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# H BIG SPRING HERALD

**THURSDAY**

**MAY 21, 2015**



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## No serious injuries in shooting incident

*Police: Suspect opened fire on SWAT team early Wednesday*

**By STEVE REAGAN**  
 Staff Writer  
 No one was seriously injured in a shooting incident that occurred when local law enforcement officials attempted to arrest a suspect early Wednesday.  
 At approximately 5:30 a.m.



Solis

Wednesday, the Big Spring Police Department/Howard County Sheriff's Office SWAT team executed a BSPD narcotics search warrant at room 117 of the Scottish Inn, 1202

E. Third. The suspect John Manuel Solis, 29, is a convicted felon and was known to carry firearms and have gang affiliations, BSPD Lt. Brian Gordon stated in a news release.  
 Upon approaching the room, a distraction device was deployed and SWAT at-

tempted to gain entry into the room, at which time shots were fired from within the room towards SWAT members, Gordon said.  
 "The door was breached and the initial report indicates gunfire was exchanged between Solis and a SWAT team member, who fired only

one shot," Gordon said. "After the SWAT team member fired, while moving into the room, Solis was immediately apprehended. Solis sustained only a minor injury which was the result of taking him into custody and not the re-  
 See **ARREST**, Page 3

## Coming through loud and clear

**Lozano overcomes speech impediment to fashion 44-year career in radio**

*Story and photo by Julie Bass*

**D**reams do sometime come true, and Dago Lozano has been living his dream for 44 years now.  
 "Dago" Lozano was born in San Angelo in 1956, but moved to Big Spring with his parents four years later. He grew up in this area and attended the Big Spring schools.  
 Despite a speech impediment, his dream was to be in radio broadcasting.  
 "I always loved music, listening to it on the radio. I listened to the late Ray Gonzalez who hosted the Spanish program out of Lamesa. He hosted that show from 1947 through 1975," Lozano said.  
 In 1968, Lozano headed to Lamesa and applied for a job working at radio station KPET with Gonzalez.  
 "With my speech impediment, he couldn't understand me. Only my mom could understand me," Lozano said, "so he told me to start reading everything I came across as if I was reading it on the radio — newspapers, magazines, everything."  
 In 1971, Lozano headed back to the radio station and tried again. This time, Gonzalez could understand what he said and began training him.  
 "I was a fast learner, I have a good memory. I



HERALD photo/Julie Bass

**"Dago" Lozano mans the booth at local radio station KBYG. Lozano overcame a speech impediment to have a 44-year career in broadcasting.**

was able to learn the big switch board that controlled everything in about two or three weeks. It was a dream come true," he said.  
 Lozano has worked at 12 radio stations during his 44-year broadcasting career. He currently works at KBYG — he has worked there for 30 years, off and on.  
 "I would like to thank John Weeks, the owner

and president of KBYG, I would like to thank David Pappajohn as well as Raul Marquez. I am so proud to be a part of the KBYG and KXCS radio station," Lozano said.

Contact Staff Writer Julie Bass at 263-7331 ext. 232, or email [life@bigspringherald.com](mailto:life@bigspringherald.com)

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**To reach us:**  
 Please call 263-7331.  
 Office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.



## Time to make a colorful mess

### BSHS CFG Color Blast set for Friday evening

**BY LYNDEL MOODY**  
 Staff Writer  
 The color will be flying at Comanche Trail Park on Friday afternoon.  
 About 260 people have pre-registered for the Big Spring High School Student Council CFG Color Blast 5K Run/Walk.  
 "We are set for the Color Blast on Friday, rain or shine," said Porsha Bryant, student council sponsor. "We are ready to get messy with color. Those who have pre-registered will check in at the Dora Roberts Community Center from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m.

*"A few of our student council officers originally had the idea of hosting a Color Run, and we couldn't think of a better way to honor the loved ones we lost at the beginning of the year."*  
 Porsha Bryant  
 BSHS Student Council sponsor

We will be accepting entries toxic, biodegradable paint race day, but your shirt may have to be mailed to you."  
 As part of the event, participants will run or walk through paint stations where they will be pelted with a non-

begin at 6:15 p.m., with a shotgun start. The \$25 registration fee includes a race T-shirt.  
 All proceeds will be donated to the American Heart Association and the North Side Community Center in honor of three Big Spring employees — Coach Jim Campbell, Carol Green, and Danny Ferrell — who died unexpectedly about mid-term this school year.  
 "A few of our student council officers originally had the idea of hosting a Color Run, and we couldn't think of a  
 See **BLAST**, Page 3



# Memorial Day

## 2015 May 25



**Blum's**  
 JEWELERS  
 One beautiful place.  
 Inside The Spring Town Plaza  
 267-6335  
 Hours:  
 Tuesday-Saturday 10:00 am-6:00 pm

# Obituaries

## Elodia Gutierrez



Elodia Gutierrez, 71, of Coahoma died Tuesday, May 19, 2015, at Scenic Mountain Medical Center. Vigil services will be at 7 p.m. Friday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral Mass will be at 10 a.m. Saturday at Holy Trinity Catholic Church, with burial at Coahoma Cemetery.

She was born Nov. 13, 1943, in Big Spring to Margarita and Willie Garcia. She was a lifetime resident of Howard County. She was a homemaker and

a member of Holy Trinity Catholic Church. She loved sewing and knitting.

She is survived by six children, Fred Gutierrez Jr. of Coahoma, Emma Gutierrez and her husband, Pete, of Stanton, Martha Dobek and her husband, Mark, of Big Spring, Margie Kowatch and her husband, John, of Big Spring, Adolf Gutierrez and his wife, Lori, of Brownwood and Lodie Gutierrez of Midland.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by two brothers, Willie Garcia and Adolf Garcia; and a sister, Elizabeth Jimenez.

Arrangements are by Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Pay your respects online at [www.myersand-smith.com](http://www.myersand-smith.com)

# Police/Sheriff/Fire/EMS

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

- JOHN MANUEL SOLIS, 29, of 507 N.W. 6<sup>th</sup> St. was arrested on charges of aggravated assault against a public servant.
- PAIGE NASHEY PALMER, 19, of 511 Goliad St. was arrested on a warrant for another agency.
- PATRICIA RODRIGUEZ, 36, of 1010 N.W. 2<sup>nd</sup> St. was arrested on a warrant for a false alarm or report.
- THEFT was reported in the 2500 block of Gunter Circle and the 1700 block of E. 3<sup>rd</sup> St.
- DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE was reported in the 100 block of N.E. 10<sup>th</sup> St.
- MINOR ACCIDENT was reported in the block of Courtney Place.

The Howard County Sheriff's Department reported the following activity between 7 a.m. Wednesday and today:

- Note - Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 72 inmates at the time of this report.
- JESSICA LYNN BURDEN, 22, was booked by the HCSO on a warrant for theft of property, more than \$50 but less than \$500.
- PAIGE NASHEY PALMER, 19, was booked by the BSPD on a warrant for theft, more than \$50 but less than \$500.
- PATRICIA RODRIGUEZ, 36, was booked by the BSPD on a warrant for false alarm or report.
- JOHN MANUEL SOLIS, 29, was booked by the BSPD on a warrant for aggravated assault against a public servant.

The Big Spring Fire Department and Emergency Medical Services reported the following activity:

- MEDICAL CALL was reported in the 1000 block of Lancaster. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL CALL was reported in the 1000 block of Lancaster. No transport.
- MEDICAL CALL was reported in the 1000 block of Lancaster. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL CALL was reported in the 1000 block of Settles. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAUMA CALL was report in the 1000 block of Birdwell Lane. One person was transported to SMMC.

# Take Note

Cowboy Meeting Room. For more information, call 432-213-3259.

• SOS — Save Our Symphony. The Big Spring Symphony Association needs funds to help pay off debts occurred in this past symphony season. Contributions can be made to the Big Spring Symphony, P.O. Box 682, Big Spring, Texas 79721 or can be directly deposited to the symphony's account at Western Bank, 607 S. Scurry St. For more information, contact Symphony President Suzanne Markwell at 214-256-1674.

• For information on Garrett Parrish's condition, or to post messages of support, visit his Facebook page (#GP-STRONG). Parrish was seriously injured in a recent sledding accident.

• An account has been set up at Wells Fargo Bank for Briana Mendoza to help with medical cost. Briana was recently diagnosed with cancer.

• The Big Spring Symphony Board of Directors meets every second Tuesday at 7 p.m. at the symphony office, 808 Scurry Street

• The All-School CHS Reunion date has been scheduled for Saturday, July 25, 2015. This year's focus will be on recognizing and honoring incoming Coahoma ISD teachers from throughout the years.

• Home Hospice is in need of volunteers of all ages. The organization is requesting volunteers to sit with patients, make items for patients and help with office work. Volunteers set their own hours. For more information, contact Sherry Hodnett at 264-7911 or 432-213-0150.

• A hungry child cannot learn. Food2Kids - Big Spring was created

to provide nutrition for hundreds of children who do not get a substantial meal on the weekends. F2K began last November and this volunteer program now serves more than 300 children weekly. Once the need has been identified, F2K fills a sack of food to send home each Friday during the school year. You can help. Volunteers are needed and donations can be sent to Food2Kids - Big Spring, P.O. Box 1641, Big Spring 79721. Find us on Facebook at [www.Facebook.com/Food2Kids](http://www.Facebook.com/Food2Kids)

• Order of the Eastern Star Big Spring Chapter 67 meets the third Tuesday of each month at 219 Main St. Dinner begins at 6:30 p.m. Lodge meeting begins at 7:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome. For more information, contact Jimmy Ruth at 270-7263.

• Staked Plains Masonic Lodge No. 598 meets the second Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. (dinner is at 6 p.m.) at 219 1/2 Main St. All Masons are welcome.

• The Crossroads Young Marines is taking applications for another boot camp. For more information, call 432-517-4791. Young Marines welcomes boys and girls ages 8 to 18 who are still attending school.

• The Big Spring Senior Center dance is open to all ages. No alcohol or smoking. Our parking lot is now well lit, and we are handicapped-accessible. Cost is \$8 per person.

• Victim Services is a non-profit independent community-based program serving victims of all violent crime, including, but not limited to, assault, sexual assault and domestic violence. Victim Services advocates are available 24 hours of day, 365 days a year to provide crisis intervention or accom-

paniment to the hospital and law enforcement agencies as needed. If you can commit to 30-hour training, an interview process and a background check, we need you. For more information, call Linda Calvio at 432-263-3312.

• Big Spring and surrounding counties are in need of foster families. Foster parents are the caretakers for the children in the community who have been abused or neglected. For more information on becoming foster parents or adoptive families, call the Children's Protective Services office at 432-263-9669.

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

• Mobile meals is in need of volunteer delivery drivers. If you donate one hour per week to help deliver meals to the elderly, call Kim Plew at 263-4016 or 213-7960.

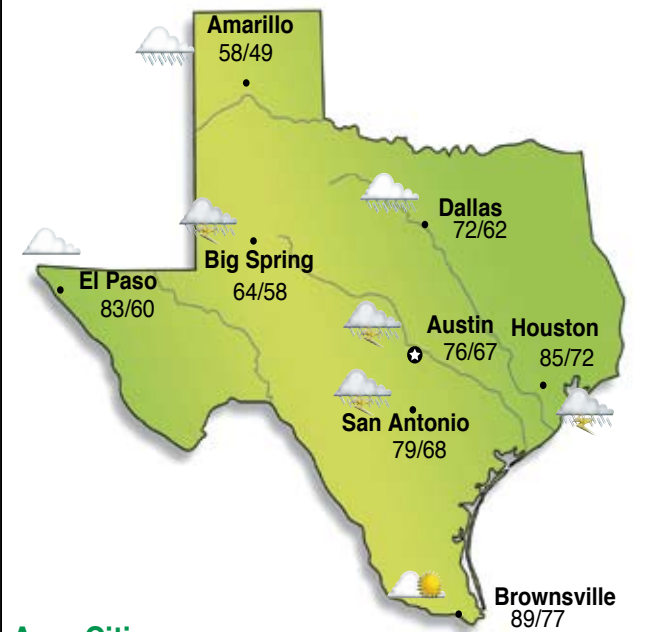
• The Homeownership Preservation Foundation (HPF) is an independent national nonprofit dedicated to helping distressed homeowners navigate financial challenges and avoid mortgage foreclosure. If you want to stop mortgage foreclosure and are in need of help, the time to call 888-995-HOPE is now. HPF can provide counseling free of charge, in English and 170 other languages, 24 hours a day. For free foreclosure help, call the hotline.

## Local 5-Day Forecast

Fri 5/22	Sat 5/23	Sun 5/24	Mon 5/25	Tue 5/26
<b>64/58</b> Variable clouds with scattered thunderstorms. High 64F.	<b>80/67</b> Morning showers and thunderstorms.	<b>82/64</b> Windy with thunderstorms in the area. Potential for severe thunderstorms.	<b>86/63</b> Thunderstorms early. Highs in the mid 80s and lows in the low 60s.	<b>90/65</b> Plenty of sun. Highs in the low 90s and lows in the mid 60s.
Sunrise: 6:45 AM Sunset: 8:41 PM	Sunrise: 6:44 AM Sunset: 8:41 PM	Sunrise: 6:43 AM Sunset: 8:42 PM	Sunrise: 6:43 AM Sunset: 8:43 PM	Sunrise: 6:43 AM Sunset: 8:43 PM

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## Texas At A Glance



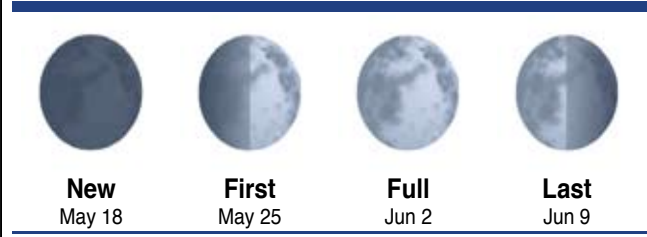
### Area Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Abilene	62	58	t-storm	Kingsville	84	75	t-storm
Amarillo	58	49	rain	Livingston	81	68	t-storm
Austin	76	67	t-storm	Longview	71	61	t-storm
Beaumont	84	67	t-storm	Lubbock	58	51	t-storm
Brownsville	89	77	pt sunny	Lufkin	80	67	t-storm
Brownwood	69	59	rain	Midland	61	57	t-storm
Corpus Christi	83	77	cloudy	Raymondville	89	75	t-storm
Corsicana	72	63	rain	Rosenberg	84	71	t-storm
Dallas	72	62	rain	San Antonio	79	68	t-storm
Del Rio	82	69	t-storm	San Marcos	77	67	t-storm
El Paso	83	60	cloudy	Sulphur Springs	70	60	t-storm
Fort Stockton	69	60	t-storm	Sweetwater	60	56	t-storm
Gainesville	71	59	rain	Tyler	71	63	t-storm
Greenville	71	60	t-storm	Weatherford	67	61	rain
Houston	85	72	t-storm	Wichita Falls	69	57	pt sunny

### National Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Cond.	City	Hi	Lo	Cond.
Atlanta	79	56	pt sunny	Minneapolis	72	45	sunny
Boston	70	52	mst sunny	New York	62	54	cloudy
Chicago	69	47	mst sunny	Phoenix	85	57	pt sunny
Dallas	72	62	rain	San Francisco	62	54	pt sunny
Denver	62	47	t-storm	Seattle	78	55	pt sunny
Houston	85	72	t-storm	St. Louis	68	51	pt sunny
Los Angeles	65	55	pt sunny	Washington, DC	61	54	rain
Miami	86	76	t-storm				

### Moon Phases



### UV Index

Fri 5/22	Sat 5/23	Sun 5/24	Mon 5/25	Tue 5/26
4	9	9	8	10
Moderate	Very High	Very High	Very High	Very High

The UV Index is measured on a 0 - 11 number scale, 0 being the lowest and 11 being the highest. A higher UV Index shows the need for greater skin protection.

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**To submit a news item, call 263-7331, ext. 235**

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# Support groups

## FRIDAY

- Stepping Stone Group of Narcotics Anonymous meets at Spring Town Plaza (inside the mall, next to Attitudes Hair Salon, down by Bealls). Open meeting at 7 p.m.
- AA open discussion meeting from noon until 1 p.m. at 605 Settles. Open Big Book study meeting, 8 p.m. until 9 p.m.

## SATURDAY

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

## SUNDAY

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

## MONDAY

- VA Alcoholics Anonymous support group, 7-8 p.m., Veterans Healing Center.

• Reformers Unanimous International is a faith-based addictions program helping people find freedom from addiction. Meetings begin at 7 p.m. Mondays at Trinity Baptist Church in Big Spring. Enter at the main entrance of the church.

- Stepping Stone Group of Narcotics Anonymous meets at Spring Town Plaza (inside the mall, next to Attitudes Hair Salon, down by Bealls). Open meeting at 7 p.m.

## TUESDAY

- Big Spring and Snyder Parkinsons Support Group meeting at the Big Spring Senior Center at 10:30 a.m. the second Tuesday of the month. This is a group for all Parkinson's disease patients, spouses and caregivers. For more information about the support group or about Parkinson's Disease, contact Jo Bidwell at the Lubbock APDA office at 806-785-0942

- VA Alcoholics Anonymous support group, 7:30-8:30 p.m., Veterans Healing Center.

- Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m.; closed discussion meeting 8 p.m. to 9 p.m.

- Al-Anon, 615 Settles for family members and friends of alcoholics meets at 8 p.m.

## WEDNESDAY

- RSD (Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy) a chronic pain disease, a support and informative group, meets at 213 Circle. Call Lucy at (432) 517-9207 for more information.

## THURSDAY

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

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

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

# Organizers: Summers on the Green series debut successful

BY LYNDEL MOODY

Staff Writer

It seems the Summers on the Green Outdoor Movie and Entertainment Series has been given the green-light by the public.

"It was a great success," said Hayley Lewis, tourism coordinator. "We estimate an attendance of more than 250 people."

A part of a multi-celebration of the historic Bankhead Highway, one of the earliest transcontinental roadways which ran through Big Spring, the CBV is holding a series of outdoor movies in conjunction with the Hotel Settles during the summer on the lawn of the hotel.

This past Saturday, the CBV showed the Disney/Pixar movie "Cars."

As part of the festivities, several local car clubs were out showing off their vehicles, games were offered for the family and children



were encouraged to create their own cars out of cardboard boxes, Lewis said.

"After games and a fantastic car show, we enjoyed watching an original showing of Tumbleweed Smith's video memories of the Bankhead Highway," Lewis

said. "The event was preceded with a car building activity hosted by the CVB with more than 60 kids building one of a kind cardboard cars they then took to the event on Saturday so they could have their own mini drive-in theater.

The next Summers on the Green will be held on June 13 in conjunction with the Big Spring Film Society. "Back to the Future 2," will be the feature and the last in the summer series will be on July 11 with a showing of "American Graffiti."

For more information please contact Lewis at the Big Spring Convention and Visitors Bureau at 432-263-8235 or visit [www.facebook.com/bigspringcvb](http://www.facebook.com/bigspringcvb) or [www.visitbigspring.com](http://www.visitbigspring.com)

Contact Lyndel Moody at 263-7331, ext. 234, or by [citydesk@big-springherald.com](mailto:citydesk@big-springherald.com).

## Some states better than others in improving grad rates

WASHINGTON (AP) — Even as America's high school graduation rate has reached historic highs, the gains aren't consistent.

Students with disabilities, low-income and minority students have failed to catch up with their peers, although some states are doing better than others in helping these students.

The nation's overall graduation rate has reached 81 percent, a figure frequently touted by Education Secretary Arne Duncan. "We can take pride as a nation in knowing that we're seeing promising gains, including for students of color," he said in a statement last February.

Here are some things to know about high school graduation rates:

### THE GOOD NEWS:

More students are graduating from high school than ever before, with large gains among African-American and Hispanic students. Since 2006, the percentage of black students graduating has risen 9 percentage points to 71 percent and Hispanic students has risen 15 percentage points to 75 percent.

The improvement is due to a variety of factors, including greater consistency in comparing graduation rates from state to state and the development of sys-

tems to identify and target at-risk students. The increase in the graduation rate also has been accompanied by a decline in the number of "dropout factory" schools, where 60 percent or less of students graduate.

The report estimates that the U.S. is on track for a 90 percent high school graduation rate by 2020.

### STATE-BY-STATE COMPARISONS:

Graduation rates among the states vary, ranging from 90 percent in Iowa to 69 percent in Oregon.

Gains have been fueled, in part, by large growth in some of the nation's largest states, including California, Florida, Georgia, and North Carolina. But 15 percent of the nation's high school students attend school in New York, Illinois, Washington and Arizona, where rates are declining or stagnating.

### STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:

Students with disabilities graduate at a rate of 62 percent, 20 points behind the national average. The rate is 2.9 percentage points higher than two years earlier.

These students include those with intellectual disabilities with significant limitations, but also a wide range of

other disabilities such as autism and speech impairments.

It's estimated that 85 percent of students with disabilities can do grade-level work, said Katy Neas, executive vice president for public affairs at Easter Seals. Neas said there have been improvements in the number of students with disabilities earning standard diplomas, but historically low expectations kept these students from getting the support they need.

"When these kids get the right services and support, they can be successful in grade level academic work," Neas said.

Again, there are wide

disparities, among states. Mississippi, for example, has a graduation rate among these students of 23 percent. Its neighbor, Alabama, has a graduation rate for students with disabilities of 77 percent.

John Gomperts, CEO of America's Promise Alliance, said more work needs to be done to better understand the discrepancies among the states.

### LOW-INCOME STUDENTS:

The graduation rate for low-income students was 73 percent. It's moved up 3 points in the last two years, but is still 8 percentage points below the national overall rate.

## ARREST

Continued from Page 1

sult of gunfire exchanged."

Solis received medical attention on scene by emergency medical service personnel. No one else was injured during the incident.

Solis has been charged with aggravated assault with a deadly weapon on a peace officer, a first degree felony punishable by a prison term of between five and 99 years, or life. He is currently being held in the Howard County Detention

Center and additional charges will be filed at a later date, Gordon said.

The investigation has been turned over to the Texas Rangers, he added.

Contact Staff Writer Steve Reagan at 432-263-7331, ext. 235, or by e-mail at [reporter@big-springherald.com](mailto:reporter@big-springherald.com)

## MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

24th & Johnson 267-8288

Arthur Dulane Leonard, 84, died Monday. Memorial service will be at 3:30 PM TODAY at Myers & Smith Chapel.

Elodia Gutierrez, 71, died Tuesday. Vigil services will be at 7:00 PM Friday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral Mass will be at 10:00 AM Saturday at Holy Trinity Catholic Church with burial at Coahoma Cemetery.

## BLAST

Continued from Page 1

better way to honor the loved ones we lost at the beginning of the year," said Bryant, who added the Campbell, Green and Ferrell families specifically requested the Color Blast proceeds be donated to area charities instead of the families.

Jim Campbell was a 17-year veteran at BSISD and served as an athletic trainer. Carol Green retired in 2001 from teaching but returned to the district part-time to teach at the junior high

school. In her 41-year career in education, 30 was spent at Big Spring ISD.

Danny Ferrell was the assistant superintendent who had worked at the district since 2009.

The city of Big Spring will close all entrances to the park at 3 p.m. for

the event and reopen on Saturday morning for normal hours. Golfers are asked to use the Parkway Road entrance into the Golf Course.

According to the National Weather Service, the area has a 50 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms on Fri-

day with mostly cloudy skies and temperatures reaching 81 degrees. Southeast winds are expected to reach 10 to 15 miles per hour.

Contact Lyndel Moody at 263-7331, ext. 234, or by [citydesk@bigspringherald.com](mailto:citydesk@bigspringherald.com).

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## Howard unsure if he can go tonight

By ANTONIO GONZALEZ

AP Basketball Writer

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — Houston Rockets center Dwight Howard has a sprained left knee and is unsure whether he'll be able to play against Golden State in Game 2 of the Western Conference finals tonight.

Howard sat out practice Wednesday at Oracle Arena after an MRI confirmed the injury. He said his knee was still in pain and he'll listen to his body before deciding whether to play. He added that he has

"no doubt" he'll return at some point in the series.

"The most important thing is that I'm healthy," Howard said. "Nobody can understand an injury when they're injured but the person that's injured. This is going to be on how I feel. If I feel like I can tolerate it and go out there and play on it, then I will. But my career is the most important thing. I want to do whatever I can to help the team, but I can't help the team if I'm hurt."

Howard hurt his knee in a first-quarter collision with teammate Josh Smith. He

came back into the game in the second quarter but lacked his usual athleticism and eventually left with a minute into the fourth.

Howard finished with seven points and 13 rebounds in 26 minutes on the floor. The Warriors beat the Rockets 110-106 to open the best-of-seven series.

"It was very painful to play (Tuesday) night, and coach just felt like it was best that I sit out the rest of the game. I tried to play on it, but it's really nothing I could do," Howard said.

Howard missed 41 of 82 games this season, mostly

due to issues with his right knee. He said the latest injury is frustrating, especially this deep into the playoffs, and he's hoping for a fast recovery.

"Just stay positive. Don't allow any doubt or negativity to run through my mind," he said. "It was just a freak incident that happened. I'm not going to allow this to change my energy or my mood toward our goal or the positivity that we have all brought to this team."

If Howard can't play, the Rockets could turn to rookie Clint Capela as their starting center.

## James leads Cavs past Hawks, 97-89

ATLANTA (AP) — LeBron James scored 31 points and led Cleveland to a 97-89 victory over the top-seeded Atlanta Hawks on Wednesday in Game 1 of their Eastern Conference finals playoff series.

James sealed the victory with a soaring dunk in the final minute.

For the Hawks, it was the second straight series in which they've lost the opening game at home.

## Forsan to face ACHS tonight

By TOMMY WELLS

Sports Editor

The waiting ends for the Forsan High School Lady Buffaloes this evening ... and the run at a berth in the Class 2A regional finals begins.

Forsan will open its best-of-3 regional semifinal play-off series against Archer City tonight, starting at 6 p.m. at the Lubbock Cooper High School softball field.

Forsan enters the contest sporting a 25-9 record. Archer City comes in at 24-5. The winner of the Forsan-Archer City

matchup will play either Ralls or Hawley in the regional finals.

Game 2 of the FHS-Archer City series will be played at 2 p.m. on Saturday. A third game, if needed, will follow the conclusion of Game 2.

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Tony Claxton photo (www.claxtonphotography.com)

Big Spring's Hunter Hill (left) and Gary Watkins signed Letters of Intent to play baseball next season at the college level. Hill signed to play locally at Howard College while Watkins signed to play at Navarro College in Corsicana.

## Hill, Watkins become latest Steers to sign college LOI's

By TOMMY WELLS

Sports Editor

A few weeks ago, Hunter Hill and Gary Watkins wrote themselves into the Big Spring High School history books by helping lead the baseball to its first district championship in more than 20 years. On Wednesday afternoon in front of a large crowd of family and classmates, they wrote themselves into the college ranks.

The two BSHS standouts became the latest BSHS seniors to sign Letters of Intent to play baseball at the collegiate level next season.

A slick-fielding shortstop, Hill signed to play locally at Howard College, while Wat-

kins inked a deal to play at Navarro College.

"These two guys exemplify what it is to be a Steer," said BSHS head baseball coach Bobby Smith said during the signing ceremony in the high school foyer. "They always put in the extra effort and never quit. Without them, I don't think we would have had the type of year we did."

With Hill and Watkins in the lineup, Big Spring blasted its way to a share of the District 2-4A championship and ended a 23-year title drought. The team also advanced to the bi-district round of the Class 4A state playoffs.

One of the fastest athletes at

Big Spring, Hill was a multi-sport standout at Big Spring. He was a driving force on the Steers' football team. The team's leading running back, he helped the team reach the regional quarterfinals this season.

With Howard, he will be joining a perennial JUCO power. The Hawks went 43-15 this season en route to winning the the Western Junior College Athletic Conference championship and advancing to the Region V Baseball Tournament.

Watkins was one of the more dominant power hitters in West Texas this season. During the last two seasons, he

was among the team's leaders in runs batted in and home runs.

At Navarro, Watkins will be joining a Bulldogs squad that went 31-18 this season en route to qualifying for the Region XIV tournament.

BSHS AD/head football coach Phillip Ritchey said both Hill and Watkins deserved the opportunity to play at the next level.

"They're getting a chance at continuing a life-long dream," he said. "Both of these huts were integral parts of our baseball team. I want to thank them for all they have done for our athletic program."

## Hamilton's return to Rangers drawing near

By SCHUYLER DIXON

AP Sports Writer

FRISCO, Texas (AP) — Josh Hamilton says his body tells him there would be about a week and a half left in a normal spring training.

So three to four days sounds about right during the Texas slugger's accelerated personal pre-season, which means one more minor league stop before he potentially rejoins the Rangers.

Hamilton wrapped up a four-game stint with Double-A Frisco on Wednesday with his first home run in his 10th minor league rehab appearance after spending almost two weeks at extended spring training in Arizona.

Before the game, Texas announced that Hamilton would return to Triple-A Round Rock for three more games starting Thursday, when he turns 34.

The schedule sets up for him to be back with the Rangers on Monday in Cleveland, and the five-time All-Star didn't discourage the idea.

"I think about four more days will be good," Hamilton said after going 1 for 4 with three groundouts.

Hamilton, whose home debut is likely to be May 28 against Boston, has hit .371 with five extra-base hits and five RBIs with Frisco and Round Rock.



Herald photo/Tommy Wells

**Ready at short ...**  
The Skullettes' shortstop gets ready to field a ball while playing a game against the Texas Chicks on Monday afternoon. The BSGSA teams will wrap up their 2015 regular season next week.

## Ex-Rangers manager to re-join Athletics

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — Ron Washington is getting back into the big leagues, rejoining the Oakland Athletics as an instructor after working nearly eight years as manager of the Texas Rangers.

Washington, who was a coach with the A's for 11 years before joining the Rangers, told The Associated Press in a text message Wednesday that he heard from general manager Billy Beane earlier in the day and would meet the club in Tampa, Florida, on Friday. Oakland (14-28) sits in last place in the AL West and leads the majors in errors with 44 errors, including 16 by shortstop Marcus Semien.

The A's have lost six of their last seven and 12 of 14 games, falling to 14 games under .500 for the first time since finishing the 2011 season 74-88.

The 63-year-old Washington has been working with youth and college players in his native New Orleans.

Washington resigned as Rangers manager last Sept. 5, saying he needed to devote his full attention to an "off-the-field personal matter."

Washington later acknowledged he had broken wife Gerry's trust.

The San Francisco Chronicle first reported Oakland's interest in bringing back Washington to work with the struggling defense.



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Tomorrow's Horoscope

Gemini Sun

Summer is not officially here, but it's here in spirit as the sun crosses into Gemini. This is the solar station of making new connections, having new experiences and talking yourself into being the person you want to be. It never happens alone. Branch out, hold your friends close, and make the acquaintance of the people who interest you.



HOLIDAY MATHIS

what you're selling. Don't be so unsure. Also, focusing too externally can be a detriment. Today, the gifts from you to you will have the most value.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). However badly they need to, not everyone can articulate what they are going through. That's where you come in -- to speak for the ones who can't say what's going on with them.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Your self-esteem isn't just about you. What you think of yourself will affect all the people around you who know you and/or love you, especially those related to you.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Is there such a thing as secret communication? If you're sending it on paper, over the Internet or in any public forum, the answer is no. There are no secrets. Eventually, it will all come out.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Striving for beauty is useless because the uncon-

trollable aspects of beauty are almost always what make it happen. But you can always try to make it better. That's how you'll spend your time today and be most effective.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). When you love someone, the idea reads. You worry about whether or not it's being projected accurately, though pretty much everyone around you can tell.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). The day's mission seems daunting, and that's why you need to be a believer. Eventually you'll find your way. This is how you'll get there: Think of the end and then back up, step by step.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Your weird uncle or wild aunt will have some bearing on the day's events, if not directly, then by the association of your lineage. Just remember, you're connected to more people than those in your lineage.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). No one is born

knowing what they are interested in. A person has to be exposed to potential interests to find them. You'll do this for another, and later it will come back to you.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). When you feel your feelings, you then can relay them accurately. That's one more reason it's not good to deny or stuff your feelings into distractions such as food.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). What's your take on time these days? Are you in the moment, up to the moment, moment to moment? Tonight will change it all as you revel in the past.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (May 21). The others will be trying to catch up to you this year. You'll be prolific. Whatever it is you love to produce -- smiles, phone calls, cookies, kind words, doodles, deals, your special product -- you'll turn out record amounts. July shows you carefully plotting, and August shows you going full force. Sagittarius and Leo

people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 45, 24, 31, 1 and 17.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS: "I'm in a relationship rut. The real problem is that I always get to this place. I fall deeply in love, start a life with someone, and then five years into it I can't stand the guy. I've had four five-year relationships since I was 20 years old. I'm now 40 and wondering whether this Sagittarius girl will ever find true love. I have no children. The guys I've lived with have been: Aries, Leo, Virgo and Cancer. Does this boil down to sign compatibility? Then, please, who is my true love sign?"

You're an adventurous sort, Sagittarius, in love with the chase. The early stages of romance are often so thrilling for you that things can only go downhill from there. The decisions you face now boil down to biology as much as anything else. Get serious about what you want out of this lifetime, fire girl! If you think you want to be a mother, there is no

time to waste in deciding how traditional you want to be about it. Instead of focusing on what sign your dream partner is, you need to get real about where you are at this point in your life, what you want and what you're willing to do about it.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Bouncer and bodyguard turned movie and television star of "The A-Team," Mr. T is a savvy Gemini with his moon, Mercury, Venus and Jupiter in the powerful sign of the bull. Communication is a specialty for this sign, and what Mr. T communicates is a persona all his own. Intimidating gold chains, a gruff voice and a mohawk belie a bodybuilder with a heart of gold. Mr. T inspires many as a motivational speaker.

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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Annie's Mailbox

Dear Annie: I am 17 years old and still in high school. I recently became "Jake's" girlfriend. We've been dating for about a week.

I've known Jake as a friend for a year, and we hang out with the same group. I never had feelings for him until I learned that he liked me, and even then, my friends kind of pushed me into the relationship.

His last relationship didn't last long, partly because he and the girl had sex right away. When Jake and I started dating, I told him I am a religious girl and am not going to do sexual things with him. Well, we went to prom together and back to his house afterward, where we were alone. He started to put his hand up the back of my dress. I didn't object

because he was mostly stroking my back.

The next day, we went to his house to watch a movie, and he started jumping all over me. It made me uncomfortable, but I'm not good at communicating that, so I didn't say anything. I just didn't respond. Jake is also a sloppy kisser, and I'm not sure I can tolerate that.

Today I realized that I have feelings for another guy, and now I don't know whether I like him more than Jake. But if I break up with Jake, I will be booted out of our group, and I have no other friends.

I don't know what to do. I feel that Jake is pressuring me a little about sex, even though he hasn't actually demanded anything. Should I stay with him and see where it goes? Should I wait

until summer to end it so that the group will have time to adjust without making things super-awkward? Or should I just end things now and face losing my friends? -- Confused Girlfriend

Dear Confused: You already know that you need to break up with Jake because you don't actually like him and you feel pressured. We'd do it now, but if you would feel more comfortable waiting until school is out, that's OK, too. You and Jake might be able to drift apart more naturally then. You might also confide in one of your friends that you and Jake don't seem to be hitting it off as well as you thought. If your friends drop you over this, they aren't truly friends. Real friends have your back.

Dear Annie: My girlfriend and I were planning to go away together for a weekend next month while her daughter was staying with the ex. But the ex decided at the last minute to take his own vacation, so we have to bring her along or cancel.

If we cancel the reservation on the hotel room, we lose the deposit, and upgrading to two rooms isn't possible. Is it acceptable for us to sleep in the same bed while her daughter is sleeping on a cot, or should we use separate beds? Or should I try to get a room for myself elsewhere? -- N.Y.

Dear N.Y.: How old is the girl? How long have you and Mom been together? If you and Mom are in a committed

relationship, the girl knows you well and she is under the age of 6, you may share a room. Mom and the daughter should take the bed. You get the cot. Otherwise, yes, please try to find another room for yourself. And thank you for caring enough to do the right thing.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please email your questions to anniesmailbox@creators.com, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 737 3rd Street, Hermosa Beach, CA 90254. You can also find Annie on Facebook at Facebook.com/AskAnnie. 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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sudoku

ANSWERS

9x9 grid with numerical answers for the sudoku puzzle.

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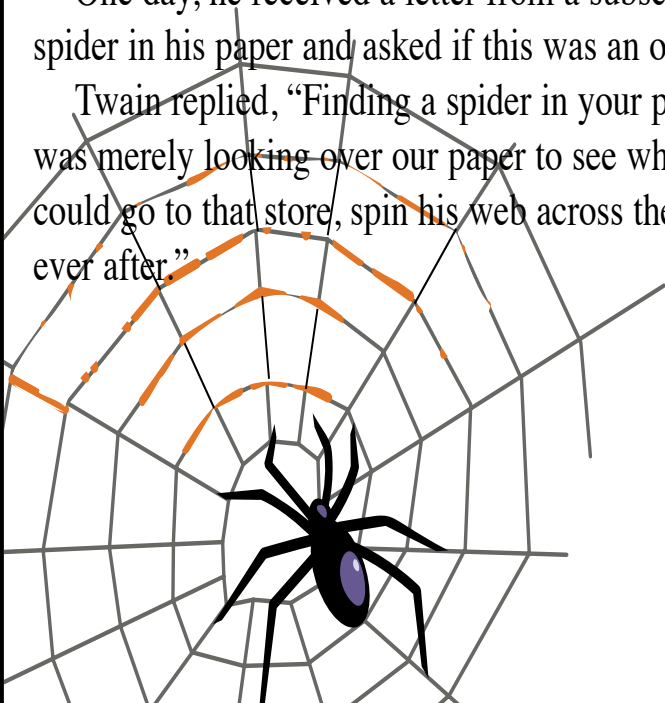
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During Mark Twain's days as a newspaperman, he was the editor of a small Missouri paper.

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Twain replied, "Finding a spider in your paper is neither good nor bad luck. The spider was merely looking over our paper to see which merchant was not advertising so that he could go to that store, spin his web across the door and lead a life of undisturbed peace ever after."



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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.

9x9 grid with some numbers pre-filled for the sudoku puzzle.

www.sudoku-puzzles.net

Advertisement for 'Contract Bridge' by Steve Becker.

Out of the Darkness

East dealer. Both sides vulnerable. NORTH: A Q 10 3, K 7 4, J 8, A Q 10 8 4 3. WEST: A 7 2, A Q 8 6 3, 10 7 4, 9 2. EAST: J 8 6 5 4, K J 9, 9 6 5 2, K 5. SOUTH: K 9, K 10 5 2, A K Q 3, J 7 6.

The bidding: East South West North Pass 1 NT Pass 3 NT Opening lead — six of hearts. This deal from a team contest demonstrates one of the more subtle areas of sound defensive play. The final contract at both tables was three notrump, but only one of the defenders found the way to derail declarer. At the first table, West led the heart six. Declarer won East's jack with the king and led the jack of clubs, on which West played the nine, dummy the three and East the king. East then returned the heart nine, ducked by South, whose only real chance was to hope the opposing hearts were blocked. West followed with the three to the second heart lead, leaving East in a quandary as to which suit to play next. With virtually nothing to go on, East shifted to a diamond, whereupon declarer ran off four diamonds and five clubs to finish with 10 tricks. Of course, had East returned a spade at trick three, West would have collected a spade and three more hearts for a two-trick set. Though it might appear that East simply misguessed, there was a better way available, as the defense at the second table demonstrated. Here, too, West led the heart six to the jack and king, and declarer took a losing club finesse. But when East then returned the heart nine and declarer ducked, West played the eight! This gave East food for thought. While it was possible that West had started with just the A-Q-8-6 of hearts (which would in turn mean that declarer began with five hearts), it was also possible that West started with five hearts and had played the eight as a suit-preference signal asking for the return of the higher-ranking side suit, spades. Since this was far better than a total shot in the dark, East shifted to a spade, and South very quickly went down two.

Tomorrow: Bidding quiz. ©2015 King Features Syndicate Inc.

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5:PM :30	News ABC	P. Luche	Two Men	News CBS	Tele Noticiero	News	Seinfeld	Yohanah	Global Business	CHiPs		Movie: The Dead Pool, Evan Kim		Castle (DVS)	Shop, Anale MacDowell	Austin Austin	Around Pardon	SportsCenter
6:PM :30	Jeopardy!	La Sombra del	Big Bang	News CBS	Caso Cer-rado	News	Seinfeld	Messiah	PBS News-Hour	M*A*S*H	Naked and Afraid	Movie: Red Dawn, Josh Hutcherson	Castle (DVS)	Movie: Welcome Home Roscoe Jenkins		Live-Mad.	College Softball	
7:PM :30	500 Questions	Amores con Trampa	Wayward Pines	Big Bang	Avenida Brasil (SS)	Red Nose Day	Seinfeld	Rocks	Tracks	Griffith	Naked and Afraid	Movie: Dirty Harry, Reni Santoni	Movie: Cowboys & Aliens, Olivia Wilde (DVS)	Movie: Come Home Froscoe Jenkins		Austin Austin	NBA Countdown	
8:PM :30		Lo Imperdonable	Wayward Pines	Elementary	Tierra de Reyes (SS)		Fam. Guy	Upd	Daytrip	Griffith	Naked and Afraid	Lip Sync	Lip Sync	Nellyville	Jessie		College Softball	NBA Basketball
9:PM :30	Jimmy Kimmel Live	Que te Perdona	Mod Fam	Elementary	El Señor de los		Big Bang	Big Bang	Omaha Beach	Kotter	Naked and Afraid	(:15) Movie: Magnum Force, David Soul	Lip Sync	Movie: Cowboys & Aliens, Olivia Wilde (DVS)	Dog			
10:PM :30	News	Impacto	Cleveland	News	Tele	News	Conan	McGee	Charlie Rose	C. Burnett	Naked and Afraid	Lip Sync	Lip Sync	Single Ladies	I Didn't	SportCtr	SportsCenter	
11:PM :30	Jimmy Kimmel Live	Noticiero	Cleveland	Letterman	Titulares	Tonight Show	Office	Called	T. Smiley	Israel	Naked and Afraid	Lip Sync	Lip Sync	Wendy Williams	Good Good	Baseball Tonight	SportsCenter	
12:AM :30	Nightline	Contacto Deportivo	How I Met How I Met	James Corden	El Señor de los	Seth Meyers	Conan	Upd	McCloud	Euromaxx (Off Air)	Naked and Afraid	Lip Sync	Lip Sync	CSI: NY	The Real	Deck	NBA	SportsCenter
1:AM :30	Paid	Un Refugio	Friends	Insider	News	Cougar	Movie: Delta Farce, D. J.	Light of the Southwest	Gallery		To Be Announced	Lip Sync	Lip Sync	CSI: NY	Foxx	Wizards	NFL Live	SportsCenter
1:AM :30	Paid	Alma P. Luche	Law & Order: SVU	Ent	Paid	Paid			Gallery			Lip Sync	Lip Sync	Foxx	Wizards	Re-Take		

DENNIS THE MENACE



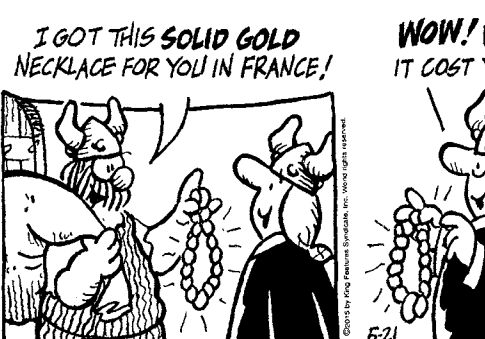
"CAN I TAKE A MESSAGE? SHE'S DOIN' HER HOMEWORK."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"This says 'baby spinach.' Don't they make spinach for my age, too?"

HAGAR



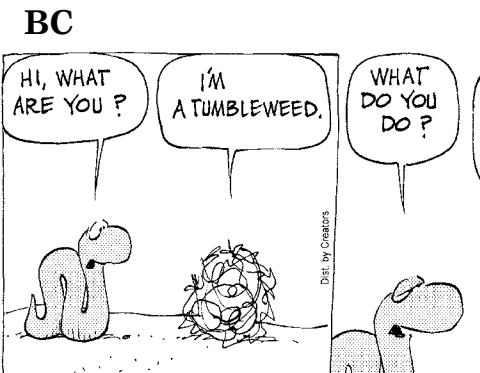
I GOT THIS SOLID GOLD NECKLACE FOR YOU IN FRANCE!

BLONDIE



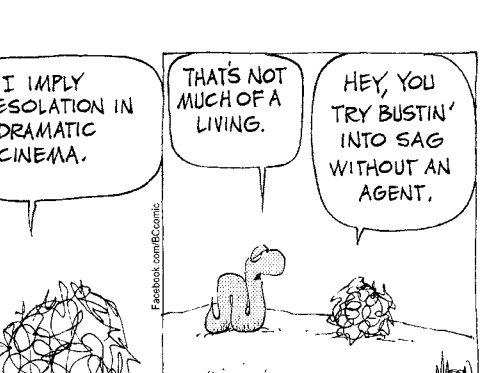
COULD YOU HELP ME FIND MY BASEBALL, MR. B.?

BC



HI, WHAT ARE YOU? I'M A TUMBLEWEED. WHAT DO YOU DO? I IMPLY DRAMATIC IN CINEMA.

WIZARD OF ID



ENEMY SHIPS HAVE OUR FLEET BOTTLED UP IN THE BAY. WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO? GIVE OUR MEN SHORE LEAVE!

AGNES



I ABANDONED MY DREAM OF BEING A REVERED FOLK SINGER. OK.

HI AND LOIS



IF YOU CAN PRACTICE BASKETBALL, I CAN PRACTICE CHEERLEADING.

THE OTHER COAST



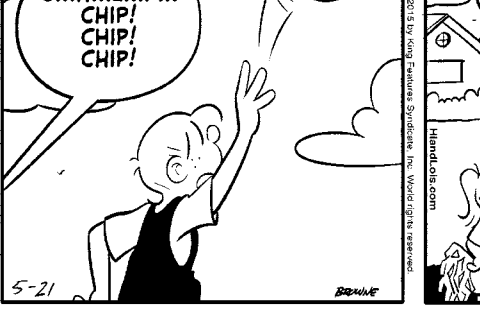
BIG-GAME HUNTER ERNIE 'EXTINCTION' ABATOIR WAS KILLED WHILE ON A RHINO HUNT IN AFRICA.

SNUFFY SMITH



THE RHINO ERNIE WAS ABOUT TO SHOOT CHARGED, TRAMPLING HIM TO DEATH.

BEETLE BAILEY



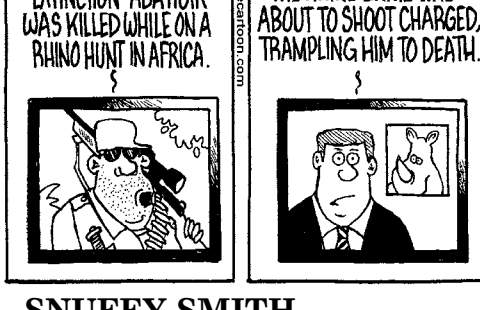
BEETLE IS IN HIS BED SO MUCH, THE MATTRESS HAS A PERMANENT SAG

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



IT'S OUR BRAN AN' PRUNE JUICE ANNIVERSARY !!

BEETLE BAILEY



HE COULD DISAPPEAR. DON'T TELL ANYBODY

This Date In History

Today is Thursday, May 21, the 141st day of 2015. There are 224 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On May 21, 1927, Charles A. Lindbergh landed his Spirit of St. Louis monoplane near Paris, completing the first solo airplane flight across the Atlantic Ocean in 33 1/2 hours.

On this date:

In 1471, King Henry VI of England died in the Tower of London at age 49.

In 1542, Spanish explorer Hernando de Soto died while searching for gold along the Mississippi River.

In 1881, Clara Barton founded the American Red Cross.

In 1892, the opera "Pagliacci," by Ruggero Leoncavallo, premiered in Milan, Italy.

In 1924, in a case that drew much notoriety, 14-year-old Bobby Franks was murdered in a "thrill killing" carried out by University of Chicago students Nathan Leopold Jr. and Richard Loeb (Bobby's cousin).

In 1932, Amelia Earhart became the first woman to fly

ous show, "The Bob Newhart Show."

Ten years ago: The Belgian film "The Child" won the Palme d'Or at the Cannes Film Festival. Comediac actor Howard Morris died in Hollywood at age 85.

Five years ago: Citing overwhelming evidence that North Korea had sunk a South Korean warship, the Cheonan, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton warned the reclusive communist state of consequences.

Thought for Today:

"Originality does not consist in saying what no one has ever said before, but in saying exactly what you think yourself." - James Stephens, Irish poet and novelist (1882-1950).

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Newsday Crossword

- ACROSS
- 1 Road shoulder
  - 5 Sicily neighbor
  - 10 Leather crafter's supply
  - 14 See 3 Down
  - 15 Poem in 24 books
  - 16 Shout of excitement
  - 17 Barely noticeable amount
  - 18 "Same here"
  - 19 Encouraging word
  - 20 "I'm exhausted!"
  - 23 Hotfoot it
  - 24 Storm tracker's concern
  - 25 Pool patron
  - 29 Sticky roll
  - 31 Quick application
  - 34 WWI menace
  - 35 Swashbuckling
  - 36 Fraction of a loonie
  - 37 "We're almost on E..."
  - 40 Storyteller's creations
  - 41 Simple structures
  - 42 Pale yellow
  - 43 Street often near Maple
  - 44 Joke around
  - 45 Major attraction
  - 46 "The Bells" writer
  - 47 Half a score
  - 48 "So what do we do now?"
  - 56 Jump on the ice
  - 57 Opposite of "oblivious"
  - 58 Place for character
- DOWN
- 1 Have a cry
  - 2 Naval battle site of 1813
  - 3 With 14 Across, toll-road convenience
  - 4 Google service
  - 5 Above-ground interchangeable
  - 6 Interchangeable
  - 7 Word on lower-fat Spam
  - 8 "Bye"
  - 9 File opened
  - 10 "Alas," updated
  - 11 Cowboy's command
  - 12 Visage
  - 13 Grassy clump
  - 21 Frat letter
  - 22 Pumpernickel grain
  - 25 Comet cousin
  - 26 In a tizzy
  - 27 Tribal symbol
  - 28 Bowlers, for instance
  - 29 Saw point
  - 30 Salzburg
  - 31 Start
  - 32 Leave enthusiastically
  - 33 speechless
  - 33 Harassed
  - 35 Energy measures
  - 36 Bummer
  - 38 Closet organizer's buy
  - 39 Certain
  - 44 Snow or bank follower
  - 45 Verse patterns
  - 46 End-zone marker
  - 47 French-hens count
  - 48 Pivotal line
  - 49 Twice-monthly tide
  - 50 "Oh, lucky day!"
  - 51 Buckled
  - 52 First light
  - 53 Well-bottom sound
  - 54 Feudin' and a-fightin'
  - 55 Survey, with "up"
  - 56 Half a blackjack

RUNNING LOW

by Greg Johnson Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

Answer to previous puzzle

ACT	ANSWER	TO	PREVIOUS	PUZZLE
PLANS	PRONE	ODE		
BILLY	THE	KID	BOX	
SPEECH	OAT	ABBA		
AHOY	REVILES			
AMUSEMENT	RIDE			
CASH	SALE	ASHEN		
EYE	SLAPS	EAU		
DODGE	POORMARK			
COMPASS	NEEDLE			
CHARTER	HOPE			
RARE	CAT	MARBLE		
ALL	BABY	BACKRIB		
ZOO	ONICE	KARMA		
EST	ASCOT	STRAY		

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14				15					16			
17				18					19			
20				21					22			
23				24								
25	26	27	28			29	30			31	32	33
34				35					36			
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43				44					45			
46				47								
48	49			50	51				52	53	54	55
56				57					58			
59				60					61			
62				63					64			

# It's looking bright at Big Spring ISD

## Parents Corner

The school year is drawing to a close, just a week away, and it seems to me that it just started.

It's amazing how fast the years are going now, and even the students are making that comment. I can remember when the school year used to drag on and on and seem to never end, but I must admit that was many years ago.

And maybe the days are flying so quickly now because I'm enjoying working in a school district that is

filled with so many good people, all working together for a common goal, and seeing so many good things happening.

Have you noticed these things, too?

For instance, our district athletic program, in every one of the various fields, are being tremendously successful, both teams and individuals, and colleges are sending representatives here to sign our students to scholarships.

Our fine arts programs, band, choir, speech, theater and art, are award winning programs with groups and individuals receiving awards annually in every competition in which they enter; our UIL academic competition has won the overall trophy placing far ahead of the other schools in our district.

We have students competing in the district, regional and state competition in science fair and delighting us with their successes.

Our vocational students are learning fantastic skills and showing them off in state level contests and bringing home multiple trophies. With all these accomplishments we have much to be proud of and thankful for.

I am proud of our personnel here at Big Spring ISD. We have administrators who set high expectations for our district and teachers, who are highly qualified, and work diligently to provide a quality education for the success of our students.

We have a maintenance and custodial staff who take pride in their work and keep our district facilities in beautiful shape. We have auxiliary ser-

vices that offer our students assistance in so many different areas that I would hesitate to name them for fear of missing some of them that provide wonderful services for our students.

We are seeing positive results, on a daily basis, in the areas where we have struggled, both in our new curriculum and in testing. Every school district has a few students who struggle, and we are addressing the needs of those struggling students in various ways.

I can remember a time in my school days that I wasn't ready for a certain concept and I struggled. But through the efforts of dedicated instructors I overcame my difficulties, as our students are currently doing. We have a school district that I am proud to be part of. I'm proud

to say that I am working with a talented and dedicated group of people.

A writer once said that it takes a village to raise a child, and we are all products of the villages where we grew up. I want to thank each of you for being part of our village. Thanks to our school officials, teachers, paraprofessionals, bus drivers, custodians, maintenance and cafeteria workers, and thanks to each member of our community for the continued encouragement and support. I once read a comment that a bird doesn't sing because it has an answer; it sings because it has a song.

We have a song; let's sing it together.

*Darrell Ryan is the BSISD Director of School Safety.*



RYAN

## Some states better than others in improving grad rates

WASHINGTON (AP) — Even as America's high school graduation rate has reached historic highs, the gains aren't consistent.

Students with disabilities, low-income and minority students have failed to catch up with their peers, although some states are doing better than others in helping these students.

"This year, we need to sound a stronger alarm," said Gen. Colin Powell and his wife, Alma Powell, in a letter to be released Tuesday as part of an annual Grad Nation report produced in part by their America's Promise Alliance organization. The report is based on 2013 rates using federal data, the most recent available.

The nation's overall graduation rate has reached 81 percent, a figure frequently touted by Education Secretary Arne Duncan. "We can take pride as a nation in knowing that we're seeing promising gains, including for students of color," he said in a statement last February.

Here are five things to know about high school graduation rates:

**The good news:** More students are graduating from high school than ever before, with large gains among African-American and Hispanic students. Since 2006, the percentage of black students graduating has risen 9 percentage points to 71 percent and Hispanic students has risen 15 percentage points to 75 percent.

The improvement is

due to a variety of factors, including greater consistency in comparing graduation rates from state to state and the development of systems to identify and target at-risk students. The increase in the graduation rate also has been accompanied by a decline in the number of "dropout factory" schools, where 60 percent or less of students graduate.

The report estimates that the U.S. is on track for a 90 percent high school graduation rate by 2020.

### State by state comparison:

Graduation rates among the states vary, ranging from 90 percent in Iowa to 69 percent in Oregon.

Gains have been fueled, in part, by large growth in some of the nation's largest states, including California, Florida, Georgia, and North Carolina. But 15 percent of the nation's high school students attend school in New York, Illinois, Washington and Arizona, where rates are declining or stagnating.

### Students with disabilities:

Students with disabilities graduate at a rate of

62 percent, 20 points behind the national average. The rate is 2.9 percentage points higher than two years earlier.

These students include those with intellectual disabilities with significant limitations, but also a wide range of other disabilities such as autism and speech impairments.

It's estimated that 85 percent of students with disabilities can do grade-level work, said Katy Neas, executive vice president for public affairs at Easter Seals. Neas said there have been improvements in the number of students with disabilities earning standard diplomas, but historically low expectations kept these students from getting the support they need.

"When these kids get the right services and support, they can be successful in grade level academic work," Neas said.

Again, there are wide disparities, among states. Mississippi, for example, has a graduation rate among these students of 23 percent. Its neighbor, Alabama, has a graduation rate for students with disabilities of 77 percent.

John Gomperts, CEO of America's Promise

Alliance, said more work needs to be done to better understand the discrepancies among the states.

### Low-income students:

The graduation rate for low-income students was 73 percent. It's moved up 3 points in the last two years, but is still 8 percentage points below the national overall rate.

In Kentucky and Texas, 85 percent of low-income students get a diploma. In contrast, 65 percent or less of low-income students do in Alaska, Oregon, Colorado, Minnesota, Georgia, Michigan, Nevada, Wyoming, New Mexico or Washington.

In Kentucky, where there's about a 1 percentage-point difference

between the graduation rate of low-income students and the overall population, Dale Winkler, a state education official, said there's been a years-long effort to tackle the problem. The efforts include districts and later the state raising the compulsory attendance age to 18, changing the state's standards and assessments system, required interventions for students off track, and incentivized early graduation, Winkler said.

"It's a lot of work," Winkler said, adding that districts have school leaders who have been engaged in helping to make improvements.

### Minority Students:

Six states combined to educate more than 70 percent of Hispanic or

Latino students, but Texas is the only one that has a graduation rate for these students above the national average of 81 percent.

Michigan, New York, Ohio, Georgia, Florida, California and Illinois are collectively home to more than 40 percent of African American students. These states graduate only about 6 out of 10 black students or have recently had declines.

"Minority students continue to face barriers in their academic success, including discipline disparities that push them off track for graduation, language barriers and lack of access to rigorous coursework that will enable them to be successful in college and career," the report said.

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