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SUNDAY

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Veterans Day gala set for Wednesday

A community-wide ceremony to honor all U.S. military veterans for their service and sacrifice will be held Wednesday, Veterans Day. "This is for the whole community," said Moses Tijerina, West Texas VA Health Care System volunteer services specialists. "Following the ceremony, there will be a free lunch in the East Room."

What: Community-wide Veteran's Day ceremony.
Where: Dorothy Garrett Coliseum.
When: 11 a.m. Wednesday.

The ceremony will be held at 11 a.m. the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum located at on the Howard College campus. Guest speaker is the Rev. Scott Jiminez, the chaplain for Big Spring Veterans Hospital and a veteran of the U.S. Marine Corp and U.S.

Navy. The Howard College music department will also participate in the event.

Veterans Day is a legal holiday set aside to honor all American veterans living and dead and to give thanks for those who served honorably in both war and peacetime.

Later that day, Forsan Elementary School fourth and fifth graders present "An attitude of gratitude" musical performance to honor veterans. Veterans are encouraged to come to the Forsan Elementary School gymnasium at 500 W. Main St. in Forsan at 2:15 p.m.

— By Lyndel Moody



Raising the alarm

Crews were busy Friday afternoon installing a railroad crossing warning system where the rail spur crosses West Business 20 in Big Spring.

County to unveil road plan

By STEVE REAGAN
Staff Writer

Howard County commissioners will discuss a variety of topics ranging from security cameras to sealcoating plans when they meet at 5:30 p.m. Monday in the county courthouse's third-floor courtroom.

During the meeting, commissioners will consider authorizing security cameras in the tax office and inside and outside the annex building.

County Road Department Supervisor Brian Klinksiek is expected to present road sealcoating plans for the coming year, as well as seeking permission to go out for bids for the project.

In other business, commissioners will consider:

- Discussion of a possible change in policy regarding Maintenance Department pay for after-hours call outs.
- Pipeline crossings and road maintenance.
- Personnel matters, invoices, purchase requests, budget amendments and the monthly financial report.

Contact Staff Writer Steve Reagan at 263-7331 ext. 235.



A chilly way to start your day

It was a brisk and windy Saturday morning when walkers participating in the Big Spring Correctional Center's Veterans Day 5K Run/Walk set out on the 3.2 mile course around parts of the McMahon-Winkle Airpark. Runners began their race about 15 minutes later. Money raised from the event goes to the Lone Survivor Foundation. See related photos, Page 78A.

TxDOT program aims to stop deadly streak

Special to the Herald



Saturday marked a grim milestone in the state of Texas. As of Nov. 7, 2000, at least one fatality has occurred on a Texas roadway per day, resulting in a 5,478 day streak of deaths on the road.

In an effort to end this deadly streak, the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) is launching a social media campaign to spread awareness on traffic

and road safety called End The Streak. Throughout the month of November, TxDOT will be posting facts and information about the past 15 years via social media and encouraging Texans to share the information they post in an effort to end the deadly streak. TxDOT also encourages Texans to use the hashtag #EndTheStreakTX on their social media pages and

See STREAK, Page 3A

Dine Out Days
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All gave some ... some gave all

Story and Cover by Julie Bass

What do you say to someone that has offered their life, their comfort, even their well being to make sure that you are a little safer at night?

People join the military for a lot of different reasons. Some are pushed by the desire to be a hero, while others feel it is their patriotic duty. Some join to get out of the current life they lead, whether it is to have the military pay for college or the desire to see the world. The reason really doesn't matter; the point is that they go.

After weeks of basic/boot camp, they go into a specialized training course that will prepare them for the specific details of the job they will perform.

Soldiers, whether they are Army, Marine, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, National Guard or whatever other branch you include in your thoughts, put their lives on the line. They sacrifice time with their family and friends.

The full time soldiers get a duty station and that is their home, their work, their life.

They work hard, they train hard, and the truly dedicated ones live for the time with their "brothers."

Some are able to serve out their service time without ever shooting a weapon at another human being or deploying to war ravaged areas. Sometimes a soldier will get to their duty station and train for months or even years before their first deployment while others will be at their station a very short time before shipping out for war.

Deployments take the soldiers far from home to foreign countries where often the locals do not speak English very well, if at all. There is usually a threat hanging over the

heads of the soldiers even when they are laying in their bunks at night. Patrols take them out of the semi-safety of their FOBs (Forward Operating Base) and can be very dangerous.

They do not get cable TV in their barracks during a deployment, they don't get to just run down to the store for whatever they are craving, and sometimes there isn't even enough food to sufficiently feed all of them properly each day.

They shoot at people, they get shot at, holes in the roads could be a minor pot hole or a IED (Improvised Explosive Device) ready to blow up the trucks in the convoy.

IEDs are the cause of many soldiers death and loss of limbs during deployments to Afghanistan and Iraq.

A lot of these soldiers come back with wounds, not all of them visible. It is easy to spot a lost leg or arm, it is impossible to see the wounds caused by PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder) and it is hard to spot a veteran most of the time.

This Wednesday is Veterans Day. It is a day to show honor and respect to all soldiers who have served.

It was originally known as Armistice Day and started on June 28, 1919 after World War I (which at the time was called "The Great War" because World War II had not happened yet.)

Armistice Day was to celebrate the cessation of hostilities between the Allies and Germany which occurred on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month. Therefore, 11-11-19 became the first commemoration of the cease fire. On that day, president Wilson said, "To us in America, the reflections of

See **Veterans** page 3B

Courtesy Photos

Fort Polk, La.'s 4-10 2/30 during deployments to Afghanistan and Iraq. One picture from the Army Ball.



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► Births

Dakota Blakely Born
Oct. 2, 2015

Brice and Ashley Born of Coahoma are pleased to announce the birth of their daughter, Dakota Blakely Born. Dakota was at 3 p.m. on Oct. 2, 2015 weighing 6 pounds 3 ounces and measuring 18 inches

long. Maternal grandparents are Bobby and Jaymie Long and paternal grandparents are Allan and Terri Born. She was welcomed home by older sibling Cade Born.



► Club News

Kiwanis Club of Big Spring



Courtesy Photo

Some members of the Kiwanis Club of Big Spring passed out candy during the Halloween Trunk or Treat at the First United Methodist Church. Pictured are Anthony Bass, Joe Johnson, Kelly Johnson and Julie Bass.

Who's Who
in Howard County

Name: Alynsia Bass
Where do you work: Big Spring Bowl-A-Rama
Where were you born: Moberly, Missouri
City you live in: Big Spring, Texas
Family: Dad: Anthony Bass, Mom: Julie Bass, Sister: Skyler Bass
Hobbies, Organizations, Clubs: Tennis, bowling, Trinity Baptist Church Youth Group, learning sign language, and listening to music.
Favorite book: The Girl who Owned a City
Favorite show: Once Upon a Time
Favorite movie: Mr. and Mrs. Smith
Where would you visit if you could go anywhere: Paris, France



Big Spring Art Association

The Big Spring Art Association's October meeting was inspirational. Artist Tom Orsak of San Angelo demonstrated his plein air technique. He showed the members how to set up their painting to be more interesting. Orsak's enthusiasm was most impressive.

See, ART, Page 3B



Courtesy Photo

Tom Orsak of San Angelo demonstrated painting techniques for the Big Spring Art Association during the October meeting.



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U.S. border agency staff rejects body cameras

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Customs and Border Protection staff concluded after an internal review that agents and officers shouldn't be required to wear body cameras, positioning the nation's largest law enforcement agency as a counterweight to a growing number of police forces that use the devices to promote public trust and accountability.

The yearlong review cited cost and a host of other reasons to hold off, according to two people familiar with the findings who spoke on condition of anonymity because the findings have not been made public. It found operating cameras may distract agents while they're performing their jobs, may hurt employee morale, and may be unsuited to the hot, dusty conditions in which Border Patrol agents often work. The findings, in an August draft report, are

subject to approval by Commissioner R. Gil Kerlikowske, who last year announced plans to test cameras at the agency that employs roughly 60,000 people.

The staff report doesn't rule out body cameras but questions their effectiveness and calls for more analysis before they are widely distributed.

Customs and Border Protection said Friday that it has been transparent about its body camera effort from the start, providing regular public updates.

"The draft report referenced is a dated version that does not reflect the agency's deliberations over the past months or conclusions of CBP leadership," it said in a statement.

From the start, Kerlikowske was noncommittal on whether to introduce body cameras to roughly 21,000 Border Patrol agents who watch thousands of miles of

borders with Mexico and Canada, and to roughly 24,000 Customs and Border Protection officers who manage official ports of entry.

"Putting these in place, as you know, is not only complicated, it's also expensive," the former Seattle police chief said at a news conference last year. "We want to make sure we do this right."

The use of police body cameras is still in its infancy, with no count for how many of the 18,000 state and local departments have turned to them. But dozens of agencies across the country are testing the cameras after unrest in Ferguson, Missouri, unleashed criticism of police tactics, and many departments have plans to roll them out more broadly.

President Barack Obama supports using police body cameras, and his administration has pledged millions of dollars to local departments.

Customs and Border Protection faces unique challenges. The Southern Border Communities Coalition, a group that has strongly criticized the agency over use of force, said agents and officers have killed 40 people since January 2010. The agency commissioned a 2013 report by the Police Executive Research Forum, a non-profit group of law enforcement experts, that was critical of its policies and tactics.

During the last three months of 2014, Customs and Border Protection tested cameras in simulated environments in-

cluding the Border Patrol training academy in Artesia, New Mexico. From January to May, it expanded testing to 90 agents and officers who volunteered across the country to use the cameras on the jobs.

Widespread deployment hinged on union approval, which was always a question mark. The National Border Patrol Council, which represents Border Patrol agents, expressed concern that supervisors might use the videos to retaliate against agents they wanted to discipline.

"Under the right conditions and with the right policies, they can be a valuable tool, but obviously CBP has been unable or unwilling to meet that criteria," Shawn Moran, a spokes-

man for the agents' union, said Friday.

The draft report cited significant cost in what would be a multimillion-dollar endeavor, including acquiring equipment, training agents and responding to public records requests. It said widespread distribution might hurt morale because employees could interpret the cameras as a show of distrust. It also said the devices could undermine intelligence gathering if people interviewed by agents know they are being recorded. Footage may also not accurately reflect the sense of threat an agent feels.

Christian Ramirez, director of the Southern Border Communities Coalition, said the findings were "extremely disappointing."

LETTERS

Continued from Page 4A

ance, Reba was a section leader in the band. There are many other teachers who were influential in Reba's life here in Big Spring, but I will save that for a later date, maybe when she graduates with a 4.0 GPA.

Almost everyone knows my other daughter, Stormi, who I am also very proud of. She graduates with two degrees from Texas Tech University on Dec. 11, 2015. But this is a letter about Reba and how,

when I sat there and watched her sing and play in that concert, tears ran down my face. I just wanted to brag about her and her early influences here at BSISD.

Thanks to all of you. You do an excellent job and I know you teach because you love the children.

Reba, I am so proud of you, and it has been an amazing journey watching you turn into the young woman you have become. I love you so much.

Your very proud father,

Robert Smith

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Mark your calendars

Concert to salute veterans

The Big Spring ISD choir program will host a multi-choir concert to honor U.S. military veterans for their service in time for Veterans Day.

The concert will feature the BSHS choirs, the Big Spring Junior High School varsity girls and boys choirs, and the Big Spring Intermediate fifth- and sixth-grade honor choirs. The performance is set for 7 p.m. Tuesday at First Baptist Church, 705 W. FM 700.

"We are really excited about this performance and would like to invite the public, especially the veterans, to come hear our kids," said Beth Spence, Big Spring High School assistant choir director.

According to Spence, the program will consist of a mix of patriotic music including the "Salute to Service," a medley of military service hymns which includes the U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Air Force, U.S. Navy, U.S. Marine Corp, and U.S. Army.

Guest musicians Adrian Calvio, a local business man, and Tara Trowbridge, the BSJHS choir director, will perform solos. Fellow musician, George Bancroft, the BSISD community relations coordinator, will serve as the master of ceremonies. The concert is free.

— By Lyndel Moody

E-waste collection

Keep Big Spring Beautiful (KBSB) will hold its annual E-Waste Collection Friday, Nov. 13, for businesses or individuals with 10 or more computers, and Saturday, Nov. 14, for others.

This service is due to a joint effort between KBSB and the city of Big Spring's city landfill.

Items such as computers, laptops, monitors, phones, televisions, DVD/VCR players, scanners, fax machines, video game devices, copiers, and peripheral devices such as keyboards, mice, or hard drives will be accepted.

Bring out the electronic items and dispose of them to help keep them from piling up and cluttering Big Spring. Landfill fees for the electronic drop off will be waived on these two dates.

Please bring electronics only and not batteries.

All Big Spring businesses, churches, organizations, residents, and schools are welcome to participate.

The landfill is located at 4100 E. FM 700. E-Waste collection will take place from 2-4 p.m. for businesses on Nov. 13 and 10-2 p.m. on Nov. 14 for all other organizations and individuals.

For more information contact Lisa Brooks, KBSB president at 432-935-2646 or Johnny Womack, City of Big Spring at 432-264-2500.

— By Julie Bass

Empty Bowls

Tickets for the ninth annual United Way of Big Spring and Howard County Empty Bowls luncheon are now on sale.

The event will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 18, at

the East Room of the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum on the Howard College campus, 1001 Birdwell Lane. Tickets are \$20 per person and can be purchased at 215 W. Third St. or call 267-5201 or 935-1604.

In the past few months, volunteers have been busy creating ceramic bowls and putting their individual touches on the dish during the pottery process. Those bowls will be available to take home for those who purchase tickets to the luncheon. Empty Bowls is sponsored by the Howard College Art Department and HEB.

"Empty Bowls is a national grassroots movement meant to promote the end of hunger world-wide," said Raul Benavides, 2015 United Way campaign chairman. "Participants in the meal can enjoy a simple meal and keep an original crafted bowl to remember the worthy cause."

"We are very thankful for the months of work by Howard College Professor of Art, Amin Tejani, Judy Terelesky, Vicki Stewart, and all our volunteers for their effort to create and the bowls," Benavides continued. "Also, we are grateful to all our volunteer chefs and the businesses that donate to help make this luncheon possible."

— By Lyndel Moody

Saint Andrew's Day celebration

St. Mary's Episcopal Church's annual Saint Andrew's Day celebration is set for 7 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 15. There is no charge to attend.

Special guest musicians include professional musicians EJ Jones of Asheville, North Carolina playing the Great Highland Bagpipes and Scottish Smallpipes; Doug Frobese of Dallas on the Great Highland bagpipes, Steven Cameron of Georgetown playing Scottish snare drums, and Frances Cunningham of Nashville, Tennessee playing the bouzouki.

Both Jones and Cunningham were in Big Spring last May for a concert with their own band the Piper Jones Band.

Greg Pysh, Director of the Midland/Odessa Symphony Chorale will serve as director of the choir, and Darryl Knapp of Midland will serve as organist. Brass players are Michael Santorelli and Eric Baker, trumpet; Sam Hale, trumpet and horn; Rocky Harris, trombone; Joshua Harris, timpani; and Joseph Dawes, alto recorder. St. Mary's Parish Choir will be joined by special friends from Big Spring, Midland, and Odessa.

"St. Mary's is proud to make this event available to the city of Big Spring each year, and to give people the chance to hear professional musicians playing instruments that are not frequently heard in our area," Hill said.

The music and evening prayer service is followed immediately by a gala reception featuring a number of authentic Scottish dishes prepared by members of St. Mary's.

Among the items on this year's menu are smoked salmon, ham, brisket and Scottish meatballs.

— By Lyndel Moody

Keep Big Spring Beautiful



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Lisa Brooks, KBSB President 432-935-2646

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Brown had state workers research oil on ranch

BY ELLEN KNICKMEYER

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Gov. Jerry Brown last year directed state oil and gas regulators to research, map and report back on any mining and oil drilling history and “potential for future oil and gas activity” at the Brown family’s private land in Northern California, state records show.

After a phone call from the governor and follow-up requests from his aides, senior staffers in the state’s oil and gas regulatory agency over at least two days produced a 51-page historical report and geological assessment, plus a personalized satellite-imaged geological and oil and gas drilling map for the area around Brown’s family ranchland near the town of Williams.

State regulators labeled the map they did for Brown “Oil and Gas Potential In West Colusa County,” and “JB_Ranch,” referring to the Brown family land in Colusa County.

Ultimately, the regulators told the governor, prospects were “very low” for any commercial drilling or mining at the 2,700-acre property, which has been in Brown’s family for more than a century.

Through the state’s open records law, *The Associated Press* obtained the research that state regulators carried out for Brown, and the emails among senior oil and gas regulators scrambling to fulfill the governor’s request.

Brown spokesman Gareth Lacy said Thursday the governor was interested in his ranch’s history and geology, “not drilling for oil and gas.” However, Lacy did not immediately respond Thursday when asked to explain why the memos and map by state regulators referred to the area’s oil and gas “potential,” and outlined the land’s drilling history and prospects.

State law prohibits elected officials from using public resources for personal purposes, regardless of the motivation. Hollin Kretzmann, a staff attorney for the Center for Biological Diversity environmental group, said Thursday that Brown’s request to state regulators amounted to the governor using state workers as “his own private oil prospecting team.”

Brown aides and state oil regulators said the work was a legal and proper use of public resources — and no more than the general public would get.

The AP asked the governor’s office and state oil and gas regulators on Oct. 27 for examples of similar state oil and gas research that state workers had done for private individuals rather than for public purposes. The governor’s office provided two examples Thursday of oil and gas research for public bodies, rather than private individuals — the city of Los Angeles and the Santa Barbara Channelkeeper non-government organization.

The third example given by the governor’s spokesman was made up of nine pages of drilling records provided to what was identified only as a private property owner, whose name was redacted. The cover letter advised that future drilling in his area appeared unlikely.

Oil-industry professionals said they could not recall any instances of private individuals getting the kind of state work done for personal reasons that Brown commissioned.

Brown’s request to oil regulators points to the complex way that the governor, an internationally known advocate of renewable energy, approaches oil and gas issues in his own state. While spearheading ambitious programs to curb the use of climate-changing fossil fuels, Brown also has sought to spur oil production in California, the country’s No. 3 oil-producing state.

Nine days after Brown appointed Steve Bohlen to lead the state oil and gas regulatory division, the governor called him with his research request.

Brown wanted to find out about the “geology, past oil and gas activity, potential for future oil and gas activity in the vicinity of his long-time family ranch,” Bohlen related in an email to senior agency staffers that same day, June 11, 2014. Bohlen set noon the next day as a target for getting the research done for delivery to Brown.

After Brown’s initial call, his aides called back within hours to ask regulators to look at what minerals might lie under the Brown ranch and also emailed to make sure the regulators were doing a map for the governor.

In an email to the AP, an attorney for the oil and gas agency, Graham St. Michel, said Brown had been compiling documents that “shed light on the fauna, flora, rock formations and geology of the area where his great-grandparents ... first homesteaded in the 1870s.”

California law bars elected officials from using public employees or other public resources for personal purposes, with limited exceptions for things like occasional personal calls from work phones.

Regulators say the personal work they did for Brown was legal and appropriate.

“We field similar requests for public, historical information ... and responding is one of the division’s public service responsibilities,” said Don Drysdale, a spokesman for the oil and gas agency.

Drysdale said the satellite-imaged geological and drilling map prepared by the state for Brown’s land took a “few hours.”

Petroleum-industry professionals contacted by the AP said they never heard of regulators carrying out and compiling that kind of research, analysis and mapping for private individuals. The AP told the oil-industry professionals only that state regulators did the work for a state official.

Assessing a private property’s oil and gas and mineral potential is not something that state regulators typically do, one oil industry executive said. “There’s no evaluation. That’s not a service they provide at all,” said Rick Peace, president of a Bakersfield, California, company that helps manage oil exploration and production.

Roland Bain, a petroleum geologist based in Northern California, said he was struck by the report’s “beautiful map.”

“Anyone calling in for help is not going to get that,” Bain said. “The division of oil and gas

has never been in a position to give you detailed geological mapping.”

Historical oilfield records that made up much of the documents are available to the public, and ordinary people can get them by searching on the agency’s website, or by visiting one of the agency’s offices, which charge for photocopies, Peace noted.

But, as for regulators preparing and compiling assessments, reports and maps for someone’s private purposes, “I’ve never heard of that,” said Jean Pledger, a Bakersfield oil and gas attorney.

Typically, landowners find out their land has unrealized oil and gas potential only if oil industry agents scout out the property and approach the owners, said Sacramento-based oil and gas attorney James Day.

Alternatively, individuals can hire an independent petroleum geologist at \$200 to \$400 an hour, Day said.

Drysdale of the oil and gas division said state law allows state officials to access public records on the same basis as any member of the public.

Jessica Levinson, a governance expert and professor at Loyola Law School in Los Angeles, said that if state regulators had done that kind of work before for private landowners, they should be able to provide examples.

THANK YOU Narcotics Officers!



We want to show our local narcotics officers just how much we appreciate them in the fight against drugs in Big Spring! Those gentlemen put their lives on the line every day and night for the citizens of this community, in their continuing effort to keep drug dealers as well as drug users where they belong...

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So how about it Big Spring?! Let's show these Narcotic Officers, and all officers in law enforcement, just how much they really are appreciated!

Concerned Citizens Of Big Spring

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Jerry Jones backs Hardy as photos surface in domestic case

IRVING, Texas (AP) — Dallas owner Jerry Jones showed support for Greg Hardy on Friday after photos of the bruised ex-girlfriend from the defensive end's domestic violence case were released by Deadspin.

Jones said the team hadn't seen the photos before signing Hardy to an incentive-laden \$13 million free agent contract in March, but the Cowboys "were and are aware of the serious nature of this incident."

"We do not condone domestic violence," Jones said in a statement released by the team about eight hours after the photos were posted online. "We entered into the agreement with Greg fully understanding that there would be scrutiny and criticism."

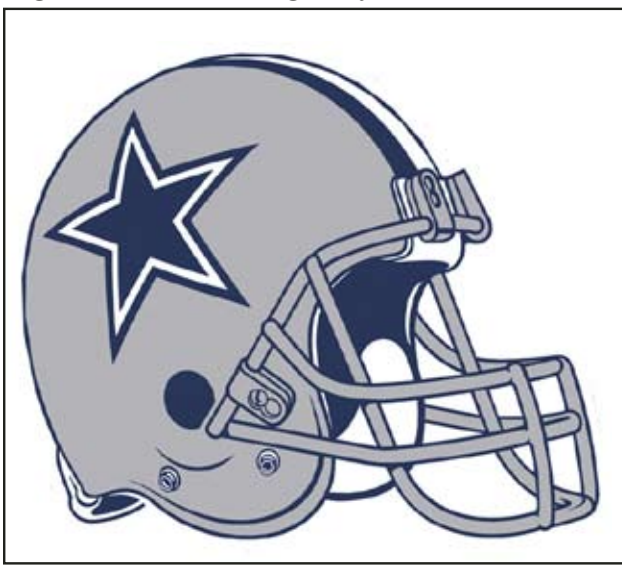
As he was leaving the locker room Friday, Hardy ignored a reporter who asked repeatedly if he wanted to address the release of the photos showing various injuries to Nicole Holder.

Deadspin didn't say how the photos were obtained, and the website's

account included some previously unreported details from police reports.

Hardy was convicted by a judge over the 2014 incident in North Carolina, but the case was tossed on appeal when Holder couldn't be located to testify. The incident was expunged from Hardy's record this week. Prosecutors have said Holder reached a financial settlement with Hardy.

The NFL sued for access to some of the photos used at Hardy's trial, eventually reaching a settlement. The league suspended him for 10 games while saying that evidence suggested Holder "was severely traumatized and sustained a range of injuries."



Hardy's suspension under the personal conduct policy was reduced to four games by an arbitrator. He has played three games for the Cowboys (2-5), who have lost five straight games going into a home game against Philadelphia (3-4) on Sunday night.

Before his Dallas debut against New England, Hardy made headlines again with comments about Tom Brady's wife. He also caused a stir with an inappropriate tweet about the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks during this year's draft.

When the Cowboys gave up a decisive kickoff return in a loss

to the New York Giants two weeks ago, Hardy barged into special teams coach Rich Bisaccia's huddle before the next kickoff and had a physical confrontation with the assistant coach.

Through it all, Jones has supported Hardy.

"We have given Greg a second chance," Jones said in his statement. "He is a member of our team and someone who is grateful for the opportunity he has been given to move forward with his life and his career."

Hardy missed the last 15 games with Carolina in 2014 because of the domestic case but still collected his \$13 million salary. He was accused of choking and grabbing Holder and throwing her on a futon that had at least four semi-automatic rifles on it.

The NFL announced a tougher personal conduct policy in August 2014, three months after Hardy's incident and following widespread criticism over its handling of the domestic case involving Ray Rice.

The former Baltimore running back was suspended two games after his arrest for assaulting his then-fiancee on an Atlantic City casino elevator, but before video surfaced on his punch that knocked her out.

The league waited to gain evidence from Hardy's case before suspending him, but arbitrator Harold Henderson ruled the 10-game ban was too long because the tougher policy had established six games as the initial punishment in domestic cases.

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HERALD

'Happiness advantage' over age 30 is vanishing, study finds

The findings, being published online Thursday in the journal *Social Psychological and Personality Science*, come on the heels of another recent report that found that death rates of middle-aged white Americans have been rising, largely due to suicide and substance abuse.

"Age is supposed to bring happiness and contentment. For that not to be true anymore is somewhat shocking," says Jean Twenge, a professor at San Diego State University who is the study's lead author. She also wrote the book "Generation Me," a look at young adults and the attitudes and influences that have helped shape them.

Starting with data in the early 1970s, Twenge and her colleagues found that adults 30 and older used to be happier than younger adults and teens. But that "happiness advantage" has steadily declined as the older adults have expressed less satisfaction with their lives and the younger cohort has gotten a little happier.

Other experts who study happiness say the findings fit with their own research. They attribute the shift to everything from growing financial pressures (and what some call "economic insecurity") to the fact that real life has been a rude awakening for a generation of young adults who were told they could do anything and are discovering that often isn't true.

Geena Kandell, a senior at Washington University in St. Louis, says she and her peers already worry that even a good college education won't be enough to help achieve what their parents have. "It puts a lot of pressure on people my age," the 21-year-old says.

Before you get too bummed out, consider another finding of the study: One in three of all American adults still report being "very happy."

Twenge and her colleagues found, for instance, that 30 percent of those in the 18- to 29-year-old range gave that response in the 2010s, compared with 28 percent in the early 1970s.

There's also been a notable uptick in "very happy" teens. In the 1970s, for instance, 19 percent of 12th graders chose that response, compared with 23 percent in the 2010s.

Adults age 30 and older, however, have seen a five-percentage-point drop, from 38 percent in the early 1970s to 33 percent today.

The findings, which are from University of Chicago's longstanding General Social Survey and the University of Michigan's Monitoring the Future survey ring true for Emily Valdez, a 49-year-old mom in Seattle.

"I thought that life would be simpler," she says. "My parents' marriage, children, child-rearing . . . just seemed - and still seems in their eyes - less fraught with indecision, second-guessing and maybe just less insecurity."

Some say the onslaught of information at our

fingertips every day is one factor making us feel overwhelmed.

"I think we are no longer keeping up with the Joneses but rather keeping up with the world," says Satu Halpin, a 37-year-old mother in Olympia, Washington, who tunes out to stay happier.

It is, of course, also impossible to ignore the economic downturn in the last decade. Shigehiro Oishi, a researcher at the University of Virginia, has documented a growing dissatisfaction with the widening gap between the wealthy and everyone else.

Others have linked unhappiness to "income insecurity."

"The more competitive and market-driven society becomes, the more people are on their own to survive and flourish, the more insecure they are in their day-to-day lives, the more unequal things become quality of life tends to decline," says Benjamin Radcliff, a professor of political science at the University of Notre Dame who has researched this topic.

Twenge, the study's author, also said that, beyond income factors, people who were single parents, and presumably had fewer social supports, said they were less happy. She and her co-authors also

speculated that young people were less stressed by economic factors until they hit adulthood.

In addition, Tim Bono, a psychologist at Washington University who teaches and studies happiness, thinks there's something to that "rude awakening" theory for his generation of young adults.

A while back, the 32-year-old professor came across a box of school papers and other relics from his past worksheets, assignments and notes sent home that all reinforced "how special I was and how I could do anything I set my mind to." He also found many of the ribbons and trophies he'd received as a kid, not only for winning but for simply participating in sports.

"My generation has been bathed in messages of how great we are and how anything is possible for us," Bono says, noting that that mindset can easily lead to disappointment.

A 30-year-old father from Texas, who served in the Army before enrolling at the University of Puget Sound in Washington, Daniel Trapp says his life experience has helped him feel happier than some of his peers, "despite the stress that I have in my life."



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