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WEDNESDAY

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Council gives 1st OK to budget

Final approval set for Sept. 21

By STEVE REAGAN

Staff Writer

When it comes to the Big Spring city budget and tax rate, it appears people are just about talked out.

After weeks of sometimes heated discussion on the proposed budget and tax rate, a public hearing on the topics drew almost no comment from the citizenry Tuesday evening.

Only two people spoke during the hearings, held during the city council meeting, then the council itself declined to debate the matters before approving both on first reading. Final approval of the tax rate and budget is expected when the council meets again Sept. 21.

The proceedings Tuesday were in sharp contrast to the previous weeks. The council's plan to raise the city's tax levy by about almost 10 percent drew opposition from a group of citizens led by local businessman Scott Emerson.

Tuesday, Emerson spoke out once again against the proposed budget package, but his was the only negative voice heard. The other speaker,



HERALD photo/Steve Reagan

The Big Spring City Council Tuesday preliminarily approved the municipal budget and tax rate for the coming fiscal year.

John Fisher, even urged the council to approve a higher tax rate to take advantage of higher property valuations to provide more services to city residents.

"The city is not at fault because property valuations are going up," Fisher said. "Big Spring is gaining wealth, so naturally, taxes are going to go up ... We need to take advantage of the situation created over the past few years. When you have a city that's growing, if you're not ahead of that growth, you'll be hurting."

Big Spring Mayor Larry McLellan admitted he was surprised by the lack of public comment Tuesday.

"I think perhaps the public is sending us a signal that the majority believe we're being good stewards of their tax dollars," McLellan said. "It seems they're happy with what we've been able to accomplish so far."

Major features of the new budget include:

- A 3 percent pay raise for city employees.
- About \$500,000 for street seal-coating projects.
- \$1 million in water line upgrades.
- \$500,000 in sewer line upgrades.

See **BUDGET**, Page 3

City approves water increase

By STEVE REAGAN

Staff Writer

The city of Big Spring is passing on a recent water rate increase to customers, but only to those who use the most water.

The local city council approved the pass-through during its Tuesday meeting after officials said lower-income customers would not be impacted by the

See **WATER**, Page 3



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To reach us:

Please call 263-7331.
 Office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.



HERALD photo/Lyndel Moody

Crews continue work on the Highway 87 reliever route interchange near Interstate 20 this morning. When complete, the reliever route will loop around the west and south of Big Spring and connect Highway 87 with the interstate, officials say.

BSISD: Trustees face routine agenda on Thursday

By LYNDEL MOODY

Staff Writer

Trustees with the Big Spring Independent School District look to have a rather quick board meeting on Thursday to wrap up some in house items.

On the agenda, trustees are expected to approve the minutes of the Aug. 13 regular board meeting and board training along with their Aug. 27 special meeting when they approved the new tax rate for the 2015 year.

Also, Superintendent Chris Wigington is expected to provide an update on student enrollment figures, an important part of the data the state of Texas uses to determine funding for the school. First day enrollment figures release by the district show local enrollment on par with last year.

Trustees will meet at 5:15 p.m. in the high school board room, 707 11th Place.

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Take note

- Marcy Elementary "Families Helping Families" Community Yard Sale, Saturday, Sept. 12, from 8 a.m. until 2 p.m. Set up time begins at 6 a.m. and all items must be removed by 4 p.m. The "Families Helping Families" event will be held in the teacher parking lot on the north side of the campus. Individuals or organizations may rent one or two parking spaces. Parking spaces will be rented for \$10. and all proceeds from sold items are kept by the vendors. Contact Lisa Valencia or Bianca Carrell at Marcy Elementary to reserve a space at 432-264-4144.
- Blood drive at Scenic Mountain Medical Center, Sept. 14. 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. The bloodmobile will be in the parking lot at the front entrance to the hospital. Donors with appointments will be seen first. To make an appointment, call 877-UBS-HERO or 877-827-4376 or on line at www.bloodhero.com.
- The Big Spring High School Student Council invites the community of Big Spring to join show Steer Spirit during homecoming which is Friday, Sept. 25. Local business owners are encouraged to decorate their business fronts/windows. The theme of homecoming and the parade is Disney, "Once upon a time, in our quaint little town, the legendary Big Spring Steers welcomed the Graham Cinderellas to battle on sacred ground. Dreams will come true when BSHS Steers prevail in a fight to end all fights." Parade entries submissions are due by Tuesday, Sept. 22. Please call the high school front office to enter at 264-3641. For more information, contact Haley Lefever at hlefever@bsisd.esc18.net.
- Home Hospice is in need of volunteers of all ages. The organization is requesting volunteers to visit 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.
- 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.
- Crossroads Hospice needs volunteers for patient

- care. Contact Eva at 263-5300.
- 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 is 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. For more information call, Muffet Bomar 432-935-3998 or Peggy Hopper 214-773-6775. Find us on Facebook at www.Facebook.com/Food2Kids
- An account has been set up at Western Bank (account number 1017623) for Blantyn Gusman and Zachary Duncan, who were seriously injured in an accident.
- 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 or www.casawtx.org.
- The Big Spring Symphony Board of Directors meets every second Tuesday at 7 p.m. at the symphony office, 808 Scurry Street.
- 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 271-2176.
- Spring Tabernacle Ministries, 1209 Wright St., has a brief, inspirational message before giving away food and clothing on Thursday mornings. It's a great way to work off community service and get help, too. Be there at 9-11 a.m. and get two for one, plus a rehab meeting.
- For information on Garrett Parrish's condition, or to post messages of support, visit his Facebook

- page (#GPSTRONG). Parrish was seriously injured in a 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.
- 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. 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 accompaniment 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 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 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, seven days a week, 365 days a year. For free foreclosure help, call the hotline.

WATER

Continued from Page 1

measure. The action was necessitated by a recent \$75,000 increase on what the city pays for water from the Colorado River Municipal Water District. City Human Resources

Director John Medina said the increase will only effect residential and commercial customers who use a lot of water. "Residential customers who use 10,000 gallons of water or less will not see an increase in their water bills," Medina said. "Likewise, commercial customers

who use 50,000 gallons or less will not see an increase. The ones using the most water will pay for the rate increase." Commercial customers who exceed the 50,000 gallon mark will see their bills increase by an average of 5.25 percent, while residential customers who use more than 10,000 gallons

will pay up to 4.75 percent more a month on their bills, Medina said. The increase is expected to take effect in either late September or early October. Contact Staff Writer Steve Reagan at 263-7331 ext. 235 or by e-mail at reporter@bigspringherald.com

BUDGET

Continued from Page 1

Almost \$300,000 to replace water lines on 17th Street and the airport sewer line. Capital outlays which include five new patrol vehicles for the police department, street sweeper, roll off truck and trash truck for the sanitation department and a dump truck for the cemetery.

Fueling that budget is a proposed tax rate of 77 cents per \$100 valuation. That rate is 8 cents lower than the expiring levy but, because of a noted increase in property valuations, will bring in approximately \$160,000 more in revenue than the previous year. Most of that increased revenue is being earmarked for city reserve funds, which have been used to make up for recent budgetary

shortfalls, City Finance Director Donald Moore noted. In other business, the council approved: Extension of the city's juvenile curfew until September 2018. Under the curfew, minors under the age of 17 must be off the streets between the hours of 11 p.m. and 6 a.m. Sunday through Friday and midnight to 6 a.m. Friday and Saturday. Renewal of existing homestead exemptions

and penalties for delinquent tax collection. Pay schedules for the police and fire departments. The city's investment policy. An agreement with a private firm to handle billing and collection of certain fire department services. Contact Staff Writer Steve Reagan at 263-7331 ext. 235 or by e-mail at reporter@bigspringherald.com

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

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL
24th & Johnson 267-8288

Felix Robles, Jr., 93, died Thursday. Funeral mass will be at 10:00 AM today at Holy Trinity Catholic Church with burial at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

Daniel L. Turney, 66, died Sunday. Memorial service will be held at 1:00 PM today at Trinity Baptist Church.

Cora Beth Overton Conn, 74, died Sunday. The family will receive friends from 6:00 pm until 8:00 pm Wednesday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Graveside service will be 2:00 pm Thursday in the Peace Chapel at Trinity Memorial Park.

Wishing You All A Great Season!



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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.

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Milner was one of the good ones

Isometimes use this literary platform to express my personal opinions about spoiled athletes, celebrities, politicians, or any other number of self-proclaimed "superstars" who exhibit ridiculous or embarrassing behavior. But not today. The spotlight belongs to one of the good ones from the entertainment industry in today's edition of "I column as I see 'em".



EDDY PRINCE

It's no secret to my friends that I have been a convertible lover since I was a kid. Most every time I need to run errands or do a little business, I still drive one all over Big Spring, most often with the top down. Even though I loved them much earlier than the '60s, it was during my early TV viewing years that my love for the "ragtop" became even more passionate, and one of the main reasons was a program that I dearly loved and still catch in reruns sometimes.

The iconic TV drama "Route 66," found two restless young men roaming the highway author John Steinbeck had dubbed "The Mother Road" in a red Corvette convertible. Of course, we didn't know it was red because the shows were black and white, but we loved it anyway. Watching Tod and Buzz travel the country with the sky as their headliner was the source of many fantasies for me and other convertible-less teens in those days.

One of the two stars of that great show, Martin Milner, passed away Sunday. He was, indeed, one of Hollywood's best and one of those "they don't make them like this much anymore" kind of people in that industry.

Milner was Tod Stiles, a young man born to wealth but suddenly broke when his father died and left him nothing but the new Corvette. George Maharis was Buz Murdock, a hardened survivor of New York City's Hell's Kitchen. Together they toured the country in Tod's new Corvette, meeting all kinds of people and becoming involved with their lives.

As much the show's star as

Milner and Maharis was Route 66 itself. Since bypassed in favor of bigger, faster interstates, the iconic highway stretched unbroken from Chicago to the Pacific Ocean during the show's heyday and was venerated as a driving force behind the country's 20th century westward migration.

"Route 66" was the only TV show filmed entirely on location in the early 1960s, moving to new towns and cities for each new episode. But ironically, the action often took place off the highway.

"The problem was that once you get into Oklahoma and Texas on the route, the scenery is flat and boring," Milner recounted in a 1997 interview. "Pictorially it just wasn't very interesting."

Granted, as I have watched reruns of the show in recent years I realize it wasn't really a very exciting show with actually pretty poor acting. And then I remember that in those days, plots and acting talent were much less important to me than scenes involving the Corvette. What you do see in the reruns, however, is a program that taught good life-lessons from a reality standpoint. And Tod was a genuine good guy, both in the program and in real life.

In 1968, Milner signed on another buddy series, "Adam-12." This time, he was Officer Pete Malloy, a veteran of the Los Angeles Police Department assisted by rookie cop Jim Reed, who was played by Kent McCord.

"I had a long, long friendship with Marty and we remained friends up till the end," said McCord Monday. "He was one of the really true great people of our industry with a long, distinguished career ... Wonderful films, wonderful television shows, pioneering shows like 'Route 66.' He was one of the great guys. I was lucky to have him in my life."

The series was produced by Jack Webb, who applied the same realistic treatment of police doings that had made his "Dragnet" TV show, in which he was Sgt. Joe Friday, a huge hit. During the seven-year life of "Adam-12," both Reed and Malloy won promotions.

Milner had met Webb years before "Route 66" when both were appearing in the feature film "Halls of Montezuma" and Webb

had hired him for an early radio version of "Dragnet." Later, he appeared in several episodes of the 1950s TV version. When Milner was in the Army at Northern California's Fort Ord, he would sometimes visit Los Angeles and look Webb up.

"Even though there wasn't a part for me in 'Dragnet' that week," he recalled in 1989, "Jack would write one in so I could collect \$125."

Before and after "Route 66" and "Adam 12," Milner appeared in numerous TV guest roles and in films. Early film roles included "The Sands of Iwo Jima," "Marjorie Morningstar" and (as Marty Milner) "Sweet Smell of Success."

Martin Sam Milner was born in Detroit and grew up in Seattle, where he worked as a child actor in local plays. When the family moved to Los Angeles, he found jobs in movies, notably in his film debut as the second son in 1947's "Life with Father," one of my personal all-time favorite movies, which starred William Powell and Irene Dunne.

After finishing the film, he was stricken with polio and spent a year in bed. He recovered and enrolled in theater arts at the University of Southern California but dropped out after a year to devote himself to his acting career. Milner married actress-singer Judy Jones in 1951, and they had four children: Amy, who died in 2004, Milly, Stuart and Andrew.

I have a good friend here in Big Spring, Ralph Kennedy, who is about my age and he grew up watching the same shows on TV that I did, including "Route 66". A few years ago, after finding out I was a devout Spurs fan, he made it possible for us to attend a considerable number of San Antonio Spurs basketball games. On a few occasions we took my convertible and, as you might suspect, for the entire 650-mile round trip, he was Buzz and I was Tod. The memory of Tod Stiles didn't die Sunday, and it never will.

You may not agree with anything I've said, but I column as I see 'em.

Eddy Prince is senior pastor at Grace Fellowship Church of God in Big Spring. He can be reached by email at pastorprince@msn.com.

Kate's parents strike back

We're here not only for Kate, to keep her memory alive, but to have something done," a shellshocked James Steinle pronounced at a Tuesday news conference on the steps of San Francisco City Hall. On July 1, Steinle, his daughter, Kate, and a friend were taking an evening stroll on Pier 14. Kate Steinle, 32, took a selfie. Moments later, a bullet pierced her aorta. She died in a hospital. The San Francisco district attorney charged an immigrant who was here illegally and who had seven felony convictions and five prior deportations with first-degree murder. Juan Francisco Lopez-Sanchez, who was free because the San Francisco sheriff had refused to honor a federal deportation request, has pleaded not guilty. This is a crime that never should have happened.



DEBRA SAUNDERS

So flanked by his wife, Liz Sullivan, their son, Brad, and a cluster of lawyers, Steinle announced legal action against San Francisco and federal agencies in an effort to squeeze something positive out of what is every par-

ent's nightmare. Government officials screwed up, and no one seems eager to correct the mistakes. Said Steinle, "The silence has been deafening."

It started with a gun. In a departure from standard law enforcement practices, a federal Bureau of Land Management ranger left a loaded .40-caliber service gun unsecured in his car in San Francisco. The gun was stolen — and later used to kill Kate Steinle. Did Steinle's death serve as a wake-up call? Not at all. Even after the much-publicized shooting, James Steinle observed, there have been two instances of guns stolen because law enforcement officers failed to secure their weapons. It happened in August, when University of California, Berkeley police Chief Margo Bennett left her gun in her car as she went jogging. Days later, thieves stole a Hayward, California, police officer's Sig Sauer P239 handgun from his car in Oakland.

In papers filed by a legal team headed by attorney Frank Pitre, the Steinles say the BLM ranger "failed to exercise his mandatory duty to leave his firearm unloaded at a time when it was not actually needed." As a result, "Lopez-Sanchez was allowed to gain access to a loaded weapon that he later used to kill Kate."

In July, James Steinle went

after San Francisco's "sanctuary city" policy. He testified before the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee that he believed that his daughter died "by the hand of a person that should have never been on the streets of this country."

For his part and to the contrary, Pitre defended San Francisco's sanctuary city rules and said they were "never designed to protect" the likes of Lopez-Sanchez.

The Steinle claim actually lauds San Francisco Mayor Ed Lee for "courageously" faulting Sheriff Ross Mirkarimi for not notifying Immigration and Customs Enforcement before releasing Lopez-Sanchez.

Let me back up a few steps. In 1985, then-Mayor Dianne Feinstein signed San Francisco's first sanctuary city ordinance, designed to protect refugees from Central America.

Over the years, City Hall expanded the policy.

In 2013, the Board of Supervisors unanimously passed and Lee signed the DueProcessforAllOrdinance, which directed local law enforcement not to detain individuals based on an ICE detainer request — unless an individual has been convicted of a violent felony in the past seven years or there is a judge's finding of probable cause.

Now the mayor claims that

the ordinance, which challenges the constitutionality of ICE detainees, does not preclude law enforcement from alerting ICE before an inmate's pending release. In essence, Lee is arguing that the law never prevented law enforcers from communicating with ICE.

(On July 21, Supervisor Mark Farrell introduced a reform package that would give law enforcement more discretion in dealing with ICE and require the sheriff to check with the district attorney's office before pursuing an outstanding bench warrant. Aide Jess Montejano expects a vote later this month.)

This is where Mirkarimi stepped into it.

Like many City Hall progressives, he is hostile to immigration enforcement. In March, he wrote a memo directing personnel to refrain from sharing information with ICE absent a court order and an OK from department attorneys.

Pitre and Lee have grounds to fault the sheriff for doubling down on the 2013 ordinance.

Mirkarimi maintains that the feds knew that if they want to deport an inmate like Lopez-Sanchez, they have to produce additional documentation.

The sheriff blames ICE for not making him aware over the Mexican national. The

legal claim asserts that ICE was aware of San Francisco's status as a sanctuary city and that therefore ICE should have presented the sheriff with "a judicial warrant or order for deportation." That's right; Pitre made the same argument as Mirkarimi.

Asked whether she wants San Francisco to change its sanctuary city policy, Steinle's mother answered that she wants to end it, but only for violent offenders. Sullivan is in a lot of pain. Someone needs to tell her that according to the family's legal briefs, Lopez-Sanchez has a string of heroin and other drug convictions to his name during his 20-plus years in the criminal justice system but no conviction for a violent offense. Thus, City Hall's 2013 ordinance sees Lopez-Sanchez as worthy of protection from ICE. This policy invites preventable crime. What city wants to shield a seven-time loser from deportation?

Email Debra J. Saunders at dsanders@schronicle.com. To find out more about Debra J. Saunders and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

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Check this out: What's at the library

It is kind of hard to come back to work after taking a week of vacation plus a Monday off! However, we must put our shoulder to the wheel and push on!

"Growing Up Colt: A Father, a Son, a Life in Football" (796.332 MCC C) by Colt McCoy and Brad McCoy has just come across my desk

and it looks to be a neat read. Colt grew up in Tuscola, Texas and was coached by his father, Brad.

Success in life, as in football, only occurs with the right goals, attitude and effort. Of course, this will translate also in any field, academics as well. You will find in Colt's and Brad's book, insight and inspiration in his autobiography. After all, if a player from Tuscola can be a success at the University of Texas and go on to win

on the NFL's football field, then it shows how hard work, belief in yourself and talent will pay off.

"Pirate Hunters: Treasure, Obsession, and the Search for a Legendary Pirate Ship" (910.916 KUR R) by Robert Kurson is fascinating. What would you do if you received a call from an unknown number from the Dominican Republic and you do not know anyone from there? A voice on the line tells you, "If you like pirates, meet me in New Jersey." Now, if someone asks me to do that, I would think they were crazy. But John Chatterton called John Mattera to talk about pirates — 17th-century Caribbean pirates.

Finding and identifying a pirate ship is the hardest thing to do under the sea. But two men, John Chatterton and John Mattera, are willing to risk everything to find the Golden Fleece, the ship of the infamous pirate Joseph Bannister.

At large during the Golden Age of Piracy in the 17th century, Bannister should have

been immortalized in the lore of the sea — his exploits were more notorious than Blackbeard's, more daring than Kidd's. But his story, and his ship, have been lost to time. If Chatterton and Mattera succeed, they will make history; it will be just the second time ever that a pirate ship has been discovered and positively identified.

But it's only when they learn to think and act like pirates, like Bannister, that they become able to go where no pirate hunters have gone before. I was interrupted by a sales call when writing this and was able to persuade the salesperson to write down the title and she said she would get the book and read it with her husband.

Val McDermid is an best-selling author with more than 11 million books sold worldwide and now he has written, "Forensics: What Bugs, Burns, Prints,

DNA, and More Tell Us About Crime" (363.252 MCD V). McDermid is not an expert but has become 'semi-pro' because of writing her crime novels. The dead talk to the right listener — maggots tell us when a person died, DNA can help convict a criminal and secrets found in an autopsy suite reveal the truth of how someone died. For all you lovers of crimes shows, this is the book for you.

"The Billion Dollar Spy" (327.120 HOF D) is by David Hoffman, a Pulitzer Prize winning author. His newest book is a true story of Cold War espionage and betrayal by a Russian engineer in the Soviet military design bureau. While driving out of the American embassy in Moscow on the evening of February 16, 1978, the chief of the CIA's Moscow station heard a knock on his car window. A man on the curb handed him an envelope whose contents stunned U.S.

intelligence: details of top-secret Soviet research and developments in military technology that were totally unknown to the United States.

In the years that followed, the man, Adolf Tolkachev, an engineer in a Soviet military design bureau, used his high-level access to hand over tens of thousands of pages of technical secrets. His revelations allowed America to reshape its weapons systems to defeat Soviet radar on the ground and in the air, giving the United States near total superiority in the skies over Europe.

One of the most valuable spies to work for the United States in the four decades of global confrontation with the Soviet Union, Tolkachev took enormous personal risks — but so did the Americans. The CIA had long struggled to recruit and run agents in Moscow, and Tolkachev was a

singular breakthrough. Using spy cameras and secret codes as well as face-to-face meetings in parks and on street corners, Tolkachev and his handlers succeeded for years in eluding the feared KGB in its own backyard, until the day came when a shocking betrayal put them all at risk. Now is this amazing or what?

This column solely reflects my opinion and not that of Howard County Library. We are open Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.; our internet/video room closes a half-hour early each day. In case of bad weather, call to see if we open late/close early. We are located at 500 S. Main St. Our website is wtls.tsl.state.tx.us/howard-county. The phone number is 432-264-2263.

Howard County Librarian Hollis McCright writes a weekly column for the



HOLLIS MCCRIGHT

Odds and ends

Police: Stuck on elevator, burglar forced to call 911

LAUREL, Del. (AP) — Authorities say a burglar who broke into a middle school got stuck on an elevator and was forced to call 911 for help.

Local media outlets report that police say 19-year-old Michael Claude of Laurel broke into the school Monday. Officials say he was riding down the hallway on a buffing machine before he got on the elevator. After he got stuck, police say, Claude called 911 for help, and an elevator maintenance service was able to open the doors.

Police say Claude was found wearing a Laurel letterman jacket that did not belong to him. He was charged with third-degree burglary, criminal mischief and theft. He was released on \$3,800 bond.

Barbershop fined \$750 for refusing to cut a woman's hair

WASHINGTON, Pa. (AP) — A Pennsylvania barbershop has been fined \$750 for refusing to cut a woman's hair.

Barbiere advertises itself as a high-end gentlemen's barbershop and offers complimentary beers and spirits. The Washington barbershop was recently fined by the state's Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs for gender discrimination.

Owner John Interval tells the (Washington) Observer-Reporter the fine "infringes" on his shop's environment. Interval says, "Guys come here as a kind of a little getaway, to be around other guys."

The female customer had booked hair appointments online for herself and her boyfriend. She asked for a short haircut known as a wave but was turned away.

Cops: Trucker choking on soft drink crashes into 23 new cars

HERMITAGE, Pa. (AP) — Police say the driver of a milk tanker truck was choking on a soft drink when he drove off a Pennsylvania highway and crashed into 23 new cars on a dealership lot.

Police in Hermitage say the driver choked on Dr Pepper on Sunday and drove the truck nearly 600 feet through a grassy area before smashing into a building at Montrose Buick-GMC-Cadillac.

The (Sharon) Herald reports the truck rumbled down an embankment before hitting the cars, including one that was pushed into the dealership showroom.

State police found no mechanical problems with the truck and no indication the driver tried to brake. The driver of the truck owned by Neimeyer Milk Transfer was cited for careless driving.

Deer devour hemp crops at southern Oregon farm

MURPHY, Ore. (AP) — Deer got the munchies at an industrial hemp crop in southern Oregon.

The deer got by barbed-wire fencing a couple weeks ago and went through the hemp plants like high-powered mowers, the Grants Pass Daily Courier reported.

"Generally, I don't think they like cannabis. They liked ours, though," said Cliff Thomason, a real estate agent who is the steward of the first industrial hemp crop in Oregon, which was planted near Murphy by Thomason and his partners with Orhempco.

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Explanatory Statements for the November 3, 2015 Constitutional Amendment Election

Proposition Number 1 (SJR 1)

SJR 1 - Current law provides an exemption of \$15,000 from the ad valorem taxation for public school purposes of a residence homestead. The proposed amendment would increase this exemption to \$25,000, starting in the tax year beginning January 1, 2015. In order to reflect the increased exemption on the homestead of a person 65 years of age or older or a disabled person, the proposed amendment would provide a reduction to the current limitation on the total amount of ad valorem taxes. The proposed amendment would protect school districts from all or part of the revenue loss by authorizing an appropriation of funds according to formulas set by the legislature. In addition, the proposed amendment would authorize the legislature to prohibit a political subdivision from reducing or repealing a homestead exemption adopted by the political subdivision. Finally, the proposed amendment would prohibit the imposition of a tax on the conveyance of real property, but would not prohibit the imposition of a business tax measured by business activity, a tax on the production of minerals, a tax on the issuance of title insurance, or a change in the rate of a tax in existence on January 1, 2016.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment increasing the amount of the residence homestead exemption from ad valorem taxation for public school purposes from \$15,000 to \$25,000, providing for a reduction of the limitation on the total amount of ad valorem taxes that may be imposed for those purposes on the homestead of an elderly or disabled person to reflect the increased exemption amount, authorizing the legislature to prohibit a political subdivision that has adopted an optional residence homestead exemption from ad valorem taxation from reducing the amount of or repealing the

exemption, and prohibiting the enactment of a law that imposes a transfer tax on a transaction that conveys fee simple title to real property."

Proposition Number 2 (HJR 75)

HJR 75 - In 2011, voters approved a constitutional amendment to allow a surviving spouse of a 100 percent or totally disabled veteran an exemption from ad valorem taxation from all or part of the market value on the disabled veteran's residence homestead, as long as the surviving spouse had not remarried. The amendment did not apply to surviving spouses of veterans who died before 2011. This amendment would extend the exemption in such cases. The proposed amendment would apply only to ad valorem taxes imposed for a tax year beginning on or after January 1, 2016.

The proposed amendment would appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to provide for an exemption from ad valorem taxation of all or part of the market value of the residence homestead of the surviving spouse of a 100 percent or totally disabled veteran who died before the law authorizing a residence homestead exemption for such a veteran took effect."

Proposition Number 3 (SJR 52)

SJR 52 proposes a constitutional amendment to repeal the requirement for the Comptroller of Public Accounts, the Commissioner of the General Land Office, the Attorney General, and any other officers elected statewide to reside in Austin, Texas, the state capital. Under current law, these statewide elected officers are required to reside in the capital of the State of Texas while in office. This amendment would not apply to the residency requirement for the Governor.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment repealing the requirement that state officers elected by voters statewide reside in the state capital."

Proposition Number 4 (HJR 73)

HJR 73 proposes a constitutional amendment that would grant the legislature the authority to pass statutes to allow a professional sports team charitable foundation to conduct charitable raffles under the terms and conditions imposed by general law. The laws passed under this authority may provide that the professional sports team charitable foundation may use proceeds from such charitable raffles to pay reasonable advertising, promotional, and administrative expenses. Any law enacted by this provision only applies to entities defined as professional sports team charitable foundations on January 1, 2016. Additionally, any law enacted by this provision may only allow charitable raffles to be conducted at games hosted at the home venue of the professional sports team associated with a professional sports team charitable foundation.

The proposed amendment would appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to permit professional sports team charitable foundations to conduct charitable raffles."

Proposition Number 5 (SJR 17)

SJR 17 proposes a constitutional amendment which would increase from 5,000 to 7,500 the maximum total population threshold of a county that is allowed to construct and maintain private roads as long as the county imposes a reasonable charge for the work.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment to authorize counties with a population of 7,500 or less to perform private road construction and maintenance."

Proposition Number 6 (SJR 22)

SJR 22 proposes a constitutional amendment that would add the right to hunt, fish and harvest wildlife, including by use of traditional methods, in the Bill of Rights of the Texas Constitution. This right would be subject to laws and regulations intended to conserve

and manage wildlife and to preserve the future of hunting and fishing. The proposed amendment would establish hunting and fishing as the preferred method of managing and controlling wildlife in Texas. The proposed amendment is not intended to affect any law or provision related to trespass, property rights or eminent domain, and would not prevent the legislature from authorizing a municipality to regulate the discharge of a firearm in a populated area in the interest of safety.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment recognizing the right of the people to hunt, fish, and harvest wildlife subject to laws that promote wildlife conservation."

Proposition Number 7 (SJR 5)

SJR 5 proposes a constitutional amendment to dedicate a portion of revenues from (1) the state sales and use tax, and (2) the tax imposed on the sale, use, or rental of a motor vehicle, to the State Highway Fund (SHF). Under current law, these funds would be deposited to the General Revenue Fund. Money deposited to the SHF is intended to be used only to construct, maintain, or acquire rights-of-way for public roadways other than toll roads; or to repay certain transportation-related debt.

The proposed amendment would appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment dedicating certain sales and use tax revenue and motor vehicle sales, use, and rental tax revenue to the state highway fund to provide funding for nontolled roads and the reduction of certain transportation-related debt."

Published by Texas Secretary of State Carlos H. Cascos, www.VoteTexas.gov, 1-800-252-VOTE (8683).

News in brief

She reigns supreme: Queen Elizabeth II surpasses Queen Victoria in length of service

LONDON (AP) — Queen Elizabeth II has reached a major milestone by becoming the longest-reigning monarch in Britain's history.

She passes Queen Victoria, her great-great-grandmother, who was on the throne for 63 years and 7 months.

Prime Minister David Cameron said Wednesday that millions on Britons would celebrate the queen's "historic moment."

"Over the last 63 years, Her Majesty has been a rock of stability in a world of constant change and her selfless sense of service and duty has earned admiration not only in Britain, but right across the globe," Cameron said.

"It is only right that today we should celebrate her extraordinary record, as well as the grace and dignity with which she serves our country."

Kentucky clerk who fought gay marriage is released after 5 days in jail, gets a hero's welcome

GRAYSON, Ky. (AP) — The Kentucky county clerk jailed for refusing to issue marriage licenses to gay couples was released Tuesday after five days behind bars, emerging to a tumultuous hero's welcome from thousands of supporters waving large white crosses.

"I just want to give God the glory. His people have rallied, and you are a strong people," Kim Davis told the crowd after stepping outside, her arms raised like a victorious boxer, to the blaring "Rocky"-sequel theme song "Eye of the Tiger."

Her lawyer refused to say whether she would defy the courts again.

"Kim cannot and will not violate her conscience," said Mat Staver, founder of the Liberty Counsel, the Christian law firm representing Davis. As for whether she will issue licenses, Staver said only: "You'll find out in the near future."

UN warns Hungary 42,000 more migrants coming in next 10 days, will need help at border

BUDAPEST, Hungary (AP) — Leaders of the United Nations refugee agency warned Tuesday that Hungary faces a bigger wave of 42,000 asylum seekers in the next 10 days and will need international help to provide shelter on its border, where

newcomers already are complaining bitterly about being left to sleep in frigid fields.

Officials from the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees said it was sending tents, beds and thermal blankets to Hungary's border with Serbia, where for the past two days frustrated groups from the Middle East, Asia and Africa have ignored police instructions to stay put and instead have marched on a highway north to Budapest.

Commissioner Antonio Guterres accused the entire European Union of failing to see the crisis coming or take coordinated action, even though the 28-nation bloc of 508 million people should have enough room and resources to absorb hundreds of thousands of newcomers with ease.

There was needless suffering in the migration crisis "because Europe is not organized to deal with it, because the European asylum system has been extremely dysfunctional and in recent weeks completely chaotic," Guterres said. He told a news conference in Paris that it appeared "clear that if Europe would be properly organized, it would be a manageable crisis."

The EU has struggled, in part, because front-line nations such as Hungary and Greece have not put enough facilities in place to house a human flow averaging 2,000 to 3,000 a day while the vast majority of people try to push deeper into Europe and seek refugee protection in Germany, the nation accepting the greatest number by far.

AP Exclusive: Thousands of wastewater spills scar land, threaten water amid drilling boom

CROSSROADS, N.M. (AP) — Carl Johnson and son Justin are third- and fourth-generation ranchers who for decades have battled oilfield companies that left a patchwork of barren earth where the men graze cattle in the high plains of New Mexico. Blunt and profane, they stroll across a 1 1/2-acre patch of sandy soil — lifeless, save for a scattering of stunted weeds.

Five years ago, a broken pipe soaked the land with as much as 420,000 gallons of oilfield wastewater — a salty and potentially toxic drilling by-product that can quickly turn fertile land into a dead zone. The leaked brine killed every sprig of grama and bluestem grasses and shinnery shrubs it touched.

For the Johnsons, the spill is among dozens that have taken a heavy toll: a landscape pockmarked with spots where livestock can no longer graze,

legal fees running into the tens of thousands and worries about the safety of the area's underground aquifer.

"If we lose our water, that ruins our ranch," Justin Johnson said. "That's the end of the story."

Their plight illustrates a largely overlooked side effect of oil and gas production that has worsened with the past decade's drilling boom: spills of wastewater that foul the land, kill wildlife and threaten freshwater supplies.

United Airlines Jeff Smisek steps down as CEO in connection with investigation

United Airlines has abruptly replaced its CEO as federal officials continue to investigate the airline's ties to the former chairman of the agency that operates New York-area airports, including Newark, a key hub for the carrier.

United Continental Holdings Inc. said Tuesday that Jeffery Smisek and two other senior executives had resigned. Oscar Munoz, a railroad executive and head of United's audit committee, was named CEO and president.

Munoz's appointment was so sudden that no pay package had been worked out.

United disclosed earlier this year that the company and some of its executives had received subpoenas from a federal grand jury for information about its dealings with the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey. United said it was cooperating with the government probe and conducting its own internal investigation.

Democrats clinch crucial votes to block GOP resolution against Iran nuclear deal in Senate

WASHINGTON (AP) — Pressing their advantage, the White House and insistent Senate Democrats locked up the votes Tuesday to frustrate attempts by outraged Republicans to pass a legislative rebuke to the Iran nuclear accord.

Four previously undeclared Senate Democrats — Richard Blumenthal of

Connecticut, Ron Wyden of Oregon, Gary Peters of Michigan and Maria Cantwell of Washington state — announced their support for the international agreement in a coordinated burst. That pushed supporters to a 42-vote total, one more than necessary to block a GOP disapproval resolution with a filibuster, and prevent a final vote.

"There is no better deal available now," declared Blumenthal, one of the Senate's Jewish Democrats, announcing his support for an accord that is strongly opposed by Israeli leaders as well as Republican senators.

Blumenthal, Wyden and Peters were among just a handful of undeclared senators and were all considered possible "no" votes. Coming on the first day of Congress' fall session after a five-week summer recess, their announcements were a dramatic start to what promises to be a bitter, partisan debate on the deal aimed at curbing Iran's nuclear program.

US vows to help Europe but unclear if it will share migrant strain with allies across Atlantic

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Obama administration wants to help its allies across the Atlantic with an escalating migrant crisis, but is unlikely to open America's doors to vast numbers of Syrian and other refugees arriving each day by the thousands in Europe.

While Germany braces for some 800,000 asylum seekers this year, many of whom are fleeing Syria's civil war, the U.S. isn't saying if it will increase its worldwide quota for resettling refugees from 70,000. Only a fraction of those would be Syrians, who must first navigate a multiyear application process before learning if they can start a new life in the United States.

Secretary of State John Kerry plans to brief members of the House and Senate Judiciary committees on Wednesday about how many Syrian refugees the U.S. is willing to take in.

A spokesman for the National Security Council said Monday the U.S. was "actively considering" steps to alleviate the situation in Europe, where more than 340,000 people now have arrived.



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3. **ENCOURAG** Tx Dot to bring I-27 through Big Spring. Write your message and bring to the Big Spring Herald or mail to P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, Texas 79721. Entries must arrive before 5 PM, Sept. 30, 2015. Include address & phone number.

Publisher, Big Spring Herald
Rick Nunez

Cruz cozies up to Trump, aims for his supporters

ATLANTA (AP) — As other Republican presidential candidates go after Donald Trump, Texas Sen. Ted Cruz is getting cozy with him. The two men are in a so-far cordial competition for many of the same anti-establishment conservatives, and they're about to share a stage.

On Wednesday, at Cruz's invitation, Trump is to appear with him at a Capitol Hill rally protesting the proposed nuclear agreement with Iran.

One of 16 GOP candidates looking up at Trump in the polls, Cruz says the invitation was only to attract more attention to objections to the "catastrophic" deal. In an editorial published Monday on the USA Today website, Trump called the deal "amateur hour" and said it demonstrates "the total incompetence of our president and politicians."

Cruz told The Associated Press, "Wherever Donald goes, the media follow in droves." Any suggestion that the joint appearance has deeper meaning would be a "political horse game," he said.

Yet Cruz, the tea party hero

who helped shut the federal government in 2013, needs the same frustrated voters who have pushed Trump to a surprising lead five months before primary voting begins. If it takes a shared stage to convince those conservatives that he should be their choice, so be it.

Cruz has stood out for his refusal to criticize Trump. Among other presidential contenders, Rick Perry called Trump a "cancer" on conservatism, Rand Paul has called attention to the billionaire's friendship with Democrats Hillary and Bill Clinton, and Jeb Bush has branded Trump's rhetoric on immigration "ugly" and "divisive."

"An awful lot of presidential candidates," Cruz said, "have gone out of their way to take a stick to Donald Trump."

"I am not one of them." Instead, he credits Trump with "shining a light" on an immigration crisis and getting conservatives excited.

"Look, I like Donald Trump, and I am glad Donald Trump is in this election," he said at a recent stop in South Carolina.

Yet he said, "There will

come a time as this campaign goes forward for additional policy differences and differentiation." And his standard campaign pitch — which he has not changed through Trump's rise — contains the seeds of what could emerge as an argument against Trump when the time for comity passes.

In every speech and almost every interview, Cruz hammers "the Washington cartel." His definition: "Anyone who stands with the career politicians in both parties" and gets "in bed with the lobbyists and the special interests." That's how the establishment operates, Cruz says.

Trump admits that he has played by those rules, explaining his history of campaign contributions across the political spectrum this way: "When you give, they do whatever the hell you want them to do."

Cruz praises Trump for his focus on immigration, though suggests he was there first, back when all his rivals "supported amnesty."

"Illegal immigration has been an issue I have been leading the fight on for many

years," he says.

Trump has shifted his positions over the years and has supported ways of granting legal status to people who are in the U.S. illegally. Even now, his call to deport everyone who is in the U.S. illegally but let "the good ones" return quickly is considered a form of amnesty by some conservatives — not to mention impractical in the eyes of many.

And the core of Cruz's argument is that he's a "consistent conservative day in and day out."

"With me, you know what you're gonna get," he says.

Trump has never held office, so he's not one of Cruz's standard targets: the "campaign conservatives" who "say one thing and then do another." But he's certainly flip-flopped.

He now echoes the Republican call to repeal President Barack Obama's health care law, but once advocated a single-payer health care system, an even farther reaching overhaul that Cruz assails as "wild-eyed socialism."

Earlier in his business career, Trump endorsed income

tax increases for top earners like himself. Cruz, though he has not released his tax plan, delights his crowds with visions of abolishing the Internal Revenue Service.

Trump also shifted his position on abortion rights, which he once supported, while Cruz has consistently opposed them and vows a Justice Department investigation of Planned Parenthood, the women's health organization that provides abortion services, on his first day in office.

While both men have drawn support from evangelical Christians, it is Cruz who sprinkles his pitch with Scripture and talks about his father "traveling the country to preach the Gospel."

At least for now, however, Cruz seems content to let voters pick up on the distinctions themselves.

"Every one of us," he tells them, "should ask any candidate who shows up in front of us, 'You say you believe these principles. Prove it. When have you stood up and fought for it? When have you bled for it? And what have you accomplished?'"

News in brief

Paxton asks judge to halt EPA water rule in Texas

HOUSTON (AP) — Texas has asked a federal judge to block enforcement of a new rule that expands authority over which water bodies the U.S. government can regulate.

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton made the request Tuesday in an 88-page court document. The request comes in the wake of a federal court ruling in North Dakota that blocked enforcement of the rule in 13 states that filed suit in that court. Texas, Louisiana and Mississippi sued the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Army Corps of Engineers in a federal court in Houston and aren't affected by the North Dakota ruling last week.

The May rule would greatly expand federal authority under the Clean Air Act over the bodies of water the EPA can legally regulate, restoring protections to tributaries and wetlands.

Texas most-wanted convicted sex offender caught in Wyoming

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — A convicted sex offender on the Texas Department of Public Safety 10 Most Wanted list has been captured in Wyoming.

Ernest Leroy Smith of Houston faces return to Texas.

The Texas Department of Public Safety on Tuesday announced the arrest of the 46-year-old Smith. He was caught Sunday following a disturbance at a truck stop in Cheyenne, Wyoming.

DPS says Smith is a sexually violent predator who removed his ankle monitor Aug. 27 and fled from a Houston halfway house.

Smith was wanted for parole violation and failure to comply with civil commitment requirements. His criminal history includes aggravated sexual assault of a child in Lamar County, indecency with a child and escape.

Baby boy dies after being left in hot car in Corpus Christi

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas (AP) — Corpus Christi police say a 4-month-old boy has died after he was forgotten in a hot car but his toddler sister survived being trapped.

Sgt. Marc Harrod on Wednesday declined to release names of the baby and his 16-month-old sister as the investigation continues. Harrod says the children's mother wasn't home during Tuesday afternoon's incident.

Harrod says the father ran an errand with the children, drove home and went into the family's

house. Police believe the youngsters were forgotten in the vehicle for at least 40 minutes during temperatures in the 90s.

Harrod says the father later remembered the children and summoned help. The boy died at a Corpus Christi hospital. The girl was treated at the scene and released to relatives.

Police had no immediate information on the errand.

Woman pleads guilty to federal 'crush video' charge

HOUSTON (AP) — A 24-year-old Houston woman has pleaded guilty to federal charges for creating and distributing videos depicting the torture and killing of puppies, chickens and kittens.

Ashley Richards already was sentenced to 10 years in state prison for producing videos of her, scantily clad, using high heels, meat cleavers and other weapons to kill cats and dogs. Now, she could be sentenced on Dec. 10 to up to 35 years in federal prison and fined up to \$1.25 million.

Prosecutors say the so-called "crush" videos depict women killing small animals and are meant to satisfy the sexual fetish of those who purchase them. People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals notified authorities of the videos in 2012.

Email scammers at it again, claim to be Dallas police chief

DALLAS (AP) — Email scammers are at it again and pretending to be Dallas police Chief David Brown.

A Dallas police statement Tuesday says the bogus

emails, received by members of the public, wrongly seek personal financial information.

The FBI is helping investigate. Experts say victims should delete the emails and contact Dallas police.

Suspect in road rage attack found asleep in woman's home

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Police say a man suspected of chasing and firing at a vehicle during an early morning road rage incident in San Antonio was found sleeping in a woman's home.

San Antonio police say a woman called authorities after finding 26-year-old Rolando Siller in her home Tuesday.

Police spokesman Douglas Greene said Siller bathed and ate at the woman's home, one street over from where authorities found a vehicle they believe was involved in the morning incident.

Authorities say that around 7:30 a.m. Tuesday, a man pointed a gun at a driver and demanded he pull over before pursuing him and opening fire when he tried to flee. The driver said the gunman rammed his car, causing him to crash into another vehicle.

Siller was arrested on outstanding warrants



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4. Sands
5. Borden County
6. Colorado City
7. Green Bay
8. Dallas Cowboys
9. Arizona Cardinals
10. Texas Tech



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2. Forsan
3. Garden City
4. Sands
5. Rankin
6. Colorado City
7. Greenbay Packers
8. Dallas Cowboys
9. New Orleans Saints
10. Texas Tech



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6. Brownfield
7. Greenbay Packers
8. Dallas Cowboys
9. Arizona Cardinals
10. Texas Tech



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Rules: Find this week's games between the merchants' ads on this page. Choose the teams you think will win. Clip and fill in the official entry blank on this page with your team choices. The entry with the most correct picks will win \$50. You must be 18 to enter. *No Photo Copies Accepted.* In the event of a tie, the tie breaker will determine the winner. For the tie breaker, the entry with the correct team will win. If both entries have guessed the same team, the second tie breaker will be the one closest to the total points. Decisions of the judges are final. Employees and family of *The Big Spring Herald* are ineligible. All entries must be received at one of the participating merchants by 1 p.m. Friday of the week played. Winners will be announced in the next *Pigskin Contest Page*.

Pigskin Picks Entry Form

Team

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____ 5. _____ 6. _____ 7. _____ 8. _____ 9. _____ 10. _____ 	Name: _____ Address: _____ Phone Number: _____ Tie Breaker - Circle the winner and note total points scored University of Texas vs. Rice Score: _____ + _____ = _____
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Leo vs. Virgo

What's your sharing style? Are you a tell-all, no-filters type or are you closed clam-tight about your life? The moon, Venus and Mars are in Leo, while the sun and Jupiter are in Virgo, highlighting the age-old struggle between privacy and publicity. While sharing about yourself, try to hit that sweet spot that leaves them wanting more.

mostly self-created. **GEMINI** (May 21-June 21). Create a plan for what to do if the worst should happen. Doing this will help you to stop worrying. Once you stop worrying, you will loosen up, adopt a better attitude, have some fun and succeed.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). In matters of love, your judgment will be consistently stellar. You'll make the choices that bring you closer to the ones you want to be close to and distance you from potentially negative influences.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). What you do to make the environment more pleasant for yourself will improve things for others, too, so don't hesitate to speak up. Once you get the conversation rolling, everything will start to change.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). A raised eyebrow, a mysterious text, a finger point toward the horizon -- it won't take much to stir the curiosity and capture the imagination of those around you. Once you have their

Tomorrow's Horoscope

attention, you'll do something useful with it.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). A person sees a big dog and thinks "threat." Another person sees the same dog and thinks "friend." Either one could be right. Your advantage today will be your ability to adjust to how others perceive things.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). An intellectual approach may be appropriate for the situation, but the wisest decisions get made when you also engage your emotions and let them weigh heavily into the equation.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). There's really no such thing as pointless chatter today. There is a world of knowledge inside of small talk. It takes careful listening to know the right questions to open up the treasure trove.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). If you've heard it a million times, that's because it bears repeating. Accept yourself for who you are, flaws and all. This helps you to accept other people.

With increased tolerance, life gets easier for everyone.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). The answers could be found in the attic of your mind, but climbing up there will be a lot of unnecessary trouble because the answers can also be found in your immediate environment. Slow down and look.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Honesty and integrity are important in all of your relationships, especially the romantic ones. You'd like to know the real person and not the person the other person thinks you want to see.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Sept. 9). This year is one big talent show that invites you to perform over and over. The improvements to your environment this month will favorably affect relationships. It will be especially difficult to balance work and play when the year-end brings such a wonderful playmate. Money months are March, May and July. Pisces and Scorpio people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 40, 2, 22, 14 and

1. **ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS:** "I'm a Virgo co-ed, and I've always been introverted. I want my college experience to be completely different from my high school experience. Yes, I still want to study and be serious, but I'd also like to find myself socially. How can I make friends?"

Now that you've made socializing a conscious priority, you can approach it with the same drive and attention to detail that make you an excellent student. You'll probably have to force yourself to break the ice with people, but make a habit of it, and it will get easier for you. One of the advantages of a scholastic environment is that you already have so much in common with your fellow students. You're taking the same classes, eating the same food and maybe even living in the same dorms -- so you should have plenty of common ground to share about once you open up. More than likely, all you have to do is say hi and introduce yourself to

get the ball rolling. Just remember that even though you're a serious person, socializing is supposed to be fun. Keep your energy level upbeat and your commentary positive. Best of luck!

CELEBRITY PROFILES: After voicing the part of Dracula in "Hotel Transylvania 2," Adam Sandler will star with some of his favorite comedy buddies in the western he co-wrote, "The Ridiculous 6." The multi-hyphenated Hollywood mogul was born when five planets were in healthy, industrious Virgo, signaling an ever-young quality and a tireless dedication to his work.

To write to Holiday Mathis, visit www.creators.com and click on "Write the Author" on her page. You also can email Holiday at HolidMathis@gmail.com or visit her site at holidaymathis.com. 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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ARIES (March 21-April 19). How would you feel if nothing changed about your situation -- not in five years or 10 years or ever? If that thought is intolerable, you're now motivated to reach out and make a necessary adjustment.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). The activities you've chosen for the day require a certain degree of hardiness. Bouncing back is as much a skill as not falling. There are rewards for stamina, though those rewards are

Annie's Mailbox

Dear Annie: I see many parents teach their children, from a young age, to kiss on the lips. Do you feel this is correct?

For some reason, I am uncomfortable with this. I was raised in a family where you always kissed on the cheek, whether it was your brother, sister or parents.

I would be interested in what your readers have to say. -- Maine

Dear Maine: This is not an issue of "correct." It is about family custom. As long as there is nothing salacious about the kissing, it is perfectly OK to kiss family members on the lips if this is how you have been raised. Those who were brought up to kiss on the cheeks would naturally find it awkward, and you certainly don't have to do it.

Dear Annie: Our oldest son married the most wonderful woman. "Kate" has two children from a previous marriage, ages 8 and 3, both of whom we love dearly. Our son has three children from his previous marriage and Kate loves them like her own. The problem is Kate's ex-husband and his parents. This is an open letter to them:

We love the children just as you do. As a grandmother, I would want only the most loving and nurturing relationships for all of my grandchildren. When you spread nasty rumors and sick lies and plant poison in people's minds, you are not only hurting us. You are hurting your grandchildren.

You make the children feel that they need to choose between us. You make them feel conflicted and they shut themselves off. And let me tell you what your slanderous words about my son do: You have managed to destroy with your poison any potentially healthy and loving relationship he can have with these kids. When you tell your little circle of friends that you are "concerned he might molest the grandchildren," what exactly are you trying to accomplish besides satisfying your selfish, insecure feelings? He is terrified to be left alone with them, knowing what your false accusations can lead to.

I hope you will see this letter and recognize that it is meant for you, and that you will fix the wrong you are doing. Please let the children love us.

My son's children are being partly raised by another man and I thank him for loving and treating them like his own. I wish you and your family could think the same way.

We cannot change the past, but we can move forward in a positive fashion. I hope you will do this for the children. -- Grandma from Guam

Dear Grandma: How sad for those children that their father and his parents are so filled with jealousy and resentment that they use the grandchildren as weapons and are willing to damage them emotionally. We hope Kate is keeping a written record of

these accusations and rumors. If necessary, she should take her ex to court. This could affect his visitation rights and those of his parents. Such toxic people should not have access to young children.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, long-time 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/AskAnnies. To find out more about Annie's Mailbox and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists,

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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.

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

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Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

Ingenuity Is Well-Rewarded

West dealer.
East-West vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ 8 4
♥ A Q 7 3
♦ 8 5 4
♣ 8 7 4 3

WEST
♠ —
♥ J 9 5
♦ Q J 10 9 3
♣ A K J 10 5

EAST
♠ 10 9 7 5
♥ K 10 8 6 4 2
♦ 6
♣ Q 9

SOUTH
♠ A K Q J 6 3 2
♥ —
♦ A K 7 2
♣ 6 2

The bidding:
West North East South
1♦ Pass 1♥ 4♠

Opening lead — king of clubs.

There is a certain compelling logic in bridge that, if followed to its rational conclusion, can sometimes lead declarer to make a play that he would not normally think of or even consider.

Take this deal where West leads the K-A-J of clubs against four spades, declarer ruffing the third round. The contract looks hopeless, since South has only nine tricks consisting of seven spades and the A-K of diamonds. He has no apparent entry to dummy's ace of hearts, his potential 10th trick, nor can he expect the diamonds to be divided 3-3 after West's opening diamond bid. But South can make four spades in an ingenious manner if he puts his mind to it. When he leads the ace of spades at trick four and West shows out, he learns a great deal about the makeup of the adverse hands.

South has already discovered at trick three that West, who opened the bidding with one diamond, started with five clubs. It is therefore reasonable to assume that West also has five or six diamonds. This means that East started with one diamond or none to go with the four spades and two clubs he is already known to hold. This knowledge can now be put to good use.

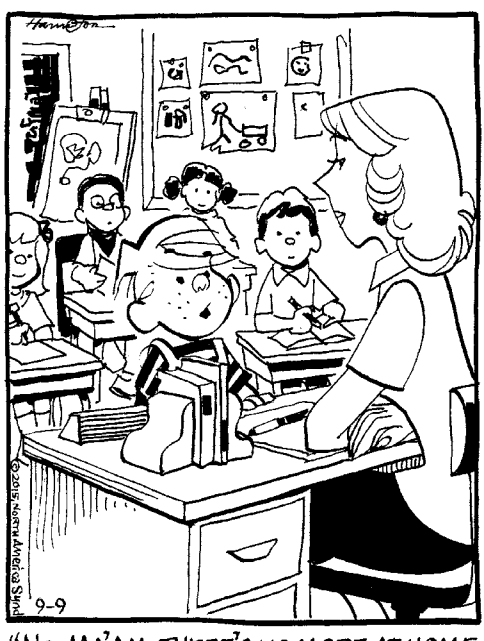
Declarer continues with the K-Q of spades, leaving East with the ten, and then plays the A-K of diamonds. If East trumps, he will have to return a heart, providing a haven for both of South's diamond losers. So let's say East discards a heart.

East's refusal to ruff does not let him off the hook, however. South counters by leading the spade three, forcing East to win and lead a heart into dummy's A-Q. The net effect is that South loses a trump trick he did not have to lose, but scores two heart tricks in return. And that is the sort of exchange any declarer should be happy to accept.

Tomorrow: Outside help.
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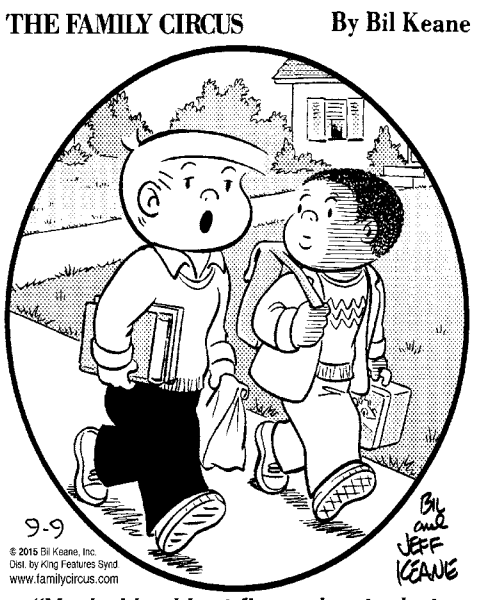
Table with 30 columns representing different TV channels and their respective programming schedules for the day.

DENNIS THE MENACE



"No, ma'am, there's no more at home like me."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

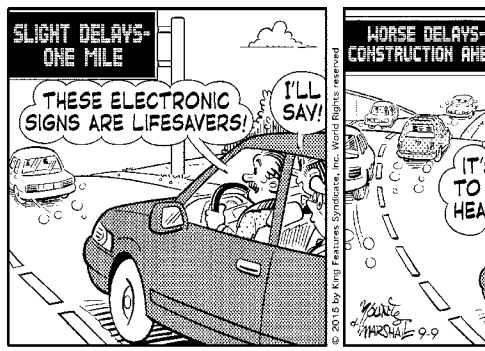


"Yeah, I had just figured out what I wanted to do during summer vacation and then it was over."

HAGAR



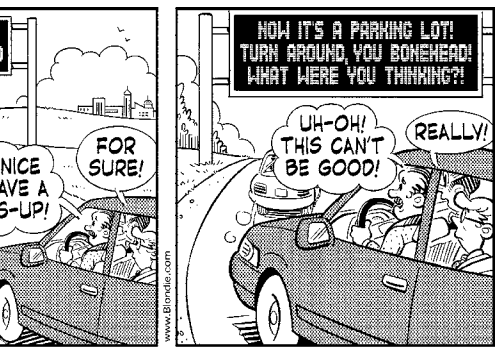
BLONDIE



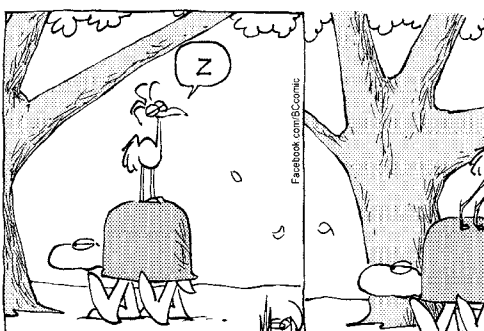
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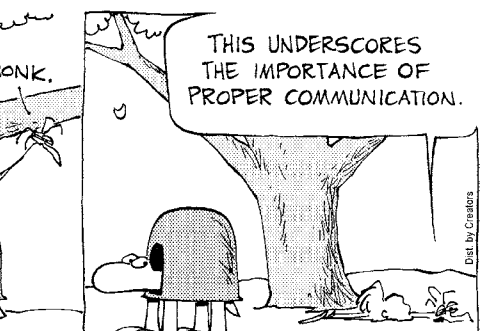
AGNES



BC



THE FAMILY CIRCUS



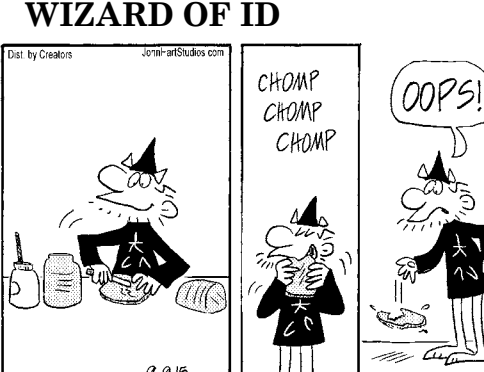
This Date In History

Today is Wednesday, Sept. 9, the 252nd day of 2015. There are 113 days left in the year. Today's Highlight in History: On Sept. 9, 1965, Sandy Koufax of the Los Angeles Dodgers pitched a perfect game against the Chicago Cubs at Dodger Stadium. Final score: 1-0.

Thought for Today

"A heretic is a man who sees with his own eyes." Gotthold Lessing, German dramatist-critic (1729-1781).

HI AND LOIS



THE OTHER COAST



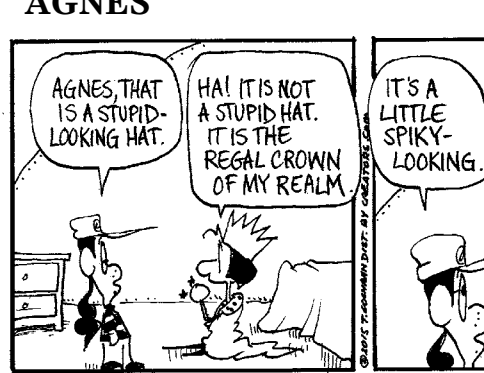
Newsday Crossword

SECOND CITIES by Mark McClain

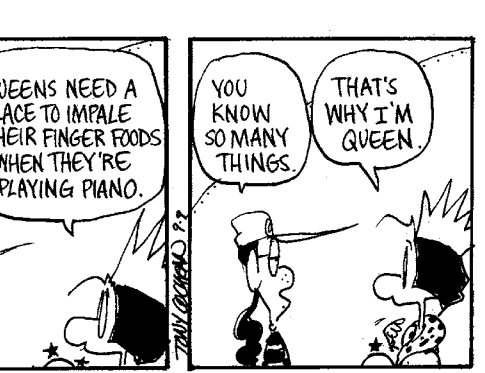
- ACROSS: 1 Resided, 6 Up to the task, 10 PD alert, 13 Low point, 14 ___-fixe dinner, 15 Evens, as a score, 17 Upset stomach, 18 Shaker contents, 19 Racetrack shape, 20 Second largest Grand Canyon State city, 23 Make moist, 25 Family vehicle, 26 Soft metal, 27 Prez on a penny, 28 Pub game, 31 "Nothing else for me!", 33 Sand hill, 35 ___ Beta Kappa, 36 QVC rival, 37 Second largest Sooner State city, 42 Ran into, 43 Comparative suffix, 44 Casual shirt, 46 Capital of Vietnam, 49 Sacred song, 51 Fish eggs, 52 Inspire wonder, 53 Menagerie, 55 Sunday after Lent, 57 Second largest Cowboy State city, 61 Flying toy, 62 GI's offense, 63 Journal with a lock, 66 One-pot meal, 67 Ripped, 68 Trimmed, as the lawn, 69 Airline to Stockholm, 70 Woolly moms, 71 Has to have

Crossword puzzle grid with numbered squares and a list of clues.

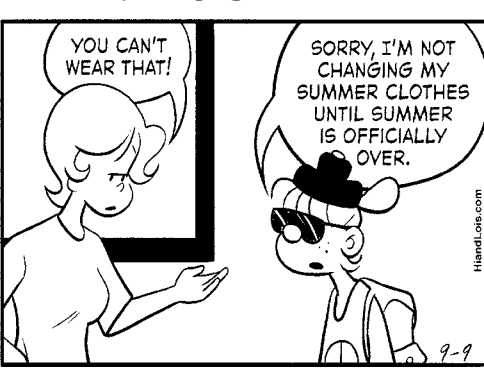
SNUFFY SMITH



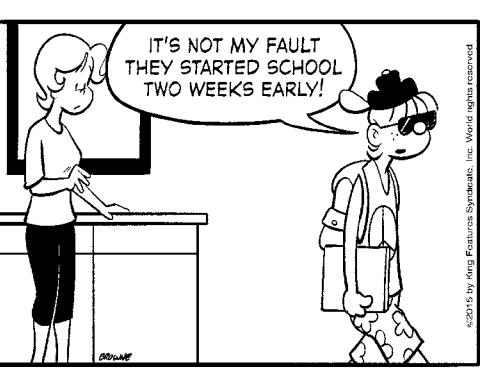
BEETLE BAILEY



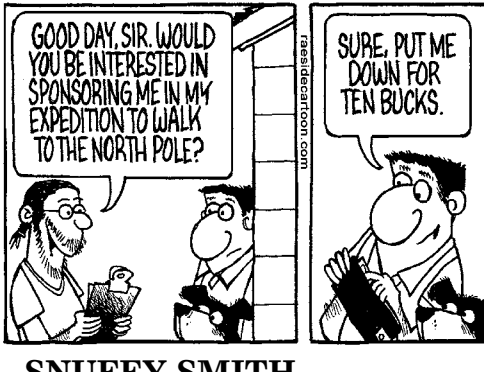
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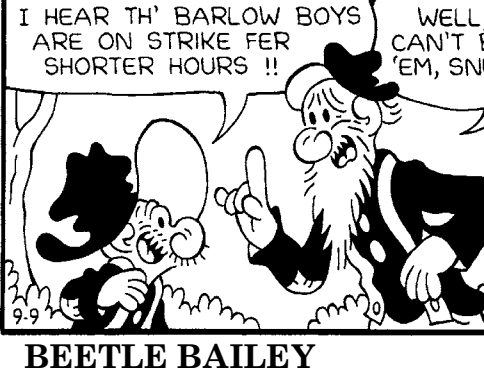
HI AND LOIS



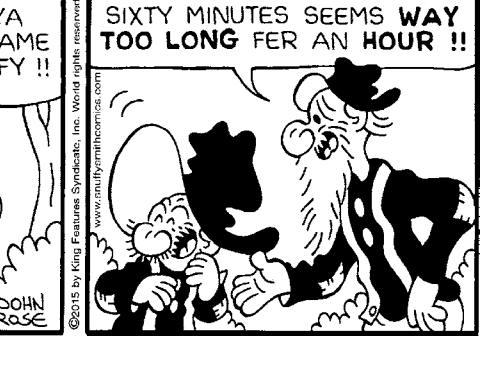
THE OTHER COAST



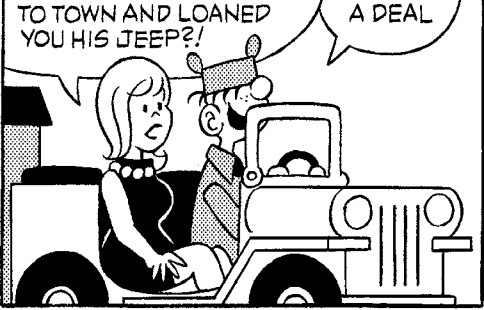
SNUFFY SMITH



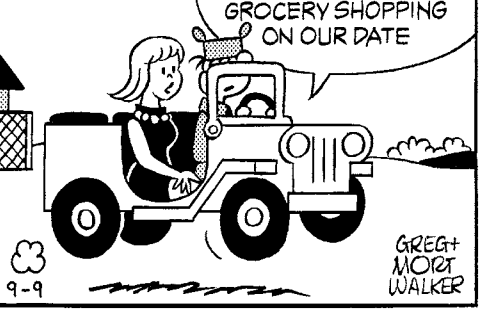
BEETLE BAILEY



WIZARD OF ID



AGNES



RANGERS

Continued from Page 7

run allowed on a fielder's choice by Kyle Seager.

"He let us know quickly he was fine," Texas manager Jeff Banister said.

Hamels, acquired from Philadelphia in late July, gave up four runs on eight hits and improved to 9-8 overall.

Shawn Tolleson earned his 31st save.

Walker (10-8) yielded six runs, five earned, and six hits.

"It was a bad game," he said. "I had no command. I was getting behind every hitter."

Moreland's solo home run gave Texas the lead in the second. A three-run drive by Choo extended it to 4-0 in the third. Seattle got a run back on Seager's field-

er's choice in the bottom half.

After Elvis Andrus reached on an error, Odor homered to give Texas a 6-1 cushion.

Jesus Montero singled home Mark Trumbo, and Shawn O'Malley's sacrifice fly scored Logan Morrison for Seattle. An RBI groundout from Ketel Marte drove in Montero to close the gap to 7-4.

Gallo homered off Tony Zych to extend the Texas lead to 8-4.

Stefen Romero drew a nine-pitch walk from Rangers reliever Jake Diekman. Robinson Cano followed with a two-run homer to center field to close the deficit to 8-6 in the eighth.

TRAINER'S ROOM
Rangers: OF Delino DeShields is day to day after leaving Monday's game with a mild left knee sprain. He was not available. Will Ve-

nable started in place of DeShields in center field.

Mariners: LHP James Paxton (3-3, 3.70 ERA) is a strong candidate to start Sunday against Colorado. Paxton has been on the disabled list since May 29 with a strained left middle finger. He partially tore his nail on the same finger during a rehab start last week that set the process back. If all goes well in a bullpen session Thursday, he could be activated Sunday.

UP NEXT
Rangers: LHP Martin Perez (2-4, 5.07 ERA) has allowed three earned runs or fewer in eight of his nine starts for Texas since joining the rotation July 17. Perez got a no-decision after tossing six innings with just two earned runs in an 11-3 Rangers victory over the Mariners on Aug. 8.

Gray outpitches buddy Kazmir; A's beat Astros 4-0

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — Sonny Gray has learned plenty by watching Scott Kazmir pitch, and on Tuesday night the Athletics All-Star got to oppose his close pal.

Gray outdueled his mentor, and the A's spoiled the former Oakland lefty's return to the Coliseum mound with a 4-0 win against Kazmir and the AL West-leading Houston Astros.

"I had a rough outing my last time so it was important to get back on the mound and put zeros up, give us a chance to win," Gray said. "I used my curveball a lot more to keep them off balance more. I slowed myself down and relaxed, took a couple of deep breaths."

Mark Canha hit a

three-run homer in the fifth inning to back Gray (13-7). Billy Burns had a solo shot earlier after fouling off 10 pitches in two at-bats.

Gray ended a four-start winless stretch and got the best of Kazmir, traded by the A's to his hometown Astros on July 23.

Kazmir had been back to the Bay Area with Houston but didn't pitch against his old team during that trip in early August. He faced A's for the first time since Aug. 18, 2013, with the Indians.

"He was such an influential guy in the clubhouse here and I was close to him," Burns said. "It was weird to look at him on the other team. At the same time,

it was fun."

Gray allowed five hits, struck out four and walked two in seven innings. The right-hander stopped a three-game losing streak with his first victory since beating Houston on Aug. 7.

Ryan Dull pitched the final two innings.

Kazmir (7-10) lost his second consecutive decision. He was tagged for four runs and seven hits in six innings.

"The one to Canha is something I look back and kind of just shake my head," Kazmir said. "That's a huge hit right there. We're trying to battle our way back and end up giving up a 3-spot in the fifth inning that's tough to come back

See **ASTORS**, Page 16

Stars of the week



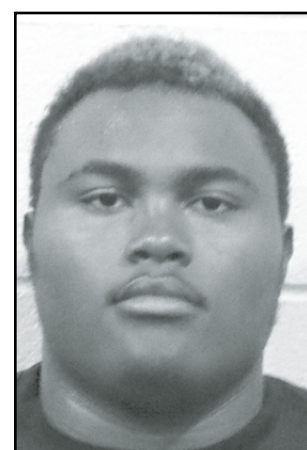
Coahoma quarterback Kody Barber

Barber is proving to be a dual threat quarterback in Coahoma's new offense. He carried the ball 19 times for 159 yards and two scores. He also passed for 194 yards and a touchdown throwing 17 of 21.



Forsan quarterback Jesse Cervantes

On a night when the passing game struggled, Cervantes still made his presence known. He rushed for 153 yards on 12 carries for three touchdowns.



Big Spring Running back Preston Alexander

Alexander had one of his best performances ever, with most of it coming in the second half. He rushed for four touchdowns and 157 yards.

Lady Bulldogs win in straight sets over Veribest

By Taylor Ellis
Sports Editor

Coahoma won 25-14, 25-11, 25-18 over Veribest Tuesday night at home. Head coach Drew Cleavinger called the performance their best

of the season.

"We played as a team for really the first time all year. The first set we talked to each other and worked together, different then what we've done," Cleavinger said. "Second set we got tired

and talked less. We allowed them to get back into the game, but they wouldn't quit working. I knew within the first three serves of the final set just by the way they walked on the court we would win."

The young Coahoma squad has quite a lot of talent that shines when the team is playing together.

Coahoma will face Sterling City and Lorraine Saturday in Sterling City.

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Serena Williams beats Venus at US Open to extend Slam bid

NEW YORK (AP) — For stretches of the 27th edition of Williams vs. Williams, Venus gave Serena all she could handle.

And when Serena took control down the stretch to emerge with a 6-2, 1-6, 6-3 victory in a well-played U.S. Open quarterfinal, allowing her to continue pursuing the first calendar-year Grand Slam in more than a quarter-century, a smiling Venus wrapped both arms around her little sister for a warm hug at the net and whispered, "So happy for you."

"Obviously we are very, very tough competitors on the court," Serena said later, "but once the match is over, the second it's done, you know, we're sisters, we're roommates, and we're all that."

Serena called their unique sibling rivalry "the greatest story in tennis," and who would argue? A couple of kids

taught by their dad on cement courts in Compton, California, making it all the way to the top.

With two more match wins, the No. 1-ranked Serena would become the first player since Steffi Graf in 1988 to collect all four Grand Slam titles in a single season. Plus, if she can win what would be her fourth U.S. Open in a row, and seventh overall, she would equal Graf with 22 major championships, the most in the professional era and second-most ever behind Margaret Court's 24.

"That would be huge, not just for me, but for my family, just for what it represents and how hard we have worked and where we come from. So it would be a moment for our family," said the 23rd-seeded Venus, who is 15 months older. "But at the same time, if it doesn't happen it's not going to make or break you. We

don't have anything to prove. She has nothing to prove. She's really the best ever."

Serena is 16-11 in their all-in-the-family matches, including 9-5 in majors and 3-2 at the U.S. Open. And 14 years to the day after Venus beat Serena in the 2001 final at Flushing Meadows, they met again with so much at stake.

Well-known folks such as Donald Trump — who was booed when shown on video screens

— Oprah Winfrey and Kim Kardashian dotted the teeming stands in Arthur Ashe Stadium, and the sellout crowd of 23,771 got its money's worth.

"They both played their best," said Serena's coach, Patrick Mouratoglou. "If they were feeling uncomfortable with playing each other, they could not play at that level."

The sisters combined for 57 winners (Serena had more, 35) and only

37 unforced errors (Venus had fewer, 15). How close was it? Serena won 76 points, Venus 75.

Both pounded serves fast, very fast, each topping 120 mph. Both returned well, oh so well, each managing to put into play at least one serve at more than 115 mph by the other.

Venus often attempted to end baseline exchanges quickly. Serena showed tremendous touch by using drop shots, one paired with a

backhand passing winner, another with a perfectly curled lob.

When a reporter implied he wasn't sure whether Venus really wanted to beat Serena, the reply was drenched with incredulity.

"I tried," Venus replied. "Were you there?"

On Thursday, Serena faces unseeded Robert Vinci of Italy, who reached her first Grand Slam semifinal at age 32 by outlasting Kristina Mladenovic 6-3, 5-7, 6-4.

ASTROS

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from, especially with a guy like Sonny on the mound."

Gray got through a 1-2-3 first on 11 pitches. Kazmir allowed two singles in the bottom half but escaped unscathed on a night when the game-time temperature of 87 degrees was the warmest at the Coliseum all season.

Houston left the bases loaded in the second after Carlos Gomez's lead-off double and a pair of one-out walks. Hank Conger struck out and Jake Marisnick fouled out.

The A's are doing their part to affect the playoff race after holding off the Astros 10-9 on Monday afternoon.

Jed Lowrie was back in Houston's starting lineup after resting for most of Monday, but went 0 for 4 with his first hitless game in the last eight. He batted .478 (11 for 23) with three home runs, four doubles and seven RBIs during that

stretch.

TRAINER'S ROOM
Athletics C Stephen Vogt had a second ultrasound on his injured groin area after taking a hard foul tip Sunday, and the latest test showed he won't need any procedure. He was home resting for the second straight day, expected to return to the ballpark Wednesday night. It's unclear when or if he will play again this year. ... OF Sam Fuld, who last played on Aug. 30 but hasn't batted since Aug. 25 as he deals with back spasms, could get into the game Wednesday in a defensive role or to pinch run but perhaps isn't quite ready to hit until the weekend. ... The A's recalled OF Craig Gentry and INF Max Muncy from Triple-A Nashville.

UP NEXT

Astros: RHP Collin McHugh (15-7) looks to win his third straight start when he pitches the series finale.

Athletics: RHP Aaron Brooks (1-2) tries for his first victory in three starts since being recalled Aug. 29.

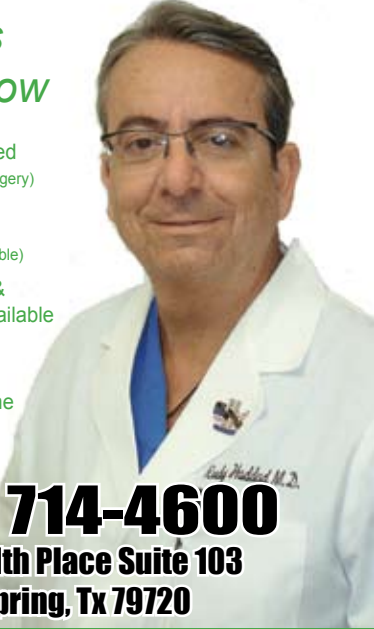
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Lawrence DeVold, MD, is now seeing patients Monday-Friday from 8 am to 5 pm at our new Shannon Clinic in Big Spring. After receiving his bachelor's degree from Baylor University, Dr. DeVold earned his medical degree from the Texas

Tech University School of Medicine. He completed his

family practice residency at Memorial Medical Center in Las Cruces, New Mexico. Dr. DeVold is fluent in Spanish. To schedule an appointment, call (325) 481-2074.

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