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BIG SPRING HERALD

TUESDAY, JUNE 20, 2017



VOLUME 112, NUMBER 210

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50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 SUNDAY

Mike Ritchey rehired as BSHS principal

By ROGER CLINE
 Staff Writer

It's often said that the third time's a charm. Perhaps two-time Big Spring High School principal Mike Ritchey's third crack at the high school's helm will be a charm; but, then, his first two rounds at the job were pretty charmed too. "Oh yeah, we're glad he's back," said Big Spring ISD spokesman George Bancroft. "He'll be starting soon."



Ritchey

Bancroft said retirement hasn't agreed with Ritchey, who retired from the position for the second time in the summer of 2016. "We posted the position and we had some applicants. (Ritchey) was

considering coming back to the junior high and coaching and teaching. He has not enjoyed being retired," Bancroft said. "So we kind of had a dialogue going with him anyway. When this position opened up, we said, 'Hey, how about this one?' It just worked out well for everyone." According to a press release issued by the school district: "The Big Spring Independent School District is

pleased to announce that Mike Ritchey will be returning to Big Spring High School to serve as its principal. This will be the third time Mr. Ritchey has been selected to fill the position. He was first named the high school principal in 2001 and held the position until the summer of 2007, when he left briefly to take the district's athletic director job. Mr. Ritchey returned to the BSHS principalship just a few months

later in the spring of 2008 and resumed the principal's duties until he retired last summer. We are delighted that Mr. Ritchey has decided to come out of retirement and look forward to having our students and staff benefit from his considerable expertise and experience." *Contact Staff Writer Roger Cline at 432-263-7331 ext. 232, or by email at life@bigspringherald.com.*

Christmas spirit all year long



HERALD photo/Amanda Elston

The Salvation Army Boys and Girls Club has placed sponsorship trees for summer day campers around town at places such as Wal-Mart (above), Porter's and First Baptist Church.

By ROGER CLINE
 Staff Writer

They're a common sight around our community during the weeks before Christmas: Small evergreen trees bearing a collection of cards with children's names on them, with instructions on how to make a child's Christ-

mas experience at little brighter. It's nowhere near Christmas, but the trees have popped up in Wal-Mart, Porter's, and First Baptist Church once more. "The (Salvation Army) officers are trying to get sponsorships for the kids who are in our Boys and Girls Club Summer Day

Camp," said Salvation Army Case Worker Patricia Snowden. "They've got a tree at Wal-Mart, one at Porter's, and one at First Baptist Church." According to the cards adorning the trees: "By sponsoring a child for the Salvation Army Boys and Girls Club Day Camp, you provide the

following: Summer reading program, breakfast, lunch, and snacks, sports, fitness, recreation, the arts, a loving and encouraging atmosphere, and more. One child for one week is \$50, check or cash. A child for the entire summer is \$500. No

See SA, Page 3

County discusses recent changes

By ROBERT BARLOW
 Staff Writer

Several items of interest were discussed at the special-called Howard County Commissioners Court meeting on Monday, including some recent changes that have brought attention to the local adult probation community service program.

The item regarding the program was met with differing opinions in regards to where the adult probation program, run by the Howard County Sheriff's Office, allocates their time at.

A recent change at a commissioners court meeting ended a contract with Senior Service America Inc., an Abilene-based company that helped those out-of-work find employment by funding a portion of their salary.

The county decided to end the contract after several complaints were raised about the employees that were sent by the company, including employees who maintained the courthouse lawn.

However, that change has led to a discussion on where to place the responsibilities of maintaining the lawn and other facilities for the courthouse and other county buildings.

"One of the things the judge has brought up several times is we don't have the horsepower here to do those things and even if we did we need to focus those on pure maintenance," said Commissioner Craig Bailey.

Sheriff Stan Parker stated that the

See COURT, Page 3

Average price of gasoline in Texas drops last week

Special to the Herald

Average retail gasoline prices in Texas have fallen 4.2 cents per gallon in the past week, averaging \$2.10/g yesterday, according to GasBuddy's daily survey of 13,114 gas outlets in Texas. This com-

pares with the national average that has fallen 4.4 cents per gallon in the last week to \$2.28/g, according to gasoline price website GasBuddy.com. Including the change in gas prices in Texas during the past week, prices yesterday were 1.1 cents per gallon

lower than the same day one year ago and are 6.0 cents per gallon lower than a month ago. The national average has decreased 7.1 cents per gallon during the last month and stands 5.8 cents per gallon lower than this day one year ago.

According to GasBuddy historical data, gasoline prices on June 19 in Texas have ranged widely over the last five years: \$2.11/g in 2016, \$2.61/g in 2015, \$3.49/g in 2014, \$3.42/g in 2013 and \$3.28/g in 2012. Areas near Texas and their

current gas price climate: See GAS, Page 3



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Obituaries

Robert Kent Bowermon

Robert Kent Bowermon, known to all as Kent, was born on Jan. 25, 1949, in Pampa, Texas, to Robert "Bob" and Geneva Bowermon. As the baby of the family, he was adored by his parents and older sister Paula. After time in Pampa, Amarillo, and California, he graduated from Coronado High School in Lubbock, Texas, with a scholarship to play football at Texas Tech University. Unfortunately, an injury sidelined his collegiate football career, but it opened the door for him to meet Kathie McDaniel through intramural volleyball. They married in Monahans, Texas on May 22, 1971. Following his graduation from Texas Tech University with a Bachelor's of Education in Government and History, he began his teaching/coaching career in Lubbock. Kent and Kathie welcomed their first child, Keely, while he completed a Master's of Education focused on Counseling from Texas Tech University before leaving Lubbock. Their second child, Kade, was born in Arlington where Kent finished his Administration and Superintendent Certifications at East Texas State University in Commerce, Texas. Continuing his advancement through the educational system, he transitioned from teacher/coach to an assistant principal in Arlington, preparing him for his journey to Big Spring, Texas. There, he was an active member of the community and served as the Principal for Big Spring High School for 13 1/2 years. Kent continued his career by accepting the position of Superintendent in the Weimar Independent School District in 2001. After suffering from some health issues, he retired from Weimar ISD

in 2004. He and Kathie moved to Rockdale, Texas, in the fall of 2005 to allow Kathie to join the Rockdale High School staff as a counselor. Throughout his retirement, he continued to consult for other school districts needing his expertise and skill sets. Given his ongoing passion for the students and their development, he became a contributing member of the Rockdale ISD School Board in 2011. He has served in various offices as a Rotarian throughout his life, valuing the relationships that unite for the common good to improve lives. In addition, he volunteered his services in various capacities as a member of the United Methodist congregations in each community where he lived.

Kent passed away peacefully in his sleep in Copenhagen, Denmark, while on vacation with family members, most likely from cardiac arrest. He is survived by his wife of 46 years, Kathie Bowermon, of Rockdale, Texas; his two children, Keely and Kade and their spouses, Joe and Julie; and the two lights of his life, grandchildren, Kole and Aspen; in addition to his amazing mother-in-law, Georgia McDaniel. He has numerous in-laws, cousins, nephews and nieces, and so many friends that serve as surrogate family members who will all dearly miss him.

Cremation occurred in Denmark and his ashes will be returned, soon. Due to family logistics, a memorial service to honor Kent will not be held until Saturday, July 15, 2017, at 2 p.m. at St. John's United Methodist Church in Rockdale, Texas. In honor of Kent's lifelong passion for developing youth potential, memorials can be made to Kent Bowermon Scholarship, Rockdale Rotary Club, P.O. Box 294, Rockdale, Texas, 76567; or Kent Bowermon Scholarship, Big Spring ISD, 708 E. 11th Street, Big Spring, Texas, 79720.

Paid obituary

Phillip Mendoza Sr.

Phillip Mendoza Sr., 66, of Big Spring died Sunday, June 18, 2017, at Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

Vigil service will be at 7 p.m. Tuesday at Myers and Smith Chapel. Funeral Mass will be at 10 a.m. Wednesday at Holy Trinity Catholic Church, with burial at Mount Olive Memorial Park.

Phillip was born April 29, 1951, to Juana and Santos Mendoza in Big Spring, Texas. He married Yolanda De Leon on July 22, 1967, in Big Spring. He had been employed at Fina Refinery. He was a lifetime resident of Big Spring and a member of Holy Trinity Catholic Church.

Phillip is survived by his wife, Yolanda Mendoza of Big Spring; one son, Phillip Mendoza Jr. of Big Spring; one daughter, Enchantra Mendoza of Big

Spring; mother, Juana Mendoza of Big Spring; two brothers, Robert Mendoza of Big Spring, and Santos Mendoza Jr. and his wife Jennifer of Big Spring; one sister, Janie Marin and her husband Frank of Big Spring; one grandson, Aaron Mendoza of Big Spring; one granddaughter, Analyse Mendoza of Big Spring; and several nieces, nephews, cousins, and uncles.

In addition to his father, he was preceded in death by one brother, Andy Mendoza.

Pallbearers will be Johnny Green, Gus Fierro, Jacob Marin, Mario De Leon, Brent Marin, and Marcus Porras.

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

Paid obituary

Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity:

- **SHAYLA DENICE KELLEY**, 28, of 4609 Thomason Drive, was arrested on a warrant from another agency.
- **JOSHUA MIER**, 34, of 1705 State Street, was arrested on a charge of evading arrest or detention with a vehicle and on a warrant from another agency.
- **DISTURBANCE** was reported in the 2100 block of Wasson Road.
- **BURGLARY OF A VEHICLE** was reported in the 2400 block of Allendale Road.
- **MINOR ACCIDENT** was reported in the 1000 block of North Lamesa Highway.

Sheriff

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

- Note - Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 81 inmates at the time of this report.
- **SHAYLA DENICE KELLEY**, 28, was booked by the BSPD on a warrant for failure to appear and assault.
- **JOSHUA MIER**, 34, was booked by the BSPD on warrants for bail jumping and failure to appear, and evading arrest or detention with a vehicle.
- **JENNIFER DEANN PITTMAN**, 24, was booked by the BSPD on warrants for false report to a police officer, purchasing or furnishing alcohol to a minor, and driving while intoxicated.

Fire/EMS

Big Spring Fire Department/EMS reported the following activity:

- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 300 block of Veterans Boulevard.
- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 300 block of West 3rd. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.
- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 1900 block of Simler Drive. 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 1700 block of Lancaster.
- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 1400 block of North Highway 87. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

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- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported near West County Road 30 and County Road 23. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.
- **TRAFFIC ACCIDENT** was reported in the 4000 block of Dixon. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.
- **ELECTRICAL WIRING PROBLEM** was reported in the 100 block of Canyon Drive.

Martha Bearden Conway Freeman



Martha Bearden Conway Freeman, 88, of San Angelo, Texas, passed away on the Lord's Day, Sunday, June 18, 2017, after a long illness.

Martha was born to Alton and Elsie Bearden in Waxahachie, Texas on June 2, 1929. She married Byron Conway in Big Spring, Texas, on Oct. 7, 1950. Their daughter Brenda was born November 1953, and by December 1956, another daughter, Nancy, was born. They were married 25 years until Byron's death in 1975. Two years later, a friend, Ann Hackett, introduced Martha to a preacher named Clyde Freeman who had lost his wife, Billie, to a battle with cancer. Clyde and Martha were happily married Oct. 3, 1977, and spent the last 39 years loving each other dearly. Martha spent many years as a church secretary for the congregation at 11th and Birdwell church of Christ in Big Spring, Texas. She was a loving and caring woman who spent years teaching so many souls, young and old, about the Lord Jesus. Martha left a legacy of teaching others about Jesus, from her family to church members, underprivileged children, and prison inmates through World Bible School lessons, her love for God's word was so evident. She is survived by her husband, Clyde Freeman of San Angelo, Texas; her daughters, Brenda Mims and her husband Rickey Mims of Stanton, Texas, Nancy McKee and her husband Donald McKee Jr. of San Angelo, Texas; her stepdaughter, Louise Evans and her husband Rick Evans of Tuttle, Okla.; and her stepson, Mark Freeman and his wife Robin of Katy, Texas; her grandchildren and great-grandchildren, Rawley, Kari, Reese, and Jace Mims of Summerlin, Nev., Lindsey, Luke, Noah, Asher, and Hope Glavan of Blanchard, Okla., Marti Kay, Bryan, Braxie, Brylie, and Bristol Albus of Sundown, Texas, Monica, Jake, Hunter, and Hallie Elrod of New Braunfels, Texas, Jennifer, Adam, and Tucker Weiss of Tuttle, Okla., Meagan, Casey, Charleigh, and Chace Ellison, of Frisco, Texas, Ashley, Josh, Addison, Levi, and Kinsley of Blanchard, Okla.; Mandy, Josh, Jackson, and Ellie Wheeler of Lubbock, Texas, Jessica, Chase, Grayson, and Caleb Thomas of Tuttle, Okla., Josh Freeman and his wife Lauren of Austin, Texas, Lauren Freeman of Houston, Texas, and Morgan Freeman of Katy, Texas.

Preceded in death by her stepdaughter, Jane Freeman of Dell City, Okla.; and all of her siblings and parents. A special Thank You to the sweet staff of Baptist Memorial, Allison House, Alzheimer's Facility, for your love and care of our precious wife, mother, and grandmother. Two services will be held to celebrate Martha's life, June 20, 2017, at 9th and Main church of Christ in San Angelo, Texas, at 10 a.m.; and a graveside service at Trinity Memorial Cemetery, Big Spring, Texas, at 1:30 p.m.

Paid obituary

Kathleen "Kaki" Morton



Kathleen "Kaki" Morton, 72, formerly of Big Spring died Sunday, June 18, 2017.

Funeral services are scheduled for Thursday, June 22, 2017, at 10 a.m. at Hillcrest Baptist Church in Big Spring. Burial will follow at Trinity Memorial Park.

Survivors include two brothers, Jeff and wife Mavis of Big Spring, and David and wife Lee of Pilot Point, Texas; and several nieces, nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews.

Kaki was preceded in death by her parents, Rufus and Ella Ruth Morton.

Memorials may be sent to DRRRC., 306 W. Third St., Big Spring, Texas, 79720.

Arrangements are under the direction of Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home and Crematory. Condolences may be made at www.npwelch.com.

Support Groups

TUESDAY

• Big Spring and Snyder Parkinsons Support Group meeting at the Big Spring Senior Center at 10:30 a.m. the second Tuesday of the month.

This is a group for all Parkinson's disease patients, spouses and caregivers.

For more information about the support group or about Parkinson's Disease, contact Jo Bidwell at the Lubbock APDA office at 806-785-0942.

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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.

COURT

Continued from Page 1

program receives a full schedule during the summer and it was hard to find time to add additional places to the work list.

Parker went on to affirm the program was created to serve the community.

"This program was created for community service," said Parker.

The discussion did not find an ending and so was tabled for another meeting.

Another item discussed was deciding about the purchase of some new communication radios for the emergency services in the county. The

topic was recently brought up in a Big Spring city council meeting on upgrading the current radio system to something more effective.

"Everybody is supposed to be getting their radio count together with what they need and bring it back..." said Commissioner Jimmie Long.

The city officials have discussed with county officials on how to budget for the new radios. According to Commissioner Long, the city will be paying 55 percent of the cost and the county will pay 45 percent.

"They'll finance their 55 percent and we'll finance ours. It will be two separate deals," said Long.

It was also brought up that if there was a way to get the EMS, fire, and police department all on the same

communications system, it could be more effective for the emergency responders' duties and the county and the city's coordination efforts.

While some preparation is still needed to finalize an estimate for bids, the county is looking to replace the radios soon.

The landfill was also mentioned at the meeting briefly with Commissioner Long stating that the new landfill has been making good progress so far and looks to be ahead of schedule.

"Landfill is holding its own, looks like there going to get their new one permitted earlier than they previously estimated," said Long. "They will probably have it open even before the current one is full."

The court also approved the newly

proposed insurance rate with Travelers Insurance.

The county was originally quoted a five percent increase from the previous years cost. However, last year the county paid around \$280,000 in a premium and this year the county paid around \$287,000, which meant less than a 3 percent increase.

According to Commissioner Long, the insurance company paid \$876,659.24 in claims last year, though not all of the money was used, so a much higher rate increase was expected.

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

GAS

Continued from Page 1

• Midland Odessa- \$2.17/g, down 4.1 cents per gallon from last week's \$2.21/g.

• San Antonio- \$2.05/g, down 5.3 cents per gallon from last week's \$2.10/g.

• Austin- \$2.10/g, down 4.3 cents per gallon from last week's \$2.14/g.

"Another week, another nearly country-wide de-

cline in average gasoline prices as crude oil prices struggle near the lowest levels of the year," said Patrick DeHaan, senior petroleum analyst for GasBuddy. "Motorists shouldn't expect too much more of the nice price declines we've seen in the last couple of weeks as hurricane season comes in to view, but we could see another week with a majority of states seeing prices move lower again, thanks to

gasoline inventories that remain quite healthy, along with refiners that continue to push out product at rates that have been higher than demand, leading to crude oil prices that have struggled mightily to gain a footing. It looks like even OPEC's best move to thwart supply increases hasn't done much thanks to U.S. oil production which has charged back like a bull."

SA

Continued from Page 1

contribution is too small. Please drop your sponsorship off at one of these locations: Porter's Tree Kettle Stand, Wal-Mart Customer Service. You can also deliver or mail to 811 W. Fifth, which is our location. Please write checks to the Salvation Army, and please call us if you have any questions, 432-267-8239."

Snowden said the day camp keeps the kids busy with educa-

tional and entertaining activities.

"We do field trips with them," she said. "They have activities going all day long."

The camp has nearly 170 children enrolled so far, Snowden said, adding that the sponsorships are really needed to help defray the food, travel, and other expenses involved with caring for that many kids.

For more information, visit the Salvation Army Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/TSABigSpring/>.

Death of American detained in North Korea baffles experts

By FOSTER KLUG

Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — North Korea's missile and nuclear tests, its carefully scripted propaganda bluster, even its military threats: Far from the scattershot workings of a madman, most of this fits the playbook of a small, proud country well used to stoking tensions to get concessions it would otherwise not receive from surrounding big powers.

What happened to Otto Warmbier, an American college student who died just days after North Korea released him from detention in a coma, is far more difficult to make sense of.

It jars so strikingly with the fates of most past detained Americans that outside observers are left struggling not only with the mystery of what killed Warmbier but also with what his death means for attempts by Washington and its allies to stop North Korea's pursuit of a nuclear-tipped ICBM that can target the U.S. mainland.

"The treatment of Otto Warmbier is beyond the pale of North Korea's usual standards," said John Delury, an Asia expert at Seoul's Yonsei University. "It's worth a forceful response. The U.S. government should not just throw up its hands and say, 'This is just how North Korea is.' But how do you do that in a smart way where there is some modicum of accountability?"

What follows is a closer examination of one of the more perplexing and heart-rending developments in North Korea's long, antagonistic standoff with its neighbors and Washington.

WHAT ACTUALLY HAPPENED?

It may never be known, but there are some clues — as well as widespread speculation.

The University of Virginia student was medically evacuated from North Korea last week, more than a year after a court sentenced him to 15 years in prison with hard labor for allegedly trying to steal a propaganda banner.

North Korean diplomats at the United Nations had urgently requested a face-to-face meeting with U.S. officials in New York. During the June 6 meeting, Washington learned of Warmbier's condition.

His family said it was told he fell into a coma soon after his March 2016 sentencing after contracting botulism and taking a sleeping pill. Doctors in Cincinnati said they found no active sign of botulism or evidence of beatings. They say he had severe brain damage but they don't know what caused it.

Some observers believe that North Korea became worried because Warmbier's condition suddenly worsened.

"North Korea sent him back to the United States before he died because more questions would have been raised about his death and the situation would have gotten worse if it had returned his dead body," said Cheong Seong-jang, an analyst at the private Sejong Institute in South Korea.

Others believe it is unlikely that North Korea intentionally harmed Warmbier because he was valuable as a political pawn. Poor hygienic conditions, diet or bad medical care may have been responsible for a coma that North Korean

doctors couldn't handle.

Or maybe North Korea concealed his medical condition for so long in the hopes that he'd recover.

WHAT DOES IT SHOW ABOUT NORTH KOREA'S INNER WORKINGS?

Some outside experts see an internal divide in North Korea between officials who believe solving the long standoff with Seoul and Washington is the best way to improve the country's economy and international standing, and hard-liners who believe that outside pressure, isolation and animosity help keep the ruling Kim family in power by solidifying domestic support.

The last thing conservatives want, the argument goes, is curious American tourists talking with citizens and undercutting decades of propaganda that assures North Koreans that they are the envy of the world.

But North Korea has also consistently lobbied Washington for specific concessions that would need deep negotiations, something recent U.S. administrations have been reluctant to pursue because of the North's weapons programs. North Korea's demands include a peace treaty to officially end the Korean War and the removal of U.S. troops from the Korean Peninsula.

"I'm sure there are high-ranking North Koreans who regret what happened to Warmbier and who think this was a mistake," Delury said. "You've got to capitalize on this, and influence their internal debates to get them to recognize and acknowledge what happened."

Another reading is that Warmbier's death

may simply show a pattern of North Korean callousness and a lack of concern over diplomatic repercussions. Outside groups say North Korea tortures thousands of its own citizens at prison camps. And earlier this year the North was suspected of arranging the killing of the half-brother of leader Kim Jong Un with VX nerve agent at a Malaysian airport.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR DIPLOMACY?

Outrage in the United States means that more pressure, not dialogue, is the more likely course. But some analysts believe negotiations could happen because of U.S. worries about the safety of the three other Americans still detained in North Korea.

South Korean President Moon Jae-in has been unable to pursue the engagement with the North he favors because of a string of

North Korean missile tests. Warmbier's death could make it even harder, although some analysts think Moon could offer talks with the North as a way to get other detainees out of North Korea.

"It's unlikely that Washington and Seoul will let Warmbier's death entirely derail their efforts at talks because North Korea's nuclear weapons program is such a serious and immediate threat," said Koh Yu-hwan, a North Korea expert at Seoul's Dongguk University. Still, opponents will question whether such negotiations may give the North more time

to expand its nuclear weapons program.

Moon said in an interview with CBS television broadcast Tuesday that Warmbier's death showed "we must now have the perception that North Korea is an irrational regime," but talks are still necessary because "we were unable to resolve the North Korean nuclear issue through only the sanctions and pressure."

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Phillip Mendoza, Sr., 66, died Sunday. Vigil service will be at 7:00 PM tonight at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral Mass will be at 10:00 AM Wednesday at Holy Trinity Catholic Church. Burial will be at Mount Olive Memorial Park.

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Texas cities mark Juneteenth with parades, family events

DALLAS (AP) — Communities across Texas have celebrated Juneteenth with flags, food and historic remembrances of when Texas slaves more than 150 years ago learned they were free.

On June 19, 1865, federal troops arrived in Galveston to declare Texas slaves free, more than two years after President Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation.

Organizers say more than 200 people attended a prayer breakfast Monday in Galveston at the Ashton Villa, site of the city's Juneteenth monument.

A family festival was planned Monday in Dallas at the Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center.

Juneteenth parades were held Saturday in a number of cities, including Austin, Fort Worth, Houston, San Angelo and San Antonio. A health and wellness fair was held at the Abilene Convention Center. A Juneteenth Family Festival in Corpus Christi included public readings.

South Texas boy, 15, charged in death of other youth, 17

NEW BRAUNFELS, Texas (AP) — Investigators say a 15-year-old San Antonio-area boy has been charged in the fatal shooting of a 17-year-old male during a disturbance.

New Braunfels (BRAHN'-felz) police on Monday announced a juvenile from Marion has been arrested on a murder charge in the weekend death of Conrad Kuntz of New Braunfels.

Officers on Saturday night responded to reports of shots fired and a disturbance in a neighborhood. Police found Kuntz wounded.

Emergency medical personnel were unable to save him.

Police on Sunday arrested the 15-year-old suspect, who remains in juvenile custody.

New Braunfels police didn't immediately release a possible motive for the shooting or further details on the investigation. No information was immediately released on an attorney for the juvenile suspect.

Study: Oil, gas drilling connected to pollution, earthquakes

HOUSTON (AP) — A new study by a nonprofit science organization says oil and gas drilling in Texas is linked to pollution and earthquakes.

The Houston Chronicle reports that The Academy of Medicine, Engineering and Science of Texas study found drilling in shale pollutes the air, erodes soil and contaminates water.

The disposal of millions of gallons of wastewater causes earthquakes.

The group began its analysis of the environmental and social impacts of drilling and hydraulic fracturing two years ago. It created a task force of attorneys, geologists, seismologists and engineers, including representatives from oil companies and an environmental group.

The study also found fracking is spreading rapidly across Texas.

Fracking is where a high-pressure concoction of water, sand and chemicals is used to free oil and gas from dense shale rock.

Houston neighborhood gets gay pride crosswalk

HOUSTON (AP) — A Houston neighborhood now has a gay pride crosswalk, which means crossings along all four segments of an intersection in the Montrose area are rainbow-painted.

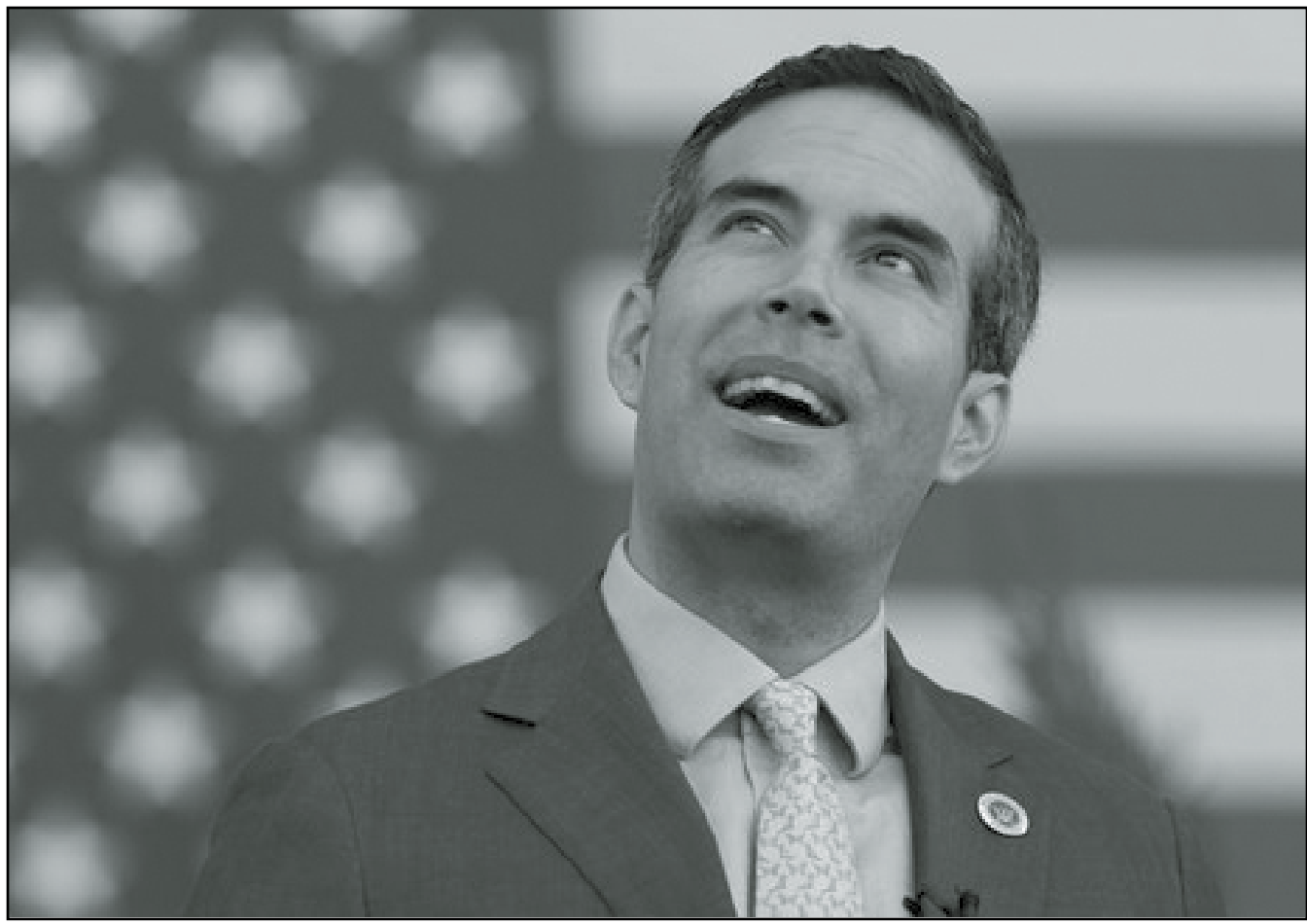
Crews painted the crossings Saturday and by Sunday morning, residents were turning out to take photos along the crosswalk.

Pride Houston paid the \$15,000 cost of the project. Frankie Quijano, president of Pride Houston, says, "All it can do is amplify what Houston is about. We welcome everyone, whatever size, shape color."

Ham McLain moved to Houston eight months ago and stumbled across the intersection on his way back from breakfast. The 55-year-old said, "It's beautiful. It makes me proud to live here."

City Councilwoman Ellen Cohen's office coordinated the permits and approvals needed to close the street for the work.

George P Bush seeks re-election as Texas land commissioner



AP photo

In this Nov. 11, 2016 file photo, Texas Land Commissioner George P. Bush attends a Veterans Day celebration in Dallas. Bush is seeking re-election as Texas land commissioner next year, hoping to continue running a little-known but powerful agency in a state where his political-dynasty family has dominated elections for decades. Bush unveiled a campaign website early Monday, June 19, 2017 and was emailing supporters.

By WILL WEISSERT

Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — George P. Bush on Monday formally announced he is seeking re-election as Texas land commissioner next year, hoping to continue running a little-known but powerful agency in a state where his political-dynasty family has been prominent for decades.

Bush's grandfather, President George H.W. Bush, was once a Texas congressman and his uncle, George W. Bush, won two Texas gubernatorial elections before leaving for the White House.

George P. Bush, 41, grew up in Florida, where his father, Jeb, was governor and launched his unsuccessful presidential campaign last year. The younger Bush won the position of Texas' land commissioner handily in 2014, becoming the first in his family to win his first election.

After his father bowed out of the 2016 presidential race, Bush cam-

paigned for Donald Trump as chairman of the Texas Republican Party's victory committee — even though his family shunned the eventual president.

Describing himself as a movement conservative in the Newt Gingrich mold, Bush has said for months that Trump's success repudiating politics-as-usual won't make it harder for a member of one of the country's most famous families to succeed in upcoming elections.

Bush's path to re-election looks easy. He had \$3.1-plus million in campaign cash as of January, no major Republicans have expressed interest in challenging him in the state party's March 6 primary and he's unlikely to draw a formidable Democrat in the general election.

A former teacher and oil and gas consultant who speaks fluent Spanish, Bush served in Afghanistan as an intelligence officer for the U.S. Naval Reserve. His mother, Columba, was born in Mexico and Bush has for years

been considered a rising national star who can raise the Republican Party's profile with Hispanic voters.

The land commissioner's office manages 13 million acres (5.2 million hectares) of state public lands, and auctions off leases to explore for oil and natural gas on them. It oversees state veterans outreach and a public school endowment fund. Bush has also helped run an ongoing, \$450-million remodel of the Alamo and surrounding plaza in San Antonio.

"My goal is to continue improving the ways in which we take care of veterans, prepare the coast from future disasters, honor the Alamo and generate revenues for the schoolchildren of Texas," Bush told The Associated Press by email.

There had been speculation that Bush could attempt to jump to a higher-profile Texas office, especially with state Attorney General

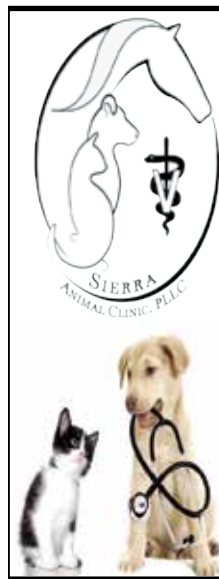
Ken Paxton having been indicted on felony securities fraud charges.

But Bush has long said he planned to run again for his current post. He made it official early Monday, unveiling a revamped campaign website that included a re-election video and emailing top supporters.

Bush shrugged off questions about whether another term as land commissioner could be beneath his political pedigree: "I'm not worried about anyone else's expectations of me."

He led a "reboot" that saw more than 100 staffers fired or leave the agency. Bush also drew criticism amid reports that his office paid nearly \$400,000 in what the land commissioners' office termed settlement agreements to dozens of departing employees, effectively keeping them on the state payroll for numerous extra months. The land

See **BUSH**, Page 5



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FBI missed rigged jackpot in 2006 before lottery scheme grew

By RYAN J. FOLEY

Associated Press

IOWA CITY, Iowa (AP) — Investigators were suspicious in 2006 when they heard that a rural Texas judge was trying to exchange \$450,000 in consecutively marked bills.

But Tommy Tipton, a Fayette County magistrate, told the FBI that his actions were innocent, if odd: He won the Colorado lottery but couldn't tell his wife because gambling was against their Christian faith. The FBI accepted the story and dropped its inquiry of Tipton, who soon bought a new truck and more property around the town of Flatonia, 110 miles (180 kilometers) west of Houston.

A decade later, the inquiry stands out as a missed chance to stop a jackpot rigging scandal that would corrupt the \$70 billion lottery industry for years while enriching a tiny group of insiders. The FBI didn't uncover one fact that its informant knew but didn't see as significant: that Tipton's brother, Eddie Tipton, was a lottery industry employee. In fact, he'd built the machine that picked the winning combination for the Colorado Lotto game.

"I didn't add two and two together," said the informant, Tom Bargas, owner of Mr. B Fireworks in Schulenburg, Texas. "I don't think I mentioned it to the FBI. Had I, they probably would have been smart enough to know then. It was a missed opportunity. It should have been stopped immediately."

Bargas recalled a conversation months earlier in his warehouse in which someone joked to Eddie Tipton that he could use his job at the Multi-State Lottery Association in Urbandale, Iowa, to "rig up the lottery."

"He just laughed about it," Bargas told The Associated Press. "We didn't realize that he was actually thinking about doing it or had done it

already."

Eddie Tipton, 54, admitted in a plea agreement with multiple states this month that he long profited off his position at the association, which helps run dozens of lotteries. Investigators say he designed and installed code that allowed him to predict winning numbers drawn every May 27, Nov. 23, and Dec. 29 of non-leap years. He conspired with his younger brother, friend Robert Rhodes and others to buy and claim winning tickets in five states between 2005 and 2011.

The brothers have agreed to tell investigators the full extent of their involvement in jackpot-fixing under the deal, which requires they pay back \$3 million. Prosecutors will seek 25 years in an Iowa prison for Eddie and 75 days in a Texas jail for Tommy, who worked as a sheriff's deputy before being elected Justice of the Peace in 2002, presiding over traffic enforcement, misdemeanors and some civil disputes.

Tommy Tipton's lawyers argued that the FBI's old inquiry should bar his current prosecution because the statute of limitations had expired. But Iowa prosecutor Rob Sand responded that the FBI had no reason to think the lottery might have been rigged.

"Doing so would have seemed harebrained at the time," Sand wrote, adding that agents "had no knowledge of Eddie Tipton's existence."

The FBI's Houston office, which oversaw the inquiry, declined to comment.

The scandal has roiled state lotteries, which have vowed to tighten their security and face lawsuits from players claiming they were cheated.

The \$4.5 million Colorado jackpot in late 2005 is the first prize suspected of being fixed.

Three came forward with



AP photo

In this June 15, 2017 photo, Tom Bargas, owner of Mr. B Fireworks poses at his fireworks stand in Schulenburg, Texas. Bargas was an informant in a 2006 FBI money laundering investigation of a Texas magistrate, Tommy Tipton, that failed to uncover a lottery jackpot rigging scandal that would go on for years. The FBI inquiry stands out as a missed opportunity to stop the jackpot rigging scandal that corrupted the nation's \$70 billion lottery industry while enriching a tiny group of insiders including Tipton and his brother Eddie Tipton.

winning tickets: Alexander Hicks, a friend of Tommy Tipton's whom he recruited to claim the prize in exchange for 10 percent; Texas lawyer Thad Whisenant, representing a newly formed Nevada limited liability corporation called Cuestion de Suerte; and a Colorado resident.

Hicks and Whisenant both had "manual play" tickets in which buyers select their own numbers — a statistical longshot. The third winner had the far more common "easy pick" ticket generated by a machine. The lottery paid each. Hicks took the \$568,900 cash option, returning 90 percent to Tommy Tipton.

Bargas recalled Tommy showing him large piles of freshly printed bills on Dec. 31, 2005, and asking him to swap the money for cash his business brought in from

New Year's fireworks sales. Bargas declined and reported the suspicious encounter to police, noting that Tommy Tipton wouldn't tell him where the money came from but insisted it was "legit."

Suspecting money laundering, the FBI asked Bargas to go undercover. He recorded a conversation in which Tommy Tipton claimed he won the lottery while in Colorado hunting for Bigfoot, a longtime hobby. Tipton told Bargas he wanted to hide the money from his wife because they were headed toward divorce. Bargas believed him. The FBI closed the matter after interviewing Tommy Tipton, Hicks and the lottery.

Investigators now suspect Whisenant is linked to the scheme. They note he and Tommy Tipton both have financial ties to Fayette County attorney Luis Vallejo,

who tried to deposit \$250,000 cash into anonymous corporate bank accounts in 2006. Whisenant and Vallejo haven't been charged. They didn't reply to phone messages seeking comment.

After Eddie Tipton was convicted of fraud in 2015 for buying the winning ticket for a \$16.5 million Iowa jackpot, a tipster called investigators suggesting they revisit the jackpot his brother won a decade prior. Other rigged jackpots emerged. Tommy Tipton, who testified that his brother was innocent at the 2015 trial, resigned his judgeship and was charged.

Bargas called Tommy Tipton's plea deal — in which he'll be allowed to maintain employment as a firearms instructor — too lenient.

"He's a crook, period," he said. "Guys like him need to be punished."

Justices say law on offensive trademarks is unconstitutional

By SAM HANANEL

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court on Monday struck down part of a law that bans offensive trademarks, ruling in favor of an Asian-American rock band called the Slants and giving a major boost to the Washington Redskins in their separate legal fight over the team name.

The justices were unanimous in saying that the 71-year-old trademark law barring disparaging terms infringes free speech rights guaranteed in the Constitution's First Amendment.

"It offends a bedrock First Amendment principle: Speech may not be banned on the ground that it expresses ideas that offend," Justice Samuel Alito said in his

opinion for the court.

Slants founder Simon Tam tried to trademark the band name in 2011, but the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office denied the request on the ground that it disparages Asians. A federal appeals court in Washington later said the law barring offensive trademarks is unconstitutional and the Supreme Court agreed. The Redskins made similar arguments after the trademark office ruled in 2014 that the name offends American Indians and canceled the team's trademark. That case, before a federal appeals court in Richmond, had been on hold while the Supreme Court considered the Slants case.

Tam insisted he was not trying to be offensive, but wanted to transform a derisive

term into a statement of pride. The Redskins also contend their name honors American Indians, but the team has faced decades of legal challenges from Indian groups that say the name is racist.

Tam said the band was "beyond humbled and thrilled" with the ruling.

"This journey has always been much bigger than our band: it's been about the rights of all marginalized communities to determine what's best for ourselves," he said.

Despite intense public pressure to change the Redskins name, team owner Dan Snyder has refused, saying in the past that it "represents honor, respect and pride" for Native Americans. Snyder issued a quick statement after Monday's deci-

sion: "I am THRILLED. Hail to the Redskins."

Redskins attorney Lisa Blatt said the court's decision effectively resolves the Redskins' longstanding dispute with the government.

"The Supreme Court vindicated the team's position that the First Amendment blocks the government from denying or cancelling a trademark registration based on the government's opinion," Blatt said.

Trademark office spokesman Paul Fucito said officials are reviewing the court's ruling and planned to issue further guidance on how they will review trademark applications.

BUSH

Continued from Page 4

commissioner's office said those guarded against possible lawsuits from former employees that would have been more costly.

His campaign video trumpeted Bush's "conservative record of accomplishment" noting "he made the General Land Office more efficient and lean, cutting the office staff and reforming the operational budget."

More recently, Bush has written to Trump, seeking \$15 billion in federal funding for a coastal barrier system

to shield Houston and Texas' Gulf Coast from hurricanes. Bush doesn't deny that the climate is changing and that humans play a role, but says he believes the impact of human influence is subject to debate.

Texas' deadline to file for the primary is in December, meaning he still has time to change his mind and seek another office. But Bush says he has no plans to.

"I continue to believe that my skill set as a successful businessman, military veteran and school teacher make me uniquely qualified to serve the people of Texas in this role," he said.



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19 Howard College athletes named Academic All-Americans

Special to The Herald

All four Hawk athletic teams that participated in the NJCAA had a team GPA of over 3.0 for the 2016-2017

academic year.

On top of that, the college had 19 individual Academic All-Americans; eight for first team, four for second team, and seven for third team.

student athletes' accomplishments in the classroom and after they will continue to soar in life long after they leave," said a press release. The students who received this honor are listed below:

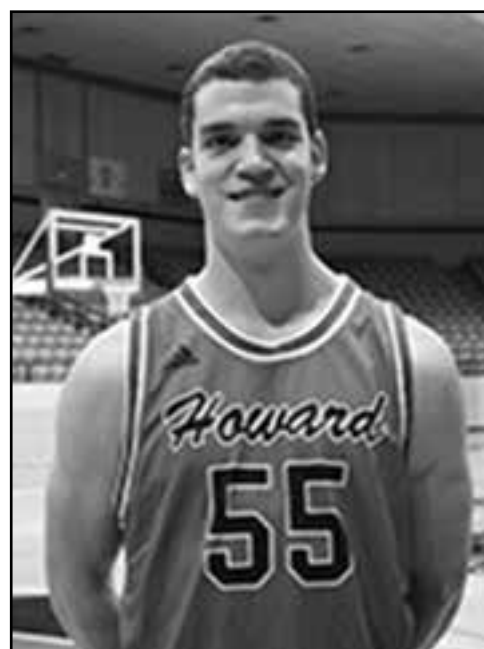
"Howard College couldn't be more proud of these



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Parker Towns- Howard College Baseball

Second Team- 3.80-3.99 GPA



Aubrie Elliot- Howard College Basketball



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Audrey Sutterfield- Howard College Basketball

Third Team- 3.60-3.79 GPA



Allison Taylor- Howard College Basketball



Srdjan Budimir- Howard College Basketball



Tayiah Hamilton- Howard College Softball



Mason Peterson- Howard College Baseball



Kelvin Riley Jr.- Howard College Basketball



Kylie Shay- Howard College Softball



Charlee Thompson- Howard College Softball

Springer hits 20th homer, Astros launch 3 to beat A's 4-1

By MICHAEL WAGAMAN
Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — As good as the Houston Astros have been at home this season, they've been even better on the road while piling up wins at a ridiculous rate.

It's a fact that's not lost on manager A.J. Hinch, although he's not inclined to read much into it yet.

George Springer hit his 20th home

run, Jake Marisnick and Derek Fisher also went deep and the Astros beat the Oakland Athletics 4-1 on Monday night.

Evan Gattis and Alex Bregman both doubled twice to help the Astros improve to a major league-best 24-8 on the road while winning their 24th straight at the Coliseum.

"Twelve months ago I was asking why we were so terrible on the road

and we were really good at home," Hinch said. "I think it's more coincidence. This is the same core group of guys that struggled on the road before. We don't take ourselves too seriously. We don't flaunt it. We don't have too much arrogance. We like our team. We like our guys."

Brad Peacock (4-1) struck out eight in 5 2/3 innings. He retired 16 of his first 18 batters and didn't allow a run-

ner past first until Matt Joyce's one-out double in the sixth.

"Just working on the fastball, throwing the slider for strikes and throwing it for balls when I needed to," Peacock said. "I'm not really trying to strike anybody out. I'm just trying to make pitches and trying to go deep in the game."

See **ASTROS**, Page 12

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RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS

OIL AND GAS DIVISION NOTICE OF APPLICATION for Brine Mining Injection Well Permit
Re: Application by P & K Woods, LLC For A Permit to Create, Operate, and Maintain a Brine Mining Facility to Be Known as the Badger Brine Station; Spraberry (Trend Area) Field; Howard County, Texas

P & K Woods, LLC submitted an application (Form H-2 with attachments) to the Railroad Commission of Texas dated May 15, 2017, for a Permit to Create, Operate, and Maintain a Brine Mining Facility known as the Badger Brine Station, Spraberry (Trend Area) Field, Howard County, Texas. The applicant has requested authority to produce brine by injection of freshwater to dissolve salt from the Salado Salt formation within the approximate subsurface interval from 1,220 feet to 2,000 feet. The applicant proposes to complete and case the well such that the injected fluid is confined to the injection interval. Surface injection pressure will be limited to a maximum of 700 pounds per square inch gauge. The maximum allowable injection pressure at the casing seat will be limited to 0.8 times the overburden pressure at that depth. Should a permit be issued, the Commission would include other conditions and requirements as necessary, such as monitoring and reporting of the extracted brine, mechanical integrity testing of the well, groundwater monitoring, and plugging and abandonment. A copy of the draft permit is available upon request.

Oil and Gas Division technical staff has reviewed the application and determined that, based on the information contained in the application, the proposal will not endanger underground sources of drinking water as it meets or exceeds the minimum requirements for casing and cement to isolate the brine mining injection interval and the operating facilities are designed to prevent the uncontrolled discharge of brine at the surface.

Should you wish to file comments on or protest the application, you should submit your comments or protest, in writing, no later than July 7, 2017, to:

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7	9	5	8	6	3	2	1	4
4	5	6	9	2	1	8	7	3
9	8	2	7	3	5	1	4	6
3	1	7	6	4	8	9	5	2
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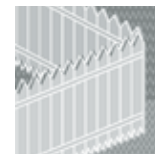
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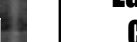
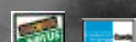
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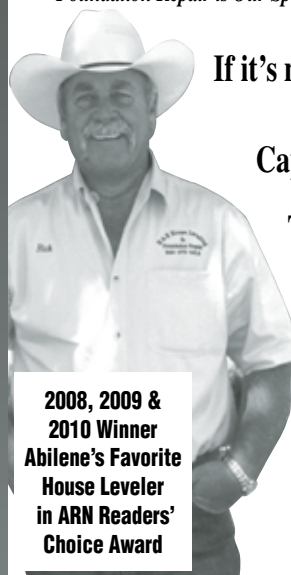
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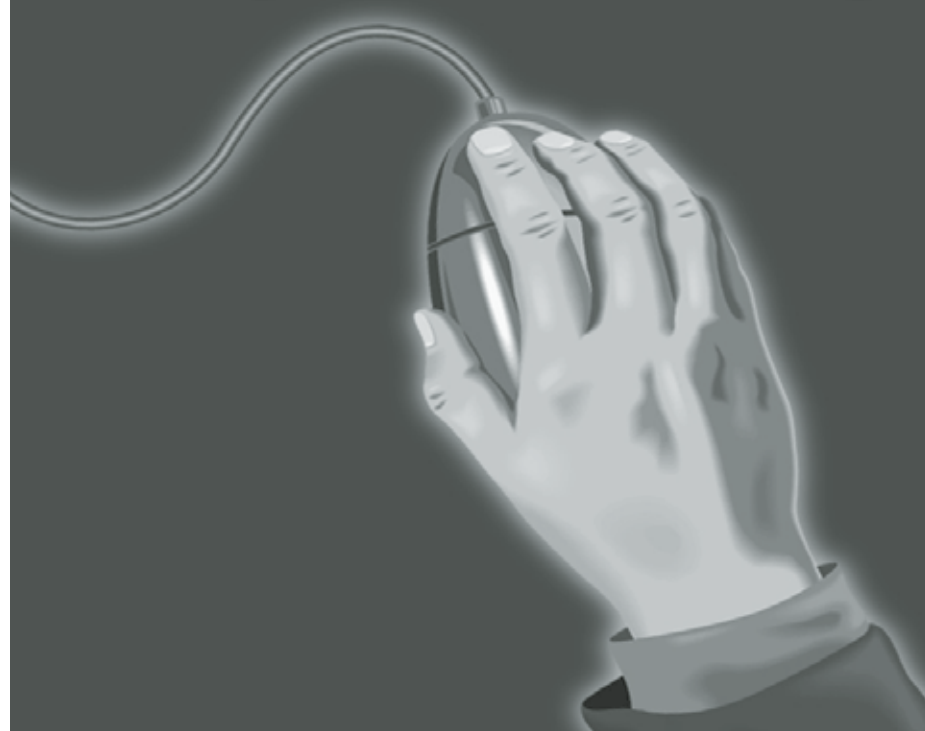
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Caution at the
Cosmic Intersection

When we are not good to ourselves, we are not good to the ones who love us either. And if we cause ourselves harm, we also harm those we love. The intersections are a place to take extra caution, look both ways and gather our senses. This intersection of the solar passage from Gemini to Cancer is a time for good self-care practices.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). There's a happiness that visits your mind in the embrace of warm notions. Then there's happiness of a different kind. It's visceral, physical and your whole body is involved. Could this become a lifestyle?

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). When you respond to one person in an eerily similar way as you did to another long ago, you begin to recognize life's echoes. Discern reactions of the moment from motions

that have more to do with the sheer power of habit.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). There are gestures, and then there are grandstand plays. Know the difference. You'll witness some big personalities, so just remember that you always have a choice about what and whom you buy into.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Recognize what you've got, and be keen to the timing of the thing. The more exciting something is, the shorter the shelf life. Like a fizzy soda or a lit sparkler, enjoy it while it lasts.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Your secret wishes will gain magnetism. Your wants will get stronger. If necessity is the mother of invention, desire is the father. This is the day to direct your hunger more specifically and intentionally.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). To be giving and warm is your nature, and many will be drawn to the comfort of your presence. You benefit from their nearness, too. It's all well and good until they start to compete for your attention, at which time it's best to withdraw.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). When you really adore a person, even the most mundane outing with this

person seems like a magnificent event. Today you'll get a taste of this sort of giddy excitement.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). It's not that they don't count; it's just that when it comes to you, you're the expert. So assuming that you're the only one you need to impress, what would you do next?

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). There's a fine line in teaching. Mistakes must be addressed, but not in a heavy-handed manner. Criticism has a way of making people feel diminished and sometimes humiliated. The best teachers are sensitive to this.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Everyone has days in which their personal stock seems to fall, at least in relation to their own ideas of value. What will it take for you to recognize yourself as important? Don't wait for someone else to point it out.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Your mind is like the muscles of your body: able to get stronger and also vulnerable to becoming overworked and injured. Work past your comfort zone but then back off to allow for recovery.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You need inspiration. That may require getting

out to see something new and different. Or it may require doing less, or nothing at all. Too much activity and too many choices serve to reduce the impact of everything.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (June 20). You know your purpose, and you act on it. A strong female will guide, inspire and care for you. August shows you growing past prior limits. September will end a cycle and free you for adventure. Stay unencumbered a while. You've access to a luck factory at the end of 2017. Family will benefit from your good fortune. Aries and Taurus adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 5, 6, 22, 15 and 40.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTION: "My wife is a Taurus, and I'm a Sagittarius. She believes that money is meant to be spent and that if you have extra money after you've earned enough to survive you should use it to enjoy your life. I believe that material things don't make your life better; in fact they make it worse. Everything you buy makes you spiritually heavier, and the accumulation of things is like a jail cell. You have to maintain all of this stuff, and you're not free anymore. You have to think twice before you decide to go off on an adventure, because

who will guard the house and take care of the pets? You can't up and move anywhere because you have 10 tons of stuff and it's too much of a hassle. I feel trapped. How can my wife and I come together on this?"

As the sign of money, Taurus has an appreciation for quality things and will assign deeper meaning to them than you do. It's not just "stuff" to her. Try to be sensitive to the material expression of her values as you come up with a financial plan that suits both of you. If you can agree on a plan and stick to it, you will once again feel free.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Nicole Kidman stars with Elle Fanning in a film adaptation of the Neil Gaiman alien story, "How to Talk to Girls at Parties," and then hops into the past with the Sofia Coppola's new Western film, "Beguiled." An intellectual Gemini born when the moon was in worldly, exploratory Sagittarius, Kidman likely finds thrill in the challenge of performing in so many different tones and eras.

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

Tall Person Problem
Dear Annie: I am in my 60s and 6 feet 7 inches tall, and I am fed up with being approached by total strangers who ask such things as, "How tall are you?" "Did

you play basketball?" "How tall is your wife?" "Your children?" And then there are the same tired jokes: "How is the weather up there?" "Let me know when it starts raining." "How's the air up there?" And so on.

I am not self-conscious about my height, but I know that some tall men and women are. I would not consider asking an overweight person how much she weighs or a short person how short he is and whether he is a jockey.

My mother taught me to never ask a woman her age or weight because it could offend her. But it seems society thinks that it's OK to offend tall people.

If you don't know

me, please don't ask about my height. -- Had It Up to Here

Dear Had It: Yes, most adults wouldn't crack jokes at a short stranger's expense, and far fewer people think tall jokes are offensive. I think the reason for that is similar to the reason people think it's OK to tease a thin friend about her weight but not a heavier one. People see tallness as a desirable trait. But I agree with you. It's rude -- not to mention

totally unoriginal.

Sometimes a wry response -- for example, "Wow, I've never heard that one before" -- is enough. It points out to the person that he or she was being unoriginal, and it gives you the satisfaction of having stood up for yourself.

Finally, I have seen T-shirts out there that read: "Yes, I'm tall. No, I don't play basketball. The weather up here is perfect. I'm so glad we had this conversation." Perhaps wearing one would save you some trouble.

Dear Annie: You recently asked for tips on living life with a disability. This one is well worth printing, as it changed my life hugely. I use a walker. One day a stranger at the senior center passed by, pulled an item out of his pocket and stuck it on the handle of my walker; no words were exchanged. It was a heavy-duty S-hook. I no longer have to wrestle with getting my car keys hooked onto the basket under the walker seat. I now have a strong addition for carrying in shop-

ping bags. I can carry more items around the house. Finally, I got smart and added one to the handle on the other side for even more carrying ability. I strongly urge that everyone with a walker get to the hardware store and purchase two of these life-changing items, which cost less than \$1 each. Or buy some for those you know who use a walker. Great gift! Several times a day, I thank this man, who was legally blind and hearing-impaired himself, for reaching out. -- Less Challenged

Dear Less Challenged: What a great tip. I love those handy S-hooks, and this is the handiest use of them I've heard yet. Thank you for sharing.

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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By Steve Becker

Point count is doubly useful

South dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.
NORTH
♠ K 8 5
♥ J 4
♦ K J 10 3
♣ K J 4 2
WEST
♠ 10 7 2
♥ 7 6 3
♦ 7 5 4
♣ 9 8 7 6
EAST
♠ Q 4 3
♥ K Q 10 8 2
♦ A Q 6
♣ 5 3
SOUTH
♠ A J 9 6
♥ A 9 5
♦ 9 8 2
♣ A Q 10
The bidding:
South West North East
1 NT Pass 3 NT
Opening lead — nine of clubs.

25. Since there are 40 points in the deck and South's announced notrump range is 15 to 17, your partner has at best a ten-high hand.
Of what use is this to you? Well, let's see. South wins the first club with the queen, leads the nine of diamonds and lets it ride — and you win with the ace! This is the key move in a scheme you've concocted to do South out of his contract.
You return the king of hearts, then the queen, and next the ten. South takes the ace, finesses the ten of diamonds and reaches for the trick, convinced by the earlier play that West has the queen. But you gently push his hand away, win the diamond with the queen and cash two hearts to put the contract down two.
Now let's suppose you had won the first diamond with the queen and attacked hearts, as before. South might then decide to abandon diamonds and instead lead a spade to the king and finesse the jack on the way back. When he next cashed the ace and the spades broke 3-3, he would coast home with nine tricks.
Winning the first diamond with the ace is a deceptive maneuver that almost cannot lose and, at the same time, gives you a good chance to beat the contract. All you have to do is think of it!

Tomorrow: A search-and-destroy mission.
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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.

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

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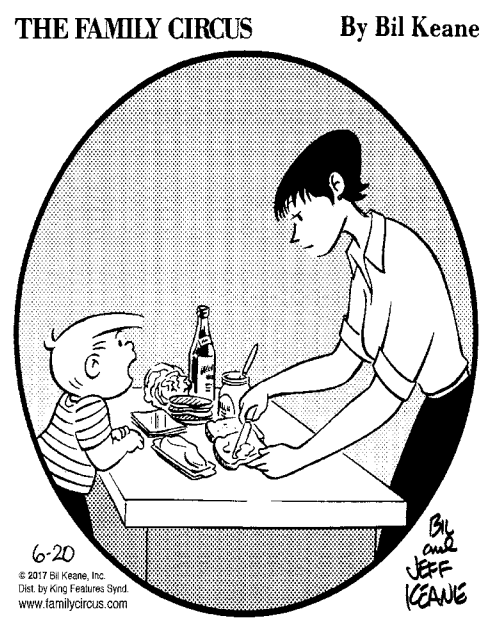
Table with 19 columns: Channel, Program, Time, etc. Includes stations like KMID, UNI, KPEJ, KOSA, etc. and programs like Local 2, Hotel, The List, etc.

DENNIS THE MENACE



"MARGARET NOT ONLY KNOWS TOO MUCH... SHE KNOWS SHE KNOWS TOO MUCH!"

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



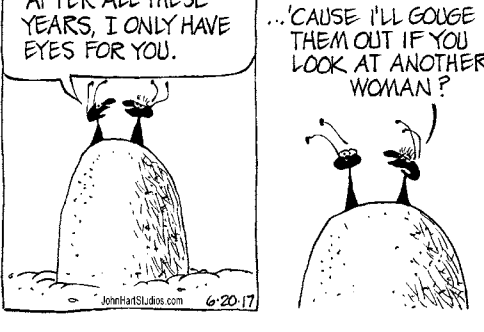
"Can I have a snack while you're making my sandwich?"

HAGAR

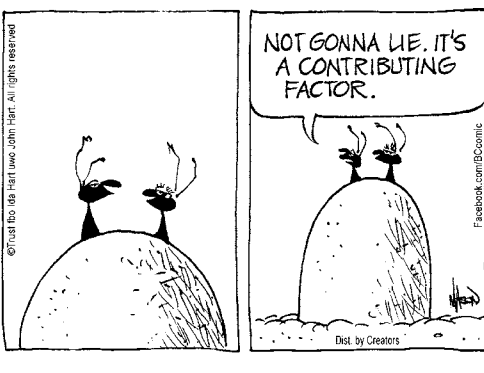


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BC



AFTER ALL THESE YEARS, I ONLY HAVE EYES FOR YOU.



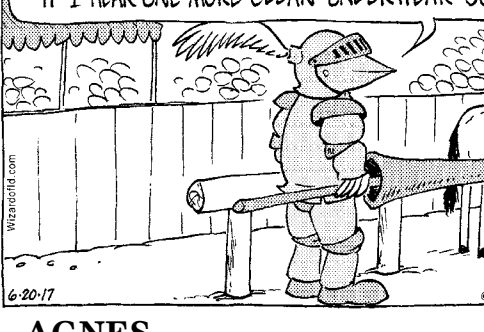
... 'CAUSE I'LL GOUGE THEM OUT IF YOU LOOK AT ANOTHER WOMAN?

BLONDIE

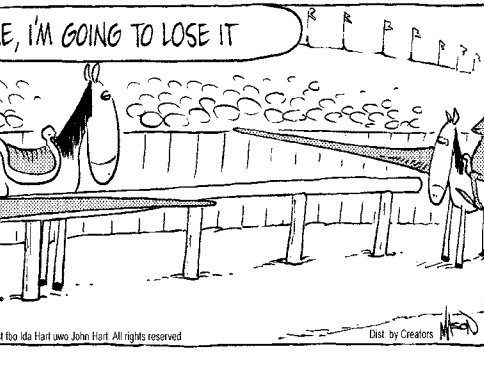


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WIZARD OF ID



IF I HEAR ONE MORE CLEAN UNDERWEAR JOKE, I'M GOING TO LOSE IT

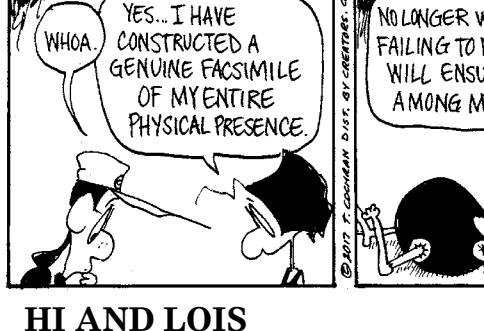


NOT GONNA LIE, IT'S A CONTRIBUTING FACTOR.

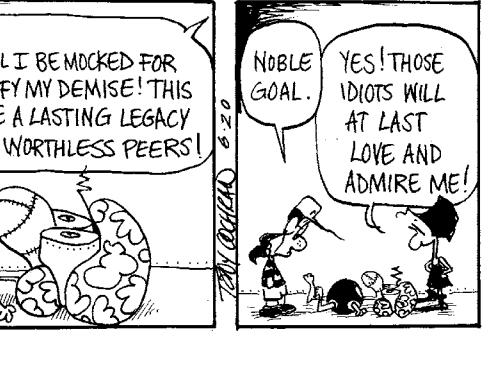
This Date In History

Today is Tuesday, June 20, the 171st day of 2017. There are 194 days left in the year. Summer begins at 9:24 p.m. Pacific time/10:24 p.m. Mountain time/11:24 p.m. Central time (12:24 a.m. Eastern time June 21).

AGNES



YES... I HAVE CONSTRUCTED A GENUINE FACSIMILE OF MY ENTIRE PHYSICAL PRESENCE.



NO LONGER WILL I BE MOCKED FOR FAILING TO DEFEY MY DEMISE!

Newsday Crossword

- ACROSS: 1 Office notes, 6 Mediocre, 10 Supper for swine, 14 In separate places, 15 ___ into shape (train), 16 Jab with a finger, 17 Choir's platform, 18 Simplify, 19 Folk history, 20 Teachers' boss, 23 Evening in ads, 24 Likely (to), 25 Ink stain, 29 Nest egg letters, 30 Prosecutors: Abbr., 33 Boat that's paddled, 34 Take a risk, 36 Mystical glow, 37 Safely secured, 40 Fuzzy image, 41 "Beware the ___ of March", 42 Blissful places, 43 Affirmative vote, 44 Med. insurance plan, 45 Send in the direction of, 46 Temp worker, 47 Get wind of, 49 Therapist-to-be, perhaps, 57 Lotion ingredient, 58 Rude person, 59 Public persona.

HI AND LOIS



HAVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT THE COMPANY PICNIC?

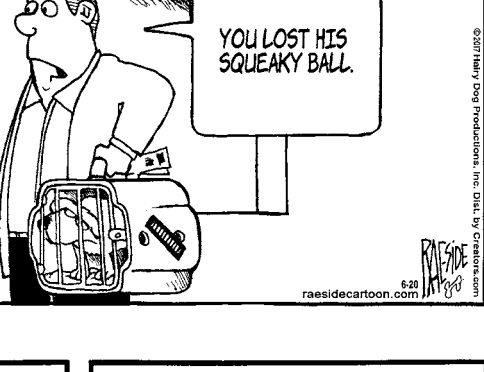


...WITH ANGRY EMOJIS.

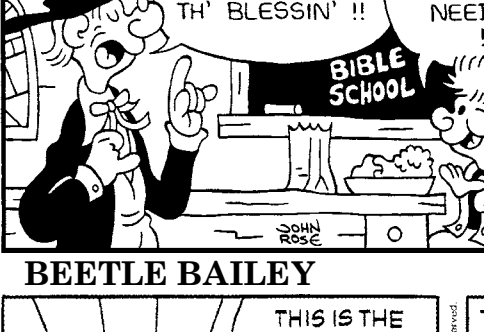
THE OTHER COAST



YOU LOST HIS SQUEAKY BALL.



SNUFFY SMITH

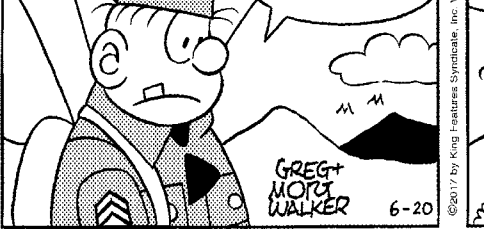


JUGHAID, DON'T EAT YORE LONCH YET, YOU HAVEN'T ASKED TH' BLESSIN' !!

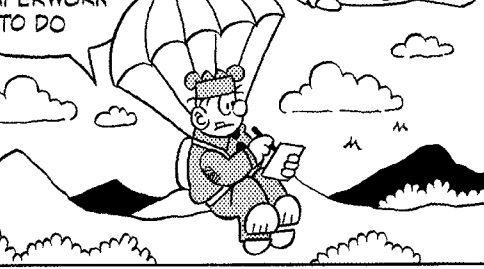


IT'S OKAY, PARSON, I DON'T NEED TO !!

BETLE BAILEY



THIS IS THE THING I NEVER LIKED ABOUT THE ARMY



THERE'S ALWAYS SO MUCH DARN PAPERWORK TO DO

Answer to previous puzzle crossword grid with words like TIARA, SLAM, SHOT, etc.

Crossword puzzle grid with numbered squares for 1-63.

Blue Jays rally in 9th, beat Rangers 7-6 in ALDS rematch

By SCHUYLER DIXON

AP Sports Writer

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — Wins in the past two playoff matchups, a couple of victories in Toronto during a three-game set earlier this season and now a ninth-inning rally in Texas.

The Blue Jays are finding ways to beat the Rangers, even if Jose Bautista was roughed up a bit by Rowned Odor in that wild brawl a little more than a year ago.

Kendrys Morales hit a go-ahead single after a tying single by Josh Donaldson in the ninth, and Toronto beat rival Texas 7-6 on Monday night.

The Blue Jays won despite blowing a 5-1 lead in their first visit to Texas since last postseason, when they won the first two games in a best-of-five sweep that was their second straight Division Series victory over the two-time defending AL West champs.

"I guess there's a little bad blood between us, but I think it's all in the past now," Toronto starter Marco Estrada said. "I don't think anybody even thinks about it, to be honest."

Donaldson's single off closer Matt

Bush scored Ryan Goins, who just beat the throw to second for a leadoff double. Morales' hit to the gap in left-center scored Donaldson from second after a stolen base and a walk. It was the third blown save in 11 chances for Bush (2-2).

The Rangers have already replaced one closer in Sam Dyson, who was eventually traded to San Francisco.

"Anytime you lose a game like that, they're challenging," manager Jeff Banister said. "However, again, I'll repeat, rewind and repeat about what I say about this team, where they're able to bounce back and move on."

Jeff Beliveau (1-0) pitched a perfect eighth, and Roberto Osuna worked a 1-2-3 ninth for his 18th save in 22 chances. The Blue Jays got 5 1/3 scoreless innings from five relievers.

"I'm proud of all of them," manager John Gibbons said. "It was a tough game on both sides. Both starters gave up runs early and then both bullpens shut the teams down until the end."

Toronto's Steve Pearce and Adrian Beltre of the Rangers traded three-run doubles in the fourth, with Beltre's liner to right-center capping a

five-run inning for a 6-5 lead that held up until the ninth.

Bautista, whose fight with Odor at second base in the final regular-season game in Texas last season had its roots in his epic bat flip in a dramatic Game 5 win in 2015, started the Blue Jays' four-run fourth with his 12th home run, a 442-foot shot over the lower-deck seats in left.

Elvis Andrus had a two-run single before Beltre's hit as three pitchers for both teams combined for 79 pitches in the fourth.

Justin Smoak had three hits, including a career high-tying 20th homer to get the Blue Jays even in the second after Nomar Mazara's ninth homer for Texas in the first, a 435-foot drive to the second deck in right.

SCUFFLING STARTERS

Estrada struggled for a fourth straight start, allowing seven hits, four walks and six runs in 3 2/3 innings to push the right-hander's totals to 35 hits and 23 runs in 16 1/3 innings during that span. Austin Bibens-Dirkx gave up two homers and five runs over five innings in the third career start for the 32-year-old rookie

right-hander. He struck out five.

BELTRE WATCH

With his double, the 38-year-old third baseman in his 20th major league season pulled even with Harmon Killebrew on the career RBI list with 1,583. Beltre also passed Al Kaline at 1,582. Beltre drew even with Cal Ripken at 23rd on the career list for extra-base hits with 1,078. He's at 2,959 career hits.

TRAINER'S ROOM

Rangers: LHP Cole Hamels (right oblique strain) is scheduled for his second rehab start Wednesday with Double-A Frisco. He could rejoin the rotation next week in Cleveland. He's been out since May 4. ... RHP A.J. Griffin (left intercostal strain) was moved to the 60-day DL to make room on the 40-man roster for Tanner Scheppers, who was called up from Triple-A Round Rock. OF Jared Hoying was sent down.

UP NEXT

Rangers: RHP Nick Martinez (1-3, 4.67) gets his second start since pitching four scoreless innings in his only relief appearance of the season. His first eight outings were starts.

ASTROS

Continued from Page 6

Three relievers combined to get 10 outs for Houston. Ken Giles pitched the ninth for his 17th save.

Jed Lowrie doubled in Oakland's run. The A's were coming off a four-game sweep of the AL East-leading New York Yankees but fell 1 1/2 games behind the first-place Astros in the AL West.

Marisnick hit his ninth homer on a 2-2 pitch from rookie starter Daniel Gossett (0-2), a two-run drive that bounced off the façade underneath the lower row of luxury suites in center field.

Springer homered off John Axford leading off the eighth.

Fisher's home run came in the ninth but the outfielder was informed after the game that he was being optioned to the minors to make room for Josh Reddick, set to come off the disabled list Tuesday.

The A's scored their lone run in the sixth. After Joyce doubled and Chad Pinder walked, Lowrie hit a ball into right-center. Joyce scored easily but Pinder was thrown out at home on a relay by shortstop Carlos Correa.

"At that point, you've got to send him and take a chance," Oakland manager Bob Melvin said. "We know Correa's got a good arm but we weren't doing a whole lot. When you get an opportunity to potentially tie the game, you've got to send him."

CALL OVERTURNED

Springer led off the game with a sinking liner to left that Oakland's Khris Davis initially appeared to catch after diving for it. The ball popped out of Davis' glove after he hit the turf and skidded, but third base umpire Mike Everitt signaled out. The Astros challenged and the call was overturned following a replay review.

TRAINER'S ROOM

Astros: RHP Lance McCullers Jr. threw a bullpen before the game and could return to the rotation this week. ... RHP Charlie Morton (lat strain) will likely need two to three rehab starts in the minors to build up arm strength, Hinch said. ... LHP Dallas Keuchel (neck) played catch before the game.

Athletics: 3B Matt Chapman was held out with a left knee infection. ... SS Marcus Semien (wrist) will begin a rehab assignment this weekend. ... RHP Kendall Graveman (right shoulder strain) threw in the outfield and came out fine.

Oakland bench coach Mark Kotsay took an indefinite leave of absence to be with his daughter, who suffered an eye injury. Chip Hale will fill in for Kotsay, and Steve Scarsone replaced Hale as third base coach.



Houston Astros' Jake Marisnick, right, celebrates with Jose Altuve after hitting a two run home run off Oakland Athletics' Daniel Gossett in the fifth inning of a baseball game Monday, June 19, 2017, in Oakland, Calif.



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