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BIG SPRING HERALD

WEDNESDAY

AUGUST 14, 2013



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Budget, super search on BSISD agenda

Interim superintendent could be named as early as Thursday

By STEVE REAGAN
 Staff Writer
 A new budget and a new superintendent will be the main topics of conversation when Big Spring Independent School District trustees hold their monthly meeting at 5:15 p.m. Thursday in the high school board room. BSISD has been in the mar-

ket for a new superintendent ever since Steven Saldivar announced earlier this month he had accepted a similar position with Anthony ISD on the New Mexico border west of El Paso. Saldivar's hiring is expected to become official Tuesday. The district's first step toward finding a replacement will be hiring an interim

superintendent, action that could come as early as Thursday's meeting. As for finding a new superintendent, trustees will discuss the framework of the search process during Thursday's meeting. If the board follows the same formula as it did in 2008 (when Saldivar was hired), that process will entail hiring a search firm to

seek applicants for the position. Regardless of how trustees proceed, it is likely to be several months before a new superintendent is hired, officials said. On the budget front, the board will hold a public hearing about the proposed fiscal package for the 2013-2014 fiscal year.

Because of reduced property valuations in the district, Chief Financial Officer Debbie Green said BSISD will have to run a deficit of about \$500,000 in its next budget, which will be formally adopted later this month. The proposed tax rate of \$1.449 per \$100 property value is expected to be approved. See **BSISD**, Page 3

BACK IN THE SWING OF THINGS



Courtesy photo
 Reopening of the Big Spring Senior Center dance floor drew about 100 people earlier this month. See more photos, Page 6.

Container home law receives council OK

Special use permits, fencing draw some owner opposition

By THOMAS JENKINS
 Staff Writer
 The Big Spring City Council approved first reading of amendments to the municipal zoning ordinances to allow for the use of "intermodal shipping containers" as living quarters Tuesday night, tightening the city's control on the use of what city officials consider temporary housing. The amendments — which provide for a number of requirements, including a special use permit and fencing around the sea container homes that abut property in use — were approved on a 6-1 vote, with District 1 Councilman Marcus Fernandez the lone dissenter.

District 2 Councilwoman Carmen Harbour, District 3 Councilman Glen Carrigan, District 4 Councilman Bobby McDonald, District 5 Councilman Raul Benavides, District 6 Councilman Marvin Boyd and Mayor Larry McLellan all voted in favor of the measure, which is expected to be considered for final approval during a special meeting set for Wednesday. The ordinance, which was approved by the city's zoning committee, didn't meet with a great deal of fanfare from local residents Don Avant and Dale Avant, who are currently renting out a number of the 320-square-foot homes on the city's north side. "I just don't think it's right to say we have to put up permanent wood or masonry fencing for properties the city is saying are temporary," Dale Avant said. "We're not treating these homes as temporary. We're looking at them as permanent homes for the city." Avant also took exception to the requirement for a special use permit owners and operators of the tiny homes would have to renew every two years for \$250 for the lot. See **CITY**, Page 3

V.V. Water Co., CRMWD at odds over water proposal

By THOMAS JENKINS
 Staff Writer
 Officials with Beeville-based V.V. Water Company LLC met with the Big Spring City Council on Tuesday evening, urging council members to use its sway with the Colorado River Municipal Water District to stop what it called "silly threats of litigation." The meeting comes less than a week after V.V. Water Company — represented by John Littlejohn, owner and chief scientist and Joe Carter, managing director — held a public meeting to propose build-

"Until there is a different attitude and a different directive that comes from the cities to their directors with CRMWD, we're at loggerheads."
 —V.V. Water Company owner John Littlejohn

ing a pipeline that would supply West Texas with artesian spring water from the Edwards aquifer. Littlejohn, who presented a number of comparisons between the water his company is offering and the water being supplied by the Colorado River Municipal Water District, said his company is currently in the running to provide a similar project to the city of San Antonio. "As of about a year ago, they have reduced that down to four candidates," Littlejohn said. "They asked for an addendum and, as of about mid-June, the four were turned in. Two of them were

not able to get the permissions, so it appears we're down to about two entities at this point. That's giving you a brief of the amount of due-diligence San Antonio has done with us." However, Littlejohn and Carter are alleging officials with CRMWD have been less than warm with welcome to his company's idea to deliver 55 million gallons of water a day through a 48-inch pipeline from South Texas. "The question has been asked many times, 'Why don't you just return the RFP (request for



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Obituaries

Don Yates



Don Yates, of Weatherford, formerly of Big Spring went to be with the Lord on Aug. 5, 2013.

He was born to Arthur and Nettie Yates on June 27, 1927, in Big Spring.

He was preceded in death by Jean Yates, his wife of 45 years. They raised three children, Phil Elliott, Deanna Rogers and Donna Kay.

He was active in the Baptist church and numerous civic endeavors. Don wore many "hats" during his lifetime, but was always ready to lend a hand to friends or neighbors.

He was lovingly known by his family as "Big-Big." He leaves behind his wife, Janice; six grandchildren, Robbi Crow, Mike Rogers, Clint Elliott, Lori Treadwell, Gina Lochausen and Jerry Don Thomas; 10 great-grandchildren; and three great-great-grandchildren.

Internment was held Aug. 9, 2013.

Paid obituary

Albert Carl Christianson



Albert Carl Christianson, 87, of Big Spring died Monday, Aug. 12, 2013, in the Mitchell County Hospital. Family will receive friends from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. Wednesday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Graveside services will be held at 10:30 a.m. Thursday at Trinity Memorial Park.

He was born Jan. 28, 1926, in Chicago, Ill., to Luisa and John Christianson. He married Irene

Ruiz in Alice, Texas, in 1977. She preceded him in death Oct. 22, 2010. Moving to Big Spring in 1980, he was a long time resident of Howard County.

He was a member of First Baptist Church and worked most of his life as a roughneck in the oil field.

He is survived by three daughters, Mary Dean and husband Dan of Lubbock, Angela Morrow of Big Spring and Herlinda Franco of Big Spring; five sons, Fernando Williams, Joe Carpenter, Benny Smithwick, Johnny Smithwick and Daniel Garza and wife Shelly, all of Odessa; 33 grandchildren; and 71 great-grandchildren.

In addition to his parents and wife, he was preceded in death by two sons, Daniel Ruiz and Rudy Carpenter.

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

Colette Schraeder

Colette Schraeder, 92, of Garden City died Tuesday, Aug. 13, 2013, at her residence. Her services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Robert Dale Hutcheson

Robert Dale Hutcheson, 51, of Big Spring died Tuesday, Aug. 13, 2013, at his residence.

Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Police/Sheriff

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

- TERESA LORENE LANG, 30, of 13360 Old Colorado City Highway, was arrested Tuesday on a warrant for possession of a controlled substance less than 1 gram.
- JESSE RODRIGUEZ LOPEZ, 45, of 605 Douglas, was arrested Tuesday on a warrant from another agency.
- KAYLA DENISE HORTON, 50, of 902 East 12th Street, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of public intoxication.
- BONNIE MAY GRETT, 432, of 1106 West Third, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of public intoxication.
- JUSTIN JEREMY MARMOLEJO, 22, of 1310 North 8th Street, Lamesa, Texas, was arrested Wednesday on warrants from another agency – two counts.
- DALE ROBERT SCHENCK, 31, of 1101 Sycamore, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of public intoxication.
- SHANE ALAN KNOWLTON, 27, of 227 Brooks Road, Sand Springs, Texas, was arrested Wednesday on a warrant for theft greater than or equal to \$500 but less than \$1500; and theft greater than or equal to \$50 but less than \$500.
- SHAWNA DNAY HESSON, 20, of 225 Brooks Road, Sand Springs, Texas, was arrested Wednesday on a warrant from another agency.
- JOE DANIEL GUERRERO, 36, of 523 West 8th Street, was arrested on a warrant for injury to a child.
- MINOR ACCIDENT was reported at the 1200 block of South Gregg, 1500 block of Goliad and at 800 block of North County Road 13 in Knott, Texas.
- CRIMINAL MISCHIEF was reported at the 1900 block of South Main.
- THEFT was reported at the 600 block of Inter-

state Highway 20, the 3600 block of West Highway 80, and the 300 block of South Nolan, 1600 block of Young.

- BURGLARY OF A HABITATION was reported at the 3600 block of West Highway 80.
- SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY was reported at the 500 block of Young.
- DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE was reported at the 1100 block of West Third and at the 1100 block of Sycamore.
- UNWANTED SUBJECT was reported at the 1500 block of Tucson.

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

- Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 81 inmates at the time of this report.
- TERESA LORENE LANG was booked by the HCSO on a charge of possession of a controlled substance less than 1 gram.
- SHANE ALAN KNOWLTON was booked by the HCSO on charges of theft of property – two counts.
- SHAWNA DNAY HESSON was booked by the HCSO on a charge of criminal trespass – bond held insufficient.
- MATTHEW BELL was booked by the DPS on charges of no drivers license when unlicensed and failure to yield right away at an open intersection.
- JOE DANIEL GUERRERO was booked by the HCSO on a charge of injury to a child.
- MATTHEW CANTU was booked by the DPS on a charge of no driver's license and failure to maintain financial responsibility.
- KAYLA DENISE HORTON was booked by the BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.
- BONNIE GRETT was booked by the BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.
- JUSTIN JEREMY MARMOLEJO was booked by the BSPD on charges of possession of a controlled substance and for nonpayment of child support.

Today's Weather

Local 3-Day Forecast

Thu 8/15	Fri 8/16	Sat 8/17
95/73 Partly cloudy. A stray afternoon thunderstorm is possible. High 93F. Winds ENE at 10 to 15 mph.	94/74 Partly cloudy with a stray thunderstorm. High in the mid 90s and lows in the low 70s.	100/74 Isolated thunderstorms. Highs in the upper 90s and lows in the low 70s.
Sunrise: 7:10 AM Sunset: 8:31 PM	Sunrise: 7:10 AM Sunset: 8:30 PM	Sunrise: 7:11 AM Sunset: 8:29 PM



Texas At A Glance



Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Abilene	91	72	t-storm	Kingsville	101	75	pt sunny
Amarillo	82	63	t-storm	Livingston	95	69	t-storm
Austin	100	73	mst sunny	Longview	85	67	t-storm
Beaumont	92	71	t-storm	Lubbock	86	66	t-storm
Brownsville	98	76	pt sunny	Lufkin	91	69	t-storm
Brownwood	96	73	pt sunny	Midland	95	74	pt sunny
Corpus Christi	97	77	pt sunny	Raymondville	100	75	pt sunny
Corsicana	91	70	t-storm	Rosenberg	98	73	pt sunny
Dallas	90	72	t-storm	San Antonio	101	74	mst sunny
Del Rio	103	78	sunny	San Marcos	101	74	mst sunny
El Paso	95	74	pt sunny	Sulphur Springs	85	66	t-storm
Fort Stockton	95	71	mst sunny	Sweetwater	90	68	pt sunny
Gainesville	87	67	t-storm	Tyler	88	68	t-storm
Greenville	86	67	t-storm	Weatherford	91	70	t-storm
Houston	97	74	pt sunny	Wichita Falls	90	68	t-storm

National Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Atlanta	85	66	pt sunny	Minneapolis	79	58	sunny
Boston	77	54	pt sunny	New York	75	60	sunny
Chicago	74	57	mst sunny	Phoenix	106	82	mst sunny
Dallas	90	72	t-storm	San Francisco	67	57	sunny
Denver	82	57	pt sunny	Seattle	79	62	cloudy
Houston	97	74	pt sunny	St. Louis	78	59	sunny
Los Angeles	85	65	sunny	Washington, DC	77	62	sunny
Miami	90	80	pt sunny				



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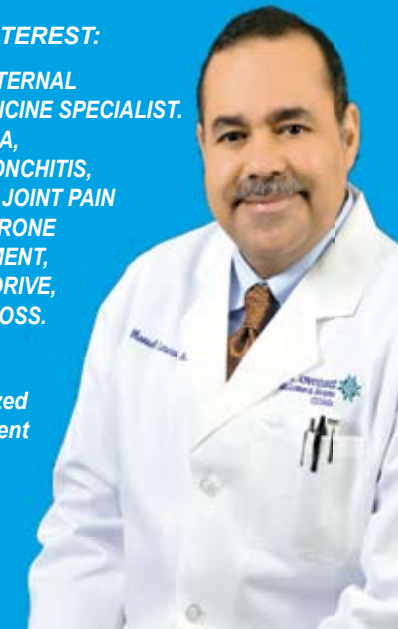
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Performance Dates: August 15, 16, 17 at 7 p.m.

Gary Allan in concert

MIDLAND — Gary Allan will be in concert Aug. 22 at the City Bank Ballpark.

What: Gary Allan in concert with Special Guest Cody Canada and The Departed; Opening act: Alyssa Bagley

When: Thursday, Aug. 22, 6 p.m., all ages

Where: City Bank Ballpark, 5514 Champions Dr., Midland, Texas

Tickets: \$40/\$50 (there are also group

packages available)
Contact: www.garyallan.com or www.milb.com

Genealogy Fair

SAN ANGELO — In addition to hosting over 40 exhibits on Concho Valley history and genealogy, the San Angelo Genealogical and Historical Society will be giving away \$1,300 in door prizes at the Genealogy Fair on Aug. 27.

Prizes include subscriptions to MyHeritage.com, Ancestry.com World Deluxe, GenealogyBank.com, Newspapers.com and Fold3.com.

Location: Stephens Central Library in downtown San Angelo, Texas, 33 W Beauregard

Time: 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Date: Tuesday, Aug. 27

Admission: Free

BSISD

Continued from Page 1

valuation is the maximum the district can levy, Green said. Slightly more than \$1.19 of that new rate will be devoted to maintenance and operation expenses, while 33 cents will be dedicated to debt service.

Expenditures are expected to top \$37.9 million this fiscal year, up almost \$1 million from the previous budget. Most of that increase comes in the form of a planned 3 percent from midpoint pay raise for all employees (except for those in the maintenance and custodial departments, who received a raise earlier this summer).

In other business Thursday, trustees will consider:

- A report on the Texas Education Agency's latest accountability rating for the district.
- Approval of the student code of conduct, local policy updates and the hiring schedule for the coming school year.
- An agreement to allow Dawson Geophysical to conduct seismic operations and mapping of district property.
- The 2013-2014 teacher appraisal calendar.
- Personnel matters.

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

CITY

Continued from Page 1

"You're not going around to the motels and hotels and making them get one of these," Avant told the council. "You're not going around to them and telling them that

in two years, if they aren't occupied then they are going to have to tear them down."

McLellan pointed out the fact local hotels and motels are required to pay a tax on each room they rent, however, effectively cooling the argument.

The council also discussed

language within the amendment that will require builders looking to locate the homes in the city to paint them, effectively covering up any large company names or serial numbers normally found on the sea containers.

However, the argument that continued to burn between

members of the council and the Avants was the homes' overall designation as temporary living quarters.

"We're trying to clean up these neighborhoods," Don Avant told the council. "There are homes on the north side that have been eyesores since I was a kid. By placing these

restrictions on these homes, including the fencing and special use permits, you're going to effectively cut down on the number of areas we can improve."

Contact Thomas Jenkins at 263-7331 ext. 232 or citydesk@bigspringherald.com

WATER

Continued from Page 1

project) and sell CRMWD some water?" Carter told the council. "We made a proposal and we made an appointment, then we visited with Mr. (John) Grant and, later, Mr. (John) Purcell on Jan. 22. After a while, Mr. Purcell left and Mr. Grant was obviously not receptive to us and would not allow us to join in the discussion during the Feb. 8 meeting of the CRMWD board of directors meeting. As we left, he told us, 'Guys, you have to understand, we're in the lake water business and it's going to rain one of these days and these member cities can only buy water from CRMWD, so they will just have to deal with less.'

"We went about trying to figure out the lay of the land and how the member cities should respond to that. We went back to a CRMWD board meeting May 8. We were on the agenda and were told to get up and explain our claim in five minutes, to which we said, 'Thank you, but you've already indicated you don't have any interest.' The directors then took their turn — about 30 minutes — talking about what we were proposing is absolutely impossible, that it was science fiction. During that same meeting, they asked for our RFP, which they made it obvious they had no interest in our proposal."

According to Littlejohn, the project will

have to go through CRMWD's existing system of pipelines, which will also need more than \$500 million in upgrades to be ready for the job.

"In essence, you are one of the member owners of the CRMWD and this must go through them," Littlejohn said. "They have the distribution system and with this amount of infrastructure, this is the only way this is going to happen. We have a plan we've put forth and we've visited with the city of San Angelo about bringing the pipeline to that point and then distribution will have to go through CRMWD."

Littlejohn assured the council the price to upgrade the system would not fall upon the cities receiving water from South Texas, but would instead come from municipal bonds secured by the company.

According to Carter, the only way the project will move forward is if the CRMWD member cities put pressure on the water district.

"The reason we're here speaking to you, a member city, is not to make you a proposition, but to tell you that if you want water in abundant supplies and good quality, you must exercise your rights of shareholders," Carter said. "You must direct your directors to stop this silly threat of litigation for tortious interference with a contract and to become part of the solution and quit combatting the efforts of other cities to form a regional solution to bring water to West Texas."

"Any of the cities, even the large cities, don't have the volume to overcome the problems you have out here. It is going to take a regional solution. We have engineered a integrated solution that not only brings high-quality water, but it brings it in abundant quantities at very reasonable prices and solves other problems member cities have communicated about the relationship with CRMWD. If you don't stop your threats of litigation against anyone who tries to solve your problems, no one is going to come out here and solve your problems ... We can't force a good drink of water on you. You're going to have to take some action on your own."

John Grant, general manager of CRMWD, painted a much different picture, however.

"We do have out on the streets today a request for proposals (RFP)," Grant said. "There are several entities which have approached the district during the past 18 to 24 months. We do want to do our due-diligence. We want to make sure the next source of water supply we get for this area has been fully evaluated, fully vetted, is the best quality and the best costing water we can get. That's kind of where we are at this point. I'd be more than happy to come back and meet with the council in an executive session so we can discuss where we are in the proposal process."

According to Little-

john, his company is not willing to pay for an engineering study — part of the RFP to be submitted to CRMWD — until it knows the money is well spent.

"We have not made an offer to purchase," Littlejohn said. "We are trying to work with CRMWD. That has been our proposal in January and during our return in May. When you go through an RFP, the one we put in to San Antonio cost more than \$750,000. The other people put in more than \$1 million apiece. These are not easily done items. They are very demanding. And, if you've already been told the responses we've had, there isn't a reason to invest that kind of money, even though we have a project at this point."

"Until there is a different attitude and a different directive that comes from the cities to their directors with CRMWD, we're at loggerheads. We don't know how to move on. We've tried to work with them, we've tried to have presentations, we've just been sitting there and then, all of a sudden we get 30 minutes of castigation at us. Then they tell us they are ready to have an RFP opening and they tell us to enter through that. How would we want to spend \$500,000 to \$750,000 on an RFP when we have that looking us in the face at this point?"

Littlejohn's claim seemed to draw the ire of District 5 Councilman Raul Benavides, who questioned the need

to conduct an all-new study for the project.

"It costs \$750,000 for each one of them? Are these RFPs not duplicatable? Can you not put them on a disc?" Benavides asked.

"No, you have to engineer each one differently. You saw the engineering profile," Littlejohn said. "Things like that all run and have to go through extensive amounts of effort."

Benavides also questioned Littlejohn's claim that 55 million gallons of water could be pumped through the system and into the Crossroads area each day.

"My son is a construction engineer who just graduated from Texas Tech in December," Benavides said. "He tells me there's no way you can pump 55 million gallons a day through a 48-inch line."

While Littlejohn never directly addressed Benavides' allegation the company cannot deliver the 55 million gallons through the proposed 48-inch line, Grant was willing to offer his opinion.

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"With the information we've looked at, the answer is no, you can't pump 55 million gallons a day through a 48-inch line," Grant told the council. "We don't think you can. However, that's why we have the request for proposal out, to provide us with that information. Our goal would be to go out and purchase that water and have it in a reserve we need to develop and make the big expenditure with the pipeline, whether that's next year, in five years or in 20 years. We can delay that cost."

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

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL
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Merly Jackson, 76, died Saturday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Albert Christianson, 87, died Monday. The family will receive friends from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. Wednesday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Graveside services will be at 10:30 a.m. Thursday at Trinity Memorial Park.

Robert Dale Hutcheson, 51, died Tuesday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

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EDITORIAL

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-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

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OUR VIEW

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LETTER POLICIES

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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.
- Letters should be e-mailed to editor@bigspringherald.com or mailed to Editor, Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721.

DAILY PRAYER

Light the path, dear Lord, that we may follow you.
Amen

We've been seriously bamboozled

There are certain feelings we all hate to experience. You know, the knot that forms in your stomach when you see an ad on TV for something you just bought and it's being advertised substantially cheaper. Personally, if I'm not careful, I can get buyer's remorse almost immediately after leaving the cash register. But those feelings pale in comparison to that sickening feeling that sweeps over you, mind and body, when you realize you have been deceived. I mean when you have been seriously bamboozled, flimflammed, hornswoggled, and just flat out duped. Incidentally, all of those are legitimate synonyms of falling for something hook-line-and sinker.



EDDY PRINCE

The twisted tale of Notre Dame football star Manti Te'o's girlfriend — who reportedly died under tragic circumstances but then was found never to exist — recently shocked and mystified people across America. But this isn't the first time we've had the collective wool pulled over our eyes. It's been going on for centuries. From Jacob and Esau to shysters, swindlers and imposters in today's headlines, it just seems to be a misguided part of the human psyche of some folks. The saddest commentary on it is that innocent people are usually the ones who suffer from the absurdity of the hoaxes and chicanery of the people who perpetrate the stories or events.

In August 1835, The New York Sun published a series of stories on its front page about wild advances in astronomy, including a new telescope made by Sir John Herschel that "discovered new planets beyond our solar system," "solved or corrected nearly every leading problem of mathematical astronomy," and discovered life on the moon. There were blue unicorns and winged humans on the moon, according to what was seen in this telescope, the story alleged. Astronomer Sir John Herschel was not consulted before the story

was written quoting him. After numerous other newspapers responded to the stories expressing skepticism, one exposed it as a hoax by the end of the month.

In October 1869, a 10-foot-tall, petrified man was supposedly found by workers on a man's farm in Cardiff, N.Y. Some people thought he was a statue; others thought he was from biblical times. Crowds from all over flocked to see the stone giant, who, in actuality, was created by a man named George Hull. Hull decided to bury the giant in the ground after he got into an argument with a Methodist reverend about whether to take the Bible literally. Ultimately, the Cardiff Giant was an investment for Hull. He paid about \$2,600 to make it, but a group of businessmen later paid him \$37,500 to permanently display it in Syracuse.

On Halloween eve in 1938, Americans who tuned into Orson Welles on CBS Radio received some astonishing news: A meteorite had crashed into New Jersey, and New York had been invaded by Martians. What the broadcast failed to convey to the stunned listeners who may have missed the introduction to the show was that they were listening to an adaptation of the science fiction novel "The War of the Worlds," written 40 years earlier by H.G. Wells. "Good heavens — something's wiggling out of the shadow," one of the newscasters on the show, describing the meteorite in New Jersey read to terrified listeners, some of whom took to their basements to hide. "It glistens like wet leather. But that face — it ... it is indescribable." Welles later expressed regret for causing such a panic.

In September 1980, Janet Cooke wrote a Pulitzer Prize-winning story for the front page of The Washington Post about an 8-year-old boy with a heroin addiction, whose life was the product of rape. Just 26 herself, Cooke faded out of public view after Washington, D.C., police, desperate to help Jimmy out of his life of addiction, couldn't find him, and it was discovered that she had made up the entire tale.

The Post returned her Pulitzer

Contact us

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serve your needs, we offer several ways in which you may contact us:

- In person at 710 Scurry St.
- By telephone at 263-7331

in 1981. Her boyfriend revealed years later that she was working for minimum wage at a department store.

Rob Pilatus and Fabrice Morvan of the German pop band Milli Vanilli took the stage in Los Angeles in 1990 to accept a Grammy award for best new artist, performing their big hit, "Girl You Know It's True," which hit number one on the U.S. charts. Sadly, the glitz and glamour of the Grammy night wore off quickly when it was discovered the two had not only lip-synched their Grammy performance, but the song's lead vocals belonged to other singers. To date, Milli Vanilli is the only group to ever have a Grammy revoked.

In April 2010, the nation was riveted as cable news networks cut into live programming to broadcast the runaway flight of a Fort Collins, Colo., family's experimental balloon, which supposedly contained their 6-year-old son, Falcon Heene. The silver, helium-filled aircraft had become untethered from the family's yard and for two hours, authorities chased it as it wobbled above Colorado.

When it landed in a field, empty, the Heene family — who had twice appeared on the ABC reality show "Wife Swap" prior to the balloon incident — insisted their older son had said Falcon climbed into the balloon before it took off. As it turned out, Falcon had been hiding in a cardboard box in the attic the entire time. That's what is known in today's vernacular as being busted.

I suppose mermaids, aliens, vampires, and many other figments of over-active imaginations will always be a part of human interaction. But since I don't enjoy being hoaxed, I'm not buying much of it at all. However, in case you're interested, I did see Elvis buying gas a few days ago.

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.

• By fax at 264-7205
• By e-mail Managing Editor Bill McClellan at newsdesk@bigspringherald.com.

Get big govt .out of small crimes

It was big news Monday when Attorney General Eric Holder told the American Bar Association in San Francisco, "Certain low-level nonviolent drug offenders who have no ties to large-scale organizations, gangs or cartels will no longer be charged with offenses that impose draconian mandatory minimum sentences."

It was big news because the Obama administration finally looked to what it could do about racial disparities under federal jurisdiction — instead of pointing at what others in the criminal justice system are doing wrong.

It was big news because the administration finally has caught up with Republicans such as Sens. Rand Paul of Kentucky and Mike Lee of Utah. Paul and Lee have co-sponsored bills with Dick Durbin of Illinois and Pat Leahy of Vermont to reform mandatory minimum sentences so that nonviolent small-time offenders don't serve decades in prison while kingpins who can inform on them serve lesser time.

It's big news that the administration finally is saying that it

won't prosecute cases it never should have touched to begin with. You don't send the heavy artillery of federal enforcement to roust varmints when its job is supposed to be to bring down the top of the food chain in the drug trade.

I am not sure the Department of Justice is clear that it is supposed to limit its fire to big cases. A summary of Holder's new "Smart on Crime" approach explained that in some cases involving nonviolent offenders, "prosecutors ought to consider alternatives to incarceration, such as drug courts, specialty courts, or other diversion programs." Again, why would the federal government even go after someone who just needs a good rehab program?

Julie Stewart, president of Families Against Mandatory Minimums, told me that the fact that Holder used this rhetoric is big.

"Considering the crumbs we've been fed the last 20 years," said Stewart, "this is kind of bite-sized." Now the administration will follow conservatives and liberals who have been clamoring for sentencing reform.

Holder never got around to explaining how his department will address marijuana enforcement in light of state laws legalizing not only medical

marijuana but also recreational use of marijuana. He still plans to leave those decisions to U.S. attorneys, even though he spoke in favor of leaving some crimes to local prosecutors.

Also, the attorney general said nothing about what the administration plans to do about inmates who are serving draconian sentences now. When it comes to his use of the power to pardon and commute federal sentences, President Barack Obama has shown the least amount of mercy of any modern American president, yet Holder named no individual in prison today whose sentence the president will commute. Alas, this president demands racial justice only where he has little authority.

"This president wants to be compared to (Abraham) Lincoln and (Martin Luther) King, but he misses the main points of their arguments," noted Craig DeRoche of the conservative Justice Fellowship. "They were advancing the cause of justice."

Email Debra J. Saunders at dsaunders@sfchronicle.com. To find out more about Debra J. Saunders and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

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Greatest manhunt of the American west

Mark L. Donald, along with Scot Mactavish has written "Battle Ready: Memoir of a SEAL Warrior Medic" (359.009 DON M). It is a story of two men: one, a young Hispanic male who climbed out of a dead-end life by enlisting in the military (like so many do) and a warrior medic who advances into combat with lifesaving equipment in one hand and life-ending weapons in the other.



HOLLIS McCRIGHT

Donald has served the United States for 25 years and survived some of the most dangerous military combat actions you can imagine. It is a gripping account of SEAL Lt. Mark L. Donald, recipient of a Navy Cross, Silver Star, Bronze Star and the Purple Heart. He has also battled the demons that come with earning those medals, post-traumatic stress syndrome that can destroy a person and their family.

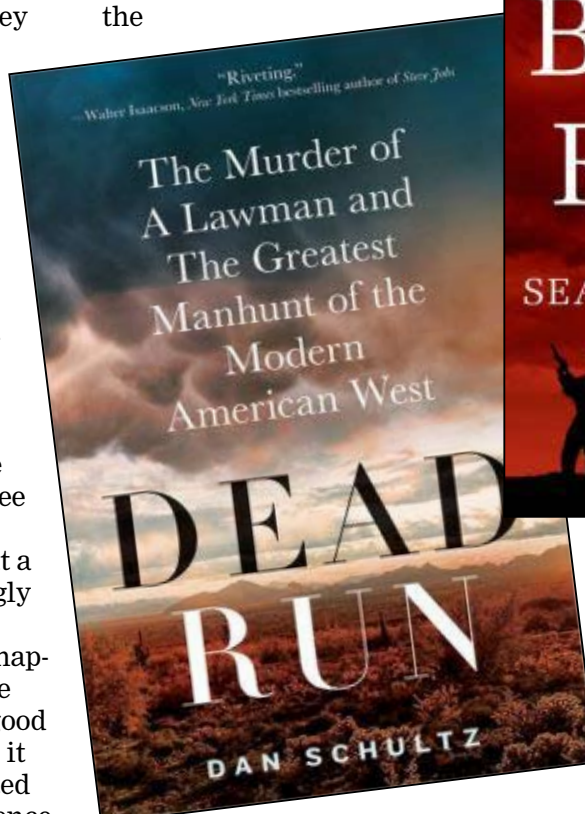
On a sunny May morning in 1998 in Cortez, Colo., three desperadoes in a stolen truck opened fire on the town cop, shooting him 20 times; then they blasted their way past dozens of police cars and disappeared into 10,000 square miles of the harshest wilderness terrain on the North American continent. Self-trained survivalists, the outlaws eluded the most sophisticated law enforcement technology on the planet and a pursuit force that represented more than 75 local, state, and federal police agencies with dozens of SWAT teams, U.S. Army Special Forces, and more than 500 officers from across the country. To say that the search was a royal mess is an understatement. Los Angeles Police Department offered to send their tank, for heaven's sake! In "Dead Run: The Murder of a Lawman and the Greatest Manhunt of the Modern American West" (364.152 SCH D)

Dan Schultz will tell how SWAT teams were tracking other SWAT teams; the three perpetrators were experienced in surviving in the harsh desert environment and what their motives and plans were. I have read bits and pieces of it and if they had succeeded in their quest, it would have been a tremendous ecological, economic and human tragedy.

Julia Keller's debut novel "A Killing in the Hills" (M KEL J) has been called "a gripping, beautifully crafted murder mystery" by Scott Turow, known for his own best seller, "Presumed Innocent." In the Acker's Gap, W. Va., three elderly men are gunned down over their coffee at a local diner, and seemingly half the town is there to witness the act. Still, it happened so fast, and no one seems to have gotten a good look at the shooter. Was it random? Was it connected to the spate of drug violence plaguing poor areas of the country just like Acker's Gap? Or were Dean Streeter, Shorty McClurg and Lee Rader targeted somehow? One of the witnesses to the brutal incident was Carla Elkins, teenage daughter of Bell Elkins, the prosecuting attorney for Raythune County, W. Va. Carla was shocked and horrified by what she saw, but after a few days, she begins to recover enough to believe that she might be uniquely placed to help her mother do her job. But does Carla put her own life in danger, along with her mother?

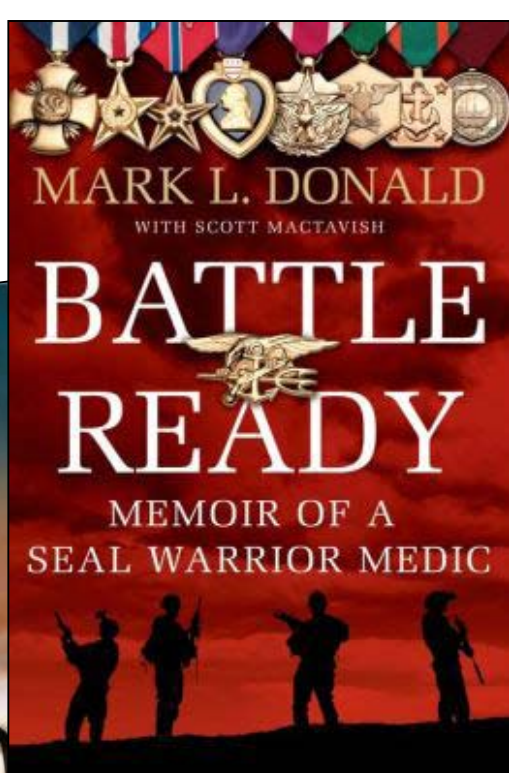
In "Son of Zeus" (B SMI N) by Noble Smith, it is 431 B.C. and ancient Greece experiences its own "Pearl Harbor," a treacherous sneak

attack that marks the start of a bloody war between the democracy of Athens and the tyranny of Sparta. An independent city-state of Plataea will become the arena where the battle will be fought. Nikias, who is training for the



Olympic Games, will be forced into exile, but not before he fights to discover who betrayed his town by opening the gates to the invaders. This is the beginning of a new action series, much in the manner of Bernard Cornwell's Sharpe series.

"Sisterland" (F SIT C) by Curtis Sittenfeld is the story of two very different sisters. From an early age, twins Kate and Vi knew they were different, unlike their friends and classmates. They were born with "peculiar senses — psychic abilities that allowed them to foretell future events and other people secrets. Vi embraced her abilities while Kate shrunk from them. Years later, both have come back



to their hometown of St. Louis. Vi has become a psychic medium while Kate is a suburban mom with two young children. But when a minor earthquake shakes the town in the middle

of the night, it shakes more than the land; the normal life of Kate begins to twist. Her life begins to change and she must reconcile the fraught relationship with her sister and to face truths about herself she has long denied.

If you have a diamond engagement ring or wedding ring, did you know you have it only as a result of a clever advertising campaign? In J. Courtney Sullivan's third novel, "The Engagements" (F SUL J), you will read a combo of advertising and diamond history along with a gorgeous, sprawling novel about marriage — about those who marry in a white heat of passion, those who marry for partnership and comfort and those who live together, love each other, and have abso-

lutely no intention of ruining it all with a wedding.

Evelyn has been married to her husband for 40 years — after he slipped off her first wedding ring and put his own in its place. Delphine has seen both sides of love: The ecstatic, glorious highs of seduction and the bitter, spiteful fury that descends when it's over. James, a paramedic who works the night shift, knows his wife's family thinks she could have done better; while Kate, partnered with Dan for a decade, has

seen every kind of wedding — beach weddings, backyard weddings, castle weddings — and has vowed never, ever, to have one of her own. As these lives and marriages unfold in surprising ways, we meet Frances Gerety, a young advertising copywriter in 1947. Frances is working on the De Beers campaign and she needs a signature line, so, one night before bed, she scribbles a phrase on a scrap of paper: "A Diamond Is Forever." And that line changed everything.

We are open Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday, 10 until 2; the internet/video room closes a half hour before closing. You may reach us at 264-2260; fax number is 264-2263. Our website is <http://wtls.tsl.state.tx.us/howard-county>.

Hollis McCright is director of the Howard County Library.

sudoku

ANSWERS

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

www.sudoku-puzzles.net

Gladys Thompson is retiring after 38 years of service, providing you with financial options and guidance at the Wells Fargo Bank in Big Spring. In Gladys' honor, we're inviting you to an open house on August 16, 2013. Join us as we wish Gladys well as this new chapter begins. Refreshments will be served.

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Sudoku Answer on Page 5

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.

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

www.sudoku-puzzles.net

Boot scootin' at the senior center



Courtesy photos
The Big Spring Senior Center celebrated the re-opening of its dance floor Aug. 9. More than 100 guests came from Big Spring, Midland, Colorado City, Snyder and other communities to enjoy the refreshments, music and dancing. The event was sponsored by the City of Big Spring.



Savor the coffee, not the cups

Recently, I was sent a story that speaks to the problem of the society we live in through a familiar analogy. This is a story that could happen anywhere and at any time.

A group of alumni, highly established in their careers, got together to visit their old university professor. The conversation was interesting



DARRELL RYAN

but soon turned into complaints about stress in work and life. Offering his guests coffee, the professor went to the kitchen and returned with a large pot of coffee and an assortment of cups, porcelain, glass and crystal — some plain looking, some expensive, some exquisite. He then told his guests to help themselves to the coffee.

When all the former students had a cup of coffee in hand the professor commented, "If you noticed, you have all selected the nice looking, expensive cups, leaving behind the plain and cheap

ones. While it is normal for you to want only the best for yourselves, that is the source of your problems and stress.

"Be assured that the cup itself adds no quality to the coffee. In most cases, it is just more expensive and in some cases even hides what we drink. What all of you really wanted was coffee, not the cup, but you consciously went for the best cups, and then you began eyeing each other's cups.

Now consider this, life is the coffee; the jobs, money and position in society is the cup. They are just tools to hold and contain life

and the types of cup we have does not define or change the quality of life we live. Sometimes, by concentrating only on the cup, we fail to enjoy the coffee.

"Savor the coffee, not the cups! The happiest people don't have the best of everything, they just make the best of everything. Our goal should be to live simply, love generously, care deeply and speak kindly.

On a side note, see if you agree that this describes our government: The Food Stamp Program, administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, is proud to be currently distributing the greatest amount of free meals and Food Stamps ever, to 46 million people. Meanwhile, the National Park Service, administered by the U.S. Department of the Interior, asks us "Please Do Not Feed the Animals." Their stated reason for the policy is because "The animals will grow dependent on handouts and will not learn to take care of themselves." Am I missing something here?

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

In Sunday's
Big Spring Herald

A Plan for Rebuilding

By using all American-made tools and materials, a father-and-son team of contractors hopes to encourage others to do the same—and rebuild the nation's economy.

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Kernick wins trailer at roping competition

By BRIAN MCCORMACK

Sports Editor

GLEN ROSE, Texas — Following in his father's footsteps, Trevor Kernick — son of Rhonda and Howard College Rodeo Coach Greg Kernick — is making his presence known on the junior rodeo circuit.

Most recently, Kernick competed in the Ultimate Calf Roping finals in Glen Rose, where he showcased his roping skills, first by winning a single-elimination tournament. Kernick, who is heading into the eighth grade at Coahoma I.S.D., claimed a Circle Y trophy saddle and advanced to the Tournament of Champions.

Out to prove he was the best of the best, Kernick placed first in the big one. He also won a big prize for his hard work — the Ultimate Calf Roping championship trailer.

Kernick handled the roping, but

he cites the support from his family as well as his sponsors for helping him along the way, including BEX Sunglasses, Tractor Supply of Big Spring, Big Dog Rig Movers, Sharp Image Energy, Erath Iron and Metal and B&W Hitches.

Next up for the young buckaroo will be an appearance at a Texas Junior High Rodeo Association event in September. He also plans to play football and basketball.

"Trevor is quick to thank his family and sponsors that have helped him pursue his goal," Greg Kernick said. "He's been roping since he was old enough to carry one and he's been entered in different events since he was about eight."

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



Courtesy photo/Greg Kernick

Coahoma's Trevor Kernick is shown standing in front of his newly acquired livestock trailer. Kernick won the trailer as a grand prize for placing first at the Ultimate Calf Roping tournament in Glen Rose over the weekend.

Rangers' 8-game run ends in 5-1 loss to Milwaukee

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — The Texas Rangers got home and their winning streak quickly ended.

Alexi Ogando gave up three home runs, two to Milwaukee's rookie No. 9 batter, and the Rangers lost 5-1 on Tuesday night in the first game following the only 9-1 road trip in team history.

"It was just a game we didn't win. There was no lack of energy or lack of enthusiasm or lack of anything," catcher A.J. Pierzynski said. "It just didn't work out. Those games happen sometimes."

Scooter Gennett pulled a pair of pitches into the right-field seats off Ogando (5-4). The first was leading off the third, and then two innings later Gennett snapped the 1-1 tie with a two-run shot.

Khris Davis, another Brewers rookie, homered high off the left-field pole with one out in the seventh to chase Ogando, who made it past five innings for the first time in five starts since coming off the disabled list.

"(Ogando) was real efficient tonight. Gennett was the real issue tonight, got him twice and then Davis got one," Rangers manager Ron Washington said. "But he got to the seventh inning with 70-something pitches, so it's improvement. Now we just got to keep that longball from happening."

Marco Estrada (5-4) allowed one run and four hits over six innings against AL West-leading Texas.

See **RANGERS**, Page 13

Lady Steers look strong at Abilene High/Cooper dual

By BRIAN MCCORMACK

Sports Editor

ABILENE — Big Spring is ranked among the best in the state at the 3A level, but it's still tournament time as BSHS Head Coach Lynn Osborne guides her team through the predistrict leg of the season.

So far, so good. The Lady Steers earned a split at the Abilene Cooper/Abilene High dual meet on Tuesday, losing to the 5A Lady Eagles in three: 25-27, 23-25 and 18-25, but defeating Cooper in four sets: 21-25, 25-21, 25-19 and 15-9.

The experience against strong schools could be crucial for BSHS, who finds itself in one of the most competitive volleyball districts in Texas, with Abilene-Wylie again pulling a No. 1 rank in preseason polls. Also tied at 17th with Big Spring is Monahans, another district foe.

The Lady Steers will be back in Abilene for the Bev Ball Classic Tournament on Friday and Saturday.

BSHS vs. Abilene High

• **Setters:** Morgan Seaton, 8 assists, 8 kills, 2 aces, 6 digs, 2 blocks; Emily Smith, 9 assists, 1 kill, 3 digs.

• **Offense:** Erin Pollard, 7 kills, 2 assists, 1 ace, 6 digs, 2 blocks; Ebony Zavala, 5 kills, 6 aces, 9 digs.

• **Defense:** Julianna Rodriguez, 13 digs, 1 kill, 1 ace; Stevie Ward, 3 digs, 3 kills, 2 assists, 2 aces.

BSHS vs. Abilene Cooper

• **Setters:** Morgan Seaton, 24 assists, 12 kills, 1 ace, 8 digs, 5 blocks; Emily Smith, 21 assists, 3 kills, 9 digs, 1 block.

• **Offense:** Erin Pollard, 15 kills, 3 digs, 2 blocks; Kelsie Guinn, 10 kills, 1 assist, 4 aces, 2 digs, 5 blocks.

• **Defense:** Julianna Rodriguez, 14 digs, 1 kill, 3 aces; Ebony Zavala, 11 digs, 1 block, 7 kills, 2 assists, 3 aces.

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



HERALD file photo/Tony Claxton/see more at www.claxtonphotography.com

Big Spring' Morgan Seaton sets the ball during a scrimmage over the weekend. The Lady Steers volleyball squad is ranked in the Top 20 in the state. They will be in Abilene for the Bev Ball Classic tourney over the weekend.

Sports Calendar

FRIDAY

Football

- Lubbock High at Big Spring, scrimmage, 9th and J.V., 6 p.m.; varsity, 7 p.m.
- Coahoma at Jim Ned, scrimmage, varsity and J.V., 10 a.m.
- Forsan at Grape Creek, scrimmage, time TBA.

Volleyball

- Big Spring at Bev Ball Classic, Abilene, through Saturday.
- Wellman-Union at Coahoma, J.V., 2 p.m.; varsity, 3 p.m.

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2403 CARLTON Dr.- 3 Bdrm, 2 bath, \$1200 month, \$1000 down. Pets Welcome. For more information call 432-488-9164.

3 BEDROOM, 2 bath, 3614 Hamilton. \$1200.00 month, \$1000.00 deposit, 1 year lease. Prefer Non Smoking & pets. Back ground check required & references. Call 432-263-1314.

609 JOHNSON- Very Nice 2 brdm 1 bath 1 room. \$925. \$500. deposit. Call 432-816-2000.

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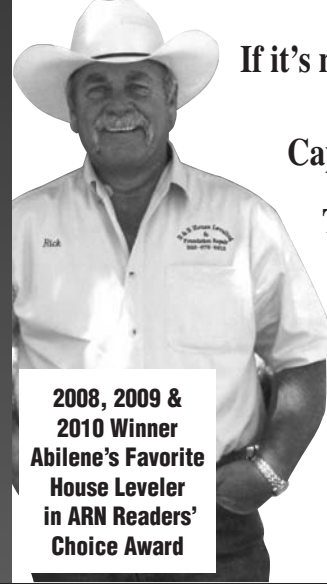
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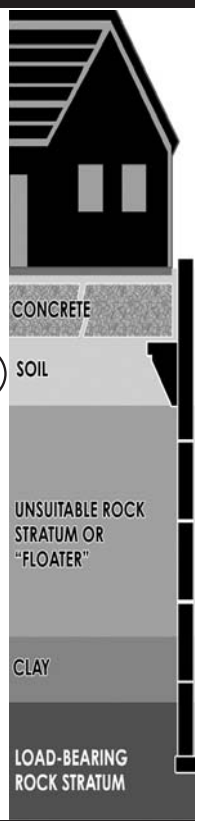
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PET TALK

Children and pets: the benefits and risks



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Legals

Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Increase

The Howard County Commissioners Court will hold two public hearings on a proposal to increase total tax revenues from properties on the tax roll in the preceding tax year by 7.80 percent (percentage by which proposed tax rate exceeds lower of rollback tax rate or effective tax calculated under Chapter 26, Tax Code). Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property and the tax rate that is adopted. The first public hearing will be held on August 21, 2013 at 10:00 AM at Howard County Commissioners Court Room, 3rd Floor 300 S. Main St Big Spring TX 79720. The second public hearing will be held on September 9, 2013 at 10:00 AM at Howard County Commissioners Court Room, 3rd Floor 300 S Main St Big Spring TX 79720. The members of the governing body voted on the proposal to consider the tax increase as follows:
FOR: Judge Mark Barr
John Cline
Donnie Baker
Oscar Garcia
AGAINST: Jimmie Long
PRESENT and not voting:
ABSENT:

The average taxable value of a residence homestead in Howard County last year was \$46,226. Based on last year's tax rate of \$0.330000 per \$100 of taxable value, the amount of taxes imposed last year on the average home was \$152.55. The average taxable value of a residence homestead in Howard County this year is \$47,742. If the governing body adopts the effective tax rate for this year of \$0.359828 per \$100 of taxable value, the amount of taxes imposed this year on the average home would be \$171.79. If the governing body adopts the proposed tax rate of \$0.387894 per \$100 of taxable value, the amount of taxes imposed this year on the average home would be \$185.19. Members of the public are encouraged to attend the hearings and express their views.
#7926 August 14, 2013

Legals

Notice is hereby given that Laredo Petroleum, Inc., Operator 486610, has filed with the Texas Railroad Commission the following: P-17 application for the exception to SWR 26 and/or 27 to surface commingle production, allocate production and for off-lease storage, from oil and gas leases on LPI-Halfmann 31 Lease, SE/4 of Section 31, Block 34, T4S, T&P RR Co Survey, LPI-Hoelscher 31 Lease, NE/4 of Section 31, Block 34, T4S, T&P RR Co Survey and LPI-Kloesel 31 Lease, W/2 of Section 31, Block 34, T4S, T&P RR Co Survey; all in Glasscock County, Texas under other leases. Any affected mineral interest owners who wish to protest this application must do so by contacting the Texas Railroad Commission, P-17 Department, P.O. Box 12987, Austin, TX 78711-2987 within 21 days of this ad.
#7923 August 14, 21 & 28 and September 4, 2013

Legals

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR COMMERCIAL DISPOSAL WELL PERMIT
Texas SWD Co., Inc., P. O. Box 444, Big Lake, TX 76932 is applying to the Railroad Commission of Texas for a commercial disposal permit to dispose of oil and gas waste by injection into a formation not productive of oil or gas. The applicant proposes to inject fluid into the San Andres/Clearfork formations, Hamlin SWD well numbers 1 & 2. The wells are located 12.9 miles NW of Big Spring, TX in the Spraberry (Trend Area) field in Howard County. Fluid will be injected into strata in the subsurface depth interval from 3,500 to 6,000 feet.
LEGAL AUTHORITY: Chapter 27 of the Texas Water Code, As amended, Title 3 of the Texas Natural Resources Code, as amended and the Statewide Rules of the Oil and Gas Division of the Railroad Commission of Texas. Requests for public hearing from persons who can show they are adversely affected or requests for further information concerning any aspect of the application should be submitted in writing, within fifteen days of publication, to Environmental Services Section, Oil and Gas Division, Railroad Commission of Texas, P O Box 12967 Austin, Texas 78711.
(512-463-6792).
#7924 August 14, 2013



Photo for illustration purposes only

Whether they want it to bark, purr, slither or squawk, there comes a time when a pet appears on nearly every child's birthday wish list.

For most parents, this decision can be a bit daunting. Is your child ready to take on the responsibility of caring for a pet? Will the new animal negatively affect his or her health?

Though your child may think your wary attitude is unnecessary, these are valid questions for every parent to ask themselves and their family before welcoming a new pet into their home.

"The first thing that you need to think of is if your children are old enough and responsible enough to handle a pet around the house," said Dr. Mark Stickney, Clinical Associate Professor at the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences. "You also need to be aware of the temperament of the new pet that you're bringing in."

Low maintenance animals, such as hamsters and fish, prove to be great starter pets for children. They require minimal amounts of time and care, introducing the child to the responsibilities of pet ownership without giving them more than they can manage.

Of course, puppies and kittens are always crowd pleasers as well. Their high energy level and love for attention makes them the

perfect child companion. But what about when little Bobby begs for that snake at the pet store?

"With animals like lizards and snakes, their care and feeding requirements can be a bit tricky as far as humidity, temperature etc.," Stickney said. "These animals also eat other animals for food, which may be upsetting to some children. Depending on their age and maturity, that might be something beyond a child's ability to handle."

When choosing a family pet, it is also important to take into consideration your children's sensitivity to various allergens. "One of the first things that you need to do is consult with your physician," said Stickney. "If your child is allergic to pollen or some sort of grass that an animal could track into the house, an indoor animal such as a cat would be a non-issue."

However, if your children still have their heart set on that fluffy puppy, there are certainly ways to accommodate their desires.

"Some dog breeds, such as Poodles and Yorkies, are considered to be less allergenic than others based on the amount of fur that they shed," Stickney said. "And there is even evidence to support that infants exposed to animals earlier in life are less likely to develop allergies later on."

Allowing your children to care for a pet is not all risk. Having a pet in your family has shown to be equally beneficial for both the animal and child.

"Dogs especially really enjoy having someone to play with them, teach them tricks, and do some basic obedience training," said Stickney. "It's mentally stimulating for both the dog and child, which can improve discipline on both ends."

Research has shown numerous health benefits of owning a pet, including lower blood pressure and elevated mood. There is even evidence to support that interaction between pets and children with disabilities, such as Down's syndrome or Autism, is extremely beneficial.

"The key is that you need to have a nice, docile pet," Stickney said. "One that isn't too active or rough, but that just wants to be loved on and to love right back."

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. Suggestions for future topics may be directed to editor@cvm.tamu.edu



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Lost a Pet?

visit www.bigspringpd.net and click onto the Animal Control gallery to see if you pet has been found by Big Spring Animal Control

Tomorrow's Horoscope

Vulnerable scorpio moon

Over the next week, the darkness diminishes as the illuminated part of the moon grows to its fullness on August 20th. Will fear diminish, too? "When we were children, we used to think that when we were grown up we would no longer be vulnerable. But to grow up is to accept vulnerability. ... To be alive is to be vulnerable." — Madeleine L'Engle

ARIES (March 21-April 19).

Stack the odds in your favor. Instead of relying on one vehicle for getting what you want, go for it in multiple ways. It won't be the aggressive methods that work; it will be the creative ones.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20).

Persistence will pay, especially if what you are persistent about will benefit others. When it comes to communicating your intentions, three, four or even five calls are not too many.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21).

One with a strong and perhaps even intimidating presence will figure into today's business. Don't lower your profile or back down in any way. Free the full force of your personality.

CANCER (June 22-July 22).

You may find that people don't work hard enough for your attention or that they take you for granted because you make your offerings too accessible. Is

there a way to make your gifts seem rare and hard to get acquire?

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). It may be flattering to you when others imitate you, but because you never know how others are going to react to imitation, the best way will be to flatter others with sincere words. Keep looking for your very own muse.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You are the person people talk to when they want to get the word out today — no pressure. They see you as connected and maybe more connected than you actually are, but a few phone calls will change all of that.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). It is dangerous to seek ego gratification from the final result of your efforts. For better or worse, you can't control the response of the world. Let your whole body of work count in your own mind, and that will be enough.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Children are not the only ones who get cranky when they are hungry or tired. Keep this in mind when people around you are less than congenial. Snacks on hand and a bit of peace could turn everything around.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Steer clear of the controversy if at all possible. If your position makes this impossible, the phrase that might save you is: "Well, this is one we're not going to solve today."

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Sitting with familiar bickering

people who clearly are not getting along lately can be more cringe inducing and uncomfortable than holding your feet to a fire.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). There are some people you can't relate to no matter how many people, places and things you might have in common. Don't try. Move on to the next, the next, the next.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Promote yourself. Whether you do it directly or find a more creative approach doesn't matter now. Just put yourself out there. You're so lucky today that even a failed effort is likely to result in a better prospect.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Aug. 14). Your confidence soars and takes your social status right along with it. In September, you'll reevaluate life: clarifying the past and unlocking the future. October begins a serious study that will go on for years.

November brings gains of personal property. Casual relationships get serious. Legal arrangements will be made. Pisces and Scorpio people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 4, 25, 7, 48 and 19.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS: "I've been diagnosed with a chronic condition, and I've spent the past three weeks researching everything I can about it. Do you think it's in my chart to conquer this and get rid of it? I was born on Jan. 5, 1967."

I'll bet you're feeling strong now, with the moon in Scorpio

where it was when you were born. This is an indicator of a strong will and an amazing ability to overcome adversity.

Capricorns are control seekers, and any aspect of this illness that you can own and take hold of, you will. Be careful not to be so vigilant, however, that you tighten up and restrict yourself from the healing properties of relaxation and peace. Also note that medical websites can be like haunted houses. New information (most of which is completely irrelevant to your case) lurks behind each click of a mouse, poised to scare the bejeebes out of you. There's a fine line between educating yourself and obsessively freaking yourself out about it.

In the healing process, cut back on your commitments, stay home more, relax, take time for yourself and enjoy yourself in low-key ways while you slowly figure this one out.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Mila Kunis likes to change it up and has the broad range of talent to do it. She can be hilarious, as in "Family Guy" or "That 70's Show," or frightening, as in "Oz the Great and Powerful." She's played a thief and the sweet girl next door, a bombshell, a ballerina and more. Kunis was born when the sun and Mercury were in entertaining Leo and the moon and Venus were in sensitive Cancer.

*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.
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HOLIDAY
MATHIS

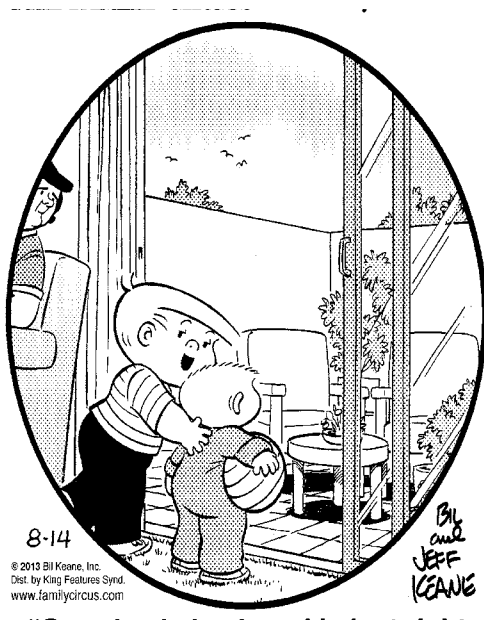
	KMID (3) Midland	UNI (4) Spanish	KPEJ (5) Odessa	KOSA (7) Odessa	KTLE (8) Telemundo	KWES (9) Midland	WTBS (11) Atlanta	KMLM (12) Odessa	KPBT (13) Odessa	KWWT (14) Odessa	DISC (20) Discovery	AMC (21) Classics	SPIKE (22) Spike TV	TNT (23) Atlanta	BET (26) Black Ent.	DISN (27) Disney	ESPN2 (28) Sports	ESPN (29) Sports
5:PM	News ABC	Casa Notic.	Two Men	News CBS	Noticias Noticiero	News News	King Seinfeld	Shepherd's Heart	Charlie Rose	King '70s	Yukon Men		Cops	Castle	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Phineas Phineas	SportsNation	SportsCenter
6:PM	Jeopardy!	Corazón Indomable	Big Bang	News Ent	Caso Cerrado	News	Seinfeld	Mani	PBS News-Hour	Seinfeld Rules	Jungle Gold		Cops	Castle	Game	Good Jessie	NFL Kickoff	MLB Baseball: Teams TBA.
7:PM	Middle Suburb.	Porque el Am.	MasterChef	Big Brother	Dama y Obrero (SS)	Millionaire	Seinfeld	Chevalme	Upd Nature (DVS)	Arrow	Jungle Gold	Movie: Scarface, Steven Bauer	Cops	Castle (DVS)	Game Austin	Nine for IX		
8:PM	Mod Fam Neighbors	La Tempestad (SS)	MasterChef	Criminal Minds	Marido en Alquiler	America's/ Talent	Big Bang	Light of the Southwest	NOVA (DVS)	Supernatural	Gold Rush		Cops	Franklin & Bash	Diary of a Mad Black Woman, Shemar Moore	ANT Farm Shake It	Soccer: United States vs. Team TBA.	Baseball Tonight
9:PM	ABC's The Lookout	Qué Bonito Amor	Simpsons How I Met	CSI: Crime Scene	Santa Diabla (SS)	(01) Camp	Big Bang	Deal With	Truth Exercise	Cops Seinfeld	Gold Rush		Cops	Castle (DVS)	Game	Good Jessie	Little League Softball: Final: Teams TBA.	SportsCenter
10:PM	News Impacto	Noticiero	How I Met	Letterman	Noticias	News	Conan	Rik R. Shap	Charlie Rose	Rules	Gold Rush		Movie: Street Warrior, Jane Park Smith	Franklin & Bash	Game	Good Jessie	Final: Teams TBA.	SportsCenter
11:PM	Jimmy Kimmel Live	Familia-Suerte	Law Order: CI	Ferguson	Marido en Alquiler	Deal With	Conan	Alewine	World	King	Gold Rush	Movie: Scarface, Steven Bauer	Ways Die	The Mentalist	Wendy Williams	Movie: Up, Up and Away	Baseball Tonight	SportsCenter
12:AM	Extra	Zacatillo, un	Raymond	Insider	De'siones	News	Office	M. Rantz	Light of the Southwest	Browns	Jungle Gold		Ways Die	The Mentalist	Movie: Deliver Us From Eva, Duane Martin	ANT Farm	NASCAR	SportsCenter
1:AM	Paid	Conducta	American	Paid	Paid	(06) Today	Movie: Father of the Bride	Focus 4		Browns	Jungle Gold		Ways Die	The Mentalist	Deck	SportCtr		

DENNIS THE MENACE



"ADULTS ARE WEIRD. THEY HAVE A POOL PARTY AND DON'T GO SWIMMING."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

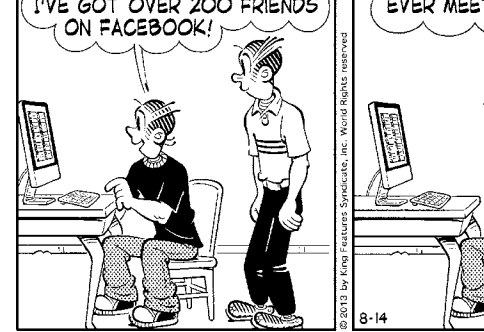


"Grandma's backyard is just right for you, PJ - tiny!"

HAGAR



BLONDIE



THIS DATE IN HISTORY

Today is Wednesday, Aug. 14, the 226th day of 2013. There are 139 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On August 14, 1945, President Harry S. Truman announced that Japan had surrendered unconditionally, ending World War II.

On this date:

In 1848, the Oregon Territory was created.

In 1908, a race riot erupted in Springfield, Ill., as a white mob began setting black-owned homes and businesses on fire; at least two blacks and five whites were killed in the violence.

In 1935, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the Social Security Act into law.

In 1941, President Franklin D. Roosevelt and British Prime Minister Winston Churchill issued the Atlantic Charter, a statement of principles that renounced aggression.

In 1947, Pakistan became independent of British rule.

In 1951, newspaper publisher William Randolph Hearst, 88, died in Beverly Hills, Calif.

In 1962, robbers held up a U.S. mail truck in Plymouth, Mass., making off with more than \$1.5 million; the loot was never recovered.

In 1963, playwright Clifford Odets, 57, died in Los Angeles.

In 1969, British troops went to Northern Ireland to intervene in sectarian violence between Protestants and Roman Catholics.

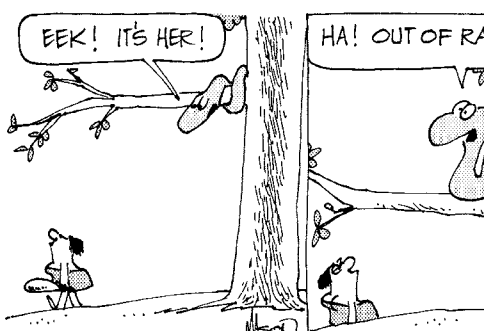
In 1973, U.S. bombing of Cambodia came to a halt.

In 1993, Pope John Paul II denounced abortion and euthanasia as well as sexual abuse by American priests in a speech at McNichols Sports Arena in Denver.

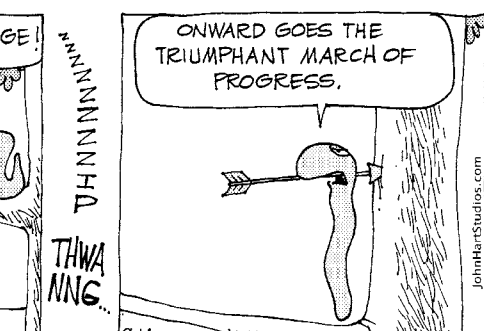
In 1997, an unrepentant Timothy McVeigh was formally sentenced to death for the Oklahoma City bombing.

Today's Birthdays: Broadway lyricist Lee Adams ("Bye Bye Birdie") is 89. Pulitzer Prize-winning author Russell Baker is 88. Singer Buddy Greco is 87. College Football Hall of Famer John Brodie is 78. Singer Dash Crofts is 75. Rock singer David Crosby is 72. Country singer Connie Smith is 72. Comedian-actor Steve Martin is 68. Actor Antonio Fargas is 67. Singer-musician Larry Graham is 67. Actress Susan Saint James is 67. Actor David Schramm is 67. Author Danielle Steel is 66. Rock singer-musician Terry Adams (NRBQ) is 61. "Far Side" cartoonist Gary Larson is 63. Actor Carl Lumbly is 62. Olympic gold medal swimmer Debbie Meyer is 61. Film composer James Horner is 60. Actress Jackie Harry is 57. Actress Marcia Gay Harden is 54. Basketball Hall of Famer Earvin "Magic" Johnson is 54. Singer Sarah Brightman is 53. Actress Susan Olsen is 52. Actress-turned-fashion/interior designer Cristi Conaway is 49.

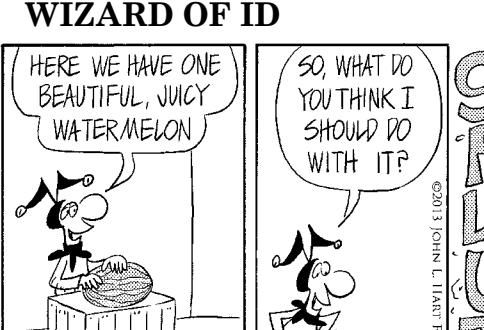
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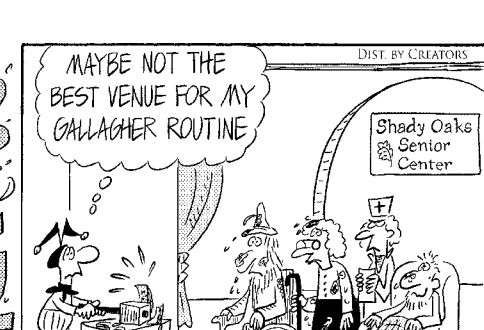
AGNES



HI AND LOIS



THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



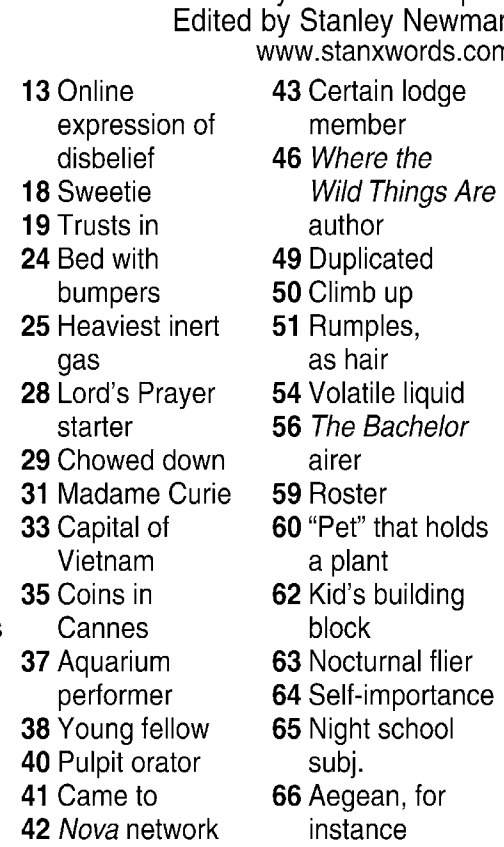
BEETLE BAILEY



Newsday Crossword

ALL IN FAVOR by Bruce R. Sutphin

- Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com
- ACROSS
- 1 "The Eternal City"
 - 5 Walk heavily
 - 10 Frozen waffle name
 - 14 Molecule part
 - 15 Float in the air
 - 16 Instrument that's beaten
 - 17 Temporarily
 - 20 Sculpted figure
 - 21 Insist on
 - 22 Yale student
 - 23 ATM maker
 - 26 Transgression
 - 27 Mauna ___
 - 30 Judge to be
 - 32 Old college cheer
 - 34 Barely manage
 - 36 Nike competitor
 - 39 Capital of Bolivia
 - 40 Attorney's volunteering
 - 42 Danger
 - 44 "You're doing it all wrong!"
 - 45 Censor's deletions
 - 47 Publicity, so to speak
 - 48 Con game
 - 52 Caribbean music
 - 53 Roost dweller
 - 55 Affirmative vote
 - 57 Baton Rouge univ.
 - 58 Health care facility
 - 61 Political alliances
 - 63 Backstage
 - 67 Very long time
- DOWN
- 1 Rode the rapids, maybe
 - 2 The Lion in Winter actor
 - 3 Tuesdays with ___ (Album book)
 - 4 CPR pros
 - 5 That lady
 - 6 Rug rat
 - 7 Poet from ancient 1 Across
 - 8 Internet fads
 - 9 Infant born early
 - 10 Utopia
 - 11 Traffic trouble
 - 12 Paintball shooter
 - 13 Online expression of disbelief
 - 18 Sweetie
 - 19 Trusts in
 - 24 Bed with bumpers
 - 25 Heaviest inert gas
 - 28 Lord's Prayer starter
 - 29 Chowd down
 - 31 Madame Curie
 - 33 Capital of Vietnam
 - 35 Coins in Cannes
 - 37 Aquarium performer
 - 38 Young fellow
 - 40 Pulpit orator
 - 41 Came to
 - 42 Nova network
 - 43 Certain lodge member
 - 46 Where the Wild Things Are author
 - 49 Duplicated
 - 50 Climb up
 - 51 Rumples, as hair
 - 54 Volatile liquid
 - 56 The Bachelor ailer
 - 59 Roster
 - 60 "Pet" that holds a plant
 - 62 Kid's building block
 - 63 Nocturnal flier
 - 64 Self-importance
 - 65 Night school subj.
 - 66 Aegean, for instance



Answer to previous puzzle

COOKS	SOBS	CASH
PUNNY	TREE	UCLA
ACTOR	ANET	THAT
SHOWING	GOFF	TOINE
NNE	TRESHOTS	
EMS	GEM	DEER
TAPPED	ON	CODED
CZAR	YOYOS	AREA
HERON	CONSTANT	
TART	FILE	BYE
SLEEPERS	FAT	
TALK	OUT	FAVOR
EDIT	PEAR	OMEGA
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Suspended Cruz headed home to Dominican Republic

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — Suspended Rangers slugger Nelson Cruz is heading home Wednesday to the Dominican Republic, where he will work out before returning to Texas later this month.

General manager Jon Daniels said Cruz will spend about 12 days in the Dominican, where the All-Star right fielder has a home gym and the team has a complex he will visit.

Cruz was suspended for the final 50 games of the regular season in Major League Baseball's investigation into a Florida clinic accused of distributing banned performance-enhancing drugs. He was one of 13 MLB players disciplined last week.

Daniels said Tuesday that there has been no decision made about Cruz playing in the postseason if the AL West-leading Rangers make the playoffs for the fourth season in a row.

"Our goal right now is just to, as it always is, keep all of our options open," Daniels said. "So we want to do what we can to keep him in as good as shape as possible, and as

good of baseball shape as possible. First of all, we've got to get there."

Cruz, the 2011 AL championship series MVP who is eligible for free agency after this season, still leads the Rangers with 27 home runs and 76 RBIs more than a week after playing his last game.

Daniels said many different factors would determine if Cruz would be an option for the Rangers if they make the playoffs.

"What kind of shape he's in, how's the team playing, how's the team gelling, how our other guys are performing," Daniels said. "Those are the things we'll have to consider. We're not there yet."

Since all of the team's minor league clubs will be done playing by the end of September, the only real option to simulate any sort of real game experience for Cruz then will probably be the instructional league.

The Rangers last week acquired Alex Rios, working out a deal

See **CRUZ**, Page 14

RANGERS

Continued from Page 7

"I don't think we were out of sorts. I think you've got to give Estrada credit," Washington said. "He kept us off-balance. We had some chances against him to make a difference, but we didn't, and then his bullpen came in and did the rest."

Jim Henderson, the fourth Brewers reliever, came on to retire Ian Kinsler on an inning-ending soft liner with the bases loaded in the eighth. The right-hander also worked the ninth for his 17th save in 20 chances.

Texas had loaded the bases in the eighth on a pair of pinch-hit singles — a bunt by Craig Gentry and a single by Jeff

Baker — before Leonys Martin's infield dribbler that got past reliever Michael Gonzalez for another infield hit.

Mitch Moreland homered leading off the third, his 17th, for the only Texas run.

Ogando had allowed only three homers in his previous eight starts going back to the beginning of May.

"I think overall my command on my pitches was working a lot better," Ogando said through an interpreter. "But I left some out there and they took advantage of them."

The Brewers added a run in the eighth when Jean Segura scored after getting caught in a rundown between third and home.

Segura singled, stole second and went to third on a wild pitch be-

fore his unusual score, which came after a pitch way outside when Jeff Bianchi first showed bunt before pulling his bat back.

Pierzynski threw to third baseman Adrian Beltre to get the runner in a jam. There were three more relay throws, with Pierzynski throwing wide on the inside of third base.

By the time the catcher got the relay from Beltre, Segura was going around him and avoided a sweeping tag to score for a 5-1 lead.

The Rangers official scorer conferred with Elias about the play before crediting a double steal, with Segura going home and Jonathan Lucroy going to second on the play.

"I just got rid of the ball too early," Pierzynski said.



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Manny Ramirez released from minor league deal by Rangers

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — Manny Ramirez is a free agent again after the Texas Rangers released him from his minor league contract.

The Rangers released Ramirez on Tuesday, just more than five weeks after he started playing for Triple-A Round Rock.

"Based on our evaluation, there was not a spot for Manny on the club at this time," Rangers general Jon Daniels said. "We released him so he could pursue other opportunities if

he so chooses."

The 41-year-old Ramirez hit .259 with three home runs and 13 RBIs in 30 games for Triple-A Round Rock. All of his homers came in the first eight games.

Ramirez never played for the AL West leaders, even after All-Star slugger Nelson Cruz was suspended last week by Major League Baseball for the final 50 games of the season.

They have since acquired right fielder Alex Rios from the Chicago

White Sox.

A 12-time All-Star, Ramirez is a .312 career hitter and is 14th on the career home runs list with 555. He started out this season playing in Taiwan, where he hit .352 with eight homers and 43 RBIs.

Ramirez was suspended for 50 games in 2009 while with the Los Angeles Dodgers after testing positive for a banned drug.

He retired in April 2011 instead of serving a 100-game ban for a second

positive test while with Tampa Bay, but later agreed to a reduced 50-game suspension and played in the minors for Oakland in 2012. He won two World Series with Boston.

Ramirez hit 17 homers in the final 53 games of 2008 after being traded from Boston to Los Angeles, but he has just 28 since then because of injuries and the suspensions. He was 1 for 17 without a homer with Tampa when the second drug suspension hit two years ago.

Despite added safety measures, stadium falls still occurring

(AP) — Larry Bowman stood at the Turner Field railing where a fan had fallen to his death one night earlier, wondering how it could have happened.

"Look how high it is," Bowman said Tuesday, placing his hand on the bar atop the 42-inch railing. "It's almost chest high. You would have to

... well, I don't know."

No matter how many safety measures are in place at stadiums and arenas, experts say there's no way to totally prevent falls like the one that killed a Braves fan at a game in Atlanta. Ronald Lee Homer Jr. fell 85 feet to his death Monday night after tumbling over the

fourth-level railing.

"It's sad to say someone could lose their life and not yield some lesson for the rest of us, but this one is pretty close based on the initial reports," said Steve Adelman, an attorney who is considered an authority on venue safety and security. "It's just a tragedy."

Homer's death was the third at an Atlanta stadium in the past year. Since 2003, there have been more than two dozen cases of fans falling at stadiums across the United States, according to the Institute for the Study of Sports Incidents.

But that doesn't mean the stadiums are unsafe, said Alana Penza, director of the institute, which is part of the National Center for Spectator Sports Safety and Security, based at the University of Southern Mississippi.

"The reality is, you have to think about how many of these incidents actually happen at a venue. Not that many," Penza said. "They're devastating when they do happen, but they're not a lot. You do the best to keep yourself safe, but you can't always forecast what's going to happen."

Though teams and municipalities can build stadiums in the design of their choosing, all

must meet strict safety guidelines. The International Building Code is the industry standard, adopted in all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

It calls for railings in front of seats to be a minimum of 26 inches. Protective railings in open-sided areas, such as concourses on the outer edges of stadiums, have a minimum height requirement of 42 inches.

An Associated Press reporter on Tuesday measured the guardrail of the smoking platform where Homer stood before he fell, and it was 42 inches. That would reach the top of the stomach on a 6-foot man. Homer was 6-6.

Most fans surveyed at ballparks around the country Tuesday said they felt safe, even in the aftermath of Homer's death.

"I don't really know how much more they can do," said Brandon Moskowitz, who was at a game at Wrigley Field

with his father.

Indeed, safety can't be guaranteed even when ballparks go beyond the minimum requirements.

At Rangers Ballpark in Arlington, Texas, the guardrails in front of the left-field seats were 34 inches, well above local and international building requirements. Yet that didn't prevent firefighter Shannon Stone's fatal fall in July 2011, when he reached out to catch a ball tossed his way by then-Texas outfielder Josh Hamilton. Stone's accident was witnessed by his 6-year-old son.

After Stone's fall, the Rangers raised all front-row railings that were above field level to at least 42 inches, with some being raised by more than a foot.

The new raised railings in the \$1.1 million project included beveled tops and leaned slightly inward, making it safer for fans in front-row seats throughout the stadium.

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CRUZ

Continued from Page 13 with the Chicago White Sox after first putting in a waiver claim on the right fielder.

On the day MLB announced the suspensions, Cruz apologized to his teammates in the clubhouse before a game at the Los Angeles Angels.

Cruz hasn't spoken publicly since then, but said in a statement that a gastrointestinal infection he had from November 2011 through January 2012 wasn't properly

diagnosed.

He said he lost 40 pounds before getting proper treatment and just weeks before spring training in 2012 "made an error in judgment that I deeply regret."

He provided no other specifics, including what he might have taken.

Daniels said he spoke with Cruz on Tuesday, but that the only subject of their conversation was about the upcoming plan.

Cruz has been in touch with the Rangers conditioning staff. Daniels said they will determine the next steps.



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