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BIG SPRING HERALD

MONDAY, APRIL 29, 2019

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Upcoming Events

JURY TRIAL CANCELLATION FOR MAY 6
Howard County Court under Judge Wiseman is canceling Jury Panel set for May 6 at 9 a.m.

Today and Tuesday

Early Voting Courthouse First Floor 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

May 2 National Day of Prayer 12:15-12:45 p.m. Courthouse

May 3 & 4 West Texas Taco Championship Downtown

May 4 Election Day

May 11 Master the Mountain Registration open 9 a.m.

Relay For Life Comanche Trail Park 4 p.m. - 10 p.m.

Trash Off rescheduled for May 18 More details to come

Tickets for Song Swap at the Spring are now available at the Convention and Visitors Bureau, or through www.stubwire.com.

Big Spring Symphony lights up the stage with pops



By ROGER CLINE
Staff Writer

The Big Spring Municipal Auditorium was popping Saturday evening as the Big Spring Symphony Orchestra, under the direction of Dr. Keith Graumann, wowed the audience with pop music from throughout history and around the world.

"It was a great concert," said Graumann, who is the music director as well as the conductor for the BSSO. "First of all, the Big Spring Symphony is just a privilege to work with because everyone's so talented. Then we add some fun rock and roll, and some other kinds of orchestral pop to it, and we just had a really fun evening."

The concert, entitled "Spring is for Big Spring," featured musical songs and medleys from Roy Orbison, the Beach Boys, Adele, the Monkees, Billy Joel, and Earth, Wind and Fire; as well as popular music from other times and places – Strauss' "Pizzicato Polka," classical rock arrangements "Hooked on Classics" and "A Fifth of Beethoven," Andrea Bocelli's signature "Con Te Partiro" by Francesco Sartori, "A Night in Mexico," and the country piece "Orange

See **CONCERT**, Page 3

Centennial Lions Pancakes



HERALD photo/Anna Gutierrez

The most important meal of the day... Customers line up for the Centennial Lions Club's pancake breakfast fundraiser Saturday, April 27, at the Howard College Cafeteria. Proceeds from the fundraiser will be used for local Lion Charities.

Commissioners plan Budget Workshop before regular meeting

By ROGER CLINE
Staff Writer

Howard County Commissioners will hold a short Budget Workshop prior to their regular biweekly meeting Wednesday. The Workshop will begin at 3 p.m. and the regular meeting will start at 3:30 p.m.; both will be held in the second floor conference room of the Howard County Courthouse, 300 S. Main Street.

Following the Workshop, commissioners will consider several items, including a request to the Texas Commission on Jail Standards for a variance allowing the county to add 12 beds

to the existing County Jail, and a potential contract with Mitchell County for housing Howard County inmates in that county's jail.

Other items under consideration will include:

- The second reading of a request to name a new road in Precinct 3 subdivision "Hill Country Drive."
- Presentation of warrants for a multi-stop application at Gatesville and Hilltop.
- Consideration of a policy requiring an orientation before a company can place an above-road facility, such as a water line, on a Howard

See **COUNTY**, Page 3

INDEX

Comics9
Classifieds5-8
Obituaries2
Local1&3
Sports.....4&10

Find us online at:
www.bigspringherald.com






Coming together in prayer

National Day of Prayer is May 2

By AMANDA DUFORAT
Managing Editor

National Day of Prayer is set for May 2 at the Howard County Courthouse. Local officials, community members and pastors will join together from 12:15 to 12:45 p.m. in unified prayer.

"National Day of Prayer is an annual moment in our nation where leaders pause and stop to unite and pray for the peace and protection for our city, state, and nation," Pastor Sam Segundo, pastor at Family Faith Center, said.

In recent years, hundreds have gathered in the downtown area to lift up local officials, state leaders and our nation as a whole. Representatives from different areas of business and leadership

will be offering a moment of prayer, during the event.

"This is a time where we reflect in His goodness and grace and acknowledge His bountiful blessings," Segundo said.

The community is invited to stop by during their lunch hour and join in the unified prayer.

"We want to extend a special thank you to all the Big Spring leaders and citizens who have participated in the past and who will be joining us this year," Segundo said.

Amanda Duforat is the managing editor at the Big Spring Herald. To contact her email editor@bigspringherald.com or call 432-263-7331.

Golf game filled with tricks

Chamber gears up for annual golf tournament

By AMANDA DUFORAT
Managing Editor

It may not be your normal golf game, so beware of the tricks, but come out ready to swing sticks for a good cause.

The Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce is coming back with their Tricks and Sticks golf tournament, set for June 1 at the Big Spring Country Club.

"Last year we had a lot of fun with the different challenges at each hole," Debbye ValVerde, Executive Director of the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce, said. "We added a twist to the golf game and allowed for a fun time to be had for everyone from the avid golfers to the beginners. It is something every level was able to come out and enjoy."

According to ValVerde, sponsorships are available, but the biggest need is to find teams to participate. This year, registration is \$500 per team. The tournament will be a four-person scramble, with a shotgun start at 9 a.m.

"We are going to have lots of fun activities again, from rolling the dice, seeing who can hit straight after spinning around three times and the coveted hole in one opportunities," ValVerde said. "This is just a fun way to get outside, support the Chamber and get in a round of golf."

For those wanting to sign up for a sponsorship, more information can be gathered by calling ValVerde at the Big Spring

See **GOLF**, Page 3



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Obituaries

James Edward Darling



James Edward Darling, 39, aka "Wrangler" of Big Spring passed away on Thursday, April 25, 2019, from an automobile accident in Big Spring, Texas.

Visitation with the family of James E. Darling will be held Tuesday, April 30, 2019 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home in Big Spring.

Funeral services will be held Wednesday, May 1, 2019, at 10 a.m. at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel with Bro. Steve Goude, Pastor of Grace Fellowship Church of God, officiating. Interment will follow at Trinity Memorial Park.

James Edward Darling was born April 10, 1980, in Elk City, Oklahoma to Jimmy Darling, Jr. and Margaret Darling, both currently of Big Spring. The family moved to Big Spring in January of 1981 where James made his home.

James graduated from Big Spring High School in 1998. He enjoyed baseball and was a pitcher for the Big Spring Steers. James's passion was hunting, boating, fishing, camping and enjoying time with his daughter. He cherished his family and enjoyed spending time with them. James had just bought a brand new tractor and was looking forward to working on his ranch, building his new home for his wife and family. James was highly respected, loved, and cherished by everyone he came

in contact with. At the time of James tragic death he worked for Energy Transfer currently as their Instrumental & Electrician Technician. James enjoyed all of his friends, especially Brian Neie, his best friend. James was currently a member of Grace Fellowship Church of God Big Spring.

James is survived by his wife and true love of his life, Teresa Huitt-Darling of the home in Big Spring; his daughter Kelli Jo Darling, of Salado, Texas; his parents, Jimmy Darling, Jr. and Margaret Darling; his grandmother, Betty Findley; his sister Amy Darling-Huitt and husband, Preston Huitt; step-daughters, Nova and Genesis Caldwell; step-son, Joshua Caldwell; brothers-in-law, Terry Huitt & wife, Lori and Jerry Huitt; his in-laws, Ronnie and Louise Huitt, all of Big Spring; and numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, nephews.

James is preceded in death by his paternal grandparents Jimmy Darling, Sr. and Dorothy Darling of Llano, Texas; maternal grandfather James Findley of Big Spring, and uncle Johnny Darling of Elk City, Oklahoma.

Pallbearers will be Brian Neie, Cody Huitt, Preston Huitt, Garrett Huitt, Daniel Scott and Leo Jameson.

Honorary Pallbearers: all Energy Transfer Employees that work at the Rebel One & Two Plants, Joshua Caldwell, Chuck Huitt; all nephews and brother in laws.

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

Paid Obituary

Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity:

- **MITCHELL ALAN DUSH**, 41, of 1523 E. 17th St., was arrested on an outstanding warrant from another agency.
- **BRITTANY VANESSA ESCANUELA**, 29, of 1221 E. 17th St., was arrested on warrants for speeding, no drivers license and child under eight or less than 4'9" tall not in safety seat system.

- **JUAN MANUEL SALAZAR**, 47, of 1500 Wood, was arrested on a warrant for driving with invalid license.
- **JEREMY BENTON SAUCEDO**, 27, of 1313 Dixie Ave., was arrested on charges of possession of a controlled substance penalty group 1 (four to 200 grams), possession of marijuana (less than two ounces) in a drug free zone.
- **DESMON R. DELOACH**, 27, of 4300 Ratliff #8, was arrested on

an outstanding warrant from another agency.

- **FOUND PROPERTY** was reported in the 3600 block of W. Hwy 80.
- **THEFT OF FIREARM** was reported in the 3600 block of W. Hwy 80.
- **ACCIDENT MINOR** was reported in the 500 block of E. FM 700.

Take Note

- Shana Sullivan Robbins Lopez Medical Account: Shana was in a diabetic coma and is now in hospice care. Shana is one of our own and graduated from Coahoma High School. She is the granddaughter of Pearl Shifflett, daughter of Sammie and Bobby Sullivan, and mother to Jacob, Garrett and Rachel Robbins. Her family is in dire need of assistance for her medical/burial expenses. If you are able and would like to donate, and account has been set up at Western Bank, Account number 8039141 (locations in Big Spring, Coahoma, Lubbock, Abilene, Brownwood, and Lorraine). We would like to extend the deepest gratitude for any and all donations and prayers. Thank you and God Bless.

- Big Spring Centennial Lions Club will be having a pancake breakfast on Saturday, April 27, 2019 at the Howard College Cafeteria located in the Student Union Building. Come out and eat breakfast before "A Joyful Season" trade show that is being held in the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum. Pancakes, bacon, sausage, coffee, milk or tea will be served for a donation of \$6 per person. First responders, police and firemen all eat free. All proceeds will be used in our community for Lion charities. Presale tickets are available from any Lions Club member.

- Maranatha Baptist Academy, at 903 Johnson, is now taking applications for ongoing enrollment for our Fall Session, August 1, 2019-2020 School term. Call 432-213-1046 for an appointment, Dr. Lillian Bohannon, Administrator. Please have shot records and birth certificate available at the time of registration. We use Accelerated Christian Education curriculum for grades Kindergarten through twelfth grade graduation. We provide information so you can home school or use our facilities for full time in our school. We also provided tutoring for all grades. If interested in a quality Christian Education at a price you can afford, please come by or give us a call.

- Home Hospice is looking for volunteers (18+) and junior volunteers (9-

16 years old). Applications can be picked up at the Home Hospice office, located at 111 E. Seventh Street, Suite A between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Adult volunteers will need to complete a training and must be able to pass a background check. Volunteer duties will include home visits; junior volunteers will be helping with office work, community events and holiday activities. More information can be obtained by calling 264-7599 or 432-967-0901.

- Keep Big Spring Beautiful meets at noon the first Monday of every month. We meet at Howard College in the Cactus Room. Our vision is that every Big Spring citizen will take individual responsibility for making Big Spring the most beautiful city in Texas. Visitors are always welcome. For more information call Tammy at 432-935-0057.

- 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, 432-935-0713.

If you want additional information about getting your child on this program please contact your child's school. The next sacking event will be May 6 and 7 at the old Lakeview High School, 1107 NW 7th St., at 5:30 p.m.

- The Big Spring Art Association meets the third Saturday of the month, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., in the basement of the Howard County Library. Come join us, we would love to have you.

- Big Spring and surrounding

counties are in need of foster families. Foster parents are the caretakers for the children in the community who have been abused or neglected. For more information on becoming foster parents or adoptive families, call the Children's Protective Services office at 432-263-9669.

- Victim Services is a non-profit independent community-based program serving victims of all violent crime, including, but not limited to, assault, sexual assault and domestic violence. Victim Services advocates are available 24 hours of day, 365 days a year to provide crisis intervention or accompaniment to the hospital and law enforcement agencies as needed. If you can commit to 30-hour training, an interview process and a background check, we need you. For more information, call Linda Calvio at 432-263-3312.

- The mission of CASA of West Texas is to promote and support quality volunteers who speak for the best interest of abused and neglected children in court in an effort to find each child a safe, nurturing and permanent home. We need your help. If you're interested in volunteering, contact Sara Basaldua at 1-877-316-8346 or visit www.BecomeaCASA.org or www.casawtx.org.

- Scenic Mountain Medical Center Auxiliary is looking for new members. If you have a heart for serving people, have at least four hours a week to spare, SMMC Auxiliary might be the fit for you.

Duties include working in the gift shop, delivering newspapers to inpatients, hospitality services, popcorn and more.

To find out more about opportunities available with the SMMC Auxiliary, contact Amy Miramontes at 268-4809 or April Arms at 268-4907.

Jack Stovall

Jack Stovall, 89, of Stanton, formerly of Big Spring died Sunday 28, 2019. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Support Groups

MONDAY

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

TUESDAY

- Big Spring and Snyder Parkinson's Support Group meeting at the Big Spring Senior Center at 10:30 a.m. the second Tuesday of the month.

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

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

- Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m.; newcomers meeting 8 p.m. to 9 p.m.
- A six-week course in Wellness and Quality of Life with Chronic Pain will be held at Spring Creek Fellowship at the Spring Town Plaza, 1801 E. FM 700. There is no charge for the course, and a workbook will be provided. Contact Steve Purdy at 432-517-4840 for more information.
- Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m.; open 12 and 12 study meeting 8 p.m. to 9 p.m.
- Caregivers Support Group, sponsored by the Area Agency on Aging, meets the second Tuesday of every month at 10:30 a.m. The meetings are held at the Senior Citizens Center located at 100 Whipkey Drive. These meetings are open for any caregiver, whether medical professional or family member. For more information, please call Becky Letz at 267-1628.

WEDNESDAY

- RSD (Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy) a chronic pain disease, a support and informative group, meets at 213 Circle. Call Lucy at 432-517-9207 for more information.
- Celebrate Recovery meets at First United Methodist Church Youth Hall, 400 Scurry, from 6-8 p.m. Hurts, habits and hang-ups. Leave message for Joyce Webb at 325-212-8600.

THURSDAY

- Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, open discussion noon to 1 p.m.; women's meeting 6:30 until 7:30 p.m. Newcomers' meeting 8 p.m. until 9 p.m.
- Weight Watchers meets at 6 p.m. at St. Paul Lutheran Church. Weigh-in is at 5:30 p.m. Weigh-in is confidential and you don't have to talk if you don't want to. Flexible payment options.
- Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder support group meeting is at 6:30 p.m. at the VA Medical Center Veteran's Healing Center.
- Bring Everyone Into The Zone, or BEITZ Support Group, is a veteran-based peer group. The purpose of the group is to provide peer-to-peer support to service members, veterans and families, especially those suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), traumatic brain injury (TBI), military sexual trauma (MST) and other traumatic events in their lives. BEITZ meets every Thursday at 6 p.m. at 501 Birdwell Lane. For more information, email francisco.garza@wtcmhmr.org, or call 432-268-3003.
- GriefShare is a Biblical support group that focuses on helping people who are dealing with a loved one's death. Each DVD session features nationally respected grief experts and real-life stories, followed by small group discussion about the topics presented (with workbook support). Meetings are weekly, every Thursday, at Trinity Baptist Church in Big Spring. Call Vivian Gordon at 432-466-3583 for more information.

FRIDAY

- Reformers Unanimous International is a faith-based addictions program helping people find freedom from addiction. Meetings begin at 7 p.m. Fridays at Trinity Baptist Church in Big Spring. Enter at the main entrance of the church.
- AA open discussion meeting from noon until 1 p.m. at 605 Settles. Open Big Book study meeting, 8 p.m. until 9 p.m.



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**MEMBER
2019**

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Weather



Today: Isolated showers and thunderstorms. Partly sunny, with a high near 86. South wind 5 to 10 mph becoming southeast in the afternoon. Chance of precipitation is 20%.

Tonight: Scattered showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 65. Southeast wind 10 to 15 mph. Chance of precipitation is 50%. New rainfall amounts of less than a tenth of an inch, except higher amounts possible in thunderstorms.

Tuesday: Scattered showers and thunderstorms. Mostly sunny, with a high near 88. Southwest wind 5 to 15 mph. Chance of precipitation is 40%.

Tuesday Night: Scattered showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a low around 61. South wind 5 to 10 mph. Chance of precipitation is 30%.

Wednesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 87.

Wednesday Night: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a low around 60.

Thursday: A slight chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly sunny, with a high near 77.

Thursday Night: A chance of showers. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 58.

Friday: A chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 77.

Friday Night: A chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 60.

Saturday: A chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly sunny, with a high near 81.

Saturday Night: A slight chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a low around 63.

(Weather courtesy National Weather Service via forecast.weather.gov)

CONCERT

Continued from Page 1

Blossom Special."

Local soloists were highlighted in the concert, including vocalists Nadia Kiley performing Adele's "Rolling in the Deep" and Earth, Wind and Fire's "September"; Lawrence Thibealt performing Orbison's "Pretty Woman" and the Monkees' "Day Dream Believer," and Tara Trowbridge singing "Con Te Partiro" and the title song from the Rodgers and Hammerstein musical, "The Sound of Music"; BSSO's trumpeters Dan Kiley, Jose Luis Gonzales and Gabe Martinez joining efforts on "Bugler's Holiday" by Leroy Anderson, and local guitarist Donny Green adding his skill on electric guitar throughout the concert.

"It was all Big Spring guest artists. They're just

perfect. Nadia, Tara and Lawrence did a great job, and the audience was very entertained. Also, it was great to have Donny Green on guitar. I've known him for a long time, and we rarely get to work together because we're at opposite ends of the musical spectrum."

The concert was the final performance of the 2018-2019 concert season. According to the concert's program, next year's theme will be "The Good, The Better and the Beethoven." The first concert, scheduled Sept. 14, will be titled "New World."

For more information, visit BSSO's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/BigSpringSymphony.

Contact Staff Writer Roger Cline at 432-263-7331 ext. 235, or by email at reporter@bigspringherald.com.

Take Note

- The Crossroads Young Marines is taking applications for another boot camp. For more information, call 432-517-4791. Young Marines welcomes boys and girls ages 8 to 18 who are still attending school.

- The Homeownership Preservation Foundation (HPF) is an independent national nonprofit dedicated to helping distressed homeowners navigate financial challenges and avoid mortgage foreclosure. If you want to stop mortgage foreclosure and are need of help, the time to call 888-995-HOPE is now. HPF can provide counseling free of charge, in English and 170 other languages, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year. For free foreclosure help, call the hotline.

- The Howard County Democrats will meet the second and fourth Monday of each month at 5:30 pm. at the Howard County Democratic Headquarters, 1408 Scurry, behind Prosperity Bank.

- The Emergency Services Chaplains Corps is seeking volunteer chaplains. The corps provides spiritual services to Howard County residents and visitors in crisis situations. Prospective chaplains don't require any specific experience or education to qualify for the position, just a calling from God and a willingness to devote time to the program, which requires a 24- to 30-week training program and dedication of one day per week for emergency call-outs. Those interested should contact Senior Chaplain Joel Miller at 432-213-1221.

- 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.

- Each week Kindred offers free health checks from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. at the Yellow Rose Cafe at Scenic Mountain Medical Center, 1601 W. 11th Place.

- Seniors and mature adults are invited to a dance on the first, third and fifth Friday of each month at the Dora Roberts Community Center. Dances are from 7:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. with live bands. No alcohol or smoking permitted. There will be a pot luck as well so bring a dish if you want to eat. Cost is \$8 per person.

- 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.

GOLF

Continued from Page 1

Area Chamber of Commerce at 432-263-7641. To register a team, stop by the Big Spring Country Club and get on the list.

"Everyone is encouraged to come out and join us. Last year it was a good time, with lots of laughter, for the teams, the volunteers and the sponsors who joined us," she said. "The plan is to make this year even better than last year, which only means even more laughs."

Amanda Duforat is the managing editor at the Big Spring Herald. To contact her, email editor@bigspringherald.com or call 432-263-7331.

for Dutch treat lunch and meeting at 12 p.m.

- 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.

- The Big Spring State Hospital Volunteer Services Council is in need of volunteers to fill a variety of needs to assist the hospital's patients. Applications to become a volunteer can be picked up at The Chalet, 115 E. Second St., Tuesday through Saturday between 8 a.m. and 3 p.m. or at the Big Spring State Hospital Community Relations Department, 1901 N. Hwy 87, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Volunteers can assist with a variety of functions, including The Chalet Resale Shop, various fund-raisers and patient events. For more information, contact Dee Lindsey, Big Spring State Hospital Director of Community Relations, (432) 268-7535 or danielle.lindsey@dshs.state.tx.us

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

- Crossroads Hospice needs volunteers for patient care. Contact Eva at 263-5300.

COUNTY

Continued from Page 1

County road.

- Consider roadway maintenance updates.
- Consider approval of invoices, purchase requests, and budget amendments.
- Consider 2020 retirement rates.
- Consider approval of payroll, personnel considerations, and the treasurer's monthly report.

If you would like to address the commissioners, plan to arrive a few minutes before the regular meeting's start time to fill out a brief form alerting them of your intent to speak. Contact County Judge Kathryn Wiseman at 432-264-2202.

Contact Staff Writer Roger Cline at 432-263-7331 ext. 235, or by email at reporter@bigspringherald.com.

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- Full Time and PRN - Paramedics & EMT's
- Full Time - Speech Pathologist
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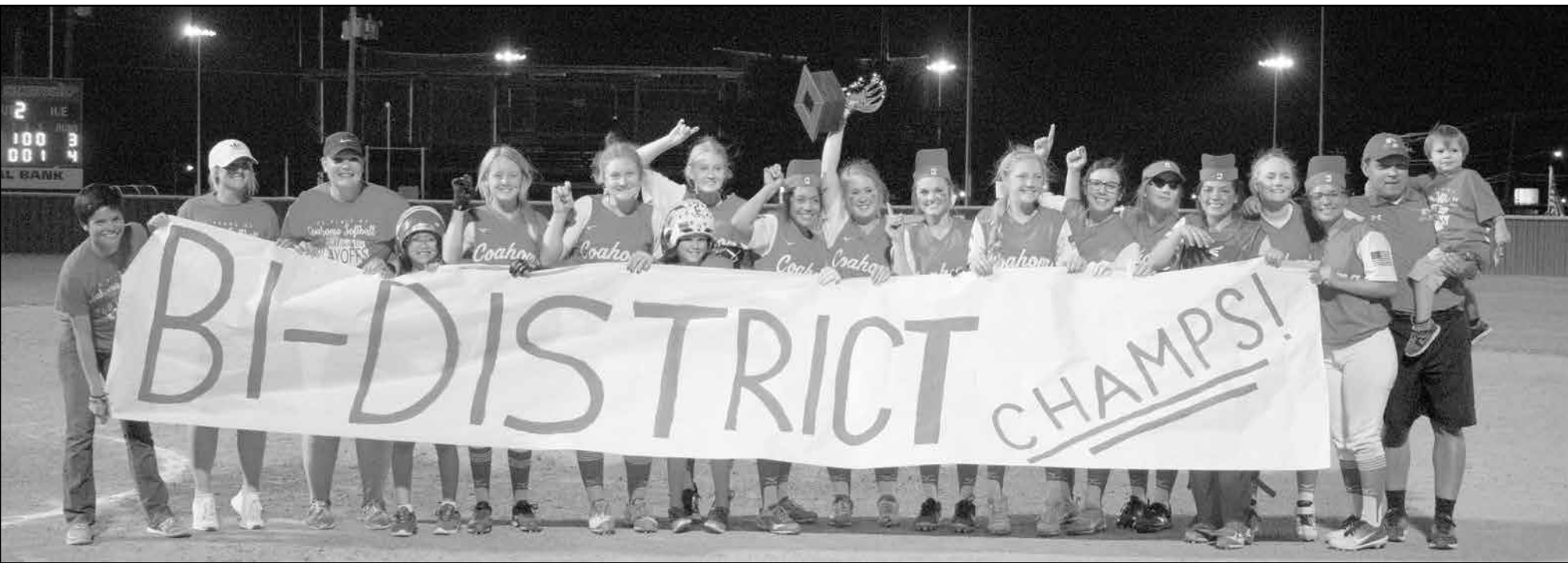
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Martin County Hospital

Walk-off double gives Bulldogettes Bi-District championship



Courtesy photo/Lyndel Moody

The Coahoma Bulldogettes pose for a photo with their bi-district trophy after winning their game over Comanche 4-3 in the ninth inning.

Special to the Herald

SAN ANGELO — Cassie Grant knew she was just one strike away from playing her last game as a Coahoma Bulldogette at the bi-district game against Comanche on Friday night.

She made sure that didn't happen. On a 3-2 pitch, the Coahoma High School senior hammered the ball which dropped right into the gap for a walk off double and handed her teammates a 4-3 win to end the 2 1/2 hour, nine-inning softball game.

"At first I was freaking out and I was shaking, but as soon as I hit the ball I said, "We've been working on this for a long time, for this game right here."

It was the freshman, Kaylor Green, that got the Bulldogette offense going in the bottom of the ninth inning. She singled on a 3-0 pitch to get on base.

However after the single, the Comanche Maiden pitcher regrouped and struck the next two batters out. Then the Comanche coach opted to

walk Jaydan Mann, who went 2-for-4 at-bat including an RBI triple earlier in the game, and have his pitcher face C. Grant who was 0-for-3 when she walked up to the plate.

Overall the Maidens out hit the Bulldogettes 10-9, but Coahoma kept their postseason alive through outstanding defense especially in the extra innings and the strong arm of pitcher MaKynlee Overton.

Over the nine innings, Overton gave up 10 hits, three runs and struck out 10. She faced 36 batters, threw 122 pitches and got 88 strikes. The Maiden's pitcher, Chloe Williams faced 40 batters, threw 165 pitches and got 106 strikes.

Overton said she stayed focused on two things during the game: getting the next out and counting on her teammates for backup.

"My team, my seniors, they are the reason I do everything," she said. "They are the reason I am playing right now, and I am giving all the glory to God. He helped me through the game. He gave me the power."

Coahoma's strongest inning at-bat came in the sixth with two runs scored. Macee Grant started it off with a double on a hard hit line drive to center field. Grant went 2-for-4 and earned a run after Overton followed with a double on a fly ball to center field to knot the score at 2-2.

Green, who led the Bulldogettes at the plate going 2-for-4, brought Overton home with a line drive to center field to push Coahoma back into the lead 3-2. The Maidens tied the score in the seventh inning, but Overton got out of it by striking out the last two batters and leaving runners stranded on first and third base.

The Maidens got runners in scoring position in both the eighth and ninth innings, but couldn't capitalize thanks to the Bulldogette defense. The nearest the Maidens came to a score in the extra inning was in the eighth when a runner attempted to steal third but was tagged out before she could cross home plate.

Next: The Bulldogettes head to Abilene to face last year's area op-

ponents Henrietta in a three game series. The first game will start at 6 p.m. Friday on the Abilene Christian University campus. The second game is set for 6 p.m. Saturday, but may be played earlier depending on the outcome of other scheduled games playing on the same field. If needed, the third game will begin about an hour after the second one.

COMANCHE 3, BULLDOGETTES 4

Comanche: 000 110 100 -- 3 10 0
Coahoma: 001 002 001 -- 4 9 1

W — MaKynlee Overton, L — Chloe Williams. 2B: Comanche — Williams, Lynzie Day, Carly Rodriguez, Reagan Harms; Coahoma — Overton, Macee Grant, Cassie Grant. 3B: Coahoma — Jaydan Mann. SB: Comanche — Kenna Car, Vicki Lopez, Danielle Wendt; Coahoma — Madison Rodgers, Kaylor Green. Pitches-Strikes: Comanche — Williams 165-106, K. Car 2-0; Coahoma — M. Overton 122-88.

Big Spring has a great Regional Track Meet: Jeremiah Cooley earns another trip to State



Courtesy photos

Jeremiah Cooley makes a jump of 20' 11" at the Regional Track Meet in Lubbock this past weekend. Cooley's jump earned him a second place finish and a second straight trip to the State Track Meet in Austin.



Courtesy photos

Left: Kyler Seymore bends over the bar for a fourth place finish at the Regional Track meet with a jump of 6' 4". Right: Roman Perez and Cooper Miller running hard. Perez and Miller both put up really good numbers in both the 1600 and 3200 meter races showing a lot of heart.

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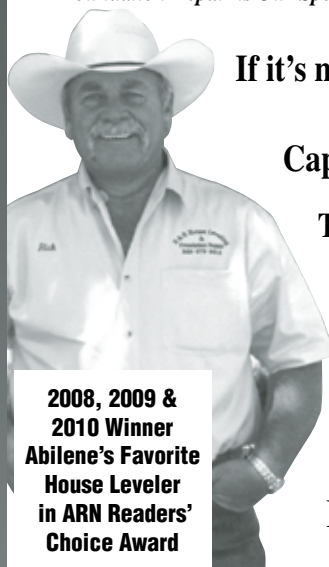
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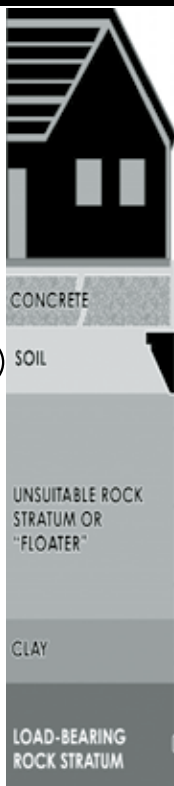
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Tomorrow's Horoscope

BY HOLIDAY MATHIS



SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). The universe is massive, but thanks to the genius of our senses, we can count on observations

something in need of expression. Maybe expression isn't appropriate or socially acceptable in one moment or in one way, but there's always another. Resolve to find it.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You see similarities among people because you look for them. You're also looking for something to like, ways people can work together and, of course, opportunities to have fun.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). People have a right to make their own choices. The peaceful, respectful way is to keep reminding yourself of this today as you watch people do things that you wouldn't choose for them.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). When people get their feelings hurt,

they tend to come to you for comfort, and to vent. Do you mind hearing so much complaining? That's what you get for being a trusted friend!

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (April 29). Don't be surprised if you find yourself moving -- furniture, your body, your address. A new you takes over this solar return, and life quickly snaps to fit the fresh identity. You love people for who they are, not for what you need or who they might become. Relationships thrive under your sincere attention. Investments pay in July. Scorpio and Gemini adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 5, 28, 1, 19 and 41.

Write Holiday Mathis at HolidayMathis@gmail.com.

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Saturn Retrograde Musings

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Like a strong tree that bends with the wind, you've great integrity but you're not rigid. Good, because people around you are going to do things you don't approve of -- things you'll have to ignore, tolerate or work around.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Like a very effective personal trainer, fear can be your ally, motivating you to improve, push yourself and ultimately become stronger. Bonus: Fear comes with a rush of energy you can apply to the task.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). As a rule, you walk your talk. But like all people, you have moments of falling out

of alignment. This can be fixed with 10 minutes of introspection and a decision.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). There's no need to hold on to what isn't working. The only trouble is, you're not sure which part is broken. To avoid getting rid of perfectly good stuff, do some testing to isolate the problem.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Something to watch out for: Giving can be a way of controlling people's attention. Think: magician producing a bunny from a hat. It's a trick. Something happens when the audience isn't looking ... then it's all cuteness and awe.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You're no chameleon. You don't change or blend in for anyone un-

less and until you decide there's something in it for you. You can't totally control how you change, but you can aim yourself in a direction.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Because of the GPS system on many people's phones, they can go anywhere without a map. But there's still no GPS for the emotional landscape. And yet, here you go bravely heading into new territory.

that are the right size for our comprehension -- usually. You might feel a little stretched in this way today.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Strong emotions are signals there's

Annie's Mailbox

Can't Find the Right Words

Dear Annie: My boyfriend's mother was recently diagnosed with Alzheimer's. It's been really hard on him and his family. I've been trying to be there for him as best I can, but it seems like I'm always saying the wrong thing. The other day, he was talking about how difficult it is to think that there will eventually be a time when his mom can no longer remember his or his brothers' names. I told him that was years down the road and to try not to think about it for now, to enjoy the quality time he can still spend with her. He snapped at

me and told me he was allowed to think about it, that it was a reality he's facing. What is the right thing to say in these situations? -- Hesitant but Wanting to Help

Dear Hesitant: It's not about saying the right thing. The fact is that this is extremely upsetting news for your boyfriend and his family, and there's no combination of words that can make it all better. While I know that your wish to cheer him up comes from a place of love, it can come across as minimizing the pain -- which adds insult to injury. Sometimes the kindest thing we can do for a loved one is to simply sit

with him in his pain and honor it.

You can also express your love by cooking meals, running errands or helping him out with any other practical aspects of everyday life that might fall to the wayside in the wake of this news. Ask him to always feel free to tell you what he needs from you, whether he'd like to hear reassurance or just wants to vent.

Lastly, you might encourage him to attend a support group. To find one in your area or to join a virtual support community, visit <https://www.alz.org/help-support/community/support-groups>.

Dear Annie: I'd like to reference your column from Jan. 28, 2019, "Check Before You Donate Items." I agree with most of your answer, as it seems some people think donations are the same as taking out the trash. However, I was greatly disappointed with your comment, "You should never donate expired food."

I would hope you could use your column to educate your readers to the fact that expired food -- "sell by," "use by," "use or freeze by," "best if used by" or whatever else the dates mean -- are not because the contents are bad. Most canned goods are good for weeks,

months or years -- most with no decrease in nutrition or flavor.

Approved Food is a store in England that sells expired food at discount prices and has been known to need to close the store for two or three days to catch up with demand. Doug Rauch, a past president of Trader Joe's, has opened a new line of stores -- Daily Table -- with the same concept and having a difficult time convincing the U.S. customers that the food is perfectly safe.

We supposedly have many people in the country who do not have enough to eat yet we waste (throw away) 40 percent of our food. When

we encourage our food pantry recipients to not use past date -- even "sell by" -- what are we doing to their families? Denying them perfectly good food.

If it looks good and smells good, it's good. The can contents cannot read. They do not know when to go bad. Same with milk and produce. -- Waste Not, Want Not

Dear Waste Not: Thank you for this enlightening take on sell-by dates. I'm printing your letter to correct the record.

Send your questions for Annie Lane to dearannie@creators.com.

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If you love them enough to listen to "Hot Cross Buns" for two hours straight, then surely you'll check to make sure they're correctly buckled in the back seat.

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Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

Famous Hand

South dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ A 6 5 4
♥ 8 5
♦ 4
♣ 10 8 6 5 4 3

WEST **EAST**
♠ — ♠ 10 8 7 2
♥ K Q 9 7 4 3 ♥ J 10 6 2
♦ J 10 8 7 3 ♦ —
♣ K 9 ♣ A Q J 7 2

SOUTH
♠ K Q J 9 3
♥ A
♦ A K Q 9 6 5 2
♣ —

The bidding:
South West North East
2♦ 2♥ Pass 4♥
4♠ Pass 5♠ Pass
6♠

Opening lead — king of hearts.

This deal occurred in a team-of-four match between Austria and Hungary played in Vienna way back in 1937!

Certainly the North-South hands justified a grand slam in spades, but at both tables the contract was only six spades. As it happened, even the small slam would have failed but for

an extraordinary safety play invoked by both declarers.

At each table, the opening lead was a heart, and at each table, declarer played the king of spades at trick two followed by the deuce of diamonds at trick three!

West won the diamond with the seven but was helpless. Whatever he returned, declarer would ruff a diamond in dummy with the ace, return a trump and finesse the nine, then draw East's trumps and claim the remainder.

Not many players, then or now, would lead a low diamond at trick three. Probably most declarers, after taking the ace of hearts and king of spades, would have played the ace of diamonds, planning next to ruff a diamond high in dummy and thus make seven. But East would have ruffed the ace of diamonds, and South would have lost the slam regardless of how he proceeded from then on.

It is a great tribute to the bridge played in those days that both declarers allowed for a possible 5-0 diamond break and protected against it. They were each willing to sacrifice a 30-point overtrick to ensure a slam worth 50 times as much as the trick they were willing to give away.

Tomorrow: Adaptability saves the day.

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SUDOKU

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

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Level: Advanced

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

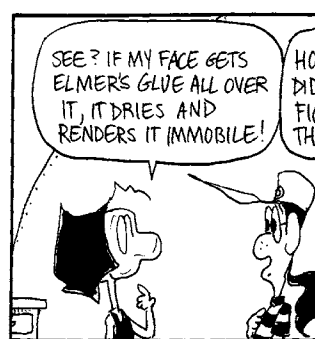
ANSWER:

	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	
5:30	ABC	Noticiero	Mom	CBS	Noticias	News	Cost	Business	Jefferson	American	Fam. Guy	Never Go Back (DVS)	MLB Baseball: Oakland Athletics at Boston Red Sox.	Pardon My Past	Texas	Mod Fam	Live PD	Jaws	
6:30	PN	Jeopardy!	Rosario Guadalupe	Big Bang	CBS 7	News	Exciton Estudios Unidos (SS)	Family	PBS News-Hour	M*A*S*H	Fam. Guy	Fam. Guy	MLB Baseball: Oakland Athletics at Boston Red Sox.	NFL Live	Riders Inc	Mod Fam	Live PD	Street Out-Laws	
7:30	PN	Show Must Go On	Jazis	The Reaction	Big Bang	The Voice	Hope To	News	The Voice	M*A*S*H	Fam. Guy	Fam. Guy	NBA Basketball Conference Semifinal: Boston Red Sox.	UFC Fight Night: Jacaré - Pralme	MLB Baseball: Texas Rangers at Seattle Mariners.	WWE Monday Night RAW	Live Rescue	Street Out-Laws	
8:30	PN	The Fix (DVS)	Rosario Guadalupe	2-1-1 (DVS)	The Code	Batly on NY (SS)	Light of Southwest	Light of Southwest	Korea: The Never-Ending War	Andy G.	Fam. Guy	Fam. Guy	SportsCenter	UFC Re-Loaded				(32) Diesel Brothers	
9:30	PN	Big 2	Impacto	TMZ	CBS 7	Telo	News	News	Amarpour-Co	Haros	Gold	American	SportsCenter		Rod	Mod Fam	Live PD	(33) Diesel Brothers	
10:30	PN	Jimmy Kimmel Live	Noticiero	Mom	Late Show-Cobart	Titulares	Tonight Show	American	House	C. Burnett	Gold	Conan	SportsCenter			Mod Fam	Live PD	Street Out-Laws	
11:30	PN	Nightline	Contacto	Funny	James	Corden	Access	News	Light of Southwest	Tw. Zone	Rules	Conan	SportsCenter	UFC Main Event	Rod	NCIS: Los Angeles	Live Rescue	Diesel Brothers	
12:30	JM	Extra	Soy tu dueño	Two Man	Simpsons	ET	Programa	News	Light of Southwest	Hillbrook	King	Brooklyn	SportsCenter	UFC		NCIS: Los Angeles	Live Rescue	(33) Diesel Brothers	
1:30	JM	PN	PN	PN	PN	PN	PN	PN	PN	PN	PN	PN	PN	PN	PN	PN	PN	PN	PN

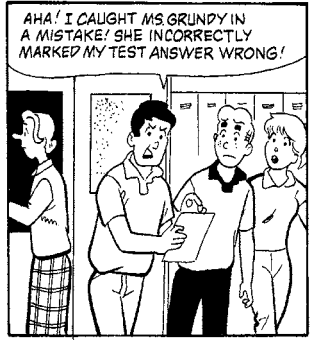
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AGNES



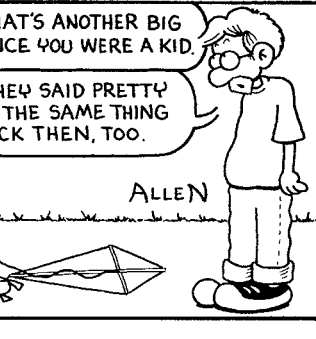
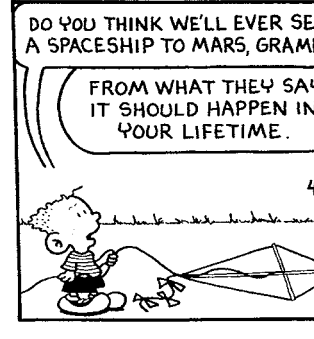
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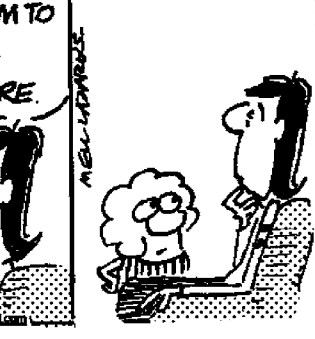
ONE BIG HAPPY



NEST HEAD



MOMMA



This Date In History

Today in History

Today is Monday, April 29, the 119th day of 2019. There are 246 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:
On April 29, 1992, a jury in Simi Valley, California, acquitted four Los Angeles police officers of almost all state charges in the videotaped beating of motorist Rodney King; the verdicts were followed by rioting in Los Angeles resulting in 55 deaths.

On this date:
In 1429, Joan of Arc entered the besieged city of Orleans to lead a French victory over the English.
In 1861, the Maryland House of Delegates voted 53-13 against seceding from the Union. In Montgomery, Alabama, President Jefferson Davis asked the Confederate Congress for the authority to wage war.
In 1916, the Easter Rising in Dublin collapsed as Irish nationalists surrendered to British authorities.
In 1945, during World War II, American soldiers liberated the Dachau (DAH'-khow) concentration camp. Adolf Hitler married Eva Braun inside his "Führerbunker" and designated Adm. Karl Doenitz (DUHR'-nihtz) president.
In 1946, 28 former Japanese officials went on trial in Tokyo as war criminals; seven ended up being sentenced to death.
In 1957, the SM-1, the first military nuclear power plant, was dedicated at Fort Belvoir, Virginia.
In 1967, Aretha Franklin's cover of Otis Redding's "Respect" was released as a single by Atlantic Records.
In 1968, the counterculture rock musical "Hair" heralding the "Age of Aquarius" opened at Broadway's Biltmore Theater following limited engagements off-Broadway, beginning a run of 1,750 performances.
In 1991, a cyclone began striking the South Asian country of Bangladesh; it ended up killing more than 138,000 people, according to the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

In 2000, Tens of thousands of angry Cuban-Americans marched peacefully through Miami's Little Havana, protesting the raid in which armed federal agents yanked 6-year-old Elian Gonzalez from the home of relatives.

In 2008, Democratic presidential hopeful Barack Obama denounced his former pastor, the Rev. Jeremiah Wright, for what he termed "divisive and destructive" remarks on race. In 2011, Britain's Prince William and Kate Middleton were married in an opulent ceremony at London's Westminster Abbey. Ten years ago: During a prime-time news conference marking his 100th day in office, President Barack Obama said that waterboarding authorized by former President George W. Bush was torture and that the information it gained from terror suspects could have been obtained by other means. The World Health Organization raised its alert level for swine flu to its next-to-highest notch. Twin car bombs ravaged a popular shopping area in Baghdad's biggest Shiite district, killing at least 51 people. Five years ago: President Barack Obama ended a four-country swing through Asia and headed for home from the Philippines. Los Angeles Clippers owner Donald Sterling was banned for life by the NBA in response to racist comments he'd made in an audio recording. A botched execution using a disputed new drug combination left Oklahoma death row inmate Clayton Lockett writhing and clenching his teeth on the gurney, leading prison officials to halt the proceedings before his death from a heart attack. British actor Bob Hoskins, 71, died in London. One year ago: Central Americans who traveled in a caravan to the U.S. border, hoping to turn themselves in and ask for asylum, were stalled at the border as U.S. immigration officials announced that the San Diego crossing was already at capacity. T-Mobile and Sprint reached a \$26.5 billion merger agreement that would reduce the U.S. wireless industry to three major players. (The deal is awaiting the approval of federal regulators.) Today's Birthdays: Actor Keith Baxter is 86. Conductor Zubin Mehta is 83. Disgraced financier Bernard Madoff is 81. Pop singer Bob Miranda (The Happenings) is 77. Country singer Duane Allen (The Oak Ridge Boys) is 76. Singer Tommy James is 72. Sen. Debbie Stabenow, D-Mich., is 69. Movie director Phillip Noyce is 69. Comedian Jerry Seinfeld is 65. Actor Leslie Jordan is 64. Actress Kate Mulgrew is 64. Actor Daniel Day-Lewis is

62. Actress Michelle Pfeiffer is 62. Actress Eve Plumb is 61. Rock musician Phil King is 59. Country singer Stephanie Bentley is 56. Actor Vincent Ventresca is 53. Singer Carnie Wilson (Wilson Phillips) is 51. Actor Paul Adelstein is 50. Actress Uma Thurman is 49. International Tennis Hall of Famer Andre Agassi is 49. Rapper Master P is 49. Actor

Darby Stanchfield is 48. Country singer James Bonamy is 47. Gospel/rhythm-and-blues singer Erica Campbell (Mary Mary) is 47. Rock musician Mike Hogan (The Cranberries) is 46. Actor Tyler Labine is 41. Actress Megan Boone is 36. Actress-model Taylor Cole is 35. Actor Zane Carney is 34. Pop singer Amy Heidemann (Karmin) is 33. Pop singer

Foxes is 30. Actress Grace Kaufman is 17.

Thought for Today: "An education isn't how much you have committed to memory, or even how much you know. It's being able to differentiate between what you know and what you don't." — Anatole France, French author and critic (1844-1924).

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Newsday Crossword

MELODIC TRIO by Sally R. Stein Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

- Spike on a sports shoe
- Concludes
- "Wait just ___!" ("Be patient!")
- Very severe
- Not worth arguing about
- Ready to harvest
- Lloyd Webber musical set in Argentina
- Lacking color
- Threesome
- Accepting responsibility
- Lock opener
- Tongue-in-cheek
- Inedible "dessert" made of dirt
- As compared to
- NFL distances
- Pungent burger topper
- Ridesharing service
- Ground for planting
- Behaves differently
- Tender-hearted
- Glass in a monocle
- Baby food's consistency
- Health club
- Insignificant
- Most excellent "Runneth over" container
- Sedan or coupe
- Acquired very inexpensively
- Evergreen trees
- Solo for a soprano

DOWN

- Gourmet cook
- Volcano's outflow
- Explorer called "the Red"
- ___ spumante (Italian wine)
- Expressing appreciation to
- Lowest gas gauge reading
- Biblical ark builder
- Parcel (out)
- Collection of goblets
- Pretentiously designed
- Apple's digital assistant
- Heroic tale
- Corp. boss
- "___ whiz!"
- Large coffeemaker
- Makes fun of
- Not trendy at all
- Prince William's mom
- Small lake
- Variety of steak
- Barnyard cacklers
- "Tag! ___ it!"
- Has an elegant meal
- Frozen rain
- Smartphone owner
- Astonish
- Big beast with a trunk
- Traveled a coiling path
- Beer stein
- Remote
- Undemanding, as a job
- Seashore
- Small snack
- Word-of-mouth
- ___/false quiz
- Is the right size
- "Half" prefix for circle
- "Squashed circle" shape
- Astronaut Armstrong
- Hairdo-holding products
- Hair of a bear

Answer to previous puzzle

AGNEW THEMASSES
GRAVE AEROSPACE
LABEL WYATTREAP
ODORLESS REBUT
WEBAPP IMBAD
FAO REEL CBS
EAST INDIAN PORE
BLUEDYE NUMERIC
BOER MEAT MARKET
SEZ SIRS BIC
FACES ENAMOR
GLOAT OLDSPICE
ROCK OPERA TINES
ADHERESTO ATEAT
MESSINESS YARNS

Durant's 35 points carry Warriors past Rockets in Game 1

By **JANIE McCAULEY**

AP Sports Writer

OAKLAND, Calif. — Steve Kerr saw his share of spectacular postseason performances playing alongside one of the greatest ever.

"There was this guy named Michael, I can't remember his last name," the Golden State coach cracked in reference to former Bulls teammate Michael Jordan.

Kevin Durant is having a superb postseason run of his own.

Durant scored 35 points in outdueling James Harden and the Warriors held off the Houston Rockets 104-100 on Sunday in the opener of what is shaping up to be a sensational best-of-seven Western Conference semifinal.

"When he's being as aggressive as he's been, I don't think there's anyone in the NBA, maybe the world who can stop him," Draymond Green said of the two-time reigning NBA Finals MVP.

Houston's Chris Paul was ejected with 4.4 seconds left for a second technical, though he said afterward he wasn't sure what he did wrong — and he wouldn't say whether he made contact with official Josh Tiven while arguing.

"I don't know yet. Nobody told me. He just called a tech," said Paul, who had rebounded a missed 3-pointer by Harden that could have tied the game with 9 seconds left and was arguing for a foul.

Green added 14 points, nine assists and nine rebounds for the two-time defending champion Warriors, who are meeting the Rockets in the postseason for the fourth time in five years, with Houston having never been victorious.

Game 2 is Tuesday night back at Oracle Arena.

Harden scored 35 points and Eric Gordon 27 after both struggled early. The Rockets shot 14 for 47 from long range.

Harden, who shot 9 for 28 and 4 of 16 on 3s, wasn't shy about his frustration with the officiating and the lack of foul calls on Houston's 3-point tries.

"I just want a fair chance, man. Call the game how it's supposed to be called and that's it, and I'll live with the results," Harden said.

Told of Harden's remarks, Green said: "Huh? I've been fouled by James on a James 3-pointer before. I ain't trying to hear that."

Harden's three-point play with 40 seconds left pulled Houston within 100-98. Stephen Curry knocked down a 3 on the other end over Nene moments later and finished with 18 points, seven rebounds and four assists.

Durant, who had combined for 95 points the previous two games against the Clippers, shot 11 for 25 and made 12 of 15 free throws in his fifth straight 30-point playoff performance — matching his career-best streak accomplished from June 1-12, 2017.

"Kevin's run these last couple weeks has just been off the charts," Kerr said. "I've said it a few times this week, he's the most skilled basketball player



AP photo

Houston Rockets guard James Harden, right, shoots against Golden State Warriors guard Klay Thompson during the second half of Game 1 of a second-round NBA basketball playoff series in Oakland, Calif., Sunday, April 28.

on earth. He's one of the most skilled basketball players to ever play the game."

Durant said he was "just tailor made for the moment, I guess."

"I'm starting to put everything together on both sides of the ball," he added.

Technical fouls on Paul and Rockets coach Mike D'Antoni 2.1 seconds apart in the final minute of the third allowed the Warriors to take an 83-76 lead into the final 12 minutes after Durant converted the free throws.

"They're real costly," D'Antoni said.

Klay Thompson scored 13 points on a sprained right ankle.

Both Curry and Thompson had been listed as questionable nursing tender right ankles after they each sprained them in Game 6 against the Clippers on Friday night. Curry was cleared beforehand but Thompson had to go through warmups before Golden State's medical staff determined he was fine to play.

"Yesterday was a long day, in the treatment room for a long time," Curry said.

Kerr went with Andre Iguodala over 7-foot center Andrew Bogut in the starting five to go smaller out of the gates against the Rockets. He plans to stick with it for Game 2.

"That's our best lineup," Kerr said.

These West powerhouses fought through a seven-game series in last year's Western Conference finals, when Golden State rallied from a 3-2 deficit to win Game 7 on Houston's home floor.

Paul is on a mission after he sat out the final two games because of an injured right hamstring he hurt in Game 5. He had 17 points Sunday.

The Rockets missed their final 27 3-pointers in the deciding 2018 game and came out cold again, missing their first eight from deep before Harden connected at the 4:35 mark of the first.

DEFENDING KD

Durant scored 45 and a playoff career-high 50 points his previous two games against the Clippers.

"You're assuming you can defend him," D'Antoni said before the game. "That's an assumption nobody knows yet."

With his first basket, Durant (1,281) passed Wilt Chamberlain (1,246) for fifth place on the Warriors' postseason scoring list.

Durant now has 3,901 career playoff points, passing Larry Bird (3,897) for 11th place.

TIP-INS

Rockets: Houston is 5-13 against the Warriors in the playoffs dating to the 2015 postseason. ... The Rockets were without reserve guard Austin Rivers because of an illness.

Warriors: An MRI exam on Thompson's ankle Saturday showed no significant damage. ... The Warriors are 17-1 in Game 1s dating to the 2015 title run, losing a series opener only in the 2016 Western Conference finals vs. Oklahoma City when Durant was still on the Thunder. ... DeMarcus Cousins sat on the bench for the first time since tearing his left quadriceps muscle in Game 2 vs. Los Angeles.

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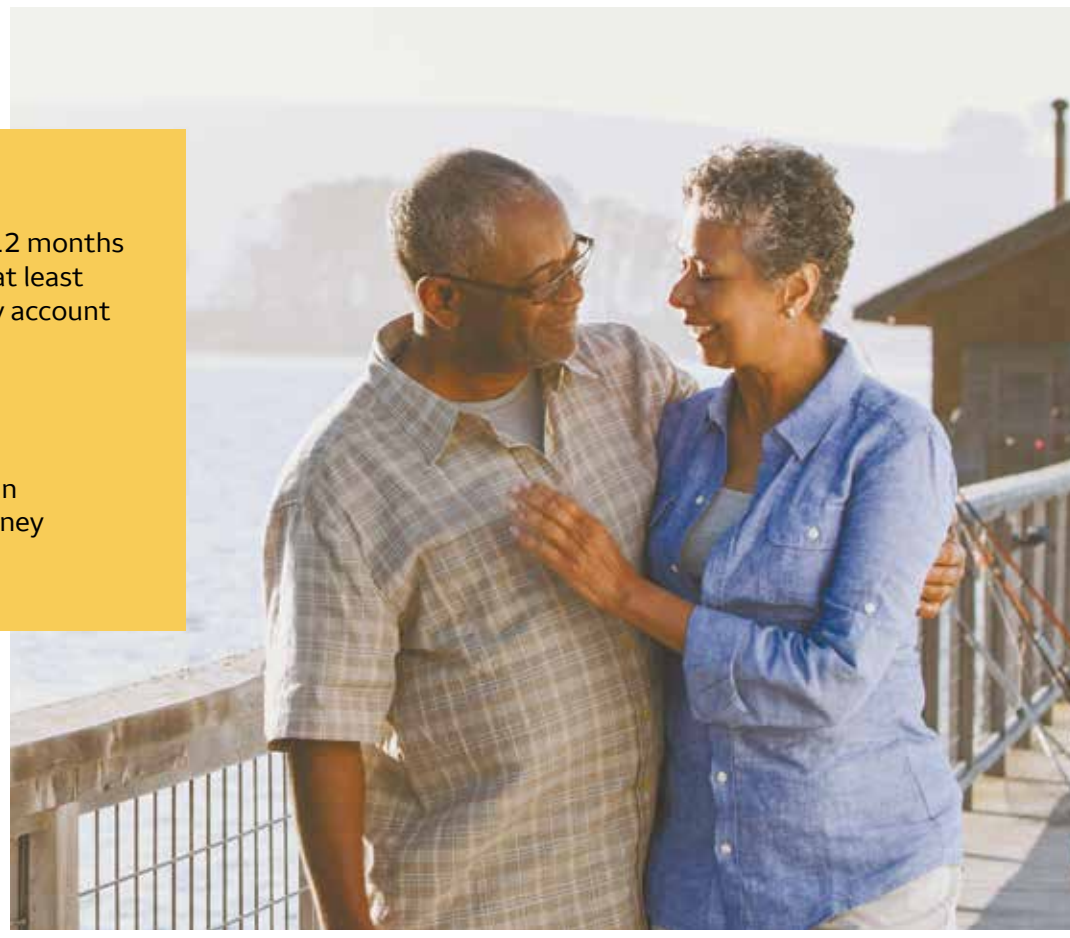
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