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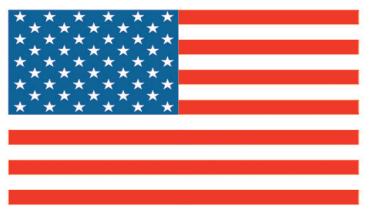
MONDAY EDITION,
 MAY 10, 2021

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VOLUME 116, NUMBER 198

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Upcoming Events

City Council Meeting
 5:30 p.m.
 Tuesday

Big Spring Art Association Area Wide Art Show is open - the community is invited to stop by the Heritage Museum to view the pieces that were submitted by area artists.

Westbrook Graduation
 May 14
 7 p.m.

Coahoma Graduation
 May 20
 7:30 p.m.

Forsan Graduation
 May 28
 6 p.m.
 Dorothy Garrett Coliseum

Share your news and sports photos with us. E-mail editor@bigspringherald.com



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General Election results to be canvassed at City Council meeting Tuesday evening

By **AMANDA DUFORAT**

Managing Editor

The Big Spring City Council will convene for a regular meeting at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday in the City Council Chambers, 307 E. Fourth Street. Those wishing to attend the meeting in person are encouraged to do so, but those who are unable may still watch the meeting via telecommunications online at <http://mybigspring.com/224/Channel-17-Live> or on Channel 17 on Suddenlink. Those wishing to make a public comment will be able to do so – and have five minutes to address the council at the podium – and those unable to attend may address the council by calling 432-264-2411.

The meeting will open with an emergency reading of an ordinance canvassing the returns and declaring the results of the General Election held on the first day of May, 2021. There will be recognition of outgoing Council member for District 2, Doug Hartman. Judge Green will administer the Oath of Office to duly elected councilmembers

for Districts 2, 4, and 6: Diane Yanez, Gloria McDonald and Maury Smith, respectively. Afterward, the election of Mayor Pro Tem will take place.

The Council will hear the final reading of an ordinance amending the Big Spring Code of Ordinances by amending chapter 40 entitled “Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs” Article XII “Historic Spring” Division 2 “Marie Hall Plaza and Performance Stage” section 40-52 “Rental Fees and Reservations; Concessions prohibited” in order to amend current fees and establish fees for special events packages.

The Council will also hear the final reading of an ordinance amending the Big Spring Code of Ordinances by amending Chapter 40 entitled “Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs” Article XII Historic Spring Division 3 SM Energy Pavillion Section 40-492 “Rental fees and Reservations; concessions prohibited” in order to amend current fees and establish fees for the portable restroom trailer.

City Manager’s Report will include an update on the upcoming large item pickup for District 5 which is set for May 19. City Manager Todd Darden will give a report on an Austin trip regarding SB 1474 and a list of board and committees. There will also be discussion on roll out container policy as well as a landfill update.

Darden will also provide information regarding the free legal assistance hotline available to low-income individuals and families affected by the Texas Winter Storm that began Feb. 11; call 1-800-504-7030. Before Darden wraps up his report, a reminder will be given regarding the special meeting to review charter amendment measures on May 12.

As part of new business, the council will hold discussion and possibly accept the donation of mattresses to the City of Big Spring Fire Department. There will also be a presentation of the Howard County Tax Assessor-Collector’s

See **CITY**, Page 3

Toasty Tuesday focusing on Hwy. 80 and FM 700



Courtesy photos

Toasty Tuesday last week resulted in six volunteers gathering 45 bags of trash around the Wasson Road area near Locals in the 1600 block of Wasson Rd. This week Keep Big Spring Beautiful will be focusing on picking up trash around the old Sugar’s building at the intersection of FM 700 and Hwy 80. The community is invited to join in on Toasty Tuesdays and Keep Big Spring Beautiful. To find out more or for the next clean up location follow Keep Big Spring Beautiful on Facebook.

A Moment in History

Two Big Spring football players turn pro

By **TAMMY SCHRECEGOST**

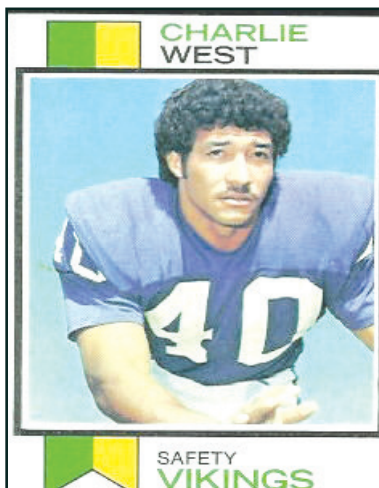
Heritage Museum

Two Big Spring football players who turned pro were Danny Birdwell, graduate of 1958 and Charley West class of 1964.

Danny Birdwell
Oakland Raiders 1962-69

Danny Birdwell graduated from Big Spring High School in 1958. He was recruited to play at the University of Houston. In 1962, Birdwell was a first round draft choice by the Oakland Raiders; he was a defensive lineman. He started in the 1967 AFL Champion Raiders and in the second AFL-NFL World Championship game. Honors included being named to the “First Team All Pro Team” in 1968 and “All-AFL Tackle” in 1968. Birdwell was described by the team as a colorful character. While in game mode, Birdwell was quoted as saying, “You have to play this game like somebody just hit your mother with a two-by-four.”

One of Birdwell’s teammates relat-



him about his body hair. They said he had so much that his teammates would tease him about his “Mohair shirt.” Birdwell never minded the ribbing. He would put on a tank top and then shave off all the hair that was showing on his body. Dan was a true character with a big heart. At 6.6

ed a story: “Once, the team was flying to a road game and everyone was on the plane except for one player...Birdwell. The team waited for two hours for him until finally someone saw another plane on a distant runway. Dispatching a club executive over to the other plane, he found Birdwell sitting by himself on an empty plane. “Where is everybody?” Dan asked. The team also liked to kid

and 300 pounds, the lineman and linebacker retired from the NFL in 1968 with a knee injury. In 1987, after Birdwell retired, he became a sales representative and moved to Huntington Beach, California, with his wife Tracy and two children, Dan Jr. and Lori. After a brief illness Birdwell suffered a massive heart

See **HISTORY**, Page 3

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Take Note

• Interim HealthCare is looking for volunteers. Those who would like to find out more about becoming a volunteer can call 432-263-5999.

• The Howard County Democrats meet on the second and fourth Mondays of each month at 5:30 p.m. in the Cactus Room located in the Student Union Building of Howard College. →†

• Howard College is offering License to Carry Course with class date set for May 15. There is a maximum of 10 students per class; handgun and ammo not provided. Participants must be 21 years of age and have valid ID. Those taking the class will need 50 rounds of ammo and a handgun. Questions can be answered by contacting Dee Lindsey at 432-264-5641 or by e-mail at dlindsey@howardcollege.edu.

• Howard College has several Workforce Training courses coming up. Welding Maintenance begins May 24, Shielded Metal Arc Welding begins June 7, and Intro to Welding Using Multiple Processes begins June 21. All welding classes are Monday and Thursday nights from 6 to 10 p.m. Howard College also has upcoming courses in Customer Service and License to Carry. Call 432-264-5151 or visit hc4.life/training for more information.

• Russ McEwen Family Aquatic Center is set to open June 1 and close Aug. 7. The Aquatic Center will be open Tuesday through Saturdays from Noon until 8 p.m. and Sundays 1 p.m. until 8 p.m. and closed Mondays.

• Forsan Food Pantry will be open twice a month from 4:15 p.m. to 5:15 p.m. Families who are in need can pull up to the front doors of the Junior High/High School and receive a free box of pre-packed meals. If you have any questions or need to pick up a box at a different time, contact Kaci Wash at 432-457-2223 ext 821 or Jenny Sayles at jennysales@yahoo.com.

• Cub Scouts meet Monday from 6:30 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. at Naz Family Church, located at 1400 S. Lancaster.

• Howard County Republican Club meets the second Monday of each month in the Cactus Room at Howard College. The next meeting will be held in the newly renovated Cactus Room. Everyone is welcome. The meeting takes place at Noon. For more information call 432-213-7628.

• A new group named Taking Care of Business has started in Howard County. It is made up of people of all ages and genders who want to be better than they are. The focus of the fledgling organization is to engage in meaningful discussions that promote personal growth. Additionally, the organization will plan and execute worthwhile activities within the community. There is no membership fee and attendance is not taken. The only requirements are that you be positive or want to be more positive than you are, consider yourself to be a good person but want to be better than you are, and that you have a desire to help others be better too. Childcare is available during the discussion time if you let us know. Topics to be avoided include Religion and Politics, though we can dance around them. Taking Care of Business meets in the Masonic Lodge on the court square. It is not necessary that you have any masonic affiliation to participate in this Growth Group. All Covid-19 safety protocols will be followed as defined by local, state, and federal authorities. →† At this time refreshments will not be served but you are welcome to bring your own and not share. The meetings take place at 219 South Main Big Spring, Texas. For more information write to Colonel.Allen.M.Morris@Gmail.com or just come to the meeting.

• The Howard County Library meeting rooms are now open at limited capacity. Only five people are

allowed in the small room and 15 in the large room.

The meeting rooms can only be used by appointment, and only by community organizations. No parties or social gatherings will be allowed at this time. For more information, call the Howard County Library.

• The Senior Supper Club has come out of hibernation to resume its normal Tuesday evening dinners. The Come-One-Come-All group will be meeting on Tuesdays at 5 p.m. and orders will be placed around 5:30 p.m. after much socializing from a distance.

The Senior Supper Club is an informal group of folks from Howard County who meet at least weekly and sometimes more for Dutch-Treat food at different area restaurants. →† Sometimes the group also meets for cards, dominoes, or desserts and fellowship. →† For more information, contact Colonel.Allen.M.Morris@Gmail.com.

• Food distribution at St. Vincent de Paul takes place the second Thursday of each month from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Distributions are at 1009 Hearn at SVDP Building.

• Permian Basin Multiple Sclerosis Support Group for information, encouragement and support. The group meets monthly on the Second Saturday of each month from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Holiday Inn Express at 5321 John Ben Sheppard Parkway, Odessa. If you or someone you know has been touched by MS, or if you are just interested in more information please feel to contact Gary Tidwell at garylteagle1987@gmail.com.

• VFW Post 2013 meets the first Tuesday of every month at 7 p.m. New members are being sought. The Post is located at 500 Driver Rd. Qualified veterans, those who have served in a foreign war, who are interested in joining the VFW are encouraged to attend a meeting to find out more information.

• O'Neal-Kunkle, Chapter #47 of the Disabled American Vets (D.A.V.), meets the third Monday of every month at 6:30 p.m. at 2204 Runnels Street. For more information, please contact Norman Witcher at 432-413-6663.

• 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. Toasty Tuesday is also a weekly clean up effort that takes place around town at 6:30 p.m. every Tuesday. The locations is normally announced on the Keep Big Spring Beautiful Page along with in the Monday

edition of the Big Spring Herald.

• 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, Adoles 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 a 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, are interested in volunteering, contact Sara Basaldua at 1-877-316-8346 or visit www.BecomeCASA.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.

• 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 in need of help, the time to call 888-995-HOPE is now.



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Everyone welcome once a week until further notice

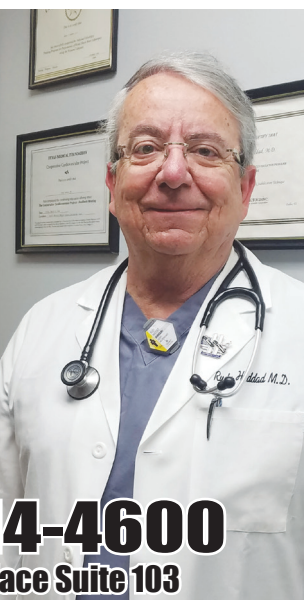
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Weather



Tonight: A 40 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after 1am. Some of the storms could produce heavy rain. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 56. Northeast wind 10 to 15 mph.

Tuesday: Showers and thunderstorms likely, mainly before 1pm. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 71. East wind around 10 mph becoming north in the afternoon. Chance of precipitation is 60%.

Tuesday Night: A 40 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms, mainly after 1am. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 53. Northeast wind around 15 mph.

Wednesday: A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 62.
(Weather courtesy National Weather Service via forecast.weather.gov)

CITY

Continued from Page 1

Collection Fee budget for 2002 and 2021. Council will also consider officially naming the two new pavilions at the ABC Park/Rename North Gregg Street.

Council will hear the first reading of a resolution authorizing the City Manager to apply for U.S. Economic Development Administration American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 funding assistance for the Big Spring Industrial Park Development Project and meet all administrative and planning requirements for approval by the U.S. Economic Development Administration.

A first reading of a resolution finding that Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLCs application for approval to amend its distribution cost recovery factor to increase distribution rates within the city should be denied; authorizing participation with OCSC; authorizing hiring of legal counsel and consulting services; finding that the City's reasonable rate case expenses shall be reimbursed by the company; finding that the meeting at which this resolution is passed open to the public as required by law; requiring notices of this resolution to the company and legal counsel.

Regarding water line replacements, City Council will consider an engineering agreement with

Jacob Martin LLC for 2021, as well as an interlocal agreement with Permain Basin Regional Planning Commission to provide services for EDA Grant and authorizing the Mayor or his designee to execute necessary documents.

- Other items on the agenda include:
- Appointments to the CRMWD Board of Directors two openings; Clif Talbot and Jeff Brorman both of whom are choosing to continue to serve.
 - Vouchers for 04/30/2021 and 05/07/2021
 - Consideration and possible selection of a firm for EDA Grant and authorize City Manager or designee to execute necessary documents
 - Consideration and possible action to accept proposal for RFP 21-018 for Downtown Plaza Economic Development, delegating authority to negotiate agreement to the mayor and delegating authority to the City Attorney to draft the agreement
 - Approval of City Council minutes of regular meeting of April 27, 2021
 - Reminder of special meeting to review Charter Amendment measures – May 12, 2021
 - Final reading of a resolution designating following as nominee to fill vacancy on Howard County Joint Tax Appraisal District Board of Directors for the 2020-21 term

Amanda Duforat is the Managing Editor at the Big Spring Herald. To contact her, e-mail editor@bigspringherald.com or call 432-263-7331.

Support Groups

MONDAY

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

TUESDAY

- Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m.; newcomers meeting 8 p.m. to 9 p.m.
- 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.
- 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.
- Al-anon family group meets at 8 p.m. at 615 Set-

tles.

DivorceCare is a biblical support group for those facing divorce or separation. Each DVD session features nationally respected experts, such as Christian Counselors and Pastors. Small group discussions and workbook exercises help participants apply the information to their own situations. We cover pertinent issues like: • Will I survive? • How to get out of debt. • How do you know when you are ready for a new relationship? • How to lessen the impact of divorce on your children. • Is reconciliation possible? There is no charge for attendance. 13-week seminars are held two times per year on Tuesday evenings from 6 to 8 p.m. at Trinity Baptist Church in Big Spring. Visit the DivorceCare Ministry of TBC Facebook page for information. You can also call Donna Burcham at 267-6344 for information on seminar dates and how you can register to attend.

WEDNESDAY

- Celebrate Recovery meets at First United Methodist Church Youth Hall, 400 Scurry.

HISTORY

Continued from Page 1

attack at the age of 37.

Charley West
Minnesota Viking – 1968-73
Detroit Lions – 1974-77
Denver Broncos – 1978-79
Charley West graduated Big Spring High in 1964. He then attended the University of Texas – El Paso, formerly Texas Western. West was described as “the finest athlete on the TWC campus.” He was a tri sport athlete in college, playing football, basketball, and baseball. West's talent allowed him to start in several offensive and defensive positions during his collegiate career. West was not only a successful football player but also a successful baseball player. In the spring of 1965, West passed up spring training to concentrate on baseball. He did so well, the Philadelphia Phillies tempted him with a \$30,000 sign on offer, however his coach talked him into finishing his collegiate eligibility at UTEP. In football, West was described as the “do-everything” man for the Miners, serving as defensive safety as an extra point kicker, back up man for split end and on occasion as fullback for special offensive plays. Collegiate honors included “All-American, Second Team in

1967.

West was a stellar basketball player however he felt that college football and baseball would give him the most professional opportunities.

Initially he signed with the Cincinnati Reds, but after only a month with the club, he asked to be released and returned his bonus money. West realized in baseball, he would most likely have to serve an apprenticeship in the minors for two to three years. It was after that decision, he turned his full attention to football and was snapped up the second round of drafts, by the Minnesota Vikings. During his first season with the Vikings, West finished overall 6th in the NFL in kickoff returns. He gathered 22 for 576 yards, averaging 26.2 yards per carry. His longest runback was for 82 yards. He did even better in punt returns, finishing 4th in the NFL. West's longest punt return was a record-tying 98 yards against the Washington Redskins. The feat tied an NFL mark that had endured for 35 years previously. West was named “Rookie of the Year” following his 1968 season with the Vikings. Throughout his career with the Vikings, West continued to experience great success and he was at the top of his team

with interceptions. In 1973, Minnesota traded West for a draft choice to the Detroit Lions. West continued to contribute as a starter when he could but his career with Detroit was plagued by injuries involving his hip and knee. In 1978, West was again traded, this time to the Denver Broncos. He played another year before retiring in 1979. After retiring from profession football, West went on to have a successful coaching career in college football

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Nancy "Granny" Ward, 68, died Tuesday. Funeral service will be at 2:00 PM at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial at Trinity Memorial Park

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Cohomas own Vance Ott shines at State Track Meet earning two Gold and one Silver Medal



Vance Ott is pictured with his coach Steven Arista at the UIL State Track Meet in Austin this past weekend. Ott competed in three different events at the State meet. He competed in the Shot Put. The young Bulldog finished in second, with a personal best throw earning himself a silver medal. Ott also competed in the 400-meter dash where he took the Gold medal. And last but certainly not least, the young man competed in the 100-meter dash, in which he also took home a gold medal. Ott is a Para-Athlete from Coahoma who has blown the competition away all season long. He is an inspiration and a role model on who to look up to. The Bulldog seems to let nothing stand in his way, never making excuses, just going out and trying his best time after time. One thing that is certain about Vance is his great attitude. He always has a smile on his face, never down; he always shows what authentic leadership should look like. The philosophy and spirit he guides spread throughout the Coahoma Sports program. Vance Ott is a super athlete with an even better heart, the fight and will this young man shows it is inspiring. Vance from all of us here at the Big Spring Herald congratulates on a heck of a job at the State track meet and just being such a great young man. Continue to do great things!

Courtesy Photos

García homers, drives in 5 as Rangers beat Mariners 10-2

By SCHUYLER DIXON

AP Sports Writer

ARLINGTON, Texas — Adolis García hit his team-leading ninth homer and drove in a career-high five runs, Dane Dunning struck out 10 in five innings and the Texas Rangers beat the Seattle Mariners 10-2 on Sunday.

The past seven victories for the Rangers have come after falling behind, this time when they answered Seattle's two-run fifth for a 2-1 lead with six runs in the bottom of the inning.

Nick Solak had a tiebreaking, two-run double as the first six Texas hitters reached base, including Jose Trevino on shortstop J.P. Crawford's first error in 27 games, and third of the day for the Mariners.

Leadoff man Isiah Kiner-Falefa had three hits and scored three runs as Texas won its third consecutive series and improved to 7-2 since May 1 to get back to .500 for the first time since April 9.

The first of two RBI singles from García came after back-to-back errors from third baseman Kyle Seager and second baseman Dylan Moore in the third. The other gave the Rangers a 9-2 lead in the sixth and made the 28-year-old Cuban the first Texas rookie in seven years with five RBIs in a game.

"You're starting to see the consistency," manager Chris Woodward said. "The first base hit, the RBI single, was a 2-0 slider. Typically he could never come off the fastball. He works on these things every day. He knew spin was probably his Achilles' heel throughout his career and he works on it every day. Now it's actually turned into his strength."

The Mariners lost for the second time in six se-

ries-deciding games after winning the opener and losing 9-8 when the potential tying was thrown out at home to end the game.

"Not the way we wanted the series to play out after we got the win on Friday night," Seattle manager Scott Servais said. "Texas is about as hot an offensive club as we've seen all year. That combined with we didn't play good defense today."

Dunning (2-2) left the mound trailing 2-1 after topping his previous career high of seven strikeouts while matching the most for a Texas pitcher at Globe Life Field, which opened last year. It was also a season high for the Rangers.

The 26-year-old right-hander making his 14th career appearance, all starts, allowed RBI singles to Mitch Haniger and Seager. Dunning's outing ended on a groundout by José Marmolejos two pitches after Marmolejos just missed a grand slam down the line in right.

"The sinker had a little bite to it, the slider had some bite to it," Woodward said after Dunning threw a season-high 89 pitches. "He was getting some really weak swings. I kind of had a feeling we were going to extend him today. I wanted to."

Charlie Culberson led off the Texas fifth with his third homer, Solak broke the 2-all tie with a liner down the line in left and Garcia capped the six-batter stretch with a shot into the Seattle bullpen in left-center field off Justus Sheffield (2-3). The left-hander allowed seven runs — five earned — in five innings.

TRAINER'S ROOM

Mariners: RHP Ljay Newsome went on the 10-day injured list with right elbow inflammation, and

RHP JT Chargois was promoted from Triple-A Tacoma. Newsome was 1-1 with a 7.98 ERA after being recalled from the alternate training site April 7. The 30-year-old Chargois, who pitched 1 1/3 scoreless innings, has 85 major league appearances over three seasons with Minnesota and the Los Angeles Dodgers. He pitched in Japan last year.

Rangers: RHP Kohei Aihara was placed on the 10-day IL with a bruised right middle finger, and OF Eli White was recalled from Triple-A Round Rock a day after being sent down. Aihara, in his first big league season since coming over from Japan, has allowed 16 earned runs in 8 1/3 innings over his past three starts. The move came a day after Seattle scored five runs in 3 2/3 innings against him. ... RHP Kyle Cody (right shoulder inflammation) was transferred to the 60-day IL to make room for C Jack Kruger, who was claimed off waivers from the Los Angeles Angels.

UP NEXT

Mariners: Seattle finishes a five-game trip with two interleague games at the Dodgers starting Tuesday. RHP Justin Dunn (1-0, 3.51 ERA) is the scheduled starter. Dunn has four no-decisions in five starts.

Rangers: RHP Kyle Gibson (3-0, 2.40 ERA) is scheduled to start the first of two interleague matchups in San Francisco on Monday. Gibson is in the top 10 in ERA among AL starters despite giving up five runs without making it out of the first inning in the shortest opening day start in franchise history.

Tucker has 4 RBIs to lead Astros over Blue Jays 7-4

By KRISTIE RIEKEN

AP Sports Writer

HOUSTON— Kyle Tucker hit a three-run homer and tied a career high with four RBIs as the Houston Astros built a big lead early and held on for a 7-4 win over the Toronto Blue Jays on Sunday.

Jose Altuve added a solo homer for the Astros to help them win the series 2-1.

Tucker's homer highlighted a four-run fourth inning that extended the lead to 7-0. In a tough season where he's hitting just .188, Tucker hopes his big game can help turn things around.

"I've just got to keep working and grinding," he said. "I'm just going to try to build off today."

Rowdy Tellez sent a 69-mph curveball from Zack Greinke into the second deck in right field with no outs in the fifth for the first of five straight hits for the Blue Jays. Reese McGuire and Marcus Semien followed with singles before a double to center field by Bo Bichette scored them both to cut the lead to 7-3.

Vladimir Guerrero Jr. hit an RBI single to get the Blue Jays within 3 and chase Greinke.

Bryan Abreu (2-1) took over and retired the next three batters for the win as Houston's bullpen allowed just two singles the rest of the way to secure the victory. Ryan Pressly struck out two in the ninth for his sixth save.

Manager Dusty Baker raved about the work of his relievers.

"They did a great job," he said. "They

were throwing strikes. If they're throwing quality strikes then you've got a chance... when your bullpen's dealing you feel comfortable, confident and the whole team feels good."

Blue Jays starter rookie Nate Pearson (0-1) allowed four hits and was done in by a career-high five walks in his first start this season and the fifth of his MLB career. The organization's top prospect, Pearson gave up three runs in just 2 1/3 innings.

"I just felt like I couldn't get into a groove," he said. "I had a solid first inning but the walks in the second and third innings are what got me. I'll figure it out."

Pearson walked Tucker and Robel Garcia with no outs in the second before Altuve singled to load the bases with two outs. Michael Brantley drew a walk to put Houston up 1-0.

There was one out in the third when Pearson walked Yuli Gurriel. Tucker followed with a triple to the corner of right field that made it 2-0. Garcia then singled on a grounder to right field to send another run home and chase Pearson.

Altuve opened Houston's fourth with an opposite field shot off Joel Payamps to the seats in right field to make it 4-0. There were two on and two out in the inning when Tucker homered to the second deck in right field.

Greinke yielded nine hits and

four runs without a walk in four-plus innings. He said his biggest problem right now is fastball control.

"I was never cruising," he said. "I wasn't making my pitches good and it just continued in the fifth inning. I just couldn't throw pitches where I wanted to when I needed to and I gave up some hits that last inning."

TRAINER'S ROOM

Blue Jays: Reliever Rafael Dolis was placed on the 10-day injured list with a strained right calf on Sunday, retroactive to Saturday.

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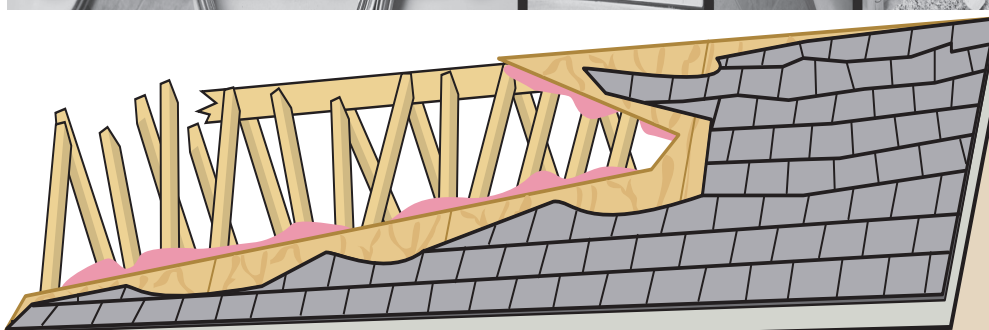
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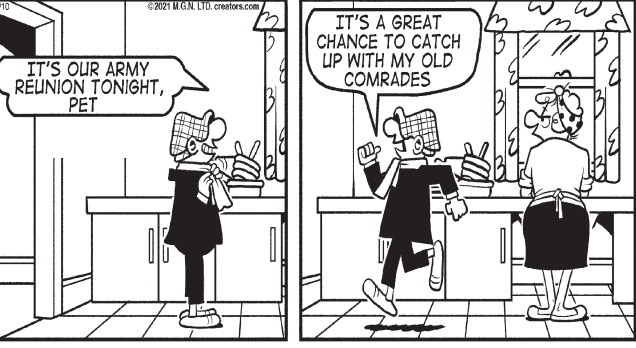
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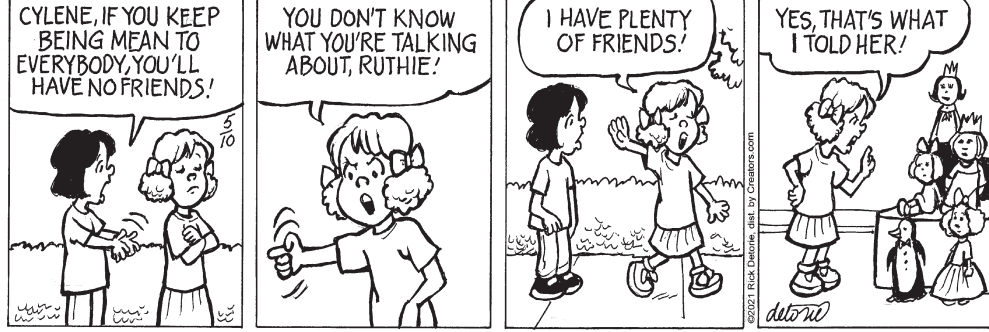
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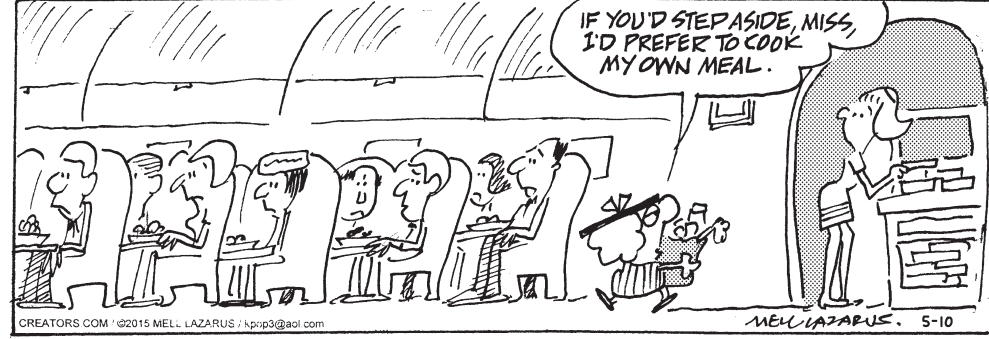
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This Date In History

Today in History
Today is Monday, May 10, the 130th day of 2021. There are 235 days left in the year.

In 1995, former President George H.W. Bush's office released his letter of resignation from the National Rifle Association in which Bush expressed outrage over an NRA fund-raising letter's reference to federal agents as "jack-booted thugs." (NRA Executive Vice President Wayne LaPierre apologized a week later.)

Today's Birthdays: Author Barbara Taylor Bradford is 88. R&B singer Henry Fambrough (The Spinners) is 83. Actor David Clennon is 78. Writer-producer-director Jim Abrahams is 77. Singer Donovan is 75. Singer-songwriter Graham Gouldman (10cc) is 75. Singer Dave Mason is 75. Actor Mike Hagerty is 67. Sports anchor Chris Berman is 66.

Actor Bruce Penhall is 64. Former Sen. Rick Santorum, R-Pa., is 63. Sen. Cindy Hyde-Smith, R-Miss., is 62. Actor Victoria Rowell is 62. Rock singer Bono (BAH'-noh) (U2) is 61. Former Sen. Dean Heller, R-Nev., is 61. Rock musician Danny Carey (Tool) is 60. Actor Darryl M. Bell is 58. Playwright Suzan-Lori Parks is 58. Model Linda Evangelista is 56. Rapper Young MC is 54. Actor

Erik Palladino is 53. Rock singer Richard Patrick (Filter) is 53. Actor Lenny Venito is 52. Actor Dallas Roberts is 51. Actor Leslie Stefanson is 50. Actor-singer Todd Lowe is 49. Actor Andrea Anders is 46. Race car driver Helio Castroneves is 46. Rock musician Jesse Vest is 44. Actor Kenan Thompson is 43. Rhythm-and-blues singer Jason Dalyrimple (Soul For Real) is 41. Actor Odette

Annable is 36. Actor Lindsey Shaw is 32. Actor Lauren Potter is 31. Olympic gold medal swimmer Missy Franklin is 26.

Today's Highlight in History:

In 2002, A tense 39-day-old standoff between Israeli troops and Palestinian gunmen at the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem ended with 13 suspected militants flown into European exile and 26 released into the Gaza Strip.

In 2010, President Barack Obama introduced Supreme Court nominee Elena Kagan, billing her as a unifying force for a fractured court.

Ten years ago: The bulging Mississippi River rolled into the Mississippi Delta after cresting before daybreak at Memphis, Tennessee, causing widespread damage. In a one-two punch against Moammar Gadhafi's forces, NATO warplanes struck a command center in Tripoli and pounded targets around the besieged port of Misrata.

Five years ago: With his White House dreams fading, Bernie Sanders added another state to his tally against Hillary Clinton with a win in West Virginia; Republican Donald Trump also won there and in Nebraska, a week after he cleared the field of his remaining rivals. Stephen Curry became the first unanimous NBA MVP, earning the award for the second straight season after leading the defending champion Warriors to a record-setting season.

One year ago: Vice President Mike Pence was said to be self-isolating at home, two days after his press secretary, Katie Miller, tested positive for the coronavirus. American families celebrated Mother's Day amid the social distancing restrictions caused by the coronavirus.

In 1940, during World War II, German forces began invading the Netherlands, Luxembourg, Belgium and France. The same day, British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain resigned, and Winston Churchill formed a new government.

In 1941, Adolf Hitler's deputy, Rudolf Hess, parachuted into Scotland on what he claimed was a peace mission. (Hess ended up serving a life sentence at Spandau Prison until 1987, when he apparently committed suicide at age 93.)

In 1977, Academy Award-winning film star Joan Crawford died in New York.

In 1994, Nelson Mandela took the oath of office in Pretoria to become South Africa's first Black president. The state of Illinois executed serial killer John Wayne Gacy, 52, for the murders of 33 young men and boys.

Answer to previous puzzle
URBANE CREDITS
SEAWAR ROADTRIP
PARKER EASTSIDE
SLEW OHARE NOLA
MBA RATE MISER
ORC ZODIAC
SENDOVER CLEANS
PREQUEL SKITTER
ASSURE BOYCOTTS
ESPIED ESE
PASSE STAT ENS
UNIT BOISE ETAT
MANIFOLD MAYIGO
ACCOLADE PHOOEY
TENURED SHUNTS

Newsday Crossword

CHORAL CONNECTION by Sally R. Stein Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS
1 Ink smear
5 Tachometer numbers: Abbr.
9 Chimney dust
13 Texas landmark to "remember"
14 Basketball target
15 Cab
16 Black bird
17 Worldwide: Abbr.
18 Throat-clearing sound
19 Man's altering an opinion
22 Most important "numero"
23 Fill in ___ blank
24 Tree sources of pancake syrup
28 In addition
30 On the ___ (fleeing)
33 Neighborhood
34 Be jealous of
36 Temporary peace
38 Much-welcomed verbal statement
41 Home that might be "humble"
42 ___ colada (rum cocktail)
43 Club members' payments
44 ___ in "Sam"
45 Require
47 Shiny, as a photo
49 And so on: Abbr.
50 Take a glance at
51 Compliments a woman
60 Aroma
61 Woodwind instrument
62 Wooden peg
63 Worked on a loom
64 Make less difficult

- 65 Pisa's country
66 Narrow wooden strip
67 Altered the color of
68 Catches, as a criminal
DOWN
1 Uninteresting, informally
2 Volcano's outflow
3 Sign of the future
4 Shoe part below the laces
5 Nose-horned African beast
6 Ping-___ (paddle game)
7 Butterfly cousin
8 Divides up
9 Montana or Maine
10 Island near Maui
11 Yoked beasts of burden
12 One at a ___ (individually)
13 Curved line
20 Map closeup
21 Small glasses of liquor
24 Tots' female parents
25 Dutch Caribbean island
26 Mexican coins
27 Installed, as bricks
28 Steer clear of
29 Country singer Loretta
30 Hawaiian feasts
31 Farmland measures
32 Untidy
35 Slangy refusal
37 Make over

- 39 Fractions of a dollar
40 Impatient to get started
46 Reverberated
48 Welcome through the door
49 Type of heron
50 Velocity
51 Female pigs
52 Revered celebrity
53 ___ Scotia (Canadian province)
54 Internet auction site
55 Valentine flower
56 Slightest amount
57 Small cotton-tipped stick
58 "Electric" fishes
59 Crafty

Crossword grid with numbers 1-68 indicating starting positions for clues.