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BIG SPRING HERALD

MONDAY, APRIL 4, 2016



VOLUME 111, NUMBER 139 COPYRIGHT 2016 50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 SUNDAY



Above, the Cross Roads Young Marines color guard posts the colors at the Lamun-Lusk-Sanchez/North Side Movement Easter Egg Hunt. The Howard County youth organization earned the Young Marine Unit of the Year for the Fourth Battalion. Pictured left, Carrie Rodman, Cross Roads Young Marine unit adjunct, and Young Marine Lance Corporal Ty Clark received awards recently.

HERALD photos/
 Julie Bass

Cross Roads Young Marines group/individuals earn honors

By **LYNDEL MOODY**
 Staff Writer

The three-year-old Cross Roads Young Marine unit is starting to rack up honors.

Recently, the group was named Unit of the Year for the Fourth Battalion. Adult leader Carrie Rodman was also honored as the Adult Leader of the Year for the Fourth Battalion.

"I was surprised," Carrie Rodman said of learning of the honor. She serves as the unit adjunct as well executive officer for the Fourth Battalion. "I was shocked. We work hard and the kids work hard so it's a nice thank you."

Adding to the list of honors, Cross Roads Unit Commander

Roger "Doc" Rodman announced last Friday the recipient of the first Young Marine of the Year for the Cross Roads unit. Because the organization was so new, this was first time Roger Rodman said he felt he could name a Unit Young Marine of the Year which could compete with other units in the battalion.

That honor went to Young Marine Lance Corporal Ty Clark.

"The overall decision was based on academics, his performance in the capacity of a Young Marine Lance Corporal and his capacity as a unit Young Marine Gunnery Sergeant," Roger Rodman said. "He has taken initiative. He has taught himself from the guide books we have. He is always doing things. He has mastered most of what I would consider what a Young Marine Sgt. needs to know. He also has perfect attendance."

Clark, who will be joining the U.S. Marine Corps after graduation this year, said he was surprised to learn of the honor.

"Now I have to show more

leadership and more dedication to this program," he said. "I need to be a better instructor to them. I am pretty proud of myself and I am proud of them."

Carrie Rodman describes Ty as a "as a typical country kids who loves the military and the Marine Corps."

"He really takes the initiative," she said. "He calls the other Young Marines to make sure they have the proper clothes and things they need. He always goes above and beyond. It's what you want to see in a leader."

As for the Unit honor, Roger Rodman said the award is confirmation the group is heading in the right direction.

"It says we are doing things the way it should be done," he said. "The attention to detail that we do here, we have to have excellent working knowledge to the program itself."

Three years ago Carrie and her husband, Roger, began the program in Big Spring hoping to make a difference for area youth.

See, **HONORS**, Page 3

Bomb scare

Geo-equipment prompts BSHS closure today

By **LYNDEL MOODY**
 Staff Writer

A suspicious package left in the parking lot of Big Spring High School caused officials to cancel classes at the high school today.

"Safety officials have determined that the package identified earlier this morning on the Big Spring High School campus is not a threat to students or staff; however, classes at Big Spring High School will remain

cancelled today," George Bancroft said in a news release today. "Students, faculty, and staff at Big Spring High School do not need to report to campus today. All other Big Spring ISD campuses will continue with their regular schedules."

According to Bancroft, the package was found in the parking lot of Blankenship Field early this morning which is on the east side of the

See, **SCARE**, Page 3

Volunteers get serious about trash

By **JULIE BASS**

Staff Writer

Chilly weather deterred many from participating in this year's Keep Big Spring Beautiful Trash Off.

While several companies and individuals braved the cool morning, the number of people helping around town dropped from previous Trash Offs.

"I'm a little disappointed with the turnout, but we appreciate everyone who is out there working," said Pat Simmons with Keep Big Spring Beautiful.

See, **TRASH OFF**, Page 3

Raise the roof



HERALD photo/Julie Bass

West Texas Pets Alive held a fundraiser Saturday to convert a city-owned building into an animal shelter to handle overflow from the city shelter.



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Obituaries

Aggie Padilla



Aggie Sosa Padilla, 77, of Amarillo, passed away Thursday, March 31, 2016. Visitation will be at 5:30 p.m. with a Rosary to follow at 6:30 p.m. Monday, April 4, 2016 at Schooler Funeral Home Brentwood Chapel. Funeral Mass will be at 10 a.m. Tuesday, April 5, 2016 at St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church, 4100 S. Coulter St., Amarillo, TX 79109 with Rev. John Valdez as celebrant. Burial will follow at Llano Cemetery. Arrangements are by Schooler Funeral Home, 4100 S. Georgia.

Aggie was born on Jan. 12, 1939 in Big Spring, Texas to Manuel and Lupe Sosa. In November of 1956 she married Ben Padilla, Sr. Despite their divorce after 30 years of marriage, they remained close friends for the remainder of her life. Aggie had an enthusiasm for life. She loved movies, yard work, and activities with her family and friends. Dancing was one of her favorite activities, even taking the opportunity to dance onstage with Chubby Checker during a concert at Westgate Mall. She had a strong Christian faith and was a member of the Catholic Community Bible study at St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church, where she was a charter member. She was very excited when she had the opportunity to participate in a Christian pilgrimage to Medjugorje

Alma Wrightsil



Alma "Suga" Wrightsil, 80, of Big Spring died Friday, April 1, 2016, at her residence. Funeral service will be at 11 a.m. Tuesday at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial at Mount Olive Memorial Park.

She was born Aug. 1, 1935, in Austin to Katie and George Cobbs. She moved to Big Spring in 1959. She married James Ray Wrightsil on Nov. 9, 1974. James preceded Alma in death.

Terry Darden



Terry Lynn Darden, 63, of Big Spring, died Saturday, April 2, 2016 in a Midland hospital. Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. Tuesday, April 5, 2016 at the Peace Chapel at Trinity Memorial Park with Dr. Randy Cotton officiating.

The family will receive friends from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Monday, April 4, 2016 at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home.

He was born June 29, 1952 in Big Spring, Texas and graduated from Big Spring High School.

in Italy. Her family was the most important thing to her. Despite her own limited opportunities, Aggie made sure her children had the opportunity to pursue advanced degrees. She would have made any sacrifice for anyone, especially her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. Her self-sacrificing nature was no more evident than in her role as a military wife. Aggie raised three children, often on her own for months and even years while her husband was deployed overseas.

She was preceded in death by her parents, one sister, Linda Sarinana, and one brother, Manual Sosa, Jr.

Aggie is survived by her daughter, Yolanda Grimes of Amarillo, her daughter Dr. Anne Redondo and son-in-law David Redondo of Houston, her son, Dr. Ben Padilla of Amarillo, three sisters, Nancy Coker and Bea Kirkeeng, both of Amarillo, Edelmira Selvera of Midland, four brothers, Roberto Sosa, Luis Sosa, George Sosa, and Fred Sosa, all of Midland, three grandchildren, Danielle Saied of Amarillo, and Rachel and Eric Redondo of Houston, three great-grandchildren, Garrett, Graham, and Sam Saied of Amarillo, and numerous additional family and friends.

The family requests memorials be made in Aggie's name to St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church or to the American Heart Association, 105 Decker Court, Suite 200, Irving, TX 75062.

Please sign our online guest book at www.schoolerfuneralhome.com.

Paid obituary

She is survived by one sister: Marjorie Williams and her husband Odis of Houston; one step-daughter: Margo Wrightsil of Houston; three step-grandchildren; one nephew and one niece; one great niece and one great nephew and two special cousins in Austin.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband; one brother: Bobby Cobbs; Grandmother, who raised her: Mary Harper; two aunts: Lora Hemphill and U. L. Williams, who also helped to raise her.

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

Survivors include two sisters, Denise Davis and husband, Lonnie Davis of Elk City, Oklahoma and Claudia Darden of Big Spring; two brothers, Bobby Davis and wife, Tonya of Austin and Kenny Davis and wife, Tami of Big Spring; and his step-mother, Lou Darden of Big Spring.

He was preceded in death by his father, G. A. Darden; his mother, Darnella Marie Myers; a brother, Steve Darden; his grandparents; and uncles.

The family suggests memorials to the American Cancer Society, care of Vicki Stewart, 6 Coachmans Circle, Big Spring, Texas 79720.

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

Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity:

- **DUSTY R. BAIZA**, 30, of 911 W. 5th St. was arrested on a warrant from another agency.
- **MARK ANTHONY CHAVERA**, 28, of 1108 W. 16th St. was arrested on charges of possession of marijuana, evading arrest/detention with vehicle or watercraft and resist arrest, search or transport.
- **EDWIN JAMES DEAN**, 50, of 1403 S. Nolan St was arrested on charges of public intoxication, resist arrest, search or transport and harassment of a public servant.
- **JENNIFER ANN HOPKINS**, 30, of 2603 Albroke Dr. was arrested on a charge of driving while license suspended/invalid with previous convictions.
- **CLAYTON CURTIS SCHMITZ**, 34, of 2704 Lynn Dr. was arrested on a charge of criminal mischief, more than \$100 but less than \$750.

- **ISRAEL SAIZ**, 19, of 2625 Ent Dr. was arrested on charges of evading arrest/detention and possession of drug paraphernalia.
- **CRIMINAL MISCHIEF** was reported in the 700 block of Douglas St.
- **BURGLARY OF A BUILDING** was reported in the 1000 block of S. Gregg St.
- **DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE** was reported in the 600 block of W. 17th St. and the 8000 block of Settles St.
- **THEFT** was reported in the 4000 block of E. FM 700, the 9000 block of Willia St., the 900 block of W. 5th St. and the 1000 block of E. 12th St.
- **STOLEN VEHICLE** was reported in the 800 block of Todd Rd.
- **BURGLARY OF A VEHICLE** was reported in the 700 block of W. I-20.
- **BURGLARY OF A HABITATION** was reported in the 2900 block of W. Hwy 80.

Support Groups

MONDAY

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

• VA Alcoholics Anonymous support group, 7-8 p.m., Veterans Healing Center.

• Reformers Unanimous International is a faith-based addictions program helping people find freedom from addiction. Meetings begin at 7 p.m. Mondays at Trinity Baptist Church in Big Spring. Enter at the main entrance of the church.

TUESDAY

• Big Spring and Snyder Parkinsons Support Group meeting at the Big Spring Senior Center at 10:30 a.m. the second Tuesday of the month.

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

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

• VA Alcoholics Anonymous support group, 7:30-8:30 p.m., Veterans Healing Center.

• Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m.; newcomers meeting 8 p.m. to 9 p.m.

• Al-Anon, 615 Settles for family members and friends of alcoholics meets at 8 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

• RSD (Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy) a chronic pain disease, a support and informative group, meets at 213 Circle. Call Lucy at (432) 517-9207 for more information.

• Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m.; open 12 & 12 study meeting 8 p.m. to 9 p.m.

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.

• Spring Tabernacle Ministries has a faith-based support group for those who need help finding and continuing to walk down the path God has for each of us. Meetings are at 11 a.m. until noon and again at 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. The classes take place at Spring Tabernacle Ministries, located at 1209 Wright St.

Isabell Gambrell

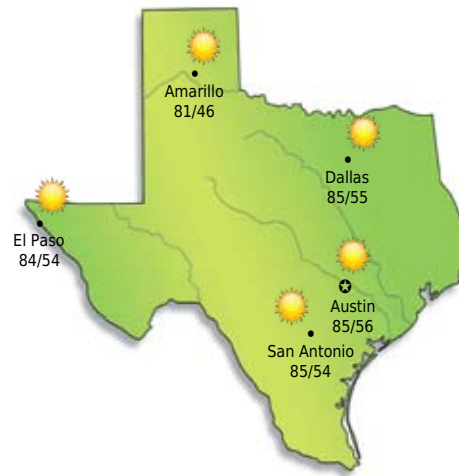
Isabell Gambrell, 86, died Sunday, April 03, 2016, at Mitchell County Nursing Home in Colorado City.

Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Local 5-Day Forecast

Tue 4/5	Wed 4/6	Thu 4/7	Fri 4/8	Sat 4/9
85/53	75/45	84/52	76/51	81/55
Sun and a few clouds with gusty winds. High near 85F. Winds SSW at 25 to 35 mph. Winds could occasionally gust over 40 mph.	Partly cloudy and windy. Highs in the mid 70s and lows in the mid 40s.	Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 80s and lows in the low 50s.	Mix of sun and clouds. Highs in the mid 70s and lows in the low 50s.	Windy with a mix of sun and clouds. Highs in the low 80s and lows in the mid 50s.
Sunrise: 7:28 AM Sunset: 8:09 PM	Sunrise: 7:27 AM Sunset: 8:09 PM	Sunrise: 7:25 AM Sunset: 8:10 PM	Sunrise: 7:24 AM Sunset: 8:11 PM	Sunrise: 7:23 AM Sunset: 8:12 PM

Texas at a Glance



Sheriff

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

Note - Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 78 inmates at the time of this report.

• **DUSTY RAY BAIZA**, 30, was booked by the BSPD on a warrant for motion to revoke - resist arrest, search or transport.

• **DAVID JUSTIN CASE**, 61, was booked by the DPS on charges of possession of marijuana, less than 2 ounces and unlawful carrying of a weapon.

• **JENNIFER DEANN CATE**, 33, was booked by the HCSO on a warrant for sent-order of modified condition of community service.

• **MARK ANTHONY CHAVERA**, 27, was booked by the BSPD on charges of evading arrest detention with vehicle or watercraft, resist arrest search or transport and possession of marijuana, less than 2 ounce.

• **EDWIN JAMES DEAN**, 50, was booked by the BSPD on charges of public intoxication; resist arrest, search or transport and harassment of a public servant.

• **SHANNA RENEE GEUEA**, 41, was booked by the RSO on a warrant for motion to revoke probation - theft, more than \$50 but less than \$500.

• **JORGE LUIS GOMEZ JR.**, 25, was booked by the HCSO on a charge of evading arrest/detention.

• **JENNIFER ANN HOPKINS**, 30, was booked by the BSPD n a charge of driving while license invalid with previous convictions/suspensions.

• **JUAN FRANCISCO PANTOJA**, 21, was booked by the HCSO on a warrant for motion to revoke probation - driving while intoxicated.

• **JOSE RANGEL**, 43, was booked by the DPS on a warrant for violation of occupational driver's license.

• **ISRAEL SAIZ**, 19, was booked by the BSPD on charges of evading arrest/detention and possession drug paraphernalia.

• **ROBERT RUBIN SANCHEZ**, 51, was booked by the BSPD on a charge of public intoxication with three prior convictions.

• **CLAYTON SCHMITZ**, 34, was booked by the BSPD on a charge of criminal mischief, more than \$100 but less than \$750.

• **TRINITY RENEE TERRAZA**, 23, was booked by the BSPD on a warrant for purchasing/furnishing alcohol to a minor.

• **JOHNNY DEE TURMAN**, 41, was booked by the HCO on a warrant for harassment.

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BIG SPRING HERALD

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HERALD photo/Julie Bass

Volunteers for the Texas Trash Off dump collected trash into a container located by the Heart of the City Park on Saturday morning.

TRASH OFF

Continued from Page 1

Some companies that participated this year were Sid Richardson, a carbon-black company; Alon Refinery which had 53 employees and volunteers that helped pick up a total of 1,530 pounds worth of trash and the FCI (Federal Correction Institution) which had 10

volunteers working to clear trash Third Street on the west side of town. Howard College will be participating this coming week according to Simmons.

"That area (West Third St.) was nothing but trash. It really needed help and for the trash to be picked up. Pat asked if we would do it, and we did," said Eli Vialpando with FCI.

After picking up trash and depositing it in the 30 yard dumpsters at the Heart of the City Park downtown, volunteers were able to enjoy some cookies, drinks, hot dogs and some good conversation.

Keep Big Spring Beautiful meets the first Monday of each month in the Cactus Room at Howard College at noon.

Take Note

Scholarship applications

The Howard County A&M Club is accepting applications from high school students who are graduating this May and have been accepted at Texas A&M University for the Fall 2016 semester. Students must be Howard county residents and will enroll for at least 12 hours. Application deadline is April 15. Application deadline for current A&M students is June 1.

More information and the application can be found of the club website: www.westexags.com

Pre-K, Kinder registration

Forsan Elementary has scheduled Pre-K and Kindergarten pre-registration for Monday, April 4 through Friday, April 8 in the elementary office located at 500 West Main in Forsan, Texas. The school office will be open for registration between 8:30 a.m. and 4 p.m.

In order to be eligible for Pre-Kindergarten, the student must be 4 years old on or before Sept. 1, 2016, and meet at least one of the following criteria:

- Must be unable to speak or comprehend English;
- The family fully qualifies for free or reduced-price lunches;
- The family is homeless;
- One or more parents are on active-duty military service ; or
- The child is in foster care.

To register for kindergarten, students must be 5 years of age on or before Sept. 1, 2016.

In order to pre-register, parents should bring the child's official birth certificate, social security card, shot records, proof of residency (utility bill with name and physical address), enrolling parent driver's license, and proof of guardianship (if applicable).

School administration believes it is vital to get an accurate count of the students who will be entering pre-k and kindergarten next year as this information helps in the purchase of supplies and making personnel decisions.

Open House

Shannon Clinic Big Spring will hold an Open House Monday, April 11 from 4 to 6 p.m. at the Clinic, 2503 Gregg Street, Unit C. The public is invited to attend. Clinic physicians and staff will be present.

Lawrence DeVold, MD, provides family practice services at Shannon Clinic Big Spring Monday through Friday from 8 am to noon and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Visiting specialists include David Cummings, MD, Hematology/Oncology; C. Eric Greeson, MD, Dermatology; Chris Haddad, MD, and Rudy Haddad, MD, Interventional Cardiology; and Christina Arp, RN, CNM, Obstetrics and Gynecology Care.

Light refreshments will be served. For more information, please call 325-481-2074 or visit www.shannonhealth.com.

Let's cook together

Howard County AgriLife Extension is offering "Cooking with Friends," a four session program to help to organize the preparation of four easy and nutritious main dishes in a single session. The first lesson on Family Friendly Recipes and will be held from 9:30 a.m. to noon, Saturday, April 9 at the G. C. Broughton Jr. Ag Complex located on the Howard College Campus, 1001 Birdwell Lane. The cost for all four session is \$15. The registration cutoff date is Monday, April 4. For more information, contact Deeter at 432-264-2236 or e-mail melissa.deeter@ag.tamu.edu.

Let's go dance

Seniors and mature adults are invited to a dance on the first, third and fifth Friday of each month at the Dora Roberts Community Center.

Dances are from 7:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. with live bands. No alcohol or smoking permitted. There will

be a pot luck as well so bring a dish if you want to eat.

Cost is \$8 per person.

The Howard County Fair needs people to cross stitch squares for the annual Quilt Fundraiser. Complete kits may be picked up from Cheryl Joy at the Heritage Museum, Tuesday through Saturday. For more information call Suzanne Markwell at 214-256-1674

Meetings

The Big Spring Art Association meets every third Tuesday, September through May at 7 p.m. in the basement of the Howard County Library. Everyone is welcome to attend. Memberships are available. The annual dues are \$20.

The Big Spring Symphony Board of Directors meets every first Tuesday at 5:30 p.m. at the symphony office, 808 Scurry Street.

The Kiwanis Club of Big Spring meets at noon every Thursday in the Cactus Room at Howard College. Visitors are welcome.

Order of the Eastern Star Big Spring Chapter 67 meets the third Tuesday of each month at 219 Main St. Dinner begins at 6:30 p.m. Lodge meeting begins at 7:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome. For more information, contact Jimmy Ruth at 271-2176.

Staked Plains Masonic Lodge No. 598 meets the second Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. (dinner is at 6 p.m.) at 219 1/2 Main St. All Masons are welcome.

Volunteer opportunities

A fund has been set up at Myers & Smith Funeral Home to help the family of Mary Lou Gomez for funeral services.

SCARE

Continued from Page 1



high school campus, located at 707 11th Place. Big Spring Police said in a written statement the item was a FairField Node owned by and placed by Geokinetics Company.

"A representative with Geokinetics responded and identified the item as their property," the news release

stated. "Geokinetics also informed they would be sending a representative to locations where the FairField Nodes have been placed."

According to police, officers were dispatched to the parking lot around 6:30 a.m.

"Upon arrival the device was not immediately able to be identified therefore a perimeter was established," the news release stated. "A 500 ft. evacuation of the immediacy of the area was accomplished and school officials were immediately notified of the situation."

The equipment collects seismic data information, the news release said.

HONORS

Continued from Page 3

"My husband was a Marine and they (Young Marines) had a group in Brownwood we were apart of," she said. "We saw a need in Big Spring when we moved here. The way our society is now, I saw the need for our students."

Roger Rodman said the Young Marines program aim is to teach youth leadership, teamwork and discipline.

"Most of the kids now days rather use their thumbs and play games," he said. "That is not us. We get out here and teach. When a child leaves our program at 18 years old, they know what the constitution is. They know the three branches of government, how it operates, why they need to vote and what it means to be a good citizen of this country. They have a good handle on American history as well as Marine Corps History and that is what I intend to teach. The absolute positive influence of this program is we teach them to be respectful of others, themselves, and our God, Country, Corps, that is what we teach."

Each Young Marine must perform 50 hours of community service to stay active in the group. Rodman said the program also teaches close order drill and survival.

al skills such as land navigation, map and compass, field and knot tying.

One of the purposes of the program, Rodman said, is teach the youth, self-reliance, self assurance and self confidence to develop leadership skills.

"The spirit of the Young Marines as these Young Marines grow as they start taking on responsibly at the higher ranks, they are the ones who run the unit," Roger Rodman said. "We adults just oversee it. We teach them the spirit of being a Marine. They put it into practice."

The Cross Roads Young Marines meets every other Saturday at the First Baptist Church in the Young Marine's Headquarters, 705 FM 700. The initial cost to join is \$200 for the first year which includes all uniforms, boots and other necessities to begin the program and then \$80 for each additional year.

For more information, contact Carrie Rodman at 325-232-0551

Staff Writer Lyndel Moody can be contacted at 263-7331, ext. 234, or by citydesk@bigspringherald.com.

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

24th & Johnson 267-8288

Mary Lou Gomez, 52, died Saturday. Funeral mass will be Monday at 10 a.m. at Holy Trinity Catholic Church with burial at Mount Olive Memorial Park. Arrangements are by Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Alma Wrightsil, 80, died Friday. Funeral service will be at 11 a.m. Tuesday at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial at Mount Olive Memorial Park.

Isabell Gambrell, 86, died Sunday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

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News in brief

Bicyclist found dead on shoulder of Fort Worth road

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP) — Police are investigating after they say a 34-year-old bicyclist was found dead on the shoulder of a Fort Worth road after being struck by an unidentified vehicle.

The Tarrant County medical examiner's office says Jacob Waganer was pronounced dead at the scene early Saturday morning.

Police say they had been dispatched to the scene to respond to an accident.

The medical examiner's office says Waganer died from blunt force injuries to his head and neck, but the manner of death was pending.

Police say Austin officer fatally shot suspect who shot him

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — An Austin police officer fatally shot a car burglary suspect on Sunday who had shot him in the stomach, authorities said. The officer was in stable condition and was alert and in "good spirits," Police Chief Art Acevedo said.

Acevedo said a security guard at a downtown condominium complex saw the suspect breaking into cars. The security guard then began chasing the suspect and the officer, who was in a patrol car, saw the pursuit and called for backup.

When the suspect and the security guard reached the parking lot of a pizza restaurant, the security guard tackled the man to the ground, Acevedo said. The suspect got up and the security guard tackled the man again, Acevedo said.

The police officer then pulled up in his patrol car and got out to help. Acevedo said the officer and the security guard tried to restrain the man, but he was combative. The officer repeatedly yelled for the man to show his hands, but the suspect would not, Acevedo said. The officer radioed for more help.

Acevedo says the suspect then pulled out his pistol and shot the officer in the lower abdomen, below his vest. The officer shot back, and the suspect was declared dead at the scene.

The name of the officer has not yet been released. Acevedo says the suspect hasn't yet been identified.

The officer, an almost 10-year veteran of the police force, will remain in the hospital Sunday night and is on administrative leave with pay per department policy.

Texas universities formulating rules on campus carry of guns

DALLAS (AP) — With concealed carry on campus just a few months away, Texas' public universities have written plans with wide variations on where and how they

will allow people to carry guns.

So-called campus carry goes into effect in August after the Texas Legislature last year voted to require public universities to allow guns carried by licensed adults.

The Dallas Morning News reports that each public university in the state can write specific rules for how concealed carry will work on their campus.

The University of Texas' plan would forbid keeping a bullet in the chamber of a semi-automatic handgun. It would also forbid guns in dormitories. Faculty at the UT-Austin campus will be allowed to ban guns from their individual offices, but not faculty at the University of Texas at Arlington.

Texas Woman's University will allow guns inside family apartments at its Denton campus, but not on the playground outside.

"It doesn't really matter what ... our opinions were, we had to comply with the law," said Elizabeth Pauley, the police chief at Texas Woman's. "I heard a lot of opinions, both pro and con. Then we got down to the nitty-gritty of, 'How do we make this work at TWU.'"

One state university's plan is opposed by state members of the group Students for Concealed Carry. The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston has proposed banning guns from the entirety of any building that has labs with animals or dangerous materials. The university argues it would be onerous to ban guns on specific floors or sections.

Universities have latitude to establish some gun-free zones on campus. But the pending implementation of the law still causes alarm among some people who opposed the change.

At the University of Texas at Dallas, one longtime professor, Murray Leaf, told the newspaper he thought "the emotional impact is greater than the probable actual impact."

But Leaf added that he didn't like the idea of the law possibly stifling academic freedom.

"We're training people to win debates by virtue of facts and reason, not threats," Leaf said.

Fugitive wanted in Oregon killing arrested in Texas

GRANTS PASS, Ore. (AP) — Oregon State Police says a 24-year-old man wanted in connection with the October killing of a southern Oregon man has been arrested in Texas.

Authorities say Marshall McKenna, of Ponder, Texas, was taken into custody Saturday by the U.S. Marshals Service and the Denton County Sheriff's Office, ending a five-month manhunt.

McKenna was lodged in the Webb County Jail in Laredo, Texas. He's the third man arrested in the case.

Authorities have been searching for McKenna since 43-year-old Roger Huntington, of Crescent City, California, was found dead in his SUV near the Lake Selmac boat ramp in Josephine County in October.

Two days later, Oregon State Police arrested 22-year-old Carroll "B.J." Ballard and 20-year-old Blake Sibley on charges of murder and robbery. Both are from Texas.

Court papers show the three robbed Huntington at gunpoint, and McKenna is accused of pulling the trigger.

Lesser prairie chicken population back up

MIDLAND, Texas (AP) — Conservation advocates say the lesser prairie chicken's population was up 25 percent from the year before, eight months after a federal judge ruled the species shouldn't be protected by the Endangered Species Act.

The Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies said in a recent report that the population of the prairie chicken had gone up 25 percent from 2014 to 2015.

The association also said the oil and gas industry had committed \$50 million to preserve the species.

An association official told the Midland Reporter-Telegram that the growth showed the commitment of the industry even as oil prices remain down.

The lesser prairie chicken was once plentiful in the Great Plains, but its population has been nearly wiped out as its habitat has shrunk.

Search called off for teen missing in Gulf of Mexico

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas (AP) — The Coast Guard has called off its search for a 16-year-old North Texas boy who disappeared in choppy waters in the Gulf of Mexico at Corpus Christi.

The boy disappeared Friday morning. The Coast Guard called off its search late Saturday afternoon. The Coast Guard had been searching with a helicopter and a boat.

Coast Guard spokeswoman Lt. j.g. Shelly Brown says the search was suspended "pending any further developments." Though they've suspended the search, she says the Coast Guard practice is to alert other agencies and the public in that area to "keep a sharp eye."

The teen is a ninth-grader in Mansfield, located near Fort Worth. The Mansfield Indepen-

dent School District superintendent has said the teen was in Corpus Christi for the SkillsUSA state competition.

Police: Texas constable's wife shoots him, grandchild

TYLER, Texas (AP) — Police say the wife of an East Texas constable has been charged after her husband and 5-year-old granddaughter were injured in a shooting during a family disturbance.

Tyler police said Sunday that 66-year-old Meraland Taylor Jackson has been charged with two counts of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon family violence. She was jailed on \$500,000 bond Sunday. Jail records didn't list an attorney.

Police say the Saturday shooting was the result of a disturbance between the woman and her husband, Smith County Precinct 1 Constable Henry Jackson. Police say she shot him in the chest and the girl in the ankle.

Henry Jackson and the girl were taken to the hospital. He was in fair condition Sunday. She's been released.

Police haven't said what caused the disturbance.

16-year-old charged in fatal drive-by shooting in Kyle

TYLER, Texas (AP) — Police say the wife of an East Texas constable has been charged after her husband and 5-year-old granddaughter were injured in a shooting during a family disturbance.

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Henry Jackson and the girl were taken to the hospital. He was in fair condition Sunday. She's been released.

Police haven't said what caused the disturbance.

Mother, boyfriend charged in Texas girl's death

GRAND PRAIRIE, Texas (AP) — The boyfriend of a North Texas mother accused in the beating death of her 4-year-old daughter has also been charged in the case.

The Fort Worth Star-Telegram reports 34-year-old Charles Phifer was arrested Friday for injury to a child in the death of Leiliana Wright.

The girl's mother, 30-year-old Jeri Quezada, was arrested March 25 on the same charge.

According to an arrest affidavit, Quezada initially claimed her daughter had fallen in the shower of their Grand Prairie home, but later told investigators she and Phifer hit the girl with a belt and bamboo because the girl drank her little brother's juice, left her tied up in a closet and shoved her against some drywall.

An autopsy revealed the child had extensive bruising and whip marks on her back.

Girlfriend given seven years for shooting Texas retired judge

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas (AP) — The girlfriend of a retired judge has been sentenced to seven years in prison for shooting the elderly jurist last year in their Corpus Christi home.

The Corpus Christi Caller-Times reports 42-year-old Trisha Bos was sentenced on Friday after pleading guilty to a charge of injury to the elderly with a deadly weapon, a first-degree felony.

Authorities said Bos shot retired Judge Jack Hunter in August and then called 911, claiming Hunter had shot himself.

Hunter told police he did not shoot himself and remembers waking up to the sound of a gunshot and felt pain in his face and throat.

Bos and Hunter had dated more than two years and lived together at the time of the shooting.

Hunter spent more than 20 years on the bench.

Blue Bell: Listeria likely spread in Oklahoma plant drainage

BRENNHAM, Texas (AP) — Blue Bell Creameries told federal inspectors that it believes that listeria bacteria spread at its Oklahoma plant through a drainage system, but the company said it couldn't identify a single source of listeria that contaminated equipment at its flagship facility in the Central Texas town of Brenham.

The Texas-based ice cream company revealed the findings in documents sent to the Food and Drug Administration, KXAS-TV in Dallas-Fort Worth reported Friday.

In its filing to the FDA, Blue Bell said cleaned equipment that came into contact with products made at its Broken Arrow, Oklahoma, plant was being stored in a small room with a floor drain. The company said an investigation revealed that particles at the plant may have carried listeria and washed into the building's drainage system, gone through the room's drain and settled on the clean equipment.

"We believe that this mechanism — particles emitted from a drain — was the most likely source of listeria," Blue Bell wrote in the February filing.

The company said it no longer uses the room for equipment storage, and that the drain was removed and the floor replaced.

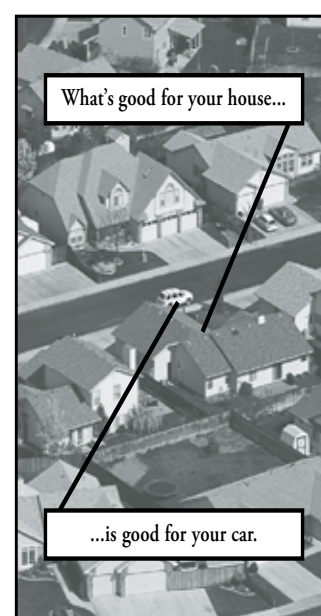
Blue Bell also told the FDA that it believes listeria likely entered its Brenham plant from "various potential sources" and settled on some pieces of equipment, but that investigators "could not identify a single common source of listeria in the facility."

The company said it focused on cleaning affected pieces of equipment or removing it altogether, cleaning and sanitizing the plant and enhancing sanitation procedures and testing programs.

"We believe that these enhanced programs are enabling us to effectively control for listeria in our Brenham facility," Blue Bell said.

Blue Bell also implemented new procedures, facility enhancements and employee training at its Alabama plant.

Last April, Blue Bell recalled its products after its ice cream was linked to 10 listeria cases in four states.



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Steers fall in 12 after 4-run comeback

By DREW WILLIAMS
Sports Editor

The Big Spring Steers (7-12, 2-1) fought their way into extra innings, but lost in 12 to the Snyder Tigers (13-7, 3-0) Saturday, 10-5.

The Steers were down 4-0 going into the bottom of the sixth. Through five, Snyder starter Taylor Munkres had given up just two hits and racked up ten strikeouts, but the Steers would battle back. Anthony Godwin led off the inning with a single, and Riley Henson followed with a single of his own to give the Steers two on with no outs. Aguilar continued the streak of hits with a third straight single, scoring Godwin from second base and moving Henson to third, who eventually scored on an error in the infield. With Big Spring finally on the board and the score 4-2, Preston Alexander notched the Steers' fourth consecutive single, scoring Aguilar and getting the Steers within one.

Munkres gathered himself after allowing twice as many hits in the inning as the prior five innings combined, and struck out Big Spring's Bryson Burt and Dylan Cantu for the first two outs of the inning. Then on an 0-1 count, Elijah Munoz sent a single into right field that scored Alexander and tied the game at four.

With neither team scoring in the seventh, the game went into extra innings. Both teams scored a run in the ninth, and in the 12th inning, Big Spring head coach Bobby Smith had to pull Godwin after throwing 158 pitches in 11 innings. Matthew Tarrats relieved him on the mound, and Snyder welcomed him with seven straight base runners in the form of five singles and two errors. When it was all said and done, the Steers came to the plate down 10-5 in the bottom of the 12th, and went 1-2-3 to end the ball-



Tony Claxton photo (www.claxtonphotography.com)

Big Spring second baseman Dylan Cantu fields a ground ball in Saturday's 10-5 loss to Snyder.

game. "It was an exciting game and we had plenty of chances to win, and we made some mistakes early and you don't really notice those mistakes until the end and you lose," Smith said. "That's been the tale of our season. The games we've lost are because of unearned runs. We fought back and obviously tied it up since it was tied forever, but if we don't make those errors early, then the game's over and it's 4-1 us. It's frustrating, but at the same time, the kids competed to the

end." Regarding Godwin's heavy workload, Smith said he's due for some rest.

"He won't throw again for a while. He'll get probably seven days of rest," he said. "I had to drag him off there off the mound. He wanted to go out there again, and I had to tell him, 'No, I just can't do it. It's not worth it. No game is worth risking an injury.'"

"He's one of those kids that doesn't throw the ball really hard, so 160 pitches for him is a lot different than

a kid that's throwing 100 pitches an hour," Smith continued. "And he was getting stronger as he went, so it's one of those deals where you hate to leave the kid out there just to win the game, but he did an excellent job just like he always does."

Smith said the pitching change wasn't so much the issue as it was bad luck. Tarrats wasn't missing bats, but the Tigers caught some breaks with softly hit balls and the two errors.

See **STEERS**, Page 6



Tony Claxton photo (www.claxtonphotography.com)

Big Spring players and coaches stand with the family of Dylan Lance during a memorial service for their former teammate who died in a car accident last summer. The Steers presented the Lance family with a signed baseball cap that all the players signed. They also presented them with the jersey that Lance would have worn this year.

Lady Steers' bats quiet in 7-2 defeat

By DREW WILLIAMS
Sports Editor

The Big Spring Lady Steers (12-4-1, 3-1) had a case of the "at 'em" balls in Saturday's 7-2 loss to the Snyder Lady Tigers (15-10, 4-0).

Big Spring didn't have a problem making contact with the pitches thrown by Snyder starter Chloe James, but almost all of them were right to Lady Tigers in the field. James finished with only four strikeouts, but the Lady Steers were still only 5-for-27 at the plate.

"We've been doing a lot of that the last couple games. We've got to find some holes," Big Spring head coach Howell Martin said. "We hit a few balls hard today, but we really didn't hit the ball crisp."

Finding holes in the defense is especially important when playing a team as strong on the defensive side of the ball as Snyder is. "They're a good ball club. They've



HERALD photo/Drew Williams

Lady Steers first baseman Mary Gomez swings at a pitch in Saturday's 7-2

got a good pitcher and she did a good job, and they played well behind her. No question about it, they made all the plays," Martin said.

The game was knotted at zero until the bottom of the third inning when

the Lady Tigers scored four runs. Snyder's Megan Leatherwood doubled to lead off the inning, and two batters later she was driven home on a single by

See **SOFTBALL**, Page 6

NMMI ends 38-game losing streak vs. Howard

By DREW WILLIAMS
Sports Editor

The Howard Hawks (18-17, 9-7) split their weekend series with the New Mexico Military Institute after winning the opener and finale, and dropping the two games in between.

"We won the two games we played error-free baseball, and we lost the two games where we just played terrible," Howard head coach Britt Smith said.

The Hawks won the first game 11-3, dropped the next two 16-8 and 4-3 and won the last game 12-4.

"We had a 38-game winning streak against them coming into the series, and hadn't lost to them since 2007," Smith said. "And they're not bad, but they're just ok. And when we play bad it doesn't matter who we're play-

See **HAWKS**, Page 6

Roy Williams could join coaching royalty with another title

By JIM O'CONNELL

AP Basketball Writer
HOUSTON (AP) — North Carolina is one win from a sixth national championship. Roy Williams is one win from joining coaching royalty.

Only five men have won more than two national championships. All are in the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame and immediately recognizable to college basketball fans.

A win Monday night over Villanova would vault Williams, who won titles in 2005 and 2009, into the group that includes John Wooden (10), Mike Krzyzewski (5), Adolph Rupp (4), Bob Knight (3) and Jim Calhoun (3).

"I've never had that thought. I really haven't," Williams said

Sunday of moving up the title list. "You know, that's company that is off the charts. But what I'd really, really love is for these guys ... to get their first one. That would mean a heck of a lot more to me than any of that other stuff."

Williams, who will coach in his fifth national championship game — third with the Tar Heels — has always projected humility during a 28-year coaching career at Kansas and North Carolina that landed him in the Hall of Fame in 2007.

Marcus Paige, North Carolina's senior guard who gave a moving speech on senior night that had Williams in tears, knows his coach well.

"He probably spends zero time thinking about his legacy and

stuff like that," Paige said Sunday. "That's just the kind of guy he is. He loves coaching his team and he puts all his time and his effort and his thought into how he can help us."

The players have been thinking about it, though.

"By that same token, I think us winning a championship for him kind of vaults him into that next stratosphere of coaches when you look at the big picture, when you look at accolades," Paige said. "You know, comparing Hall of Fame coaches, there's not that many that have three."

"I think it would be very special to kind of get him up on a whole 'nother level. Even though he probably won't even think about it that way."

One thing that has

been special to Williams is that his two titles has him tied him with his mentor, former North Carolina coach Dean Smith. Even with a win, he wouldn't consider himself better than his former boss.

"He was a heck of a lot better. I really believe that," said Williams, who passed Smith for NCAA Tournament games coached with 93 with the semifinal win over Syracuse said.

"Sometimes I try to be humble, all this stuff that people think is nice. I don't think I'm in the same league with Coach Smith, and I never will," he said.

The last person to join the exclusive triple title coaching club was Jim Calhoun, who won his third national championship at Connecticut in 2011.



AP photo

UConn one win away from completing four-peat

By DOUG FEINBERG

AP Basketball Writer

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Breanna Stewart and UConn are one victory away from accomplishing their ultimate goal — a fourth straight national championship.

To achieve that unprecedented feat, Stewart and the Huskies will have to beat Syracuse, her hometown team.

"Growing up in Syracuse, I thought about it, going there. Who wouldn't? Who wouldn't think about going to the hometown school and that stuff?" she said.

And she's been great for UConn. A victory Tuesday would give coach Geno Auriemma 11 national championships, moving him past UCLA men's coach John Wooden for the most in NCAA basketball history.

Auriemma referred to stand-out seniors Stewart, Moriah Jefferson and Morgan Tuck as he looked toward the title game.

"I don't know what I can do to help them except keep reminding them all the time, 'This is your spot, you've owned this spot for the last three years,'" the Hall of Fame coach said.

"Now there's no guarantee you're going to get it Tuesday night, but we're not going in there Tuesday night hoping we win. Because these three (players) they've done more than that, it doesn't mean we're going to win, but I don't have to help them with that mentality."

While the Huskies are no stranger to the title game, Syracuse is a newcomer. The Orange have been on an unexpected run



Connecticut head coach Geno Auriemma watches during college basketball practice at the women's Final Four in the NCAA Tournament Saturday, April 2, 2016, in Indianapolis. (AP Photo/Michael Conroy)

in the NCAA Tournament. The fourth-seeded team had never gotten out of the opening weekend of the tournament before this season. Now they'll have the monumental task of spoiling UConn's coronation.

The former Big East teams met at least once a season before the Orange went to the ACC in 2013. They haven't played since they left.

Since UConn won the first of its

11 championships in 1995, Syracuse hasn't had much success. The Orange lost the final 23 meetings with Syracuse's last victory coming in 1996.

"We have a chance on Tuesday night to play against the best team in the country, to play against a dynasty and play against a team that really forgot how to lose," Syracuse coach Quentin Hillsman said. "That's an amazing thing, to forget how to lose. I want to do that."

SOFTBALL

Continued from Page 5

Hailey Morris. Two more singles with a groundout mixed in between them gave Snyder a bases loaded chance with two outs, and Alyssa Benitez came through with a double that took a bad hop past Big Spring left fielder Jaci Aguilar, allowing all three base runners to score.

Big Spring drew a little closer at 5-2 with RBI doubles from Ashley Gonzales and Mia Oliva in the fourth and sixth innings, respectively, but a two-run bottom of the sixth inning from Snyder and a scoreless seventh from the Lady

Steers cemented the 7-2 final score.

"We were close. A couple things here and there, they got a big hit in big situations and kind of broke it open a little bit, but we've just got to be a little better," Martin said.

The Lady Steers will take on the Sweetwater Lady Mustangs (10-6-3, 1-2) at 5 p.m. Tuesday in Sweetwater in a game that Big Spring hopes ends with a different result than their previous meeting this year.

"We just have to go get the next one," Martin said. "Sweetwater has beat us already this year, so we've got to be ready for them. We can't do anything about this one now, but we've got to take care of the next one and bounce back and go get them Tuesday. It's going to be a battle."



HERALD photo/Drew Williams

Lady Steers pitcher Yzzy Soliz throws a pitch during Saturday's 7-2 loss to Snyder. She struck out four, and added a double at the plate.

Rangers, Mariners both dealing with 'firsts' on opening day

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — Seattle's Scott Servais will soon be where Jeff Banister was with Texas as a year ago — making his debut as a big league manager and hoping to lift a team with questions back into contention.

Banister's advice when they face each other on opening day in Texas on Monday was simple.

"Exhale," Banister said. "Enjoy it. It'll be a flash and memory."

Servais will send ace Felix Hernandez to the mound for his eighth straight opening day start and ninth overall for the Mariners, who have the longest playoff drought in baseball at 14 seasons.

Seattle has won all eight openers started by Hernandez, with the soon-to-be 30-year-old right-hander going 6-0 with a 1.49 ERA.

"A lot of firsts are about to happen," Servais said. "I've never managed a major league game. There are some things that are going to continue to evolve in how I handle the game, but as far as my dealing with players and our team, I think it's been very consistent, I think very transparent."

There will be a first for Banister, too. He is starting Cole Hamels, acquired in a trade-deadline deal last July that was made with an eye on the future but ended up boosting the present. The Rangers made a surprising run to the AL West banner, which will be raised before the opener.

The left-hander has been battling cold and allergy symptoms in recent days but expects to take the mound for his third opening-day start. The other two were with Philadelphia, where he spent his first nine-plus seasons. Hernandez and Hamels have the most combined opening-day starts among pitchers matched in this year's openers, according to STATS.

"Felix and I have been in the big leagues about the same amount of time," Hamels said. "We've kind of had the same kind of repertoire. I've always looked at him as one of the best pitchers in the game and somebody you want to face in big games. That's what makes the enjoyment for the fans and for us."

STEERS

Continued from Page 5

"When we made the pitching change, they got a couple of runners on just on little dinkers. They didn't hit the ball hard at all, that's just the way baseball goes sometimes. Sometimes the ball doesn't bounce your way," Smith said.

On top of the impressive performance on the mound, Godwin was also 6-for-6 at the plate with two doubles and two runs scored. Aguilar also contrib-

uted with a 2-for-5 day with three RBIs and a run scored.

"We faced probably the best pitcher that we've faced all year long. He threw the ball hard and I thought we did well as a whole, but there were plenty of times where we had chances to execute and we didn't get that done, and if we get that done on the offensive side, we win the game," Smith said.

The Steers will look to bounce back when they take on the Sweetwater Mustangs at 7 p.m. in Sweetwater.

HAWKS

Continued from Page 5

ing. There's games where Big Spring little league could beat us."

After the offense hit .452 and was backed by a solid start from pitcher Jose Quezada in the first game, Howard was run-ruled in the second game on Saturday when NMMI scored in the bottom of the eighth inning to go up 16-8. Howard starting pitcher Parker Towns went four in-

nings, giving up five runs, though only two were earned. The bullpen was an issue as they gave up 10 earned runs in 3.2 innings.

"Parker wasn't bad. He had a decent start, and only gave up two earned runs," Smith said. "Then we're bad in the field, and our bullpen was atrocious yesterday, I mean absolutely terrible. They come in and give up 12 runs and can't throw a strike, so it was bad. And it's the same old stuff. Dropped fly balls, can't play catch around the infield, missing cutoff men,

can't field a ball cleanly in the outfield."

It was the offense that let the Hawks down in the third game when they fell 4-3. James Davison went 3-for-4 out of the leadoff spot, but the other eight batters combined to go 4-for-23 throughout the game. Starting pitcher Tyler Giovanoni pitched the complete game, giving up one earned run and striking out five.

"We were bad. We took bad at-bats, we didn't move runners, we didn't score guys from third with less than two

outs. And we only gave up one earned run and get beat 4-3, so it's the same stuff," Smith said. "We pitched it really well today. Giovanoni threw fine and should have won the game."

The Hawks came back to win the finale in the same fashion they won the series opener. Davison hit two home runs, and Dominic Thornton and Jackson Owens each added one of their own in the 12-4 win. Davison finished 3-for-6 with four RBIs and two runs scored, and the bottom five in the order combined to go 10-

for-23.

Hunter Hill, who had worked his way into a starting role in left field, remains sidelined with a hamstring injury and didn't travel with the team.

"Nothing came away from the bone, but it's still a ways from being healthy. He's still probably a minimum two weeks away from being able to do anything," Smith said.

The Hawks will take on New Mexico Junior College in a doubleheader starting at 1 p.m. Friday at Jack Barber Field at Howard College.

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Public Notice

ATTEMPT TO LOCATE

Owner of 2015 Freightliner, LP# ILL P863887, State of Illinois, VIN#3AKJGLD52FSGK1044 being held at Paige Towing Yard 5305 N Service Rd Big Spring, Tx 79720 since 11/19/2015. Contact Matthew Dahmer at 432-230-1354

#9009 March 24-April 4, 2016

CGG is performing a seismic survey within the City of Big Spring and surrounding areas. This will involve surveying, placing sensors on permitted properties, and utilizing vibroseis trucks on City streets. All personnel will be wearing hard hats and orange vests, and will be from either Pathfinder Navigation or Geokinetics. We will have third party monitoring to ensure minimal impact from our operations.

Public Notice

This is a CGG sponsored activity, and any questions or concerns should be addressed to our local office at 210 West 3rd St, Big Spring, Texas. Our local phone number is 432-271-2577.

#9011 March 25 - April 14, 2016

NOTICE FOR SURFACE COMMINGLE PERMIT

Apache Corporation seeks to surface commingle oil and condensate production from the Abrams (46385), Kloh ETAL (41524), Gilbreath, S. (46360) and Phillips, H. (46386) leases in the Howard Glasscock (Consolidated) field. All of the wells involved are in Howard Glasscock (Consolidated) field and are located in Howard County in Railroad Commission of Texas District 08. Production will be allocated by well tests. Any questions or concerns should be referred to Sandra Belt, Sr. Regulatory Analyst, at 303 Veterans Airpark Ln., Midland Texas 79705 or call (432) 818-1962.

LEGAL AUTHORITY:

SWR 26 of the Oil and Gas Division of the Railroad Commission of Texas. Pursuant to the terms of SWR 26, this application may be granted administratively if no protest to the application is received within 21 days of the date of the last publication. If you have any questions regarding the protest procedure, please contact the Railroad Commission at (512) 463-6848 or in writing within 21 days to the Railroad Commission of Texas Oil and Gas Division, P O Box 12967, Capitol Station, Austin, TX 78711-2967.

#9014 March 27 - April 22, 2016

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1010 B Nolan. New duplex. Two 2 bed/2 bath w/kitchen appliances. No bills paid \$975/month, \$500/dep. Call 432-267-7449 or 432-634-8101

107 East 25th St. 3 bedroom, 1 bath. Stove, refrigerator, washer/dryer. No smoking/no pets. References required. \$1,000/month, \$1,000/dep. Call 432-213-2319

1200 Sheppard St. 2 bed, 1 bath. \$750/month, \$300/dep. 6 month lease. No pets. Text or call 785-462-5570

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Legals

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR EXCEPTION TO SWR 26/27 SURFACE COMMINGLING PERMIT

Notice is hereby given that Diamondback E&P LLC (RRC P-5 # 217012) is filing with the Texas Railroad Commission the following P-17 Application for the exception to SWR 26 and/or 27 to surface commingle oil and casinghead gas production from leases: Target B 3905WB (DP #811806) and Target D 3904WB (DP #811832). All wells are in the Spraberry (Trend Area) Field in Glasscock County, Texas. This application is for off lease storage, common separation, common storage and casinghead gas metering by allocation by well test. Production will be allocated by W-10 Tests. Any royalty or working interest owners or offset operators who have not received written notification, please consider this your Notice of Application. If you have objections to the issuance of this permit, you may submit a letter to P-17 Department, Railroad Commission of Texas, P. O. Box 12967, Austin, Texas 78711. Unless the Railroad Commission receives a protest to this application, the Commission may issue a permit within 21 days following the date of last publication.

#9019 April 4, 11, 18, & 25, 2016

Signs of Spring

Signs of spring are all over. Find these specific signs and circle the words.



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

- Budding trees
- Caterpillars
- Chipmunks
- Flowers blooming
- Ice melting

- Kites
- Lawnmower sounds
- Lilacs
- Longer days
- Nesting

- Robins
- Sandhill cranes
- Showers
- Singing birds
- Snow gone

- Softball
- Turkeys calling
- Warmer weather
- Windows open
- Woodcock dance

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

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HERALD

Tomorrow's Horoscope



Pisces Moon Query

The creative Pisces moon poses the question, "Is all the decorum

HOLIDAY MATHIS

really necessary?" Some of the best dreams are silly, embarrassing and/or very likely to be, if realized, completely misunderstood by most people. Those brave enough to move forward with these kinds of dreams will be satisfied many times over.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You have many ways to deal with your fear: Push it down; face it; punch it; ignore it; dance with it. It really doesn't matter which route you choose now. The point is you are driven more strongly by your curiosity.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Children can feel extreme joy without knowing enough to appreciate the value of it. The happiness you feel today will be made richer by your knowledge of

its rarity.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Your friend is a mass of contradictions; it's true. And this same friend points out the contradictions in you. It's a complementary relationship that works in spite of, or perhaps because of, said contradictions.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). The project of the day reflects your values, although not directly: Your current tendency is to get involved in the thing that matters greatly to someone else. This is a testament to the value you place on relationships.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Presentation sets tone and tone dictates how the scene unfolds. Your attention to aesthetics will matter and make a difference that's immediately felt by all -- but noted by few.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You're too savvy not to notice when people are saying something that clashes with what they really mean. You'll not only notice; you'll make a plan based on what you feel

is true (rather than what someone says is true).

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). In three months you'll be someone different from who you are now, and it can all be traced back to what you choose to learn about. Focus on the disciplines that truly light up your brain -- not the ones you think you "should" know.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Because you know someone so well, you can act as a buffer between this person and the harsh realities of the world. This is a sweet gift that you offer, but you're also walking the fine line of codependency.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Loved ones can be clueless about showing you love. Right now they feel like they're stabbing in the dark for ways to please you. They'll get it eventually. Be encouraging and enthusiastic over whatever efforts they make.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Your best work is neither behind nor ahead of you. Your best work is the work you're giving your all to

now. When the moment is past, your best work is the new moment. Stop judging it. You're always doing your best.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Over-thinking is always a danger for people intellectually gifted like you. A situation that is more about feelings will enter your world and boot you right out of an unhelpful thinking loop. Intense attraction will be part of this.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). As far as your love life goes, a certain choice you made may have been mistaken, but choosing was not. There's enough that's right in this situation. If you build on the positive, there can be a lot of stability in this.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (April 4). Your generous mood continues this year. You'll give more than you thought was possible and still have much more left to give. The next seven weeks will bring many invitations, and you'd be wise to say yes to as many as possible. June shows you making a commitment you'll be celebrat-

ing for years to come. Cancer and Virgo adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 4, 11, 33, 22 and 16.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS: "Do you have any tips for dealing with my Cancer father-in-law? He's very demanding of my attention lately, and I resent the way he bosses me around, commandeers the conversation and is generally needy. I have three children to care for and it's nearly impossible to do when he's around, because he acts like a child himself. My husband is often not around to manage him and it all falls on me. I'm a Virgo."

Perhaps your father-in-law is going through something difficult in his life and his acting out is a way of getting the care and attention he needs. He may be sick, lonely or afraid of growing old. Even though you are tapped to the max, this man is your family and a conscientious Virgo is not going to feel good about herself later knowing that she turned away her husband's

father. So take a breather. Get your bearings. And then go back to the situation with an open heart. When a sensitive Cancer senses your reluctance to tend to him it only makes him behave worse. Recognize his need, and help him out with a glad heart.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: On the heels of his preview mixtape "This is Not the Album," Austin Mahone fans anxiously await his album's debut next month. The YouTube-star-turned-concert-headliner came up in a Bieber-esque fashion, and the public details of his love life follow suit. Mahone has his natal sun, Mercury and Mars in energetic Aries, indicating the megawatt energy and charisma needed for pop stardom.

To write to Holiday Mathis, visit www.creators.com and click "Write the Author" on her page.
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Annie's Mailbox

Dear Annie: I am a 12-year-old boy, and I hate my life. I am the youngest of five, but there is a huge age difference. My siblings are aged 29 to 35. My parents are in their mid-50s.

My parents didn't plan me and I'm tired of being constantly told that I am the family "mistake." It's like a big joke to them. People always think I am my parent's grandson. My mom seems happy to tell them, "No, he's our son and obviously he was a mistake." It makes me feel small and embarrassed.

I think I'm a good kid. I get straight A's and I always help around the house. I have told my parents that it hurts my feelings, but they laugh it off and say it's just an expression and I am too sensitive. Most of my siblings are worse. They like to bully and make fun of me. My oldest

sister blames me whenever Mom or Dad have a health issue, saying it's hard on them to deal with a young child at their age.

The only sibling I have who likes me is my single 29-year-old brother. He always defends me and likes spending time with me. I have this fantasy that he will adopt me and let me move in with him, but I know that's unrealistic.

How I can get my family to stop being so mean to me? They don't seem to hear anything I say. -- The Family Mistake

Dear Family: No one likes to be constantly teased. But your parents were undoubtedly teased about the age gap of their children, and they responded by turning it into a joke. You believe it reflects poorly on you, when it's really about them. Surely your parents know that lots of

people in their 50s have kids your age and they do just fine.

Your parents and siblings have fallen into a pattern of treating you poorly. If your brother cannot get your parents to rethink their behavior, please talk to your school counselor, favorite teacher or coach, your grandparents, aunts, uncles or a sympathetic family friend. You need an adult to advocate for you and talk to your parents on your behalf.

Dear Annie: I read the letter from "Stymied Husband" who wants to go for counseling with his wife in order to regain intimacy. She thinks it means he wants a divorce.

Counselors have gotten a bad rap. As with any professional, you should interview them and get references. It saddens me that society has made counseling

a shameful thing, when really, it is just there to help you. To what degree depends on your willingness to accept your responsibility and do your part. My husband and I have been married 30 years and have been to counseling off and on for 25 of them. We consider it a tuneup.

Hopefully "Stymied" can get his wife to see a counselor as a "life coach" rather than a "divorce coach." -- Thankful for Our Life Coach

Dear Thankful: You are absolutely right. Readers often take us to task for recommending counseling, believing that we should be able to give a line or two of pithy advice to solve all problems. That may work for which way to hang the toilet paper, but it doesn't work for complicated issues involving intimacy and trust.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please email your questions to anniesmailbox@creators.com, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 737 3rd Street, Hermosa Beach, CA 90254. You can also find Annie on Facebook at [Facebook.com/AskAnnies](https://www.facebook.com/AskAnnies). To find out more about Annie's Mailbox and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.
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sudoku

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

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

www.sudoku-puzzles.net

Spring

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

★★★★★

This is zigzag word search puzzle. Words go left, right, up, down, not diagonally, and can bend at a right angle. There are no unused letters in the grid, every letter is used only once.

Grid size: 10 x 10 squares, 10 x 10 letters, 90 x 90 mm.

Square size: 9 x 9 mm.

ANSWER:



- Find all the words from the word list (ignore spaces and dashes):
- APRIL
 - BIRDHOUSE
 - BLOSSOM
 - BLUE SKY
 - FRESHNESS
 - GARDEN
 - GREEN GRASS
 - MARCH
 - MAY
 - NESTLINGS
 - SEEDS
 - SOWING
 - SUNLIGHT
 - YOUNG GROWTH

Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

Famous Hand

North dealer. Neither side vulnerable.

NORTH
 ♠ A Q
 ♥ 8 6 2
 ♦ K 10 8 4
 ♣ Q J 4 3

EAST
 ♠ K 10 9 6 5 4 2
 ♥ K J
 ♦ 5
 ♣ 10 9 6

SOUTH
 ♠ 8 7
 ♥ A 10
 ♦ A Q 6 3 2
 ♣ A K 8

The bidding:
 North East South West
 Pass 3♦ Dble Pass
 4♦ Pass 4♦ Pass
 5♦

Opening lead — ace of spades.

An unheralded team from Russia defeated a highly favored United States team in a 96-deal match to win the 2004 World Women's Bridge Olympiad. Throughout the course of the event, the Russians — Olga Galaktionova, Victoria Gromova, Natalia Karpenko, Maria Lebedeva, Tatiana Ponomareva and Irina Vasilkova — established a pattern in their matches of falling behind early and then storming back to win.

It was no different in the final. After the Americans — Marinisa Letizia, Jill Meyers, Randi Montin, Janice Seamon-Molson, Tobi Sokolow and Carlyn Steiner — had assumed a 57-IMP lead over the first 32 boards, the Russians staged another rally to take the lead. Today's deal occurred shortly after the Russians had moved in front for good.

When a U.S. pair sat East-West, the bidding went as shown. After East's three-spade bid, Gromova-Ponomareva reached the laydown game in diamonds to score +400.

At the other table, the Russian East opened with two diamonds, indicating a weak two-bid in either major. Montin, South, could have passed to await developments, but she bid two notrump to show her point count and at the same time make it more difficult for West to find out what East's real suit was. Meyers then raised to three notrump.

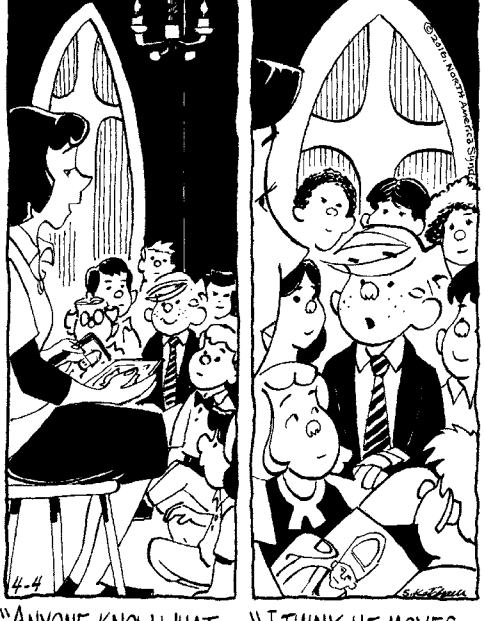
Galaktionova, West, could tell from her own hand that hearts was not her partner's suit. So she led the A-Q of spades, East overtaking the queen and running her spades to defeat the contract three tricks. This, plus the 400 points gained at the other table, gave the Russians an 11-IMP pickup to move them even further ahead in the match.

Tomorrow: Plan ahead.
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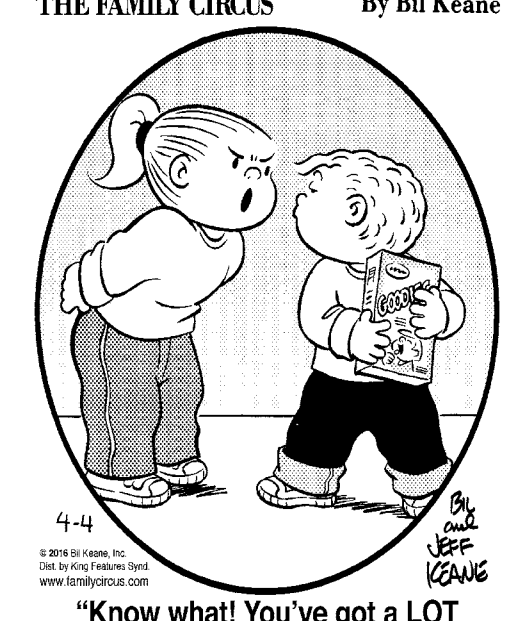
	KMID (3) Midland	UNI (4) Spanish	KPEJ (5) Odessa	KOSA (7) Odessa	KTLE (8) Telemundo	KWES (9) Midland	KMLM (12) Odessa	KPBT (13) Odessa	KWWT (14) Odessa	KWES2 (15) Midland	WTBS (33) Atlanta	TNT (34) Atlanta	ESPN (35) Sports	ESPN2 (36) Sports	FSN (38) Sports	USA (55) New York	A&E (58) New York	DISC (60) Discovery	
5:PM	Local 2	Hotel	Big Bang	News	Tele	News	Uri Harel	Over	Mama's	American	Fam. Guy	(:20) Movie:		SportsCenter			NCIS (DVS)	The First 48	Street Out-laws
6:PM	Jeopardy!	Un Camino hacia el	Mod Fam	News	Caso Cer-rado	News	McDonald	PBS News-Hour	M*A*S*H	Fam. Guy	NCAA	Iron Man 2, Don Cheadle	MLB Baseball: Los Angeles Dodgers at San Diego Padres.	College GameDay	Rangers Sportsday	Mod Fam	The First 48	Street Out-laws	
7:PM	Dancing With the Stars	Sueño de Amor	Gotham (DVS)	Big Bang	¿Quién es quién?	The Voice	Upd	Antiques Roadshow	Griffith	iZombie	2016 NCAA Basketball Tournament		NFL Live	MLB Base-ball: Seattle Mariners at Texas Rang-ers.	WWE Mon-day Night RAW	The First 48	Street Out-laws: Full		
8:PM	(:01) Castle	El Hotel de los	News	NCIS: Los Angeles	El Señor de los	(:01) Blindspot		Independent Lens	Heroes	Seinfeld	NCAA National Championship Team Stream		SportCtr Shorts	MLB Base-ball: Chicago Cubs at Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim.	In My Own Words	Chrisley	(:02) The First 48	Street Out-laws	
9:PM	Local 2	Impacto	Broke Girl	News	Tele	News	House	Mani	C. Burnett	Cougar			SportsCenter			Chrisley	(:02) The First 48	Street Out-laws	
10:PM	Jimmy Kimmel Live	Contacto	Two Men	Late Show-Colbert	Titulares	Tonight Show	Rocks	World	Perry Mason	Raising	Inside	Animal Kingdom			World Poker Tour	(:06) Movie: The Bounty Hunter (DVS)	(:01) The First 48	Misfit Garage	
11:PM	Nightline	Deportivo	How I Met	James Corden	Eva la Trailera (SS)	Seth Meyers	Yohanan	T. Smiley	Twi. Zone	Commun	Conan	(:25) Movie: The Book of Eli, Milla Kunis (DVS)	SportsCenter	Baseball Tonight	Red Bull: Air Race		(:02) Damien	Street Out-laws	
12:AM	Extra	Corazón indomable	Friends	Insider	Pagado	(:08) Today	Light of the Southwest		Kojak	King	Conan		SportsCenter	MLB Baseball: Mariners at	Spotlight	Chrisley	(:02) Damien	Street Out-laws	
1:AM	Paid	P. Luche	Law Order: CI	ET	Pagado														

DENNIS THE MENACE



"ANYONE KNOW WHAT A BISHOP DOES?" "I THINK HE MOVES DIAGONALLY."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"Know what! You've got a LOT of growin' up to do!"

HAGAR



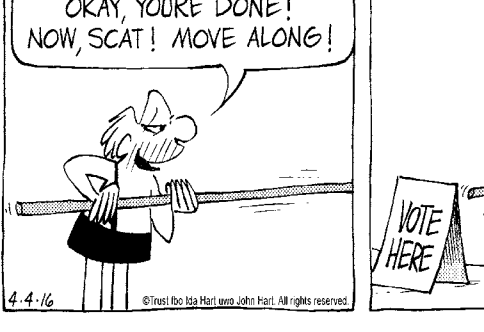
GIVE US YOUR GOLD! WE HAVE COME WITH RAZOR-SHARP SWORDS!

BLONDIE



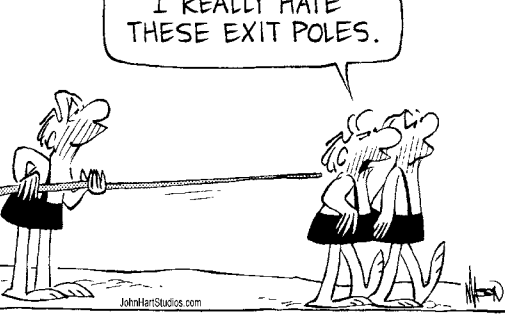
WHAT'S THIS? IT'S A GOOD LUCK CHARM A NEIGHBORHOOD KID GAVE ME TO WARD OFF EVIL SPIRITS

BC



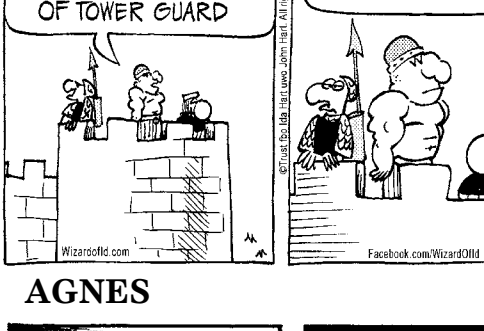
OKAY, YOU'RE DONE! NOW, SCAT! MOVE ALONG!

WIZARD OF ID



I REALLY HATE THESE EXIT POLES.

AGNES



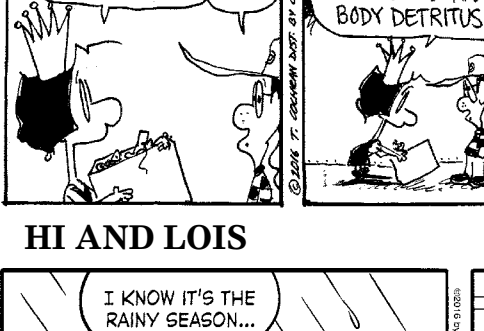
SIRE, I'D LIKE TO TRY OUT FOR THE POSITION OF TOWER GUARD

HI AND LOIS



I KNOW IT'S THE RAINY SEASON...

THE OTHER COAST



WHY WHALES BEACH THEMSELVES

SNUFFY SMITH



'CUZ I FERGOT I EVEN ORDERED IT !!

BEEBLE BAILEY



REMEMBER, BEEBLE, THE JOURNEY OF LIFE BEGINS WITH A SINGLE STEP

Newsday Crossword

ACROSS

1 ___ Sir or Madam . . .

5 Genie's offering

9 ___ yet (so far)

13 Casablanca or Star Wars

14 "That's all there ___ it!"

15 Medicinal amount

16 All around the countryside

19 Writing utensil

20 Walk inside

21 Italian coins

22 Movers' trucks

23 Recipe amount: Abbr.

25 Mixes with a spoon

27 Onionlike veggie

28 Point opposite ENE

31 Spiny houseplants

32 Club ___ (bar mixer)

33 Fortune-teller

34 "Confidentially . . ."

37 Spelling contests

38 College official

39 Start eating

40 24-hr. bank device

41 Genuine

42 Sees socially

43 Bop on the head

44 Grocery sacks

45 Big commotion

48 Hotel's deluxe booking

50 Mined rock

53 Well secured

56 Prescriptions, for short

57 Christmas season

DOWN

1 Cooing bird

2 ___ so (nevertheless)

3 Beach-ball filler

4 Practice for a concert

5 Droops, as flowers

6 Spot of land in the ocean

7 Began, as a project

8 Sweetie

9 Find the sum of

10 Fly like an eagle

11 Capital of Norway

12 Service charges

13 Floor-washing implement

17 Rural hotels

18 Classroom furniture

22 Gets a look at

24 Boyfriend

25 Frozen rain

26 Indian carving

27 Faithful

28 Pie slice

29 Next-to-last

30 Tourney rounds

31 Mamma Mia! singing group

32 Leaves without being seen

33 Fits of anger

35 Biblical garden

36 Company creating commercials

41 Lion sound

42 Computer input

43 Pirate's treasure holder

44 Two-wheelers

45 Camel feature

46 Change for a \$5 bill

47 Racetrack postings

49 West Coast school: Abbr.

50 Creole veggie

51 Races, as an engine

52 Hurricane center

54 Drain-cleaning chemical

55 Scheduled to arrive

This Date In History

Today is Monday, April 4, the 95th day of 2016. There are 271 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On April 4, 1968, civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr., 39, was shot and killed while standing on a balcony of the Lorraine Motel in Memphis, Tennessee.

On this date:

In 1818, Congress decided the flag of the United States would consist of 13 red and white stripes and 20 stars, with a new star to be added for every new state of the Union.

In 1841, President William Henry Harrison succumbed to pneumonia one month after his inaugural, becoming the first U.S. chief executive to die in office.

In 1850, the city of Los Angeles was incorporated.

In 1859, "Dixie" was performed publicly for the first time by Bryant's Minstrels at Mechanics' Hall in New York.

In 1865, President Abraham Lincoln, accompanied by his son Tad, visited the vanquished Confederate capital of Richmond, Virginia, where he was greeted by a crowd that included former slaves.

POSITIONAL PAIRS

by Gail Grabowski
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ed with Heinz's plane over a schoolyard in Merion, Pennsylvania.

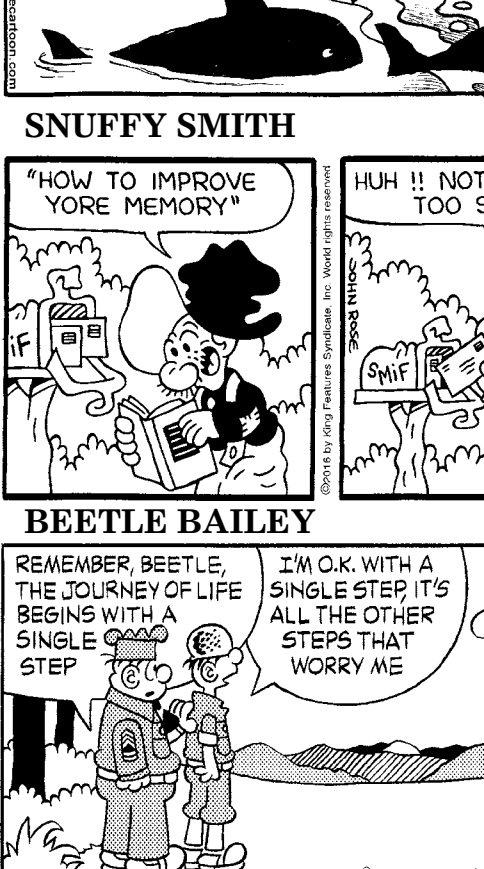
Ten years ago: The Iraq tribunal announced new criminal charges against Saddam Hussein and six others, accusing them of genocide and crimes against humanity stemming from a 1980s crackdown against Kurds. Denis Donaldson, a former Sinn Fein (shin fayn) official recently exposed as a British spy, was found fatally shot at his home in County Donegal, Ireland.

Thought for Today:
"The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy."
Martin Luther King Junior
1929-1968

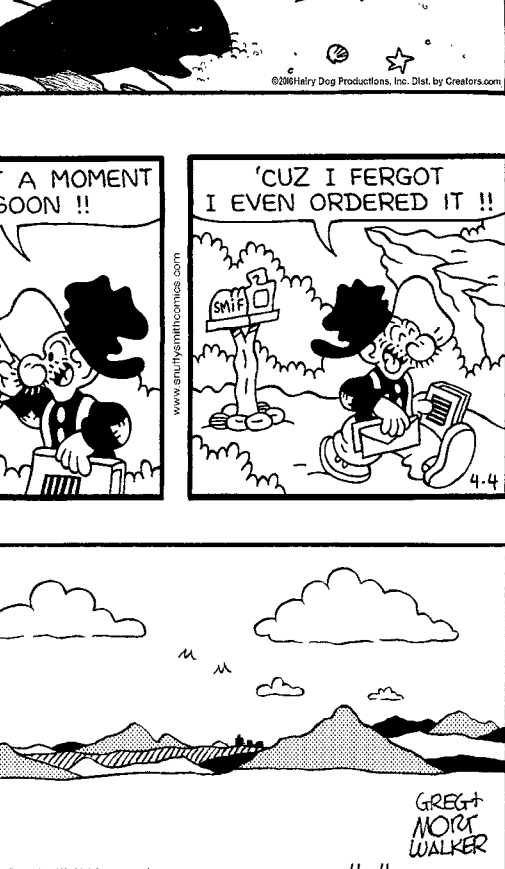
Answer to previous puzzle

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

BEETLE BAILEY



BEETLE BAILEY



REMEMBER, BEEBLE, THE JOURNEY OF LIFE BEGINS WITH A SINGLE STEP

COM Aquatics: A building for the future

By AUDRIE PALMER

Associated Press

MIDLAND - Walking into the new \$9.5 million FMH Foundation Natatorium, the first word that comes to mind to describe the 50-meter pool is "majestic." The water is crystal clear, the pool is enormous and the building is immaculate. Right away, you can tell that this new center is going to change the swimming scene in Midland.

Depending on how markers are set up for competition, there are 10 50-meter lanes or 22 25-yard lanes, COM Aquatics Executive Director Brad Swendig said during a recent tour. The stadium bleachers can seat up to 800 people and extend to three levels. The entire length of the pool can be viewed from any seat. There are separate bathrooms for swimmers and spectators, locker rooms, a multi-purpose room, office spaces, a wheelchair-accessible elevator and kitchen area for concessions or to be rented out for parties.

The front of the building houses a warm-up pool separate from the Olympic-size pool with three waterfalls that cascade down. A new courtyard was designed in the alley between the new and existing buildings to provide landscaping and a view for spectators and swimmers. Swendig said the staff hopes to have music and food trucks to provide a fun experience during meets.

The natatorium's dedication is planned for April 7-9 with a ribbon-cutting, pool party and swimming competition to give everyone a chance to see the new facility at 3003 N. "A" St., and to thank the community for investing in it.

COM Aquatics can now host small division competitions, meets and championships. While they had hoped to have the natatorium finished sooner, the building environment in Midland delayed construction, Swendig said.

"It went a lot slower than expected, but we got a better product in the end," he said.

NO SPACE TO GROW

The No. 1 reason this pool was built is because there is not a 50-meter pool available for competition, Swendig said. Last summer, the city renovated Doug Russell's 50-meter pool into a water park for families.

"This allows us to have a competitive program. Without it, we almost couldn't hold events or continue to bring competitions to Midland for the kids," he said.

COM Aquatics had reached its limit last year between swimming and diving lessons, and, with-

out the new facility, there was really no space for the nonprofit to grow, Swendig said. There already was a restriction in the number of swimmers on the high school teams and in age group divisions.

"There should not be a point where those kids are not allowed to participate," he said.

The University of Texas of the Permian Basin has an outdoor 50-meter pool that is used during the warmer months, but between November and February, the students swim at COM. And for those who want to swim for leisure or fitness, there can sometimes be limited time for pool use.

"The lap swimmers get the bad deal. They get the leftover space, and it's always difficult when the lanes fill up," Swendig said.

This expansion should give lap swimmers more time in the water and should provide more lanes all day in one of the available pools. The new natatorium will solve space issues, as well as water temperature problems, he said. Lap swimmers prefer that the water be cooler in the Abell-Hanger pool, which can be uncomfortable for divers, Swendig said. Not only will the new pool enable the lap swimming program to grow, but more focus can be placed on the diving program.

GROWING THE PROGRAMS

Monica Tucker (nee Stroman) began swimming at COM Aquatics in 1986 when she was in the third grade after her family moved from the Dallas area. The skills she learned and dedication to the sport she acquired at COM allowed her to swim on the Lee High School team and at Texas A&M University, where she graduated in 2000.

"Swimming took me places I would have never gone," she said. "I did it for so long, and I have a huge appreciation for it."

Tucker qualified for the Olympic trials in 1996. But because the trials were held in a 50-meter pool and COM had only a 25-yard pool for her to practice in, she was at a huge disadvantage, she said.

"It was a good experience. I just went to swim and to see what would happen," she said recently. "(Swimming) made me who I am. It taught me to be focused and committed and not to do something halfway. That carried over into my school studies and then into work and now as a mom."

While she didn't qualify for the U.S. team, she finished the trials in the middle of the pack of competitors. She hopes the new facility and pool will give today's swimmers what they need to qualify for future trials.

Swendig said that's exactly what they are hoping for, as well. Another COM swimmer, Natalie

Hinds, swims for the University of Florida and has a good chance of making the U.S. team for the 2016 Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, Swendig said.

Hinds, who was featured in a February issue of Sports Illustrated, attended the U.S. Olympic Swimming Trials in Omaha in 2012. While she didn't make the Olympic team that year, she's been making a name for herself at the collegiate level, setting records at the University of Florida.

ATTRACTING NEWCOMERS

Jocelyn Piccone moved to Midland from Ohio 3 1/2 years ago for work. When the lifelong swimmer found out she was moving to West Texas, the first thing she did was to look for pool opportunities.

"Within a week, I was swimming in the pool with the masters team," she said.

Having swum at various pools around Dayton, Ohio, as well as other parts of the country, she speaks highly of COM Aquatics. She said the facility and organization are very family-oriented and for someone like herself, it's a good place for manageable fitness and for adults to swim, as well.

"Having the COM, in this small of a town, is a gold mine," she said.

It's keeping the family first that makes it a good investment for Midland, Swendig said. With the natatorium, they hope to encourage outreach to the community by opening it for lessons, camps, pool parties, birthdays and corporate events.

LOOKING AHEAD

Swendig said COM Aquatics has seen small, but steady, growth in the past year and that growth will continue because of the new pool. Interest will be amplified as people watch Michael Phelps, Ryan Lochte and Missy Franklin swim at Rio in August.

"With it being an Olympic year, we typically see a lot of growth, as all Olympic sports do," Swendig said.

With a recently received \$58,000 grant from the USA Diving Foundation, COM Aquatics is looking to install new diving boards for the program.

And with more than 300 donors contributing toward the natatorium following the lead gift from the FMH Foundation, the new facility is really about community support with the construction being paid for through donations, he said.

That is Swendig's message to program participants when they see the new facility.

"I tell them, 'These guys are investing in you,'" he said. "These are real people taking checks out and making an investment in the kids."

Study: Housing market fared 'amazingly well' amid oil rout

ODESSA - The Odessa and Midland housing markets fared "amazingly well" through the end of 2015, despite the oil bust and rising unemployment, according to a recent report by Texas A&M University's Real Estate Center.

Chiefly, that measure of performance relies on a greater inventory of homes on the market and solid sales prices, found Harold Hunt, a research economist at the Real Estate Center who studied the local market for a report titled "Oil's Impact on Midland and Odessa Housing."

"No one knows whether more bad news lies ahead for the Permian Basin's O&G sector in the coming years," Hunt wrote. "Oil can be an unpredictable commodity. But the data appear to show that Midland's and Odessa's housing markets weathered the oil and gas downturn amazingly well through 2015, even as employment declined."

Home prices are slightly up in 2016 by about one percent based on just two months of data, according to the Odessa Board of Realtors. The average home price in Odessa in 2015 was \$194,900. That was up from \$193,400 in 2014 and \$181,650 in 2013.

"It's just a reflection of the shortage we had and the demand," said Connie Coots, executive vice president of the board of Realtors. Builders, she said, never caught up to demand before they slowed projects in the wake of the oil bust.

Home sales in Ector County dropped as the regional rig count began to plunge in late 2014. But the decline in Ector County was less steep than in Midland.

Existing home sales in Ector County — and Odessa counts for most of them — bottomed at 59 in February 2015. But that still reflected more existing homes sold than the 56 in February 2014.

Sales of existing homes shot back up to 111 in July 2015, only two sales short of the same month of the previous year.

Home prices in Ector County increased during the five year-period Hunt examined. New homes selling for between \$150,000 and \$249,000 accounted for 64 percent of sales in 2015. Meanwhile, about 71 percent of existing home sales fell between \$100,000 and \$249,000.

"Based on available data, builders appear to have been proactive in shutting down the new inventory pipeline quickly as the O&G sector worsened," Hunt wrote. "This conclusion is supported by the lack of any meaningful downturn in median closing prices and average closing price per square foot through year-end 2015."

This February, 70 homes sold in Odessa, which is 15 percent more than the same month last year. Sales declined about six percent in that period, offset by the increase in sales in January.

It remains a sellers' market in real estate terms, with a monthly housing inventory in February of 4.8 months, according to the latest data. A six-month inventory is considered a balanced market, and a 6.5 month inventory is considered a buyers' market.

"Inventory is rising and we are still in a sellers' market," Coots said.

Hunt cautioned that without data on in-house sales by homebuilders, it is difficult to determine whether inventory levels truly represent the market.

Still, the market changes appear mostly positive, Coots said, counter to expectations of a greater market drop as oil prices fell.

"It's not great but it's

definitely not tanked," Coots said. "It's not going to be a record year by any means, but I still feel like we have a good market that people can feel confident investing in."



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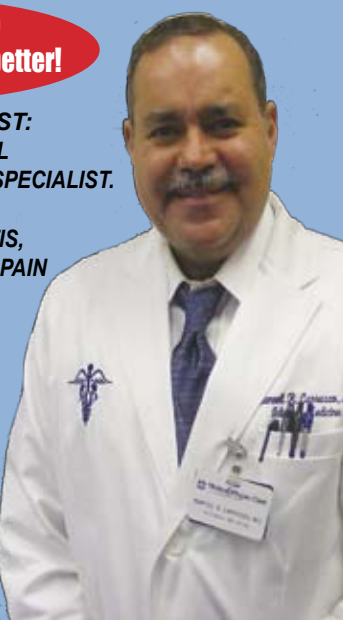
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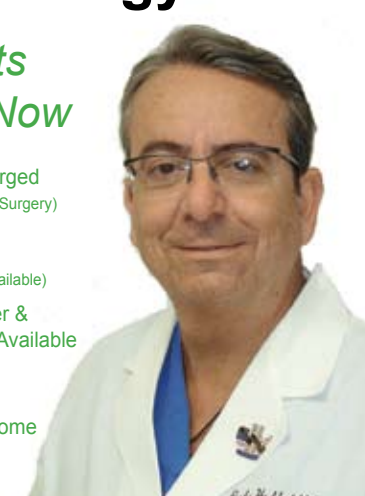
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