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H BIG SPRING HERALD

THURSDAY, AUGUST 24, 2017



VOLUME 112, NUMBER 266 COPYRIGHT 2017 50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 SUNDAY

Can't help falling in love with Dean



HERALD photo/Roger Cline

Big Spring's Dean Myers, left front, gets a hug from the King – Elvis Presley impersonator Harvey McFadden, Wednesday at her 100th birthday party. McFadden performed several songs at the event, held at Parkplace Retirement Living, including "Happy Birthday" to Myers.

Big Spring woman celebrates 100th birthday with the King

By **ROGER CLINE**
 Staff Writer

A century ago, when Big Spring's Dean Myers was born, Elvis Presley wouldn't be born in Tupelo, Miss., for another 18 years. But the King put on an appearance and performed a few songs at Myers' 100th birthday, celebrated with a party Wednesday afternoon at Parkplace Retirement Living.

"I've been to Big Spring a few times, but I don't believe I've ever been here for a 100-year birthday party," exclaimed Elvis impersonator Harvey McFadden of Winters, Texas.

McFadden took time out to speak personally with Myers in his role as Elvis, and also with each audience member, most of whom were residents of the retirement home, before starting his show with a rendition of "Blue Suede Shoes."

Before the show, Mrs. Myers, mother of Bill Myers of Myers and Smith Funeral Home, said she was happy at the turnout and excited to see Elvis' performance.

"She was just totally, totally elated and excited. She thought it was great!" Bill Myers said. "She's had quite a birthday. Saturday, there were like, 49 out-of-town relatives that came and had

lunch and spent the day with her at our home. And then, of course, Wednesday being the actual birthday, we had the party for her up (at Parkplace)."

Dean is a lifelong Texan, and moved to Big Spring nearly 30 years ago, Bill said.

"She was born in Olton, Texas," he said. "Grew up there. She lived in Dimmitt, Texas, from 1935 to 1990, when she moved to Big Spring. She's lived here since then. She spent most of her life house cleaning, baby sitting, working in the school cafeteria, and at the movie theater at night. She worked hard."

Many residents of Parkplace turned out to wish Mrs. Myers a happy centenary and to see McFadden perform. The impersonator commented that he loved performing for a packed house. Among the songs he performed were a medley of Heartbreak Hotel, Hound Dog, and All Shook Up; a medley of Teddy Bear and Don't Be Cruel; and, of course, Happy Birthday to Mrs. Myers.

After the performance, those present celebrated with cake and punch.

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

Local band competition underway to pick opener for Walker, Dodd

By **ROBERT BARLOW**
 Staff Writer

A local battle of the bands contest is in mid-stride for the opportunity to play on the same stage with Clay Walker and Deryl Dodd.

VIP Sports Getaway announced a few weeks ago that they would be holding a contest for local and regional bands to audition for the chance to open up for some major country stars.

"We've had three bands on so far and it's been great," said Barney Dodd of VIP Sports Getaway. "And we still have three more weeks to go."

The contest is taking place at the Train Car Cigar Bar located in downtown Big Spring, where six bands were chosen to play each week for six consecutive weeks.

"They will be playing on consecutive nights on Thursdays at 8 o'clock at the cigar bar starting August 3," said Barney earlier this month. "The winner gets \$1,000 and gets to open for Deryl Dodd and Clay Walker. Second place gets \$500 and will play the pre-party at the concert and at the after party at the Train Car Cigar Bar."

The bands that have played so far have had a really great turnout and are making it a hard decision for judges, Barney said.

"It's been great entertainment, we've had a big turnout at the Train Car Cigar bar," he said. "Next week will be Hawg Legg, and then the following week will be

See **BANDS**, Page 3



Walker



Dodd

BSFD offers Labor Day grill safety tips

Special to the Herald

Labor Day is Monday, Sept. 4, and many will fire up the grill to do some outdoor cooking in celebration of the holiday.

The Big Spring Fire Department urges everyone to be careful when cooking outdoors. More than 5,700 grill fires occur each year in the United States. More than half of grill fires on residential properties occur during the summer months, May through August. These fires, which can damage property and cause injury or death are often preventable.

The Fire Department offers the following tips to keep you, your family, and your home

safe when grilling this summer:

- Grills should only be used outdoors, and at least 10 feet from a house or any building.
- Do not use the grill in a garage, breezeway, carport, porch, or under a surface that can catch fire.
- The grill should be placed well away from deck railings and out from under eaves and overhanging branches.
- Keep children and pets away from the grill area by declaring at least a three-foot "kid-free safety zone" around the grill.
- Grills should be kept clean by removing grease or fat buildup from the grill itself and

See **GRILL**, Page 3

Within 24 hours, a pair of wildly different Trump speeches

By **JULIE BYKOWICZ** and **JONATHAN LEMIRE**

Associated Press



Trump

RENO, Nev. (AP) — Over the course of 24 hours, President Donald Trump gave one speech in which he tore into the

media and members of his own Republican Party, and a second urging national unity and love.

The about-face seemed to reflect an internal debate between calls for moderation and his inclination to let loose.

Trump weighed in Thursday in a pair of tweets — which he had to edit several times for spelling mistakes — that attacked the press and

opposition Democrats.

"The Fake News is now complaining about my different types of back to back speeches. Well, there was Afghanistan (somber), the big Rally.....(enthusiastic, dynamic and fun) and the American Legion - V.A. (respectful and strong). Too bad the Dems have no one who can change tones!" he wrote.

See **TRUMP**, Page 3

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Obituaries

Nell Marie Cunningham



Nell Marie Cunningham, 81, of Sweetwater, Texas, passed away at Rolling Plains Memorial Hospital. There will be a graveside service for Nell on Saturday, Aug. 26, 2017 at 10 a.m. at Decker Cemetery. Reverend Keith Clower will be officiating service. There will be a visitation on Friday, Aug. 25, 2017 from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. at McCoy Funeral Home. Online condolences may be made at www.mccoyfh.com.

Nell was born Dec. 21, 1935 in Roby, Texas to parents Richard and Elsie McCutchan. She graduated from Sand Springs High School. Nell married William Pete Cunningham on Feb. 22, 1958 in Sand Springs. She was married to William Pete for 43 years, until his death. She moved to Sweetwater in 1958. Nell was a den mother for the Boy Scouts of America troop #147 from 1969 until 1975 at South-

east Elementary. She was a member of Highland Baptist Church. Nell was a Registered Nurse at Shannon Hospital. Nell also substitute teacher for 30 years. Nell also was a homemaker, she loved collecting music boxes, and loved shooting guns.

Survivors are sons, Charlie Mac Cunningham of Amarillo, Texas, William L. Cunningham and wife, Suzanne, of McKinney, Texas; grandsons, Randall Lee Cunningham of Sweetwater, Collin M. Cunningham of McKinney; one sister, Geraldine Fuqua of Big Spring; two brothers, Richard "Dick" McCutchan and Calvin McCutchan, both of Lubbock, Texas; and numerous nieces and nephews, and cousins.

Nell was preceded in death by her husband Pete on Nov. 25, 2000.

Pallbearers will be Matt Garza, Ronny Bredemeyer, Glen Wortham, Dale McCright, Ed Hatfield, and Darrell Wood.

Online condolences may be made at www.mccoyfh.com.

Paid obituary

Melanie Seely



Melanie Seely, 41, of Big Spring, died Saturday, Aug. 19, 2017 at Scenic Mountain Medical Center. The family will receive friends from 7 p.m. until 8 p.m. Friday at Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. Private family services will be at a later date.

She was born July 21, 1976 in Big Spring, Texas to Xan Lemons Seely and Guy John Seely. She had been a lifetime resident of Big Spring. She was a homemaker and substitute teacher at Forsan ISD and Big Spring ISD. She was a member of Church

of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.

She is survived by two sons, Brayden Settles of San Angelo and Luke Settles of San Antonio; one daughter, Erin Payne of Phoenix, Ariz.; her mother, Xan Seely of Luther; her fiancé, Steve Watson of Big Spring; two sisters, Tonya Spence and husband Garry and Camilla Strande and husband Brent, all of Big Spring; one brother, Joseph Seely of San Antonio; and a number of nephews, nieces, aunts, uncles and cousins.

She was preceded in death by her father Guy Seely and a brother, Zack Seely.

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

Carroll Osburn



Carroll Osburn, 71, of Big Spring, died Tuesday, Aug. 22, 2017 at his residence. The family will receive friends from 6 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. Thursday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Funeral service will be at 10 a.m. Friday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Burial with Navy Honors will be at Trinity Memorial Park.

Carroll was born June 27, 1946 in Lamesa, Texas to Dovie Mae Bailey Osburn and Charlie Ray Osburn. He entered the United States Navy on June 27, 1963 and was honorably discharged on June 12, 1974. He received

the National Defense Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, and two Good Conduct Medals. He married Jackie LaRue Wright on June 1, 1965 in Odessa, Texas and they moved to Big Spring in 1974. He retired from the United States Postal Service as a superintendent engineer. He was a Baptist.

He is survived by his wife Jackie Osburn of Big Spring; one daughter, Leslie Osburn and one son, Howard Osburn, and wife, Lori, all of Big Spring; five grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

Carroll was preceded in death by his parents and ten brothers and sisters.

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

Take Note

• School at Maranatha Baptist Academy, 903 Johnson St., begins Aug. 1 for the fall term. Maranatha uses Accelerated Christian Education curriculum, an individualized curriculum used internationally (see www.aceministries.com for more information). School and office hours are 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. week days. Tuition is reasonable. For more information visit the office or contact Dr. Lillian Bohanan at 432-213-1046.

• 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.

• 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 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 the

following sponsors: Kindred at Home, Marcy Place, Big Spring Center for Skilled Care, Scenic Mountain Medical Center, Encompass Home Health, Visiting Angels, and Home Hospice Big Spring.

• Howard County Republicans meet the second Monday of each month. Club members meet in the Cactus Room at Howard College at 11:30 a.m. for Dutch treat lunch and meeting at 12 p.m.

• The Big Spring Art Association meets the third Tuesday of each month at 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 1/2 Main St. All Masons are welcome.

City of Big Spring - Facilities
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432-264-2232

Big Spring
TEXAS
Convention and Visitors Bureau

Billy Ray Miears

Billy Ray Miears, 44, of Big Spring, died Saturday, August 19, 2017 in a local hospital. No services are planned at this time.

Billy was born in Big Spring, March 7, 1973. He attended Big Spring High School and worked at Bargain Mart and as a handy man.

He is survived by his daughter, Dakota Miears; his mother, Joann Jordan; two brothers, Randy Miears and David Kachinski and wife Joann, all of Big Spring; and nieces, nephews and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his father, Robert Lee Miears.

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

Louis Butler Evans

Louis Butler Evans, 64, passed away Aug. 13, 2017. Services will be 2 p.m. Friday Aug. 25, 2017 at the Texas State Veterans Cemetery at Abilene. Services are under the direction of Girdner Funeral Home, Abilene Texas.

Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity:

- **CARLOS LOPEZ JR.**, 44, of Orange Grove, was arrested on a warrant from another agency.
- **ANTHONY EUGENE TREVINO**, 31, of 609 Nolan Street, was arrested on a warrant for driving while license invalid.
- **STEPHANIE AGUILAR**, 26, of 704 Lancaster Street, was arrested on a warrant from another agency.
- **DULCE A. LIMON**, 32, of 3900 Parkway Road, was arrested on a warrant from another agency.
- **GARY CHRISTOPHER STARR**, 34, of 207 Jefferson, was arrested on a warrant from another agency.
- **HOLLEY DENISE JENNINGS**, 32, of 1203 North FM 700, was arrested on charges of failure to identify fugitive by giving false or fictitious information, possession of marijuana, less than 2 ounces; theft of property, less than \$100 (shoplifting); and on a warrant from another agency.
- **STOLEN VEHICLE** was reported in the 400 block of Douglas Street.
- **MINOR ACCIDENT** was reported in the intersection of Northwest 10th and North San Antonio Street.
- **THEFT** was reported in the 600 block of South Nolan Street and the 1200 block of East 11th Place.

Sheriff

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

Note - Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 68 inmates at the time of this report.

- **STEPHANIE AGUILAR**, 26, was booked by the BSPD on a warrant for theft of property between \$30k and \$150k.
- **LOUIS CHARLES COLLINS**, 45, was booked by the HCSO on a warrant for possession of a controlled substance with intent to distribute.
- **HOLLEY DENISE JENNINGS**, 32, was booked by the BSPD on charges of failure to identify fugitive by giving false or fictitious information, possession of marijuana, less than 2 ounces; theft of property less than \$100 (shoplifting); and on a warrant for parole violation.
- **DULCE LIMON**, 32, was booked by the BSPD on a warrant for theft of service between \$750 and \$2,500.
- **CARLOS LOPEZ JR.**, 44, was booked by the BSPD on a warrant for assault towards family or household member by impeding breathing.
- **GARY CHRISTOPHER STARR**, 34, was booked by the BSPD on a warrant for assault causing bodily injury.
- **MICKEY RAY TAYLOR**, 35, was booked by the DPS on a failure to appear warrant for assault that causes bodily injury.
- **ANTHONY EUGENE TREVINO**, 31, was booked by the BSPD on a warrant for driving while license invalid.

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

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

USPS 1431-48 USPS 0055-940 ISSN 0746-6811
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BANDS

Continued from Page 1

Eddie Austin and the Texas Silhouettes.”

The bands are playing full sets at the Train Car, and the public is encouraged to come out and show their support, because the crowd's response is heavily factored into who will win the contest.

“We want the public to come out and let us know what they think,” Barney said. “All the bands have been fantastic so far. It's going to be hard choice for all the judges. They've all been so good that its going to be a difficult decision for them.”

Four judges will be making the final decision: Cindy Jones, Kristie West, Zach Campbell, and Alicia Kay. Barney will play the fifth judge if a tie-breaker is needed, he said.

The Clay Walker and Deryl Dodd concert is moving along smoothly, said Barney, and he encourages people to get their tickets early to ensure they get a spot.

“The concert is coming along, there's a limited number of VIP seats available,” he said. “Also, be listening to local radio, because Clay Walker will be doing some call-in interviews here pretty soon.”

Barney said the interviews will be

sometime in September, and tells people to tune into KBST radio station, and KNFM LoneStar, which is based out of Midland.

The Clay Walker and Deryl Dodd concert is set to take place on Sept. 30 at the Howard County Rodeo Bowl in conjunction with the Howard County Fair.

Tickets can be purchased at www.stubwire.com or in person at Ward's Western Wear;

GRILL

Continued from Page 1

in the trays below the grill.

- Never leave a grill unattended.
- Keep lighted cigarettes, matches, or open flames away from the grill.
- Sunscreen is flammable. Do not apply aerosol sunscreen near a grill or open flame.
- For charcoal grills:
 - If you use a starter fluid, use only charcoal starter fluid. Never add charcoal fluid or any other flammable liquids to the lit fire.
 - Never burn charcoal inside of homes, vehicles, tents, or campers. Charcoal should never be used indoors, even if ventilation is provided.
 - When you are finished grilling, let the coals completely cool before disposing in a metal container.
 - Since charcoal produces carbon monoxide fumes until the charcoal is completely extinguished, do not store the grill indoors with freshly used coals.
 - Store charcoal fluid out of the reach of children and away from heat sources.
- For gas grills:
 - Check grill hoses for cracking, brittleness, holes, and leaks.
 - If you detect a leak, immediately turn off the gas and don't attempt to light the grill until the leak is fixed.
 - Always follow the manufacturer's instructions when operating a gas grill.
 - Never start a fire with gasoline or other flammable products.

TRUMP

Continued from Page 1

On Wednesday, he had spoken in measured tones and stuck to his prepared remarks at an American Legion conference in Nevada. He praised veterans as examples for a nation yearning to set aside its differences.

“We are here to hold you up as an example of strength, courage and resolve that our country will need to overcome the many challenges that we face,” Trump said.

The night before, the president had cut loose in Arizona. Ignoring pleas from aides to stick to the script, he renewed his fight over coverage of his comments about the race-fueled violence in Charlottesville, Virginia.

The push-and-pull in Trump's message mirrors the internal dynamics at the White House, where new chief of staff John Kelly has organized and regimented the West Wing staff but has been unable to rein in the president's tendency to veer off course.

The president's speech in Reno was full of the calls for patriotism and national healing that

would not have seemed out of the ordinary had they come from his predecessors.

But the Phoenix rally was uniquely Trump.

He opened with a talk of unity but quickly erupted in anger, blaming the media for the widespread condemnation of his response to the violence in Charlottesville at a protest organized by white supremacists.

Trump read from his three responses to the racially charged violence, becoming more animated with each one. He drew from his pocket the written statement he'd read the day a woman was killed by a man who had plowed a car through counterprotesters. But he skipped over the part that he'd freelanced at the time: his observation that “many sides” were to blame.

That, as well as his assertion days later that “both sides” were to blame for the violence that led to the death of Heather Heyer and two state troopers, caused Democrats and many Republicans to denounce Trump for not unmistakably calling out white supremacists and other hate groups.

By the time he arrived at the American Legion conference,

Trump seemed more congenial. He even thanked Sen. Dean Heller, a Nevada Republican with whom he has openly and repeatedly feuded. He discussed his early efforts to restructure and improve the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Later in the speech, Trump said Americans aren't defined by the color of their skin, the size of their paycheck or their political party.

Since Kelly took over last month as chief of staff, he has ousted chief strategist Steve Bannon and communications director Anthony Scaramucci. He has limited dissenting voices, restricted access to the president and steered the president toward a desired outcome on key decisions.

He has urged Trump to more closely follow a game plan. But Trump's broadside against the “damned dishonest” media, which he says is out to get him, was one of several detours he took from remarks prepared for the Phoenix rally. Trump unabashedly acknowledged that his own advisers had urged him to stay on message, and that he simply couldn't.

Federal judge again tosses out Texas voter ID law

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — A federal judge who has compared Texas' voter ID requirements to a “poll tax” on minorities once again blocked the law Wednesday, rejecting a weakened version backed by the Trump administration and dealing Texas Republicans another court defeat over voting rights.

U.S. District Judge Nelva Gonzales Ramos rejected changes signed by Republican Gov. Greg Abbott this summer as not only lacking but also potentially chilling to voters because of new criminal penalties. The new version didn't expand the list of acceptable photo identifications — meaning gun licenses remained sufficient proof to vote, but not college student IDs.

Instead, the changes would allow people who lack a required ID to cast a ballot if they signed an affidavit and brought paperwork that showed their name and address, such as a bank statement or utility bill. Those revisions were supported by the U.S. Justice Department, which under President Barack Obama had joined Democrats and minority rights groups in suing over the law.

But that position has changed with

President Donald Trump in charge, who has established a commission to investigate allegations of voter fraud in the 2016 elections. In February, the Justice Department abandoned the argument Texas passed voter ID rules with discrimination in mind and said changes signed by Abbott should satisfy the courts.

Texas first passed the voter ID law in 2011, the same year the GOP-controlled Legislature adopted voting maps that were also struck down as discriminatory.

Republican Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton called the latest ruling “outrageous” and said an appeals court should void the decision.

“The U.S. Department of Justice is satisfied that the amended voter ID law has no discriminatory purpose or effect. Safeguarding the integrity of elections in Texas is essential to preserving our democracy,” Paxton said in a statement.

But Gonzales Ramos, who first struck down the law in 2014, said Texas didn't go far enough with its changes and said that criminal penalties Texas attached to lying on the affidavit could have a chilling effect on voters who, fearful of making an

innocent mistake on the form, simply won't cast a ballot.

Nor was she swayed by Texas clarifying under the revised law, known as Senate Bill 5, that both U.S. passport books and cards would be accepted. “This feature remains discriminatory because SB 5 perpetuates the selection of types of ID most likely to be possessed by Anglo voters and, disproportionately, not possessed by Hispanics and African-Americans,” she wrote.

It was another major ruling over voter ID laws this year. In May, the U.S. Supreme Court shut the door on efforts by North Carolina to revive a state law that mandated voter identification.

The Texas voter ID law could now be the high court's next opportunity to weigh in. The decision also leaves open the potential of Texas becoming the first state dragged back under federal oversight since the U.S. Supreme Court in 2013 gutted the federal Voting Rights Act, which had required

approval. Gonzales Ramos left that question open for consideration later.

Texas has spent years fighting to preserve both the voter ID law — which was among the strictest in the U.S. — and its voting maps. Earlier this month, a separate federal court found racial gerrymandering in Texas' congressional maps and ordered voting districts to be partially redrawn before the 2018 elections.

“From discriminatory gerrymandering to discriminatory voter ID laws, it has become entirely clear that Texas Republicans are rigging our election system,” said Gilberto Hinojosa, chairman of the Texas Democratic Party.

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Carroll Osburn, 71, died Tuesday. The family will receive friends from 6 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. tonight at Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Funeral service will be at 10 a.m. Friday at Myers & Smith Chapel.

Melanie Seely, 41, died Saturday. The family will receive friends from 7 p.m. until 8 p.m. at Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. Private family services will be at a later date.

Harvey could bring up 20 inches of rain to Texas

CORPUS CHRISTI (AP) — Long lines are forming at grocery stores as Texas Gulf Coast residents prepare for a slow-moving tropical storm expected to drop as many as 20 inches of rain.

A hurricane warning was issued Thursday morning for most of the central and southern Texas coast, after Tropical Storm Harvey regained strength while drifting into the Gulf of Mexico.

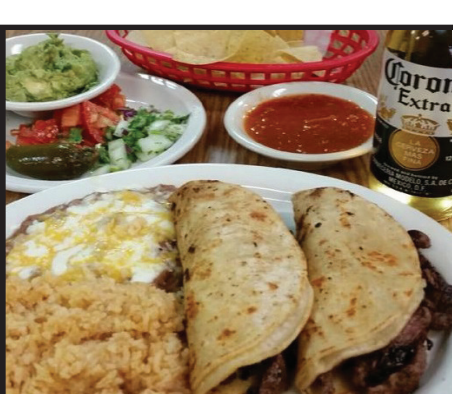
The storm is expected to make landfall late Fri-

day or early Saturday.

The National Weather Service says it's been 14 years since a hurricane made landfall along the southern portion of the Texas coast.

Forecasters say 10 to 15 inches of rain could fall between Friday and Tuesday in most area, with higher amounts in some places.

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Texas couple to get \$3.4M on false claims of satanic abuse

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Texas will pay \$3.4 million to a couple who were wrongfully imprisoned for more than two decades on prosecutors' claims that they sexually abused children as part of satanic rituals at a day care they operated.

Dan and Fran Keller learned Tuesday that they'll receive the payment from a state fund for the wrongly convicted, the Austin American-Statesman reported.

A judge in June approved a request from Travis County District Attorney Margaret Moore for a declaration of innocence for the Kellers.

The couple was convicted in 1992 of sexually assaulting a 3-year-old after children at the day care the Kellers operated out of their Austin home told investigators of dismembered babies, tortured pets and other fantastic tales. They were each sentenced

to 48 years in prison.

The Kellers were freed in 2013 after the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals found a doctor was mistaken in determining there was physical evidence of assault. The appeals court ruled deemed the doctor's testimony to be false, and the doctor himself also recanted it.

Further bolstering the Kellers' case was an interview the alleged victim provided in 2013 in which she acknowledged having no memory of being abused, Moore said in June.

The determination of outright innocence made Dan Keller, 75, and Fran Keller, 67, each eligible for \$80,000 in compensation for every year they were wrongfully imprisoned. They'll also receive a matching annuity that provides annual payments of 5 percent interest for as long as they're alive, according to the Statesman.

"This means we don't have to worry about pinching pennies on Social Security, and late bills. It means we will actually be free. We can start living — and no more nightmares," Fran Keller told the newspaper.

They'll look to buy a house, vehicle, health insurance and better hearing aids for Dan Keller.

Their attorney, Keith Hampton, was not available to comment Wednesday, but he previously told The Associated Press that notorious claims of abuse at other U.S. day care centers were part of a hysteria that began in the 1980s about secretive cults targeting children.

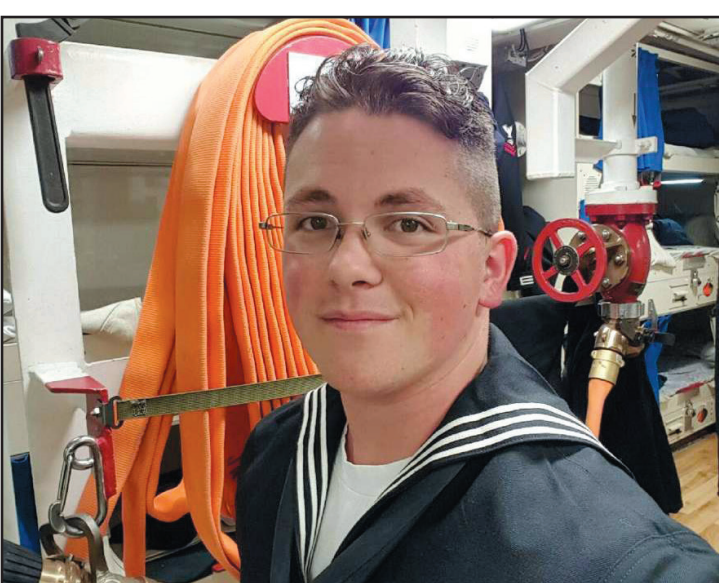
"Day care panic or the satanic panic began to occur and it reached a fever pitch around the time the Kellers were prosecuted," Hampton said. "And like most hysterias, it there-after died away."



AP photo

In this undated file photo, Dan and Fran Keller pose outside of the Travis County courthouse in Austin, Texas. The Texas couple will receive \$3.4 million from the state for being wrongfully imprisoned for more than two decades on prosecutors' claims that they sexually abused children as part of satanic rituals at the day care they operated. The Austin American-Statesman reports that Dan and Fran Keller learned Tuesday, Aug. 22, 2017, that they'll receive the payment from a state fund for the wrongly convicted.

US families, friends of missing sailors proud, praying



AP photo

This undated photo provided by Cynthia Kimball shows her son John Hoagland aboard the USS John McCain. Kimball said Wednesday, Aug. 23, 2017, the Navy told her that her son is among the missing seamen who were aboard the USS John McCain when it collided with an oil tanker near Singapore Monday, Aug. 21.

By JEFF KAROUR

Associated Press

Families in the United States are awaiting word on missing seamen who were aboard the USS John McCain when it collided with an oil tanker on Monday near Singapore.

The military says five sailors were injured and 10 were missing following the collision. The collision tore a hole in the ship's left rear hull and flooded adjacent compartments, including crew berths and machinery and communication rooms. The military has not identified any of the sailors, but family members in Michigan, Illinois, Texas and Ohio so far have confirmed some of them.

Here are brief portraits of the missing as reported by families:

John Hoagland, 20, Texas

When looking out from the deck of the USS John McCain, Hoagland often was struck by the immensity of the Pacific Ocean and the sparkling clarity of the stars above.

His mother, Cynthia Kimball, said Hoagland knew as a 5-year-old that military service was for him. A recruiter steered him toward the Navy.

"He wouldn't have wanted to be in any other branch," Kimball said Wednesday. "He sends me pictures of just water."

Hoagland spent his early years in Cleveland, Texas, northeast of Houston, and later lived in the Central Texas city of Killeen. He had long expressed an interest in stepping out of Texas and traveling the world, she said.

Hoagland enlisted in 2015 and has served aboard the McCain since October as an electronic technician.

"He's very proud of what he does," says Kimball, who lives with her husband at Fort Benning in Georgia.

Logan Palmer, 23, Illinois

Palmer loved serving in the Navy because it let him see the world after an eye injury kept him from being an Air Force fighter pilot, brother Austin Palmer said.

Austin Palmer said his family is in shock and worried but hopeful after hearing Logan is among the missing. He told WAND-TV in Decatur, Illinois, "I speak for my family when I say that we have put our faith in God's mighty hands."

The interior communications electrician 3rd class petty officer graduated from Sangamon Valley High School. His family said in a statement released by the U.S. Navy that his relatives are thankful for all who have offered prayers and support as they

await word from the military. They called it "a very difficult time for our family."

The Palmer family attends Life Foursquare Church, where the Rev. Mark Cooper told the (Decatur) Herald and Review there are hundreds of people praying, "pulling together and believing for the best in this situation."

U.S. Rep. Rodney Davis said he's spoken with Palmer's mother, Theresa Palmer, and called the family "extremely proud and patriotic."

Jacob Drake, 21, Ohio

Drake's fiancée, Megan Partlow, said she has been planning their wedding scheduled for next summer, but

now is overwhelmed and unsure how to proceed.

Partlow, 20, told the Columbus Dispatch that Drake last texted her on Sunday. Drake's relatives gathered at their home in the rural Ohio village of Cable, about 50 miles west of Columbus, but she said they aren't ready to talk.

"I just want him to be safe," she said. Drake graduated from Triad High School, and fellow graduate Boston Gregg remembers Drake once fit himself into a school locker "just to prove a teacher wrong."

"Everybody I know is praying for him and pulling for him," Gregg said.

NOTICE OF 2017 TAX YEAR PROPOSED PROPERTY TAX RATE FOR City of Big Spring, Texas

A tax rate of \$.842320 per \$100 valuation has been proposed for adoption by the governing body of City of Big Spring, Texas. This rate exceeds the lower of the effective or rollback tax rate, and state law requires that two public hearings be held by the governing body before adopting the proposed tax rate.

The governing body of City of Big Spring, Texas proposes to use revenue attributable to the tax rate increase for the purpose of Street Maintenance / Improvements.

PROPOSED TAX RATE	\$ <u>.842320</u> per \$100
PRECEDING YEAR'S TAX RATE	\$ <u>.790000</u> per \$100
EFFECTIVE TAX RATE	\$ <u>.790472</u> per \$100
ROLLBACK TAX RATE	\$ <u>.883180</u> per \$100

The effective tax rate is the total tax rate needed to raise the same amount of property tax revenue for City of Big Spring, Texas from the same properties in both the 2016 tax year and the 2017 tax year.

The rollback tax rate is the highest tax rate that City of Big Spring, Texas may adopt before voters are entitled to petition for an election to limit the rate that may be approved to the rollback rate.

YOUR TAXES OWED UNDER ANY OF THE ABOVE RATES CAN BE CALCULATED AS FOLLOWS:

$$\text{property tax amount} = (\text{rate}) \times (\text{taxable value of your property}) / 100$$

For assistance or detailed information about tax calculations, please contact:

Tiffany Fernandez

(insert name of county or municipality) tax assessor-collector

Howard County, 315 Main Street, Suite D, P. O. Box 1111, Big Spring, Texas 79720

(432) 264-2232

tiffany.fernandez@howardcountytx.com

http://www.co.howard.tx.us/default.aspx?Howard_County/County.Assessor.Collector

You are urged to attend and express your views at the following public hearings on the proposed tax rate:

First Hearing: August 22nd, 2017 at 5:30 PM at City Council Chambers, 307 East 4th Street

Second Hearing: September 12th, 2017 at 5:30 PM at City Council Chambers, 307 East 4th Street

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Featuring:
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Trump preaches unity to vets after fiery political speech

By **JULIE BYKOWICZ**

Associated Press

RENO, Nev. (AP) — A day after a searing speech tearing into the media and members of his own political party, President Donald Trump returned to calls for unity and love as he spoke to veterans Wednesday at an American Legion conference.

"We are here to hold you up as an example of strength, courage and resolve that our country will need to overcome the many challenges that we face," Trump told the veterans, speaking in measured tones and adhering to his prepared remarks. He said all Americans must learn the same work ethic, patriotism and devotion as veterans.

The messaging zig-zag appears to reflect the president's real-time internal debate between calls for moderation and his inclination to let loose. Trump had opened his Tuesday rally in Phoenix much the same way — but quickly erupted in anger, blaming the media for the widespread condemnation of his response to violence at a Charlottesville, Virginia, protest organized by white supremacists.

At the Phoenix rally, he read from his three responses to the racially charged violence, becoming more animated with each one. He withdrew from his suit pocket the written statement he'd read the day a woman was killed by a man who'd plowed a car through counter-protesters, but he skipped over the trouble-causing part that he'd freelanced at the time: his observation that "many sides" were to blame.

That, as well as his reiteration days later that "both sides" were to blame for the violence that led to the death of Heather Heyer and two state troopers, led Democrats and many Republicans to denounce Trump for not unmistakably calling out white supremacists and other hate groups.

The president awoke

Wednesday still thinking about the rally, as evidenced by his Twitter account. "Last night in Phoenix I read the things from my statements on Charlottesville that the Fake News Media didn't cover fairly," he wrote. "People got it!"

By the time he arrived at the American Legion conference, Trump seemed more congenial. He even thanked Sen. Dean Heller, a Nevada Republican with whom he has openly and repeatedly feuded. He discussed his early efforts to restructure and improve the Veterans Administration.

Later in the speech, Trump said Americans aren't defined by the color of their skin, the size of their paycheck or their political party.

"Our hearts beat for America. Our souls fill with pride every time we hear the national anthem," Trump said. "This is the spirit we need to overcome our challenges."

When Medal of Honor recipient Donald Ballard joined the president on stage and offered praise for Trump, saying the president would "drain the swamp" of Washington, Trump smiled and tipped his hand that he was indeed being restrained.

"That was very risky," Trump told the veteran. "I didn't know what was going to happen."

But Trump wasn't able to stick to his unity theme Tuesday night. His broadside against the media, and the "fake news" that he says is out to get him, was one of several detours he took from remarks prepared for the Phoenix rally. Trump unabashedly acknowledged that his own advisers had urged him to stay on message, and that he simply could not.

Trump's diatribe against the press wasn't in his prepared remarks, according to two people familiar with the plan but not authorized to speak publicly about the president's decision.

The president had told aides that he planned to speak on "unity," but launched into



AP photo

President Donald Trump struggles to hold a baby as he greets supporters as he arrives in Reno, Nev., Wednesday, Aug. 23, 2017.

a lengthy, meandering and angry denunciation of the press, complete with a furious re-litigation of his remarks about Charlottesville once he reached the podium.

He also suggested he intends to pardon former Sheriff Joe Arpaio, who is awaiting sentencing in Arizona after his conviction in federal court for disobeying court orders to stop his immigration patrols. After whipping up the crowd about Arpaio, he said he wanted to avoid "controversy" by not speaking about the pardon, but added: "I'll make a prediction: I think he's going to be just fine."

Trump skewered both of Arizona's Republican senators, insisting that his coy refusal to mention their names showed a "very presidential" restraint. He said his aides had begged him, "Please, please Mr. President, don't mention any names. So I won't." Yet he'd clearly described Sen. John McCain as the reason Congress didn't repeal and replace the much-maligned Affordable Care Act, and he labeled Arizona Sen. Jeff Flake as "weak" on

law enforcement and immigration.

He followed up Wednesday morning on Twitter, writing "Phoenix crowd last night was amazing - a packed house. I love the Great State of Arizona. Not a fan of Jeff Flake, weak on crime & border!"

As for how he would assist with the upcoming Herculean tasks facing Congress — passing tax reform, raising the debt ceiling, and agreeing on a budget — Trump offered little detail. He did threaten that if legislators force a government shutdown "we're building that wall," a reference to his campaign promise to close off the border with Mexico.

He also said he thinks the U.S. will "end up probably terminating" the North American Free Trade Agreement with Canada and Mexico "at some point," though he said he hasn't made up his mind. "Personally, I don't think we can make a deal because we have been so badly taken advantage of," Trump said.

In the comfort of his most fervent fans, Trump often

resurrects his free-wheeling 2016 campaign style, pinging insults at perceived enemies such as the media and meandering from topic to topic without a singular theme. This was Trump's eighth rally since taking office in January, and each event is attended by supporters screened by his campaign.

His comfort-level was apparent: As he discussed his responses to Charlottesville, he interrupted himself. "I didn't want to bore you. You understand where I'm coming from. You people understand."

Outside the rally, the divisiveness seen across the country was on display.

One man on a loudspeaker said the largely Latino protesters belong in the kitchen. A Trump opponent hoisted a sign depicting the president with horns. A day of noisy but largely peaceful protests turned unruly after his speech, as police fired pepper spray at crowds after someone apparently lobbed rocks and bottles at officers.

Judge denies biker's request for delay in Waco trial

By **BRADY McCOMBS**

Associated Press

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP) — The judge who would preside over the first trial of a biker allegedly involved in a shootout at a meeting of rival motorcycle gangs in Waco, Texas, that left nine people dead has denied a motion to delay the trial.

Christopher "Jake" Carrizal was among more than 150 bikers indicted following the 2015 shooting on charges of murder conspiracy and engaging in organized criminal activity. His trial is scheduled for Sept. 11.

In a motion filed Tuesday, Carrizal claimed state District Judge Ralph Strother "grossly abused" his discretion when he declined to enforce defense subpoenas for local law enforcement to appear and produce records in court.

Later Tuesday Strother denied the motion and ordered Carrizal and his attorney in court Thursday for a jury selection hearing.

Groups make last-minute push to save national monument areas

By **BRADY McCOMBS**

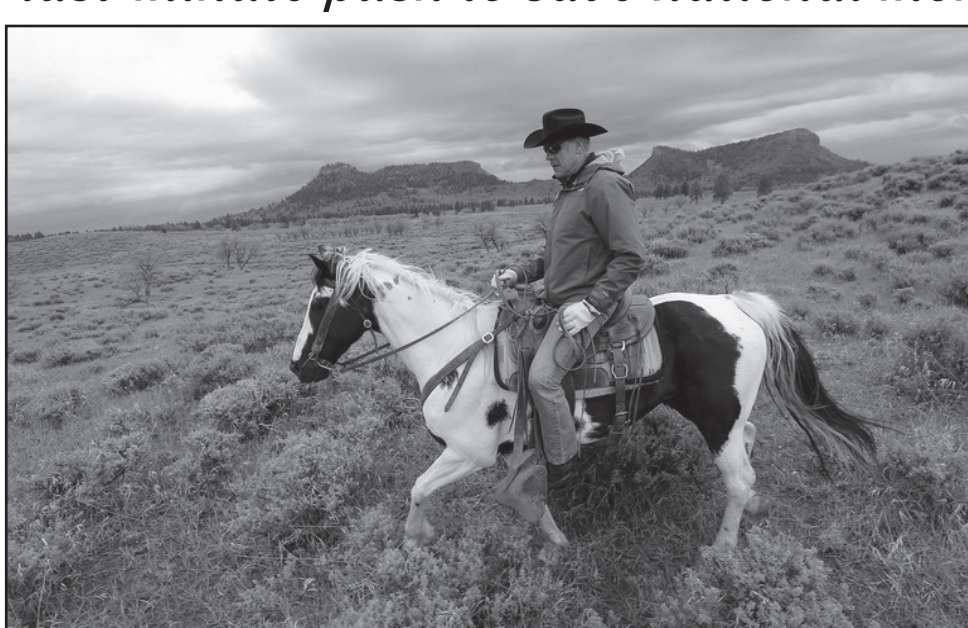
Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — Conservation and tribal groups are airing TV ads, sending letters to President Donald Trump and creating parody websites in a last-minute blitz to stop Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke from downsizing or eliminating national monument areas that cover large swaths of land and water from Maine to California.

The deadline for Zinke to announce his recommendations is Thursday following a four-month review of 27 sites ordered by President Donald Trump.

A tribal coalition that pushed for the Bears Ears National Monument in Utah, designated by President Barack Obama in December, unveiled a new webpage Tuesday that explains the cultural importance of lands consider sacred to them.

They also posted a



AP photo

In this May 9, 2017, file photo, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke rides a horse in the new Bears Ears National Monument near Blanding, Utah. Conservation groups are airing TV ads, planning rallies and creating parody websites in a last-minute blitz to persuade Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke to refrain from reducing or eliminating large swaths of land across the country that have been designated as national monuments, Tuesday, Aug. 22, 2017.

letter sent to President Trump telling him that part of "making American great again" is honoring tribal history and rights.

"At a time when the United States feels anything but united under

the shadow of Charlottesville, Virginia, please hear our voices," wrote Willie Grayeyes, chairman of the coalition.

"These sacred lands have held our song, our stories, and our prayers since time

beyond memory, and these lands will continue to hold the promise of our future."

The outdoor recreation industry has hammered home its message that peeling back protections on

areas where its customers hike, bike and camp could prevent future generations from enjoying the sites.

In addition, the Wilderness Society has created a parody website featuring Trump and Zinke selling luxury real estate at the sites.

Groups that want to see the areas reduced have been less vociferous, pleading their cases on social media and working behind the scenes to lobby federal officials. They say past presidents have misused a century-old law to create monuments that are too large and stop energy development, grazing, mining and other uses. Stan Summers, a Utah county commissioner who chairs a group that advocates for the multi-use of public lands, said outdoor recreation companies are peddling lies and misconceptions when they say local officials want to bulldoze monument lands.

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America's First

In the late 1700s, America didn't have any zoos. Anytime an exotic animal like a tiger or elephant was put on display, however, people would pay to see it. This gave Dr. William Camac in Philadelphia the idea to create a zoo.

Camac and others worked hard to get a zoo up and running in Philadelphia. First, they created the Zoological Society of Philadelphia in the 1850s. The Civil War soon started after that, however, and the society would not get the zoo open until July 1, 1874.

Over 3,000 people visited the Philadelphia Zoo that day. Adults paid a quarter to get in, and children, a dime. At the time, the zoo had 813 animals. Today the zoo has over 1,300 animals and a million visitors each year.



Jokes and Riddles

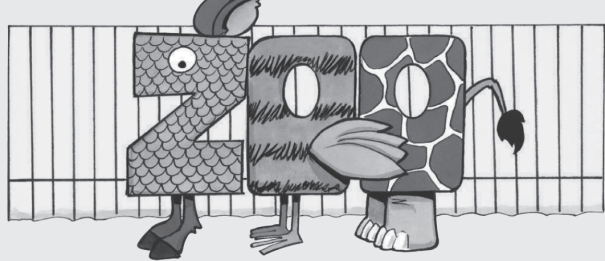
Q: What do tigers wear to bed?

A: Striped pajamas.

Q: What do you call an elephant that flies?

A: A jumbo jet.

What Rhymes with...



- List 10 words that rhyme with "zoo."
- _____
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____

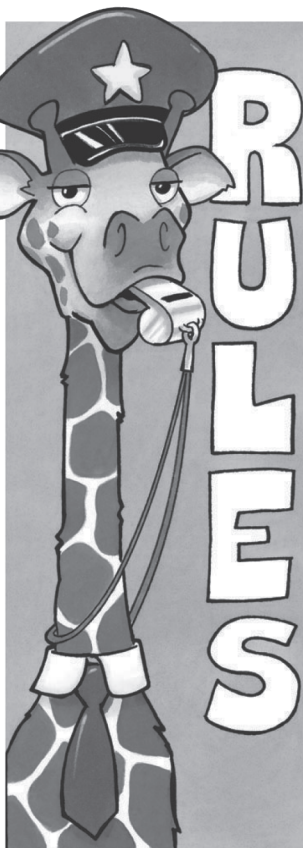
Some answers: blue, boo, coo, do, goo, lieu, moo, pooh, too, who

Fact or Fiction?

Zoo Rules Challenge

Zoos are fun to go to, as long as you follow the rules. Here are some questions about zoo rules. How many can you answer correctly?

- 1) You should follow all of the rules posted. *Fact or Fiction?*
- 2) If you see an animal that looks lonely, you should give it a toy. *Fact or Fiction?*
- 3) If you see an animal that looks friendly, you should pet it. *Fact or Fiction?*
- 4) You should wash your hands after touching any animal. *Fact or Fiction?*
- 5) If you can't get an animal's attention, you should knock on its cage or toss a rock at it. *Fact or Fiction?*
- 6) If you see an animal trying to get out of its pen, you should help it. *Fact or Fiction?*
- 7) If you see animals fighting, you should climb into their pen and make them stop. *Fact or Fiction?*
- 8) If you see an animal that looks hungry, you should give it some food. *Fact or Fiction?*
- 9) You should eat only in areas set aside at the zoo for eating. *Fact or Fiction?*
- 10) You should toss your leftovers to any birds wandering around the zoo. *Fact or Fiction?*



Answers: 1) Fact, 2) Fiction, the animal could try to eat the toy and choke on it, 3) Fiction, you could get bitten, 4) Fact, 5) Fiction, you could irritate or hurt the animal, 6) Fiction, you could get bitten and should tell an adult instead, 7) Fiction, you could get attacked and should tell an adult instead, 8) Fiction, you could get bitten, 9) Fact, 10) Fiction, some foods aren't good for birds

COLORING PICTURE



Name That Animal



Zoos are home to many animals. Fill in the blanks to name some of the animals found at a zoo.

- 1) S _ _ AK _ _ S
- 2) B _ _ _ R S
- 3) L _ _ _ N S
- 4) B _ _ R _ _ S
- 5) GI _ _ A _ _ _ ES
- 6) M _ _ NK _ _ Y S
- 7) HI _ _ _ OS

Answers: 1) Snakes, 2) Bears, 3) Lions, 4) Birds, 5) Giraffes, 6) Monkeys, 7) Hippos

Beltre hits 2 HRs, Rangers beat Angels 7-5 in 10 innings



Texas Rangers' Adrian Beltre watches his solo home run during the fourth inning of a baseball game against the Los Angeles Angels, Wednesday, Aug. 23, 2017, in Anaheim, Calif.

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP) — The Texas Rangers are back at .500 again. Next up, they'll try to break something of a troublesome rut.

Adrian Beltre hit two early homers and the Rangers pushed three runs across in the 10th inning to beat the Los Angeles Angels 7-5 Wednesday night.

The Rangers' seventh win in 10 games after a 63-63. It's the fourth time in seven days they've been at the break-even point, but they haven't been over the .500 mark since June 27.

For a team still holding playoff ambitions — the victory left them two games behind Minnesota for the second AL wild-card spot — it's proving a distasteful challenge.

"Five hundred is just a marker for us that you get to for where you want to go," manager Jeff Banister said. "It is a stepping stone. It would be nice to put a little run together to get a little closer to where we want to go."

Luis Valbuena homered and drove in four runs for the Angels, who remained a half-game back of the Twins.

Rougned Odor hit a go-ahead sacrifice fly in the 10th and Robinson Chirinos and Drew Robinson followed with RBI singles off Eduardo Paredes (0-1), runs that would prove the difference.

"Where we were going to go through (Mike) Trout and (Albert) Pujols again (in the 10th), we really needed an opportunity to tack on," Banister said. "That was huge."

After Jose Leclerc walked the first two batters in the Angels 10th, Tony Barnette relieved. He got Pujols to ground into a double play, gave up an RBI single to Kole Calhoun and then got the last out for

his first major league save.

Alex Claudio (3-1) pitched two innings for the win.

The Rangers scored single runs in the second, third, fourth and fifth innings. Their first three runs came via the solo homer — two by Beltre and one from Chirinos.

"I got lucky a couple of times," Beltre said.

Beltre has 16 home runs this season. He also contributed a smaller but significant play in the 10th after a rare throwing error by Andrelton Simmons on an infield hit left Elvis Andrus at second.

Beltre grounded out to second, allowing Andrus to advance to third. The Angels intentionally walked Nomar Maraza, but Parades could not get Mike Napoli and walked him to load the bases and set the stage for Odor's sacrifice fly.

"He got bases loaded and tried to get the strikeout on Rougned and he got the bat on the ball to get the sacrifice," Angels manager Mike Scioscia said. "Then from there, he just had some pitches those guys hit hard. It was a tough inning for him."

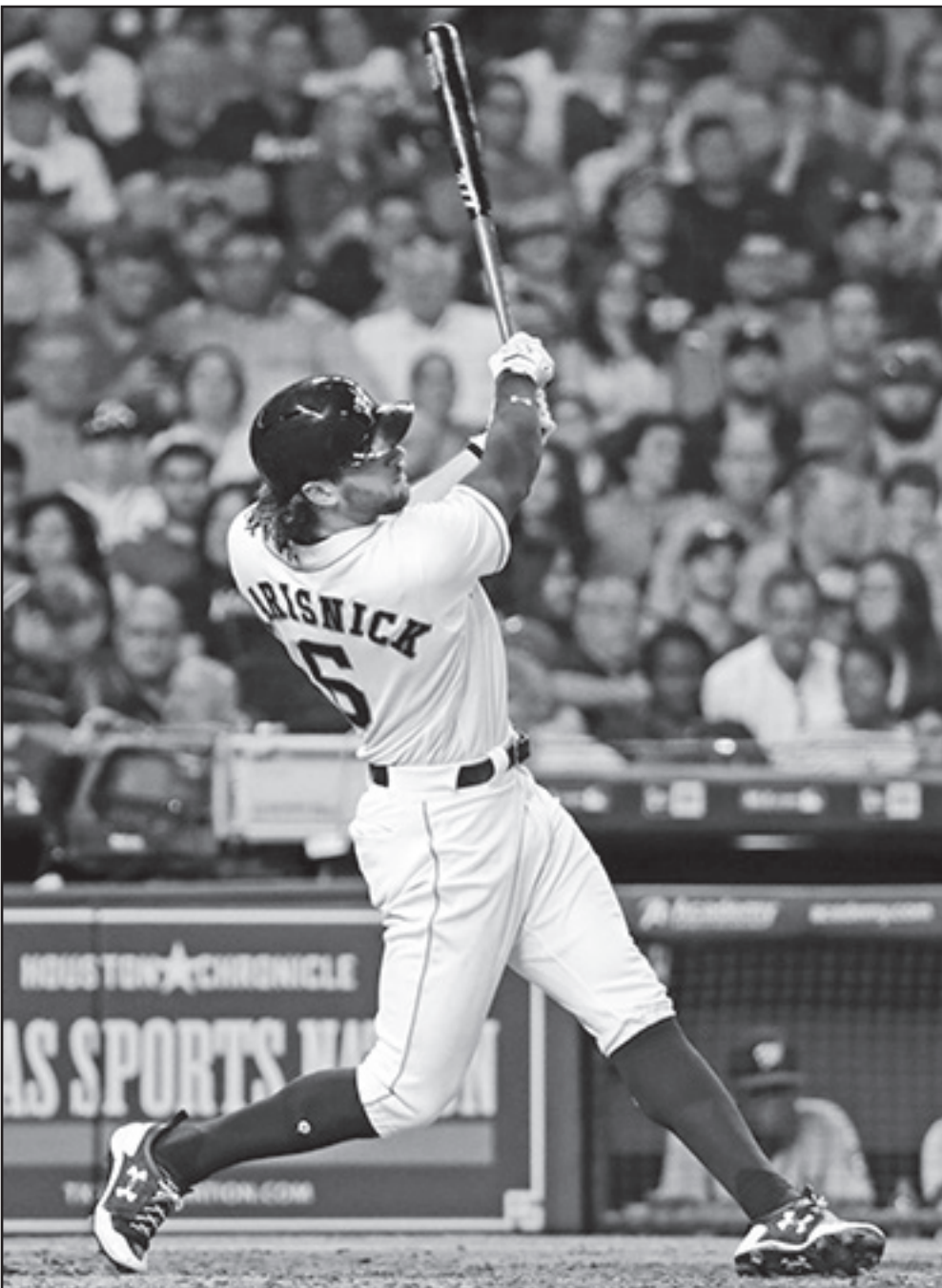
TROUT LASER

The Rangers had a chance to go ahead in the ninth when Shin-Soo Choo singled and Chirinos tried to score from second. Instead, Trout fielded the ball in center field and threw a bullet to the plate to nip him. The throw came in on a line and never touched the ground.

"That was about as good as you can throw to home plate," Banister said. "You have to credit the center fielder more than anything else. It took a strike to throw him out."

See **RANGERS**, Page 13

Astros hit 3 homers to end skid vs Nationals



Houston Astros' Jake Marisnick hits a home run against the Washington Nationals during the fifth inning of a baseball game Wednesday, Aug. 23, 2017, in Houston.

By **KRISTIE RIEKEN**

AP Sports Writer

HOUSTON — The Houston Astros used a big eighth inning to put a close game out of reach and get their first win against the Washington Nationals since 2012 in a matchup of division leaders.

Alex Bregman hit a three-run homer and Jake Marisnick and

Max Stassi added solo shots to help the American League West-leading Astros to a 6-1 win on Wednesday night.

The victory snaps a nine-game losing streak to the Nationals, who lead the National League East, and is just Houston's second win in the last 15 games against Washington.

"We've got guys that have been putting up

pretty good at-bats," manager A.J. Hinch said. "It was nice to break out and get a couple of runs."

Houston starter Mike Fiers (8-8) yielded four hits and one run in seven strong innings to get his first win since July 21. Fiers was in command from the start, looking much better

See **ASTROS**, Page 13

Rush to judgment: Cowboys QB could be surging to backup role



In this Tuesday, Aug. 22, 2017 photo, Dallas Cowboys quarterback Cooper Rush (7) calls a play from the line during an NFL football camp practice in Frisco, Texas.

By **SCHUYLER DIXON**

AP Pro Football Writer

FRISCO, Texas — Cooper Rush isn't likely to duplicate Dak Prescott's remarkable rookie year with the Dallas Cowboys.

The undrafted quarterback is doing quite an impersonation in the pre-season though — enough to get him second-team looks ahead of veteran Kellen Moore in practice this week and raise the question of whether the former Central Michigan standout could land the backup job for good.

Rush's exhibition numbers look strikingly similar to those of Prescott a year ago. And everyone knows what happened next: Prescott starting for an injured Tony Romo, earning NFL Offensive Rookie of the Year honors and ultimately sending Romo into retirement.

Since Prescott is a healthy 24-year-old who looks as if he could be the face of the franchise for years, that's probably where the similarities will end with Rush. Not that the 23-year-old redhead — four months younger than Prescott — is consumed by such thoughts.

"I've got a long, long way to go," Rush said. "Every day, every snap I'm learning something new. I'm watch-

ing Kellen, watching Dak and trying to soak it all in."

Much the way Prescott did at the LA Coliseum in his preseason debut last year, Rush made an impression in the Hall of Fame game. And like Prescott, he kept on performing.

Rush, who threw for nearly 13,000 yards as a four-year starter at Central Michigan, has a 125.2 passer rating through three games, completing 69 percent of his passes with four touchdowns and no interceptions.

The difference is that Prescott did most of his work against starters, and Rush has faced second- and third-teamers.

But if he enters Saturday's pre-season game against Oakland before Moore — a possibility based on rotations in camp this week — Rush could line up against opposing starters for the first time.

"I think he understands how you play this position. It's from the neck up," Prescott said. "When you play this position from the neck up, no matter your ability, no matter what others say, you give yourself a chance to put the ball where it belongs, just be ahead of the defense."

The Cowboys found a 10-year face of

See **DALLAS**, Page 13

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Public Notice

Small Taxing Unit Notice

The Permian Basin Underground Water Conservation District will hold a meeting at 7:00 p.m. on September 7, 2017 at 708 W. St. Peter Street, Stanton, Texas to consider adopting a proposed tax rate for tax year 2017. The proposed tax rate is 0.007950 per \$100 of value.

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5	3	4	7	6	9	2	8	1
6	8	9	2	1	4	7	5	3
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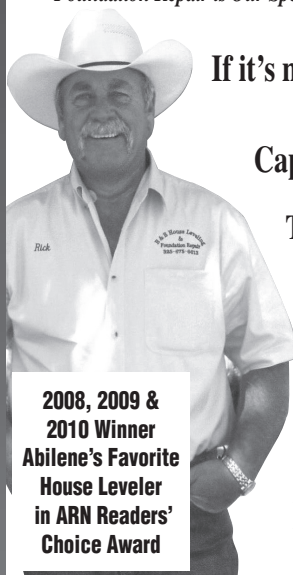
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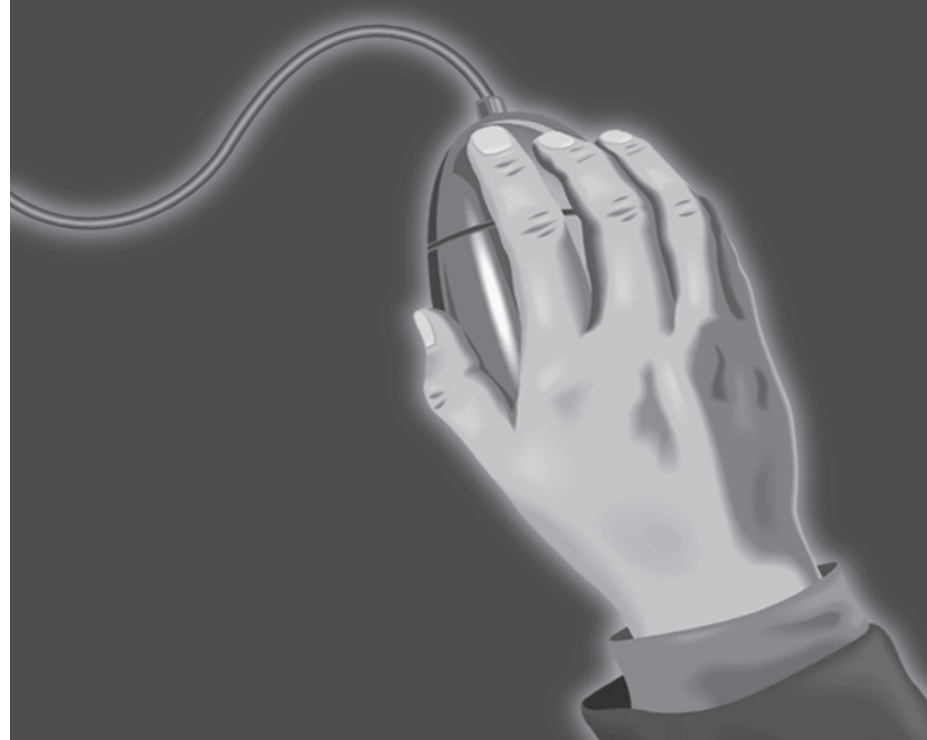
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Tomorrow's Horoscope



HOLIDAY MATHIS

20-May 20). Everything you get to call your own in this world comes with maintenance, including friendship. For those less socially inclined, friendship maintenance takes effort, but for you it's as it should be -- just plain fun.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Keep track. Then later, when you slip into one of those "what am I doing, what have I accomplished, have I wasted my life" type of moods, you'll have plenty of reminders.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). All the improvement starts in your mind. Thinking better is doing better. New research will help you to harness the latent power of your brain to deliver higher levels of achievement.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Many of our broad-based opinions and feelings are inherited from the culture we know best. But if that inheritance is causing stress or even anguish, lose it. A belief's popularity has nothing to do with its rightness.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Universally, flying is commonly thought of as a peace-

ful experience. Pictures of the Earth from space bring fascination and calm. Serenity flows naturally from a heightened perception. Spiritually, rise up and look down.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). "You have to dive down, as it were," the great Bohemian novelist Franz Kafka wrote in his diary. "And sink more rapidly than that which sinks in advance of you."

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Defend what you're doing. Maybe this is just about keeping the distractions and interruptions at bay, or maybe your process and product will come into question. Anyway, while going to bat for yourself you'll learn something.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Boy, will your brain be busy today, assaulted with way too many facts, plenty of jibber-jabber, a dash of rumor and a pinch or two of speculation. The peace of this afternoon will come as a big relief.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Though you must see this project through, and it's definitely worth

sticking with for all the learning, fun and profits it will yield, don't think for a minute that this is it for you. The best work is the work you haven't thought of yet.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). There are circumstances, your opinion of them and a thread of tension suspended in between to carry your emotional reaction. To change your emotion, tweak either the circumstances or your opinion.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You've a sense that some of the ride has been kept from you, and you're now eager for the full experience. You want to know what's behind not just some of the doors but all of them.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Aug. 24). A personal win right at the top of this solar return will be a game-changer. You've been working toward this a long time, but that didn't prepare you for the decisions you'll have to make. Worthy mentors will help you through. Seek those with qualities of kindness and compassion as well as worldly success. Taurus and Capricorn adore you.

Your lucky numbers are: 20, 28, 3, 46 and 12.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTION: "What do I do about my daughter's social life? She's an 8-year-old Cancer who only gets along with girls who are older than her -- 10- and 11-year-olds. But older girls often don't want to play with someone who is too much younger. She hasn't found many friends her age and is a lonely only child."

You're in a wonderful window of time: Your daughter is still at the age when your social decisions will strongly color hers. Soon she'll be declaring her own friendships, but right now you're the engine of her social life, and she'll be influenced most by the people you arrange for her to be near. Take advantage of this power. The last thing you want to do is set her up to feel less-than by putting her in a position to be rejected. Cancer finds moods quite contagious and will flow with emotions that aren't necessarily being generated by the Cancer herself. In that light, age is less

important than tone. Seek upbeat companions who have the values and enthusiasm that you would wish your daughter to carry in life. You may have to pay this person. It's better for her to spend time with an upbeat, friendly teen who will interact joyfully with her for a small fee than to team her up with an ill-mannered child of the same age.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Rupert Grint's first role was playing a fish in a play about Noah's Ark (a confusing role to be certain; couldn't the fish survive in floodwater?). Even though this Virgo was born when Neptune was in Pisces, his aquatic career was quickly eclipsed by his role as Ron Weasley in the Harry Potter franchise. Grint was born under a passionate, energetic Aries moon and has Mars and Jupiter in intuitive Cancer.

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

Venus and Uranus Give Approval Ratings

Many people are so addicted to social validation that they fake a happier lifestyle than they live. It makes no sense to those who would rather (SET ITAL)be(EN(ITAL) happy than (SET ITAL)seem(EN(ITAL) happy, but it's a good indicator of the strongly addictive properties of approval. Venus squared to Uranus has a suggestion: To reduce your need for approval, approve of yourself.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You can. Somewhere along the line you got a totally different message, and that message was a lie, based on assumptions and partial information. You can. And furthermore, you will.

TAURUS (April

Annie's Mailbox

Wow, Sounds Fun for You

Dear Annie: My wife and I have been happily married for eight years and were blessed with healthy triplets four years ago. My problem is that every year, my wife's generous employer takes the entire staff on an incredible trip. I'm talking Napa, Europe, etc.

It's wonderful of him and wonderful for the employees. However, spouses are not

included in the invitation. I would gladly pay my own way, and we would then be able to experience these trips together. Instead, I stay home, working my full-time job and taking care of our children.

I feel left out of being able to enjoy this with my wife, as well as resentful of my time at home without her. Of course, I want her to go and am happy for her, but on the other hand, I am having a hard time talking to her about it, and it is

difficult to be supportive of her anticipation of the upcoming trip. Do you have any advice on how to handle this or even deal with my conflicting emotions? -- Homebound

Dear Homebound: I appreciate that you're worried about looking selfish and sullen, but you're being pretty reasonable, considering the circumstances. I don't think anyone would blame you for feeling overwhelmed by caring for triplets on your own and working a full-time job.

So communicate. Let your wife know how these trips make you feel and that you're not trying to send her on a guilt trip; you just want to avoid resentment. From there, you two can find a solution that

works for both of you, such as arranging for a reliable sitter to help out while she's gone or planning a vacation for just the two of you soon.

Dear Annie: I was impressed by "Peacemaker in Pittsburgh," the writer who still has friends on all sides of the political spectrum, as many have become too polarized to be friendly anymore. He wrote about having trouble with these friends' continual efforts to persuade everybody to come around to their points of view, dragging down social occasions. I think he has an opportunity to change the tone of these conversations, maintain the friendships and set a positive example. We can all do this:

Listen. Ask individuals why they think a certain way (how their personal values led to their viewpoints). Ask them about when certain beliefs first started for them. Give them a chance to talk. Make sure they're done before you start. Don't interrupt them, and ask others not to interrupt or give support. Try saying, "That's interesting. Tell me more." Ask about their goals and hopes, as there are likely to be some you share. Then explain your own frustration, too. If you've heard something that seems misguided, try saying, "Hmm, that's not been my experience." Then offer an account of what values and experiences caused you to form a different opinion. I've been helped

by Essential Partners' guide titled "Reaching across the divide" (available at <http://whatisessential.org>). -- Vermont Grandma

Dear Vermont Grandma: Thank you for the helpful suggestions. I'm sure many people could use that guide. I look forward to hearing from readers who try incorporating those tips into their conversations.

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

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By Steve Becker

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♠6	♥AK 10 5	♦A 9 3	♣9 8 7 4 3
WEST			
♠AJ 10 9 8 7 5 3 2	♥—	♦—	♣—
♠3	♥8 6 4	♦Q J 10 6 5 4 2	♣A Q 5
♠8	♥—	♦—	♣—
♠J 2	♥—	♦—	♣—
SOUTH			
♠K Q 4	♥Q 1 9 7 2	♦K 7	♣K 10 6

The bidding:
South 1♥ West 4♠ North 5♥ East —
Opening lead — ace of spades.

One of the great fascinations of bridge is the seemingly endless variety of unpredictable outcomes it can produce. Those who have played the game long enough have learned that almost nothing is impossible.

This is by way of introduction to today's hand, where it seems South must go down one in five hearts, losing a spade and two clubs. But, as already noted, the word "impossible" has no place in the bridge vocabulary.

West began by leading the ace and another spade, declarer ruffing the second spade with dummy's ten.

Three rounds of trumps were then drawn, ending in the closed hand. Even with the ace of clubs in East's hand, it's not easy to see how declarer can avoid losing two club tricks. But South saw a distinct possibility that — given that West started with nine spades — was not at all remote. If East held six or more diamonds and three or more clubs including the ace, the contract could not be beaten.

Accordingly, declarer next cashed the king of spades and another trump to produce this position:

North		
♠A 9 3	♥—	♦—
♠9 8 7	♥—	♦—
West		
♠J 10 9	♥—	♦—
♠8	♥—	♦—
♠J 2	♥—	♦—
South		
♥7	♦K 7	♣K 10 6

South now led his last trump, discarding a club from dummy. East could not afford to part with a diamond, so he discarded a club.

Having forced a club discard from East, declarer next crossed to the ace of diamonds and led a club toward his hand. East could take his ace on this trick or the next one, but all he could get was the ace, and the "impossible" contract was home.

Tomorrow: Bidding quiz.
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Big Spring Herald 710 Scurry 79720

sudoku

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

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

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	P. Luche	The List	CBS 7	Tele	News	Some	Mind	Hawaii	American	Seinfeld	Bones	SportsCenter	Around	Polaris	Law & Order:	The First 48	Last Frontier
5:30	ABC	Noticiero	Mod Fam	CBS	Noticias	News	HaYesod	Business	Five-0	American	Seinfeld	Bones	Baseball	Pardon	Outdoors	SVU	SVU	SVU
6:PM	Jeopardy!	Rosa de	Big Bang	CBS 7	Alfombra	News	All About	PBS News-	M*A*S*H	Fam. Guy	Seinfeld	Bones	Baseball	Champion-	Sportsday	Law & Order:	The First 48	Last Frontier
6:30	Wheel	Guadalupe	Big Bang	ET		News	M:25	Hour	M*A*S*H	Fam. Guy	Seinfeld	Bones	Little League	First Drive	Focused	SVU	SVU	SVU
7:PM	Boy Band	Enamorán-	Beat	Big Bang	Premios tu	The Wall	News	Daytrip	Griffith	Penn &	Seinfeld	Movie: The	2017	First Take	Texas	Law & Order:	The First 48	Last Frontier
7:30		dome	Shazam	Kevin Can	(SS)		Truth	Articulate	Griffith	Teller	Seinfeld	Hobbit: The	World Series		Insider	SVU	SVU	SVU
8:PM	Battle of the	Mi marido	Love Con-	Big Brother		SNL	Light	Secrets-	Mama's	Whose?	Big Bang	30 for 30	WNBA	Pudge	Law & Order:	The First 48	First in Hu-	
8:30		tiene	nection			Great	Southwest	Wives	ALF	Whose?	Big Bang	30 for 30	Basketball:	Pregame	SVU	SVU	Human	
9:PM	The Gong	La tierra	News	Zoo		The Night	Light	Rare --	Heroes	Seinfeld	Big Bang		Sparks at	MLB Base-	Queen of the	Murder-Laci		
9:30	Show	prometida	TMZ			Shift	Southwest	Creatures	Heroes	Seinfeld	Guest		Mercury	ball: Rangers	South	South		
10:PM	Local 2	Impacto	Mod Fam	CBS 7	Tele	News	Families	Charlie Rose	C. Burnett	King	Conan		SportsCenter	E:60		(:01) The	(:03) The	(:02) First in
10:30									Perry Mason	King						The	First 48	Human
11:PM	Jimmy Kim-	Noticiero	Two Men	Late Show-	Premios Tu	Tonight	Our Mess	Hidden	Rules	Guest	Conan	(:31) Movie:	The Lincoln	Nación		(:01) Shooter	(:03) The	(:02) First in
11:30	mel Live	Contacto	Cleveland	Colbert	Mundo	Show	Hidden	Newsline	Rules	Conan		Movie: The	Lawyer	ESPN		First 48	First 48	
12:AM	Nightline	Deportivo	How I Met	James	Ranking	Seth Meyers	Israel	T. Smiley	Tw. Zone	Rules		(:31) Movie:	The Lincoln	Fantasy	Postgame	Queen of the	The First 48	Last Frontier
12:30	Extra	Quiero	Amarte	Cleveland	Insider	De:siónes	News	Rocks	Hitchcock	Cheaters	Seinfeld		Movie: The	First Take	MLB Base-	South	First 48	
1:AM	Paid Prg.	Mi Adorable	Law Order:	ET	Programa	(:08) Today	Light	Southwest	Mannix	Cheaters	Broke Girl	(:01) Castle	Movie: The	E:60	ball: Rangers	Law Order:	Murder-Laci	Last Frontier
1:30	Paid Prg.		CI	Paid Prg.	Programa					Broke Girl			Movie: The		at Angels	CJ		

DENNIS THE MENACE



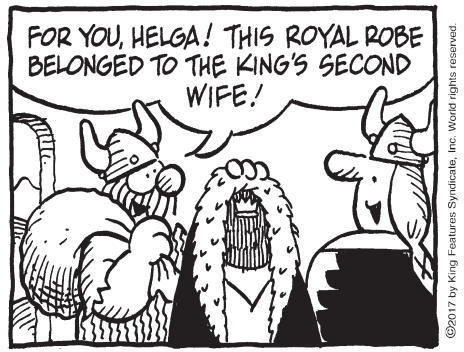
"THAT'S NO FUN! YOU GUYS SHOULD'VE GONE TO DISNEYLAND FOR YOUR HONEYMOON."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

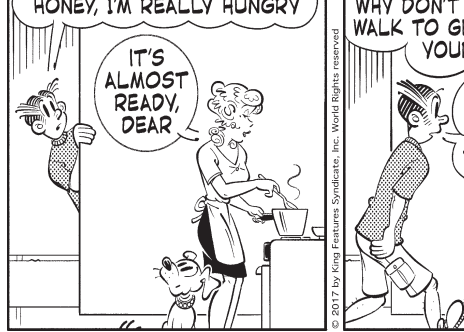


"I don't know what to name my bug. Is this a boy or a girl?"

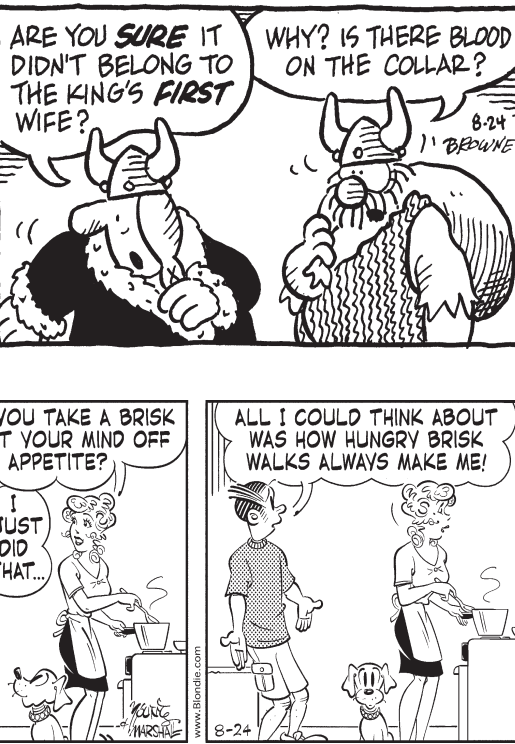
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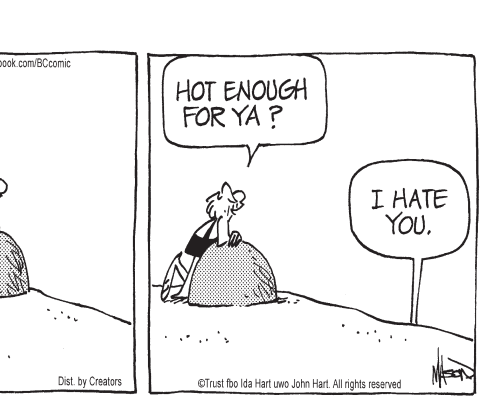
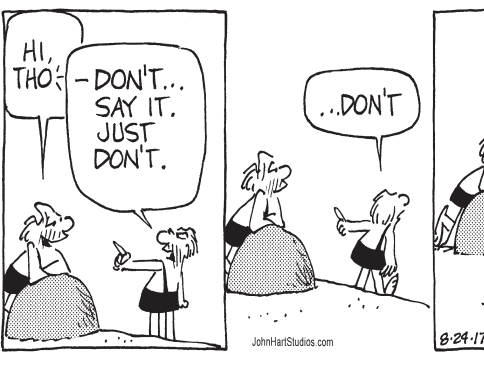
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WIZARD OF ID



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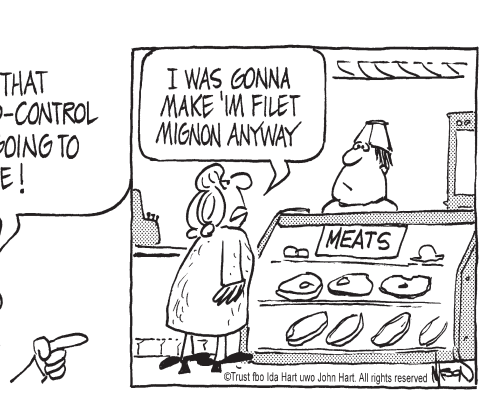
This Date In History

Today is Thursday, Aug. 24, the 236th day of 2017. There are 129 days left in the year. Today's Highlight in History: On August 24, 1992, Hurricane Andrew smashed into Florida, causing \$30 billion in damage; 43 U.S. deaths were blamed on the storm. On this date: In A.D. 79, long-dormant Mount Vesuvius erupted, burying the Roman cities of Pompeii and Herculaneum in volcanic ash; an estimated 20,000 people died. In 1572, the St. Bartholomew's Day massacre of French Protestants at the hands of Catholics began in Paris. In 1814, during the War of 1812, British forces invaded Washington, D.C., setting fire to the Capitol (which was still under construction) and the White House, as well as other public buildings. In 1912, Congress passed a measure creating the Alaska Territory. Congress approved legislation establishing Parcel Post delivery by the U.S. Post Office Department, slated to begin on January 1, 1913. In 1932, Amelia Earhart embarked on a 19-hour flight from Los Angeles to Newark, New Jersey, making her the first woman to fly solo, non-stop, from coast to coast. In 1949, the North Atlantic Treaty came into force. In 1954, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed the Communist Control Act, outlawing the Communist Party in the United States. In 1967, a group of demonstrators led by Abbie Hoffman caused a disruption at the New York Stock Exchange by tossing dollar bills onto the trading floor. American industrialist Henry J. Kaiser, 85, died in Honolulu. In 1970, an explosives-laden van left by anti-war extremists blew up outside the University of Wisconsin's Sterling Hall in Madison, killing 33-year-old researcher Robert Fassnacht. In 1981, Mark David Chapman was sentenced in New York to 20 years to life in prison for murdering John Lennon. (Chapman remains imprisoned.) In 1989, Baseball Commissioner A. Bartlett Giamatti (juh-MAH'-tee) banned Pete Rose from the game for betting on his own team, the Cincinnati Reds. In 2006, the International Astronomical Union declared that Pluto was no longer a full-fledged planet, demoting it to the status of a "dwarf planet." Ten years ago: A judge in Inverness, Florida, sentenced

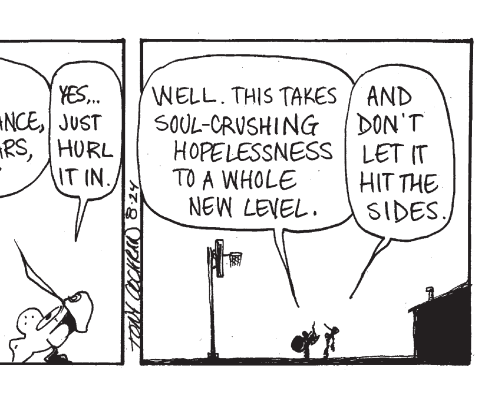
John Evander Couey to death for kidnapping 9-year-old Jessica Lunsford, raping her and burying her alive. (Couey died of natural causes in 2009.) James Ford Seale, a reputed Ku Klux Klansman, was sentenced to three life terms for his role in the 1964 abduction and murder of two black teenagers in southwestern Mississippi. (Seale died in 2011.) Major wildfires broke out in Greece, burning half a million acres and claiming 65 lives in 11 days. Five years ago: A suit-clad gunman opened fire outside New York's Empire State Building, killing a former co-worker before being gunned down by police. A Norwegian court found Anders Behring Breivik guilty of terrorism and premeditated murder for twin attacks on July 22, 2011 that killed 77 people.

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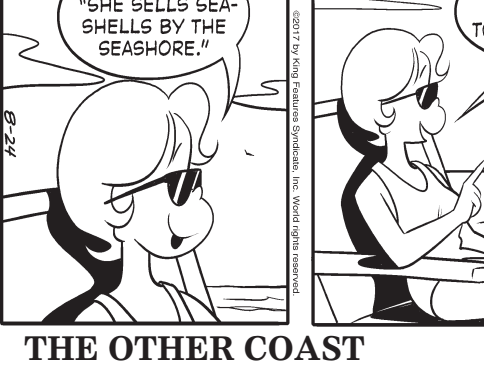
AGNES



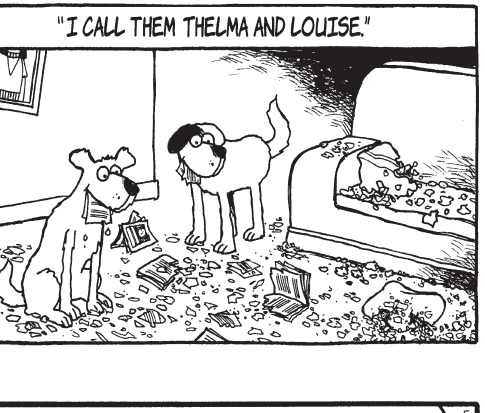
HI AND LOIS



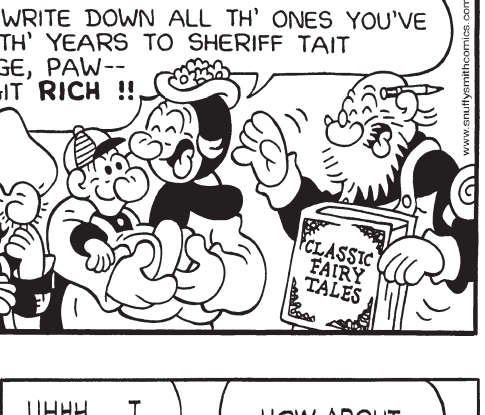
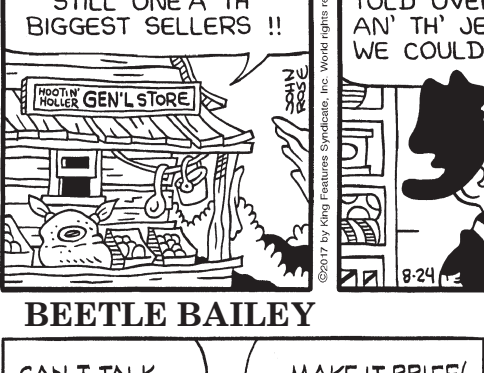
THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



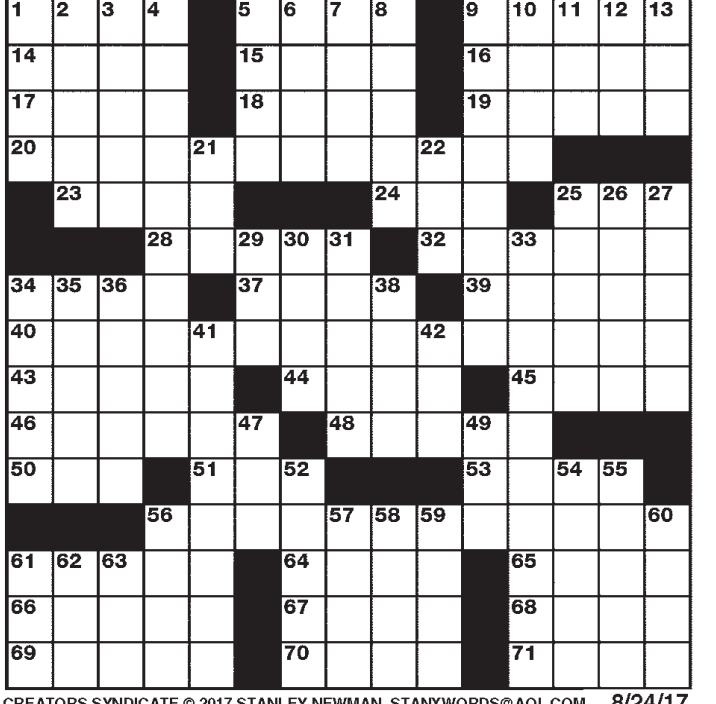
BEETLE BAILEY



Newsday Crossword

JUST KIDDING by Fred Piscop Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS
 1 See (to)
 5 "Yes, we should!"
 9 Gunk
 14 Something in the air
 15 Stage direction
 16 At the present time
 17 Soft ball brand
 18 Spinach pie ingredient
 19 Dwelling
 20 Stand-up put-down specialists
 23 Highway hauler
 24 Lobbying grp.
 25 Land to build on
 28 Dilbert cartoonist
 32 Homegrown
 34 Tailor-made
 37 Less filling, on labels
 39 Tuber's nickname
 40 Prank perpetrators
 43 It means "straight"
 44 Diva's delivery
 45 Art Deco artist
 46 Traffic slowers
 48 Step like the bossa nova
 50 Onetime Russian state: Abbr.
 51 Doze (off)
 53 "Semper Fi" org.
 56 Renaissance Faire entertainers
 61 B equivalent
 64 Neighbor of Turkey
 65 Spiny houseplant
 66 Rodeo ride
 67 Peddle
 68 Small salamander
 69 Beethoven's Pastoral Symphony
 70 Former pair
 71 Residential retreats
 DOWN
 1 Novelist Morrison
 2 Serene spots
 3 Branch of mythology
 4 Fictional Chinese archvillain
 5 Flew the coop
 6 Corporate officer
 7 Bandleader
 8 Passport mark
 9 Choppy, in music
 10 Soft throws
 11 Oath affirmation
 12 Very sore
 13 Observe
 21 Part of a travel mug
 22 Name on the cover of Goldfinger
 25 Cola measure
 26 Out in the open
 27 Pithy
 29 Will Smith role
 30 Mineral used in insulation
 31 Oscar Night interviewees
 33 Reveal one's view
 34 Observes
 35 "To ___ human..."
 36 Radiator contents
 38 Director Kazan
 41 A-one
 42 Traffic slower
 47 Trifling amount
 49 HOV lane user
 52 Transmission setting
 54 Altercation
 55 Symbol of sovereignty
 56 Is unable
 57 Creature fought by King Kong
 58 One of Agatha's sleuths
 59 Cuts off
 60 Stage scenery
 61 Madam Secretary aier
 62 Tomorrow, for short
 63 Fish in some omelets



DALLAS

Continued from Page 7

the franchise in an undrafted Romo. Then they ended up with Prescott as a fourth-round pick last year after trying to trade for a second selection in the first round to get Paxton Lynch, who went to Denver instead and still hasn't won the starting job.

A similar stroke of luck with Rush will amount to the jackpot on a slot machine, and a personnel piece that not many franchises have — a spare quarterback with what appears to be the ability to win in the NFL.

"These guys have a great makeup, all of our quarterbacks do as far as the intangible qualities," offensive coordinator Scott Linehan said. "And intangibles, just so you know, are things you can't measure. It's not arm strength, it's not height. It's just knowing how to play."

Linehan's background with Moore, and the Cowboys' belief that the undersized former Boise State star is a viable backup, made the No. 2 issue mostly moot barring injury this camp.

But Moore hasn't been nearly as efficient as

Rush, and his fumble last week gave Indianapolis a defensive touchdown. It's not inconceivable that Dallas' top two quarterbacks could have one season of experience combined.

"We went into the season with a rookie quarterback last year and I don't know that that was part of the plan to begin with," Linehan said. "As long as guys are ready, the age of them isn't as big a concern as you'd think."

And the question of where he is on the depth chart doesn't concern Rush at all.

"I'm still focused on making the 53," Rush said, referring to the final roster. "That's been my No. 1 goal, and staying true to that goal is what's helping me keep progressing, keep improving."

All of it has a familiar ring to the Cowboys.

NOTES: OL Chaz Green returned to practice Wednesday, a day after missing the late portion because of dehydration. ... DE Charles Tapper is out with a neck injury that coach Jason Garrett says is unrelated to the back injury that sidelined him his entire rookie season.



In this Tuesday, Aug. 22, 2017 photo, Dallas Cowboys quarterback Cooper Rush (7) looks to pass during an NFL football camp practice in Frisco, Texas. AP photo



AP photo

Texas Rangers relief pitcher Tony Barnette throws during the 10th inning of a baseball game against the Los Angeles Angels, Wednesday, Aug. 23, 2017, in Anaheim, Calif.



AP photo

Rangers' Rougned Odor flips his bat after hitting an RBI sacrifice fly during the 10th inning of a baseball game against the Los Angeles Angels, Wednesday, Aug. 23, 2017, in Anaheim, Calif.

RANGERS

Continued from Page 7

CLAUDIO DELIVERS

Claudio has emerged as the Rangers' closer, but remains extremely versatile. He retired all six batters he faced in the eighth and ninth to allow Texas to mount its rally.

"He's been our MVP," Beltré said. "He throws pitches where he wants to. He's economic. The guy is unbelievable."

TRAINER'S ROOM

Rangers: INF/OF Joey Gallo (concussion) has rejoined the team and begun working out. He is eligible to come off the disabled list Tuesday. ... OF Carlos Gomez (back cyst) is eligible to come off the disabled list Saturday. The only concern appears to be the stitches breaking apart.

Angels: 3B Yunel Escobar (oblique) worked out for a second day and could next be headed for

a rehab assignment. ... RHP Garrett Richards (biceps strain) is scheduled to pitch a second simulated game Friday at the team's Arizona facility.

UP NEXT

Rangers: LHP Martin Perez (8-10) is scheduled to start the four-game series finale against the Angels. Has gone 4-2 with a 2.38 ERA over his last seven starts.

Angels: RHP Troy Scribner (2-0) was recalled from Triple-A Salt Lake and is scheduled to start in place of injured RHP JC Ramirez (elbow strain). He last made a spot start Aug. 8, holding Baltimore to one run on two hits in five innings.

ASTROS

Continued from Page 7

than he had in his last four starts when he allowed a combined 24 hits and 20 runs.

The game was tied at 1 with one out in the fifth when Marisnick sent a curveball from Edwin Jackson (4-3) into left-center field for his 15th homer.

In the eighth, Stassi launched a towering shot to the train tracks atop left field to push the lead to 3-1. Marisnick singled and George Springer walked before Bregman's home run made it 6-1.

Bregman loved that the Astros did all of the damage in the eighth inning with two outs.

"It was huge," he said. "Early in the year we did a lot of that. We did a lot of two-out hitting and that's one of the things that I think this team is really good at. And we've got to keep that up if we want to win ball games."

Jackson allowed six hits and two runs in six innings for the loss.

Andrew Stevenson got things going for Washington when he doubled with one out in the third inning before a single by Howie Kendrick. The Nationals took a 1-0 lead when Stevenson scored on a sacrifice fly by Wilmer Difo.

Jose Altuve got a triple to start Houston's fourth when Stevenson ran in front of Michael Taylor in center field and just missed making the catch on his fly ball. Houston

tied it when Altuve scored on a sacrifice fly by Josh Reddick.

"Jackson, he threw a heck of a game," manager Dusty Baker said. "He left 2-1 and really it should have been one run from the home run by Marisnick. He threw the ball well."

TRAINER'S ROOM

Nationals: RHP Max Scherzer (neck inflammation) is expected to come off the disabled list Friday to start against the New York Mets. ... RHP Ryan Madson is visiting a specialist in Arizona to determine why his sprained right index finger isn't getting any better.

Astros: SS Carlos Correa (left thumb surgery) will begin a rehabilitation assignment with Triple-A Fresno on Thursday. He is expected to play seven innings. Manager A.J. Hinch isn't sure how long he'll need to play in the minors before coming off the disabled list. ... RHP Lance McCullers (back discomfort) will start

for Fresno on Friday in his first rehabilitation outing. ... C Evan Gattis (concussion) is likely to return to the lineup on Thursday.

HOMER HAPPY

Wednesday was Houston's 23rd game this season with at least three homers and its first since Aug. 4. The victory improved the Astros to 21-2 in those games.

THEY SAID IT

Hinch on the performance of Fiers: "He had a great game. He was really good from the very beginning with his fastball. I think it was the best fastball I've seen out of him in a while. I know he felt really good and he was executing his pitches in and out."

UP NEXT

Astros: Dallas Keuchel (11-2, 2.58) will start for Houston on Thursday. He allowed three hits in seven scoreless innings of a 3-1 win over the Athletics his last time out.

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Qatar sending ambassador back to Iran, ignoring Arab demands

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Qatar restored full diplomatic relations with Iran early on Thursday and promised to send its ambassador back to Tehran — a move counter to the demands of Arab nations trying to isolate Doha as part of a regional dispute.

In announcing its decision, Qatar made no mention of the diplomatic crisis roiling Gulf Arab nations since June, when Doha found its land, sea and air routes cut off by the four Arab states.

Iran, which welcomed Doha's decision, has sent food to Qatar and allowed its airplanes to increasingly use the Islamic Republic's airspace.

Restoring diplomatic ties will undoubtedly anger those opposing Qatar in the regional dispute, chief among them Saudi Arabia, Iran's regional rival. Perhaps not unrelated, the move comes just days after Saudi Arabia began promoting a Qatari royal family member whose branch of the family was ousted in a palace coup in 1972.

"Qatar has shown it is going to go in a different direction," said Kristian Coates Ulrichsen, a research fellow at the James A. Baker III Institute for Public Policy at Rice University who lives in Seattle. "It could very well be calculated toward reinforcing the point that Qatar will not bow to this regional pressure placed upon it."

Qatar pulled its ambassador from Tehran in early 2016 after Saudi Arabia's execution of a prominent Shiite cleric sparked attacks on two Saudi diplomatic posts in Iran, a move to show solidarity with the kingdom. A short Foreign Ministry statement issued early Thursday changed that, saying Qatar's ambassador soon would return to Iran.

"The state of Qatar expressed its aspiration to strengthen bilateral relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran in all fields," the statement said.

In Iran, Foreign Ministry spokesman Bahram Ghasemi said Qatar announced its intention to return its ambassador to Tehran in a phone with Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif.

"We welcome this measure by the Qatari government," Ghasemi said, according to the state-run IRNA news agency.

Despite recalling its ambassador in 2016, Qatar maintained its valuable commercial ties to Iran. Qatar and Iran share a massive offshore natural gas field, called the South Pars Field by Tehran and the North Field by Doha.

That gas field's vast reserves made Qataris have the highest per capita income in the world, as well as funded the nation's Al-Jazeera satellite news network and secured hosting the 2022 FIFA World Cup.

Shiite power Iran also has incorporated the crisis into its regular criticism of the Sunni-ruled Saudi Arabia, part of the two Mideast powers' long-running proxy war.

However, those tensions may be easing as well, as Iran's semi-official ISNA news agency quoted Zarif as saying visas for both Iranian and Saudi diplomats to visit their respective embassies and consulates had been issued. Zarif said final steps to allow the visits likely would be taken after the annual hajj pilgrimage at the end of the month.

There was no immediate reaction from the Arab nations boycotting Qatar on its Iran decision. On Wednesday, the Central African nation of Chad announced it would close its embassy in Doha, accusing Qatar of trying to destabilize it from neighboring Libya.

The diplomatic crisis began on June 5, when Bahrain, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates cut ties to Qatar over allegations it was funding extremists and being too close to Iran. Qatar long has denied funding extremists.

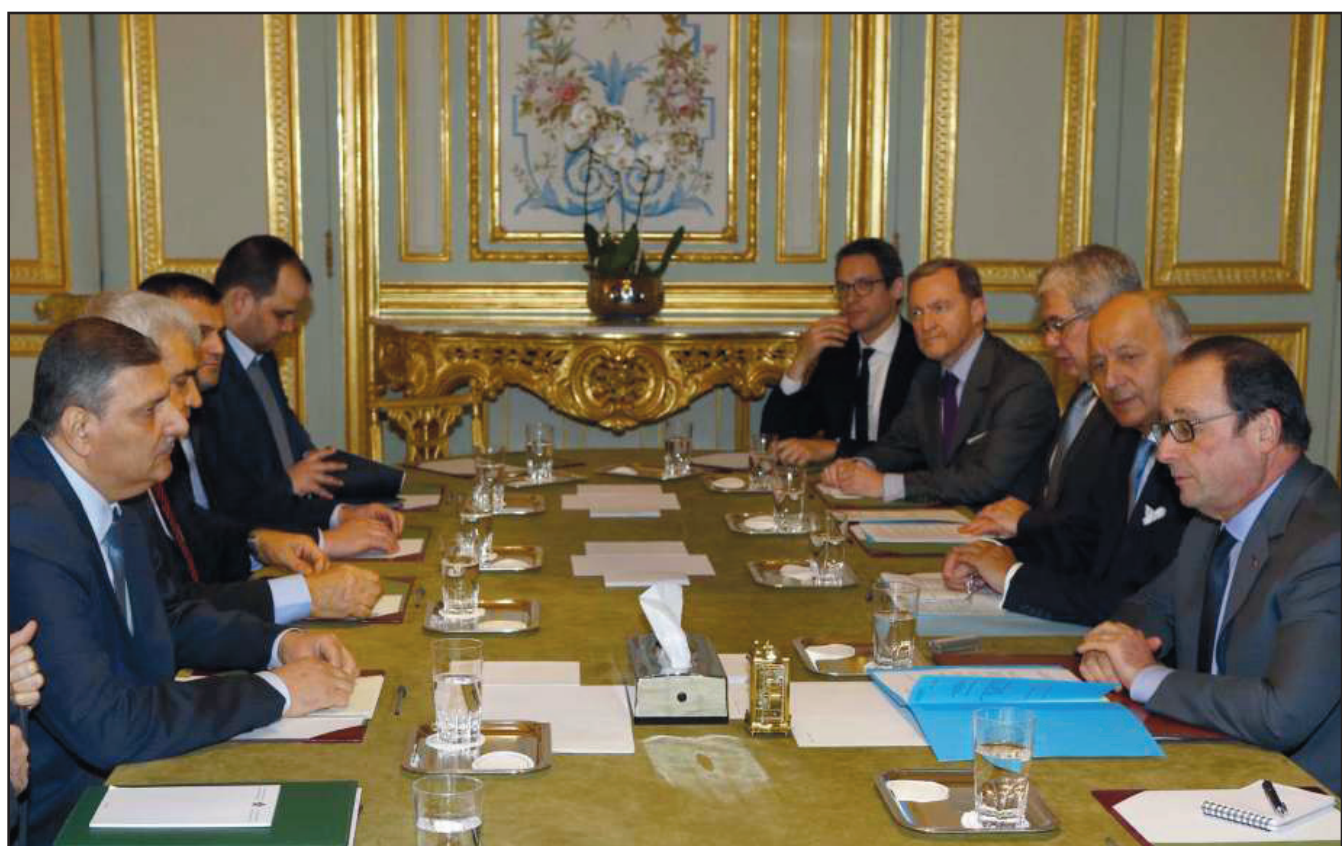
Dutch police detain suspect in concert terror threat

ROTTERDAM, Netherlands (AP) — Alerted by a detailed tip from Spanish colleagues, Dutch police arrested a 22-year-old man early Thursday and said he was suspected of preparing a "terrorist attack" on a concert by an American rock band.

The arrest in Brabant province, south of Rotterdam, came hours after police cancelled a performance Wednesday night by Los Angeles band Allah-Las at a converted grain silo in the heart of the port city.

"The suspicion is that the suspect is involved in the preparation of a terrorist attack," Rotterdam Police Chief Frank Paauw said.

"There is no terror threat now anymore," he added. "There is no threat because we have arrested a suspect and the information about the threat was so specific on the location of the event that, with that



In this Jan. 11, 2016 file photo, French President Francois Hollande, right, and French Foreign Affairs Minister Laurent Fabius, second right, talk with former Syrian Prime Minister Riad Hijab, left, coordinator of the Syrian opposition team during a meeting with delegations at the Elysee Palace in Paris. As Damascus reverses military losses in much of the country's strategically important west and foreign states cut support for rebels, diplomats from Washington to Riyadh are asking representatives of Syria's opposition to come to terms with President Bashar Assad's political survival.

arrest, we can conclude that the threat is gone."

Police searched the man's home after his arrest but released no details of anything they found. His identity was not released, in line with Dutch privacy guidelines.

Meanwhile, a Spanish mechanic detained Thursday night while driving, apparently drunk, a white van containing a number of gas canisters close to the concert venue was to be questioned once he sobered up, police said.

However, he did not appear to be a terror suspect. Police said a search of his home uncovered nothing to indicate he was linked to the threat. Explosives experts who combed through the van's contents found a few gas canisters but nothing suspicious, police said.

The 22-year-old suspect was being questioned by police and prosecutors. If authorities want to prolong his detention they will have to arraign him at a closed-doors hearing with an investigative judge before the end of Friday, prosecution spokeswoman Jeichien de Graaff said.

Syria opposition told to come to terms with Assad's survival

BEIRUT (AP) — As Damascus reverses military losses in much of the country's strategically important west, and foreign states cut support for rebel forces, diplomats from Washington to Riyadh are asking representatives of Syria's opposition to come to terms with President Bashar Assad's political survival.

The country's civil war has crossed the halfway point of its sixth year and Assad and his allies are now in control of Syria's four largest cities and its Mediterranean coast. With the help of Russian air power and Iranian-sponsored militias, pro-government forces are marching steadily across the energy-rich Homs province to reach the Euphrates River valley.

Western and regional rebel patrons, currently more focused on advancing their own interests rather than accomplishing regime change in Damascus, are shifting their alliances and have ceased calls on Assad to step down.

"There is no conceivable military alignment that's going to be able to remove him," said former U.S. Ambassador to Syria Robert Ford, now a fellow at the Middle East Institute in Washington, D.C. "Everyone including the U.S. has recognized that Assad is staying."

The war has settled into a familiar, lower-intensity grind, with the Syrian government now in control of most of the populated west while Islamic State group militants and al-Qaida affiliates, U.S.-backed Kurds and Turkey-backed rebels hold on to remaining pockets in the north, east and south.

Russia-sponsored so-called de-escalation zones have significantly reduced violence in rebel-held territory although fighting continues to rage in some areas.

With another round of U.N. mediated peace talks on the horizon in Geneva, the opposition's chief representative group, the High Negotiations Committee, is being told by even its closest patrons it risks irrelevance if it does not adapt to the new realities.

Saudi Foreign Minister Adel al-Jubeir, according to an interlocutor briefed on the matter, told the opposition it was time to formulate "a new vision."

"He didn't explicitly say Bashar is going to stay, but if you read between the lines, if you say there needs to be a new vision, what is the most contentious issue out there? It's whether Bashar stays," said the interlocutor, who mediates between the opposition and state capitals and requested anonymity so as not to compromise his work.

It is a difficult pill to swallow for the opposition, which has been holding a series of meetings as part of a months-long stock-taking process where they are expected to narrow their aims and refresh their leadership.

Where's the winner? Lottery's Powerball error adds intrigue

CHICOPEE, Mass. (AP) — A mistake by the Massachusetts State Lottery on Thursday injected a little extra drama into the massive \$758.7 million Powerball drawing — the largest won by a single ticket in U.S. history — after lottery officials initially bungled their announcement and gave the wrong shop and location.

The lottery corrected the site where the single winning ticket was sold to Chicopee, Massachusetts. Overnight, they had announced the winning ticket was sold at a shop in Watertown, just outside Boston.

But shortly before 8 a.m., the lottery said it had made a mistake, and that the winning ticket was sold at the Pride Station & Store in Chicopee, about halfway across the state.

The lottery did not say how the error was made. Michael Sweeney, the lottery's executive director, told WBZ-AM they had a "couple of excited people at 1 o'clock in the morning," adding that if there's any blame to be placed, the buck stops with him.

It said the store in Watertown did sell a ticket that won a \$1 million prize.

Reporters had descended on the store hours before it opened around 6:30 a.m.

Mike Donatelli, a spokesman for the Pride Station & Store in Chicopee, says they were told shortly before 8 a.m. that the store had actually sold that ticket.



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