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File photo

The 81st annual Big Spring Rodeo will run from Thursday to Saturday at the Howard County Fairgrounds rodeo bowl.

Saddle up! Rodeo debuts Thursday

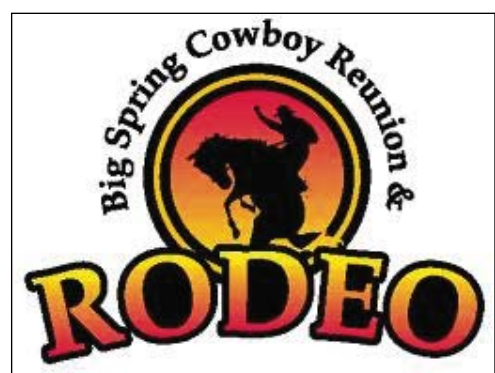
Herald Staff Report

The rodeo is coming! The rodeo is coming!

And the parade, too. Only this year it will be going uptown.

The Big Spring Cowboy Reunion and Rodeo — in its 81st year — is set for Thursday through Saturday at the Big Spring Rodeo Bowl. Gates open at 7 nightly with grand entry to get underway at 8.

Advance tickets for the PRCA event are \$10 for adults and \$6 for children and can be purchased at Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce, Ward's Boot and Saddle, Western Bank, Compass Bank, Wells Fargo, Citizens



Federal Credit Union, State National Bank, H-E-B and Lonestar State Bank. At the gate, they'll be \$12 and \$8.

Entries for the Saturday parade can

See **RODEO**, Page 3

City offers education incentive to workers

By **STEVE REAGAN**

Staff Writer

The city of Big Spring is willing to give a helping hand to employees looking to further their education.

Recently, the city council gave its blessing to a plan in which employees wishing to take college course pertinent to their careers are eligible to receive financial help in the form of reimbursements and cash advances from the city.

Under the new policy, full-time, non-probationary employees will receive 100 percent reimbursement for tuition and books costs if they maintain an "A" average in their approved coursework, 80 percent reimbursement for a "B" and 70 percent for a "C." Employees receiving lower grades will not be reimbursed, officials said.

As a further incentive, full-time employees who have been with the city five or more years can receive an advance of up to 50 percent of their

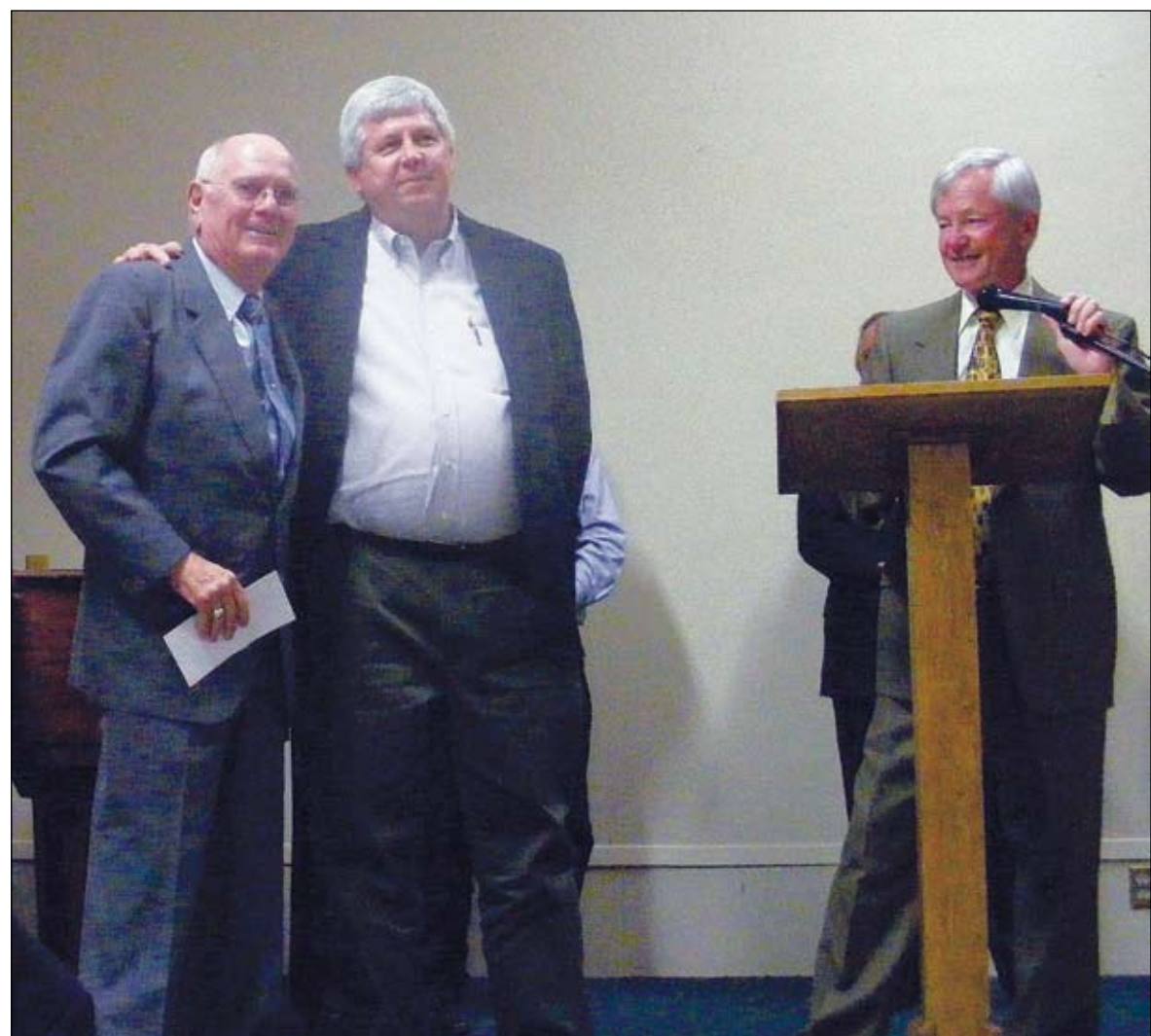
regular paycheck to help defray their college cost. Once the course is complete, the employee will be reimbursed for their additional costs according to the same scale described above.

There are two catches to the program — if the employee drops out of the course or leaves city employment within two years of taking the class, they must agree to repay any advances paid to them.

Also, course assignments cannot be done during normal work hours and employees may not use city equipment.

"We feel like there's a lot of our employees who would like to take advantage of this program," City Manager Todd Darden said. "This way, they won't have to take some of the money for the courses out of their own pockets."

Contact Staff Writer Steve Reagan at 263-7331 ext. 234 or by e-mail at reporter@big-springherald.com



HERALD photo/Andreia Medlin

The Big Spring Area Community Foundation met Saturday to distribute funds to local entities. Chief Operating Officer of Robinson Drilling Rodney Bomar, center, poses with Howard College Board of Trustees President Dr. John Freeman, who accepted a check for the college. At right is foundation member Drew Mouton.

National Guard's border security role in jeopardy

LAREDO, Texas (AP) — A dispute between the Army and the National Guard is jeopardizing the security role the Guard has played along the U.S.-Mexico border since 2006, a newspaper reported Sunday.

The problems arise as the National Guard becomes more proficient at pinpointing illegal crossings along the border and as agents struggle with an influx of immigrants — especially unaccompanied minors — fleeing poverty and gang violence in Central America.

The National Guard began operating along the border in 2006 when then-President George W. Bush ordered 6,000 troops to the area. Since then, the troops' mission has evolved, and today about 300 Guard soldiers work along the border. Ground patrols have largely been replaced by nighttime helicopter missions, according to the Austin American-Statesman.

"Make this a more long-term program, a more planned, budgeted program," Maj. Gen. William "Len" Smith of the Texas National Guard

said.

The current dispute comes from the Army facing budget cuts that could strip it of a fleet of Kiowa helicopters. The Army wants to replace the Kiowas with about 100 Lakota helicopters. Those aircraft could come from the National Guard, leaving that unit with little air capacity of its own.

If the National Guard loses 100 of its helicopters, Smith told the newspaper "we'd have to commit almost all the rest of our (14) Lakotas to that mission, or stop it, neither

one being preferable."

The Guard's border role has been controversial from the start.

When Bush ordered 6,000 soldiers to the border, critics said it would militarize the area. Since then, that role has been scaled back, but appears to be more cost-effective and efficient.

In 2010, when President Barack Obama reactivated the Guard's border mission, it was credited with apprehending about 4,000 immigrants over 18 months. But the airborne mission,

which began in March 2012, has netted 10 times as many over 18 months. In addition, it cost \$35 million to run the air operation compared to the \$110 million price tag of earlier missions, state and federal officials said. In 2006-07, the National Guard's border presence cost \$1.3 billion.



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SUMMER

News in brief

Will Bergdahl exchange for 5 Taliban detainees embolden militants, or make peace more likely?

WASHINGTON (AP) — Despite securing the release of five top detainees from the prison at Guantanamo Bay in exchange for Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl, there are few indications that the Taliban will head into peace talks with the Afghan government any time soon.

The peace process is virtually on hold again until it's clear who will succeed Afghan President Hamid Karzai. Results of the second round of the Afghan presidential election Saturday won't be known until July, and it will be months before the winner will be able to set up his administration and lay the groundwork for possible talks. It's also unclear what role the Obama administration can or is willing to play to coax the Taliban to the negotiating table.

The Taliban say exchanging Bergdahl, held by Afghan militants for nearly five years, for the five detainees is a victory for their side. Still, U.S. and former and current Afghan officials say the transfer is evidence that the two sides can come together and deal peacefully. They say they hope the deal will bolster the influence of more moderate members of the Taliban interested in reconciliation talks.

Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel says the swap could provide a "new opening" that can produce a peace agreement.

When Obama appeared in the Rose Garden with Bergdahl's parents after their son was released, he said the U.S. would continue to support an Afghan-led process of reconciliation but didn't offer any specifics.

Gunmen attack hotels, police station, bank in Kenyan town, killing 48 people, police say

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) — Dozens of extremists wielding automatic weapons attacked a small Kenyan coastal town for hours, assaulting the police station, setting two hotels on fire, and spraying bullets into the street. At least 48 people were killed, officials said Monday.

The assault in Mpeketoni began around 8 p.m. local time on Sunday night as residents were watching World Cup matches on TV and lasted until early Monday, meeting little re-

sistance from Kenya's security forces.

At the Breeze View Hotel, the gunmen pulled the men aside and ordered the women to watch as they killed them, saying it was what Kenyan troops are doing to Somali men inside Somalia, a police commander said on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to share that detail of the attack.

Authorities blamed al-Shabab, Somalia's al-Qaida-linked terror group, who have vowed to carry out terror attacks to avenge the Kenyan military presence in Somali. Along with its Somali fighters, the group also has many Kenyan adherents.

Kenya's top police commander, David Kimaiyo, said the death toll was 48.

Russia to cut gas supply to Ukraine, rejects deal of initial \$1B payment

MOSCOW (AP) — Russia on Monday said it would cut off gas supplies to Ukraine as a payment deadline passed and negotiators failed to reach a deal on gas prices and unpaid bills.

The decision does not immediately affect the gas flow to Europe, but could disrupt the long-term energy supply to the region if the issue is not resolved, analysts said.

Gazprom spokesman Sergei Kupriyanov said that since Ukraine had paid nothing for the gas by Monday Moscow has no legal grounds to supply Ukraine any more.

"Gazprom supplies to Ukraine only the amount that has been paid for, and the amount that has been paid for is zero," Kupriyanov said Monday morning.

The pipeline to Ukraine also carries gas meant for Europe, but Kupriyanov said that the supply to Europe will continue as planned. Ukraine has the obligation to make sure the gas will reach European customers, he said.

Security bolstered at US embassy in Iraq; some personnel to be flown out

WASHINGTON (AP) — With Baghdad threatened by the advance of an al-Qaida-inspired insurgency, the State Department is reinforcing security at the U.S. Embassy in Iraq's capital — and sending some personnel out of town.

Much of the embassy staff will stay in place, State Department spokes-

woman Jen Psaki said in a statement released Sunday. The statement did not say the number of personnel affected. The embassy, along the Tigris River in Baghdad's Green Zone, has about 5,000 personnel and is the largest U.S. diplomatic post in the world.

Some embassy staff members were being temporarily moved elsewhere to more stable places at consulates in Basra, in the Shiite-dominated south of Iraq, and Irbil, in the Kurdish semi-autonomous region in northeastern Iraq, and to Jordan, she said.

"Overall, a substantial majority of the U.S. Embassy presence in Iraq will remain in place and the embassy will be fully equipped to carry out its national security mission," she said.

U.S. travelers in the country were encouraged to exercise caution and limit travel to certain parts of Iraq.

2 years after court ruling on GPS tracking, muddled landscape for judges, law enforcement

WASHINGTON (AP) — A 2-year-old Supreme Court decision has caused more confusion than clarity on how police may track the whereabouts of criminal suspects, illustrating how hard it is for the slow-moving judicial system to keep up with the light speed of technology.

In the case of *United States v. Jones*, decided in January 2012, the justices unanimously affirmed a lower court ruling that police erred when, without a valid warrant, they attached a GPS tracking device to the Jeep of a Washington, D.C., nightclub owner, leading them to a stash house for drugs.

But in three separate opinions, the justices offered different legal rationales for that decision. That left a muddled legal landscape for police and lower-court judges, who have since struggled with how to apply it to a world where privacy and technology increasingly collide.

"Courts are all over the place on all of these issues," said Hanni Fakhoury,

an attorney with the Electronic Frontier Foundation, a privacy group.

Technological advancements are forcing the issue more and more, a development magnified by a heightened national debate over privacy versus surveillance and the disclosure of the National Security Agency's bulk collection of Americans' telephone records.

Russia solves Crimea tourism problem by asking state companies to send employees on free trips

MOSCOW (AP) — When Russia annexed the Black Sea peninsula of Crimea earlier this year, it regained not only harbors for its navy and abandoned Ukrainian military bases but also long stretches of pebble beaches that were the summer destination of choice for millions of Soviet citizens. This summer, however, tourists need a push to go and some help in getting there.

For years, two-thirds of the 6 million tourists traveling to Crimea each summer came from Ukraine. But many Ukrainians are still bitter over Russia's seizure of the peninsula as well as over local residents' submission to Russian rule; as a result, few are planning to vacation there this year.

But Russians are not rushing to go to the newest part of their country either.

Some may prefer more luxurious destinations or be deterred by the difficulties of getting to Crimea, with land routes across southeastern Ukraine effectively blocked because of fighting between government troops and pro-Russian separatists.

With Crimea's beaches eerily empty at the start of the summer season and the livelihood of many under threat, the Kremlin has come up with an ingenious way to attract tourists to the peninsula: It has asked state-controlled companies to get their employees to go there on vacation by paying for all or part of their trips.

Feds aren't inspecting 4 in 10 high-risk wells

NEW CASTLE, Colo. (AP) — Four in 10 new oil and gas wells near national forests and fragile watersheds or otherwise identified as higher pollution risks escape federal inspection, unchecked by an agency struggling to keep pace with America's drilling boom, according to an Associated Press review that shows wide state-by-state disparities in safety checks.

Roughly half or more of wells on federal and Indian lands weren't checked in Colorado, Utah and Wyoming, despite potential harm that has led to efforts in some communities to ban new drilling.

In New Castle, a tiny Colorado River valley community, homeowners expressed chagrin at the large number of uninspected wells, many on federal land, that dot the steep hillsides and rocky landscape. Like elsewhere in the West, water is a precious commodity in this Colorado town, and some residents worry about the potential health hazards of any leaks from wells and drilling.

"Nobody wants to live by an oil rig. We surely didn't want to," said Joann Jaramillo, 54.

About 250 yards up the hill from Jaramillo's home, on land that was a dormant gravel pit

when she bought the house eight years ago, is an active drilling operation that operates every day from 7 a.m. until sometimes 10:30 p.m. Jaramillo said the drilling began about three years ago.

Even if the wells were inspected, she questioned whether that would ensure their safety. She said many view the oil and gas industry as self-policing and non-transparent.

"Who are they going to report to?" she asked.

Government data obtained by the AP point to the Bureau of Land Management as so overwhelmed by a boom in a new drilling technique known as hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, that it has been unable to keep up with inspections of some of the highest priority wells. That's an agency designation based on a greater need to protect against possible water contamination and other environmental and safety issues.

Factors also include whether the well is near a high-pressure formation or whether the drill operator lacks a clear track record of service.

"No one would have predicted the incredible boom of drilling on federal lands, and the number of wells we've been asked to process," said the BLM's deputy direc-

tor, Linda Lance. Since fracking reached a height in 2009, about 90 percent of new wells on federal land are drilled by the process, which involves pumping huge volumes of water, sand and chemicals underground.

"The current rate of inspections is simply not acceptable to us," she said.

The agency oversees 100,000 oil and gas wells on public lands, 3,486 of which received the high priority designation.

According to BLM records for fiscal years 2009 to 2012, 1,400 of those high priority wells, spread across 13 states, were not federally inspected. Wyoming had the most, 632, or 45 percent. South Dakota had 1 out of 2 wells uninspected, and Pennsylvania had 1 out of 6.

All the higher-risk wells were inspected in six states — Alabama, Michigan, Mississippi, New York, Ohio and Texas.

Many more wells are located on private lands, where state officials take the lead in ensuring they comply with environmental laws, with mixed results. Nationwide, there were nearly 500,000 producing gas wells in 2012, according to Energy Information Administration data.

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Spurs win 5th NBA championship

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Tim Duncan and Tony Parker won titles in their second seasons. Manu Ginobili was a champion as an NBA rookie.

Success came so quickly and frequently for the Big Three, but San Antonio couldn't keep it up after winning its last title in 2007. And just when the Spurs were on the verge of being back on top again last year, the Miami Heat practically snatched the rings right off their fingers.

So when they finally celebrated again Sunday, players wrapping

Don't won't commit to return for 19th season - yet

themselves in flags from around the world in a reminder that the Spurs look far beyond the border to build champions, Parker had no trouble deciding where to rank this title.

"That's why I say it's the sweetest one," Parker said, "because it's just unbelievable to win seven years ago, and to be so close last year, it was very cruel. But that's the beauty of sport. Sometimes it's tough. And sometimes it can be

beautiful like today."

The Spurs finished off a dominant run to their fifth NBA championship, ending the Heat's two-year title reign with a 104-87 victory that wrapped up the series in five games.

Painfully denied 12 months ago by the Heat, this victory party was worth the wait.

"We got to this spot and we didn't let it go," Ginobili said.

San Antonio erased an early 16-point deficit and

routed Miami for the fourth time in the series, denying the Heat's quest for a third straight championship. A year after the Spurs suffered their only loss in six finals appearances — a heartbreaking seven-game defeat — they turned the rematch into no match at all.

"We had a great first quarter, but from that point on they were the better team, and that's why they're the champions in 2014," said LeBron James, who led the Heat

with 31 points and 10 rebounds.

Finals MVP Kawhi Leonard had 22 points and 10 rebounds for the Spurs, who added this title to the ones they won in 1999, 2003, '05 and '07 by shooting a finals-record 52.8 percent in the series.

"They played exquisite basketball this series and in particular these last three games and they are the better team. There's no other way to say it," Heat coach Erik

Spoelstra said.

A decade and a half after winning their first title, the Spurs remain the NBA's model organization, a small-market team that simply wins big and hardly ever does it with a high draft pick. Instead, they found players overseas or in other organizations who would fit the Spurs' way of doing things and mesh with Duncan, Parker and Ginobili, who have teamed for 117 postseason victories, the most by one trio.

See **SPURS** on Page 11

F1 driver leaves French hospital

BERLIN (AP) — Formula One great Michael Schumacher is no longer in a coma and has left a French hospital where he had been receiving treatment since a skiing accident in December, his manager said Monday.

Schumacher left the hospital in Grenoble "to continue his long phase of rehabilitation," manager Sabine Kehm said in a statement. She gave no further details on Schumacher's condition, and her office refused to elaborate on the statement.

Schumacher is now at the Lausanne University Hospital in neighboring Switzerland, hospital spokesman Darcy Christen said, without elaborating.

Schumacher, his wife and their two children live in Switzerland. His accident happened on a family vacation as Schumacher was skiing with his 14-year-old son.

Schumacher's family "would like to explicitly thank all his treating doctors, nurses and therapists in Grenoble as well as the first aiders at the place of the accident, who did an excellent job in those first months," Kehm's statement said.

"The family also wishes to thank all the people who have sent Michael all the many good wishes. ... We are sure it helped him," it added. "For the future we ask for understanding that his further rehabilitation will take place away from the public eye," it added.



All-Star action ...

Some of the state's top six-man basketball all-stars will compete in the Texas Six-Man Coaches Association All-Star games next month in Wichita Falls. The TSMCA games will be played in the D.L. Ligon gym in Wichita Falls.

HC Texas Tech Alumni golf tourney scheduled for June 28-29

The Howard County Texas Tech Alumni Scholarship Golf Tournament will be held on June 28-29 at the Manche Trail Golf Course.

The tournament will be played under a 4-man scramble format, with a

shotgun start at 1 p.m. on both days.

Sunday's play will be finished by Saturday scores.

There is a \$100 per person entry fee.

All proceeds go to the

Howard County Texas Tech scholarship fund

To register call (432) 264-2366 or contact Scott Mackenzie via e-mail at: scott.mackenzie@prosperitybankusa.com

Mariners stop 5-game slide with 5-1 victory over struggling Rangers

SEATTLE (AP) — Hisashi Iwakuma's pre-game neck stiffness was serious enough that he had to call for the training staff. Fortunately for the Seattle Mariners, he found a way to take the mound Sunday.

Iwakuma pitched eight effective innings to help the Mariners stop a five-game losing streak with a 5-1 win over the Texas Rangers.

"I needed to pitch today. I felt responsible, especially after losing five in a row," Iwakuma said through an interpreter.

Kyle Seager had four hits and three RBIs for Seattle, continuing his strong play against Texas.

Dustin Ackley and Brad Miller also drove in a run.

Iwakuma allowed one run on Brad Snyder's first

career homer in the second and six hits. Charlie Furbush then got three outs to complete the six-hitter.

It was quite a turnaround for Iwakuma after he felt stiffness in his neck as he prepared for his ninth start of the season.

"To be honest, yes, as I was playing catch before my bullpen I did feel that way," Iwakuma said of

having doubts he would be able to pitch.

Iwakuma, who didn't make his first start of the season until May 3 due to a finger injury on his throwing hand, improved to 2-1 with a 1.61 ERA in three starts this month.

"My body's starting to get used to season mode and I'm feeling a lot better and stronger now, so I think I'm good to go from here on," said Iwakuma.

TCU upends Tech at CWS

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — TCU showed again that it knows how to win close games.

The Horned Frogs beat Big 12 rival Texas Tech 3-2 in the College World Series on Sunday for their fifth win in six one-run games in the NCAA tournament.

This time Boomer White drove in the go-ahead run against Tech closer Jonny Drozd in the bottom of the eighth inning as TCU had fallen behind in the top half.

"That's the kind of baseball we've played all year," TCU coach Jim Schlossnagle said. "I'm not telling you I'm comfortable with it, but these guys are. They don't panic a bit. It's just, are, let's put together some good at-bats and see what happens. I just try to stay out of the way."

TCU (48-16), the No. 7 national seed, advanced to a game Tuesday against Virginia, a 2-1 winner over Mississippi on Sunday night. Texas Tech (45-20), in the CWS in the first time, will play Ole Miss in the afternoon.

"It's a tough, tough way to lose your first game up here," Red Raiders coach Tim Tadlock said. "At the same time, we won't look back, and we'll get ready to go on Tuesday."

Big 12 pitcher of the year Preston Morrison made TCU's 1-0 lead hold up until the eighth inning, striking out a career-high 10 and allowing five singles. Schlossnagle called on closer Riley Ferrell (3-1) after Morrison gave up a sharply hit single to Stephen Smith. Anthony Lyons followed with a pinch-hit single, and Tyler Neslony tripled to the right-field wall for a 2-1 lead.

"I knew once we got a couple runs... I mean, we have the utmost confidence ever in Jonny," Neslony said. "So it gave us a little momentum, but that's about it."

Drozdz took over for starter Chris SADBERRY to start the eighth. Keaton Jones scored from second when second baseman Alec Humphreys overthrew first after stopping Cody Jones' grounder up the middle.

Price Ks 10 in win over Astros

HOUSTON (AP) — The Houston Astros got some early runs off David Price on Sunday.

But pretty soon the Tampa Bay ace settled in and shut them down in a 4-3 loss.

Two of the Astros' first four hitters scored, both on solo home runs.

After that, Price (5-6) got rolling, striking out 10 in eight innings.

Price allowed homers to Dexter Fowler and Matt Dominguez in the first inning. He left after the eighth and got his first win since May 13. Fowler and Dominguez both finished with two hits each.

The rest of the Astros, however, went 2 for 25.

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Annie's Mailbox ®

Dear Annie: I have been with "Robert" for three years, and we have been through a lot. We've always had financial issues, but six months ago, we had to give up our baby girl for adoption because we couldn't care for her properly.



KATHY MITCHELL
MARCY SUGAR

Emotionally, this has destroyed both of us, but thankfully, I began going to counseling early on, and it has helped. Robert, however, focused on work and is ignoring his feelings on this matter. He has few friends and confided in only one (who was also his boss), who then began bullying Robert.

Robert feels very isolated and was hospitalized for severe depression and put on suicide watch. He is currently on medication and waitlisted for counseling. Robert has never

been much of a talker, and I fear he will lie or stop going and miss out on the help he needs. Since leaving the hospital, he has been getting progressively worse: screaming, breaking items in our home, crying randomly and cutting out what few friends he has left. He refuses to speak to his family.

I've tried talking to him, tried finding ways to release his feelings, cried with him and tried giving him his space. Recently, I wrote a letter to his health care provider so he will know what's going on. I want to be supportive of Robert, but I don't know what to do. I feel like I am running out of ways to help him.

I'm also frightened that focusing on Robert's mental health and living in this environment is hindering my health, as well. I don't want to

give up on him. What can I do?
-- *The Other Half*

Dear Other: Having to give up a child is heartbreaking, even when done in the child's best interests. Your husband desperately needs bereavement counseling. He also may blame himself for not doing enough to keep his family together, and the guilt could be overwhelming his willingness to seek help. In addition, he may resent your "recovery," which makes it difficult for him to heed your suggestions. You both could benefit from checking the information and online discussion forums offered through Concerned United Birthparents (cubirthparents.org), Adoption.org and Adoption.com.

Dear Annie: This has been bothering me for weeks. For Mother's Day, I received text messages saying, "Happy Mother's Day" from both of my older children. I was expecting at least a phone call. They do the same thing on my birthday. I don't keep them on the phone

long. I realize they are busy with my grandchildren.

I never say anything to them, but it hurts to think they can't at least have a real-time conversation with me. Is this the new generation's way of communicating? Shouldn't they know better, or am I just being old-fashioned? -- *Hurting Mama*

Dear Mama: Kids communicate by text these days. If you want a phone call, you will have to say so instead of stewing in silence. You are not expecting too much for them to phone you on special occasions, but they can't read your mind, and we suspect they aren't aware that you find it hurtful. Please speak up. (And since they have children, there's no reason you cannot phone and wish them a happy Mother's Day, too.)

Dear Annie: "Thought I Was Part of a Large Family" should be aware that as we grow older, attitudes among siblings can change. My brother and I had a rivalry through college, but as we grew to understand each

other (and convinced Dad to stop comparing us), we began to get along much better.

"Thought" should go to the family reunion and see whether she can get to know her distant siblings and nieces and nephews better. There is a real possibility that she could build a good relationship with at least one of them. -- *K.*

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

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Tomorrow's Horoscope

Aquarius Moon News

Newsflash from the open-minded Aquarius moon: When you have but one objective, the rest of your experience will bend to it. This produces a narrow view of the world that may serve your objective quite well. In this case, you had better be quite sure that the objective is worthy of the energy and perspective it demands.



HOLIDAY
MATHIS

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Your loved ones will be the ones most likely to unintentionally offend you, and that's precisely why you need to tell them when they do things that bother you.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Talent is necessary, but work is more necessary. The one who puts in the most work will win regardless of talent level. Therefore, it is ambition, not talent, that will take you to the

top.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). There's adventure ripe for the taking if you're willing to travel to a new address or answer an unidentified call. (Note that the latter may be more of an adventure in hanging up on a telemarketer.)

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You are doing so much on your own these days that socializing could seem like a chore. Increase your exposure to people. Otherwise, how are you going to keep up your skills?

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Small, lighthearted revelations are what bond you with others -- so do share. As far as anything deeper, write it out first. Become clear in your own thinking, and this will lead to a better connection.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). It is natural and yet unwise to think that others see the world as you do. Your thought process is as unique as theirs. It is only by assuming that you don't know that you can come to know.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Keeping the focus on another can be challenging when there's so much you have to share on a subject. But exercise a little restraint, and you'll be glad you did. You'll be better for learning from the experiences of others.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Events that are outside of your control will change the rhythm of your day. Don't be afraid of this. Assume that the new rhythm will be fine, too, if not more beneficial than if you had been able to rule absolutely.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Experience and mistakes -- they are the only way to learn. There is no magic solution, and the one who says there is most likely wants your money. Some degree of skepticism will be wise. Investigate before you buy.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). The reason the action seems to be thwarted is because someone is sitting on the fence waiting to be pushed one way or the other. You're just the person to nudge things in a positive direction.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). If you're not going to bring the superstar energy to the task at hand (and you're probably still debating whether you're up to it), the next best thing to bring is kindness. Being nice counts for a lot today.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Feelings, not facts, are at the heart of the matter. When people tell you how they feel, it's valuable information. Rephrase it back to them in as neutral of a way as possible, and you'll bond in understanding.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (June 16). You'll be accused of being a workaholic next month, but they don't understand that your business is about more than money: It's a way to get more out of life! Get clear on your goals for 2014 because you'll meet them by the year's end with a little help. Loved ones offer the support that is easiest for them to give -- that is, unless you ask for specific help. Capricorn and Scorpio people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 4, 25, 44, 15 and 32.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS: "What are the signs that a Capricorn guy is into you? I'm getting mixed signals. Sometimes he's extra flirty, especially in late-night texts. Then when I follow up the next day, he sometimes doesn't answer at all. I'll see him when we're out, and it sometimes works out magically. It feels like we have something really special. But then he doesn't call for weeks and seems reluctant to make plans. It's as though the stars have to align for us to meet up, and when they do, it's amazing. When they don't, I start to obsess. How do I play this one? I'm a Leo."

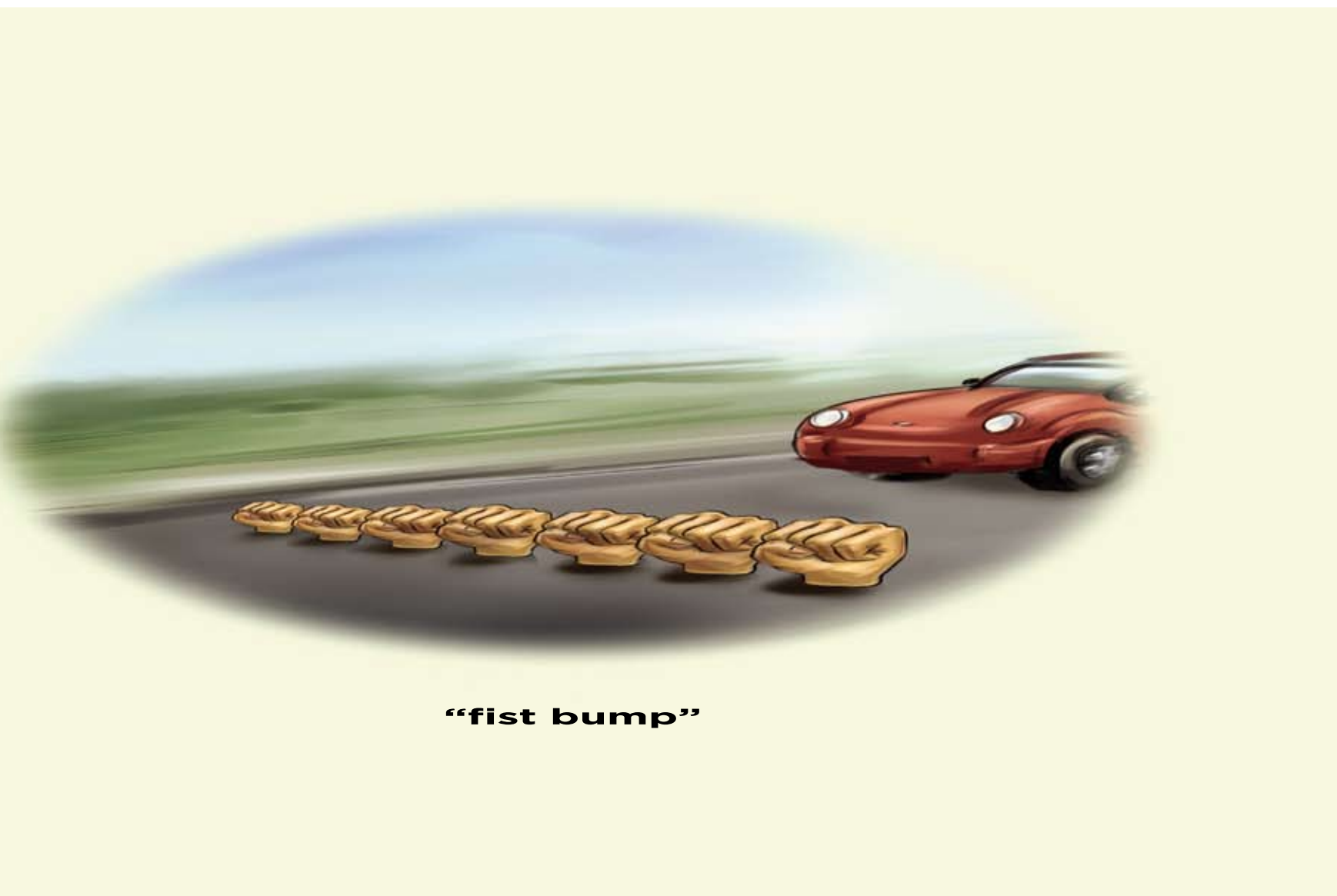
The obsessive energy drives him away. This is true even if you don't act on it, because your Leo intensity (which is helpful and positive when applied to many areas of life, but not to this one) can be felt strongly on a spiritual and emotional level. It scares your practical Capricorn because he's not wanting a serious thing from you at this time. This ultra-casual connection can only be enjoyed by both parties if they are equally satisfied with it. Release any expectation that this

is "a thing," and see it instead as sheer fun in the moment.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Abby Elliott has a busy year ahead with the release of "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles," the romantic comedy "Sex Ed" and much more. This "Saturday Night Live" alumnus is the first second-generation cast member, as her father, Chris Elliott, was also in the cast. Elliott was born when the sun and Venus were both in Gemini, lending the kind of quick, sharp wit that's ideal for comedy.

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

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“fist bump”

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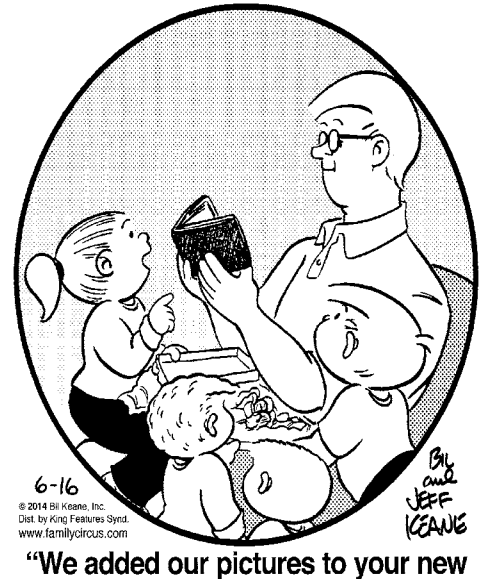
TV schedule table with columns for channel, time, and program name.

DENNIS THE MENACE



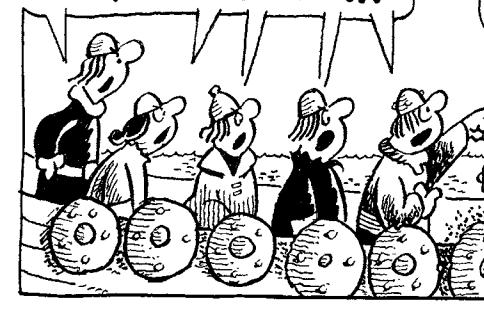
BUT HOW CAN I WATCH MY LANGUAGE? IT'S INVISIBLE!

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



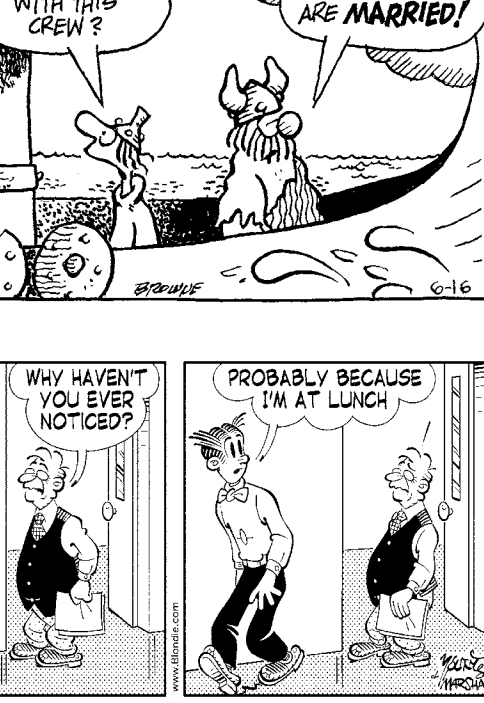
We added our pictures to your new wallet, Daddy. You have to add your own money.

HAGAR



WE WANT TO GO HOME!!!

BLONDIE



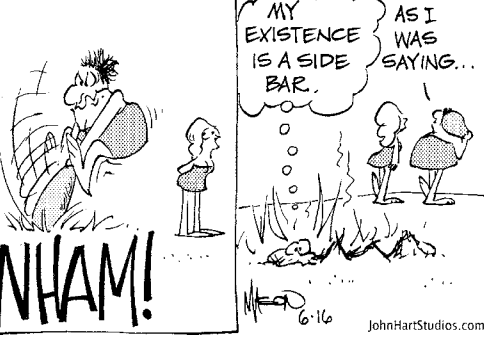
HAVE YOU EVER NOTICED THAT WHILE YOU'RE AT LUNCH, I OFTEN STAY HERE AND WORK?

BC



SO THAT WAS RIGHT ABOUT WHEN I BEGAN TO SAY --

WIZARD OF ID



FOOD TIME, SPOOK! THE KITCHEN IS ALL ORGANIC NOW!

This Date In History

Today is Monday, June 16, the 167th day of 2014. There are 198 days left in the year. Today's Highlight in History: On June 16, 1944, George Stinney, a 14-year-old black youth, became the youngest person to die in the electric chair as the state of South Carolina executed him for the murders of two white girls, Betty June Binnicker, 11, and Mary Emma Thames, 7. (George Stinney's family, who maintains his innocence, is seeking to overturn his conviction.) On this date:

In 1567, Mary, Queen of Scots, was imprisoned in Lochleven Castle in Scotland. (She escaped almost a year later but ended up imprisoned again.) In 1858, accepting the Illinois Republican Party's nomination for the U.S. Senate, Abraham Lincoln said the slavery issue had to be resolved, declaring, "A house divided against itself cannot stand." In 1883, baseball's first "Ladies' Day" took place as the New York Gothams offered women free admission to a game against the Cleveland Spiders. (New York won, 5-2.) In 1903, Ford Motor Co. was incorporated. In 1911, IBM had its beginnings as the Computing-Tabulating-Recording Co. was incorporated in New York State. In 1933, the National Industrial Recovery Act became law with President Franklin D. Roosevelt's signature. (The Act was later struck down by the U.S. Supreme Court.) The Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. was founded as President Roosevelt signed the Banking Act of 1933.

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Answer to previous puzzle crossword grid with words like REALESTATE, OSSO, EXXONMOBIL, SHAD, FIELDAGENT, HAND, ELLERA, TOWARDS, RESISTANT, NEWISH, EVADED, SANTA, PISTOL WIN, GOP, ENTERED, POPWINE, AGA, CUE, VEINED, CENSE, EXCELS, ENDUSE, TOLLCALL, PETBEDS, VIM, KIA, TRAS, GAMEDESIGN, PALA, AGERELATED, ELLIA, RENTALCARS.

AGNES



CHOOSING A HOBBY IS A TOUGH TASK.

HI AND LOIS



HOW CAN YOU LISTEN TO THIS JUNK?

Newsday Crossword

ON YOUR FEET by Gail Grabowski Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS 1 High-IQ group 6 Portion of butter 9 Self-satisfied 13 Shy away from 14 Tex-Mex folded food 15 Wind-direction indicator 16 Musical speed 17 Money in Italy 18 Give off 19 U-turn from NNW 20 Footwear for dancing ladies 23 Assist, as a criminal 25 Just out of the oven 26 Legal rights org. 28 Lawyers' org. 31 Wall of China 34 Lacking spices 36 "That's a shame!" 38 52, in old Rome 40 Footwear for hoops players 43 Pose a question 44 Remove pencil marks 45 Nevada/California lake 46 Overly sentimental 48 Skirt's sewed line 50 Hair on a lion's neck 51 Country meadow 52 Talk back to 54 Footwear for a nature trail 60 Haul, as a trailer 63 Opera solo 64 Seniors' org. 65 "Me, too!" 67 Small city 68 "A likely story!"

- 69 Walk inside 70 Bad mood 71 Prefix meaning "recent" 72 Very small DOWN 1 Surfaces for wrestling 2 Days before holidays 3 American city near the Arctic Circle 4 Small taste of tea 5 Southwestern building material 6 St. (Minneapolis neighbor) 7 Land measure 8 Dental cleaning product 9 Gracefully slender 10 Papa's partner 11 Storage rental 12 Obtains 14 Aviv, Israel 21 One time (singly) 22 Heavily wooded area 24 Upper or lower bed 26 "Mamma Mia!" singing group 27 Group of students 29 "Ali and the 40 Thieves" 30 Teaming (with) 32 Hawaii's nickname 33 Attach with twine 35 Dig further down 37 Happiness 39 "Now it's clear!" 41 Make another attempt 42 Bad actors 47 Easily bent 49 Winter hours in Colorado: Abbr. 53 Selling point 54 Berets and bonnets 55 Clothes-pressing appliance 56 Fuzzy fruit 57 in the woods (innocent one) 58 Black-and-white cookie 59 for (choose) 61 Sign of the future 62 Lean and muscular 66 for the money...

Crossword grid with numbers 1-72.

THE OTHER COAST



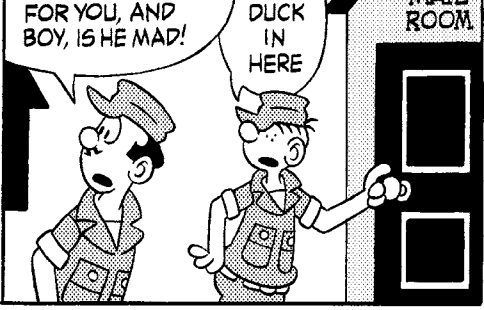
THE DAWN CHORUS:

SNUFFY SMITH



I'VE COME TO TH' HOLLER FER A LI'L R AN' R !!

BEEBLE BAILEY



SARGE IS LOOKING FOR YOU, AND BOY, IS HE MAD!

BEETLE BAILEY



GRR !!

BEETLE BAILEY



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