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BIG SPRING HERALD

FRIDAY, APRIL 21, 2017



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SA, Big Spring Center for Skilled Care hold fan drive

By **ROGER CLINE**
 Staff Writer

Big Spring summers get pretty hot. For those without air conditioning, the 100-plus temperatures can threaten health or even life.

The Big Spring Salvation Army and the Big Spring Center for Skilled Care are teaming up to

help our town's older citizens beat the heat.

"In conjunction together, we are having a fan drive where we are trying to collect box or pedestal fans, and we are going to be giving those out to seniors in the community that are 55 and older," said Patricia Snowden of the Salvation Army. "We

are asking that the fans that are donated still have good, intact wires, and have the safety labels still on them.

"The reason for the fan drive is, we have really high heat here in the summers, and there are individuals and families who do not have air conditioning or adequate air condi-

tioning, and they could really use fans. This year we are focusing on seniors. Generally, most of the time when we receive requests for fans, it is elderly folks. We just want to help out those folks that need a fan, so we'll be able to give them to

See **DRIVE**, Page 3

Attention readers:

Over the past month, a blonde male has been going door-to-door saying he is a representative of the *Big Spring Herald* and *Midland Reporter-Telegram* and is trying to sell subscriptions to both papers to meet his quota.

We at the *Big Spring Herald* assure you that we will not send anyone around door to door to sell subscriptions. If anyone approaches you at your door selling subscriptions, please contact the Big Spring Police Department 432-264-2550.

HEB to give away Earth Day bags

By **ROBERT BARLOW**
 Staff Writer

HEB is doing its part to keep Texas beautiful on Earth Day by giving away reusable shopping bags designed by a Texas artist.

The reusable shopping bags are made from 75 percent recycled plastic bottles and containers. The bags help by cutting down on the amount of plastic put into the environment. The limited edition bags are designed by Texas artist Becca Borrelli who is based out of Austin.

"We're thrilled to provide the bags to our customers, and we hope it is one of many actions taking place across the state that combined, will make a big impact on our environment," said Julie Bedingfield, H-E-B public affairs manager.

HEB has received the Texas Environmental Excellence Award on two occasions. This is in part from their massive efforts across their stores to reduce company waste by recycling and cutting CO2 emissions by more than 8300 tons annually across their stores.

Anyone who plans on shop-

ping on Earth Day, which is this Saturday, will receive one of the limited edition reusable bags upon checkout for as long as supplies last.

"We give the bags out from 11 a.m. as long as the bags last, and there is only one bag per customer," said Gerri Clune, central checkout operations manager for the Big Spring HEB. "We also have other Earth Day bags with logos that are available to purchase."

Clune is originally from the Austin area where in 2013, the city instituted a ban on single use plastic bags, which means these reusable bags were a common sight. However, she mentioned she has noticed her customers in West Texas are more frequently using the reusable bags.

"We're starting to see more and more of our customers bring back their reusable bags here in Big Spring," said Clune.

In addition to giving away the bags, HEB also is giving customers the opportunity to donate to several nonprofit environmental and

See **BAGS**, Page 3

A round of Applause



Courtesy photos
 At top, Tejano singer Angelique and the Sweet City Band poses for a photo. At right, Jesus Daniel Hernandez will be bringing a mix of mariachi, classic songs of Mexico, Zarzuela, and opera to the Applause Music Series showcase for May 6 in Sweetwater.



Wreck on 350 and 700



HERALD photo/Lyndel Moody

Area law enforcement and emergency personnel were called to a multi-vehicle accident Thursday around 11:30 a.m. at the intersection of FM 700 and Highway 350. One of the vehicles involved in the wreck was a Spartan Public Transport vehicle. More information was not available by press time.

Sweetwater's Applause Music Series to close out season May 6 with Hispanic showcase

By **AMANDA ELSTON**
 Managing Editor

If waiting until July to see great live music at Pops in the Park is just too long of a wait, you might consider heading 60 miles east next month. An hour east of Big Spring, Sweetwater's Applause Music Series will conclude their third concert season by celebrating Hispanic music and culture with their show *Musica Latina* on Saturday, May 6.

"This year's featured artists will be Anjelique and Sweet City Band and guest artist Jesus Daniel Hernandez, tenor from Washington D.C.," read a press release from Applause. "Music Latina will be the day after

Cinco de Mayo and celebrates the music and talents influenced by Latin cultures, especially that of Mexico."

Anjelique has been recognized as one of the top five female Tejano singers for several years. Backed by the Sweet City Band, led by husband Sammy Alvarez, the husband and wife duo hail from

See **SERIES**, Page 3

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Heading to state competition



HERALD photo/Robert Barlow

These Big Spring Intermediate School students headed out Thursday to participate in the TMSCA (Texas Math and Science Coaches Association) state competition meet. Pictured from left are Stephanie Rincon, fifth grade math teacher; Ismael Castillo, mathematics; Marco Tan, mathematics, number sense, calculator; A'Kalie Berry, mathematics; Kortney Moore, mathematics, number sense; Ananya Limaye, mathematics, number sense; Cheyenne Horton, - mathematics; and Devon Davis-Locke, fifth grade math teacher.

After attack, France looks toward weekend presidential vote

PARIS (AP) — France began picking itself up Friday from another deadly shooting claimed by the Islamic State group, with President Francois Hollande convening the government's security council and his would-be successors in the presidential election campaign treading carefully before voting this weekend. Investigators found a pump-action shotgun and knives in the car of the gunman who targeted police on the Champs-Elysees, and were working to determine whether he had accomplices. The prime minister said the government has reviewed its already extensive election security measures and says it is "fully mobilized" for Sunday's vote.

One of the key questions was whether, and how, the attack that killed one police officer and wounded three other people might impact voting intentions. The risk for the main candidates was that misjudging the public mood, making an ill-perceived gesture or comment, could damage their chances. With polling just two days away, and campaigning banned from Friday at midnight, they would have no time to recover before polls open on Sunday.

Candidates on Friday canceled or rescheduled final campaign events.

Arkansas conducts first execution since 2005, plans 3 more

VARNER, Ark. (AP) — Arkansas carried out its first execution in nearly a dozen years despite a flurry of legal challenges that had spared three convicted killers, but courts still could scuttle the remainder of the nation's most ambitious death penalty schedule since capital punishment was restored in 1976.

Ledell Lee was pronounced dead at 11:56 p.m. Thursday, four minutes before his death warrant was due to expire at midnight, capping a chaotic week of legal wrangling. Arkansas originally wanted to put eight inmates to death before the state's supply of midazolam, one of three drugs used in its lethal injection process, expires at the end of April.

Three of those executions were canceled this week because of court decisions. Another inmate scheduled for execution next week has received a stay. But Arkansas wants to put two other inmates to death Monday, and one next Thursday.

Lee, 51, was put on death row for the 1993 death of his neighbor Debra Reese, whom Lee struck 36 times with a tire tool her husband had given her for protection. Lee was arrested less than an hour after the killing after spending some of the \$300 he had stolen from Reese.

After a hiatus of nearly 12 years, the execution was carried out without any apparent glitches. There had been concern because midazolam was used in some flawed executions in other states. Lee showed no signs of consciousness two minutes after the lethal injection, which began at 11:44 p.m. With arms extended, covered with a sheet, his

head and hands covered with leather straps, Lee made no final statement and showed no apparent signs of suffering during the execution.

Babies of the IS caliphate languish in limbo, prison

TUNIS, Tunisia (AP) — Hundreds of children fathered by the Islamic State's foreign fighters or brought to the self-proclaimed caliphate by their parents are now imprisoned or in limbo with nowhere to go, collateral victims as the militant group retreats and home countries hesitate to take them back. One young Tunisian orphan, Tamim Jaboudi, has been in a prison in Tripoli, Libya, for well over a year. He passed his second birthday behind bars and is nearing another, turning 3 on April 30. His parents, both Tunisians who left home to join the Islamic State group, died in American airstrikes in Libya in February 2016, according to the child's grandfather, who is trying to win the child's return.

US Defense Sec'y Mattis: Syria still has chemical weapons

TEL AVIV, Israel (AP) — Syria still possesses chemical weapons, U.S. Defense Secretary Jim Mattis said in Israel on Friday, warning against the banned munitions being used again.

At a news conference in Tel Aviv, Mattis also said that in recent days the Syrian Air Force has dispersed its combat aircraft.

The implication is that Syria may be concerned about additional U.S. strikes following the cruise missile attack earlier this month in retaliation for alleged Syrian use of sarin gas.

Mattis spoke alongside Israeli Defense Minister Avigdor Lieberman. "There can be no doubt in the international community's mind that Syria has retained chemical weapons in violation of its agreement and its statement that it had removed them all," said Mattis. He said he didn't want to elaborate on the amounts Syria has in order to avoid revealing sources of intelligence.

"I can say authoritatively they have retained some, it's a violation of the United Nations Security Council resolutions and it's going to have to be taken up diplomatically and they would be ill advised to try to use any again, we made that very clear with our strike," he said.

Israeli defense officials said this week that Syria still has up to three tons of chemical weapons in its possession.

It was the first specific intelligence assessment of President Bashar Assad's weapons capabilities since a deadly chemical attack earlier this month.

DRIVE

Continued from Page 1

them."

Those who would like to donate fans can take them to either organization, Snowden said.

"They can bring them to us at 811 W. Fifth St. Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to noon, or 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., or you can drop them off at the Big Spring Center for Skilled Care at 3701 Wasson Rd. Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.," she said.

Those who would like to receive a fan should call one of

the two facilities.

"They can either call us (Salvation Army) at 432-267-8239, or they can call the Skilled Care center at 432-606-5012," Snowden said. "When folks call to sign up, we'll give them the distribution date at that time."

The two organizations need those requesting fans to call to allow them to get an accurate count of how many will be needed, Snowden said.

Contact Staff Writer Roger Cline at 432-263-7331 ext. 232, or by email at life@bigspringherald.com.

BAGS

Continued from Page 1

conservation groups by adding a \$1, \$3, or \$5 amount to their grocery bill upon checkout. Last year for the cam-

paign, HEB was able to donate \$140,000 to nonprofits thanks to donations from customers.

Contact Staff Writer Robert Barlow at (432) 263-7331 ext. 234 or by e-mail at reporter@bigspringherald.com

SERIES

Continued from Page 1

Sweetwater and are heavily involved in the community.

"Anjelique and Sweet City Band has earned a following nationally for their Tejano music," said Aida Pantoja, event chair. "Sweetwater natives, Angelique and her band...will entertain and delight audiences of all ages."

Mexican native Jesus Daniel Hernandez also tops the ticket along with Angelique.

"Jesus Daniel Hernandez... has sung and recorded with the great Placido Domingo," said Mila Gibson, artistic di-

rector. "Now living in Washington D.C, Hernandez has sung throughout the world. He performs mariachi, classic songs of Mexico, Zarzuela, and opera. His voice is phenomenal."

After the performance, a reception with authentic Mexican and Tex-Mex food will be held.

Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children. The conclusion of this season's Applause Music Series featuring Musica Latina begins at 7:30 p.m. at the Sweetwater Municipal Auditorium, 400 Locust, Sweetwater, TX. Tickets will be sold at the door.

In wake of tense Trump call, Pence aims to soothe Australia

SYDNEY (AP) — More than two months after President Donald Trump got into a spat with the leader of Australia, Vice President Mike Pence will be working to smooth over any lingering hard feelings.

Pence will meet with Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull on Saturday as part of his 10-day, four-country trip to Asia. His agenda includes reassuring Turnbull about the state of the unusually strained U.S.-Australia alliance and laying out the new administration's priorities for the Pacific Rim.

"Partly, you could call it a diplomatic clean-up mission," said Michael Auslin of the American Enterprise Institute, an analyst on Asian security issues. Auslin said Pence will be more focused on offering Turnbull a roadmap for how the two countries can work together during Trump's presidency. "It's about re-establishing relations." The affection the longtime allies usually share for each other is rooted in decades of cooperation on defense, intelligence and trade.

Australia has fought alongside the U.S. in every major conflict since World War I, and is one of the largest contributors to the U.S.-led military campaign in Iraq and Syria.

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Dallas man pleads guilty to highway expansion-related fraud

SHERMAN, Texas (AP) — Prosecutors say a Dallas man has pleaded guilty to North Texas highway expansion-related fraud and faces up to five years in federal prison.

Wade Wylie Blackburn pleaded guilty Wednesday in Sherman to conspiracy to commit mail fraud. Investigators say the case involves an Interstate 35 East expansion project in Denton County and inaccurate information provided to state appraisers.

Prosecutors say Blackburn, from 2008 to 2011, conspired to defraud the Texas Department of Transportation by purchasing right of way property along I-35, then planning to resell the land to TxDOT.

Investigators say Blackburn caused false information to be submitted to TxDOT appraisers over what turned out to be bogus development plans.

Exxon Mobil plans multi-billion dollar plant near Texas Gulf

PORTLAND, Texas (AP) — Exxon Mobil Corp. and a Saudi partner plan to build a multi-billion dollar petrochemical plant near the Texas coast, Texas' governor said Wednesday.

The project will be a venture involving Exxon and Saudi Arabia Basic Industries Corp. Exxon officials have said it'll be among the largest ethane steam cracker plants in the world, with an opening scheduled for 2024.

The plant will be built in Portland, just north of Corpus Christi, on roughly 1,300 acres (526 hectares). Estimated to cost about \$10 billion, the plant will produce components used to make polyester, anti-freeze, plastic bottles and other items.

In formally announcing the project, Gov. Greg Abbott said the plant "illustrates that our business climate is exactly what leading and growing companies are seeking when investing in their future." Yousef Abdullah Al-Benyan, CEO of SABIC, added: "We are focused on geographic diversification to supply new markets."

Exxon and its Saudi partner also considered another Texas site and two in Louisiana for the project.

The project has received state and local tax incentives. The Gregory-Portland Independent School District board voted last month to approve \$1.2 billion in tax incentives, and San Patricio County commissioners OK'd a \$210 million package. Abbott said Wednesday that more than \$6 million was offered in state tax breaks.

Texas board OKs science curriculum compromise on evolution

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — The Texas Board of Education has preliminarily approved revised science curriculums, inserting compromise language that critics say diffuses concerns about casting doubt on the theory of evolution.

In February, the board sided with a committee of teachers and experts that recommended scrapping previous requirements asking high school biology students to consider "all sides" of scientific theory. But it also adopted rules that they "evaluate scientific explanations" on the "complexity" of human cells and on the origin of DNA.

Amid concerns that could make students believe God helped create human life, the committee asked the board to endorse a compromise replacing "evaluate" with "compare and contrast" and "examine."

The board unanimously approved the change Wednesday. A final vote comes Friday.

Progressive groups cheered the move, saying it safeguards lessons on evolution.

Officials said the project is expected to create thousands of jobs, an important consideration for leaders in San Patricio County. The Corpus Christi Caller-Times reported the area lost more than 800 jobs in the last three months of 2016 with the closure of a plant and a series of layoffs at a manufacturing company.

Top 10 percent change advancing in Texas Senate

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — A bill that sets new limits on the state's top 10 percent university admissions law is advancing in the state Senate.

Texas guarantees state high school graduates admission to public universities if they finish in the top 10 percent of their class. The 1997 law was designed to promote campus diversity, most notably at the University of Texas.

The bill by Sen. Kel Seliger would cap top 10 percent admissions at 30 percent. It passed the Senate Higher Education Committee on Wednesday and goes to the full Senate for consideration.

Opponents of the bill say the top 10 percent law has opened doors to students previously denied access to the state's top universities. Critics of the law say it shuts out other high quality students.

Houston doctor uses 3-D models of hearts to help save lives



In this Tuesday, April 4, 2017 photo, Dr. C. Huie Lin, a specialist in adult congenital and interventional cardiology, displays a 3D printed medical model of a patient's congenital heart, shown at Houston Methodist Research Institute, 6670 Bertner, in Houston. The 3D copies of patients hearts are used to test out complicated surgical techniques before operating.

By MIKE HIXENBAUGH

Houston Chronicle
HOUSTON (AP) — The yellow and pink heart in Dr. Huie Lin's office is an exact replica of the one beating inside the chest of Allison Bennie — a 3-D model that helped save her life.

Two years ago, the 29-year-old South Carolina woman came to Lin, an interventional cardiologist at Houston Methodist Hospital, after being turned down for surgery elsewhere.

The Houston Chronicle (<http://bit.ly/2px7Hm7>) reports Lin is an expert in treating patients like Bennie, adults born with heart defects who, decades later, have undergone the surgical repairs that saved them as infants. Adults with congenital heart defects tend to be complex cases, requiring specially tailored treatment, but Bennie's case came with an extra challenge: She's a Jehovah's Witness, a faith that forbids blood transfusions, even in surgery.

"Essentially," Lin said, "we needed to come up with a new way to fix the problem."

He had some ideas for how to repair her leaking pulmonary valve while minimizing blood loss, but to Lin's knowledge, none had ever been attempted on a patient with a congenital heart defect, and he couldn't be sure any would work.

"For me," Lin said, "this is where the story gets exciting."

Lin ordered a detailed scan of Bennie's chest and got in touch with William Dore Jr., a frequent Methodist donor and owner of 3DPrint-Labs.com, a 3-D printing startup based in Houston. Dore agreed to print a \$1,500 model of Bennie's heart at no cost and delivered it to the hospital.

"With this," Lin said, holding the heart model, "we could test out a solution that's never been tried before but without putting the patient needlessly at risk."

In Houston, and across the country, physicians are increasingly turning to 3-D printed organs to test complex operations, mostly relying on donations and grants to pay for the emerging technology. Dore and his company have printed defective hearts for Methodist, the brains of cancer patients for MD Anderson and earlier this year,

the entire chest cavity of a child being treated for a rare defect at Texas Children's Hospital.

Dore is betting that his donations, and the work of physicians like Lin, will eventually prove the benefit of 3-D models in medicine and someday lead insurance companies to pay for them.

"In the cases we've done, there's been a tremendous cost savings in terms of minimizing complications and shorter recovery times," Dore said. "But in medicine, it just takes a long time for new ideas to become standard."

Lin has requested 3-D heart models for about a half dozen patients, including Bennie, and eventually hopes to launch a clinical trial to test and prove their effectiveness.

"Adult congenital heart patients are the perfect group to test this out, because every patient is unique and requires personalized care," Lin said.

Bennie was surprised when she sat down with Lin and he showed her the model of her heart. It was amazing to hold it, she said. It was an exact copy of the organ that had kept her alive 27 years — and caused her so many problems along the way.

She'd been born with a pulmonary valve so narrow, her tiny heart was straining to push blood through. A classic case of what's known as blue baby syndrome.

She came to Houston then, too. Dr. Denton Cooley, the legendary heart surgeon, opened her chest in 1988 and artificially enlarged the valve. But, like thousands of other infants saved by Cooley's scalpel, the repair came with a cost that wouldn't become apparent until decades later: The valve, now large enough for sufficient blood flow, was also made leaky and inefficient.

By 2015, Bennie had

See HEART, Page 16

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Reflections:

Love and marriage

I like to watch young people falling in love and getting married. I like to watch them strolling arm and arm, pushing a stroller, spreading a blanket on the beach and listening to the waves. Love is always new. For thousands of years it has remained the fresh and vibrant theme of novels, movies, music, and paintings.

We started hosting a Bible study in our home for international students almost four years ago. Mulenga showed up alone. His wife was unable to join him from Zambia because she did not have a visa. We prayed. The visa was granted. She came, and a year later their son was born on my birthday.

Xiuli arrived from China, a beautiful young woman in her thirties. A year later she met Willis who joined us. They were married in the Chinese Church on January 2, 2016. In September she gave birth to a beautiful baby boy. Balkeum came from South Korea. She met James who earned a Masters degree in South Korea. A few months later she showed up at the Bible study with an engagement ring on her finger. They were married in April 2016. Last week I held their daughter, Charlotte, for the first time.

My son had to brand cattle on a Wyoming roundup to ask permission to marry his rodeo-father-in-law's daughter. His palms were sweating when he popped the question, not from the round up, but from nerves.

My son-in-law went fishing with me to ask permission to marry my daughter. His mind wasn't on fishing. He then coaxed a friend into flying them in

a private plane to a romantic spot where he gave her the ring.

It was almost 50 years ago that I met the girl who would become my wife. The days of our courtship and engagement are as vivid in my memory as they were when we lived them. The mystery and the miracle have not faded. A few years ago, I wrote a poem, trying to capture the feeling:

He holds the eternal quarter-carat stone in his hand
Buried in his trembling palm,
Pausing to expose its fire sided sight to the light
Where it will be seen,
set in the golden circle of the ring
To be worn on her hand,
half a century and a day
From this day when he first feels her finger
Slender and smooth, adorned with a diamond
Timidly given in hope of heaven.

There are many love stories in the Bible: Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Rebekah, Ruth and Boaz, Joseph and Mary. The story never grows old. Few things are as beautiful as a young man and a young woman in love, giving birth to their children.

"So God created mankind in His own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. God blessed them and said to them, 'Be fruitful and increase in number. Fill the earth and subdue it.'" Genesis 1:27-28.

Bill Tinsley reflects on current events and life experience from a faith perspective. Visit www.tinsleycenter.com. Email bill@tinsleycenter.com.



BILL
TINSLEY

Church News

Cornerstone Covenant Church

The people of Cornerstone Covenant Church invite you to join them this week at one of the following events:

Sunday April 23: Join the CCC congregation on a radical journey to be encouraging. Encouragement is an action given to provide someone support, confidence and hope. When you encourage someone, you are providing support, building confidence and giving hope. Encouragement can be life changing. Find out how YOUR life is impacted when you become radical in your prayer, radical in your praise and radical in your generosity.

Sunday April 30: Chosen Generation Youth – The Youth will have a fundraiser (Chosen Generation takeover). Join them immediately after the worship service for a Spaghetti Lunch and a dessert auction to help with the cost of their youth trip this summer to Youth Camp at Youth for the Nations, part of Christ for the Nations Institute in Dallas. See Pastors Brandon and Cassie Hughes for more information regarding pricing, fundraising, registering, and due dates.

Additional Worship Service: As CCC has grown, They are preparing to add additional Sunday Worship Services. They are also looking forward to adding more parking space and request prayers as they make the west side of the church a temporary parking lot and possibly the site for a new sanctuary, depending on the advice of the architect.

Worship services are every Sunday at 10:30 a.m. and Wednesday at 7 p.m.; you're invited to join the congregation.

CCC is located at 706 East 12th St. For office hours or other questions contact the Administrative Office at 432-264-0015, or email Info@cccbigspring.org. You can also visit facebook.com/CCCBigspring; or www.cccbigspring.org if you would like more information.

Alive in Christ Lutheran Church LCMS

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

There will be a new Wednesday Evening Bible Study at the church soon. More information will be coming.

Bible Study and Sunday School begin at 9:30 a.m. each week, followed by Sunday Service at 10:30 a.m. If you are new to the area or haven't been to church before or in a while, you're invited to join with the congregation this Sunday.

Dolline Budke will present the scripture readings this week.

Tune in to KBYG on 106.3 FM or 1400 AM between 6:45 and 6:50 each morning for the "Morning Meditation Thoughts" devotional sponsored in part by the Lutheran Hour. Also tune in every Sunday morning at 8:30 to listen to the Lutheran Hour.

Alive in Christ is located at 2805

Lynn Drive in the Kentwood neighborhood in Big Spring. For more information call 432-264-7818, or e-mail aliveinchristx@gmail.com.

First United Methodist Church

First United Methodist Church is located just off Gregg Street at the corner of Fourth and Scurry in downtown Big Spring.

Each Sunday morning, the 9 a.m. Traditions service features the church's pipe organ, the Celebration Choir, and classic hymns of the faith. The Bridge service at 11 a.m. is led by the church's worship band and includes contemporary, upbeat music. Worship at The Bridge is led by Adrian Calvio and many others. The Bridge at 11 a.m. is broadcast live each Sunday on radio station KXCS-105.5 FM.

This Sunday will be another great day of celebration at First United Methodist Church as the congregation receives this year's confirmation class into full membership during the 11 a.m. worship service. Prior to the confirmation service, there will be a service of baptism at 10 a.m. The service will take place in the church's playground directly behind the main building. In addition to students in the confirmation class, Pastor Ivins will also be baptizing several other persons who are making professions of faith.

Sunday's message in both worship services is entitled "How Durable Is Your Faith?" The message is taken from I Peter 1:3-9.

The Wednesday Noon Bible Study is back to its regular schedule after being on a hiatus for the Lenten Lunches. This coming Wednesday, Pastor Ivins will continue his overview of the Bible as the group examines one of the "Pastoral Epistles" written by the Apostle Paul.

The church's Wednesday night schedule will be altered slightly for the next few Wednesdays as the children's choir makes final preparations for its Mother's Day musical. Kids will rehearse in the Sanctuary at 6 p.m.; and the adult Celebration Choir will also rehearse in the Music Suite at 6 pm until the Wednesday after Mother's Day. The Bridge worship band will then rehearse in the Sanctuary at 7:30 pm.

For more information on any activity, please visit the website at www.fumcbs.com or phone the church office at 267-6394.

Blessed Hands Deaf Church

The people of Blessed Hands Deaf Church invite you to worship with them Sunday at 10:50 a.m. or 2 p.m. Pastor Jim Walterhouse will bring the message to honor and glorify God for His unending love, mercy, and grace. Currently Blessed Hands Deaf Church meets inside First Bap-

tist Church at 705 W FM 700. For detailed information about BHDC, including Wednesday evening schedule and activities, contact Pastor Jim at jwalterhouse@gmail.com.

First Baptist Church

"For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God." 1 Corinthians 1:18

You're invited to worship services Sunday at 10:50 a.m. and 6 p.m. Pastor Mark Lindsey will deliver the morning sermon titled "The Relationship Begins." Based on Genesis 1, this message will invite hearers to appreciate God's magnificent love for His creations, especially people, while marveling at His great mercy. Music Minister Alan Schantz will lead worshippers in a blend of classic hymns and contemporary praise and worship songs. If unable to attend, you can join the service through the live stream on the website at fbcbigspring.org.

Sunday School groups meet at 9:30 throughout the building, with youth, college students, and adults gatherings in second-floor classrooms. Children will come together in the Good News Garage on the first floor. Greeters are available to help you find your class; come early to enjoy a time of fellowship.

At 5:30, all area children are invited to participate in Kids' Connection. Under the direction of Children's Minister Justin Green, this is a great time of Bible-based games, songs, and activities. There is no fee to participate.

At 6, teens will gather at the home of Youth Minister Jonathan Raffini, and wife Rebekah, for a light meal and a time of fellowship and encouraging one another through Bible study and prayer time. Transportation is available; contact Jonathan at 270-8332 for details.

Evening worship service begins at 6 in the chapel, and is a great way to prepare one's heart for the upcoming week. Pastor Mark will continue the message journey through Ephesians.

All area women are invited to a special "Ladies' Time Out" on Saturday, April 29 at 9:30 a.m.; the theme is "Altogether Lovely." A brunch will be served, followed by Londa Henry presenting some tips for a more lovely you. The event is free, but if you are coming please call 267-8223 to sign up in order to help organizers plan.

FBC Mother's Day Out program is each Tuesday and Thursday from 9 to 3. Contact Tracy Boeker at 267-8223 to

We all need the great physician

In Matthew 9:9-13, we read, "As Jesus passed on from there, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth, and he said to him, 'Follow me.' And he rose and followed him. And as Jesus reclined at table in the house, behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and were reclining with Jesus and his disciples. And when the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, 'Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?' But when he heard it, he said, 'Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. Go and learn what this means, 'I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.' For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners'" (ESV).

You may have read this passage before. If you are like me, you might have thought to yourself something like – that's just like those Pharisees, always thinking that they are better than others and wondering why Jesus didn't notice.

Here's the problem – we can become just like the Pharisees if we aren't careful. The Pharisees were great at the technicalities of the law, but they had forgotten the underlying principles (Matthew 23:23-24). The Pharisees were proud of their "obedience" to the point that their religion had become their idol. They based their worth on the fact that they could keep the commands (and their traditions that they had added) better than others.

We must not give in to the temptation to compare ourselves to others when it comes to the gospel. The Pharisees looked at others, like tax collectors and sinners, and felt that they, themselves, were doing great and didn't need any help. They lost sight of the truth which Paul later preached in Acts 17 in Athens – God didn't need them, but they absolutely needed God.

Here is a humbling thought – no matter what I do, God is still God. Here is an amazing fact – God loves me and desires to have a relationship with me forever! The more I understand that, the more I will realize that if I'm a Christian and saved by the grace of God, it's not because of how good I was or am. I'm saved because of how great and gracious God is and because of what Jesus has done and is doing.

God has that desire for everyone (1 Timothy 2:3-4). So we must not look out our stained glass windows, metaphorically speaking, and think that Jesus has no place among "those people." We must act like Jesus and get out there with those people. We must show the same sort of compassion and kindness to people that Jesus did. We must realize that it is only because Jesus showed compassion and kindness toward us that we were saved.

People are spiritually sick. Lives are broken. What am I doing to help guide them to the one who can heal them and put them back together? God forbid that I ever pass someone by because I don't feel that they are good enough to be a Christian! May I never forget what God and my Lord have done for me and refuse to share that good news with others.

Greg Surles is preacher at Birdwell Lane Church of Christ.

find out about available openings for your little ones.

Wednesday evening activities begin at 6, and include Adult Bible study and prayer time, Adult choir practice, Real LYF for children, and Saturate Youth Group for teens.

The Wednesday night youth program has just started a "Student's Choice" series which will focus on suggested topics addressed from a Biblical view. Bring a friend and enter through the east kitchen doors, then take the stairs to the Youth department. Call Youth Minister Jonathan at 270-8332 with topic ideas or questions.

FBC is located at 705 W FM 700. There is always a place for you at First Baptist Church.

First Presbyterian Church

The Wednesday Lectionary Bible Study, led by Craig Holstedt, meets at 5 p.m. and the Chancel Choir rehearses at 6 p.m.

The Stated Session Meeting for this month is Tuesday, April 18, at 6 p.m. in the Library.

This month's meeting of Presbyterian Women, Tuesday, April 25, will be a work day, pizza lunch, and Bible study of Lessons 8 and 9, led by Lucy Odom. Work clothes will be appropriate as the group cleans the parlor, cleans and defrosts the parlor refrigerator/freezer, and polishes the communion articles.

The Discovery Class begins a study by author Philip Yancey entitled "The Bible Jesus Read." Yancey presents the Old Testament as God's biography, the story of His compassionate encounter with people, and also as a prequel to the story of Jesus.

The Children's Choir meets at 5:30 p.m. on Sunday afternoon. Youth



GREG
SURLS

Did you ever wonder?

God vs. Dagon

The Israelites knew their God was Almighty. When war with the Philistines went bad, the Israeli elders realized that He was not with them. They reasoned that He would not allow the Philistines to overpower them if He was actually there!

In this vein of thought, they brought the Ark of the Covenant from the Tabernacle to the battlefield to lead them into battle. However, the Lord's will was not for the Israelites to win at this time. Four thousand Israelites were killed and the Ark was captured.

The Philistines carried the Ark of the Covenant to Ashdod, to the temple of their god, Dagon. They placed it before the huge stone statue. They meant this to be a tribute to Dagon, as if this stone idol had overpowered the God of the Israelites and caused them to win the battle.

When they entered their temple the next day, the statue of Dagon had fallen, face down, before the Ark of the Covenant. They stood the statue back up in place.

The next morning the statue of Dagon had fallen before the Ark of the Covenant again. But this time the head and hands were broken off and were lying on the threshold. Because of this the worshippers of Dagon will not step on the threshold of any door.

When I was very young, someone at school told me we should never step on the threshold board. "It is bad luck!" they said in a whisper. This child's parents probably were not worshippers of the idol Dagon, but somehow this tradition had passed down through their family.

I called it a superstition similar to "If you step on a crack, you will break your mother's back." But if you read your Bible closely, you begin to understand where these superstitions actually started.



EUNICE FILLER

After the statue of Dagon was broken, the five Philistine cities of the area were overrun with mice. The Lord struck the men of Ashdod with terrible hemorrhoids. The men of Ashdod realized that this awful plague had come upon them because of the Ark of the Covenant, and they wanted to get rid of it.

The Ark had been in Ashdod for seven months. They tried to give it to one of their four neighboring cities: Gaza, Ashkelon, Gath, and Ekron. Each time the people broke out in hemorrhoids, and the people were afraid of it!

The men of Ashdod decided to send the Ark back to Israel. The Philistine priests advised them to send an offering to the God of Israel also. They sent five golden hemorrhoids and five golden mice, one for each Philistine ruler of the area.

They built a new cart to haul it. They harnessed two young cows which had never pulled a cart. Each of the cows had a new calf, and they penned up the calves.

They did not send a driver, but sent the cows by themselves. When the cart came to Beth Shemesh and stopped, seventy men looked inside the Ark and they were struck dead.

They sent messengers to the Israelite city of Kiriath Jearim saying, "The Philistines have returned the Ark of the Covenant. Please come and take it away from us."

The men from Kiriath Jearim brought the cart holding the Ark to the house of Abinadab. They consecrated his son, Eleazar, to guard the Ark.

The Philistines feared the God of Israel and His Ark and wanted nothing more to do with it. Israel feared trying to move it. So the Ark remained safely in the house of Abinadab for 20 years.

Eunice Filler, author of "Rachael: Porch Swings and Spearmint Tea" and "Filler Up," is a former school teacher with ties to the Big Spring community. Questions? Fillereunice@yahoo.com.

If you have any questions regarding services or any goings on please feel free to call 432-517-4821.

Spring Creek Fellowship

The Food Pantry Fundraiser will be this Saturday, April 22, from 10 to 3 p.m. at WalMart. The food team will be cooking brisket sandwiches. Donate three cans of food and get a sandwich. All donations will be used for the "Our Daily Bread" food pantry. If you are interested in participating in this ministry or need more information, please contact Kay Pittman.

Spring Creek has set a goal of 90 percent participation in church ministries, and will be focusing on two ministries each Sunday morning to get the word out about what is available.

Please stop by the Connections Table in the garden area to get more information. Join the "90% Club" by getting involved.

The Nursery needs workers on Sunday mornings. If you have a heart for children and would like to give some of your time loving on Spring Creek's smallest members, please contact Donna Wennik.

The Youth and Family Camp will be heading back to Colorado this summer. Ask a youth member about their current fundraiser. Tickets are \$20 each. Contact Lloyd Wells for more information.

A "Women's Weekend" is planned for May 19 to 21 at Camp Butman in Merkel, Texas. All women are invited but spaces are limited.

For more information, contact Adriana Kocak. Parents who want to keep up and share in their children's Sunday Bible Lessons can go to the church website at www.springcreekfellowship.org for the information. Just click on "Kid Connect" for past and current lessons.

"People Caring for People" is a ministry serving local widows with small projects and "honey do" kinds of things. This ministry has no operating budget, so repairs are made with donations. If you would like to be a part of this ministry, either in a "hands on" way or by donation, please contact Bob Abendshan at 432-528-7397.

Wednesday Night Kid's Activities are back in session from 6 to 8 p.m. in the children's areas. A small snack will be served at 7:30. The schedule is set for

Preparing the way



Courtesy photo

Members of Holy Trinity Catholic Parish work to prepare the Stations of the Cross during Holy Week before Easter.

you parents that are participating in Missional Communities or youth. Drop off is at 5:45. The program will include babies through fifth graders. Let Donna Wennik know if you are interested in bringing your kids or helping out.

The Worship Team is fundraising for eight wireless/in-ear monitors. If you would be interested in donating to this fundraiser, contact Clint Bratcher.

"Let the Morning Bring," a downloadable song, as well as a few other songs written and performed by the Spring Creek Fellowship Worship Team, is now on iTunes. If you would like to get these songs, go to iTunes and look for the download at <https://itunes.apple.com/us/album/let-the-morning-bring-single/id1176877429>

The Connect Four class meets once a month immediately after service on Sundays. This class is for new members and those who want to know more about our church and our beliefs. It is a two-hour session and dates will be announced. Lunch and childcare will be provided for those attending.

Men's Bible Study meets on Thursday nights from 7 to 9 p.m. The title of the study is "Ephesians."

Take a look at the Spring Creek smartphone app. With this app you can make tithes/donations, leave messages, send prayer requests, follow prayer chains and learn about upcoming events Go to your app store and search for Spring Creek Fellowship and download. Be sure to allow notifications when given the option, those messages are generated by the church office and keep you updated about upcoming events and much more.

Weekly Happenings:

- Sunday-8:15 a.m.-Classical Worship Service
- 9:15-10:15 a.m.-Sunday School/Connection Groups
- 10:15 a.m.-10:45 a.m.- "Holy Grounds Café" is open with snacks and fellowship.
- 10:45 a.m.-12:00 p.m.-Worship Service
- Tuesday-
- Noon- Narcotics Anonymous
- 6:30 p.m.-Pain Management Group
- Wednesday-
- 6-8:30 pm-Kid's Activities
- Community Groups-various times and places
- Thursday
- 7 p.m.-Study of Ephesians Men's Bible Study
- Friday-
- 7-8 p.m.- Narcotics Anonymous
- Saturday-
- 7:30 a.m.-Weekly Men's Prayer Breakfast and Fellowship

Spring Creek Fellowship meets at the Spring Town Plaza at 1801 E. FM 700 in Big Spring, Texas. Call at 432-714-4584 or visit www.springcreekfellowship.org

"Every Member a Minister"-1 Peter 4:10 NKJV

Forsan Baptist Church

The message this week comes from Ephesians 4:11-16 and is called "Higher Education."

Children's activities on Wednesdays include a light snack after school, with age-appropriate classes beginning at 4 p.m. for pre-k through fifth grade. A youth meal is served at 5:30, with IMPACT youth beginning at 6. The Bible study geared toward adults on Wednesday evenings at 6

See CHURCH, Page 8

CHURCH

Continued from Page 6

activities on Sunday are as follows- 6 p.m. Youth Dinner, 6:30 Handbell Choir, 7:15 Youth Group.

Jennifer Patterson is in charge of Take Ten for this Sunday. Tom Koger is Lector for April. Ushers for the month are Paschal and Lucy Odom, and Jerry and Katie Grimes.

The lectionary for the second Sunday of Easter is Acts 2:14a, 22-32; Psalm 16; I Peter 1:3-9; John 20:19-31. The Chancel Choir will lead the service with the Introit "Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation" by Henry Thomas Smart. The Rev. Craig Holstedt, minister, will present the sermon. The anthem will be "Alleluia! Alleluia!" by Donald Fishel. Laura Holleman will present "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today" by Frank Ferko as the offertory anthem on the organ.

Please note that the worship service begins at 10:50 a.m. for announcements and parish concerns before the radio broadcast starts at 11.

If you cannot attend worship, you can listen in on KBST 1490 AM beginning at 11 a.m. If you would like a printed bulletin for Sunday services call the church office at 263-4211. You can also see what's happening at the church by visiting the website www.fpcbs.org. On the website, you can find a link that will enable you to listen to several recent sermons by the Rev. Craig Holstedt.

First Christian Church

First Christian Church is located at 911 Goliad. They are happy to invite anyone looking for a new church home or just want to pay a visit.

Fellowship begins at 9:15 a.m. with coffee and donuts, Sunday school is at 9:45 in the parlor, and worship begins at 10:50 a.m. in the sanctuary.

Pastor Sandy Sandlin will lead worship this Sunday, April 23, 2017, which is the Ssecond Sunday in Easter. Pastor Sandlin will be preaching a sermon called, "The Power of the Gospel" taken from Romans 1:16-17.

Assisting Pastor Sandlin in worship will be Dan Miracle, who will serve as worship leader. Serving at the Lord's Table will be Erma Dunne and Shirley Lee. Greeters will be Deniece Walker and Larry Oster.

Board meeting will be held this Sunday, April 23, directly after worship. All members are encouraged to attend.

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Officials: Police had Champs-Elysees attacker in their grasp

By LORI HINNANT and JOHN LEICESTER

Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — The Champs-Elysees gunman who shot and killed a police officer just days before France's presidential election was detained in February for threatening police but then freed, two officials told The Associated Press on Friday. He was also convicted in 2003 of attempted homicide in the shootings of two police officers.

The French government pulled out all the stops to protect Sunday's vote as the attack deepened France's political divide.

"Nothing must hamper this democratic moment, essential for our country," Prime Minister Bernard Cazeneuve said after a high-level meeting Friday that reviewed the government's already heightened security plans for the two-round vote that begins Sunday.

"Barbarity and cowardice struck Paris last night," the prime minister said, appealing for national unity and for people "not to succumb to fear."

Investigators believe at this stage that the gunman, 39-year-old Frenchman Karim Cheurfi, was alone in killing a police officer and wounding two others and a German tourist on Thursday night, less than 72 hours before the polls open, a French official who discussed details of the investigation with the AP said on condition of anonymity.

The official and another, also speaking on condition of anonymity, said Cheurfi was detained toward the end of February after speaking threateningly about police but was then released for lack of evidence.

The Islamic State group claimed responsibility for Thursday's attack unusually quickly in a statement that sowed confusion by apparently misidentifying the gunman.

Police shot and killed Cheurfi after he opened fire on a police van on Paris' most famous boulevard. Investigators found a pump-action shotgun and knives in his car. Cheurfi's identity was confirmed from his fingerprints.

One of the key questions was how the attack might impact French voters.

The risk for the main presidential candidates is misjudging the public mood by making an ill-perceived



AP photo

A bullet hole is pictured on a shopwindow of the Champs Elysees boulevard in Paris, Friday, April 21, 2017. France began picking itself up Friday from another deadly shooting claimed by the Islamic State group, with President Francois Hollande convening the government's security council and his would-be successors in the presidential election campaign treading carefully before voting this weekend.

gesture or comment. With polling so close, and campaigning banned starting Friday at midnight, they would have no time to recover before voters cast ballots.

The two top finishers Sunday advance to a winner-takes-all presidential runoff on May 7. Two of the main candidates, conservative Francois Fillon and centrist Emmanuel Macron, cancelled planned campaign stops Friday.

The attack brought back the recurrent campaign theme of France's fight against Islamic extremism, one of the mainstays of the anti-immigration platform of far-right leader Marine Le Pen and also, to a lesser extent, of Fillon, a former prime minister. In the wake of the assault, they redoubled appeals for a firmer hand against Islamic extremism and promised get-tough measures if elected.

Le Pen, speaking at her campaign headquarters, urged the outgoing Socialist government to immediately re-establish border controls. Cazeneuve, the Socialist prime minister, accused the National Front leader of seeking to make political hay from the assault.

After Le Pen spoke scathingly Friday of the government's fight against extremism, Cazeneuve said Le Pen's party in 2014 voted against an anti-terrorism law and, in 2015, against a law that beefed up resources for French intelligence services.

He said: "She seems to be deliberately forgetting everything

that has been done over five years to make people forget that she opposed everything, without ever proposing anything serious or credible."

Fillon separately pledged to maintain the state of emergency that has been in place since IS-claimed gun and bomb attacks killed 130 people in Paris in November 2015.

"The fight for the French people's freedom and security will be mine. This must be the priority," he said.

As Paris got back to business, municipal workers in white hygiene suits were out before dawn to wash down the sidewalk where the assault took place — a scene now depressingly familiar after multiple attacks that have killed more than 230 people in France over two years. Delivery trucks did their early morning rounds. Everything would have seemed normal if not for a row of TV trucks parked along the boulevard that is a must-visit for tourists.

Asked if the assault would impact voting, the centrist Macron said: "No one knows."

With some voters doubtful whether the 39-year-old former banker is experienced enough to be head of state, Macron appealed for cool heads.

"What our attackers want is death, symbolism, to sow panic (and) to disturb a democratic process, which is the presidential election," he said.

Macron said he canceled campaign stops out of a sense of "decency" and to allow police to concentrate their resources on the attack investigation.

Said by polls to be running neck-and-neck with Le Pen, he tore into her claims that previous attacks wouldn't have happened under her watch.

"She won't be able to protect our citizens," Macron said of Le Pen.

The two police officers injured in the attack are out of danger, Interior Ministry spokesman Pierre-Henry

Brandet said. National police spokesman Jerome Bonet, also speaking on BFM television, said there were thousands of people on Paris' iconic boulevard when the gunman opened fire and that the rapid response of officers who shot and killed him avoided possible "carnage."

Voters also wondered how the latest attack might impact the election.

Elena Worms, walking her dog near the Champs-Elysees, called the attack "destabilizing" and said she fears it will "push people to the extremes." She said her plans to vote Fillon remained unchanged.

"He wants to lead Muslims away from fundamentalism to security," she said.

In a statement from its Amaq news agency, IS group gave a pseudonym for the shooter, Abu Yusuf al-Beljiki, indicating he was Belgian or had lived in Belgium. But Belgium's interior minister said the pseudonym did not belong to the attacker.

Investigators searched a home early Friday in an eastern suburb of Paris believed linked to the attack and police detained for questioning three of the gunman's family members — routine in such cases.

The attack appeared to fit a spreading pattern of European extremists targeting security forces and symbols of state to discredit, take vengeance or destabilize society.

It recalled two recent attacks on soldiers providing security at prominent locations around Paris: one at the Louvre museum in February and one at Orly airport last month.

For Sunday's vote, the government is mobilizing more than 50,000 police and gendarmes to protect the 70,000 polling stations, with an additional 7,000 soldiers also on patrol.

CHURCH

Continued from Page 7

continues throughout the year.

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

Midway Baptist Church

The Midway Baptist Church Women's Prayer and Share Group meets every Monday from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. in the church fellowship hall.

Midway is located at 6200 S. Service Rd. Fellowship and Bible Study programs are provided and children are welcome. Contact 263-6274 for more information.

Birdwell Lane Church of Christ

Birdwell Lane Church of Christ is located at the Southwest corner of 11th Place and Birdwell Lane.

This Sunday, Bible Study at 9 a.m. will be on the topic "Bible Interpretation." Morning Worship at 10 will be about "Heaven"; while 5 p.m. Evening Worship will explore the text Titus 3:12-15.

On Wednesday, Ladies Class at 9:30 a.m. will learn about the Gospel of John. The end of month devotional will be at 7 p.m.



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- Friends of the Library Book Sale
-at the Book Barn, 8 to 12noon
- 12-Hour Public Outdoor Read-A-Thon
-on the Library Patio, 9am to 9pm
- Garden Club Plant & Bake Sale
-635 High Street, 9 am to sell-out
- Earth Day Demonstrations & Display
-625 High St., in front of Scott & Co.

Comfort Chamber of Commerce (830) 994-9181

Steers and Lady Steers track teams advance to regionals

By **MARISSA LOFTIN**

Sports Editor
Both the Big Spring boys and girls' varsity track teams made their way to Graham, Texas where they competed in the UIL 4A Area Meet on Wednesday, April 19. The boys team placed first overall with a score of 164, and the girls placed second overall with a score of 105.

The results for all the events are as follows:

Women High Jump
1 Ajanique Wells: 5-02.00

Men Shot Put
4 AJ Gonzales

Women Long Jump
3 Kailey Mathews

Women Discus Throw
2 Carlie Roberts

Women Triple Jump
1 Kaitlyn Mathews

Women Shot Put
6 Keila Yanez-Castillo

Men Triple Jump
2 Jeremiah Rushin

Men Discus Throw
6 Channing Miller
8 AJ Gonzales

Women 3200 Meter Run
4 Austyn Montgomery

Men 3200 Meter Run
1 Eric Stinson
2 Cooper Miller

Women 4x100 Meter Relay
2 Big Spring 'A'
1) Kaitlyn Mathews
2) Lindsey Brooks
3) Rachel McAlister
4) Kailey Mathews

Men 4x100 Meter Relay
1 Big Spring 'A'
1) Daniel Luna
2) CJ Harris
3) Rene Villa
4) Leon Mathews

Women 800 Meter Run
5 Samantha Solis

Men 800 Meter Run
1 Ian Gonzales
6 Aaron Martinez

Women 100 Meter Dash
1 Kailey Mathews
3 Rachel McAlister
4 Lindsey Brook

Men 100 Meter Dash
3 Rene Villa
8 DJ Molino

Women 4x200 Meter Relay
8 Big Spring 'A'
1) Samantha Solis
2) Amber Martinez
3) Rachel McAlister
4) Kailey Mathews

Men 4x200 Meter Relay
2 Big Spring 'A'
1) Jaiden Ludington
2) Jeremiah Rushin
3) Daniel Luna
4) Leon Mathews

Women 400 Meter Run
1 Kaitlyn Mathews

Men 400 Meter Run
1 Ian Gonzales
3 Aaron Martinez

Men 300 Meter Hurdles
1 Jeremiah Rushin
2 Daniel Luna

Women 200 Meter Dash
2 Kaitlyn Mathews



Courtesy photo

Pictured above are members of the Big Spring Steers track team after they won first place overall in the 4A area track meet on Wednesday, April 19.

6 Lindsey Brooks

Men 200 Meter Dash
1 Leon Mathews
2 Rene Villa

Women 1600 Meter Run
6 Haiven Rushing

Men 1600 Meter Run
2 Cooper Miller
8 Eric Stinson

Women 4x400 Meter Relay
4 Big Spring 'A'
1) Anissa Ramsey
2) Samantha Solis
3) Alex Cruz
4) Amber Martinez

Men 4x400 Meter Relay
1 Big Spring 'A'

1) Aaron Martinez
2) Jeremiah Rushin
3) CJ Harris
4) Ian Gonzales

The top four athletes from each event have qualified to compete in the regional meet that is to be held on Friday and Saturday, April 28 and 29 at Lowery Field in Lubbock. The regional qualifiers include:

Boys - AJ Gonzales, Jeremiah Rushin, Eric Stinson, Cooper Miller, Daniel Luna, Rene Villa, CJ Harris, Leon Mathews, Ian Gonzales, Jaiden Ludington and Aaron Martinez.

Girls - Ajanique Wells, Kailey Mathews, Carlie Roberts, Kaitlyn Mathews, Austyn Montgomery, Rachel McAlister, Lindsey Brooks, Anissa Ramsey, Alex Cruz, Samantha Solis and Amber Martinez.

Biddison heads to regionals



Courtesy photo

Alex Biddison of Coahoma High School competed in the 400 M dash in Tuscola, TX and came in 3rd place with a time of 52:01. He will be moving on to the regional track meet in Abilene on April 28 and 29.

DeShields RBI single in 13th gives Texas 1-0 win over Royals

By **STEPHEN HAWKINS**

AP Sports Writer

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)—Delino DeShields is stuck in a crowded platoon for playing time in left field. In one of his rare starts for the Texas Rangers so far this season, he had the biggest hit.

DeShields had an RBI single with one out in the 13th inning, sending Joey Gallo home from second base as the Rangers beat the Kansas City Royals 1-0 on Thursday night, the deepest a game has ever gone in the Texas ballpark before a run was finally scored.

"Joey had a great at-bat ... I wanted to be able to be the one to get the job done," said DeShields, who started for only the fourth time this season, the third time in left.

It was only the third game in the 24 seasons of the Rangers' ballpark to go to extra innings scoreless. This was the longest of those games, all 1-0 wins for Texas.

Gallo pulled a double into the right-field corner off Travis Wood

(0-1), the third Royals reliever after starter Danny Duffy went 7 1-3 innings. DeShields, just 1-for-13 on the season to that point, then hit a sharp single to left on the 10th pitch of his at-bat — only a few pitches after slicing a ball just foul down the right-field line.

"I felt like I was on everything. If anything, he probably didn't know what to throw. He probably thought he could get lucky or something," DeShields said. "I was locked in."

Gallo's double was the first hit for Texas since Jonathan Lucroy's lead-off double in the fifth.

"He is going to strike out some, but that was a big at-bat for him," manager Jeff Banister said. "Every time he steps up to the plate there is a competitiveness in him that he wants to get a job done."

That was also the first hit in the game since Royals leadoff hitter Alex Gordon's one-out single in the eighth.

"I think what you saw tonight was two struggling offenses facing

off against some pretty darn good pitching, on both sides," Royals manager Ned Yost said.

Kansas City (7-8) has scored a majors-worst 41 runs so far this season.

While the Rangers (6-10) have now scored 73 runs, the two-time defending AL West champs have an AL-low .206 batting average and were coming off a 3-6 West Coast Road trip that dropped them to the bottom of the division standings.

Dario Alvarez (1-0), the seventh Texas pitcher, struck out three in two innings after walking the first batter he faced on four pitches.

Andrew Cashner, the first Texas-born Rangers starter since 2008, pitched six innings in his first home start. Six relievers then combined for 11 strikeouts and one walk while allowing only one hit over seven innings.

LONG SCORELESS
In those other extra-inning home wins for Texas after being scoreless through nine innings,

See **TEXAS**, Page 15

Big Spring Little League Rangers and Red Sox bring good game

Special to the Herald

I watched the best Little League game I have seen in the last 10 years last night between the Rangers and the Red Sox.

After the Rangers went down 1, 2, 3 in the top of the first, the Red Sox jumped out to score four runs in the bottom half. After back to back walks by Cayde Bryan and Kelby Olivarez, Lucas Chavez singled to bring both runners home.

Jackson Hopper doubled to score Chavez. Hopper advanced to third on the throw to the plate and scored on a passed ball before the final out.

The Rangers answered right back with four runs of their own in the top of the second. Reece Harris led off the inning with a triple in the gap followed by a single up the middle by Justin Cantu.

Harris scored, followed by a walk and an error that allowed Jacob Cantu and Nathan Vasquez to load the bases

after two strikeouts. Preston Bishop stepped to the plate and singled in the gap to score all three runners and tie the game.

For the next six innings, strong pitching and good defense took over. The Rangers loaded the bases in the fourth inning but couldn't get a big hit. The same occurred for the Red Sox in the seventh inning with the same results.

After one out in the top of the ninth inning, Preston Bishop doubled and

Samuel Wood followed with the game winning RBI single. The Red Sox got runners on second and third in the bottom of the ninth but the Rangers secured the victory on a long fly out to right that was squeezed by Jacob Cantu to end the game.

The Rangers were led at the plate by Bishop who went 3-5 with two singles and a double. He also pitched the first five innings striking out 10 Red Sox.

Harris came on to pitch the last four

See **LEAGUE**, Page 15

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Tomorrow's Horoscope



HOLIDAY MATHIS

20-May 20). In your mind, if relationships are a lot of work, it's a sign that the fit isn't good. Regardless, we can't always choose with whom we'll be interacting. Attaining new and better social skills will help matters greatly.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Meetings are on the agenda. They may not feel all that productive, but the point is to show up, see and be seen. This is about understanding the roles involved and the people who are going to play them.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). There's a new project or person on your mind -- how exciting and irresistible! You are convinced that you are better off pursuing this than doing what you used to do for fun.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). A little complaining between friends or colleagues can be a bonding experience, venting the bad energy and uniting the team. But constant complaining just compounds negativity. Steer clear of it.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Love is not something you can

talk yourself into or create with an intellectual exercise. You may feel that you (SET ITAL) should (END ITAL) love, but don't force the issue. It just doesn't work that way.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). The day is marked by an increased sense of purpose. Perhaps this is because many will be affected by your work. As you act on behalf of the group, you find success.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Your vessel will be affected by the wind and currents, but you're still ultimately the pilot of this ship. Grip the wheel and do your best with today's stormy seas.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). The first step to restoring the peace in your world will have to do with temperance. Go easy; do the things that contribute to your health. If there's a problem to clear up, you'll have the strength for it today.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You've had the kind of life turning points that were unexpected and out of your control, but mostly change happens because you

make it happen. And here you go again!
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). It's as though today pulls back the stage curtain just enough to give you a peek at what's to come in a brand-new phase of your life. You'll like what you see.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You're not always your best counselor. In fact, you wouldn't even make the top-10 list today. Listen to many opinions. Right now, you're too close to (yet also, oddly, somewhat naive about) the subject.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (April 21). Wanting well is an art. You want the highest and best for all involved, not just yourself. The year is marked by an attitude of flexibility that will allow you to make the most of circumstances and use the energy available instead of fighting against it. New work comes in July. Romantic love plays out like a dream. Scorpio and Sagittarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 4, 50, 12, 14 and 32.

WEEKEND LOVE FORECAST: ARIES: You're acting out of

a sense of duty. Is there also a way to make yourself happy in this? **TAURUS:** Be bold. You might not get what you want, but you'll have zero regrets. **GEMINI:** Rewarding relationships are based in the spirit of reciprocity. Don't involve yourself with those who know how to take but not give. **CANCER:** You really don't care where you go or what you do there, because the most important part of the equation is being able to spend time with the one you love. **LEO:** Take up your own cause. Fight for yourself. Justice will be served, but you have to be the one to get the ball rolling. **VIRGO:** You've very particular rules and ideas about love, and they'll be challenged this weekend. **LIBRA:** Maybe another person cannot, technically, make you happy. But good relationships certainly help. **SCORPIO:** You're no longer afraid to upset the apple cart. You'll take action to get your needs met. **SAGITTARIUS:** It's not too late to change the direction of a relationship. **CAPRICORN:**

There's someone close whom you can trust and confide in. This person won't let you down. **AQUARIUS:** You don't need anyone to tell you right from wrong, but it would be nice if someone could help make "right" more appealing. **PISCES:** Turbulent emotions muddy the water of your mind. Detach and let things settle, and soon you'll see clearly again.

COUPLE OF THE WEEKEND: The Taurus sun reflects off the moon in Pisces this weekend, intensifying the attraction between this earth-and-water combination. Venus-ruled Taurus will be very attracted to the poetic nature of Pisces and will find the fish's powers of empathy intoxicating. Pisces will appreciate the stability and creature comforts that Taurus can provide and will quickly cast the bull as an emotional touchstone.

To write to Holiday Mathis, visit www.creators.com/author/holiday-mathis and click "Contact."
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Mars Moves in With the Twins

Mars moves into the sign of the twins, where delightful distractions abound, trends catch on and pursuits involve quite a bit of talking to sort out. This isn't considered a particularly productive transit -- a bit like a visit from the mischievous Thing One and Thing Two of "The Cat in the Hat." Still, there's fun in the chaos and a lesson, as well.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Recent stresses have you craving a little more reassurance that all is well. You may have to ask for it, as people will be so into their own parts of the story that they may not realize what others need and want.

TAURUS (April

Annie's Mailbox

Youth Service

Dear Annie: Young people are ready, willing and able to tackle the world's most difficult challenges, yet they are vastly underrepresented as active citizens, decision-makers and leaders. From the preschoolers in Arizona collecting canned goods to combat hunger to the high schooler in Virginia creating STEM clubs for women and girls

to the middle schooler in Alabama saving the state's monarch butterfly population, all of these remarkable youths have a common goal: to raise awareness and solve the problems facing the world today. Today's social and environmental problems are immense; we need young people to create solutions to real-world problems now.

Please let your readers know about Global Youth Service Day, which occurs

from April 21 to April 23 this year. During this three-day event, thousands of community partners in the United States and 125 countries will activate millions of young people to strengthen their communities. Global Youth Service Day recognizes the solutions that young people are bringing to the world's most pressing issues 365 days a year. When given the opportunity, young people are great assets and resources to their communities, providing unique perspectives and skills. Youths who are engaged as active community members are likelier to grow up to volunteer, vote and donate to charitable causes. Research shows that when youths engage

in quality service and service learning projects, they strengthen their leadership skills, increase their academic engagement and develop vital career and workforce readiness skills. These outstanding youths demonstrate that young people are leaders and problem-solvers today, not just the leaders of a distant tomorrow. For more information, readers can visit <http://www.ysa.org/gysd>. You can also find us on social media -- @YouthService on Twitter and at <https://www.facebook.com/youthserviceamerica>. -- Steven A. Culbertson, president and CEO of Youth Service America

Dear Steven: I couldn't agree more. When young people

are given the opportunity to help their communities thrive, they thrive, too. I encourage all my young readers to celebrate Global Youth Service Day this weekend and find ways to keep shining all year long.

Dear Annie: This is regarding "Charged-Up Spouse," the aggravated man whose wife is constantly using and misplacing his phone chargers, resulting in ongoing and frustrating searches. I have, I think, the definitive solution: He should look into a "key-finding" device. There are many inexpensive paging/tracking devices available today.

The receiver is typically attached to your key ring and emits a loud beep whenever the transmitter is activated. Though these are

often marketed for finding keys, they can be used for any item. In this case, the receiver would simply be affixed to the phone charger instead of to his car keys. And unlike the colored tape option, this solution would not require that the missing charger be within his actual line of sight. I've used these devices myself, and I have found them consistently effective and reliable. -- Mike K.

Dear Mike: A modern solution for a modern problem. I like it.

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

Bidding quiz

Your right-hand opponent deals and opens Three Diamonds, both sides vulnerable. What, if anything, do you bid with each of the following four hands?

- ♠ KQ96 ♥ AJ82 ♦ 52 ♣ AJ7
- ♠ K8 ♥ AJ6 ♦ K4 ♣ AKQ982
- ♠ AK83 ♥ AQ96 ♦ — ♣ KQJ94
- ♠ 6 ♥ KQJ9863 ♦ 4 ♣ AKJ5

1. Double. The double of an opening three-bid is for takeout and asks partner to bid, just as the double of an opening one-bid asks partner to bid. The doubler, since he is entering the bidding at a higher level, must be prepared for any response partner might make, and should therefore have values somewhat in excess of a minimum opening bid.

The responder is allowed to convert the takeout double into a penalty double by passing, but only if he has substantial length and strength in the pre-empter's suit.

2. Three notrump. There is nothing "conventional" about this bid. It simply expresses the desire to play in game at notrump. With eight probable winners, assuming a diamond lead, the best prospect for game lies in notrump. A four-club overall

would be incorrect since it gives up the opportunity to play in the game contract that is most likely to make.

Partner is permitted to remove three notrump to a suit if his hand cannot stand notrump play, but such a decision should not be made lightly, as he is not being asked to bid.

3. Four diamonds. The diamond cuebid announces a hand rich enough in high cards and distribution to commit the partnership to game. At the same time, it implies that a slam might be in the cards. The responder is thus encouraged to attempt a slam when his hand contains values that a minimum response would not show.

4. Four hearts. Game in hearts should be undertaken straightaway, since partner needs very little for that contract to be made. If he has either the ace of hearts or queen of clubs, for example, 10 tricks are all but assured.

The jump to four hearts is far superior to a simple overall of three hearts, which does not come close to expressing the potential of the hand. Not only does it get you to a game you are very likely to make, but it will encourage partner to think in terms of slam if he has a couple of aces in his hand.

su | do | ku

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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. Solution, tips and computer program at www.sudoku.com

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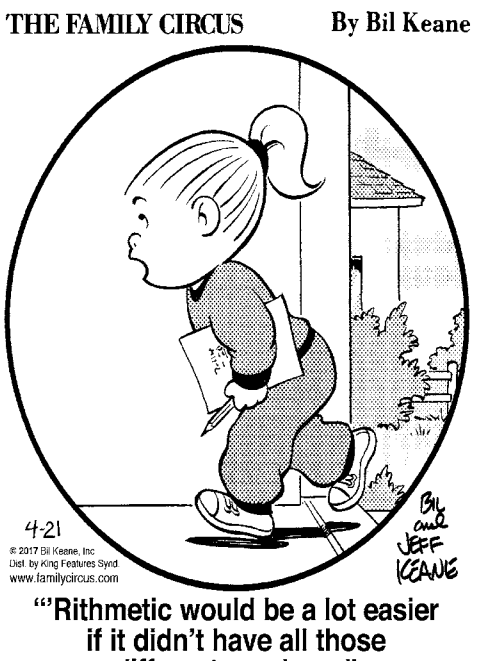
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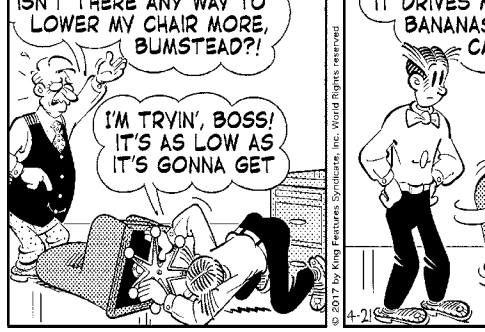
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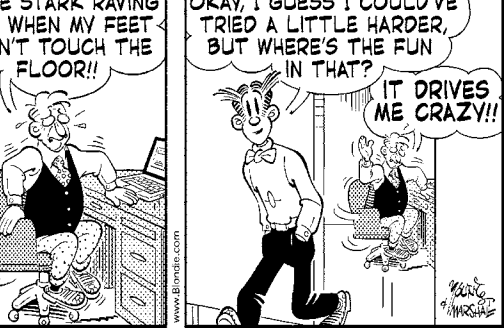
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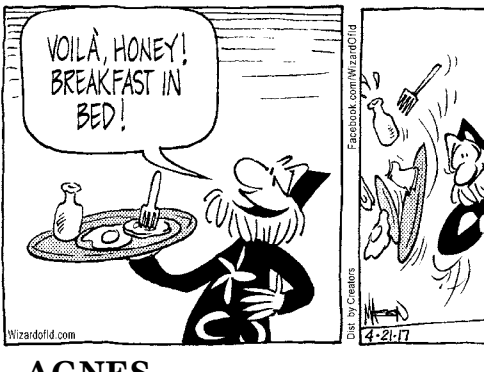
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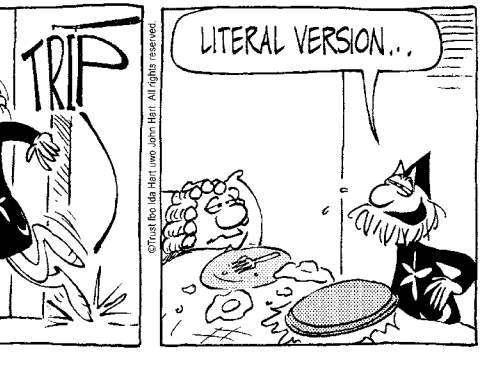
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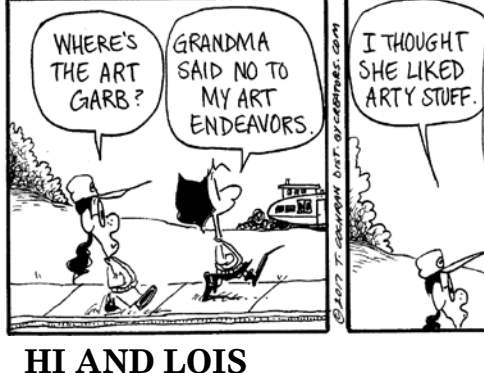
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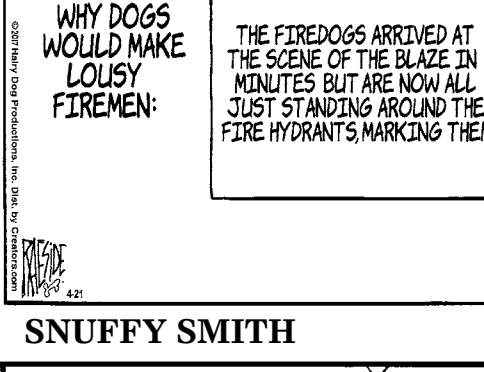
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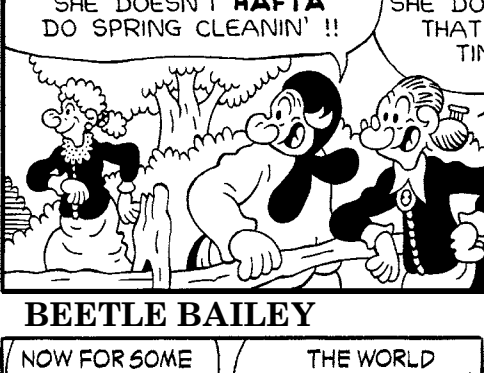
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BEETLE BAILEY



BEETLE BAILEY



This Date In History

Today is Friday, April 21, the 111th day of 2017. There are 254 days left in the year. Today's Highlight in History: On April 21, 1967, army officers in Greece staged a coup...

absurdist novel, was published in Nazi-occupied Paris by Gallimard. In 1955, the Jerome Lawrence-Robert Lee play 'Inherit the Wind'...

(Sami Abdul-Amir al-Jumaili), a critic of al-Qaida who had taken the job after his three predecessors were assassinated...

Newsday Crossword

DON'T GO THERE by Greg Johnson

- ACROSS 1 35th anniversary gift 5 Hank Aaron's 12,364 11 Bit of nothing 14 Long-program leap 15 Baloney 16 Metal bearer 17 Big name in horror film history 18 You can't (with 58 Across) 20 Ready to bloom 22 Scene of the crime 23 Male or female nickname 25 Pressing 29 Sound of dissatisfaction 30 You can't 33 Jai 34 Cuisine category 35 'Put away your credit card' 39 By hook or by crook 43 Big soirees 45 English Channel swimmer 46 'You can't ___!' 51 Orzo, for instance 52 Eyes-closed action 53 Physics class equation 54 One of the vipers 56 A lot 58 See 18 Across 62 'So klutzy!' 65 Parisian way 66 Clear Eyes competitor 67 Exact repetition

Grid for crossword puzzle with clues and answers. Includes a small crossword puzzle at the bottom right.

TEXAS

Continued from Page 9

Robinson Chirinos had an RBI single in the 12th inning to beat the Houston Astros on April 11, 2014; and Rusty Greer's RBI single in the 11th inning was the difference in a win over Toronto on Aug. 25, 2000.

GOOD PITCHING OR BAD HITTING?

"It's a little bit of both," Royals 3B Mike Moustakas said. "Obviously they've got some good arms and they've got some good pitchers over there. ... When your pitchers give you that kind of performance, we've got to do whatever we can to tack one across."

NOT MUCH AT THIRD

Before Gallo scored, the only runner to reach third base had been Lucroy. The Texas catcher advanced to third on a deep flyout by Carlos Gomez before getting stranded there in the fifth.

TRAINER'S ROOM

Royals: Yost said OF

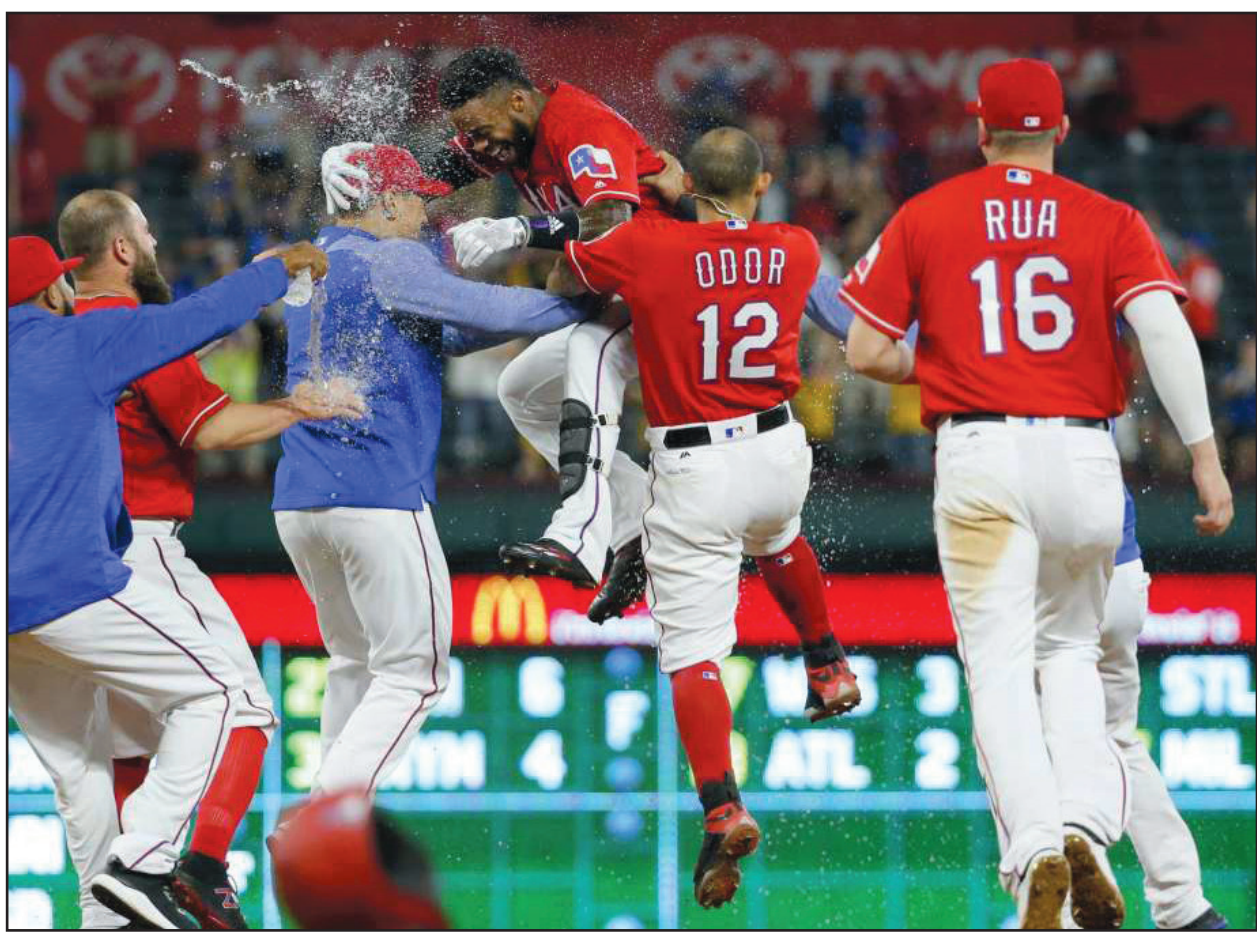
Jorge Solor, who strained his oblique muscle during the final week of spring training, is close to starting a rehab assignment in the minor leagues.

Rangers: 3B Adrian Beltré took some grounders and his throws to first base were caught by Banister. "He looked much better today than last time he went through this exercise," the manager said. ... Demoted closer Sam Dyson, on the 10-day DL with a bruised right hand, threw a simulated inning.

UP NEXT

Royals: RHP Nate Karns has a 1.54 ERA through his first two starts, allowing two earned runs in 11 2-3 innings without getting a decision in either of those games.

Rangers: Cole Hamels makes his fourth start of the season still without a decision. The lefty has exited all of his starts in position for a win, but the Rangers have lost each of those games.



Texas Rangers' Delino DeShields, top, celebrates with Rougned Odor (12), Ryan Rua (16) and others after hitting a run-scoring single off of Kansas City Royals reliever Travis Wood during the 13th inning of a baseball game in Arlington, Texas, Thursday, April 20, 2017. The hit scored Joey Gallo in the 1-0 Rangers win.

AP photo

Beltran's first Houston homer helps Astros top Angels 2-1



AP photo

Houston Astros' Carlos Beltran (15) is congratulated by third base coach Gary Pettis after hitting a solo home run against the Los Angeles Angels in the first inning of a baseball game Thursday, April 20, 2017, in Houston.

By KRISTIE RIEKEN

AP Sports Writer

HOUSTON (AP) — After hitting his first home run for Houston in 12½ years, Carlos Beltran was asked to recall the last time he went deep for the Astros.

"I don't remember," he said. "I swear to God. I wish I could. Playoffs maybe. But I don't remember where."

Jake Marisnick also homered on Thursday in a 2-1 win over the Los Angeles Angels.

Beltran's previous homer for Houston came on Oct. 17, 2004, in Game 4 of the NL Championship Series against St. Louis, capping a postseason in which he hit eight homers with 14 RBIs in 12 games. He then left as a free agent to sign with the New York Mets.

Beltran's home run Thursday came with one out and the first inning off

Matt Shoemaker (0-1), and Marisnick's second homer this season made it 2-0 in the fifth.

Beltran has 422 big league homers as his 40th birthday on Monday approaches.

"I don't get caught up in homers," he said. "For me it's about trying to put up quality at-bats. I think if I put quality at-bats, I know those are going to come."

Lance McCullers (2-0) scattered three hits and struck out eight over 6 2/3 scoreless innings as Houston won for the seventh time in eight games.

"We had a couple chances but not a lot," Angels manager Mike Scioscia said. "He's pitched us tough in this park and we just haven't figured him out yet."

Chris Devenski al-

lowed home run to Mike Trout starting the ninth inning and back-to-back singles with one out before fanning Cameron Maybin and Danny Espinosa for his first save.

At 11-5 the Astros are off to their best start since 2006. They lead the AL-West a year after a 7-17 start put them in a hole too big to climb out of last season.

Shoemaker allowed three hits and two runs while striking out seven in a season-high seven innings.

Trout's homer was the only extra-base hit on Thursday for the Angels, who have lost eight of their last nine games.

Beltran put Houston ahead with his first-inning homer. Alex Bregman doubled with one out in the second before Evan Gattis drew a walk. But they were left stranded as Shoemaker struck out Marwin Gonzalez as the first of 10 straight Astros he retired.

Houston didn't have another baserunner until Marisnick's home run made it 2-0 with two outs in the fifth inning.

McCullers plunked Kole Calhoun with one out in the first inning and walked Maybin with two outs in the second inning. The Angels didn't get a hit until Andrelton Simmons singled to start the fifth. But he was picked off

trying to steal second base and McCullers retired the next two batters to end the inning.

McCullers was lifted after walking consecutive batters with two outs in the seventh inning.

Houston's Carlos Correa was 0 for 2 with a walk in his return to the lineup after sitting out three games with a sore right hand after being plunked on Saturday in Oakland.

TRAINER'S ROOM

Astros: Houston placed right-handed reliever Jandel Gustave on the 10-day DL with tightness in his right forearm and called up right-hander James Hoyt to take his spot on the roster.

DEVENSKI'S K'S

Devenski, who pitched 2 1/3 innings on Thursday, has struck out 25 in 13 1/3 innings this season. The performance leaves him with a 1.35 ERA and a 16.88 strikeouts per nine innings ratio. It was his second career save, and he believes working through the jam in the ninth inning on Thursday will help him in the future.

"Big time going forward," he said. "Definitely something that I know what's that like now. Especially in a tight situation like that, so it was good."

THEY SAID IT

Trout on coming up just short on Thursday: "We had an opportunity. We just couldn't come up with the big hit. You've got to look at the positives. We've got a seven-game homestand (up next)."

UP NEXT

Angels: Alex Meyer will be recalled from Triple-A Salt Lake on Friday to make his first start of the season when the Angels open a four-game series against Toronto. Meyer is 0-0 with a 4.80 ERA in three minor league starts this season.

Astros: Mike Fiers looks for his first win this season when he starts on Friday in the opener of a three-game series at Tampa. Fiers is 0-1 with a 5.40 ERA in two starts this season and allowed six hits and five runs in four innings in his last start.

LEAGUE

Continued from Page 9

innings and pick up the win striking out eight. The Red Sox were led at the dish by Nathan Rios who went 2 - 4. Lucas Chavez pitched the first three innings for the Red Sox striking out seven Rangers.

Jaren Ceasar came in and held the Rangers scoreless for the next 5 1/3 innings before reaching his pitch count limit, during that time he struck out 15 Rangler batters. Rios took the loss for the Red Sox.

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Aaron Hernandez's apparent suicide shrouded in mystery



AP photo

In this Wednesday, March 15, 2017, file photo, Defendant Aaron Hernandez listens during his double murder trial in Suffolk Superior Court, in Boston. Massachusetts prison officials said Hernandez hanged himself in his cell and pronounced dead at a hospital early Wednesday, April 19, 2017.

By PHILIP MARCELO and
DAVE COLLINS

Associated Press

BOSTON (AP) — Aaron Hernandez's apparent suicide in prison — just days after the former NFL star was cleared of additional murder charges — remains shrouded in mystery.

Why now? Is there more to the story? What happens to his estate?

Authorities offered few answers after Hernandez was found hanging from a bedsheet Wednesday in his cell in a maximum-security prison in Massachusetts, where he was serving a life sentence for the 2013 slaying of a one-time friend.

His death came hours before his former New England Patriots teammates visited the White House to celebrate their Super Bowl victory. Hernandez, 27, died five days after a jury acquitted him in the 2012 shooting deaths of two men whom prosecutors alleged he gunned down after one accidentally spilled a drink on him at a Boston nightclub.

The apparent suicide left friends, family and his legal team shocked and in disbelief. Many were searching for an explanation to the tragic end of a young man whose football skills at one point earned him a five-year, \$40 million contract extension with the NFL's top franchise.

"There were no conversations or correspondence from Aaron to his family or legal team that would have indicated anything like this was possible," said his attorney, Jose Baez. "Aaron was looking forward to an opportunity for a second chance to prove his innocence. Those who love and care about him are heartbroken and determined to find the truth surrounding his untimely death."

Guards found Hernandez shortly after 3 a.m. Wednesday at the state prison in Shirley, Correction Department spokesman Christopher Fallon said. The former tight end was taken to a hospital and pronounced dead about an hour later.

Fallon said he was not aware of any suicide note and officials had no reason to believe Hernandez was suicidal. Otherwise, he would have been trans-

ferred to a mental health unit, Fallon said.

The Worcester County district attorney's office and the Correction Department were investigating, and Massachusetts' chief medical examiner was conducting an autopsy.

The Patriots had no immediate comment, and President Donald Trump made no mention of Hernandez at the White House event.

A star tight end for the University of Florida when it won the 2008 title, Hernandez dropped to the fourth round of the NFL draft because of trouble in college that included a failed drug test and a bar fight. His name also had come up in an investigation into a shooting.

Still, he was a productive tight end for the Patriots for three seasons. He caught 79 passes for 910 yards and seven touchdowns in his second year to help the team reach the Super Bowl.

But the Patriots released him in 2013, shortly after he was arrested in the killing of semi-pro football player Odin Lloyd, who was dating the sister of Hernandez's fiancée. Hernandez was convicted and sentenced to life in prison.

Last week, Hernandez was acquitted in the 2012 drive-by shootings of two men in Boston. As the jury deliberated, cameras spied Hernandez blowing kisses to the young daughter he fathered with fiancée Shayanna Jenkins.

Investigators suggested Hernandez shot Lloyd to keep him quiet about the two earlier killings. A lawyer who represents Lloyd's mother said she's moving forward with a wrongful-death lawsuit against Hernandez's estate, which includes a home valued at \$1.3 million.

In the Dorchester neighborhood where Lloyd grew up, a family friend of the victim wondered if Hernandez could no longer bear the weight of his crime and his squandered potential.

"I just think it got to him — the guilt," Mixson Philip said. "Each man has to live with himself. You can put on an act like nothing happened, but you've got a soul. You've got a heart."

ter-based procedure with a surgical operation that would still minimize blood loss and avoid the need for a transfusion.

Before Lin snaked the stent and balloon through an artery, a surgeon would first open Bennie's chest and use a felt band to cinch down the valve, making it narrow enough to hold the stent in place. Bennie's heart would continue beating through the operation, avoiding the need to connect her to a heart-lung machine to pump blood through her body.

The medical team attempted the approach on the 3-D model, "and the stent deployed perfectly," Lin said.

To Lin's knowledge, the procedure had never been attempted before. But when he and the surgical team performed the operation on Bennie days later, they operated with confidence.

Two years later, she's doing well, she said. She was glad to learn Lin has held onto the model of her heart, a reminder of how hard doctors here worked to help her.

"It was comforting to know," Bennie said, "how much thought and effort they put into the operation."

O'Reilly's departure creates new challenges for Fox

By TALI ARBEL

AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — With its biggest star departing in another blowup over sexual harassment, Fox News faces some big challenges. It now has to show that it can hang on to its loyal army of conservative viewers, improve its working culture, and still continue to make big bucks for its corporate parent.

The company said Wednesday that it had parted ways with longtime host Bill O'Reilly after a "thorough and careful review of allegations against him." Dozens of advertisers ditched "The O'Reilly Factor" after a New York Times report detailed \$13 million in payouts to five women over his alleged abusive behavior; more allegations subsequently emerged. (O'Reilly denied the accusations.)

O'Reilly's departure is the second big blow for conservatives' favorite news network in nine months. Fox's longtime CEO Roger Ailes resigned abruptly amid similar sexual harassment charges last July. Its leading female star, Megyn Kelly, also decamped for NBC in January. The network's parent company, entertainment giant 21st Century Fox, insisted that

Fox News will weather the current storm, noting in a statement the "strength of its talent bench" and expressing "full confidence that the network will continue to be a powerhouse in cable news."

That certainly could happen, though it probably won't be easy.

Some analysts believe that James and Lachlan Murdoch — the sons of 21st Century Fox executive chairman Rupert Murdoch — made the call on O'Reilly to change the Ailesian culture at the network and to cement their control following his departure.

"Getting rid of the old guard is a way to do that," said Dan Cassino, a professor at Fairleigh Dickinson University and the author of "Fox News & American Politics: How One Channel Shapes American Politics & Society."

But O'Reilly has been on Fox News for more than two decades.

"The O'Reilly Factor" has generated a huge ad bonanza for Fox, one that yielded more than \$178 million in 2015.

It's the top-rated show on the No. 1 cable network — one that, according to the investment bank Nomura's estimates, accounts for fully 20 percent of profits at 21st Century Fox.

Now, the top ratings for O'Reilly's time slot — and Fox's other prime-time shows — could be at risk.

"He's been the linchpin" of the lineup, said Jane Hall, an American University professor and former Fox contributor, who noted that it will take a while to see whether his loyal audience sticks with O'Reilly's replacement.

That will be Tucker Carlson, whose show is moving to the 8 p.m. slot on Fox.

O'Reilly's ratings overshadow Carlson's, and his show's viewership fell this week while he was on vacation and other Fox hosts subbed in.

Others figure that O'Reilly's firing won't be a sticking point for most Fox viewers.

"When we look at data, at what programs people report watching, you just don't find people who watch Bill O'Reilly and nothing else on Fox," Cassino said. Fox also has a big financial safety cushion in the fees cable companies pay the network, which dwarf its ad revenue, according to Nomura media analyst Anthony DiClemente. Even if there's some disruption in ad rates or spots, he said, there's a "massive backstop" in those payments, which are long-term deals.

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HEART

Continued from Page 4

begun feeling fatigued. She couldn't catch her breath. Once again, her heart was straining, putting her at risk for heart failure. And once again, doctors back home told her they couldn't help and instead sent her to a specialist in Houston.

Before she arrived, Lin's team took the model of Bennie's heart into a lab at Methodist and tested his first idea: He wanted to use a catheter to pass a stent through an artery and into the valve and then inflate a balloon to deploy the stent, repairing the leak.

But when they attempted the procedure on the model, Lin realized immediately it wouldn't work. Bennie's pulmonary valve was so enlarged, the balloon couldn't deploy a stent large enough to stay in place.

"We knew that wasn't going to work," Lin said. "We needed to go another route."

Next, Lin and his team tested a procedure he's dubbed the hybrid approach, combining the initial cathe-