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# BIG SPRING HERALD

**WEDNESDAY**

**AUGUST 21, 2013**



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VOLUME 108, NUMBER 264

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50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 SUNDAY

## Board holds off naming interim super

By **STEVE REAGAN**  
 Staff Writer

Big Spring Independent School District trustees decided they're in no rush to name an interim superintendent. After interviewing four candidates to temporarily replace departed Superintendent Steven Saldivar during a special meeting Tuesday evening, BSISD trustees announced they would put off hiring someone until later this month.

Saldivar, who has headed BSISD since 2008, announced his resignation earlier this month. He will become superintendent at Anthony ISD in far West Texas effective today.

After interviewing the candidates for the interim position Tuesday, trustees said

they wanted to take some time before making a final decision.

"Due to the difficult nature of this decision and the fact the board needs to give more consideration to the matter, we've decided to postpone hiring an interim superintendent until our next meeting (Aug. 29)," Board President Irene Rodriguez said.

Rodriguez would not reveal the names of the people interviewed Tuesday, other than to say they were all retired school superintendents.

The Aug. 29 meeting will be held at the high school board room. No meeting time has been announced yet.

Contact Staff Writer Steve Reagan at 263-7331 ext. 235 or by e-mail at [reporter@big-springherald.com](mailto:reporter@big-springherald.com)



HERALD Photo/Andrea Medlin

The walls are going up on the corner of Westover and FM 700 that will soon be the new home of Leonard's Clinic Pharmacy. Pictured from left to right are Victor Del Rosario, Gustavo Del Rosario and Edgar Trinidad.

## Salvation Army to host 'Back to School' event

Slated Saturday from 8 a.m. until noon

Special to the Herald

With less than a week to go before the start of school, the Salvation Army is doing its part to make sure students in Big Spring are prepared for their big first day of class.

On Saturday, the The Salvation Army will host a community "Back to School" event at the Salvation Army Boys & Girls Club at 811 W. 5th St.

The event will run from 8 a.m. to noon and will include a school supply distri-



Lt. Romack

but ion for young people with backpacks, binders, pens, pencils and other essential materials. The Salvation Army will also provide every child with a voucher for a

free hair-cut. During the event parents will have the opportunity to sing up their children for the Boys & Girls Club after school program.

"We are excited about the back to school event this Saturday," said Lt. Jeremiah Ro-

mack, commanding officer of the Salvation Army in Big Spring. "Everyone is invited to attend and we hope that our Boys & Girls Club will be filled with young people and their parents. We will be serving refreshments and will have bounce houses and other activities for the children to enjoy."

In order to receive school supplies parents will need to bring the child's Social Security, proof of residency (utility bill or lease

See **SALLY**, Page 3

## CISD instructors will get pay hike

By **STEVE REAGAN**  
 Staff Writer

COAHOMA — School teachers here will see a raise in salary and help with rising insurance costs under a new budget formally adopted by trustees Tuesday night.

Under the new budget, all teachers will receive a raise, but the biggest boost will be handed out to first-year teachers, who will see their salaries increase by \$1,000 to \$35,670, Superintendent Amy Jacobs said.

"We did a state-wide salary study and what we found was that certain groups of teachers were paid significantly above the norm from others," Jacobs said. "We've been trying to align our salaries with other districts in this area and, to do that, we decided we had to increase our entry level salaries."

Other teachers will receive raises as well, based on their years of experience, she added.

With the state of Texas reducing its contribution to teacher insurance costs, Coahoma trustees decided to pick up at least part of the slack by adopting a one-time \$1,000 stipend which will be paid to teachers this year, Jacobs said.

"This is something which will be re-evaluated every year," she said. "Hopefully, we'll be able to continue help-

See **CISD**, Page 3

## Gasoline prices rise

Special to the Herald

Average retail gasoline prices in Texas have risen 1.2 cents per gallon in the past week, averaging \$3.41/g Sunday, according to GasBuddy's daily survey of 13,114 gas outlets in Texas.

This compares with the national average that has fallen 0.4 cents per gallon in the last week to \$3.57/g, according to gasoline price website GasBuddy.com.

Including the change in gas prices in Texas during the past week, prices Sunday were 2.6 cents per gallon lower than the same day one year ago and are 13.1 cents per gallon lower than a month ago. The national average has decreased 10.8 cents per gallon during the last month and stands 13.0 cents per gallon lower than this day one year ago.

"Americans are now shelling out \$50 million less per day than they were last year when pump prices averaged 13-cents more per gallon," said GasBuddy.com Senior Petroleum Analyst Patrick DeHaan.

"Most states are seeing their average below last year, and as summer slowly fades, gasoline prices may as well in many communities. Cooler weather typically brings

## Water use will be curtailed starting tonight

Big Spring residents are reminded that water restrictions begin tonight for a 36-hour period.

The restrictions are necessary as the city performs upgrades to the water treatment plant.

Outside watering, washing vehicles, filling of swimming pools, flushing water lines, wetting ground for construction or any other non-essential use of water is prohibited beginning at 9 p.m.

Treatment plant operations are expected to resume at 9 a.m. Friday.

If you have questions, contact the city public works department at 264-2501.

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## Obituaries

### Tashanna Forman

Tashanna Forman, 40, of Big Spring died Saturday, Aug. 17, 2013. Visitation will be from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. Thursday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Funeral service will be 1 p.m. Friday at Mount Bethel Baptist Church.

She was born March 4, 1973, to Bertie and Clarence Forman in Big Spring. Except for a few years in Oklahoma, she was a lifetime resident of Big Spring. She attended Howard College and Murray State University in Oklahoma. Tashanna was employed by West Texas Dialysis as a patient care technician. She was a member of New Life Church, where she served as youth director.

She is survived by one son, Xavian Young of Big Spring; two daughters, Arelle Young and Tashalla Young, both of Big Spring; a step-daughter, Mia Daniels of Midland; her mother, Bertie Hawkins and husband Freddie of Big Spring; her father; Clarence Forman of Big Spring; a sister, Marlo Bailey and husband Douglas E. Bailey Jr. of Big Spring; three brothers, Colbie Ford of Big Spring, Chauncey Ford and wife Deana of Big Spring and Joey Harris of Dallas; her grandmother, Elmira Forman of Big Spring; and three grandchildren.

Arrangements are made by Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Please pay your respects online at [www.myersandsmith.com](http://www.myersandsmith.com)

## Police/Sheriff

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

- JUAN LARA, 19, of 1406 East 6<sup>th</sup> Street, was arrested Tuesday on charges of delivery of a controlled substance greater than or equal to 1 gram but less than 4 grams, failure to appear – nine counts, driving without being secured by safety belt, in park after hours, no driver's license – two counts, speeding, failure to maintain financial responsibility and expired motor vehicle inspection certificate.
- RICKY SILVA JR., 33, of 2609 23<sup>rd</sup> Street, Snyder, Texas, was arrested Tuesday on a warrant from another agency.
- BENJAMIN SAMUEL AGUERO, 18, of 1203 Madison, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of theft greater than or equal to \$50 but less than \$500 shoplifting, failure to maintain financial responsibility and operating an unregistered motor vehicle.
- JOHN ANTHONY PANTOJA, 22, of 1606 Kentucky Way, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of driving while license suspended/invalid – previous conviction.
- MISTY DAWN CLAYTON, 32, of 117 West First Street, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of possession of three controlled substances - less than 28 grams.
- GUSTABO ALFREDO RIOS, 32, of 610 George, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of driving while intoxicated with BAC greater than or equal to 0.15 MA.
- ASSAULT reported at the 2600 block of Hunter and the 3600 block of West Highway 80.
- CRIMINAL MISCHIEF reported at the 1000 block of Birdwell.
- MINOR ACCIDENT reported at North 87/ West TA Truck Stop, FM 700 and Gregg and the 4000 block of Vicky.
- BURGLARY OF A HABITATION reported at the 3600 block of West Highway 80 – two incidents.
- THEFT was reported at the 1600 block of Young, the 1300 block of East Fourth Street and the 2000 block of South Gregg – two incidents.
- DISTURBANCE was reported at the 2100 block of Grace.

• STOLEN VEHICLE was reported at the 600 block of Caylor.

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

- Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 87 inmates at the time of this report.
- MISTY D. CLAYTON was booked by the HCSO for sentencing on a charge of possession of controlled substances less than 28 grams.
- GUSTABO ALFREDO RIOS was booked by the HCSO on a charge of driving while intoxicated BAC greater than or equal to 0.15 – sentenced.
- JUAN NIKOLE LARA was booked by the BSPD on charges of failure to appear – 9 counts, no seat belt – driver, in park after hours, failure to control speed, failure to maintain financial responsibility, failure to display or expired motor vehicle inspection.
- ERNESTO RODRIGUEZ, 17, was booked by the BSPD on a charge of failure to attend school.
- KENNETH LABRON MACLIN SR., 56, was booked by DPS on a charge of failure to comply with sex offender registration life/annually.
- BENJAMIN SAMUEL AGUERO was booked by BSPD on a charge of theft of property greater than or equal to \$500 but less than \$1,500, capias/failure to maintain financial responsibility and capias/operate unregistered motor vehicle.
- RICKY SILVA JR., 34, was booked by the BSPD on a charge of assault – family violence.
- CHAD EARNEST WARD, 22, was booked by the Sterling County Sheriff's Department on charges of possession of marijuana less than 2 ounces and money laundering greater than or equal to \$20,000 but less than \$100,000.
- JOHN ANTHONY PANTOJA, 22, was booked by the BSPD on a charge of driving while license invalid with previous conviction.
- CHRISTIAN ROBERT CRADER, 20, was booked by the SCSO on charges of possession of marijuana less than 2 ounces, possession of a controlled substance 3 less than 28 grams and money laundering greater than or equal to \$20,000 but less than \$100,000.

## Support Groups

### THURSDAY

• Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, open discussion noon to 1 p.m.; women's meeting; 6:30 until 7:30 p.m. Non-smoking closed discussion meeting, 8 p.m. until 9 p.m.

• Spring Tabernacle Ministries has a faith-based support group for those who need help finding and continuing to walk down the path God has for each of us. Meetings are at 11 a.m. until noon and again at 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.. The classes take place at Spring Tabernacle Ministries, located at 1209 Wright St.

• Weight Watchers meets at 6 p.m. at St. Paul Lutheran Church. Weigh-in is at 5:30 p.m. Weigh-in is confidential and you don't have to talk if you don't want to. Flexible payment options.

• Circle of Hope, a Celebrate Recovery group, meets at 6:30-8 p.m. at Spring Creek Fellowship, located in the College Park Shopping Center. Celebrate Recovery is a Christ-centered recovery program dealing with life's hang-ups, hurts and habits, covering many areas. Circle of Hope group is a ministry of Spring Creek Fellowship. For further information, contact Dale at 432-270-8462.

• Overcomer's: Recovery & Restoration (R&R), a Christ-centered recovery program is held at Cornerstone Covenant Church from 6:30-8:00 p.m. in the "Green Room" of the East Wing. For more convenient access to the meeting room, park in the back of the church and enter through the metal door across from the fellowship hall. If you need more information, contact the church secretary at 432-264-0015.

• Visual Awareness Support Group (VASG) is open to the public but specifically aimed for people who suffer from vision problems and their caregiv-

ers. For more information, call 263-2501.

• Stepping Stone Group of Narcotics Anonymous meets at Baptist Temple Church Fellowship Hall, 400 E. 11<sup>th</sup> Place. Open meeting at 7 p.m.

### FRIDAY

• AA open discussion meeting from noon until 1 p.m. at 605 Settles. Open Big Book study meeting, 8 p.m. until 9 p.m.

### SATURDAY

• Alcoholics Anonymous open discussion meeting, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m. Open podium/speakers meeting 8 p.m. until 9 p.m. Open birthday night, no smoking meeting the last Saturday of each month at 8 p.m. Covered dish supper at 7 p.m.

### SUNDAY

• Alcoholics Anonymous closed meeting from 11 a.m. to noon at 615 Settles. Open meeting 7 p.m. until 8 p.m.

### MONDAY

• Alcoholics Anonymous open discussion meeting, noon-1 p.m., 615 Settles.

• PEP — Parent Education Program for CPS participating and non-participating parents, single parent, grandparents, adoptive or fostering parents. Every first and fourth Monday of the month from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at Northside Community Center. Classes are free. For information, call 263-2673.

• Take Pounds Off Sensibly (TOPS) TX 0021 meets at First Christian Church at 10th and Goliad, in the dining hall on the east side of the building. Weigh-in starts at 5 p.m. and meeting starts at 5:30 p.m. For more information, please call 517-4922 or 935-6306.

### Janice Wilson

Janice Wilson, 58, of Big Spring died Tuesday Aug. 20, 2013 at her residence. Her services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

## Today's Weather

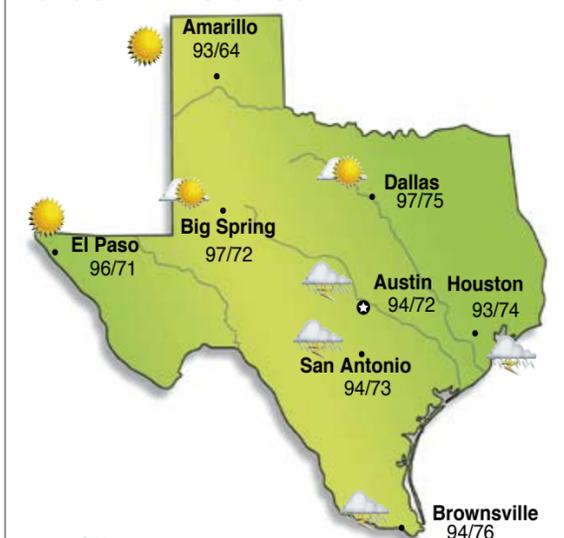
### Local 3-Day Forecast

Thu 8/22	Fri 8/23	Sat 8/24
		
<b>97/72</b> Generally sunny. High 97F. Winds SSE at 10 to 20 mph.	<b>94/72</b> A few clouds. Highs in the mid 90s and lows in the low 70s.	<b>90/72</b> Partly cloudy. Highs in the low 90s and lows in the low 70s.
<b>Sunrise:</b> 7:14 AM <b>Sunset:</b> 8:23 PM	<b>Sunrise:</b> 7:15 AM <b>Sunset:</b> 8:22 PM	<b>Sunrise:</b> 7:16 AM <b>Sunset:</b> 8:21 PM

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## Texas At A Glance



### Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Abilene	94	74	mst sunny	Kingsville	95	75	t-storm
Amarillo	93	64	sunny	Livingston	95	71	t-storm
Austin	94	72	t-storm	Longview	95	73	pt sunny
Beaumont	93	73	t-storm	Lubbock	92	66	sunny
Brownsville	94	76	t-storm	Lufkin	95	71	t-storm
Brownwood	96	73	mst sunny	Midland	96	72	sunny
Corpus Christi	93	77	t-storm	Raymondville	95	75	t-storm
Corsicana	96	73	mst sunny	Rosenberg	93	73	t-storm
Dallas	97	75	mst sunny	San Antonio	94	73	t-storm
Del Rio	96	77	pt sunny	San Marcos	95	72	t-storm
El Paso	96	71	sunny	Sulphur Springs	96	73	sunny
Fort Stockton	92	69	mst sunny	Sweetwater	94	71	mst sunny
Gainesville	96	72	mst sunny	Tyler	96	74	pt sunny
Greenville	96	72	mst sunny	Weatherford	96	73	mst sunny
Houston	93	74	t-storm	Wichita Falls	96	71	sunny

### National Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Atlanta	82	69	t-storm	Minneapolis	89	62	t-storm
Boston	91	67	sunny	New York	90	73	mst sunny
Chicago	90	71	mst sunny	Phoenix	105	84	pt sunny
Dallas	97	75	mst sunny	San Francisco	64	56	pt sunny
Denver	87	61	t-storm	Seattle	79	57	sunny
Houston	93	74	t-storm	St. Louis	91	73	sunny
Los Angeles	82	63	pt sunny	Washington, DC	91	74	t-storm
Miami	87	80	t-storm				

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Courtesy photo/Amanda Duforat

Larry Rodgers presents a bonus check to Duane Shackelford, program director for the Salvation Army Boys and Girls Club, during the annual kick off event held Saturday night at the Big Spring Country Club. During the event, Rodgers also announced the 2014 campaign goal of \$330,000.

Head to jail before Labor Day

ODESSA — Head to jail before Labor Day will be held at 9 a.m. Aug. 26 at the University of Texas at Permian Basin courtyard, 4901 E. University Blvd. in Odessa.

Event Details:

Put on an orange jumpsuit and step inside jail to get your mug shot taken. Of course, this is simulated jail. Texas Department of Transportation is bringing its "Drink. Drive. Go to Jail." mobile jail cell to campus.

Write on the traveling story wall about why you'd never drink and drive.

Test your knowledge about the costs of a DWI with our "warden."

Enter to win an iPad and iTunes gift card.

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

Take note

• A "meet and greet" with light refreshments will be held for Democratic candidate Neal Marchbanks Wednesday, Aug. 28, from 4 to 6 p.m. in the Cosden Room of the Hotel Settles. Marchbanks is running for the U.S. House of Representatives seat from the 19th District, currently held by Republican Randy Neugebauer.

• The Chalet is accepting donations of magazines. They should be brought to the Community Relations office. For more information, call Jamey Stegall at 268-7535 or james.stegall@dshs.state.tx.us

• 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.

• Howard College Foundation Speaker Series and Scenic Mountain Medical Center's Healthy Woman program present "The Love Chromosome" featuring Derrick Tennant as the Fall Speaker Series on Sept. 5 at 7 p.m. in the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum. Tickets are free, but a ticket is required for admittance. Tennant is a motivational speaker

and comedian. He will be speaking about the challenges in his own life and how people can turn their own obstacles into building blocks instead of road blocks. For more information or to reserve a free ticket, call 432-268-4699 or Jan Foresyth at 432-264-5051.

• 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.

• Mitchell County Senior Citizen Dance, Colorado City Civic Center, 157 East 2nd Street, Colorado City, Texas, the fourth Thursday of each month from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m., \$5 per person. Bring snacks to share.

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

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

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

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

• You don't have to be a senior citizen to enjoy country-western dancing.

The Big Spring Senior Center hosts a dance every Friday from 7:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. A different band will be featured every night. Dancing is a fun way to exercise, so come enjoy the fun and meet new friends. Cost is \$8 per person. For more information, call 267-1628.

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

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

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

• The Salvation Army is holding its annual fan drive and is in need of

fans. Community members can donate new or used fans. Monetary donations are also welcomed. Donations can be made at the main office, located at 811 W. Fifth St., Monday through Friday between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.

• The mission of CASA of West Texas is to promote and support quality volunteers who speak for the best interest of abused and neglected children in court in an effort to find each child a safe, nurturing and permanent home. We need your help. If you're interested in volunteering, please contact Sara Basaldua at 1-877-316-8346 or visit www.BecomeaCASA.org or www.casawtx.org.

• Legal Aid of Northwest Texas is accepting appointments from 2 p.m. until 5 p.m. the first and third Wednesday of each month. Individuals seeking legal advice for matters concerning family law, divorce, custody and child support issues, social security cases, employment and housing may contact the office to schedule an appointment. Criminal cases are not accepted. Anyone recently served with legal documents should call the office immediately at 800-926-

5630 or 432-686-0647.

• Road to Recovery, sponsored by the American Cancer Society, seeks volunteers to drive cancer patients to treatment in Midland. This requires just a few hours commitment each month. To volunteer, or to request a ride for treatment, call (877) 277-1618, the High Plains American Cancer Group Report Center.

• New Life Ministries Church of God In Christ holds a soup kitchen every second and fourth Tuesday from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at 204 N.W. 10th. The meal is free. Call 264-0771 for info.

CISD

Continued from Page 1

ing out our teachers in this area."

Despite a decrease for more than \$64 million in taxable values, the

district's tax rate will remain unchanged under the new budget. The total rate will be \$1.27 per \$100 valuation, with \$1.04 dedicated to maintenance and operations and 23 cents earmarked for debt service.

Total expenditures will be almost \$9 million.

An unfortunate feature of the new budget will be a built-in shortfall.

"We'll be going with a deficit of about \$128,000,"

Jacobs said. "This is very similar to where we've been the past couple of years."

Contact Steve Reagan at 263-7331 ext. 235 or by e-mail at reporter@big-springherald.com

SALLY

Continued from Page 1

agreement) and proof of household income.

Alon USA's Big Spring Refinery has partnered with The Salvation Army on the school supply drive. Alon was responsible for putting together a special fundraiser where officials dropped the price of gasoline at three of their gas stations last Saturday and prompted shoppers to make a donation to The Salvation Army back to school campaign. "We are delighted that Alon have come alongside The Salvation Army to support our

back to school event," said Romack. "They are a big part of our community and we are excited about the opportunity to work with Alon."

The Salvation Army staff is busy this week putting the final preparations in place for the Boys & Girls Club after school program, which will begin next week.

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The daily program provides affordable and structured after school care and includes tutoring, homework assistance, sports activities and music and arts.

For more information or to register your children at The Salvation Army Boys & Girls Club, or to make a donation, call 432-816-3872 or stop by the office.

**Robbins Sewing Box**  
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**sudoku**  
ANSWERS  
1 3 6 8 4 5 7 2 9  
4 2 9 7 6 1 8 5 3  
8 5 7 3 9 2 1 6 4  
5 9 8 6 1 3 4 7 2  
3 4 1 2 7 8 5 9 6  
7 6 2 9 5 4 3 1 8  
6 8 3 1 2 7 9 4 5  
2 7 4 5 3 9 6 8 1  
9 1 5 4 8 6 2 3 7

**MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL**  
24th & Johnson 267-8288  
Tashanna Forman, 40, died Saturday. Visitation will be 7 p.m. Thursday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Funeral services will be 1 p.m. Saturday at Mount Bethel Baptist Church.  
Reginald Vanderbilt, 30, died Saturday. Visitation will be 7 p.m. Friday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Funeral services will be 11 a.m. Saturday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Burial will be at Mount Olive Memorial Park.  
Janice Wilson, 58, died Tuesday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

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# Opinion

Your tax dollars at work

## Japanese quail on cocaine?

*“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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Regardless of your political affiliation, if you have any respect for financial integrity you have to be outraged at the immeasurable level of fiscal insanity that is prevailing in Washington. If you want to get paid for doing something stupid, just turn to the U.S. government.

The U.S. government is paying researchers to play video games, it is paying researchers to study the effects of cocaine on Japanese quail and it has spent millions of dollars on some of the most ridiculous and foolish projects the human mind can imagine. The amount of money that the government wastes is absolutely stupefying.

Lest you think I am too harsh on our dearly beloved elected officials, are you seriously happy that they spent 2.6 million of our tax dollars to train Chinese prostitutes to drink responsibly? Why did the U.S. government spend \$175,587 “to determine if cocaine makes Japanese quail engage in sexually risky behavior?” Why did the U.S. government spend nearly a \$1 million on a new soccer field for detainees being held at Guantanamo Bay?

When I saw that the IRS was about to pay out \$70 million in bonuses to its employees and that the U.S. government was going to be leaving \$7 billion worth of military equipment behind in Afghanistan, it inspired me to reflect on all of the other crazy ways that the government has been wasting our money in recent years.

The National Institute of Health has given \$1.5 million to Brigham and Women’s Hospital in Boston, Massachusetts to study why “three-quarters” of lesbians in the United States are overweight and why most gay males are not.

The U.S. government is giving 16 F-16s and 200 Abrams tanks to the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt even though the new president of Egypt, Mohammed Morsi (a member of the Muslim Brotherhood), constantly makes statements such as the following: “Dear brothers, we must not forget to nurse our children and grandchildren on hatred towards those Zionists and Jews, and all those who support

them.”

Amazingly, U.S. taxpayers spend more than \$1.4 billion a year on the Obamas. Meanwhile, British taxpayers only spend about \$58 million on the entire royal family.

Overall, 139 different White House staffers were making at least \$100,000 during 2012, and there were 20 staffers that made the maximum of \$172,200.

The U.S. government spent \$505,000 “to promote specialty hair and beauty products for cats and dogs” in 2012. That same year, the federal government spent \$15 million to help the Russians recruit nuclear scientists. Over the past 15 years, a total of approximately \$5.25 million has been spent on hair care services for the U.S. Senate.

The U.S. government spent \$27 million to teach Moroccans how to design and make pottery in 2012. At a time when we have an epidemic of unemployment in the United States, the U.S. Department of Education is spending \$1.3 million to “reduce linguistic, academic, and employment barriers for skilled and low-skilled immigrants and refugees, and to integrate them into the U.S. workforce and professions.”

During fiscal 2012, the National Science Foundation gave researchers at Purdue University \$350,000. They used part of that money to help fund a study that discovered that if golfers imagine that a hole is bigger it will help them with their putting.

Federal agencies have purchased a total of approximately 2 billion rounds of ammunition over the past couple of years. It is claimed that all of this ammunition is needed for “training purposes.”

During 2012, the National Science Foundation spent \$516,000 on the creation of a video game called “Prom Week” which apparently simulates “all the social interactions of the event.” If you can believe it, \$10,000 of U.S. taxpayer money was actually used to purchase talking urinal cakes up in Michigan.

When Joe Biden and his staff took a trip to London, the hotel bill cost U.S. taxpayers \$459,388.65. Biden and his staff also stopped in Paris for one night. The hotel bill for that one night came to \$585,000.50.

I’m not making this up. This is all documented factual informa-

tion. And you’re only getting a small glimpse into the window of willful and woeful waste that exists.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has spent \$300,000 to encourage Americans to eat caviar and the National Institutes of Health recently gave \$666,905 to a group of researchers who are conducting a study on the benefits of watching reruns on television.

The National Science Foundation has given \$1.2 million to a team of “scientists” who are spending part of that money on a study seeking to determine whether elderly Americans would benefit from playing World of Warcraft or not. The National Institutes of Health recently gave \$548,731 to a team of researchers that concluded that those that drink heavily in their 30s also tend to feel more immature. You think?

The Obama administration has plans to spend between \$16 and \$20 million to help students from Indonesia get master’s degrees. The National Science Foundation spent \$198,000 on a University of California-Riverside study that explored “motivations, expectations and goal pursuit in social media.” One of the questions the study sought an answer to was the following: “Do unhappy people spend more time on Twitter or Facebook?” In 2011, \$147,138 was given to the American Museum of Magic in Marshall, Michigan. I’m thinking their best magic trick is making U.S. taxpayer dollars disappear.

I’m sure some will express outrage at my exposing this kind of information, although it is readily accessible in public records for anyone to read. Maybe you don’t really care what happens to your tax dollars, but I do. And, frankly, I’m just a tad aggravated because the few items I have highlighted are a mere token listing of the ridiculous decisions those supposed intelligent people in government agencies make every day. Unbelievable.

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.*

### HOW TO CONTACT US

The Herald is always interested in our readers’ opinions.

In order that we might better serve your needs, we offer several ways in which you may contact us:

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

### LETTER POLICIES

The Herald welcomes letters to the editor.

- Sign your letter.
- Provide a daytime telephone number, as well as a street address for verification purposes.
- We reserve the right to edit for style and clarity.

- We reserve the right to limit publication to one letter per 30-day period per author.
- Letters that are unsigned or do not include a telephone number or address will not be considered.
- Letters should be e-mailed to [editor@bigspringherald.com](mailto:editor@bigspringherald.com) or mailed to Editor, Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721.

### DAILY PRAYER

May we move past those who try to hurt us, dear Lord.

Amen

## Lawmaker regulate thyself

“Washington is an island surrounded by reality,” Sen.

Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, likes to say.

In an effort to inject some reality into the Beltway, Grassley introduced an amendment to the Affordable Care Act to require that members of Congress and their staff get their health care from the new Obamacare exchanges. “Congress should live under the laws it creates. That includes Obamacare,” Grassley explained.

Enter Washington reality: The rules don’t apply to the governing class.

Congress eventually passed the Grassley amendment, and it was included in the bill President Barack Obama signed, but that doesn’t mean Washington insiders can’t get around it.

There are two things for the political class not to like in the Grassley amendment.

To start, the 11,000 or so members and Capitol Hill staffers now enjoy Cadillac coverage as participants in the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program. The Grassley provision is supposed to make that go away and force those individuals to buy their own coverage through the less prestigious Obamacare health insurance exchanges.

But also, the government —

read: taxpayers — picks up more than 70 percent of the premiums. There was no language in the final Grassley provision to continue the federal subsidy.

Supporters have been able to sell Obamacare coverage as affordable because the government subsidizes premiums for some middle-income workers. Senators and representatives make \$174,000, and their well-compensated staffers can make more than members. Thus, the Grassley amendment represents a pay cut for Hill aides.

House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi predicted the pay cut would cause savvy Capitol Hill staffers to stampede toward the private sector. Politico reported that both Republicans and Democrats were looking for a way around the law to prevent what wags had dubbed the coming Beltway “brain drain.”

After Obama reportedly told Democrats behind closed doors that he would help, the Office of Personnel Management announced a proposed rule to save Congress from its own law.

So the government would continue to pay its employer contribution to premiums.

On the one hand, that seems fair. Who wants to get a pay cut and a second-tier health package? On the other hand, this is another example of Washington’s taking care of its own in order to prop up a health care plan that costs taxpayers money by discouraging employers from hiring full-time workers.

In Congress, members cannot lose, but the public can.

Worse, the Office of Personnel

Management didn’t stop there.

Its new proposed rule also would allow each member of Congress to “determine whether an employed individual meets the statutory definition” of “congressional staff.” The OPM’s rationale was that there is “no existing statutory or regulatory definition of the term ‘official office.’” As if “official office” is an exotic cipher.

What do we pay these people for if they can’t figure out what an official office is?

As a result of that brilliant maneuver, senators and congressmen will be able to exempt their staffers if they so choose. Capitol Hill, it turns out, is one colossal golden-domed exemption.

In pushing his amendment in 2010, Grassley rightly argued: “It’s only fair and logical that administration leaders and congressional staff, who fought so hard to overhaul America’s health care system, experience it for themselves. If the reforms are as good as promised, then they’ll know it firsthand. If there are problems, public officials will be in a position to really understand the problems, as they should.”

But there’s this ugly reality on Obamacare Island: The rules do not apply to the people who make them.

*Email Debra J. Saunders at [dsaunders@schronicle.com](mailto:dsaunders@schronicle.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](http://www.creators.com).*



EDDY PRINCE



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# News in brief

## Land surveyor pleads guilty in guns case

MIDLAND, Texas (AP) — A land surveyor in West Texas has pleaded guilty to possession of unregistered firearms in an investigation of automatic weapons and explosive devices.

A federal judge in Midland on Tuesday accepted the plea agreement from 54-year-old Steven Leonard Prewit. He pleaded guilty to possession of eight unregistered silencers.

The investigation began in March and Prewit was arrested in May. Prosecutors say the Midland man had fully automatic firearms, improvised explosive devices and silencers without required serial numbers. Federal agents who searched Prewit's home and a ranch confiscated a number of weapons.

Several other counts were dropped in the plea deal.

No sentencing date was immediately set. Prewit remains free on bond.

## No defense from suspect in 2009 Fort Hood shooting

FORT HOOD, Texas (AP) — The soldier on trial for the 2009 shooting rampage at Fort Hood rested his case Wednesday without calling any witnesses or testifying in his own defense.

Maj. Nidal Hasan is acting as his own attorney but told the judge that he wouldn't be putting up a defense. About five minutes after proceedings began, the judge asked Hasan how he wanted to proceed. He answered: "The defense rests."

The judge, Col. Tara Osborn, then asked Hasan: "You have the absolute right to remain silent. You do not have to say anything. You have the right to testify if you choose. Understand?"

Hasan answered that he did. When the judge asked if this was his personal decision, he said: "It is."

Hasan is accused of killing 13 people and wounding more than 30 others at the Texas military base in November 2009. He faces the death penalty if convicted.

Yet he has made no attempt during his trial to prove his innocence or challenge the narrative of military prosecutors, who showed evidence of Hasan using his laptop to run Internet searches for "jihad" and find articles about calls to attack Americans in the days and even hours before the shooting.

## 5 Dallas police officers fired amid review

DALLAS (AP) — Five Dallas police officers have been fired and one of them was arrested in an investigation into the death of a man whose bicycle collided with a patrol car.

Chief David Brown on Tuesday dismissed the officers, including Bryan Burgess. Burgess was charged with criminally negligent homicide in the May death of Fred Bradford.

Brown also fired Michael Puckett, who was working with Burgess during the April accident. Investigators say the officers lied and their actions endangered Bradford.

An attorney for Burgess and Puckett denied wrongdoing. Burgess wasn't listed in online jail records Wednesday.

Brown fired two family violence detectives who failed to investigate hundreds of cases. A third officer in the matter resigned.

Brown fired an officer who was arrested in June on suspicion of sexual assault.

## Texas police nab Okla. murder suspect, son OK

LEWISVILLE, Texas (AP) — An Oklahoma man suspected of killing his mother and abducting his 6-year-old son was captured with the unharmed child at a hotel near Dallas Wednesday morning.

Robert Connor III surrendered and his son, Declan (DEK'-lin), was taken into protective custody, said Capt. Jay Powell, a spokesman for Lewisville police.

Police believe Connor, 38, has ties to the Lewisville area, about 20 miles northwest of Dallas, Powell said. The officer did not elaborate.

An Amber Alert issued in Osage County, Okla.,

says Connor is wanted for homicide in Tuesday night's fatal shooting of the child's grandmother. Connor's great aunt, Marilyn Lorenz, said Wednesday that the victim was the child's paternal grandmother.

Investigators did not immediately provide a possible motive for the slaying at a home near Sand Springs, Okla., about 250 miles northeast of Lewisville.

The suspect checked into the hotel overnight with the boy and did not answer calls to the room or to his cellphone. Connor was captured after police used a device to order the suspect to surrender, Powell said.

## Texas businessman in cocaine ring gets 8 years

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas (AP) — A South Texas man has been sentenced to eight years in prison for using his furniture store and trucking company to smuggle drugs to Georgia and South Carolina.

A federal judge in Corpus Christi on Tuesday sentenced Jose Francisco Serna of Mission. He pleaded guilty in November to conspiracy to launder monetary instruments and conspiracy to possess with the intent to distribute cocaine. Serna was arrested last August after being a fugitive in Mexico for several years.

Prosecutors say Serna formerly owned a furniture store in McAllen and used the business to launder money. His trucking company hauled cocaine from Mexico and cash between Mission and the Atlanta area for further drug distribution.

Serna must also pay a \$5,000 fine and forfeit his interest in a South Texas ranch.

## Ex-judge to be sentenced for racketeering

BROWNSVILLE, Texas (AP) — A disgraced former South Texas judge who pleaded guilty to racketeering for turning his courtroom into a money-making operation is to be sentenced.

Ex-state District Judge Abel Limas entered a guilty plea in 2011 and went on to testify in four federal trials of others charged in the wide-ranging enterprise at the courtroom in Brownsville on the Mexico border.

Limas faces a maximum term of 20 years in prison but is expected to get less Wednesday in recognition of his cooperation.

Limas attracted the FBI's attention in late 2007 as he was nearing the end of his second term in office.

Investigators collected some 40,000 phone calls, as well as surveillance photos documenting how Limas had converted his courtroom into a criminal enterprise collecting bribes and kickbacks totaling \$257,000.

## Dallas suburb to appeal housing ruling

FARMERS BRANCH, Texas (AP) — Leaders of a Dallas suburb have voted to appeal a ruling that overturned a ban on renting apartments to immigrants in the country illegally.

The Farmers Branch City Council voted 3-2 late Tuesday night to appeal the ruling by the full 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals to the Supreme Court.

The appeals court on July 22 struck down the ordinance as unconstitutional and an encroachment on federal authority.

The ordinance passed in 2008 would require all renters in the city of nearly 30,000 residents to obtain city licenses. It also would require a city official to deny licenses to anyone found in the U.S. illegally.

Farmers Branch is one of several U.S. cities targeting unlawful immigration by enacting renting restrictions.

## Texas ACT scores rise, now match national average

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Students' average score on the ACT in Texas increased enough to match the national average for the high school graduating class of 2013 — but far fewer youngsters here continue to take the college entrance exam than their

counterparts in other states.

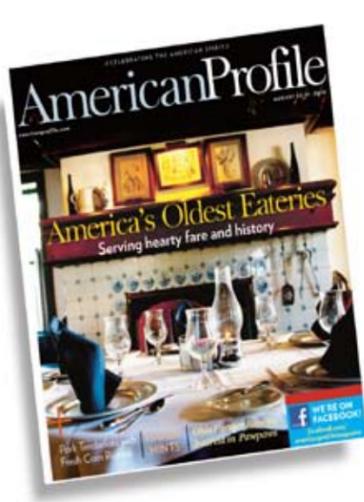
Results being released Wednesday show Texas students had an average composite score of 20.9 out of a possible 36, a tenth of a percentage point higher than the average score of 20.8 from last year and 2011. The 2013 national composite score slipped to 20.9 from 21.1 a year prior.

Only 37 percent of graduating Texas students took the ACT, however, down 2 percentage points from 2012. Nationwide, 54 percent of students graduating high school took the ACT, though that includes nine states where nearly all students take it.

Traditionally the ACT has been a rival college entrance exam to the SAT.

The ACT also provides benchmarks, or the percentage of students earning scores indicating they are ready for college in four key subjects: English, math, reading and science.

**In Sunday's Big Spring Herald**



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# Why not check this out ... at the county library

**"T**he Cuckoo's Calling" (M GAL R) by Robert Galbraith is in. From the book flap: A brilliant mystery in a classic vein: Detective Cormoran Strike investigates a supermodel's suicide. After losing his leg to a land mine in Afghanistan, Cormoran Strike is barely scraping by as a private investigator. Strike is down to one client, and creditors are calling. He has also just broken up with his longtime girlfriend and is living in his office.



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Then John Britow walks through his door with an amazing story: His sister, the legendary supermodel Lula Landry, known to her friends as the Cuckoo, famously fell to her death a few months earlier. The police ruled it a suicide, but John refuses to believe that. The case plunges Strike into the world of multimillionaire beauties, rock-star boyfriends and desperate designers, and it introduces him to every variety of pleasure, enticement, seduction and delusion known to man. You may think you know detectives, but you've never met one quite like Strike. You may think you know about the wealthy and famous, but you've never seen them under an investigation like this. Let me know how you like it; then I will tell you who the real author is.

For people of a "certain age," you will remember the iconic scene in Robert Altman's movie "M.A.S.H." when Hot Lips Houlihan (ahem) was taking a shower and the canvas fell. Sally Kellerman was a favorite actress of Altman's and was one of the stars of that movie. She has written her autobiography (appropriately named) "Read My Lips" (B KEL S) and it is just as bawdy and full of life as she was in "M.A.S.H." Kellerman is a wonderful actress who played thought-provoking characters, experienced highs and lows in her personal life, and has performed and has recorded several records as a jazz singer.

Updated and expanded with new material, Melissa Muller has written a biography: "Anne Frank: The Biography" (B FRA A). From the book flap,

originally published in 1998, the book still stands as the definitive account of the girl who has become "the human face of the Holocaust." For this nuanced portrait of her famous subject, biographer Melissa Muller drew on exclusive interviews with family and friends as well as on previously unavailable correspondence, even discovering five missing diary pages. Full of revelations, Muller's richly textured narrative returned Anne Frank to history, portraying the flesh-and-blood girl as she really was and so all the more affecting. Now, 15 years after the book first appeared, much new information has come to light: letters sent by Otto Frank to relatives in America as he sought to emigrate with his family, the identity of other suspects involved in the betrayal of the Franks, and important details about the family's arrest and subsequent fate. Revised and updated with more than 30 percent new material, this is an indispensable volume for all those who seek a deeper understanding of Anne Frank and the brutal times in which she lived and died.

From another perspective is Sam Pivnik's story: "Survivor: Auschwitz, the Death March, and My Fight for Freedom" (B PIV S). Again, I draw my knowledge from the book flap: In 1939, on his 13th birthday, Pivnik's life changed forever when the Nazis invaded Poland. He survived the two ghettos set up in his hometown of Bedzin and six months on Auschwitz's notorious Rampe Kommando, where prisoners were either taken away for entry to the camp or gassing. After this harrowing experience, he was sent to work at the brutal Furstengrube mining camp. He could have died on the "Death March" that took him west as the Third Reich collapsed and he was one of only a handful of people who swam to safety when the Royal Air Force sank the prison ship Cap Arcona in 1945, mistakenly believing it to be carrying fleeing members of the SS. He eventually made his way to London where he found people too preoccupied with their own wartime experiences on the Home Front to be interested in what had happened to him. Now in his 80s, Sam Pivnik tells for the first time the story of his life, a true tale of survival against the most extraordi-

nary odds.

Many of you will remember the shooting of sniper Chris Kyle in Glen Rose by a fellow soldier he was trying to help. We now have Chris Kyle's book "American Gun: A History of the U.S. in Ten Firearms" (623.442 KYL C). Taken from the book flap, Kyle masterfully shows how guns have played a fascinating, indispensable and often under appreciated role in our national story.

"Perhaps more than any other nation in the world," Kyle writes, "the history of the United States has been shaped by the gun. Firearms secured the first Europeans' hold on the continent, opened the frontier, helped win our independence, settled the West, kept law and order, and defeated tyranny across the world."

Drawing on his unmatched firearms knowledge and combat experience, Kyle carefully chose 10 guns to help tell his story: the American long rifle, Spencer repeater, Colt .45 revolver, Winchester rifle, Springfield 1903 rifle, Thompson sub-machine gun, 1911 pistol, M1 Garand, .38 Special police revolver, and the M-16 rifle platform Kyle himself used as a SEAL. Through them, he revisits thrilling turning points in American history, including the single sniper shot that turned the tide of the Revolutionary War, the firearms designs that proved decisive at Gettysburg, the "gun that won the West," and the weapons that gave U.S. soldiers an edge in the world wars and beyond. This is also the story of how firearms innovation, creativity and industrial genius has constantly pushed American history — and power — forward.

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.

Interested in writing  
a column? Call the  
Herald at 263-7331.

# PP closure

**W**ith all of you, I thank God for the welcome news that Planned Parenthood of Midland is closing its doors and will no longer provide surgical or chemical abortions in the city of Midland.

I am indeed very grateful to all of our Pro-Life people, especially our Pro-Life committee under the patronage of Nellie Gray, of the Midland-Odessa Deanery, for your many prayers, especially the many Rosaries offered in front of Planned Parenthood, and your dedicated work which no doubt played a big part in the closing of this facility. We thank God, too, for the recent state legislation that cuts off funding to so-called health centers that kill the unborn.

As we thank God for the news that God's precious little ones will no longer be destroyed at Planned Parenthood in Midland, our Pro-Life mission is far from over. A major part of our Pro-Life mission is to assist pregnant women with their health care needs and especially to help those who are struggling with an abortion decision. Hence, now is the time to give new emphasis to our entire Pro-Life ministry, and so I ask all of our priests and all the Catholic people to step forward and help these women and their families with their health needs. ...

I am happy to point out that we already have a number of institutions in our area that are providing this care. We have the Life Centers in Midland and Odessa and Andrews. We also have in our area St. Vincent de Paul and Helping Hands, and I ask them to give specific attention to women and families who are in need. All of our Catholic churches, in a spirit of compassion and care, are to assist pregnant women and their families with their needs. I appreciate the service these centers are giving to these health needs.

As part of our service for helping women and families with their health needs, be they emotional, psychological, pastoral or spiritual, I ask all of our Catholic churches to put in their bulletins that our doors are open to provide these services. We also ask doctors, nurses, health and social workers of our Catholic parishes to offer their professional skills to the various Midland-Odessa health organizations that assist women.

This is a time for us to renew our total commitment to our total pro-life mission, to respect the sanctity and dignity of human life, at all stages, and to continue to work to bring an end to abortion throughout our state and our nation.

On the day of closing of Planned Parenthood in Midland, I ask that our priests and all of our people gather in front of Planned Parenthood, with the special Image of Our Lady of Guadalupe from Our Lady of Guadalupe Church in Midland, to offer a Rosary of Thanksgiving to Christ and our Blessed Mother for bringing an end to abortions in the city of Midland.

Institutions offering help:

- The Life Center, 2101 W. Wall, Midland, 432.683.6072
- The Life Center, 802 N. Washington Ave., Odessa, 432.617.8378
- The Life Center, 1412 NE Mustang Dr., Andrews, 432.523.2859
- St. Vincent de Paul, St. Ann's Chapter, 432.684.3887
- Helping Hands of Midland, 432.520.8900
- United Way Call for Help (2-1-1)

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# Big Spring rolls over Andrews, Coahoma falters against Loraine

By **BRIAN MCCORMACK**

Sports Editor

### BIG SPRING

The Lady Steers weren't very gracious hosts to Andrews Tuesday, as Big Spring's volleyball program rolled over the Lady Mustangs in three sets, winning by scores of 25-7, 25-14 and 25-12.

The dominating performance was keyed by strong setting, offense and defense, while Andrews sputtered from the start, unable to string together a meaningful run.

"We're starting at a very high spot," BSHS Head Coach Lynn Osborne said of her athletes this season.

"We have two girls who came in that were on varsity part-time last year, Stevi Ward and Leksey Yarbar. They have done an exceptional job. (JV) Coach (Devon) Watts does a great job of preparing them. They have felt right at home and have worked hard."

As for her veterans such as setter Morgan Seaton and the versatile Julianna Rodriguez, Osborne cites strong

leadership and experience which has helped pave the way for what is shaping up to be another successful season.

It is a tough district, however, and Osborne knows there are no lax teams. To help prepare her team, she plans tough predistrict schedules.

"It's a strong district," Osborne added. "You can't sleep on anybody. We'll have to respect every team, every week to accomplish our goals. We have to play up."

The Lady Steers will make their debut at the Granbury Tournament on Friday at 9:15 a.m., as they take the court against Summit.

#### Individual results:

**Setters:** Morgan Seaton, 13 assists, 13 kills, 6 aces, 7 blocks, 1 dig; Kinsey Wash, 12 assist, 5 aces, 1 dig.

**Offense:** Erin Pollard, 10 kills, 2 aces, 1 dig, 3 blocks; Kelsie Guinn, 4 kills, 1 dig, 3 blocks.

**Defense:** Stevi Ward, 14 digs, 3 blocks, 2 assists, 1 ace; Julianna Rodriguez, 9 digs, 1 assist, 1 kill, 2 aces.

The Lady Steers will return to action at a tournament in Granbury over the weekend.

Big Spring's junior varsity volleyball squad lost in two close sets, 23-25, 20-25, while the freshmen team won in three, scoring 14-25, 25-11 and 27-25.

See **VOLLEYBALL**, Page 15



HERALD photo/Tony Claxton/see more at [www.claxtonphotography.com](http://www.claxtonphotography.com)  
Big Spring's Erin Pollard pops the ball over the net during Tuesday's victory over Andrews at Steer Gym. The Lady Steers will head to Granbury for a tournament over the weekend.

# Beltre homers for Rangers in 4-2 win over Houston



AP photo

Texas' Adrian Beltre blasts a two-run homer in the sixth inning of Tuesday's 4-2 win over the Astros in Arlington.

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — Adrian Beltre just keeps chugging along for the Texas Rangers. He's making it look oh so easy, too.

Beltre doubled and scored in the second inning, and then hit a two-run homer in the sixth to power AL West-leading Texas to a 4-2 victory over the Houston Astros on Tuesday night.

"This is what I'm supposed to be doing, right?" Beltre said. "I've been feeling better lately. Definitely."

Beltre's 26th homer came against rookie right-hander Jarred Cosart (1-1) and lifted Texas into a 3-2 lead. It was his 160th hit, one behind Miguel Cabrera for the major league lead.

"The only way I can really describe it, he's the MVP. He's having an MVP-caliber season," Ian Kinsler said. "He's one of the best players in the league on one of the best teams, and he does it night in and night out."

Beltre is hitting .434 (33 of 76) over his last 21 games, raising his season average 19 points to .326, third in the American League.

After a leadoff double in the second, Beltre went to third on a wild pitch and scored on an infield single by Alex Rios.

"He's been swinging the bat extremely well and been getting it done in situations when we really need him to get it done," manager Ron Washington said. "That's what Beltre is about, and it seems like every time we go down the stretch, he's right there ready to do it"

Matt Dominguez homered for Houston, which has lost seven in row and 13 of 14 against the Rangers.

See **RANGERS**, Page 15

# Broncos' Von Miller to serve six-game suspension for substance abuse

ENGLEWOOD, Colo. (AP) — Broncos linebacker Von Miller received a six-game suspension under the NFL's substance-abuse policy Tuesday, taking away the best defensive player from a team many expect to make a run at the Super Bowl.

The league wanted a longer penalty for the third-year linebacker, but the sides agreed to less than half the season, a person familiar with the negotiations between the linebacker and the NFL told The Associated Press.

The person who spoke to the AP did not want to be identified because details about the negotiations were not public.

Broncos executive vice president John Elway said the team was frustrated with what happened "and, I think, disappointed in Von."

"We'll live with that decision," Elway said. "What I'd like to do is try to do everything we can to prevent any other situations."

According to the NFL, Miller is eli-

gible to play and practice through the last two preseason games. His suspension, without pay, will begin Aug. 31, and will cost him more than \$800,000 of the nearly \$2.3 million he's scheduled to make this season.

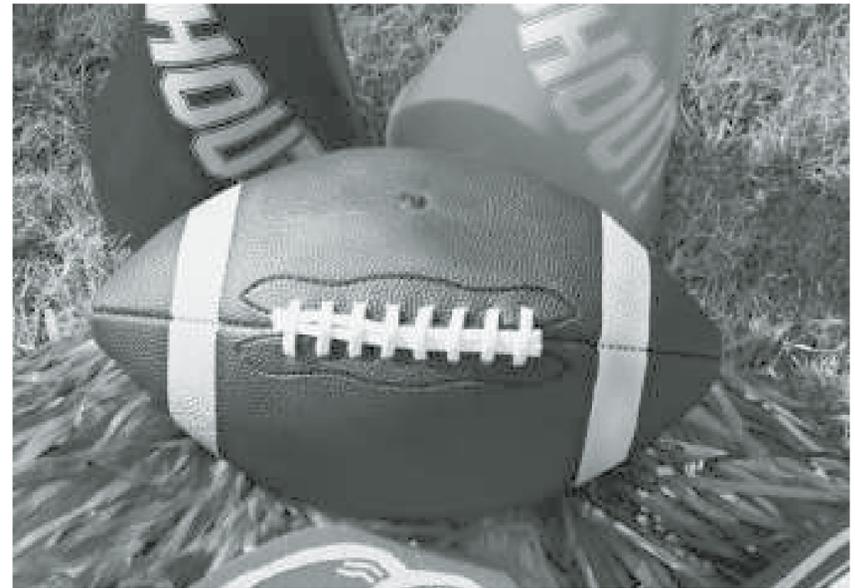
He'll be allowed at the team facility, but not at practice during the suspension. He can return to the field Oct. 14, the day after Denver's home game against Jacksonville, and will be eligible for an Oct. 20 contest at the Indianapolis Colts.

After being notified of the decision, Miller released a statement saying, "although my suspension doesn't result from a positive test, there is no excuse for my violations of the rules."

"I made mistakes and my suspension has hurt my team, Broncos fans, and myself," he said. "I am especially sorry for the effect of my bad decisions on others. I will not make the same mistakes about adhering to

See **MILLER**, Page 16

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# Pet Talk



## Pet Snakes: Slithering their way into, or out of, your heart



owner comfortable with larger snakes, as they often get 7 or more feet long," explained Dr. Jordan Gentry, Zoological Medicine Resident at the College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences. "Green tree python, rainbow boas, and tree boas have slightly more specialized

transmitted to humans; so washing hands is recommended after handling a pet snake."

Though there are many snakes that make suitable pets for adults and children alike, the safety of owning a snake as a pet is sometimes called into question by events that are widely reported in the media. Just recently, two young boys were allegedly strangled to death while they were sleeping by an escaped pet python.

However, Gentry noted that isolated tragic incidents involving large constrictors or poisonous snakes shouldn't discourage people from choosing an appropriate snake species as a pet.

"It is significantly less common for a snake to harm its owner in any way than for a dog; in fact it is almost unheard of outside of rare misguided media reports," said Gentry. "Approximately 2 percent of the US population is bitten by a dog every year, leading to more than 30 deaths per year. Large constrictor snakes have killed fewer than 20 people in the United States since 1978."

Gentry explained that the most common causes of a pet snake to bite is a feeding error, where the snake missed the food item and bit the owner's hand, or a handling mistake where the snake clearly demonstrated its intent to bite, but was handled anyway.

Whether you're a dog lover, cat fanatic, or reptile enthusiast, there will always be risks to consider when brining a pet into your home. It is your responsibility to thoroughly research them and be aware of the requirements and necessities that they entail.

"The human animal bond with any pet should not be underestimated," said Gentry. "The risks of owning a pet snake are no greater than owning a dog or cat and absolutely do not outweigh the benefits."

*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](http://vetmed.tamu.edu/pettalk). Suggestions for future topics may be directed to [editor@cvm.tamu.edu](mailto:editor@cvm.tamu.edu)*

## Annie's Mailbox

**Dear Annie:** My husband and I are teachers and are home most of the summer. Our next-door neighbors have two toddler boys and a couple of barking dogs. They are a nice family except for the continuous noise and chaos, which is especially noticeable in the summer when windows are open. We can't enjoy coffee in the morning on our deck or a drink outside in the late afternoon.

I realize that everyone has different parenting styles. Theirs seems to be the "anything goes, let them express themselves" method. I understand that small kids are noisy and throw tantrums. We raised two of our own. But when my kids had a tantrum, they were sent to their rooms until it ended. These kids scream and cry all day long.

I honestly don't know how they can stand it. At least we can shut the windows. Even my low-key husband is fed up. They rarely take the kids out in public, and I can understand why. Is there any recourse for us? I don't mean to sound selfish, but is a little peace and quiet too much to ask for?  
— *Venting in Oregon*

**Dear Oregon:** We understand your frustrations, but you are making a lot of assumptions about these neighbors and their parenting style. It's possible that their toddlers have developmental or physical issues that make it much more difficult to practice the kind of parenting you did.

Why not approach them in a friendly way? Invite them for coffee. Say that the noise levels are rather distressing, and ask whether there is any way they could give you a respite for an hour or two each day. Another alternative is for you to close your windows, add fans, plant bushes, etc., etc. It's not as ideal as having the neighbors be quieter, of course, but it might be the best you can do.

**Dear Annie:** I recently went through gastric bypass surgery. I have arthritis, and when the weight is off, my knees and hips will be better, and I will have more energy. I've lost 75 pounds so far. My blood pressure has already dropped.

These are all positive things, but thin people don't realize how difficult it is to lose weight. They have no right to ask me, "How much do you want to lose?" or to tell me that if I only walked more, it would help. If I could walk more, I would, but my knees and hips prevent me from doing much of that.

I've been plagued with weight problems all of my life. Being overweight is a personal issue and not one I choose to share with everyone. Unsolicited advice is unwanted advice. — *Simi Valley, Calif.*

**Dear Simi Valley:** People can't help noticing that you've lost a great deal of weight, and some feel obligated to comment on it. The fact that they don't know how to do so in a respectful way ("You look great!") is annoying but common. Thank you for reminding folks to put their brains in gear before they open their mouths.  
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## 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



**F**or some animal lovers, watching these exotic creatures slither across the Animal Planet screen isn't enough; you want to bring the thrill of snake ownership into your own home.

While they seem exciting and manageable through a television screen or from behind a glass wall, there are a few things that every aspiring snake owner must be aware of before bringing these exotic creatures into your home.

The most common snakes kept by enthusiasts are cornsnakes, kingsnakes, and ball pythons.

Many of these snakes, like the corn and king, are well suited for older children and first time snake owners due to their simple feeding methods and docile temperament.

However, some species reach very large sizes in captivity, and their considerable space requirements must be anticipated.

"Other popular snakes like boa constrictors and carpet python are better for an

care and are less tolerant to handling, but can make great pets for an owner that has researched the species." Large constricting snakes, venomous snakes, and snakes with difficult care requirements do not make suitable pets and should only be kept by experienced herpetologists.

Doing research on the individual snake species you are interested in will provide you with husbandry recommendations, including environmental, sanitation, and dietary considerations.

"The habitat for the snake depends entirely on the species of snake, as some are from an arid environment that does not require as much humidity as a snake from a tropical environment," said Gentry. "Most captive habitats attempt to mimic the natural environment of the animal with sand, rocks, and live plants; however, less natural paper substrate and plastic hide containers allow much easier cleaning and may actually be more beneficial to the animal's health." As for feeding requirements, almost all pet snakes should be on a whole prey diet of pre-killed rodents, such as mice or rats.

Health and sanitation are also considerations that shouldn't be overlooked when choosing your pet.

"Hygiene is important," said Gentry. "Salmonella is a bacteria that can be carried by pet reptiles and can be

## Legals

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
The Howard County Auditor is accepting bids for Diesel and Gasoline. Specifications may be obtained in the County Auditor's Office, in the Courthouse, 300 S. Main St., Room 203, Big Spring, TX, or by calling 432-264-2210. Bids must be received by 10:00 A.M. on Friday, September 6, 2013 in the office of the County Auditor, Jackie Olson, 300 S. Main, Room 203 and will be opened at that time. Bids will be presented to the Commissioners' Court at 10:00 A.M. on September 9, 2013 for their consideration. The Court reserves the right to reject any or all bids.  
#7934 August 21 & 30, 2013

## Legals

The City of Coahoma City Council will hold a public hearing on September 12 at 7:00pm o'clock at the City Hall, 122 N. 1st, Coahoma, Tx. 79511 to discuss the fiscal year 2013/2014 budget. This budget will raise more total property taxes than last year's budget by \$6,756.00 and 6.5% and of that amount \$191.00 is tax revenue to be raised from new property added to the tax roll this year.  
#7935 August 21, 2013

## Legals

**ADVERTISEMENT**  
Sealed proposals addressed to City of Big Spring will be received at Big Spring City Hall, 310 Nolan, Big Spring, Texas 79720 until September 5, 2013 at 2:00 p.m. for City of Big Spring US Highway 87 Utility Relocation- Water Line. Immediately following the closing time for receipt of bids, proposals will be publicly opened and read aloud at Big Spring City Hall. Any bid received after closing time will be returned unopened. Bids will be tabulated and presented to the City of Big Spring for action at a later date. Information for bidders, proposal forms, specifications and plans are on file at Big Spring City Hall and the office of Parkhill, Smith & Cooper, Inc., Consulting Engineers, 4222 85th Street, Lubbock, Texas, 79423. Copies of the plans, specifications and contract documents may be secured at the office of Parkhill, Smith & Cooper, Inc., Consulting Engineers, 4222 85th Street, Lubbock Texas, 79423 (Phone 806-473-2200) as follows:  
1. Download documents (.pdf file extension format) from PSC's Info Exchange web site after registering as a plan holder with issuing PSC office. **There is no cost or deposit required for this option.**  
2. One set of paper copies for a non-refundable deposit of \$50.00.  
3. A digital copy (.pdf file extension format) upon a non-refundable deposit of \$20.00 per each CD. Deposit shall be Company check or cashiers' check made payable to Parkhill, Smith & Cooper, Inc. No partial sets will be issued.  
#7936 August 21 & 25, 2013

## Leo sun wrap-up

What did you mean to do under the Leo sun that you didn't quite get around to? This is your last day to use the supercharged creative powers of the lion to execute the mission. The Leo sun is particularly helpful in matters that have to do with generosity, children, playfulness, storytelling and theatrical presentations.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19). You offer your compassion easily to others but not so readily to yourself. You expect much of yourself now, and you may forget that people don't become experts overnight.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20). What seems like it's happening in the spur of the moment might actually be the culmination of hours of preparation. This is even true of small talk. Preparation makes for graceful articulation.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 21). Children aren't the only ones who tend to misbehave when they are bored. The good news is that once everyone has something interesting to do (likely provided by you!), good behavior will be a given.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22). Getting comfortable in relationships takes time, especially for those who have standards as high as yours are lately. Keep your expectations

high, though, because someone will meet them.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22). Most people don't like to be confronted with criticism, but you're different. You want to know what's working and what's not working for others so you can become as effective as possible.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Try not to over-think things, be skeptical or read too much into every result. Not everyone harbors a hidden intention. Some people are just going along acting on natural inclinations.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Others won't be observing you as closely as you are looking at them right now. It's a relief unless you're particularly proud of what you're bringing to the table. In that case, don't worry. You'll soon be under the microscope again.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You're supportive of people regardless of whether they are supportive of you. You're used to making the first move, and you'll make it again today. Returns on your investment come later.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Skills worth acquiring involve hours of practice and mopping up after making many, many mistakes. While attempting a trial-and-error process, don't forget that most of the learning will come from the "error" part.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Someone close to you is still trying to figure out how to show love to you in the way you

would prefer. In the meantime, you'll smile and put up with the well-intended misses.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You do what it takes to please people. Sometimes you even state the opinion that others want to hear instead of the one you really have. Only those who know you very well will know the difference.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20). Your action is guided by a sincere devotion to another person. It's easy for you to cooperate and work very hard. Without a second thought, you do what needs doing.

**TODAY'S BIRTHDAY** (Aug. 21). Your ambitions will lead you to leadership and the limelight! New relationships will motivate you toward health and fitness goals in September. In October, you'll be glad you went about business properly, because you'll be able to take advantage of a stellar moneymaking opportunity. June brings reunions and wedding bells. Libra and Pisces people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 7, 1, 22, 19 and 39.

**BYE-BYE, LEO SUN:** It is true that pain is an expedient teacher, but pleasure also has much knowledge to impart, especially that particular kind of pleasure that falls into the category of "fun."

Society too often equates fun with laziness, idleness and avarice, but this is not a healthy perspective. A theme of the Leo sun is that playfulness is not just for children; it goes to the essence of a productive life.

This is the final day of the sun's journey through his homeland stretch of Leo, and it's a fine time to review what you've enjoyed, learned and accomplished during the past few weeks with the playful creativity of the Leo sun's energy. What worked and what didn't? Any regrets? If you brought 10 percent more creativity, playfulness and fun into the next four weeks, what would that look like? Note the details that come to mind as you imagine yourself in this lighter mode. It's a mental exercise worth spending some time on. Record your findings, too. It's not too late to be struck by a brilliant insight or to have a personal revelation inspired by the Leo solar journey.

**CELEBRITY PROFILES:** Hayden Panettiere wasn't even a year old when she started her acting career in a commercial for Playskool. In her role as Juliette Barnes of the television series "Nashville," this Leo star is bringing even more glamour to a city that's topping the "hot" lists this year. Her natal moon in Taurus indicates a strong singing voice. Her Venus in Libra is the sign of someone who is cooperative and easy to work with.

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HOLIDAY MATHIS

## Tomorrow's Horoscope

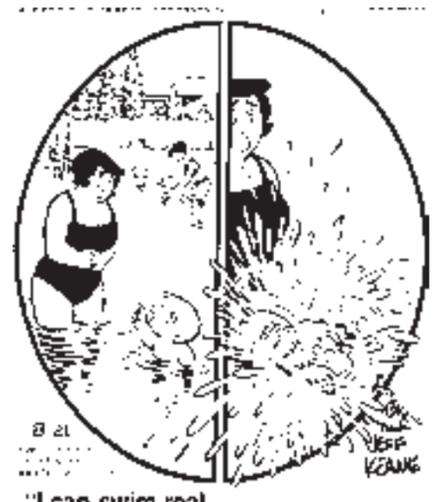
Table with 18 columns representing different TV channels and their respective programming schedules for the day.

DENNIS THE MENACE



I'M SMILING BECAUSE I HAVE JURY DUTY THE SAME DAY WE'RE SUPPOSED TO KEEP DENNIS.

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

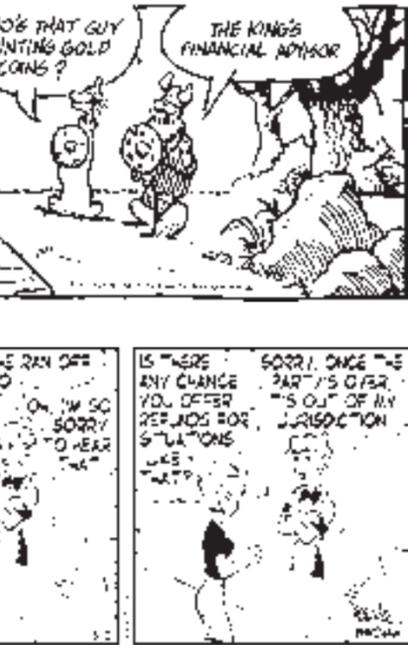


I can swim real good already, Grandma - watch!

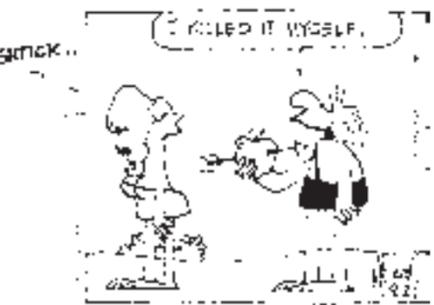
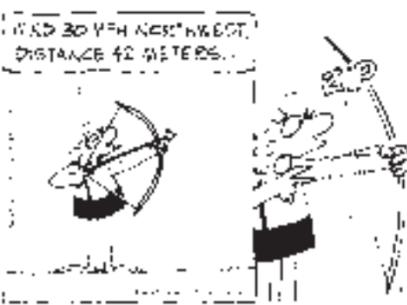
HAGAR



BLONDIE



BC



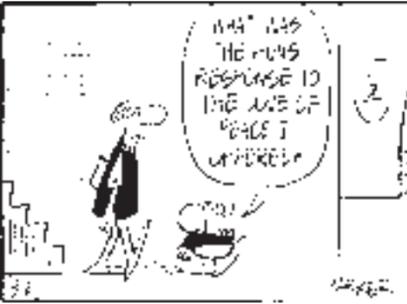
This Date In History

Today is Wednesday, Aug. 21, the 233rd day of 2013. There are 132 days left in the year. Today's Highlight in History: On August 21, 1883, Philippine opposition leader Benigno S. Aquino Jr., ending a self-imposed exile in the United States, was shot dead moments after stepping off a plane at Manila International Airport.

the Louvre Museum in Paris. The painting was recovered two years later in Italy. In 1912, the Boy Scouts of America named its first Eagle Scout, Arthur Rose Eldred of Troop 1 in Rockville Centre, N.Y. In 1940, exiled Communist revolutionary Leon Trotsky died in a Mexican hospital from wounds inflicted by an assassin the day before.

spacecraft as it was about to reach the red planet on a \$980 million mission. Today's Birthdays: Former football player Pete Retzlaff is 82. Actor-director Melvin Van Peebles is 81. Playwright Mart Crowley is 78. Singer Kenny Rogers is 75. Actor Clarence Williams III is 74. Rock-and-roll musician James Burton is 74. Singer Harold Reid (The Statler Brothers) is 74. Singer Jackie DeShannon is 72. College and Pro Football Hall of Famer Willie Lanier is 68. Actress Patty McCormack is 68. Pop singer-musician Carl Giammarese (jee-ah mah-REE'-see) is 66. Actress Loretta Devine is 64. NBC newsman Harry Smith is 62. Singer Glenn Hughes is 61.

WIZARD OF ID



AGNES



HI AND LOIS



THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BEEBLE BAILEY



Newsday Crossword

ICE CREAM WEDNESDAY by Fred Piscop

- ACROSS: 1 Landscaper's planing, 6 Hurricane relief org., 10 Bit of pageant attire, 14 Monopoly purchase, 15 Astronaut Shepard, 16 Bullets for instance, 17 'Lil' guy of comics, 18 Michael Jackson nickname, 20 Long time, so to speak, 22 Tractor brand, 23 Sour-tasting, 25 Phrased, 26 Type of coliseum, 31 Apportioned, with 'out', 32 Pea's pace, 33 Beans, e.g., 37 Unappetizing food, 38 Cirrus cloud shapes, 40 On-line video site, 41 Evergreen trees, 42 'Withou!', Turner, ..., 43 Instrument of India, 44 Highway marker, 47 Analyzed very closely, 51 Get warning, 52 Tie pink, 53 Was behind schedule

Crossword grid with numbered squares and a list of answers for the crossword puzzle.

**VOLLEYBALL**

Continued from Page

**COAHOMA**

After winning their first game against Wellman-Union, Coahoma's inexperience showed during a home loss to Loraine Tuesday.

It took four sets, but the Lady Bulldogs topped the Bulldogettes, 20-25, 10-25, 25-22 and 17-25.

According to CHS Head Coach Jessica Weynand, it was just an off night for her rookie team.

"Loraine hustled for every ball," she said. "They pursued the ball every time. They were very competitive. They didn't want to let that ball drop. That's what we're trying to learn."

With the Bulldogettes set to travel to Crane for a weekend tourney, Weynand's focus remains on the basics.

"We need to work on our communication," she added. "We need to work on our fundamentals — setting and passing. We did those things well in our first game and that's why we won." Last night, we just lacked a sense of urgency."

Setter Rylie Jacobs recorded eight aces against Loraine, while Julia Castilaw had three kills.

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

HERALD photo/Tony Claxton

**Big Spring's Kinsey Wash passes the ball to a teammate during Friday's win over Andrews.**



**RANGERS**

Continued from Page 7

Neal Cotts (5-2) struck out the first three batters he faced over 1 1-3 innings and was credited with the win. The lefty was the second reliever after Travis Blackley pitched four innings against his former team a week after being traded to Texas.

Joe Nathan struck out the side in the ninth for his 37th save in 39 chances.

Cosart allowed three runs over six innings, raising his ERA from 1.15 to 1.60. It was the first time in his seven major league starts that he yielded

more than two runs.

"I thought command-wise, it was my best game," Cosart said. "I had command of two pitches, fastball and curve, and didn't have to use my changeup. They couldn't sit on one pitch."

Texas was down 2-1 when Kinsler drew a one-out walk in the sixth. Beltre then hit a drive to right for the first homer surrendered by Cosart in his 45 major league innings — and one that had the 23-year-old biting his glove in disgust.

"That pitch was at his head. It wasn't even a strike," Cosart said.

See **RANGERS**, Page 16

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MILLER

Continued from page 7

the policy in the future.

The NFL has two drug policies — one that covers use of performance-enhancing substances and the “Policy and Program for Substances of Abuse” that applied to Miller’s case.

There are ways to violate the drug policy without necessarily testing positive. They include missing a test, refusing to test, tampering with tests or giving

a diluted urine sample.

The Broncos had been operating throughout the preseason as if Miller would be with them for their regular-season opener Sept. 5.

“I don’t know if that was confidence as much as it was wishful thinking,” coach John Fox said. “I think we all tend to look at the glass half full instead of half empty. But now the reality is there and I’m kind of glad we’ve gotten to where it is finalized.”

It gives Fox a chance to finalize “Plan B” for a team listed at most Vegas sports books as

the favorite to win the Super Bowl. Miller is the best player on the Broncos defense — the second pick of the 2011 draft, the NFL’s 2011 Defensive Rookie of the Year and runner-up last season for the league’s Defensive Player of the Year. He had 18½ sacks last season and 30 over his two years.

Likely to take his spot at the rush linebacker position is Shaun Phillips, a 10-year veteran the Broncos signed in free agency during the offseason.

Others in the mix in a juggled linebacker corps include Nate Irving, Wesley Woodyard and Danny Trevathan. Another linebacker, Stewart Bradley, had

emerged as a front-runner over Irving at middle linebacker during training camp, but he hurt his left wrist in a preseason game Saturday night and underwent surgery.

On Tuesday, the Broncos signed 12th-year veteran Paris Lenon, who played ahead of Bradley in Arizona last year.

“We’re going to have to have guys play better,” Fox said. “Everybody is going to have to step up. I know it’s ‘Next man up,’ but he’s a hard man to replace.”

Miller, meanwhile, has a number of issues pending before his return. Among them, staying in playing shape while not being allowed to practice with the team. He

also must clear up his recent arrest for failing to appear in court for traffic violations. News of the arrest came as Miller was deep in negotiations with the league and the union over his case, about which he repeatedly insisted he had “done nothing wrong.”

Then, there’s the issue of keeping the trust of his teammates, who have steadfastly backed him during a summer filled with turmoil.

“Has not changed,” Peyton Manning said Tuesday, before word of the six-game suspension became official. “There’s been a lot of noise and speculation. But Von is one of our teammates. He’s part of the family, and I certainly have his back as his teammate and I know that all the players do and the organization does.”

The organization has been hit by a number of distracting stories since last season ended with a

loss to Baltimore in the divisional playoffs.

The Broncos lost their second-leading sack man, Elvis Dumervil, because of a foul-up with a fax machine while his contract was being finalized. Two front-office executives got arrested on drunken-driving charges and were suspended. Miller’s status has been the news since training camp started, though it has shared headlines with a steady beat of injuries coming out of training camp.

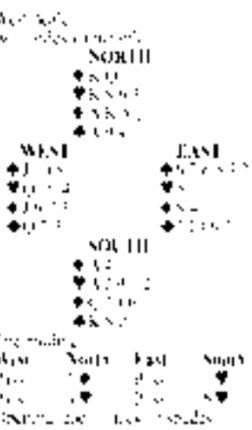
All of which threatens the focus of a team that brought Manning in to win the Super Bowl now.

“I think sometimes you can use distractions to your benefit, in the fact that distractions are also when you are getting patted on the back all the time, which we have been quite a bit,” Elway said. “Von was a big part of our defense.”

# Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

## Baiting the Trap



Declarer might be tempted to... But it would be a mistake to... New let's imagine...

It stands to reason that... Consider this deal... Tomorrow: New year...

## Sudoku Answer on Page 3

# sudoku

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

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

www.sudoku-puzzles.net

## RANGERS

Continued from Page 15

“I didn’t think he would swing at it.”

Blackley was brought up from Triple-A Round Rock to start in place of right-hander Alexi Ogando, who was put on the disabled list with right shoulder inflammation.

The 30-year-old Australian, who made 42 relief appearances for Houston, allowed three hits and two runs. The Rangers expected for him to throw around 65 pitches, and he threw 66, 42 for strikes.

“He did a good job,” Washington said. “Other than (one pitch to Dominguez), he did what he needed to do, keep us in the game.”

Chris Carter walked and scored on Dominguez’s 17th homer in the second.

There were 11 pitches in the first, including a hard shot by L.J. Hoes that ricocheted off Blackley’s foot toward the third base line. Jurickson Profar made a barehanded grab and threw in one motion to retire Hoes.

Astros manager Bo Porter quickly came out

to unsuccessfully argue with umpire Lance Barksdale that Profar’s throw pulled first baseman Mitch Moreland off the bag. Under the expansion of video review planned for next season, it was the kind of challenge Porter may have won.

Max Stassi, called up from Double-A Corpus Christi earlier Tuesday, made his major league debut as the designated hitter and got a single in the fifth. He also will remember what happened after the first of his two hits.

A comebacker by Marwin Gonzalez was snagged by reliever Jason Frasor, who turned and made a high throw that went off shortstop Andrus’ glove and caught by second baseman Kinsler backing up the play. But Stassi, apparently thinking he was already out, wandered off second base and was tagged by Kinsler.

“He told me, ‘Bo, this never happened to me in no league, and it’s not going to happen again,’” Porter said. “I told him if you are a forceout, you don’t leave the base until the umpire says you’re out.”



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