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H BIG SPRING HERALD

TUESDAY, JULY 26, 2016

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Gliders returning



HERALD file photo

The air above McMahon-Wrinkle Airpark will once again be dotted with some of the best hang glider pilots in the world when the United States Hang Gliding and Paragliding Association holds its annual national championships starting Aug. 6.

County approves burn ban

By **LYNDEL MOODY**
 Staff Writer

Howard County Commissioners issued a 90-day burn ban Monday following the recommendation by the county volunteer fire chief.

"Our fuel load in Howard County .. is the highest we've seen in 30 years," Howard County Volunteer Fire Chief Tommy Sullivan told commissioners during their bimonthly meeting. "In August I was going to ask for a burn ban, but after a 600 acre fire in Coahoma Saturday a week ago told me it was time to do that. There was still a lot of green but this fire ran a mile and half long and six miles wide."

"We are expecting to have a chance of rain tonight (Monday) or tomorrow but even with the rain, just know, with the temperatures in the 90 or 100 degrees the moisture is only going to last for three to seven days," he continued.

The ban will stay in effect until October, Sullivan said.

"This burn ban will not stop people for health and safety if they are burning trash at their house, but what it will do, it will give us the key if they are not burning by the burn ban rules – the barrels with no holes in it, tight screen on it, extinguisher with it and stay with it from the time it's lit until it is extinguished – if they fail to do that then they will be ticketed for failure to adhere to the burn ban for up to \$500."

Answering a question from one of the commissioners, Sullivan said he estimates the area's dead fuel (grass, leaves ect.) is down to less than 1 percent moisture and expects conditions for grass fires to worsen in the next few months.

In other business, trustees agreed to move the commissioners meeting from 5:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. effective at the next meeting. Citing a decline in attendance, down even when commissioners held their meeting at 10 a.m., Commissioner John Cline made the motion for the change.

Commissioners also approved:

- to bid out oil and gas leases for a piece of county-owned property.
- 10 pipeline crossing requests, six in District 4, three in District 1, and one in District 3.
- sick and longevity policies.
- employee and financial matters.
- Bids to re-roof the county annex building.



Sullivan

Howard College: Trustees OK bond restructuring

By **LYNDEL MOODY**
 Staff Writer

Howard College trustees gave the go-ahead to take the first steps to refinance the district's \$21.6 million 2007 General Obligation bond series Monday.

"We will have overall savings on our bonds and it lowers the interest and sinking rate. Right now based on the information we have, it will decrease the I&S about a cent," Howard College President Dr. Cheryl Sparks informed trustees on the impact the refinance will have on the bonds.

Trustees authorized Sparks and Howard College CFO Brenda Claxton to serve as pricing of-

ficers in the parameter sale of the bonds during their monthly board meeting. Essentially, Sparks and Claxton have authority to refinance the bond as long as they follow the parameters set by the trustees.

First Southwest out of Dallas is assisting in the refinance.

News the college may save some money on the refinance was welcomed by trustees who look to again deal with another brutal budget process in August.

Sparks informed trustees that the state has asked community



Sparks

colleges to submit their next legislative appropriation requests (LAR) with a 4 percent reduction.

On top of that, the district will see around a 15 percent drop in its property and mineral values tax base. Sparks said the projected final figures from the Howard County District Appraisal Office show the district values at \$2.67 billion, down from \$3.1 billion.

"We've been here before," Sparks said. "We have to start looking at our budget and how we respond to that. This is the preliminary time."

Sparks described the working budgets for the three campuses

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

Bill Clinton faces tougher crowd at convention

The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Bill Clinton was once the Democrats explainer-in-chief, electrifying the convention crowd with his support of President Barack Obama.

Today, he increasingly seems to be explaining himself.

In the four years since the party's last national convention, the center of gravity in Democratic politics has shifted decidedly to the left. Clinton must finesse some of his administration's biggest achievements, including a landmark free trade agreement and major criminal

justice law, lest his wife pay the price with the party's emboldened liberal base.

On Tuesday night, the former president will promote what aides say are his wife's lesser-known achievements, her early days as a child advocacy lawyer, her policy campaigns as first lady and work as senator from New York.

But his 10th consecutive convention address may require one of the toughest balancing acts of his career: separating his wife's legacy



Clinton

from his own.

"It's not just (Bernie) Sanders supporters who have concerns about the impacts of those policies," said Ben Jealous, a former head of the NAACP who endorsed the Vermont senator and now backs Clinton. "You look at this platform and in many ways it's a response to those policies."

There's little question Bill Clinton remains a beloved figure within the party; he's hosting a series of his own events during the convention, where top donors to his wife's campaign will fete him after his speech.

At the same time, some of

the key achievements of his administration formed the basis of rival Sanders' critique against his wife, particularly among younger voters — that she's too willing to compromise liberal ideals for political gain.

"His presidency was a little bit before my time," said Mike Cordaro, 29, of Blue-skin Township. "From what I know now, looking back, I'm really not a big fan."

Separating Bill Clinton's achievements from Hillary Clinton's record proved difficult for her campaign during the primary season, particu-

See **CLINTON**, Page 3

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Take note

• The biennial Forsan Reunion is scheduled for the first weekend in August, 5-6. Festivities kick off with a dinner for former students, teachers, parents and spouses at Spanish Inn. Following the dinner, all participants are invited to an open house reception in the banquet room at La Quinta Inn at 7:30 p.m. On Saturday, Aug. 6, reunion day activities begin at 9 a.m. in the Forsan School Cafeteria. A continental breakfast is provided at 9 a.m. followed by introductions and an invocation. At 1 p.m., Al's Bar-B-Que will cater the lunch.

• Bailey Pittman is raising money to go on an 11 month mission trip to 11 countries. It's called the The World Race with the non-denominational ministry, Adventures in Missions. She and her teammates will be living in tents most of that 11 months while serving the needy and spreading the Gospel. Despite the primitive conditions she needs to raise at least \$17,000 to join her mission team. Would you consider helping Bailey? If you want to donate directly to Bailey or follow her journey, see her blog at www.baileypittman.theworldrace.org. Also, Dr. David Ward is collecting for Bailey. Checks should be made to "Adventures in Missions" and also put "Bailey Pitman" on the note section of your check. You can mail or drop it by Dr. Ward's office at 1500 Scurry St.

• Seniors and mature adults are invited to a dance on the first, third and fifth Friday of each month at the Dora Roberts Community Center.

Dances are from 7:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. with live bands. No alcohol or smoking permitted. There will be a pot luck as well so bring a dish if you want to eat.

Cost is \$8 per person.

• The Howard County Fair quilters for the annual Quilt Fundraiser. For more information call Suzanne Markwell at 214-256-1674

Meetings

• The Big Spring Symphony Board of Directors meets every first Tuesday at 5:30 p.m. at the symphony office, 808 Scurry Street.

• The Kiwanis Club of Big Spring meets at noon every Thursday in the Cactus Room at Howard College. Visitors are welcome.

• 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.

• 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.

Volunteer opportunities

• The Scenic Mountain Medical Center volunteer program is in need of volunteers. A variety of opportunities are open for members of the community. For more information, call Anita Cline at 268-4721.

• The Big Spring State Hospital Volunteer Services Council is in need of volunteers to fill a variety of needs to assist the hospital's patients. Applications to become a volunteer can be picked up at The Chalet, 115 E. Second St., Tuesday through Saturday between 8 a.m. and 3 p.m. or at the Big Spring State Hospital Community Relations Department, 1901 N. Hwy 87, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Volunteers can assist with a variety of functions, including The Chalet Resale Shop, various fund-raisers and patient events. For more information, contact Dee Lindsey, Big Spring State Hospital Director of Community Relations, (432) 268-7535 or danielle.lindsey@dshs.state.tx.us

• Home Hospice is in need of volunteers of all ages. The organization is requesting volunteers to

visit patients. Volunteers set their own hours. For more information, contact Beverly Grant at 264-7599 or 432-967-0901.

• Mobile meals is in need of volunteer delivery drivers. If you would like to donate one hour per week to help deliver meals to the elderly, call Maria at 816-6474.

• Crossroads Hospice needs volunteers for patient care. Contact Eva at 263-5300.

• 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.

• 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.

COLLEGE

Continued from Page 1

— Big Spring, San Angelo and the SouthWest Collegiate Institute for the Deaf (SWCID) — as "tight," to trustees. According to Sparks, the Texas Association of Community Colleges plan to ask the state to restore the 4 percent reduction by having each college make a special item request.

Currently, officials are expected to present a deficit budget to trustees in August when they meet for the budget workshop.

In other business, trustees:

• Approved changes to administrative positions and new positions.

• Heard an update on the SWCID heating, ventilation and air conditioning system. Terry Hansen, chief facilities operations officer, said the \$1.9 million project was about 97 percent finished. Funding for the major upgrade came from state dollars and not from property tax.

• Approved the sale of five mobile homes that house student overflow at SWCID for \$1,100 each. The newly open SWCID Village, a group of cottages, will replace the need for the mobile homes. The homes which were

FEMA trailers from the Katrina disaster were purchased as a temporary measure to house the growing student population. Howard College received a variance from the city of Big Spring to place the trailers with the understanding they would be temporary until the college could find a permit solution.

• Approved a mineral lease for certain district-owned land to Rock Oil at \$3,500 per acre for a total of \$333,550.

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

CLINTON

Continued from Page 1

larly after years of the couple famously marketing themselves as "two for the price of one."

Clinton has made it clear that her husband will be playing a key role in her administration's economic policy, doing far more, she has said, than picking "the flowers and the china."

"It's an all-hands-on-deck time," she said in a weekend interview with CBS's "60 Minutes."

"And there's a lot that happened which helped the American people during those eight years."

But that period is now getting a skeptical re-examination within a party that's grown more liberal under the Obama administration.

Much of what Sanders supporters held against Clinton — her support for free trade, late backing of gay marriage and criminal justice reform — were positions of the Clinton administration. Sanders made reinstating Glass-Steagall, a Depression-era banking law repealed under Bill Clinton's administration, a central attack line of his campaign.

Those issues were seized upon by protesters who followed the Clintons across the country loudly denouncing the North American

Free Trade Agreement and the 1994 crime bill — two key pieces of Bill Clinton's legacy. Clinton himself has said that he regrets approving the Defense of Marriage Act and the "don't ask, don't tell" policy that banned gays and lesbians from military service.

He also has looked back with regret on signing the crime bill, which led to tougher sentencing for drug offenses.

Still, the attacks, which Clinton believed were stoked by Sanders, infuriated the former president, who was still calling top campaign staff to complain about Sanders' tactics long after it was clear the Vermont senator could

not capture the nomination.

And at times, despite efforts by campaign staff to limit him to smaller events and fundraising, Bill Clinton's free agent ways exploded into public. He sparred with Black Lives Matters protesters who interrupted his campaign speech in Philadelphia in April and sparked outrage for dropping in for a private chat with Attorney General Loretta Lynch while her Justice Department was investigating his wife's email server.

Clinton backers stress that the former president remains more of

an asset than a liability. They argue he's one of the most popular former presidents, is among the party's best fundraisers and is most effective messengers on her behalf.

"He's got to remind America of what a presidency under Donald Trump would look

like," said Maryland Rep. Elijah Cummings. "Nobody can do it better."

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Douglas Webster (D.W.) Overman, Jr., 80, died July 14, 2016 at his residence. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Denver Heffington, 31, died June 18, 2016 in Montana. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

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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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The Herald is always interested in our readers' opinions.

In order that we might better serve your needs, we offer several ways in which you may contact us:

- In person at 710 Scurry St.
- By telephone at 263-7331
- By fax at 264-7205
- By e-mail at newsdesk@bigspringherald.com.
- By mail at P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721

LETTER POLICIES

The Herald welcomes letters to the editor. We ask you to follow these guidelines:

- Sign your letter.
- Provide a daytime telephone number, as well as a street address for verification purposes.
- We reserve the right to edit for style and clarity.
- We reserve the right to limit publication to one letter per 30-day period per author.
- Letters that are unsigned or do not include a telephone number or address will not be considered.
- Letters should be e-mailed to editor@bigspringherald.com or mailed to Editor, Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721.

DAILY PRAYER

May we remain diligent about reading Your word, Lord, for our life.

Amen

One good week or bust

Hillary Clinton has never felt that lucky. Bill Clinton has always been the lucky one of the pair.

If Bill had been the Titanic, the iceberg would have sunk.

But now, after the Republican National Convention has come to a ragged end, the future is looking brighter for Hillary.

Even Bill Daley, who knows that in politics anything can happen and usually does, is allowing himself the luxury of optimism — in small doses.

"If she has a good week and she relaunches the thing, it could make the campaign," Daley said.

Just one good week. Just one good, solid, semi-ordinary week is all she needs to get her presidential campaign on the right track at the Democratic National Convention.

"After the convention, there is the Olympics and people are on vacation," Daley said. "Then from Labor Day, it's a nine-week dash with three debates. You get frozen for seven days before and after each debate."

Few people are better-qualified than Daley to understand how politics works — or doesn't work — in this country. He has run one presidential campaign (Al Gore's, in 2000), has served in one Cabinet (Bill Clinton's, as commerce secretary, from 1997 to 2000), has been a White House chief of staff (Barack Obama's, from 2011 to 2012) and is a member of one of America's last political dynasties (a 7-year-old when his father was elected mayor of Chicago and a 41-year-old when his brother gained that office).

He was the youngest child of seven. He liked hanging around at his father's elbow, and his father liked having him there. He listened and he learned.

"How could they be so stupid?" he said after watching the Republicans in Cleveland last week. "If they can't run the convention, how can they run the country?"

A fair question. And if the Democrats couldn't run their convention, what would it say about them?

It would say the candidates could not control their own campaigns and might not be

worth voting for. Hillary Clinton is experienced in political office, and Donald Trump is not, but public expectations will be about the same.

"Trump will drive the campaign," Daley said. "He will drive the agenda of it." Forget about staff. Trump is not going to listen to his staff. He got himself his nomination, he believes, not his staff.

And what will Clinton be watching?

"Do the minorities and young people come out?" Daley said. "That's Obama's base, and the data show he's pretty popular with it. It's about her. Do the women come out? Whatever new term for 'soccer mom' is, can Hillary motivate soccer moms?"

Clinton will use Trump to scare soccer moms — would you want to be stuck in an elevator with this guy? — and motivate them: A woman can become president, which is a good lesson for them and their daughters.

And all she needs is just one good week.

"She should win, but I don't underestimate what she faces," Daley said. "Obama has got to bring the blacks out."

And why should Obama bother?

"If she was to lose, Obamacare would be rolled back and immigration would be rolled back," Daley said, "but if she gets four or eight years, it's big, big, big for the president's legacy."

And just as Clinton will be wooing Hispanics, African-Americans and white suburban women, Trump will be wooing white men. (No Democratic president since Lyndon Johnson has won the white vote.)

But Trump's big problem is his success so far.

He believes he is a political genius, because how could anybody except a political genius go from not a single day of public service to the Republican nomination for president?

So his staff can get him to read an effective — if gloomy — speech for one evening. But after that?

"After that, if he goes back to 'Crooked Hillary' (as he did Monday), it doesn't work," Daley said. "Trump is counting on fear — 'law and order' and everything inherent in that phrase: 'Crime is coming for you.' It worked for Nixon, but how much has it worked since then?"

And the group that is Trump's core — white men — is shrinking, Daley said. "And if soccer

moms stick with her, then it's tough for Trump to pull it off." Daley is fearful of what might happen if Trump were to start to attract libertarians, "but it's hard to believe they will become archconservatives," he said.

And the key to it all? This one solid week — the week of the Democratic convention.

"Her convention has to be positive," Daley said. "No craziness, all united, good speeches by Obama and Michelle, solid support by Bernie Sanders that will contrast with Ted Cruz — with that, it's hard to think she will lose."

Today Daley is the partner in a hedge fund. Someday he could be secretary of the treasury — if Clinton wins.

And when the first day of the week was over, Clinton had what she wanted. There was no craziness. Michelle Obama did a spectacular job. And Sanders came through.

"I think Sanders did a good job," Daley said late Monday night. "I don't know what more he could have done. If (the battle with Clinton's forces) dies tonight, she can get back in control of the week."

In his speech, Sanders said: "We need leadership in this country which will improve the lives of working families, the children, the elderly, the sick and the poor. We need leadership which brings our people together and makes us stronger — not leadership which insults Latinos and Mexicans, insults Muslims and women, African-Americans and veterans and seeks to divide us up."

"By these measures, any objective observer will conclude that based on her ideas and her leadership, Hillary Clinton must become the next president of the United States."

After Trump's acceptance speech last week, in which he attacked what he said is Clinton's legacy of "death, destruction, terrorism and weakness," she tweeted in reply: "We are better than this."

There's one way to prove it.

Roger Simon is Politico's chief political columnist. His new e-book, "Reckoning: Campaign 2012 and the Fight for the Soul of America," can be found on Amazon.com, BN.com and iTunes. To find out more about Roger Simon and read features by other Creators writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators webpage at www.creators.com.

LOL at the DNC

state had the nomination in the bag anyway?

Lord Acton had it right when he said that power tends to corrupt and absolute power corrupts absolutely.

Consider the DNC debates. In January, Republicans had scheduled 11 debates, Democrats had scheduled six. Wasserman Shultz maintained that the DNC schedule was designed to "maximize the opportunity for voters to see our candidates." Really? Half of those six debates were scheduled during week-ends — one on the Sunday of the three-day Martin Luther King Day weekend. No one schedules a political debate for a weekend unless the goal is to decrease viewership.

Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders agreed to a California debate before the state's June 7 primary — The San Francisco Chronicle had hoped to be a co-sponsor — but Clinton declined.

The newly released-by WikiLeaks emails included correspondence by DNC Communications Director Luis Miranda who forwarded a copy of a press release on Sanders' acceptance of the invitation with the editorial comment, "lol." That's why Wasserman Schultz had to go. When an institution lies to its members even though leaders are fully aware that no one is being fooled, it is time for regime change.

Democrats have every reason to rage against the Democratic National Committee:

Newly leaked DNC

memos confirm that Donald Trump was right when he said the party machine was "rigged" in Hillary Clinton's favor. The latest CNN/ORC poll shows that 68 percent of voters think Clinton is not "honest and trustworthy."

As a Republican unhappy with the Trump nomination, I at least can take heart in the knowledge that GOP leaders tried in their fashion to stop The Donald's surge. Democrats have to live with the fact that their party leaders engineered the primaries and debates to hand Miss Unpopularity the nod on purpose.

"She won by over 3 million votes," Clinton booster Lanny Davis observed over the phone, "so if the staff of the DNC was leaning or favoring to Hillary Clinton, it probably didn't have much effect on that total."

Copy that. Which begs the question: Why did DNC Chairwoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz throw the full weight of her machine behind Clinton when the former secretary of



ROGER SIMON



DEBRA SAUNDERS

News in brief

History and hostility as Clinton ascends to nomination

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — A glass ceiling is shattering at the Democratic National Convention as Hillary Clinton ascends to the presidential nomination with Tuesday's roll call of the states, making her the first woman to lead a major party into a White House race.

But as history is being made, hostility is being heard, too. Rhetorically, at least, die-hard Bernie Sanders' supporters also are breaking some glass, loudly protesting his treatment by the party and still cold to Clinton even as Sanders appeals for Democrats to unify and defeat Republican Donald Trump, "a bully and a demagogue."

What was expected to be a tightly orchestrated convention, run with all the professionalism and experience that were lacking at Trump's often-chaotic affair in Ohio, instead showed its rough edges in the early going, starting with chants of "Bernie" during the opening invocation and boos at numerous mentions of Clinton's name.

First lady Michelle Obama gave a heartfelt endorsement of the candidate who engaged her husband in a fierce struggle for the nomination in 2008. "I trust Hillary to lead this country," she said in a speech that provided a parent's-eye view of the White House and its power.

Liberal favorite Elizabeth Warren, senator from Massachusetts, and Sanders himself also gave the party something to cheer about Monday night.

Letter foretold Japan rampage that killed 19 disabled people

SAGAMIHARA, Japan (AP) — A young Japanese man went on a stabbing rampage Tuesday at a facility for the mentally disabled where he had been fired, police said, killing 19 people months after he gave a letter to Parliament outlining the bloody plan and saying all disabled people should be put to death.

When he was done, Satoshi Uematsu, 26, had left dead or injured nearly a third of the almost 150 patients at the facility in a matter of 40 minutes in the early Tuesday attack, the deadliest mass killing in Japan in decades, authorities said. Twenty-five were wounded, 20 of them seriously.

Security camera footage played on TV news programs showed a man driving up in a black car and carrying several knives to the Tsukui Yamayuri-en facility in Sagami-hara, 50 kilometers (30 miles) west of Tokyo. The man broke in by shattering a window at 2:10 a.m., according to a prefectural health official, and then set about slashing the patients' throats.

Details of how he did that, and if the victims were asleep or otherwise helpless, were not immediately known, although a letter he sent to Japan's Parliament in February gave a peek into Uematsu's dark turmoil.

He calmly turned himself in about two hours after the attack, police said.

German officials vow more checking of migrants after attacks

BERLIN (AP) — Top security officials in Germany called Tuesday for tougher security screening of asylum-seekers and also announced that more police officers will be hired following four attacks in the country — two of them claimed by the extremist Islamic State group.

Horst Seehofer, the interior minister of Bavaria — where three of last week's attacks took place — told the daily Sueddeutsche Zeitung Tuesday: "We must know who is in our country."

Thomas Strobl, the interior minister of Baden-Wuerttemberg — where

a woman was killed by a Syrian attacker Sunday — also demanded a tougher stance toward asylum-seekers.

"Those who abuse the right to hospitality must go back to their home countries — make no mistake about it," Strobl told Funke media group.

Three of the attacks were carried out by recent immigrants, rekindling concerns about Germany's ability to cope with the estimated 1 million migrants registered entering the country last year.

2 attackers, 1 hostage killed in Normandy church attack

PARIS (AP) — Two attackers seized hostages in a church near the Normandy city of Rouen on Tuesday, killing one hostage by slitting their throat before being killed by police, a security official said.

The identities of the attackers and motive for the attack are unclear, according to the official, who was not authorized to be publicly named.

French President Francois Hollande and Interior Minister Bernard Cazeneuve are en route to the town of Saint-Etienne-en-Rouvray where the hostage-taking took place, Interior Ministry spokesman Pierre-Henry Brandet said on France-Info radio.

Anti-terrorism investigators have been summoned in the case, Brandet said.

The incident comes as France is under high alert after an attack in Nice that killed 84 people and a string of deadly attacks last year claimed by the Islamic State group. France is also under a state of emergency and has extra police presence in the wake of the July 14 Nice attack.

Mom: Warning didn't keep slain son safe at Florida nightclub

FORT MYERS, Fla. (AP) — Stephanie White clutched a stack of photos while sitting in a chair in her home. The television was on, loud, and turned to the local news. A story came on about the mass shooting at a nightclub that took her baby's life.

"My son," said White, tired and dejected Monday afternoon. She waved a hand at the television. "There's another picture of him."

Her son was one of two teenagers killed early Monday at Club Blu, the latest in a string of mass shootings across the nation this summer. With the Orlando massacre at the Pulse nightclub still fresh on her mind, White had advised her 18-year-old on what to do if there was a shooting: "Hit the floor; find a table."

But when gunfire erupted in the parking lot of the Fort Myers club, 18-year-old Stefan Strawder didn't have anywhere to hide. He was killed along with a 14-year-old boy, and 17 people ranging in age from 12 to 27 were wounded during the swimsuit-themed party for teens.

"I told him to look for all the exits if any kind of shooting would go off, to hit the floor, find a table and get out of the way ... because I thought about the people in Orlando. That was a big thing," White told The Associated Press.

Historic solar flight marks first round-the-world journey

ABU DHABI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — The world's first round-the-world flight to be powered solely by the sun's energy made history on Tuesday as it landed in Abu Dhabi, where it first took off on an epic 25,000-mile (40,000-kilometer) journey that began more than a year ago.

Since its March 2015 take off, the Swiss-engineered Solar Impulse 2 has made 16 stops across the world without using a drop of fuel to demonstrate that using the plane's clean technologies on the ground can halve

the world's energy consumption, save natural resources and improve quality of life.

After landing the plane, pilot Bertrand Piccard was greeted outside the cockpit by his Solar Impulse partner and fellow pilot Andre Borschberg. They hugged and pumped their fists in the air.

"The future is clean. The future is you. The future is now. Let's take it further," Piccard said, speaking through a microphone to applause and cheers from a crowd that included Prince Albert of Monaco.

The aircraft is uniquely powered by 17,248 solar cells that transfer energy to four electrical motors that power the plane's propellers. It runs on four lithium polymer batteries at night. The plane's wingspan stretches 236 feet (72 meters) to catch the sun's energy.

Jordan deal with donors means legal work for Syria refugees

RAMTHA, Jordan (AP) — Syrian refugee Fawaz al-Jasem used to drop his tools and run when he saw police approaching the farm in northern Jordan where he has been picking vegetables for the past three years.

Now he works without fear of arrest.

He is among some 23,000 Syrians given work permits this year as part of Jordan's promise to the international community to put 50,000 refugees to work legally in 2016 in return for low-interest loans and easier access to European markets.

"Before we got work permits it was like we were in prison," said the 34-year-old al-Jasem, pulling weeds in a tomato field, a New York Yankees baseball cap shielding his face. "Now we are free to come and work as we wish."

Jordan's deal with donor countries, reached earlier this year, is aimed in part at deterring Syrians from moving on to Europe, as hundreds of thousands have done, and keeping them in the region with a promise of jobs and education for their children.

Kerry: Progress with Russia on Syria despite military doubts

VIENTIANE, Laos (AP) — U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry said progress is being made with Russia on a potential military partnership that could strengthen a faltering truce in Syria despite grave doubts expressed by the Pentagon and joint chiefs of staff.

Speaking Tuesday after meeting Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov in Laos, Kerry made no promises of success but said he hoped discussions with Russia could produce a tangible result in the next week to 10 days.

"My hope would be that somewhere in early August — the first week or so, somewhere in there — we would be in a position to be able stand up in front of you and tell you what we're able to do with the hopes that it can make a difference to the lives of people in Syria and to the course of the war," he said.

His comments followed remarks from Defense Secretary Ash Carter on Monday in which he said Kerry's efforts with Russia have been complicated by the fact that Russia is focused mainly on supporting the Syrian government, which he said has had the effect of prolonging the civil war.

"We had hoped that they would promote a political solution and transition to put an end to the civil war, which is the beginning of all this violence in Syria, and then combat extremists rather than moderate opposition, which has to be part of that transition," Carter said at a Pentagon news conference with Gen. Joseph Dunford, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. "So they're a long way from doing that."

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DIVIDED AMERICA

Town and country offer differing American realities



AP Photo/Brennan Linsley

In this June 30, 2016 photo, a rainbow arcs in the sky on the road from Pueblo, Colo., to Rocky Ford, Colo., in Otero County. Two different economic worlds are writ large in Colorado. It is among the states with the greatest economic gap between urban and rural areas, according to an Associated Press review of Economic Innovation Group data; Virginia, South Carolina and Florida are the others.

EDITOR'S NOTE — This story is part of *Divided America*, AP's ongoing exploration of the economic, social and political divisions in American society.

By **NICHOLAS RICCARDI**
Associated Press

ROCKY FORD, Colo. — From where Peggy Sheahan stands, deep in rural Colorado, the last eight years were abysmal.

Otero County, where Sheahan lives, is steadily losing population. Middle-class jobs vanished years ago as pickling and packing plants closed. She's had to cut back on her business repairing broken windshields to help nurse her husband after a series of farm accidents, culminating in his breaking his neck falling from a bale of hay. She collects newspaper clippings on stabbings and killings in the area — one woman's body was found in a field near Sheahan's farm — as heroin use rises.

"We are so worse off, it's unbelievable," said Sheahan, 65, a staunch conservative who plans to vote for Donald Trump.

In Denver, 175 miles to the northwest, things are going better for Andrea Pacheco. Thanks to the Supreme Court, the 36-year-old could finally marry her partner, Jen Winters, in June. After months

navigating Denver's super-heated housing market, they snapped up a bungalow at the edge of town. Pacheco supports Hillary Clinton to build on President Barack Obama's legacy.

"There's a lot of positive things that happened — obviously the upswing in the economy," said Pacheco, a 36-year-old fundraiser for nonprofits. "We were in a pretty rough place when he started out and I don't know anyone who isn't better off eight years later."

But then, she doesn't know Peggy Sheahan, and that makes sense: There are few divides in the United States greater than that between rural and urban places. Town and country represent not just the poles of the nation's two political parties, but different economic realities that are transforming the 2016 presidential election.

Cities are trending Democratic and are on an upward economic shift, with growing populations and rising property values. Rural areas are increasingly Republican, steadily shedding population for decades, and as commodity and energy prices drop, increasingly suffering economically.

The political divide goes even deeper than simply between the two parties. In the GOP primary, rural areas

voted reliably for Trump and Texas Sen. Ted Cruz, whose angrier style of politics many analysts argued were too harsh and off-putting to play well with a broader electorate. Urban and suburban Republicans were more likely to support candidates widely seen as more electable like Florida Sen. Marco Rubio or Ohio Gov. John Kasich.

"The urban-rural split this year is larger than anything we've ever seen," said Scott Reed, a political strategist for the U.S. Chamber of Commerce who has advised previous GOP campaigns.

While plenty of cities still struggle with endemic poverty and joblessness, a report from the Washington-based Economic Innovation Group found that half of new business growth in the past four years has been concentrated in 20 populous counties.

"More and more economic activity is happening in cities as we move to higher-value services playing a bigger role in the economy," said Ross Devol, chief researcher at the Milken Institute, an independent economic think tank. "As economies advance, economic activity just tends to concentrate in fewer and fewer places."

That concentration has brought a whole host of new urban problems — rising inequality, traffic and wor-

ries that the basics of city life are increasingly out of the reach of the middle class. Those fears inform Democrats' emphasis on income inequality, wages and pay equity in contrast to the general anxiety about economic collapse that comes from Republicans who represent an increasingly desperate rural America.

Meanwhile, rural areas have been especially slow to recover from the Great Recession that began in 2008: The most recent study by the U.S. Department of Agriculture found that, as of 2014, rural areas still had not regained all the jobs lost in the recession while metropolitan areas had. Three-quarters of what EIG classifies as the nation's economically distressed ZIP codes are in rural areas. An Associated Press analysis of EIG data found that the economies of central cities suffer slightly less now than in 2000, while those of areas that house the majority of the nation's rural population have grown worse.

"A lot of these communities are wondering what are we going to do and to some extent Donald Trump is talking to that," said the Milken Institute's Devol. "They're not part of the modern global economy. They feel like they've been left behind through no fault of their own."

These two different economic worlds are writ large in Colorado. It is among the states with the greatest economic gap between urban and rural areas, according to an Associated Press review of EIG data (Virginia, South Carolina and Florida are the others).

The state's sprawling metropolitan areas from Denver to Colorado Springs is known as the Front Range. As it has grown to include nearly 90 percent of the state's population, it has trended Democratic. Rural areas, which have become more Republican, resent Denver's clout. In 2013, a rural swath of the state unsuccessfully tried to se-

cede to create its own state of Northern Colorado after the Democratic-controlled state-house passed new gun control measures and required rural areas to use renewably generated electricity.

"There's a lack of interest in both parties — in urban, rural communities — in knowing what the others' needs are," said Jim Rizzuto, president of Otero Junior College.

Bill Hendren certainly feels left behind, which is why he's a Trump backer.

"I don't ever see a president caring about anyone who's living paycheck to paycheck — if they did they'd have put the construction people back to work," Hendren said. "Trump's got the elite scared because he doesn't belong to them."

Hendren is effectively homeless. His pickup truck was stolen 18 months ago. In a city this would be less of a problem because he could get around by public transportation or even Uber, but in Otero County he can no longer perform the odd jobs at farms and houses that had supported him for years. He's living temporarily rent-free in an old cottage on a small rural property that relies on a Franklin stove for heat.

Piled up in the front room are carvings of dragons from a downed tree limb that he sells at the local trading post, along with what he calls his "redneck signs" — hand-carved posts with warnings like "I Call 911 After the Gun is Empty." He keeps in a pouch a molar that he had to pull out himself when it started to hurt him last winter, and his spare change — a little over \$4 — in a clear plastic cup.

Hendren, 55, once worked in Texas nightclubs but there's nothing comparable in Otero County, where the largest town has a population of 6,900.

"There ain't nothing here," he said. "There's nothing."

Otero County and other far-flung rural areas face an uphill battle against geography. Economic development officials say businesses increasingly relocate to areas close to international airports, putting far-flung parts of the country at a natural disadvantage. For more than a generation, young people have streamed out of Otero County and the rest of rural America

See, **DIVIDED**, Page 7

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At left, Bill Hendren tends to goats on the property of a landowner who is allowing him to stay rent-free for a year in exchange for work, outside Manzanola, Colo. Otero County and other far-flung rural areas face an uphill battle against geography. Economic development officials say businesses increasingly relocate to areas close to international airports, putting far-flung parts of the country at a natural disadvantage. Pictured right, patrons sit in a coffee shop in the trendy RINO neighborhood of Denver. The city is one of the fastest-growing in the nation, with a 3.3 percent unemployment rate and a housing market that has risen 45 percent since 2012. Once dependent on the energy industry for jobs, the city has diversified its economy enough that the recent downturn in fuel prices has barely hampered a booming economy powered by technology and health care jobs.



AP Photos/Brennan Linsley

DIVIDED

Continued from Page 6

looking for higher education, upwardly mobile jobs and excitement in cities.

Otero economic development officials have lured some light manufacturing over the years; locals are excited that their first brewpub will open in the county seat of La Junta, while others in the hamlet of Manzanola are rehabbing downtown's old, stately brick buildings.

Still, this checkerboard of alfalfa and melon fields hugging the Arkansas River as it tumbles across the high plains toward Kansas has lost more than a quarter of its population since its peak at 25,000 in 1950.

That stands in sharp contrast with the rest of Colorado, which is one of the fastest-growing states in the nation. Most of the population growth is concentrated in the stretch along the Rocky Mountain foothills around Denver. Esther Padilla and her family used to sell their fruit there more than a decade ago and would gape at the new houses, strip malls and subdivisions being built.

"It's grown big time," Padilla said, "but us, we're still in the same boat." Nationally the picture is the same. The years between 2010 and 2015 accounted for the first-ever net population loss for rural America — rural areas lost 33,000 residents annually until last year, when losses slowed to about 3,000, according to the Department of Agriculture. Meanwhile, the U.S. population grew by 12 million during that time, largely in metropolitan areas:

- New York City's population grew by 375,000 between 2010 and 2015 while population in the largely rural areas outside the city's suburbs shrank by 14,000.

- In Virginia, the northern part of the state that serves as Washington D.C.'s commuter suburb accounts for three-fifths the state's population growth, while counties in its rural southwestern edges are shrinking.

- Half of North Carolina's recent population growth came from the counties that include Charlotte and Raleigh-Durham while 48 rural counties actually lost population there.

Those shifts have put North Carolina, Virginia and Colorado in play during presidential elections, and Democrats see the population shift to cities as helping them against Trump. While the majority of voters live in suburbs and exurbs between the parties' two poles, the differing economies of town and country are helping shape the election.

A common complaint across rural America is that big cities don't understand their issues and get all the resources (though political scientists Gerald Gamm and Thad Kousser published a paper in 2013 that found that rural representatives had more suc-

cess passing bills in state legislatures than did their city colleagues).

"If we had one-tenth of one percent of tax revenue that went down that railroad track out here our roads would be super highways, the yellow lines would be gold," said Jimmy Simpkins, a retired coal miner in West Virginia's Mingo County. "The politicians took our money and took it to Charleston and to Washington D.C. You go up there and they have the finest of roads, the finest of everything."

Southeastern Colorado's precious water is often diverted to keep green the lawns of the Front Range's mushrooming suburbs, limiting the amount of farming in Otero and its neighboring counties. Residents are painfully aware that they lack the numbers, and corresponding political clout, of Colorado's urbanites.

Kevin Karney, an Otero County commissioner, noted that the state Department of Transportation doesn't plow Otero's roads in the winter overnight, because its crews have been shifted to keep snow-free the interstate running from Denver to Colorado's ski resorts. "It's like rural Colorado doesn't matter," Karney said.

Eric Van Dyk feels overlooked. The 40-year-old farms as a labor of love — he works fields of hay, corn and small grains, then hustles to the town of Rocky Ford where he teaches agriculture at the local high school to pay the bills. The running joke in the region is that farmers have to have a day job to support their hobby.

"A new tractor is \$150,000 and up and the price of corn is still what it was in the 1980s," Van Dyk said.

Van Dyk is happy with his rural life — its quiet, close community ties and a connection with the land that an urbanite who dines at organic restaurants will never fathom. But he's aghast at what he sees as a rising number of people in his county relying on food stamps rather than hard work but acknowledges it's tough to make a living in Otero County.

"A four-year degree doesn't guarantee more than \$28,000," he said. To make more money, people head to the city

Denver is one of the fastest-growing cities in the nation, with a 3.3 percent unemployment rate and a housing market that has risen 45 percent since 2012. Once dependent on the energy industry for jobs, the city has diversified its economy enough that the recent downturn in fuel prices has

barely hampered a booming economy powered by technology and health care jobs.

"We have become a global competitor," said Tom Clark, chief executive officer of the Metro Denver Economic Development Corp. "Now we're competing with Dublin. We're competing with cities in Spain, we're competing with Japan."

Still, Denver and cities like it around the country grapple with economic anxieties that are completely different from those of Otero County farmers. Rafael Espinoza is an architect who was elected to Denver's city council last year as part of a group of candidates questioning the value of Denver's runaway growth. Espinoza has seen his neighborhood of modest bungalows occupied by largely Latino families abruptly transformed into a collection of condominiums housing affluent professionals. He worries that the character of the city has changed.

"Money just drives the discussion. In the presidential, Bernie Sanders was my guy for that one reason," Espinoza said.

All the money pouring into cities is creating new problems. A Brookings Institute study last year found the nation's largest cities have higher rates of income inequality than the nation as a whole. Predominantly city-based Democratic congressional districts have higher rates of inequality than Republican ones, according to a review of Census data. Rising rents and displacement of longtime residents is a typical urban worry from Seattle to Miami.

Richard Florida, a prominent urban theorist, argues that living in a booming city, with its high cost of living,

can be tougher than living in a slowly depopulating rural area. "People in urban and rural areas are living very different lives and experiencing the world very differently," Florida said.

Rural areas have their occasionally homeless, like Bill Hendren, but the problem has soared in increasingly expensive cities like Denver. Shelters there report a sharp rise in population, even among working people who suddenly can't find a place to rent.

Robin Sam, 62, who has lived on disability for decades after being injured in warehouse work, fell through the widening cracks in the rental market himself. He'd counted on leaving his previous apartment for one in an apartment complex built in his old neighborhood, Denver's historically black but rapidly-gentrifying five points. But the complex — located across the street from a library named after Sam's uncle — told Sam at the last minute that they were raising the rent on the unit to more than the \$1,055 his Section 8 voucher would permit him to pay.

Three years ago, the last time Sam was between apartments, it took him two weeks to find a new place. It's been more than six months now.

"I feel like I'm being pushed out," said Sam, who is black. He recalls houses and apartments being barred to blacks in his youth decades ago, but senses something else at play now.

"It's money — and money changes everything," he said.

Associated Press reporter Julie Bykovicz in Washington, D.C., and Claire Galafaro in West Virginia, and data journalist Angeliki Kastanis in Los Angeles contributed to this report.

The most recent study by the U.S. Department of Agriculture found that, as of 2014, rural areas still had not regained all the jobs lost in the recession while metropolitan areas had. Three-quarters of what EIG classifies as the nation's economically distressed ZIP codes are in rural areas. An Associated Press analysis of EIG data found that the economies of central cities suffer slightly less now than in 2000, while those of areas that house the majority of the nation's rural population have grown worse.

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El Capitan's heroics walk off A's

Beltre hits second homer in 9th, rallies Rangers past A's 7-6

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — Adrian Beltre got the fastball he wanted.

Beltre's second home run of the game was a two-run shot on the first pitch from Ryan Madson with two outs in the ninth inning, and it rallied the Texas Rangers past the Oakland Athletics 7-6 Monday night for their third straight win.

"He's a really good pitcher, really good change-up," Beltre said. "I was hoping that he would throw me something over the plate that I could drive, and that's exactly what he did."

Madson was feeling good after converting all four save opportunities since the All-Star break, while Oakland was winning seven of 10 games.

"A good fastball-guy, really good fastball," Madson said. "Maybe I was being a little bullheaded, trying to beat him instead of putting it in a good place."

"The heater I had for the last whole week, I was confident in it. It just happened to end up middle-middle to a fastball-hitting guy."

Madson had his sixth blown save in 27 opportunities.

Ian Desmond homered early for the Rangers. They increased their AL West lead for the first time since June 26, to 3 1/2 games over Houston.

Beltre, who finished with four hits, had two singles in his first three at-bats before hitting a solo



AP Photo/LM Otero
Texas Rangers Adrian Beltre, right, gets doused by teammate Elvis Andrus after Beltre hit a game winning two run homer during the ninth inning of a baseball game against the Oakland Athletics in Arlington, Texas, Monday, July 25, 2016. The Rangers won 7-6.

See **RANGERS**, Page 14

Keuchel outpitched as Astros lose 2-1

HOUSTON (AP) — Dallas Keuchel had another strong outing for the Houston Astros on Monday night. He just needed more help than George Springer's leadoff homer.

Austin Romine hit a tie-breaking double in the eighth inning to make a winner of Michael Pineda, and the New York Yankees' bullpen did just fine without star closer Aroldis Chapman in a 2-1 victory over the Astros.

Hours after New York traded Chapman to the Chicago Cubs, All-Star relievers Dellin Betances and Andrew Miller closed out Houston to help the fourth-place Yankees (51-48) move three games above .500 for the first time this season.

Betances struck out the side in the eighth before Miller, back in the ninth-inning role following Chapman's departure, earned his eighth save. The fired-up lefty pumped his fist when he got Carlos Gomez

to ground into a game-ending double play with two on.

A frustrated Gomez kicked his helmet and spiced at the ground after he was out at first base.

"That's sort of how they drew up their pitching," Houston manager A.J. Hinch said. "They have really good arms, and they had really good nights. We had a hard time solving them except for the first pitch of the game."

Pineda (5-9) pitched seven strong innings to beat Keuchel (6-10), the Yankees nemesis who won last year's AL Cy Young Award.

Keuchel gave up two runs and six hits with five strikeouts in 7 2/3 innings. He has allowed two runs or fewer in four straight starts.

"He was pretty good," Hinch said. "I thought the finish on his pitches were good. I thought the command of his pitches were good."

The left-hander retired 13 of his first 14 batters. The only hit he gave up was Romine's single in the third until Didi Gregorius' double in the fifth.

"I felt like today was the first time even through this whole stretch that I was able to command both sides of the plate," Keuchel said. "Fastballs to both sides. The only thing lacking were a few sliders to Romine."

Luis Valbuena had three hits for Houston, which had won four straight. Top prospect Alex Bregman went 0 for 4 with two strikeouts in his major league debut.

"Not as planned because we didn't win, but I had a lot of fun," Bregman said. "It's pretty awesome playing in the big leagues."

Springer's fifth leadoff home run of the year was the 11th for the Astros this season, surpassing the previous club record of 10 set in 2001.

Romine's double to deep center field scored Chase Headley, who singled to start the eighth.

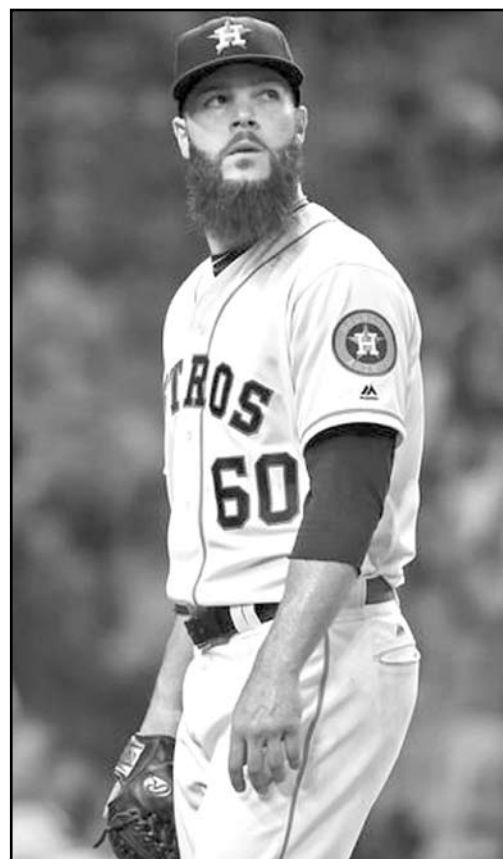
Headley singled in the fifth to drive in Gregorius, tying it at 1.

Pineda allowed five hits and struck out eight in his second straight solid outing after throwing six scoreless innings Wednesday.

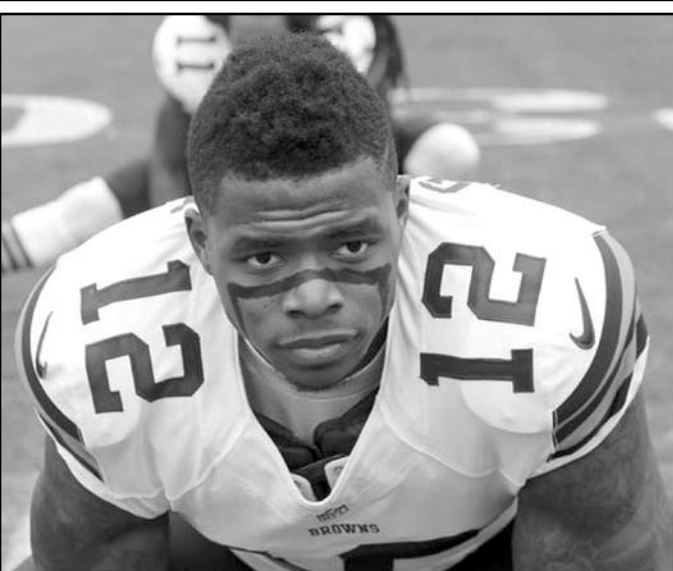
The big right-hander retired 14 of 15 during one stretch, but ran into trouble in the sixth. He loaded the bases with two outs before Bregman flied out to the right-field warning track.

"He obviously threw the ball well," Springer said. "You have to tip your cap."

TRAINER'S ROOM
Astros: INF Marwin Gonzalez sat out after spraining his left ankle in the fifth inning Sunday. "He's doing OK," Hinch said. "We are keeping him out of some baseball activities to monitor his ankle. We'll give him the day off."



AP Photo/Eric Christian Smith
Houston Astros starting pitcher Dallas Keuchel walks to the dugout after striking out New York Yankees' Didi Gregorius to end the top of the seventh inning of a baseball game, Monday, July 25, 2016, in Houston.



AP Photo/Bob Leverone, File

Ex-Baylor star WR reinstated by NFL

CLEVELAND (AP) — Josh Gordon's curious and complicated career has taken a new turn.

He's getting yet another chance.

The talented but troubled wide receiver has been reinstated on a conditional basis by NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell, who met face to face with Gordon last week and said he believes the 25-year-old can "make the right choices" going forward.

Gordon has been banned since February 2015 for multiple violations of the

league's drug policies. He will be suspended for the first four games of the 2016-17 season, but he's allowed to join the team in its upcoming training camp and can participate in meetings and conditioning work.

The league said once Gordon meets clinical requirements, he can take part in preseason activities, including practices and games. The Browns have their first practice of training camp Friday.

It's a fresh start for

See **GORDON**, Page 14

Texans star Watt on PUP list after back surgery

HOUSTON (AP) — The Houston Texans have put star defensive end J.J. Watt on the physically unable to perform list less than a week before training camp begins.

The move, which was expected, comes after Watt recently had back surgery. The NFL sacks leader last season with 17 1/2 is expected to be ready for the season opener.

The 27-year-old Watt played last season with a herniated disk and spent most of the offseason recovering after surgery to repair a groin injury in January. Last season, Watt helped the Texans to their first playoff berth since 2012.

NFL, players union announce new concussion protocol

NEW YORK (AP) — The NFL and the players association have announced a new policy regarding game-day concussion protocol and discipline for clubs that violate the procedure.

Under the new policy jointly announced Monday, the NFL and NFLPA "will follow a strict and fair process to investigate incidents and determine appropriate discipline, including club fines and possible forfeiture of draft picks."

The league and the players union will each designate a representative to monitor the implementation of the proto-

col and investigate potential violations. The probe won't reach medical conclusions; it will only determine if the protocol was followed. An arbitrator will handle cases where the league and union disagree and report to the commissioner.

Commissioner Roger Goodell retains sole discretion in determining penalties for violations of the game-day concussion protocol.

A first breach will require club employees or medical team members involved to

See **NFL**, Page 14

Cubs get Chapman in first big deal before deadline

CHICAGO (AP) — Before the Chicago Cubs completed a trade for Aroldis Chapman, owner Tom Ricketts and president of baseball operations Theo Epstein decided they had to hear from the closer himself about a domestic violence allegation in the offseason.

So Ricketts and Epstein asked Major League Baseball for a window to speak with the left-hander, and they got him on the phone Monday. When the conversation was over, the blockbuster deal was on.

Chasing their first World Series title since 1908, the Cubs

addressed one of their few weaknesses by sending a pricey package of four players to the New York Yankees for Chapman, one of the most dominant relievers in the game, but one who also comes with some risk for a franchise riding a positive wave.

"This is a game-changer. Aroldis Chapman is a game-changing-type pitcher in the post-season," Epstein said. "As you sit around and game plan how you're going to win a big game or how you're going to win a postseason game, it makes it look a lot easier when you see

him there on your lineup card."

Chapman is expected to join the Cubs for Tuesday night's game at the Crosstown White Sox.

For the Yankees, it was a rare July trade that saw the best player in the deal leaving New York. But Chapman is eligible for free agency after this season, New York also has All-Stars Andrew Miller and Dellin Betances in the bullpen, and its haul included top shortstop prospect Gleyber Torres, versatile pitcher Adam Warren and minor league outfielders Billy McKinney and Rashad Crawford.

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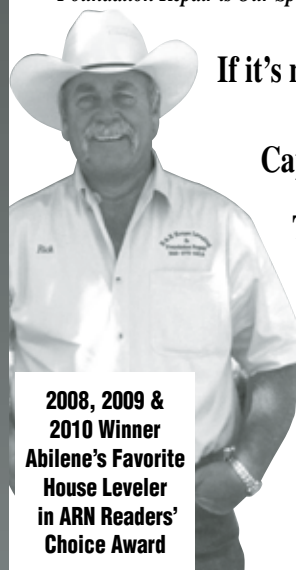
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Tomorrow's Horoscope



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Luxe Lunar Energy

The Taurus moon takes over with commercial intent that favors those who happen to make money from selling luxury. The high-end items suddenly seem worth every penny, regardless of whether or not we actually have said pennies. Financial self-restraint may be hard to come by, but it's worth striving for. Avoid using credit.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You keep saying that you could do better if you were given the right circumstances. Well, you'll give yourself those circumstances through saying "yes" and saying "no" to things today.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You are not bored by other people, though you might be bored by the same people (possibly the person you live inside) in the same circumstance you've seen again and again. You'll most

certainly do something about this.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). The project before you is exciting. Don't let your excitement cause you to rush. Leave a good amount of space between the different stages of work. It will help you to refine and improve as you go.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Good news. Though you'll be very out of your element for a period of this day, there is no need to study or watch another person in order to know what to do. The right answers come to you by nature.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). The idea that was strange and wonderful will now show a different side. The idea that was strange and horrible will seem to have its merits. These are merely signals that your mind is open.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). No one is ever alone in a feeling. However complex it may seem, someone else in the world has gone through or is going through something very close to your emotion, but you have reach out

to know the truth of this.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). The blue skies make you feel like you should run into them, arms open, confident and alone. The storms make you feel that you should huddle up and cling to another person. Both are just weather and mood.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You graciously acknowledge the favors you're given, but you don't use them all, as it would incur too much debt. Note: The favors from on high are generally lower priced than those from down low.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Sometimes you think you sound like a broken record, as the circumstances of your life seem to run you, and the "you" they seem to run has the same message, recurring. Flip it. Play the other side.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You don't always like to admit it, but there's comfort in a routine. By the way, you could really use some comfort right now. Instead of moving to the next excitement, consider setting a nice groove.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Will you deliver what you said you would? Probably. And when the potential recipient is persistent, definitely. Furthermore, whatever is open to interpretation, you'll interpret it.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Your contentment will rely on valuing the help you give. Don't promise more. Even if you only help a person one time, being present in a moment of need will have a profound impact.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (July 26). What you want isn't always the best thing to get. You'll get better in August: It may be exactly what you don't want, and yet it will prove to be the very best thing to happen. September brings a love breakthrough. You'll meld with another and learn how to communicate on a level that makes 2017 smooth and fun. Cancer and Gemini adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 3, 29, 11, 22 and 18.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS: Yesterday a native Virgo with a

Virgo rising complained of being "consistently under-confident" and underestimating his abilities at every juncture. This tendency prevented him from entering a photo contest he didn't think he could win, only to find out later that the winner had abilities on par with his own.

"I don't want to limit myself like this anymore. How do I break the habit?"

Virgo strives for perfection, seeing it as a measurable state of being. But who is to say what perfection really is? Most situations are subjective. And even if you could call a certain result "perfect," that wouldn't guarantee its acceptance. In art and in life, perfection is highly overrated, mostly because no one can relate to it. With this in mind, you can break the habit of underestimating your abilities by knowing when to stop judging them. Bring your work up to the best level you can, and then release it to the world. Stop being a control freak. Silence your inner critic and just let it go. If you experi-

ence rejection, it won't be nearly as painful as the voice in your head that rejects your work before you even give it a chance. You have nothing to lose.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Oscar-winner Sandra Bullock recently adopted her second child, Laila, and expressed her intention of much love and laughter and memory-making for her happy family. A loveable Leo, Bullock was born when Mercury was also in the sign of the cat and entertainment. Bullock's moon is in Aquarius, the sign of philanthropy, another important aspect of her life work.

To write to Holiday Mathis, visit www.creators.com/author/holiday-mathis and click "Contact."

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ANSWERS

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

ANSWERS

sudoku

Annie's Mailbox

Keep It Off My Wave

Dear Annie: My wife and I met this new couple at a function, and they seemed really nice, so we exchanged information in hopes of meeting up again. We like meeting new couples and thought we'd see whether we have more in common. We have hung out with them a handful of times now but don't see any connection or really have much in common. They are always bringing up politics and their strong beliefs in a particular party, followed by negative comments about what the state of our country would be if the other party were to win the presidential election and all the doom and gloom we would be in for.

My husband and I have never been very political and don't find much interest in discussing it. We have a decently fun time with them, but my wife and I often talk about what else we could've done that evening or that day. The woman of the other couple texts

my wife almost every Friday now to invite us out. We've said no a few times, but now we don't wish to meet up with them anymore because these political conversations are such a drag.

It feels as if we are trying to break up with this couple but they don't know it yet. We don't know what to do. -- Politics-Free Household

Dear Politics-Free: Although these days it seems to be more of a faux pas to discuss "Game of Thrones" spoilers at the dinner table than politics and religion, there's a reason that those loaded topics have traditionally been off-limits. They're deeply personal, and talking about them tends to create hostile territory where friendship might have grown.

Politely tell the couple you respect that they are passionate about their beliefs but you don't feel comfortable talking politics. If they can't respect that, move on to new friends. You're under no obligation to spend time

with this couple. After all, "doomed" or not, it's still a free country.

Dear Annie: I just want to get married. I've been dating my boyfriend for three years, but he hasn't warmed up to the idea of marriage. He says things like, "It's just a piece of paper. And besides, half of marriages end in divorce." I was ecstatic when he recently expressed interest in moving in together. I think he sees this as the next step in determining whether we're compatible before perhaps popping the question.

The only thing standing in the way right now is the fact that my parents disapprove. I care about their opinion, of course, but it is my life and a decision I've made carefully. My mom has kind of gotten over it, but my dad refuses to acknowledge it and doesn't seem to care about how we're doing as a couple. All he cares about is how I am doing and how my job is. He also disapproves of my boyfriend's unemployment. It really makes my

boyfriend uncomfortable, especially because those two have never really gotten along. What can I do to make my dad see that this man is my future husband? -- Shacking Up

Dear Shacking: Reverse the U-Haul. Not because Dad disapproves but because moving in together wouldn't change your boyfriend's mind if he's already said he's indifferent about marriage. In fact, he'd have even less reason to take the next step.

Stay in your own places until the two of you make solid plans for your future. This will put the situation in the pressure cooker a bit, which it needs. Maybe he's your future husband. Maybe not. All the better to find out sooner rather than later.

Send your questions for Annie Lane to dearannie@creators.com. To find out more about Annie Lane and read features by other Creators Syndicate columnists and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate website at www.creators.com.
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Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

For your own peace of mind

South dealer.
North-South vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ 8 4 3
♥ A J 10 7 4 3
♦ J 6
♣ 5 4

WEST
♠ Q 10 9 7
♥ Q 9 8 2
♦ 10 9 8 5
♣ 3

EAST
♠ K J
♥ K 5
♦ 7 4 3 2
♣ J 10 7 6 2

SOUTH
♠ A 6 5 2
♥ 6
♦ A K Q
♣ A K Q 9 8

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♥ Pass
2 ♠ Pass 3 ♥ Pass
3 NT

Opening lead — ten of diamonds.

Most players find mathematical probabilities in bridge very dull, but the fact is that even a superficial knowledge of the subject will reap big dividends on many deals.

Assume you're in three notrump and West leads a diamond. As soon as the dummy is tabled, you can count eight top tricks, and you don't have to be an Einstein to realize that your best chance for a ninth trick lies

in clubs.

If you play momma-poppa style and start by cashing the A-K-Q of clubs, you will make the contract whenever the suit divides 3-3 (a 36 percent chance) or 4-2 (a 48 percent chance). In the latter case, you would next concede a club to assure nine tricks.

On top of this 84 percent chance, there is also the possibility that when you start leading clubs, the singleton ten or jack will fall on the first round (another 5 percent). If this occurs, you continue the suit to guarantee the contract.

But even this 89 percent chance can be improved the additional 5 percent by cashing the ace of clubs, leading a heart to the ace and returning a club from dummy, planning to finesse the eight if East follows low. This guards against East's holding the J-10-x-x-x of clubs, and is needed to make the contract in the actual deal.

For the mathematically disinclined, this safety play makes a lot of sense even if you know nothing whatever about probabilities. Nevertheless, it is nice to know at the outset — if only for the sake of your peace of mind — that with proper play, your overall chance of success comes to 94 percent.

Tomorrow: The bidding points the way.

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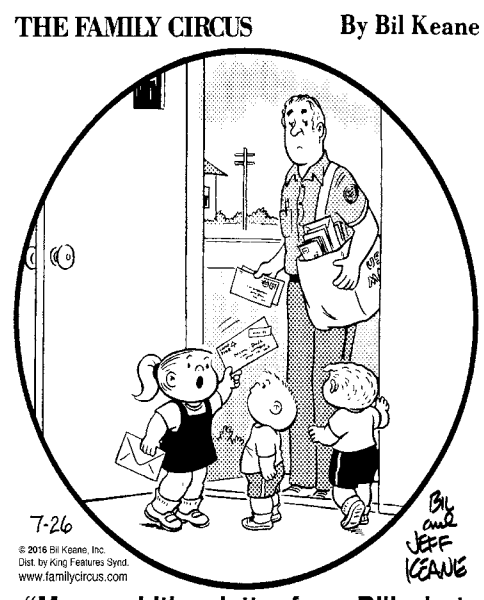
	KMID (3) Midland	UNI (4) Spanish	KPEJ (5) Odessa	KOSA (7) Odessa	KTLE (8) Telemundo	KWES (9) Midland	KMLM (12) Odessa	KPBT (13) Odessa	KWWT (14) Odessa	KWES2 (15) Midland	WTBS (33) Atlanta	TNT (34) Atlanta	ESPN (35) Sports	ESPN2 (36) Sports	FSN (38) Sports	USA (55) New York	A&E (58) New York	DISC (60) Discovery
5:PM	Local 2 ABC	Hotel Notic.	Big Bang Cleveland	News CBS	Tele Noticiero	News News	Justice Called	Focus Business	Mama's Mama's	American American	Seinfeld Seinfeld	Movie: Divergent, Ashley Judd (DVS)	SportsCenter	Around Pardon	UFC Polar	NCIS (DVS)	The First 48	Deadliest Catch
6:PM	Jeopardy!	Sueño de Amor	Mod Fam Big Bang	News ET	Caso Cerrado	News News	J. McGee	PBS News-Hour	M*A*S*H	Fam. Guy	Seinfeld	MLB Baseball: Chicago Cubs at Chicago White Sox.	SportsCenter	SportsCenter	MediaDys	Mod Fam	The First 48	Deadliest Catch
7:PM	The Bachelorette	Un Camino hacia el	Hotel Hell (DVS)	NCIS (DVS)	Silvana Sin Lana	America's Got Talent	Upd M:25	Democratic National Convention	Griffith	Whose? Big Bang	Seinfeld		Karate	MLB Baseball: Oakland Athletics at Texas Rangers.	WWE SmackDown!	Married at First Sight	Deadliest Catch	
8:PM	Convention	Yago	News TMZ	Convention	Señora Acero 3	Convention			Hap.Days Gilligan	MADtv	Big Bang	Animal Kingdom	Arm Wrestling					
9:PM	Local 2	Impacto	Broke Girl	News	Tele	News	With Scholars	Charlie Rose	Heroes	Seinfeld	Wrecked	Animal Kingdom	Baseball Tonight	SportsCenter	Postgame	The Fast and the Furious: Tokyo Drift	To Be Announced	(:01) Born This Way
10:PM	Jimmy Kimmel Live	Contacto Deportivo	Two Men	Late Show-Colbert	Titulares	Tonight Show	Ministerios Vida	World T. Smiley	Heroes	Seinfeld	Big Bang	Law & Order	Arm Wrestling	Baseball Tonight	Bull Riding	Married-Sight		(:03) Deadliest Catch
11:PM	Nightline	Extra	Corazón Indomable	Friends	Insider	Señora Acero 3	News	Chevalme	Tw. Zone	King	Cougar	Law & Order	SportsCenter	City Slam	MLB Baseball: Oakland Athletics at Texas Rang.	Shooter (DVS)	Married-Sight	Deadliest Catch
12:AM	Paid Pair	P. Luche	Law Order: CI	ET	Pagado	(:08) Today	Light of the Southwest		Kojak	King	Cougar	Law & Order	SportsCenter	Jalen	Law Order: CI	(:04) Born This Way	(:06) Deadliest Catch	

DENNIS THE MENACE



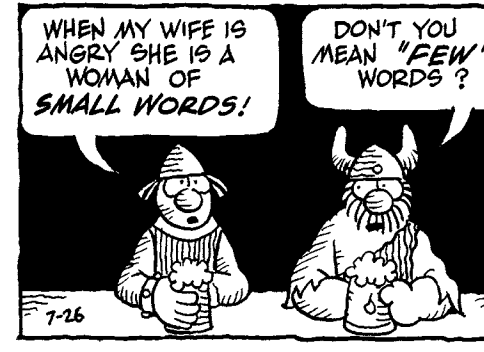
"If I fell in, would you jump in and save me?"
"On a nice warm day, maybe."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

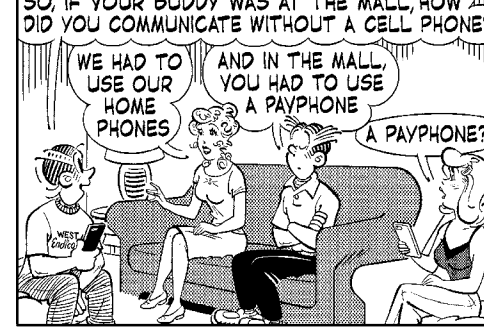


"Mommy! It's a letter from Billy, but it has 49 cents postage due. Do we want to pay it?"

HAGAR



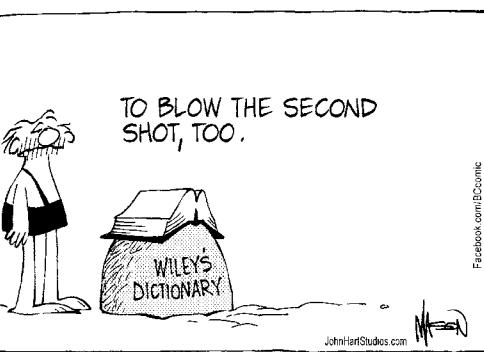
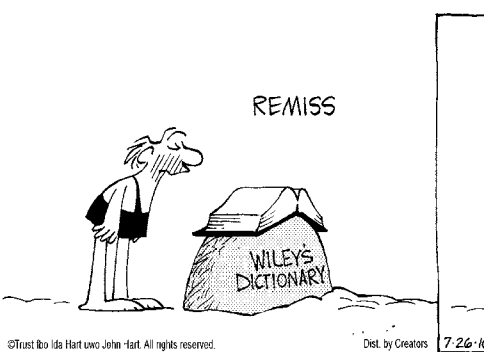
BLONDIE



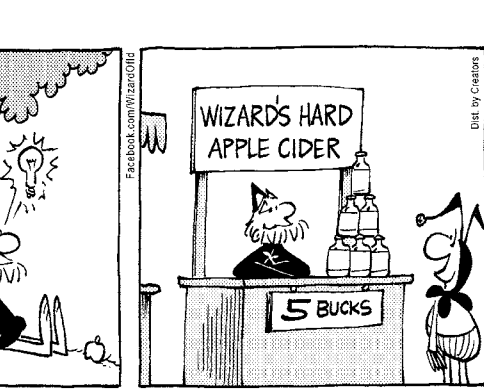
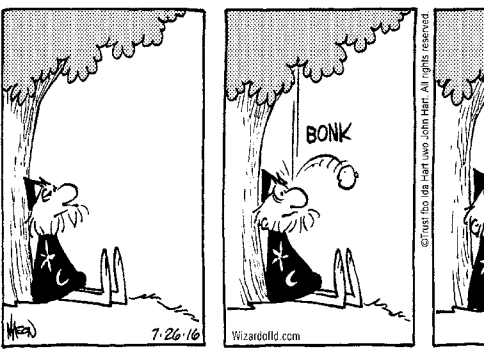
NO, SMALL WORDS... WITH ONLY FOUR LETTERS!



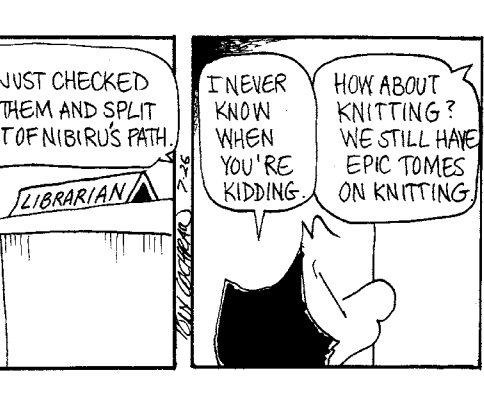
BC



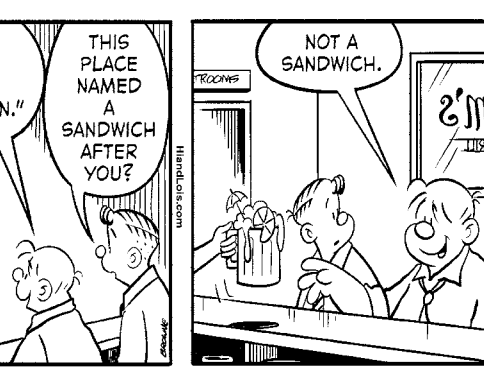
WIZARD OF ID



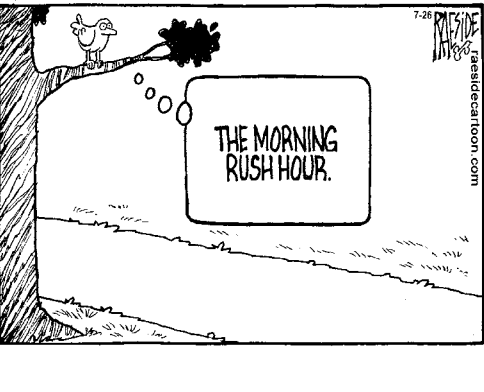
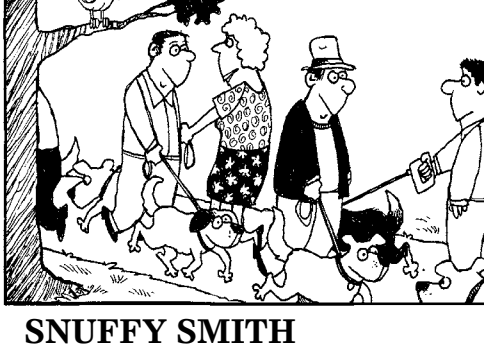
AGNES



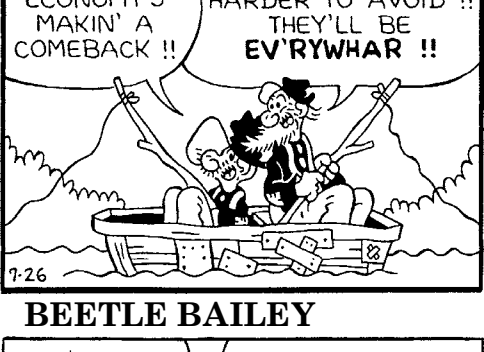
HI AND LOIS



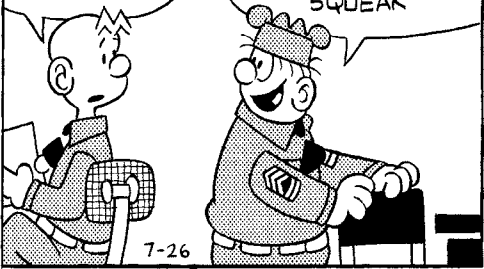
THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BETLE BAILEY



This Date In History

Today is Tuesday, July 26, the 208th day of 2016. There are 158 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On July 26, 1775, the Continental Congress established a Post Office and appointed Benjamin Franklin its Postmaster-General.

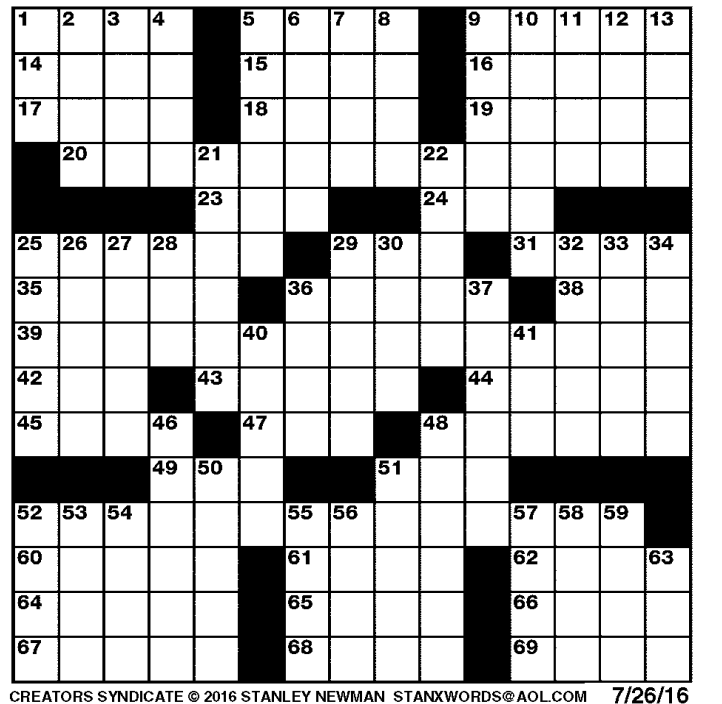
On this date:

- In 1788, New York became the 11th state to ratify the U.S. Constitution.
- In 1882, the Richard Wagner opera "Parsifal" premiered in Bayreuth, Germany.
- In 1908, U.S. Attorney General Charles J. Bonaparte ordered creation of a force of special agents that was a forerunner of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.
- In 1925, five days after the end of the Scopes Trial in Dayton, Tennessee, prosecutor William Jennings Bryan died at age 65. (Although Bryan had won a conviction against John T. Scopes for teaching Darwin's Theory of Evolution, the verdict was later overturned.)
- In 1945, the Potsdam Declaration warned Imperial Japan to unconditionally surrender, or face "prompt and utter destruction." The same day, Winston Churchill resigned as Britain's prime minister after his Conservatives were soundly defeated by the Labour Party; Clement Attlee succeeded him.
- In 1952, Argentina's first lady, Eva Peron, died in Buenos Aires at age 33. King Farouk I of Egypt abdicated in the wake of a coup led by Gamal Abdel Nasser.
- In 1956, Egyptian President Gamal Abdel Nasser nationalized the Suez Canal.
- In 1965, the Maldives became independent of Britain.
- In 1971, Apollo 15 was launched from Cape Kennedy on America's fourth successful manned mission to the moon.
- In 1986, Islamic radicals in Lebanon released the Rev. Lawrence Martin Jenco, an American hostage held for nearly 19 months. American statesman W. Averell Harriman died in Yorktown Heights, New York, at age 94.
- In 1990, President George H.W. Bush signed the Americans with Disabilities Act.
- In 1996, swimmer Amy Van Dyken became the first American woman to win four gold medals at a single Olympics as she captured the 50-meter freestyle in Atlanta.
- Ten years ago: In a dramatic turnaround from her first murder trial, Andrea Yates was found not guilty by reason of insanity by a Houston jury in the bathtub drownings of her five children; she was committed to a state mental hospital. Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki appealed to a joint meeting of the U.S. Congress to press the war in Iraq with money and troops. In Baghdad, a thinner but combative Saddam Hussein returned to his trial for the first time since his hunger strike and hospitalization.

Five years ago: The White House threatened to veto emergency House legislation that aimed to avert a threatened national default. Democratic Rep. David Wu of Oregon announced he would resign amid the political fallout from an 18-year-old woman's allegations of an unwanted sexual encounter with him, charges that Wu denied.

Newsday Crossword DUAL-ACTION FACTION by Sally R. Stein Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS
- 1 Tightly stretched
- 5 Speak like Daffy Duck
- 9 Hardly any
- 14 Just a single time
- 15 Burden
- 16 Piano adjuster
- 17 Holler
- 18 Gets brown from the sun
- 19 Intermission follower
- 20 ___ and ___ (acting like a normal two-year-old)
- 23 Farmer's weeding tool
- 24 Corp. head
- 25 Knitted blanket
- 29 "I finally get it!"
- 31 Cheerios ingredients
- 35 Dishonest person
- 36 Sandwich cookies
- 38 Hawaiian garland
- 39 ___ and ___ (complaining)
- 42 Sixth sense, for short
- 43 Of the sun
- 44 Start the day
- 45 Slow-cooker meal
- 47 Midmorning hour
- 48 Hotel restriction, at times
- 49 Baba
- 51 Sound of discomfort
- 52 ___ and ___ (emulating the Big Bad Wolf)
- 60 Give a speech
- 61 Repetitive learning
- 62 Lion sound
- 64 Nash the poet
- 65 M*A*S*H star
- 66 Tropical spot
- 67 Gives lunch to
- 68 Entryway
- 69 Tidbit for a parakeet
- 11 Prefix for "freeze"
- 12 30 Down's refusal
- 13 High-school math
- 21 Military trousers
- 22 Sneezer's sound
- 25 Summits
- 26 Winter windshield coating
- 27 Hit the roof
- 28 Sweetie pie
- 29 Church instrument
- 30 German mister
- 32 Share and share ___
- 33 Moral principle
- 34 Scorpio and Sagittarius
- 36 Gatt at
- 37 Remove, as a tree branch
- 40 Away from the office
- 41 Short snooze
- 46 Floated lightly
- 48 Have ___ (be bold)
- 50 Property claims
- 51 Perform better than
- 52 Place for a horseshoe
- 53 Strong craving
- 54 Become hard to see
- 55 Alumnus, for short
- 56 Horseback sport
- 57 Part of the eye
- 58 Front of an airplane
- 59 High wind
- 63 Scarlet or maroon



Van in wreck with Cowboys bus was turning left

KINGMAN, Ariz. (AP) — Four people died when their van turned left at a highway intersection in northwestern Arizona and collided with a bus carrying staffers but no players of the Dallas Cowboys football team, authorities said Monday.

Nobody on the Cowboys bus was seriously injured, and the team said no players were on board. The group was headed for Las Vegas for a planned stop on a pre-season promotional tour.

The vehicles heading in opposite directions Sunday on the main route between Las Vegas and Phoenix crashed as the van turned across U.S. 93 and onto a road, the Arizona Department of Public Safety said.

“All on the bus came through OK with some bumps and bruises,” Cowboys spokesman Rich Dalrymple said.

DPS spokesman Quentin Mehr said three females and one male in the van died, but he didn't release their ages or names pending notification of relatives.

Additional information on the crash about 30 miles north of Kingman was not immediately available. The bus was seemingly intact afterward, while the van appeared reduced to wreckage.

Cowboys owner Jerry Jones called the loss of



Barry White/KTNV via The AP

The wreckage of a van that collided with a Dallas Cowboys bus is seen near Kingman, Ariz., Sunday, July 24, 2016.

life tragic. “We as an organization are deeply saddened, and our thoughts, prayers and concerns at this time are with the family members and loved ones of all who were lost,” he said in a statement.

GORDON

Continued from Page 8

Gordon, who emerged as one of the league's rising stars in 2013 before several missteps led to his banishment.

Gordon expressed his gratitude in a message on Twitter.

“I'm blessed and grateful to be granted this opportunity,” he wrote. “I can't wait to get back out there and play the game I love in front of the great fans of Cleveland.”

“I want to thank the NFLPA, Commissioner Goodell, the Haslam family and Browns organization, my agent Drew Rosenhaus, as well as my mentors for their continuous support along the way.”

“I've heard only good things from my teammates about the positive direction the organization is heading and I want to do everything I can to be there to help further that process not only for the team but to better myself as well.”

As long as he stays clean, Gordon, who met with Goodell in New York on July 19, is eligible to return to the team on Oct. 3 and play in the Oct. 9 home game against New England. That's also the game in which Patriots quarterback Tom Brady will return following his suspension for Deflategate.

During his four-game suspension, Gor-

don may participate in team meetings and other activities, but can't practice or play in games.

The Browns said in a statement that would Gordon would be with the team for the start of training camp. “At that time, we will discuss directly with Josh the direction of our team, our expectations of our players and a plan to support him on and off the field,” the statement said.

Gordon was suspended 10 games in 2014 and the entire 2015 season for substance violations, a pattern that began during his college career at Baylor and Utah. He was denied reinstatement in April after failing a drug test because of samples that also tested positive for marijuana.

In a letter to Gordon, Goodell made it clear the onus is on the former Pro Bowler to stay clean.

“As we discussed at our (July 19) meeting, as Commissioner, I want nothing more than to see you turn your circumstances around and succeed,” Goodell said.

“Countless others including your agent, teammates and coaches, (owner) Jimmy Haslam and the leadership of the organization, the Program professionals and Jim Brown also have pledged to provide you with every resource at their disposal. But as you acknowledged, ultimately, your future is your responsibility. I have every belief that you can make

the right choices, but it will be up to you to do so.”

First-year coach Hue Jackson has mostly steered clear of discussing Gordon or the player's future during his first months with Cleveland.

Brown, the Hall of Fame running back and current team special advisor, had a prominent role in helping Gordon get back in good standing with the league.

Gordon had a breakout season in 2013, when he led the league with 1,646 yards receiving, scored nine touchdowns and averaged 117.6 yards per game. However, he has missed 27 of 32 games since and his off-the-field shortcomings have threatened to end a promising future.

With his situation unclear, the Browns selected Baylor wide receiver Corey Coleman in the first round of this year's draft. Gordon will also be reunited with former college teammate Robert Griffin III, who is expected to be Cleveland's starting quarterback this season.

During his ban, Gordon has continued to receive support from Browns cornerback Joe Haden, who tweeted, “Welcome back!!” to his friend.

RANGERS

Continued from Page 8

homer in the seventh against John Axford.

“What superlatives do you want me to put on it?” Rangers manager Jeff Banister said. “You can use them all. You could see the determination on his face.”

“He had two special at-bats tonight, none bigger than the last one.”

Texas had trailed since Danny Valencia hit a two-run homer for Oakland in the first. All 13 runs in the game were scored with two outs.

Texas turned three double plays behind starter Martin Perez,

who has induced a major league-best 25 in 21 games.

After the third inning, Perez held Oakland scoreless for three innings.

“I think I was more aggressive in the last three innings. Expand the zone and throw the ball where I wanted,” he said.

Valencia also had the first of three run-scoring doubles in a three-run third that gave the A's a 5-1 lead.

Nomar Mazara singled with one out in the ninth for Texas. Desmond hit his 19th homer in the first.

Jake Diekman (2-1) worked a scoreless inning for the win.

Billy Butler had three hits for the A's.

NFL

Continued from Page 8

attend remedial education and/or result in a maximum \$150,000 fine against the team. Clubs will be fined a minimum \$100,000 for subsequent violations.

There are additional penalties if the violation involves aggravating circumstances, and the commissioner may impose more severe financial penalties and require clubs to forfeit draft picks if it's determined that a club's medical team ignored protocol for competitive reasons.

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