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BIG SPRING HERALD

FRIDAY

AUGUST 8, 2014



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HERALD photo/Andreia Medlin

Mark Frutiger of the U.S. Hang Gliding and Paragliding Association takes a customer up on a tandem flight early today. This is the 13th year hang gliders have competed in Big Spring. The 2014 Big Spring Nationals continue through Saturday at the local airport. The hang gliders are launched each day at approximately 1 p.m. — depending on wind conditions. Interested residents are encouraged to watch the start of each day's competition.

With valuations up, HC tax rate will fall

BY LYNDEL MOODY
 Staff Writer

Property owners may see some relief on their tax bill next year, at least where it comes to the Howard College taxing district. Trustees with Howard College discussed a proposed 2015 tax rate at 17.3457 cents per \$100 valuation Thursday following a lengthy budget workshop, which is a 3 cent decrease from this year's rate of 20.3738 cent per \$100 valuation. College officials expected

to bring in \$5.3 million in tax revenue, about \$400,000 more than this last year's project amount. However, the majority of that money will come from increases in mineral and commercial property valuations, according to Howard College President Dr. Cheryl Sparks, who added about 15 percent of the extra revenue will come from residential property tax due to increases in property values for some owners. According to Sparks,

figures provided by the Howard County Appraisal District show an approximate \$738 million increase in taxable values in the college district which is county-wide. An owner with average home valued at \$64,055 in the district will pay \$111.11 in taxes, \$15.43 less in than in 2014, college officials said. Last year, property owners paid \$126.54 in taxes for an

See **HC**, Page 3

U.S. CARRIES OUT AIRSTRIKES IN IRAQ

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. fighters dropped bombs on Islamic militants in Iraq today, the Pentagon said, carrying out President Barack Obama's promise of military force to counter the advancing militants and confront the threat they pose to Iraqi civilians and Americans still stationed there.

SEE STORY, PAGE 3

City fighting back with wage increases

By STEVE REAGAN
 Staff Writer

When the subject is salaries, the city of Big Spring will never be able to compete with the oil field sector, but that hasn't stopped officials from trying to be as competitive as they can.

During the past 12 months, salaries for city employees have jumped more than 10 percent and will increase even more if the city council approves the proposed FY 2015 budget presented earlier this week.

City officials are asking for more than \$570,000 in employee raises in the coming fiscal year. That includes a 2 percent across-the-board pay raise, as well as "equity adjustment" increases, ranging from 1 percent to 5 percent, for certain employees.

Two reasons fuel the year-long push for pay raises in the city, officials said. First is competition for labor from the private sector, particularly the oil industry. Many businesses in this area have had employees siphoned off by the lure of higher wages in the oilfield, and the city is no exception. City Human Resources Manager John Medina said Big Spring's municipal workforce shrank in half from

"I think our pay plan is catching up. We're getting to the point where we're able to compete with other cities."

—John Medina,
 human resources manager

a high of 300 staffers three years ago. The other major reason behind the push for higher city wages is that they were so low to begin with — a 2013 survey underwritten by the city showed that Big Spring's pay schedule was at the bottom when compared to 40 other cities in Texas. Since then, city leaders have made a concerted effort to remedy the situation — the council approved a 6 percent pay hike for workers last September, then added another 6 percent raise earlier this year. Add in the proposed 2 percent pay hike included in the new budget and that makes Big Spring municipal wages much more representative, officials said. "I think our pay plan is catching up," Medina said. "We're getting to the point

See **CITY**, Page 3

INDEX

| | |
|------------|---------|
| Comics | 14 |
| Classified | 10-13 |
| Religion | 5-7 |
| Obituaries | 2 |
| Opinion | 4 |
| Sports | 9,15-16 |

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English, civics class to be offered free at HC

By ANDREIA MEDLIN
 Staff Writer

Howard College is adding civics/citizenship class to its English as a Second Language classes this fall. And the best part about it is that there is no charge

for the class. For retired public school teacher Adrian Saldivar, teaching English as a Second Language to relatively small classes at Howard College has been rewarding to say the least. But the

chairs have been filling up more and more over the past couple of years and he wants to get the word out. "Enrollment is increasing," Adrian said. The majority of his students have been Spanish-speaking,

mainly from Mexico, but for the past several years there has been an influx of students who have roots in Europe and Asia. "Students are coming



Saldivar

See **CLASS**, Page 3

Conservation key topic for annual meeting

Special to the Herald

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service in Texas' Howard County and the Howard Soil and Water Conservation District invite the public to attend their 2014 Local Working Group meeting from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. Aug. 18.

The purpose of the annual

meeting is to set local conservation priorities and bring conservation stakeholders together to discuss conservation topics and issues relevant to helping Howard County farmers and ranchers better conserve on-farm natural resources. The agenda will update attendees on recent conservation efforts and collect public

input to help guide future conservation activities. "Through regular identification of conservation opportunities, effective Farm Bill investment can continue to benefit Howard County," said Eddy Spurgin, district conservationist. "Farmers, ranchers, conservationists and others interested in obtaining federal technical and

financial assistance to improve private land in Howard County are invited to participate." The meeting will be held at the Big Spring USDA office on the I-20 north service road. For more information, contact Spurgin at 432-267-1871 Ext-3 or visit the NRCS Web site at www.tx.nrcs.usda.gov/.

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Airstrikes undertaken as U.S. re-engages in Iraq

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. fighters dropped bombs on Islamic militants in Iraq today, the Pentagon said, carrying out President Barack Obama's promise of military force to counter the advancing militants and confront the threat they pose to Iraqi civilians and Americans still stationed there.

Pentagon press secretary Rear Adm. John Kirby said that two F/A-18 jets dropped 500-pound bombs on a piece of artillery and the truck towing it. Kirby said the fighters had taken off from the aircraft carrier USS George HW Bush in the Persian Gulf to conduct the mission. He

said it wasn't clear how many militants might have been killed in the strike.

The Pentagon said the militants were using the artillery to shell Kurdish forces defending Irbil.

For the United States, it was a re-engagement in the long sectarian war from which American combat forces had been withdrawn — on President Barack Obama's orders — in late 2011.

In a televised speech Thursday night, Obama threatened to renew U.S. military involvement. At the same time, he announced that U.S. military planes already

had carried out airdrops of food and water, at the request of the Iraqi government, to tens of thousands of Iraqi religious minorities atop a mountain surrounded by militants and desperately in need of supplies.

"America is coming to help," Obama declared.

Speaking to reporters while traveling in India today, Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel said the U.S. military has sufficient intelligence resources and assets in place to launch strikes by both manned and unmanned aircraft in the region.

Asked if the Islamic State group could successfully hide among civilians to evade strikes, Hagel said if the Islamic State moves against Irbil, Baghdad or the refugees trapped on a mountain, "it's pretty clear who they are, and they would be pretty identifiable where our airstrikes could be effective."

The Yazidis, who follow an ancient religion with ties to Zoroastrianism, fled their homes after the Islamic State group issued an ultimatum to convert to Islam, pay a religious fine, flee their homes or face death.

"Earlier this week, one Iraqi in the area cried to the world, 'There is no one coming to help.' Well, today, America is coming to help," Obama said. "We're also consulting with other countries —

and the United Nations — who have called for action to address this humanitarian crisis."

The announcement reflected the deepest American engagement in Iraq since U.S. troops left.

Obama, who made his remarks in a steady and somber tone, has staked much of his legacy as president on ending what he once called the "dumb war" in Iraq.

Mindful of the public's aversion to another lengthy war, Obama acknowledged that the prospect of a new round of U.S. military action would be a cause for concern among many Americans. He vowed anew not to put American combat troops back on the ground in Iraq and said there was no U.S. military solution to the crisis.

"As commander in chief, I will not allow the United States to be dragged into fighting another war in Iraq," Obama said.

Even so, he outlined a rationale for airstrikes in the event the Islamic State militants advanced on American troops in Irbil and the U.S. consulate there in the Kurdish region of Iraq. The troops were sent to Iraq earlier this year as part of the White House response to the extremist group's swift movement across the border with Syria and into Iraq.

"When the lives of American citizens are

at risk, we will take action," Obama said. "That's my responsibility as commander in chief."

He said he had also authorized the use of targeted military strikes if necessary to help the Iraqi security forces protect civilians.

The Pentagon said the airdrops were performed by one C-17 and two C-130 cargo aircraft that together delivered a total of 72 bundles of food and water. They were escorted by two F/A-18 fighters from an undisclosed air base in the region.

The planes delivered 5,300 gallons of fresh drinking water and 8,000 pre-packaged meals and were over the drop area for less than 15 minutes at a low altitude.

The president cast the mission to assist the Yazidis as part of the American mandate to assist around the world when the U.S. has the unique capabilities to help avert a massacre.

In those cases, Obama said, "we can act carefully and responsibly to prevent a potential act of genocide."

Officials said the U.S. was prepared to undertake additional humanitarian airdrops if necessary, though they did not say how quickly those missions could occur.

Administration officials had said earlier they believed unilateral U.S. strikes would be consistent with international law, in part because the Iraqi government has asked for Washington to take military action. They also said Obama had the constitutional authority to act on his own in order

to protect American citizens.

Obama had similarly authorized strikes in Syria last summer after chemical weapons were deployed, but those attacks were never carried out, in part because of domestic political concerns and also because an international agreement to strip Syria of its stockpiles of the deadly gases.

The president has also faced persistent calls to take military action in Syria on humanitarian grounds, given that more than 170,000 people have been killed there.

Critics, including some Republicans in Congress, have argued that Obama's cautious approach to Syria has allowed the Islamic State group to flourish there, growing strong enough to move across the border with Iraq and make swift gains.

Republican Sens. John McCain of Arizona and Lindsey Graham of South Carolina praised Obama's proposed actions Thursday night but said much more will be necessary.

"This should include the provision of military and other assistance to our Kurdish, Iraqi and Syrian partners" who are fighting the militants, airstrikes against the militants' leaders and forces and support for Sunni Iraqis who seek to resist the extremists, they said in a statement.

In light of the militants' advances, Obama dispatched about 800 U.S. forces to Iraq earlier this year, with those troops largely split between Baghdad and Irbil.

Republican Club to meet

The Howard County Republican Club's monthly meeting will resume at noon Monday at Howard College's Cactus Room.

Rhonda Lacy will be the guest speaker. Lacy is a State Republican Executive Committee member and president of the Midland County Republican Woman's Club.

As a courtesy to Howard College, attendees are asked to RSVP to jbfryar@hughes.net if you plan on attending.

CITY

Continued from Page 1

where we're able to compete with other cities."

The push for higher wages has resulted in less employee turnover.

While 2013's employee turnover rate of 27.3 percent is startling at first glance, it is a vast improvement over the

36 percent turnover rate logged two years ago, Medina said.

After a year of playing catch up with salaries, the goal now, Medina said, is to incrementally raise salaries in the future.

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

HC

Continued from Page 1

average home value at \$62,107.

The proposed rate breaks down to 13.37730 cents per \$100 valuation for maintenance and operation and 3.9727 cents per \$100 valuation for

debt service. Last year's maintenance and operation rate was 15.0880 cents per \$100 valuation and 5.2848 cents per \$100 valuation for debt service.

In other business, trustees approved the proposed \$24.5 million budget in unrestricted funds for Howard College which includes both

the Lamesa and San Angelo campuses and a \$4.2 million budget in unrestricted funds for SouthWest Collegiate Institute for the Deaf. Both of those budgets will likely double once officials receive figures from restricted revenue — mainly, state and federal funding — which come in the form such

as scholarships and grants.

The proposed new budget includes funds to replace aging vehicles, a \$126,500 capital projects, campus safety lighting technology upgrades, projected utility and maintenance/operation increase, three new maintenance positions at the San An-

gelo campus, a restored district position to handle financial aid and business functions and an \$800 salary increase per employee. Sparks said half of the salary bump is meant to help offset insurance premium increases.

Property tax revenue raise in Howard County is not used in the bud-

gets for Lamesa, San Angelo or SWCID sites, Sparks emphasized.

Public hearings will be held Aug. 15 and 19 on the proposed tax rate and budgets. The board will hold a budget hearing and consider final adoption of the budget and tax rate on Aug. 25.

CLASS

Continued from Page 1

from as far away as Uzbekistan, Germany, India and China," said Adrian, who has found teaching students from a wide variety of background and cultures is rewarding. "It's really gratifying because they are appreciative and want to be there," he explained as a definite change from his teaching days at Goliad Middle School.

Many have high-level educational degrees from their native countries, but have a need to improve their English-speaking skills to improve business relations, making the cul-

ture of the classroom very diverse.

"It's really interesting to see how they interact and get along together," said Saldivar. "They are having open discussions about local and national subjects and are helping each other."

Students who enroll will earn 60 hours of instruction and the course is self-paced. Using different modes of teaching such as flash cards, word games, Rosetta Stone and others, students will learn vocabulary and grammar as well as conversational English.

Also, beginning this year, citizenship/civics studies will be included for those interested in earning their U.S. citi-

zenship.

And it's all free.

For anyone interested in learning to speak English or to improve their English-speaking skills, Howard College offers, free of charge, Fluency in English Speaking classes.

Registration for fall classes will be 3 p.m. or 6 p.m. on Aug. 14, 19 and 21 in room 112 at the

Charles Warren Center on the Big Spring campus.

Classes begin Aug. 26 and will meet Tuesdays and Thursdays. For more information, call Saldivar at 230-3164 or leave a message at the

Adult Basic Education office at 264-5016.

To contact Andrea Medlin, call the Herald at 263-7331.

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| Into the Storm (PG-13) Digital Fri.: 1:30 4:30 7:15 9:45 Sat.: 1:30 4:30 7:15 9:45 | Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles (PG-13) 3D Fri.: 1:00 7:30 Sat.: 1:00 7:30 Digital Fri.: 4:00 10:30 Sat.: 4:00 10:30 |

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Nell Beard, 91, died Tuesday. Graveside services were at 10 a.m. today at Trinity Memorial Park Peace Chapel.

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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

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

ADDRESSES

| | |
|---|--|
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| • TED CRUZ U.S. Senator B40B Dirksen Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510-4305 Phone: 202-228-0462 | BIG SPRING CITY COUNCIL |
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| • DREW DARBY State Representative Texas 72nd District P.O. Box 2910 | • OSCAR GARCIA — Home: 264-0026. • DONNIE BAKER — Home: 267-5325. • JIMMIE LONG — Home: 466-0793. • JOHN CLINE — Home: 263-7158. |

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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

May we wake up each morning with joy in our hearts and a prayer on our lips.

Amen

What Bill Clinton might have said

I'm just saying, you know, if I were Osama Bin Laden — he's a very smart guy, I've spent a lot of time thinking about him — and I nearly got him once. I nearly got him. And I could have killed him, but I would have to destroy a little town called Kandahar in Afghanistan and kill 300 innocent women and children, and then I would have been no better than him."



SUSAN ESTRICH

Did President Clinton say these words a mere 10 hours before 9/11?

It's an "alleged" tape. Kandahar actually has a population of some 400,000.

But, especially in light of the way the media has covered the civilian death toll in Gaza, it's at the very least a great hypothetical.

Would it be worth killing 300 innocent women and children to have killed Osama bin Laden in 1998?

In retrospect, knowing what was to happen three years later (this was, supposedly, a reference to 1998), would it have been worth it to stop 9/11? Is there any doubt? And does that make us no better than him? I think not.

Terrorists who hide among women and children, using them as a human shield, expect that the rest of the world will not "sink to their level." They expect that we will value the

lives of their families more than they do. And if you had asked me, hypothetically, before 9/11, before terrorism literally hit home, I would almost certainly have agreed with what President Clinton might have said: We were better than them, because we would not sacrifice their wives and children to kill them, even as they would risk their own family's lives to try to save themselves in hopes of killing us another day.

But none of it is hypothetical anymore, not for us, and certainly not for Israel. Israel is known for its willingness to trade over 1,000 Palestinian prisoners, including hundreds serving life sentences, for the return of a single Israeli soldier.

It is also known for giving warnings, where possible, before bombing homes where terrorists are barricaded with women and children. Some of the civilian deaths in Gaza have been the product of local rockets misfiring, or civilians caught in the crossfire; many have been the result of rockets aimed at terrorists who surround themselves with women and children. Women and children who may or may not be their own, may or may not be there willingly, and may or may not know of any warnings.

Is this Israel's fault? I don't think so. Is it their fault that terrorists would surround themselves with women and children, knowing they are targets, in an effort to live to kill another day? If those women and children die — and of course no one wants that to happen — it is the terror-

ists who are to blame, not the nation seeking to protect their innocent citizens from terror.

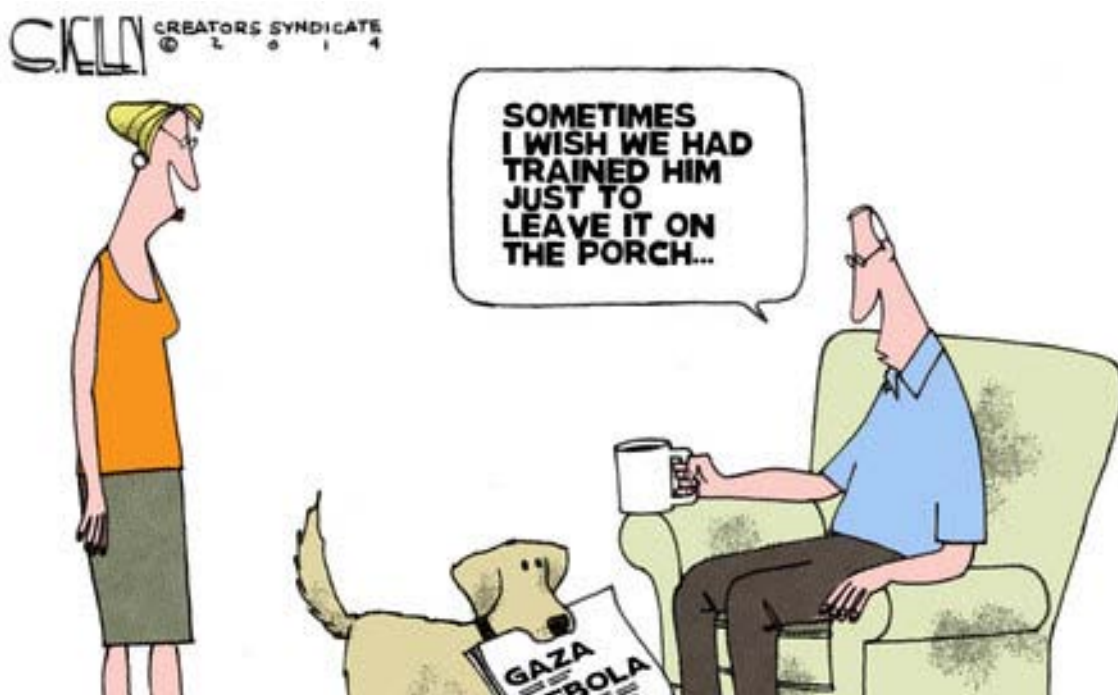
Of course, it should not be this way. We should never have to ask how many innocent lives are worth taking to rid the world of an evil person. It is utilitarianism run amok, commodification gone haywire.

This is not how we deal with war criminals; they are brought to justice. But how do you bring people to justice in what is, essentially, a terrorist state? There is no justice; terrorists will be celebrated. In Israel, the killers of the Palestinian teenager are being held for murder. In Gaza, a crowd cheered as a dead man with a rifle in his hands was pulled from a bombed building, along with women and children.

And was that his wife? Were those his children? Or had he sent his own family away and was instead using women and children who were hiding as his shields?

If this seems to matter, perhaps it is only because it makes even clearer the depth of evil that is at the core of terrorism. We are better than that. It is because of this that we even debate what to do when faced with such evil. And it is because, unlike the Israelis, we do not live under a storm of rockets or on top of a web of tunnels that reasonable people can disagree.

To find out more about Susan Estrich and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate website at www.creators.com.



How the media craft victory for Hamas

On Tuesday, CNN's Wolf Blitzer hosted Hamas spokesman Osama Hamdan. The week before, Hamdan labeled Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu "a new image of Hitler" on the network. But now, for some reason, Blitzer stumbled into a random act of journalism: He asked Hamdan about comments he had made suggesting that Jews used Christian blood in matza. Hamdan stumbled around and blamed the Jews for their action in Gaza.



BEN SHAPIRO

Blitzer called Hamdan's comments an "awful, awful smear." The very fact that this represented a unique moment in the media coverage of the Israel-Hamas Gaza war demonstrates the malpractice of the media. The first questions on the media's collective tongue should have been: What does Hamas stand for? What are its goals? Why does it use women and children as human shields? Why does it hide military resources in civilian areas?

But that had to wait for a month.

In the meantime, CNN viewers saw an unending stream of dramatic images from Gaza of Palestinian Arab suffering:

heavy blasts from Israeli ordinance, screaming women, bleeding children.

Every so often, CNN punctuated its coverage with death toll statistics — never mentioning that it received those statistics from the Palestinians themselves, and neglecting to mention the Palestinians' regular practice of classifying dead terrorists as civilians.

Then CNN asked questions about Israeli "proportionality" and wondered aloud about whether Israeli strikes were sufficiently "targeted."

If you want to know why the conflict between the dramatically overpowering Israeli military and the sadistically brutal Hamas has continued for weeks, look no further than CNN and its like-minded media brethren.

Hamas' goals in this conflict did not include military victory; Hamas may be evil, but it is not stupid. Its main goal was to shore up its base by achieving small concessions from Israel and Egypt, as well as the Palestinian Authority; those concessions could only be achieved if Israel could be portrayed as an international aggressor against a terrorist group.

And that's where the media manipulation came in. Hamas placed heavy restrictions on journalists and even threatened them. Hamas put women and children and mentally ill people in harm's way for the cameras, and as a deterrent to Israeli mili-

tary action.

And the media went right along with it, proclaiming balance all the way. When I was on CNN this week with Alisyn Camerota, she maintained that CNN provided balance by presenting "both sides," to which I responded that presenting both sides in a battle between Hamas and Israel is not balance, but anti-Israel bias. No Western media member would, in 1944, have assumed that balance meant quoting both Winston Churchill and Julius Streicher. To do so would have been to forward propaganda.

But that is precisely what the media have done. They have turned balance into a synonym for amorality. In doing so, they have handed a propaganda victory to evil.

Ben Shapiro, 30, is a graduate of UCLA and Harvard Law School, a radio host on KTTH 770 Seattle and KRLA 870 Los Angeles, Editor-in-Chief of TruthRevolt.org, and Senior Editor-at-Large of Breitbart News. He is the New York Times bestselling author of "Bullies." His latest book, "The People vs. Barack Obama: The Criminal Case Against the Obama Administration," will be released on June 10. He lives with his wife and daughter in Los Angeles. To find out more about Ben Shapiro and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate website at www.creators.com.

Church News

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.

Sunday will be a collection day for our Annual Back to School Supplies Drive. Suggestions include notebook paper, pens, pencils, crayons, spiral notebooks and rulers. These may be left in the baskets in the Narthex or taken to the church office. The Service Committee takes supplies collected to the Salvation Army for distribution and appreciates your help in helping our school children in need.

The Service Committee also takes a generous donation to each of the elementary schools and the kindergarten center to be used for children who need lunch money.

A more complete list of what the Service Committee does to help throughout the community is in the August Church Newsletter. We will be mentioning some of their other projects in this news weekly. The committee is headed by Patti Horton, and she would welcome other members to the group, which meets at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, every other month.

The Church Life Committee has set Sunday, Aug. 17 as the date for a potluck meal after worship to visit with and say farewell to our dear friends and fellow members Donna and Randy Amonett and Janie Conley. The Amonetts are moving to San Antonio. The committee will furnish the meat; everyone else is asked to bring a side dish, salad or dessert.

Nancy Little is in charge of Take Ten for Sunday. Danny Kennemur is lay lector for the month. Ushers for the month are Paula Farquhar, Janie Conley, Christine and Don Boling.

The lectionary for the Ninth Sunday after Pentecost is Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28; Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22, 45; Romans 10:5-15; Matthew 14:22-33. The Rev. Jim Longstreet, former pastor at First Presbyterian, Odessa, now retired, will deliver the sermon. The choir will present "An Irish Blessing" by Becki Mayo as the anthem and "The Tree of Life" by K. Lee Scott as the offertory anthem.

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, 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. There, find a link that will enable you to listen to several recent sermons by the Rev. Holstedt.

Blessed Hands Deaf Church

Sunday, Aug. 24, we will have staff appreciation day for the personnel of SouthWest Collegiate Institute for the Deaf. All college workers and their families are invited to join us for the worship service at 10:50, followed by a luncheon. RSVP by Aug. 20 to Celia Railey at SWCID, by videophone at 432-218-4057 or call 432-264-3700.

Beginning Aug. 31, Blessed Hands Deaf Church will begin offering two services: a morning service at 10:50 and an afternoon service at 2. We will also have a Wednesday evening Bible study at 6.

We will continue to meet inside First Baptist Church at 705 W. FM 700. Contact Pastor Jim Walterhouse at jwalterhouse@gmail.com for more information.

Join us this week at 2 for worship services as we give God all praise and glory for what He is doing throughout our growing congregation.

Forsan Baptist Church

Sunday morning, we will begin a new message series called "Miracles of Jesus in the Gospel of John." We will start with the miracle at the Wedding Feast at Cana with a message titled "Who Is Your Jesus?" The Scripture comes from John 2:1-11.

Wednesday evenings, we are studying the Book of Genesis and Tuesday evenings we are doing a Bible study about how to study the Bible. It's a weekly evening study which will continue through the third 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.

Sunday evenings, we have begun 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 pm. 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.

Teachers and Paraprofessionals

Prayer Breakfast

The third annual Big Spring Community Prayer Breakfast for Teachers and Paraprofessionals will happen at 7:30 a.m. Friday, Aug. 22. The purpose of the breakfast is to honor, appreciate and support our teachers, paraprofessionals and staff who work daily with our children.

This year's breakfast is sponsored by First Baptist Church, First Christian Church, First Church of the Nazarene and First Presbyterian Church.



The event will be held in the First Christian Church Fellowship Hall.

The featured speaker will be Tom Koger, educator, coach, preacher and cowboy poet. Special music will be provided by George Bancroft. Civic and business leaders are welcome to attend.

"One of the purposes of the event is to strengthen relations between the BSISD and the community," said the Rev. Ken McIntosh.

"But the most important reason is to show support and appreciation for our teachers," he added. "Our children and teens are our biggest blessing. Teachers, paraprofessionals and administrators are with them every day, and the main purpose of this breakfast is to encourage them by praying for them."

First Baptist Church

Sunday morning, bring your smart phone, iPad, or kindle fire and interact with the message as it happens through You Version. Worship service starts at 10:50, and Pastor Mark Lindsey continues the sermon series "True Grit" which focuses on what Jesus teaches about following Him. Sunday school groups gather at 9:30, and greeters at each door are happy to assist you in finding your class.

Sunday evening, the Missional Community Groups meet in area homes at 5:30; call 267-8223 or go to fbcbigspring.org for more information.

Thanks to everyone who came and enjoyed Christian entertainers Mark Lowry, Jason Crabb, and The Martins. It was a fabulous fun time!

Our youth will be partnering with other churches to serve our community on Wednesday, Aug. 13. Contact Youth Pastor Jonathan Raffini at 267-8223 for details about this "City Serve Mission Night" in Big Spring.

Now is the time to reserve a place for your little one in our Mother's Day Out Program's fall term. Contact Tracy Boeker at tboeker90@gmail.com or call 267-8223.

If you sense the Lord directing your heart to reach those in the oilfield industry for Christ, and are willing to help develop a plan for ministering to this group, contact Sherry Lindsey through the church at 267-8223. You do not have to be a FBC member to help with this.

Wednesday evening's schedule begins with a meal served from 5-6 in the Family Life Center, followed by activities for all age groups. Go to fbcbigspring.org for details. Join us Aug. 13 for Mexican Stack-Up and brownies.

Do you have questions about God, or wonder whether He really cares about you?

Stop by the church and someone will be happy to listen, pray with you, and share about God's great love for you. First Baptist Church is located at 705 W. FM 700.

There is always a place for you at First Baptist Church.

Holy Trinity Parish

Julie Carrick, Catholic recording artist, speaker and Catholic radio show host, is coming to Holy Trinity Parish in Big Spring on Monday, Aug. 11 and will present a special Catechetical Artistry Event entitled "Summer Faith, Sipping on Grace" at 7 p.m.

We are delighted to announce that Julie will be

with us for an event of music, personal witness and reflections on our journey. Julie is heard weekly on the Guadalupe Radio Network on Thursdays as she hosts her program "We Sing Our Faith" and has been featured on EWTN Backstage and Life on the Rock and various Catholic TV and radio outlets. Summer Faith, Sipping on Grace, is a powerful Catholic event. All are invited, so come early and be inspired to live boldly as a Catholic.

Admission is free since we will simply ask a free will offering at the concert. Bring the whole family. You can also visit the website at www.juliecarrick.com. Holy Trinity Catholic Parish is located at 1009 Hearn. Msgr. Bernard Gully is priest.

Cornerstone Covenant Church

Cornerstone Covenant Church would like to invite you to join us Sunday for part VI of our current series entitled "Unlikely Heroes: Giants Do Fall." For the month of August we will continue to focus on biblical accounts of overcoming "giant" problems in the lives of our brothers and sisters of the

See CHURCH NEWS, Page 7

Bartholomew installed as Alive in Christ pastor

BY LYNDEL MOODY

Staff Writer

Pastor Andrew Bartholomew has taken over ministerial duties at Alive In Christ Lutheran Church.

Pastor Bartholomew was installed as the new minister of Alive in Christ this past June. In fact, his ordination to the ministry and installation ceremony were held in the same service, June 22, with his father, also a Lutheran pastor, conducting the service.

"It's (Big Spring) a big community and there are lots of potential for ministry to do here," Bartholomew said.

Bartholomew was born in Minneapolis and was the child of a pastor. His family moved extensively during this childhood following his father's ministry. Texas is the ninth state for him to live in.

"People ask me were you in the Army and I say yeah, the Lord's army," Bartholomew said.

He earned his bachelor of science in marketing at Northwestern College in Saint Paul, Minn., in 2004. He graduated from Concordia Seminary in Saint Louis, Mo., with a master of divinity on May 23, 2014.

Bartholomew and his wife, Jennifer, have three children, Madelyn, 5; Asa, 3; and Naomi, 18 months, with another on the way.

Alive In Christ Lutheran Church, located at 2805 Lynn in the Kenwood edition, has been a charter congregation of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod since 2008. Sunday service is 9 a.m. with Bible study at 10:15 a.m.



ANDREW BARTHOLOMEW

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Randy Cotton Pastor

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

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DID YOU EVER WONDER? After The Flood

After The Flood, the earth was washed clean ... free of sin. God was pleased and He put a rainbow in the clouds as a sign of His covenant with mankind and all the animals. God would never again destroy the earth with water...



EUNICE FILLER

... with The Flood. Did you remember that God also said He was removing the curse from the ground? Did you notice that God blessed Noah and his sons just after they left the Ark? There was already

vegetation growing on earth by the time God allowed them to leave the Ark. Remember the dove brought back an olive leaf? But don't you think everything was growing wild ... scattered around? Noah and his sons set about cultivating the ground to provide food for their families.

Noah was fond of wine, so he planted a vineyard. Hebrew has two words for wine; one is new wine that the women and young people drank. Noah drank the aged wine and became very intoxicated. We are not told how much time passed before this happened, but it must have taken at least two years for the vines to produce enough grapes and for the wine to age.

God had told them to be fruitful and multiply, and by this time Noah's oldest son, Ham, had a son at least old enough to walk into Noah's tent, and at least old enough to tell Ham what he had seen in Noah's tent. Ham went inside to see for himself; then he told his brothers, Shem and Japheth. Shem and Japheth held a robe between them and backed into the tent and covered their father's nakedness.

Many mistakes were made here. Noah drank far too much wine. The boy went into Noah's bedroom uninvited. Ham wanted to see for himself. But the worst was that Ham repeated this to his brothers; he carried tales, so to speak. Ever notice how

many times God tells us not to gossip?

When Noah awoke and realized that Ham and the boy had seen him uncovered, Noah cursed the boy, Canaan. (Cursing at that time did not mean ranting and calling vile names as it does today.) Noah said, "Cursed is Canaan; a slave of slaves shall he be to his brothers." Remember, Noah was God's representative on earth at this time; this was not just an idle threat from an old man who was hung-over and angry. Noah

was speaking in God's authority.

Now consider, the boy might not have known any better; but his father, Ham, knew better. Why did Noah not curse Ham? Remember that when Noah and his sons stepped off the Ark, God, Himself, blessed them. Noah could not curse someone whom God had blessed.

The earth had been washed clean, free of sin. But remember that God gave ownership of the earth to Adam. By accepting the devil's

lies when he twisted God's words, Adam made Satan the god he obeyed. Therefore Satan became the god of this world and he still has the authority to tempt and harass mankind. We are just as vulnerable as Noah, Ham and Canaan. We must be ever vigilant!

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.

CHURCH NEWS

Continued from Page 5

faith. Discover the power of your veiled faith and the inner strength of the Holy Spirit to overcome the giants in your life.

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

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. Due to current renovation of the administrative wing, we have suspended our Wednesday Bible study until Sept. 3. Join us every Sunday 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

Alive in Christ Lutheran Church LCMS

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

We are located at 2805 Lynn Drive in the Kentwood Neighborhood in Big Spring. To connect with us, call 432-264-7818, or e-mail us at aliveinchrist-tx@gmail.com.

Sunday service begins at 9 a.m. with Bible study and Sunday school at 10:15 a.m. The Adult Bible Class is watching a Lutheran Hour Ministry video titled "The Intersection of Church & State." Our youth are studying different Bible stories, activities and crafts. Rally Day will take place on Aug. 31. More information to come.

Bobby Roeber will present the scripture readings this week.

Pastor Andrew Bartholomew will preach on Matthew 14:22-33. The title of his sermon is "Water Walker."

Our Wednesday night Bible study will continue in the fall.

Tune in to KBYG every morning for a devotional sponsored in part by the Lutheran Hour. Tune in to 106.3 FM or 1400 AM between 6:45 and 6:50 each morning for "Morning Meditation Thoughts."



Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Increase

The Howard County Junior College District will hold two public hearings on a proposal to increase total tax revenues from properties on the tax roll in the preceding tax year 3.76 percent (percentage by which proposed tax rate exceeds lower of roll-back tax rate or effective tax calculated under Chapter 26, Tax Code). Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property and the tax rate that is adopted.

The first public hearing will be held on August 18, 2014 at 12:30 p.m. at Howard County Junior College District, Tumbleweed Rm., Student Union Building, 1001 Birdwell Ln., Big Spring, TX 79720.

The second public hearing will be held on August 19, 2014 at 12:30 p.m. at Howard County Junior College District, Tumbleweed Rm., Student Union Building, 1001 Birdwell Ln., Big Spring, TX 79720

The members of the governing body voted on the proposal to consider the tax increase as follows:

- FOR:**
- AGAINST:**
- PRESENT and not voting:**
- ABSENT:**

The average taxable value of a residence homestead in Howard County Junior College District last year was \$62,107. Based on last year's tax rate of \$0.0203738 per \$100 of taxable value, the amount of taxes imposed last year on the average home was \$126.54.

The average taxable value of a residence homestead in Howard County Junior College District this year is \$64,055. If the governing body adopts the effective tax rate for this year of \$0.167166 per \$100 of taxable value, the amount of taxes imposed this year on the average home would be \$107.08.

If the governing body adopts the proposed tax rate of \$0.173457 per \$100 of taxable value, the amount of taxes imposed this year on the average home would be \$111.11.

Members of the public are encouraged to attend the hearings and express their views.

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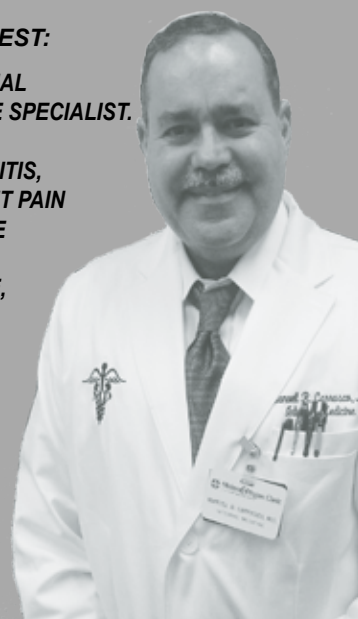
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News in brief

Spread of Ebola in West Africa is an international health emergency

LONDON (AP) — The World Health Organization on Friday declared the Ebola outbreak in West Africa to be an international public health emergency that requires an extraordinary response to stop its spread.

It is the largest and longest outbreak ever recorded of Ebola, which has a death rate of about 50 percent and has so far killed at least 932 people. WHO declared similar emergencies for the swine flu pandemic in 2009 and for polio in May.

The WHO chief, Dr. Margaret Chan, said the announcement is "a clear call for international solidarity" although she acknowledged that many countries would probably not have any Ebola cases.

"Countries affected to date simply do not have the capacity to manage an outbreak of this size and complexity on their own," Chan said at a news conference in Geneva. "I urge the international community to provide this support on the most urgent basis possible."

The agency had convened an expert committee this week to assess the severity of the continuing epidemic.

Iselle weakens from hurricane to tropical storm 50 miles from Hawaii

HONOLULU (AP) — The first storm in a one-two punch that sent Hawaii scrambling to brace itself weakened on its approach to the state, while a second system close behind was largely expected to pass north of the islands.

The National Weather Service downgraded Iselle to a tropical storm about 50 miles before it was expected to make landfall early Friday in the southern part of Hawaii's Big Island. Wind and rain from the system still had enough oomph to knock down trees, cause power outages and block some roads. No deaths or major injuries were reported late Thursday.

Iselle was classified as a tropical storm 11 p.m. Thursday Hawaii Standard Time when its winds slowed to 70 mph, putting it below the minimum of 74 mph for a hurricane.

The storm was weakening because of several factors, including wind shear chopping at the system and the Big Island's terrain above the water, said Chris Brenchley, meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Honolulu.

"It can start to feel the drain," he said. "As wind blows into the terrain, the terrain kind of redirects the wind."

Jonestown massacre victims' remains found at funeral home

DOVER, Del. (AP) — Thirty-five years ago, funeral directors in Delaware struggled to quickly bury and cremate the remains of more than 900 people who died in a suicide-murder in Jonestown, Guyana, many of them Peoples Temple followers who drank cyanide-laced punch.

Some bodies that arrived back in the U.S. at Dover Air Force Base in 1978 were claimed by families. Some were cremated. Others were buried in a mass grave in California.

On Thursday, officials revealed that not all had been brought to a final resting place. The cremated remains of nine Jonestown victims were discovered in a decrepit, now-shuttered funeral home in Dover, officials said. The discovery reopened wounds.

"All the survivors in touch with me are traumatized because that door had been closed," said Jonestown survivor Laura Johnston Kohl, now a retired teacher from San Diego.

"Whatever journey the ashes took in the U.S. is secondary. The first issue is how do we settle it to make sure the ashes are where they belong ... at Evergreen where everybody is," she said, referring to the cemetery that is the site of the mass grave.

Rep. DesJarlais defies predictions of blowout in Tennessee GOP primary

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Scandal-plagued Tennessee Rep. Scott DesJarlais defied expectations of a blowout defeat in his bid for a another term, instead emerging from the Republican primary with a razor-thin margin that left the race too close to call.

With all precincts reporting, DesJarlais and challenger Jim Tracy were separated by a 33-vote margin, illustrating the willingness of the incumbent's tea party base to overlook his personal problems that included once urging a mistress to seek an abortion.

The final result of Thursday's election may drag out until the end the month as election officials consider provisional ballots and potential challenges.

In the other high-profile Tennessee primary contest, Republican Lamar Alexander became the latest U.S. senator to fend off a tea party challenge, defeating a state representative who had used a familiar tactic in trying to cast him as an out of touch insider.

Alexander ended up with 49.7 percent of the vote, compared with 40.5 percent for Rep. Joe Carr of Murfreesboro.

Defense lawyer in Oscar Pistorius murder trial says police may have mishandled evidence

PRETORIA, South Africa (AP) — The chief defense lawyer for Oscar Pistorius delivered final arguments in the athlete's murder trial on Friday, alleging that Pistorius thought he was in danger when he killed girlfriend Reevea Steenkamp and also that police mishandled evidence at the house where the shooting happened.

At one point, lawyer Barry Roux slapped his hand on the desk in front of him to mimic a sound that the double-amputee runner has said he heard on the night of Steenkamp's death. Such an alarming sound, Roux argued, explains why Pistorius thought an intruder was in his home and that he had to defend himself by opening fire.

On Thursday, chief prosecutor Gerrie Nel presented his final arguments that the athlete shot Steenkamp through the closed toilet door after an argument, describing him as an "appalling witness" who lied constantly during testimony to try to cover up the murder.

Roux said Pistorius' disability had made him particularly vulnerable and anxious over the years, comparing the runner to a victim of abuse who kills an abuser after a long period of suffering.

Pistorius has said he killed Steenkamp on Feb. 14, 2013 by mistake, thinking an intruder was in the toilet and about to attack him.

Detroit-area man who shot woman on porch convicted of murder after jury rejects self-defense

DETROIT (AP) — A suburban Detroit man who said he fatally shot an unarmed woman on his porch out of fear prompted by early morning pounding on his doors faces up to life in prison after jurors rejected his claim of self-defense.

Theodore Wafer was convicted Thursday of second-degree murder

after a nine-day trial that centered on whether the 55-year-old had a reasonable and honest belief that his safety was in peril.

"I don't know why this was brought to me," Wafer testified this week. "I didn't go out looking for this."

No one knows why Renisha McBride ended up at Wafer's Dearborn Heights home about 4:30 a.m. on Nov. 2, though prosecutors speculated the 19-year-old may have been seeking help. She had been out with a friend hours earlier before crashing her car in Detroit around 1 a.m. and an autopsy found she was extremely drunk.

Wafer opened the front door and shot McBride in the face, firing through a screen door while she stood on the other side. He first suggested to police that it was an accident but later admitted to intentionally pulling the trigger.

Rohingya Muslims kids show signs of severe malnutrition

OHN TAW GYI CAMP, Myanmar (AP) — Born just over a year ago, Dosmeda Bibi has spent her entire short life confined to a camp for one of the world's most persecuted religious minorities. And like a growing number

of other Muslim Rohingya children who are going hungry, she's showing the first signs of severe malnutrition.

Her stomach is bloated and her skin clings tightly to the bones of her tiny arms and legs. While others her age are sitting or standing, the baby girl cannot flip from her back to her stomach without a gentle nudge from her mom.

"I'm scared she won't live much longer," whispers Hamed Begum as she gazes into her daughter's dark, sunken eyes. "We barely have any food. On some days I can only scrape together a few bites of rice for her to eat."

Myanmar's child malnutrition rate was already among the region's highest, but it's an increasingly familiar sight in the country's westernmost state of Rakhine, which is home to almost all of the country's 1.3 million Rohingya Muslims.

More than 140,000 have been trapped in crowded, dirty camps since extremist Buddhist mobs began chasing them from their homes two years ago, killing up to 280 people. The others are stuck in villages isolated by systematic discrimination, with restrictions on their movement and limited access to food, clean water, education and health care.

2014 Property Tax Rates in Howard County

This notice concerns the 2014 property tax rates for HOWARD COUNTY. It presents information about three tax rates. Last year's tax rate is the actual tax rate the taxing unit used to determine property taxes last year. This year's *effective* tax rate would impose the same total taxes as last year if you compare properties taxed in both years. This year's *rollback* tax rate is the highest tax rate the taxing unit can set before taxpayers start rollback procedures. In each case these rates are found by dividing the total amount of taxes by the tax base (the total value of taxable property) with adjustments as required by state law. The rates are given per \$100 of property value.

| Last year's tax rate: | General Fund | Special Road/Bridge Fund |
|-----------------------------|------------------|--------------------------|
| Last year's operating taxes | \$10,108,200 | \$1,020,907 |
| Last year's debt taxes | \$1,011,437 | \$0 |
| Last year's total taxes | \$11,119,637 | \$1,020,907 |
| Last year's tax base | \$3,371,344,155 | \$3,403,023,333 |
| Last year's total tax rate | \$0.030000/\$100 | \$0.030000/\$100 |

This year's effective tax rate:

| | | |
|---|------------------|------------------|
| Last year's adjusted taxes (after subtracting taxes on lost property) | \$11,097,520 | \$1,018,895 |
| ÷ This year's adjusted tax base (after subtracting value of new property) | \$4,102,978,899 | \$4,102,978,899 |
| = This year's effective tax rate for each fund | \$0.270474/\$100 | \$0.024833/\$100 |
| Total effective tax rate | \$0.295307/\$100 | |

(Maximum rate unless unit publishes notices and holds hearings)

This year's rollback tax rate:

| | | |
|---|------------------|------------------|
| Last year's adjusted operating taxes (after subtracting taxes on lost property and adjusting for any transferred function, tax increment financing, state criminal justice mandate, and/or enhanced indigent healthcare expenditures) | \$10,089,046 | \$1,018,895 |
| ÷ This year's adjusted tax base | \$4,102,978,899 | \$4,102,978,899 |
| = This year's effective operating rate | \$0.245896/\$100 | \$0.024833/\$100 |
| x 1.08 = this year's maximum operating rate | \$0.265567/\$100 | \$0.026819/\$100 |
| + This year's debt rate | \$0.023640/\$100 | \$0/\$100 |
| = This year's rollback rate for each fund | \$0.289207/\$100 | \$0.026819/\$100 |
| This year's total rollback rate | \$0.316026/\$100 | |

Statement of Increase/Decrease

If Howard County adopts a 2014 tax rate equal to the effective tax rate of \$0.295307 per \$100 of value, taxes would decrease compared to 2013 taxes by \$16,913.

Schedule A: General Fund - Unencumbered Fund Balances

The following estimated balances will be left in the unit's property tax accounts at the end of the fiscal year. These balances are not encumbered by a corresponding debt obligation.

| Type of Property Tax Fund | Balance |
|---------------------------|-------------|
| General Fund | \$8,500,000 |
| Road & Bridge | \$235,000 |
| Equipment Operating | \$200,000 |
| Tobacco | \$2,440,000 |
| Debt Services | \$75,000 |

Schedule B: General Fund - 2014 Debt Service

The unit plans to pay the following amounts for long-term debts that are secured by property taxes. These amounts will be paid from property tax revenues (or additional sales tax revenues, if applicable).

| Description of Debt | Principal or Contract Payment To Be Paid From Property Taxes | Interest To Be Paid From Property Taxes | Other Amounts To Be Paid | Total Payment |
|---|--|---|--------------------------|---------------|
| Series 2005 Court House | \$140,000 | \$2,625 | \$0 | \$142,625 |
| Series 2008 Jail | \$335,000 | \$456,424 | \$0 | \$801,424 |
| Total required for 2014 debt service | | | \$944,049 | |
| - Amount (if any) paid from Schedule A | | | \$0 | |
| - Amount (if any) paid from other resources | | | \$0 | |
| - Excess collections last year | | | \$0 | |
| = Total to be paid from taxes in 2014 | | | \$944,049 | |
| + Amount added in anticipation that the unit will collect only 97% of its taxes in 2014 | | | \$29,197 | |
| = Total Debt Levy | | | \$973,246 | |

This notice contains a summary of actual effective and rollback tax rates' calculations. You can inspect a copy of the full calculations at 315 Main Street (County Annex Bldg.) Big Spring, Tx.

Name of person preparing this notice Diane Carter

Title: Tax Assessor Collector

Date prepared: 08/07/2014

Charles Myers

Attorney At Law

Family Law And
Criminal Law

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Inman's TD catch spurs Bolts over 'Boys

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Kellen Clemens saw Dontrelle Inman in single coverage and waited for him to beat his man.

Clemens' 70-yard touchdown pass was the highlight of the San Diego Chargers' 27-7 victory against the Dallas Cowboys in an exhibition opener Thursday night.

"I had an opportunity to give Dontrelle a chance and he did the rest," said Clemens, the new backup quarterback for San Diego. "He had a great release and then got past him. Once he got it, turned the jets

and pulled away."

Inman, who played the last two seasons in the CFL, said it was "kind of stressful" with so much open field ahead. "First you wait for the ball to come down and then you actually have to run another 50 or 40 yards. It's very stressful."

Clemens signed as a free agent in March to serve as backup to Philip Rivers after Charlie Whitehurst left for Tennessee. Clemens spent the last two seasons with the St. Louis Rams as a backup to starter Sam Bradford. He started the last nine games after Bradford went

down with a knee injury.

After Inman scored, the Chargers got the ball right back on a strip sack by Thomas Keiser and recovery by Damik Scafre. Kerwynn Williams scored on a 1-yard run two plays later to make it 24-7.

Rivers played just the opening series, completing all four passes for 61 yards.

That drive ended when Ryan Mathews, who has a history of fumbling, lost the ball as he tried to go over the pile and into the end zone. Dallas' Terrance Mitchell recovered in the end zone for a touchback.

Brandon Weeden, making his Cowboys debut, finished the ensuing drive by weathering a big hit and completing a 4-yard scoring pass to James Hanna, who pulled it in while falling to the ground in the back of the end zone. Chargers defensive end Lawrence Guy injured a shoulder hitting Weeden.

"I must be a lot bigger than I think," Weeden said.

"I had to keep it alive. They covered the flat with the first read and Hanna did a great job of stopping. I had to get out of the pocket because that protection is not going to hold

up forever. There was a huge hole and I knew it was going to close up quick so I threw it as hard as I could and got off the ground. When you get off the ground that is when they have a chance to pile drive you and he got me pretty good.

"It never hurts as bad when you complete them and it dang sure don't hurt as bad when you get a touchdown."

With Tony Romo sitting out to rest his surgically repaired back, Weeden started and played the first half. He completed 13 of 17 passes for 107 yards.



Herald photo/Tommy Wells

Fundamental work ...

Members of the Big Spring Steers' running back group work on the basics of blocking by learning where to hit opponents with their hands to turn them away from a play. The Steers joined the rest of the state in putting on their pads on Friday.

NCAA hands 5 biggest conferences more power

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — College football's biggest schools are ready to spend millions of dollars more on their athletes.

Individual players are likely to cash in on only a small portion of that money.

After the NCAA's board of directors voted 16-2 on Thursday to give the five power conferences the ability to establish some rules unilaterally, a handful of university presidents and chancellors unanimously agreed that pay-for-play won't be approved. Instead, the school leaders said they were only willing to expand scholarship to provide a limited amount of spending money.

"I think there will be some institutions and conferences that will take a hard look at what that full cost-of-attendance means to them," UCLA Chancellor Gene Block said. "But I think the other thing is we'll be able to involve people in the process more quickly and in a more nimble way, and I think it's really, really important that it protects the integrity of the collegiate model."

Current rules only allow scholarships to cover the cost of tuition, room and board, books and fees. The five biggest leagues — the ACC, Big Ten, Big 12, Pac-12 and SEC — have argued that they should help defray additional expenses such as laundry and travel for players' families.

The schools will soon get that chance.

Conference leaders have until Oct. 1 to create a list of rules they'd like to change on their own. All it will require is a majority vote in one of the five leagues, and 12 of the 20 presidents or chancellors on the new, expanded board. An 80-member committee, with one representative from each of the 65 schools and three student-athletes from each conference, would vote on the items. It would require 48 votes and a majority in three of five conferences or 41 votes and a majority in four of five conferences to pass.

NCAA President Mark Emmert said the board will retain veto power if it deems the solutions go too far.

Texans' owner survives cancer ordeal

HOUSTON (AP) — Houston Texans owner Bob McNair has received a clean bill of health after a 10-month battle with two forms of cancer.

The 77-year-old McNair opened up about his ordeal on Thursday at a news conference attended by family members and his treating physicians at the M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston.

"In the past, if you mentioned cancer, people thought it's a death sentence," McNair said. "That's just not nearly the case."

McNair says he's dealt with skin cancer for about 20 years. He traces the condition to his youth, when he

incurred severe sunburns working as a life guard on a beach in the time before protective sunscreen. He's been seeing a dermatologist regularly for two decades and says he's had a handful of minor procedures to remove non-cancerous growths on his skin.

About six years ago, McNair was diagnosed with chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL), a form of the disease that originates in white blood cells in the bone marrow.

Last fall, McNair noticed another tiny growth behind his left ear and visited his dermatologist again. This time, the growth was cancerous — a squamous cell carcinoma.

McNair underwent surgery on the left side of his head, but the cancer soon returned and in an aggressive form. Dr. Michael Keating, one of McNair's doctors at M.D. Anderson and a CLL specialist, said the CLL helped the cancer's progression by weakening McNair's immune system.

The doctors recommended radiation and chemotherapy and McNair endured 33 rounds of radiation over six weeks and chemotherapy for four.

McNair underwent proton therapy, a cutting-edge form of radiation in which cancerous cells are directly targeted, reducing the impact on surrounding cells. Dr. David Rosenthal, a pro-

fessor of radiation oncology at M.D. Anderson, said the FDA-approved therapy reduces the toxicity and other risks of radiation and is becoming a standard of care for children.

"The good news is these things can be dealt with," McNair said.

With his immune system compromised more during treatments, McNair was told to avoid public contact. While undergoing treatments, McNair kept in frequent touch with the team by phone with general manager Rick Smith and his son, Cal, the team's chief operating officer. McNair told his players about his situation before organized team activities in May.

Stern leads 10 in basketball Hall of Fame class

SPRINGFIELD, Mass. (AP) — Former NBA Commissioner David Stern prefers to look at the sale of the Los Angeles Clippers for a record \$2 billion and not the decades of Donald Sterling's "interesting" ownership that came before it.

Speaking on Thursday at a media availability before he is to be inducted into the

Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame, Stern said the unprecedented offer from former Microsoft CEO Steve Ballmer to buy the troubled franchise "is an exclamation point on the health of the league."

Stern said that the price being paid for the Clippers "is just the next step" in a process that has brought

stability to franchises like the New Orleans Hornets, who were seized by the league in 2010 when owner George Shinn couldn't pay his debts. The renamed Pelicans are now ensconced in New Orleans, as are the Bucks in Milwaukee and the Kings in Sacramento, all under new owners.

Stern headed a group

of 10 Hall of Fame inductees who will be honored on Friday night by the Springfield shrine. Also in the class of 2014 are former NBA stars Alonzo Mourning and Mitch Richmond and NCAA championship-winning coaches Nolan Richardson of Arkansas and Gary Williams of Maryland.

Soccer sign-ups slated to begin at Spring Town Plaza

Soccer enthusiasts will get an early Christmas present in the next few days as sign-ups for the upcoming youth soccer season are about to get under way.

According to league organizers, registration for the upcoming season will be held on several days in the next few weeks, including this Saturday at the Spring

Town Plaza. This weekend's sign-up session is scheduled to begin at 10 a.m. and run through 3 p.m. Registration will also be

held during the week of Aug. 18-22 from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. The registration fee is \$75 per player.

The league is open to players between the ages of 3-16.

BSCC to hold 'Over 80' scramble on Aug. 16-17

The Big Spring Country Club will be holding an "Over 80 Scramble" on Aug. 16-17. Under tournament guidelines, teams can be comprised of two golfers whose combined age is 80 or over.

The entry fee for the event is \$100 per player, plus the cost of a golf cart. Private carts are welcome. The entry fee includes a BBQ dinner on Saturday and a mulligan.

The event will begin with a 1 p.m. shotgun start on both days. The field will be flighted by the first-round scores.

For more information about the tournament contact the BSCC Pro Shop at 432-267-5354.

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Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

Bidding Quiz

You are South, both sides vulnerable. The bidding has been:
South West North East
1♦ Pass 1♥ 1♠
?

What would you bid now with each of the following four hands?
1. ♠4 ♥K53 ♦AKJ52 ♣QJ43
2. ♠—♥Q964 ♦AKJ97 ♣AKJ2
3. ♠5 ♥KJ ♦AKJ85 ♣KQJ96
4. ♠9 ♥K876 ♦AQJ742 ♣AQ

1. Two hearts. There is no perfect bid here; the best you can do is to raise partner and hope he has five hearts and the values to bid again. You are a trump short for the heart raise, but you have 14 high-card points and a singleton to compensate for the heart deficiency. You should therefore prefer the bid that is most apt to encourage partner to act again.

Alternative bids are two clubs and two diamonds, but neither would reveal the heart support.

2. Two spades. You should welcome the opposing spade overall and take advantage of it by cuebidding the suit. This tells partner that game is certain and that slam is a strong possibility.

For practical purposes, all you need for a slam are five hearts to the K-J and a minor-suit queen. For a

grand slam, you need little more than five hearts headed by the A-K. Even if partner attempts to sign off after the cuebid, you should consider going as high as five hearts in an effort to reach a slam.

3. Three clubs. It would be dangerous to bid only two clubs, which is not forcing, so you must jump-shift to make sure partner bids again. Game in hearts, diamonds or clubs is highly likely, and you should let partner know, or you might find yourself left at the post.

True, partner might have a proper heart response and yet lack the values necessary for a game. However, it would be poor policy to allow such a pessimistic view to color your judgment. The odds favor a game or slam, and it would be unwise to conceal this from partner.

4. Four hearts. Before you act, you should ask yourself how you would feel if you bid three hearts — which is not forcing — and partner passed. You would surely expect to make four, and should therefore bid it to make certain of getting to game. An alternative to bidding four hearts, if you play "splinter bids," would be to jump to three spades, indicating heart support, enough points for game and a singleton or void in spades.

Tomorrow: How to be a good detective.
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The Miracle of Yesterday

Yesterday Mars in Scorpio formed a trine with Neptune in Pisces, and today many will be contemplating the kismet that occurred and realizing it for the unlikely -- or possibly miraculous - - event it was. When you factor in that scientists suggest that the probability of your being born is one in 400 trillion, yesterday was a miraculous event indeed.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Crazy people with ludicrous ideas are all around. One of those weird notions is just nuts enough to work. So listen up, you never know from where your next inspiration will come.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Should you know what everyone else is planning on before you make your move? Naw. Trust your gut. You've reason to be confident



HOLIDAY MATHIS

about your route. Commit.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You'll gladly trade in your notions about how things should be in order to more fully and accept how things actually are. But if all that gets complicated, just send love. Love will heal misunderstandings.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You may not know exactly where you belong, but you're pretty sure you can find a better fit than you've experienced lately. Explore groups, schools and organizations until you hit that niche.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Repressed negativity? Unexpressed resentment? Express it now! An uninvolved third party or your private diary will be the sounding board you need. Once you get it off of your chest, you'll feel energized.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You are almost caught up to where you want to be productivity-wise. The final 10 percent is always the hardest, and you can blame that on the law of diminishing returns.

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Sudoku Answer On Page 10

sudoku

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

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

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Tomorrow's Horoscope

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Today the young people will busy themselves in developing their relationship with the outside world. The older people will take all they've learned and develop their internal world. The middle-aged people will do a little of both.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). As far as the heart's demands go, yours is an uncomplicated scene now -- the generous-spirited and big lovers appeal to you, and the rest hold no draw.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Your secret beliefs can only benefit you if they are aligned in your favor. If not, you will be unhappily led to what you fear by your confirmation bias. Stay positive.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Your attitude, not the circumstances at hand, will be what makes today's business worth your while. When your gut says no, move quickly past. You can be open to possibilities without being open to (SET ITAL) all (END ITAL) of the possibilities.



KATHY MITCHELL
MARCY SUGAR

Dear Annie: My daughter was recently ordered by the court to have her 5-year-old son visit his biological father and grandparents every other weekend. They live 200 miles away.

The boy has always lived with his mother, because the biological father felt he was not ready to be a dad and deserted them. He and his parents cut off contact for five years, and now they have decided they want to spend time with the boy.

Here's the disturbing part. When at their house, my grandson is not permitted to eat at

Annie's Mailbox

the family table. He eats at a small table in the corner. He's only permitted to eat or drink at certain times, he cannot phone his mother when he wants, he sleeps in a room in the basement, he must call the grandparents by specific names or they won't speak to him, and most recently, he came home with so many mosquito bites that he required medical attention. Once, the biological father brought him home so sick that he missed a week of school.

Over the summer, his biological father tried to teach him to use the lawn mower, but the child refused because his mother told him (rightfully) that it is too dangerous and he is too little. As a result, he was sent to his room in the basement.

My gut tells me they are trying to injure the child, and I have serious doubts about their sincerity in wanting a relationship. My daughter's lawyer has been contacted, but is there anything we can do in the interim to protect the boy from such horrible abuse? -- *Worried Grandma*

Dear Worried: Based on your information, we're not certain this qualifies as "horrible abuse." It seems more like neglect combined with incompetent parenting skills. The biological father and his parents have no clue how to properly treat or raise a 5-year-old boy. The lawyer should go to the judge immediately with whatever documentation he has and ask for supervised visitation, and possibly mandate that the biological father take parenting classes. If you believe the boy is truly being abused, contact the National Child Abuse Hotline at 1-800-422-4453.

Dear Annie: Thank you for printing the letter about celiac disease. I hope you have space for a letter about children who are severely food allergic.

Food allergies were not part of our world in 1999. That is when our baby developed hives after eating mixed cereal. The pediatrician said, "Maybe he's allergic to the wheat in the cereal. Give him

Benadryl." We didn't know that "allergic to wheat" was serious or that wheat was in almost everything in our pantry, from BBQ sauce to root beer, cereals, potato chips, candy, hand cream, shampoo and sunblock. The early reactions were just hives. There was no thought of converting our kitchen or segregating him at school.

The first anaphylactic reaction came at age 4. The ER doctors explained cross-contamination. We were told to read all food labels and always carry EpiPens. At age 13, our son now cautiously sits at the school lunch table with his friends and goes to ballgames, overnight camp and select restaurants. We continue to be vigilant. One crumb of wheat in his mouth would lead us to the ER. We are hopeful that somewhere in the universe someone will find a cure for this life-threatening and life-altering allergy.

We would like to share some resources about food allergies with your readers. Please suggest they contact:

Mothers of Children Having Allergies (mochallergies.org); Food Allergy Research and Education (foodallergy.org) (this is a merger of the Food Allergy Initiative and Food Allergy and Anaphylaxis Network); the Stanford Alliance for Food Allergy Research (foodallergies.stanford.edu); the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology (aaaai.org/conditions-and-treatments/allergies/food-allergies.aspx). -- *B. in Chicago*

Dear B.: Thank you so much for this excellent information on food allergies. We hope our readers will take advantage of these resources.

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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deeper levels of yourself. **TAURUS:** You live and love forward, but you don't understand it really until you look at it backward. **GEMINI:** Take pride in what you've done. Why not? It can't be changed! **CANCER:** Do you prefer being in a hotel or being a houseguest? Consider it strongly before planning your next visit. **LEO:** Sometimes you feel the others are adults, and you're just going undercover. **VIRGO:** Don't compete for another person's attention. Take yourself out of the competition and wait until the moment when you can shine on your own. **LIBRA:** Be the first to approach. Your confidence will be like a spotlight that turns on and follows you when you walk away. **SCORPIO:** Having your full wits about you is important in making a good impression. So eliminate distractions and avoid giving yourself too many responsibilities beyond social fun. **SAGITTARIUS:** There will be those who don't want you to leave. Maybe they are jealous or maybe needy, but they certainly will cling on. **CAPRICORN:** Great

debates stir great passions. **AQUARIUS:** Domestic work will bring couples together. **PISCES:** When you're on the prowl, all will know and respect your hunt.

COUPLE OF THE WEEKEND: The moon in bright Aquarius will be full on Sunday, reflecting the bighearted love of the Leo Sun. These opposite zodiac signs don't always get along. It's not always an easy road for them. But they strengthen each other and make one another better people for their differences and difficulties. This pairing is a karmic bond that helps each to grow to their full potential.

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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| | KMID (3) | UNI (4) | KPEJ (5) | KOSA (7) | KTLE (8) | KWES (9) | WTBS (11) | KMLM (12) | KPBT (13) | KWWT (14) | DISC (20) | AMC (21) | SPIKE (22) | TNT (23) | BET (26) | DISN (27) | ESPN2 (28) | ESPN (29) |
|-------|-------------------|--------------------|--------------|------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|---|---|------------|---|--|-------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| | Midland | Spanish | Odessa | Odessa | Telemundo | Midland | Atlanta | Odessa | Odessa | Odessa | Discovery | Classics | Spike TV | Atlanta | Black Ent. | Disney | Sports | Sports |
| 5:PM | News ABC | P. Luche | Two Men | News CBS | Tele Noticias | News CBS | Seinfeld | Zola Lev. Chevalme | Charlie Rose | Rifleman | Deadliest Catch | Dreyfuss | Cops | | 106 & Park | Jessie | | SportsCenter |
| 6:PM | Jeopardy! | De Que Te Quiero | Big Bang | News CBS | Caso Cerado | News CBS | Seinfeld | Israel Upd | PBS News-Hour | M*A*S*H | Deadliest Catch | | Cops | Movie: Journey to the Center of the Earth | Movie: Gun Hill | Jessie | ATP Tennis | Little League Baseball |
| 7:PM | Shark Tank | Mi Corazón Es Tuyo | MasterChef | CSI: Crime Scene | Reina de Corazones | Dateline NBC | Fam. Guy | Shepherd's Heart | Wash Just Seen | Deadliest Catch | Movie: The Shawshank Redemption, Bob Gunton | | Cops | | Apollo Live | Gravity | Boxing: Friday Night Fights. | Little League Baseball |
| 8:PM | What Would | Lo Que la Vida | Bones (DVS) | Hawaii Five-0 | En Otra Piel (SS) | | Fam. Guy | Best of Light of the Southwest | Cavett-Watergt | Deadliest Catch: On Deck | | | Cops | Cold Justice | Apollo Live | I Didn't | | |
| 9:PM | 20/20 | Qué Pobres | Mod Fam | Blue Bloods | El Señor de los | (:01) Cross-bones | Funnies Wins | Upd BAS | Great Performances | Odd Cple. Odd Cple. Twi. Zone | Deadliest Catch: On Deck | Movie: Volcano, Gaby Hoffmann | | GLORY 17: Last Man Standing | (:01) Movie: Prince of Persia: The Sands of Time | Apollo Live | Jessie | Olbermann SportsCenter |
| 10:PM | News ABC | Impacto | Arsenio Hall | News Letterman | Tele Noticias | (:35) Boxeo Telemundo (SS) | Funnies Wins | Upd BAS | Katmai World | Deadliest Catch: On Deck | | | | | | Apollo Live | Jessie | Olbermann SportsCenter |
| 11:PM | Jimmy Kimmel Live | Familia-Suerte | How I Met | PGA | El Señor de los | | Seth Meyers | Messiah | T. Smiley | Dragnet | | | Cops | (:31) Cold Justice | College | Jessie | Baseball Tonight | SportsCenter |
| 12:AM | Extra | Amorcito Corazón | Raymond | Ferguson | El Señor de los | | News | Justice | (Off Air) | Hitchcock Hr. | Deadliest Catch | Movie: The Shawshank Redemption, Rob Gunton | Jail | (:32) Movie: The Forbidden Kingdom | College | Good | Dog | World/Poker SportsCenter |
| 1:AM | Paid | Alma | Latter | Insider | Paid | (:07) Today | (:15) Movie: My Baby's | Best of Light of the | | Deadliest Catch | | | Jail | | Movie: | | | |

DENNIS THE MENACE

"I WAS SPOSED TO SIT HERE FOR 15 MINUTES, BUT I THINK I'VE GONE INTO OVERTIME."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane

"I want you to know that you can be arrested for wearing socks with sandals."

HAGAR

"I COULD BEAT YOU WITH ONE ARM TIED!"

"YOU TELL HIM, BOSS!!"

"I'LL TIE HIS ARM!!"

BLONDIE

"LET'S GO OUT TO EAT TONIGHT, DEAR"

"I WAS REALLY LOOKING FORWARD TO A HOME-COOKED MEAL"

"OKAY, THIS WORKS FOR ME"

MOM'S GOOD OLD-FASHIONED HOME COOKING DINER

BC

GET 'ER DONE

WILEY'S DICTIONARY

EXPRESSION OF INTENT TO PROMOTE ONE'S PRINCIPLED CORE VALUES OF SELF-RELIANCE, HARD WORK AND COMMITMENT TO TRUCKER CAPS.

WILEY'S DICTIONARY

This Date In History

Today is Friday, August 8, the 220th day of 2014. There are 145 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On August 8, 1974, President Richard Nixon announced his resignation, effective the next day, following damaging new revelations in the Watergate scandal.

On this date:

In 1814, during the War of 1812, peace talks between the United States and Britain began in Ghent, Belgium.

In 1911, President William Howard Taft

signed a measure raising the number of U.S. representatives from 391 to 433, effective with the next Congress, with a proviso to add two more when New Mexico and Arizona became states.

In 1937, during the Second Sino-Japanese War, Japan completed its occupation of Beijing.

In 1942, during World War II, six Nazi saboteurs who were captured after landing in the U.S. were executed in Washington, D.C.; two others who'd cooperated with authorities were spared.

In 1945, President Harry S. Truman signed the U.S. instrument of ratification for the United Nations Charter. The Soviet Union declared war against Japan during World War II.

In 1953, the United States and South Korea initialed a mutual security pact.

In 1963, Britain's "Great Train Robbery" took place as thieves made off with 2.6 million pounds in banknotes.

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WIZARD OF ID

YOU ARE GORGEOUS! I WOULD LIKE TO MEET YOU IN PERSON SOON - YOUR SECRET ADMIRER

FORWARD THIS TO 100 FRIENDS AND YOUR CRUSH WILL ASK YOU OUT. IGNORE THIS AND YOU'LL BE HIT BY A BUS...

LOOK, DUDE... I DON'T WRITE 'EM. I JUST DELIVER 'EM

AGNES

HEY... WHERE'S YOUR POWERLIFTING OUTFIT?

UH... I HAVE A SPORTS INJURY.

REALLY?

YES. I SPRAINED A REGIMENT OR LINIMENT OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT.

REALLY? WHERE?

UM... WHEREVER I WRAP THIS ELASTIC THING.

HI AND LOIS

IT'S SO NICE OF YOU TO TREAT ME TO A MOVIE, CHIP.

YES, IT IS.

I HAD TO MOW THE LAWN, PULL WEEDS AND TAKE OUT THE GARBAGE TO EARN THIS MONEY.

THE OTHER COAST

APPARENTLY, HE TRAINED AS A POLICE ARTIST.

SNUFFY SMITH

HOW'S TH' DIET COMIN' ALONG, LOWEEZY?

IT AIN'T SO BAD-- I'VE CUT OUT DESSERTS...

IN SLIGHTLY THINER PIECES !!

BEETLE BAILEY

STOP ARGUING, GUYS! HE STARTED IT!

NO, YOU DID!

YOU'VE BEEN ARGUING SINCE YOU WERE BORN!

YOU WERE ARGUING IN THE WOMB!

YOUR GRAND-PARENTS...

THEY'LL GO ON TO THEIR CAVE MAN ANCESTORS

Newsday Crossword

SAY CHEESE by David W. Cromer Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

- 1 Hair adornments
- 5 Some studios, for short
- 9 Imam's faith
- 14 Birthplace of seven presidents
- 15 Talk up
- 16 Battleground of 1836
- 17 Switch on some radios
- 18 Are, in Argentina
- 19 MGM superstar of the '30s
- 20 Did an act of charity?
- 23 On the Road narrator
- 25 Fashion monogram
- 26 Female antelope
- 27 Virtuoso
- 28 Spanish monarch
- 29 Taxonomic category
- 34 Italian model/actor
- 36 Lord's Prayer start
- 37 Small, round sandwich
- 38 "Just throw them in your mouth?"
- 42 Fodder housing
- 43 Rainbow hue
- 44 Part of ancient Turkey
- 45 Be boastful
- 47 Corox's car-product brand
- 49 Dampened
- 50 Particularly: Abbr.
- 51 Rest period
- 52 It may be a rollover

DOWN

- 1 Tropical snake
- 2 Resistance measure
- 3 Game with plastic bats
- 4 A few
- 5 Idle
- 6 With elegance
- 7 Dance outfit
- 8 Rises
- 9 "You can say that again"
- 10 Really amuse
- 11 Bit of fun
- 12 It means "both"
- 13 Emotional nature
- 21 Austrian state
- 22 Start getting paid to play
- 23 Least perilous
- 24 Maine national park
- 30 TV host O'Brien's nickname
- 31 Uncompromising
- 32 More bizarre
- 33 Violinist's showcase
- 35 "Everything's cool"
- 36 20-vol. lexicon
- 39 March marchers
- 40 Frat event
- 41 Prince George's aunt
- 46 British invader of the '60s
- 47 Short-tempered
- 48 Dermal decoration
- 53 Hanks Oscar role
- 54 GM's German make
- 55 Beef inspection agcy.
- 56 Senior member
- 57 Calypso standard
- 58 US Women's Open organizer
- 62 Besides
- 63 "You can count on me"

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Kevin Durant withdraws from US national team

(AP) — Kevin Durant withdrew Thursday from the U.S. national team, the biggest loss yet for a weakening American squad that will go to Spain without the leading scorer on its last two gold medal winners.

The NBA's MVP took part in the Americans' training camp in Las Vegas last week, but then informed team officials that he wasn't going to continue.

"Kevin reached out to Coach K and myself this afternoon and expressed that he is just physically and mentally drained from the NBA season and his attention to his many responsibilities," USA Basketball chairman Jerry Colangelo said in a statement.

"He tried to give it a go at our recent Las Vegas training camp but felt coming out of camp that he was not prepared to fulfill the commitment he made to the team."

Durant was the MVP of the world championship in 2010, leading the Americans to that title for the first time since 1994. The Oklahoma City star also started on their gold medal-winning team in the 2012 Olympics and led the Americans with 19.5 points per game.

His withdrawal comes less than a week after Indiana's Paul George was lost to a broken right leg and follows previous withdrawals by All-Stars Kevin Love, Blake Griffin and LaMarcus Aldridge,

and NBA Finals MVP Kawhi Leonard.

"This was an extremely difficult decision as I take great pride in representing our country," Durant said. "I know that I owe it to my USA Basketball teammates to be totally invested in the experience. After going through training camp with USAB, I realized I could not fulfill my responsibilities to the team from both a time and energy standpoint.

"I need to take a step back and take some time away, both mentally and physically in order to prepare for the upcoming NBA season. I will be rooting for USAB and look forward to future opportunities with them."

The U.S. roster is down to 15 players. The Americans resume practicing next Thursday in Chicago and have to finalize a 12-man roster before the World Cup of Basketball begins in Spain on Aug. 30.

The Americans may still be the favorites, but are increasingly beatable with the losses of Durant and George, who were expected to fill the two starting forward spots.

Durant carried a young U.S. to the title four years ago in Turkey with a series of sensational performances, averaging 22.8 points and shattering a number of team offensive records. He set the American mark with 38 points in a semifinal victory

over Lithuania.

At 6-foot-10, Durant is big enough to play as a power forward internationally, creating a matchup nightmare for opponents who can't defend him on the perimeter. He led the tournament in 3-pointers attempted and made in the 2010 worlds.

He has averaged 19.9 points in 31 games in a U.S. jersey, shooting 48 percent from 3-point range. But Colangelo said the Americans understood his need for time off.

"Coach K and I fully support Kevin," he said. "His well-being is the most important thing to us and we support him taking the time to get ready for next season. He's been part of the national team program for eight years and a big part of the success we have achieved, and we look forward to him being part of our success in the future as well."

"We are excited about the opportunity ahead of us and to getting back to work in Chicago on Aug. 14," Colangelo added. "All 15 players are committed to the USA Basketball standard, which is to come together to win gold medals."

NFL Roundup

Redskins 23, Patriots 6
LANDOVER, Md. (AP) — Tom Brady took the night off, and Robert Griffin III played one series Thursday night as the Washington Redskins beat the New England Patriots 23-6 in the teams' preseason opener.

Griffin completed 2 of 4 passes for 9 yards in an 11-play drive that ended with a 39-yard field goal from Kai Forbath.

Coach Bill Belichick rested Brady, Darrelle Revis and most of his starters. The first-teamers already had plenty of good work against the Redskins this week during three days of joint practices at Washington's training camp facility.

Broncos 21, Seahawks 16

DENVER (AP) — The Super Bowl teams slogged through a preseason opener delayed by lightning and a flurry of flags Thursday night before linebacker Steven Jackson's end zone interception of Terrelle Pryor's pass sealed the Denver Broncos' 21-16 win over the Seattle Seahawks.

In between a 46-minute delay, both starting offenses put together long touchdown drives that ate up more than 9 minutes and were kept alive by a wave of yellow flags.

Altogether, there were 25 accepted penalties, 13 on Seattle and a dozen on Denver.

Ronnie Hillman's 1-yard TD run capped Denver's 14-play, 61-yard drive in which Peyton Manning completed 9 of 11 passes for 63 yards and the officials threw six flags, including one for offsetting penalties.

The drive lasted 9 minutes, 9 seconds — a good two minutes longer than Denver's longest drive last season.

Seattle's 14-play, 90-yard drive that ate up 9:18 was kept alive by four defensive infractions, and Christine Michael's 1-yard run against a mix of starters and backups tied it at 7 following a debatable pass interference call on linebacker Danny Trevathan.

Ravens 23, 49ers 3

BALTIMORE (AP) — Joe Flacco needed just one drive to show how effective the Baltimore Ravens' offense can be under Gary Kubiak.

Flacco produced an 80-yard touchdown march in his only series, and the Ravens beat San Francisco in a preseason opener.

It was the third time in three tries that Ravens coach John Harbaugh got the best of his brother, Jim Harbaugh, coach of the 49ers. Baltimore previously defeated San Francisco on Thanksgiving 2011 and in the Super Bowl ending the 2012 season.

In this one, each team

played its starting unit for one series before the backups took over.

Chiefs 41, Bengals 39

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Sean Smith and Malcolm Bronson returned interceptions for touchdowns, De'Anthony Thomas brought back a punt 80 yards for another score and Kansas City beat Cincinnati in its preseason opener.

Andy Dalton was sharp in his only series for the Bengals after signing a new six-year deal this week. He hit wide receiver A.J. Green for a 53-yard pass to set up the opening field goal.

Jets 13, Colts 10

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP) — Michael Vick led the New York Jets on a touchdown drive, capped by fellow newcomer Chris Johnson's 1-yard scoring run, in a victory over Indianapolis.

Geno Smith, looking to retain his starting job in his second season, was 4 of 6 for 33 yards in two series with the first-team offense that included a 51-yard field goal by Nick Folk before giving way to Vick. The 34-year-old backup received a hearty cheer from the crowd at MetLife Stadium, and moved the starting offense for the Jets down the field against the Colts' second-team defense.

Kiwis file challenge for America's Cup

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Emirates Team New Zealand has filed a challenge for the 35th America's Cup ahead of Friday's deadline.

The challenge was announced at the Royal New Zealand Yacht Squadron, which backs the sailing team.

Team New Zealand took a soul-crushing loss in the 2013 America's Cup, blowing an 8-1 lead and allowing Oracle Team USA to win the final eight races to retain the oldest trophy in international sports.

The entry deadline is midnight PDT Friday.

Other teams expected to enter are Britain's Ben Ainslie Racing, Italy's Luna Rossa Challenge, Sweden's Artemis Challenge and Team France.

America's Cup officials won't officially announce challengers until the teams have been vetted. Once accepted, teams must pay the first \$1 mil-

lion installment of the \$2 million entry fee for the 2017 regatta.

Emirates Team New Zealand CEO Grant Dalton says the Kiwis "look forward to working with the other teams to create a great event."

The Kiwis have clashed with Russell Coutts, a New Zealander who is CEO of Oracle Team USA and director of the America's Cup Event Authority. Coutts uninvited Team New Zealand from a recent competitors meeting in London because he felt it didn't want to work within the published protocol.

The Kiwis are known to oppose Bermuda as a potential venue to host the challenger semifinals and finals, and America's Cup match.

Bermuda is competing against San Diego to host the final rounds of racing. Coutts will pick a venue sometime in the fall.

Rain halts play early at PGA Championship

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) — The second round of the PGA Championship was off to a soggy start and a sudden stop Friday.

A steady rain forced officials to suspend the round after just 20 minutes because of too much water on the putting surfaces. Work crews already were using squeegees on the greens when another burst of

showers hit Valhalla.

Play was halted 45 minutes before Rory McIlroy was to tee off, and as Ryan Palmer was playing the first hole.

Palmer, Lee Westwood and Kevin Chappell shared the first-round lead at 6-under 65. Palmer was the only one from that group who played in the morning, which typically has easier conditions.



BEST BITES DINING GUIDE

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