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H BIG SPRING HERALD

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DECEMBER 7, 2014



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Afghanistan: More troops than planned to remain

By **ROBERT BURNS**

AP National Security Writer

KABUL, Afghanistan — U.S. Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel said Saturday the United States will keep as many as 1,000 more troops in Afghanistan than planned for the first part of 2015.

At a news conference at the presidential palace with President Ashraf Ghani, Hagel said the original plan to cut U.S. troop levels to 9,800 by the end of this year had been abandoned, but not because of a recent surge in Taliban attacks.

Hagel said the U.S. will keep up to 10,800 troops for the first few months of next year and then restart the drawdown, which is scheduled to reach 5,500 troops by the end of 2015.

The U.S. decided to keep additional forces in the country temporarily because planned troop commitments by U.S. allies for a NATO train-and-assist mission starting in January have been slow to materialize.

President Barack Obama "has provided U.S. military commanders the flexibility to manage any temporary force shortfall that we might experience for a few months as we allow for coalition troops to arrive in theater," he said. "But the president's authorization will not change our troops' missions, or the long-term timeline for our drawdown," he added.

On his final visit to Afghanistan as U.S. defense secretary, Hagel said the United States will successfully put down a surge in Taliban attacks in the capital and stabilize the nation.

Hagel arrived in Kabul on a previously unannounced trip one day after Obama declared he would nominate one of Hagel's former deputies, Ashton Carter, to succeed Hagel, who resigned under pressure Nov. 24.

In an interview with reporters traveling with him from Washington aboard a military aircraft, Hagel was in a reflective mood about America's longest war. He recalled arriving in Kabul in January 2002 as a member of a congressional delegation when security was so dicey that the lawmakers arrived under cover of dark-

See **TROOPS**, Page 3A



Christmas in the Crossroads



Holiday celebrations hit high gear this weekend. Leading the way was the VA Medical Center's annual lighting ceremony (top photo). Above, 3-year-old Marcus Arista and his 5-year-old sister Leah, visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus during the Heritage Museum's annual Breakfast with Santa Saturday morning. At right, 4-year-old Maddy Hernandez was a little shy with Santa at first but quickly warmed up during Howard College's luminaria ceremony. Other activities this weekend included First United Methodist Church's Living Christmas Tree and the Big Spring Herald Community Christmas Parade.

HERALD photos/Lyndel Moody



Reception for Barr, Baker set

A farewell reception honoring outgoing County Judge Mark Barr and County Commissioner, Precinct 2 Donnie Baker will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 10 a.m. Monday, Dec. 8, in the County Commissioner's Courtroom of the Third Floor Court-house.



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BARR

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TxDOT touts 'Sober Ride' campaign

Special to the Herald

As holiday festivities get into full swing, the Texas Department of Transportation reminds drivers to stay safe and sober when traveling to and from parties and other celebrations.

"We want drivers to have fun over the holidays, but more importantly, we want them to celebrate responsibly," said TxDOT Executive Direc-

tor Lt. Gen Joe Weber, USMC (Ret). "Make a sober ride part of your plans and don't let one bad choice ruin the holidays for you and your family."

TxDOT's Sober Ride Sleigh will be visiting more than a dozen cities across Texas to draw attention to the importance of having a sober ride. The "sleigh" is a donated limousine

See **SOBER**, Page 3A

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Take note

• **Hometown Christmas**, a local organization that helps provide underprivileged children with Christmas gifts, is accepting donations immediately.

The organization tries to supply eligible boys and girls with one to two toys and a set of clothes each. If you would like to donate funds, toys or clothes, bring them to Wells Fargo Bank during regular business hours. The bank is located at Fourth and Main downtown. For more information, contact Beverly Johnson at 264-8373.

• The **Howard County Republican Club** will meet on Monday, Dec. 8 at noon in the Fireplace Room at Howard College.

• **A hungry child cannot learn.** Food2Kids - Big Spring was created to provide nutrition for hundreds of children who do not get a substantial meal on the weekends. F2K began last November and this volunteer program now serves more than 300 children weekly.

Once the need has been identified, F2K fills a sack of food to send home each Friday during the school year.

You can help. Volunteers are needed and donations can be sent to Food2Kids - Big Spring, P.O. Box 1641, Big Spring 79721. Find us on Facebook at www.Facebook.com/Food2Kids

• **Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce** is holding its annual toy drive through Dec. 12. The chamber is accepting new, unwrapped toys for boys and girls ages 2-18 at 215 W. Third. The toys collected will assist CASA, Cossacks Motorcycle Club Permian Basin Chapter, the Salvation Army and Spring Tabernacle.

For more information, call 432-263-7641.



HERALD photo/Lyndel Moody

Emergency personnel responded to a two-vehicle roll over on Refinery Road early Friday afternoon. More information about the accident was not available by press time.

• **Family Faith Center**, 810 E. 11th, will hold a shoe giveaway for area children in grades pre-K through 12th from 9 a.m. to noon Dec. 13. For more information, contact the church at 267-6001.

• **Order of the Eastern Star Big Spring Chapter 67** meets the third Thursday 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 270-7263.

• The Cross Roads Young Marines are taking ap-

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

• **Crossroads Hospice** is looking for volunteers. Come and be part of our team. Contact Eva at 432-263-5300.

• The **Big Spring Senior Center** dance is open to all ages. No alcohol or smoking. Our parking lot is now well lit, and we are handicapped-accessible. Cost is \$8 per person.

SOBER

Continued from Page 1A

wrapped to look like a holiday gift. It will visit shopping malls, parades and other holiday-related venues.

During last year's holiday season (Dec. 1, 2013 - Jan. 1, 2014), there were 2,367 DUI-alcohol traffic crashes in Texas resulting in 763 serious injuries and 92 fatalities.

ties. While these figures are staggering, DUI traffic fatalities actually decreased 8.9 percent compared with the same time frame the previous year.

"A decrease in fatalities is always welcome news and I think it speaks to the importance of our aggressive impaired driving campaigns," Weber said. "As Texans, however, we must do better because one life lost to

impaired driving is not only tragic, but also preventable."

The **TxDOT Sober Ride Sleigh** campaign occurs in conjunction with law enforcement's increased holiday efforts to crack down on drunk driving and curb vehicle crashes and fatalities. In many jurisdictions, no-refusal programs will be implemented.

TxDOT also is partnering with the Nation-

al Safety Council and some of the state's largest employers to help promote the safe and sober message this holiday season. The Texas Hospitality Association and Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission also will be distributing sober ride materials in stores and venues where alcohol is sold. Finally, TxDOT is working with transit authorities in Austin, San Antonio and Corpus Christi to

encourage people to use the bus to get sober rides home.

Texans who make a pledge to have a sober ride this holiday season can enter to win donated prizes, including a day at the Richard Petty Racing Experience at Texas Motor Speedway or a SpaFinder gift certificate valued at \$2,000. Three runners-up each will win a \$1,000 American Express gift card. Contest details and

ways to enter can be found at holidaysober-ride.com.

Texans looking for a sober ride can visit soberrides.org for assistance.

TROOPS

Continued from Page 1A

ness and left before dawn. Hagel at the time was a Republican senator from Nebraska.

The Taliban, which had ruled Afghanistan since 1996, were forced from power in late 2001 just weeks after a U.S.-led invasion prompted by the 9/11 terrorist attacks. But they recovered gradually after the U.S. shifted its military focus to Iraq in 2003, and by 2008 the U.S. was conceding that the war in Afghanistan was stalemated.

Hagel, on his fourth trip to Afghanistan as defense secretary, said it should not be surprising that the Taliban are still able to launch significant attacks in the capital.

"The Taliban are going to continue to have pockets of resurgence, and it's predictable that they would do everything they possibly could to disrupt" the new Afghan govern-

ment under Ghani and Chief Executive Officer Abdullah Abdullah, Hagel said.

The Taliban clearly are aiming to disrupt the new government and undermine confidence in it. But Hagel said they have failed thus far and are unlikely to ever succeed.

"I have confidence in the Afghan security forces that they will continue to meet these challenges," he said.

Hagel said that during his visit he intended to discuss with Ghani and Abdullah the state of security in Kabul and ways that it can be improved. He said the main reason for his visit is to reinforce support for their new government, reiterate a long-term U.S. commitment here and to thank American troops.

The U.S.-led war in Afghanistan has lasted far longer than anyone predicted at the outset in October 2001, and the final result, after more

than 2,200 U.S. deaths, remains in doubt even as Obama officially ends the U.S. combat mission Dec. 31.

Hagel said that in hindsight the struggle to prevent Afghanistan from reverting to a haven for al-Qaida has been difficult but worthwhile.

"As difficult, as challenging, as long as this has been, by any definition the country of Afghanistan, the people of Afghanistan, are far better off today than they were 13 years ago, if for no other reason than they have the opportunity to decide their own fate, their own way, on their terms," he said.

"They're not com-

pletely there yet, but they've come a long way and that's to the credit certainly of the United States," Hagel said.

At the peak in 2010-2011 the U.S. had 100,000 troops in Afghanistan. The Americans have fought alongside troops from a coalition of countries, including Britain, Canada, Australia, Italy, Denmark, Turkey and Poland.

About 9,800 U.S. troops are to remain after this year as part of a NATO mission, dubbed Resolute Support, to train and assist Afghan security forces and to carry out counter-terrorism missions. The U.S. troop total is to shrink

further to 5,500 by the end of next year but the pace of the decline is yet to be decided.

Hagel said he would be consulting with the top U.S. commander here, Army Gen. John Campbell, about the troop drawdown and other issues.

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Kirk McKnight, 58, died Wednesday. Funeral service was at 10 a.m. today at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

Charlotte Smith, 79, died Wednesday. Graveside services will be at 12 noon today at Trinity Memorial Park Peace Chapel.

Jo Hazel Dawson, 80, died Friday. Funeral services will be at 2 p.m. today at Mount Bethel Baptist Church with burial at Trinity Memorial Park.

Craig Sparks, 72, died Friday. A memorial service will be at 10 a.m. Monday at the First Baptist Church in Garden City.

Estevan Valencia, Jr., 31, died Thursday. Services are pending.

Ruben Anthony Gonzales, Sr., 31, died Thursday. Services are pending.

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

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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 Editorial Board of the Big Spring Herald unless otherwise indicated.

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Boom times come to Big Lake

All roads leading into Big Lake are being expanded. Allow for extra time because of construction and traffic. Especially traffic.

People get impatient because of slow trucks and take unnecessary chances. The Reagan County Sheriff's office has added deputies, with 14 on the force now. Two of them are strictly for dealing with traffic.

The sign at the Big Lake city limits shows a population of 2,900. It's now over 7,000. Because Big Lake is at the confluence of the Cline, Sprayberry and Wolfcamp oil fields, activity is at its peak, with about 12,000 people in Big Lake every day.

A master plan indicates the Big Lake population will be 17,000 by 2019. Once the drilling is over and pipelines are in place the population is expected to level out at about 7,600.

J.L. Mankin, publisher of the Big Lake Wildcat newspaper, says Dollar General sometimes doesn't even bother to put things on the shelf.

"It just leaves cases of mer-

chandise in the aisles. Part of that is because of so much business, but most of it is because it's hard to find help. A lot of people have found jobs in the oil field."

Gloria Baggett, economic development director, says the workforce has lost some housewives because their husbands are making big bucks in the oil fields. Land that sold for \$2,000 an acre five years ago now sells for \$20,000 or more.

Some oil companies are buying 20 and 50 acre plots. Land men crowd the courthouse.

Residents of Big Lake tell me that things started picking up in 2010 and really got busy about two years ago. Housing is in very short supply. RV parks have opened. Rows of single unit cabins are east of downtown. Some man camps charge \$3,000 a month for a small living space.

New motels, a drug store, hospital and restaurant are under construction.

New paving is in progress because heavy trucks have caused some damage to city streets.

In the midst of the boom, enrollment in schools is down slightly.

Few families are moving in. Some are moving out.

Loretta Epperson, Chamber of

Commerce executive, says about 70 percent of customers in the grocery store are men who do their own shopping and cooking.

Some residents don't like going to their favorite restaurant and seeing only strangers' faces. Since there is no washateria in Big Lake, housewives are taking in laundry and charging by the load.

The new Pilot Truck Stop has a washer and dryer and stays busy. I saw a sign that read Beer. Food. Laundry.

Gloria Baggett says some people like all the excitement. Others don't like change.

"Long-time residents would prefer it go back to the nice quiet city it was. But these companies are coming whether we want them or not.

"We're making history here. Once we get through the growing pains, local residents will appreciate the additional retail and services."

Angel Olvera was a country club chef in San Angelo and heard about the boom in Big Lake, moved there and opened his restaurant, Sugar Creek Grill. It's booming.

Be sure and try a chile relleno.

Contact Tumbleweed at PO Box 95, Big Spring, TX 79721 or ts@crcom.net or 432 263-3813.



TUMBLEWEED SMITH



HOW TO 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 fax at 264-7205
- By e-mail Managing Editor Bill McClellan at newsdesk@bigspringherald.com.
- By mail at P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721

LETTER POLICIES

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.
- 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.

DAILY PRAYER

May we remain diligent about reading Your word, Lord, for our life.

Amen

San Diego: A place in the sun

Perhaps the most nagging question left unanswered after five wonderful days in San Diego is this: Where could San Diegans choose to vacation that would rival the wonderment available year-round in their own backyards?

It is a magical place by any measure, whether one is seeking the grandeur of nature, man-made attractions or a culture where community pride assured the natural beauty of beaches long before zoning laws decreed so.

On the subject of sand, it is a happy thought that visitors can walk the same beaches where Navy seals train and where "real seals" — basking by the dozens in daily sunshine — know exactly when to arch their bodies to enjoy full benefit of each wave washing ashore.

We could have felt guilty spending the better part of a week in this Southern California paradise while friends back in Texas shivered — precisely on the same days — with the onslaught of the season's first wintery blast. Back home, temperatures chilled in the 20s much of the week.

In San Diego, the weather went about "business as usual," with temps around 70 degrees during all of our daylight hours there.

At take-off time from Dallas November 12, the thermometer dipped to freezing for the first time since March, and when the plane set down in San Diego, it was approaching 70. Upon deplaning, the sun shone brightly and the breeze was "just right."

Had it been gentler, wind chimes would have had to take numbers for "whoosh" enough to muster the slightest sound.

During this trip, we limited visits to attractions that didn't seem to fit "touristy" molds some destinations are horse-colored with. La Jolla and Coronado deserve better.

Oh, there were many shops unique to the area. However, we found them to be more than that — inviting in ways the owners don't even realize. Many, for example, have shiny bowls filled with water at the door. It's for thirsty canines that happen by — leashed by their masters or otherwise.

One owner, hearing our conversation, said hers is a frequent stop for man's best friends. "They know if they linger, they'll get treats, too," she grinned.

With so much to see and do, it was necessary to "pick and choose." Great eating spots beckoned, as did numerous museums, exhibits and the world-class Birch Aquarium.

Distractions abounded. With a glance skyward, one is likely to see hang-gliders lazily on routes begun minutes earlier from atop the Torrey Pines Cliffs.

Learning the late Theodor Gei-

sel spent most of his adult life in La Jolla, we considered The Legends Gallery — featuring "all things Seuss" — a "must."

In addition to his being the most successful author ever in children's literature — as well as a heralded artist — Geisel was a great humanitarian, contributing much to the welfare of others.

In fact, the Dartmouth College School of Medicine is named in his honor.

The Geisel Foundation also greatly assists locally with generous grants to the arts. His second wife, now 93, still lives in La Jolla, and until recent years drove around town in a uniquely-licensed automobile — GRINCH.

Like the good doctor's books, San Diego is a city with many chapters — to be read again and again, savored each time. Its allure will remain with us always, worthy of repeated visits. It's a place to ponder, and to drink in its wonders like the dogs lapping water in front of the shops. And next time, we must concentrate even more on the beautiful birds of paradise blooming all over the place. Can the live ones at the world-class San Diego Zoo be any more impressive? Let the beholders decide... (more info at www.sandiego.org/LaJolla.)

Dr. Don Newbury is a speaker in the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex. Inquiries/comments to: newbury@speakerdoc.com. Phone: 817-447-3872. Web site: www.speakerdoc.com.



DR. DON NEWBURY

News in brief

American, South African held by al-Qaida in Yemen killed during US failed rescue attempt

SANAA, Yemen (AP) — An American photojournalist and a South African aid worker held by al-Qaida militants in Yemen have been killed in a failed U.S. rescue attempt, authorities said Saturday.

Speaking in Afghanistan, U.S. Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel said Somers "and a second non-U.S. citizen hostage were murdered" by al-Qaida militants during the raid.

The aid group Gift of Givers later identified the second hostage as South African teacher Pierre Korkie, who the group said was to be released Sunday. They said he was to be flown out of Yemen "under diplomatic cover, then to meet with family members in a 'safe' country, (and) fly to South Africa."

Hagel did not identify Korkie by name.

"Yesterday by the order of the president of the United States, U.S. special operations forces conducted a mission in Yemen to rescue a U.S. citizen Luke Somers and any other foreign nationals held hostage with him," Hagel said. "There were compelling reasons to believe Somers' life was in imminent danger."

Pakistan military says top al-Qaida militant indicted in US over NY subway bomb plot killed

ISLAMABAD (AP) — Pakistani soldiers killed a top al-Qaida operative Saturday who was indicted in the U.S. for his alleged involvement in a plot to bomb New York's subway system, the military said in a statement.

The death of Adnan Shukrijumah is the latest blow to the terror organization still reeling from the 2011 killing of leader Osama bin Laden and now largely eclipsed by the militant Islamic State group. It also marks a major achievement for the Pakistani military, which mounted a widespread military operation in the northwest this summer.

The military announced Shukrijumah's death in a statement, saying that he was killed along with two other suspected militants in Pakistan's South Waziristan tribal area early Saturday. South Waziristan is part of the mountainous territory bordering Afghanistan that is home to various militant groups fighting both in Afghanistan and Pakistan.

"The al-Qaida leader, who was killed by the Pakistan army in a successful operation, is the same person who had been indicted in the United States," said a senior Pakistani army officer, who spoke on condition of anonymity as he was not authorized to talk to journalists.

More than 600,000 flee as typhoon blows near eastern Philippines; military on full alert

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — Haunted by Typhoon Haiyan's massive devastation last year, more than 600,000 people fled Philippine villages and the military went on full alert Saturday to brace for a powerful storm that was only hours away from the

country's eastern coast.

Typhoon Hagupit — Filipino for "smash" or "lash" — was expected to slam into the central Philippines late Saturday and hammer parts of a region where Haiyan's tsunami-like storm surges and ferocious winds left more than 7,300 people dead or missing in November 2013. Hagupit weakened slightly on Saturday, but remained dangerously powerful and erratic.

"We're on red alert, so the entire armed forces is being mobilized for this typhoon," Gen. Gregorio Pio Catapang, head of the Philippines' 120,000-strong military, told a news conference after discussing last-minute preparations.

Army troops deployed to supermarkets and major roads in provinces in the typhoon's path to prevent looting and chaos and clear debris, all of which slowed the government's response last year, Catapang said.

Although it's unlikely to reach Haiyan's unprecedented strength, forecasters said Hagupit's maximum sustained winds of 175 kilometers (109 miles) per hour and gusts of 210 kph (130 mph) were strong enough to set off deadly storm surges and landslides and cause heavy damage to communities and agriculture.

Hagel, on surprise visit to Afghanistan, says long war has put Afghans on right track

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — With striking optimism, Chuck Hagel said Saturday on his final visit to Afghanistan as U.S. defense secretary that he believes Afghans will successfully put down a surge in Taliban attacks in the capital and stabilize the nation.

Hagel arrived in Kabul on a previously unannounced trip one day after President Barack Obama declared that he would nominate one of Hagel's former deputies, Ashton Carter, to succeed Hagel, who resigned under pressure Nov. 24.

In an interview with reporters traveling with him from Washington aboard a military aircraft, Hagel was in a reflective mood about America's longest war. He recalled arriving in Kabul in January 2002 as a member of a congressional delegation when security was so dicey that the lawmakers arrived under cover of darkness and left before dawn. Hagel at the time was a Republican senator from Nebraska.

The Taliban, which had ruled Afghanistan since 1996, were forced from power in late 2001 just weeks after a U.S.-led invasion prompted by the 9/11 terrorist attacks. But they recovered gradually after the U.S. shifted its military focus to Iraq in 2003, and by 2008 the U.S. was conceding that the war in Afghanistan was stalemated.

Hagel, on his fourth trip to Afghanistan as defense secretary, said it should not be surprising that the Taliban are still able to launch significant attacks in the capital.

Protesters of grand jury decision not to indict officer in chokehold death rally for 3rd day

Demonstrators around the country staged die-ins, blocked roadways and marched into stores to protest a

New York grand jury's decision to not indict a white police officer in the chokehold death of an unarmed black man.

Tensions were already running high around the nation because of a grand jury's decision last week to not indict a white officer in the shooting death of black 18-year-old Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri.

On Wednesday, more protests erupted after a grand jury in New York City decided not to indict a white officer in the chokehold death of Eric Garner, a black man who gasped "I can't breathe" while he was being arrested for selling loose, untaxed cigarettes.

Hundreds of protesters marched and many briefly laid down in Macy's flagship store, Grand Central Terminal and an Apple store. They streamed along Fifth Avenue sidewalks and other parts of Manhattan, with signs and chants of "Black lives matter" and "I can't breathe."

News outlets reported that demonstrators later blocked traffic on the FDR Drive in Lower Manhattan, spurring arrests.

American killed in Yemen had 'wanderlust,' curiosity about world

Luke Somers, an American who was killed during a rescue attempt against his al-Qaida captors in Yemen, had been working as a freelance photographer and editor in that country, and those who knew him say he had "wanderlust" and was drawn to new experiences.

Lucy Somers told The Associated Press Saturday that that she learned of her 33-year-old brother's death from FBI agents. He had been kidnapped in September 2013 in the Yemeni capital of Sanaa. There were no further details of the rescue effort or any immediate comment from Washington.

U.S. special forces had tried to rescue Somers last month.

"My life is in danger," Somers said in video footage, which appeared to mimic hostage videos released by the Islamic State group.

Somers, who was born in Britain, earned a bachelor's degree in creative writing while attending Beloit College in Wisconsin.

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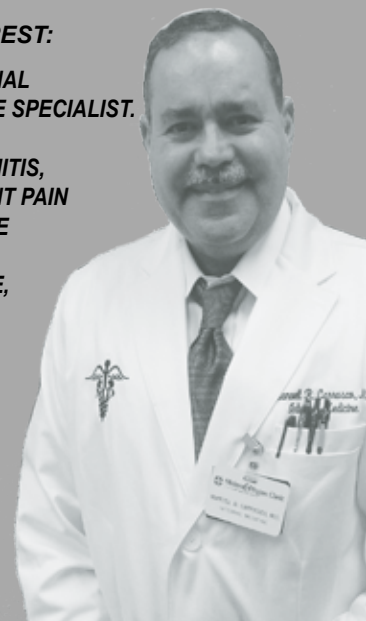
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Congress takes another crack at memorial cross

WASHINGTON (AP) — Could one of the nation's longest-running church-state conflicts be nearing a conclusion?

As part of a bill setting defense policy, Congress would authorize the defense secretary to transfer a scenic parcel of federal land in the La Jolla section of San Diego, to a private group. The parcel contains a memorial to the nation's veterans and a 43-foot-high cross that federal courts have determined is an unconstitutional effort by the government to endorse a religion.

Tens of thousands of people visit Mount Soledad every year to take in a view that includes the Pacific Ocean to the west, downtown San Diego to the south and the Laguna Mountains to the east. On the same hilltop sits the Mount Soledad Veterans Memorial. The memorial's most dominant feature is a white cross that has been the focus of seemingly unending litigation.

Last year, a federal judge ordered the federal government and Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel to remove the cross. It was the judge's response to a ruling two years earlier from the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

"There is no memorial on public land in which the cross holds such a pivotal and

imposing stature, dwarfing by every measure the secular plaques and other symbols commemorating veterans," Judge M. Margaret McKeown wrote in the appellate court's decision.

Congress is entering the fray — again. This time, it's through a bill the House passed Thursday and the Senate is expected to approve next week.

The measure calls for the land containing the memorial to be transferred to the Mount Soledad Memorial Association Inc., a group that has been maintaining the facility through membership fees, donations and placement of some 3,600 plaques honoring individual veterans. People, generally families of the veteran, pay a fee ranging from \$950 to \$1,800 to have a plaque installed.

The federal government has owned the land since 2006, when Republican Rep. Duncan Hunter authored legislation transferring ownership from the city of San Diego. At the time, the city faced fines of \$5,000 each day if it did not remove the cross.

Now, Rep. Duncan Hunter Jr. is spearheading congressional efforts to keep the memorial and its cross through another land transfer. Hunter likened the cross on Mount Soledad to the crosses and



stars of David that appear on the markers and gravestones at Arlington Cemetery.

"Each headstone is a minimemorial to the men and women who died and served," Hunter said. "It's the same thing."

Hunter's provision stipulates that the defense secretary convey the memorial to the local association after agreement is reached on price. The association and

any subsequent owner would be required to maintain the structure as a veterans memorial in perpetuity.

If the secretary determines that the structure is used for any other purpose, the federal government will have the right to reacquire it on a temporary basis. He said he's under no illusion the bill will appease the plaintiffs.

Then again, after more than a quarter century of litigation,

no one familiar with the legal dispute will be surprised if this latest effort falls short.

A similar church-state conflict in California's Mojave Desert was resolved two years ago when, as a part of a court settlement, a federal judge permitted the National Park Service to turn over an acre of land to a pair of veterans groups in exchange for five acres of property elsewhere in the desert.

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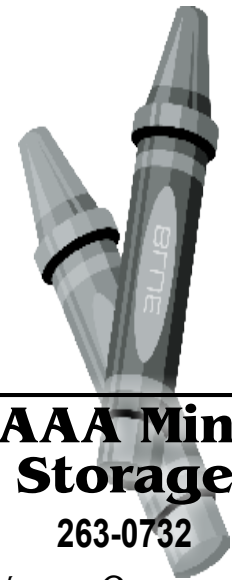
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4. Adults may assist in completing entry form information, but NOT in coloring pictures.
5. All entries must be received by the Big Spring Herald by 5 pm on Monday, December 15, 2014.
6. Winners will be published in the Sunday, December 21, 2014 edition.
7. Decision of judges is final.
8. Employees of the Big Spring Herald and contest sponsors are not eligible to win.
9. All submissions become property of the Big Spring Herald and may be published accordingly.

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Lady Steers' Pollard nets to all-star honors

By TOMMY WELLS
Sports Editor

The postseason awards continue to roll in for Big Spring High School senior Erin Pollard.

The Lady Steers' standout was notified earlier this week that she had been one of a handful of Texas players named to the Texas Girls Coaches Association's all-star squad. In all, she was only one of 24 players in Class 1A

through Class 4A selected for a spot on the squad.

Pollard was a workhorse for the Lady Steers this fall. She helped lead the team to a 22-20 record and a berth in the Region I-4A tournament semifinals. Big Spring's season came to an end with a loss to eventual Class 4A state champion Decatur.

During her senior season, she recorded a team-high 489 kills – a mark that ranked her

13th among all 4A players for 2014. She was selected the 2014 District 2-4A co-MVP.

A four-year member of the BSHS varsity volleyball team, Pollard closed out her career as one of the state's top hitters. In her final two years, she posted 890 kills

A two-time all-state selection, Pollard will be a member of the Blue all-star roster along with Evadale's Haleigh Oldbury, Alpine's Ryan Har-

din, Poth's Alyssa Kallies and Shelby Yanta, El Campo's Amy Pflughaupt, Fredericksburg's Payton Robertson, Little Cypress-Mauriceville's Sarah Woods, Orange Grove's Karalee Kocurek, Seminole's Susan Reimer, Tarkinton's Madison and Wylie's Lindsey Senter.

The TGCA Blue team will be coached by Little Cypress-Mauriceville's Vicki Castino and Alpine's Troy Canaba.



Kim Pollard was selected to the TGCA all-star volleyball roster earlier this week.

Bulldogs put 13 on all-district teams



Coahoma caps amazing turnaround with 13 picks

By TOMMY WELLS
Sports Editor

The Coahoma High School Bulldogs by almost any standard imaginable, enjoyed a spectacular run during the 2014 football season.

Only a year removed from a 2-8 finish, Coahoma roared to a 6-4 record during the regular season and punched its way to a third-place finish in the District 3-3A standings and into the bi-district round of the Class 3A state playoffs.

The playoff, which led to the end of a lengthy playoff drought for the Bulldogs, didn't go unnoticed – especially be the fellow members of the Bulldogs' district. As a result of the team's strong showing, a total of 13 Coahoma standouts were named to the District 3-3A all-district football teams.

Offensively, the Bulldogs received plenty of praise. Eight of the team's all-district selections came on the offensive side of the ball, including three of the team's five offensive linemen and the entire CHS backfield.

Liked Walter and Philip Bacon highlighted the all-district offensive line selections. The two seniors were both named to the first-team roster after helping Coahoma average more than 300 yards per game rushing for much of the year. Fellow senior Brayden Thompson also received high praise, making the second-team roster as an offensive lineman.

Quarterback Braxton Iden, and run-

Photo courtesy Candy Parrish

Coahoma senior Kyler Franks runs behind the blocks of Brayden Thompson (71), Phillip Bacon (background) and quarterback Braxton Iden (3) during the Bulldogs' game against Post. All four of the CHS players were among a group of 13 Coahoma players named to the 3-3A all-district football rosters.

See 3-3A on Page 10A

Cheer team to host volleyball tourney

The Big Spring High School cheerleaders will be holding a volleyball tournament on Dec. 12-13 as part of their efforts to raise funds for the 2014 national cheerleading competition.

The tournament will start at 6 p.m. in Dec. 12 and continue through Saturday, Dec. 13.

All funds generated by the tournament will go towards helping the BSHS varsity and junior varsity cheerleaders cover the costs of their upcoming trip to the national meet in January.



Tony Claxton Photos (www.claxtonphotography.com)

Hoop time ...

Ivan Castillo and the Big Spring High School Steers competed in the O.W. Follis Basketball Tournament in Lamesa over the weekend.

Borden Co., Stanton tournaments slated to tip off next weekend

High school basketball will take center stage in the Crossroads beginning later this week when Borden County and Stanton host their annual basketball tournament, beginning on Thursday.

The Borden County Invitational Basketball Tournament will feature 10 boys' and girls' teams. Among the local teams

taking to the court will be Forsan and Borden County.

Forsan is scheduled to tip off its run in the girls' bracket at noon on Thursday with a game against Roby. The winner of that game will face Borden County, Wilson or Spur in the second round on Friday.

Borden County and Wilson play in a first-

round matchup on Thursday, with the winner moving into a game against Spur at 6 p.m.

Other girls' team appearing in the event are Ralls, New Home, Crosbyton, O'Donnell and Hermleigh.

The Coahoma Bulldogs and Bulldogettes are scheduled to play in the Stanton Hooptown tournament.

Steers to open powerlifting schedule in Jan.

Karina Alvarado and the Big Spring High School powerlifters will kick off their season in a matter of weeks when they host the annual Big Spring Powerlifting Invi-

tational on Jan. 15.

Following their opener, the BSHS lifters will compete in meets in Colorado City on Jan. 24, Coahoma on Jan. 31 and Greenwood on Feb. 21

before advancing to the regional meets. The Lady Steers' regional meet will be March 7 in Fort Stockton. The Steers' will compete on March 14 in Sun-down.

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Luckily, the Heritage Museum has created a vast digital library of how Big Spring used to look.

Here is a brief blast to the past

courtesy of the Heritage Museum. Clockwise from top left: The Sonic Drive In circa 1973; Big Spring Hardware circa 1955 Imagine how much trouble everybody would be in if that picture was taken today and actually made it into the yearbook; the check point at Webb Air Force Base on Airbase Rd.; Coca Cola Bottling Co. on East 3rd., circa 1945; Piggly Wiggly circa 1945; the Big Spring Herald; and where there is a 7-Eleven there was once Toby's Fast Chick.

- by Andrea Medlin

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Jake Smith Family Reunion



A Thanksgiving reunion was enjoyed by 44 members of the Jake Smith family, ranging in age from 3 months to 85 years-old at the Dora Roberts Community Center Nov. 28, 2014.

Laughter, hugs and much visiting were highlights of the morning. A prayer of thanksgiving, love to the Lord and a safe trip was led by Jay Smith. All attending enjoyed a bountiful meal, consisting of turkey, ham and brisket with all the trimmings and a

groaning table loaded with desserts; and wonderful fellowship, the first in many years for some.

The ducks and geese enjoyed the 17 loaves of bread and the fun of all the children.

Attending were: Jake and Jean Smith; Linda Park; and Raul and Lori Garcia and family of Big Spring; Randy and Diane Biggers, Hal Snider and daughter and Vanetta Tanner of Levelland, Texas; Randy and Donna Duncan, Shad and Desiree Wier and family of Lovington, N.M.; Jay and Brenda Smith, Jim and Stacy Eickman of Katy, Texas; Terry and Sharla Lee and family, Shalayna Valencia and children of Midland, Texas; and Kevin and Amber and family of Pflugerville, Texas.

► Club News

Keep Big Spring Beautiful

Keep Big Spring Beautiful met Monday, Dec. 1, in the Cactus Room at Howard College.

After leading us in the pledge, President Peggy Hopper gave the invocation.

We approved the minutes and financial report and Tammy DePauw gave a report on the successful 5th grade plastic bag recycling effort. Some schools have already celebrated with ice cream parties and others will be scheduled soon.

We are pleased to announce we collected 18 tons off E-waste on Nov. 14 and 15.

Thanks to the many donated to this effort. We expect to flood the town with "Clean it up, Big Spring" signage beginning Jan. 2.

If you have a sign and have not been contacted, call Janell Davis at 267-5745 or Pat Simmons at 263-4607 and we will fill you in.

This is a city-wide awareness project. Join us. Peggy Hopper has sent countless picture postcards to supporters to thank them for their help on our YMCA entrance effort.

A job well done. The executive board

will be putting together our entry in the state contest to be completed by Feb. 3, 2015.

We are adding more flowers to our adaptive garden at the Civic Center.

Emily McCann and Janell Davis will supervise needs in December. We plan to have a table for the Chamber of Commerce banquet and have several photo ops coming up to let the public rejoice in the progress we have made in 2014.

Kudos to Peggy Hopper for her excellent leadership this year. KBSB's next meeting is Jan. 5, at Howard College.

Big Spring Area Retired Teachers

Big Spring Area Retired Teachers will meet in the Howard College Cactus Room Dec. 8, 2014, at 11:30 a.m. (This is a change from the normal monthly meeting time.)

All area retired school personal are invited to join us. The Tardy Bells Hand-Bell-Choir will perform a program of Christmas music.

Members of the choir are retired teachers, under the direction of Susan Dawes.

► Menus

Sands CISD

Monday: Breakfast, cereal, cheese stick, fruit, juice and milk. Lunch, breaded pork chop, garden salad, carrot coins, bread stick, sliced peaches, pudding.

Tuesday: Breakfast, blueberry muffin, yogurt, fruit, juice and milk. Lunch, crispy tacos, Spanish rice, garden salad, charro beans, salsa, cinnamon applesauce.

Wednesday: Breakfast, pancake wrap, fruit, juice and milk. Lunch, chicken strips, mashed potatoes, savory green beans, roll, strawberries and bananas.

Thursday: Breakfast, breakfast pizza, fruit, juice and milk. Lunch, teriyaki beef sandwich, baked potato chips, broccoli bites, garden salad, orange smiles.

Friday: Breakfast, cinnamon breakfast pastry, yogurt, fruit, juice and milk. Lunch, Sloppy Joe sliders, sweet potato fries, cucumber dippers, fresh fruit, (HS) chocolate chip cookie.

Big Spring ISD

Monday: Breakfast, assorted cereal, string cheese, grapes, assorted fruit juice, milk. Lunch, spaghetti or rib patty sandwich, broccoli with ranch dressing, garden salad, strawberries and bananas, carrots, breadsticks, milk.

Tuesday: Breakfast, blueberry loaf, strawberry yogurt, apples, assorted fruit juice, milk.

Wednesday: Breakfast, pancake on a stick, peach cup, assorted fruit juice, milk. Lunch, chicken strips or salisbury steak, roll, mashed potatoes/gravy, green beans, fruity Jell-O, milk.

Thursday: Breakfast, sausage breakfast pizza, banana, assorted fruit juice, milk. Lunch, teriyaki beef sandwich or beef and bean burrito, baked chips, garden salad, broccoli with ranch dressing, green beans, orange smiles, milk.

Friday: Breakfast, grape PBJ Uncrustable, mixed fruit cup, assorted fruit juice, milk. Lunch, Sloppy Joe sliders or hot dog, sweet potato tots, cucumber dippers, fresh fruit cup, milk.

Coahoma ISD

Monday: Breakfast, breakfast nachos (egg, sausage, cheese sauce), cereal, toast, fresh whole fruit, percent Fruit Juice, jelly, syrup. Lunch, chicken tenders, steak fingers, Totally Cheesy chef salad, mashed potatoes, peas and carrots, chilled apricots, roll, crème gravy.

Tuesday: Breakfast, breakfast pizza, yogurt parfait, fresh whole fruit, percent Fruit Juice, jelly, syrup. Lunch, sweet and sour chicken, chicken and broccoli, barbecue chicken sandwich basket, steamed rice, Oriental blend vegetables, glazed carrots, chilled pineapple tidbits, fortune cookie.

Wednesday: Breakfast, breakfast taco (sausage and egg), scrambled eggs, toast, fresh whole fruit, percent Fruit Juice, salsa, jelly. Lunch, Home Style Pizza, meatball sub, grilled chicken salad, seasoned corn, baked Italian zucchini and tomatoes, chilled Mandarin oranges, peach crisp.

Style Pizza, meatball sub, grilled chicken salad, seasoned corn, baked Italian zucchini and tomatoes, chilled Mandarin oranges, peach crisp.

Thursday: Breakfast, pancake bar, Pop Tart, cereal, fresh whole fruit, percent Fruit Juice, syrup, fruit sauce. Lunch, build your own taco bowl, taco salad, Spanish brown rice, charro beans, lettuce and tomato salad, chilled Mandarin oranges, jalapeno/salsa/shredded cheese/sour cream.

Friday: Breakfast, Home Style cinnamon rolls, cereal, toast, fresh whole fruit, percent Fruit Juice, jelly. Lunch, deli bar, crispy chicken salad, sub, tortillas, bun, turkey, ham, crispy chicken, chicken noodle soup, seasoned French fries, baked beans, deli salad, chilled tropical fruit.

Forsan ISD

Monday: Breakfast, breakfast nachos (egg, sausage, cheese sauce), cereal, toast, fresh whole fruit, percent Fruit Juice, jelly, syrup. Lunch, chicken tenders, steak fingers, Totally Cheesy chef salad, mashed potatoes, peas and carrots, chilled apricots, roll, crème gravy.

Tuesday: Breakfast, breakfast pizza, yogurt parfait, fresh whole fruit, percent Fruit Juice, jelly, syrup. Lunch, sweet and sour chicken, chicken and broccoli, barbecue chicken sandwich basket, steamed rice, Oriental blend vegetables, glazed carrots, chilled pineapple tidbits, fortune cookie.

Wednesday: Breakfast, breakfast taco (sausage and egg), scrambled eggs, toast, fresh whole fruit, percent Fruit Juice, salsa, jelly. Lunch, Home Style Pizza, meatball sub, grilled chicken salad, seasoned corn, baked Italian zucchini and tomatoes, chilled Mandarin oranges, peach crisp.

Thursday: Breakfast, pancake bar, Pop Tart, cereal, fresh whole fruit, percent Fruit Juice, syrup, fruit sauce. Lunch, build your own taco bowl, taco salad, Spanish brown rice, charro beans, lettuce and tomato salad, chilled Mandarin oranges, jalapeno/salsa/shredded cheese/sour cream.

Friday: Breakfast, Home Style cinnamon rolls, cereal, toast, fresh whole fruit, percent Fruit Juice, jelly. Lunch, deli bar, crispy chicken salad, sub, tortillas, bun, turkey, ham, crispy chicken, chicken noodle soup, seasoned French fries, baked beans, deli salad, chilled tropical fruit.

New Hope Christian School

Monday: Breakfast, cereal, orange juice, milk. Snack, Rice Crispy bars, milk. Lunch, grilled cheese sandwich, tomatoes and cucumbers, tater tots, milk.

Tuesday: Breakfast, biscuits and gravy, pears, milk. Snack, graham crackers, applesauce. Lunch, chicken strips, mashed potatoes with gravy, mixed vegetables, milk.

Wednesday: Breakfast, cinnamon toast, fruit mix, milk. Snack, Goldfish Crackers, peaches. Lunch, beef stroganoff, carrots, peas, bread, milk.

Thursday: Breakfast, raisin bread, applesauce, milk. Snack, wheat crackers, sliced cheese. Lunch, salisbury steak, scalloped potatoes, green beans, bread, milk.

Friday: Breakfast, fruit bars, orange smiles, milk. Snack, banana halves, milk. Lunch, chicken patty on a bun, tater tots, corn, milk.

Artworks of Mary featured in DC

WASHINGTON (AP) Renaissance and Baroque artwork depicting Mary, the mother of Jesus Christ, that is rarely seen in the United

States is being showcased in Washington in time for Christmas.

On Friday, the National Museum of Women in the Arts

opened the new exhibition "Picturing Mary: Woman, Mother, Idea." The show, which is on view through April 12, features masterworks from major museums including the Louvre in Paris, the Uffizi gallery in Florence, Italy, and the Vatican museums in Rome.

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Marijuana dining still on shaky legal ground

ASPEN, Colo. (AP) Acclaimed chef Chris Lanter is talking a crowd of eager foodies through a demo on cooking with marijuana. As he prepares steak au poivre, he describes how to deglaze the pan with pot-infused brandy. How to pair marijuana with fine foods. How to make marijuana's skunky tang work for a dish, not ruin it.

One catch, there's no actual weed at his demonstration.

Marijuana aficionados paid \$250 for a weekend-long celebration of marijuana and food, yet state and city regulations prohibit any "open and public" use of the drug, even at licensed businesses holding private events.

It's a strange dichotomy. The nascent marijuana industry in Colorado is moving well beyond just pot brownies. Dispensaries are doing a booming trade in cookbooks, savory pot foods and frozen takeout dishes that incorporate the drug. But for now, halting attempts at creating a marijuana dining scene have had mixed results.

Colorado may have legalized marijuana, but it still prohibits "on-site consumption," a caveat aimed at preventing Amsterdam-style coffee shops where pot can be purchased and consumed in the same place. Recreational or medical marijuana is now legal in 23 states and Washington, DC., though each state prohibits on-site consumption and pot sales in bars or restaurants.

As Colorado's recreational industry nears its first anniversary, authorities increasingly are cracking down on attempts to push the pot-dining envelope.

The city of Denver, where the marijuana industry is concentrated, wrote 668 tickets for "open and public consumption" through September, up from 117 the year before, when marijuana was legal, but sales were not. And the county that includes Colorado Springs is trying to crack down on so-called "smoke-easys," or private clubs that allow marijuana use, sometimes paired with refreshments.

Even private events at restaurants aren't safe. Denver authorities are using permit codes and alcohol laws to fine and even press charges against people trying to throw

private events at which pot foods are served.

The result has been that chefs interested in infusing foods with pot, or pairing regular dishes with certain strains thought to accent a particular flavor, are unable to try it outside catered events at private homes. Even chefs who will talk publicly about doing "medicated" catered house parties, like Lanter, are skittish about sharing details.

"There's so much potential here, and the interest is unbelievable. But right now, everybody's kind of scared to be doing it," says Lanter, owner and executive chef at Aspen's tony Cache Cache restaurant.

Which isn't to say folks aren't experimenting with the limits of the law.

A bed-and-breakfast in Denver offers guests samples of cannabis strains alongside regular breakfast dishes. Guests at The Adagio get marijuana samples at daily happy hours, too, where strains of pot are paired with crudites and bacon-wrapped chicken bites, complete with presentations from growers.

"It's a way to bring our guests together and move away from campy, stereotypical pot foods," says Joel Schneider, CEO of the MaryJane Group, which operates two marijuana-friendly hotels.

But Schneider has to be careful. The pot he hands out goes only to paying hotel guests over 21, allowing him to argue the tastings aren't public. His attempts to do more public events have been shut down by police. He also avoids serving any foods that contain marijuana, something that could land him a criminal citation.

Chefs worried about criminal charges point to Amy Dannemiller, owner of Denver-based Edible Events, which helped organized last summer's cannabis-friendly concerts with the Colorado Symphony Orchestra. Dannemiller, known professionally as Jane West, recently pleaded guilty to an alcohol charge related to her upscale bring-your-own marijuana parties.

The events were held at tony bars and art galleries, where guests paid \$95 or more for an open bar and a place to

use marijuana. Dannemiller received a deferred six-month sentence. Now she is pushing for a new law to clarify how marijuana can be consumed at adults-only events.

Foodies interested in marijuana dining insist the law eventually will change to permit cannabis dining. They say the drug pairs well with food and that public acceptance will grow once people stop associating cannabis dining with brownies and junk-food munchies.

Back at Lanter's event in Aspen, one attendee had good reason for optimism about fine dining with cannabis. Marcy DiSalvo attended the first iteration of Aspen's noted Food & Wine Classic, held in 1983, and found similarities with this year's cannabis cooking celebration, called the Cannabis Grand Cru.

"You know, it was a lot like this, just a couple hundred people getting together to talk about their love of food. And wine. Or in this case, marijuana," DiSalvo said. "This is classy. It's done right. It's not a bunch of stoners; it's people with a gourmet approach."

Shark 'photobombs' Australian event

CANBERRA, Australia (AP) A jumping shark has "photobombed" a surfing competition off an Australian beach.

Amateur photographer Steph Bellamy captured the image of the shark with her smartphone on Sunday as she was photographing mothers and their children paddling on their surfboards off a beach in the New South Wales state town of Coffs Harbour.

Bellamy, 47, said Tuesday that she did not know that the splash in her viewfinder was a shark until she examined the image on her phone moments later.

"He jumped twice, he photobombed big time, then he went on his way," Bellamy said.

The mothers, like Bellamy, had children in the Coffs Harbour Boardriders club and were taking part in a special mothers' heat toward the end of day of a local surfing competition when

the shark appeared a few meters (yards) away from the group. She photographed the second breach.

Bellamy quickly showed the image to organizers, proving that the split-second disturbance had not been caused by a dolphin or tuna. The surfers were called out of the water. But about 15 minutes later, most returned and the competition continued, she said.

"Nobody was rattled. Everybody was really cool and blown away that I got the shot," Bellamy said.

Colin Simpfordorfer, a James Cook University shark expert, confirmed that the image was of a shark. He said it was possibly a spinner shark, which is common in the region and is known to jump from the water. He estimated it was around 2 meters (7 feet) long.

Lee Winkler, who was among the surfers near the shark, said he mistook it for a tuna.

"It was having a bit of fun," Winkler said. "It just jumped up and had a spin, then jumped up and had another spin, then went away."

Bill to ban NYC horse carriages heads to council

NEW YORK (AP) Mayor Bill de Blasio's long-delayed plans to ban the city's horse carriages are finally moving forward with a bill that phases out the industry by 2016 and dangles a carrot for the soon-to-be unemployed drivers: a career driving a taxi.

That measure was set to be introduced at a City Council meeting next week but it already drew fierce opposition from the 400 drivers and stable hands who say it was an insult to suggest they could be satisfied with another way of life.

"We want to stay in business, and the horse is our business," said Christina Hansen, a carriage horse driver who claimed de Blasio is ill-informed on the issue.

"The mayor still hasn't been to the stables."

During his bid for mayor a year ago, Bill de Blasio repeatedly told supporters that "on Day One" he would end what he saw as the inhumane practice of the colorful coaches clip-clopping their way through Central Park and the surrounding streets.

City Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito confirmed that the bill currently being drafted with the mayor's support would likely be voted on early next year, and de Blasio said he would not be in favor of further delays. "We think it's time to end horse carriages in this city and it's time to act on it," he said.

Under the bill, the industry would be phased out by the middle of 2016, with exceptions made for film sets and some parades. The bill would offer job training classes and the waiver of nearly all the fees associated with the license to drive a green taxi, which predominantly pick up passengers outside the heart of Manhattan. "We're in the tourist field, not the taxi cab business. We don't want to be in the taxi cab business," said driver Stephen Malone, noting that the holiday season was the absolute worst time to push this legislation.

Allie Friedman, head


of the group leading the charge to ban the practice, NYCLASS, cheered the news, saying it was "the right creative solution that benefits all New Yorkers by adding jobs while also ending an unsafe and inhumane industry."

That sharp back-and-forth was emblematic of a months-long debate that grew increasingly heated and occupied a bigger and bigger portion of the city's headlines, much to de Blasio's exasperation. The mayor, and the animal welfare activists who donated \$1.3 million to his campaign, said the ban should be enacted because the streets of the nation's largest city are no places for horses.

A groundswell of support emerged to save the horses. Actor Liam Neeson led a media blitz that portrayed the industry as an iconic, romantic part of New York that supported many Irish immigrants. A series of city unions, who usually are de Blasio's staunch allies, broke with the mayor, urging him to reconsider his decision in order to save not only the industry's jobs but a profitable source of tourism.

A recent poll revealed that nearly two-thirds of New Yorkers were in favor of keeping the horses at least in Central Park.

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On Dec. 2, cotton modules in a drip-irrigated field near Lubbock await being taken to the gin. (Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service photo by Dr. Gaylon Morgan)

Cotton late but looking good

COLLEGE STATION — Cotton was late to mature throughout the state this year, but timely rains and favorable conditions during the fall resulted in a good year for many growers, according to Dr. Gaylon Morgan, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service state cotton specialist, College Station. Central Texas, South Texas and Coastal Bend

cotton fields were all harvested more than a month ago, and most producers were quite pleased with their dryland and irrigated crops, Morgan said. As usual, each district had its own challenges. The Panhandle, South Plains, Rolling Plains, West Central and Far West Texas cotton harvests are all in various stages of completion,

and the last modules will all be late making it to the gins this year, he said. But statewide, it turned out to be a better year than past years for most growers, despite the late start, Morgan said. The spring was cooler than normal and delayed planting, and a late spring cold front in April hurt emerged cotton from the upper Gulf

Coast northward. Some areas received too much rain, while others got too little. Glyphosate-resistant pigweed posed some challenges for producers, but were manageable in 2014. Also, fall rains in September and early October delayed the winding up of harvest and stalk destruction, he said.

Glasscock County Jr. Livestock Show set Jan. 9-10

Special to the Herald

GARDEN CITY — The 2015 Glasscock County Junior Livestock Show will be held Jan. 9-10. All families are asked to help set up on Wednesday, Jan. 7 at 9 a.m. Weigh-in of swine projects will begin at 3 p.m. on Thursday, Jan.

8. The show starts at 9 a.m. on Friday, Jan. 9 with swine and will be followed by the steer and rabbit shows. Sheep and goat weigh-in will be held from noon until 5 p.m. on Friday as well. Saturday, Jan. 10, the sheep show starts at 8 a.m. and will be followed by the goat show.

The annual buyer's lunch will be held starting at 11:30 a.m. and the premium auction will start at 1 p.m. Judges for this year's show will be Chad Hill, swine and steers; Alice Rogers, rabbits; Chase McPhaul, sheep and goats; and Parks Tucker, showmanship.

► Building Permits

Building Permits from Nov. 18, 2014 to Dec. 1, 2014:
Larry Dean, 2511 Cheyenne. Residential mechanical. Val: \$3,000 Fee: \$45.
Haveli Construction LLC, 2502 Alamesa. Residential mechanical. Val: \$3,000 Fee: \$45.
Haveli Construction LLC, 2504 Alamesa. Residential mechanical. Val: \$3,000 Fee: \$45.
Haveli Construction LLC, 2506 Alamesa. Residential mechanical. Val: \$3,000 Fee: \$45.
J. Evans and J. Mize LLC, 1203 Pickens Ave. Residential electric. Val: \$1,800 Fee: \$49.
Dotco Distributors Inc., 1303 Stanford Ave. Residential electric. Val: \$500 Fee: \$25.
Red Rock Homes, 2509 Cheyenne. Residential plumbing. Val: \$1,500 Fee: \$64.
Jon Mark Hardgrave, 1904.5 Scurry. Residential electric. Val: \$800 Fee: \$49.
Janice Marie Banks, 1513 Tucson. Residential gas. Val: \$500 Fee: \$32.
Mitchell Michael Mitchell, 206 E. Eleventh Pl. Residential reroof. Val: \$3,000 Fee: \$25.
David Buchanan, 700 E. 4th St. Commercial electric safety. Val: \$25 Fee: \$25.
Edwin Odis Ware, 1215 Wright. Residential gas. Val: \$1,000 Fee: \$32.

Mario Deleon, 2808 Ann. Residential sewer tap. Val: \$265 Fee: \$265.
Robert F. Jackman, 1703 W. 3rd St. Residential alteration/addition. Val: \$400 Fee: \$25.
Michael Keith Fryar, 802 Highland. Residential HVAC. Val: \$20,000 Fee: \$75.
Jon Mark Hardgrave, 1904.5 Scurry. Residential electric. Val: \$500 Fee: \$25.
Mesa Valley Investment Co., 1010.5 Nolan. Residential sewer tap. Val: \$265 Fee: \$265. Residential water tap. Val: \$512 Fee: \$512.
Carl Duke Reynolds, 2500 Albrook. Residential alteration/addition. Val: \$11,500 Fee: \$70.
William Phillips, 2904 Macauslan. Fence. Val: \$2,000 Fee: \$25.
Tom Land, 1511 Mesquite. Fence and storage building. Val: \$6,500 Fee: \$45.
Comfort Suites, 707 NW 10th St. Commercial construction. Val: \$3,500,00 Fee: \$7,710.
Timothy Jay Gonzales, 3605 Tingle. Residential mechanical. Val: \$4,500 Fee: \$45.
First Presbyterian Church, 707 Runnels. Commercial reroof. Val: \$2,800 Fee: \$25.
H. Mendoza, 406 NW 11th St. Storage building. Val: \$2,287 Fee: \$25.
Jon Mark Hardgrave,

1906 Scurry. Residential HVAC. Val: \$6,000 Fee: \$45.
Mary Louise Partlow, 1501 Lexington Ave. B. Residential gas. Val: \$100 Fee: \$32.
Ursula Raymundo Gomez, 2606 Cindy Ln. Storage shed. Val: \$2,150 Fee: \$25.
Joyce Ann Coleman, 2307 Brent. Residential electric. Val: \$100 Fee: \$25.
Ricky Kim Green, 1504 Tucson. Residential plumbing. Val: \$2,000 Fee: \$32.
Preston Reed Whitehead, 1305 Wood. Residential gas. Val: \$100 Fee: \$32.
Joe F. Torres, 612 Colgate. Residential reroof. Val: \$1,000 Fee: \$25.
Neighbor's Convenience Store, 3315 E. FM 700. Commercial alteration/addition. Val: \$700 Fee: \$25.
Woodgroup Mustang Engineering, 1900 Gregg C. Commercial electric. Val: 0 Fee: \$25.
Maranatha Academy, 903 Johnson. Commercial reroof. Val: \$10,000 fee: \$60.
Big Spring Bowl A Rama, 3318 E. IH 20. Commercial reroof. Val: \$40,000 Fee: \$210.
Woodgroup Mustang Engineering, 1900 Gregg C. Commercial plumbing. Val: \$5,000 Fee: \$43.
Dr. Richard Cauley DDS, Inc., 701 Johnson. Com-

mercial sprinkler system. Val: \$1,500 Fee: \$9.75
Total: 37 projects. Valuation: \$3,641,304.37 Fee: \$10,181.75
Building Code Recap:
Res reroof 2 pro 2 seg. Val: \$4,000 Fee: \$50
Res elec 5 pro 5 seg. Val: \$3,700 Fee: \$173
Res plumb 2 pro 2 seg. Val: \$3,500 Fee: \$96
Res HVAC 7 pro 7 seg. Val: \$42,500 Fee: \$345
Res gas 4 pro 4 seg. Val: \$1,700 Fee: \$128
Res water tap 0 pro 1 seg. Val: \$512 Fee: \$512
Res sewer tap 2 pro 2 seg. Val: \$530 Fee: \$530
com. sprinkler system. 1 pro 1 seg. Val: \$1,500 Fee: \$9.75
Hotels, motes and tourist cabins 1 pro 1 seg. Val: \$3,500,000 Fee: \$7,710
Com reroof 3 pro 3 seg. Val: \$52,800 Fee: \$295
Com elec 2 pro 2 seg. Val: \$25 Fee: \$50
Com plumb 1 pro 1 seg. Val: \$5,000 Fee: \$43
Other nonresidential buildings 2 pro 2 seg. Val: \$4,437.37 Fee: \$50
Structures other than buildings 2 pro 2 seg. Val: \$8,500 Fee: \$70
Residential additions and alterations 2 pro 2 seg. Val: \$11,900 Fee: \$95
Nonresidential and nonhousekeeping add/alt. 1 pro 1 seg. Val: \$700 Fee: \$25

BBB Planning a party? Don't get stressed

Although you may still be munching on that leftover turkey and decorating the Christmas tree, we've officially entered the time of year for holiday gatherings.

As the calendar begins to fill up with office soirees and neighborhood gatherings, you may be thinking about throwing your own celebration for friends and family. Whether it's a last-minute holiday party or a celebration to bring in the New Year, Better Business Bureau wants your event to be memorable, for all the right reasons.



TYLER D. PATTON

Last year, BBB received more than 1,000 complaints against event planning, catering and entertainment services nationally. Common complaints included; items listed in contract that were not provided, excessive fees and unfulfilled refund requests.

Feeding and entertaining a large group can be stressful. Many will hire a catering service or event planner to make party planning a lot easier. BBB offers this advice when choosing the right party services for your event:

Start your search with BBB. Find a BBB Accredited Businesses at checkbbb.org and utilize the Request-a-Quote feature for an estimate. Also, check out their BBB Business Review for details on the company, including business details, how they handle complaints, customer reviews and any advertising issues.

Decide what services you need. Live music or DJ? Appetizers or dinner? There are so many details to consider when planning and with little time left, it's important to trust the company. Be sure to understand what each service will provide and budget accordingly. Each service should provide a detailed written agreement for provided services.

Know who you'll be working with. Get the name and contact information of the person who will be in charge on the day of the event in case problems arise. If possible, talk with this person during the planning stages so that you will have a good working relationship before the event.

Get everything in writing. Discuss conditions and get a written agreement. Be sure this includes details of any changes in plans such as the number of guests, menu selection or unexpected issues that require cancellation. Keep a written copy of the agreed terms.

Understand the fees. Discuss and fully understand what each service will cost and ask about any deposits or additional fees. Ask for an invoice before paying, this should include a breakdown of costs, including taxes and fees. Your agreement should also include the number of staff involved, charges for overtime, and the starting and ending time of the event. Get a written, signed and dated copy of all receipts after payment.

For more tips you can trust, visit bbb.org.

Tyler D. Patton is director of the Permian Basin Better Business Bureau.

► Public Records

Howard County Justice of the Peace Outstanding IBC Warrants:
Sherri Monique Aldridge, 1507 E. 6th St., Big Spring
Marcus Joe Anderson, 3306 Auburn St., Big Spring
Steve Antoine, 1425 E. 6th St. no. 19, Big Spring
Katie Cole L. Baker, P.O. Box 3372, Big Spring
Jessica Lynn Banks, 6403 CR 1200, Big Spring
William Riley Bounds, 1810 Corsicana, Dallas
Tiffany Burke-Mendoza, 1503 Robin, Big Spring
Wayne Richard Boyce, 4042 Morningside, Canyon
Raymond Carroll, 712 E. 17th St., Big Spring
Roy DeWayne Carter, 5320 Wasson, Big Spring
Monica Ida Castillo, 2609 Wasson Rd. apt. 36 C, Big Spring
Susan Cheyanne Cearley, 4104 Muir, Big Spring
Pedro Chavarria, 1404 Wood, Big Spring
Okytra Larae Cole, 1903 Runnels, Big Spring
Matilda Cortez, 302 N. St. Teresa, Stanton

Stefan Deal, 8102 Casie Ln. apt. 1131, Fort Worth
Hannah Deaton, 19634 Atasca Oaks Dr., Humble
Manuel DeLosrios, 707 Lorilla St., Big Spring
Teana L. Demeny-Roberts, 5601 N. Service Rd., Big Spring
Shiloh Sharee Dennis, 4651 E. CR 490, Stanton
Maria Luisa Elizondo, 603 S. 2nd St., Meadow
Tina Marie Ellis, 4002 Austin Ave., Snyder
Brittany Vanessa Escanuela, 2521 Chanute, Big Spring
John Randall Evatt, 608 S. Louisiana apt. C, Amarillo
Kristen Falcon, 2606 Fairchild Dr., Big Spring
Michael Dean Fleming, 5216 Tremont Ave., Midland
Andy Lee Flores, 1302 Kendall, Big Spring
Sharlamarr Frink, 3723 Monclair, Odessa
Noel Garcia II, 1011 Stadium, Big Spring
Pedro Garcia, 806

See **RECORDS**, Page 5B

RECORDS

Continued from Page 4B

Johnson, Big Spring
Rosa M. George, 509
W. 2nd St., Stanton
Roxanne Deanda Gon-
zales, 538 Westover Rd.
apt. 211, Big Spring
Whitney Marquez Gray,
2934 Old Anson Rd. no.
1224, Abilene
James Michael Griffin,
303 Butler St. no. 502,
Atlanta
Donovan Lamont Gris-
som, 2613 Neill Rd., Big
Spring
Eugene Frank Gulley,
1201 Floydada, Welling-
ton, Texas
Christina Nichole
Gutierrez, 2809 25th St.,
Snyder
Dylan Hammons, 4404
E. 11th Pl., Big Spring
Matias Hernandez Jr.,
620 E. 4th St., Big Spring
James Beauford Hod-
nett, 111 Merrick Road,
Big Spring
April M. Horton, 1705
Charles St., Portsmouth,
Ohio
Brian Ivanchan, 1208
Mulberry, Big Spring
Shatiya Lasha Jenkins,
4590 N. Texas no. 198,
Odessa
Stephanie Ford John-
son, P.O. Box 483, Coa-
homa
Christopher Shawn
Jones, Vanham Ave.,
Wilson
Albert Leal, 2522 Al-
brook, Big Spring
Richard Leos, 509 W.
8th St., Big Spring
Jesse Paul Lopez, 1011
Scurry, Big Spring
Jenny Marie Hamilton
Lyon, 2609 Fairchild, Big
Spring
Aaron Christopher
Mack, 2134 Bonham
Ave., Odessa
Todd Vincent Martin,
409 Woodcrest, Midland
Joe Martinez, 2525
Fairchild, Big Spring
Manuel Martinez Jr.,
702 NE Iona, Lamesa

Michael Shane Mar-
tinez, P.O. Box 613,
Coahoma
Lee Allen Mathis, 101
Falcon Ln., Hillsboro
Hutchinson McWilliams,
1700 N. FM 700, Big
Spring
Jonathan L. Michelsen,
2798 Simmons, Abilene
Jacob Montoya, 149
Whipowheel, Rockdale
Willie Ray Myles Jr.,
1220 Ross Ave., Waco,
Texas
Camilo Martin Nieto, 1
Courtney Pl. no. 108, Big
Spring
Melissa Chu-Lai Nieto,
615 Tulane, Big Spring
Dehalie Marie Nunez,
P.O. Box 93, Eden
Robert Scott Ochoa,
2607 Chanutte, Big Spring
Cresencio Inez Padilla,
P.O. box 2567, Big Spring
James Michael Perez,
1603 Owens, Big Spring
Michael Lynn Perkins,
11681 CR 4164, Her-
mleigh
Taylor James Perry,
2105 Sidney Baker no.
228, Kerrville
Jarum Renee Pryor,
602 N. Plaza, Big Lake
Randy Randolph, 237
W. 21st St., Ft. Stockton
Shenna Leean Reeves,
615 Gene Lee Rd., Min-
eral Wells
John Daniel Renteria,
4221 CR A 3500, Knott
John Troy Riddle, 801
Industrial Loop no. 65,
Breckenridge
Liza Leigh Rios, 1002
Main no. 30, Big Spring
Linda Eva Rodriguez,
2519 Gunter, Big Spring
Veronica Romero, 103
Becker Rd., Big Spring
Lisa J. Rubio, 1303
Sycamore, Big Spring
Miguel Andres Sanchez,
64 McCaleb Rd., Mont-
gomery
Anastasia Clarice Sand-
ers, 1401 Culpepper,
Wilson
Brittany Nicole Savell,
425 East Davis Rd., Big
Spring
Kennedra Wynell Shel-
ton, 400 N. 40th St. no. A,

Corsicana
Charles Ray Smith,
2911 W. Highway 80 apt.
155, Big Spring
Tiffany Katherine
Stokes, 1407 E. 19th St.,
Big Spring
Timothy Donald Taylor,
4000 W. Highway 80 no.
18, Big Spring
Olivia Talietha Threats,
1208 Blackmon, Big
Spring
Abram Heinrichs Unger,
503 NE 4th St., Big Spring
Ricky Lynn Walten-
baugh, 538 Westover Rd.,
apt. 133, Big Spring
Timothy Shea Wargo,
624 State St., Big Spring
Thomas Weeks, P.O.
Box 110891, Anchorage,
Ak.
Candida Lynn White-
head, 3706 Connolly St.,
Big Spring
Tamara Ruth Whitt,
1909 Morrison, Big Spring
Jamie Wiggins, 1905
Wasson Rd. apt. 28, Big
Spring
Byran Paul Williams,
1409 E. Main, Big Spring
Frances Elena Yanez,
1610 Cardinal, Big Spring
James Edward Young,
3313 Auburn Ave., Big
Spring

Marriage Licenses
Steven Paul Patterson,
34 and Tonya Yvonne
Bradley, 34, both of Coa-
homa
John Francis Fisher
Jr., 26 and Alesha Kay
Yanez, 21, both of Big
Spring

Warranty Deeds
Grantor: Apostolic Faith
Bible College Inc.
Grantee: Lloyd Claxton,
Herb McPherson and Bill
Schaffner, as Trustees for
Crossroads Baptist As-
sociation
Property: Lots 11 and
12, blk 9, Cole and Stray-
horn Addition
Date: Nov. 21, 2014

Grantor: Apostolic Faith
Bible College Inc.
Grantee: Crossroads

Baptist Association
Property: Lots 1,2 and
3, blk 16, Cole and Stray-
horn Addition
Date: Nov. 21, 2014

**Warranty Deeds
With Vendors Leins**
Grantor: Wayne Wright
and Rhonda Wright
Grantee: Courtney Bal-
lard and Kelli Ballard
Property: A 100 acre
tract out of the S/2 of sec
25, blk 34, T-1-S, T&P
RR Co. Survey, Howard

County
Date: Dec. 2, 2014
Grantor: Scott Good-
blanket Jr. and Dolores
Goodblanket
Grantee: James Dearnld
Fryar
Property: Lot 4, blk 30,
College Park Estates
Date: Nov. 21, 2014
Grantor: Kyhooya Part-
nership
Grantee: Anthony
Randle

Property: Lots 3,4,5,6,
subdivision B, in blk 14,
Fairview Heights
Date: Nov. 20, 2014

District Court Filings
Cassy Nalley vs Joshua
Nalley – Divorce
Mandy Salinas vs Joe
Luna – Protective order
Cynthia Jane Longoria
vs Rosalio Garcia Longo-
ria - Divorce



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chrome wheels, black/cocoa mahogany interior.
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Texas carjackers thwarted by car's stick shift

HOUSTON (AP) Authorities say two teenagers attempting to carjack a vehicle in Houston were foiled by a stick shift.

The pair held the motorist at gunpoint last weekend and demanded that he tell them how to drive the vehicle. After the driver provided a few instructions, the teens ordered him out of the vehicle. He then called police.

A brief police chase ensued. Stefan Happ, an officer for the University of Texas at Houston, told KPRC-TV (<http://bit.ly/1tJoDw9>) the teens "had issues operating the vehicle."

The pair opted to flee on foot and were later apprehended.

The suspects are 15 and 17 years old. They were taken into custody. The older boy was charged with aggravated robbery with a deadly weapon.

Australia: Embassies not there for absurd requests

CANBERRA, Australia (AP) No, you can't get a loan to pay for a prostitute in Thailand.

And seeking assistance to evict a polecat above a ceiling in the U.S. is going to be futile.

Australia is taking steps to curb such absurd requests that its traveling citizens have lodged with Australian embassies and consulates around the world.

Foreign Minister Julie Bishop announced the new measures Wednesday to underscore consular services as a last resort and to promote "a stronger culture of self-reliance and personal responsibility in the traveling public."

These measures include a new policy of providing minimal consular services to Australians who willfully, repeatedly or negligently get themselves into trouble. Charging for the consular help is also something the government is considering, she said.

"Our consular staff are not there to pay for the repairs to your jet

ski; they're not there to pay your hotel bill; they're not there to lend you a laptop or to provide you with office space in the embassy for you to do your work," Bishop said, listing actual requests that Australian embassies have refused.

At the embassy in Bangkok, Australia's busiest, an Australian walked in with a prostitute and was refused a loan to pay for services already provided, said Anita Downey, a senior counselor official at the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

Such requests are common at that embassy, she said.

Other locations that frequently get outlandish requests include Los Angeles, Bali, Manila and Dubai, she said.

Diplomats have fielded requests for an armored car, help removing a polecat above the ceiling of a house and intervention to prevent payment of a speeding fine, senior foreign ministry official Justin Brown said.

Other examples: Australians who were

evacuated from civil unrest in Egypt in a government-chartered Qantas airliner in 2011 expected frequent flier miles for trip.

Some Australians evacuated from the aftermath of the 2004 tsunami in Southeast Asia requested first-class seats, DFAT records show.

Australians are avid travelers. With a population of just 24 million, they made 9.2 million overseas trips last year. That same year, the foreign affairs department assisted 15,000 of them.

Brown said the United States, Canada and New Zealand embassies were experiencing similar escalating expectations from its citizens.

"At most of our posts there are people we would describe colloquially as serial pests who are constantly bouncing back into the embassy because they've run out of money or they've got some sort of other personal problem and they often come to the embassy and the consular teams expecting us to solve their problems for them," Brown said.

Contact the Herald
at 263-7331

Letters to Santa!

Deadline For Letters is
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Letters will be published in
the Letters to Santa Special on
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Tips for a Pet-Friendly Holiday

(Family Features) 'Tis the season for holiday parties, and many pet lovers jump at the opportunity to include their four-legged friends in the festivities. Pet holiday parties may range from the simply elegant to the simply silly, but they all have one thing in common – a doggone good time.

To get started planning your pet party, consider these special party planning tips from Kimberly Schlegel Whitman, editor-at-large for Southern Living and author of "The Party Planner."

Attire: One of the best ways to set the stage for a party is to ask guests to sport a festive look, and pets are no exception. For a classy party, use your invitation to ask your guests to dress up and remind them to bring their furry friends on their favorite fancy leash. You can find an array of dressy options at PetSmart, including bowties, sparkle dresses and the Santa Cat Cape, all will surely dress up the occasion.

Or go the other direction with a fun ugly sweater party. Invite your friends to dress the part and bring their pets in their silliest attire. The Bret Michaels PetsRock line of ugly sweaters – some even light up – are the perfect complement to your own gaudy attire.

Mealtime: Consider setting up a treat buffet for your four-legged friends. Fill large clear glass containers with different varieties of colorful treats.

Manners: Don't expect your four-legged friends to share. Purchase a festive dog bowl for each guest, such as the Martha Stewart Pets Santa ceramic bowl from PetSmart, and fill each with water. Then keep them for next year's holiday party, or give them away as party favors at the end of the event.

Music: Set the tone with holiday tunes, or go one step further with a little bit of research into the names and breeds of the pets loved by the composers or singers. Make a playlist of your favorites and type it up for your guests. **Decor:** Snap a Polaroid photo of each of your guests in their festive attire as they arrive. Hang a clothesline made of ribbons near the entrance and clip the photos up with clothespins as they print for instant personalized decor that your guests will love.

Gifts: Don't forget the party favors. Consider a small gift for each family to take home with a bone-shaped card attached that reads "Happy Howlidays!" Another option is a small faux tree decorated with bright dog toys and bones. (Be sure to use a faux tree; four-legged guests may be tempted to leave their mark on the real thing.) At the end of the event, you can ask your guests to choose a treat as their take-home favor. For more holiday ideas and tips, visit your local PetSmart or www.petsmart.com/holiday



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Area Square Footage	
Livable	2,401
Garage	538
Front Porch	123
Back Porch	174
Total	3,236

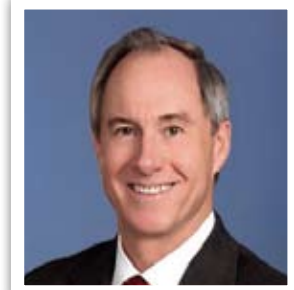
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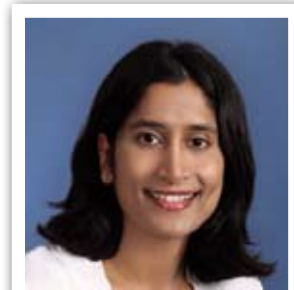
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Packed agenda for Prince William, Kate in NYC, DC

NEW YORK (AP) — Among the roughly 5 million visitors expected in New York this holiday season, at least two are certain to get the royal treatment: Britain's Prince William and his wife, Kate. They're due to arrive Sunday for the first trip either has made to the United States' biggest city, and William also is set to visit the nation's capital for the first time.

A few things to know:
THE GAME PLAN
Properly known as the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, the royals are making their first official visit to the United States since a 2011 jaunt to California. (William made a personal trip to a friend's Memphis, Tennessee, wedding this May with his brother, Prince Harry.)

The duke and duchess have been looking forward to a three-day trip involving issues "close to both of their hearts," a spokeswoman said.

Kate is expecting their second child in April, but the royals' schedule is packed with plans ranging from paying respects at the National Sept. 11 Memorial and Museum to taking in a Cleveland Cavaliers-Brooklyn Nets game.

Other events promote British involvement in New York's technology and creative sectors and spotlight the couple's charitable interests in wildlife conservation and child development.

Among other commitments, William will head to a World Bank conference in Washington to discuss fighting illegal trade in

wildlife parts, while Kate will tour a New York child development center with the city's first lady, Chirlane McCray.

William and Kate also are due to join Tom Hanks, opera singer Renee Fleming and others at a black-tie, up-to-\$10,000-per-seat scholarship fundraiser for the University of St. Andrews, the Scottish institution where the royal couple met and earned degrees.

As an itinerary, "it's trying to cover a lot of points in a short period of time," but it signals the couple's interest in forging ties with Americans who share their philanthropic ideas, says Joe Little, the managing editor of Majesty magazine.

NYC, ROYALTY AND 'ROYALS'
Spain's Queen Letizia toured a public school just in September. Among British royals, Queen Elizabeth II visited in 2010, and Prince Harry hit both New York and Washington last year. The queen's daughter, Princess Anne, opened an exhibition of the Magna Carta in Washington last month.

But William and Kate's watched-around-the-world wedding and parenthood have made

them particular magnets for public attention, as a 21st-century royal family in which an heir to the throne drives his newborn home from the hospital himself.

New York Mayor Bill de Blasio rose to political prominence pledging to champion the middle class, a point underscored when he took his victory-party stage last year to "Royals," pop star Lorde's hit that declares "we'll never be royals ... That kind of luxe just ain't for us."

But de Blasio has praised William and Kate's visit, noting their charitable work and saying he'd like to "see how we can work together."

TRAVELING, WITH A TITLE

The duke and duchess will take commercial flights and stay in a New York hotel, which their spokespeople wouldn't name.

Their retinue includes two private secretaries, two media aides, an adviser, a personal assistant, and a privately paid hairdresser for Kate. The British government's Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the Royal Foundation, the couple's and Harry's charity, and St. Andrews are splitting other trip costs.

BABY WATCH
The couple's 17-month-old son, Prince George, isn't making the trip.

Acute morning sickness sidelined Kate for a couple of months earlier this year, but she returned to her royal duties with gusto in late October.

STYLE GUIDE
While the royals promote causes, many eyes will doubtless be on Kate's clothes. A style icon whose outfits can sell out in stores within hours after she's seen in them, she's won fashion-lovers' affection partly because she doesn't always choose complex or custom-made attire: "There's a connection, you can get it," or at least a copy of it, says Michael Casey, a professor at New York's Fashion Institute of Technology.

While Kate has been known to favor such designers as British

fashionhouse Alexander McQueen, London-based Roksanda Ilincic, the Brazilian Issa and the British upscale fashion brand LK Bennett,

look for her to pack some American labels for the trip: It's a tradition to pay some fashion tributes to a host country.

The duke and duchess have been looking forward to a three-day trip involving issues "close to both of their hearts,"

a spokeswoman said.

of luxe just ain't for us." But de Blasio has praised William and Kate's visit, noting their charitable work and saying he'd like to "see how we can work together."

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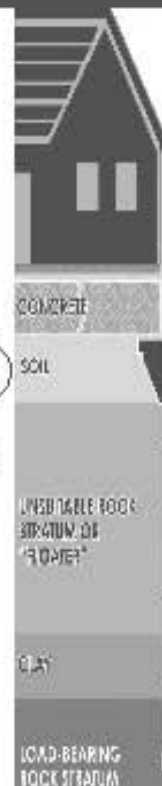
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An open hearing notifying the public of the insufficient performance, the improvements in performance expected by the TEA, and the intervention measures in place for the Big Spring Independent School District (BSISD) and three campuses in the district not meeting improvement required in the 2013-2014 school year will be held on Thursday, December 11 at 6:00 p.m. in the High School Board Room. At the public hearing, the following Targeted Improvement Plans (TIP) will be shared. If you would like to preview these plans ahead of time, they are available on the BSISD website and on the subsequent campus webpages. Paper copies may be obtained at the district office at 708 East 11th Place. 2014-15 District Targeted Improvement Plan (TIP) 2014-15 Goliad Elementary TIP. 2014-15 Marcy Elementary TIP 2014-15 Washington Elementary TIP #8544 December 5, 7, 8, 9, & 10, 2014

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LEGAL AUTHORITY: Chapter 27 of the Texas Water Code, as amended, Title 3 of the Texas Natural Resources Code, as amended, and the Statewide Rules of the Oil and Gas Division of the Railroad Commission of Texas.

Requests for a public hearing from persons who can show they are adversely affected or requests for further information concerning any aspect of the application should be submitted in writing, within fifteen days of publication, to the Environmental Services Section, Oil and Gas Division, Railroad Commission of Texas, P. O. Box 12967, Austin, Texas 78711 (Telephone 512-463-6792). #8546 December 7, 2014



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Tomorrow's Horoscope

Post-Full Moon Reality

Things look different after a full moon, and adjustments will be made accordingly.

Consider that reality will be reality. When it's in line with our preferences, we assume it's on our side. When it's not, we assume it's against us.

What if reality has no preference at all? What if we order it to be what we want, and it simply goes on being what it is?

ARIES (March 21-April 19). In a larger sense, all of the circumstances you are experiencing (and have, would and could experience) are temporary. Therefore, loss is inevitable. The fear of loss, however, is



HOLIDAY MATHIS

optional. **TAURUS** (April 20-May 20). A friendly rivalry gives you enjoyment. Though you may be keenly determined to win, and winning is your preference, you will not really be disappointed if you lose, because it means your good friend has won.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You are still developing the special skill of knowing when to stop. You can apply this to many areas of life, as the excessive pursuit of anything -- even the very best things in life -- can be unhealthy.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). With a warm smile and a polite, unassuming manner you will win the interests of acquaintances and potential clients. Friendships will develop out of this group of new faces.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Those bold enough to advise you are merely telling you what they believe they would do in your position. This has little to do with what is right for you, which of course only you would know. Trust your own guidance.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You are primarily trying to open your heart more and think of others

more. Each time you fall short of this request of yourself, know that it's human nature at work and simply try again, no punishment necessary.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Performing well correlates with a high tolerance of frustration. Those who can cope with setbacks and be serene in the face of difficulty will win. Self-esteem will have little to do with it.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Money doesn't make a person better, and being broke doesn't make a person worse. Whatever you can do to separate your finances from your feelings will improve both.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Worry is fearful thinking in repetition. Break the cycle -- rewrite the script, and leave out the fear. In order to ponder without anxiety, you'll have to ponder new things, not the same things over and over.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). It will be easy for you to fall into an even-minded approach to relationships. Everyone has good and bad traits. It's pointless to make comparisons between people and even more pointless to compare yourself.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Though you usually give people the benefit of the doubt, when you have a strong instinct that someone is up to no good, this is not to be ignored. To prevent future problems, protect yourself.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Being an imperfect human, it follows that you will act imperfectly in many ways. That doesn't make you any less of a person. Accepting imperfection is your key to feeling better.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Dec. 7). Your friends love you more than you realize, but you'll start to understand that when they make a fuss over you this year. The work you do on the domestic front will positively impact your finances. You're a competitor for a substantial prize in January. March and July bring a whirl of dates and social events. Aquarius and Capricorn people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 10, 12, 40, 37 and 16.

FORECAST FOR THE WEEK AHEAD: These are brave times, when people feel like breaking mental chains and rushing to experience the unknown. Last week's Gemini full moon brought new connections, fascinating conversations

and fresh energy for the Sagittarian solar explorations to come. The next major move is Monday's direction shift of Jupiter in Leo. Jupiter retrograde can be seen as a reversal of fortune or a deeper understanding of fortune's very nature. As Jupiter stalls out to change direction, matters having to do with children, such as childcare arrangements, educational endeavors, special activities and the like, may be sorted out differently from the way they were in the past. Some parents will reconsider certain activities, friendships and plans, questioning what is really best for the child. Creative endeavors and the realm of entertainment will also get another look. Many will expect more meaning and quality from entertainment and will make new choices in this regard. The entertainment business itself will experience a shift in priority. Many deals will be delayed and parts will be recast, and changes in finance, personnel, business

models and overall priorities will affect the highest levels of the industry.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: In addition to being an increasingly busy star of "X-Men" and numerous upcoming major films, Sagittarius Nicholas Hoult is also becoming a regular focus for the gossip mill, as he dates some of Hollywood's most eligible starlets. With four planets including Venus in Capricorn, Hoult will date those with whom he works and may, for many years, be more in love with work than romance.

If you would like to write to Holiday Mathis, please go to www.creators.com and click on "Write the Author" on the Holiday Mathis page, or you may send her a postcard in the mail. To find out more about Holiday Mathis and read her past columns, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

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Answer to previous puzzle

LPS	CZAR	SITSUP
LOW	NEMO	UNEASE
ALA	BREW	BUNYAN
MITE	CONSUMING	
ASHY	NIT	RAW
SHEETS	GET	DASH
HEARS	PICKY	
EMIT	MACHINE	
HEMIN	AFOLUL	
APEX	TNT	BETTOR
MAR	SAD	ROME
ITEM	AFTER	ITEM
ACTIVE	IOTA	ALE
ROUTER	JERK	LED
MEISONS	ISEE	STY

Newsday Crossword

SATURDAY STUMPER by Anna Stiga Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS**
1 How change may come to Canadians
9 Be accommodating
15 Current danger
16 Eminent mariner of York
17 Big-12 city
18 Earn or encompass
19 Kept talking
20 False profession
22 Presents for discussion
23 Rations
24 With 28 Across, overtly abashed
25 Black O'Keeffe subject
26 Frozen-fish company cofounder
27 Matter of primary concern
28 See 24 Across
29 Steinbeck's "Mother Road"
31 Paper cutters, for short
32 Zip
33 Where some conductors work
34 42 Down descriptor
37 Capital of Aragon
39 Wish to take back
40 Cabinet department once joined with Commerce
43 Complain softly
44 Combines
45 Mini found in Snak-Saks
46 Opposite of "okay"

- 47 He's left of the Dorseys on the Big Band Leaders stamps
48 They have burning desires
50 Pro athlete often linked with Wilma
51 Bugs
52 Settler along the St. Lawrence
54 Up (for)
55 Not much bread
56 Youth
57 In poor condition
- DOWN**
1 Scrape hard to escape
2 Loose, as a clipper
3 Pair behind the nose

- 4 Do-overs
5 Six Beethoven string works
6 Ian Fleming went there
7 ___ house
8 Switch
9 Pinch-hit (for)
10 Fudge alternative
11 Man-cave device
12 Deja News once archived it
13 "That's what it looks like"
14 Guiding lights
21 Santalike
23 Passé roll with a hole
26 Place to land
27 Career bio
29 Have at it verbally

- 30 Extent
34 Interview show that got a 1993 Peabody Award
35 Public reached
36 Judge's order
37 Takes a closer look
38 Race starter, perhaps
40 Snap
41 Not generally known
42 Prefix for mania
44 Turkey part
46 Word from the Latin for "frighten"
47 Almost famous
49 Extended locks
50 Aid partner
53 First to order the Dreamliner

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15									16				
17									18				
19								20	21				
22								23				24	
25								26			27		
28								29			30		
31								32			33		
								37			38		
								39					
40	41	42						43			44		
45								46			47		
48								49			50		
51								52	53				
54								55					
56								57					

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By Steve Becker

Beyond the Shadow of a Doubt

North dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH		
♠	A Q 9 4	
♥	9 7 2	
♦	A Q 6 5	
♣	Q 8	
WEST		
♠	8	
♥	K 10 6 4	
♦	10 9 7	
♣	K 6 5 3 2	
SOUTH		
♠	K J 7 5 2	
♥	A Q 8	
♦	K J 3	
♣	A J	

The bidding:
North East South West
1♦ Pass 1♠ Pass
2♠ Pass 6♣
Opening lead — ten of diamonds.

to-1. **But 3-to-1 shots** have been known to fail and, in fact, would have in the actual case. However, South substituted a method of play that would add significantly to his chances. **He won the diamond lead** with the king and, after drawing three rounds of trumps, cashed the J-Q of diamonds. When West proved to have no more than three diamonds, South had a sure thing, but he had to be careful not to cash the diamond ace at this point, which would have forced him to choose a discard prematurely. **For example,** suppose he had cashed the ace and discarded a heart. If he then took either a heart or club finesse, he would have gone down. Whichever finesse he elected to take, West would win with the king and return the same suit. Eventually, South would try the other finesse and lose it for down one. **Instead,** South led a low heart from dummy at trick seven and inserted the eight. West won with the ten but had to return either a heart or a club, handing declarer a free finesse and the slam as well. **The effect of delaying the discard** on the ace of diamonds was that it allowed South to create an endplay position from which West could not escape, and changed a 75 percent chance of success to 100 percent.

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Sudoku Answer On Page 3A

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.

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

www.sudoku-puzzles.net

**My friend's uncle's second cousin's son has autism.
My ~~friend's~~ uncle's second cousin's son has autism.
My ~~friend's uncle's~~ second cousin's son has autism.
My ~~friend's uncle's second~~ cousin's son has autism.
My ~~friend's uncle's second cousin's~~ son has autism.**

Autism is getting closer to home.

Today, 1 in 110 children is diagnosed.

Early diagnosis can make a lifetime of difference.



Learn the signs at autismspeaks.org



AUTISM SPEAKS™
It's time to listen.