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BIG SPRING HERALD

WEDNESDAY

JULY 24, 2013



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VOLUME 108, NUMBER 240

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HERALD photo/Tony Claxton (www.claxtonphotography.com)

Work crews attach power lines to a transmission tower west of Vealmoor on Tuesday afternoon.

Council lifts ban on sea container homes

However, moratorium on new units in place until Aug. 20, officials say

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
 Staff Writer

Tempers flared during Tuesday night's meeting of the Big Spring City Council, as the council approved a zoning ordinance designed to define and shape the use of modular homes, temporary workforce housing and "man camps" on a 4-2 vote.

The council opted to remove language from the ordinance which addresses the use of intermodal shipping containers — otherwise known as sea containers — and would, in its former incarnation, ban the use of the containers for housing purposes within the city limit.

The motion to approve the modified ordinance was made by District 1 Councilman Marcus Fernandez, with District 3 Councilman Glen Carrigan providing the second. Fernandez, Carrigan, District 2 Councilwoman Carmen Harbour and District 6 Councilman Marvin Boyd voted in favor of the exclusion, while Mayor Larry McLellan and District 4 Councilman Bobby McDonald voted against it.

"I think there is a place in this town for these houses ... My concern is these houses should have a seal from the Texas Department of License and Regulation."

Larry McLellan,
 Big Spring mayor

District 5 Councilman Raul Benavides was absent from the meeting.

The council approved first reading of the ordinance — including the ban on shipping container homes — during its July 9 meeting on a 4-3 vote, with Harbour, McDonald, Benavides and McLellan all voting in favor of the ban. Fernandez, Carrigan and Boyd voted against the previous measure.

The council heard from several local residents in favor of the use of the sea container homes, including former Big Spring mayor Cotton Mize, Norma Garcia, Don Avant and Dale Avant, the local entrepreneur spear-heading the use of the 320-square-foot homes.

The discussion became heated while Dale Avant was addressing the council and fielding a number of questions from McDonald, who said he believes the sea container homes do not represent the future of the Crossroads area.

"I can't see them competing with the

See **HOMES**, Page 3

New city landfill rates receive final OK

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
 Staff Writer

The Big Spring City Council approved final reading of an ordinance that will do away with the \$5 tipping fee at the municipal landfill and implement a fee scale based on the weight of the refuse.

Approval of the ordinance came with one major change

from the incarnation of it approved during the council's July 9 meeting, as language calling for a minimum \$10 fee to be charged with each trip to the facility was changed to allow residents to bring in up to 500 pounds in a day and only pay the \$10 tipping fee once.

The measure was approved

on a 5-1 vote with Mayor Larry McLellan the lone dissenter and District 1 Councilman Marcus Fernandez, District 2 Councilwoman Carmen Harbour, District 3 Councilman Glen Carrigan, District 4 Councilman Bobby McDonald and District 6 Councilman Marvin Boyd voting in favor of the altered resolution. Dis-

trict 5 Councilman Raul Benavides was absent.

The new fee system was presented by Public Works Director Johnny Womack, who said the change in the fees system is necessary to both finance the opening of a new cell in the municipal landfill and attempt to cut down on the amount of waste coming

into the facility, which is in danger of filling up before a new cell can be built.

"Construction of the east cell, which is already permitted, will cost the city approximately \$3 million," Womack told the council. "Depending on the waste stream, that cell

See **RATES**, Page 3

A cool way to fight hunger

Local boy opens lemonade stand to benefit food bank

By **STEVE REAGAN**
 Staff Writer

Lemonade stands, once a summertime staple, have gone the way of Pet Rocks and 8-tracks, but one local boy is bringing them back for a good cause.

Seven-year-old Logan Henry, the son of Russell and Stephanie Russell, has

opened one of the venerable stands in front of his parents' home on Carleton Street to help raise money for the Isaiah 58 food bank. His first effort earlier this month raised more than \$50 and he'll be back hawking lemonade this Saturday.

According to his mother, Stephanie, helping others is simply in Logan's nature.

"He understands it's good to give to people who might not have enough of the things they need," she said. "He always wants to be helpful. That's just how he is."

Stephanie said Logan began searching for a way to help the less fortunate earlier this summer, at one point even clearing out his room to donate some of his toys to children in the community.

Finally, his parents took him to meet Sandy Stewart, director of the local United Way, who talked about the agencies helped by the charity organization. Soon afterward, Logan warmed to the idea of raising money to help Isaiah 58.

See **LOGAN**, Page 3



HERALD photo/Steve Reagan

Logan Henry sits at his lemonade stand in front of his parents' home at 2606 Carleton.

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Obituaries

Pedro 'Pete' Gonzales



Pedro "Pete" Gonzales, 61, of Big Spring died Monday, July 22, 2013, at Odessa Regional Medical Center. Vigil Services will be held at 7 p.m. Wednesday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. Thursday at Holy Trinity Catholic Church. Burial will be at Coahoma Cemetery.

He was born Dec. 9, 1951, in Howard County to Maria and Juan Gonzales. He was a lifetime resident of Howard County and worked a number of years at GAMCO and later for Moffit Carpets in Midland. In recent years, he was self-employed as a carpenter and did woodworking. He was a Catholic.

He is survived by three daughters, Kathy Chavarria of Big Spring, Michelle Carrasco of Big Spring and P.J. Westmoreland of Corinth, Texas; one son, Pedro Chavarria of Big Spring; mother; Maria G. Gonzales of Big Spring; one brother, Salome M. Gonzales and wife Irma of Coahoma; three sisters, Yolanda Dominquez and husband Rudy of Big Spring, Mary Linda Landin and husband Macedonio of Big Spring and Frances Jones of Kentucky; 16 grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

In addition to his father, he was preceded in death by one son, Jeremy Acuff; and two brothers, Patrick Gonzales and Richard Gonzales.

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

Adela Dominguez

Adela Dominguez, 66, of Big Spring died Friday, March 15, 2013, at her residence. Graveside funeral services will be held at 4 p.m. Thursday, July 25, 2013, at Trinity Memorial Park.

She was born May 9, 1946, in Fort Davis, Texas, and married Manuel Dominguez on July 25, 1964, in Big Spring. He preceded her in death May 18, 2011.

Survivors include four daughters, Monica Martinez and husband Jose Luis, Dr. Cecilia Sophia Dominguez, Patsy Garza and husband Albert and Becky Dominguez and husband Eddie White, all of Big Spring; two sons, Manuel Dominguez Jr. and P.J. Dominguez, both of Big Spring; six brothers; six sisters; seven grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

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

Delbert Verl Shultz

Delbert Verl Shultz, 88, of Big Spring died Tuesday, July 23, 2013, in a local nursing home. His services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Horace Rankin

Horace Rankin, 84, of Big Spring died Tuesday, July 23, 2013, at his residence. His services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Maria Margarita Rodriguez

Maria Margarita Rodriguez, 48, of Midland, formerly of Ackerly died Monday, July 2, 2013, at Midland Memorial Hospital. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity between 7 a.m. July 24, 2013 and 7 a.m. today:

- LYDIA MARIE HERNANDEZ, 19, of 1519 Wood, was arrested Tuesday on a warrant for theft greater than or equal to \$500 but less than \$1,500.
- DONISHA ROSHUN VANDERBILT-MCGEE, 18, of 105 West 24th Street, was arrested Tuesday on a warrant for failure to maintain financial responsibility.
- LUPE GUTIERREZ, 36, was arrested Tuesday on charges of consuming alcoholic beverage after hours, driving without safety belt and no drivers license when unlicensed.
- TERRENCE ALI YOUNG, 24, of 711 Abrams was arrested Tuesday on a warrant for driving while license invalid multiple counts.
- REBECCA JO BOLTON, 33, of 114 Colorado Street, was arrested Tuesday on a warrant from another agency.
- RONALD STANLEY HASELBY, 62, of 1302 Tucson was arrested Tuesday on a charge of public intoxication.
- JUAN GILBERT HINOJOSA, 40, of 610 Linda Lane, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of theft greater than \$1,500 but less than \$20,000.
- CHAD DANIEL DEAX, 39, of 9779 east Highway 84, Gatesville, Texas, was arrested Tuesday on a warrant for driving while intoxicated second offense.
- CRIMINAL MISCHIEF was reported at the 1700 block of Yale.
- DISTURBANCE was reported at the 500 block of Lancaster.
- ASSAULT was reported at the 1900 block of Wasson Road, apartment 18.
- THEFT was reported at the 200 block of Texas Road, Sand Springs and the 900 block of Runnels.
- INTOXICATED SUBJECT was reported at the 1600 block of East 5th Street.

Sheriff

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

- Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 82 inmates at the time of this report.
- LYDIA MARIE HERNANDEZ, 19, was booked by the BSPD on a charge of theft of property greater than or equal to \$500 but less than \$1,500.
- LUPE GUTIERREZ, 36, was booked by the BSPD on charges of consumption of alcoholic beverage after hours, driving without safety belt and no drivers license when unlicensed.
- JUAN GILBERT HINOJOSA, 40, was booked by the HCSO on a charge of theft greater than \$1500 but less than \$20,000.
- RODOLFO GONZALES JR., 51, was booked by the HCSO on a bench warrant.
- TERRENCE A. YOUNG, 24, was booked by the BSPD on a charge of driving while license invalid.
- REBECCA JO BOLTON, 33, was booked by the BSPD on charges of bail jumping and failure to appear.
- CHAD DANIEL DEAX, 39, was booked by the HCSO on a motion to revoke parole – driving while intoxicated second offense.
- RONALD HASELBY, 62, was booked by the BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.
- NIKKYA NICOLE PINKERTON, 29, was booked by the HCSO on a charge of possession of drug paraphernalia.
- DARRICK KYLE SHIFFLETT, 26, was booked by the BSPD on a charge of urinating in a public place.

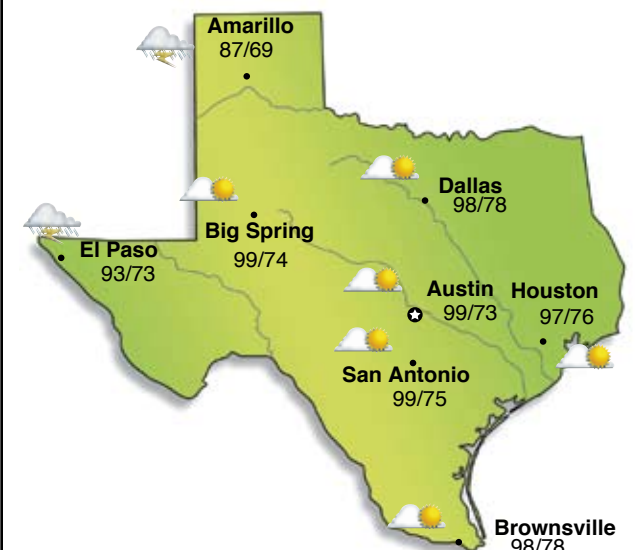
Today's Weather

Local 3-Day Forecast

Thu 7/25	Fri 7/26	Sat 7/27
99/74 Partly cloudy skies. High 99F. Winds SSE at 10 to 20 mph.	97/73 Partly cloudy with a stray thunderstorm. High in the upper 90s and lows in the low 70s.	93/72 Slight chance of a thunderstorm. High in the low 90s and lows in the low 70s.
Sunrise: 6:57 AM Sunset: 8:48 PM	Sunrise: 6:57 AM Sunset: 8:47 PM	Sunrise: 6:58 AM Sunset: 8:47 PM



Texas At A Glance



Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Abilene	98	75	pt sunny	Kingsville	99	76	pt sunny
Amarillo	87	69	t-storm	Livingston	98	72	mst sunny
Austin	99	73	pt sunny	Longview	95	74	pt sunny
Beaumont	96	74	mst sunny	Lubbock	92	72	pt sunny
Brownsville	98	78	pt sunny	Lufkin	98	73	pt sunny
Brownwood	101	75	pt sunny	Midland	98	75	pt sunny
Corpus Christi	96	79	pt sunny	Raymondville	100	76	mst sunny
Corsicana	96	75	pt sunny	Rosenberg	98	75	pt sunny
Dallas	98	78	pt sunny	San Antonio	99	75	pt sunny
Del Rio	100	78	mst sunny	San Marcos	100	73	pt sunny
El Paso	93	73	t-storm	Sulphur Springs	97	75	pt sunny
Fort Stockton	95	73	pt sunny	Sweetwater	98	74	pt sunny
Gainesville	95	75	pt sunny	Tyler	96	75	pt sunny
Greenville	95	75	pt sunny	Weatherford	98	76	pt sunny
Houston	97	76	pt sunny	Wichita Falls	96	76	pt sunny
Los Angeles	80	65	pt sunny				
Miami	93	75	pt sunny				

National Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Atlanta	86	68	pt sunny	Minneapolis	83	60	t-storm
Boston	72	63	rain	New York	74	69	rain
Chicago	81	64	sunny	Phoenix	101	83	t-storm
Dallas	98	78	pt sunny	San Francisco	65	56	pt sunny
Denver	85	60	t-storm	Seattle	80	57	sunny
Houston	97	76	pt sunny	St. Louis	84	66	sunny
Los Angeles	80	65	pt sunny	Washington, DC	81	67	pt sunny
Miami	93	75	pt sunny				

Moon Phases



UV Index

Thu 7/25	Fri 7/26	Sat 7/27
11	11	11
Extreme	Extreme	Extreme

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

- TRAFFIC ACCIDENT reported at mile marker 189 on Interstate Highway 20. No transport.
- MEDICAL reported at the 700 block of Interstate Highway 20. One patient transported to SMMC.

MINUTES OF COUNTY FINANCES TREASURER'S REPORT

IN THE MATTER OF COUNTY FINANCES IN THE HANDS OF TERESA THOMAS TREASURER OF HOWARD COUNTY, TEXAS.

COMMISSIONERS' COURT HOWARD COUNTY, TEXAS IN REGULAR SESSION JULY TERM 2013

IN ACCORDANCE with Section 114.026, Local Government Code, we, the undersigned, constituting the entire Commissioners Court of said County, certify that on the 22nd day of July, 2013 at the Regular term of Court, we compared and examined the monthly report of TERESA THOMAS, Treasurer of Howard County, Texas, for June 30, 2013, and finding the same correct, entered an order in the Minutes approving said Report, which states total cash and other assets on hand as \$16,483,478.16.

Mark Barr, County Judge
Oscar Garcia, Commissioner Pct. 1
Donnie Baker, Commissioner Pct. 2
Jimmie Long, Commissioner Pct. 3
John Cline, Commissioner Pct. 4

SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIBED BEFORE ME, by Mark Barr, County Judge, and County Commissioners of said Howard County, each respectively, on this the 22nd day of July, 2013.

Attest: Donna Wright, County Clerk

FILED FOR RECORD THIS 22nd DAY OF July, 2013, and recorded on the 22nd day of July, 2013.

Donna Wright,
County Clerk and
Ex-Officio Clerk of the Commissioners
Court in and for Howard County, Texas.

Fire/EMS

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

- MEDICAL reported at the 1500 block of Hilltop Road. One patient transported to SMMC.
- TRAFFIC ACCIDENT reported at the corner of Third Street and Birdwell Lane. One patient transported to SMMC.

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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, 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.

RATES

Continued from Page 1

should last between six years and eight years. If we construct Phase 1 of the new landfill, that will cost \$4 million and last between seven and 10 years."

Womack said early estimates on what the amount of garbage and waste coming into the facility at this time of the year would be were considerably lower than recent counts, a fact that could cut the expected life of the facility by more than half what has been expected.

The July 9 vote on the ordinance ended in a 4-3 approval that included the \$10-per-trip minimum fee, with Fernandez, Harbour and Boyd

voting against it. Council members Carrigan, McDonald, Benavides and McLellan voted in favor of the measure.

The possibility area residents might be charged multiple times in a single day quickly drew the ire of Fernandez, however, who told the council that many of the city's low income families simply can't afford the fee.

The District 1 councilman presented the same plight during Tuesday's meeting, at one point sparring with McLellan over how the new landfill cell — and, eventually, the new landfill facility — would be paid for, with fees from the landfill customers or through raising property taxes.

"Those are not the only solutions," Fernan-

dez said, referring to the choice to fund the landfill either with fees or taxpayer dollars. "You say either do this or do that and I'm trying to come up with a temporary solution so we can look at this and we're saying it's either A or B, there's no in between."

Fernandez's statement seemed to draw the ire of McLellan.

"I wish I had good news for you," McLellan said. "However, the tooth fairy isn't going to come and drop in on us. We're either going to have to raise these rates or we're going to have to raise taxes."

Fernandez fired back quickly.

"I have been here two years. I know about the landfill," Fernandez said. "I know what's going on with the landfill.

But, to charge certain people or everybody ... not everyone can afford to make two trips and pay \$20."

Carrigan jumped in shortly after, saying the loss in revenue caused by charging \$10 a day instead of per trip would be minimal, at best.

McLellan called for a motion to accept the ordinance as written, including the \$10 per trip fee.

The motion was made by McDonald, but died for lack of a second. Fernandez then made a motion to accept the ordinance with the fee to be charged per day — up to 500 pounds — and received a second from McDonald.

The new ordinance calls for landfill customers to pay \$40 per ton or \$10 per day if the to-

tal weight is less than 500 pounds. It will also call for city residents to present identification — a Texas driver's license or state ID, along with a second proof of residence, such as a utility

bill — when using the landfill.

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

LOGAN

Continued from Page 1

"One day, he came home and said he wanted to start a lemonade stand to help out hungry kids," his mother said.

Logan opened his stand for two hours earlier this month and, thanks to generous neighbors, raised \$54.50 for the food bank.

He'll be expanding his efforts this Saturday — his mother said Logan's stand will be open in

front of their home on 2606 Carleton from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Food bank officials and Stewart expressed their gratitude for Logan's efforts, but that's nothing compared to how his parents feel about their little philanthropist.

"We're just very, very proud of him," Stephanie said.

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

HOMES

Continued on Page 1

stock of housing we have now," McDonald said. "It's always around the fringe of things. It's not the standard. Would I go for one of these? I sure would, if it were for storage ... what you have built, would it improve Big Spring?"

Avant's response was immediate.

"Yes," he said loudly. "You ask me and I say yes. I'm telling you right now, they are a nice, suitable house and they are up to code. I understand you don't like the way they look and it has nothing to do with their function ... If you appreciate our U.S. Army, we're letting these people be housed in these. If it's good enough for our Army and our students (referring to 14 students at Lubbock Christian University currently staying in similar quarters), surely it's good enough for someone who needs a house."

The two continued to banter back and forth regarding the long-term viability of the homes, with Avant walking away from the microphone in the middle of the conversation.

"I appreciate you very much for hearing me," an obviously frustrated Avant said. "I'll never get you convinced. You have enough money that you don't need to live in something like this. This is people who can't afford (a home otherwise)."

According to McLellan, his problem with the use of the homes is the lack of state approval for them, including a necessary seal from the Texas Department of Li-

cense and Regulation.

"I think there is a place in this town for these houses," McLellan said. "They are something that is likely temporary. I don't know that they will be stationary for a long time ... My concern is these houses should have a seal from the Texas Department of License and Regulation. Because they were built off-site, there's no way to correctly inspect them — the wiring and the plumbing — without ripping them apart ... My concern is will this open the door for someone outside of Big Spring to come in and bring in these homes without these certificates? I want to be sure

we're putting our citizens in a safe environment."

While Tuesday night's vote effectively gets rid of the ban on sea container homes, city officials say the moratorium currently in effect regarding the structures will continue through Aug. 20, giving the municipality time to come up with restrictions regarding the small structures.

The council quickly looked over a map and discussed where it did — and did not — want to see the sea container homes with the understanding the city administration will bring those preferences back to them for approval.

Talks also included whether or not the structures should be allowed to be stacked and possibly an order to have them removed if they remain vacant for a set time.

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

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EXP. 07/31/13

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL
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Pedro G. "Pete" Gonzales, 61, died Monday. Vigil Services will be Wednesday 7 p.m. at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral services will be Thursday 10 a.m. at Holy Trinity Catholic Church. Burial will be at Coahoma Cemetery.

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


Maria Margarita Rodriguez, 48, died Monday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

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EDITORIAL

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

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America must stay true to her friends

If you are aware of current events happening around the world, you do not need me to tell you how insecure and unstable the foundation of our liberty is. Consider the mind-boggling national debt which stood at \$16,738,158,460,368.61 as of July 19 and has grown \$2.30 billion per day since Sept. 30, 2012. Factor in massive unemployment, political and social unrest, crime and so much more, and you get the feeling something's got to give.

The United States has been running consistent trade deficits since 1980 because of high imports of oil and consumer products. You may not be religious but it's impossible to argue with what Solomon said in Proverbs 22:7: "The rich rule over the poor, and the borrower is slave to the lender."

But all of those issues aside, I believe the thing that will most determine the security of America's future is her commitment, or lack of it, to stand unequivocally with Israel, our greatest ally in the Middle East. I believe our nation will continue to be blessed by God Almighty if we lock arms and hearts with Israel and I shudder to think of the alternative.

On an ideological level, an ally is a country that shares America's values, reflects its founding spirit, and resonates with its people's beliefs. Tactically, an ally stands with the United States through multiple conflicts and promotes its global vision. From its location at one strategic crossroads, an ally enhances American intelligence and defense capabilities, and provides ports and training for U.S. forces. Its army is formidable and unequivocally loyal to its democratic government.

An ally helps secure America's borders and assists in saving American lives on and off the battlefield. And an ally stimulates the U.S. economy through trade, technological innovation, and job creation.

Few countries fit this description, but Israel is certainly one of them and those who are calling for us to decrease our commitment to this priceless ally are foolish and greatly uninformed. Truth is, we desperately need Israel and if we cease to support her there will be a very high price tag attached.

Israel has always sided with the United States on major global issues. At the United Nations and in other international institutions, the two countries' voting patterns are virtually identical, as are their policies on human rights and international law. Beginning with the Korean conflict and throughout the Cold War, Israel backed America's military engagements, and it has maintained that support in the struggle with radical Islam. In times of danger, especially, Israel has responded to America's needs. Acceding to Richard M. Nixon's request to intervene to save Jordan from Syrian invasion in 1970, Israel mobilized its army, and in 1991, in spite of missile attacks from Iraq, Israel honored George H.W. Bush's request not to retaliate.

The strategic synergy between the United States and Israel melds into tactical realities. U.S. troops train with their Israel Defense Forces (IDF) counterparts in aerial combat and special operations. U.S. Navy ships routinely dock in Haifa, Air Force planes refuel at Israeli bases, and the Marines will soon use an Israeli laser to pinpoint targets. In addition to pre-positioning \$800 million of arms and medical equipment in Israel, the United States guarantees by law its commitment to preserving Israel's "qualitative military edge," enabling the Jewish state to defend itself, by itself, against Middle Eastern adversaries.

In the intelligence field, in particular, the cooperation between Israel and the United States is vast. According to Maj. Gen. George J. Keegan Jr., former head of U.S. Air Force intelligence, America's military defense capability "owes more to the Israeli intelligence input than it does to any single source of intelligence," the worth of which input, he estimated, exceeds "five CIAs."

Israeli and American intelligence agencies continuously exchange information, analyses, and operational experience in counterterrorism and counterproliferation.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security and its Israeli counterpart also share technical know-how in defending ports and terminals from terrorist attacks, countering unconventional weapons and cyber-threats, and combating the drug trade.

Israel also assists the American people by stimulating trade, spurring technological innovation, and creating jobs. Despite a population of just 7.7 million people, Israel is America's 20th-

largest customer in the world, surpassing Russia and Spain. Warren Buffett's first foreign investment was a \$4 billion stake in Iscar, an Israeli tool manufacturer. "I believe in the Israeli market and the Israeli economy," Buffett explained. Between 2000 and 2009, direct U.S. investment in Israel totaled \$77.2 billion, while Israelis invested \$51.4 billion in the United States. More than 25 years ago, America's very first free trade agreement was signed -- with Israel.

And at a time when American corporations are outsourcing to Asia, Israel is outsourcing to the United States: Tens of thousands of Americans are employed by Teva, the world's leading generic-drug producer, and by dozens of Israeli high-tech, textile, and defense plants throughout the United States. The nearly 6,000 projects mounted by three U.S.-Israel foundations have generated myriad American jobs, as does the \$3 billion in American military aid to Israel, \$2.25 billion of which is spent in the United States. Since 1928, our own Big Spring economy has been greatly bolstered by the Alon (Cosden) oil refinery. Since 2000, the refinery has been owned by Alon Israel Oil Company, Ltd.

Israel is the only Middle Eastern state never to oppose America on major international issues. Its fundamental interests, like its values, are America's. For the price of annual military aid equaling roughly half the cost of one Zumwalt-class destroyer, the United States helps maintain the military might of one of the few nations actively contributing to America's defense.

These benefits of the U.S.-Israel relationship are of incalculable value to the United States, far outweighing any price.

Americans know that Israelis have always stood by them, ready to share technology, intelligence, and innovation, and ready to aid them in conflict and to make the painful sacrifices for peace.

Israel may be one of a handful of countries that fully fits the definition of ally, but its willingness to support the United States unwaveringly makes it the partner par excellence, America's ultimate ally.

You may not agree with anything I've said, but I column as I see 'em.

Eddy Prince is senior pastor at Grace Fellowship Church of God in Big Spring. He can be reached by email at pastorprince@msn.com.



EDDY PRINCE

Love, devotion and a remarkable journey

Schoep has passed away. The nicest man in the world, John Unger, has lost his companion. Schoep just had his 20th birthday. A huge milestone considering Unger was contemplating euthanasia late July of last year.

But after what was supposed to be a final photo of Unger and Schoep went viral on the Internet, Unger was able to spend a few more precious months with his friend.

I never met John Unger or Schoep, but I followed their almost daily posts on Facebook and marveled along with thousands of others at the transformation in the elderly mixed breed. For those who don't know -- that "final photo" of Unger holding Schoep as he floated in the balmy waters of Lake Superior touched many lives.

Schoep, a shepherd mix, then 19, suffered from debilitating arthritis, barely able

to walk and unable to sleep restfully. Unger would take Schoep to Lake Superior and would hold him up in the water, the buoyancy allowing the dog to relax and sleep less painfully sometimes for an hour or more.

Unger's friend, Hannah Stonehouse Hudson, a professional photographer, took a picture of the two during one of these therapy sessions -- Schoep with his head resting on John's shoulder, his eyes closed. John holding Schoep, his eyes closed as well, both blissfully relaxed and comfortable in the moment. It was as if nothing else existed but the two of them.

The image captures a moment of sweetness, contentment, happiness, trust and love -- and perhaps resolve, especially on Unger's part.

After the photo went viral and the story got out, Unger received monetary donations from all over the world. Schoep also was the recipient of many gifts, including a heated dog mattress which Unger attested that Schoep enjoyed immensely and had begun to sleep through the night.

Many of Unger's first posted photos were of Schoep



sleeping peacefully on that mattress, sometimes with a blanket Unger had placed on top of him. Unger often thanked the person who gifted that blanket to Schoep.

Soon after the photo went global, enough money was accumulated to allow Schoep to receive laser treatments for the arthritis, along with medicine and treatments that otherwise had been cost-prohibitive.

It didn't take long for the amount of donations to far exceed what was needed, so Unger, wanting to give back, created the non-profit Schoep Legacy Foundation, which is dedicated to the improvement of animal and human welfare. The funds that ex-

ceeded the cost of the care for Schoep will go toward helping low-income families in the area near Unger's home in Bayfield, Wis., take care of older pets as well as assist in the spaying and neutering of pets.

When the money started pouring in, Unger spoke with Hudson as well as Schoep's veterinarian, Dr. Erik Haukass, and they suggested creating the foundation.

For those of us who stayed with Unger and Schoep through to the end; the journey was remarkable. Schoep was almost his old self, according to Unger. Their daily walks took them to trails they hadn't visited in several years because of Schoep's

condition.

Everyday I looked forward to Unger's posts. Usually there were new photos of Schoep along with a brief description of the weather, how it effected Schoep, what Schoep did during the walk and I got to see the amazing recovery the old boy was making.

The images that I remember best were of Schoep doing what dogs seem to love to do most, digging for what appears to us to be nothing, but to them something wonderful must be there because they keep digging and digging with increasing ferocity.

One photo of Schoep shows him smiling (yes they do smile; I don't care what anybody says) with his nose in the dirt, or snow, eyes wide with excitement, paws digging to China, as John Unger described; another photo of Schoep with his head poking into a bush of pink roses, ears up, eyes wide, alert, happy, coat shining, thick and full; still another of Unger carrying Schoep over his shoulder at a fall festival because his buddy was tired.



HIGH IN THE SKY

A Haverfield Aviation helicopter moves workers and equipment between transmission towers west of Vealmoor. The view is great, but don't look down.

HERALD photos/Tony Claxton
www.claxtonphotography.com



JOURNEY

Continued from Page 4

And finally, the last photo posted was Schoep sitting drowsily in the grass, his front legs in front of him, his sleepy head haloed by little yellow flowers.

This isn't really a story about a dog. It's about kindness and goodness.

This story didn't get the attention it should have, in my humble opinion, perhaps because Unger didn't exploit Schoep, or use the donated money inappropriately, or seek fame for himself, or, God forbid, call somebody a derogatory name. The whole thing was about Schoep and what he could do for him.

It was simply a love story.

Unger's posts on Facebook were never bitter, angry or whiney. He never commented on anything other than how Schoep was doing, the weather, his work and often how grateful he was for the outpouring of care he received. He never asked for anything more than what he got.

I don't know John Unger personally. I've never met the man, and

he never responded to any of my silly comments on Facebook. I've never stood face to face with him or talked to him on the phone and probably never will, so I can't say that I know with absolute certainty that he is the nicest man in the world. The emotions I am experiencing following the shock of July 17 are still with me, pushing at the back of my throat and behind my eyes, threatening to release the torrent.

It's making my head hurt.

But I'm at work among people who I think are not like me

and I'm afraid will put in that last piece of the puzzle and conclusively decide that, "Yeah, she's bonkers."

But, that's OK because John and Schoep have left an indelible mark on my life.

I do know definitively that there are good, loving, compassionate, understanding people out there. Knowing that and anticipating the next heartwarming story are what keep me going.

Nothing I can say here would even begin to describe what all this has meant to me. I just hope the story of a man who loved his dog

enlightens someone else who has animals in their lives or that it just makes someone happy.

Thank you to John Unger, Schoep and Hannah Stonehouse Hudson for making my life tons better. I'll miss the daily posts, but I have your picture on my wall to remind me to always keep my eyes open.

For more information on the Schoep Legacy Foundation, go to www.johnandschoep.com

To contact Andreia Medlin call the Herald at 263-7331 ext. 234 or email life@bigspringherald.com

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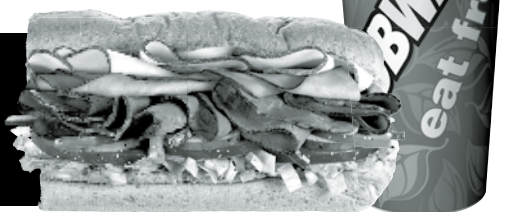
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Pet Talk



Keep cool and carry on: heat stroke's deadly effects on your pet's health

As summer progresses and temperatures come close to triple digits, many of us make it a habit to protect ourselves from the sweltering heat. Unfortunately for our pets, these scorching summer months are not only uncomfortable, but they are also a time when the risk of heat stroke is at its highest.

"A heat stroke occurs when the body's ability to rid itself of heat is exceeded by the heat that it is generating," said James Barr, Assistant Professor at the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences (CVM). "This results in an increase in body temperature to the point where damage to the internal organs occurs."

Heat stroke is a very dangerous condition, especially in pets. If it is severe, the pet will almost certainly die if it does not receive proper medical care immediately. "Oftentimes, the pet will be

brought to the hospital too late and will die despite our best efforts," said Barr.

Although the initial signs of heat stroke are simply anxiety, excessive panting, and inability to settle down after exercise, these symptoms can quickly and severely progress into lethargy, muscle weakness, seizures, and even death.

If you believe your pet is at risk for heat stroke, there are several steps you should take immediately to guarantee the pet's longevity.

"The first thing you should do is take the pet's temperature," said Barr. "If their body temperature is above 104 degrees, they are in danger of organ damage. Submers-

ing the pet in cool, but not cold, water is very helpful in lowering their temperature to a more normal level. Since time is a crucial factor when dealing with a heat stroke, spraying a pet down with a garden hose or immersing them in a nearby body of water are preferred methods of cooling the pet down. After you have started this cooling process, the pet should be seen by a veterinarian immediately so that it can receive prompt medical attention to prevent any further damage."

The most important way to keep your pet's temperature at a normal range throughout the sizzling summer months is to avoid exercising with them during the hottest parts of the day. It is also vital to provide

plenty of drinking water and to take frequent breaks from playing outside to allow your pet to cool off and rehydrate.

"Often a long run in the early afternoon is the precursor to a heat stroke episode," said Barr. "It is also very important to not leave your pets in the car while it is not running as it can reach dangerous temperatures very quickly."

If, after prolonged outdoor exposure, you notice that your pet does not calm down, looks lethargic, or if you are at all worried that they may be suffering from a heat stroke, you should immediately contact your local veterinarian or emergency services. "The most dangerous thing is the failure to seek veterinary attention, as time is of the essence," said Barr.

About Pet Talk
Pet Talk is a service of the College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences, Texas A&M University. Stories can be viewed on the Web at vetmed.tamu.edu/pettalk.

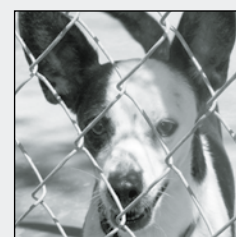


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Area news

Blues Fest in Midland this weekend

AP Exchange

Reporter Telegram

Tall City Blues Fest will take over downtown Midland Friday and Saturday with 14 performers taking the stage during the outdoor festival. This weekend marks

the event's third year. The Reporter-Telegram talked to TCBF producer Lisa Grissom about the music, the festival and what people should know before they go.

Outdoor festival:

All performances this year will be outdoors at Centennial Plaza.

"I really wanted to focus on the core essence of an outdoor music festival," said Lisa Grissom.

Featured musicians will perform on the Cimarex Energy Stage and the Riley Geological Stage.

Lineup:

Justin Johnson will take the stage at 5:30 p.m. Friday, followed by The Peterson Brothers at 6:15 p.m. and Laurie Morvan at 7:15 p.m. Headliner Chris Duarte will take the stage at 8:15 p.m. followed by female act JT Coldfire.

Saturday's schedule starts with Frank Gomez at 2 p.m., followed by Terry Quiet at 3 p.m., Brad Absher and Swamp Royale at 4 p.m., Mike Milligan and the Altar Boyz at 5 p.m. and Kirsten Thien with special guest guitarist Eddie Turner at 6 p.m. Shakura S'Aida will perform at 7 p.m. and headliner Zac Harmon and special guest Castro Coleman will take the stage at 8:15 p.m. Nick Moss will perform at 10 p.m.

Community jam session:

Five 15-minute community jam sets are planned throughout the day on Friday.

Food and drink:

Twelve food vendors will offer a variety of choices. Beer and wine will be available for purchase.

chase. Coolers are not allowed at the festival.

Tickets:

Weekend festival passes are \$30. Friday night passes are \$15 and Saturday day passes are \$25. Concertgoers may come and go with all festival passes. Student discounts are available.

Tickets may be purchased at Jack's Convenience Store locations in Midland, Endless Horizons in Odessa or at www.tallcitybluesfest.com.

Will Call tickets can be picked up in the lobby of the Doubletree by Hilton.

Family friendly:

TCBF is a family friendly event. Admission is free for children 12 and younger. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Pets are not allowed.

Workshops:

TCBF partners with Midland College to offer music education workshops during the festival. Workshops cost \$15 in advance and \$20 at the door. Proceeds go toward Kids College scholarships.

Prizes

This year TCBF will host a giveaway with seven prizes, including a guitar signed by blues artist Buddy Guy.

Other prizes include an acoustic guitar signed by this year's performers, travel packages to San Angelo and the Big Bend area, an iPad, a romantic dinner and a \$100 gift certificate to the Barn Door.

TCBF has also launched a campaign this year for people to make a contribution to the festival and receive lifetime tickets.

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Annie's Mailbox®

Dear Annie: I'm a very sad woman.

I work and take care of my home and kids. My husband and I had trouble getting pregnant with the second child and after months of trying went to a fertility clinic. It was a difficult time, and I was not giving my husband all of the attention he needed.

One day, he was at my friend's house, and a female acquaintance of hers was there. This woman was in the middle of her own divorce, and she and my husband began a conversation. She told him if he wasn't happy, he should divorce me and be happy for himself, instead of worrying about his wife and kids. My husband filed divorce papers while I was pregnant. Now the two of them are together, and he thinks I don't know.

What kind of woman thinks this is OK to do? I have two small kids and love my husband with all my heart. I know I have things to work on. Where is the respect for women out there? — *Broken Heart*

Dear Broken: While we agree that women shouldn't go after married men (and vice versa), you are blaming the woman when it is your husband who strayed. He wanted an excuse to get out of his responsibilities, and she was simply the match that lit the flame.

Please see a lawyer immediately so you can protect yourself and your children. Then ask your husband to go with you for counseling to see whether you can reconcile. But if he is determined to get out of the marriage, the counseling will help you develop coping strategies for the future. Your children need you to be strong and capable.

Dear Annie: As a working mom, my schedule is tight. For several years, I have enjoyed a periodic lunch with a non-working friend where we catch up on our kids' activi-

ties and discuss books or movies.

Twice during recent lunches, her cellphone has rung, and in mid-sentence, she has picked it up and commenced chatting with the caller. I could understand if it were an emergency call from her son's school, but I end up sitting there staring in silence at my lunch while she cheerfully talks about a trip to the beach.

My husband thinks I

should tell her that I find this disrespectful and rude, as well as insensitive to my time constraints.

Instead, when she calls to set up a lunch date, I simply



**KATHY MITCHELL
MARCY SUGAR**

say that I'm too busy. I no longer think this "friendship" is worth my time. Am I wrong to cut her out of my life over this? — *Dis-respected*

Dear Dis-respected: It depends

on whether she offers anything other than an absentee luncheon date. You are angry and looking to punish her. Decide whether you want the friendship to end or whether you simply want her to put down the cellphone.

There is nothing wrong with asking her to make your lunch a "phone free" zone so you can concentrate on each other. If she refuses to turn off her cell-

phone and answers a call in mid-conversation, feel free to get up and leave, saying, "Obviously, you are busy. Perhaps I'll see you another time."

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. © 2013 CREATORS.COM

Tomorrow's Horoscope

Cosmic pecking order reestablished

As the recent planetary shifts settle in, there's a re-ranking process going on. Those with the higher social status are prone to mistakes of arrogance, assuming they are "all-knowing" and feeling challenged by the comments of underlings. People who behave as collaborators and equals to everyone above and below them will avoid trouble.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Secrets can be powerful. They have a magnetic force all their own. If you tell the secret, though, it loses its magnetism. Today your inner world will be a mystery that sends someone into orbit around you.



**HOLIDAY
MATHIS**

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Your idea, plus a few fans and some word of mouth, will cause something of a frenzy. Fire catches on, as long as there's something to burn and enough oxygen to fan the flames.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). With good luck comes a warning. The better the luck the sterner the warning. It only makes sense in the balance of things. You've earned your benefits and will heed all warnings that help you make the most of them.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You deserve to be happy, but not at the expense of someone else's happiness. You'll do a dance around this concept, trying to figure out a way to please everyone, and this is the rare day when you may be able to do just that.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). If you are to succeed, you will need

more accountability built into your plan. You'll go farther with a good teacher, leader or coach than you will on your own. Look for someone who will invigorate you and push you to new heights.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). With humans, one plus one doesn't always equal two. With the right one plus an equally energetic and receptive other one, the resulting sum is unlimited. Spend time with someone who truly brings out the best in you.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Social horizons expand over the next three days. This is your chance to get some fresh blood running through your scene. New relationships inspire you to shine in new ways.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You have a way of attracting the martyr type today — you know, the people who say things like, "Don't bother. I'll just sit in the dark." The trick is to take initiative and care for them before they can complain.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You ignite passion in another person's heart without meaning to. It's just that you're so passionate, and others want to get excited about life the way you are, so they cozy up.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). There are many working parts to be analyzed in a power structure. It's not always obvious what (or more likely who) keeps the motor running. A relatively small player could be the key. Study and stay aware.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Native American Chief Seattle (for

whom the city is named for) said, "Take only memories, leave nothing but footprints." The footprints you leave today will be followed by many.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). It is difficult to invoke compassion once you have already started to feel angry. So before you deal with people, think about where they are coming from and what insecurities they might have that you could be sensitive to.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (July 24). The machinery hums along, and you're moderately productive until August, when things really take off. An organized teammate will help you stay on top of the fast action. Invest in September, and cash out in November. October brings heart-soaring fun. Your physical energy is strong — compete and win in 2014. Aries and Virgo people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 3, 40, 33, 5 and 19.

HOW TO PLEASE A LEO: With the string of Leo birthdays just beginning, you may be thinking of that special lion in your life and wondering just how to make this royal member of the zodiac feel special on his or her birthday and beyond. Lucky for you, Leo isn't difficult to please at all. Unlike actual royalty, who can be complicated and so privileged that the perfect gift is nearly impossible to conceive, the zodiac royalty is

truly satisfied with a high quality of attention.

It can be argued that love itself is not a feeling but a quality of attention. Since one person cannot feel another person's emotions, attention is certainly the closest thing to proof of love. And even though Leo needs plenty of attention and adores being lavished with it from just about anyone and everyone, the special people in Leo's life are held to a different standard. Leo requires them to be specifically attuned to Leo's needs and delights. Generic gestures will be publicly accepted with grace, but privately Leo will discount them.

To please a Leo, pick up on the hints the lion drops about what is truly desired. If you can prove that you were listening to Leo, you will steal this sign's big heart.

C E L E B R I T Y PROFILES: Gorgeous Leo Jennifer Lopez can tear up the dance floor, sizzle on the big screen and vocalize like a diva — and sometimes all at once. J-Lo was born when the sun and communicative Mercury were in show-stopping Leo. Her natal moon and Mars in Sagittarius adds even more firepower and passion to the mix. Other planets balance things out with soulful water and intellectual air elements.

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NOTICE OF APPLICATION

On May 31, 2013, as required by the order of the Public Utility Commission of Texas ("Commission") in Docket No. 39592, Sharyland Utilities, L.P. ("Sharyland Utilities"), a regulated electric utility company, filed an application with the Commission entitled *Application of Sharyland Utilities, L.P. to Establish Retail Delivery Rates, Approve Tariff for Retail Delivery Service, and Adjust Wholesale Transmission Rate* ("Application").

This Application has been assigned Docket No. 41474. Interested persons will be afforded the opportunity to participate in this proceeding. The deadline for intervention in this proceeding is August 9, 2013, and a letter requesting intervention should be received by the Commission by that date.

The Application is based on a twelve-month test year ending December 31, 2012, and supports a retail distribution base rate revenue requirement of \$75,116,884. Additionally, Sharyland Utilities proposes to recover an annual amount of \$3,839,015 through various riders. The primary purpose of this proceeding is to establish tariffs that will set the nonbypassable rates retail electric providers will be charged for delivery of electricity from the retail electric provider to the customer in order to transition to retail competition. The rates are to be effective on May 1, 2014, or ninety (90) days after Sharyland Utilities files its tariffs to implement the final Commission order approving the rates, whichever is later. The Application also supports rates sufficient to recover a revenue requirement of \$26,941,935, including amounts recovered through riders, for wholesale transmission service.

The Application potentially affects all customers and classes of customers in Sharyland Utilities' Brady, Celeste, Colorado City, and Stanton Divisions, but it does not affect retail delivery rates for Sharyland Utilities' McAllen Division. The Application also affects all customers taking service under Sharyland Utilities' Tariff for Wholesale Transmission Service.

A complete copy of Sharyland Utilities' Application is available for inspection at Sharyland Utilities' offices located at 1031 Andrews Highway, Suite 400, Midland, Texas 79701 and 1807 Ross Avenue, Suite 460, Dallas, Texas 75201, and at the office of Sharyland Utilities' legal representative, Sutherland Asbill & Brennan LLP, at 600 Congress Avenue, Suite 2000, Austin, Texas 78701. If you have questions about PUC Docket No. 41474, please contact Bridget Headrick at Sharyland Utilities at (512) 721-2668.

Persons who wish to intervene in or comment upon these proceedings should mail their requests to intervene or their comments (along with 10 copies of your letter) to the Public Utility Commission of Texas, P.O. Box 13326, Austin, Texas, 78711-3326 with reference to Docket No. 41474. Further information may also be obtained by calling the Public Utility Commission at (512) 936-7120 or (888) 782-8477. Hearing- and speech-impaired individuals with text telephones (TTY) may contact the Commission at (512) 936-7136 or (800) 735-2989. All communications should refer to Docket No. 41474.

Charles Myers

Attorney At Law

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Howard County Junior Golf champs



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Courtesy photos

The Howard County Junior Golf League enjoyed a successful second season. The growing organization saw John Porras, Jillian Jones, Nolan Park and Kaitlyn Wiggins earn first place honors in their respective age/gender groups. HCJGL hopes to keep growing and League Coordinator Rodney Jones encourages parents of young golfers to get involved next year.

Rare slip by Nathan leads to 5-4 loss to NYY

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — The Texas Rangers figured the game was over with their All-Star closer on the mound in the ninth inning.

That is, until an unusual slip by Joe Nathan led to a rare blown save.

Eduardo Nunez hit a tying triple on the full-count pitch right after Nathan threw a wild pitch when he caught his threat on the mound, and then Brent Lillibridge followed with a go-ahead single to give the New York Yankees a 5-4 victory Tuesday night.

"The only thing I wish I could take back was that one that I slipped on," Nathan said. "If I make a better pitch there, at least set something up better for the 3-2 count, but I don't think he's going to chase a 30-footer after I slipped and was laying on the ground."

Manager Ron Washington, pitching coach Mike Maddux and a trainer all went to the mound to check on Nathan, who stayed in the game.

"That was weird the way it happened," Washington said.

Nathan had converted 15 consecutive save chances, and 31 of 32 this season. Texas had been 51-0 when leading after eight innings.

"In that case you have to give the Yankees credit for fighting the way they did," Washington said. "Anytime we put Joe out there, we figure the game is over. ... We just didn't get that one shut down."

Mariano Rivera, who set up Nathan's save in the All-Star game a week earlier, struck out two in a perfect ninth for his 32nd save this season, extend-

ing his career record to 640.

Joba Chamberlain (2-0), the fourth Yankees pitcher, got help in his perfect eighth when center fielder Brett Gardner made two incredible catches — one against the wall before his running, leaping grab to end the inning.

New York's ninth-inning comeback got started when Vernon Wells drew a one-out walk from Nathan (1-1). Wells advanced to second on a pitch that ricocheted hard off the backstop, setting up a full count for Nunez.

"It all starts with an innocent walk, then you get a big at-bat by Nunez, then Lillibridge and you get a win," Yankees manager Joe Girardi said.

Lillibridge more than made up for his fielding error at third base in the sixth that led to four unearned runs.

He almost got lifted for a pinch-hitter before the strange ninth-inning sequence with the wild pitch and then the near inside-the-park homer by Nunez. He stumbled on his way to third and practically flopped into the bag after hitting a ball to deep center just beyond the reach of Craig Gentry that bounced off the wall.

"I was looking at the ball and thought inside-the-park," Nunez said. "And then I went around second base, I tried too much and went down."

Texas led 4-3 after Mitch Moreland greeted reliever Boone Logan in the sixth with a two-run homer, his 14th.

Alexi Ogando returned from the disabled list to start for Texas, and

See SLIP, Page 13



AP photo

Texas closer Joe Nathan tosses the ball in the air as he spotted Manager Ron Washington heading to the mound during Tuesday's 5-4 loss to the New York Yankees in Arlington.

Players deplore, not defend doping

NEW YORK (AP) — Protective no more, baseball players are downright disgusted these days with doping.

Now they are demanding even stiffer suspensions for those caught cheating.

"It's a new generation of athletes that are standing up," Travis Tygart, chief executive of the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency, said Tuesday. "The culture's been flipped on its head."

When Ryan Braun accepted a season-ending 65-game suspension Monday rather than fight Major League Baseball over evidence he used performance-enhancing drugs, fellow players appeared tired of those who cast shadows on the sport.

"They're lying to the fans," Los Angeles Angels pitcher C.J. Wilson said. "They're lying to their teammates. They're lying to their GMs, their owners, and they're going to get caught."

Skip Schumaker of the Los Angeles Dodgers said Braun, the

2011 NL MVP for the Milwaukee Brewers, let him down.

"Watching him talk right now makes me sick," Schumaker said. "I have an autographed Braun jersey in my baseball room that I'll be taking down. I don't want my son identifying what I've worked so hard to get to and work so hard to have — I don't want him comparing Braun to me."

Matt Kemp of the Los Angeles Dodgers, who finished second to Braun in the 2011 MVP vote, said the Milwaukee slugger should be stripped of the honor.

"We had conversations, and I considered him a friend," Kemp said. "I don't think anybody likes to be lied to, and I feel like a lot of people have felt betrayed."

Braun tested positive for elevated testosterone in October 2011 but successfully overturned a 50-game penalty when an arbitrator ruled the outfielder's urine sample was handled improperly. Braun loudly proclaimed his in-

nocence then.

"I thought this whole thing has been despicable on his part," Detroit pitcher Max Scherzer said. "When he did get caught, he never came clean. He tried to question the ability of the collector when he was caught red-handed. So that's why the whole Braun situation, there is so much player outrage toward him."

Arizona pitcher Brad Ziegler remembered back to the 2011 NL division series, when the Brewers beat the Diamondbacks 3-2 in a best-of-five playoff as Braun went 9 for 18 with a home run and four RBIs.

"Obviously it affected the series, because that's right when the positive test occurred. That's when it was highest in his system, and he torched us that series," Ziegler said. "We can't put it all on that. Looking back on it, we walked away from that series knowing we should have won

See DOPING, Page 13

Pedroia close to \$100M deal with Red Sox through '21

BOSTON (AP) — All-Star second baseman Dustin Pedroia is close to a contract that could keep him with the Boston Red Sox for his entire big league career.

A person with knowledge of the talks said Tuesday that Pedroia is in the process of agreeing to a deal adding \$100 million over seven seasons through 2021.

Pedroia is making \$10 million this year and is guaranteed the same amount in 2014 as part of a \$40.5 million, six-year contract that started in 2009. That deal includes an \$11 million club option for 2015 with a \$500,000 buyout.

The 5-foot-8, 165-pound sparkplug was the AL Rookie of the Year in 2007 and AL MVP in 2008.

It's important to Pedroia to finish his career in Boston. The deal would expire after he turns 38.

"It's not official or anything, but, yeah, this is my home," he said before Tuesday night's game against the Tampa Bay Rays. "I love being here. I love my teammates. I love the city."

Pedroia is a big reason for Boston's success. The Red Sox began play Tuesday with a half-game lead over the Rays in the AL East.

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Astros rally off Balfour for 5-4 win over A's

HOUSTON (AP) — When the Houston Astros brought up Jonathan Villar from Triple-A they raved about his ability to make things happen when he gets on base.

In just his second major league game, Villar showed exactly what they were talking about.

Villar scored the winning run from second base in the ninth inning when catcher Derek Norris had a passed ball and then made a bad throw to first base on the same play to give the Astros a 5-4 win over the Oakland Athletics on Tuesday night.

"I'm running hard every time," said Villar, a speedy shortstop who stole 31 bases in Triple-A this season.

Houston ended a 10-game losing streak against the A's this season and a six-game skid overall.

The Astros trailed 4-2 entering the ninth before Matt Dominguez hit a two-run homer off closer Grant Balfour (0-2) to tie it.

"It got a little bit ugly, and I didn't make good pitches," Balfour said.

"I should have never put the team in that situation. I'm better than that."

The home run ended a franchise-record streak of 44 saves for Balfour, the sixth longest run

in major league history. It was his first blown save since April 29, 2012.

"It was a good run," Balfour said. "I should have had more, but I guess 44 is a remarkable number, so you can't be too upset about it. We're starting all over again. To me, it's just a number, but I'm happy I did it."

Justin Maxwell hit an infield single to start the ninth and advanced to second when Balfour attempted to make a throw to first from his knees and bounced it in the dirt for an error.

The homer by Dominguez bounced off the wall in left-center as Coco Crisp desperately tried to climb to grab it.

Villar, who finished with three hits, doubled with one out, and Jose Altuve walked before the defensive miscue ended it.

"It speaks to the resilience of that group in there," Houston manager Bo Porter said of the rally. "Every once in a while good things like this happen because you put yourself in position when you just keep fighting."

Josh Fields (1-1) pitched a scoreless ninth for the win.

The game was tied 2-2 when Moss then sent a 95 mph fastball into the second deck in right field for his 17th homer.

DOPING

Continued from Page 8

it before we heard he tested positive. At least he didn't get away with it now."

New York Yankees manager Joe Girardi said Braun was guilty.

"You don't accept a deal unless you're guilty," he said.

"It's another black eye for our game. I know this game is very resilient, and there's been a lot of scandals over the years, but you get tired of it," Girardi added.

He may soon face his own problem with a star slugger.

More than a dozen players have been targeted by MLB in its probe of the closed anti-aging clinic Biogenesis of America, including three-time AL MVP Alex Rodriguez of the Yankees.

The next step will be for MLB to inform the union of additional players it intends to penalize, which could happen as early as a meeting on Thursday, a person familiar with the investigation said, speaking on condition of anonymity because no statements were authorized.

New York expects A-Rod could face a much harsher penalty than the one Braun agreed to, a second person

familiar with the case said, also speaking on condition of anonymity because no statements were authorized.

The Yankees anticipate Rodriguez could be accused of using PEDs over multiple seasons, of recruiting other athletes for the clinic, of attempting to obstruct MLB's investigation, and of not being truthful with MLB in the past when he discussed his relationship with Dr. Anthony Galea, who pleaded guilty two years ago to a U.S. federal charge of bringing unapproved drugs from Canada into the United States.

Players have the right to have an arbitrator decide whether discipline meets the "just cause" standard in baseball's drug agreement. Braun's decision not to fight led others to conclude a grievance would have been futile.

"Obviously the evidence was overwhelming, and it must have been a mountain of it," Tygart said.

"I think it speaks volumes for the generation of athletes today who don't want to be forced to make the same mistakes of the past generation who felt compelled in order to compete to use these dangerous drugs," he said. "I think absolutely that's a huge sign that the culture has turned

in a huge direction from where it was in the late '90s and early 2000s."

In the wake of Braun's suspension, a chain of 300 convenience stores in Wisconsin, Minnesota and Iowa cut ties with him. Gary Gonczy, director of marketing and advertising for Kwik Trip, Inc., said in an email Tuesday that the company will no longer use Braun as a spokesman.

Despite Braun's ban, Kemp has no shot at claiming the MVP trophy. The Baseball Writers' Association of America has said repeatedly that it will not revisit any of its award votes.

"The decision was already made. He won it," said Jack O'Connell, the BBWAA's secretary-treasurer.

Commissioner Bud Selig said in March he wants even stiffer drug penalties, and union head Michael Weiner said players will consider toughened rules for 2014.

While Braun's 65-game penalty is 15 games longer than the current standard for a first offense, Scherzer thinks it's insufficient.

"The Brewers are unlikely to make the playoffs. He misses 2013, and they are set for 2014," he said. "For someone that cheated the game as badly as he did, it just doesn't seem right."

SLIP

Continued from Page 8

allowed three runs in five innings. Ross Wolf, Jason Frasier and Neal Cotts each had 1-2-3 innings, stretching the bullpen's scoreless streak to 25 1-3 innings before Nathan's rare flop.

Nelson Cruz reached on an error by Lillibridge in the sixth before an RBI double by Adrian Beltre, who scored on a single by Elvis Andrus that chased Phil Hughes.

Hughes struck out one and walked three while giving up three runs, all unearned, in 5 2-3 innings.

New York had gone more than two games without an extra-base hit before Melky Mesa and Austin Romine — the Nos. 8-9 hitters — had consecutive dou-

bles for a 1-0 lead before an RBI infield single by Ichiro Suzuki.

Wells hit a leadoff double in the fourth and scored on a fielder's

choice when second baseman Ian Kinsler fielded Lillibridge's grounder and short-hopped a throw to the plate.

In Sunday's Big Spring Herald



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sudoku

ANSWERS


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

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Texas Manager Washington praises Cruz's handling of questions

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — Rangers manager Ron Washington thinks All-Star right fielder Nelson Cruz has "admirably" separated his job on the field from the lingering questions off it.

Cruz is among more than a dozen players linked in media reports to a Florida clinic accused of distributing performance-enhancing drugs. Among the others are three-time AL MVP Alex Rodriguez and Milwaukee

slugger Ryan Braun.

"I don't know what he's going through because I've never been in that situation, but I think he's handled it admirably," Washington said Tuesday.

"I think he's been a pro, and he has been able to separate what he does on his job, which is come to the ballpark and play baseball, and how he handles it when he's out of here."

Cruz batted .275 and led the Rangers

with 23 home runs and 70 RBIs in his first 95 games this season.

Braun, the 2011 NL MVP, was suspended without pay Monday by Major League Baseball for the rest of the season.

That appears to be just the start of sanctions against players targeted by MLB for alleged connections to the now-closed Biogenesis of America clinic.

"Nelson's name is out there, so at

some point they're going to decide what they're going to do with Nelson," Washington said. "It hasn't come across my desk, and it hasn't come to the Texas Rangers yet, so we're just worried about today. That's all we can do."

After homering Monday night, Cruz wouldn't comment on Braun's suspension. Cruz said he is "playing the same way" and shows up at the ballpark thinking about winning games.

High-priced Brandon Carr accepts charge to boost Dallas takeaways

OXNARD, Calif. (AP) — Brandon Carr knows he is the high-priced cornerback for a Dallas defense that tied a franchise low for interceptions in his first year with the Cowboys. He understands Dallas

changed everything but the players on defense, replacing coaches, switching schemes and putting a stronger emphasis on turnovers.

Carr's cool with it — as in calm and seemingly confident.

"I mean, it's Year 6," said Carr, who started all 80 games in his first five NFL seasons. "You don't get no younger. You don't get these years back. So hopefully this will be the year that I could turn the corner as a player."

That might not mean more than the three interceptions he had last year to lead the Cowboys, who tied Carr's original team, Kansas City, for last in the league with seven. It might not mean more than the career-high four he had in his final season with the Chiefs.

But maybe it will mean more fumbles and passes that he tips and someone else grabs.

"I'm not going to put any added pressure on

myself," said Carr, who is entering the second year of a five-year, \$50 million deal with about \$25 million guaranteed. "I'm still going to do it in the framework of our defense. I want to go out there and be that lockdown, shutdown corner and make some turnovers and create some excitement for the fans and for my teammates."

Cowboys safety Danny McCray points out that what Carr lacked in quantity last season, he made up some in quality.

Carr had a huge interception in a comeback win at Cincinnati the day after Dallas practice squad player Jerry Brown died in a car accident that led to involuntary manslaughter

charges against teammate Josh Brent.

A week later, Carr essentially won a game against Pittsburgh by returning an interception of Ben Roethlisberger's pass to the 1-yard line in overtime.

"To me, just the way I'm looking at it, some of those interceptions he had were worth two," said McCray, a special teams ace who ended up as the team's second-leading tackler last season because of injuries at safety. "I know it's on his mind now to get more. That's the type of player he is."

Carr never has been an interception machine. He didn't get to double digits for his career until the pick against the Bengals, and now has

11. Even though Dallas gave him a big contract and traded way up to draft Morris Claiborne at No. 6 last year, the team's seven interceptions matched a franchise low from 1997 and 1989.

"Turnovers are a team thing," coach Jason Garrett said. "More than just the guy with the ball. Takeaways are the same thing. We're going to make a huge emphasis on it. We know the importance of it. We know the significance of it. We have to get better."

Carr says he has to be better, too. He's been around the Cowboys for a year now, so he's more than just the big money guy. He's got a bigger voice, too.

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Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

A Duplicate Disaster

West dealer.
Neither side vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ A 7
♥ A K J 10 3
♦ A K 8 3 2
♣ K

WEST
♠ J 10 9 8 2
♥ 5 4
♦ J 9 6
♣ 6 4 2

EAST
♠ Q 3
♥ Q 9 8 6
♦ 10 5 4
♣ J 10 9 5

SOUTH
♠ K 6 5 4
♥ 7 2
♦ Q 7
♣ A Q 8 7 3

The bidding:
West North East South
Pass 1♥ Pass 2♣
Pass 3♦ Pass 3NT
Pass 6NT

Opening lead — jack of spades.

The strong emphasis duplicate bridge places on overtricks can sometimes produce a result that would cause a nonduplicate player to shake his head in disbelief. A spectacular example is provided by today's deal, which occurred in a pairs event at the 1990 Summer North American Championships.

South reached six notrump as shown, and West led the jack of spades. In rubber bridge, declarer would have no problem assuring the slam. He would simply establish dummy's hearts, losing a trick to the queen along the way, and wind up with 12 tricks consisting of two spades, four hearts, three diamonds and three clubs.

But at duplicate, where making six might be a poor result if seven can be made, South cannot afford to settle for a mere 12 tricks. So when dummy came down, declarer immediately noted that if West held two, three or four hearts including the queen, 13 tricks could be made by taking one or two heart finesses.

Accordingly, South won the first trick in his hand with the king of spades and led a heart to the ten, whereupon East, smoothly and in tempo, followed low! This had the desired effect on South, who, quite understandably, was convinced that the precious overtrick was just around the corner.

So he cashed dummy's king of clubs to unblock the suit, crossed to the queen of diamonds and played the A-Q of clubs before leading a heart to the jack. One can only imagine South's chagrin when East won the trick with the queen and cashed the jack of clubs for down one!

Duplicate bridge is not for the faint of heart.

Tomorrow: A question of probabilities.
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Sudoku Answer on Page 13

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

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

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