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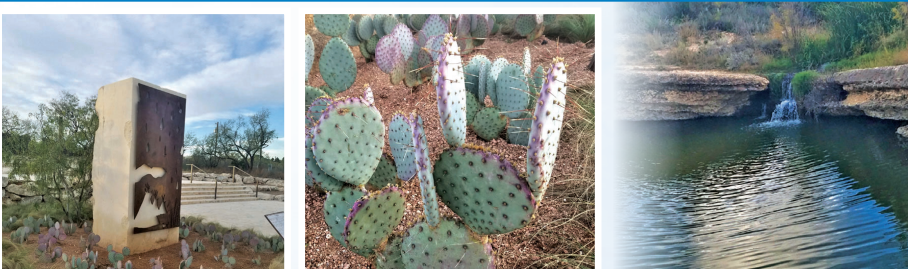
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 BIG SPRING HERALD
READERS' CHOICE AWARDS



Pops in the Park provides a safe, stunning Independence Day

Weather



Wednesday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 75. South wind around 15 mph.
Thursday: Sunny and hot, with a high near 101. South wind 10 to 15 mph.
Thursday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 77.
Friday: Sunny and hot, with a high near 102.
 Source: NWS, via weather.gov

Today in History

On July 6
1885: Louis Pasteur successfully tests his rabies vaccine on Joseph Meister, who was bitten by a rabid dog.
1942: Anne Frank and her family go into hiding in the "Secret Annexe" above her father's office in an Amsterdam warehouse.

Daily Quotes

"I wish to have no connection with any ship that does not sail fast; for I intend to go in harm's way."
 — **John Paul Jones**
 "Feet, what do I need you for when I have wings to fly?"
 — **Frida Kahlo**
 "You just get up each day and put one foot in front of the other and go. You know, each day is different."
 — **Nancy Reagan**

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Photos courtesy Amanda Duforat
 Left, fireworks erupt over the Amphitheater Sunday evening; above, the Police Department/Fire Department color guard present the colors as Symphony Conductor Dr. Keith Grauman speaks; right, the crowd started small and grew throughout the day.

By AMANDA DUFORAT

Contributing Writer
 Twenty-five years of Pops in the Park did not disappoint. The annual event once again illuminated the Howard County sky, providing a safe way for families to enjoy a display of fireworks this year amidst the dry conditions.
 The Howard County Volunteer Fire

Department, Big Spring Fire Department and local law enforcement were all on hand, working with the event to ensure everything went smoothly and safely.

"I think the event went really well. It was nice to see how the last half of the show was in sync with the fireworks. It was an amazing firework show. The weather was great and it just seemed

like families were having a good time," Manny Negron, emcee for the event, said.

Families started filling up the park early afternoon, and gates officially opened at 5 p.m. Vendors lined the top of the amphitheater offering numerous food and beverage choices, along

See **POPS**, Page 3

Parkview staff members recognized for resident care

By AMANDA DUFORAT

Contributing Writer
 Recognize the good work one does and watch them blossom. The care provided by the staff at local nursing homes is a vital part of the inviting atmosphere, and recently, one local facility took the time to recognize those who go above and beyond.

"It's important to recognize our employees for the great work they do. They are our driving force and at the end



Courtesy photo
 Nurse aide Ericka Williams, left, and Kristi Beauchamp.



Courtesy photo
 Kristi Beauchamp, left, and CNA Maria Rodriguez.

of the day if it wasn't for them then we wouldn't be able to have our day to day tasks taken care of," Kristi Beauchamp, owner of Parkview Skilled Care and Rehab, said.

Each month the facility likes to recognize an employee of the month and show their appreciation for the great work being done. This past month, Maria Rodriguez was recognized for going above and

See **PARKVIEW**, Page 3

Coahoma, Highland celebrate Fourth with parades



Left, courtesy photos; right, HERALD photos/Roger Cline

Left top, Coahoma residents decorated their vehicles for the parade; left bottom, Members of the Coahoma High School softball team throw candy to the crowd. Right, decorated golf carts, baby strollers, and bikes cruise down Highland for the annual neighborhood parade Monday.



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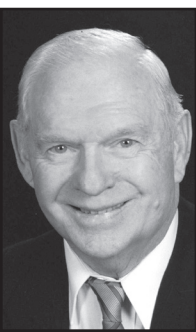


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Obituaries

Louis Edward Stallings



Louis Edward (Sousa) Stallings departed this life on July 1, 2022, surrounded by family and caregivers at his home in Big Spring, Texas. Louis was born at the family home in Lomax on November 3, 1931, delivered by pioneer Doctor G. T. Hall. He started school at age five and skipped a grade because "he was so smart." He attended the one-room Lomax Community school, and later Stanton High School, where he excelled at all sports. He graduated at 16 and attended McMurray College and then Howard County Junior College, where he played basketball, baseball and quarterback on the only football team HCJC ever had. He later transferred to North Texas State University and graduated at the age of 20.

Louis met Luan Creighton at the annual Lomax Community Fourth of July Celebration in 1946. They were married at the First Baptist Church of Big Spring on December 22, 1951, and recently celebrated their 70th anniversary. After graduation from North Texas, he was enlisted into the Army and was stationed at Fort Bliss in El Paso, Texas, until his honorable discharge as a Sergeant in 1954. Louis and Luan made their home in Big Spring where he began a long career in the life insurance business. The illness of their oldest child (Dian) caused the family to relocate to Dallas in 1964 to be near specialists, who were treating the 10-year-old for what we now know as anorexia. In 1969, Louis accepted a position in San Antonio with Farm Bureau Insurance Company as agent for Wilson and Atascosa Counties. In 1973, he transferred to Brownfield, Texas, as agent for Terry and later Bailey Counties. The following year he was promoted to District Sales Manager for West Texas and relocated back to Big Spring.

In 1977, Louis purchased the Patterson Insurance Agency in Big Spring. In 1981 he sold the agency and, for the remainder of his career, was an independent life insurance broker working with other agents and representing several large insurers. He won many awards for his achievements in the industry including being a member of the Million Dollar Roundtable, but his greatest satisfaction

was recruiting and working with young agents and teaching them the business that he loved. Louis was also a former Trustee of Howard College.

Louis accepted Christ at a Methodist revival when he was 16. As a young father, he made certain his family attended churches that taught the bible as God's inspired Word. His faith in Jesus Christ as his personal savior and only hope of heaven was a conviction and a fixture in his prayers. Louis was characterized by kindness, fairness and courtly manners. In his frequent trips to hospitals during his final year he never failed to tip his hat to ladies or to remove it whenever appropriate. Louis was an inspiring example to his sons and grandsons in the way a husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather should conduct himself. All ladies were treated respectfully but special attention was reserved only for Luan, the love of his life.

Louis was preceded in death by his parents, Arthur J. Stallings and wife, Odessa Lomax Stallings; and a sister, Evelyn Stallings Adkins.

Louis is survived by one brother, Arthur J. "Jimmy" Stallings Jr of Midland; his wife of 70 years, Luan Creighton Stallings of Big Spring; and four children, Dian Griffin (Lane) of Vincent; Kyle Stallings (Jamie) of Midland; Layne Cooper (Dan) of Lamesa; and Todd Stallings (Connie) of Midland. He is also survived by 17 grandchildren, 12 grandchildren-in-law; and 29 great-grandchildren.

Special thanks to Dr. Manish Shroff, Dr. Rudy Haddad, Dr. John Foster and Dr. Chan Le. Also to caregivers and friends, Adrienne McGehee, Carmen De Leon, Lynda Arredondo, Clifford, Ramona and Justin Goff.

Grandsons Tom Griffin, Dan Griffin, Ben Griffin, K.C. Stallings, Tyler Stallings, Jacob Froman, Michael Froman and John Stallings will serve as pallbearers.

A viewing at Nalley Pickle Funeral Home in Big Spring was held from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Tuesday, July 5, and visitation from 5 to 7 that evening. Services are scheduled today, July 6, 2022, at 2 p.m. at the Nalley-Pickle Rosewood Chapel in Big Spring. Pastor Doug Shelley of East Side Baptist Church will preside. Interment will follow at Trinity Memorial Park.

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

Paid obituary

Carlos "Charlie" Florez



Carlos "Charlie" Florez, 63, died Sunday, July 3, 2022.

Visitation will be 9 a.m. until 9 p.m. with a vigil service at 7 p.m. at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral Mass will be 10 a.m. Thursday at Holy Trinity Catholic Church. Interment will be at 10 a.m. Saturday at Mt. Olive Cemetery.

Carlos was born March 9, 1959, in Big Spring, Texas, to Maria and Fermin L. Florez Sr. He was a lifetime resident of Big Spring and a member of Holy Trinity Catholic Church. He was a veteran of the U.S. Army serving from 1979 until 1982.

Carlos worked for the city of Big Spring, Lakeview Head start, and TRAX. He was a kind, loving, caring person and always had respect for others. He had a great sense of humor and made everyone laugh. One of his favorite past time memories was listening to Tejano music and playing solitaire. He also loved his wife and son very much.

Carlos is survived by his wife, Catalina Franco Florez of Big Spring; one son, Jesse Franco of Big Spring; his mother, Maria Florez of Bryan, Texas; three sisters, Florence Rosas (Orlando) of Friendswood, Texas, Elizabeth Rios (Robert) of Big Spring, Texas, and Debra Olague (Tom) of Big Spring; one brother, Pedro Florez of Bryan, Texas; several nieces and nephews.

Carlos was preceded in death by his father, Fermin L. Florez Sr.; brother: Fermin L. Florez Jr; his maternal and paternal grandparents.

Pallbearers will be Robert Rios Sr., Albert Franco, Mr. Mesa, Amando Cortez, Sammy Correa, and David Lee Rios.

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

Janus W. Cavin



Janus W. Cavin, 86, died Friday, June 24, 2022. A celebration of her life will be 5:30 p.m. Thursday at Myers & Smith Chapel.

Janus was born on Jan. 5, 1936, in Cleburne to Amanda and Clyde Allen. She married Leon "Bud" Cavin on May 8, 1969, and they were married until his passing in January of 2015.

Janus is survived by a close friend, Ben Zeichick; niece, Sherri Watson; and numerous friends.

Janus was preceded in death by her husband, Leon Cavin; her parents, Amanda and Clyde Allen; brother, Billy Clyde Allen; and sister, Reta Joyce Allen.

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

Sheriff

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

Note - Official's with the Howard County Jail reported having 92 inmates at the time of this report

- **ENRIQUE MARTINEZ ALVAREZ JR**, 59, was arrested by BSPD on a charge of possession of a controlled substance less than 1 gram.
- **LACEY JANELLE CHAVARRIA**, 36, was arrested by BSPD on a charge of possession of a controlled substance less than 1 gram.
- **LACEY JANELLE CHAVARRIA**, 36, was arrested by HCSO on a charge of possession of a controlled substance more than 1 gram less than 4 grams.
- **ANNA MARIE CUELLAR**, 54, was arrested by BSPD on a charge of theft of property more than \$100 less than \$750.
- **GABRIEL ISAIHAH FAZ**, 18, was arrested by BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.
- **MITCHELL ALAN HARRIS**, 62, was arrested by HCSO on a charge of forgery of financial instrument, credit card or debit card abuse, forgery financial instrument, parole violation.
- **MIGUEL HERNANDEZ HINOJOS**, 59, was arrested by BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.
- **EDRION PATRICK HOUSTON**, 32, was arrested by BSPD on a charge of possession of a controlled substance less than 1 gram, possession of marijuana less than 2oz.
- **RICHARD HILARIO MARTINEZ JR**, 24, was arrested by BSPD on a charge aggravated assault date/family/house.

• **MICHAEL JOSEPH MCNEW**, 32, was arrested by BSPD on a charge of criminal trespass, criminal mischief more than \$100 less than \$750.

• **LORENZO FABIAN ONTIVEROS**, 41, was arrested by BSPD on a charge of bail jumping and failure to appear.

• **BRYSON LENARD REED**, 39, was arrested by HCSO on a charge of failure to appear/theft of a firearm, burglary of vehicle, bail jumping and failure to appear.

• **HELENE MARGARITE RIGGS**, 52, was arrested by BSPD on a charge of criminal trespass.

• **JOSHUA MATTHEW SALAZAR**, 20, was arrested by BSPD on a charge of assault family violence, failure to appear, no drivers license (when unlicensed).

• **SANTANA SALINAS**, 21, was arrested by BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.

• **MIA LAJOY SCOTT**, 24, was arrested by DPS on a charge of unlicensed carrying weapon, possession of marijuana less than 2oz.

• **JAY THOMAS TAGGART**, 23, was arrested by HCSO on a charge of theft of property more than \$100 less than \$750.

• **KEENAN ANDRAE TURNER**, 40, was arrested by HCSO on a charge of resist arrest, search, or transport, fail to identify fugitive w/ intent to give fictitious name.

Support Groups

WEDNESDAY

• 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.

Submit your Support Group information to be included or updated. Email information to editor@bigspringherald.com or call 432-263-7331.

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POPS

Continued from Page 1

with snow cones, glow sticks, and more. Volunteers from Scenic Mountain Medical Center were greeting community members as they arrived and offering water and fans, and even had a nice photo op for those wanting to take a photo.

After Negrón welcomed the crowd, members from the KBest Media staff had T-shirts and prizes to give away to those who showed up early. T-shirts were launched into the crowd with a giant slingshot and a T-shirt cannon. A few audience members even had an opportunity to play Plinko to win prizes.

PARKVIEW

Continued from Page 1

beyond in her care for the residents at the facility.

"Maria does a wonderful job for our residents and their families. She has been serving as a CNA with us since 2008. Whether you ask the residents, fellow staff members or family members, they will tell you the care she provides is a welcome one," Beauchamp said.

However, Rodriguez is not the only employee who has been recognized for her hard work and dedication to the facility. Another outstanding employee that was recently recognized was Ericka Williams.

"Ericka has been with us since January and is doing a wonderful job as a nurse aide. The patients love her, her fellow staff love her, and we are excited

The freedoms that were enjoyed Sunday evening, and everyday, were made possible by the sacrifices of those who chose to serve their country. In proper fashion, the event had a special ceremony honoring all branches of the military and paid honor to the United States flag. The Cross Roads Young Marines and Boy Scouts helped line the amphitheater with a display of flags. The Big Spring Symphony began their patriotic music alongside the presentation of the colors. A flyover featuring Midland's Commemorative Air Force also took place as the different branches of the military were recognized.

"We want to encourage all those who attended to share their photos with us so we can see Pops in the Park from your eyes," Negrón said.

As the sun set, the perfect backdrop rose for the fireworks. The Symphony music played in alignment with the firework display for a breathtaking show.

"Thank you to our committee and many volunteers that helped make this event successful," Negrón said.

Pops in the Park is a free event made possible by local businesses and numerous sponsorships. Donations for the event are accepted year round and can be made at the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce. To find out how to become a sponsor for Pops in the Park, call 432-263-7641. To share your photos of the event, follow Pops in the Park on Facebook and use #popsat25.

to have her on our staff," Beauchamp said.

As the residents, just as all the others across the nation in nursing facilities, are adjusting to the new normal and dealing with the changes that came along with COVID-19, the staff is what holds it all together. Staff members are tasked with keeping the day to day as normal as possible and during the time family members and the community were not allowed in, they were stepping up and making sure the connection was not lost.

"We are blessed to have a staff that cares about our residents. This is home to our residents and we are one big family inside these walls," she said.

Residents are once again able to have family visitations and have been able to enjoy a few community events this year and are looking forward to more.

To find out more about upcoming events or ways to support Parkview residents reach out to the facility by calling 432-263-4041.

Take Note

• Homecoming for Big Spring High School is set for September 9 and 10, 2022.

The class of 1962 is celebrating its 60th anniversary and is looking for missing classmates, listed below. Please send names, addresses and/or contact information to: Susan Zack Lewis at ts@crcom.net

Jimmie Atkins, Cecil Baker, Elnora Baker, Joretta Barnes, Idalina Barraza, Alice Bedwell, Kenneth Billings, Cal Boardman, Bill Bonner, Gayle Bratcher, Leahmon Bryant, Joe Cagle, Kay Carter, Mildred Cawthron, Janice Chandler, Clementeen Chatman, Charles Clay, Sue Cole, Suzanne Compton, Ronnie Cox, Larry Deighton, Rexie Denton, Ann Drinkard Sinclair, Lonnie Evans, Paula Faubion, Owen Frost, Lana Fulbright, Margaret Fuller, Yolanda Gamboa, David Garcia, Richard Gibbs, James Gilbert, Norma Graves, Thomas Green, Gloria Greenwood, Edith Gregory, Michael Halverson, Jan Hamilton, Gerald Harrison, Preston Harrison, Sam Hartfield, Don Heath, Billie Henderson, Jerry Henderson, Clarence Henkell, Roger Henry, Rosemary Herrera, Jimmy Hinds, Connie Hinojos, Caroline Holder, Virginia Houchin, Claudie Horn, Ronnie Jeter, Diane Jones, Nancy Jones, Karen Kendrick, Carey King, Rick King, R.C. Knightstep, Jimmy Knous, Ola Mae Lane, Tommy Leslie, Caroline Lewis, Peggy Lewis, Pat Martin, Ed Martinez, Ernest Mata, Dorinda Medford, Ray Minks, Donald Mitchell, Cruz Montanez, Jerry Moore, Virginia Morris, Harold Morrison, Linda Morton, Carol McCullough, Virginia McKee, Bettie McPherson, Betty McWhorter, Skipper Neill, Rita Nelson, Sandra Nichols, Sandra Nixon, Margaret Oliver, Shirley Osborn, Linda Page, Judy Parker, Dexter Pate, Judy Pate, Gene Patton, Johnny Paul, Greg Peay, Elton Perkins, Iva Mae Perkins, Jim Pierce, Bobby Prior, Mary Puga, Claudia Richardson, Winnora Richbourgh, Teresa Rocha, Mary Roger, George Ryan, Carolyn Seago, Carla Smauley, Chap Smith, Chester Smith, Danna Smith, Wyetta Smith, Marcus Sweatt, Jimmy Thomas, Robert Thomas, Perry Thompson, Guadalupe Tovar, Earlene Trantham, Margaret Turnbow, Jan Turney, Leola Vance, Leonilda Webb, Richard West, Lynda Whiteside, Troy Wilhite, Diane Womack, Margaret York, Jeri Cain.

• Food distribution at Three Angels Food Pantry is held every third Tuesday of the month at the Big Spring Seventh-Day Adventist Church, located at 4319 Parkway Rd. Food is provided by the West Texas Food Bank. People will need to bring ID and plastic bags or a box, and answer a few questions - such as how many people live in the household - to pick up food. The food pantry also has a Facebook page where they will post any updates. <https://www.facebook.com/healthynuggetsofgold44>.

• Everyone welcome! Western swing by Michael Leonard. New Life mature adult dance at the Dora Roberts Community Center, 100 Whipkey Drive. The last dance for the summer will be this Friday, June 17 from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. Entry fee is \$5. Bring snacks to share. Refreshments are provided. For more information call 432 517-9097.

• Ready for Home School or individualized education in school? Maranatha Baptist Academy, located at 903 Johnson Street, in Big Spring, Texas, is currently open and taking applications for enrollment for the 2022-23 School year. We are a faith-based Christian Academy and use the individualized Accelerated Christian Education Curriculum for Kindergarten through 12th grade, published in Hendersonville, Tennessee. July 20 is our startup date, and applications will be accepted year-round. Someone will take your call for information at 432-213-1046. Please leave a message and we will get back with you.

• The Big Spring Art Association is looking for community businesses to display pieces of their artwork. In an effort to build awareness for the importance of the arts and highlight local talent, the Big Spring Art Association displays different art pieces across

the community. If you would like a piece of art work displayed in your business lobby contact any member of the Big Spring Art Association.

• The Big Spring Art Association meets the third Saturday of the month, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon, in the basement of the Howard County Library. Come join us, we would love to have you. For more information, call 432-263-4155; Michelle Worthan at 325-227-3911; Kay Smith at 432-213-1153; or Ruby Bruns at 432-664-1943.

• The Great Courses history video lecture series is taking place each Wednesday in the Theater Room in the First Presbyterian Church, located at 701 Runnels Street. No charge for the lectures.

• Howard County Community Health Center is offering the Moderna – a two dose and Janseen – a single dose, Covid-19 vaccine to those over the age of 18. Businesses, churches, groups or organizations of 10 members or more who would like the vaccine can schedule a time to have a mobile vaccine clinic. The staff will to the business, church, or organization to administer the vaccine. For ore information, call 806-894-7842 ext 178 or 124 or e-mail Covid19@sprhs.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.

• St. Vincent de Paul food distribution will take place the second Thursday of each month from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and other assistance will take place the third Thursday of each month from 9:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. Both distributions will take place at 1009 Hearn at SVDP Building.

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

• 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.

• DivorceCare is a biblical support group for those facing divorce or separation. Each DVD session features nationally respected experts, such as Christian Coun-

selors 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.

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Cheryl Ruth, 65, died Thursday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.	vice Friday, July 15, 2022 at 10 AM at Trinity Memorial Park.
Janus Cavin, 86, died Friday. A celebration of her life July 7, 2022 at 5:30 PM at Myers & Smith Chapel.	Nina Hunter, 86, died Sunday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home. A fund has been established to assist the family with funeral expenses.
Isidora Morphis, 75, died Friday. A memorial service Wednesday, July 6, 2022 at 10 AM at Holy Trinity Catholic Church with burial at Coahoma Cemetery.	Charlie Florez, 63, died Sunday. Vigil service Wednesday 7 PM at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral Mass Thursday 10 AM at Holy Trinity Catholic Church. Internment Saturday 10 AM at Mt. Olive Cemetery.
Rosa Gamboa, 86, died Saturday. A celebration of Rosa's life Saturday, July 16, 2022 by Zoom.	Kenneth Yockers, 60, died Saturday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.
Lonnie Grice, 97, died Tuesday, June 21, 2022. Graveside ser-	

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Alvarez's 9th-inning HR lifts Astros 7-6 win over Royals

By KRISTIE RIEKEN

AP Sports Writer

HOUSTON (AP) — After falling behind early on, Houston chipped away at Kansas City's lead before one mighty swing by Yordan Alvarez completed the Astros' biggest comeback win of the season.

Alvarez homered with two outs in the ninth inning, and Houston beat the Kansas City Royals 7-6 on Monday for its seventh straight victory.

"Nobody in the dugout gives up throughout the game ... even if we're losing like that," Alvarez said through a translator.

Led by Kyle Tucker and Alvarez, AL West-leading Houston erased a five-run deficit on the way to its 15th victory in its last 18 games. Tucker sparked the Astros' three-run eighth with a two-run single, and Alvarez hit a drive to left-center against Scott Barlow (2-2) for his 24th homer.

"I just tried to get focused, see a pitch up in the zone, but that pitch came back to the middle of the plate and I was able to hit it," Alvarez said.

Ryne Stanek (1-0) pitched a scoreless ninth for the win.

The Astros also won in their last at-bat on Sunday, using Jeremy Peña's tie-breaking two-run homer with two out in the ninth to post a 4-2 victory over the Los Angeles Angels.

It's the first time the Astros have had consecutive last at-bat wins on home runs since Mark Loretta and Carlos Lee on June 28-29, 2007, against Colorado. Andrew Benintendi had three hits and two RBIs for Kansas City, which had

won three of four. MJ Melendez hit two solo homers.

"It's one of the tougher ones of the season. ... You like the chances of us being able to finish that off," Royals manager Mike Matheny said.

The Royals jumped on Jake Odorizzi for five runs in three innings in his return from injury. Hunter Dozier and Benintendi each hit a two-run single, and Melendez connected in the third.

The Astros trailed 6-3 in the eighth when Wyatt Mills walked Peña with no outs before Amir Garrett took over. The left-hander then issued back-to-back walks to Alvarez and Alex Bregman to load the bases.

Tucker followed with a liner to center. Yuli Gurriel then greeted Taylor Clarke with a tying RBI single. But Clarke retired the next three batters to limit the damage.

Kansas City wasted a solid performance by Jonathan Heasley, who allowed one earned run and three hits in six innings. Heasley was hit hard in his previous start, tagged for a career-high seven runs and nine hits in a loss to Texas.

Odorizzi set season highs by allowing nine hits and five earned runs in four innings. He had been sidelined by left leg injury.

"Just one of those days, everything wasn't crisp when it came down to execution," Odorizzi said. "Really, the only pitch I had confidence in — and that wasn't a ton — was my fastball."

ROSTER MOVE

Houston optioned right-hander Enoli Paredes to Triple-A Sugar Land to make room for Odorizzi on the roster.

O's beat Rangers 7-6 on a hit batter, 37-44 at midpoint

By TODD KARPOVICH

Associated Press Writer

BALTIMORE (AP) — Jorge Mateo limped to first base when Matt Moore hit him near the left knee with the bases loaded in the 10th inning, and the Baltimore Orioles reached the season's halfway point by coming from behind late to beat the Texas Rangers 7-6 Monday.

Rookie Adley Rutschman, who began the day in an 0-for-18 skid, tied the score against Joe Barlow with a two-out RBI double in the ninth that hit off the right-field wall.

Rougned Odor led off the 10th with a bunt single off Moore that advanced automatic runner Austin Hays to third, and Moore intentionally walked Ramón Urias to load the bases. Moore (3-1) then hit Mateo with his next pitch, a 93.5 mph fastball.

"Total team effort," Orioles manager Brandon Hyde said. "Great bunt. Makes the pitcher come off the mound. Tough play for him. That was huge."

Mateo bent over in pain for about six seconds. After crossing the plate, Hays accompanied a hobbling Mateo to first along with Cedric Mullins, who was on deck, and Odor.

"We are the kind of group where we are all to-

gether," Odor said. "We are like a family. When you have a team like that, a lot of good things can happen. That's why we've been having those comeback games."

In the third inning, Mateo had reached on a catcher's interference call on Meibrys Vioria and scored on Cedric Mullins' double.

Baltimore got its sixth walkoff win and reached the season's midpoint at 37-44, a vast improvement from 27-54 at the halfway point last year. The Orioles are 23-20 following a 14-24 start.

Bryan Baker (3-3) struck out two in a hitless 10th for the Orioles, who won despite going 2 for 12 with runners in scoring position.

Orioles starter Dean Kremer allowed five runs and eight hits with four strikeouts and two walks over 4 2/3 innings — his shortest outing since his season debut on June 5.

"Huge props to the offense and the bullpen," Kremer said. "They picked me up big time. To come back like that, pretty good."

Adolis García's fifth-inning sacrifice fly pulled the Rangers to 2-1. Texas scored four more times in the inning on Nathaniel Lowe's RBI single and Mitch Garver's three-run homer.

Mullins cut the gap to 5-3 in the fifth with his sev-

enth homer. The Orioles tied the score in the sixth on an error by Lowe on Jonathan Araúz's hard grounder that allowed two runs to score.

Marcus Semien's ninth-inning homer off Jorge López put the Rangers ahead 6-5. Trey Mancini singled leading off the bottom half and Rutschman, who had singled in the second, hit his 12th double in 35 games as Barlow blew a save for the third time in 13 chances.

Texas starter Dane Dunning gave up five runs — three earned — and seven hits in 5 1/3 innings.

"You can't take these guys lightly," Rangers manager Chris Woodward said. "Their bullpen is very good and they have some good arms down there. If you take these guys lightly, they'll whup. We kind of saw that a little bit last year."

HOLIDAY AFFAIR

The Orioles hosted their first game on the Fourth of July since 2008 also against Texas. Baltimore won that game 10-4.

TRAINER'S ROOM

Urias was reinstated on the 10-day IL with an oblique injury. He lined out as a pinch hitter in the eighth. INF Richie Martin was optioned to Triple-A Norfolk.

LEADING OFF: Scherzer returns for Mets, Taillon on a roll

By The Associated Press

A look at what's happening around the majors today:

MAX IS BACK

Mets ace Max Scherzer returns to a major league mound for the first time since May 18 when the NL East leaders play at Cincinnati.

The right-hander, who turns 38 in three weeks, hasn't pitched for the Mets since he strained the oblique muscle in his left side while throwing a pitch to the Cardinals' Albert Pujols.

Scherzer is 5-1 with a 2.54 ERA in his first season with the Mets, who signed the three-time Cy Young Award winner to a \$130 million, three-year contract during the offseason. He made a pair of starts for Double-A Binghamton on June 21 and 29, allowing four earned runs and seven hits in eight innings with 14 strikeouts and two walks.

Left-hander Nick Lodolo (1-2, 5.52), who was 10 when Scherzer made his big league debut, starts for the Reds. Cincinnati is starting three rookies in a row against the Mets, with Lodolo following Hunter Greene and preceding Graham Ashcraft.

Scherzer could be joined in the Mets rotation by Jacob deGrom by late July or early August. The two-time Cy Young Award winner hasn't pitched in the majors since July 7 last year.

DeGrom missed the second half of 2021 with right forearm tightness and a sprained elbow, then has been sidelined this season by a stress reaction in his right scapula that caused inflammation. In his first rehab outing, deGrom struck out five of six batters and threw 18 of 24 pitches for strikes for Class A St. Lucie.

JAMO ON A ROLL

Jameson Taillon of the New York Yankees is 9-0 with a 3.30 ERA in 14 starts since a 3-0 loss to Toronto on April 11 in his first outing this season.

Taillon starts the series opener at Pittsburgh, the team that selected him with the second overall pick in the 2010 amateur draft.

The 30-year-old right-hander was 29-24 with a 3.67 ERA in four seasons with the Pirates, who traded him to the Yankees in January 2021 for four prospects: right-handers Roansy Contreras and Miguel Yajure, infielder Maikol Escotto and outfielder Canaan Smith.

Taillon will be facing Pittsburgh for the first time.

Left-hander José Quintana (1-4, 3.43) starts for the Pirates. He is 0-3 with a 3.91 in nine outings since beating the Los Angeles Dodgers on May 9.

SHARP SANDY

Marlins right-hander Sandy Alcantara looks to add to his dominant first half when he faces Mike Trout and the Angels in Miami.

Alcantara (8-3, 1.95 ERA) has pitched at least seven innings in each of his last 10 starts. He's 6-1 in that span and

has allowed just three home runs.

The 26-year-old Alcantara threw a season-high 117 pitches in his last outing, a complete-game win at St. Louis.

Trout is coming off a three-game series in which he went 0 for 11 and struck out nine times as the Angels got swept in Houston. The three-time AL MVP is hitless in his last 14 at-bats overall.

REMEMBER ME?

Zack Greinke returns to Minute Maid Park to start for Kansas City against Houston.

Greinke joined the Astros at the 2019 trade deadline and started Game 7 of the World Series that fall in Houston. The 38-year-old righty also pitched for the Astros in the World Series last season.

Greinke signed with the Royals in the offseason and is 2-4 with a 4.38 ERA in 12 starts. Luis Garcia (6-5, 3.54 ERA) starts for the AL West-leading Astros.

Former NFL star Demaryius Thomas' family says he had CTE

BOSTON (AP) — Former NFL star Demaryius Thomas, who died last December at age 33, had CTE, his family said Tuesday.

Boston University CTE Center researchers diagnosed the four-time Pro Bowl wide receiver with stage 2 chronic traumatic encephalopathy following a brain study through the Concussion Legacy Foundation. Thomas' family released the findings of the study.

"Once I became aware of CTE and began to familiarize myself with the symptoms, I noticed that Demaryius was isolating himself and I saw other changes in him," Katina Smith, Demaryius' mother, said in a statement. "He was just so young, and it was horrible to see him struggle. His father and I hope all families learn the risks of playing football. We don't want other parents to have to lose their children like we did."

Stage 2 CTE is associated with "progressive behavior, cognitive and mood abnormalities." Family members say Thomas developed depression, anxiety, panic attacks, and trouble with his memory in the years before his death. Stage 4 is the most severe stage of CTE and is usually associated with dementia.

"Like so many that have gone before, we found stage 2 CTE in the brain of Demaryius Thomas. The

question I keep asking myself is 'When will enough be enough?' When will athletes, parents and the public at large stop ignoring the risks of American football and insist that the game be changed to reduce subconcussive hits?" said Dr. Ann McKee, chief of neuropathology for the VA Boston Healthcare System and director of the BU CTE Center and VA-BU-CLF/UNITE Brain Bank.

CLF co-founder and CEO Dr. Chris Nowinski arranged the study through Thomas' family.

"The football community would have no idea why so many former players struggle with neurological disorders after their career without the families who say yes to brain donation, so I want to thank Bobby Thomas and Katina Smith — and all families — for their trust in Dr. McKee and this team," said Nowinski, a former football player at Harvard. "I hope this is a wake-up call to high profile current and former NFL players that CTE is rampant among them, and they need to get involved in creating

real solutions. CTE should be their number one off-the-field issue."

Thomas is one of more than 300 former NFL players who have been diagnosed with CTE by McKee and the BU CTE Center research team.

Thomas' cause of death has not yet been identified. In 2021, Thomas began experiencing seizures. McKee told ABC News she believes the seizures were due to severe traumatic injuries off the football field, including a car wreck and a fall on stone stairs.

"CTE itself does not cause death. You don't die from CTE. What CTE does is it changes your behavior and your personality," McKee said.

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Horoscopes By Holiday

**WEDNESDAY
JULY 6, 2022**
Justice Moon

We could let ourselves be consumed with the concept that certain things in life aren't fair, though it takes a lot of energy. The world doesn't work on principles of fairness and never has. The Libra moon wants justice but it will settle for effectiveness, cleverness and ingenuity, as people make the most of the hands they are dealt.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Take a step back and consider the evidence. You cannot know everything, but there are key questions you haven't asked yet. For instance, "Who can help me with this?" and, "What would be simpler?"

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Persistence pays off. It's easier to be tenacious when you don't have a lot of emotional baggage to lift through the process. You'll eliminate anything that drags on your energy or pulls from your focus on one burning goal.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You'll be inspired to clear your living space and get a new style flowing through your domestic world. Instead of increasing the number of things you own, scale down the number of things you want.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Your image and what others think of you is only important to you insofar as it helps your effectiveness. You'll get evidence that you've impacted someone's life in a positive way, which is more precious to you than accolades.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Get-

ting stressful work out of the way is a mood lifter. You'll either do it now or decide to do it never. Either choice eliminates the problem and allows a happier, more peaceful version of yourself to emerge.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You've gotten a good overview of what needs doing in your world. Though several areas could use attention, you will be better off focusing on just the part that interests you most. Go deep into one niche and become the expert.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You have a good guess about what a person is thinking, though you could be wrong. Leave room in your imagination for different interpretations, especially if the first one is negative. It's always wise to challenge assumptions.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You'll see 10 possible solutions to a problem you used to think had just one. Tell the others. Many are stuck and need to hear new ideas. Even if they don't decide to take it, you'll get people thinking differently.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). To change the behavior that's holding you back, you first must identify it. If you're missing a step or half-listening when your full attention is required, you'll figure that out and fix it in time to seize a golden opportunity.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Your thoughts align in a neat and logical flow until a certain agent of chaos comes into your realm, causing an unpredictable ping-pong effect. There's something creative about it, which you'll realize after things calm down.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). It's so much a part of you, you can't see it, but the others will be impressed by your grit. It takes a good deal of the stuff to persevere through complexity, and even more to keep going through tedium. You have plenty.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Share the thinking behind your plans and goals. As you talk about why you want something, the one who can give it to you will understand your motivation and be more inclined to fulfill your need.

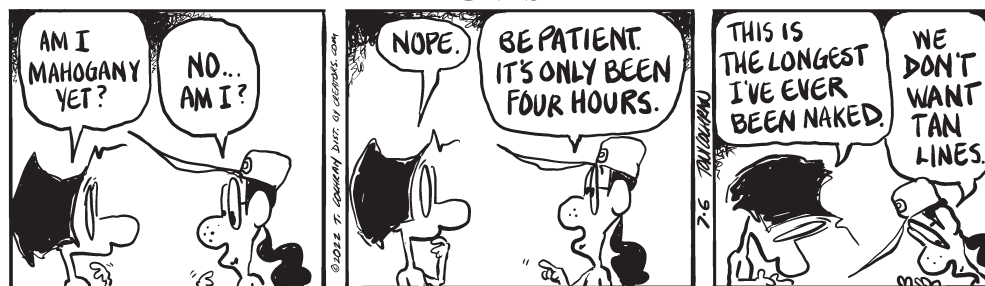
TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (July 6). Your ideas are hot, and your follow-through is cool, measured and steady. You'll tackle one project after another in the same way, determining the best course of action and adjusting as needed until you get the desired result. You'll be paid for your advice and teaching. Capricorn and Scorpio adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 33, 31, 29, 19 and 14.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: "Be kind whenever possible," says the 14th Dalai Lama of Tibet. Then, he adds, "It is always possible." His Holiness was born when the sun and Pluto were in nurturing Cancer and Mercury was in quick-thinking, eloquent Gemini. It would seem the Dalai Lama's mission of compassion, tolerance, inter-religious harmony and peace is evergreen in its relevance and needed in the world now more than ever.

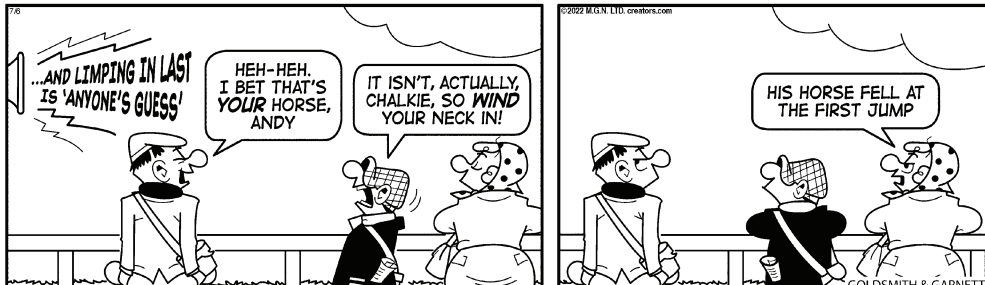
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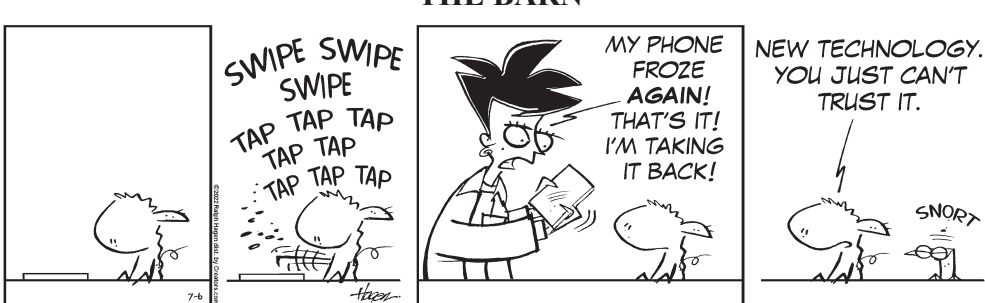
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9		4						7	1				
7		1		4				3					
2								6	8			9	
						8	3						
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8		9		1								5	
5				4				2	1	3			

Level: Intermediate

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

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N	A	B	I	H	L	D	E	S	T	R	I	E	S	P
W	O	C	R	E	D	I	T	C	H	E	C	K	T	W
A	L	A	M	A	T	H	I	S	T	H	E	A	R	E
C	R	E	T	I	C	I	G	N	I	S	P	E	D	I
O	T	O	P	I	N	I	S	T	I	S	O	D	A	O
S	C	I	D	A	V	I	S	I	A	V	I	O	A	I
S	A	S	D	A	V	I	S	I	A	V	I	O	A	I
S	M	O	R	N	E	N	T	S	T	A	T	E	M	E
N	E	N	S	V	E	N	O	T	O					
E	L	A	T	E	O	N	T	O	L	O	C	K	O	
L	L	E	B	U	F	A	L	O	N	E				
L	L	E	N	O	N	E								
P	S		I	M	H	I	P							

Today's Answers

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

- ACROSS**
- 1 Oxygen or hydrogen
 - 4 "Gotcha, man!"
 - 9 Inexpensive mags of old
 - 14 Many an Austrian mountain
 - 15 Limitless amount (of)
 - 16 Prepare for a bout
 - 17 Capitalize on
 - 18 Legendary Wild West showman
 - 20 Stare at
 - 22 Make very happy
 - 23 No longer in style
 - 24 Frozen reindeer
 - 25 Document executed under oath
 - 32 Made sharper
 - 33 "Get a move on!"
 - 34 W. Hemisphere alliance
 - 36 Tiny amount
 - 37 Jim who draws Garfield
 - 38 DVD or CD
 - 39 "Without further ___ . . ."
 - 40 Audit a class
 - 41 Bean in burritos
 - 42 Trooper's handout
 - 45 Movers' vehicles
 - 46 Become ripe
 - 47 San Antonio landmark
 - 49 By December 31
 - 54 Loan officer's request
 - 56 Early afternoon hour

- 57 Layers of tissues
 - 58 New __, India
 - 59 Capture
 - 60 Cook meat in an oven
 - 61 Saw to a seat
 - 62 Maritime assent
- DOWN**
- 1 France, to Caesar
 - 2 In addition
 - 3 Architect's detail
 - 4 Headed toward the city
 - 5 Horses, to riders
 - 6 Lift with effort
 - 7 Facts and figures
 - 8 Smartphone forerunner: Abbr.
 - 9 Ancient Egyptian astronomer
 - 10 Elegant and refined
 - 11 Milk: Fr.
 - 12 Messy stack
 - 13 Satirical NBC series
 - 19 Arms of slot machines
 - 21 Seoul, South __
 - 24 Part of a yo-yo
 - 25 Branch of Islam
 - 26 Forested areas
 - 27 Leading the pack
 - 28 "I meant to say . . ."
 - 29 Coq __ (chicken with wine)
 - 30 Printer problem
 - 31 Aesthetic discernment
 - 35 Inverness native
 - 37 Failed to
 - 38 Problematical
 - 40 Shoreline fog
 - 41 Football, informally
 - 43 Gets out of
 - 44 Meditative exercise
 - 47 Singer Guthrie
 - 48 Star Wars princess
 - 49 You, in Shakespeare's plays
 - 50 Conducted, as a meeting
 - 51 Frequent Italian erupter
 - 52 Not at home
 - 53 Church choir attire
 - 54 EMT's skill
 - 55 450, in Roman numerals

1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13		
14				15						16						
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25	26	27					28	29					30	31		
32							33						34	35		
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39							40						41			
			42		43								44			
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			47	48						49	50			51	52	53
54								55						56		
57								58						59		
60								61						62		