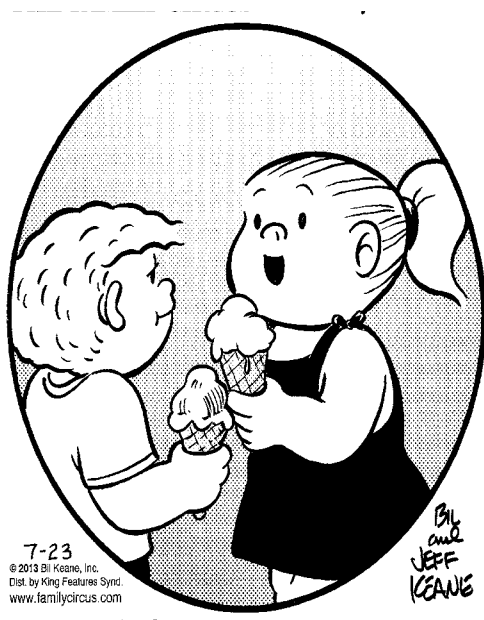
	KMID (3) Midland	UNI (4) Spanish	KPEJ (5) Odessa	KOSA (7) Odessa	KTLE (8) Telemundo	KWES (9) Midland	WTBS (11) Atlanta	KMLM (12) Odessa	KPBT (13) Odessa	KWWT (14) Odessa	DISC (20) Discovery	AMC (21) Classics	SPIKE (22) Spike TV	TNT (23) Atlanta	BET (26) Black Ent.	DISN (27) Disney	ESPN2 (28) Sports	ESPN (29) Sports
5:PM	News ABC	Casa Notic.	Two Men	News CBS	Noticias	News	King	Justice	Charlie Rose	King	Deadliest	turns, John	Ink Master	Castle	106 & Park:	Good	Around	SportsCenter
6:PM	Jeopardy!	Corazón	Big Bang	News	Caso Cer-	News	Seinfeld	Door-Wis-	PBS News-	Seinfeld	Deadliest		Ink Master	Castle	BET's Top 10	Jessie	Pardon	
7:PM	Extreme	Porque el	So You Think	NCIS (DVS)	Dama y	Game Night	Fam. Guy	Upd	The Buddha	Whose?	Deadliest	Movie: Cas-	Ink Master	Rizzoli &	Game	Good	Liberty at	Nine for IX
8:PM	Weight Loss	Amores	Amor	NCIS: Los	Mariño en	America's	Fam. Guy	Light of	(DVS)	Perfect	Catch	Mads Mik-	Ink Master	Rizzoli &	Game	Good	Beach Movie	World Series
9:PM	Body of	Qué Bonito	Simpsons	Person of	El Señor	Conan	Fam. Guy	Light of	Secrets of	Perfect	Catch	Kelsen	Ink Master	Perception	Game	Good	Baseball	World Series
10:PM	News	Impacto	How I Met	News	Noticias	Conan	Fam. Guy	Light of	Charlie Rose	Rules	Deadliest	Movie: Cas-	Tattoo	Rizzoli &	Husbands	Good	SportsNation	SportsCenter
11:PM	Jimmy Kim-	Noticiero	How I Met	Letterman	De'siones	Jay Leno	Fam. Guy	Light of	Charlie Rose	Rules	Deadliest	Mads Mik-	Tattoo	Rizzoli &	Husbands	Good	Baseball	SportsCenter
12:AM	Nightline	Familia-	Law Order:	Ferguson	Mariño en	Conan	Fam. Guy	Light of	T. Smiley	King	Blood & Oil	Kelsen	Tattoo	Perception	Wendy Wil-	Good	Baseball	SportsCenter
1:AM	Extra	Zacatillo, un	Raymond	De'siones	Pagado	Office	Fam. Guy	Light of	T. Smiley	Til Death	Deadliest		Ink Master	The Mental-	Movie: Stret-	Shake It	Poker	SportsCenter
	Paid	Conducta	American	Ent	Pagado	Movie: Road	Fam. Guy	Light of	(Off Air)	Til Death	Deadliest		Ink Master	The Mental-	Streets, Eb	ANT Farm	World Series	
	Paid	Casa	TMZ	Paid	Pagado	Trip: Beer	Fam. Guy	Light of		Browns	Deadliest	Movie: Blood	Tattoo	The Mental-	Deck	Deck	NASCAR	

DENNIS THE MENACE



"DON'T WORRY, MOM, DAD SAID I CAN'T LAUGH AT YOUR NEW HAIRDO."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



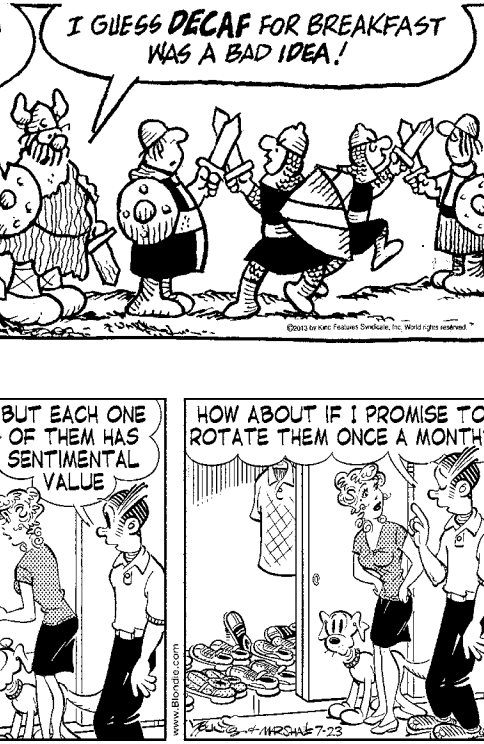
"Boy, this is even better than when I was just lookin' forward to it."

HAGAR



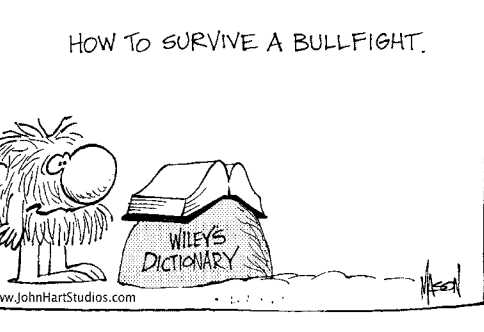
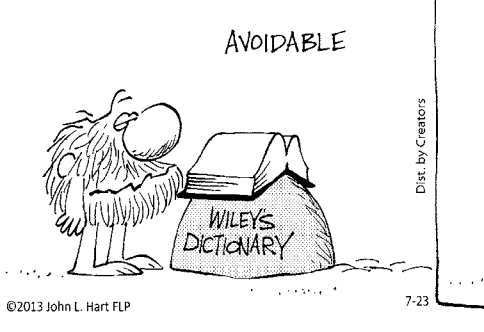
THE MEN DON'T SEEM TO BE TRYING TOO HARD TODAY... I GUESS DECAF FOR BREAKFAST WAS A BAD IDEA!

BLONDIE



WE NEED TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT ALL YOUR OLD BOWLING SHOES! WELL, I JUST CAN'T THROW 'EM OUT. CAN'T YOU SEE HOW CLUTTERED THE CLOSET IS? BUT EACH ONE OF THEM HAS SENTIMENTAL VALUE. HOW ABOUT IF I PROMISE TO ROTATE THEM ONCE A MONTH?

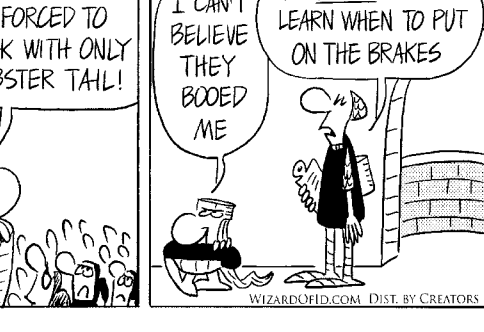
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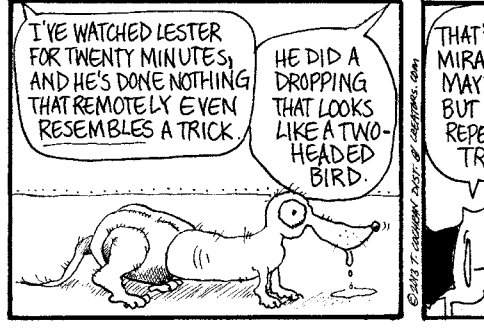
AVOIDABLE

HOW TO SURVIVE A BULLFIGHT.

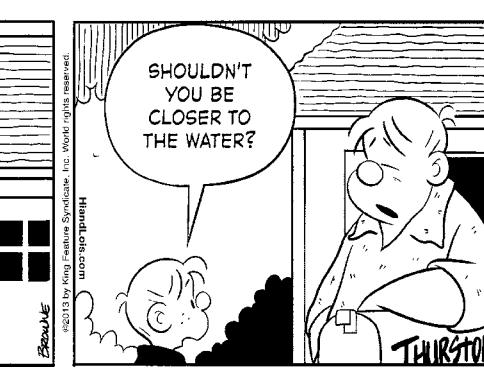
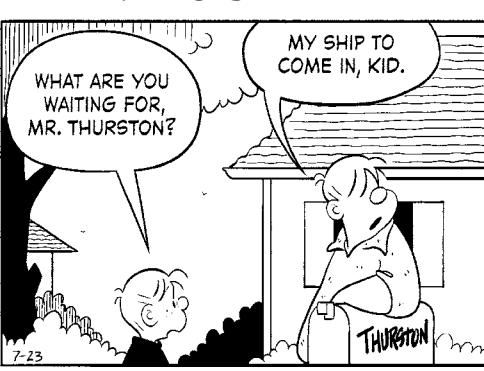
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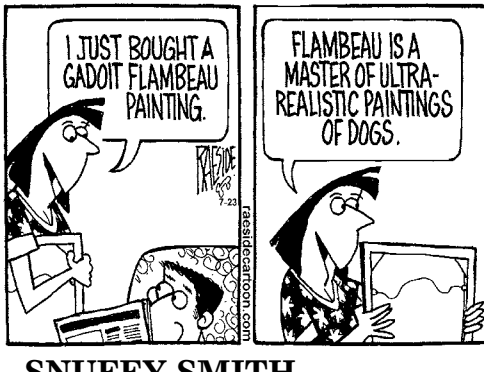
AGNES



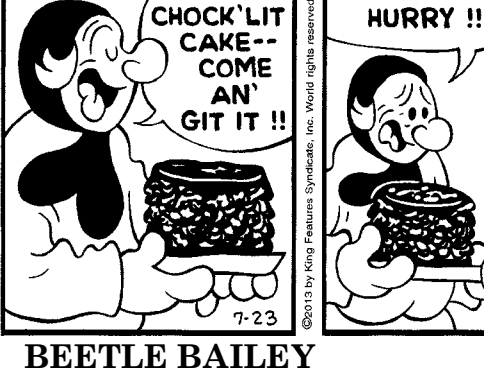
HI AND LOIS



THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BEEBLE BAILEY



This Date In History

Today is Tuesday, July 23, the 204th day of 2013. There are 161 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On July 23, 1983, an Air Canada Boeing 767 ran out of fuel while flying from Montreal to Edmonton; the pilots were able to glide the jetliner to a safe emergency landing in Gimli, Manitoba. The near-disaster occurred because the fuel had been erroneously measured in pounds instead of kilograms at a time when Canada was converting to the metric system.

On this date:

In 1885, Ulysses S. Grant, the 18th president of the United States, died in Mount McGregor, N.Y., at age 63.

In 1886, a legend was born as Steve Brodie claimed to have made a daredevil plunge from the Brooklyn Bridge into New York's East River. However, there are doubts about whether the dive actually took place.

In 1888, author Raymond Chandler was born in Chicago.

In 1914, Austria-Hungary issued a list of demands to Serbia following the killing of Archduke Franz Ferdinand by a Serb assassin; the dispute led to World War I.

In 1945, French Marshal Henri Petain (ahn-REE' pay-TAN'), who had headed the Vichy (vee-shee) government during World War II, went on trial, charged with treason. He was convicted and condemned to death, but the sentence was commuted.

In 1951, Petain died in prison.

In 1952, Egyptian military officers led by Gamal Abdel Nasser launched a successful coup against King Farouk I.

In 1967, a week of deadly race-related rioting that claimed 43 lives erupted in Detroit.

In 1977, a jury in Washington, D.C., convicted 12 Hanafi (hah-NAH'fee) Muslims of charges stemming from the hostage siege at three buildings the previous March.

In 1986, Britain's Prince Andrew married Sarah Ferguson at Westminster Abbey in London. The couple

divorced in 1996.

In 1997, the search for Andrew Cunanan, the suspected killer of designer Gianni Versace (JAH'nee vur-SAH'chee) and others, ended as police found his body on a houseboat in Miami Beach, an apparent suicide.

In 2011, singer Amy Winehouse, 27, was found dead in her London home from accidental alcohol poisoning.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Gloria DeHaven is 88. Concert pianist Leon Fleisher (FLY'shur) is 85. Supreme Court Justice Anthony M. Kennedy is 77. Actor Ronny Cox is 75. Radio personality Don Imus is 73. Country singer Tony Joe White is 70.

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Newsday Crossword

EASY AFTERNOONS by Billie Truitt

- Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com
- ACROSS**
- 1 Bawl out
 - 6 Corn servings
 - 10 Alphabet start
 - 13 Flood preventer
 - 14 Help, as a crook
 - 15 Lackluster
 - 17 As good as it gets
 - 18 Waiter's burden
 - 19 Copenhagen native
 - 20 Inventor's impossible goal
 - 23 Highest point
 - 24 Pressed, as clothes
 - 25 Pay attention
 - 29 Toboggan or lug
 - 31 Nothing but
 - 32 Envelope sealer
 - 34 Arm joint
 - 39 Pop the question
 - 42 Storm drain
 - 43 Sandwich fish
 - 44 Fingernail shaper
 - 45 Show shock
 - 47 Inspected thoroughly
 - 49 Advertising catchphrase
 - 53 Grown boys
 - 54 Pennsylvania vacation area
 - 61 Sedan, for instance
 - 62 Charged particles
 - 63 Being pulled from behind

- 9 Totally stump
- 10 Pile on
- 11 Very smart person
- 12 Paddled craft
- 16 Give a little
- 21 Salad servers
- 22 Command
- 25 Trims (off)
- 26 Memo opening
- 27 Snail-like
- 28 Use a keyboard
- 29 Recap
- 30 Low in fat
- 33 "Sure, I'm game!"
- 35 Elevate
- 36 Angler's attachment
- 37 Stare at
- 38 Dandelion or crabgrass
- 40 Church instrument
- 41 Black bird
- 46 Sprinkle with oil
- 48 Tempt
- 49 Minor squabble
- 50 Scientist
- 51 Pasteur
- 51 Group of eight
- 52 "Oh, boy!"
- 53 Pondered
- 55 Tie at the dock
- 56 Not fooled by
- 57 Auth. unknown
- 58 "How hard can ___?"
- 59 Par for the course
- 60 Move in the breeze

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13					14				15		16
17					18				19		
20				21				22			
23					24						
25	26	27	28			29	30				
31					32	33			34	35	36
37									38		
39				40				41			
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45					46				47	48	
49	50	51	52					53			
54					55	56			57	58	59
60									61		
62					62				63		
64					65				66		
67					68				69		

BRAUN

Continued from Page 7

disappointed," Braun said. "I am glad to have this matter behind me once and for all, and I cannot wait to get back to the game I love."

Under the agreement reached by MLB and the players' association the specifics of Braun's admission were not made public.

"I'm shocked, but people make mistakes every day," Yankees pitcher CC Sabathia said. "He'll serve his time but, hopefully, he'll be able to continue his career."

Union head Michael Weiner said last week that arbitration hearings for players contesting suspensions likely would not start until September, which would delay any

penalty until next season. But he also indicated the union would urge players to make a deal and get a suspension over with if there was strong evidence of guilt.

"I am deeply gratified to see Ryan taking this bold step," Weiner said in a statement. "It vindicates the rights of all players under the joint drug program. It is good for the game that Ryan will return soon to continue his great work both on and off the field."

Braun's acceptance of the suspension marks a 180-degree turnaround from his defiant spring training news conference in Phoenix last year, after his 50-game ban was overturned.

"We won," he said then, "because the truth is on my side. The truth is always relevant, and at

the end of the day, the truth prevailed."

The 29-year-old Braun was hitting .298 with nine homers and 38 RBIs this year, slowed by a thumb injury that limited him to one game between June 9 and Friday. He was at Miller Park before Monday's game against San Diego and addressed the Brewers, then left without speaking to reporters.

"He apologized," pitcher John Axford said. "Whatever else was said beyond that, I don't think we need to carry outside of the clubhouse."

Braun met with MLB investigators in late June. Baseball's probe was boosted when Bosch, who ran Biogenesis, agreed last month to cooperate with the sport's investigators.

The suspension is the latest in a string of high-profile

drug cases across sports. Cyclist Lance Armstrong, a seven-time Tour de France winner, ended years of denials in January, admitting he doped to win. Positive tests were disclosed this month involving sprinters Tyson Gay, Asafa Powell and Sherone Simpson.

By serving the entire penalty this year, Braun gains a slight monetary advantage. His salary increases to \$10 million next year, when a 65-game suspension would cost him about \$500,000 more.

"We commend Ryan Braun for taking responsibility for his past actions," Rob Manfred, MLB's executive vice president for economics and league affairs, said in a statement. "We all agree that it is in the best interests of the game to resolve this matter. When Ryan returns, we look

forward to him making positive contributions to Major League Baseball, both on and off the field."

Rodriguez acknowledged using PEDs while with Texas from 2001-03, but has denied taking them since.

Braun became the latest star tripped up by baseball's drug rules.

The sport was criticized for allowing bulked-up sluggers to set power records in the 1990s and only started testing in 2003. Since then, testing and penalties have become more stringent.

Four All-Stars this year have been linked in media reports to Biogenesis: Nelson Cruz, Everth Cabrera, Bartolo Colon Jhonny Peralta.

"I guess it is what it is," Cruz said of Braun's suspension. "I don't have any comment."

Sudoku Answer on Page 3

sudoku

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

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

www.sudoku-puzzles.net

SHUTOUT

Continued from Page 7

batting in the sixth. But Darvish came out to start the seventh, and appeared surprised when Washington came

out of the dugout to make the pitching change.

"He was a little bit earlier than I thought, but I had about 15 days with a break and I think Wash was thinking about my body and how I felt, so I really appreciated what

he's done," Darvish said through an interpreter.

New York didn't have a hit until Lyle Overbay led off the fifth with a bloop single into short left field that was out of the reach of third baseman Adrian Beltre. The Yankees didn't have another hit until Overbay lined a single to right in the seventh, just before Vernon Wells walked and Darvish came out of the game.

"It seemed like he located really well," Yankees manager Joe Girardi said. "His fastball, our guys were talking about it, he was giving us first-pitch fastball, but it was all on the corner or down in the zone, he wasn't giving them a whole lot to swing at."

Ross got Travis Hafner, the only batter he faced, to ground into an inning-ending double play. Tanner Schepers worked a perfect eighth.

Ivan Nova (4-3) struck

out four while throwing a season-high 112 pitches over seven innings.

The Yankees, coming off an 11-inning loss late Sunday night at Boston, were held scoreless for the eighth time.

"It's something we have to deal with, so we got to find a way to do that," Overbay said. "Tonight, I don't know if any of those had an effect on us. It was more Darvish was on his game."

Cruz's 23rd homer was a 412-foot solo shot in the seventh that landed in the Yankees' bullpen in left-center field and made it 3-0.

The Rangers led for good after Ian Kinsler drew a leadoff walk in the first, stole second base and scored on Beltre's single — the first run they've scored in the first inning in 11 games. In the sixth, Elvis Andrus had a walk and a stolen base before Geovany Soto doubled.

Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

Steppingstone to Success

East dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.
NORTH
♠ 8 7 5 3
♥ A 9 8 4
♦ K 10 3
♣ Q 10

WEST
♠ —
♥ 10 6 5 2
♦ A 9 8 6 5 4 2
♣ 5 3

EAST
♠ K J 9 6
♥ K J 7 3
♦ 7
♣ A 9 8 7

SOUTH
♠ A Q 10 4 2
♥ Q
♦ Q J
♣ K J 6 4 2

The bidding:
East 1♣ South Pass West Pass North 2♠
Pass 4♣
Opening lead — five of clubs.

A declarer can sometimes draw amazingly accurate conclusions about the composition of the defenders' hands, even though he cannot actually see their cards. Consider this case where South wound up in four spades after East had opened the bidding with one club. West then led a club, whereupon East took the ace and shifted to his singleton diamond.

West won and continued with a diamond, ruffed by East for the defenders' third trick. East exited

with a club to dummy's queen, and when declarer next led a trump from dummy, East produced the nine.

It's easy to see, looking at all four hands, that the winning play is the ten. Declarer then returns to dummy with a heart for a second trump finesse to wrap up the contract.

However, the ten play in effect assumes an original 4-0 division of the trump suit — by no means an obvious assumption to make. Declarer might easily finesse the queen the first time around and finish down one.

In the actual case, South deduced from the information he had picked up from the bidding and play to this point that East had indeed started with the K-J-9-6 of spades, so he finessed the ten and made four spades.

The reasoning behind South's decision was irrefutable. During the play to the first four tricks, East had shown up with a singleton diamond and precisely four clubs.

It followed that East's remaining eight cards in spades and hearts had to be divided 4-4, since he surely would not have opened one club had he held five hearts and three spades, the only other possibility. East's distribution thus became marked as 4-4-1-4, so the deep finesse was the only logical play to make.

Tomorrow: A duplicate disaster.
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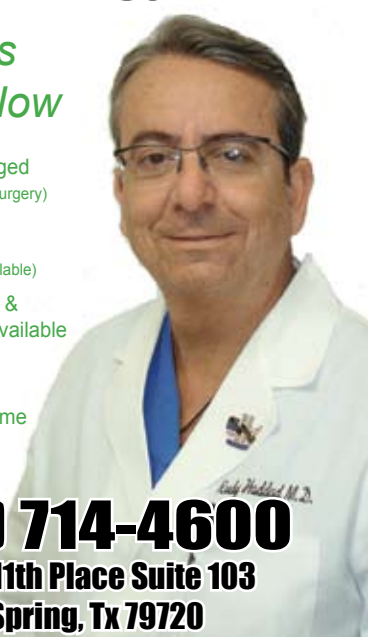
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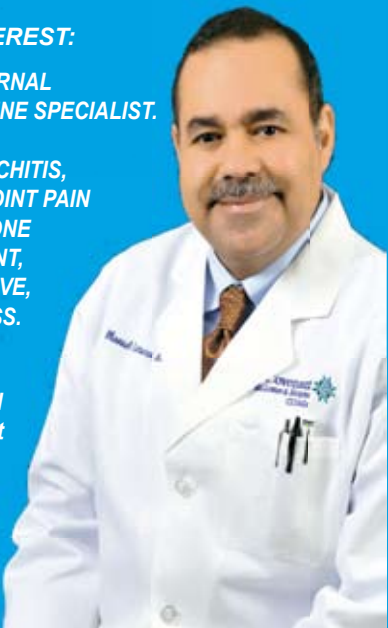
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