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BIG SPRING HERALD

THURSDAY, AUGUST 22, 2019



VOLUME 114, NUMBER 279 COPYRIGHT 2019 75 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 WEEKEND EDITION

Upcoming Events

- Today
- Alive After 5*
 Big Spring Ford
 5 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
- Aug. 24
- Back to School Bash*
 7 p.m.
 Hotel Settles
 Movie - Dumbo
- Downtown Throwdown*
 8 p.m.
 The Train Car
- Aug. 26
- Last Day for Leadership Big Spring Applications*
 Turn in to Big Spring Area Chamber Office
 215 W. Third
- Aug. 30
- Howard County Bowl*
 6 p.m.
 Memorial Stadium

Don't forget to submit your *We Salute!* nominations; good deeds, positive impacts to the community, etc. can be emailed to editor@bigspringherald.com

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 www.bigspringherald.com



Brush fire, train collision reported Wednesday

Abandoned structure lost to fire; minor injuries resulted from collision



HERALD photos/Amanda Duforat
Left: A brush fire burned near Radio Tower Road on Wednesday afternoon. One structure was lost, but no injuries. The fire was contained quickly by BSPD. **Right:** A vehicle, train collision shut down a train for the afternoon, after a vehicle got struck while attempting to cross the railroad tracks. Only minor injuries were reported to the driver of the passenger vehicle.

By AMANDA DUFORAT
 Managing Editor

Emergency personnel were busy Wednesday afternoon between routine calls, a fire near Radio Tower Road and a train/vehicle collision on Corbell Road.

Around 2:30 p.m. Big Spring Fire Department was called out to fight a brush fire near Radio Tower Road. According to Fire Chief Craig Ferguson, the cause of the fire was unknown. Crews worked diligently and had the fire contained fairly quickly. While BSFD was able to get the fire under control in a timely manner, one abandoned structure was lost from the blaze. No other damages or injuries were reported to be associated with this fire.

A couple of hours later, a call was received reporting a

collision between a passenger vehicle and a train near the intersection of FM 700 and Corbell Road.

According to Sheriff Stan Parker, a passenger vehicle attempted to cross the train tracks when it was struck by an approaching train. Local media outlets, along with HCSO, reported only minor injuries from the collision. The train operator was said to have not received any injuries. The train sat idle on the tracks while an investigation took place. In addition to HCSO, Highway Patrol Troopers were also on hand for the investigation.

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

County sets proposed tax rate for 2019-2020

Public hearings set for Sept. 9 and Sept. 13; tax vote scheduled Sept. 18

By ROGER CLINE
 Staff Writer

The Howard County Commissioners held a public hearing on their 2019-2020 budget at their meeting Wednesday afternoon, but no Howard County residents showed up to talk about the budget.

Meeting in the Howard County Courthouse's third-floor courtroom, the commissioners voted to table any action on the budget until their September 18 meeting.

Commissioners also set the proposed tax rate for the County at the rollback rate of 30.3165 cents per \$100 valuation.

According to County Judge Kathryn Wiseman, the current year's tax rate is 32.8024 cents per \$100 valuation, while the effective tax rate – that needed to maintain the same amount of tax revenue – is 28.3438 cents per \$100.

The county will have two public hearings on the proposed tax rate – the first on Sept. 9 at 5:30 p.m., and the second on Sept. 13 at 10 a.m. – before voting to finalize the rate Sept. 18.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Approved the 9-1-1 District's budget.
- Approved bids for pharmaceutical supplies needed by the Howard County Detention Center and the Howard County Indigent/Welfare Health Care

and County Juvenile Probation programs.

- Signed agreements with physicians for the Howard County Detention Center and the Howard County Indigent/Welfare Health Care and County Juvenile Probation programs.
- Approved County Sheriff's Department civil fee structure for 2019-2020.
- Granted permission to seek bids for bulk fuel.
- Accepted a \$300 donation to the Howard County Extension Office from Prosperity Bank.
- Approved invoices, purchase

See **COUNTY**, Page 3

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Obituaries

Bonnetta "Bonnie" Cox
Bednar

Bonnetta "Bonnie" Cox Bednar, 85, of Abilene, formerly of Garden City, died Sunday, Aug. 18, 2019, at her residence. Funeral services will be 10 a.m., Saturday, Aug. 24, 2019, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel with Chris McCurley officiating.

The family will receive friends at 1 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 24, 2019 at the Senior Citizens' Center in Garden City.

Bonnie was the youngest girl born to Jim Will and Zemma Cox in Big Spring. She grew up on the family ranch just outside of Garden City and attended and graduated from Garden City High School in 1952. She married Wilburn Bednar Dec. 16, 1955, in Garden City. She worked in Midland while Wilburn was in Korea. They both resided on the family farm in St. Lawrence until moving to Abilene after Wilburn retired from farming and County Judge. Bonnie won the battle against breast cancer in 2006 and chose to be close to her grandchildren in Abilene.

She loved painting, quilting, holidays and getting together with her "Purple Hat" girls every month. Her greatest joy was cheering on her chil-

dren and grandchildren in whatever they might be involved in. With her quiet, gentle spirit, she served others whenever there was a need. A woman of few words, she spoke volumes through her example.

Bonnie is survived by her husband, Wilburn Bednar; a brother, Ben Cox of Abilene; a son, Jimmy Bednar and wife, Sandy of San Angelo; two daughters, Tina Bednar of Abilene, and Debra Smith and husband, Tim of Abilene; six grandchildren, Aaron Li and husband, Yu of Midland, Brandon Bednar and wife, Magen of Norman, Oklahoma, Tyler Bednar of Austin, Marci Frias and husband, John of Edmond, Oklahoma, Tori Smith of Edmond, Oklahoma, and Ethan Smith attending Harding University in Searcy, Arkansas; and two great-grandchildren, Tate and Zaylin Li.

She is preceded in death by her parents; two sisters, Rusaline and Isabel; and two brothers, Kenneth and Fern.

The family requests memorial donations be sent to Manuelito Navajo Children's Home, 12 Theta St., Gallup, NM 87301, 505-863-5530, or Hospice of the Big Country, 4601 Hartford St., Abilene, TX 79605, 325-793-5450.

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

Paid Obituary

Joyce Thomas Flinchbaugh



Joyce Thomas Flinchbaugh, 75, of Midland, formerly of Big Spring, died Monday, Aug. 19, 2019, in a Midland hospital. Funeral services will be 1:30 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 24, 2019, at the First Nazarene Church in Big Spring. Interment will follow at Trinity Memorial Park.

The family will receive friends from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Friday at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home

in Big Spring.

She was born Sept. 1, 1943, in Big Spring to Zennua Mize Thomas. Joyce grew up in Big Spring and graduated from Big Spring High School in 1961. She retired from the Veterans Administration Medical Center after 33 years of service. Joyce had been living in Midland for the last five years.

She was a lifetime member of First Church of the Nazarene in Big Spring where she taught Sunday school for over 30 years. She loved children and loved teaching and baby sitting so many.

Joyce had many lifelong friends. She stayed in contact with her friends from elementary school and continued to maintain relationships through

present day. She was always arranging reunions, sports, and other activities for her group of friends to attend.

Survivors include one brother, Jackie Thomas and wife, Sarah; one sister, Janet Fortune and husband, Pat; five nephews, Duane Thomas and wife, Brenda, Robert Fortune and wife, Jennifer, Brad Fortune and wife, Karyn, Jake White and wife, China, and Kip White; a niece, Dana Thomas; four great-nephews, Trey Thomas, Brandon Fortune, Alec Fortune, and Brett Fortune; a great-niece, Avery Atchley; two uncles, A.C. Cotton Mize and Joe Mize and wife, Betty; an aunt, Shirley Holland; and many cousins.

Pallbearers will be Robert Fortune, Brad Fortune, Johnny Mize, Tyler Fulton, Trent Thomas and Joey Pate. Honorary Pallbearers will be Duane Thomas, John Toner, Dale McGuire, Bob Goodwin, Clarence Hawkins, Trey Thomas, Garrett Fulton, Jake White and Kip White.

The family suggests memorials to Hospice of Midland, 911 West Texas Ave., Midland, TX 79701.

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

Paid Obituary

Police Report

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity:

- **GABRIEL GUY REYES**, 24, of 214 Lorean Ave., Del Rio, Texas, was arrested on a charge of public intoxication.
- **PATRICIA ANN BACON**, 47, of 2804 Collins, was arrested on seven outstanding warrants from other agencies.
- **MARILYN ELIZABETH CERDA**, 19, of 1011 E. 5th St., was arrested on a charge of assault family violence threat or

offensive touch.

- **JOSHUA DAVID WAYNE**, 32, of 3300 E. CR 411, May, Texas, was arrested on a charge of driving with license invalid or suspended-no insurance.
- **CARL WILLIAM-TABOR WELLS**, 36, of 103 Collins Rd., was arrested on a charge of unauthorized use of a motor vehicle.
- **STOLEN VEHICLE** was reported in the 1500 block of Mesquite St., 1800 block of S. Scurry St., 5600 block of E. Midway Rd.,

and the 5900 block of the North Service Rd.

- **BURGLARY OF A VEHICLE** was reported in the 3700 block of Wasson Rd.
- **THEFT** was reported in the 1100 block of Mulberry Ave. and the 3300 block of Auburn Ave.
- **DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE** was reported in the 1900 block of Martin Luther King.
- **DISTURBANCE** was reported in the 1000 block of Bluebonnet Ave.

Fire/EMS

Big Spring Fire Department/EMS reported the following activity:

- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 1400 block of S. Benton. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.
- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 200 block of Algerita. No transport was required.
- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 1900 block of Simler Dr.. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.
- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 300 block of Veterans Blvd. On person was transport-

ed to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 4000 block of Vicky St. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.
- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 400 block of Westover. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.
- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 1600 block of W. 11th Place. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.
- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 3700 block of Wasson

Rd. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 1800 block of Nolan. No transport was required.
- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 1800 block of N. Hwy 87. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.
- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 300 block of Veterans Blvd. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.
- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 1800 block of S. Nolan. No transport was required.

Sheriff

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

Note - Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 82 inmates at the time of this report.

- **MARILYN ELIZABETH CERDA**, 19, was arrested by BSPD on a charge of assault family violence.
- **STEPHANIE SAVANNA GALARAZA**, 27, was arrested by HCSO on warrants for theft of property (\$100 to \$750), and four counts of criminal trespass.
- **DAVID WAYNE GRANT**, 48, was arrested by HCSO on warrants for two counts assault causing serious bodily injury to a family member, and four counts of criminal mischief (\$100 to \$750).
- **JOSHUA MCDANIEL**, 32, was arrested by HCSO on a warrant for driving with invalid license with previous conviction or suspension.
- **JAMES LEE MILLER**, 24, was arrested by HCSO on a warrant for criminal trespass.
- **CARL WILLIAM-TABOR WELLS**, 36, was arrested by HCSO on a charge of unauthorized use of a vehicle.

Support Groups

THURSDAY

- Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, open discussion noon to 1 p.m.; women's meeting 6:30 until 7:30 p.m. Newcomers' meeting 8 p.m. until 9 p.m.
- Weight Watchers meets at 6 p.m. at St. Paul Lutheran Church. Weigh-in is at 5:30 p.m. Weigh-in is confidential and you don't have to talk if you don't want to. Flexible payment options.
- 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.

SATURDAY

- Alcoholics Anonymous open discussion meeting, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m. Open podium/speakers meeting 8 p.m. until 9 p.m. Open birthday night, no smoking meeting the last Saturday of each month at 8 p.m. Covered dish supper at 7 p.m.

SUNDAY

- Alcoholics Anonymous closed meeting from 11 a.m. to noon at 615 Settles. Open meeting 7 p.m. to 8 p.m.

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.

HERALD

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MEMBER
2019

TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

Weather



Today: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly sunny, with a high near 98. South wind around 10 mph.
Tonight: Partly cloudy, with a low around 74. South wind 10 to 15 mph.

Friday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 97. South wind around 10 mph.

Friday Night: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a low around 74. Southeast wind around 10 mph.

Saturday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 97. South wind around 10 mph.

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

Take Note

- Memorial at the Plaza: The 13th Annual 9/11 Memorial Service will take place at Springcreek Fellowship in the Spring Town Plaza on Wednesday, Sept. 11, 2019 at 5:30 p.m. This is sponsored by O-Neal-Kunkle D.A.V. Chapter 47 and the Howard County Volunteer Fire Department. Please join us in remembering those who lost their lives in the 9/11 attacks and to honor our own local fallen heroes and first responders. For more information, please contact Mike Tarpley, D.A.V. Senior Vice Commander, at 432-556-2227

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

- Big Spring D.A.V. Chapter 47 will be hosting their 6th Annual Dove Hunt. Come join them for community support and fellowship on Saturday, Sept. 14 at 6 p.m. at Springcreek Fellowship in the Spring Town Plaza. 100 free meals will be provided, or until all gone.

Donations can be made to the D.A.V. to help our veterans. For more information, contact Mike Tarpley, 432-556-2227.

- Coahoma High School All-School Reunion will take place Saturday, Sept. 14, 2019 at Coahoma Elementary Cafeteria, located at 400 Ramsey Ave. There will be breakfast, coffee, and door prizes. Guest speaker will be Putt Choate.

- Senior and/or mature adults are invited to come to a dance every first and third Friday each month at the Dora Roberts Community Center, located at 100 Whipkey Drive. Come two-step the evening away, or just mingle with old friends and make new friends. Dances are from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. with live entertainment. No alcohol or smoking permitted. Cost is \$5 per person.

- 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.

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COUNTY

Continued from Page 1

requests and budget amendments.

- Approved personnel considerations and Treasurer Sharon Adams' monthly report.

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

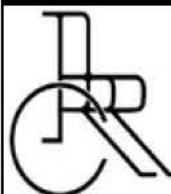
MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

24th & Johnson
267-8288

Jack Huskey, 48, died Saturday. He will lie in state from 9 a.m. until 9 p.m. today at Myers & Smith Funeral Home. The family will receive friends from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. with Military Presentation beginning at 6 p.m.

Glen Scott, 67, died Monday. Memorial service with Navy Honors will be held at 1 p.m. Friday at Myers & Smith Chapel.

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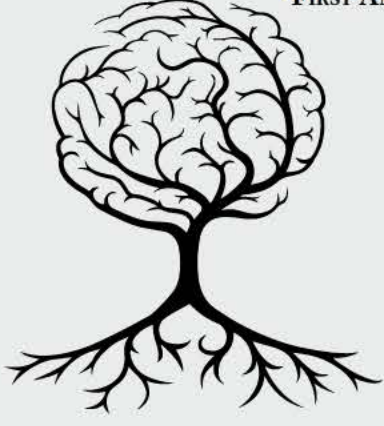
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OUR DOWNTOWN BIG SPRING OFFICE WILL BE OPEN SOON!

Opinion

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."

-FIRST AMENDMENT



Opinions expressed on this page are those of the writers and not those of the Big Spring Herald unless otherwise indicated.

LETTERS POLICY

The Herald welcomes letters to the editor.

- Sign your letter.
- Provide a daytime telephone number, as well as a street address for verification purposes.
- We reserve the right to edit for style and clarity.
- We reserve the right to limit publication to one letter per 30-day period per author.
- Form letters, letters that are unsigned or do not include a telephone number or address will not be considered.
- Letters should be e-mailed to editor@bigspringherald.com or mailed to Editor, Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721.

CONTACT US

The Herald is always interested in our readers' opinions. In order that we might better serve your needs, we offer several ways in which you may contact us:

- In person at 710 Scurry St.
- By telephone at 263-7331
- By e-mail at newsdesk@bigspringherald.com.
- By mail at P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721

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BIG SPRING CITY COUNCIL

DAILY PRAYER

When we detour off the path You want us on, Lord, please take us back to the right path.

Amen

Cindy's Bookshelf

Mysteries in the storm

In a world where the wealthy are elevated above the poor, there is a distinct divide to maintain the separation. Those who can afford it, live in sky manors - homes that are held aloft by a magic whose truth is kept secret from all. Those unfortunate enough to be without a large fortune are forced to work on the surface in factories and other low-paying jobs. *Storm Glass* by Jeff Wheeler follows two young girls who are trying to navigate through the unfair expectations placed on them.



CINDY PINCH

Cettie Pratt is an orphan living in the slums of the surface. She has learned how to steal and lie her way into getting just enough food to help her, and the other children she lives with, stay alive. An admiral finds her and decides to take her in and attempt to adopt her. Once she arrives at his home, she realizes that living in the clouds is not all she's dreamed it would be. Although the sky manor is glitzy and glamorous, it is made very clear that she is not welcomed by all.

Sera Fitzempress is a princess, destined for greatness. Due to her

secluded childhood, Sera longs for the companionship of other children. When her father gains political power, he becomes more strict with Sera's education and free-time than before. When her subtle acts of rebellion are brought to her father's attention, her life becomes even more restricted than before. At the crux of it all, Sera wants to meet Cettie - the orphan girl whose unusual story is on everyone's lips. But her father believes that Cettie is not worthy enough for Sera's attention and does everything in his power to prevent their meeting.

Storm Glass is an imaginative coming of age story where humans have restricted magic with laws and secrets. Amidst the politics that Cettie and Sera are growing up in, is a mysterious magic called the Mysteries. The Mysteries are divided into four distinct groups: Law, War, Thought, and Wind. And though there is much known in each branch of the Mysteries, there is still so much more that is unknown. Wealth and the ability to afford school determines who studies the Mysteries, which further increases the divide between the wealthy and the poor.

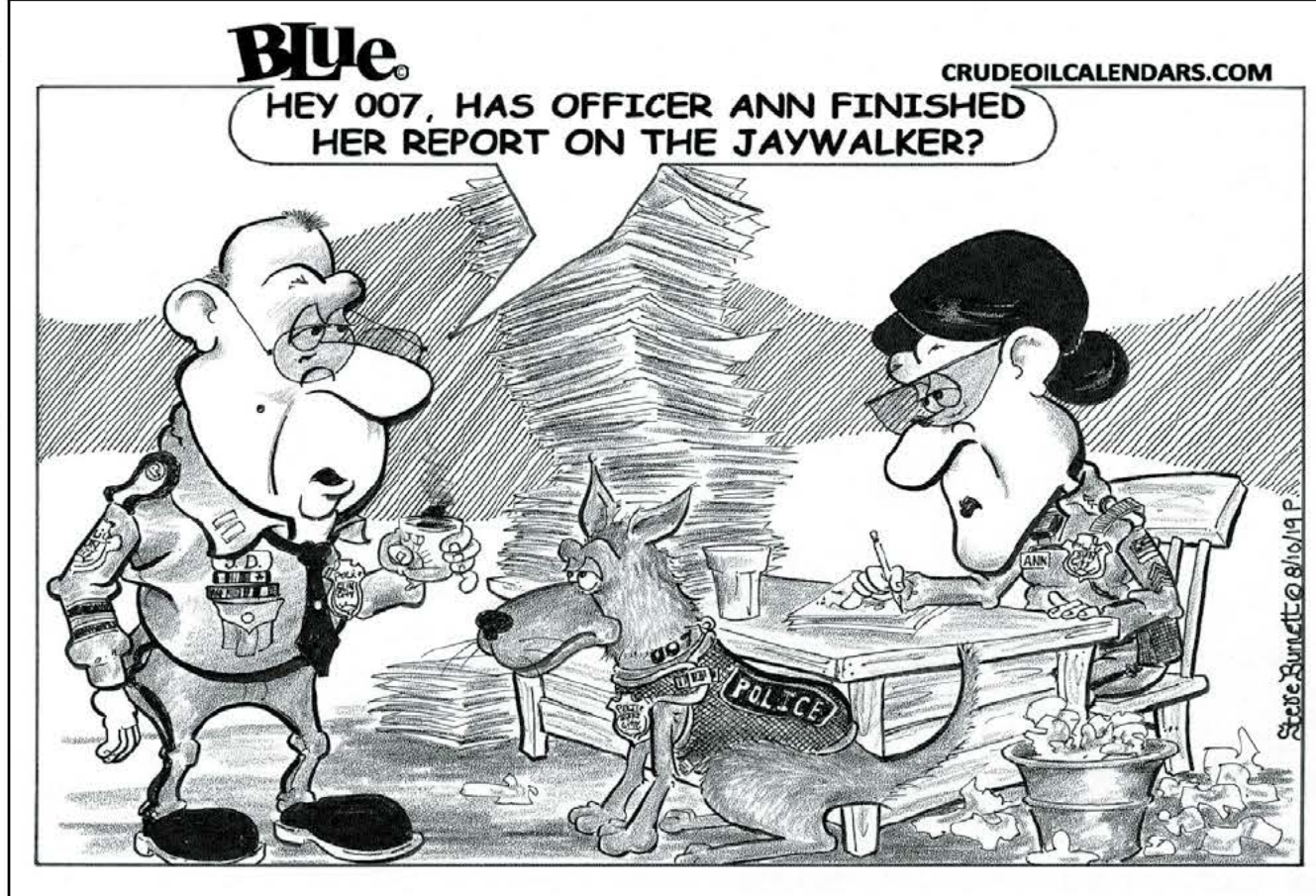
I would recommend *Storm Glass* for anyone who loves fantasy with a bit of industrializa-

tion sprinkled in. *Storm Glass* has a wide cast of characters that are relatable and interesting. Every once in awhile you read a book that captivates you, for me *Storm Glass* was it. I read it over the course of two days because I found that I could not put it down.

A quote that stuck with me was from Chapter 13, "No one truly belongs anywhere, Cettie. We each are given a life to live, and we live it as best we can."

Jeff Wheeler was born in New Jersey in 1971, but grew up in California. He currently lives in the Rocky Mountains with his family. He retired early from his job at Intel in 2014 so that he could focus on writing. Since then, his books have been on the Wall Street Journal Bestseller list five times. His books have sold more than three million copies. He has also published his books in several languages including: Italian, Chinese, Hungarian, Turkish, Polish, Spanish, Russian, and German.

Jeff Wheeler has written *Storm Glass* - which is the first book in the Harbinger series. His other series and books include: the Muirwood series, the Whispers from Mirrowen series, Fireblood, Silverkin, Landmoor, and the Wishing Lantern. For more information on Jeff Wheeler, visit his website: jeff-wheeler.com. Or follow him on social media. Twitter: @muirwoodwheeler. Facebook: Jeff Wheeler - author.



The Postscript: Second Sunset

I spent the last couple weeks visiting my parents.

I've been lucky in the parent department. It's fashionable to recall some pivotal incident that occurred when we were eight and extrapolate how every difficulty experienced in our life since is a result. But I've never seen any truth to this in my own life.

I was really happy when I was eight—and I give my parents full credit.

My life is very different from my parents' life. Still, they have always been supportive and have always at least pretended to be interested in whatever I was doing as I careened from one career to the next.

When, in my fifties, I started to write, my parents were characteristically enthusiastic, with only the occasional exception (perhaps when I wrote in a column how my mother used to garden in her red bikini).

They have always lived a life they enjoy and are proud of, and have encouraged me to do the same.

Now in their eighties, my parents still inspire me. Most recently, it was at sunset.

My parents live in a cabin high

on a hill overlooking the lake, so you have to climb a lot of steps to get from the cabin down to the shore. My father built the steps down to the lake. In the middle of the climb, there is a bench where (my dad insists) there is a good place to admire the view. (It happens to also be a good place to rest on the way up—but I'll let him stick to his story.)

Almost every evening, my parents find their way down to the water's edge. They take a seat on the dock and watch the sun set across the lake.

They listen to the loons call to one another across the water and watch the clouds turn pink as the sun disappears in the evening sky.

Then they do it all over again. Because the cabin sits so far above the shore, when they climb back up the hill, the sun is no longer below the horizon but just beginning to set again—a second sunset.

So, my parents take a seat outside their cabin and watch the whole thing all over again—from a different perspective. I tell my parents I admire the life they have created for themselves. They have this great cabin, fun friends and neighbors, they bike all summer, ski all winter and, at

the end of every day, they get an extra sunset.

I'd like an extra sunset.

By middle age, I thought I could already see the sun going down. I figured I knew, more or less, how the story ended. It turns out I was wrong.

Today, I am doing things I never dreamt of doing fifteen years ago, things I never imagined I could do. But now, as I scramble up the hill in the end-of-the-day light, I realize how much there is to do in the late afternoon, how much is left to see.

I'd feel a lot sillier if I were the only one panting up the hill, but I have a lot of company. All around me I see folks looking for that second sunset: picking up paintbrushes and pens and college degrees, trying on new haircuts and new beliefs.

Sometimes it's a little embarrassing—but we don't really care.

Like my parents, we're just grateful to get this extra sunset. We're so glad the sun hasn't gone down after all. We just needed a different perspective. We just needed to get to higher ground.

Till next time,
Carrie

Carrie Classon's memoir, "Blue Yarn," was released earlier this year. Learn more at FacebookClasson.com or www.FaceBook.com/CarrieClassonauthor.

Texas executes man in 1998 slaying of college student

By **JUAN A. LOZANO and MICHAEL GRACZYK**

Associated Press

HUNTSVILLE, Texas (AP) — A Texas death row inmate who argued that his conviction was based on junk science was executed Wednesday for the abduction, rape and killing of a suburban Houston community college student more than 20 years ago.

Larry Swearingen, 48, received a lethal injection at the state penitentiary in Huntsville for the December 1998 killing of 19-year-old Melissa Trotter. She was last seen leaving her community college in Conroe, and her body was found nearly a month later in a forest near Huntsville, about 70 miles (110 kilometers) north of Houston.

Swearingen, who had always maintained his innocence in Trotter's death, was the 12th inmate put to death this year in the U.S. and the fourth in Texas, the nation's busiest capital punishment state. Eleven more executions are scheduled in Texas this year.

"Lord, forgive them," Swearingen said after the warden asked if he had a final statement. "They don't know what they're doing."

Then as the lethal dose of pentobarbital began, he said he could "hear it" going into a vein in his arm, then that he could taste it.

"It's actually burning in my right arm. I don't feel anything in the left arm," he said.

Almost immediately, he took a short breath, then started to snore quietly. He stopped moving.

He never opened his eyes and never looked at the witnesses who were there on his victim's behalf, including her parents, who watched through a window just a few feet from him.

At 6:47 p.m. CDT — 12 minutes after the lethal dose started — Swearingen was pronounced dead.

"Today, justice was served for Melissa," her family said in a statement provided to the Texas Department of Criminal Justice. "This process

has been overwhelming. We want to praise God for getting us through this horrific ordeal. We feel we now can move forward and start the healing process.

"We want Melissa to be remembered as a happy, loving, kind spirit with a beautiful smile. We always knew justice would prevail for Melissa."

Prosecutors said they stood behind the "mountain of evidence" used to convict Swearingen in 2000. They described him as a sociopath with a criminal history of violence against women and said he even tried to get a fellow death row inmate to take the blame for his crime.

Swearingen had long tried to cast doubt on the evidence used to convict him, particularly claims by prosecution experts that Trotter's body had been in the woods for 25 days. His long-time appellate attorney, James Rytting, said at least five defense experts concluded her body was there for no more than 14 days, and because Swearingen had been arrested by then on outstanding traffic violations, he couldn't have left her body there.

Swearingen, who was also represented by the Innocence Project, had previously received five stays of execution. He was put to death after the U.S. Supreme Court rejected his final appeal, which focused on allegations prosecutors used "false and misleading testimony" related to blood evidence and a piece of pantyhose used to strangle Trotter.

Kelly Blackburn, the trial bureau chief for the Montgomery County District Attorney's Office, which prosecuted Swearingen, said Swearingen's efforts to discredit the evidence were unsuccessful because his experts' opinions didn't "hold water."

"I have absolutely zero doubt that anybody but Larry Swearingen killed ... Melissa Trotter," he said.

Blackburn said Swearingen killed Trotter because he was angry that she had stood him up for a date. At the time of Trotter's killing, Swearingen

was under indictment for kidnapping a former fiancée.

During a 2011 interview, Swearingen told The Associated Press that he was tired of being "demonized" for a crime he didn't commit.

"We'd all like to know who done it," he said.

In addition to questioning the date of Trotter's death, Rytting maintained a piece of pantyhose used to strangle Trotter was not a match to a piece found in Swearingen's trailer. He also disputed prosecution experts' claims dismissing blood found in Trotter's fingernail shavings that was determined to not be Swearingen's. He said that evidence supported the defense theory that someone else killed her.

In letters sent to Swearingen's attorneys in July and August, the Texas Department of Public Safety said its technicians should not have been as definitive in their testimony about the blood found in the fingernails and the pantyhose match.

The 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals last week turned down Swearingen's challenge to the blood evidence and pantyhose match, citing the "mountain of evidence" that "seals Swearingen's guilt for Trotter's murder." The appeals court disagreed with defense allegations that the testimony about the blood evidence and pantyhose match was false and misleading.

Blackburn said Swearingen tried to get people to lie to give himself an alibi. After his arrest, Swearingen got another inmate to write a letter Swearingen composed in Spanish that professed to be from the real killer and had it sent to his attorney. In 2017, Swearingen and another inmate, Anthony Shore, concocted a plan to get Shore to take responsibility for Trotter's killing. Shore, who was on death row for another crime, was executed last year.

Rytting said Swearingen was guilty of doing "some very stupid things," but prosecutors didn't have proof he killed Trotter.

State News Briefs

Crude oil to be sold from Strategic Petroleum Reserve

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Federal regulators plan to draw down and sell crude oil from Strategic Petroleum Reserve sites in Texas and Louisiana.

The U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Fossil Energy on Wednesday announced a Notice of Sale from sites in Bryan Mound and Big Hill, Texas, and West Hackberry, Louisiana.

Department officials say the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015 directs the energy secretary to sell 5 million barrels in fiscal year 2020. Last year's Consolidated Appropriations Act directs the secretary to sell 10 million barrels in 2020 and 2021.

Up to 10 million barrels will be sold from Bryan Mound and up to 5 million from Big Hill and West Hackberry.

Bids are due Aug. 27. Companies registered in the SPR's Crude Oil Sales Offer Program are eligible. Others can register online.

Child sex assault suspect kills self at sheriff's office

CLEBURNE, Texas (AP) — Investigators say a man sought on charges that he sexually assaulted two children younger than age 6 shot and killed himself outside the North Texas offices of the sheriff who was seeking him.

A statement from the Johnson County Sheriff's Office says 35-year-old Michael Patrick McGovern took his own life with a handgun shortly after noon Wednesday in the parking lot outside the sheriff's office in Cleburne (KLEE'-burn), about 27 miles (43 kilometers) south of Fort Worth.

Sheriff's deputies and FBI agents had searched McGovern's house near Mansfield on Monday after authorities said they found that he was distributing child pornography on the internet.

A warrant charging McGovern with super-aggravated sexual assault of a child and indecency with a child was issued on Tuesday and a wanted poster was placed on social media Wednesday morning.

Gulf of Mexico oil, gas lease bidding down from last 2 sales

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Oil and gas companies made \$159.4 million in high bids Wednesday for federal leases in the Gulf of Mexico, down from sales in March and a year ago.

The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management says 29 companies bid on 144 tracts. That's about 1% of the tracts offered.

The March sale drew \$244.3 million in high bids on 227 tracts, and the one in

August 2018 brought \$178.1 million in bids on 144 tracts.

A news release said this year's total high bids are the highest since 2015.

Agency statistics indicate totals of \$419.2 million this year and \$561.5 million in 2015. Totals were \$174.5 million in 2016, \$395.9 million in 2017 and \$302.8 million last year.

In the decade preceding 2015, Gulf lease sales averaged \$1.6 billion a year.

Union Pacific worker dies in Texas, pinned between 2 tankers

BEAUMONT, Texas (AP) — Investigators say a Union Pacific worker has died after being pinned between two railway tanker cars in Southeast Texas.

The Jefferson County Sheriff's Office says 39-year-old Travis Andrepont of Louisiana was killed before dawn Tuesday in Beaumont. Officials didn't immediately provide a hometown for Andrepont. He died at the scene.

Sheriff's Capt. Crystal Holmes says the accident happened near a chemical plant. Further details on the investigation weren't immediately released.

Union Pacific spokeswoman Kristen South says Andrepont had worked for the Omaha, Nebraska-based company for 16 years and was part of its Gulf Coast service unit.

Man arrested after Dallas woman's body found in burning SUV

DALLAS (AP) — Police in Dallas say a 49-year-old man has been arrested and charged with capital murder in the death of a woman whose body was found this week in her burning SUV.

Authorities say Glen Richter was arrested and booked early Thursday into the Dallas County jail in the death of 22-year-old Sara Hudson, who worked in Dallas after graduating recently from the University of Arkansas.

Investigators say firefighters responded Monday evening to a report of a vehicle fire and Hudson's body was found inside after the flames were extinguished. Authorities say she died of "homicidal violence."

Her family says she was intending to meet with friends to celebrate her birthday.

Police have not revealed a motive in the killing.

Online jail records don't indicate whether Richter has an attorney to answer the charges.

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Community Report: First Day of School photos



Far left: Photo submitted by, Samantha Rodriguez of her children, Leland Helena, and Brandon on the first day back to school. Left: Photo submitted by Selina Yanez of her kids ready to load up in the car to head to their first day of school.

An HSU Legacy: Four Generations of HSU Graduates

ABILENE -- With four generations of Hardin-Simmons graduates in her family, Mandy Cunningham has many HSU stories to share. From dorm shenanigans to love stories, HSU holds many memories for her and her family.

Cunningham's great-grandmother, grandparents, and parents attended HSU, but that was not the reason she made her way to the 40 acres. "I didn't want to be that kid," she said. "But I came to campus and fell in love with it."

Cunningham earned her Bachelor of Behavioral Sciences in Interdisciplinary Strategies in 1998. Today, she is the merchandise and booking coordinator and social media manager for Super Summer, a Christian discipleship camp.

"Hardin-Simmons prepared me really well," she said. "Even though I took classes to become a teacher, I learned to communicate with people no matter what the age. I've used things that I've learned in class in my job as a coordinator of an event. My professors did a good job of teaching us things we would use throughout our life, not just creating busywork."

During her time at HSU, Cunningham attended and worked at University Baptist Church, which was located across the street from campus. She was the children's minister at UBC and worked the youth for two years. At HSU, Cunningham did Freshman SING and worked in the Spanish lab. She remembers the tradition where freshmen students stood in the reflection pond to sing the freshman song.

"I loved being at Hardin-Simmons and connecting with people," she said. "I made friends the first day that I'm still friends with today. It was almost like going to church camp for four and a half years."

Cunningham fondly remembers one cafeteria worker named Linda. "She would always say hello and ask how we are," Cunningham said. "The staff knew who you were and took the time to learn your name. Even though my parents lived far away, I felt like I was somewhere where people cared about me."

Because HSU hosts Super Summer camps, Cunningham has the opportunity to return to campus often. "I love seeing the new changes on campus and how it's growing," she said. "Regardless of how much time has passed, there is always someone welcoming you back to campus. It's a sweet feeling that makes me want to keep coming back."

Cunningham's mother, Teresa Jean (Vinson) Meeker, who goes by Jeanne, graduated from HSU in 1974. She met her husband, Jack Meeker during her sophomore year. The two were one of the first married couples to serve as Residence Directors for a dorm. Meeker remembers pranks the boys would pull on her and her husband. Once they heated a bowling ball on a hot plate and rolled it down the stairs. Another time they brought a car Eddy into the dorm lobby. They even bricked in the couple's doorway.

The pranks were all in good fun, however. The Meeker's residents often came to their door when they were feeling homesick. "We would counsel and encourage them and pray for them," Meeker said. "We would ask, 'What does God have for you here?' 'Why did you come in the first place?'" The couple would also invite international students to their home to share in holiday festivities.

The Meekers both worked on campus: Teresa in the Business Office and Jack as the night manager for the student center. They were involved with the rodeo team, the Six White Horses, the drama department, intramural sports, and choir.

When Meeker was considering her options for college, a hurricane damaged her hometown of Harlingen, Texas. Students from HSU came to help with clean-up and restoration during Spring Break. "I got close to the students," she said. "That tipped the scales for me in choosing HSU. It was all meant to be."

Meeker also went on mission trips with HSU. She traveled to El Paso to do mission work across the border and went on trips with a revival team to Indiana. "It was great to go somewhere out of your comfort zone," she said. "We continued that in our lives serving in ministries in children's homes and boys ranches."

Meeker's parents (Cunningham's grandparents) attended HSU as well. Peggy Vinson '51 was going on a date to the Paramount with someone when she saw Lester Vinson '51 walking. She asked her date to pick up Lester, and the two sat together in the back of the car and at the movies. The two were later married.

Cunningham's great-grandmother, Dorothy Thomas Warren, attended HSU when it was still called Simmons College. She received a signed certificate from then-President Lanny Hall when she turned 100.

Cunningham's aunt, Wanda Lynette Meeker also graduated from HSU, and her uncles Edward Vinson and Daniel Meeker attended.

Why the late-August heat beats the deadly alternatives America has seen

Special to the Herald

Much of the United States is experiencing either high temperatures, uncomfortable humidity – or both. But the end of August has brought much worse to the country over the last 15 years.

Hurricanes Katrina (Aug. 25, 2005), Isaac (Aug. 28, 2012) and Harvey (Aug. 25, 2017) all reached landfall at the end of August, costing American lives and billions in damages.

The forecast for late August 2019 is much more benign. AccuWeather meteorologists say there are no organized tropical features across the Atlantic basin that are a threat to land through at least Monday of next week, even though it is the most favorable time of the year for tropical development in the area.

Heat, however, is having an impact as a significant number of U.S. cities have experienced above-normal temperatures this summer. Consequently, estimated costs for cooling from May 1 through Aug. 20 compared to normal cooling costs are higher in those places, according to an AccuWeather analysis.

Boston (33.7% higher), Norfolk, Virginia (30.7%), Atlanta (27.5%) and Washington, D.C. (25.9%), have experienced substantially higher estimated cooling costs compared to normal.

Atlanta, as AccuWeather predicted before summer, is having an above-normal year, with temperatures hitting at least 90 degrees 58 times as of August 20, which is well above its 15-year average of 41 for the entire year. (AccuWeather predicted 60 such days.) Washington, D.C., has had 49 days of temperatures of at least 90 degrees, with its 15-year average being 41 for the year.

Others with higher-than-normal temperatures and the resulting elevated estimated costs for cooling include Philadelphia (22%), Cincinnati (21.5%), Gainesville, Florida (20.6%), Birmingham, Alabama (18.3%), and Indianapolis (18.1%).

The West can expect more heat next week, as temperatures are expected to soar west of the Rockies all the way to the West Coast, according to AccuWeather meteorologists. Temperatures in the West are expected to average anywhere from 6 to 16 degrees above late-August normal through next week.

There are some locations around the country not enduring such a hot summer. The Dallas-Fort Worth area has had 69 days of temperatures at 90 degrees or higher, though, the area has averaged 113 over the last 15 years. The area's estimated cooling costs are 21% lower than 2018.

Other places with temperatures lower than normal – and therefore lower estimated cooling costs – include Oklahoma City (11% below normal) and Little Rock, Arkansas (6% below normal and 14.9% lower than 2018).

And in St. Louis, there has yet to be a 100-degree day; this would be the first year since 2009 without such a day and just the fourth time in 20 years. There were seven 100-degree days in 2017 and 21 in 2012.

The cooling season, which typically begins May 1, can last until late in the year in many U.S. cities. The costs of cooling, including electricity, vary from year to year and from place to place, so the percentage change in your bill may vary from these percentages.

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Big Spring vs. Greenwood Varsity District Tennis Results

Special to the Herald

The Big Spring Steer tennis team kicked off the district schedule by defeating Greenwood yesterday evening at Figure 7 Tennis Center in Big Spring by a final score of 14-5. Results are as follows:

Girls Doubles

Franklin/Griffin, GW def. Gonzalez/Salazar, BS 6-1, 6-4

Lopez/Mojica, BS def. Allen/Estrada, GW 6-1, 6-2

Dahya/Reyes, BS def. Gibbs/Rader, GW 6-0, 6-2

Boys Doubles

Franks/Gomez, BS def. Morris/Nance, GW 6-1, 6-2

Colette/Urias, BS def. Allen/Estrada, GW 7-6 (4), 6-1

Myers/Hale, GW def. Rios/Schmidt, BS 5-7, 6-4, 10-4

Mixed Doubles

Alaksin/Hewtt, BS def. Gonzales/Whitaker, GW 6-0, 6-1

Girls Singles

Marisa Salazar, BS def. Ellee Franklin, GW 6-2, 7-6 (5)

Daylee Griffin, GW def. Alisa Gonzalez, BS 6-4, 6-1

Kirsten Havercroft, GW def. Natalia Lopez, BS 7-6 (6), 6-7 (2), 10-6

Brooklin Mojica, BS def. Yaire Galindo, GW 6-3, 6-4

Emily Kocak, BS def. Annalee Whitaker, GW 6-2, 6-1

Katie Humphries, BS def. Kaylin Rader, GW 5-7, 7-6 (5), 10-5

Boys Singles

Nick Gomez, BS def. Steven Morris, GW 4-6, 6-4, 10-5

Blade Franks, BS def. Cooper Allen, GW 4-6, 6-1, 10-7

Ed Urias, BS def. Kaleb Nance, GW 7-5, 2-6, 10-6

Ransom Colette, BS def. Gage Hale, GW 6-1, 6-1

Eric Estrada, GW def. Wesley Schmidt, BS 7-5, 6-3

Damian Hewtt, BS def. Dawson Myers, GW 6-1, 6-3

Next up: San Angelo Lake View in San Angelo on Tuesday, August 27, 2019



Mark Your Calendars!

AUGUST

Aug. 22 - Forsan Community Pep Rally at 8 p.m. Football scrimmages will be at 6 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Aug. 23 - BSH vs Lubbock Monterey at Memorial Stadium football scrimmage; JV plays at 5 p.m. and Varsity at 6:30 p.m. Free admission.

Aug. 24 - Tall City Invitational Varsity Cross Country Meet at Rock the Desert Field in Midland (Forsan)

Aug. 26 - Community Pep Rally at Memorial Stadium, from 7 - 9 p.m.
Big Spring 8th A vs Loraine at 5 p.m.
Big Spring 7th A vs Forsan 7th A
Big Spring 7th B vs Olfen

Forsan 8th B vs Olfen at 6 p.m.
Big Spring 7th A vs Loraine
Big Spring 7th B vs Forsan 7th B

Big Spring 8th A vs Forsan 8th A at 7 p.m.
Big Spring 8th B vs Forsan 8th B

Aug 30 - Howard County Bowl at Memorial Stadium at 7:30 p.m.

Bulldogettes split double header

Special to the Herald

STERLING CITY — The Coahoma Bulldogettes split their dual match on Tuesday winning their game against the Sterling City Lady Eagles — 25-23, 18-26, 25-22, 17-25, 15-5 — in five sets and losing in three sets to the Crane Ladybirds — 12-25, 18-25, 27-29.

In the first game, Crane dominated the first two sets against Coahoma, but the Bulldogettes charged back in the third nearly forcing a fourth set, and the Ladybirds had to go to 29 points for the win.

Shaking off the loss, the Coahoma girls entered their second match of the evening energized against Sterling City. Coahoma won the first and third set before salting away the match with a 15-5 win in set five.

The JV Red Bulldogettes also played in Sterling City on Tuesday. The Red team won both games: vs. Sterling City JV — 23-25, 25-6, 25-20 and vs. Olfen JV — 25-6, 25-14.

Next: Coahoma travels to Bronte for a varsity tournament on Friday. Game times are 11 a.m., 3 p.m., and



Julia Cox, No. 3, pushes the ball over the net for a point during the Coahoma Bulldogettes/Crane Lady Birds varsity volleyball match held on Tuesday, Aug. 20, 2019, in Sterling City.

5 p.m.

Crane DEF Coahoma 12-25, 18-25, 27-29

Kills: Julia Cox 1, Zoie Joslin 1, Kirrah Kimball 8, Sydney Rinard 3, Caitlyn Corley 4

Blocks: Julia Cox 1, Kirrah Kimball 3, Caitlyn Corley 1.

Assists: Zoie Joslin 12, Caitlyn Corley 1.

Digs: Madison Rodgers 1, Macee Grant 1, Julia Cox 3, Kenzi Canales 1, Sydney Rinard 3, Caitlyn Corley 1.

Coahoma DEF Sterling City 25-23, 18-26, 25-22, 17-25, 15-5

Aces: Madison Rodgers 1, Kirrah Kimball 1, Sydney Rinard 1.

Kills: Julia Cox 8, Kirrah Kimball 8, Sydney Rinard 7, Caitlyn Corley 3.

Blocks: Julia Cox 1, Kirrah Kimball 4, Caitlyn Corley 3.

Assists: Julia Cox 1, Zoie Joslin 20.

Digs: Madison Rodgers 5, Julia Cox 2, Kenzi Canales 4, Sydney Rinard 2, Caitlyn Corley 2.

Courtesy photo

Pence 3 RBIs for Texas, another last-AB win against Angels

By STEPHEN HAWKINS

AP Baseball Writer

ARLINGTON, Texas — The old guys for the Texas Rangers got the big hits late for another win in their last at-bat. Another hard-throwing rookie reliever got his first big league victory.

Hunter Pence drove in three runs, including a game-ending single in the ninth to score Elvis Andrus for an 8-7 victory over the Los Angeles Angels on Wednesday night.

"We've got these young guys bringing a spark," said Pence, the 36-year-old hometown outfielder. "It's impressive to watch, and these young pitchers as well."

The Rangers won three times in the four-game series. All of the wins came in their final at-bat, including 11-inning wins in the series opener Monday and the second game of a doubleheader Tuesday.

Jonathan Hernández (1-0) worked the final 2 1/3 scoreless innings to win in his major league debut.

"It couldn't be a more difficult situation, especially with the way the game was kind of going," manager Chris Woodward said. "It's really cool to be a part of guys living out their dream. ... It's pretty special, especially on a nightly basis, I feel like it's happening every night."

It was the second night in a row for a Ranger to get his first big league win — 21-year-old Emmanuel Clase pitched the final two innings Tuesday night in his eighth appearance since his MLB debut earlier this month. Clase won the game started by Brock Burke, who threw six scoreless innings in his big league debut.

Elvis Andrus, the 31-year-old shortstop and the longest-tenured Ranger in his 11th season, led off the ninth with a single up the middle off Trevor Cahill (3-8). After two wild pitches got Andrus to third, Pence grounded a single through the left side of the infield.

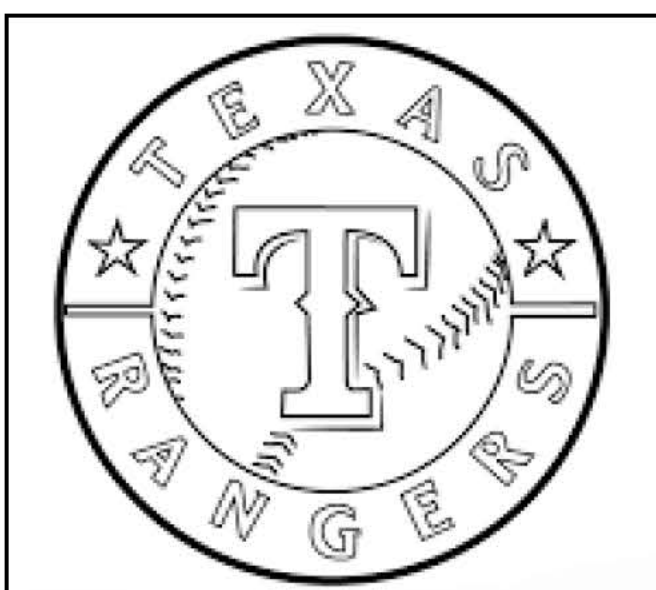
Pence, who struck out his first three at-bats, had a two-out double in the seventh. Texas tied the game in the eighth on an RBI single by Shin-

Soo Choo, a 37-year-old outfielder.

"There's a ton of energy in that clubhouse," Woodward said. "I don't care how young you are. I don't care how old you are for that matter. We want to win."

Willie Calhoun, a 24-year-old outfielder, hit his 13th homer in the Texas second. Rookie Nick Solak had two doubles, scoring three times and drove in a run in his third big league game.

The Angels used seven pitchers, and the last



four relievers combined to give up four runs over two innings. There were only two walks, but they were leadoff walks that both scored.

"Probably just ebbs and flows. You're not going to be great every single month," manager Brad Ausmus said about the bullpen struggles. "I wouldn't really attribute it to anything in particular, I think just a down month."

Texas, which twice earlier in the game blew two-run leads, was down 7-4 after a three-run Angels sixth that included two runs coming home on the same play that Justin Upton had a sacrifice fly.

With the bases loaded with one out, after an in-

tentional walk to Mike Trout, Upton hit his sac fly. Left fielder Calhoun's throw home was well off target before catcher Jeff Mathis tried to pick off Trout, but first baseman Danny Santana misplayed the ball for an error that allowed a second run to score.

That ended the night for All-Star lefty Mike Minor, whose ERA rose from 2.94 to 3.17 after he allowed seven runs and 10 hits — both season highs. He struck out seven and walked two.

The Angels tied the game 4-all with two outs in the fifth when Albert Pujols had a tying two-run single that ricocheted off the top of the eight-foot wall in right. Pujols thought he had his 20th homer, but the ball was ruled in play when it bounced back onto the field, and that stood after a crew chief replay review.

WALK IT OFF

The Rangers have consecutive walk-off wins for the first time since May 2017 against San Diego. The last time they had three walk-off wins in the same series was in July 2013 against the Angels, with game-ending homers three games in a row.

SHORT HOPS

Hernández became the 13th pitcher to make his MLB debut with the Rangers this season. The previous club record had been 10 debuts in 2014. ... The Angels finished 109-117 overall at the Rangers' ballpark in its 26th season. They will be the first visitor when Texas plays its 2020 regular season home opener in a new stadium across the street.

TRAINER'S ROOM

Angels: RHP Griffin Canning (elbow inflammation) returned to California and will be placed on the injured list for the second time this month.

UP NEXT

Angels: After a day off Thursday, the Angels open a three-game weekend series at AL West-leading Houston, where they have lost seven of their last eight games.

Rangers: Texas starts a four-game road series against the Chicago White Sox on Thursday night.

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79720.
The probation is numbered
P-14938 and is styled "Es-
tate of Arthur Islas, Jr." The
petition in this Cause was
filed on August 14, 2019 in
the Country Court of Howard
County, Texas. This lawsuit
is an action to determine heir-
ship and for Letters of Admin-
istration. Applicant is Car-
men Hipp Collier as Inde-
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Plaintiff's Attorney Name And
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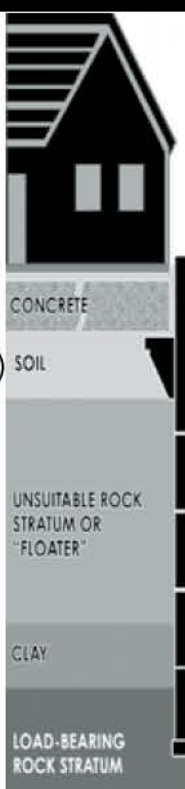
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Tomorrow's Horoscope

Leo Sun's Last Day

ARIES (March 21-April 19). If you're in the mood for a challenge, run from an active fear. It will surely take chase. And if you're not in the mood for a challenge and you simply want to start fresh, back away slowly.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). It's easier to be disciplined in front of other people. That's why going to the public gym will make you work harder than you would in a home gym, and why the atmosphere of an office brings out things that working from home couldn't.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). There's no need to self-scrutinize every move you make -- maybe just the repeated ones. Repeated behaviors have interesting stories to tell that are deep enough for you to interpret and reinterpret for years to come.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). As arbitrary as the initial move may be, it becomes an anchor for every move after. Remember this before you give something a name, decide on a price or introduce yourself.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You'll work harder for some-

thing you believe in than you would for a pay-check or a prize. To work for what you believe in is to make your version of the ideal future more probable.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You're coming into some power. It may start in the form of money, but of course, money isn't power, strictly speaking. How it's used is what matters most.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Principles of marketing don't just work; they may be necessary to the enjoyment of an experience. People often don't know what they want until they see someone else enjoying it. Use this to your advantage today.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). To remain firmly and

BY HOLIDAY MATHIS



faithfully on course requires more than just the best navigation system. It also requires a system of checks and balances. Adapt to the weather. Keep checking your position. And adjust accordingly.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). With emotional flexibility comes resilience. Resilience allows you to not only do the hard work of adapting to adverse conditions but also do the much more difficult work of adapting to conditions that are favorable.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Sometimes the things that are subpar are not worth mentioning. Not everything needs improvement at all times. You can come up with better uses of

your energy.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You're growing into a new role, and you already embody several aspects of it. You're starting to feel as though you own a thing before you actually do. This will make the transition easier.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Many people don't want to learn. They want you to do it for them. It's fine if you're getting paid in some manner or form. The best arrangements, and the only ones that last, feature a mutually beneficial exchange.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Aug. 22). Though last year was a year of many wins, there's something you were unable to accomplish. You'll keep at it with joy in your heart and a determined attitude. Constancy is deserving of success, which will be all the sweeter for your effort. You'll trade up in November. Contracts and promises will be exchanged in February. Libra and Sagittarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 4, 20, 3, 38 and 5.

Write Holiday Mathis at HolidayMathis.com.

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Annie's Mailbox

Friendship Fears

Dear Annie: I'm heading to college next year and am scared of making new friends. While I have don't have trouble talking to new people or getting along with most of them, I feel like none of them will understand my weirdness the same way my high school friends do.

My parents and I moved here from a different country, and my current group feels like my family because they are the ones who taught me American mannerisms and accept me for my neuroticism and other quirks. I even talked about the fact that it took me a week to learn what "knock on wood" meant in my college essays! While I know that we will still remain friends after we are spread out across the country, it obviously won't be the same, and I know it is unhealthy to latch onto old friendships and hold them in the same regard as they were before.

How do I find a comparable group of people in college? I don't want to go through the same thing I did in the beginning of high school, where I bounced around groups for a year before I found my "people." -- Freshman Once Again

Dear Freshman Once Again: Your concerns are understandable. Just like you found your "people" in high school, I have no doubt that you will find them once again. Now that you know what you are looking for, and because you are older and wiser, you will be able to find new friends faster.

One of the best ways to predict future behavior is to look at past behavior, and your past looks pretty good. While you had a bit of a rough start, you were able to make great friends. Focus on your success and know that you will have more in college. Your neuroticism and quirks are what make you uniquely you! And anyone who is fortunate enough to be your friend

will love that about you. If we were all the same, this world would be a very boring place.

As for your high school friends, some will be your friends for life and others will go their separate ways.

Dear Annie: This is in response to the woman whose husband would not go on walks with her. My husband walks every day, just like this woman. It has helped him to stay healthy in many ways. For years, he wanted me to go walking with him. Once he even said to me, "I don't understand why you won't go walking with me!" I was just as adamant that I was not going walking. I hate walking and find it boring.

Like her husband, I had joint pain and weight to lose. I found my own way to exercise. I bought a bike and have been an avid cyclist ever since. My joints are less painful when I ride. My mental health issues have improved, and I have

lost weight.

I encourage this woman to back off the walking issue. He needs to figure out what exercise works for him. If it isn't on his terms, he won't do it. She might want to encourage him to find the best exercise for him and then support that decision.

My husband is very supportive of my cycling. He has rescued me from many downpours and flat tires. I appreciate his support greatly, and we both bolster each other in our quest to be healthy. -- Feeling Healthy

Dear Healthy: Thank you for sharing your story, and congratulations on your newfound healthy habit. The best exercise is the one that you do, and it sounds like you found a great one! Keep cycling.

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

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Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

One for two gains 2,200

North dealer.
North-South vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ A 10 7 6 2
♥ K J 9 3
♦ 7
♣ K J 6

WEST
♠ 3
♥ 10
♦ K Q 8 6 4
♣ A Q 10 9 5 4

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

spade tricks and go down one. But Pabis Ticci managed the play exceptionally well and made the slam.

SOUTH
♠ 9 8 5
♥ A Q 8 7 6 5 4
♦ A 3 2
♣ —

WEST
♠ 3
♥ 10
♦ K Q 8 6 4
♣ A Q 10 9 5 4

West led the three of spades, which Pabis Ticci read as a probable singleton. After winning the spade with dummy's ace, he played the king of trump and then ruffed the six of clubs. Next he cashed the diamond ace and trumped a diamond in dummy, then ruffed dummy's jack of clubs and trumped his last diamond in dummy. The stage was now set for the elimination play he had planned from the outset.

Pabis Ticci led the king of clubs from dummy, but instead of ruffing it, he discarded the eight of spades. West won the trick with the ace but had to return a diamond or a club, allowing declarer to ruff in dummy while discarding the nine of spades from his hand. As a result, Pabis Ticci made six hearts redoubled to score 2,200 points instead of going down one for a loss of 400.

The loser-on-loser play, planned from the start, worked to perfection. In effect, Pabis Ticci exchanged a club trick he didn't have to lose for two spade tricks he seemed certain to lose — a profitable trade by any measure.

The bidding:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 3 ♥ 4 ♣
4 NT Pass 5 ♥ Pass
6 ♥ Dble Pass Pass

Redble

Opening lead — three of spades.

This hand was played in a rubber-bridge game many years ago by Camillo Pabis Ticci, well-known Italian star. The bidding was rather sporting, to say the least — especially East's double of six hearts.

At first or even second glance, it looks as if declarer must lose two

Tomorrow: Bidding quiz.
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SUDOKU

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

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

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!

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

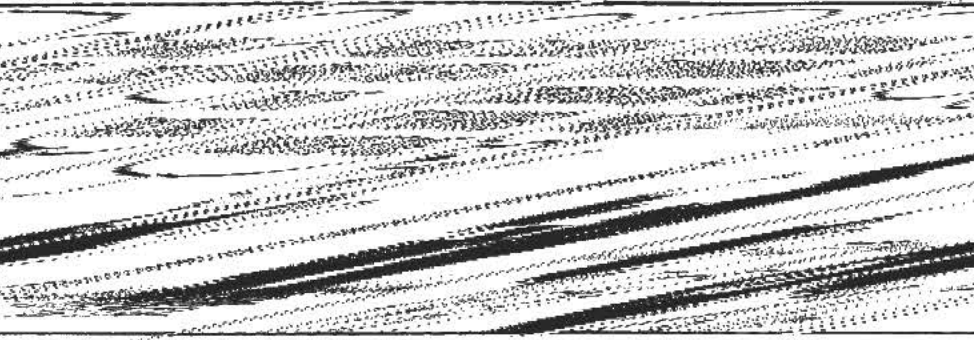
ANSWER:

	KMID (3) Midland	UNI (4) Spanish	KPEJ (5) Odessa	KOSA (7) Odessa	KTLE (8) Telemundo	KWES (9) Midland	KMLM (12) Odessa	KPBT (13) Odessa	KWTT (14) Odessa	KWES2 (15) Midland	WTBS (33) Atlanta	TNT (34) Atlanta	ESPN (35) Sports	ESPN2 (36) Sports	FSN (38) Sports	USA (55) New York	A&E (58) New York	DISC (60) Discovery	
5:PM	Big 2	Noticiero	Broke Girl	CBS 7	Tele	News	The	Mind	Mama's	American	Fam. Guy	Movie: San	SportsCenter	NBA: The	Outdoors	Law & Order:	The First 48	Alaskan	
6:PM	ABC	Noticiero	Mom	CBS	Noticias	News	HaYesod	Business	Jeff'sons	American	Fam. Guy	Movie: San	Baseball	NBA: The	Rangers	Law & Order:	The First 48	Alaskan	
7:PM	News	Amor eterno	Big Bang	CBS 7	Exatlon Es-	News	Master	PBS News-	M*A*S*H	Fam. Guy	Big Bang	Movie: San	Baseball	NBA: The	Classic	Law & Order:	The First 48	Alaskan	
8:PM	Wheel	La reina soy yo	Big Bang	ET	Estados Unidos	Texas	Freedom	Hour	M*A*S*H	Fam. Guy	Big Bang	Movie: San	Baseball	NBA: The	Pregame	Law & Order:	The First 48	Alaskan	
9:PM	Holey Moley	Juntos, el corazón	Big Bang	Sheldon	(SS)	The Wall	News	Today	Andy G.	The Outpost	Big Bang	Movie: San	Baseball	NBA: The	MLB Base-	Law & Order:	The First 48	Alaskan	
10:PM	Final Score	Sin miedo a la	Big Brother	El final del	paraíso	Ellen's Game	The Is	Art	Andy G.	Big Bang	Movie: San	Baseball	NBA: The	Classic	MLB Base-	Law & Order:	The First 48	Alaskan	
11:PM	Reef Break	Impacto	News	CBS 7	Tele	Law & Order:	Light of	Growing	Heroes	Page Six	Movie: Deep	Baseball	NBA: The	Classic	MLB Base-	Law & Order:	The First 48	Alaskan	
12:PM	Big 2	Noticiero	Mom	CBS	Noticias	News	HaYesod	Business	Jeff'sons	American	Fam. Guy	Movie: San	Baseball	NBA: The	Classic	MLB Base-	Law & Order:	The First 48	Alaskan
1:PM	News	Amor eterno	Big Bang	CBS 7	Exatlon Es-	News	Master	PBS News-	M*A*S*H	Fam. Guy	Big Bang	Movie: San	Baseball	NBA: The	Classic	MLB Base-	Law & Order:	The First 48	Alaskan

ANDY CAPP



AGNES



ARCHIE



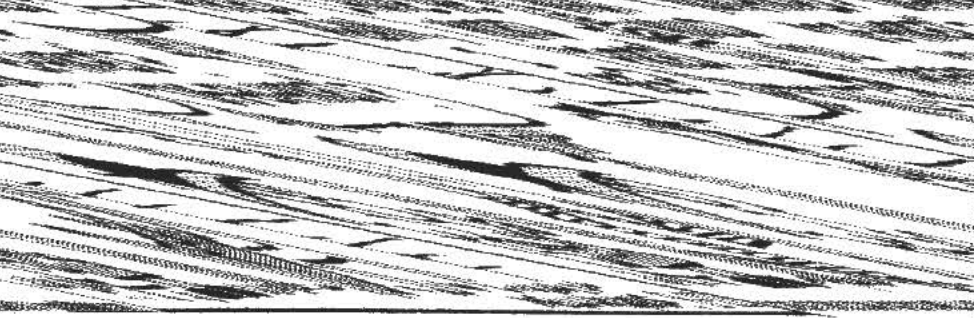
ONE BIG HAPPY



NEST HEAD



MOMMA



This Date In History

Today in History

Today is Thursday, Aug. 22, the 234th day of 2019. There are 131 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On August 22, 1851, the schooner America outraced more than a dozen British vessels off the English coast to win a trophy that came to be known as the America's Cup.

On this date:

In 1787, inventor John Fitch demonstrated his steamboat on the Delaware River to delegates from the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia.

In 1910, Japan annexed Korea, which remained under Japanese control until the end of World War II.

In 1932, the British Broadcasting Corp. conducted its first experimental television broadcast, using a 30-line mechanical system.

In 1956, President Dwight D. Eisenhower and Vice President Richard Nixon were nominated for second terms in office by the Republican National Convention in San Francisco.

In 1972, President Richard Nixon was nominated for a second term of office by the Republican National Convention in Miami Beach.

In 1978, President Jomo Kenyatta, a leading figure in Kenya's struggle for independence, died; Vice President Daniel arap Moi was sworn in as acting president.

In 1986, Kerr-McGee Corp. agreed to pay the estate of the late Karen Silkwood \$1.38 million, settling a 10-year-old nuclear contamination lawsuit. The Rob Reiner coming-of-age film "Stand By Me" was put into wide release by Columbia Pictures.

In 1989, Black Panthers co-founder Huey P. Newton was shot to death in Oakland, California. (Gunman Tyrone Robinson was later sentenced to 32 years to life in prison.)

In 1992, on the second day of the Ruby Ridge siege in Idaho, an FBI sharpshooter killed Vicki Weaver, the wife of white separatist Randy Weaver (the sharpshooter later said he was targeting the couple's friend Kevin Harris, and didn't see Vicki Weaver).

In 1996, President Bill Clinton signed welfare legislation ending guaranteed cash payments to the poor and demanding work from recipients.

In 2003, Alabama's chief justice, Roy Moore, was suspended for his refusal to obey a federal court order to remove his Ten Commandments monument from the rotunda of his courthouse. Texas Gov. Rick Perry

pardoned 35 people arrested in the 1999 Tulia drug busts and convicted on the testimony of a lone undercover agent. (The agent, Tom Coleman, was later found guilty of aggravated perjury and sentenced to 10 years' probation.)

In 2004, as shocked spectators watched, armed thieves stole one of four versions of the Edward Munch masterpiece "The Scream" and a second Munch painting, "Madonna," from the Munch museum in Oslo, Norway. (The paintings, visibly damaged, were recovered in Aug. 2006; three men were convicted in connection with the theft and sentenced to prison.)

Ten years ago: Dozens of wildfires broke out across Greece, torching olive groves, cutting off villages and sending residents fleeing as one of the largest blazes swept perilously close to the capital's northern suburbs.

Five years ago: Tensions between Russia and Ukraine escalated sharply as Moscow sent more than 130 trucks rolling across the border in what it said was a mission to deliver humanitarian aid. The United Nations reported the death toll from three years of Syria's civil war had risen to more than 191,000 people. Gunmen attacked a Sunni mosque in Iraq during Friday prayers and killed at least 64 people.

One year ago: The bull market in U.S. stocks became the longest one on record; it had been 3,453 days since the S&P 500 index had seen a drop of 20 percent or more. Ohio State suspended football coach Urban Meyer for three games; investigators found that Meyer had protected an assistant coach for years through domestic violence allegations, a drug problem and poor job performance. President Donald Trump accused his former lawyer, Michael Cohen, of making up stories in order to get a deal from federal prosecutors. A Democratic Party official said an attempt to break into the party's massive voter database had been thwarted.

is 74. Actress Cindy Williams is 72. Pop musician David Marks is 71. International Swimming Hall of Famer Diana Nyad (NY-ad) is 70. Baseball Hall of Famer Paul Molitor is 63. Rock musician Vernon Reid is 61. Country singer Ricky Lynn Gregg is 60. Country singer Collin Raye is 59. Actress Regina Taylor is 59. Rock singer Roland Orzabal (Tears For Fears) is 58. Rock musician Debbi Peterson (The

Bangles) is 58. Rock musician Gary Lee Conner (Screaming Trees) is 57. Singer Tori Amos is 56. Country singer Mila Mason is 56. Rhythm-and-blues musician James DeBarge is 56. International Tennis Hall of Famer Mats Wilander is 55. Actress Brooke Dillman is 53. Rapper GZA/The Genius is 53. Actor Adewale Akinnuoye-Agbaje is 52. Actor Ty Burrell is 52. Celebrity chef Giada De-

Laurentiis is 49. Actress Melinda Page Hamilton is 48. Actor Rick Yune is 48. Rock musician Paul Doucette (Matchbox Twenty) is 47. Rap-reggae singer Beenie Man is 46. Singer Howie Dorough (Backstreet Boys) is 46. Comedian-actress Kristen Wigg is 46. Actress Jenna Leigh Green is 45. Rock musician Bo Koster is 45. Rock musician Dean Cain (Theory of a Deadman) is 44. Talk show host James Corden

is 41. Rock musician Jeff Stinson (Simple Plan) is 41. Actor Brandon Adams is 40. Actress Aya Sumika is 39. Actor Ari Stidham is 27.

Thought for Today: "There are mighty few people who think what they think they think." — Robert Henri, American artist (1865-1929).

Newsday Crossword

WAYS TO GO by Pam Klawitter Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| ACROSS | DOWN | DOWN |
| 1 Starting | 1 All-inclusive | 11 Fail to mention |
| 5 Toon Stone Age spouse | 2 Use a coupon code | 12 Rms. for rent |
| 10 Multicolored horse | 3 Bison cousins | 13 Indefinite degree |
| 14 Ride seeker's shout | 4 Conifer with cones | 16 Shelters with flap doors |
| 15 Found disobedient by a court | 5 Ryder of films | 18 Pretty up |
| 17 Totally finished | 6 "Without a doubt!" | 22 Symbols for snoozes |
| 19 Meditative movement | 7 Some TV screens | 23 Any of the Bahamas |
| 20 Accomplish, in the Scriptures | 8 Pointless to debate | 24 Opposite of infra- |
| 21 Bits served with bread | 9 Common female middle name | 25 Pacifist's demand |
| 22 Urban district | 10 Put back in the oven | 26 Clog-busting brand |
| 23 Comparative ending | | 27 Speak up (for) |
| 24 To be mulled over | | 28 ___ for Innocent (Grafton novel) |
| 32 Rome-born screen legend | | 29 Impish |
| 33 "Essential" spa array | | 30 Rope loop |
| 34 Mauna ___ | | 31 Electrical weapon |
| 35 "Jabberwocky" starter | | 36 Ten times CCLI |
| 36 Verdun's river | | 37 End one's fast |
| 38 Corp. budgetary execs | | 38 Mongrels |
| 39 Sought a Senate seat, say | | |
| 40 Apple desktop | | |
| 41 False appearance | | |
| 42 Very close | | |
| 46 Peace: Lat. | | |
| 47 Centers of solar systems | | |
| 48 Hawaii, c. 1950 | | |
| 50 Brief brawl | | |
| 52 Crime-fighting agcy. | | |
| 55 Part of a Christmas song route | | |
| 58 Seaboard contours | | |

Answer to previous puzzle

STOP	SWAM	FROGS
HIFI	TOME	REPEL
EATS	ROAN	APPLY
DREAM	OF	SUCCESS
SAN	ODES	RAN
TIER	TOSTADA	
THAIS	SAW	BUS
HOPET	OB	INTOUCH
USE	NOW	RATTY
STREAKY	SOAK	
AGE	TEND	MIA
WISH	OUT	THEBEST
PASTA	ALTO	ALSO
TILES	FILL	NOUN
ALERT	SPED	KNEE

8/22/19

Verlander allows 2 HRs in 2-hitter, loses 2-1 to Tigers

By KRISTIE RIEKEN

AP Sports Writer

HOUSTON — Justin Verlander was splendid against the Detroit Tigers, pitching a two-hitter and fanning 11 in another dominant performance for the Astros.

Houston's offense wasn't nearly as sharp on Wednesday night, and it led to an unusual, tough-luck 2-1 loss.

"Just an incredible performance," manager A.J. Hinch said. "Just not one that we could help him with. We wasted a really good start by our starting pitcher."

John Hicks and Ronny Rodriguez homered off Verlander — the only two baserunners he allowed.

"The two times I gave in and gave them a fast-ball, they hit a homer on it," said Verlander, who has been critical of Major League Baseball for what he believes are intentional changes to the ball that have led to more home runs. "Baseball in 2019. I didn't go out of the stretch at all the entire game, and we lost. I don't know what else to say."

With Verlander on the mound at home against the worst team in the majors, the Astros were more than a 5-1 favorite, one of the biggest favorites in an MLB game that Las Vegas oddsmakers could remember.

Hicks led off the ninth with a tiebreaking blast to left-center field off Verlander (15-5), who leads the majors in strikeouts with 239 but ranks second in homers allowed with 33.

Hicks has a long history with Verlander. His brother Daniel went to high school with him and was in his wedding to supermodel Kate Upton in 2017.

"It's surreal for sure," Hicks said. "I remember being 10 years old watching him and my brother play in high school and watching him dominate."

Verlander retired the first 14 batters, with six strikeouts, before Rodriguez homered to the seats in right with two outs in the fifth. The veteran right-hander sat down another 10 straight before Hicks connected.

"That's the biggest win for us in a long, long time, especially against a premium team like that, a World Series contender and Verlander on the

mound," Detroit manager Ron Gardenhire said. "In Detroit we got him last year at the All-Star break and we got him again, but we really didn't get him very much tonight."

Verlander, who spent 13 seasons with the Tigers, didn't fault the offense.

"I don't blame anybody but myself," he said. "I could have done a better job executing pitches there in the ninth inning."



He threw 99 pitches and extended his franchise record of games with 10 or more strikeouts to seven as he lost for the first time since June 18.

Robinson Chirinos belted his 14th homer to left-center on Tyler Alexander's first pitch of the seventh to tie it at 1. Chirinos finished with four hits. Needing a triple for the cycle, he doubled with two outs in the ninth but was thrown out trying to reach third to end the game.

"When you make a mistake like that, you don't deserve to win the game," Chirinos said.

Opener Daniel Norris allowed two hits in three innings for Detroit. Alexander worked four innings, Buck Farmer (5-4) walked one in a scoreless eighth and Joe Jimenez finished the Tigers' six-hitter for his fourth save.

Jose Altuve walked with one out in the eighth, but was erased when he tried to go first to third on an infield grounder by Alex Bregman to end the inning.

TRAINER'S ROOM

Astros: RHP Josh James (shoulder soreness) will begin a rehabilitation assignment with Triple-A Round Rock on Thursday night. Hinch said James, who has been out since July 23, likely won't rejoin the team until September. ... INF Aledmys Diaz took batting practice on Wednesday and could come off the injured list early next week. Diaz was hospitalized Aug. 17 after experiencing dizziness on the team bus in Oakland.

NATURE BOY CALLS

Houston outfielder Josh Reddick, who has used WWE star Ric Flair's signature yell of "Woooo!" for years instead of walk-up music, hosted the flamboyant Flair at the game on Wednesday night. Reddick, who had a day off on Wednesday, donned a wrestling robe and championship belt when he came on the field during batting practice to greet the 70-year-old. Flair was decked out in gold jewelry, including necklaces, a bracelet and a blinged-out watch, and wore a white Astros jersey with his nickname, "Nature Boy," printed on the back.

Reddick called Flair his hero and the wrestler was asked to describe the ballplayer.

"He's married now, but before he was married ... Josh Reddick would have been a kiss-stealing, wheeling-dealing, limousine-riding, jet-flying, home run-hitting Houston Astro," Flair said.

Flair bounced the ceremonial first pitch to Reddick, who was crouched behind the plate.

UP NEXT

Tigers: RHP Jordan Zimmermann (1-8, 6.66 ERA) is scheduled to start for Detroit when the series wraps up on Thursday night. Zimmermann allowed just one hit in five scoreless innings in his last start against Tampa Bay, but did not factor in the decision.

Astros: RHP Gerrit Cole (14-5, 2.87) will start on Thursday after being scratched from his last start on Aug. 15 because of discomfort in his right hamstring. Cole, who ranks second in the majors with 226 strikeouts, has won his last 10 decisions.

Cowboys, LB Smith agree on extension amid Elliott holdout

By SCHUYLER DIXON

AP Pro Football Writer

FRISCO, Texas — When the Dallas Cowboys announced a contract extension for Jaylon Smith, it was first a celebration of the linebacker's journey from a career-threatening knee injury in college to one of the NFL's richest contracts at his position.

Of course, it didn't take long for the focus to turn to holdout running back Ezekiel Elliott, or the question of deals for quarterback Dak Prescott and receiver Amari Cooper with each entering the final year of his rookie contract.

"There is less pie left," owner Jerry Jones said Tuesday. "Make no bones about it. There is less pie."

Smith and the Cowboys agreed on a \$64 million, five-year extension with \$33.5 million guaranteed for the 2016 second-round pick. The average annual value of \$12.8 million on the ex-

tension is among the top five for inside linebackers.

The 24-year-old essentially lost a year on his rookie contract because Smith spent his rookie season on the non-football injury list after the devastating left knee injury in his final game at Notre Dame, where was an All-American in 2015.

Both sides said the deal came together in a matter of days amid continuing talk of the missing Elliott, the two-time rushing champion who wants a new contract while having two years left on the current one. Elliott's holdout has lasted almost a month.

"For me it's about being a Dallas Cowboy for life," Smith said. "Really, technically, with the tender year, the Cowboys have my rights for two more

years. For us to get an extension like this, is just a testament to how much we love one another and we believe in one another as well."

Smith started all 16 games for the Cowboys last season, when he was second on the team in tackles (150) and tackles for loss (five). He played in all 16 games, with six starts, when he made his NFL debut in 2017.

Before nerve damage associated with tearing a ligament in his knee during Notre Dame's 44-28 loss to Ohio State in the Orange Bowl on New Year's Day 2016, Smith was considered a top prospect. While plenty of teams wondered if he could play again, the Cowboys took him with the 34th overall pick.

"He has never complained," Jones

said while fighting his emotions. "He has never wavered. Never missed a workout. And he's never quit. Not one time. His story is one that I would have done anything to be sure that it could be sure that it could be a Dallas Cowboys story."

Smith struggled in his first season, in part because the Cowboys had to rely on him more than planned because of injuries to Sean Lee. The progress was dramatic last year as the defense helped keep Dallas in contention while the offense struggled.

The Cowboys won the NFC East, beat Seattle in a wild-card game and lost to the Los Angeles Rams in the divisional round.

"I couldn't lift my foot for a year and two months," Smith said of the time after the injury. "They were able to show their true belief in me. It's just the beginning. I received my new contract after only 22 starts. So I've got a bunch of starts left."

Rejuvenated Brown savors return to coaching with Tar Heels

By AARON BEARD

AP Sports Writer

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. — Mack Brown has accomplished nearly everything a college coach could want, from winning a national championship to being inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame.

Yet the 67-year-old Brown is choosing to stand in the heat and thick humidity on the North Carolina practice fields, typing out notes on his smartphone while watching drills for the program he's charged with turning around once again.

Brown is back in college coaching for the first time since the 2013 season. His return comes at the same program he built into top-10 national status more than two decades earlier. It's familiar surroundings for Brown to reconnect with the profession he missed while working in broadcasting since last coaching at Texas.

"Every day that I coach," Brown said, "reinforces the fact that I love this stuff and I should be doing it."

The Tar Heels are hoping Brown's veteran touch, polished with shining success at every stop, and his familiarity with the program he once coached for a decade has made him the perfect choice to stop the freefall that ended Larry Fedora's seven-year coaching tenure.

They won 11 games, cracked the top 10 in the Top 25 poll and played in the Atlantic Coast Conference championship game as recently as 2015. But UNC has lost 21 of 27 games dating to November 2016, including a league-worst 2-14 ACC record through 2017 and 2018. Along the way, the Tar Heels had multiple losses in which they kept finding ways to hand over fourth-quarter leads, struggled in recruiting and saw plenty of empty seats in their Kenan Stadium home.

That didn't deter Brown, who returns as the winningest active coach in the Bowl Subdivision ranks (244 wins) ahead of Alabama's Nick Saban (232) and Notre Dame's Brian Kelly (231). He led Texas to nine 10-win seasons during a 16-year run there, including an unbeaten 2005 season that ended with Vince Young and the Longhorns edging USC in a

Rose Bowl classic.

Before that, he coached the Tar Heels from 1988-97, surviving two 1-10 seasons to start his tenure and pushing the Tar Heels to a 20-3 mark in his final two years.

Brown has talked about how he likes "to fix things" since returning to Chapel Hill, then spent the spring pushing players for more with his familiar affable demeanor.

"That's why I sit with different sets of young guys at lunch every day and dinner at night, so I can ask questions and talk to them," Brown said. "So between trying to mentor the young people and pick them up, trying to help our coaches with the knowledge that I've had in coaching . trying to help a team that has no confidence get some confidence and how do you win fourth-quarter games — we constantly talk about that. And I love all that stuff."

UNC opens against South Carolina in Charlotte on Aug. 31, though there have already been off-field gains. The school sold out its season tickets for the first time in at least a decade. The Tar Heels have also taken a jump in recruiting — something Brown thrived in both in his first stint at UNC and later at Texas — to 17th nationally in 247sports.com's rankings for next year's class.

"I think he has an unbelievable ability to make people feel like they can do more than they believe they can do," athletic director Bubba Cunningham said in June. "I think he inspires people. I think he draws people to him and to his program."

Brown said the first step was building trust with the players he inherited, noting last month they had gone through losing, a coaching change and then "here comes this new guy in that's been out of coaching for five years."

Tight end Jake Bargas said Brown sold the players by telling them: "You work for me and I'll work for you."

"I think once you're a coach, you're always a coach," Bargas said. "You could tell his heart's in this. It doesn't matter, I think age is just a number. He's out here and he wants to be here, you can tell. He's passionate about it and we're passionate about



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