



FRIDAY

JULY 4, 2014



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Big Spring Herald 4th of July

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Despite concerns, 'Pops' explodes

BY LYNDEL MOODY

Staff Writer

Call it the little fourth of July celebration that could, although Pops in the Park really can't be described as little.

First, committee members for Big Spring's Independence Day and fireworks display festivities struggled

throughout the year to find financing for the \$45,000 plus event. Struggled so much, the event almost didn't happen until a last-minute donation by Superod came through.

Then came the forecast for rain Thursday. By mid-afternoon Thursday, a storm dumped the wet stuff across Big Spring and then started to clear up just in time for

more dark, ominous-looking clouds started moving in over the skies of the town.

Then something went right.

The black-clouded sky turned into just an overcast one and finally, by the time AC and Heaters took the stage at the Comanche Trail Amphitheater, the sun started to peak through.

"The storm clouds worried me a little, but the skies opened up, and it became beautiful again," said Pops in the Park Committee Chairperson Kelly Seales. "We got beautiful, clear skies, and it went off without a hitch. I think it's been wonderful. My biggest concern that if

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"We got beautiful, clear skies, and it went off without a hitch. I think it's been wonderful."



Seales



Pops!

Music, fireworks, games and displays of patriotism marked Friday's Pops in the Park celebration, which took place in Comanche Trail Park.

HERALD photos/Andrea Medlin and Lyndel Moody



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At top, Dr. Keith Graumann, Big Spring Symphony director, addresses the crowd during Friday's Pops in the Park celebration, while above, the Gonzales family fires up the grill — or grills — in Comanche Trail Park prior to the fireworks show. Despite the threat of rain earlier in the day, skies turned sunny as the festival began.

HERALD photos/Lyndel Moody

Big Spring ISD approved Iteach Texas offers teaching possibilities

BY LYNDEL MOODY

Staff Writer

It's no secret there is a demand for public school teachers in the West Texas area.

In the past few years, school districts have reviewed their pay scale, sometimes bumping up salaries, offered what they term as incentives but in the business world would be called sign-on bonuses and even purchased teacher housing — all in an effort to stay competitive in teacher recruitment.

For individuals considering a change of career, seeking a second career or wanting to dive into the education field, the time seems to be right.

Big Spring Independent School District is working with Iteach Texas, an online teaching certificate program which offers a different route than the traditional teaching certificate path.

"We can prepare the candidate to become a highly effective teacher," said Diann Huber, president of Iteach Texas.

The for-profit company was established in 2003 and has now spread to offer teaching certifications in several U.S. states. The program is accredited by the National Council of Accreditation of Teacher Education, a non-profit, non-governmental entity, through 2018.

College graduates who are considering a career in teaching have the option of taking course work online and performing a year of field work under the supervision of an experienced educator.

This is how it works.

According to the Iteach web-site, to qualify, a candidate must have a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university and have a minimum GPA of 2.5, show knowledge of content areas either through

their conferred degrees or show hours identified in those content areas and pass a state certification test in those areas. Candidates can apply online and will need to pass a prescreening exam. The cost for this step is \$110.

Once accepted, the individual can begin classes immediately, but must finish all courses in a sixth-month period. According to Huber, the program cost for this next step is \$4,250 but can be deferred until the individual begins his or her field experience or can be paid for each course enrolled at \$400 a piece. The field experience fee is \$1,025.

There are other costs associated with achieving a teaching certificate, including \$120 for each state certification exam, \$52 for a probationary certification application and fee, \$47 for fingerprinting and \$77 for a standard certificate application fee.

According to Huber, studies tracking graduates over a three-year period show the program has a retention rate of between 92 percent and 83 percent. Also for women older than 40 in all ethnicities, the retention rate of those going into the classroom from this program is at 100 percent, she said.

Huber added the program has a relationship with Grand Canyon University in Phoenix, Ariz., which allows Iteach students to receive 12 hours credited toward a master's degree.

For more information, visit the Iteach website at www.iteachtexas.com or call 1-887-3ITEACH or call Big Spring ISD community relations coordinator George Bancroft at 264-3600.

Contact Lyndel Moody at 263-7331, ext. 234 or by e-mail at citydesk@bigspringherald.com

POPS

Continued from Page 1

It was too overcast the CAF (Commemorative Air Force) wasn't going to be able to do their fly over. For me, that is the most poignant part of it. Every time they perform the missing man formation, I have to tear up and catch my breath a little. It's been great. The crowd is great. We've got a lot of people in the park enjoying it."

A little rain didn't scare anyone away.

By 5:30 p.m. people were already setting up picnic tents scattered around the Comanche Trail lawns and some serious grilling wafting delicious smells was under way. Zion Gonzales had his grill busy by that time. The Torres-Hernandez family was already deep into a competitive game of volleyball using a net they'd set up earlier. At the amphitheater, vendors hawking food, glow sticks and more were already doing a brisk

business, which just got more crowded throughout the night.

A small crowd gathered inside the amphitheater about 6 p.m. when AC and the Heaters began playing music ranging from 1970s Led Zeppelin to contemporary rock and a little bit of country with the assistance of county-swing musician Jody Nix.

"The sun's come out," Adrian Calvio, lead singer of AC and the Heaters and local businessman told the crowd. "Isn't that just what happens when you start to play music."

After the group finished, the Big Spring Symphony and Choral took the stage about 8 p.m. for the main event which included the presentation of the colors with the help of area Boy and Girl Scouts and an honor guard consisting of local firemen and law enforcement. The evening's event also included a tribute honoring active U.S. military personnel and veterans, including a brief video on Medal of Honor re-

ipient George O'Brien, who is from Big Spring. The evening capped off to a park full of spectators as fireworks lit the sky.

Watching the event come to fruition makes the year-long process worth the long, hard work, Seales said.

"It's so much preparation," she said. "As soon as this is over, we start planing for next year. When it comes down to the wire, it's so exciting. Once everything goes off and you can sit back and enjoy the fireworks, it's totally worth it."

"Thank you to the community for coming out and all the people who supported us financially," she continued. "We couldn't do it without the money. We couldn't do it without our spon-

sors and especially the city of Big Spring. They donate the use of the amphitheater. They coordinate with the police and fire department. Workers for weeks are getting ready for this evening, cleaning up the park. We wouldn't be able to do it without the city of Big Spring, the Chamber of Commerce, and the CVB (Conventions and Visitors Bureau).

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sudoku

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

www.sudoku-puzzles.net

"There are so many different people involved," she said. "It's amazing how many people volunteer their time. We don't get paid to do this. This comes from the love of our county and the love of our military."

Donations are being

accepted for the 2015 Pops in the Park and can be sent to the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce, 215 W. Third St.

Contact Lyndel Moody at citydesk@bigspringherald.com or by 263-7331, ext. 234.

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Earth to Echo (PG) Digital Fri: 12:00 3:45 6:45 9:45 Sat: 12:00 3:45 6:45 9:45	22 Jump Street (R) Digital Fri: 12:15 4:00 7:30 10:15 Sat: 12:15 4:00 7:30 10:15

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Opinion

"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

Take pride in America

Howard Countians certainly don't shy away from celebrating their independence.

A spectacular symphony and fireworks show and a two-day downtown "Funtastic" festival were highlight red, white and blue celebrations. The festivities continued this morning with the Highland South Parade and will go on Saturday with the Coahoma Freedom Parade followed by activities in the city park that afternoon.

We're sure many of you have also planned family get-togethers, barbecues and the like over the weekend.

These celebrations — and ones like them all over our nation — can be traced back more than 230 years, when

our founding fathers gathered in Philadelphia to sign a document that became known as our nation's Declaration of Independence.

Men, women and children — persecuted in Europe and wanting more control over their respective lives — had come to the land we now know as the United States of America to start anew.

Their freedom was not easily obtained. It was paid for with the blood, sweat, tears and lives of many. That same freedom we enjoy today has had to be paid for on numerous occasions.

While there are those who would quickly complain of our nation's shortcomings, and we most assuredly have our share, we need to remember that even though our democratic system of government oft times reveals flaws, it is still the strongest and longest surviving of any in the world.

When revolt rocks other nations, our system continues to stand the test of time.

So, today when you fire up the grill for hamburgers and hot dogs, head to the park lake or simply turn on the TV to watch its fare for the holiday, take a moment to remember those who gave us our country and those who have since helped preserve and protect it.

It wouldn't hurt to offer a little prayer of thanks while we're at it.

Then go ahead and unfurl your flag. Display it proudly because it truly is a grand old flag and this is grand old nation is another year older.

God bless America.

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.
- 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 or mailed to Editor, Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721.

DAILY PRAYER

As we celebrate this weekend, Dear Lord, let us not forget that we owe our blessings to you. Amen

We share a love of country

Every four years, at some point in the presidential campaign, one candidate says something that leads the other to accuse him (or her) of challenging his (or her) patriotism, and then we have a 48-hour spat over who called who unpatriotic, and then we go back to the usual political game in which talking heads viciously attack each other 24/7.

Does Barack Obama love America? Of course he does. Does he hate white people? No. Did George W. Bush hate America? Of course he didn't. Both men have made mistakes. Who in that job has not?

On the Fourth of July, we put on our flag pins or fly flags on our front lawns and celebrate the miracle of democracy.

Is Congress made up of a bunch of greedy fools? No. It is, in my experience, made up of men and women more talented than most, who end up playing a game that most of them did not dream of playing when they were growing up and dreaming of going to Washington, D.C.

Does the Supreme Court (whose popularity rating has

reached an all-time low) comprise a bunch of political hacks who just cast their votes based on who put them there? Actually, no. They have very different views and ideologies, but these men and women work unbelievably hard to do what they believe is right, and while I fundamentally disagree with them some of the time, no serious student of the Supreme Court would ever agree with the more foolish criticisms hurled at the justices by folks who often know nothing about how the court works.

We take it for granted that our institutions are stable, or we would never dare abuse them as we do. If our right to vote were in jeopardy, we would vote.

If the government really were corrupt, in the way the screamers suggest, we would come together and throw the bums out. We mostly reelect our members of Congress every two years (and I will regret greatly not being able to vote once again for my congressman Henry Waxman, who has been an amazing public servant) because most of them, when they aren't stuck endlessly raising money or fighting off challenges, try to do what they think is best for their constituents and this country, however much you or I might disagree with their judgment on that.

That old saying about democ-

racy being a terribly flawed system except that every other system is so much worse is true, and it is also true that we are the luckiest people in the world to be able to take as much for granted as we do.

But taking things for granted can go too far, and one day a year is not enough to right what has become an increasingly ugly tone to the political discourse in this country. The fact that we have the freedom to attack our leaders and institutions without risk of being arrested or censored does not mean anything should go in political discourse. The fact that the Internet allows people to say things anonymously that they would never dare say otherwise does not mean their words are not dangerous or destructive.

We are a great country facing difficult challenges, and we don't all agree on the way to deal with them. But we agree on far more than we disagree on, and we share a fundamental love of country that should, at the end of the day, and does, when things get bad enough, transcend our differences. It is too bad it takes a disaster, or the Fourth of July, for us to call on that strength.

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SUSAN ESTRICH



Happy Fourth despite it all

On July 4, I plan to celebrate this nation's birth with something approaching devotion. I will so despite the fact that each day's news brings fresh reasons to worry about the future.

I could list the things that worry me, but you know what they are. They probably worry you, too, but the Fourth of July is a time to elevate and celebrate rather than fret. So here's a story:

Last week, I was in Europe and had dinner with a European gentleman. He is very successful and pretty happy with his lot. As sometimes happens when people of different cultures speak, I didn't understand something he was telling me. He kept emphasizing how important it was, when he was young, that he be good at sports, because he was an immigrant to the country he grew up in. I was a little slow to see the relevance of this, until at length, I got the picture. As the son of immigrants to Germany, he wasn't accepted by his peers. He felt his outsider status acutely. Excelling at soccer gave him some measure of acceptance.

We are again embroiled in a domestic fight over immigration policy. The Obama administration is confronting the consequences of its unilateral decision to grant permanent residency to the children of illegal immigrants as a wave of unaccompanied minors is dropped at our borders. Characteristically, President Barack Obama sees the problem not as a) something his own policies created or b)

something he must grapple with as leader of the nation in a conscientious fashion. No, he sees it just as an opportunity to score political points against Republicans.

But putting all of that aside for the moment and thinking back to my "German" dinner companion, our American capacity to adopt immigrants and accept them as fully American remains remarkable and probably unequalled anywhere in the world. It's a confirmation of the cliché that you cannot become French, Irish or Italian by immigration. You'll always be viewed as a transplant. But anyone from anywhere can become an American. What defines us is not language or ethnicity or religion but a shared dedication to certain propositions. I can't prove this, but I suspect that even the most die-hard opponent of illegal immigration would be generous and open to any legal immigrant who happened to cross his path.

He'd make an effort to pronounce his name correctly and would ask about his family. In fact, that die-hard would probably be kind even to a known illegal, because most Americans are generous. Welcoming newcomers is written into our DNA.

If anything, we've leaned too far in recent years toward multiculturalism and separatist identities. Some of our thought leaders appear to think it's presumptuous to teach our ways to immigrants — though most immigrants are eager to assimilate and sacrificed much to join us. The liberal project to make Americans adapt to immigrants rather than the other way around is one of the reasons some Americans balk at increasing immigration.

Charles Murray argues in his short monograph for the Ameri-

can Enterprise Institute that American exceptionalism is composed of four elements that, taken together, constitute the unique civic culture of the nation. The four traits are industriousness, egalitarianism, religiosity and community life.

Religious belief and engagement are declining but remain relatively strong. A Harris poll found that 23 percent of Americans describe themselves as "not at all religious" in 2013, almost double the number who said that in 2007. The percentage of Americans who profess a belief in God (74) remains significantly higher than most European nations. Seventy-three percent of Frenchmen told Gallup in 2007-2008 that religion is not important in their lives, along with 63 percent of Russians, 71 percent of the British and 59 percent of Spaniards.

Industriousness is strained by the deadening hand of the regulatory state, but remains more robust than in other countries.

Egalitarianism, by which Murray means the belief that each person is of equal worth, whatever his income or family, remains a firm conviction.

And civic engagement, though shouldered aside in a thousand ways by the vast octopus of government, continues to chug along, creating associations, committees, councils and clubs to improve life for all. Out of curiosity, I Googled "English as a Second Language" classes in my area and discovered a vast network, including ESLIM (English as a Second Language and Immigrant Ministries), a program of the Methodist Church, the Northern Virginia Community Colleges and many others.

Worth some fireworks, I'd say.

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MONA CHAREN

Church News

Cornerstone Covenant Church

Cornerstone Covenant Church would like to invite you to join us this first Sunday of July for our upcoming series entitled "Giants do Fall." For the month of July we will focus on biblical accounts of overcoming giant problems in the lives of our brothers and sisters of the faith. Discover the power of your veiled faith and the enter strength of the Holy Spirit to overcome the giants in your life.

Also, save the date for the 2014 Back to School Weekend. First, we have our annual Back To School Picnic; Saturday, Aug. 23 at noon and Sunday, Aug. 24th at 10:30 a.m. worship service.

Cornerstone Covenant Church (CCC) is a unified, spirit-led, purpose-driven church, which cultivates an atmosphere of faith so lives can be transformed by Jesus Christ.

We meet on Wednesdays at 7 p.m. for Bible study and Sundays at 10:30 a.m. for worship. CCC offers nursery and children church for both mid-week and Sunday services. We are located at 706 East 12th St. For office hours or more information, contact us at 264-0015; or find us at facebook.com/CCCBigSpring; visit us on the web at www.cccbigspring.org

First Presbyterian Church, Big Spring

The Lectionary Bible study, led by the Rev. Craig Holstedt and Tom Koger, meets at 5:17 p.m. Wednesday. The Chancel Choir will not meet in July since the choir will take several weeks off.

Susan McDaniel is in charge of Take Ten for Sunday. John Ferguson is our lay lector for the month.

The hamburger/hot dog/ice cream supper and wedding shower for Caitlin and Chris Griffin last Sunday evening was well-attended and enjoyed by our members of all ages. We join in wishing the newlyweds a long and happy marriage.

The lectionary for the Fourth Sunday after Pentecost is Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67; Psalm 45:10-17; Romans 7:15-25; Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30. Rev. Craig Holstedt will deliver the sermon. The Chancel Choir will take a "vacation" by sitting in the congregation to help with the hymn singing. In honor of America's Independence Day, Organist Mike Mitchell will offer "Land of My Birth" and John Philip Sousa's "Liberty Bell March."

Our worship service begins at 10:50 a.m. for announcements and parish concerns before our radio broadcast starts at 11.

If you cannot attend worship, listen in on KBST 1490 AM., beginning at 11 a.m. If you wish to have a printed bulletin for Sunday services, call the church office at 263-4211. You may also see what's happening at the church by visiting our website: www.fpcbs.org.

First United Methodist Church

First United Methodist Church is located just off Gregg Street at the corner of Fourth and Scurry in downtown Big Spring. Classic worship gatherings at 8:30 a.m. and our blended worship is at 10:50 a.m. Both services meet in the Sanctuary. Sunday School for all ages meets at 9:45 a.m.. A nursery is provided at all times. The 10:50 service can be heard each Sunday morning on KXCS - 105.5 FM.

Sunday, First United Methodist Church will be celebrating our God-given freedoms as a nation with special patriotic services at 8:30 a.m. and 10:50 a.m. Our adult Celebration Choir will be leading in both services. Worship will open with the choir singing "God Bless America" by Irving Berlin, followed by the Presentation of the Colors by the Honor Guard from Boy Scout Troop No. 1.

Following the presentation of the colors, the congregation will join in the singing of "The Star Spangled Banner." The singing of the national anthem will include verse four, which calls upon the nation to praise the God of Heaven for his providential care in rescuing the nation from her enemies. The call to praise is punctuated by a further call for the nation to adopt "In God is our trust" as its national

motto. Other congregational songs during the service will include "America the Beautiful" and "My Country 'Tis of Thee."

Our Celebration Choir will also sing a stirring new arrangement of "America the Beautiful" entitled "America: The New Colossus" arranged by Tom Fettke. Pastor Bill Ivins will share a message entitled "The Unshakeable Kingdom," which is taken from Hebrews 12:18-29.

Tuesday, we have 30 students from our Epic Youth Ministry who will be leaving for the Desperation Youth Conference in Colorado Springs. The Desperation Conference calls young people to live in desperate pursuit of God.

Therefore when churches bring their youth



groups to one of a conference, they can expect prolonged worship and prayer times, dynamic national speakers, and an overall intense encounter with God. It is an experience that words cannot describe. For some, it is a call to return home to the Father; but for most, it is a life-altering experience that forever changes their perspective on life and God.

Students will return from the conference on Saturday.

Wednesday, Jim Anderson will be teaching Wednesday Noon Bible Study in Garrett Hall. A meal is served for a small fee in Garrett Hall beginning at 11:50 a.m. The study concludes at 12:50 p.m. The public is invited to attend.

Sunday, Pastor Ivins will launch a new message series entitled "Glow in the Dark." As Christians, we're called to reflect the light of Christ — to "Glow in the Dark." As we reflect the light of Christ, we can have the kind of influence on those around us that will lead them to the One who is the true Light, Jesus Christ.

How we live and what we say can determine what others come to know about Christ. Our influence can have powerful effect. Our words and our actions can shut out the Light from those around us or, as Paul said, they will bring "his word to light."

The summer is in full swing with a whole complement of other activities for children, youth, adults and senior adults. For more information about any activity at First United Methodist Church, visit our website at fumcbs.com or phone 267-6394.

Spring Creek Fellowship

We will be meeting at Spring Town Plaza on Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m. for the next few weeks to get the portion of the mall to be used as our new church home ready for renovation. All help is welcome and appreciated.. Children's activities will continue at the regular place and time.

The Big Spring Christian Academy is opening a preschool in September. It will start out as a two-day a week preschool and eventually move into a full-time preschool for ages 3 months through 4 years old. For more info, go to www.bsccpreschool.org.

Big Spring Classical Academy classes include ju-

nior K through junior high this coming year. Applications are being taken for the 2014-2015 school year. Visit our website at <http://bigspringclassical.org> for more information or contact Donna Sue Looney.

You can listen to the sermon from the previous Sunday at 9 every Sunday morning on KBYG 106.3 FM and 1400 AM.

Sunday services include connection groups at 9:15 a.m. and worship at 10:45 a.m. If you would like any further information regarding any of our ministries or events, contact the church office or visit our website.

Spring Creek Fellowship meets at the College Park Shopping Center at 501 Birdwell Lane in Big Spring. Contact us at 432-714-4584 or visit our website at www.springcreekfellowship.org "Every Member a Minister"-1 Peter 4:10 NKJV

Forsan Baptist Church

This Sunday morning we will have another message of hope and encouragement from Romans 7:18-25. The message is titled "Do Overs." On Wednesday evenings we are in the midst of a verse-by-verse trek through the Old Testament and on Sunday evenings we are in the last weeks of the DVD series called "The Story."

Tuesday evenings we are doing a Bible study about how to study the Bible. This is a weekly evening study which will continue through the first week of August. The study focuses on how the Bible is put together, how we got it, how it is all connected, and the background involved in the writing. We meet in the ladies' Sunday school classroom at the church at 6:30 p.m.

As we end our DVD study on Sunday evenings, we will begin an inquiry study based upon open questions about the Bible. Anyone who wishes to ask a question about the Bible or Christianity is welcome to chime in. These questions will be addressed through Scripture and can be emailed, called in, asked in person, or sent via Facebook message from our church page. You can even text them to the number at the bottom of this article.

Our church is located at 201 Main in Forsan. Sunday school begins at 9:50, with worship services at 10:50 a.m. and 6 p.m. Wednesday services begin at 6 p.m. Rides for all youth activities are available if arranged ahead of time. Call the church at 432-457-2342 or Pastor Darren Weaver at 432-213-2348.

Alive in Christ Lutheran Church LCMS

Our motto is "Celebrating and Sharing God's Love and Grace in our lives."

We are located at 2805 Lynn Drive in the Kentwood Subdivision in Big Spring. The church phone number is 432-264-7818. Our website is <http://www.aicbigspring.org>. Our e-mail address is aliveinchristtx@gmail.com.

Sunday services will begin at 9 a.m. with Bible study and Sunday school to follow at 10:15 a.m.

Dolline Budke will present the readings this week.


Our Wednesday night Bible study is taking a summer break. Class will begin in the fall.

See CHURCH NEWS, Page 7

Cordially Invite You to Attend our Services

TRINITY BAPTIST
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One reason God created time was so there would be a place to bury the failures of the past.



Randy Cotton
Pastor

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Service broadcast over KBYG 1400 AM on your dial	Morning Worship.....11:00 a.m.
	Evangelistic Service.....6:00 p.m.
	Wednesday Service.....7:00 p.m.

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Religion Briefs

Atheists want to deliver city council invocation

ROWLETT, Texas (AP) — A Dallas-area atheist group wants equal time at a suburban city council meeting that begins with a religious invocation.

The group Metroplex Atheists has given Rowlett city officials 10 business days to respond to a request that two of its members get on the list of people authorized to give invocations.

The group's president, Randy Word, says he'd rather see no invocation. But he says if there's to be one, he wants his group eligible to deliver a secular message.

The town east of Dallas allows invocations from licensed clergy members from religious groups that meet inside the city.

Nixon says religious liberties bill for schools

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (AP) — Missouri Gov. Jay Nixon has signed legislation intended to protect students' religious expression at public schools.

The bill signed Wednesday says students cannot face discrimination for expressing their religious viewpoints in homework, artwork and other class assignments. It says those projects must be graded according to ordinary academic standards.

The legislation also says that students may pray while at school and wear clothing and jewelry displaying religious messages to the same extent that other types of clothes or accessories are allowed.

Another part of the bill says that student religious groups shall be given the same access to using school facilities as other kinds of non-curricular groups.

Family Life Radio change

Starting July 7, Family Life Radio provides the communities of Tucson, Midland/Odessa and Detroit with choices. Listeners can switch between Family Life Radio stations to hear their favorite Christian music all day, or a blend of Biblical teaching programs along with their favorite Christian music.

Tucson AZ: 88.5 FM (Teaching/Music), 101.7 FM & AM 830 (Music)

Midland/Odessa TX: 101.7 FM & AM 920 (Teaching/Music), 88.1 FM (Music)

Detroit MI: AM 1030 & 94.3 FM (Teaching/Music), Web Stream & Mobile App (Music)

Did you ever wonder?

Cain and Abel

Why did God accept Abel's gift, but not Cain's? Did He love Abel better? What did Cain do wrong?

First let's ask why did they bring sacrifices to God. Up to this point in the Bible there is nothing written about bringing sacrifices to God. Yet in Gen. 1:31 it says, "And God saw all that he had made, and behold it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day." Ecclesiastes 1:9 & 10 tells us "there is no new thing under the sun."

Consider that this happened before the Bible was written. Therefore, I submit that even though we are not notified, Adam must have been told that he was to make sacrifices to show his love and gratitude to God. In Exodus 29, when God is sanctifying the original priests who are to approach Him in the Tabernacle, He accepts the blood of an animal to cover the sins of these men. If "there is no new thing under the sun,"

Cain and Abel already knew the significance of the blood of an innocent animal.

Abel became a shepherd, and Cain became a tiller of the ground. Able knew this was important, so he brought "the firstlings of his flock" (firstfruits) "and from the choicest" of his flock (he brought an offering of thanksgiving). This shows what was in his heart; he gave the best to the Lord.

Now, let's consider why Cain's offering was not accepted. Cain also knew of the need for a blood sacrifice, yet he casually brought "some of the fruit of the ground." He should have bought an animal for his sacrifice, but he did not even offer the first fruits of the crop he had grown. It is clear that his heart was not set on serving the Lord.

The Lord asked Cain, "Why are you annoyed? Surely, if you improve yourself, you will be forgiven. But if you do not improve yourself, sin (or Satan) rests at the door. Its desire is to have you, yet you can conquer it." (Gen. 4:6 & 7) Was God not reassuring Cain that He still loved him, if only Cain would show love for God?

Instead of changing his attitude, Cain killed his brother, Abel. God said his

punishment would be that the ground would no longer yield its strength for him. He would become a vagrant and a wanderer. Still feeling sorry for himself, Cain complains that his burden is too great for him to bear. He realizes that he can no longer be in the Lord's presence, and he thinks that whoever meets him will kill him. So God put a mark on Cain and said, "Therefore, whoever slays Cain, before seven generations have passed, he will be punished."

Cain's great, great, great grandson was Lamech (the fifth generation), and he was blind. His son, Tubal-Cain, was helping his father hunt. He told him to shoot into the brush, for he thought he saw an animal. But the arrow killed Cain instead. Lamech was so upset he beat his hands together wildly in grief. He accidentally struck his son and killed him, too.

What can we say? God made every effort to forgive Cain and to protect him after he was banished. All of this happened because Cain cared more for himself and his feelings than he cared for God. Doing God's will in the first place would have made the difference.

Eunice Filler is a former school teacher with ties to the Big Spring community. She has returned to enjoy her retirement as a Big Spring resident. Questions? fillereunice@yahoo.com.



EUNICE FILLER

CHURCH NEWS

Continued from Page 1

Tune in to 106.3 FM or 1400 AM between 6:45 and 6:50 each morning for these wonderful devotions: "Morning Meditation Thoughts."

First Christian Church

July is a different month for us as our pastor, Dr. Ken McIntosh, will be on vacation and our pulpit will be filled by guest minister, the Rev. Joel Miller. The Rev. Miller is the director of the chaplain's office with the sheriff and has served as a United Methodist pastor over the years. The Rev. Miller will be our preacher for the next three Sundays.

Looking ahead, you are invited to join us for an evening cookout and Apple Pie contest on July 20, 6:30 p.m., in the Fellowship Hall.

Blackwood Legacy Quartet in concert

The Blackwood Legacy Quartet, direct from Nashville, will be presenting several special concert events in our communities this month. With their unbroken link to the Dove and Grammy-award winning Blackwood Brothers, these Mansion Entertainment artists link the best of Southern Gospel's traditional sound with today's newer Country gospel and worship music.

The Blackwood Legacy Quartet will be in concert on Sunday, July 13, 10:30 a.m., at Faith Community Baptist Church, 9902 West University in Odessa. That evening at 6:30, they will be at Hillcrest Baptist Church, 2000 W. FM 700 in Big Spring. Admission is free to these non-denominational events, and an offering will be received.

The Blackwood Legacy Quartet has an all-star line-up. Group owner and bass singer Rick Price was originally a protégée of the late Cecil Blackwood. He began his 35-year career singing with the Blackwood Brothers in 1977,

and was eventually inducted into the Gospel Music Hall of Fame with the legendary group.

Spokane native Luke Yates sings baritone with the group, and is also an inspired and sought-after pianist and Nashville recording artist. Tenor singer Paul Secord, formerly a featured singer for Disney World, is one of the most talented in Gospel Music today. The group's newest member, lead singer Hunter Sparkman, is a talented Christian recording artist and musician from Nashville.

Performing since 2001, The Blackwood Legacy Quartet was signed to Mansion Records in 2010, and continues the grand tradition of gospel music, performing nearly 250 dates annually nationwide.

For more information, call the churches directly, visit the group's website at TheBlackwoodLegacy.com, or find the quartet on Facebook.

Music and Madness concert

The legendary Mark Lowry, joined by dynamic sibling trio The Martins and Grammy winner Jason Crabb, will present an enjoyable evening of spirit-lifting music and laughs on Aug. 7 in Big Spring, Texas.

Sponsored by Muse Concerts and presented by Feed the Children, Music & Madness will feature sounds from across the genres, including gospel, a cappella and classic favorites with accompaniment by a band and renowned pianist Stan Whitmire. The concert will be held Thursday, Aug. 7 at First Baptist Church Big Spring located at 705 W FM 700, Big Spring, TX, 79720. The show starts at 7 p.m. with doors opening at 6 p.m.

Mark Lowry is best known for penning the Christmas classic, "Mary Did You Know?" and for years singing baritone in the Grammy-Award-winning Gaither Vocal Band.

Tickets start at

\$25.00 and can be purchased online at marklowry.com. All tickets purchased online will include a per-ticket convenience fee. Seating is on a first-come, first-served basis.

First Baptist Church, Big Spring

Join us Sunday morning as we thank God for the privilege of living in a country where we are free to gather in His holy name. Worship service starts at 10:50, and Pastor Mark Lindsey will deliver the sermon titled "Love People." Drawn from Hebrews 10:23-24, the message focuses on God's desire for believers to live as a family of light in the darkness of our world, while tightly holding to the Hope of Jesus Christ which unites us in acts of love and service.

Sunday school groups meet at 9:30, and greeters at each door are happy to help you find your class. Come and enjoy a time of fellowship and studying the Bible.

Sunday evening at 5:30, our community missional groups gather in area homes; you do not have to be a church member to attend. Call the church at

267-8223 or go to fbcbigspring.org for details.

We encourage you to join us in prayer for those participating in the Boston Mission Trip this week, as they spread the Gospel alongside Charles River Church.

All area teens are invited to a cookout Saturday at Youth Pastor Jonathan Raffini's home. Call 267-8223 for more information.

Children's Summerama program continues each Tuesday and Thursday from 9-3, and is for all students who have completed kindergarten through those who have completed grade 6.

Wednesday evening begins with a meal served from 5-6 in the Family Life Center, followed by activities for all age groups.

Adult choir practice begins at 6, and we encourage you to add your voice to this fun group.

If you are feeling alone in the crowd of daily life, it would be our privilege to listen, pray with you, and share how much Jesus cares about you. First Baptist Church is located at 705 W. FM 700. There is always a place for you at First Baptist Church.

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News in brief

US adds 288,000 jobs and unemployment dips to 6.1 pct. as economy moves closer to full health

WASHINGTON (AP) — The 5-year-old U.S. recovery is gaining momentum from a surprisingly robust job market and moving the economy closer to full health.

Employers added 288,000 jobs in June and helped cut the unemployment rate from 6.3 percent to 6.1 percent, the lowest since 2008. It was the fifth straight monthly gain above 200,000 — the best such stretch since the late 1990s tech boom.

The stock market signaled its approval. The Dow Jones industrial average surged 92 points to top 17,000 for the first time.

The breadth and consistency of the job growth are striking in part because of how poorly the year began. The economy shrank at a steep 2.9 percent annual rate in the January-March quarter as a harsh winter contributed to the sharpest contraction since the depths of the recession.

Yet employers have shrugged off that setback. They've kept hiring.

Arthur bears down on North Carolina coast before tracking north along US Eastern Seaboard

KILL DEVIL HILLS, N.C. (AP) — Hurricane Arthur began moving offshore and away from North Carolina's Outer Banks early Friday after slashing into the state's barrier islands overnight.

Arthur strengthened to a Category 2 storm with winds of 100 mph Thursday evening before passing over the southern end of the Outer Banks — a 200-mile string of narrow barrier islands with about 57,000 permanent residents. The islands are susceptible to high winds, rough seas and road-clogging sands, prompting an exodus that began Wednesday night.

The storm was moving northeast early Friday after turning slightly west late Thursday, which increased the threat to mainland communities from flooding, tornadoes and intense winds.

"We're most concerned about flooding inland and also storm surges in our sounds and our rivers further inland," North Carolina Gov. Pat McCrory said. An evaluation of storm damage would have to wait until after the sun rose Friday, McCrory said.

About 22,000 were without power across the Carolinas early Friday, according to Duke Energy's website.

Southern California city becomes latest flashpoint in escalating immigration debate

LOS ANGELES (AP) — When American flag-waving protesters forced busloads of migrants to leave Murrieta earlier this week, the Southern California city became the latest flashpoint in an intensifying immigration debate that could heat up even more as patriotism surges on the Fourth of July.

The city's mayor has become a hero to those seeking stronger immigration policies with his criticism of the federal government's efforts to handle the thousands of immigrants, many of them mothers and children, who have flooded the Texas border.

Some of those immigrants were flown to California and were supposed to be processed at a Border Patrol facility in Murrieta, a fast-growing community in the conservative-leaning Inland Empire region. But protesters blocked the road, forcing federal officials to take the immigrants elsewhere.

A second protest is planned for July 4, when another convoy of buses with immigrants is rumored to arrive.

"We've had it," said Carol Schlaepfer, a retired Pomona resident who protested Tuesday in Murrieta. "We all want a better life. ... You can't come to our country and expect American citizens to dole out what you need, from grade school till death."

Rebel leader Joseph Kony remains "like a myth" to his fighters; complicates jungle hunt

NZACKO, Central African Republic (AP) — The African troops hoped the latest defector from the Lord's Resistance Army rebel group would have fresh insight into the location of infamous warlord Joseph Kony.

But Sam Opio, a senior rebel commander who defected last week, shook his head and said he hadn't seen rebel leader Kony since 2010.

He is not alone. All recent defectors have denied seeing or communicating with Kony in the last few years, complicating the work of U.S.-backed Ugandan troops who are hunting down rebels in the dense, often-impenetrable jungles of Central Africa that cover the size of France. An Associated Press reporter recently trailed soldiers tracking a small group of rebels.

Ugandan commanders lead the chase for Kony, who is wanted by the International Criminal Court over many atrocities, from Obo, a tactical base set up in the middle of a sprawling bush in the southeastern part of Central African Republic. Their mandate — to kill or capture Kony — sets a high bar for foot soldiers who may also be at a disadvantage against a man who has spent all of his adult life in the bush.

"He's like a myth," Ugandan Lt. Col. John Kagwisa, the intelligence officer for military operations against the rebels, said of Kony. "His (fighters) see him as some kind of god, their spiritual god. They say that Kony can see what you're doing in the bush even if you're many miles away."

Supreme Court ruling aside, free birth control becomes norm for women with private coverage

WASHINGTON (AP) — More than half of privately insured women are getting free birth control under President Barack Obama's health law, a major coverage shift that's likely to advance.

This week the Supreme Court allowed some employers with religious scruples to opt out, but most companies appear to be going in the opposite direction.

Recent data from the IMS Institute document a sharp change during 2013. The share of privately insured women who got their birth control pills without a copayment jumped to 56 percent, from 14 percent in 2012. The law's requirement that most health plans cover birth control as prevention, at no additional cost to women, took full effect in 2013.

The average annual saving for women was \$269. "It's a big number," said institute director Michael Kleinrock. The institute is the research arm of IMS Health, a Connecticut-based technology company that uses pharmacy records to track prescription drug sales.

The core of Obama's law — taxpayer-subsidized coverage for the uninsured — benefits a relatively small share of Americans. But free preventive care — from flu shots to colonoscopies — is a dividend of sorts for the majority with employer coverage.

Iraqi airstrikes target Sunni militants around oil refinery and near Syrian border

BAGHDAD (AP) — A spokesman for Iraqi counterterrorism forces says government airstrikes have targeted a group of Sunni militants trying to overrun the country's largest oil refinery, and claims as many as 30 insurgents were killed.

Sabah al-Nuaman says a government plane targeted around eight vehicles attacking military forces defending the Beiji oil refinery north of Baghdad early Friday. Fighters from the Islamic State extremist group have been trying to capture the Beiji facility from some two weeks.

Al-Nuaman also says a helicopter gunship hit a house in the town of Qaim near the Syrian border where a gathering of the jihadi group's local leaders was taking place. He says there were several casualties, but did not have a concrete figure.

An official in the Anbar province operational command confirmed the Qaim airstrike.

Putin tells Obama he wants better relations in Independence Day message

MOSCOW (AP) — Russian President Vladimir Putin has told Barack Obama in an Independence Day message that he hopes the countries can improve relations.

In a statement published on the Kremlin website on Friday, Putin said "regardless of difficulties and disagreements" he hoped that Russia and the U.S. could "successfully develop relations on pragmatic and equal grounds."

Relations between Russia and the U.S. have deteriorated as the two countries have struggled to find common ground in Ukraine, where Russia annexed the Black Sea region of Crimea in March and a conflict in the east of the country has claimed over 400 lives.

The United States reacted by imposing sanctions on some of Putin's associates, and has threatened to take further action.

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.

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

www.sudoku-puzzles.net

Perry testifies on immigration crisis

MCALLEN, Texas (AP) — The tens of thousands of Central American children entering the U.S. illegally is both a humanitarian crisis and a national security one, Texas Gov. Rick Perry testified Thursday at a congressional field hearing in South Texas.

More than 52,000 unaccompanied children have been apprehended since October. Three-fourths of them are from Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador, and say they are fleeing pervasive gang violence and crushing poverty.

Thursday's hearing by the House Homeland Security committee in McAllen yielded agreement that there is a humanitarian crisis but disagreement among members about its roots or potential solutions. The discussion frequently reverted to the question of securing the border that has stymied attempts at comprehensive immigration reform in the House.

Perry attributed the waves of young immigrants to a failure to secure the border and recent changes in immigration policy that he says sent a message to Central America that if the children came they would be allowed to stay. He and Republican members of the committee said they should be deported more quickly and the National Guard should be brought in to secure the border.

"Allowing them to remain here will only encourage the next group of individuals to undertake this very, very dangerous and life-threatening journey," Perry said. "And those who come must be sent back to demonstrate in no uncertain terms that risking your lives on the top of those trains and the ways that they are coming here, it's not worth it."

U.S. Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee, D-Houston, said she was prepared to support funding that would provide the resources necessary to help cases

move through immigration courts faster, but that quick deportations were not the answer.

On June 18, Perry announced that the state would steer another \$1.3 million per week to the Department of Public Safety to assist in border security through at least the end of the year. He followed that two days later with a letter inviting President Barack Obama to see the crisis firsthand.

The White House had earlier asked Congress for \$1.4 billion to help house, feed and transport the unaccompanied children.

The issue of unaccompanied children began drawing national attention in late May with the logjam it created in Border Patrol stations, but the number of immigrant children housed in government shelters had doubled in 2012, nearly doubled again in 2013 and is on pace to double again this year.

The administration appears to be responding now in ways demanded by Republicans, minus the additional National Guard troops.

On Monday, Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson announced that 150 additional Border Patrol agents would be immediately deployed to the Rio Grande Valley. This surge, however, has the unusual characteristic that the waves of mothers and children turn themselves in to the first uniform they see.

When smugglers are not worried about evading authorities, but instead just have to get their human cargo onto U.S. soil, it decreases the deterrence value of boots on the ground.

To that end, the administration wants to stop releasing children and families to remove that incentive.

On Monday, Obama asked Congress for flexibility to deport children more quickly and \$2 billion to hire more immigration judges and open more detention facilities.

Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

Test Your Defensive Play

You are East, defending against One Notrump played by South. The bidding has been:

South	West	North	East
1♣	Pass	1♥	Pass
1NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

Your partner leads the two of diamonds, and South takes your queen with the ace. What is declarer's most likely distribution, and what is your plan of defense?

NORTH

♠ J 8 4
♥ Q 10 9 8 3
♦ 7 5 4
♣ K 6

EAST

♠ Q 10 5
♥ A J 2
♦ Q 9 6 3
♣ 8 7 4

Let's first try to work out South's distribution. To begin with, you consider the suit your partner led. Since there is no reason to think West chose an irregular lead, you assume the deuce was his fourth-best diamond. This means that South started with precisely two diamonds.

Next let's turn to the suit declarer bid — clubs. He can't very well have six of them, since he would almost

surely have rebid his clubs rather than bid one notrump. It is therefore reasonable to assume that South started with four or five clubs in addition to his two diamonds.

Now, taking the bidding one step further, let's examine South's one-notrump rebid, which denied four spades as well as four-card heart support. Since South can't have four cards in either major, his distribution must be exactly 3-3-2-5.

The quality of declarer's suits is also subject to partial analysis. He is unlikely to have three hearts to the king because he might have raised North to two hearts with K-x-x and a doubleton diamond. South is therefore likely to have a hand similar to one of these two:

♠ A K 7	♣ A 9 2
♥ 6 5 4	♦ 6 5 4
♦ A 10	♠ A 10
♣ Q J 10 9 2	♠ A J 9 5 2

So, though we're still only at trick one, it seems probable that West will shortly win a club trick and play three rounds of diamonds, leaving you on lead with the nine. At that point you plan to lead a low heart to partner's king and win the next two hearts with the A-J to put the contract down one.

Tomorrow: A not-so-innocent mistake.

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Senior All-Stars set to play in Sectional round

The Big Spring Senior League all-star baseball team will try and add another title to its resume' this weekend when they compete in the 2014 Texas West Sectional Baseball Tournament.

The good news is this: They could win the title at home.

The Texas West Sectional Tournament is scheduled to be played at Steer Field on the campus of Big Spring High School. Games will begin on Saturday and continue through Monday

evening.

Big Spring, the District 3 champion, will earn a bye in the first round of the tournament. The BS all-stars will face the winner of Saturday's first-round matchup between Childress and Pecos, which will be played at 8 p.m. on Saturday.

Childress enters the game as the District 1 champion. Pecos qualified for the Sectional tournament by winning the District 37 crown.

Big Spring's opener will be played at 8 p.m.

on July 6.

The loser of the Childress-Pecos matchup will fall into the loser's bracket and face the loser of Game 3 on July 7.

The Senior League Sectional championship game will be played July 8, beginning at 8 p.m.

The Senior League all-stars won't be the only playoff baseball going on at Steer Field this weekend. In addition to the Senior tournament, Big Spring will also be hosting the Junior League Texas West Sectional

Baseball Tournament. In all, four teams will be competing in the event, which will begin on Saturday.

In the top half of the Junior bracket, Childress will face off with Floydada starting at 2 p.m. Odessa Sherwood, the District 3 champion, will meet Pecos, in the bottom half of the bracket starting at 5 p.m.

The Junior all-star championship game will be played on July 8.

2014 Senior League Sectional Tournament Schedule of games

July 5
Game 1: Childress vs. Pecos, 8 p.m.

July 6
Childress/Pecos vs. Big Spring, 8 p.m.

July 7
Childress/Pecos vs. Loser Game 2

July 8
Winners of Game 2 vs. Winner Game 3

2014 Junior League Sectional Tournament

July 5
Game 1: Childress vs. Floydada, 2 p.m.
Odessa Sherwood vs. Pecos, 5 p.m.

July 6
Winner Game 1 vs. Winner Game 2, 2 p.m.
Loser G1 vs. Loser G2, 5 p.m.

July 7
Winner G4 vs. Loser G3, 5 p.m.

July 8
Championship game, 5 p.m.



Courtesy photo

Pride of BSJHS ...

The Big Spring Junior High School cheerleaders finished their summer camp at Texas Christian University in Fort Worth with winning the first-place Top Team Award in Game Day Cheer and Chant, six Blue Superior ribbons, and the Spirit Stick. Members of the BSJHS squad are Marissa Aguilar, Aliana Beserra, Erin Yeats, Kynlee Fontana, Sophia Dominguez, Amber Martinez, Mackenzie Rodriguez, Luxie Evans, Chloe Bustamante, Trinity Galloway, Emily Hendricks and Haiven Rushing.

Pearce has 4 hits in O's 5-2 win over slumping Rangers

BALTIMORE (AP) — Baltimore manager Buck Showalter is running out of adjectives to describe how much Steve Pearce has meant to the Orioles this season.

Pearce had a career-high four hits and drove in two runs, and Wei-Yin Chen shut down Texas again as the Orioles completed a four-game sweep of the Rangers with a 5-2 victory on Thursday night.

The Rangers have lost nine consecutive road games — their longest

skid since 2005 when Showalter was Texas' manager. Baltimore (46-39) completed its first four-game sweep against the Rangers since 2004 and improved to a season-high seven games over .500.

The Orioles managed the feat while playing without All-Star third baseman Manny Machado, who is serving a five game suspension for throwing his bat on June 8 against Oakland.

"We're relying on

some people, and people are stepping up," Pearce said. "We're pitching, we're hitting. We're having timely hitting. We're finding ways to get it done."

Chen (8-3) allowed two runs and six hits with four strikeouts and two walks in six innings. He is 4-0 in four starts against Texas with a 1.67 ERA.

Left-hander Zach Britton earned his 12th save and hasn't allowed a run in 21 consecutive relief appearances.

Cavaliers meet with James' agent

(AP) — Four years after the messy breakup, the Cavaliers and LeBron James are at least talking about a reunion.

Cavs officials met with James' agent, Rich Paul, this week about the free-agent superstar's possible return. The sides visited as James continued his family vacation, a person

with knowledge of the details told The Associated Press on Thursday night.

The person spoke on condition of anonymity because of the nature of the talks.

It was not immediately clear if owner Dan Gilbert was at the meeting.

James recently opted out of the final two years

of his contract in Miami. The two-time NBA champion has gone to four straight finals with the Heat. However, after the team was throttled by San Antonio in this year's finals, James said he would weigh his options this summer.

Mavs, Nowitzki agree on 3-year deal

Dirk Nowitzki and the Dallas Mavericks have agreed on what could be the final contract for the big German.

A person with knowledge of the deal told The Associated Press on Thursday that Nowitzki would get a three-year contract worth roughly \$30 million. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the deal has not been announced.

New contracts can't be signed until next Thursday.

The 36-year-old Nowitzki is taking a big pay cut with a contract similar in value and structure to the one Tim Duncan signed with San Antonio two years ago.

Duncan, who also took a much lower salary, is exercising a player option to return for the final season of his deal after helping the Spurs win their

fifth title since 1999.

Nowitzki just completed a four-year deal worth \$80 million, and he left money on the table in that deal hoping the Mavericks could get some pieces around him.

The pursuit of other stars is even more urgent with Nowitzki getting close to the end of what figures to be a Hall-of-Fame career. The 2011 NBA Finals MVP put off finalizing the deal until after the Mavericks met with free agent Carmelo Anthony, which happened Wednesday night.

Mavericks owner Mark Cuban recently acknowledged that he couldn't offer Anthony a max contract, so Dallas figures to be stressing the 2011 title led by coach Rick Carlisle, Nowitzki and center Tyson Chandler, who recently rejoined the team in a trade with the New York Knicks.

NY offers Anthony max deal

NEW YORK (AP) — The Knicks went coast to coast to let Carmelo Anthony know they want him to stay in New York.

Team officials traveled to Los Angeles on Thursday night to meet with the free agent and offered him the maximum contract allowable, a person with knowledge of the details said.

Team President Phil Jackson and general manager Steve Mills were part of the meeting but not Madison Square Garden chairman James Dolan, an official with knowledge of the plans told The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because details of the meeting were to remain private.

The meeting was first reported by ESPN.

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Legals

PUBLIC NOTICE

Howard County will be accepting sealed bids for a fuel station at the new Road & Bridge Yard location, 3606 Old Colorado City Rd. Bids must be received by 10:00 am Friday, July 11, 2014. You may pick up bid packets at 1011 N San Antonio St., Monday thru Friday, 7:30am til 4:00pm.

Mark sealed envelope "Fence Bid" and return to the Howard County Auditor's Office, 300 Main St., Room 202, Big Spring, TX 79720 or mail to PO Box 1949, Big Spring, TX 79721.

Bids will be opened July 11, 2014 at 10:00 am in the auditor's office. Commissioners will review the bids on July 14, 2014 at 10:00am, in Commissioners Court.

Commissioners reserve the right to reject any or all bids. If you have any questions you may call Howard County Road & Bridge at 432-264-2208.

Jackie Olson, County Auditor
www.co.howard.tx.us
#8351 June 26, 2014 and Friday July 4, 2014.

Legals

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Jackie Olson, County Auditor
www.co.howard.tx.us
#8350 June 26, 2014 and Friday July 4, 2014.

Public Notice

REQUEST FOR COMPETITIVE BIDS BY MARTIN COUNTY HOSPITAL DISTRICT

The Martin County hospital District invites bids from qualified contractors to perform a complete renovation of existing hospital space to create a Physician's Clinic at 600 Interstate 20 East in Stanton, Texas.

The general scope of the project is as follows: Remodel of existing Ome health office into Physician clinic space, approximately 1,650 square feet, including wiring, lighting, work space, exam rooms, etc... Estimated project completion date for the project is September 1, 2014.

Contractor must be properly licensed/certified to perform necessary work. Information showing necessary work for renovation is available in the Martin County Hospital Administrative offices, located at 600 Interstate 20 East, Stanton, Texas.

The criteria that will be used for selection of the contractor, as well as the weight assigned to each criteria, are as follows: Prior construction experience in general and prior construction experience in physician, Hospital, or clinical settings (50%); prior experience on construction projects within 25 miles of Stanton, Texas (5%); prior experience working with a healthcare facility (20%); experience of individuals who will be involved on project (10%); references from Healthcare facilities/entities (15%). The district shall accept the bid that offers the citizens of the District the best value, based on experience, cost, reliability, references, and the criteria above. The submitted proposal should address all the criteria above, as well as the contractor's proposed fees and prices for fulfilling the project requirements. Sealed bids will be accepted at Martin County Hospital until 4:00 CS July 11, 2014. Bids will be opened publicly at the MCHD Board room starting at 4:30 p.m., July 11, 2014. Bids received after 4:00 p.m. CS July 11, 2014 will not be accepted.

Dear Readers: Happy July 4th! Here's a little history of the Liberty Bell:

The Pennsylvania Assembly ordered the Liberty Bell in 1751 to commemorate the 50-year anniversary of William Penn's Charter of Privileges, the original Constitution of the state of Pennsylvania. On Nov. 1, 1751, a letter was sent to order a bell from Whitechapel Foundry in London and to inscribe on it a passage from Leviticus: "Proclaim LIBERTY throughout all the Land unto all the Inhabitants thereof -- Lev. XXV X. By Order of the ASSEMBLY of the Province of PENNSYLVANIA for the State House in Philada."

The bell was hung on March 10, 1753, and cracked the first time it was struck. At the time, it was thought that the bell was too brittle. Two Philadelphia foundry workers named John Pass and John Stow were given the cracked bell to be melted down and recast. They added copper in an attempt to make the new bell less brittle.

No one liked the sound, so Pass and Stow tried again. In November, the sound still wasn't good enough, so a new one was ordered from Whitechapel. When the new bell arrived, it sounded no better than the other one, so the Whitechapel bell ended up in the cupola on the State House roof, and the Pass and Stow bell remained in the steeple.

Annie's Mailbox®

The Liberty Bell tolled when Benjamin Franklin was sent to England to address Colonial grievances, it tolled when King George III ascended to the throne in 1761, and it tolled to call together the people of Philadelphia to discuss the Sugar Act in 1764 and the Stamp Act in 1765.



KATHY MITCHELL
MARCY SUGAR

In October 1777, the British occupied Philadelphia. The Liberty Bell was hidden in the floorboards of the Zion Reformed Church in Allentown. According to tradition, it continued tolling for the First Continental Congress in 1774, the Battles of Lexington and Concord in 1775 and on July 8, 1776, when it summoned the citizenry for the reading of the Declaration of Independence. However, the steeple was in bad condition, and historians today doubt the likelihood of the story. The final expansion of the crack that rendered the bell unringable was on Washington's birthday in 1846.

The Liberty Bell was originally called the "State House Bell," but abolitionists adopted it as a symbol and gave it the name "Liberty Bell" in 1837. In 1847, George Lippard wrote a fictional story for The Saturday Courier that told of an elderly bellman waiting in the State House steeple for word that Congress had declared independence. Suddenly the bellman's grandson, who was

eavesdropping at the doors of Congress, yelled to him, "Ring, Grandfather! Ring!" The story captured the imagination of the people, and the Liberty Bell was forever associated with the Declaration of Independence.

Starting in the 1880s, the bell traveled to cities around the country "proclaiming liberty" and inspiring the cause of freedom. A replica of the Liberty Bell, forged in 1915, was used to promote women's suffrage. It traveled the country with its clapper chained to its side, silent until women won the right to vote. On Sept. 25, 1920, it was brought to Independence Hall and rung in ceremonies celebrating the ratification of the 19th amendment.

Each year, the bell is gently tapped in honor of Martin Luther King Day. On every Fourth of July, at 2 p.m. Eastern time, children who are descendants of Declaration signers symbolically tap the Liberty Bell 13 times while bells across the nation also ring 13 times in honor of the patriots from the original 13 states.

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

Independence Day Opposition

The sun in Cancer, the sign of patriotism, pulls from across the sky at Pluto in Capricorn. The alignment calls attention to mighty and dormant forces. Pluto represents the tides of the world, and so this opposition suggests that America's birthday will gain more than the usual amount of global attention and significance.



HOLIDAY MATHIS

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You like being around smart people, but you value objectivity and originality more than book smarts. Therefore, you gravitate to the creatively endowed and fit in wonderfully.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). People like to talk to you because you're an empathetic listener, although you don't necessarily want to hear all that they come out with today. At least they feel safe around you, and you can take that as a compliment.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). It's as though two paths converge and you're both in each other's way. Neither person is right. Neither person is wrong. But for this blockage to be released, someone has to move.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Like a hot-air balloon, you will rise to new heights once you get rid of a few sandbags filled with

unreasonable expectations, old baggage and resentments.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). It will be particularly difficult to see people for who they are because you can't help but be blinded by the possibilities of what they might be able to do for you.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). To be an excellent teacher you must communicate clearly, and not only the information and skills you want to impart, but also the structure in which you want to impart it. Make your expectations known. Accountability will be key.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You're attempting to resist a natural attraction, but it doesn't seem to be working. Out of sight, out of mind is the best way. In time, you'll slip out of the thought habit that's gripping you now.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). This is the long and winding stretch that fools you at every turn. You'll have success if you keep your course. Reaffirm your goal. Say it out loud in the mirror, or write it a few times in a journal.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). People want to give you advice, but the best advice will be an inside message sent from your heart to your head. You already know what to do. The next step is summoning the courage.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You know how a certain someone's name keeps coming up in conversation? It's because this person is on your mind all

of the time. Your conversation can't help but follow your mind.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Making a strong positive impression when you first meet a person is so important now. All future interactions will be colored by someone's initial response to you.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). The one who requires zero validation from you is the one you most approve of. You can apply this principle in reverse. You'll earn someone's affection by not caring whether or not you get it.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (July 4). You don't seek fame, but because you love what you are doing, you will become well known for it. You'll sell something for top dollar in August. You will be entrusted with a large responsibility in September, and you'll be in a position to choose the right associations and arrangements to handle the situation. Gemini and Scorpio people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 40, 1, 22, 48 and 25.

WEEKEND LOVE FORECAST: **ARIES:** Mild jealousy is flattering. Overt jealousy is difficult to deal with and should be nipped in the bud. **TAURUS:** Gossiping is how insecure people try to weed out the competition. You'll see it for what it is and want no part of it. **GEMINI:** Striking up the right conversational topic will turn a lukewarm connection into a hot one. **CANCER:** You'll be promised much, and if the person does even one thing he or she promises, you stand to gain

greatly. **LEO:** Save the items that might later help you recall happy days and the people you love. **VIRGO:** Don't let loved one's limit you. Call out their behavior to prevent a pattern of subtle restriction. **LIBRA:** Changing your appearance will alter the dynamic of a relationship. **SCORPIO:** You want to learn more about a certain someone, but not so much that things become predictable. **SAGITTARIUS:** What's done in love is a creative act. **CAPRICORN:** Someone is falling in love with your inner approach to life. **AQUARIUS:** You might disagree with a loved one on the little things, but the big things are what matter for now. **PISCES:** Collaborations will work brilliantly, so jump in and play.

COUPLE OF THE WEEKEND: The Libra moon of partnership reflects the nurturing Cancer sun, sparking an interest between these two signs. Libra is so diplomatic and easy to get along with that Cancer hardly needs to engage in the usual protective antics that make the crab feel safe. Cancer's aesthetic sensibility is right in line with Libra's, which makes it easy to decide on a mutually delightful plan of action.

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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BIG SPRING HERALD

	KMID (3) Midland	UNI (4) Spanish	KPEJ (5) Odessa	KOSA (7) Odessa	KTLE (8) Telemundo	KWES (9) Midland	WTBS (11) Atlanta	KMLM (12) Odessa	KPBT (13) Odessa	KWWT (14) Odessa	DISC (20) Discovery	AMC (21) Classics	SPIKE (22) Spike TV	TNT (23) Atlanta	BET (26) Black Ent.	DISN (27) Disney	ESPN2 (28) Sports	ESPN (29) Sports	
5 :PM :30	News ABC	Casa	Two Men	News CBS	Tele	News	Seinfeld	Zola Lev.	Charlie Rose	Rifleman	Fast N' Loud	The Walking Dead	Movie: Raiders of the Lost Ark, Paul Freeman	Dark Knight, Aaron Eckhart (DVS)	The Message		Nation	SportsCenter	
6 :PM :30	Jeopardy!	De Que Te Quiero, Te Quiero (SS)	Big Bang	News	Caso Cerado	News	Seinfeld	Israel	PBS News-Hour	M*A*S*H	Fast N' Loud	The Walking Dead			The Message		NASCAR	MLB Baseball: Tampa Bay Rays at Detroit Tigers.	
7 :PM :30	Shark Tank		MasterChef	Undercover Boss	Pelicula: Apocalypto, Dalia Hernandez (SS)	Macy's 4th of July Fireworks Spectacular	Fam. Guy	Shepherd's Heart	A Capitol Fourth	Gilligan	Fast N' Loud	The Walking Dead	Movie: Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom, Ke Huy Quan	Cold Justice	The Message		World Cup Tonight		
8 :PM :30	What Would	Lo Que la Vida	24: Live Another Day	Hawaii Five-0		July Fire-works	Funnies Wins		A Capitol Fourth	Kotter	Fast N' Loud	The Walking Dead		Movie: Limitless (DVS)	The Message	I Didn't Live-Mad.	World Cup Tonight	Baseball Tonight	
9 :PM :30	20/20	Qué Pobres	Mod Fam	Blue Bloods		July Fire-works	Funnies Wins			Odd Cpl.	Fast N' Loud	The Walking Dead		Movie: Limitless (DVS)	The Message	Liv-Mad.	World Cup Tonight	Baseball Tonight	
10 :PM :30	News	Impacto	Arsenio Hall	News	Tele	News	Funnies Wins	Upd	Charlie Rose	Twiz. Zone	Fast N' Loud	The Walking Dead		Movie: Limitless (DVS)	The Message	Austin	Olberrmann	SportsCenter	
11 :PM :30	Jimmy Kimmel Live	Noticiero	República	How I Met	Ferguson	Decisiones (SS)	Seth Meyers	Ghosts of Girlfriends Past (DVS)	World	Dragnet	Fast N' Loud	The Walking Dead	Movie: The Fifth Element, Ian Holm		The Message	Wendy Williams	Jessie	ESPN FC	SportsCenter
12 :AM :30	Nightline	Mun.	How I Met			Decisiones (SS)		Justice	T. Smiley (Off Air)	Adam-12	Fast N' Loud	The Walking Dead		Movie: Contact, James Woods	Queen Latifah	Good			SportsCenter
1 :AM :30	AM	Paid	Conducta	Latter	Ent	Paid		Best of		Hitchcock Hr.	Fast N' Loud	The Walking Dead			Sunday Best	Jessie	MLB Baseball: Yankees at Tigers	SportsCenter	

DENNIS THE MENACE



"When I'm President, every day will be the 4th of July!"

THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



"Today's a good day to eat hot dogs, 'cause that's what our fourth fathers always ate."

HAGAR



BLONDIE



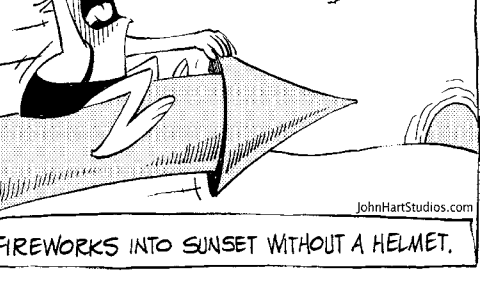
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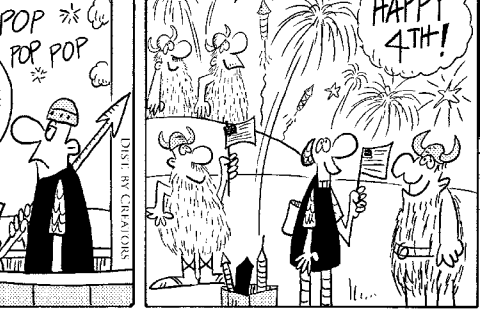
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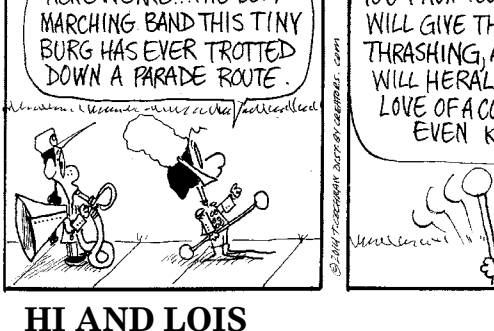
HI AND LOIS



THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BEETLE BAILEY



This Date In History

Today is Friday, July 4, the 185th day of 2014. There are 180 days left in the year. This is Independence Day. Today's Highlight in History: On July 4, 1776, the Declaration of Independence was adopted by delegates to the Second Continental Congress in Philadelphia. On this date: In 1802, the United States Military Academy officially opened at West Point, New York. In 1831, the fifth president of the United States, James Monroe, died in New York City at age 73. In 1863, the Civil War

Siege of Vicksburg, Mississippi, ended as a Confederate garrison surrendered to Union forces. In 1872, the 30th president of the United States, Calvin Coolidge, was born in Plymouth, Vermont. In 1912, the 48-star American flag, recognizing New Mexico statehood, was adopted. A train wreck near Corning, New York, claimed 39 lives. In 1939, Lou Gehrig of the New York Yankees delivered his famous farewell speech in which he called himself "the luckiest man on the face of the earth."

In 1942, Irving Berlin's musical review "This Is the Army" opened at the Broadway Theater in New York.

In 1959, America's 49-star flag, recognizing Alaskan statehood, was officially unfurled. In 1960, America's 50-star flag, recognizing Hawaiian statehood, was officially unfurled. In 1976, Israeli commandos raided Entebbe (en-TEH'-bee) airport in Uganda (yoo-GAHN'-dah), rescuing almost all of the passengers and crew of an Air France jetliner seized by pro-Palestinian hijackers.

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Newsday Crossword

COUNT TO THE MUSIC by Charles Slack
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 Venerable redheaded doll
4 Part of a Sherlock costume
9 Encircle
13 Bamboo, for instance
15 Kind of dressing
16 Hotspot seeker
17 GO OD WI LL
20 Breaking even
21 Made possible
22 Outmoded den device
24 Quick look
26 Evasive move
27 Orwell's real first name
29 Ungentle
32 Poetic nightfall
33 End of some races
36 Put up resistance
39 SS
43 Pickling candidates
44 Do polling
46 Sinister
49 Broadway opening
51 Writing on some jackets
52 Incomparable
55 Disney evil uncle
58 Time Warner network
59 Lasagna filling
62 Tributary of the Missouri
64 H
68 Roadhouses
69 Fasten over
70 Zap for a snack

DOWN
1 Corgi comment
2 Opposite of paleo-
3 Subatomic particle
4 Origami figure
5 More substantial
6 St. Catharines locale
7 Have pangs
8 Mongolian for "ruler"
9 Louisiana's official cuisine
10 Wagnerian heroine
11 Back out
12 Restoration poet
14 Humorous
18 Dot on a die
19 '90s "Cool!"
22 Relax, with "out"
23 Muck
25 They don't compromise
28 Dues payee
30 Hotbed
31 Low points
34 Fiver
35 It may be a bargain
37 Age
38 Symbol of innocence
40 Enumeration shortcut
41 Shortcut
42 "Poor" guy
45 Sinuous character
46 Sydney grill
47 Nonnatives
48 Museum volunteer
50 Widely recognized
53 "Au contraire!"
54 Numerical ending
56 Attribute
57 Defence Ministry concern
60 Trespass, for instance
61 Declare, per a Munchkin physician
63 Part of a pink lady
65 Airbus approximation
66 How a fight may end
67 Bewitch

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13			14				15			16	
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46	47	48					49			50	51
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59				60	61		62			63	
64							65			66	67
68							69			70	
71							72				73

MMA star Rousey goes from set to cage at UFC 175

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Ronda Rousey is constructing her escape hatch out of mixed martial arts, even if she's not planning to use it just yet.

The UFC bantamweight champion has turned her celebrity and charisma into a budding career as an action film star. Many MMA fighters dream about it, but Rousey is actually doing it: With upcoming parts in "The Expendables 3," the newest "Fast and Furious" chapter and the "Entourage" movie, she's seeking success outside the cage even while her fighting career is

near its peak.

Rousey has little down time between Bulgarian film sets and endless training back home in Los Angeles, but she isn't looking to relax while her window of opportunity is open.

"There's really not much of a model for this," Rousey said. "I'm making it up as I go along, and I think we're really starting to find a groove and a way for it to work without me falling asleep in traffic again. That's not good."

When Rousey (9-0) makes her fourth title defense against

Alexis Davis at UFC 175 on Saturday, she isn't the main event in the biggest show of the summer. Rousey honestly prefers sharing the bill at big events, this time with middleweight champion Chris Weidman's title defense against Lyoto Machida.

On the big screen, Rousey won't always be satisfied with occasional supporting roles. She wants to be a star, preferably in a series of action adventures that could keep her occupied well after her MMA career ends.

"One of my goals with the

whole movie thing is I want to just be able to have my own franchise, and I feel like that's something that doesn't happen overnight," Rousey said. "That's something you have to put a lot of thought into. Yeah, it would probably be extremely difficult for me to play Queen Elizabeth in some film, but I feel like a franchise is a great fit for me, because then I could find something that just fits me being myself. And then I would just have to continue to be myself, and I know I'm good at that."

For all of Rousey's outside in-

terests and attention, her last two months have been focused on Davis (16-5), a Canadian expert in jiu-jitsu with a five-fight winning streak. Rousey is an enormous favorite, but she has yet to take an opponent lightly in the sport she took up professionally just over three years ago.

"My sister is getting married, and the whole day I'm going to be thinking about beating Alexis," Rousey said. "Anything that comes up that should make me super-excited. I really do not have the capacity to enjoy until I beat Alexis."

Ousted Bucks coach says he accepts firing

MILWAUKEE (AP) — Larry Drew said Thursday that his sudden firing as the Milwaukee Bucks' coach came as a surprise, but he accepts the decision by the team's new owners.

"Although my tenure was brief, it will forever be memorable," Drew said in a statement issued by his former team.

Wesley Edens and Marc Lasry, both New York investment firm executives, recently purchased the team from former U.S. Sen. Herb Kohl for about \$550 million. They replaced Drew with Brooklyn Nets' coach Jason Kidd

Kidd to Milwaukee.

Drew had no indication he wouldn't return for a second season, and the messy affair played out in the media for days before the deal was formally announced.

"My swift termination did come as a surprise to me, but I accept new owners Wesley Edens' and Marc Lasry's decision that they've made," Drew said in the statement. "I wish the entire Bucks organization and the great city of Milwaukee nothing but the best in the future."

Drew also thanked Kohl and general manager John Hammond for the opportunity to coach the Bucks this past season, and thanked the Bucks' fans for their love and support.

Green-Beckham joins Sooners

NORMAN, Okla. (AP) — Oklahoma has added Dorial Green-Beckham, the receiver who was dismissed by Missouri in April.

Coach Bob Stoops said

Thursday that Green-Beckham was added to the roster after signing a financial aid agreement Wednesday. He can enroll in classes and begin team activities.

Scoreboard

BASKETBALL WNBA

Eastern Conference

W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	11	5	.688 —
Chicago	8	9	.471 3½
Indiana	8	9	.471 3½
Connecticut	8	10	.444 4
Washington	7	11	.389 5
New York	6	11	.353 5½

Western Conference

W	L	Pct	GB
Phoenix	12	3	.800 —
Minnesota	13	5	.722 ½
San Antonio	9	9	.500 4½
Los Angeles	7	9	.438 5½
Tulsa	7	10	.412 6
Seattle	7	12	.368 7

Thursday's Games

Tulsa 96, Connecticut 83

Minnesota 91, San Antonio 84

Los Angeles 70, Seattle 56

Friday's Games

No games scheduled

Saturday's Games

San Antonio at Indiana, 5 p.m.

Washington at Atlanta, 7 p.m.

Connecticut at Tulsa, 8 p.m.

Chicago at Seattle, 10 p.m.

Texas	37	48	.435	15
Houston	36	51	.414	17

Thursday's Games

Baltimore 5, Texas 2

Detroit 8, Tampa Bay 1

N.Y. Yankees 7, Minnesota 4

Oakland 4, Toronto 1

L.A. Angels 5, Houston 2

Friday's Games

Baltimore (Mi.Gonzalez 4-5) at Boston (Lester 9-7), 1:35 p.m.

N.Y. Yankees (Whitley 3-2) at Minnesota (Gibson 7-6), 3:10 p.m.

Toronto (Stroman 4-2) at Oakland (Milone 6-3), 4:05 p.m.

Kansas City (Ventura 5-7) at Cleveland (Tomlin 5-5), 7:05 p.m.

Tampa Bay (Cobb 3-6) at Detroit (Smyly 4-7), 7:08 p.m.

Seattle (Elias 7-6) at Chicago White Sox (Sale 7-1), 7:10 p.m.

Texas (Darvish 8-4) at N.Y. Mets (Niese 5-4), 7:10 p.m.

Houston (Keuchel 8-5) at L.A. Angels (C.Wilson 8-6), 9:05 p.m.

Saturday's Games

N.Y. Yankees (Phelps 3-4) at Minnesota (Pino 0-2), 2:10 p.m.

Seattle (F.Hernandez 10-2) at Chicago White Sox (Quintana 5-7), 2:10 p.m.

Tampa Bay (Archer 4-5) at Detroit (A.Sanchez 5-2), 4:08 p.m.

Kansas City (Guthrie 5-6) at Cleveland (House 0-2), 6:05 p.m.

Baltimore (U.Jimenez 3-8) at Boston (Lackey 9-5), 7:15 p.m.

Texas (Lewis 5-5) at N.Y. Mets (B.Colon 8-6), 7:15 p.m.

Houston (Feldman 4-5) at L.A. Angels (H.Santiago 0-7), 10:05 p.m.

Toronto (Buehrle 10-5) at Oakland (Kazmir 9-3), 10:05 p.m.

Miami (Eovaldi 5-3) at St. Louis (Lynn 8-6), 7:15 p.m.
Arizona (Collmelter 7-4) at Atlanta (E.Santana 6-5), 7:35 p.m.
L.A. Dodgers (Kershaw 9-2) at Colorado (Jurjens 0-0), 8:10 p.m.

Saturday's Games

Miami (Heaney 0-3) at St. Louis (S.Miller 7-7), 2:15 p.m.

Chicago Cubs (Samardzija 2-7) at Washington (G.Gonzalez 5-4), 4:05 p.m.

Philadelphia (D.Buchanan 4-4) at Pittsburgh (Volquez 6-6), 4:05 p.m.

Arizona (Bolsinger 1-4) at Atlanta (Harang 7-6), 4:10 p.m.

L.A. Dodgers (Haren 8-4) at Colorado (J.De La Rosa 8-6), 4:10 p.m.

Milwaukee (Garza 5-5) at Cincinnati (Bailey 8-4), 4:10 p.m.

San Francisco (Hudson 7-5) at San Diego (Despaigne 2-0), 7:15 p.m.

Texas (Lewis 5-5) at N.Y. Mets (B.Colon 8-6), 7:15 p.m.

West Division

W	L	T	Pts	PF	PA
Winnipeg	2	0	4	81	49
Edmonton	1	0	2	27	20
Calgary	1	0	2	29	8
Saskatchewan	1	0	2	31	10
B.C.	0	1	0	20	27

Thursday's Games

Winnipeg 36, Ottawa 28

Friday's Games

B.C. at Montreal, 7 p.m.

Hamilton at Edmonton, 10 p.m.

Saturday's Game

Saskatchewan at Toronto, 3 p.m.

BASEBALL American League East Division

W	L	Pct	GB
Baltimore	46	39	.541 —
Toronto	47	40	.540 —
New York	42	42	.500 3½
Boston	38	47	.447 8
Tampa Bay	38	50	.432 9½

Central Division

W	L	Pct	GB
Detroit	48	34	.585 —
Kansas City	44	40	.524 5
Cleveland	41	43	.488 8
Chicago	40	46	.465 10
Minnesota	38	46	.452 11

West Division

W	L	Pct	GB
Oakland	52	33	.612 —
Los Angeles	48	36	.571 3½
Seattle	47	38	.553 5

National League East Division

W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	47	38	.553 —
Washington	46	38	.548 ½
Miami	41	44	.482 6
New York	37	48	.435 10
Philadelphia	37	48	.435 10

Central Division

W	L	Pct	GB
Milwaukee	51	35	.593 —
St. Louis	46	40	.535 5
Pittsburgh	44	41	.518 6½
Cincinnati	43	41	.512 7
Chicago	37	46	.446 12½

West Division

W	L	Pct	GB
Los Angeles	49	39	.557 —
San Francisco	47	38	.553 ½
San Diego	38	47	.447 9½
Colorado	36	50	.419 12
Arizona	36	51	.414 12½

Thursday's Games

St. Louis 7, San Francisco 2

Philadelphia 5, Miami 4

Arizona 10, Pittsburgh 2

L.A. Dodgers 3, Colorado 2

Friday's Games

Chicago Cubs (Hammel 7-5) at Washington (Roark 7-5), 11:05 a.m.

Philadelphia (R.Hernandez 3-7) at Pittsburgh (Cole 6-4), 5:05 p.m.

San Francisco (M.Cain 1-6) at San Diego (Stults 2-11), 6:40 p.m.

Milwaukee (Lohse 9-2) at Cincinnati (Simon 10-3), 7:10 p.m.

Texas (Darvish 8-4) at N.Y. Mets (Niese 5-4), 7:10 p.m.

Texas League North Division

W	L	Pct	GB
Arkansas	8	6	.571 —
NW Arkansas	7	7	.500 1
x-Tulsa	7	7	.500 1
Springfield	5	9	.357 3

South Division

W	L	Pct	GB
San Antonio	9	5	.643 —
x-Frisco	7	6	.538 1½
Midland	6	7	.462 2½
Corpus Christi	6	8	.429 3

Thursday's Games

Northwest Arkansas 6, Midland 5

San Antonio 4, Tulsa 3

Frisco 5, Arkansas 1

Corpus Christi 3, Springfield 2

Friday's Games

Tulsa at San Antonio, 6:05 p.m.

Frisco at Arkansas, 6:30 p.m.

Springfield at Corpus Christi, 7:30 p.m.

Midland at Northwest Arkansas, 8:05 p.m.

Saturday's Games

Springfield at San Antonio, 8:05 p.m.

Frisco at Northwest Arkansas, 8:05 p.m.

Midland at Arkansas, 8:10 p.m.

Tulsa at Corpus Christi, 8:10 p.m.

TRANSACTIONS Major League Baseball COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

— Suspended N.Y. Yankee RHP Alfredo Aceves (Scranton/Wilkes-Barre-IL) 50 games after a second positive test for a drug of abuse in violation of the Minor League Drug Prevention and Treatment Program.

American League CHICAGO WHITE SOX — Released LHP Scott Downs.

CLEVELAND INDIANS — Agreed to terms with 1B Michael Papi on a minor league contract.

HOUSTON ASTROS — Agreed to terms with SSs Juan Pineda and Ozziel Sanchez on minor league contracts.

LOS ANGELES ANGELS — Optioned RHP David Carpenter to Arkansas (TL).

NEW YORK YANKEES — Optioned INF Yangervis Solarte to Scranton/Wilkes-Barre (IL).

Selected the contract of INF Zelous Wheeler from Scranton/Wilkes-Barre. Designated INF Dean Anna for assignment.

Agreed to terms with RHP Edgmer Escalona on a minor league contract.

OAKLAND ATHLETICS — Designated LHP Jeff Francis for assignment. Reinstated LHP Eric O'Flaherty from the 60-day DL.

TAMPA BAY RAYS — Optioned LHP Jeff Beliveau to Durham (IL). Recalled 1B Vince Belome from Durham.

National League COLORADO ROCKIES — Optioned LHP Christian Friedrich to Colorado Springs (PCL).

Reinstated 3B Nolan Arenado from the 15-day DL.

LOS ANGELES DODGERS — Optioned INF Carlos Truinfel to Albuquerque (PCL). Recalled INF Erisbel Arruebarrena from Albuquerque.

MIAMI MARLINS — Assigned OF Brent Keys outright to Jacksonville (SL). Placed RHP Tom Koehler on paternity leave. Reinstated LHP Brad Hand from the 15-day DL.

MILWAUKEE BREWERS — Sent RHP Jim Henderson to the AZL Brewers for a rehab assignment.

ST. LOUIS CARDINALS — Agreed to terms with RHPs Sebastian Nunez and Junior Fernandez, SS Starlin Balbueno and 2B Esequiel Delgado on minor league contracts.

SAN FRANCISCO GIANTS — Sent SS Ehre Adrianza to Fresno (PCL) for a rehab assignment.

WASHINGTON NATIONALS — Assigned 1B/3B Greg Dobbs outright to Syracuse (IL).

BASKETBALL National Basketball Association

GOLDEN STATE WARRIORS — Named Alvin Gentry, Ron Adams, Luke Walton, Jarron Collins and Bruce Fraser assistant coaches.

FOOTBALL Canadian Football League WINNIPEG BLUE BOMBERS — Released DB Corey Banks.

COLLEGE

DARTMOUTH — Named women's rowing coach Wendy Bordeau senior associate athletics director.

Football Arena Football League National Conference West Division

W	L	Pct	PF	PA
z-Arizona	14	1	.933	970 721
Los Angeles	3	11	.214	533 760
San Antonio	1	13	.071	590 840

Pacific Division

W	L	Pct	PF	PA
x-San Jose	10	4	.714	780 561
Spokane	8	7	.533	784 685
Portland	4	10	.286	637 763

American Conference South Division

W	L	Pct	PF	PA
Orlando	8	6	.571	778 768
Tampa Bay	8	7	.533	760 790
Jacksonville	5	9	.357	709 694
New Orleans 2	12	.143	592 820	

East Division

W	L	Pct	PF	PA
x-Cleveland	13	1	.929	762 626
x-Pittsburgh	12	3	.800	844 645
Philadelphia	7	8	.467	903 830
Iowa	6	9	.400	716 849

Saturday's Games

Portland at Cleveland, 6 p.m.

Sunday, July 6

Jacksonville at San Antonio, 4 p.m.

San Jose at Los Angeles, 8 p.m.

Monday, July 7

Orlando at Philadelphia, 8 p.m.

Pittsburgh at New Orleans, 8:30 p.m.

Canadian Football League East Division

W	L	Pts	PF	PA	
Hamilton	0	1	0	10	31
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