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H BIG SPRING WEDNESDAY, JULY 12, 2017

HERALD



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Two local districts to hold meetings

Budget talks, policy updates slated for brief BSISD meeting

By **LYNDEL MOODY**
 Staff Writer

Big Spring ISD trustees will consider setting a date to conduct a public meeting over the proposed FY 2017-2018 budget and tax rate when they meet Thursday evening. At their June 8 meeting, Big Spring ISD CFO Susan Bryan informed the board the district was facing another round of belt tightening.



After cutting nearly \$1 million of expenditures out by reducing 18 teacher positions through attrition and three more staff jobs at the Big Spring Intermediate School, Big Spring ISD still faces a deficit of \$1.4 million in the proposed upcoming budget, Bryan said.

"This is the bottom line," Bryan told trustees. "There are no raises in it. There are no capital expenditures like for school busses, and we haven't done that in a long time. We are working hard on reducing it, and we are hoping the certified values will come in higher in July."

See **ISD**, Page 3

City land to be rezoned



HERALD photo/Robert Barlow

Keep Big Spring Beautiful was the recipient of the Keep Texas Beautiful Award of Excellence, which was presented by Mayor Larry McLellan. Willia Ledford, a member of Keep Big Spring Beautiful, was present during Tuesday's city council meeting in order to receive the award on behalf of the group.

By **ROBERT BARLOW**
 Staff Writer

During the city council meeting held on Tuesday, council members voted unanimously to rezone a section of land owned by the city from an agricultural zoning district to a heavy commercial zoning district.

A public hearing was made available with no residents speaking on the issue. The city decided to make the change in order to hopefully open up the opportunity for use of the land in the future.

"We believe that the

uses that are going to be there in the future would better benefit heavy commercial than agricultural," said Roxanne Johnston, city planner. "We would like to comply with the comp plan since we need to show an example to the public if we're going to ask them to do the same thing."

The property in question contains almost nine acres and is located approximately 975 feet southeast from the intersection of Interstate 20 and FM 700 on the east side of Big Spring. The planning and zoning commission approved

the change and Johnston was still waiting to get an official written approval from TXDOT.

"We purchased this land for the potential for a back up plan for our landfill, that's why we have ownership," added Todd Darden, city manager.

Another issue was raised by a council member regarding the council's process of reviewing the vouchers during the city council meetings.

"Mr. (Terry) McDaniel made it clear to us that we may have a little chink in the armor as to what the responsibility of the council is in re-

viewing the vouchers," said Darden. "Mr. DePauw has asked to assist with the language that will go into our council insert packet that goes out to any new council member. We all had an answer and it was different, I think we just need something uniform."

Darden also stated that the new My Big Spring mobile application is now up and running and hopes this allows residents in Big Spring easier access to the information and tools they need.

"We have our mobile app that we just put out

See **CITY**, Page 3

Conservation meeting to be held next month

Special to the Herald

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Howard County and the Howard Soil and Water Conservation District are holding a public meeting next month.

The meeting will be the groups' Fiscal Year 2018 Local Working Meeting (LWG) and will be held on August 21 from 4:00-5:00 p.m. at the Big Spring USDA Service Center, 302 West Interstate 20, Suite 101 in Big Spring.

"The purpose of this annual LWG meeting is to bring together conservation stakeholders to discuss conservation topics and

issues, and to set local conservation priorities to help farmers, ranchers and private landowners conserve and manage the natural resources," read a press release.

The meeting will also update attendees on recent conservation efforts and will allow for an opportunity to collect public input to help guide future conservation activities. Through regular identification of conservation opportunities, effective Farm Bill investments can continue to benefit Howard County. Farmers, ranchers, conservationists, and others interested in obtaining Federal technical and financial assistance to improve private lands are invited to participate.

For more information, call 432-267-1871, ext. 3.

Local Ford dealership gets a facelift



HERALD photo/Lyndel Moody

The Big Spring Ford Dealership building is undergoing major renovation to its main showcase room. Currently, the old room has been completely gutted and construction crews are in the process of a months-long project to update the aging facility. Once complete, the new showcase room will feature three wi-fi stations for customers and a coffee bar. The renovation is expected to be completed in December or January. Big Spring Ford is located at 500 W. Fourth St.



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Obituaries

Josephine Lopez Saiz



Josephine Lopez Saiz, 74, of Big Spring died Monday, July 10, 2017.

A funeral service will be held at 10 a.m. Thursday, July 13, 2017, at the Holy Trinity Catholic Parish. Burial will follow at Mt. Olive Memorial Park. A rosary service will be held Wednesday evening at 7 p.m. at the Nalley-Pickle and Welch Rosewood Chapel.

Josephine was born Aug. 2, 1942, in Big Spring, Texas. She married Ernesto Saiz in 1956. He preceded her in death Dec. 6, 2006.

She is survived by two daughters, Precilla Dom-

ino and husband Mike, and Mary Martinez and husband David Rivera, all of Big Spring; four sons, Jesse Saiz and wife Martha of Lubbock, and Ernest Saiz, Ricky Saiz, and Robert Saiz, all of Big Spring; daughter-in-law, Tina Saiz of Big Spring; 18 grandchildren; 26 great grandchildren; one brother, Gilbert Lopez of Big Spring; and one sister, Flora Vega of Big Spring.

In addition to her husband, she was preceded in death by three sons, Frankie Saiz, Joey Saiz, and Felipe Saiz; and her parents, Joe and Maria Lopez.

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

Sheriff

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

Note – Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 84 inmates at the time of this report.

- **KODY MARK BARBER**, 18, was booked by the HCSO on a charge of assault causing bodily injury to a family member.

- **HECTOR RUBEN CASTANEDA**, 33, was booked by the

BSPD on warrants possession of drug paraphernalia, failure to appear, and bail jumping/failure to appear.

- **TAMMY LOCKHART COKER**, 40, was booked by the BSPD on a charge of assault by family violence.

- **REYNALDO GARCIA**, 70, was booked by the HCSO on a charge of indecency with a child.

- **CALVIN SIMS KERBY**, 37, was booked by the HCSO on a

charge of driving while license suspended with previous conviction, and on warrants for no seat belt and driving while license invalid.

- **SHELLY MARIE KIRK**, 44, was booked by the BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.

- **MARISSA YVETTE PHILLIPS**, 23, was booked by the BSPD on charge of driving while license invalid.

Fire/EMS

Big Spring Fire Department/EMS reported the following activity:

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

- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 400 block of West 3rd. One person was transported

to the Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

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

- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 300 block of Veterans Boulevard. One person was transported to the Scenic Moun-

tain Medical Center.

- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 4200 block of West Highway 80. One person was transported to the Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

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

Take Note

- “Getting Back to School Ready” will be presented – at Scenic Mountain Medical Center - by Dr. Joseph Chavez for the next Lunch 'n' Learn, July 13 at 11:30 a.m.

The presentation is free to attend and will focus on immunizations and getting kids ready to go back to school.

To RSVP, call 432-268-4699.

- Maranatha Baptist Academy has open enrollment for the 2017-2018 school year; the enrollment is underway and lasts through July 13, 2017.

Office hours are 8 to 10:30 a.m. Come in and pre-register for the new year. The Academy uses the Accelerated Christian Education curriculum, and is open to age four years through high school.

Please contact Dr. Lillian Bohannon at 432-213-1046 for an appointment.

- Big Spring's Centennial Lions Club is holding a drive to collect books for the Salvation Army Boys and Girls Club. Books for kids in kindergarten through about 10th grade will be accepted, with special preference for books for younger children in kindergarten through third grade. Cash donations to allow the Lions to purchase additional books are also appreciated. Books or donations can be taken to the Salvation Army, 811 W. Fifth St., or to the home of Lions member Ken Lawhon at 1707 E. 15th St. For more information, contact Lawhon at 214-998-9716 or Lions member David Stives at 432-270-2251.

- KBST and Back in Motion Chiropractic will hold their annual Community Blood Drive Friday, June 30, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The United Blood Services Bloodmobile will be in the parking lot of Back in Motion, 1113 S. Scurry St. Donors will receive a KBST Pops in the Park T-shirt, an entry in a drawing for four Schlitterbahn tickets, a July 4 Goody Bag, a free cholesterol check, and grilled hot dogs and ice cream; plus, the opportunity to meet your favorite KBST radio personality. Appointments are strongly encouraged. To make an appointment, call Maegan at 267-2225, or 1-877-UBS-HERO and give them the sponsor code "motion"; or enter "motion" at www.bloodhero.com.

- The Big Spring Salvation Army is holding a fan drive to collect and distribute electric fans to those in Howard County who need one but can't afford it. Those wishing to donate can take new or gently used box or pedestal fans to the Salvation Army headquarters at 811 W. Fifth St. Monday through Friday 9 a.m. to noon and 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

People who need a fan should call the Salvation Army at 432-267-8239 to register and receive the distribution date.

- Food 2 Kids Big Spring needs you! It is time to start sacking food for Big Spring elementary students who do not receive adequate food over the weekends. Members of the community can be a part by volunteering to sack the food. It just takes a couple hours of your time and the work is very rewarding. To volunteer, just show up at the time and dates listed. For more information, call, 432-935-3998.

If you want additional information about getting your child on this program please contact your

child's school.

- Each week Kindred offers free health checks from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. at the Corner House Coffee Shop, 1701 Scurry St.

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

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

Cost has dropped to \$5 per person thanks to a sponsor Marcy House, 2301 Wasson Road.

- The Big Spring Art Association meets the third Tuesday of each month a 7 p.m. in the basement of the Howard County Library.

- Big Spring Centennial Lion's Club meets twice a month at the Big Spring TA Truck Stop. They meet on the first Tuesday of the month at noon and the 3rd Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. Visitors are welcome.

- The Christensen-Tucker Post-2013 Veterans of Foreign Wars meets the first Tuesday of every month at 7 pm at 500 Driver Road. For more information, contact David Leonard, Post Commander, at 432-816-6004. All combat veterans of foreign wars are invited to come.

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

- Order of the Eastern Star Big Spring Chapter 67 meets the third Tuesday of each month at 219 Main St. Dinner begins at 6:30 p.m. Lodge meeting begins at 7:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome. For more information, contact 432-271-2138.

- Staked Plains Masonic Lodge No. 598 meets the second Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. (dinner is at 6 p.m.) at 219 ½ Main St. All Masons are welcome.

- Membership to the Big Spring Native American Association is open to the public. People interested in Native American culture are encouraged to find out more about the organization by calling Richard "Indio" Lesser at 432-935-0125,

- Scenic Mountain Medical Center Auxiliary Group is looking to expand. Positions are available for the Auxiliary group and the Teen volunteer program. Must be 15 years of age to take part in the teen volunteer program. If you would like to volunteer please contact Heath White at 268-4850.

- Home Hospice is in need of volunteers of all ages. The organization is requesting volunteers to visit patients. Volunteers set their own hours. For more information, contact Beverly Grant at 264-7599 or 432-967-0901.

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

Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity:

- **TAMMY KAY LOCKHART**, 40, of 1311 Madison Street, was arrested on a charge of assault by family violence, threat, or offensive touch.

- **MARISSA YVETTE PHILLIPS**, 23, of 2208 Lynn Drive, was arrested on a warrant from another agency.

- **SHELLY MARIE KIRK**, 44, of 1509 South Johnson, was arrested on a charge of public intoxication.

- **HECTOR RUBEN CASTANEDA**, 33, of 4914 Wasson Road, was arrested on warrants for possession of drug paraphernalia, failure to appear, and on a warrant from another agency.

- **CALVIN SIMS KERBY**, 37, of 8512 S Service Rd, was arrested on a charge of driving while license suspended and on two warrants from other agencies.

- **REYNALDO GARCIA**, 70, of 2418 North Birdwell Lane, was arrested on a charge of indecency with a child/sexual contact.

- **KODY MARK BARBER**, 18, of 5200 West FM 818, was arrested on charge of assault causing bodily injury to a family member.

- **DISTURBANCE** was reported in the 1300 block of Madison Street.

- **BURGLARY OF A VEHICLE** was reported in the 1600 block of Lincoln Avenue.

- **DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE** was reported in the 20000 block of North FM 1585 and the 5200 block of West FM 818.

- **THEFT** was reported in the 200 block of West FM 700 and the 1500 block of East 11th.

- **MINOR ACCIDENT** was reported in the 800 block of West FM 700.

- **CRIMINAL MISCHIEF** was reported in the 1000 block of North Main Street.

Support Groups

WEDNESDAY

- RSD (Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy) a chronic pain disease, a support and informative group, meets at 213 Circle. Call Lucy at (432) 517-9207 for more information.

- Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m.; open 12 & 12 study meeting 8 p.m. to 9 p.m.

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.

SUNDAY

- Alcoholics Anonymous closed meeting from 11 a.m. to noon at 615 Settles. Open meeting 7 p.m. until 8 p.m.

MONDAY

- Reformers Unanimous International is a faith-based addictions program helping people find freedom from addiction. Meetings begin at 7 p.m. Mondays at Trinity Baptist Church in Big Spring. Enter at the main entrance of the church.

- Alcoholics Anonymous, As Bill Sees it, 615 Settles, 8 p.m. to 9 p.m.

TUESDAY

- Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m.; newcomers meeting 8 p.m. to 9 p.m.

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CITY
Continued from Page 1
to the public now," said Darden. "It's to allow you to have better access to local govern-

ment and the city particularly." Darden mentioned the application was easy to use, and should help residents have more access to government entities and reports. The ap-

plication can be found under the name "City of Big Spring" from the developer CivicPlus. Other topics covered at the meeting included:
• James D. DeVille was approved to join

the McMahon/Wrinkle Airpark Development Board.
• An executive session was held with the Interim City Attorney, Marianne Banks, to discuss pending claims

and litigation. No action was taken following the session.
• Keep Big Spring Beautiful was the recent recipient of the Keep Texas Beautiful Award of Excellence.

ISD
Continued from Page 1
Bryan is currently basing the budget off of \$1.59 billion in non-certified property values estimated by the Howard County Appraisal District. Certified values are expected to be released in late July, Bryan said.
In other business, trustees will consider updating some legal and local policies.
Board members will meet at 5:15 p.m. in the Big Spring High School board room, 707 11th Place.
COAHOMA - The board of trustees for the Coahoma ISD will meet at 6 p.m. Thursday, in the Coahoma Elementary School faculty dining room, 400 Ramsey St., Coahoma.
List on the agenda:
• State Camp education evaluation public hearing.
• Consider approved of proposed tax rate.
• Consider 2017-2018 district goals.
• Consider pre-kindergarten expansion program.
• Consider meal prices for 2017-2018.
• Consider student code of conduct.
• Discussion of district capital improvement planning
• Financial and employment matters.

As Russia scandal touches his son, Trump privately rages



ing that his speech saluting national pride in Poland was a high point of his presidency and believing that he held his own during meetings with foreign leaders at an international summit in Germany.
But the afterglow of Trump's trip quickly vanished, replaced once again with questions about the swirling federal and congressional investigations into Russia's election meddling.
And Trump allies took notice Tuesday when Vice President Mike Pence distanced himself from the revelation by the president's son. In a statement, Pence spokesman Marc Lotter said the vice president "was not aware of the meeting," adding Pence was "not focused on stories about the campaign especially those pertaining to the time before he joined the campaign."

AP photo

In this Nov. 4, 2016, file photo, Donald Trump Jr. campaigns for his father Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump in Gilbert, Ariz. Donald Trump Jr. has long been his father's id, the brawler who has helped fuel the president's pugilistic instincts and stood firm as one of his fiercest defenders. Now the president's eldest son is at the center of the firestorm over Russian connections swirling around his father's administration and trying to fight off charges that he was open to colluding with Moscow to defeat Hillary Clinton.

By JONATHAN LEMIRE and JULIE PACE

Associated Press
WASHINGTON (AP) - The snowballing revelations about Donald Trump Jr.'s meeting with a Russian lawyer during last year's presidential campaign have broadsided the White House, distracting from its agenda as aides grapple with a crisis involving the president's family.

staffers have grown accustomed to a good news cycle being overshadowed by the Russia investigations, Trump aides and outside advisers privately acknowledged that this week's developments felt more serious.
In the emails, the intermediary says the attorney has negative information about Democrat Hillary Clinton that is part of the Russian government's efforts to help Trump in the campaign. The then-candidate's son responds: "I love it."

months and even those taking aim at him now said it did not appear as though a shakeup was on the horizon.
There has also been a difference of opinion within the West Wing as to how to handle the crisis, with some aides favoring more transparency than others. Some of the unhappiest centers on Trump's legal team, which is led by New York attorney Marc Kasowitz.

measure, but has still publicly pressed GOP senators to wrap up work on legislation this summer and fulfill one of the party's central promises to voters.

On Capitol Hill, some Republican lawmakers cast the Russia controversy as a distraction from the health care debate.
"We ought to be disciplined and not be distracted by things that may be legitimate but not right now in our lane," said Sen. Thom Tillis of North Carolina.
The matter has also distracted from a brief stretch in which some White House advisers believed they were finding their footing.

This new setback raises new questions about whether the Trump campaign coordinated with Moscow during the election, a charge the president has denied for months.

An unusual statement Saturday night from the legal team's spokesman Mark Corallo appeared to claim Trump Jr., Kushner and Manafort were duped into meeting with the Russian lawyer, and was viewed as particularly unhelpful by senior White House officials.
The president, again on Twitter, pushed back Wednesday on the narrative of a dysfunctional administration, writing that the White House "is functioning perfectly" and claiming that "I have very little time for watching T.V."

Trump aides, who view clashes with the media as central to the president's agenda, were emboldened when three journalists from CNN resigned after the network withdrew a story about a Trump ally. Trump's allies were also heartened by his trip to Europe last week, feel-

And it points those questions more directly at the inner circle of Trump's own family.

As has been the pattern for Trump's White House, the controversy has sparked a new round of recriminations among the president's team. Nearly a dozen White House officials and outside advisers spoke on the condition of anonymity in order to discuss the mood in the West Wing.

The president, in conversations with confidants, has questioned the quality of advice he has received from senior staff, including chief of staff Reince Priebus. However, Priebus has been a frequent target of criticism for

Pence was named Trump's running mate in the middle of July 2016, several weeks after the meeting involving the president's son.

Trump Jr., who is running the family business with his brother, huddled with friends and close business associates after the first stories dropped, his mood shifting from worry to defiance over the story's lifespan, according to confidants.

He has told those close to him that while he realizes the optics of the meeting aren't ideal, he has echoed his father in believing that the media have overblown the matter and, despite some opposition among his allies, has said he

wants to publicly fight back.

But White House aides struggled with bringing forth a strong defense against the scandal that also touched Jared Kushner, the president's son-in-law and senior adviser who attended the 2016 meeting. Though Sanders called charges of collusion "ridiculous," the White House press briefing remained off-camera for the second consecutive day, limiting the power of her pushback.

And the president himself was slated to stay out of sight. He had no public events scheduled for Wednesday until he leaves for another overseas trip, this time to France.

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Mary Lee Newsom, 82, died Saturday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

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Opinion

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."

-FIRST AMENDMENT

Opinions expressed on this page are those of the writers and not those of the Big Spring Herald unless otherwise indicated.

ADDRESSES

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

• DONALD TRUMP

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• KEL SELIGER

State Senator
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• JUSTIN MYERS —

Home: 263-3771.

• RAUL BENAVIDES —

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• JIM DEPAUW —

263-0008.

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• KATHRYN WISEMAN,

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• OSCAR GARCIA —

Home: 264-0026.

• CRAIG BAILEY —

Home: 264-2202.

• JIMMIE LONG —

267-4224.

• JOHN CLINE —

Home: 263-7158.

Trump, the West, and the left

The political left really, really, really doesn't approve of Western civilization. If you doubt it, reference the maledictions poured out by the left on Donald Trump's Warsaw speech last week.

Trump had the effrontery to say, "The fundamental question of our time is whether the West has the will to survive." Followed by rhetorical inquiries: "Do we have the confidence in our values to defend them at any cost? Do we have enough respect for our citizens to protect our borders? Do we have the desire and the courage to preserve our civilization in the face of those who would subvert and destroy it?"

Such as? That's my question, not Trump's. Such as Janelle Bouie of Slate, who, deeply offended, tells us, "You don't have to have a deep familiarity with the tropes of white supremacy to see this" — here Boule uses an indelicate noun — "for what it is." As Salon's Amanda Marcotte sees it, Trump "(jumped) the alt-right shark in his Warsaw speech."

Plenty more of this stuff around the place. I encourage a diligent search — for evidence that not a few of the bearers of modern thought may rightly be described as "gaga" when the topic is Donald Trump, especially

when Trump can be portrayed as a stand-in for the grand wizard of the Ku Klux Klan or some other avatar of "nationalism."

The critics of our president's Warsaw remarks (which were written, reportedly, by Stephen Miller, with documented inserts by Trump himself) regard the speech as playing to "nationalist," "xenophobic" and "racist" elements of the American electorate. The ease wherewith Bouie and his fellow scoffers gambol in Trump's subconscious, divining all his motives, is truly impressive. Equally notable is their exasperation over his use of words like "the West." The concept of the West, in left-wing terms, is so... pre-1965. We don't talk about "the West" anymore, save to reproach old dead white men who used to defend segregation while locking up women at home to dust Pa's gun case and look after the babies.

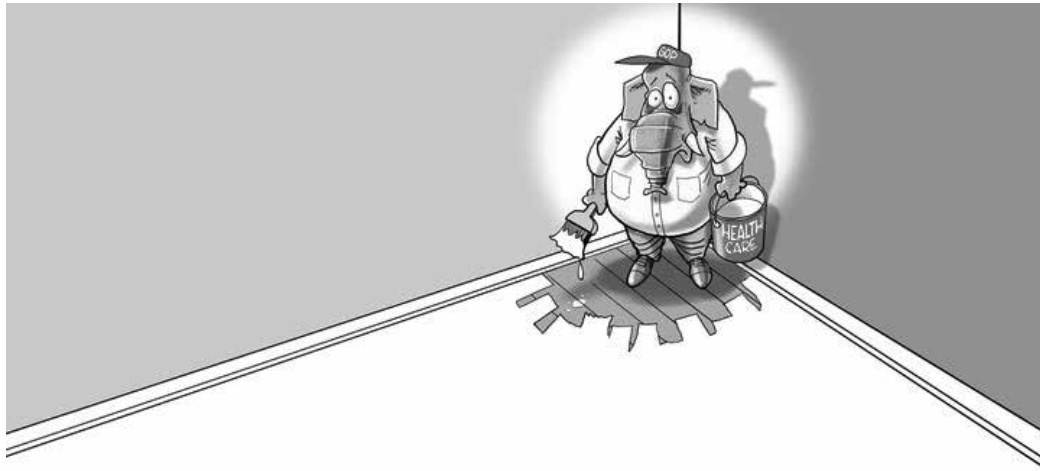
As if any of that were the Western legacy on whose behalf the left is unwilling to say a word. It's not, of course, but you can see their point: They just really don't like the West. They may not know what system or culture they prefer to ours, Marxism having disappeared over the hill, but when they think of the West, all they can think of is white male privilege. That's their idea — the deep-dyed "progressive" idea — of the gifts that Western minds and Western experience have bestowed on the world, starting with Greece and Rome.

How about the spirit of liberty: might not that be one of the

West's prime contributions? The liberty to say not just wise but also foolish things? Order within an environment of freedom is a Western contribution. A commitment to justice and fairness in human relations is another.

With freedom of thought goes freedom of worship — a distinctly Western development, playing out in various American venues as freedom not to worship at all; yet guaranteeing access to God should He at some point decide to break back into human hearts. The non-religion of the left, exemplified lately by Bernie Sanders, is curious in its determination to see religion as useless if not dangerous. Which doesn't stop the left from excoriating as racist the West's apparent unwillingness to relinquish Christianity and open the gates to non-Christians without number.

Trump or no Trump (hooray for him, by the way, on this particular occasion), the American left resents and resists the very question, "Are Western norms worth defending?" "Of course not," would be their reply. Not — just yet — in those exact words, but you get the idea. Their contention is that we have to get past the West and past, in particular, political leaders who think enough of the West to praise it. A revolutionary situation, you could call this, wherein the talkative class calls for the overhaul of America in the name of putting down Donald Trump. You don't have to adore our frequently unadorable president to see how the political battle lines are shaping up.



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It's not a lie if the president believes it

Donald Trump views the mainstream press with contempt, and the mainstream press returns the favor. Or is it the other way around?

Just as the president has trouble distinguishing between negative press coverage and "fake news," the journalists who cover him tend to treat every inaccurate, unfounded, or even debatable statement he makes as a lie. That mistake, to which I myself am sometimes prone, clouds the judgment and damages the credibility of reporters and commentators who aspire to skepticism but too often settle for reflexive disbelief.

New York Times columnist David Leonhardt recently catalogued "nearly every outright lie [Trump] has told publicly since taking the oath of office." There are a lot of verifiably false assertions on Leonhardt's list, but it's an exaggeration to say every one of them is an "outright lie," which implies that Trump knew the statement was wrong when he made it and said it with the intent of misleading people.

Take Trump's preposterous puffery about the size of the crowd at his inauguration. "It looked like a million, million and a half people," he said the next day in a speech at CIA headquarters.

Four days later, Trump was

still marveling at the size of the crowd. "The audience was the biggest ever," he told ABC News anchor David Muir on January 25, standing in front of a photo on the wall in the White House. "This crowd was massive. Look how far back it goes."

Maybe Trump was trying to trick people into ignoring plain photographic evidence that his inaugural audience paled beside Barack Obama's in 2009. But it seems much more likely that he was offering an emotionally tinged, self-flattering impression of his experience as he took the oath of office.

Similarly, Trump's fanciful claims about the size of his Electoral College victory and the millions of phantom fraudulent voters who cost him the popular vote probably are best understood not as lies but as ego-stroking delusions. The ease of disproving such contentions hardly seems consistent with a calculated plan to deceive.

Yet here is the headline that the Times used for its January 23 story about Trump's obsession with voter fraud: "Trump Repeats Lie About Popular Vote in Meeting With Lawmakers." It's not a lie if the president believes it.

Leonhardt likewise deems it an "outright lie" when Trump makes an ill-informed statement on subjects such as the murder rate, the number of people affected by his travel ban, or the adequacy of refugee screening procedures. Sheer sloppiness, combined with a tendency to accept misinformation that serves one's agenda, is a more plausible explanation for such lapses.

Leonhardt's list is also marred by the inclusion of arguable claims that hinge on interpretation. On at least five occasions, for instance, Trump has described a post-election statement by Times Publisher Arthur Sulzberger Jr. and Executive Editor Dean Baquet as an apology to the paper's readers.

Leonhardt counts all five, insisting that the Times "never apologized," which is technically true. But Sulzberger and Baquet did suggest that "Donald Trump's sheer unconventionality [led] us and other news outlets to underestimate his support among American voters," which certainly sounds like an admission of error.

In that same statement, Sulzberger and Baquet promised to "report America and the world honestly, without fear or favor, striving always to understand and reflect all political perspectives and life experiences in the stories that we bring to you"; to "hold power to account, impartially and unflinchingly"; and "to bring the same fairness, the same level of scrutiny, the same independence to our coverage of the new president and his team."

These are noble aspirations. The Times clearly falls short of them when it reports as fact something that is fundamentally unverifiable: the president's state of mind when he says things that are inconsistent with reality. Pointing out the inconsistency is fair and necessary in reporting the news; reaching a conclusion about the president's motive is neither.

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DAILY PRAYER

May our love shine for You, Lord,
from this earth to Your heavens.

Amen.

Roger's Retro Reviews: *The Parent Trap*

One actor playing multiple roles in a movie is a device that has various uses, from the comedic to the more practical. Of course, the favorite movie I've reviewed for these Retro Reviews thus far – and the only movie I've yet bestowed with 10 stars: "Dr. Strangelove" – makes hilarious use of the multiple roles schtick, with Peter Sellers playing three highly different roles. This week's Retro is also a famous example of the device, although for perhaps more pedestrian reasons. The film is 1961's "The Parent Trap," starring a young Hayley Mills as twins separated as infants.



ROGER CLINE

"The Parent Trap" opens with 13-year-old Bostonian Sharon McKendrick (Mills) arriving at Camp Inch, a summer camp, by way of her chauffeured limo. She checks in and is assigned cabinmates who apparently don't even rate credits in the movie, although they have fairly significant speaking roles.

At mealtime one day, she glimpses another girl who looks exactly like her, albeit with a different hairstyle and (supposedly) less-refined accent. She learns that the other girl is Susan Evers (also Mills). Sharon and Susan take an immediate dislike to one another...a dislike that leads to pranks. Susan insults Sharon, who tips Susan's canoe, spilling her into the lake with her bunkmates; Susan's crew then sneaks into Sharon's cabin at night, creating a huge mess of string and honey and booby-traps, causing Sharon's cabin to fail inspection, barring them from the dance with the nearby boys' camp. Sharon and her mates then sneak up behind Susan while she's talking to her beau on the dancehall porch and cut the back of her dress off. This leads to a huge brawl at the dance, and lands the girls in Miss Inch's (Ruth McDevitt) office. Deciding to "Let the punishment fit the crime," she assigns the girls to an isolated cabin...together, for the rest of camp. After an initial icy silence, they begin talking, and discover that they have the same birthday...and that Sharon lives with her mom, while Susan lives in California with her dad. The parents of both girls



split up while they were still babies. It doesn't take them long (although, probably far longer than it should have) to deduce that they're actually twin sisters, separated as infants. They decide to switch places, and each return to the other's home to meet their long-lost parents. After Sharon gets a haircut, and they study each other's information and habits, they make the switch. Susan heads off to Boston, where she meets her mother, Maggie McKendrick (Maureen O'Hara), as well as her overbearing grandmother Louise (Cathleen Nesbitt) and wily but dominated grandfather Charles (Charlie Ruggles). She quickly learns that Sharon's life is one of culture and lessons, and hates it, although she loves her beautiful mother. Meanwhile, Sharon heads to Carmel, Calif., where she meets her father, Mitch Evers (Brian Keith), and his ranch hand Hecky (Crahan Denton) and housekeeper Verbena (Una Merkel); as well as his fiancée, Vicky Robinson (Joanna Barnes). Sharon immediately pegs Vicky as a gold digger,

and the twins begin plotting by telephone to break up the impending marriage and get their parents back together.

That seems like a good place to stop the narrative. Also look for Leo G. Carroll as the slightly tipsy Rev. Dr. Mosby; Linda Watkins as Vicky's conniving mom, Edna Robinson; and Nancy Kulp (Miss Hathaway from "The Beverly Hillbillies") as Miss Inch's assistant, Miss Grunecker.

"The Parent Trap" is a reasonably fun, light-hearted romantic romp. Mills does a passable job, although her acting does have some issues. Sharon and Susan are supposed to be from Boston and California, respectively, but Mills' accent is British and stays British for the whole film. Although the twins pay some lip service to practicing each other's accent ("Cahn't" and "shahn't" and "Auhnt" instead of "Can't," "Shan't," "Aunt"), the truth is, their voices remain indistinguishable throughout the film.

The scenes at camp, in which the twins devise ways to exact revenge on each other with quickly escalat-

ing results, are the most fun; after camp, the movie settles into a solid groove that leads directly where you think it is going, with few surprises.

"The Parent Trap," (Although I'm sure I'll get some complaints about this opinion – it's a pretty beloved movie for many) starts well but the second act is pretty boring. Mills should have been directed to differentiate her two characters more. Keith and O'Hara are okay as romantic leads, the parents who still secretly love each other, but need a little push into each others' arms.

A word of warning: "The Parent Trap" is an older film, and it certainly shows its age with a bit of less-than-modern opinion about gender roles. I'm going to give the movie 6 1/2 stars out of 10, mainly for the first half at Camp Inch.

The Parent Trap
Director: David Swift
Writer: David Swift
Production company: Walt Disney Productions
Approved by the Motion Picture Production Code; 2 hrs. 9 min.; Comedy/Family/Romance; June 21, 1961

Check this out at the Howard County Library

This week I'll tell you about two large print fiction and two large print mystery books.

"Treasured Grace" by Tracie Peterson (LP F PET T) is the first book of the Heart of the Frontier series. Grace Martindale has known more than her share of hardship. After her parents died, raising her two younger sisters became her responsibility. A hasty decision to head west seemed like an opportunity for a fresh start but has instead left Grace in a precarious position. As Grace adjusts to life in the West, she meets a fur tapper named Alex Armistead who intrigues and infuriates her in equal measure. When a measles outbreak threatens lives at the mission, it is Alex who helps Grace use the natural healing remedies she learned from her mother to help where she can. As the death toll rises, so do tensions between the settlers and the natives, and Grace finds herself and those she loves in more danger than she imagined possible.



MONICA MARTINEZ

In "Dangerous Games" by Danielle Steel (LP F STE D), television correspondent Alix Phillips dodges bullets and breaks rules to bring the most important news to the world. With her daughter in college, and working alongside cameraman Ben Chapman, a deeply private ex-Navy Seal, Alix revels in the risks and whirlwind pace of her work. Her latest assignment puts her at the center of an explosive story that will reshape many lives, including her own: investigating damning allegations involving the Vice President of the United States, Tony Clark. Alix begins with a nationally revered woman who may be the key to exposing frightening secrets. Olympia Foster is the fragile,

reclusive widow of America's most admired senator, who had been destined for the presidency before an assassin's bullet felled him. Since then, Olympia has found emotional support in Clark. When Alix digs deeper, federal agents pick up the trail. When the threats start and the stakes rise in this dangerous game, Alix needs Ben's help as never before. They soon realize they are grappling with an adversary far more sinister than they had imagined.

"Vicious Circle" by C. J. Box (LP M BOX C) is a Joe Pickett Novel. Joe had been able to strike a fierce blow against the Cates family when they critically endangered the life of his daughter, but he'd always wondered if there'd be a day of reckoning. He's not wondering any longer. Joe knows they're coming after him and his family. Dallas Cates is out of prison, and even though his brother and father are dead and his mother wheelchair-bound in jail, he is a force full of malevolent power. Joe has his friend Nate Romanowski by his side, but will that be enough this time? All he can do is plan, and wait for them to make the first move. When it comes, it is in a way for which no amount of planning could have prepared him.

In "Right Behind You" by Lisa Gardner (LP M GAR L), Sharlah May Nash's older brother beat their drunken father to death with a baseball bat in order to save both of their lives. Now thirteen years old, Sharlah has finally moved on, and is about to be adopted by retired FBI profiler Pierce Quincy and his partner, Rainie Conner. Then the call comes in. A double murder at a local gas station, followed by reports of an armed suspect shooting his way through the wilds of Oregon. As Quincy and Rainie race to assist, they are forced to confront mounting evidence: The shooter may very well be Sharlah's older brother, Telly Ray Nash. It appears his killing spree has only just begun. As the

clock winds down on a massive hunt for Telly, Quincy and Rainie must answer two critical questions: Why after eight years has this young man started killing again? And what does this mean for Sharlah? Once upon a time, Sharlah's big brother saved her life, but now she wonders if her brother is a hero or a killer. How much will it cost her new family before they learn the final, shattering truth? Sharlah knows all too well, the biggest danger

is the one standing right behind you.

That's all the large print books this week so I leave you with a quote from Margaret Atwood: "A word after a word after a word is power."

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Car crashes into Texas 'Fixer Upper' house in suspected DWI

WACO, Texas (AP) — Police in Central Texas arrested a suspected drunken driver after investigators say his vehicle plowed into the so-called 3 Little Pigs House featured in the HGTV show "Fixer Upper."

The Waco Tribune-Herald reports Waco

police say the crash early Saturday left the car wedged inside the house. The vehicle smashed through a front area of the renovated residence.

Police say the homeowners, Ken and Kelly Downs, were asleep in an interior bedroom and weren't hurt. Their

house was featured last year during season three of "Fixer Upper."

Sgt. W. Patrick Swanton says the driver, who suffered minor injuries, was arrested on a drunken driving charge. Waco Fire Department officials say it appears the car crashed through two walls.



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Autopsy: Texas A&M fraternity member died of alcohol, drugs

COLLEGE STATION, Texas (AP) — Autopsy results show a Texas A&M University student whose body was found last year at his fraternity house died of an accidental drug and alcohol overdose.

The Brazos County Sheriff's Office says Sigma Phi Epsilon member Matthew Hayes of Beaumont was discovered unresponsive Dec. 6 in his bedroom.

The Travis County Medical Examiner's Office on Monday said the 20-year-old sophomore died of a lethal mixture of alcohol and drugs, including hydrocodone. The death was ruled accidental.

Authorities say Hayes attended a formal event the night of Dec. 5 in Bryan, then returned to the fraternity house in College Station. Other members believed Hayes was asleep the next day until he missed an afternoon function and his body was found.

Harris County not joining lawsuit on 'sanctuary cities' law

HOUSTON (AP) — The most populous county in Texas, home to Houston, won't be joining a lawsuit trying to halt a state law that would crack down on so-called sanctuary cities.

Harris County commissioners on Tuesday declined to vote on a motion asking the county to join the lawsuit, filed in federal court in San Antonio.

Harris County Judge Ed Emmett said people shouldn't interpret the county not choosing to join the lawsuit as an endorsement of the state law.

The law, which takes effect in September, would let police ask people about their immigration status during routine stops.

It also threatens elected officials with removal from office if they don't cooperate with federal immigration authorities.

Houston city leaders last month voted to join the lawsuit.

Girl, 11, stopped for speeding says her mom lets her drive

HOUSTON (AP) — An 11-year-old Houston-area girl who was pulled over for speeding told police that her mother allows her to drive but that this was the first time without an adult.

Police in Pasadena say the girl told them she was driving her 10-year-old brother home after they stopped her for driving 49 mph in a 35 mph zone.

Their 25-year-old mother, Maria DeJesus Lopez, has been charged with two counts of child endangerment and is free on \$3,000 bond following a Monday court appearance.

Declining Texas standardized testing scores raises concerns

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Texas middle school students are seeing a decline on state standardized test performance this year.

The Austin American-Statesman reports the percentage of students who passed the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness this spring was lower in all subjects but math when compared with last year's results.

Many Austin school districts say they haven't analyzed the data and can't yet draw conclusions about the scores.

Theresa Trevino is president of parent group Texans Advocating for Meaningful Student Assessment. She says her group wants more grade-appropriate tests and an end to a policy holding students back a grade for not passing the assessment.

Fort Worth man sentenced for 1973 killing of teenage friend

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP) — A judge has sentenced a Fort Worth man to 40 years in prison for the 1973 cold-case killing of his friend when the two were teenagers.

Fifty-nine-year-old Melvin Knox was sentenced Monday after testifying earlier in the day that he didn't realize the shotgun he was playing with was loaded when he pointed it at 14-year-old Donald Rodgers and fired.

Authorities say Knox, 15 at the time, retrieved a knife from a drawer at his home and then stabbed his friend.

They say he staged a scene to make it appear Rodgers was killed by an intruder.

Friends say Texan killed in Greece was easygoing, fun-loving



AP photo

In this 2016 photo provided by John Gramlich shows, Bakari Henderson, left, with friend Travis Jenkins, in Austin, Texas. Henderson, of Austin and recent graduate from the University of Arizona, was beaten to death early Friday, July 7, 2017, at a bar in Lagana on the Greek island of Zakynthos. Authorities haven't disclosed a possible motive for the attack, but eight people have been arrested.

By JAMIE STENGLE

Associated Press

DALLAS (AP) — A 22-year-old Texas man who was beaten to death at a bar on a Greek island recently graduated from college and was known to his friends for his fun-loving and friendly demeanor.

Bakari Henderson, of Austin, was beaten to death early Friday at the bar in Lagana on the island of Zakynthos.

Authorities haven't disclosed a possible motive for the attack, but eight people have been arrested. Greek police said among them were a 34-year-old Greek and a 32-year-old British man of Serbian origin. Serbia's foreign ministry said six of its citizens were arrested.

Henderson's aunt,

Jan Richardson, told The Associated Press on Monday that her nephew had planned to travel to Spain after his time in Greece.

She said the family doesn't have any "definitive answers or knowledge about what actually happened," but that they are trying to keep their interactions with the authorities private. She said their focus is on getting her nephew's body returned home, which they hope will happen this week.

Henderson graduated in May with a bachelor's degree in business administration from the University of Arizona. His family said in a news release that he was in Greece working on a photo shoot to launch a clothing line.

"He was the guy who walked around campus and knew everyone.

He was so determined in life, I mean he had dreams of starting a clothing line and opening his own business and he inspired me to work harder," Henderson's college friend, Alyssa White, told KVUE television station in Austin.

John Gramlich, who had been friends with Henderson since first grade, told the AP that Henderson loved traveling and had a knack for making friends wherever he went. He said that on this trip, Henderson was traveling with friends from college and that other friends from around Europe were expected to meet up with him in Greece.

"He's the kind of guy who literally makes friends anywhere he goes," said Gramlich, who traveled with Hen-

derson around Europe last summer.

"It's not in his character at all to be aggressive or instigate anything," Gramlich said. "He's always the guy who is calming people down, really."

He called his friend an "entrepreneur at heart" who was in the early stages of developing a clothing line and always dreamed of living abroad.

Friend Sam Hindsman told ABC News that Henderson was "such a fun loving person and he's so easygoing." Henderson served as an intern in the office of Texas House Speaker Joe Straus in the summer of 2014. Straus said in a statement that Henderson was "well-liked, he worked hard, and he certainly had a very bright future ahead of him."

Texas closes 3 of 4 prisons slated to cease operations

DALLAS (AP) — A Texas official says three of the four prison facilities set for closure under the state's budget have ceased operations, and that the fourth will be closed long before the September deadline.

Texas Department of Criminal Justice spokesman Jason Clark

told The Dallas Morning News (<http://bit.ly/2uqTVRt>) that once the fourth closes, Texas will have shuttered eight prison facilities in six years.

Over that time, the state's inmate population has also declined, from 156,000 in 2011 to 146,000 now. Prison staff will be offered jobs

at other facilities in a move that will also help alleviate staff shortages at some rural prisons, Clark said. Inmates will continue to be transferred to other facilities, he said.

Criminal justice reform advocates, agency officials and lawmakers said the closures are possible because of falling

crime rates and legislative efforts to reduce the number of people who spend time behind bars. Closing the four units means eliminating more than 2,000 prison beds. Lawmakers anticipate the closures will save about \$49.5 million. It's unclear whether the trend of shuttering facilities will

continue since lawmakers didn't approve proposals this year to reduce drug offense penalties and to keep 17-year-olds in the juvenile justice system instead of going to adult prisons. Criminal justice reform advocates said these measures would help the prison population continue to decline.

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Some West Texas merchants donate wedding for Air Force groom

By CARA DeLOACH

San Angelo Standard-Times
SAN ANGELO, Texas (AP) — White linens, blue flowers and period piano music from the 1940s filled the Cactus Hotel on Saturday for a donated wedding to remember.

The San Angelo Standard-Times reports as bride Sarah Davenport walked down the historic aisle, lined with flickering candles and rose petals, groom Jeffrey Mercado, an active-duty military member stationed at Goodfellow Air Force Base, couldn't contain the wide smile on his face.

Although the Cactus Hotel holds countless weddings every year, this one was unique, because it was entirely cost-free for the bride and groom.

"Except for them buying their own personal items, like garters and toasting glasses, they haven't been out one penny," said Tinker Keeney, owner of local wedding-planning business Happily Ever After.

Keeney, the organizer of the event, had been trying for several years to coordinate a donated wedding for a local military member, when the base put her in touch with Mercado and Davenport in November 2016.

"They had planned on getting married, but they couldn't afford much," Keeney explained. After hearing the couple's love story, and learning about Mercado's service in the military, Keeney selected the two as recipients for the free wedding.

"(Mercado) put his life totally on hold ... all he had was the service until he met her," Keeney said. "If they're going to put their life out there, risk their life for us ... why can't we do something for them?"

As Keeney began garnering support from local businesses, the community was more than willing to help.

Southwest Florist donated floral arrangements and bouquets, Eclipse Mobile DJ and Terry Mikeska supplied music, Kenny Blane's Village Cafe catered the event, the Cactus Hotel donated space, and several other local busi-

nesses chipped in as well.

When Mercado and Davenport first heard they would receive the free wedding, they thought it was too good to be true.

"At first I thought, 'is this real?' I was very skeptical (because) it's a lot to do for someone. It's unheard of," Mercado said. "Once I found out (it was real), I was very grateful that the community was able to do that for a military member."

When the bride saw the venue and decorations, which totaled about \$20,000 in donations, she was "taken away. It was really beautiful. It was better than what I had imagined in my head."

At the wedding, guests were given toy soldiers, as tokens to remind them to "pray for our men and women."

The wedding also featured a Missing-In-Action ceremony, which included a table with five empty seats remaining untouched. The five hats resting on the table represented all branches of the military, and those members who made the ultimate sacrifice.

Various items also rested untouched at the table, including a lemon, representing the bitterness of the prisoners-of-war, salt, to honor of the tears cried by family members, a rose, in remembrance of those lost, and a yellow ribbon, to signify that the military has not given up on them.

Approximately 130 individuals attended the wedding, and although it was formal, guests also danced, laughed and ate cake, all while dressed in attire from the 1940s.

"There was not a place I could call home until I met you," Mercado said to Davenport during the couple's wedding vows.

Mercado currently serves as a medic in the Air Force and has been stationed at Goodfellow AFB for three years. Mercado met Davenport while dancing with friends when he first moved to San Angelo.

"I'm a workaholic ... and Sarah was a single parent at the time ... We were out dancing and I saw Sarah's friend



AP photo

In this July 8, 2017 photo, Mr. and Mrs. Jeffrey Mercado exit the Grand Lobby of the Cactus Hotel underneath a traditional military cordon steel arch in San Angelo, Texas. White linens, blue flowers and period piano music from the 1940s filled the Cactus Hotel on Saturday for a donated wedding to remember.

who I know. Long story short, Sarah and I danced a few times, sat down to exchange numbers ... and went out on a date," Mercado explained.

To propose, Mercado cooked Davenport one of their favorite meals. "After dinner, he ... dropped down on one knee and said 'I love you and I love your kids. Will you please marry me?' I started crying and said 'Yes,'" Davenport said, smiling.

Mercado joined the military at 19 years old while living in New Jersey, and has been active-duty for the last 16 years. Although he has many military stories, his most memorable occurred while stationed overseas in Afghanistan.

When an injured man needed an emergency blood transfusion and the medics ran out of donated blood, Mercado gave his own blood for the patient.

"(My blood) was given right back to me to put in my pa-

tient," Mercado said. "I was able to tell him at the end that we'll be connected for life because (he has) some of my blood ... and he was very grateful."

"That was my most memorable moment in my entire career," Mercado added.

While he's been stationed in a variety of locations during his time in the service, Mercado said San Angelo has been the most hospitable.

"(San Angelo) has been one of the best places that I've served. To be honest, when I first got here, I was a bit skeptical about this place because I'm from a big city ... but everybody is so nice here and so grateful for our military and our police," Mercado said. "Let me tell you, I fell in love with this place ... and I will retire here."

For local businesses, the wedding was an opportunity to give back to members of the military.

"(Military members) are

good to us ... and we should be good to them," said Karla Stemple, owner of Southwest Florist. "I just think it's the right thing to do."

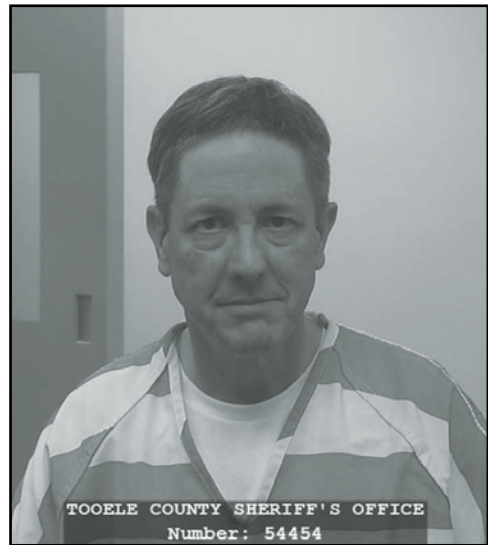
Keeney, whose father served in World War II, felt personally invested in putting on the wedding, and hopes to give one annually to members of the military or individuals who have experienced personal tragedies.

"I hope that it shows that everybody has something they can do. (The sponsors) didn't have a million dollars to donate, but they had something they could do," Keeney said.

In a few weeks, when Mercado is given leave, the bride and groom will travel to the Dominican Republic for their honeymoon.

"I am thankful for everybody's kindness and for taking care of our service members. I've never seen that anywhere else in my life, so I'm very grateful to be (in San Angelo)," Mercado said.

Polygamous leader pleads not guilty to fleeing fraud charges



AP photo

This photograph provide by the Tooele County Sheriff's Office shows Lyle Jeffs. Jeffs, a polygamous sect leader captured after nearly a year, pleaded not guilty as he appeared back in a federal courtroom in Utah on Monday, July 10, 2017.

By LINDSAY WHITEHURST

Associated Press
SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — A polygamous leader who was captured nearly a year after escaping home confinement on federal food-stamp fraud allegations pleaded not guilty Monday to new charges from his time

on the run.

Lyle Jeffs faces up to 10 years in prison if convicted on a felony charge connected to being a fugitive. It is on top of charges in a multimillion-dollar food-stamp scheme that he is accused of helping orchestrate in a polygamous community on the Arizona-Utah border.

U.S. Magistrate Judge Brooke Wells ordered Jeffs held behind bars ahead of trial. Jeffs looked thinner than in previous court hearings, his gray hair cut short and shoulders rounded above shackled hands.

He was apparently living out of a pickup truck when he was arrested June 14 near the small South Dakota town of Yankton, close to the Nebraska state line. He was captured after a pawn shop employee looked online and discovered the man who had just sold him two pairs of Leatherman pliers was wanted by the FBI.

Jeffs had been in the area for about two weeks, was running low on resources and was struggling without the help of fellow sect members, the

FBI has said.

Investigators say he had recently fallen out with his brother Warren Jeffs, who runs the polygamous group from prison in Texas, where he is serving a life sentence for sexually assaulting underage girls he considered brides.

Many of the other 10 defendants in the food-stamp scheme struck plea deals with federal prosecutors, but authorities consider Lyle Jeffs to more culpable than others, prosecutor Robert Lund said.

Defense attorney Kathryn Nester didn't comment after the hearing.

Jeffs and the other defendants are accused of diverting at least \$12 million in food stamps to buy tractors, trucks and other items, prosecutors say.

Defense attorneys have said that they

have a religious belief in communal living and were simply sharing benefits.

Former group member Brenda Nicholson said Monday that she wished Jeffs was facing more charges.

"He has spent years living like royalty. He had the best of everything," she said.

Jeffs, 57, is charged with conspiracy to commit food-stamp fraud, which carries a sentence of up to five years, and money laundering, which could bring up to 10 years in prison.

He was awaiting trial in the fraud case in June 2016 when he used olive oil to slip out of his ankle monitor and escape home confinement in Salt Lake City.



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Ding, Zhou make strong impressions at summer league

By JON KRAWCZYNSKI
AP Basketball Writer

LAS VEGAS — When the Houston Rockets signed Zhou Qi and the Dallas Mavericks brought in Ding Yanyuhang to play on their summer league teams, there was some cynicism the moves were purely financially motivated for teams to tap more directly into the lucrative Chinese market.

One blocked shot and one dunk at a time, Zhou and Ding are starting to win over the skeptics.

The 7-foot-1 Zhou has been an impressive defensive presence in three summer league games and Ding has played with a fearlessness that belies his new surroundings. It may not be an important first step as they try to earn spots in the NBA.

"The first game we came out here, I didn't know he could play like that," Rockets swingman Troy Wil-

liams said of Zhou, who is just 21 years old. "Of course we played a lot before we got out here to summer league, but to actually see him in action and doing it, it's amazing to watch."

Zhou is shooting just 32 percent and is 2 for 17 from 3-point range, but his seven blocks and overall defensive instincts have allowed him to make an impact. In a game against Phoenix on Monday, Zhou scored just three points but was still a plus-24 in 22 minutes.

"Sometimes when you're watching it, you don't realize all the little plays that he makes on the court, contesting a shot, getting a rebound, in the right position defensively," Rockets coach Roy Rogers said. "He's progressed really well in this first week of summer league. We just have to keep him going in the right direction."

See **NBA**, Page 14



In this Monday, July 10, 2017, file photo, Houston Rockets' Zhou Qi, right, of China, fouls Phoenix Suns' Marquese Chriss during the second half of an NBA summer league basketball game in Las Vegas.

AP photo

It no longer counts: All-Star result won't matter in October



National League's St. Louis Cardinals catcher Yadier Molina (4), hits a homerun in the sixth inning, during the MLB baseball All-Star Game, Tuesday, July 11, 2017, in Miami.

AP photo

By TIM REYNOLDS
AP Sports Writer

MIAMI — The new All-Star Game rules were picture-perfect for Nelson Cruz.

Yadier Molina didn't mind them, either.

And come Game 1 of the World Series in October, no one will be harkening back to how a play here or there at the Midsummer Classic might have ultimately played a role in deciding baseball's champion for 2017.

World Series home-field advantage is now decided by winning percentage and no longer by the result of the All-Star Game — and not coincidentally there were no shortage of hijinks at Marlins Park on Tuesday night. Cruz got a photo with plate umpire Joe West before an at-bat, Molina was high-fiving opponents after a home run and someone stuck a used piece of chewing gum on the hat

of unsuspecting American League manager Brad Mills.

"I tried to do it in 2013 but I couldn't do it," said Cruz, who planned the stunt pregame. "This time, if I had to take a picture with someone it was Joe West. He's the legend."

The AL beat the NL 2-1 in 10 innings.

Odds are, the shenanigans like what Cruz pulled off will be remembered a lot longer than that score.

"That was one of the best moments in the game," said Robinson Cano — whose homer in the 10th inning gave the AL the win, exactly 50 years to the day after Tony Perez hit what had been the last extra-inning home run in All-Star history.

Cruz walked to the plate with his phone — ringer on silent — in his back pocket. He wanted to take a selfie with

See **ALL-STAR**, Page 14

Past, not crowd, favors Williams against Konta at Wimbledon



AP photo

Venus Williams of the United States returns to Latvia's Jelena Ostapenko during their Women's Quarterfinal Singles Match on day eight at the Wimbledon Tennis Championships in London Tuesday, July 11, 2017.

By HOWARD FENDRICH
AP Tennis Writer

LONDON — If past success were all that mattered when Venus Williams faces Johanna Konta in the Wimbledon semifinals, the matchup would be quite a mismatch.

For Williams, Thursday's semifinal will be her 10th at the All England Club. For Konta, it'll be her first — and the first for any British woman in 39 years.

For Williams, it'll be the 22nd Grand

Slam semifinal of her career. For Konta, her second.

"I definitely think experience helps, for sure. For a lot of the players I've played, it's their first time in the third round or the quarterfinals (or) fourth round," said the 37-year-old Williams, who is making her 20th Wimbledon appearance. "So I have an opportunity to bank on experience in having dealt with those sort of pressures before."

See **WILLIAMS**, Page 14

No fireworks in LA, as city appears likely Olympic winner



AP photo

From left, Casey Wasserman, Chairman of Los Angeles 2024, Eric Garcetti, Mayor of Los Angeles, International Olympic Committee, IOC, President Thomas Bach, Anne Hidalgo, Mayor of Paris, Tony Estanguet, Co-president of Paris 2024, gesture, during a press conference after the International Olympic Committee (IOC) Extraordinary Session, at the SwissTech Convention Centre, in Lausanne, Switzerland, on Tuesday.

By MICHAEL R. BLOOD
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — There was no parade. No reports of delirious fans honking horns or dancing in the streets. No spontaneous flag-waving.

Los Angeles was all but guaranteed to be awarded a future Olympic Games on Tuesday, most likely in 2028, but the public reaction in the sports-crazed city was, well, subdued.

The privately run committee behind LA's Olympic bid has organized dozens of flashy, celebrity-studded events to showcase public support for making Los Angeles a three-time

Olympic city, after hosting the 1932 and 1984 Games.

But there were no fireworks Tuesday after the International Olympic Committee meeting in Switzerland, voted unanimously to seek a deal to award the 2024 and 2028 Games, one to each city. Paris is widely seen as the favorite for 2024, with Los Angeles getting the runner-up prize, 2028.

"Big step forward but more work to do," Jeff Millman, a spokesman for the group, said in an email after being asked about the absence of a public event to mark the occasion.

See **OLYMPICS**, Page 14

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Public Notice
Notice of Application for Commercial Oil and Gas Waste Disposal Well Permit

Basic Energy Services, L.P., Ste. 2100 Unit No. 21, 801 Cherry St., Fort Worth, TX 76102, is applying to the Railroad Commission of Texas for a permit to dispose of produced salt water or other oil and gas waste by well injection into a porous formation not productive of oil or gas. The applicant proposes to dispose of oil and gas waste into the Ellenburger Formation, Beall SWD Lease, Well Number 1. The proposed disposal well is located 10.3 miles northwest of Big Spring, TX in the Spraberry (Trend Area) Field, in Howard County. The waste water will be injected into strata in the subsurface depth interval from 10,000 to 11,500 feet.

LEGAL AUTHORITY: Chapter 27 of the Texas Water Code, as amended, Title 3 of the Texas Natural Resources Code, as amended, and the Statewide Rules of the Oil and Gas Division of Texas.

Public Notice

Requests for a public hearing from persons who can show they are adversely affected or requests for further information concerning any aspect of the application should be submitted in writing, within fifteen days of publication, to the Environmental Services Section, Oil and Gas Division, Railroad Commission of Texas, P.O. Box 12967, Austin, Texas 78711 (Telephone 512/463-6792).

#9445 July 12, 2017

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR FLUID DISPOSAL WELL PERMIT

Parsley Energy Operations, LLC, 303 Colorado, Suite 3000, Austin, Texas 78701 is applying to the Railroad Commission of Texas for a permit to dispose of produced formation water/fluid into a formation that is not productive of oil or gas. The applicant proposes to dispose of fluids into the Ellenburger (formation), Walter 34 SWD (lease), and Well Number: 2D. The proposed disposal well is located 7.3 Southwest of Big Spring, Texas. In the Spraberry (Trend Area) field in Howard County, TX. Fluid will be disposed into strata in the subsurface depth interval from 10,600 feet to 13,300 feet. LEGAL AUTHORITY: Chapter 27 of the Texas Water Code, as amended, Title 3 of the Texas Natural Resources Code, as amended, and the STATEWIDE Rules of the Oil and Gas Division of the Railroad Commission of Texas.

Requests for a public hearing from persons who can show they are adversely affected or requests for further information concerning any aspect of the application should be submitted in writing, within fifteen days of publication, to the Environmental Services Section, Oil and Gas Division, Railroad Commission of Texas, P.O. Box 12967, Austin, Texas 78711 (Telephone 512.463.6792).

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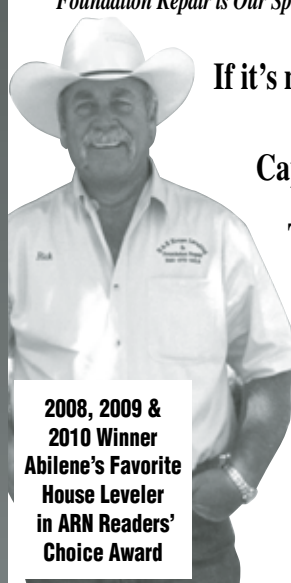


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average flow of 300,000 gal-
lons per day. The domestic
wastewater treatment facility
is located 3,300 feet west-
southwest of the intersection
of South Farm-to-Market
Road 818 and Interstate
Highway 20, on the south
side of Interstate Highway 20,
in Howard County, Texas
77720. The discharge route
is from the plant site to an un-
named tributary of Boggy
Lake; thence to Boggy Lake
(a closed drainage basin).
TCEQ received this applica-
tion on November 30, 2016.
The permit application
is available for viewing and
copying at Howard County
Library, 500 South Main
Street, Big Spring, Texas.
This link to an electronic map
of the site or facility's general
location is provided as a pub-
lic courtesy and not part of
the application or notice. For
exact location, refer to applica-
tion.
<http://www.tceq.texas.gov/assets/public/hb610/index.html?lat=32.171645&lng=-101.66831&zoom=13&type=r>

ADDITIONAL NOTICE.

TCEQ's Executive Director has determined the applica-
tion is administratively com-
plete and will conduct a tech-
nical review of the applica-
tion. After technical review of
the application is complete,
the Executive Director may
prepare a draft permit and
will issue a preliminary de-
cision on the application. **No-
tice of the Application and
Preliminary Decision will
be published and mailed to
those who are on the
county-wide mailing list
and to those who are on
the mailing list for this ap-
plication. That notice will
contain the deadline for
submitting public com-
ments.**

PUBLIC COMMENT / PUBLIC MEETING.

You may submit public comments or request a public meeting on this application. The purpose of a public meeting is to provide the opportunity to submit comments or to ask questions about the applica-
tion. TCEQ will hold a public meeting if the Executive Director determines that there is a significant degree of public interest in the application or if requested by a local legislator. A public meeting is not a contested case hearing.

OPPORTUNITY FOR A CONTESTED CASE HEARING.

After the deadline for submitting public comments, the Executive Director will consider all timely comments and prepare a response to all relevant and material, or significant public comments. **Unless the application is directly referred for a contested case hearing, the response to comments, and the Executive Director's decision on the application, will be mailed to everyone who submitted public comments and to those persons who are on the mailing list for this application. If comments are received, the mailing will also provide instructions for requesting reconsideration of the Executive Director's decision and for requesting a contested case hearing.** A contested case hearing is a legal proceeding similar to a civil trial in state district court.

TO REQUEST A CONTESTED CASE HEARING, YOU MUST INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING ITEMS IN YOUR REQUEST: your name, address, phone number; applicant's name and proposed permit number; the location and distance of your property/activities relative to the proposed facility; a specific description of how you would be adversely affected by the facility in a way not common to the general public; a list of all disputed issues of fact that you submit during the comment period and, the statement "[I/we] request a contested case hearing." If the request for contested case hearing is filed on behalf of a group or association, the request must designate the group's representative for receiving future correspondence; identify by name and physical address an individual member of the group who would be adversely affected by

Legals

the proposed facility or activity; provide the information discussed above regarding the affected member's location and distance from the facility or activity; explain how and why the member would be affected; and explain how the interests the group seeks to protect are relevant to the group's purpose.

Following the close of all applicable comment and re-
quested periods, the Executive
Director will forward the ap-
plication and any requests for
reconsideration or for a con-
tested case hearing to the
TCEQ Commissioners for
their consideration at a
scheduled Commission meet-
ing.

The Commission may only
grant a request for a con-
tested case hearing on is-
sues the requestor submitted
in their timely comments that
were not subsequently with-
drawn. **If a hearing is granted, the subject of a hear-
ing will be limited to dis-
puted issues of fact or
mixed questions of fact
and law relating to relevant
and material water quality
concerns submitted during
the comment period. TCEQ
may act on an application
to renew a permit for dis-
charge of wastewater
without providing an op-
portunity for a contested
case hearing if certain cri-
teria are met.**

MAILING LIST.

If you submit public comments, a request for a contested case hearing or a reconsideration of the Executive Director's decision, you will be added to the mailing list for this specific application to receive future public notices mailed by the Office of the Chief Clerk. In addition, you may request to be placed on: (1) the permanent mailing list for a specific applicant name and permit number; and/or (2) the mailing list for a specific county. If you wish to be placed on the permanent and/or the county mailing list, clearly specify which list(s) and send your request to TCEQ Office of the Chief Clerk at the address below.

INFORMATION AVAILABLE ONLINE.

For details about the status of the application, visit the Commissioners' Integrated Database at www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/cid. Search the database using the permit number for this application, which is provided at the top of this notice.

AGENCY CONTACTS AND INFORMATION.

Public comments and requests must be submitted either electronically at www.tceq.texas.gov/about/comments.html, or in writing to the: Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Office of the Chief Clerk, MC-105, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087. Any personal information you submit to the TCEQ will become part of the agency's record; this includes email addresses. For more information about this permit application or the permitting process, please call the TCEQ Public Education Program, Toll Free, at 1-800-687-4040 or visit their website at www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/pep. Si desea información en Español, puede llamar al 1-800-687-4040.

Further information may also be obtained from Quail Run Services, LLC at the address stated above or by calling Mr. Jeff Goebel, Consultant, at 713-724-9321.

Issuance Date: February 28, 2017
#9440 July 12, 2017

sudoku
ANSWERS

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

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HOLIDAY MATHIS

Aquarius Lunar Exam

Rene Descartes said, "Cogito ergo sum," or "I think, therefore I am." If only that were always the case. Alas, in the end, most of us will be judged not for what we thought but for what we did. The Aquarius moon, both mentally bright and philanthropically good, invites us to examine intellect versus character and how they play out in daily life.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Be patient enough to do what it takes to solve

Tomorrow's Horoscope

a problem once and for all. The first answer you come up with may not be the best. Go deeper. Ask, "What else? How else?"

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). People want to share with you. Show-and-tell time will start out interesting. Brevity is the way to keep it that way. Ward against over-sharing and stick to the safe topics.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Life won't provide you with incentives, but you're so creative that you can come up with some pretty awesome ones when you're at a loss. Keep the momentum up today: Know what you're looking forward to and envision the prize.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Most children don't think so, but life really is better with fewer sweets, less screen time and more fresh air. You'll tap into your grown-up instincts and feel wonderful for the effort.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Long-term thinking isn't always so fun, and thinking only of the moment is fool-

ish. There's a sweet spot in the middle of short- and long-term thinking that will be wonderfully accommodating to your plans.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Your incredible gift of adaptability will kick in today. You'll stretch, flex and grow yourself in order to meet the new situation. Your lack of ego is what makes this possible.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Gather information. Get clarity on all communication. You are mighty intuitive now, but you'll learn more by asking than by assuming you already have the answers.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). If you're constantly standing up for yourself around a certain person, it's a red flag. Don't ignore the signal that a person doesn't accept and support you as you are.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Start making plans for the upcoming event. It's a lucky time to free-associate about how you want this to go. Gather

inspiration and ideas. Talk to the ones who have done it before.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You'll listen to different philosophies, some of which will be easier to relate to than others. Your open mind will hold some of this information for later when it better applies.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Your active mind may also become restless tonight. Just remember that sleep is an important part of any mammal's life. Instead of lying awake with worry, outline a plan.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Getting back to basics is a very personal process, since what is "basic" to you is not even in the realm for someone else. Honor your own essentials regardless of whether the others understand what you need.

To write to Holiday Mathis, visit www.creators.com/author/holiday-mathis and click "Contact." COPYRIGHT 2017 CREATORS.COM

Annie's Mailbox

Can't Eat Just One

Dear Annie: I love chocolates, especially when they are in a box from a candy store or pharmacy. The problem is that once I start eating them, I can't stop!

Most people seem to be able to eat one or two and then stop. Very often, if a box of chocolates is brought out in the coffee room where I work, I have to walk right past them because I know that if I start, I'll eat the whole box. I like caramels, ones with marshmallow inside, soft creams and ones with toffee and nuts. In fact, I like all of them and haven't figured out how to take one or two and then back off.

Do you have any suggestions to help me with this? I doubt that I am the only person with this problem. -- Afraid to Start

Dear Afraid to Start: Too much of one good thing can lead to a slew of bad things -- in this case, bellyaches, cavities and

receive \$1,000 when the estate was settled.

Because Mr. Anderson was dying of kidney cancer, two days after my relative's funeral I paid this family out of my own funds. I knew that it would take a while for the estate to settle, and I thought I should give him the chance to enjoy the money while he still could.

Because of various reasons -- including drug trafficking on the premises -- I have to sell the properties. But now the Andersons are accusing me of throwing them out of their home, which they regard as theirs; after all, they have been paying rent for over 30 years. Whenever I visit the properties to check on them, the Andersons call the police on me. They will no longer pay rent, and they are discussing filing a lawsuit against me for attempting to steal their family home.

I'm not sure why I'm the bad guy in all of this. The will clearly stipulates that the property is mine. As for the money, all I wanted was

for a dying man to have a few moments of pleasure. What did I do that is so bad? -- "Slumlord" From Succotash

Dear "Slumlord": Every story has two sides, and when it comes to legal matters, there are surely multiple narratives that could be spun for various reasons. I know that your heart was in the right place when you paid Mr. Anderson out of your own pocket. Unfortunately, what feels good to do may not be formally congruent with the laws of your state. To avoid unnecessary headaches and heartache, it might be wisest to do things via the court through probate administration and any relevant housing court assistance.

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. COPYRIGHT 2017 CREATORS.COM



By Steve Becker
Sylvia strikes again

South dealer.
Neither side vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ 9 4
♥ Q 10 7 6 2
♦ A 8 2
♣ A J 3

WEST
♠ J 10 5
♥ J 4
♦ Q 10 9 7 3
♣ 8 6 5

EAST
♠ K Q 7 6 3
♥ K 9 3
♦ 6
♣ Q 10 9 2

SOUTH
♠ A 8 2
♥ A 8 5
♦ K J 5 4
♣ K 7 4

The bidding:
South 1♦ Pass North 1♥ 1♠
1NT Pass 3NT

Opening lead — jack of spades.
Sylvia's extraordinary exploits at the bridge table were a never-ending topic of conversation among the members of the club. It was not because she played so badly; it was rather because of the types of mistakes she made.

This deal ranks as one of Sylvia's greatest accomplishments. It occurred soon after she joined the club, and shortly after she had decided to fight fire with fire by adding the falsecard

to her already bizarre arsenal of weapons.

Sylvia was West and led the J-10 and another spade, won by South with the ace. Declarer saw that his best chance was to try to establish dummy's hearts, and that this had to be done without permitting East to take the lead. It seemed likely from the bidding that East had the king of hearts, and declarer therefore had to hope Sylvia had the jack.

Accordingly, he led a diamond to the ace and returned the queen of hearts. East followed low and so did South, but it was here that Sylvia introduced her newest weapon, the falsecard, by playing her jack on the queen! Sylvia hoped that this play would somehow deceive declarer.

The effect of the falsecard was that South could no longer establish dummy's hearts without eventually losing the lead to East, and he finished down two.

Had Sylvia made the normal play of the four of hearts on the queen, declarer would surely have made the contract. He would have continued with a low heart from dummy and played low from his hand, forcing Sylvia to win the trick with the jack. Nothing could then have stopped South from making three notrump.

Tomorrow: How to capture a sovereign.
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MAKE TIME FOR FAMILY READING

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.

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

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OLYMPICS

Continued from Page 8

And the IOC won't make a final decision until September, he added.

But there appeared to be little doubt about the significance of the vote Tuesday.

"L.A. is a virtual lock to host 2024 or '28 Olympics," a headline on the Los Angeles Times website said.

"Los Angeles is in the game as America's team," Los Angeles City Council President Herb Wesson said in an email.

The city's bid committee has long argued that there is overwhelming public support for bringing the Games back to LA. It has spent millions of dollars staging events to stoke Olympic excitement, and its long list of supporters includes Kobe Bryant, swimmer Janet Evans, Venus and Serena Williams and other sports royalty.

"We have such enthusiasm in our city," Garcetti said, speaking in Switzerland. "We are in love with the Olympics."

The deal to divide the spoils between the two cities would fulfil

a strategy the IOC set in motion last year to help safeguard a stable future for the signature Olympic event. After years of runaway spending, the two bids are seen as financially secure.

A 2028 Olympics in Southern California would be the first American-hosted games since 1996 in Atlanta.

The understated response to Tuesday's decision is part of the long, strange journey for LA, which was once shunted aside after Boston was selected at the U.S. pick for the 2024 Games.

After being snubbed, LA was awarded the spot in September 2015, after Boston's bid soured amid flagging public support.

"I've been in a few political campaigns, but this has been a long one," Garcetti said.

LA organizers once said they were seeking only the 2024 Games. But they later signaled they would consider 2028 after it became clear the IOC wanted to make a dual award.

Garcetti sounded confident, speaking with the media. "L.A. is ready to throw these Olympics in two months, if we were asked, or two decades if it came to that," the mayor said.

WILLIAMS

Continued from Page 8

One more discrepancy: Williams is aiming for a sixth Wimbledon singles championship and eighth overall at major tournaments. Konta owns zero such trophies.

"What Venus and her sister have given our sport is absolutely tremendous. The way they've elevated women's tennis is truly inspiring," Konta said. "So I feel very excited and very humbled to be sharing the court with her again."

The other semifinal also is rather lopsided in terms of past accomplishments: 14th-seeded Garbine Muguruza vs. 87th-ranked Magdalena Rybarikova. Muguruza won the French Open last year and was the runner-up at Wimbledon in 2015. Rybarikova, in contrast, had never been past the third round at any Grand Slam tournament in 35 previous attempts.

"She's going to be (the) favorite," Rybarikova said. "I'm here to enjoy the match. We'll see what's going to hap-

pen."

They've played each other four times previously, each winning twice. Muguruza won the only past match at a major, 14-12 in the third set at the Australian Open in 2013. Rybarikova won the only past match on grass, 6-3, 6-1 at Birmingham in 2015.

This will be the sixth meeting between Konta and Williams. Konta won three, including at the 2016 Australian Open, where she made her only other run to a major semifinal. Williams won their most recent match, on red clay at the Italian Open in May.

"I've never played her on grass," Konta noted, "so that will be a new challenge for me."

Indeed, the slick surface lends itself to Williams' power-based game, making her terrific serve that much tougher to handle and giving her groundstrokes extra sting.

"She's been on these courts many, many times, over many, many years," said Anabel Medina Garrigues, who

NBA

Continued from Page 8

Ding, 6-7, has been playing a new position — power forward — in a league that has trended toward smaller, more athletic players. He is only averaging 5.0 points per game, but has a fan in coach Rick Carlisle.

"I'm getting used to it, step by step," the 23-year-old Ding said through an interpreter. "I feel like I'm just about there. I'm getting a lot more used to the contact, the speed and the pace that the game is played at."

Stephon Marbury, the American point guard who became an icon and ambassador for basketball in China, has been at the arena this week working with ESPN International. He has delighted in seeing the two players hold their own against American competition and believes both have bright futures.

"I think they should give those two guys a shot," Marbury said. "Zhou Qi can play. Ding from Dallas, he's a real go-getter. He can really, really be something special in the NBA. He has a lot of game inside him. When he scores, he scores in

bunches: 3s, and-ones, dunks, free throws. ... If he had the opportunity to actually play, to develop, he could be really special."

That is exactly what NBA Commissioner Adam Silver wants to hear.

The league has devoted vast resources to developing the game in China and tapping into a basketball-mad country that boasts 300 million players. The NBA says 750 million people in China watched NBA basketball last season and the league has 10 media partners and 22 marketing and promotions partners there.

The NBA has also invested heavily in academies to help grow the game in hopes that a talent pipeline can develop between China and the United States. Former Houston Rockets star Yao Ming was immensely popular in China and helped the league's popularity reach a new level there. But Yao has not played since 2011 and Silver is eager to see another Chinese star assert himself in the league.

"It frustrates me that there are no Chinese players in the NBA right now," Silver said before Game 1 of the NBA Finals in June. "There's probably more

basketball being played in China than anywhere else in the world. And more NBA basketball is being watched in China than anywhere else in the world."

Rockets GM Daryl Morey has said he believes Zhou can be the best player since Yao and he has done nothing to dull those expectations in Las Vegas.

"He's a special kid," Rogers said. "You coach him, you get on him. You tell him what to do. He goes back out and does it as hard as he can. He's been a pleasure to be around. His teammates, he gets along great with them. I'm fortunate to get a chance to coach him. I really am excited about his future."

Ding was the domestic MVP of Chinese Basketball Association last season, averaging 24.2 points, 5.2 rebounds and 2.5 assists for Shandong. But he knows that doesn't mean anything as he tries to get a foothold in the best basketball league in the world.

"I'm always going to play as if I'm a rookie," Ding said. "I'm going to do my best to try to earn myself a contract and stay. This has always been my goal and always been my dream."

ALL-STAR

Continued from Page 8

West, but his batting gloves made maneuvering the buttons impossible. So he handed the phone to Molina, the NL catcher who was wondering what was happening before he agreed to take the photo.

The loquacious West, who recently worked his 5,000th game and is nicknamed "Cowboy Joe" for singing country songs, also was caught off-guard.

"I've never seen that before — ever," he told The Associated Press. "That's the first time I ever think I've been speechless on a field."

Said NL manager Joe Maddon of the reigning World Series champion Chicago Cubs, after Cruz's phone gag: "I would bet if the game had counted, he would not have done that, yes."

It wasn't all fun and games. Washington's Bryce Harper lost his hat as he sprinted

for a sprawling, spectacular catch in right field. Yankees catcher Gary Sanchez gave up his body a couple times late to keep pitches that could have cost the AL the game in front of him.

AL starter Chris Sale of the Red Sox, according to Statcast, got one pitch up to 99.5 mph for his hardest toss of 2017. NL starter Max Scherzer also came out letting it fly.

"I don't need anything on the line," Scherzer said. "I don't need home-field advantage. I want to go out there and have success against them."

Despite the motto — "This time it counts" — that MLB attached when the correlation between the All-Star result and home field for the World Series began in 2003, it's unclear how much the whole thing counted. Former

Commissioner Bud Selig put in the rule as part of the response to the 7-7 tie that was widely criticized in 2002.

There's no absolute conclusion to draw from these numbers:

— Out of the 14 years, nine teams with home-field advantage won the World Series.

— But in 10 of those years, the team with the better regular-season record had the home-field edge anyway.

— And home teams went

1-2 in Game 7s of the World Series under those rules, St. Louis beating Texas in 2011, Kansas City losing to San Francisco in 2014 and Cleveland losing to the Cubs last year.

The Cubs' Wade Davis, who was an AL All-Star in 2015 and 2016 before becoming one for the NL this year, said Royals manager Ned Yost reminded players in 2015 how much home-field will matter to someone from their league

which, coming from her, is certainly a compliment.

One dynamic that never existed when they've met in the past: Konta will have thousands of spectators pulling loudly for her at Centre Court.

"I'm sure she's confident and determined," Williams said. "She's probably dealing with a different kind of pressure, playing here at home. But she seems to be handling it well."

Virginia Wade was the last British woman to win Wimbledon, all the way back in 1977. A year later, Wade was the runner-up to Chris Evert. Since then, the locals never had a countrywoman to cheer for this late in the tournament.

Until Konta.

"I'm just surprised," said Wade, who sat in the Royal Box for Konta's quarterfinal win, "it's taken so long."

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