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BIG SPRING HERALD

THURSDAY, JULY 20, 2017



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BSPD: \$28,000 in stolen funds recovered, arrests in near future

By LYNDEL MOODY
 Staff Writer

Multiple arrests are expected in the near future, and all but around \$8,000 has been returned to the city of Big Spring after the city was the victim of a wire fraud scam, according to a news release from the Big Spring Police Chief Chad Williams. On April 10, 2017, \$36,200

of city funds were wire transferred to a bank account as a result of an e-mail scam. Investigators suspected that money had been moved out of the country, according to reports at the time when the news broke in late April. "At this time, the Department of Public Safety, Texas Rangers Division, and the Homeland Security Federal Agency are still

pursuing multiple suspects, and to date \$28,090.28 has been returned to the city as a result of the investigation," Williams stated in the release. "We expect multiple arrests in the near future." The release stated federal officials categorize this scam as a "Business Email Compromise" (BEC) scam. According to Williams, this type of scam "...is

increasingly common and as a result, the City has utilized the opportunity to enhance internal procedures in an attempt to prevent this from occurring in the future." "The city of Big Spring and the Big Spring Police Department thanks the Midland office of Homeland Security, Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Texas Rangers, and the Dallas Po-

lice Department for their efforts assisting us with this investigation," Williams said. "As this is an ongoing investigation, the Big Spring Police Department is unable to comment any further." *Contact Staff Writer Lyndel Moody at (432) 263-7331 ext. 235 or by e-mail at citydesk@bigspringherald.com.*

Getting creative with art



Courtesy photo
 Participants in the 2016 Kids' Art Camp led by Terri Chaney create a piece of art. This year's camp will be held next week, from July 25 through July 28 at the Heritage Museum of Big Spring. Sign-ups continue through Friday. For any questions about the camp, Chaney can be reached at 432-816-3426.

Children's art camp to be held next week

By ROBERT BARLOW
 Staff Writer

Next week kids will have the opportunity to create some works of art with the Kid's Summer Art Camp at the Heritage Museum.

The art camp is hosted by local artist, Terri Chaney, and features four classes split into different age ranges. "Creativity isn't in the schools as much as it used to be, and they need that experience," said Chaney. "I think it's vital for everyone to have some kind of creative outlet." The camp is set to start

on July 25 and last through July 28. On the following Saturday, July 29, the museum will host a show of the artwork that was created by the students, along with a reception starting at 2 p.m. "We will have certificates, pictures, and refreshments," Chaney

said. Chaney has been a local artist for quite a few years and has been hosting the class with the museum for around five years. "The museum initially asked me to do the

DPS urges Texans to use caution in summer heat

Special to the Herald

AUSTIN – The Texas Department of Public Safety is warning Texas residents to be prepared for summertime temperatures, and to take precautions to stay safe as temperatures and heat indices hit 100 degrees and above in many parts of the state this time of year. Extreme temperatures increase the risk of heat-related injuries or deaths.

"Summertime heat is a fact of life in Texas, but the dangers from high temperatures are real and should not be taken lightly," said DPS Director Steven McCraw. "Heat-related deaths and injuries are often preventable if residents take the necessary steps to educate and protect themselves – and their loved ones." Warmer weather places children at greater risk of injury or death if left unattended in a vehicle. Every year children die from heat-related injuries after being left in a vehicle or by entering a vehicle unnoticed. A child should never be left unattended in a vehicle.

Temperatures inside a car can rise more than 20 degrees in only 10 minutes; and even with an outside temperature of 60 degrees, the temperature inside a car can reach 110 degrees, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. Leaving windows partially rolled down does not help. Young children are particularly at risk since their bodies heat up faster than an adult.

According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), extreme heat events or heat waves are one of the leading causes of extreme weather-related

See **HEAT**, Page 3

Sen. John McCain's cancer diagnosis jolts Senate

By DONNA CASSATA
 Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Sen. John McCain's diagnosis of brain cancer jolted the Senate where Republicans and Democrats offered prayers and words of encouragement for a six-term lawmaker with a war hero past.

"The outpouring of bipartisan respect and love for John McCain as he faces this cancer battle reminds us that after all the meanness there is a human side to politicians," said Sen. Dick Durbin, D-Ill., said Thursday. "Count this Democrat in John McCain's corner."

Said Sen. David Perdue, R-Ga.: "John McCain is a friend, a mentor and a true patriot. If anyone can tackle a challenge like this, it's him." The 2008 Republican presidential nominee and Vietnam prisoner of war who has spent more than three decades in Congress was diagnosed with an aggressive type of brain cancer. The 80-year-old Arizona lawmaker has glioblas-

toma, according to doctors at the Mayo Clinic in Phoenix, where McCain had a blood clot removed above his left eye last Friday. He and his family are considering further treatment, including chemotherapy and radiation.

See **MCCAIN**, Page 3



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Obituaries

Joyce Elaine Glenn Crooker



Joyce Elaine Glenn Crooker, 93, passed away peacefully Sunday evening at her home surrounded by her family.

She was born in Breckenridge, Texas on June 7, 1924, to Angy and Margaret Glenn. Her family moved to Big Spring in 1939, where she graduated from Big Spring High School in 1941. She attended Amarillo Junior College and Texas Tech University.

In August 1942, she joined the war effort by becoming the Supply Officer's Secretary at the Army Air Force Bombardier School, Big Spring Army Airfield. On April 8, 1944, she met Cadet Bill Crooker, who was training on the B-24 Liberators, and they subsequently married Aug. 8, 1945. Moving to Bridgeport, Conn., she worked from 1946-1949 for Bankers Securities Corporation. In 1953 they moved back to Big Spring, where she began work as a Certified Court Reporter at Webb Air Force Base, and retired in 1978. From 1978-1986, Joyce and Bill owned and operated Mr. G's Garden Center and Christmas Store.

Joyce was very politically active for many years. She campaigned and supported her husband in his role as County Commissioner, as well as other Republicans in their bids for election. She was very passionate in her dedication to economic projects that impacted the well-being of the city of Big Spring and Howard County. She was a champion who loved a good fight for the right cause.

Joyce was involved in many community endeavors in Big Spring: Planning and Zoning Commission for 13 years; Air Park Board 1993-1995 with Reappointment from 2001 to 2004; Moore Economic Development Board Treasurer and President 1995-1998; St. Mary's School Board for 6 years; Vestry

Member of St Mary's Church; Trust Fund Board of St. Mary's Church; Big Spring Woman of the Year 1992; Board Member of Big Spring Chamber of Commerce; Big Spring Friends of Library; Keep Big Spring Beautiful Committee; Big Spring Entrance Committee.

As the Matriarch, Joyce had an endless love for her family. She was always there with sage advice and sound guidance. She desired nothing more than for all to be happy and successful in life.

Joyce was predeceased by her loving husband of almost 70 years, William B. "Bill" Crooker; infant son, James Crooker; her parents; and a sister, Floy Sides.

She is survived by her children and their spouses; Karen and Dan Patterson of Big Spring, Texas, Bill and Debbie Crooker of Temple, Texas, and Dori and Ronnie Wegner of San Angelo, Texas; grandchildren, Rick and Shelley Proffitt, Jay and Jennifer Proffitt, Seth and Krystal Proffitt, Amber and Jeremy Hemphill, William Crooker, Jeb Willingham, and Grayson Honeycutt; and great-grandchildren, Hannah, Nathaniel, and Isabel Proffitt, Noah, Nicolas and Neelan Proffitt, Kayleigh Willingham, and Kade Hemphill.

Services will be held Friday, July 21, at 10:30 a.m. at St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 1001 Goliad, Big Spring, Texas. Family visitation will be held Thursday, July 20, from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Nalley-Pickle Funeral Home, 906 S. Gregg, Big Spring, Texas.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to St. Mary's Episcopal Church, P.O. Box 2949, Big Spring, Texas, 79721. We would like to thank all the people at Compass Hospice, who helped guide us through this time.

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

Paid obituary

Marva Jo Reid Forman



Marva Jo Reid Forman, 69, of Big Spring died Sunday, July 16, 2017, at Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

The family will receive friends from 7 p.m. until 9 p.m. Friday at Myers and Smith Funeral Home. Funeral service will be at 2 p.m. Saturday at Myers and Smith Chapel. Burial will be at Mount Olive Memorial Park.

Marva was born April 16, 1948, in Wortham, Texas, to Sewilla Williams Reid and Roy Reid. She graduated from Paul Quinn College in Waco with a bachelors in education in 1970. She moved to Big Spring in 1973 from Waco. She obtained certification in Language and Learning Disabilities from UTPB. Marva taught at Lakeview Head Start for 13 years and at Moss Elementary for 16 years, retiring in 2002. In 2004, she began working in the Computer Lab at Big Spring Junior High until her death. Marva was President of the Zeta Phi Beta Sorority for two years. She loved singing and trying new recipes. Marva considered her life accomplishment as having a wonderful loving family. She was a member of West Highway 80 Church of Christ.

She is survived by her husband, Willie E. Forman Jr. of Big Spring; two sons, Fredrick (Rhosunda) Reid of Little Elm, and Elliott Forman and wife Sonia of Midland; one stepson, Jarvis Williams of San Antonio; and one daughter, Kassey Forman of Big Spring; her grandchildren, Da Vonte` Reid, Keylon Reid, Meghan Reid, Kyrin Justice, Dion Williams, Alyssa Urias, and Jaylen Williams; one great-grandchild, Milan Reid; her mother, Sewilla Reid; and one sister, Stella Bias of Waco; and a host of nieces and nephews.

Marva was preceded in death by her father, Roy Reid; an infant son, Issac Forman; and a brother Lee "Junebug" James.

Pallbearers will be DJ Forman, Quinton Wallace, Darrell Wrightsil, Andrew Bias, Chris Bias, and Spencer Littlejohn. Honorary pallbearers will be Fred Reid, Elliott Forman, Kyrin Justice, Keylon Reid, Patrick Powers, Eric Powers, and Arthur "Ray" Sneed, Carlos Moore, Corbin Sherrod and Carleton Clark.

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

Paid obituary

Sheriff

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

Note - Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 80 inmates at the time of this report.

• **GARY WAYNE BRITO**, 24, was booked by the BSPD on a warrant for assault to family by threat, violence, or offensive touch.

• **JOHN ROBERT BURCIAGA**, 25, was booked by the BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.

• **BRANDON SHANE COX**, 42, was booked by the BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.

• **LETICIA FLORES**, 39, was booked by the HCSO on warrants for displaying expired registration and driving while license invalid.

• **ADAM LEE GUZMAN**, 24, was booked by the BSPD on warrants for no driver's license and failure to maintain financial responsibility.

• **MICHAEL SHAE JACKMAN**, 31, was booked by the HCSO on a warrant for evading arrest or detention with vehicle.

• **BILLY SHAWN KENNEDY**, 38, was booked by the DPS on a warrant for driving while intoxicated.

• **ABEL DANIEL MORELION**, 51, was booked by the HCSO on a charge of possession with intent to deliver over 200 grams.

• **LUIS MANUEL MUNOZ**, 21, was booked by the HCSO on a charge of public intoxication.

• **DAMEON ISAIAH NIETO**, 19, was booked by the BSPD on warrants for no drivers license, failure to appear, and a motion to revoke warrant for possession of marijuana less than two ounces.

• **ARMANDO ROSALES JR.**, 31, was booked by the BSPD on a capias warrant for probation violation (burglary).

• **ESTMOND DAVID USSERY**, 43, was booked by the BSPD on warrants for criminal mischief between \$50 and \$500, expire vehicle inspection, two counts of failure to appear, no driver's license, and a motion to revoke warrant for theft of property between \$1,500 and \$20,000.

Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity:

• **DAMEON ISAIAH NIETO**, 19, of 1908 South Main Street, was arrested on a warrant for no drivers license, failure to appear, and on a warrant from another agency.

• **BRANDON S. COX**, 42, of 1201 Pickens Avenue, was arrested on a charge of public intoxication.

• **JOHN ROBERT BURCIAGA**, 25, of Lubbock, was arrested on a charge of public intoxication.

• **OSCAR RODRIGUEZ**, 26, of 2625 Chanute Drive, was arrested on a warrant for driving while license invalid.

• **ARMANDO ROSALES JR.**,

31, of Fabens, was arrested on a warrant from another agency.

• **GARY WAYNE BRITO**, 24, of 3902 East Highway 350, was arrested on a warrant for assault to family by violence, threat, or offensive touch.

• **ESTMOND DAVID USSERY**, 43, of 1314 Mount Vernon Avenue, was arrested on warrants for criminal mischief between \$50 and \$500, two counts of failure to appear, expired vehicle inspection certification, no driver's license, and on a warrant from another agency.

• **ADAM LEE GUZMAN**, 24, of 1607 Oriole Street, was arrested on a warrant for no driver's license and failure to maintain

financial responsibility.

• **LUIS MANUEL MUNOZ**, 21, of 5102 Wasson Road, was arrested on a charge of public intoxication.

• **LETICIA CARILLO FLORES**, 39, of 1002 North Main Street, was arrested on a warrant from another agency.

• **THEFT** was reported in the 800 block of Rosemont Street.

• **DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE** was reported in the 400 block of Dallas Street.

• **DISTURBANCE** was reported in the 1000 block of 16th Street.

• **CRIMINAL MISCHIEF** was reported in the 1400 block of Dixie Avenue.

Fire/EMS

Big Spring Fire Department/EMS reported the following activity:

• **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 5600 block of Murphy Road. One person was transported to the Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

• **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 1900 block of South Main. One person was transported to the Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

• **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 900 block of West 3rd. One person was transported to the Scenic Mountain Medical

Center.

• **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 900 block of Settles.

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

• **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 10000 block of Midway Road. One person was transported to the Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

• **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 1800 block of North Highway 87. One person

was transported to the Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

• **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 2300 block of Wasson Road. One person was transported to the Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

• **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 2600 block of Lynn. One person was transported to the Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

• **SMOKE DETECTOR ACTIVATION** was reported in the 1700 block of Lancaster. One person was transported to the Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

Take Note

• 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.

• 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.

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

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

Support Groups

THURSDAY

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

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



Big Spring Visitors Center

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www.visitbigspring.com

Be our Sponsor!

The Howard County Weekly Blotter will be competing in the 2017 Tough Mudder Half of 5K in September 2017. Our team needs to raise funds and awareness for the Half of Big Spring and Howard County.

The United Way of Howard County serves 17 local agencies that help with financial needs in our local community.

Our goal is to raise \$10,000 to go towards our 2018 Campaign! All our sponsors will have their logo on our team shirts and be recognized in the local media. Please go to our website and Facebook page. This is a great opportunity to show your support for our community.

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For more information please contact Big Spring at the United Way of Big Spring and Howard County 432-263-8235.

United Way logo and Tough Mudder logo.

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MCCAIN

Continued from Page 1

"Subsequent tissue pathology revealed that a primary brain tumor known as a glioblastoma was associated with the blood clot," his office said in a statement late Wednesday.

According to the American Brain Tumor Association, more than 12,000 people a year are diagnosed with glioblastoma, the same type of tumor that struck McCain's close Democratic colleague in legislative battles, the late Ted Kennedy of Massachusetts. The American Cancer Society puts the five-year survival rate for patients over 55 at about 4 percent.

The senator and chairman of the Armed Services Committee had been recovering at his Arizona home. His absence forced Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., to delay action on health care legislation.

South Carolina Sen. Lindsey Graham said he spoke to McCain Wednesday evening and that McCain said: "Yeah, I'm going to have to stay here a little bit longer, take some treatments. I'll be back."

In a statement on Twitter, his

daughter, Meghan McCain, spoke of the shock of the news and the anxiety over what happens next. "My love for my father is boundless and like any daughter I cannot and do not wish to be in a world without him. I have faith that those days remain far away," she said.

As word spread of his diagnosis, presidents past and present along with McCain's current and former Senate colleagues offered support in an outpouring rarely seen in Washington.

"Senator John McCain has always been a fighter. Melania and I send our thoughts and prayers to Senator McCain, Cindy, and their entire family. Get well soon," President Donald Trump said. Barack Obama, who dashed McCain's dreams of the presidency, said in a tweet: "John McCain is an American hero & one of the bravest fighters I've ever known. Cancer doesn't know what it's up against. Give it hell, John."

McCain has a lifetime of near-death experiences — surviving the July 1967 fire and explosion on the USS Forrestal that killed 134 sailors; flying into power lines in Spain; the October 1967 shoot-down of his Navy

aircraft and fall into Truc Bach Lake in Hanoi; and 5 1/2 years in a North Vietnamese prison.

"The Hanoi Hilton couldn't break John McCain's spirit many years ago, so Barbara and I know — with confidence — he and his family will meet this latest battle in his singular life of service with courage and determination," said former President George H.W. Bush.

Politics aside, McCain and Bill Clinton developed a strong friendship, and the former president said: "As he's shown his entire life, don't bet against John McCain. Best wishes to him for a swift recovery."

The junior senator from Arizona, Republican Jeff Flake, said Thursday that McCain told him about his tumor only at the end of a telephone conversation, saying he was "feeling fine, but I might have some chemotherapy in my future." Flake said on ABC's "Good Morning America" that his colleague is "optimistic, obviously. He's John McCain. That's what we'd expect."

In the past, McCain had been treated for melanoma, but a primary tumor is unrelated. Doctors said McCain is recovering from his surgery

"amazingly well" and his underlying health is excellent.

With his irascible grin and fighter-pilot moxie, McCain was elected to the Senate from Arizona six times, most recently last year, but twice thwarted in seeking the presidency.

An upstart presidential bid in 2000 didn't last long. Eight years later, he fought back from the brink of defeat to win the GOP nomination, only to be overpowered by Obama. McCain chose a little-known Alaska governor as his running mate in that race, and helped turn Sarah Palin into a national political figure.

After losing to Obama in an electoral landslide, McCain returned to the Senate, determined not to be defined by a failed presidential campaign. And when Republicans took control of the Senate in 2015, McCain embraced his new job as chairman of the powerful Armed Services Committee, eager to play a big role "in defeating the forces of radical Islam that want to destroy America."

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Jacquelyn Jean Mauch, 69, died Friday. Funeral service was at 10:30 a.m. this morning at Myers and Smith Chapel. Burial will be at 2:30 p.m. at Colorado City Cemetery.

Marva Jo Reid Forman, 69, died Sunday. The family will receive friends from 7 p.m. until 9 p.m. Friday at Myers and Smith Funeral Home. Funeral service will be at 2 p.m. Saturday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Burial will be at Mount Olive Memorial Park.

Ruby Evelyn Englert, 91, of Fort Worth, formerly of Big Spring died Tuesday. The family will receive friends from 7 p.m. until 9 p.m. Sunday at Myers and Smith Funeral Home. Funeral service will be Monday at 10 a.m. at Myers and Smith Chapel. Graveside service will be held at 2:30 p.m. at Belvedere Cemetery in San Angelo, Texas.

Kenneth Claibourn Means Jr., 52, died Saturday. Services are pending at Myers and Smith Funeral Home.

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HEAT

Continued from Page 1

deaths in the United States. Periods of severe heat and high humidity tax the body's ability to cool itself and can lead to heat exhaustion and heat stroke, which can be fatal.

DPS offers the following tips for staying safe and managing the heat:

- Check on the elderly, sick or very young, especially if they don't have air conditioning.

- Drink plenty of water and avoid caffeine and alcohol during prolonged outdoor exposure. Start consuming water before you head outdoors; you may not realize you're dehydrated until it's too late.

- Pay attention to your body. Heat exhaustion and heat stroke can develop quickly. If you start feeling ill, immediately find a shaded or cooler area and slowly drink fluids. Seek medical attention if necessary.

- Monitor weather radios and newscasts for information on current conditions and weather alerts in your area.

- Stay indoors as much as possible, and limit exposure to the sun. Consider indoor activities this summer at places like shopping malls, the library or other community facilities.

- Light-colored, loose-fitting clothing and a hat are recommended during outdoor exposure.

- If possible, avoid strenuous outdoor activity during the hottest part of the day.

- Be extra careful when cooking outdoors, building campfires or driving off road to avoid igniting dry vegetation. Also, stay aware of burn bans in your area and always abide by restrictions on outside burning.

- Don't forget pet safety. Animals are also susceptible to heat-related injury or death — don't put your pets in these dangerous conditions.

CAMP

Continued from Page 1

classes and it's just become a yearly event now," said Chaney.

The program is split into four classes with varying age ranges, so everyone has something to do.

The first class, "Computer Geek", will be held from 9:45 to 11:45 a.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

In this class students will construct a "computer" from assorted craft materials and recycles objects.

The class is for 11-year-olds and up.

The next class is also for 11-year-olds and older and is called "Trees and More Trees." According to Chaney, this class is for more advanced art students wanting to learn mixed media techniques. The class will have students create a tree painting along with a three-dimensional tree project. This class will be held on Wednesdays and Fridays from 1:15 to 3 p.m.

"Mommy and Me" is the name of the next class and as it would suggest, the class is aimed towards getting a parent and child to work together on art pieces. Classes will be on Wednesdays and Fridays from 9:45 to 11:30 a.m.

The last class is called "Going Up" and is open to all ages, however children younger than the second grade are required to have



Courtesy photo

A student from the Heritage Museum's 2016 Art Camp shows off her work to the camera. This year's camp will be held from July 25 through July 28 with a reception featuring the children's art on Saturday, July 29 at the Heritage Museum.

adult supervision. springherald.com

Students will have the opportunity to decorate and bring to life a replica of the house from the Pixar movie "Up". Classes will be on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1:15 to 3 p.m.

Friday, July 21, is the final day to sign up for the classes and Chaney says there is plenty of room left. Anyone who is interested in signing their children up for the class can go to the Heritage Museum during their normal operating hours (8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.) to fill out the paperwork and pay the fee. For any questions about the art camp, Chaney can be reached at (432) 816-3426.

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

You Are Invited!
Mamie Lee Dodds
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4pm-6pm at Dorothy Garrett Hall
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Health plan's fall brings dread for 'Obamacare' recipients



AP photo

In this May 4, 2017, file photo, Jake Martinez, who has epilepsy, looks on as he stands next to his medication at his home in Murray, Utah. While Republicans in Congress failed this week to craft a new health care plan, they did succeed in shaking the confidence of those who rely on the act the most. Obamacare, he said, made it possible to get affordable coverage for himself, his wife and their three children. "If I can't treat my epilepsy, I can't drive, I can't go to work. Things that are day-to-day activities become health hazards," Martinez said.

By **JAMES ANDERSON** and **CARLA K. JOHNSON**

Associated Press

DENVER (AP) — One American was able to afford her toddler's latest heart operation. Another had the means to go back to college to pursue her dreams.

They and thousands of others were able to do so as beneficiaries of President Barack Obama's Affordable Care Act. And while Republicans in Congress failed this week to craft a new health care plan, they did succeed in shaking the confidence of those who rely on the act the most. President Donald Trump's "Let Obamacare fail" remark did nothing to assuage their fears.

Here's a snapshot of their concerns from around the country:

'THE WIND KNOCKED OUT OF ME'

Alison Chandra sobbed with relief Monday night when she heard that the Republican health care plan appeared doomed.

It meant she could still afford medical bills for her 3-year-old son, Ethan, who suffers from heterotaxy syndrome — a rare genetic disorder that causes organs to form incorrectly or in the wrong place.

But Chandra's anxiety swept back when she heard about the GOP effort to repeal the health plan with no replacement.

"That felt like getting the wind knocked out of me," said Chandra, a resident of Middlesex, New Jersey.

Chandra's story drew attention in June when she shared a photo of one of Ethan's hospital bills on Twitter. It showed a list of charges topping \$230,000 for her son's latest heart operation at Boston Children's Hospital. At the bottom, it listed what she owed after insurance payments: \$500.

Chandra worries about losing the law's ban on lifetime limits. Before the law, many health plans capped what they would pay for an individual's medical care over a

lifetime, typically at \$1 million or \$2 million.

Repeat, Chandra said, "just doesn't work for families with medically fragile children like ours."

'SAVED MY LIFE AND SANITY'

Dawn Erin went to her first round of physical therapy Tuesday to treat painful bladder infections she's suffered for two decades. Her copay was \$20 and her health plan covers the rest.

Physical therapy might seem mundane for some, but the 46-year-old from Austin, Texas, was ecstatic.

As a self-employed massage therapist who had hepatitis C, her pre-existing condition made it impossible for her to afford insurance before the Affordable Care Act.

"This is care I have needed all my adult life, but insurance didn't cover it and I couldn't afford to pay out of pocket," said Erin, who voted for Hillary Clinton in November.

Erin relies on a government subsidy to help pay for her plan. She also was able to get expensive medication to cure her hepatitis C.

"I really wish some GOP senator would call me and explain to me how the (Affordable Care Act) is failing because this insurance reform has saved my life and sanity," she said.

'A REALLY HORRIFYING LOTTERY'

Alexandra Flores, 29, a library assistant at the University of South Florida in St. Petersburg, was

astounded with Trump's "Let Obamacare fail" declaration and his further insistence that "I'm not going to own it."

"To say that he 'won't own it' now when his party owns the House, Senate and White House is preposterous," Flores said. "The president of the United States should not

be treating health care this way."

Flores is pursuing a master's degree in library science. She credits the Affordable Care Act for her decision to go back to school rather than be locked into her previous office job. She pays \$77 a month for her health plan. The government kicks in about \$100.

"Trump is acting like those who currently benefit from the ACA are wrong and will be punished for the simple act of having health insurance," Flores said, adding that she feels he's using her health care coverage "as a bargaining chip."

"I'm not sure there is a way to plan" for the future, she said. "It's like we're playing a really horrifying lottery."

'IT'S NOT A GAME'

Matt Mason, 48, of Omaha, Nebraska, says the Affordable Care Act radically reduced the costs of treating his Type I diabetes. Before it, he had to rely on state-subsidized coverage and buy a separate policy for his wife and two children.

By the time Obama signed the law in 2010, rising costs had forced Mason to take a plan with a \$10,000 deductible. His family now shares one plan that he purchased through the federal exchange. The small non-profit that

employs him does not offer health care benefits.

Mason knows the ACA has its problems: Every year it's more expensive, and every year he's had to change carriers and policies because fewer insurers participate in the exchanges.

"Just repealing and saying, 'We'll replace it in two years,' that's just playing like it's a game," Mason said. "For me, it's not a game."

'I'M MORE CAUTIOUS'

Deborah deMouplied, 62, of Concord, New Hampshire, owned a small home goods store and struggled to afford insurance when she first purchased a plan through the Affordable Care Act. She has since sold the store and is "semi-retired," though her premiums have risen about 25 percent a year.

She worries that her age and pre-existing condition — thyroid cancer — would make it impossible to pay for a plan under what Republicans have proposed. So she's thinking about what health tests she might schedule in the next few months — and what she might do without — in case she loses coverage.

"I'm sort of watching my

pennies more," deMouplied said. "It has made me pull back on spending. I'm more cautious."

'A LOT MORE DAY-TO-DAY STRESS'

Jake Martinez, 32, of the Salt Lake City suburb of Murray, Utah, is a social work student who also works two part-time jobs. He takes medication for his epilepsy that can cost hundreds of dollars a month. The Affordable Care Act, he said, made it possible to get affordable coverage for himself, his wife and their three children. Without it, he may decide to drop out of college so he can afford insurance.

"If I can't treat my epilepsy, I can't drive, I can't go to work. Things that are day-to-day activities become health hazards," Martinez said.

He and his wife, who owns a home day care business, have been trying to create a bare-bones budget they could live under if they can no longer buy health care on exchanges with help from subsidies. It's not easy, he said.

"We live now a life of a lot more day-to-day stress," Martinez said.



AP photo

In this May 23, 2017, file photo, Dawn Erin poses for a photo at her home in Austin, Texas. Erin went to her first round of physical therapy Tuesday to treat painful bladder infections she's suffered for two decades. Her copay was \$20 and her health plan covers the rest. Physical therapy might seem mundane for some, but the 46-year-old was ecstatic. As a self-employed massage therapist with hepatitis C, her pre-existing condition made it impossible for her to afford insurance before Obama's health overhaul.



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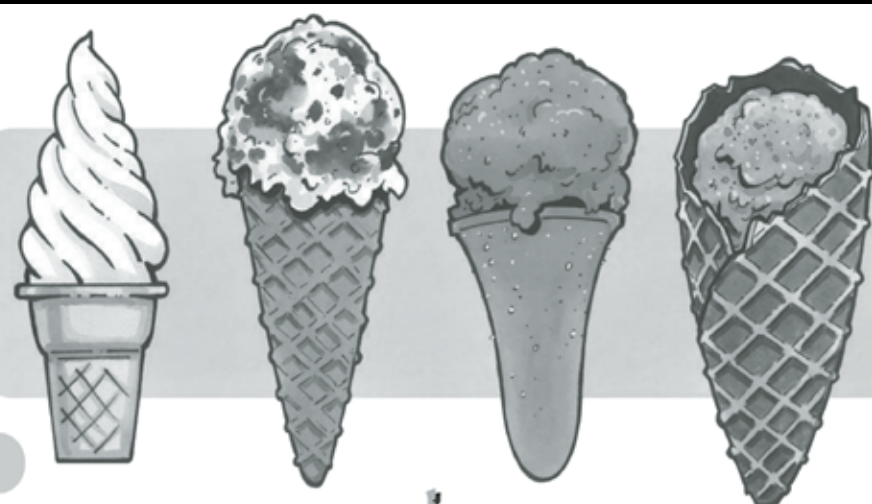
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Name That Cone

There is nothing better on a hot summer's day than an ice cream cone. Cones come in different types. Write in the name of each one pictured.

- 1) _____ cone 2) _____ cone
3) _____ cone 4) _____ cone

Answers: 1) Cake cone, 2) Sugar cone, 3) Pretzel cone, 4) Waffle cone

What Rhymes with...



- List 10 words that rhyme with "scoop." 1. _____
2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____
5. _____ 6. _____ 7. _____
8. _____ 9. _____ 10. _____

Some answers: coop, group, droop, dupe, hoop, loop, snoop, soup, stoop, troop

Fact or Fiction?

Flavor Challenge

Although vanilla and chocolate are the most popular ice cream flavors, there are many others. How much do you know about them? Take this quiz and find out.

- Neapolitan ice cream has three flavors: chocolate, cherry and vanilla. *Fact or Fiction?*
- Butter brickle ice cream has pecans. *Fact or Fiction?*
- Rocky road ice cream has swirls of chocolate sauce. *Fact or Fiction?*
- Chocolate chip ice cream has nuts and marshmallows. *Fact or Fiction?*
- Mint chocolate chip ice cream is green. *Fact or Fiction?*
- French vanilla ice cream is white. *Fact or Fiction?*
- Cookies and cream ice cream has chunks of brownies. *Fact or Fiction?*
- Chocolate chip cookie dough ice cream tastes like freshly baked cookies. *Fact or Fiction?*
- Pumpkin pie ice cream is a Thanksgiving favorite. *Fact or Fiction?*
- Strawberry ice cream is pink. *Fact or Fiction?*



Answers: 1) Fiction, cherry is not a Neapolitan flavor; strawberry is, 2) Fiction, butter pecan has pecans, 3) Fiction, vanilla fudge ripple has swirls of chocolate sauce, 4) Fiction, rocky road ice cream has nuts and marshmallows, 5) Fact, 6) Fiction, French vanilla usually has egg yolks in it, making it yellow, 7) Fiction, cookies and cream ice cream has bits of cookies, 8) Fiction, it tastes like raw cookie dough, 9) Fact, 10) Fact

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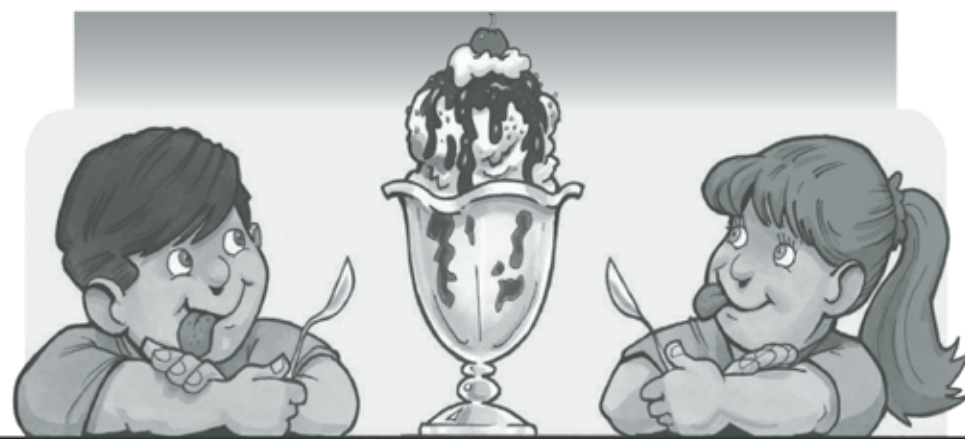


Sundae Time!

Scoop some ice cream into a bowl, top it with syrup, whipped cream and nuts, and you've got a sundae. Although easy to make, sundaes came about by accident.

Three towns claim to be the place where the sundae was born: Evanston, IL, Two Rivers, WI, and Ithaca, NY. In Evanston, selling soda water became illegal on Sundays, so soda fountain shops started selling ice cream sodas without the soda. In Two Rivers, a couple of shop owners started serving sundaes after a customer asked for some ice cream topped with the syrup used in sodas. In Ithaca, a shop owner spiced up a dish of ice cream for a customer with cherry syrup and a candied cherry. These Sunday treats became known as sundaes.

The history of the sundae may be in question, but the taste isn't. Almost everyone who has ever had a sundae agrees it is a delicious treat.



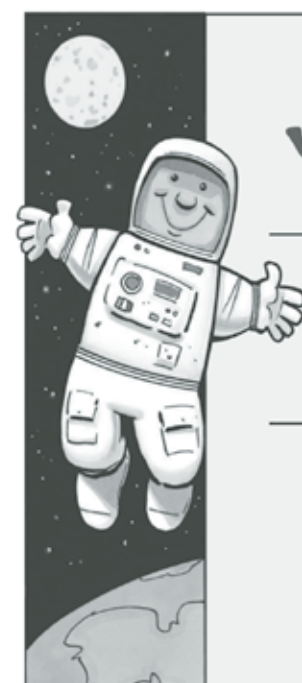
Jokes and Riddles

Q: How do astronauts eat ice cream?

A: In floats.

Q: What do you get when you divide the circumference of an ice cream bowl by its diameter?

A: Pi a la mode.



Mariners take Astros 4-1 in Wednesday's game



AP Photo/Eric Christian Smith

Houston Astros' Marwin Gonzalez watches his double during the second inning of a baseball game against the Seattle Mariners, Wednesday, July 19, 2017, in Houston.

HOUSTON (AP) — Not many pitchers have been able to slow down the Houston Astros this season.

James Paxton has done it repeatedly.

Paxton had another strong start against Houston and rookie Ben Gamel powered the offense with a two-run homer to give the Seattle Mariners a 4-1 victory over the Astros on Wednesday.

"Paxton was outstanding today," manager Scott Servais said. "It's exactly what the doctor ordered. He was on top of his game."

Paxton (9-3) allowed six hits and one run in seven innings, after not allowing a run in his previous two starts against Houston this season. It's the fourth straight win for Paxton, who struck out seven.

"He's really good," Houston manager A.J. Hinch said. "His arm strength is at the top end of left-handed starters in the league ... a lot of the story today is just about how good he was. We couldn't quite break out and have a

big inning against him."

Wednesday's performance improved Paxton to 2-0 with a 0.45 ERA and 20 strikeouts against the AL West-leading Astros this year.

"This was a big series for us and a big road trip, we went five out of six," Paxton said. "That's awesome coming out of the break so we've just got to keep it going here and keep ourselves in this race."

Houston starter Charlie Morton (7-4) retired the first nine batters and the Astros led 1-0 before Jean Segura led off the fourth with a single. Gamel's first homer since June 23 came next to put Seattle up 2-1.

Segura had two hits and Robinson Cano and Mike Zunino drove in a run apiece for the Mariners, who won for the sixth time in seven games. Edwin Diaz pitched a scoreless ninth for his 18th save.

The Astros had a chance to cut into the lead in the eighth when they had runners at first and third with one out. But Nick Vincent struck out

Evan Gattis before Marc Rzepczynski fanned Carlos Beltran to end the inning.

Morton allowed six hits and four runs in 6 2/3 innings for his first loss since coming off the disabled list on July 7.

Guillermo Heredia doubled to start the sixth before Segura reached on an infield single. Then an error by first baseman Yuli Gurriel allowed Gamel to reach and load the bases with no outs.

The Mariners pushed the lead to 3-1 when Heredia scored on a groundout by Cano that left Gamel out at second. Morton was able to limit the damage when Nelson Cruz grounded into a double play to end the inning.

Zunino's RBI double with two outs in the seventh pushed the lead to 4-1 and chased Morton.

Alex Bregman singled with no outs in the third, advanced to second on a sacrifice bunt and stole third base. Houston took a 1-0 lead when he scored

See **ASTROS**, Page 12

SPORTS BRIEFS

TENNIS

LONDON (AP) — The Tennis Integrity Unit says a total of four matches at Wimbledon and the French Open have been flagged for unusual betting patterns.

The TIU's quarterly report says a total of 53 match alerts were received from April to June out of a total of more than 31,000 professional matches. There were 73 alerts during the same period last year.

Three of the recently flagged matches were at Wimbledon — two in qualifying, one in the main draw — and one was at Roland Garros. Only four were at ATP or WTA tour events. The other 45 were at low-level Challenger, Futures or ITF tournaments.

The TIU says each alert is assigned but is not, on its own, evidence of match-fixing, because other reasons can affect betting patterns.

BASEBALL

CINCINNATI (AP) — J.D. Martinez bruised his left hand while striking out, forcing him out of his debut with the Arizona Diamondbacks.

The right fielder was hit on the side of the left hand while swinging at a two-strike pitch from Cincinnati's Tim Lincecum in the fourth inning. Martinez's hand was shaking as it was examined. Since the ball hit only his hand during the swing, the at-bat ended in a strikeout.

Martinez left for a defensive replacement in the bottom of the inning. X-rays were negative.

The Diamondbacks sent three prospects to the Detroit Tigers for Martinez on Tuesday, hoping to add some power to the middle of their lineup. He also struck out in his first at-bat, going after a pitch in the dirt.

PRO FOOTBALL

FRISCO, Texas (AP) — Dallas police have suspended an investi-

gation into an incident at a bar involving Ezekiel Elliott, the latest off-field issue for the Cowboys' star running back.

Police said the investigation was suspended "due to the lack of a complaint," and that no other witnesses had come forward. The statement said investigators had made several unsuccessful attempts to reach the 30-year-old man who was punched in the nose Sunday night.

Dallas coach Jason Garrett said he hadn't spoken to Elliott about the incident but planned to when players report to the practice facility Friday, a day before the team flies to California for training camp. Elliott wasn't named in the original police report.

Elliott hasn't been cleared by the NFL over a domestic dispute last year in Columbus, Ohio. The 2016 NFL rushing leader also was seen visiting a legal marijuana shop before a preseason game in Seattle last year, and was caught on video pulling down a woman's shirt at a St. Patrick's Day parade.

FORT WAYNE, Ind. (AP) — The death of former NFL wide receiver James Hardy has been ruled a suicide by Indiana officials.

The Allen County Coroner's Office said the 31-year-old Hardy died of "asphyxia due to drowning." Michael Burris, chief investigator for the coroner's office, says the determination of suicide was based on Hardy's medical and psychiatric history, his contacts with law enforcement and other evidence, including some found on his body.

Hardy's body was found June 7 at a dam along the Maumee River in his hometown of Fort Wayne. Relatives had reported the former Buffalo Bills and Baltimore Ravens player missing a few weeks earlier.

The former Indiana star was a second-round pick of the Bills in 2008. Injuries limited him to 16 games over two seasons.

Gausman sharp on mound as Orioles overpower Rangers 10-2

BALTIMORE (AP) — All of a sudden, the Baltimore Orioles' starting rotation is pitching magnificently.

The question is: Has this struggling staff finally found its groove, or is it because the opposition is the Texas Rangers?

Kevin Gausman pitched six innings of four-hit ball, Adam Jones homered and scored three runs and Baltimore beat the faltering Rangers 10-2 on Wednesday night.

Gausman (6-7) gave up one run, struck out eight and walked two. The right-hander came in with a 6.39 ERA and had yielded a total of 14 runs in his last two starts.

Though the Orioles' faulty rotation is one big reason why the team is four games under .500, the starters in this series have combined to allow three runs over 18 innings.

"It's a roll we'd like to get on," manager Buck Showalter said. "Start kind of passing the baton to the next guy."

Having thus far outscored Texas 25-4 in the series, the Orioles will attempt to complete a four-game sweep on Thursday.

"I think we all know that we need to pitch better and, you know, we're trying to do that," Gausman said. "Obviously the offense is what's kind of given us a bigger margin for error."

Trey Mancini contributed two hits in a seven-run seventh inning, including a bases-loaded triple, and Jonathan Schoop finished with three hits and three RBIs.

Joey Gallo hit his 22nd home run for the Rangers, who have dropped four straight and scored



AP Photo/Patrick Semansky

Texas Rangers first baseman Joey Gallo, left, misses the tag on Baltimore Orioles' Jonathan Schoop as Schoop slides safely into first in the first inning of a baseball game in Baltimore, Wednesday, July 19, 2017.

only eight runs in their last five games.

"We have to continue to believe in our offense. That's a challenge for us right now," manager Jeff Banister said. "It's been a bit of a stretch where one run has been the case for us and it's coming off solo shots."

Adrian Beltre hit a fourth-inning double to move within 17 hits of 3,000 for his career. It was his 602nd double, breaking a tie with Barry Bonds for 16th place on the all-time list.

But there were few other highlights for the Rangers, now 2-4 on a 10-game trip out of the All-Star break.

"It just seems tough to score right now," said Elvis Andrus, who went 0 for 4.

Texas had eight hits — only two for extra bases.

"We can score runs. We need

to get back to that and show our identity again," Gallo said. "I don't think anyone in this clubhouse is worried or panicking."

Jones got Baltimore started with a leadoff homer off Martin Perez (5-7), and Schoop made it 3-0 with a two-run double in the third.

Gallo connected in the fifth, but the Orioles pulled away in the seventh. Baltimore got six hits and took advantage of an error by catcher Robinson Chirinos to score four unearned runs.

MAKE NO MISTAKE Beltre played his 54th consecutive errorless game, the longest run of his career and a team record by a third baseman.

Buddy Bell and Hank Blalock both played 53 error-free games in a row at third base for Texas.

See **TEXAS**, Page 12

Tour de France

Froome aiming for Tour stage win in final day in the Alps

COL DE L'IZOARD, France (AP) — Chris Froome and his rivals compete in the ultimate Alpine race of this year's Tour de France, a grueling 179.5-kilometer (111.5-mile) ride up to the Col d'Izoard.

Froome, the defending champion, holds a 27-second lead over Rigoberto Uran and Romain Bardet ahead of Stage 18, which finishes at an altitude of 2,360 meters following a 14.1-kilome-

ter ascent of the famed mountain.

Fabio Aru is in fourth place, 53 seconds behind.

Under bright sunshine, Froome said at the start in the town of Briançon that he will "try to win the stage."

This is the first time in the race's history that a stage will finish at the summit of the Izoard, the scene of some of the race's most memorable feats.

After Olympic crash, Van Vleuten wins La Course stage

COL D'IZOARD, France (AP) — Annemiek van Vleuten won the first stage of the La Course women's race Thursday before Stage 18 of the Tour de France, attacking on the climb to the Col d'Izoard pass in the Alps and riding alone to claim the victory.

The Dutch rider finished 43 seconds ahead of Elizabeth Deignan of Britain. Elisa Longo Borghini of Italy was

third, 1:23 behind Van Vleuten.

The women's race was run over 67.5 kilometers (42 miles) from Briançon to the top of the Izoard pass — also the finish of Stage 18 in the men's race. Van Vleuten covered the distance in 2 hours, 7 minutes, 18 seconds. The men's route on Thursday was longer, at 179.5 kilometers (112 miles).

See **RACE**, Page 12

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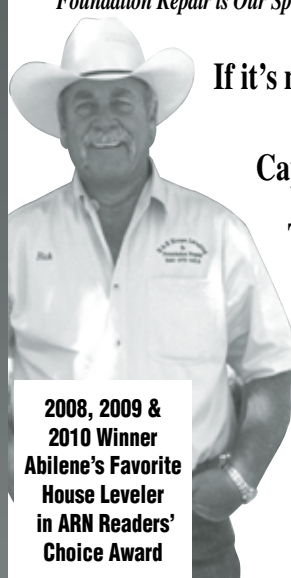
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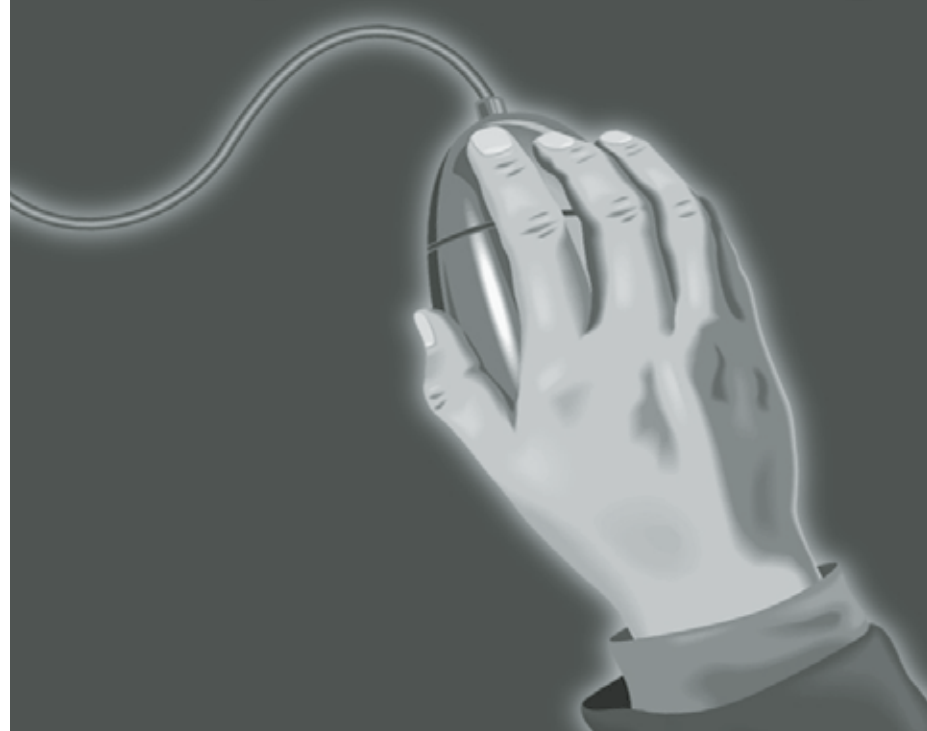
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IN THE COUNTY COURT OF HOWARD COUNTY, TEXAS

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Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the estate of Beatrice Jean Armstrong, Deceased, were issued on July 6, 2017 under Docket No P-14,676 pending in the County Court of Howard County, Texas. Claims may be presented in

Legals

care of the Independent Executrix of the estate, addressed as follows:

Sherri Denise Daniels 201 Merrick Road Big Spring, TX 79720

All persons having claims against this estate, which is currently being administered, are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

Dated the 6th day of July, 2017.

SHERRI DENISE DANIELS

#9458 July 20, 2017



HOLIDAY MATHIS

Mars Enters Leo

Remember when love had you riding on unicorns? Now when you look down, it's a horse. No, wait -- it's a bike. No, wait -- you're not riding anything. You're just standing there, going nowhere. No one is to blame for this. It's the natural progression of relationships. Mars enters Leo, infusing our passions with the creativity needed to get back to the magic.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You'll be making a pitch. Once someone has decided, it is useless to continue the explanation. If it's already sold, you don't need to sell it. And if it's already ruled out, there will be no way to sell it.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20).

Know and enforce your own rules about who gets close to you and how close they get. There may be no way to keep negative people out of your life, but you can certainly keep them out of your inner circle.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Confusion is often a matter of labeling. For instance, "my problem" and "your problem" is one that people often get wrong. So is "actionable" and "nonactionable." Call things what they are and life becomes easier on the mind.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Be wary of those who make more announcements than moves. Action often needs no announcement. What's happening is news. The rest is paid advertisement.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Once you join the group, it is likely that the group dynamics will influence you more than your own internal process. So, deciding whether or not to join will be the crucial juncture.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). This is probably a good time to avoid the temporary escape from other people's social media and the more lasting snarl of your own because, the thing is, you need to get so bored it forces you to deal with a problem head-on.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-

Tomorrow's Horoscope

Oct. 23). It's not the right thing to do every day, but right now it will help you mightily to simply ignore the worrying facts, especially the inevitable ones. Live this day as though it were made just for you.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). We like to think we're tracking with each other, but sometimes we assume to know a little more than we actually do. Don't let the gray area stay gray today. Spell it out. Make sure you're on the same page.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Is it better to learn from the mistakes of others, or from those of your own making? The first type of knowledge is more easily won and sooner forgotten. The second will be costly and permanent.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You're tough, and you can extract the good out of criticism. The leader is harder on people with potential. The one who calls you out for mistakes is also privately noticing all the right things you're doing.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). The sad truth is people can be pretty shallow. As much as you could use some appreciation and acknowledgment, you'll mostly be judged on how you make others feel about themselves.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Self-confidence leads

to the win. Preparation leads to self-confidence. Plan ahead and practice the plan and you'll head in the direction of success.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (July 20). Believe in yourself. You are much deeper, wider and greater than you sometimes give yourself credit for. You already know the direction. When you push harder, you'll be amazed at what you can do. You'll lead a trend in September. November brings an investment opportunity. April brings travel and excitement. Capricorn and Virgo adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 8, 2, 22, 28 and 45.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTION: "My parents prefer my older sister and have for our entire lives. Even though I'm 35, this still bothers me. My parents always make more of an effort to spend time with her, they talk about her with pride and they give her more responsibility than me. She is the executer of their will; she takes care of their house and dogs when they are on vacation. I would gladly help them, but all I seem to do is disappoint them. I'm divorced with two kids and my sister is a successful lawyer who has never been married. Why can't I let this go? I'm a Libra and my sister is a Pisces."

Relationship-oriented Libras are

sensitive to the subtle and not-so-subtle attributes of their family dynamic. Each relationship within a family is different and unique. Out of your strong desire for fairness and balance in all things, you assume you and your sister should share the same relationship with your parents even though you're two completely different people. But balance can be achieved in a variety of ways. Think of the scales that are the symbol of your sign. Your sister provides house-sitting, bragging rights about her career, etc. You provide grandchildren and probably a lot more than you are aware of. (Perhaps an objective party could help you with this.) In some way, it all balances out.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Reality television star-turned-movie star Julianne Hough dances, sings country music and is a favorite fashion, health and lifestyle advisor. She updates her ever-growing number of social media followers with her latest inspirations. This Cancer was born under an artistic Libra moon, which bodes well for ballroom dancing, as Libra is the sign of being elegantly in sync with a partner.

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

Annie's Mailbox

Pls Come 2 Mtg

Dear Annie: I have noticed a shift in common communication skills over the

past few years in the workplace that I believe has been caused by texting, and it has quickly become a pet peeve of mine.

I work for a large insurance company on the East Coast. I have noticed that work-related emails are becoming less and less professional, to the point where some are so vague that I wonder whether the sender realizes how the end product looks to the receiver. I need to point out that I am a 20-something woman, and I do my fair share of texting. However, when I receive an email from someone in a professional context, I expect to see more than "tks" or "u" or "mtg" in the body of the email. When I see those abbreviated words, I give the emails less importance and am often insulted by them.

When did it become accepted practice to slip into what I consider a sloppy style of communication on the job? In my opinion, people are entitled to communicate in any way they please

outside the workplace; however, slang-style writing is unacceptable in a professional setting.

Thanks for letting me get this off my chest! -- No Texting, Please

Dear No Texting: Though our society is as advanced as it has ever been, it often seems like a dark age for manners. Shine a light by your good example. The next time you get a lax email from a co-worker, respond extra professionally -- with a formal salutation, a well-formed paragraph and a proper closing. Often this is enough to shift the tone of the whole correspondence.

It seems that today a lot of people -- too many -- have trouble differentiating between what's appropriate at home and what's appropriate at work. I, too, believe that in professional emails (or even text messages, if you find yourself texting a boss), it's important to maintain a degree of formality. No one ever lost a job for erring on the side

of politeness.

Dear Annie: I enjoy your take on advice, for the most part, as well as your concise answers to writers' issues.

Could you, however, consider dropping the term "caretaker" in favor of "caregiver"? Many of us older folks think of cemeteries when we hear "caretaker"! The latter is so much warmer. -- Russ

Dear Russ: Goodness me. You've got a

point. I'll go with "caregiver" in the future (unless, of course, I'm responding to a letter about cemetery maintenance).

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

Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

Better safe than sorry

North dealer. Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ A 7 4
♥ J 10 8 3
♦ A 2
♣ Q 9 5 4

WEST
♠ J 8 2
♥ 9 5
♦ K Q 10 4
♣ J 10 7 6

EAST
♠ Q 10 9 6 3
♥ 6 4
♦ J 8 7 5 3
♣ 2

SOUTH
♠ K 5
♥ A K Q 7 2
♦ 9 6
♣ A K 8 3

The bidding:
North East South West
Pass Pass 1♥ Pass
3♥ Pass 4♥ Pass
4♦ Pass 6♥

Opening lead — king of diamonds.

Assume you're declarer at six hearts and West leads the king of diamonds. How would you play the hand?

Obviously, you have to lose a diamond — there is simply no way to get around it. That's the bad news. The good news is that if the opposing clubs are divided 3-2, as they will be two-thirds of the time, you have no other losers.

As a careful declarer, however, you should also be considering what,

if anything, can be done if the missing clubs are divided 4-1 or 5-0. And, after giving this possibility sufficient thought, you should realize that if you take the proper preliminary steps, you can overcome even a bad club break.

Accordingly, you win the opening lead and draw trumps in two rounds. Next you cash the K-A of spades and ruff a spade. You then cash the ace of clubs and exit with the nine of diamonds.

It doesn't matter which opponent wins the diamond. In the actual case, East can't afford to take the trick because he would then have to yield a ruff-and-discard, eliminating your potential club loser.

But if West wins the diamond, he is no better off. Regardless of which club he returns, you merely play low from dummy and automatically avoid losing a club trick. Any other return by West gives you a ruff-and-discard.

Note that the outcome would be exactly the same if East started with four or five clubs. He would presumably win the diamond, but would have no safe exit card.

Of course, if it turns out that the clubs are divided 3-2, all your preparatory maneuvers will turn out to have been unnecessary. But, as always, it's better to be safe than sorry.

Tomorrow: Test your play.
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sudoku

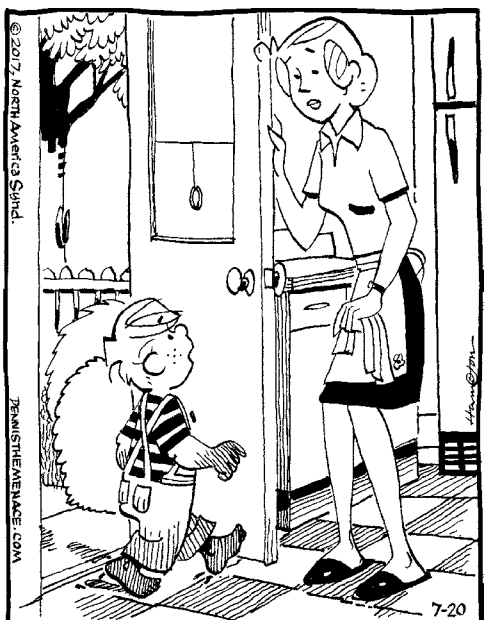
Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9 with no repeats. That means no number is repeated in any row, column or box.

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

www.sudoku-puzzles.net

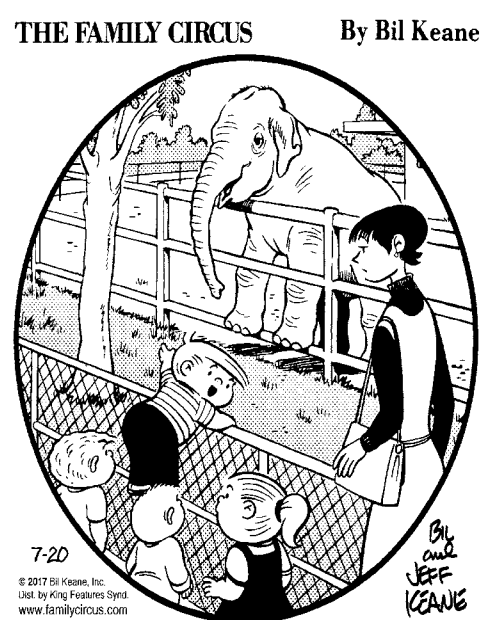
	KMID (3)	UNI (4)	KPEJ (5)	KOSA (7)	KTLE (8)	KWES (9)	KMLM (12)	KPBT (13)	KWTT (14)	KWES2 (15)	WTBS (33)	TNT (34)	ESPN (35)	ESPN2 (36)	FSN (38)	USA (55)	A&E (58)	DISC (60)
	Midland	Spanish	Odessa	Odessa	Telemundo	Midland	Odessa	Odessa	Odessa	Midland	Atlanta	Atlanta	Sports	Sports	Sports	New York	New York	Discovery
5:PM	Local 2	Hotel	The List	CBS 7	Tele	News	Some	Mind	Hap.Days	American	Seinfeld	Bones	SportsCenter		Outdoors	Hise of	The First 48	Naked and
5:30	ABC	Noticiero	Mod Fam	CBS	Noticias	News	HaYesod	Business	Griffith	American	Seinfeld				Pregame	Cobra		Afraid
6:PM	Jeopardy!	Rosa de	Big Bang	CBS 7	Caso Cer-	News	All About	PBS News-	M*A*S*H	Fam. Guy	Seinfeld	Bones	SportsCenter	Basketball	MLB Base-		The First 48	Naked and
6:30	Wheel	Guadalupe	Big Bang	ET	rado	News	M:25	Hour	M*A*S*H	Fam. Guy	Seinfeld				Rangers at		Afraid	
7:PM	Boy Band	La Reina	Beat	Big Bang	Jenni Rivera	Game Night	News	Today	Griffith	Penn &	Seinfeld	Movie: Man	30 for 30	of Baltimore	Orioles.	Movie: Mad	The First 48	Naked and
7:30		de la	Shazam	Life in	Big Brother		Truth	Articulate	Griffith	Teller	Seinfeld	Michael				Road (DVS)	The First 48	Naked and
8:PM	Battle of the	Vida E Car-	Love Con-		La Querida	The Wall	Light of	The Tunnel	Mama's	Hooten & the	Big Bang	Shannon		2017 World			The First 48	Naked and
8:30		rillo	nection				Southwest		ALF	Lady	Big Bang	(DVS)		Series of				Afraid
9:PM	The Gong	La Piloto	News	Zoo	El Señor	The Night	Light of	Remember	Heroes	Seinfeld	Big Bang		International	Postgame	Queen of the	Akil	Naked and	
9:30	Show	TMZ			de los	Shift	Southwest	Me	Heroes	Seinfeld	Big Bang		Champions	Camp	South	Akil	Afraid	
10:PM	Local 2	Impacto	Mod Fam	CBS 7	Tele	News	Families	Charlie Rose	C. Burnett	King	Conan	(:01) Movie:		Texas	Law & Order:	Akil	Naked and	
10:30	ABC	Noticiero	Two Men	CBS 7	Titulares	Tonight	Our Mess	Perry Mason	Perry Mason	King		Wrath of the	SportsCenter	Insider	SVU	Akil	Afraid	
11:PM	Jimmy Kim-	Contacto	Cleveland	Late Show-	La Querida	Hidden	Newsline			Rules	Seinfeld	Titans	NFL Live	Texas	(:01) Shooter	(:03) The	Naked and	
11:30	mel Live	Deportivo	How I Met	Colbert		Seth Meyers	Israel	T. Smiley	Twi. Zone	Rules	Conan	(12:01) Will	Jalen	Insider	First 48	Afraid		
12:AM	Nightline	Extra	How I Met	James	El Señor	Behind	News	News	Hitchcock	Cheaters	People of	SportsCenter	NFL Live	Rangers at	Queen of the	(12:03) The	Naked and	
12:30	Paid Prg.	Mi Adorable	Law Order:	ET	Programa	(:08) Today	Light of		Mannix	People of	Broke Girl	(:01) Law &	Jalen	Orioles.	South	First 48	Afraid	
1:AM	Paid Prg.	Paid Prg.													Order:	Akil	Naked and	
1:30															Cl	Akil	Afraid	

DENNIS THE MENACE



"I WASN'T GONNA GO BAREFOOT, BUT I LOST MY SHOES."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



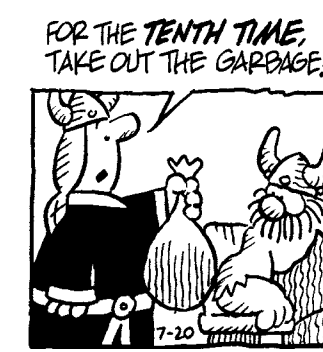
"They remember even longer than mommies."

HAGAR



THE SECRET OF SUCCESS IS PERSISTENCE! NEVER GIVE UP!

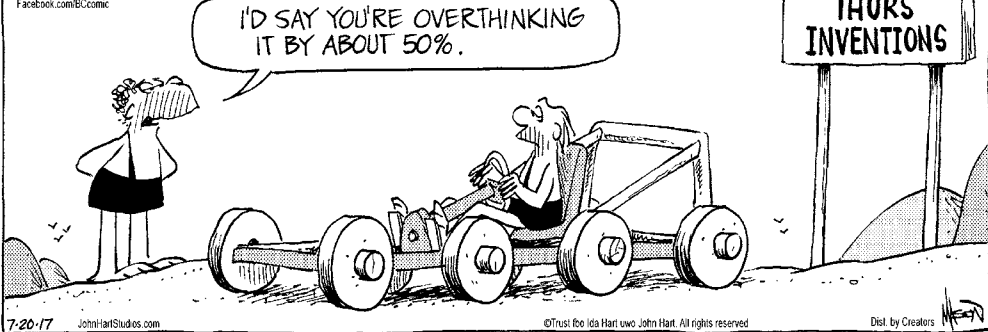
FOR THE TENTH TIME, TAKE OUT THE GARBAGE!



ME AND MY BIG MOUTH!



BC



I'D SAY YOU'RE OVERTHINKING IT BY ABOUT 50%.

WIZARD OF ID



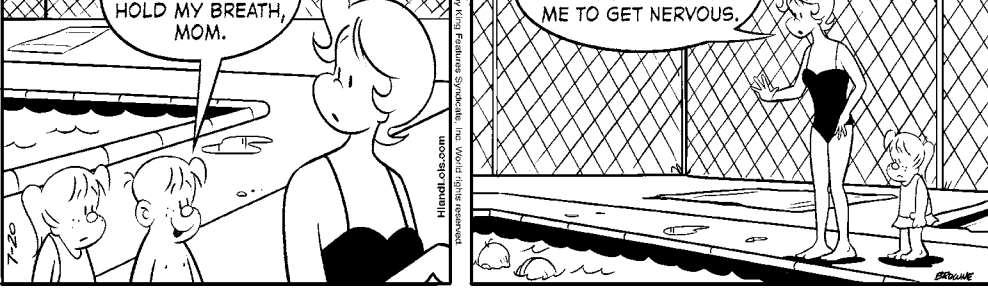
WHAT A MAGICAL SUNSET

AGNES



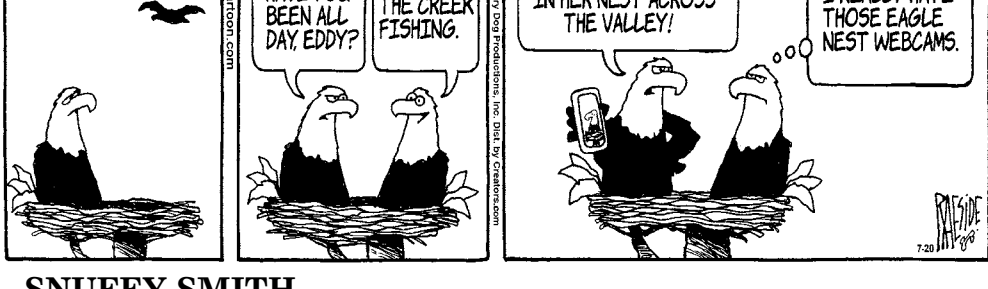
DID YOU SEE MY NEW RUNNING SHOES?

HI AND LOIS



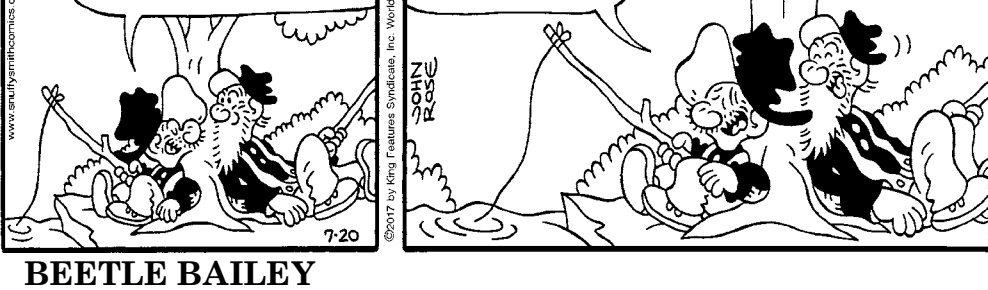
WATCH HOW LONG I CAN HOLD MY BREATH, MOM.

THE OTHER COAST



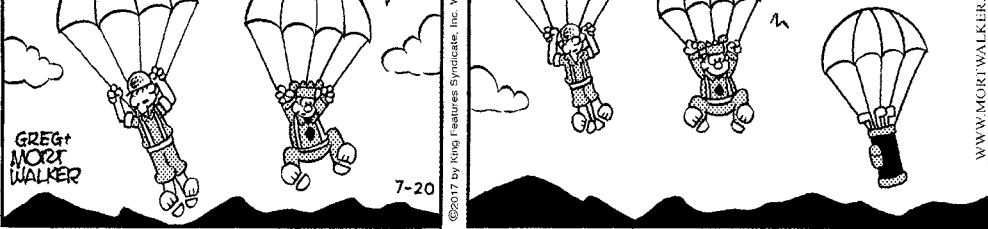
SO, WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN ALL DAY, EDDY?

SNUFFY SMITH



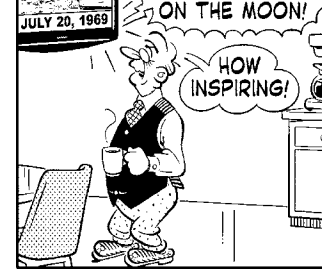
YA CAN LEAD A FISH TO YORE BODACIOUS EXPENSIVE LURE...

BEEBLE BAILEY



WHERE ARE WE LANDING? THE GENERAL HAS A DEFINITE TARGET

BLONDIE



TODAY IS THE 48TH ANNIVERSARY OF MAN WALKING ON THE MOON!

IN A WAY, THAT PIONEERING SPIRIT LIVES HERE



ONE SMALL NAP FOR MAN, ONE GIANT SLEEP FOR MANKIND



This Date In History

Today is Thursday, July 20, the 201st day of 2017. There are 164 days left in the year.

Today's Highlights in History:

On July 20, 1917, America's World War I draft lottery began as Secretary of War Newton Baker, wearing a blindfold, reached into a glass bowl and pulled out a capsule containing the number 258 during a ceremony inside the Senate office building. (The drawing of numbers by various officials continued until shortly after 2:00 a.m. the next day.) The Corfu Declaration called for creation of a unified Yugoslav state.

On this date:

In 1861, the Congress of the Confederate States convened in Richmond, Virginia.

In 1871, British Columbia entered Confederation as a Canadian province.

In 1923, Mexican revolutionary leader Pancho Villa was assassinated by gunmen in Parral.

In 1942, the first detachment of the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps — later known as WACs — began basic training at Fort Des Moines, Iowa. The Legion of Merit was established by an Act of Congress.

In 1944, an attempt by a group of German officials to assassinate Adolf Hitler with a bomb failed as the explosion only wounded the Nazi leader. President Franklin D. Roosevelt was nominated for a fourth term of office at the Democratic convention in Chicago.

In 1954, the Geneva Accords divided Vietnam into northern and southern entities.

In 1968, the first International Special Olympics Summer Games, organized by Eunice Kennedy Shriver, were held at Soldier Field in Chicago.

In 1969, astronauts Neil Armstrong and Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin became the first men to walk on the moon after reaching the surface in their Apollo 11 lunar module.

In 1976, America's Viking 1 robot spacecraft made a successful, first-ever landing on Mars.

In 1977, a flash flood hit Johnstown, Pennsylvania, killing more than 80 people and causing \$350 million worth of damage. The U.N. Security Council voted to admit Vietnam to the world body.

In 1982, Irish Republican Army bombs exploded in two London parks, killing eight British soldiers, along with seven horses belonging to the Queen's Household Cavalry.

In 1990, Supreme Court Justice William J. Brennan,

one of the court's most liberal voices, announced he was stepping down.

Ten years ago: President George W. Bush signed an executive order prohibiting cruel and inhuman treatment, including humiliation or denigration of religious beliefs, in the detention and interrogation of terrorism suspects. Tammy Faye Messner, who as Tammy Faye Bakker helped her husband, Jim, build a multimillion-dollar evangelism empire, then watched it collapse in disgrace, died at age 65 near Kansas City, Missouri.

Five years ago: Gunman James Holmes opened fire inside a crowded movie theater in Aurora, Colorado, during a midnight showing of "The Dark Knight Rises," killing 12 people and wounding 70 others. (Holmes was later convicted of murder and attempted murder.)

Answer to previous puzzle

PROD	ZAPS	EON
ALONE	EPEE	DUO
JULY	NINETEEN	
AMEX	NIX	WASI
REX	OFT	GEE
		ITA
		TWOHUNDREDTH
PEON	NAG	TEES
RAN	TOITY	HOR
POST	OCT	REFS
DAY	OF	THEYEAR
TCM	ISO	OAT
		PAW
TOAD	FUR	WERE
INNON	LEAP	YEARS
VET	PEEL	EPCOT
EYE	ROLL	STEW

Newsday Crossword

- ACROSS**
- 1 Chem lab measure
 - 5 Sports, as shorts
 - 10 Unsurpassable
 - 14 It's expanding Hawaii
 - 15 Exclusively
 - 16 Furnace setting
 - 17 Big boss at Disney
 - 18 Brazilian dance
 - 19 Tapered nail
 - 20 What may hold a driver
 - 22 Fluctuate greatly
 - 23 Holiday precursor
 - 24 Erstwhile crackers
 - 26 Cardiology concern
 - 29 Frequent fund-raiser
 - 30 Panorama
 - 34 Boxer's weakness
 - 36 Give back
 - 37 Tally
 - 38 Non-neutral atom
 - 39 Exec perk, perhaps
 - 40 Be a carper
 - 41 Mad Hatter's server
 - 43 Performers with spoons and washboards
 - 45 Ill-fated energy giant
 - 46 Baby coyote
 - 47 Up to now
 - 48 Russian rulers of yore
 - 50 Glide on powder
 - 51 Stereo system
 - 54 Traffic slower
 - 59 Billion-selling snack
- DOWN**
- 1 Silver-tongued
 - 2 Aunt Millie's alternative
 - 3 With, in Paris
 - 4 Fields of business
 - 5 Urgent need of action
 - 6 Sighed cry
 - 7 One way or another
 - 8 Awaiting trial, perhaps
 - 9 Poetic preposition
 - 10 Tend a tot
 - 11 Lira successor
 - 12 Don't depart
 - 13 Tumult
 - 21 Less-than-straight answers
 - 25 Leave in the range too long
 - 26 Banded stone
 - 27 From long ago
 - 28 Weathercaster's tool
 - 29 Review harshly
 - 31 Cheerful
 - 32 Buy and sell
 - 33 Insecure feeling
 - 35 Scribble (down)
 - 36 Synopacted tune
 - 39 Sugar quantity
 - 42 Harry Potter class
 - 43 At the moment
 - 44 Ridiculous
 - 46 On the double
 - 49 Crosswise, on a ship
 - 50 More apt to sneak around
 - 51 Perfect over time
 - 52 Club for a par-three tee
 - 53 Ongoing squabble
 - 55 Ignore, with "out"
 - 56 Malicious
 - 57 Poker declaration
 - 58 Frequently patched place

GOT MILK by Carolyn Stewart

Edited by Stanley Newman

www.stanxwords.com

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
14				15					16				
17				18					19				
20				21					22				
			23			24			25				
26	27	28			29				30	31	32	33	
34				35					36				
37				38				39			40		
41			42			43			44				
45					46				47				
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51	52	53			54			55			56	57	58
59					60						61		
62					63						64		
65					66						67		

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ASTROS

Continued from Page 6

on a sacrifice fly by George Springer.

TRAINER'S ROOM

Mariners: OF Mitch Haniger was out for the fourth straight game after injuring his right index finger on Saturday night. Servais had initially said that Haniger would play on Wednesday, but decided to give him an extra day to recover.

Astros: All-Star SS Carlos Correa announced in an Instagram post from his hospital bed that he had surgery to repair a torn ligament in his left thumb on Wednesday. Correa is expected to be out 6 to 8 weeks recovering from the injury he suffered on a swing Monday night. ... Ace Dallas Keuchel, who hasn't pitched since June 2 because of a pinched nerve in his neck, will make his second rehabilitation start on Saturday, but the Astros haven't decided where it will be yet.

THEY SAID IT

Servais on Seattle's 5-1 road trip: "We talked about some things out of the break where we needed to get to and how we were going to get there and the guys have responded."

DIG IT UP

Two days after the Astros held a fake funeral to bury Beltran's glove because he hadn't played in the field in two months, he was in the lineup in left field. The 40-year-old has played in 78 games this season, but Wednesday was just the 10th time he didn't serve as the team's designated hitter and the first since May 16 in Miami.

UP NEXT

Astros: Houston is off on Thursday before opening a three-game series at Baltimore on Friday with Mike Fiers (6-4, 3.75 ERA) on the mound. He allowed four hits and two runs while striking out a season-high 11 in seven innings of a 5-3 win over Minnesota in his previous start.

RACE

Continued from Page 6

The women race a second stage in Marseille on Saturday, where the men will have a time trial.

Van Vleuten sustained three small fractures to her spine in a crash during the women's Olympic road race last year in Rio de Janeiro.

US survives bites, tops El Salvador 2-0 to advance

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Skirmishing for position at the goal line ahead of a corner kick, Jozy Altidore could not believe what occurred: El Salvador defender Henry Romero bit the back of his left shoulder, then twisted his nipple.

Altidore maintained his composure — just — and then made light of the incident.

"My girl's mad at me," the American forward said. "She's mad at me. She's mad at Romero, 'cause she's like: 'Only I can bite you, only I can grab your nipples.'"

Amid the biting, twisting and talking, the U.S. advanced to a CONCACAF Gold Cup semifinal against Costa Rica with a 2-0 win on goals by Omar Gonzalez in the 41st minute and Eric Lichaj in first-half stoppage time.

But the ugly match, interrupted by 45 fouls, will be remembered for the mark on Altidore's shoulder left by the teeth of the 25-year-old defender. Gonzalez said after the game he was bitten on the back of his left shoulder, by Darwin Cerin in the 81st minute.

"I was a bit shocked," Gonzalez said.

U.S. coach Bruce Arena said he wasn't surprised.

"There's a history of that in our sport," he said. Uruguay's Luis Suarez was given a four-month suspension for biting Italy's Giorgio Chiellini during the 2014 World Cup.

A furious Altidore shoved Romero, then grimaced and fell to the ground but remained in the game.

"It's never happened before, but in CONCACAF, it never ceases to amaze me," Altidore said. "You got to keep your cool. ... I shouldn't be saying these things happen, but they do."

Canadian referee Drew Fischer, a Major League Soccer regular, did not penalize the incident, which occurred in the 57th minute.

"I can't fault the referee," Arena said. "Those things are not easy to see on the field."

CONCACAF's disciplinary committee has leeway to impose punishment.



AP Photo/Matt Rourke

United States' Eric Lichaj (15) kicks a goal against El Salvador's Ivan Mancía (5) during a CONCACAF Gold Cup quarterfinal soccer match in Philadelphia, Wednesday, July 19, 2017.

"These things always happen in football," El Salvador coach Eduardo Lara said through a translator, although it was unclear he knew bites had occurred.

The Americans, who started five veterans added for the tournament's knockout phase, overcame a shaky defense and poor passing. They face Costa Rica on Saturday in Arlington, Texas.

El Salvador's 26 fouls disrupted the U.S.

"Our timing wasn't good. We didn't deal well with the physicality. The game had no rhythm with all the fouls and players falling on the ground, but we weren't good on top of it," Arena said. "So it took us, really it took us 30 minutes to play a little bit, and then we got a little bit more assertive in different positions on the field and capitalized on a couple of their mistakes."

Arena changed all 11 starters for the second straight game and at 7-0-5 set a record for longest unbeaten streak at the start of a U.S. coaching tenure, topping Bob Bradley's 10-0-1 in 2007.

The U.S. improved to 6-0 against El Salvador in the Gold Cup, also winning quarterfinals 4-0 in 2002 and 5-1 in 2013. The Americans are 17-1-5 overall against the Salvadorians, the only loss an exhibition at San Salvador in 1992.

Altidore, forward Clint Dempsey, midfielders Michael Bradley and Darlington Nagbe, and goalkeeper Tim Howard were all added to the lineup. A crowd of 31,615 at half-filled Lincoln Financial Field was evenly split with supporters of both teams.

Howard was called on to save the U.S. in the third minute. Rodolfo Zelaya ran onto a terrible, lightly struck backpass by Lichaj and instead of striking the ball with his first touch appeared to want to round Howard. The goalkeeper sprinted out, slid and batted away the ball with his left hand.

"I told Tim thank you after the game," Lichaj said. "He got me out of the dirt there."

Gyasi Zardes was fed by Dempsey, broke in alone in the 17th and put the ball in the net, but he was ruled offside by linesman Ainsley Rochard

of Trinidad and Tobago — replays showed Zardes was even with the last defender when Dempsey made the pass.

Bradley took a free kick on a flank from about 35 yards and sent it on a low liner into the middle of the penalty area. Gonzalez, a 6-foot-5 defender, outjumped Cerin about 8 yards from the goal and redirected the ball with a glance of his head through the upstretched arms of goalkeeper Derby Carrillo. After scoring once in his first 40 international appearances, Gonzalez has two goals in his last three.

Lichaj, trying to earn a spot as the primary backup to DeAndre Yedlin at right back, was played in by Dempsey in the second minute of stoppage time and beat sliding defender Ivan Mancía to score on an angled shot through the goalkeeper's legs from 6 yards. After his first international goal in 14 international appearances, Lichaj sprinted to the corner flack, and arms wide, did a belly slide. His English wife — he plays for Nottingham Forest — and two kids are traveling to every Gold Cup match.

Villar appears before judge after arrest in corruption prob

MADRID (AP) — The president of the Spanish Football Federation and his son appeared before a judge on Thursday, two days after being arrested in an anti-corruption probe.

Two other Spanish soccer officials who were also arrested

in police raids on Tuesday will also stand before National Court judge Santiago Pedraz.

Angel Maria Villar, his son Gorka Villar, Juan Padron and Ramon Hernandez are accused by a state prosecutor of improper management, misappropriation of funds, corrup-

tion and falsifying documents. Padron is the Spanish federation's vice president of economic affairs and also president of the Tenerife federation. Hernandez is the Tenerife federation's secretary.

A court spokesman said the Villars were placed in the

court's jail after answering questions while Padron and Hernandez were testifying.

Judge Pedraz will decide whether the suspects remain in custody while the investigation continues, a spokesman for the National Court told *The Associated Press*.

TEXAS

Continued from Page 6

Beltre was charged with an error after miss-

ing a line drive Tuesday, but the call was changed to a hit later in the game.

TRAINER'S ROOM

Rangers: RHP Keone Kela (sore shoulder) had a throwing session Wednesday and could be activated from the DL on Thursday. ... RHP A.J. Griffin (rib cage) al-

lowed four runs and six hits in 3 1/3 innings in a rehabilitative start for Triple-A Round Rock on Wednesday.

Orioles: INF Ryan Flaherty (shoulder) and SS J.J. Hardy (wrist fracture) fielded grounders before Baltimore took batting practice. The Orioles hope Flaherty

can begin a rehab assignment next week. ... RHP Hunter Harvey, drafted 22nd overall in 2013, threw 27 pitches in the Gulf Coast League. It was his first action since Tommy John surgery last summer.

UP NEXT

Rangers: LHP Cole Hamels (4-0, 3.05 ERA)

brings a 21-inning scoreless streak into the series finale Thursday night. He was out from May to late June with a right oblique strain.

Orioles: LHP Wade Miley (4-8, 5.40 ERA) surrendered seven runs in two of his previous three starts and has lost four of five decisions.

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