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H BIG SPRING HERALD

THURSDAY, MAY 18, 2017



VOLUME 112, NUMBER 182 COPYRIGHT 2017 50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 SUNDAY

Court rules in favor of city in sewer line dispute

Herald Staff Reports
 The 118th District Court ruled in favor of the city of Big Spring in a dispute between the city and a group of residents led by Holston Banks Jr. over the building of a new sewer line in north Big Spring.

According to an earlier report by the Herald, the dispute began in early 2015 after the city contracted with Darnell & Dickson Construction Inc. of San Angelo to install a new sewer line, a portion of which was run through the Banks Addition in north Big Spring, to service the area of the city north of Interstate 20.

The new line was part of the city's new master plan to foster growth along Interstate 20 and further north. Banks and others accused the construction firm of trespassing on their property and ordering the city to cease and desist. In April, the city filed suit against Holston Banks Jr., Priscilla Smith, Berna-

dette Young, Tyrone Banks, Timothy Banks, Belinda Gail Scott, and Christine Banks Bolden, saying their claims were unfounded. Banks and his colleagues soon countersued, claiming the actions by the city and Darnell crews was in violation of due process statutes.

report, the Banks family said "the city had abandoned the 'right of way dispute', which would allow for the property to be used for public use." CBS7 news reports "the verdict read the land was owned by the city and was never the resident's property." According to a CBS 7 news See **DISPUTE**, Page 3

Masons award 'Teacher of the Year'



Big Spring Junior High Librarian Robin Ritchey was awarded the Mirabeau B. Lamar Outstanding Teacher of the Year award from the local Masonic club Wednesday afternoon.

By LYNDEL MOODY
 Staff Writer
 A 31-year career Big Spring ISD educator received the Mirabeau B. Lamar Outstanding Teacher of the Year award from the local Masonic Lodge Wednesday afternoon.

"Right now I am overwhelmed," said Robin Ritchey, Big Spring Junior High School's long-time librarian. "I feel like it's very undeserving actually. I am very honored that they have this award and they've honored educators with it every year."

Ritchey received the award from Bo Clawson and Ray Baker, members of the Staked Plains Masonic Lodge 598 in front of her co-workers in the Junior High library. She was nominated by her principal, Rebecca Otto. "Mrs. Ritchey has

been employed by the Big Spring Independent School District for 31 years, yet she remains young-hearted and inspiring as if she had stepped through our doors for the See **AWARD**, Page 3

Police chase ends in rollover

By ROBERT BARLOW
 Staff Writer

A 15-year-old girl who had taken her parents' vehicle without consent led police on a chase which ended with the vehicle rolling over Wednesday evening.

According to a news release from the Big Spring Police Department, at approximately 5 p.m. Wednesday, officers responded to a report from a complainant that their 15-year-old daughter had left the residence with the parents' vehicle.

The officers located the vehicle around two and a half hours later heading west on a service road of I-20.

"At approximately 7:30 p.m. a patrol officer attempted to stop the stolen vehicle on the service road of I-20," stated a Big Spring Police Department media release. "The vehicle was traveling at a high rate of speed and merged on to I-20 near Highway 176, going west and refusing to stop for the marked unit."

After refusing to stop, the 15-year-old continued at a "high rate of speed" where the vehicle would sometimes reach speeds of 100 miles per hour before the driver lost control and drifted off the road.

"At approximately the 159 mile marker, the driver lost control of the vehicle and left the roadway," according to the media release.

Upon losing control, the vehicle then left the road and rolled over. When officers

See **CHASE**, Page 3

VA2K Walk and Roll helps VA's homeless veterans program

By LYNDEL MOODY
 Staff Writer
 Mild temperatures and clear skies welcomed participants in the 2017 VA2K Walk and Roll event held in the early afternoon Wednesday on the VA Hospital grounds. "The event was very successful," said Shelia Austin, public affairs officer for the West Texas VA Health Care

System. "We had a large number of employees walk, and we also had veterans from the state veterans home — Lamun-Lusk-Sanchez State Veterans Home — come over. We had some veteran volunteers to help push them if they were in a wheelchair or assist them walking if they were walking with a cane. The weather cooperated and it was a great time."

walkers were welcomed to donate to the VA homeless veterans program by bringing new clothing, toiletries, pre-packaged food, bottled water, and household items. "Our veterans homeless program will benefit from the VA2K," Austin explained. "The program assists homeless veterans getting into public housing. It's an intensive case management program. Once they are in a home, they will need things to start



West Texas VA staff handed out refreshments and snacks for those who participated in the VA2K Walk and Roll that was held Wednesday on the VA Hospital Grounds.

The was the seventh annual VA2K Walk & Roll event held at VA locations all over the nation. Besides encouraging an active lifestyle, See **VA**, Page 3

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Obituaries

Donna Jean Pace



Donna Jean Pace, 59, of Big Spring, Texas, passed away Wednesday, May 10, 2017, after battling a long illness.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Saturday, May 20, 2017, at the Dora Roberts Community Center in Big Spring from noon until 5 p.m. On this day, we celebrate what would have been her 60th birthday, as well as the lasting impact she's had on each of our lives.

Donna was born to Charles and Aliene Hill Morton in Dumas, Ark. She was a loving wife, mother, and grandmother who always went above and beyond for her family. Donna formerly owned The Soda Shop, a small café in Forsan, Texas; and later worked several years at Bargain Mart Discount Foods.

She is survived by her husband, David Pace of Big Spring; two sons, Anthony Pace and wife Vanessa

of Snyder, and Christopher Pace of Big Spring; and one daughter, Angela Lance and husband Blake of Coahoma; grandchildren, Todd Pace of Midland, Danielle Pace and Matthew Pace of Sweetwater, Tyler Anderson, Desirae Pace, and Alexis Pace of Snyder, Danielle Raney, Daniel Raney, and Nicholas Pace of Snyder, and Pace Lei Lance of Coahoma. She is also survived by her brothers and sisters, Karen Chance, Judy Reynolds, Larry Morton, Tom Morton, and Rick Morton, all of Arkansas; and numerous nieces and nephews, great-nieces and -nephews, a great-grandchild, and two great-grandchildren on the way.

Donna was preceded in death by her father and mother, Charles and Aliene Morton of Arkansas; twin brother Don Morton of Arkansas (1982); nephew Kenneth Sewell of Arkansas (2010); and grandson Dylan Lance of Big Spring (2015).

Arrangements are by Myers and Smith Funeral Home. Pay your respects online at www.myersand-smith.com.

Paid obituary

Johnny Lee Hunt Sr.

Johnny Lee Hunt Sr., 67, died Tuesday, May 16, 2017, in a Midland hospital.

Memorial services will be held at 2 p.m. Friday, May 19, 2017, at the Nalley-Pickle and Welch Rosewood Chapel.

He was born Aug. 24, 1949, in Lamesa, Texas and married Sandra McBurnett Feb. 13, 1971, in Odesa, Texas.

Johnny served in the United States Marine Corps, serving during the Vietnam war.

Survivors include his wife, Sandra Hunt of Big Spring; two sons, Roy Hunt and wife Shannon, and

Johnny L. Hunt Jr., all of Big Spring; one brother, Michael Hunt and wife Barbara of Midland; one sister, Robbie Hunt and husband Jr. Hallford of Brady; and three grandchildren, Joshua Hunt, Mariah Aldrich, and Rhett Aldrich.

He was preceded in death by his father, Robert Hunt; and his mother, Alta Faye Mifflin.

The family suggests memorials to any organization that benefits our military veterans.

Arrangements are under the direction of Nalley-Pickle and Welch Funeral Home and Crematory of Big Spring. Online condolences may be made at www.npwelch.com.

Paid obituary

Sheriff

The Howard County Sheriff's Department reported the following activity:

Note – Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 82 inmates at the time of this report.

• **MELVIN WILLIAM BIDDLE**, 54, was booked by BSPD on charges of public intoxication, possession of a dangerous drug, and possession of a controlled substance (less than 28 grams).

• **BRITTANY LEE CHRISTIAN**, 25, was booked by BSPD on a warrant for disregarding a stop sign.

• **DAVID RAMOS GALINDO**, 63, was booked by BSPD on a charge of criminal trespassing.

• **HOWARD BRANDON**

JOHNSON, 32, was booked by BSPD on charges of evading arrest or detention and manufacture or delivery of a controlled substance (4 to 200 grams).

• **CINDY MACHADO LOPEZ**, 20, was booked by HCSO on a warrant for firearm smuggling (3 or more firearms).

• **ORLANDO TORRES SANCHEZ**, 59, was booked by BSPD on warrants for no driver's license, failure to maintain financial responsibility, and criminal trespassing.

• **COBE BRIAN SMITH**, 18, was booked by BSPD on a charge of criminal trespassing.

• **DEANDRE TYRELLE WALTON**, 36, was booked by BSPD on

charges of possession of a controlled substance (4 to 200 grams), possession of marijuana (4 oz. to 5 lbs.), and prohibited weapons.

• **ALLEN RAY WARD**, 44, was booked by HCSO on two warrants for theft of property (\$750 to \$2,500).

• **CODY ALAN WINGO**, 28, was booked by HCSO on a warrant for firearm smuggling (3 or more firearms).

• **DARIN FRANK WITTEN**, 29, was booked by BSPD on a charge of possession of a controlled substance (1 to 4 grams).

• **CHRISTOPHER ANDREW YANEZ**, 24, was booked by HCSO on a warrant for firearm smuggling (3 or more firearms).

Fire/EMS

Big Spring Fire Department/EMS reported the following activity:

• **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 1700 block of Runnels. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

• **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 3200 block of Parkway. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

• **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 1300 block of Sycamore. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

• **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 700 block of Central Avenue. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medi-

cal Center.

• **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 5900 block of North Service Road. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

• **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 1700 block of Yale. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

• **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 900 block of East Sixth Street. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

• **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 1800 block of North Highway 87. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

• **MEDICAL CALL** was report-

ed in the 3700 block of Wasson Road. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

• **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 500 block of East 16th Street. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

• **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 3700 block of Wasson Road. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

• **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 1600 block of State. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

• **FALSE FIRE ALARM** was reported in the 200 block of East Third Street.

Take Note

• The Big Spring Independent School District will hold a Summer Food Service Program at Big Spring High School, 707 E. 11th Place, June 5 through 30. Breakfast will be served from 8 to 9 a.m.; and lunch from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Children 18 and younger are eligible to eat at no cost to the child, and do not need to attend BSISD schools or meet any income requirements. Adults can eat for \$1.25 per breakfast, or \$3.50 per lunch. This program is provided so that children in the community do not go hungry during summer months. For more information contact the BSISD Food Service Office at 264-3635.

• Region 9 Prevention Resource Center will hold an event entitled "Alcohol: Rethink Your Drink" May 22 at the Region 18 Service Center, 2811 La-Force Boulevard in Midland from 1 to 5 p.m. Registration is free and open to the public. To register, visit <https://rethinkyourdrink.eventbrite.com>. For more information, contact Kevin Thompson at 432-333-4100, or by email at kthompson@pbrcada.org.

• Parkview Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, 3200 Parkway, will hold a celebration from 4 to 6 p.m. Friday, May 19, in observance of National Nursing Home Week. Hot dogs, chips, and drinks will be served.

Dimples the Clown, face painting, a DJ, train rides, game booths, and a bouncy water slide will be available to entertain youngsters, while adults can meet the staff, visit with Parkview residents, and see recent changes to the home.

Parkview has recently undergone remodeling and renovation. For more information, contact Parkview at 432-263-4041.



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432-264-2923

Billy Ray Johnson



Billy Ray Johnson, 56, of Big Spring died Tuesday, May 16, 2017.

Memorial services will be held at 10 a.m. Friday, May 19, 2017, at the Nalley-Pickle and Welch Rosewood Chapel.

Billy was born April 11, 1961, in Big Spring, and graduated from Big Spring High School in 1979. He was a lifelong resident of Big Spring and worked for Johnson Sheet Metal.

Billy is survived by one son, Dane Johnson; and one daughter, Alexis Johnson, both of Pagosa Springs, Colo.; his mother, Opal Johnson; and two brothers, Mark Johnson and Randy Johnson, all of Big Spring; one sister, Gina Kilgore of Driftwood, Texas; and several nieces and a nephew.

He was preceded in death by his father, Billy L. Johnson.

Online condolences may be left at www.npwelch.com

Arrangements are under the direction of Nalley-Pickle and Welch Funeral Home and Crematory.

Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity:

• **COBE BRIAN SMITH**, 18, of 1507 Sycamore St. was arrested on a charge of criminal trespassing.

• **DEANDRE TYRELLE WALTON**, 36, of 9713 Jay Rd. was arrested on charges of possession of a controlled substance (4 to 200 grams), possession of marijuana (4 oz. to 5 lbs.), and prohibited weapons.

• **MELVIN WILLIAM BIDDLE**, 54, of 1102 Sycamore St. was arrested on charges of public intoxication, possession of a dangerous drug, and possession of a controlled substance (less than 28 grams).

• **DARIN FRANK WITTEN**, 29, of 1106 Stanford Ave. was arrested on a charge of possession of a controlled substance (1 to 4 grams).

• **ORLANDO SANCHEZ SR.**, 59, of 1204 E. 17th St. was arrested on warrants for no driver's license, failure to maintain financial responsibility, and criminal trespassing.

• **DAVID RAMOS GALINDO**, 63, of 1905 Wasson Rd. Apt. #41 was arrested on a charge of criminal trespassing.

• **BRITTANY LEE CHRISTIAN**, 25, of 2806 Sherman Rd. was arrested on a warrant for disregarding a stop sign.

• **HOWARD BRANDON JOHNSON**, 32, of 500 S. Goliad St. was arrested on charges of evading arrest or detention and manufacture or delivery of a controlled substance (4 to 200 grams).

• **CHRISTOPHER ANDREW YANEZ**, 24, of 1100 E. Fifth St. was arrested on a warrant for firearm smuggling (3 or more firearms).

• **ALLEN RAY WARD**, 44, of 218 Texas Rd. was arrested on outstanding warrants.

• **THEFT** was reported in the 2900 block of East Interstate 20, the 1600 block of South Gregg Street, the 1700 block of East FM 700, and the 3700 block of Dixon Street.

• **MINOR ACCIDENT** was reported at the intersection of Sixth Street and Birdwell Lane.

• **STOLEN VEHICLE** was reported in the 3200 block of Fenn Avenue.

• **BURGLARY OF A VEHICLE** was reported in the 2200 block of Morrison Drive.

Support Groups

THURSDAY

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

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

• A Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder support group meeting is at 6:30 p.m. at the VA Medical Center Veteran's Healing Center.

FRIDAY

• AA open discussion meeting from noon until 1 p.m. at 605 Settles. Open Big Book study meeting, 8 p.m. until 9 p.m.

SATURDAY

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

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The Big Spring Herald is a member of The Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce, Texas Press Association, West Texas Press Association, Texas Daily Newspaper Association, The Associated Press.

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POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, TX 79721. Periodicals postage paid at Big Spring, Texas.

USPS 1431-48 USPS 0055-940 ISSN 0746-6811
BY THE MONTH HOME DELIVERY: \$9.00 monthly; \$97.20 yearly (includes 10% discount). MAIL SUBSCRIPTIONS: \$14.58 monthly Howard; \$18.33 elsewhere.

DISPUTE

Continued from Page 1

The court ruled the city must have an act of relinquishment and an intention to abandon; instead it found the city only to have non-use instead. The court stated the city would compensate the homeowners \$1,500 for the trespassing, CBS 7

news reports.

Bernadette Young, a defendant in the case told CBS 7 News, "I'm disappointed, but not shocked. I didn't think we would get a fair trial ... being in the city of Big Spring, suing the city of Big Spring."

CBS 7 reports the Banks family is considering appealing the ruling to a higher court. They have 30 days to do so.

CHASE

Continued from Page 1

approached the vehicle they found that there was another 15-year-old girl in the vehicle along with the 15-year-old driver.

"Both girls were taken to Midland Memorial Hospital and were treated and released to their parents," stated the me-

dia release. "The case will be forwarded to juvenile authorities."

Big Spring Police department stated that no other vehicles involved in the chase or crash, and no other injuries were reported.

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

VA

Continued from Page 1

up in a new place like detergent, mops, a garbage pail. We have generous donors and service organizations that give these start up items."

Austin added anyone in the public wishing to learn more or to donate to the program is encouraged to contact Akisha Williams, chief of voluntary

services at 432-263-7361, ext. 4824.

According to Austin, last year's VA2K had more than 19,500 VA employees and 8,100 veterans participating at more than 160 VA locations across the country. The event in Big Spring occurred on the walking track located on the front of the hospital grounds.

Contact Staff Writer Lyndel Moody at 263-7331, ext. 235, or email citydesk@big-springherald.com.

AWARD

Continued from Page 1

first time yesterday," Otto wrote in her recommendation letter.

Otto describes Ritchey as a model for the students as a life-long learner and is "amazingly efficient and welcoming into the library."

"Mrs. Ritchey encourages students to be constantly looking to the future with her college-themed center displays and continual push to pull the best from students," Otto wrote. "All this while encouraging them to take pride in their here and now - as a Big Spring Steer."

Ritchey has been employed with

Big Spring ISD 31 of the 32 years of her education career. She has served as the junior high librarian since the 1999-2000 school year. Her husband Mike retired last year after serving as the high school principal for more than a decade. The couple's two children, Reagan and Matt are both Big Spring High School graduates.

"Because she has been such an integral part of the Big Spring community for so long, she is able to reach out now to the children of students she had when she first began her career in Big Spring," Otto writes. "Mrs. Ritchey is widely respected and loved within the community."

Otto went on to say Ritchey "is one

of the most thoughtful, encouraging, hardworking people I have ever met."

During the presentation, Ritchey was visibly shocked to hear she had received the honor.

"I love Big Spring. Why did y'all do this to me," said an emotional Ritchey after receiving a standing ovation from her peers. "I love all of you. It's a great staff to work with. I am not as good as that says. You ask any English teacher. Thank you anyway for the kind words and to me you all deserve it."

Mirabeau B Lamar was the second president of the state of Texas. Un-

der his tenure, he started the public education system with local control, Clawson said. This is one of three Teacher of the Year awards given by the local Mason organization. One is given at each of the Howard County public school districts.

Contact Staff Writer Lyndel Moody at 263-7331, ext. 234, or email citydesk@big-springherald.com.

Trump assails 'witch hunt' after naming of special counsel

By ERIC TUCKER, JULIE PACE and NANCY BENAC

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump lashed out at the appointment of a special counsel to investigate allegations that his campaign collaborated with Russia to sway the 2016 election, tweeting Thursday that it is "the single greatest witch hunt of a politician in American history!"

The Justice Department on Wednesday appointed former FBI Director Robert Mueller to lead the investigation. Mueller will have sweeping powers and the authority to prosecute any crimes he uncovers.

The surprise announcement to hand the probe over to Mueller, a lawman who garners deep bipartisan respect, was a striking shift for Trump's Justice Department, which had resisted increasingly loud calls from Democrats for an outside prosecutor. It immediately escalated the legal stakes — and the potential political damage — for a president who has tried to dismiss the matter as partisan witch hunt and a "hoax."

In another Twitter post Thursday, Trump said: "With all of the illegal acts that took place in the Clinton campaign & Obama Administration, there was never a special counsel (sic) appointed!" He did not provide examples or evidence of any alleged "illegal acts." Trump later deleted and retweeted that statement to correct the spelling of "counsel."

The announcement, the latest in the shock-a-day Washington saga, was made by deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein. The White House counsel's office was alerted only after the order appointing

Mueller was signed, said a senior White House official, who was not authorized to speak publicly by name and commented only on condition of anonymity.

In a written statement, Trump insisted anew there were no nefarious ties between his campaign and Russia.

"A thorough investigation will confirm what we already know — there was no collusion between my campaign and any foreign entity," he declared. "I look forward to this matter concluding quickly."

Mueller's broad mandate gives him not only oversight of the Russia probe, but also "any matters that arose or may arise directly from the investigation." That would surely include Trump's firing last week of FBI Director James Comey.

Mueller, a former federal prosecutor at the Justice Department, was confirmed as FBI director days before the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks that would ultimately shape his tenure. The FBI's counterterrorism mission was elevated in those years, as the U.S. intelligence agencies adjusted to better position America to prevent another attack of such magnitude. He was so valued that President Barack Obama asked him to stay on two years longer than his 10-year term.

Comey succeeded him, appointed by Obama.

Mueller was appointed Wednesday by Rosenstein, who had faced criticism as the author of a memo that preceded Comey's firing. Rosenstein said the appointment was "necessary in order for the American people to have full confidence in the outcome."

Republicans have largely stood behind Trump in the first months of his presi-

dency as the FBI and congressional investigations into Russia's election meddling intensified. But GOP lawmakers have grown increasingly anxious since Trump fired Comey, who had been leading the bureau's probe — and after Comey associates said he had notes from a meeting in which Trump asked him to shut down the investigation into the Russia ties of former National Security Adviser Michael Flynn.

Reactions from Congress were mainly positive.

House Speaker Paul Ryan said the appointment was consistent with his goal of ensuring that "thorough and independent investigations are allowed to follow the facts wherever they may lead."

Republican Jason Chaffetz of Utah, chairman of the House Oversight Committee, said Mueller was a "great selection. Impeccable credentials. Should be widely accepted."

And not a moment too soon, Democrats said.

"I believe Mueller will be independent, he will be thorough and he will be fair and he's not going to be easily swayed," said Elijah Cummings of Maryland, top Democrat on the oversight panel. Cummings has vigorously urged such an appointment, suggesting it could lead to accusations of obstruction of justice.

In the 1990s, Democrats complained that independent counsel Kenneth Starr, who investigated President Bill Clinton, overstepped his authority.

The latest political storm, coupled with the still-potent fallout from Trump's recent disclosure of classified information to Russian diplomats at the White House, has overshadowed all else in

the capital and beyond. Stocks fell sharply on Wall Street Wednesday as investors worried the latest turmoil in Washington could hinder Trump's pro-business agenda

Trump has repeatedly slammed the FBI and congressional investigations as a "hoax" and blamed disgruntled officials at intelligence agencies for leaking information related to the probes. During a commencement address Wednesday at the Coast Guard Academy, he complained bitterly about criticism he's faced.

"No politician in history, and I say this with great surety, has been treated worse or more unfairly," he said. "You can't let the critics and the naysayers get in the way of your dreams. ... I guess that's why we won. Adversity makes you stronger. Don't give in, don't back down. ... And the more righteous your fight, the more opposition that you will face."

No less a commentator

than Russia's Vladimir Putin called the dramatic charges swirling around Trump evidence of "political schizophrenia spreading in the U.S." He offered to furnish a "record" of the Trump-diplomats meeting in the Oval Office if the White House desired it.

There was no word on what that record might entail, a question many were likely to raise in light of Trump's recent warning to Comey that he had "better hope" there were no tapes of a discussion they'd had.

The White House has disputed Comey's account of his February conversation with Trump concerning Flynn but has not offered specifics. Several

congressional Republicans said Wednesday that if Trump did suggest that Comey "let this go" regarding Flynn's Russian contacts, it was probably just a joke, light banter.

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

Donna Jean Pace, 59, died Wednesday. A celebration of her life will be from 12:00 PM to 5:00 PM, Saturday May 20, 2017 at the Dora Roberts Community Center.

Gilbert Duron, 84, died Friday. Vigil service will be at 7:00 PM Sunday, May 21, 2017 at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral Mass will be at 11:00 AM Monday at Holy Trinity Catholic Church. Burial will be at Mount Olive Memorial Park.

Thomas Mindling, 77, died Sunday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

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Howard-Glasscock

Relay for Life

5 p.m.-Midnight, May 20, 2016

Dorothy Garrett Coliseum

Beating the odds: A survivor's tale

As a long-time survivor of breast cancer, Judy Tereletsky lives with the knowledge the disease can return at any time



Judy Tereletsky looks through the diary she kept while undergoing surgery and treatments for breast cancer. She has been in remission for the past 14 years.

By **LYNDEL MOODY**

Staff Writer

The threat of cancer is always on the mind of Judy Tereletsky.

As a 14-year survivor of breast cancer, Tereletsky is consistently reminded the disease could return at any time and in another form.

"The doctor said (at the time of the diagnosis) the micro calcification was a clue that it was cancer because it shows little dots of calcium around the area, and he said unfortunately that is also the type that for the rest of my life I need to be aware of my body because it can show up somewhere else," Tereletsky said.

Even before medical personnel caught the signs of cancer cells from a regular mammography exam in 2002, the retired high school art teacher knew of the devastating effects cancer can have on the body and mind.

Tereletsky spent much of her childhood in Big Spring growing up on Webb Air Force Base. Her dad was an Air Force veteran joining the branch during World War II when it was the Army Air Corps. He spent some time as a prisoner of war in the Pacific.

He was also a life-long, heavy smoker, Tereletsky recalled.

"I grew up with constant smoke in the house," she said.

During her last year of college, her father developed a sore throat he just couldn't shake, Tereletsky remembered. He was diagnosed with throat cancer and eventually had surgery to remove his larynx. This was during the early 1980s and the treatment he needed was not available in this area, Tereletsky said, so her dad and mother would travel to San Antonio for radiation and chemotherapy.

At the final checkup, Tereletsky said her mother mentioned her father had not had an x-ray on his lungs in a while and so one was ordered. When it came back, the doctors informed the couple, he had lung cancer. Tereletsky's father died in 1983, and she moved back to Big Spring from Houston to take care of her mother.

At 30-years-old, Tereletsky had her first mammogram which provided a baseline for further scans. In November of 2002, when she was 45 years old, Tereletsky underwent her yearly mammogram at Allison Cancer

Center in Midland.

"I was contacted in December, and they said it was abnormal," she said. "I had a similar scare in '98 but it turned out to be nothing. I thought this was going to be the same thing."

She underwent a few more tests and after the results were returned, she was advised to see a surgeon.

"It was 20 years since my dad had died," she recalled of the visit with the doctor to discuss of the biopsy results. "He died in January of '83 and it was two days before my mother's 79th birthday. When (the doctor) walked in, he sat eye level with me, so I knew that there was something. He told me that I had grade one cancer in my right breast. The mammogram caught it at the earliest stage. It was only 1.2 centimeters."

She was the first in her family to be diagnosed with breast cancer. Later, she would have a test to tell if she had the breast cancer gene. It came back negative.

"All of this was really hard on my mother," Tereletsky said. "I

See **SURVIVOR**, Page 5

Racing for the cure



Big Spring resident Maggie Gonzales Relays for her family

By **ROBERT BARLOW**

Staff Writer

Like many of the people involved with Relay for Life, Maggie Gonzales and her family have been through some life changing experiences, but continue to persevere and push forward to help create a better future for all those that have been impacted by cancer.

Gonzales has been participating in Relay for Life for more than years. At her first event, she said that she went on a whim to get

to stay up overnight and have fun with her friends, however when she witnessed the luminaria for the first time it had a such an impact on her that she has been attending ever since.

"One of my grandfathers passed away from prostate cancer in 1973, but I was a teenager at that time and to me, cancer was an old person's disease. I didn't think anything about it," said Gonzales.

But after attending

See **RELAY**, Page 5

Luminaria to light up Relay

By **ROGER CLINE**

Staff Writer

More than 300 years ago, Spanish merchants and sailors discovered the East Asian tradition of paper lanterns, and adapted it in Mexico for Christmas Eve festivities. The new tradition was named "luminaria" after larger festival bonfires. Later other groups, such as the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention and the American Cancer Society began to use luminaria-lighting as a ceremonial way to memorialize the departed.

Julie Alvarez, lead luminaria chairperson for the Relay for Life of Howard and Glasscock Counties, said luminarias, small, decorated paper sacks illuminated with a glowstick or electric candle, are a big part of the local Relay proceedings.

"I personally have only been doing luminarias for three years, but they've been doing them since they started (Relay) here 23 years ago," she said. "We're waiting for our big anniversary for 25 years."

See **LUMINARIA**, Page 5

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*Howard-Glasscock
Relay for Life
5 p.m.-Midnight, May 20, 2016
Dorothy Garrett Coliseum*

RELAY

Continued from Page 4

the event, which at the time was an overnight endeavor for those involved, Gonzales said she was deeply affected by the luminaria reflecting all the people that have been impacted by the disease.

"It was all fun and games until the luminaria that night, and that hit home," Gonzales continued. "When you see all those bags lit up and you're like wow, all these people have been affected by cancer, then it had more of an impact."

Shortly after attending her first event, Gonzales' young-

er sister was diagnosed with cancer at a young age. This brought even more awareness to the fact that cancer can affect everyone from all different ages, no matter the

circumstances. But according to Gonzales it didn't stop there, and "like a domino effect", several people in her immediate family were all diagnosed with cancer recently after.

"A few years after that, my father was diagnosed with cancer. At that time, it was caught earlier and he was able to have surgery and no problem," said Gonzales. "Then we were okay for a couple years, but then my older sister got hit with thyroid cancer, and then a couple years after that my father was diagnosed with cancer again. Shortly there after, my oldest brother was diagnosed with cancer."

Gonzales lost her father, mother, and oldest brother all within a 14-month period to cancer. Relay for Life is more than just a fundraiser for her, it is an event to honor and remember the family she has lost and the family that

has survived the disease. "Relay for Life is a family thing, because we do it in memory of our loved ones and in honor of my two sisters who are, thank God, survivors," said Gonzales. "We have family that comes from all around to participate in Relay."

Gonzales herself has had some close encounters and has had some tumors removed that turned out to be benign. She knows all too well what it's like to be waiting by the phone for a call you don't necessarily want to pick up. "We Relay so no one will ever have to hear that phone call," Gonzales said.

Gonzales has worked for the YMCA for almost 38 years and is currently the business administrator. In addition to that, she is also the chair for sponsorship on the event leadership team for Relay for Life. She holds many events with the YMCA that help benefit the American Cancer Society. Gonzales doesn't stop there, she is even a team leader for the team R.E.L.A.Y for a Cure and one of the top participants according to the Howard and Glasscock County Relay for Life website.

"I think in a way it has affected me, I try to help others more," Gonzales stated. "People are always doing fundraisers. To me its like I'm in the same boat. I think I'm more empathetic towards people."

Gonzales and her family have become involved with Relay for Life because to them it means giving a chance to future generations to not have to go through what she has. The event not only brings awareness to the problem, but also helps put funding towards research for a cure.

LUMINARIA

Continued from Page 4

Relay's luminaria lighting is often referred to as the "Ceremony of Hope," Alvarez said.

"It's a time to remember people who we have lost to cancer, and it's a time to support the people who are currently going through cancer, and to honor people who have fought cancer in the past," she said. "Our Midland office mails out letters, we have a list from our previous donations, so they send out letters, and they return it back to me, and on there it'll have the name of their loved ones, 'In Honor' or 'In Memory' with a message for them."

When she receives the responses, Alvarez gets crafty.

"I have white paper sacks that I decorate with anything, like pretty flowers, or anything I can cut out and glue on there," she said. "But recently I've started asking different schools for children to decorate those bags for me. And they'll draw something, just a heart, or a ribbon, or a flower, a bird, anything. So that's really been nice for kids to do different things like that for me."

People can also decorate their own luminaria, Alvarez said.

"A lot of people do," she said. "They'll put special pictures of their family members. They can take as many bags as they want at Family Medical Center, 2301 S. Gregg. So anybody's welcome to stop by. I have the bags right here. So far I have about 200 bags to decorate, so I've been pretty busy doing that. They can make a donation, whatever they like. There's no set amount. And I'll be set up at the event on Friday, and I'll have all my supplies for people to decorate their own bag. A lot of people will return their bags that night, ready to be set out on our track." One change in the lighting ceremony should make the event more personal for those involved.

"We're excited! (Relay Event Lead) Howard Stewart wants us to make it more personal to each family member," she said. "In the past, I've had Girl Scouts help me out and break the glowstick and put it in each bag. But now, all the people that are there are going to know where their bags are at, so that they can personally break their glowsticks and put them in their bags. Some people are going to be real busy, because some people get like 10 or 15 bags in both their honor and memory, because that one person will do their family. So that's what we're trying to do, something a little different, for everybody to be involved when they're there in the coliseum. Have it in a more meaningful way."

Other luminaria will also adorn the colise-



HERALD photo/Roger Cline

Julie Alvarez, lead luminaria chairperson for the Relay for Life of Howard and Glasscock Counties, has been busy decorating hundreds of paper bags to create the illuminated lanterns for this year's Relay, scheduled for Friday at Howard College's Dorothy Garrett Coliseum. Here, Alvarez poses outside Family Medical Center, 2301 S. Gregg St., decorated in purple for Relay, where people can pick up bags of their own to decorate to honor, support, or memorialize friends and family members affected by cancer.

um.

"We're going to light up our different lights, like our "HOPE" that's up there on the stage, right after the lights go down we're going to try to light those as we're doing the luminaria service," Alvarez said. "It's a somber time. It's very emotional. There are so many other things going on, and this is the real meaning of what we're doing. When the lights go off and people start talking about their experiences, I think we calm down a lot and it has a very powerful message. I always hear real good things. It's a time to remember, and a little bit of prayer involved. It's awesome."

Alvarez urged everyone to come out, pitch in, and join the fight against cancer.

"We're excited just to have our 23rd event, and it will be a lot of fun," she said. "We have all these teams cooking different food items, and lots of activities. We have activities scheduled every 30 minutes. Something's going on all the time."

SURVIVOR

Continued from Page 4

knew I had to be strong for her. At the same time, I guess it was the teacher in me and the artist that always wants to know things and view new things. I wanted to know what was going to happen. What do we do with it?"

"I remember the doctor said 'this is serious' and I went 'I know it's serious but you are telling what it is, and I wanted to know what we do,'" she continued.

"He realized at that point that I was taking him seriously, but I was looking at it very logically. He could handle that. He thought I was in denial, and he realized, no I wasn't."

Tereletsky underwent surgery to remove the cancer on Feb. 14, 2003. The effected area was so small, the surgeon inserted a guide wire first to pinpoint to the location of the tissue that needed to be removed.

During this time, Tereletsky was recommended to keep a journal about her experiences although she admitted she is not "a big journal writer."

Two days before the surgery she wrote, "I cried last night and it was because of the fear of what might be. But I wanted to get this over with and know what I have to do."

The surgery was a success and a week later the doctor came back with the news that they believed had they gotten it all.

Tereletsky then faced 33 treatments of radiation performed at Allison Cancer Center and was prescribed Tamoxifen, a drug that helps reduce the risk of breast cancer for woman who are at higher than normal risk, for the next five years.

"Cancer is not only a medical trial but it is a physiological one," Tereletsky said. "When you are going through the process, it doesn't only effect the person that has the cancer. It effects all your friends and family. That is why Relay (for Life) is good."

The Howard and Glasscock Relay for Life is the largest fundraiser in the county for the American Cancer Society.

Each year, cancer survivors, their caregivers, friends, and volunteers meet for a night at Dorothy Garrett

Coliseum to remember loved ones lost to cancer, celebrate and honor those who have survived, and raise money to fight the deadly disease.

In the past year, Tereletsky along with fellow Relay for Life volunteers Howard and Vicki Stewart also started Bark for Life, an American Cancer Society fundraiser for dogs and their owners. Tereletsky owns five dogs, all rescues.

"I look back at my first red heeler, Pepper. She would alert. She would nose bump my breast," Tereletsky said. "I think there are dogs who can

smell cancer. And of course, I lost her to cancer."

Since her remission, Tereletsky has lost friends and even some of her students to the disease noting how hard those loses are considering how many times others have beaten cancer.

"There is always a reminder," Tereletsky said. "Whenever I do blood work even if it's not for my cancer but other medical blood work, I think constantly would they find something. If they do then I am going to face it again. That is just what you have to do."

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DPS: Car driver in deadly Texas bus crash was intoxicated

BIG SPRING, Texas (AP) — Authorities say the driver of a car was intoxicated when it was involved in a December crash that killed a person aboard a bus carrying West Texas high school cheerleaders.

A Texas Department of Public Safety report says 59-year-old Sandra Dunson was intoxicated due to drugs and alcohol. A DPS spokesman says Dunson died in March, when the case was still under investigation.

Dunson's car was struck from behind by a semi-trailer that then crossed the median and struck the small bus from the Iraan-Sheffield school district, killing cheer sponsor Elizabeth Pope.

The report says either Dunson made an unsafe lane change in front of the semitrailer or the semitrailer didn't control its speed while traveling in the same lane as Dunson and struck her vehicle.

Man sues woman for \$17.31 movie ticket after bad date

ROUND ROCK, Texas (AP) — A Texas man is suing a woman he went on a date with for the price of a movie ticket after he says she texted through the film and left him at the theater.

Brandon Vezmar filed the claim for \$17.31 last week. The 37-year-old tells the Austin American-Statesman he met the woman online and they went to see "Guardians of the Galaxy, Vol. 2" on May 6. He says the 35-year-old woman refused to stop texting. Vezmar says he suggested she step outside to text. The woman then left the theater and never returned.

The woman tells the newspaper Vezmar asked her later for the cost of the ticket, but she refused because "he took me out on a date."

Court lifts reprieve for Nicaraguan man on Texas death row

HOUSTON (AP) — The Texas Court of Criminal Appeals has lifted a reprieve it gave a Nicaraguan man a day before he was to be executed two years ago for the slaying of a Houston high school teacher during a 1997 robbery.

The state's highest criminal appeals court had halted the scheduled lethal injection of 40-year-old Bernardo Tercero after the prisoner's attorneys contended Harris County prosecutors presented false testimony from a witness at his 2000 trial for the death of 38-year-old Robert Berger. The trial court last year held a hearing on the claim and the appeals court ruling Wednesday affirms its finding that the testimony was proper.

Texas' Patrick backs special session for 'bathroom bill'

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick is clamoring for a special legislative session unless the Texas House approves two bills it was already expected to pass, a North Carolina-style "bathroom bill" and a separate measure cutting property taxes.

Only Gov. Greg Abbott can order lawmakers back after the Legislature adjourns May 29, and he's said previously he's hesitant to do so. Texas so relishes small government that its legislators meet only every-other year.

But Patrick, who oversees the state Senate, said Wednesday "people don't care how many sessions it takes."

The Senate passed property tax cuts and requirements that transgender Texans use public restrooms corresponding to their birth-certificate sex.

Texas crab numbers improve with freshwater, license changes

GALVESTON, Texas (AP) — Changes to the commercial license program and more freshwater inflows have led to some of the best catches of blue crabs in Texas since crab numbers started declining in Galveston Bay in the late 1980s.

The Galveston County Daily News (<http://bit.ly/2pVZ14Q>) reports that crab biologist Glen Sutton with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department says rain and flooding have increased freshwater inflows which have benefited the crab population because they thrive in brackish water.

Sutton says the state's crab license buyback program has reduced the number of permitted anglers looking for crabs in the bay. He says now there are 200 licenses in the state compared to 400 several years ago.

Sutton says the crabs still suffer from the multitude of fish that eat them and the unbalanced male to female crab ratio.

2 dead after tornadoes hit Oklahoma, Wisconsin



AP photo
Firefighters work the site of the damage after a tornado ripped through Prairie Lake Estates trailer home park, just north of Chetek, Wis., Tuesday, May 16, 2017. The tornado swept into the mobile home park in western Wisconsin on Tuesday, as a storm system also pounded parts of at least seven states from Texas to near the Canadian border with heavy rain, high winds and hail.

CHICAGO (AP) — One person was killed when a tornado swept into a mobile home park in Wisconsin Tuesday and another person died when a twister hit a housing subdivision in Oklahoma, as a massive severe storm system battered an area stretching from the South Plains of Texas to the Great Lakes.

In Wisconsin, Barron County Sheriff Chris Fitzgerald told several media that the tornado damaged the Prairie Lakes Estates trailer park north of Chetek. The National Weather Service reported the tornado touched down in the area just after 5:30 p.m.

Helicopter video from WCCO-TV and KARE-TV shows extensive damage at the trailer park, with several homes reduced to rubble.

"It's a mess," Fitzgerald told the Leader-Telegram of Eau Claire. "It's pretty bad. We have at least one deceased so far and we're still in a search pattern."

Fitzgerald described the scene to KMSP-TV as "total devastation" and said first responders could hear people yelling for help when they arrived. He said at least one child was among the injured.

Chetek is about 110 miles (177 kilometers) northeast of Minneapolis/St. Paul, and about 40 miles (64 kilometers) north of Eau Claire.

The Oklahoma storm

struck about 7:15 p.m. Tuesday, wrecking much of a subdivision on the southern fringe of Elk City, Oklahoma, about 110 miles west of Oklahoma City.

The storm knocked out telephone service into and out of the city. But Fire Chaplain Danny Ringer told reporters at the scene late Tuesday that one person was known dead from the twister. He also said the storm destroyed 40 homes and damaged 50 to 75 others severely.

The mayor of the hard hit Wisconsin town, Jeff Martin, told KSTP-TV that numerous emergency vehicles went to the trailer park. He estimated the park had around 50 homes.

Devin Feuerhelt told KMSP-TV that his sis-

ter, Lenna Samuelson, lives in the park with her two daughters, Ashley and Brenna. He said her sister also had her 2-month-old grandson, Nolan, in the home when the storm hit, and they had nowhere to go but the bathtub.

Amazingly, Nolan escaped with just a couple of scratches, he said. Samuelson's daughters suffered minor injuries, and the mother suffered a gash on her head, but he said all are expected to be fine.

While their home was flattened, the SUV next to it was untouched.

A mobile home is a particularly dangerous place to be during a tornado, according to the National Weather Service. The Storm Prediction Center, which

specializes in forecasting and gathering data on tornadoes, says that high winds during a tornado can rip a mobile home without a foundation from its moorings. In 2011, when devastating tornadoes struck in Joplin, Missouri, and in Alabama and Mississippi, 111 of the 551 people killed nationwide in tornadoes, or 20 percent, were in mobile homes, according to the Storm Prediction Center website. The Wisconsin tornado was part of a huge swath of the Plains and Upper Midwest threatened with severe weather. The area stretches from the Texas Panhandle through Oklahoma, western Kansas, Nebraska and Iowa into Minnesota and Wisconsin.

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Trump lashes out at critics, 'naysayers,' unfair treatment

By VIVIAN SALAMA and DARLENE SUPERVILLE

Associated Press
NEW LONDON, Conn. (AP) — President Donald Trump lashed out Wednesday at his "critics and naysayers" following more than a week of negative news coverage beginning with his sudden decision to fire James Comey as FBI director.

In an address to the newest group of U.S. Coast Guard officers, Trump urged the 195 graduates in the Class of 2017 to "put your head down and fight, fight, fight" when life presents them with challenges and adversity.

Trump's appearance at the academy came the day after reports that he had personally appealed to Comey to abandon the FBI's investigation into former National Security Adviser Michael Flynn. Trump fired Flynn earlier this year for misleading top White House officials about his contacts with Russian officials.

The White House has denied the latest report, which landed amid a furor over the president's recent Oval Office meeting with Russian diplomats in which Trump is said to have disclosed classified information.

The White House has said it was "wholly appropriate" for Trump to share the information.

Trump did not mention Comey during the nearly half-hour address, but seemed to allude to the multiple controversies swirling around him.

"Look at the way I've been treated lately, especially by the media," Trump said. "No politician in history, and I say this with great surety, has been treated worse or more unfairly. You can't let them get you down. You can't let the critics and the naysayers



President Donald Trump gestures while giving the commencement address at the U.S. Coast Guard Academy, Wednesday, May 17, 2017, in New London, Conn.

get in the way of your dreams." "I guess that's why we won," he said, before continuing to offer the graduates his advice.

"Adversity makes you stronger. Don't give in, don't back down and never stop doing what you know is right," Trump said. "Nothing worth doing ever, ever, ever came easy and the more righteous your fight, the more opposition that you will face."

Trump also praised the newly minted Coast Guard officers, emphasizing

that they will be an asset as new members of the U.S. military to his efforts to protect the homeland, protect U.S. harbors and seas from drug smuggling and human trafficking, and keep out "all who seek to do harm to our country."

"Together, we have the same mission and your devotion and dedication makes me truly proud to be your commander in chief," he said.

Despite Trump's praise, a financial outline for the Department of Home-

land Security prepared by the White House budget office calls for scrapping the Coast Guard's counterterrorism Maritime Security Response Team, and all of its Maritime Safety and Security Teams.

The rationale for eliminating the programs wasn't spelled out in the document released earlier this year. Trump has made fighting terrorism a top priority, and his overall budget outline calls for significant increases in military spending.

New Orleans takes down 3rd Confederate-era monument



People sit along Bayou St. John to watch the removal of the General Beauregard monument from its base in New Orleans, Tuesday, May 16, 2017. Workers in New Orleans took down a Confederate monument to Gen. P.G.T. Beauregard early Wednesday.

By REBECCA SANTANA and KEVIN MCGILL

Associated Press
NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Workers in New Orleans took down a Confederate monument to Gen. P.G.T. Beauregard early Wednesday as onlookers watched from lawn chairs, defiant statue supporters waved Confederate battle flags and opponents celebrated.

It was the third of four such monuments to come down under a plan proposed by Mayor Mitch Landrieu and approved by the City Council more than a year ago. As with two earlier removals, it happened under cover of darkness. Work began soon after sundown and news outlets showed the statue being lifted off its base shortly after 3 a.m.

The statue of Gen. Robert E. Lee will be the last to come down.

The city already has removed one of the Confederacy's only president and a memorial to a white rebellion against a biracial Reconstruction-era government in the city.

"Today we take another step in defining our City not by our past but by our bright future," New Orleans Mayor Mitch Landrieu said in a news release. "While we must honor our history, we will not allow the Confederacy to be put on a pedestal in the heart of New Orleans."

Landrieu called for the monuments' removal in the lingering emotional aftermath of the 2015 massacre of nine black parishioners at a South Carolina church. The killer, Dylann Roof, was an avowed racist who brandished Confederate battle flags in photos, recharging the debate over whether Confederate emblems represent racism or an honorable heritage.

The removal process has been anything but easy.

The City Council voted 6-1 in 2015 to remove the monuments after a succession of contentious public meetings where impassioned supporters and opponents heckled each other. Contractors involved in the removal process have been threatened, and the work stalled for months as statue supporters looked in vain to the courts for help. Workers removing the first two memorials generally wore bullet-proof vests, helmets and face coverings to shield their identities

as the work took place well after midnight to minimize attention.

More recently, lawmakers in the Louisiana House backed a proposal aimed at keeping cities from removing Confederate monuments in a controversial vote Monday that black lawmakers derided as "divisive" and "offensive."

Workers at the Beauregard removal Tuesday night also covered their faces and wore helmets but the atmosphere appeared slightly more low-key, with work starting in the evening after sunset. Local media showed images of monument supporters waving Confederate battle flags while those supporting their removal stood nearby. But the situation was largely peaceful. Across a bayou from where the monument stands, some observers sat in lawn chairs to watch the proceedings, and a brass band celebrating the sculpture's removal showed up after midnight, news outlets reported. People in kayaks and canoes could be seen at times watching workers prepare the statue for removal.

Among the witnesses was Terence Blanchard, a celebrated New Orleans trumpet player who told Nola.com The Times-Picayune (<http://bit.ly/2rqKQWv>) that he headed for the scene with his wife and two daughters when he learned that the statue was coming down.

"It's a sign that the world is changing," said Blanchard, an African-American who attended a high school near the Beauregard monument. Monument supporters, said the works are a way to remember and honor history. "Mayor Landrieu's actions are an insult to New Orleanians who came before us — the veterans, widows, parents, children, and citizens — who donated their personal money to build and place these monuments where they stand to honor the memory of their fallen family members," said Pierre McGraw, President of the Monumental Task Committee which has been advocating keeping the monuments in place.

But for many in this

majority black city, the monuments pay honor to a history of slavery and segregation, and they want them down.

"I've never looked at them as a source of pride," Blanchard said. "It's always made me feel as if they were put there by people who don't respect us."

THE WHITE REBEL-LION

That granite obelisk, erected in 1891, was the least prominent of the monuments and the first to be removed. But to some it was the most objectionable. It commemorated what came to be known as the Battle of Liberty Place, in 1874 — a rebellion by whites who battled a biracial Reconstruction-era government in New Orleans. An inscription extolling white supremacy was added in 1932.

It had been tied up in legal battles over efforts to remove it since at least the 1980s. It was moved from busy Canal Street to a more obscure location in the 1990s, with a plaque calling for racial harmony.

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Jokes Jokes Jokes

Q: What kind of cookies do monkeys like?

A: Chocolate chip.

Q: How do turtles communicate?

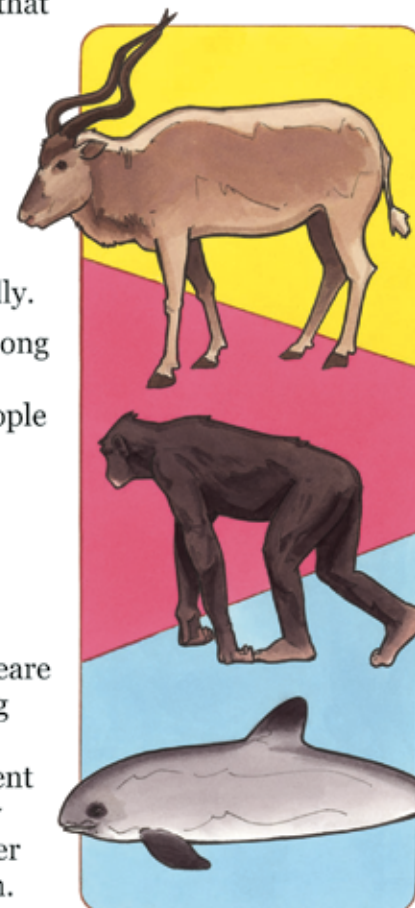
A: By shellphone.

Endangered!

Ever heard of an addax? How about a bonobo or a vaquita? All are endangered animals that must be protected to ensure their existence.

The addax is a type of antelope that lives in the Sahara Desert in northern Africa. It has a grayish-brown coat in the winter, which turns sandy blonde or almost white in the summer. The bonobo is a type of chimpanzee that lives in the Congo Basin in central Africa. It has long legs, a dark face, pink lips and long, parted hair on its head. The vaquita is a type of porpoise that lives in the Gulf of California. It is stocky with dark rings around its eyes, patches on its lips, a dark gray back and a white belly.

The destruction of habitat, along with hunting and other things, have made these animals endangered. People are working to change this, however. The addax has been reintroduced in Morocco and Tunisia, and many are being raised in captivity. There are 29,000 to 50,000 bonobos left, and organizations are working hard to protect them and their habitat. There are only 100 to 300 vaquitas left, making them one of the most endangered species in the world. Laws now prevent the use of nets that have accidentally trapped and killed vaquitas, and other steps are being taken to protect them.



What Rhymes with...

RARE



List 10 words that rhyme with "rare."

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

Some answers: bare, bear, care, dare, fair, fare, fair, hair, hare, lair, mare

Name That Animal



There are endangered animals all over the world. Fill in the blanks to name some of them.

1. GI _ NT PA _ _ A
2. RE _ WO _ F
3. GR _ _ N SEA TURT _ E
4. CH _ NES _ A _ _ IGATOR
5. BL _ E WH _ LE
6. WIL _ WA _ ER BU _ _ ALO
7. A _ IAN E _ EP _ ANT

Answers: 1) Giant Panda, 2) Red Wolf, 3) Green Sea Turtle, 4) Chinese Alligator, 5) Blue Whale, 6) Wild Water Buffalo, 7) Asian Elephant

Fact or Fiction?

ENDANGERED CHALLENGE

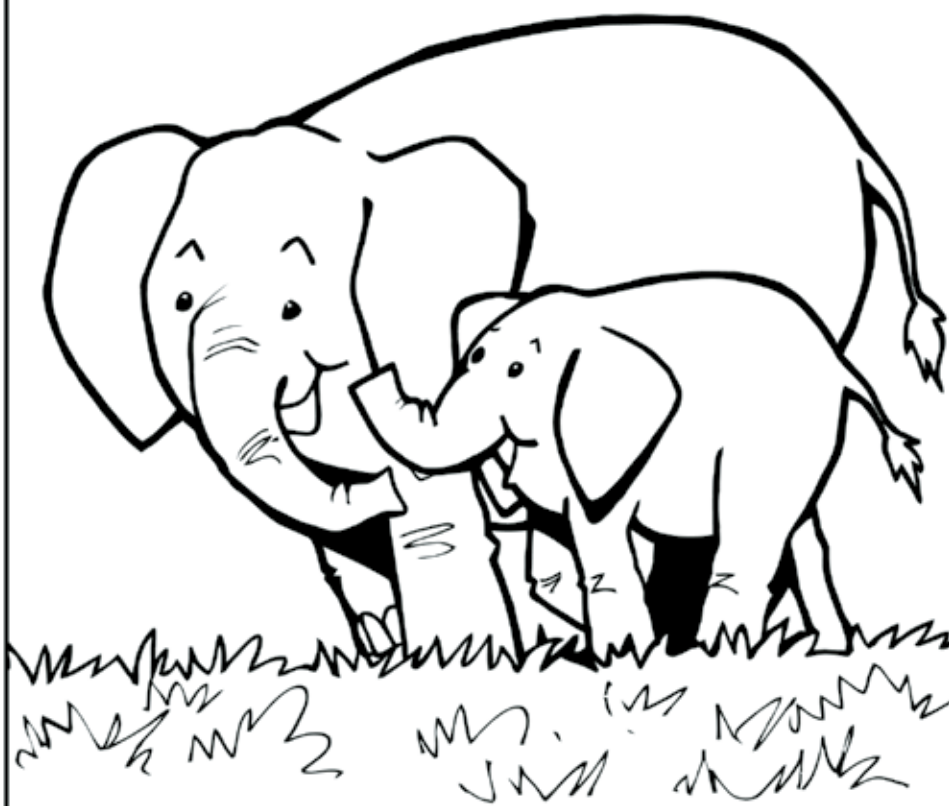


Some animals are endangered, that is, there are so few left that they could easily become extinct. Here are some questions about endangered animals. How many can you answer correctly?

- 1) The only animals that are endangered are located in the United States. **Fact or Fiction?**
- 2) The destruction of habitat is one of the main reasons animals become endangered. **Fact or Fiction?**
- 3) Hunting can also cause animals to become endangered. **Fact or Fiction?**
- 4) Calling an animal "endangered" can protect it but also harm it. **Fact or Fiction?**
- 5) Some countries have made laws to protect endangered animals. **Fact or Fiction?**
- 6) Some laws prevent the hunting of endangered animals. **Fact or Fiction?**
- 7) Some endangered animals are so near extinction that the only ones that remain are in captivity. **Fact or Fiction?**
- 8) Once an animal becomes endangered, it will always be in danger of becoming extinct. **Fact or Fiction?**
- 9) Once an animal becomes extinct, it is gone forever. **Fact or Fiction?**
- 10) The extinction of one animal group can lead to the extinction of another. **Fact or Fiction?**

Answers: 1) Fiction, there are endangered animals all over the world. 2) Fact. 3) Fact. 4) Fact, calling an animal endangered can make it more attractive to collectors and hunters. 5) Fact. 6) Fact. 7) Fact. 8) Fiction, some endangered animals have grown in number with the help of special programs and are no longer considered extinct. 9) Fact. 10) Fact.

COLORING PICTURE



NJCAA national softball tournament

Lady Hawks defeat Apaches 12-6 in game one, face No. 1 seed today

By **MARISSA LOFTIN**

Sports Editor

The Howard College softball team had a big night at the plate in St. George, Utah as they came away with a 12-6 victory over the No. 8 seed Tyler Junior College Lady Apaches in Wednesday's first round game of the NJCAA national softball tournament.

Madoline Seumalo kicked things off in the top of the third inning with a home run knocked out to right field that drove Tiare Lee across the plate for an early two-run Hawk lead.

The Lady Hawks then plated six more runs on the top of the fourth on back-to-back solo home run shots from Kaylynn Lopez and Evelyn Loyola, an RBI sacrifice fly by Mariah Young, a score by Madison Neff on a bases-loaded walk and a 2RBI single by Lopez, bringing Howard College up 8-0.

The Lady Apaches found some momentum as they brought their eight-run deficit to just two with a score by Kaycie Moore on a bases-loaded walk, an RBI ground out by Rebecca Snow, and a 2RBI homer by Haille Weber in the bottom of the fourth inning, followed with an RBI single by Makenzie Catham in the fifth.

Howard College was nowhere near done at the plate as they added four more runs to their 8-6 lead, all while holding Tyler scoreless for the remainder of the game to ensure their 12-6 victory in game one of the National Tournament.

The Lady Hawks' late scores came on an RBI single by Jackie Mercado in the top of the sixth, followed with two seventh inning home runs; a solo home run shot out to left field by Lee, and an RBI home run out to center field by Seumalo.

Kylie Shay started the game on the mound for Howard College. She threw for three and one-thirds innings, al-



Tony Claxton (www.tonyclaxtonphotography.com)

Howard College first baseman Mariah Young catches a throw for an out during the Lady Hawks' first round win over Tyler at the NJCAA D1 Fast Pitch National Championship. The game was played on Wednesday, May 17, 2017. The ladies will play Butler at 3:30 p.m. today.

lowed four runs on three hits, walked six, and sat one. Mickaela Brown took over in the fourth inning. She pitched for three and two-thirds innings, surrendered two runs on three hits, walked none, and struck out one.

The Lady Hawks collected a total

of twelve hits for the game, five of which were home run shots. Seumalo lead the way to victory as she went 2-4 at the plate with four runs batted in. Lopez was right behind her with two hits in five at bats with three runs batted in.

Howard College, who entered nationals as the No. 9 seed, will face off with the No.1 seed Lady Grizzlies, of Butler Community College (KCSA), for the second round of the NJCAA national softball tournament today at 3:30 p.m.

For sale: Reeling Marlins blanked by Astros 3-0

By **STEVEN WINE**

AP Sports Writer

MIAMI (AP) — The Miami Marlins are for sale, and their players aren't helping the team's market value.

Miami mustered just three hits against Lance McCullers and three relievers Wednesday afternoon to conclude a dismal homestand with a 3-0 loss to the Houston Astros.

The Marlins were outscored 22-4 in the series and head to California last in the NL East after going 1-8 on their homestand.

"It can't get any worse than what it is," said second baseman Dee Gordon, whose errant throw led to two unearned runs. "We've just got to find a way to get some wins."

The Marlins haven't been to the playoffs since 2003, and owner Jeffrey Loria has seen enough losing and wants to sell. He's negotiating with a group that includes former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush and former New York Yankees captain Derek Jeter, and another group led by businessman Tagg Romney, son of the former Republican nominee for president.

Meanwhile the Marlins keep losing, despite spring training talk of a playoff run. They're 14-25, and manager Don Mattingly said he's un-

sure whether the sale talk is a factor.

"It's something you know is there and looming," Mattingly said. "I don't know if it has any effect. I can't speak for guys."

They managed just three hits in six innings against McCullers, who paid tribute to the late Marlins ace Jose Fernandez and pitched like him, allowing no earned runs for the third start in a row to help Houston complete a three-game sweep.

McCullers (4-1) wore cleats with Fernandez's initials and uniform number. Their friendship began when they were high school pitchers in the Tampa area. Fernandez died in a boating accident last September.

"I know he is here in spirit," McCullers said. "And he would want me to go out there and pitch my game and in that way celebrate him and pitching. That's what I tried to focus on."

The Marlins went 10 2/3 innings without a hit over two games until J.T. Riddle singled leading off the fifth. McCullers retired the next three batters.

McCullers has allowed no earned runs in his past 20 1/3 innings, lowering his ERA to 2.65. Ken Giles pitched

See **ASTROS**, Page 15

Cashner finally wins in home state, Rangers top Phillies 9-3

By **SCHUYLER DIXON**

AP Sports Writer

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — Andrew Cashner can finally say he won in his home state of Texas. Jared Hoying took care of a couple of firsts as well.

Cashner pitched seven solid innings and Hoying had his first big league homer in his first four-hit game, helping the Rangers match the longest winning streak in the majors this year at eight games with a 9-3 victory over the Philadelphia Phillies on Wednesday night.

The right-hander from the Houston area also got his first win with the Rangers, who scored all nine runs in the first five innings after getting just six in the first six starts by Cashner (1-3) when the stocky 30-year-old was in the game.

Hoying was making his second start since coming up from the minors to replace center fielder Carlos Gomez, who is expected to miss at least a month with a right hamstring strain. He finished a triple shy of the cycle and scored three times.

"It's one of those feelings you (can) hardly explain it," Hoying said of his first homer, a two-run shot in the fifth. "It was a real sigh of relief running around the bases."

Delino DeShields matched a career high with four hits, all singles that included two bunts and another infield hit.

Shin-Soo Choo had three hits with three RBIs among a season-high 17 hits for the Rangers, who matched the Yankees for the longest winning streak this season and are on their best run since August 2013. The defending AL West champs (21-20) are over .500



AP photo/Jim Cousert

Texas Rangers' Delino DeShields, right, and Jared Hoying (13) celebrate scoring on a single by Shin-Soo Choo against the Philadelphia Phillies during the third inning of a baseball game, Wednesday, May 17, 2017, in Arlington, Texas.

for the first time this year.

Zach Eflin (0-1) allowed 11 hits and seven runs in four innings as the Phillies dropped to 3-11 in May. The right-hander hit Joey Gallo with a pitch in the third to become the first Phillies pitcher since at least 1913 to hit a batter in five straight games.

The Rangers turned four double plays in the first five innings behind Cashner, who had gone winless in three previous home starts for Texas and seven appearances as an opponent in Houston over his eight-year career. The Phillies also turned four double plays.

"They're still chirping in the dugout and they're still playing hard, but when things go bad, things snowball," Phillies manager Pete Mackanin said. "When things are going bad, nothing goes right." Michael Saunders ended Cash-

ner's shutout bid in the seventh with his fourth homer of the season, a two-run shot.

The Rangers scored their first three runs on sacrifice flies and the fourth on a wild pitch before Choo's two-run single made it 6-0 in the third.

LOSING CONTROL
Eflin walked two in the first inning after allowing just one walk in his previous 31 innings, then had the hit batter and the run-scoring wild pitch in the third. "It's more of a focus thing," he said. "I think I could have easily locked it in and got the ball down, but for some reason I couldn't figure it out."

DEBUT AT 32
Austin Bibens-Dirkx made his big league debut at 32 out of the Texas bullpen in the ninth, allowing a run after hitting the

See **RANGERS**, Page 15

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Public Notice

Comments: On 05/08/2017

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#9396 May 18, 2017

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Lea Buchanan, Deceased, were issued on March 21, 2017, in Cause No. P-14648, pending in the County Court of Howard County, Texas, to: Sammie Buchanan. All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

c/o: **Sammie Buchanan**
8002 Old Colorado City Highway
Big Spring, Texas 79720

DATED the 16th day of May, 2017

C.E. MIKE THOMAS III
Attorney for Sammie

Public Notice

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

enthusiasm; rally the forces; ignite the passion; unify the group. If you skip this step, forward movement will be drudgery, if you're able to achieve it at all.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). The key to getting more out of life isn't getting more stuff, money or even time. The key is in having experiences that are better, richer and stimulating on deeper levels, touching your soul.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Bottom line: Your mind is happy when it is thinking happy thoughts. There's not much complexity or science to this today, though it does involve forgetting and remembering strategically.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). For the most part, places are primarily designed to meet the needs and wishes of the people who live there, and not necessarily the people who visit. Design your place this way: The visitors will be mystified and charmed.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Some will succeed with very little; others will fail

with so much. On the surface it may seem like there's no rhyme or reason to it, but this isn't so. What counts is the principle and the purposefulness of each effort.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). It's one of the most basic rules of economics, not to mention one of the easiest to fulfill: Scarcity drives up demand. You'll find yourself in limited supply of something today. Highlight and celebrate this.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). There's nothing to chase. Well, there's lots that you (SET ITAL) could (END ITAL) chase -- but were you to do so, your reserves of energy would be squandered in fruitless pursuits. Work instead on your powers of attraction. Everything starts there.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). One way that people indicate they are up to something, lying to you or being manipulative is that they go out of their way to tell you something you didn't ask.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). A

found item will become significant to you, not a treasure exactly, but a memory for sure. And if you can return anything to its rightful owner over the next three days, the act will bring you exceptional luck.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Follow in the path of one you admire greatly. There have been many masters who went before you and opened the doors so that you could cross the thresholds you'll be crossing shortly.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You can only see things how you see them. Merely observing alongside someone with fresh eyes will be all it takes to shift the picture. One of the most productive things you can do today is shake up your perspective.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (May 18). You've never been more available to excitement, risk and monumental fun. With this attitude you'll go far toward manifesting the experiences you've dreamed of. Money is made creatively in June and September.

Romantic sparks fly in October. You'll quickly double your money with a November investment. Taurus and Gemini adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 33, 7, 10, 40 and 11.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTION: "I'm a Virgo mother-to-be. I'm very pregnant and so excited about my new baby, who will be either a Cancer or a Leo girl. My problem is that it seems like wherever I go there are people who feel they have the right to touch my tummy. Oh, it's so annoying! I don't like being touched by strangers. Sometimes I feel like touching them back, hard in the face. I know that the miracle of birth is something everyone wants to be a part of. But this is my body and my baby. I wish everyone would back off."

I have a feeling your baby will be a Leo and that this has something to do with the inordinate amount of touchy attention to your belly. Leo girls adore being the center of attention and usually aren't as bothered by strangers as Virgos can be. Yes, definitely

take a stand for your private space and honor the protective instinct you have for the child within you. Hormones currently being as they are, perhaps you can avoid trouble altogether by warning people right up front that you're currently even more protective of your personal space than usual.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Comedy force Tina Fey was born when the sun, Mercury and Saturn were all in Taurus, suggesting grounded determination and persistence. Libra energy is also prevalent in her natal chart. Both Taurus and Libra are ruled by Venus, and it's not hard to see the powerful feminine energy pumping through the work of Fey, the first female "SNL" producer and creator of "Mean Girls" and "30 Rock."

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

The idea of change can be much more frightening than actual change. Don't overestimate how momentous the consequences of change will be. Inflated worst-case scenarios can make your journey much more difficult than necessary. Anyway, under this lucky Saturn and Uranus situation, the best-case scenario is far likelier to happen.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Drama will bring a momentary escape into another person's life. It's a time when you need such an escape -- a good story to pull you into a world you hadn't thought existed.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Whip up

The Specter of Past Alcohol Abuse

Dear Annie: My wife and I have been together for 30 years. The first 22 years of our marriage, I was drunk every weekend and some weeknights. I'm not proud of the things I did and said. I'm not happy about all the quality time I missed out on with our children, who are now grown and out of the house. But I can't undo what's been done, and dwelling on the shame only leads me to the dark place

that makes me want to drink. So I try to focus on the positive. I thank the Lord for the second chance he's given me. I look to the future.

The problem is that my wife seems not to have gotten over the ways I wronged her in the past. Even though I haven't had a drink in eight years (thanks to Alcoholics Anonymous), I can tell she's still always waiting for the other shoe to drop. She frequently nags me to go to AA meetings. Sometimes she brings up past

Annie's Mailbox

events and tries to tell me how much they hurt her. I've already felt horrible about it; I don't need her to remind me. I wish she would stop holding it against me. I messed up, but I'm trying to make it right.

I guess I'm not really sure what my question is, but I'm just looking for help erasing the stain alcohol has left on my marriage. Would appreciate your thoughts. -- Saved by Sobriety

Dear Saved: Alcoholism is a family disease. It impacts every member of the household. Although you are recovering, your wife is not.

Please encourage her to attend an Al-Anon meeting, where she can hear from others who have learned how to stop "waiting for the other shoe to drop." You might also both benefit from marriage counseling, which would offer a neutral space to air your feelings and move toward understanding. I commend you on your years of sobriety and wish you many more.

Dear Annie: This is in response to "Still Interested" and anyone else who has the problem of having a wife who has lost interest in sex. As a wife of 40 years, I had the same problem after my hysterectomy

and going through menopause. I couldn't tell my husband that it was very painful to have intercourse. I avoided any type of affection for this reason. I was too embarrassed to talk about something so personal.

I finally got up the nerve to tell my doctor. She said this is very common and prescribed a medicine to help. What a difference! I can't believe I went 15 years before I said anything. My husband is much happier. Please, women who are going through this: Talk to your husband and doctor. -- A Happy Wife

Thank you for opening up about your experience. It's yet another testament to the importance of communication in having a healthy sex life. If your letter encourages even one woman out there to talk to her doctor or open up to her husband, it's worth its word count in gold.

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

Taking out insurance

East dealer. Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ A 5 4
♥ 8
♦ K 5
♣ A Q 9 8 6 4 3

WEST
♠ 9 7 6
♥ J 10 9 7
♦ Q 9 6 4
♣ K 2

EAST
♠ K 10 8
♥ K 6 4 3 2
♦ J 8 7 3 2
♣ —

SOUTH
♠ Q J 3 2
♥ A Q 5
♦ A 10
♣ J 10 7 5

The bidding:
East South West North
Pass 1♣ Pass 6♣

Opening lead — jack of hearts.

One of the closer probabilities in bridge concerns what declarer should do when he has 11 trumps in the combined hands missing the K-x. Mathematically, the percentages slightly favor a 1-1 division of the two missing cards (52 percent to 48 percent). Therefore, in the absence of indications otherwise, declarer should play the ace rather than attempt a finesse when he is faced with such a proposition. The edge in favor of the drop is very slight, but it is there.

Tomorrow: Test your play.
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sudoku

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

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

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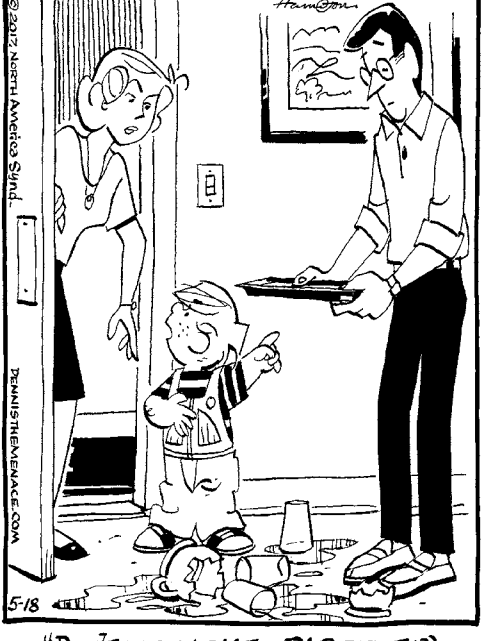
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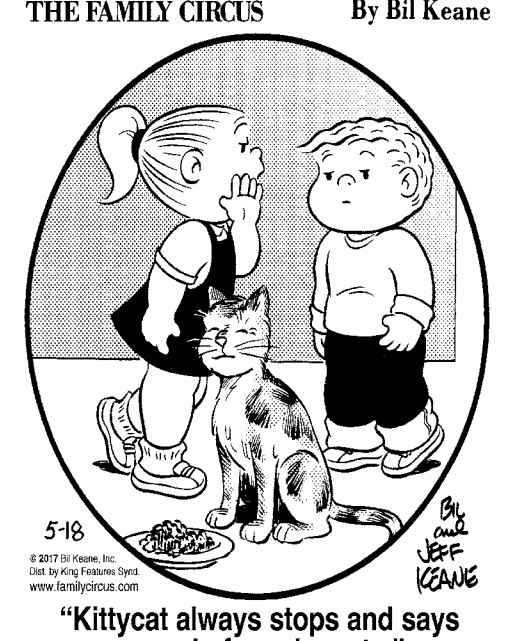
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TV schedule table with columns for channel, time, and program name.

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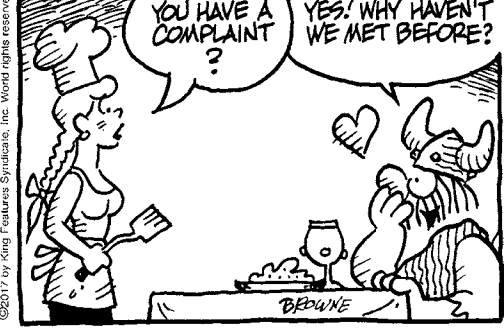
THE FAMILY CIRCUS



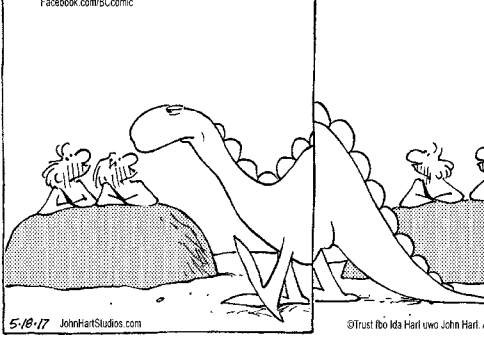
HAGAR



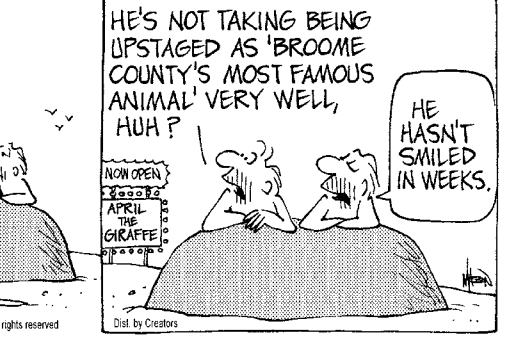
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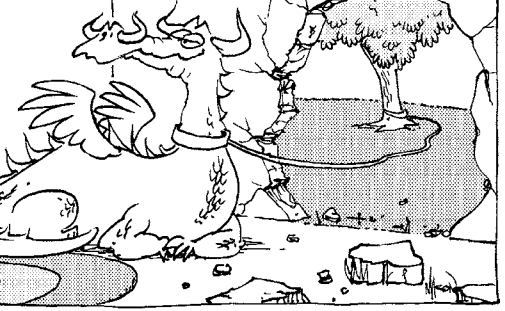
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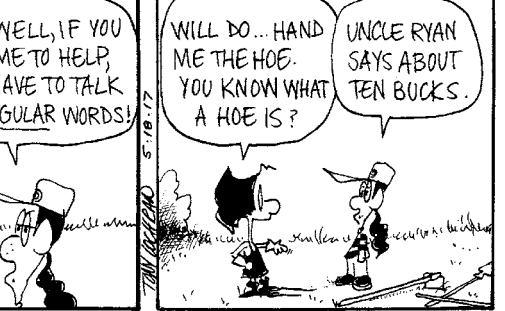
HI AND LOIS



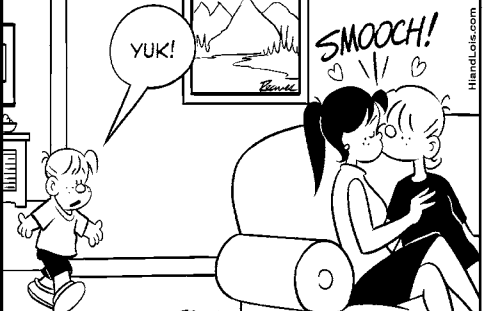
THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



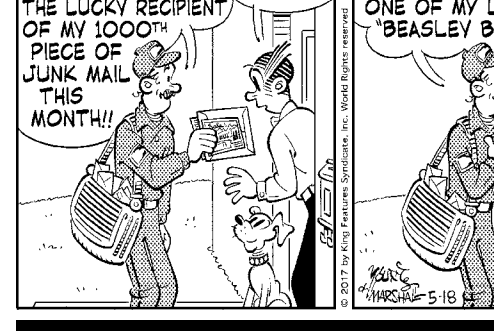
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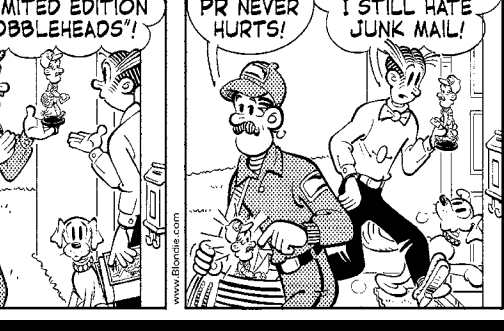
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This Date In History

Today is Thursday, May 18, the 138th day of 2017. There are 227 days left in the year. Today's Highlight in History: On May 18, 1927, in America's deadliest school attack...

Simple McPherson vanished while visiting a beach in Venice, California. (McPherson reappeared more than a month later, saying she'd escaped after being kidnapped and held for ransom...

day mission to the Mir space station. Ten years ago: The White House and Congress failed to strike a deal after exchanging competing offers on an Iraq war spending bill...

Newsday Crossword

- ACROSS 1 Gutsy poker bet 6 Taken off the shelf 10 Some frozen treats 14 Badger 15 Be the boss 16 River of Spain 17 Without aid 19 Daffy or Donald 20 _ Z (thoroughly) 21 Slackless 22 Thin out 24 Ivy's twiner 26 Snack in a shell 27 Color brighter than goldenrod 32 Heavy metal in westerns 35 Mineral sources 36 Neighbor of Wyo. 37 Persuade gently 38 Hit the ceiling 40 Fictional sleuth Cross 41 Veep before Al 42 Ignore, with "out" 43 Squirming, say 44 Cultured dairy selection 49 Major prank 48 Marc Antony foe 53 Elizabeth I's mom 56 Fitzgerald of jazz 57 Back muscle, briefly 58 Trunk cutters 59 Career's beginning 62 Card of courses 63 Brake component 64 A-listers 65 Added details 66 A pushover 67 Informal question

GET WISE by Fred Piscop

Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

- 18 Nonfactor at domed stadiums 23 Experts 25 Early 7th-century date 26 Banks of fashion 28 Bard's eloper 29 Rhythmic swing 30 Metrical tributes 31 Reminiscent of fake fruit 32 Adapter designation 33 Biblical role for Crowe 34 Windmill blade 38 Northern 39 Sameo stone 40 Prefix for hero 42 Iliad locale 43 In an orderly formation 45 Lab monkey 46 Ketch's kitchen 47 Quarrelsome, as a mood 50 Flannel shirt pattern 51 Something thrown on a cruise 52 On a cruise 53 Ole Miss rival 54 Four-legged plow pullers 55 Supply short-term 56 Mythical bow toter 60 _ moment (insightful instant) 61 Quarterback Manning

Crossword grid with numbers 1-67.



AP Photo/Wilfredo Lee

Houston Astros' Lance McCullers Jr. delivers a pitch during the first inning of a baseball game against the Miami Marlins, Wednesday, May 17, 2017, in Miami.

ASTROS

Continued from Page 9

around a walk in the ninth for his

11th save.
Jose Altuve hit his first two triples of the year, doubled twice and had an RBI. George Springer hit a two-out, two-run single in the sixth.

The Astros (29-12) passed the quarter mark in their season with the best record in the majors. Their fourth consecutive win lifted them 17 games above .500 for the first time since 2004, and they head home after a 6-1 trip.

"It's hard not to like this trip," manager A.J. Hinch said. "It was in incredible display on how to win games."

Jose Urena (1-2), one of the few bright spots in Miami's battered rotation, lost despite limiting Houston to three runs, one earned, in 5 2/3 innings.

Gordon, trying for a forceout, made an errant nonchalant backhanded throw to second base on a routine grounder with two out in the sixth. Springer followed with a single for a 3-0 lead.

"That was a mental mistake on my part," Gordon said. "I've got to throw the ball to first. I can't let that happen. I just made a dumb play. It's my fault we lost the game."

That made it 17 defeats in the past 21 games for Miami. Mattingly said his players hang their heads after one bad play as if to say, "Here we

go again."

"I think we do. That's any team though when you go through a tough stretch," Mattingly said. "But I don't know if I've ever been through one quite like this. This is extended. At some point we've just got to play better."

MARLINS MOVE

Before the game, the Marlins placed RHP Junichi Tazawa on the 10-day disabled list retroactive to May 16 with rib cartilage inflammation, and designated Mike Aviles for assignment. They added INF Christian Colon to the roster after claiming him off waivers from Kansas City, and recalled RHPs Brian Ellington and Odrisamer Despaigne from Triple-A New Orleans.

UP NEXT

Houston: Following a day off, RHP Charlie Morton (5-2, 3.97) is scheduled to start Friday for the Astros when they return home to open a three-game series against Cleveland.

Miami: RHP Edinson Volquez (0-5, 4.41) is scheduled to start for the Marlins when they begin a four-game series Thursday at the Dodgers. Miami swept a four-game series there last year.

Baylor sexual assault investigation

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — A new federal lawsuit against Baylor University alleges football players routinely recorded gang rapes and staged dog fights during hazing parties in a program that fostered sexual violence.

A former Baylor volleyball player, identified as Jane Doe in the lawsuit, alleges she was raped by four or more players after being taken from a party where she may have been drugged in 2012. Her lawsuit, filed Tuesday, alleges the players later burglarized her apartment and harassed her and her family until she left school the next year.

The woman said she told her mother, who gave an assistant football coach a list of players' names, but never heard back. The woman said she later told her head coach, who brought the matter to football coach Art Briles and athletic director Ian McCaw.

Her account lines up with previous legal filings by Baylor's Board of Regents that allege Briles, when showed a list of names of players allegedly involved in the woman's case, replied: "Those are some bad dudes. Why was she around those guys?" and said the woman should go to the police.

investigation into claims that Kuwaiti leaders of the Olympic Council of Asia bribed the region's soccer officials has been opened by the Asian Football Confederation.

The AFC announced the internal probe in fallout from the U.S. Department of Justice's sprawling investigation of corruption in international soccer. It could identify leaders of AFC member federations suspected of taking bribes.

The investigation would look at "the circumstances surrounding the prosecution of former Guam Football Association President Richard Lai," the AFC said in a statement.

Although Lai was also a member of the FIFA audit committee, a bigger target of the American case could be longtime Olympic powerbroker Sheikh Ahmad al-Fahad al-Sabah of Kuwait.

RANGERS

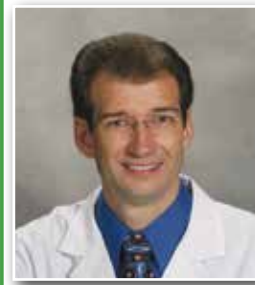
Continued from Page 9

first batter he faced, Aaron Altherr.

Bibens-Dirkx spent 12 years in the minors and pitched in an independent league last year. He had been on the active roster for 10 days and got his first strikeout. "Well worth the wait I'm sure for him," manager Jeff Banister said. "Well worth the wait for all of our guys."

TRAINER'S ROOM

Phillies: LF Howie Kendrick, who has been on the disabled list for a month with a right abdominal strain, is still experiencing soreness.



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Parent's Corner

Some stories I just can't help sharing. Some are funny, some are sad and some have wonderful educational value.

I thought you would enjoy this one and maybe even identify with it...I know I did.

See what you think about this story: I was diagnosed with A.A.A.D.D: Age-Activated Attention Deficit Disorder. It works like this: I decide to water my lawn.

As I turn on the hose in the driveway, I look over at my car and decide my car needs washing. As I start toward the garage, I

notice that there is mail on the porch table that I brought up from the mailbox earlier.

I decide to go through the mail before I wash the car. I lay my car keys down on the table, put the junk mail in the garbage can under the table, and notice that the can is full. So, I decide to put the bills back on the table and take out the garbage first.

But then I think, since I'm going to be near the mailbox when I take out the garbage anyway, I may as well pay the bills first.

I take my checkbook off the table and see that there is only one check left. My extra checks are in my desk in the study, so I go inside the house to my desk where I find the can of Coke that I had been drinking.

I'm going to look for my checks, but first I need to push the Coke aside so that I don't accidentally knock it over.

I see that the Coke is getting warm, and I decide I should put it in the refrigerator to keep it cold.

As I head toward the kitchen with the Coke, a vase of flowers on the counter catches my eye that needs to be watered.

I set the Coke down on the counter, and I discover my reading glasses that I've been searching for all morning.

I decide I better put them back on my desk, but first I'm going to water the flowers.

I set the glasses back down on the counter, fill a container with water, and suddenly I spot the TV remote. Someone left it on the kitchen table. I remember that tonight when we go to watch TV, and I will be looking for the remote, so I decide to put it back in the living room where it belongs, but first I'll water the flowers.

I pour some water in the flowers, but quite a bit of it spills on the floor.

So, I set the remote back down on the table, get some towels, and wipe up the spill.

Then I head down the

hall trying to remember what I was planning to do! At the end of the day the lawn isn't watered, the car isn't washed, the bills aren't paid, there is a warm can of Coke sitting on the counter, the flowers don't have enough water, there is still only one check in my checkbook, I can't find the remote, I can't find my glasses, I don't remember what I did with the car keys, and my neighbor called to tell me he turned off the hose that was flooding the driveway.

Then when I try to figure out why nothing got done today, I'm really baffled because I know I was busy all day long and I'm really tired.

I realize this is a serious problem, and I'll try to get some help for it, but first I'd better check my e-mail.

This story sounds like many of my days. Does it seem to make any sense to you?

Darrell Ryan is a long-time public school educator.



DARRELL RYAN

Celebrating the men and women in blue



Courtesy photos
Forsan Elementary School honored area law enforcement with a high five line and breakfast Tuesday morning. The event was held in conjunction with National Police Week.



Bon Jovi surprises grads with commencement show

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP) — Bon Jovi entertained graduates and guests at Fairleigh Dickinson University's commencement exercises Tuesday by putting on a surprise performance.

Fairleigh Dickinson won a nationwide contest to bring the New Jersey-based rock band to play their graduation by generating the most interest on social media.

Jon Bon Jovi, who was born and raised in Sayreville, New Jersey, spoke to the graduates before the band performed "Reunion," a song about a class gathering years later to share memories of their lives.

"Today marks the end of one chapter in your life and the start

of another," he said from a stage at MetLife Stadium in East Rutherford, where the band has played to sold-out crowds many times. "Enjoy the book; you're the one writing it."

"Don't take anything personally. Accept both praise and criticism equally, but take neither to heart. There are many surprises awaiting you on the journey."

The contest was run by MTVU, and asked students across the country to tweet their best college moments with the hashtag #JB-JRReunionContest.

"Reunion" was first performed by Bon Jovi in 2015 at the commencement exercises for Rutgers University, and appears on the band's current album "This House Is Not For

Sale." Most of the students did not know Bon Jovi would be appearing until they were already inside the stadium, home field for the NFL's Jets and Giants.

Although best known for '80s-era hits like "Livin' On A Prayer," "You Give Love A Bad Name" and "Wanted Dead Or Alive," Bon Jovi's current album went to No. 1 on the charts and they were the top-selling live band in the U.S. for the first three months of 2017, making them popular with students whose parents watched the band on MTV decades ago.

Dr. Rudy Haddad

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