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# BIG SPRING HERALD

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2016



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## Heritage Museum's Christmas Forest Tree winners announced

By **AMANDA ELSTON**  
 Managing Editor

Out of all the trees in Big Spring, three rose above to become the Heritage Museum's winners of the annual Christmas Tree Forest event. Museum Director Tammy Schrecengost announced Thursday that Northside Community Center took home first place winning \$100, followed by Jode Trucking and Towing in 2nd with \$50, and Coahoma/Forsan life skills class coming in third with \$25. The forest, which boasted over 55 trees decorated by various community organizations, businesses, and families, has been taking votes for the best trees since its opening back in November.

"We had these jars under the trees with the different names on them," said Schrecengost. "Peo-



ple would vote with quarters as to their favorite tree and it helped with the Christmas funds this year. So our thinking was that it gave people a chance to choose a winner. They really enjoyed it."

Organizations, businesses, and families who participated in the forest decorated trees provided by the museum.

While some opted to go traditional, others chose to decorate trees that reflected their company. Others, such as Northside Community Center, went completely original.

"I know the dress tree that won was very nice," said Schrecengost of Northside Community Center's tree. "They worked really hard on that. It was a group effort by several of them down there."

According to Schrecengost, first and second place were won because of a single, sizeable donation.

"Someone donated a \$100 bill that just really wanted to support

See **WINNERS**, Page 3A



*Courtesy photo*  
**1st place in the Christmas Tree Forest went to Northside Community Center.**



A handful of candles light the way at the annual Comanche Trail Festival of Lights Thursday night. The festival draws crowds from all over the area and will be open from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. until the end of the year.

## Festival of Lights draws more than 10,000 to park

By **ROGER CLINE**  
 Staff Writer

"Joy to the world!" The Comanche Trail Park Festival of Lights is spreading Christmas spirit and lighting up the holidays for people from all over the globe.

"It's going really well actually. We've had people from 10 countries and 29 states," said event chairwoman Pat Simmons. "Altogether we've had 11,576 visitors. That Sunday when it got real cold, we had 1,196 visitors on that one day. I just hope the

weather holds out." This year marks the 20th anniversary of the festival, which opened Dec. 15.

"We'll be open from 6 to 10 p.m. every night through the end of the year," said Project Manager Howard Stewart. "Even on Christmas."

The Festival features lighted displays including candy canes and candles, lighted poinsettias, Big Spring landmarks such as the Hotel Settles, and historical and cultural elements

See **FoL**, Page 3A

## Some Dallas County inmates act in behind-bars Christmas play



*David Woo/The Dallas Morning News via AP*  
 In this Thursday, Dec. 15, 2016 photo, **Tiffany Bunce**, right, plays the character, Gladys, in a play, "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever", at Lew Sterrett Justice Center Detention Facility in Dallas.

**Cary Aspinwall**  
 The Dallas Morning News

DALLAS (AP) — Every Christmas show has its hiccups: An angel's wings fall off. Tiny Tim forgets his lines. The Sugar Plum Fairy spins off stage.

But not many have to cope with a star missing the performance due to an urgent date with a criminal court judge.

The Dallas Morning News reports that was just one of the challenges of putting on a Christmas play in a women's unit at the Dallas County Jail. All the costumes were green-striped jail scrubs. All the actors were female (even the Three Wise Men).

See **PLAY**, Page 3A

*Merry Christmas*

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# NFC East champs host Lions

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — Matthew Stafford and the Detroit Lions aren't quite in win-or-go-home mode like the last time they visited his hometown Dallas Cowboys for a wild-card playoff two years ago.

The Lions could do their postseason hopes a lot of good Monday night with a victory, though. That includes scenarios that include Detroit (9-5) clinches the NFC North by beating the conference-leading Cowboys, who were the first team to lock up a playoff berth this season.

It's the second straight week Detroit can take a significant step toward the playoffs on the road against an NFC East contender. The Lions didn't take advantage in a 17-6 loss to the New York Giants.

"Last week, we had opportunity to make some plays and we just didn't make them," Stafford said. "For the majority of the season, we've done a really nice

job of, in those crucial times, making those plays. I'm sure this week and from here on out will be no different."

Tony Romo made the crucial play to rally the Cowboys past the Lions 24-20 two years ago for just their second playoff win in two decades since their last Super Bowl title. He's the backup now, replaced by Dak Prescott because the rookie led an 11-game winning streak while Romo was recovering from a preseason back injury.

The streak ended with Dallas' second loss of the season to the Giants, but Prescott and the Cowboys (12-2) recovered by beating Tampa Bay.

Then the Cowboys clinched the NFC East title and home-field advantage throughout the NFC playoffs when the Giants lost to Philadelphia on Thursday night.

The Giants-Eagles outcome didn't concern Prescott, who followed his worst game as a pro



Dallas quarterback Dak Prescott, left, hands off to running back Ezekiel Elliott during a recent NFL game. The Cowboys host Detroit Monday night. *AP file photo*

against New York with the second-best completion percentage with at least 30 attempts in NFL history (88.9 percent).

"This game is going to matter," he said. "Any game I play, I participate in and think pretty much everybody in this locker room, we want to win. We hold ourselves to high standards and I know I do individually. We want to win this game."

Things to consider in a series in which four

of the past five games, playoffs included, have been decided by four points or less:

**HOME COMING:** Stafford will be playing on the same field a little more than a week after his high school, Dallas Highland Park, won its first state championship since Stafford won a title with the Scots in 2005. The latest title came with Cowboys owner Jerry Jones' grandson, John Stephen Jones, at quarterback. "I don't re-

ally know him, but obviously know the family and just happy that his success was a big part of success," Stafford said.

**KETTLE 2.0?** Don't count on it. While Dallas rookie sensation Ezekiel Elliott wasn't worried about getting in trouble with his coaches for jumping into an oversized Salvation Army red kettle to celebrate a touchdown against Tampa Bay, he's pretty sure he got a

one-time reprieve with the NFL deciding not to fine him. "I think I had one get out jail free card. I used it already," the NFL rushing leader said.

**PAIR OF SNUBS:** Stafford and Dallas linebacker Sean Lee were among the most prominent snubs on the Pro Bowl roster. But at least the Cowboys are contenders with some Pro Bowlers. They have five

See **DALLAS**, Page 3B

# Texans host Bengals, hope to stay atop AFC South

## Clowney's comeback complete with 1st Pro Bowl selection

HOUSTON (AP) — For the first two injury-filled years of his NFL career many thought of Houston's Jadeveon Clowney as a bust.

Now he's healthy and proving the doubters wrong. The No. 1 pick of the 2014 draft is reveling in that fact he can now be called a Pro Bowler.

"I just want to keep playing for the Texans and let them know I'm trying to live up to be worthy of the number one pick and keep coming strong," Clowney said.

"I'm only getting better. I'm getting healthier as the year goes on. Everyone says you wear down, but I'm feeling a lot better the longer I've been in it."

Clowney is tied for fourth in the NFL with a career-high 15 tackles for losses and his five sacks are also a career best.

The defensive end had perhaps the best two games of his career in the past two weeks where he has two sacks, three tackles for losses, five quarterback hits, a forced fumble and a batted down pass.

On Tuesday his performance this season was

See **CLOWNEY**, Page 3B



Jadeveon Clowney

HOUSTON (AP) — Houston's \$72 million man Brock Osweiler is staying on the bench and the Texans are counting on Tom Savage to help them to their second straight AFC South title on Saturday night against the Bengals.

Osweiler, who Houston signed to that huge contract this offseason, was replaced after throwing interceptions on two straight possessions in the second quarter last Sunday against the Jaguars. Savage took over and threw for 260 yards in his first action since 2014 to help Houston rally from a 13-point deficit for a 21-20 victory.

Coach Bill O'Brien stayed with Savage this week and the third-year player will make his first career start against the Bengals.

"He's confident in his own abilities," O'Brien said. "He's a good communicator with his teammates. His teammates have a lot of respect for him. They've seen how hard he's worked to wait to get this opportunity."

Savage was a fourth-round pick in 2014, but has appeared in just three games since then after spending all of last season on injured reserve and serving as Osweiler's backup for



AP file photo

Quarterback Tom Savage, shown at a recent Houston practice, will make the second start of his career Saturday night when the Texans host the Cincinnati Bengals.

most of this season.

"It's a great opportunity to go out there and show what I can do," he said. "I have to go out there and execute what I need to do and I'm going to have some fun doing it."

Houston (8-6) can secure the division title and a playoff spot Saturday with a win against Cincinnati and a loss by the Titans, who are

playing the Jaguars. The Texans insist they aren't thinking about any other team this week and are simply focused on themselves.

"We know what's at hand and what's in front of us, so we're just going out there trying to get another win, trying to get our ninth win, defend our home field," left tackle Duane Brown said. "That's all we're

worried about."

The Bengals (5-8-1) look to end a disappointing season on a high note after losing four of their last six to be eliminated from playoff contention, ending a streak of five straight postseason appearances.

"Obviously, we've raised the bar here, so we expect to be competing within our division," defensive end Carlos Dunlap said. "This year, we didn't do that and the end result is that we've got now. So it's not a good feeling. Very frustrating. Nothing we can do about it now. We've just got to learn from it and not let it happen next year."

Some things to know about the Bengals-Texans game:

**FOURTH QUARTER BLUES:** The Bengals have scored only 51 points in the fourth quarter, an average of 3.6 that is the worst in the NFL. The winless Cleveland Browns are second-to-last. In the past six games, the Bengals have managed three field goals and a safety in the fourth quarter, contributing to the slide that ended their postseason hopes. In a 24-20 loss to the Steelers on Sunday, they were shut out in the second half

See **TEXANS**, Page 3B

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## A chat with the man in red

**D**id you know Santa Claus likes to visit Big Spring? The jolly elf often visits the Crossroads City during his busiest time of the year, when he's about to drop from exhaustion and can't go on without a little weekend away from the workshop. On such occasions, he's been known to hop on Blitzen's back and zip on down to Howard County, book a room in the Hotel Settles, and spend a day or two luxuriating in our West Texas Christmas spirit. During one such trip, good old Kris Kringle stopped by the *Big Spring Herald* offices for a half-hour chat with our crack team of newshounds.

**The Herald:** Welcome to Big Spring, Santa! How was your flight down from the North Pole?

**Santa Claus:** Ho, ho, ho! It was fast. Those reindeer can fly really fast when they need to, and Blitzen is one of the fastest! Did you know his name means "lightning" in German? This time of year, I put in a lot of hours in the workshop. Somebody has to keep those elves on track. If you leave them alone for a second, they'll get into all kinds of mischief and start putting Godzilla tails on the Barbie dolls or mixing up the Pokemon cards with the Yu-Gi-Oh cards. Can you imagine some child, all excited on Christmas morning, running downstairs to find out that his brand new bike has

square wheels? Or her new drone has its propellers on backward so that it flies down instead of up? It would be chaos. So...wait, what was I talking about again?

**The Herald:** Your flight down from the North Pole?

**Santa Claus:** Oh, yes... Ho, ho, ho! Got off track there for a second. Yes, it was fast. In fact, the whole trip only took 3.4 seconds. That's more than 4 million miles per hour. Going that fast, everything looks like a blur, but at least it doesn't last very long.

**The Herald:** So what kinds of things have you been doing since you've been in Big Spring?

**Santa Claus:** I love looking at Christmas lights. I spent some time down at the Comanche Trail Park Festival of Lights, talking to kids and finding out what they want for Christmas. Sometimes, when it's not too busy, I'll sneak off and just go look at the lights. Ho, ho, ho! They're really pretty, and I like seeing all the people driving through and looking at them, getting that Christmasy feeling in their hearts. It's inspiring to me! The other day I went and walked through the Big Spring Heritage Museum. They have a whole forest of Christmas trees scattered throughout the museum! Ho, ho, ho! At the North Pole, we have a room at the workshop full of Christmas trees. Some families like to have me deliver their Christmas trees to them, did you know that? Ho, ho, ho! That sure takes up some room in the old sleigh, believe me! But I love walking through that room, and the museum is a lot like that this time of

year. Other than that, I was in the *Big Spring Herald's* Christmas Parade! I love riding through town and seeing the kids' eyes sparkle with the lights on the parade floats. And then after the parade, I went down to the Heart of the City Park and talked to a couple of hundred children about what they want for Christmas! That was a lot of fun and I enjoyed meeting all those kids!

**The Herald:** How did you find time to take time off to visit Big Spring? Don't you have a lot of work to do?

**Santa Claus:** To be honest, by the time I head down here, most of the work is already finished. Ho, ho, ho! I just put the Tooth Fairy in charge for a day or two. Those elves don't want to mess with her...They all take very good care of her, because they just love crunching on candy canes and sugar cookies! But she's been known to take a tooth a little...early...if she gets riled up, so the elves are all on their best behavior when she's in charge. There is this one elf...we call him "Toothless Timmy..." he's been on the "naughty" list for a while now. Last Christmas he stole all the clappers from the jingle bells on my sleigh! That was the quietest Christmas Eve trip I ever made. But the Tooth Fairy has to leave him a dollar for each tooth she takes, so he's got about \$30 by now. He spends it on Gummi Bears, because they're nice and soft.

**The Herald:** Do you really read all the letters that children send you each year?

**Santa Claus:** Of course! Ho, ho, ho! There are a lot of them. In fact, that's

what I spend most of my time actually doing. I joke about the elves, but they're really very good at their jobs...they could probably get all the toys built on their own, if they had to. Anyway, when the letters come in, they get scanned into the magic Clausputer, where I read them kind of like email. Only a lot, lot faster.

**The Herald:** How do you deliver presents to so many children each Christmas Eve?

**Santa Claus:** Did I mention that my reindeer are fast? Ho, ho, ho! Also, they practice. As I add children's names to the "nice" list, the reindeer study and memorize their flight path so that we never have to pull over on the side of the road and check Google Maps. Can you imagine? What if I was in a no-service area? Rudolph always has the master plan in mind and lights up the path. Plus, I have a few magic secrets here and there. Turns out it's always just enough to get everything delivered on time. Anyway, thanks for having me into your lovely office. I like your Christmas tree. But I need to head on out. I want to go check out those beautiful lighted poinsettias on the dam. I love poinsettias. Did you know red is my favorite color?

So, Merry Christmas, Feliz Navidad, Joyeux Noel, Buon Natale, Fröhliche Weihnachten, Craciun Fericit, Feliz Natal; and a Happy New Year too!



*HERALD file photos*

Santa spent some of his Big Spring vacation visiting with local children and listening to their Christmas wishes. Clockwise from top: Santa put in an appearance at the Big Spring Heritage Museum's Christmas Tree Forest; the jolly old elf made a jaunt down to Forsan to visit Christmas in Boomtown; the VA Medical Center's Christmas lighting was another scene Santa visited. Before he left town, Santa said Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all area residents.



*Merry Christmas!*

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## Obituaries

### Reynaldo Hernandez Sr.



Reynaldo Hernandez Sr. was called home by our Father on Dec. 15, 2016.

He was a beloved son, a loving brother and a devoted father. He loved eating beans and potatoes, and always burned his tortillas but he made the best sweet tea in Texas! He was born and raised in Big Spring, Texas, on Jan 23, 1957.

He is survived by his mother, Josie Hernandez; his ex-wife Elida Hinojos Hernandez; his four children Reynaldo

Hernandez Jr., Erick Dave Hernandez, Gene Hernandez, and Victoria Hernandez; two daughters-in-law, Valerie Middleton and Joanna Hernandez; four brothers, Raphael Hernandez, Domingo Hernandez, Antonio Hernandez, and Jaime Hernandez; numerous grandchildren; and one great-grandson who loved him dearly.

He is proceeded in death by his father, Apolonio Hernandez; and a sister, Joanna Hernandez. He was a die hard Dallas Cowboy Fan and will be in our hearts forever.

Services will be held on Saturday, Dec. 31 at 10 a.m. at the Holy Trinity Church.

*Paid obituary*

### James C. Dunlap Jr.

James C. Dunlap Jr., 72, died Dec. 16, 2016 in Hobbs, N.M.

A memorial service will be held at 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 28, 2016, at Coahoma Church of

Christ.

He was born July 8, 1944, in Childress, Texas, to James and Jewell Dunlap. Arrangements are under the direction of Chapel of Hope Funeral Home in Hobbs. Online condolences may be made at: [www.chapelofhopefunerals.com](http://www.chapelofhopefunerals.com).

## Take Note

• Food 2 Kids Big Spring needs you! It is time to start sacking food for Big Spring elementary students who do not receive adequate food over the weekends. Members of the community can be a part by volunteering to sack the food. It just takes a couple hours of your time and the work is very rewarding. To volunteer, just show up at the time and dates listed. For more information, call, 432-935-3998.

The next sacking session will be at 5:30 p.m. Jan. 2 and 3 at the old Lakeview High School gym located at 1107 N.W. Seventh St. To get there, take Gregg Street north and turn left on Delaney, which is the block just past the Salvation Army retail store. Delaney turns into Seventh Street, you will go over the railroad tracks and the school is on the left.

If you want additional information about getting your child on this program please contact your child's school.

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

Dances are from 7:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. with live bands. No alcohol or smoking permitted. There will be a pot luck as well so bring a dish if you want to eat. Cost is \$8 per person.

### Meetings

• The Big Spring Art Association meets the third Tuesday of each month a 7 p.m. in the basement of the Howard County Library.

• The Christensen-Tucker Post-2013 Veterans of Foreign Wars meets the first Tuesday of every month at 7 pm at 500 Driver Road. For more information, contact David Leonard, Post Commander, at 432-816-6004. All combat veterans of foreign wars are invited to come.

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

• Order of the Eastern Star Big Spring Chapter 67 meets the third Tuesday of each month at 219 Main St. Dinner begins at

6:30 p.m. Lodge meeting begins at 7:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome. For more information, contact Jimmy Ruth at 271-2176.

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

• Membership to the Big Spring Native American Association is open to the public. People interested in Native American culture are encouraged to find out more about the organization by calling Richard "Indio" Lesser at 432-935-0125,

### Volunteer opportunities

• The Scenic Mountain Medical Center volunteer program is in need of volunteers. A variety of opportunities are open for members of the community. For more information, call Anita Cline at 268-4721.

• The Big Spring State Hospital Volunteer Services Council is in need of volunteers to fill a variety of needs to assist the hospital's patients. Applications to become a volunteer can be picked up at The Chalet, 115 E. Second St., Tuesday through Saturday between 8 a.m. and 3 p.m. or at the Big Spring State Hospital Community Relations Department, 1901 N. Hwy 87, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Volunteers can assist with a variety of functions, including The Chalet Resale Shop, various fundraisers and patient events. For more information, contact Dee Lindsey, Big Spring State Hospital Director of Community Relations, (432) 268-7535 or danielle.lindsey@dshs.state.tx.us

• Home Hospice is in need of volunteers of all ages. The organization is requesting volunteers to visit patients. Volunteers set their own hours. For more information, contact Beverly Grant at 264-7599 or 432-967-0901.

• Mobile meals is in need of volunteer delivery drivers. If you would like to donate one hour per week to help deliver meals to the elderly, call Maria at 816-6474.

• Crossroads Hospice needs volunteers for patient care. Contact

Eva at 263-5300.

• Victim Services is a non-profit independent community-based program serving victims of all violent crime, including, but not limited to, assault, sexual assault and domestic violence. Victim Services advocates are available 24 hours of day, 365 days a year to provide crisis intervention or accompaniment to the hospital and law enforcement agencies as needed. If you can commit to 30-hour training, an interview process and a background check, we need you. For more information, call Linda Calvio at 432-263-3312.

• Big Spring and surrounding counties are in need of foster families. Foster parents are the caretakers for the children in the community who have been abused or neglected. For more information on becoming foster parents or adoptive families, call the Children's Protective Services office at 432-263-9669.

• The mission of CASA of West Texas is to promote and support quality volunteers who speak for the best interest of abused and neglected children in court in an effort to find each child a safe, nurturing and permanent home. We need your help. If you're interested in volunteering, contact Sara Basaldua at 1-877-316-8346 or visit [www.BecomeaCASA.org](http://www.BecomeaCASA.org) or [www.casawtx.org](http://www.casawtx.org).

### Youth activities

• The Crossroads Young Marines is taking applications 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.

### Need help?

• The Homeownership Preservation Foundation (HPF) is an independent national nonprofit dedicated to helping distressed homeowners navigate financial challenges and avoid mortgage foreclosure. If you want to stop mortgage foreclosure and are in need of help, the time to call 888-995-HOPE is now. HPF can provide counseling free of charge, in English and 170 other languages, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year. For free foreclosure help, call the hotline.

### Herminia G. Garcia

Herminia G. Garcia, 84, of Big Spring, died Thursday, Dec. 22, 2016, at her home. Services are pending with Nalley-Pickle and Welch Funeral Home and Crematory.

## Support Groups

### SUNDAY

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

### MONDAY

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

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

### TUESDAY

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

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

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

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

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

### WEDNESDAY

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

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

### THURSDAY

• Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, open discussion noon to 1 p.m.; women's meeting; 6:30 until 7:30 p.m. Newcomers' meeting, 8 p.m. until 9 p.m.

• Weight Watchers meets at 6 p.m. at St. Paul Lutheran Church. Weigh-in is at 5:30 p.m. Weigh-in is confidential and you don't have to talk if you don't want to. Flexible payment options.

• A Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder support group meeting is at 6:30 p.m. at the VA Medical Center Veteran's Healing Center.

### FRIDAY

• AA open discussion meeting from noon until 1 p.m. at 605 Settles. Open Big Book study meeting, 8 p.m. until 9 p.m.

### SATURDAY

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

*The Big Spring Herald wishes everyone a very Merry Christmas!*

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## BIG SPRING HERALD

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**Merry Christmas!**

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# Cubs won it all just in time for many of its long-time fans

By **DON BARWIN**

Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — At the end, not much was getting through to Helen Weithman. The memories she collected over 98 years were slipping away. When Kathleen Strobel talked to her, she could tell by the blank look on her mom's face that that she didn't understand a lot of what she was saying.

Then came the World Series.

"She really came alive when it started and they had the Cubs games on," Strobel said. "When we started talking about it she said, 'They haven't won since I was born.' It was probably the last thing we shared with her because she died on November 29th."

Strobel hasn't wondered if the hope of finally witnessing her Cubbies win it all added a little time to her mom's life.

Studies have long suggested no one can will themselves to stay alive just a little bit longer to reach a milestone event like a birthday, holiday, wedding or World Series.

Try telling that to the families of some Chicago Cubs fans who are convinced their loved ones hung on to see the team win its first Series in 108 years.

Robert Matijevich doesn't know much about all the studies. He just knows what he saw at the North Chicago home where he lived with his father.

"He was really going downhill but in the World Series he was eating better, sleeping more," Matijevich said of his 88-year-old father, John. "When the Cubs won, he said, 'They did it in my lifetime.'"

He went to bed and died that night. Did the older Matijevich stick around long enough to see the Cubs win the World Series?

"I really think that was the reason, I really do," said his son.

In 2004, as Boston was basking in an at-long-last World Series championship, statisticians at Ohio State University threw water on all those stories about dying fans who kept themselves alive long enough to witness the first Red Sox title in 86 years. Their study concluded there was no evidence that cancer patients willed themselves to live just a bit longer.

"You'd hear it all the time, that a nurse said so and so hung on until after Christmas, and it's a nice story," said the study's co-author, Dr. Donn Young, a now-retired researcher at the university's Comprehensive Can-

cer Center. What is more likely, he said, is explained in another study that found people remember positive events more than they do negative ones — meaning that nurses and other caregivers are more likely to recall those patients who made it through the holidays than those who didn't.

Still, Young acknowledged that some of the ailing might eat better, more faithfully take their medicine and get plenty of rest in the hopes of reaching a milestone. And there is no underestimating the value of the smiles and the general bliss for Cubs fans the night of Nov. 2 when the World Series ended safely in Anthony Rizzo's glove during an epic Game 7 in Cleveland. There is no forgetting that, at least for a little while, the distraction that the Cubs provided to those who had just hours or days to live.

That showed up in the death notices — long a place where the families have included loved ones' allegiance to the Cubs — in the days after the Series.

The Cubs' win "was one of his happiest moments as he went through treatments and rehabilitation" for a nerve disease, read the death notice for the Rev. Patrick Cecil, a Catholic priest in Chicago, who died Nov. 14. "He will be sharing that victory with those from the Cecil family that have preceded him."

It was a similar story for Marvin Peterson.

"He was thinking the (National League) pennant would be the only thing he'd get," Margaret Peterson of suburban Bloomingdale said of her 82-year-old husband, who was dying



**Cubs fan Helen Weithman, celebrates the Chicago Cubs World Series victory at her home in Glen Ellyn, Ill. A lifelong Cubs fan Weithman, 98, who according to family was slipping away until the Cubs made it to The World Series, "She really came alive when it started and they had the Cubs games on," said the daughter, Kathleen Strobel. Weithman died on Nov. 29, 2016 after finally seeing the Cubs win the series for first time in her lifetime.**

AP photo

of cancer at the time.

Instead, he watched on television as the Cubs beat the Dodgers in the National League Championship Series, the Indians in the World Series and then celebrated with millions of fans at a massive parade and rally.

At his bedside a few days before he died on Nov. 18 was a gift from his son-in-law: a replica of the World Series trophy.

"It gave him a lot of joy," said his wife. "He was so thrilled after all those years of waiting."

And that, she said, is helping her get through this first holiday season without her husband, who even at 82 could recite the names of the starting lineup of the 1945 Cubs. "I am so happy he got to experience that," she said.

Roger Sieben could see what the win meant to his 105-year-old mother, Suzanne. Weeks afterward, she remembered only bits and pieces about

the World Series victory party at her nursing home in Manitowoc, Wisconsin, the Cubs cake, the staffer dressed like the late Cubs announcer Harry Caray and the singing of "Take Me Out To The Ball Game." But the woman who lived most of her life about a mile from Wrigley Field, close enough to hear the roar of the crowd if the wind was blowing just right, could remember with absolute clarity that the Cubs had won it all.

Then, after getting a letter from the hospice about this 105-year-old Cubs fan, the team sent up a package containing a shirt, decals, a photograph of the late Cubs great Ernie Banks and a note thanking her.

"When the package came she was just overwhelmed that they would remember her," said her son. "That was one of the last memories she would have."

She died Dec. 5.

## Argentina court indicts Bieber over attack on photographer

By **VICTOR CAIVANO and ALMUDENA CALATRAVA**

Associated Press

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP) — A court in Argentina has indicted Justin Bieber for allegedly sending his bodyguards to beat up a photographer and take his camera equipment outside a Buenos Aires nightclub three years ago.

Court clerk Soledad Nieto confirmed the decision to the *Associated Press* on Thursday. She said Judge Alberto Banos did not issue an arrest warrant and the Canadian pop idol can appeal the court decision, which was signed Wednesday and surfaced late in the day. Argentine photographer Diego Pesoa alleges he was chased down and beaten on Nov.

9, 2013, by Bieber's bodyguards outside the INK nightclub, where the singer and his entourage partied during his South American tour. Pesoa also said the bodyguards took some of his camera equipment.

Pesoa's lawyer, Matias Morla, celebrated the judge's decision, saying that he had acted without being pressured by Bieber's fame, and instead "treated him like anyone else."

Morla also said that the judge has ordered the preventive seizure of about \$28,000 from Bieber to cover potential legal costs. To collect the money, Morla said he would ask the judge to request U.S. authorities to embargo some of Bieber's goods in Los Angeles.

An email message sent to

Bieber's manager, Scooter Braun, was not immediately returned Thursday.

Bieber apologized during his Argentina trip for defiling the national flag on stage and got into trouble with police elsewhere during the tour for allegedly spraying graffiti in Brazil and Colombia. In June, Bieber said on his Twitter account that he would like to play in Argentina on his Purpose Tour but "until the legal conditions change there I can't."

Hundreds of his fans, known as "Beliebers," then marched in Buenos Aires carrying signs saying "Argentina Needs Justin" and "Right To Music," asking the judge to let the singer perform in Argentina.

## Howard County menus

All Howard County schools are closed for Christmas vacation.

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# WINNERS

Continued from Page 1A

(the Northside Community Center) as well as the museum," said Schrecengost. "So it is a two for one thing. Second prize also had a \$100 bill in it."

Third place, won by the Coahoma/Forsan life skills class, also had the support of many people.

"3rd place won with just so many of the students coming by," said Schrecengost. "They came by with their quarters and change and that's how they won. They won \$25 and they're putting it in their funds for a field trip in the spring."

While this year's Christmas Tree Forest ended on Friday, there is always next year to get involved in the Big Spring tradition.

"Every year it gets a little larger," said Schrecengost. "People can call the museum so they can get on the list for next year and we can send them the information when it gets closer to the time we do it. We provide the tree and lights, they just need to provide the decorations and the imagination."

Contact Managing Editor Amanda Elston at 432-263-7331, ext. 230, or email editor@bigspringherald.com



Courtesy photo

2nd place was Jode Trucking and Towing.



Courtesy photo

3rd Place was Coahoma/Forsan Life Skills class.

# FoL

Continued from Page 1A

such as a covered wagon, oil derricks, and cattle. A newly re-lit American flag graces the Comanche Trail Lake dam, along with several giant lighted poinsettias and a "Merry Christmas" welcome sign.

Also featured are giant lighted Christmas cards from area businesses, schools, churches, and other organizations.

Although the display's route was shortened slightly because of construction on the historic spring area, organizers are hoping to attract a record 25,000 visitors by the time the festival closes.

"That's our goal," Stewart said. "We've had 22,000 and 23,000, but we've never pushed up over the 25,000 mark."

In 2015, more than 21,000 people visited the attraction.

The entrance to Festival of Lights is located across U.S. Highway 87 from Walmart.

# PLAY

Continued from Page 1A

And all the rehearsals were monitored by a sheriff's deputy. Of course.

The Dec. 15 performance was the brainchild of the chief public defender, who directed the show and picked the play: "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever."

It's based on a book, beloved since the 1970s, that Barbara Robinson wrote about the unruly Herdman kids taking over a church Christmas play.

Lynn Pride Richardson, the defense-lawyer-turned-theater-director, decided to attempt something even more ambitious than last year's poetry performance: a real play, with more than a dozen characters, blocking and set changes.

Richardson said she loved the play's message: The characters you may think are irredeemable can surprise you.

"It highlights a family that is kind of ostracized by the community because they're poor and always getting in trouble," Richardson said. "The message is, it's really because they haven't been educated. And once they learn the Christmas story, it really transforms them."

In the show within a show, "awful old Imogene" Herdman plays the Virgin Mary. Her younger sister Gladys, feared by all the kids in town for her punches, becomes the Angel of the Lord.

The jail play took hours of rehearsals, moxie and imagination. Props had to be

made from things inmates are allowed to have; instead of a fake beard, the women used a Sharpie to draw facial hair on "Father."

The inmates "had to be creative," said Rayne Johnson, who runs Resolana, an inmate counseling program operated by Volunteers of America Texas. It tries to help women break the cycle of incarceration by addressing root causes such as poverty and trauma.

The commitment the volunteer director showed "just says to the women that they have value — and what's brought out is they have so much more to contribute to the world," Johnson said. "It just shows that women, when we have meaningful work, can come together and accomplish great things."

Women in the Resolana program are largely nonviolent offenders. Many are awaiting trial and cannot afford to post bond.

The program attempts to help the women prepare for a new life when they leave jail. Sometimes that means trying new things — like acting in a play.

For Missy Keown, 27, the message of "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever" echoes what she's learned through Resolana: No role is too small, everybody matters.

"And that's so true — there's no part necessarily bigger or more important than the others," she said. Keown, who has been in jail since November on drug-possession charges, played the part of Maxine, a girl who narrates the pageant inside the play.

"They taught me that I'm worth not giving up on," she said. "They made me realize it's never too late.

Every time we fall down is another time to get up."

Before they took the stage, some of the inmates playing main characters spoke about the reality they're facing: spending Christmas — and possibly a lot longer — in jail.

Tiffany Emmons, who had a key role in the play, said she spent Thanksgiving in jail, then her birthday, and now probably Christmas, after being arrested in early November for violating probation on a 2014 drug conviction.

"I have a 9-year-old daughter at home waiting on me, so I don't plan at all to come back," said Emmons, 29. "I'll be home soon."

The morning of the play, there was a last-minute switch. The inmate playing one of the horrible Herdmans had a court appearance. Donna Ewing, 48, awaiting trial on drug and theft charges, filled in and didn't miss a beat.

The cast's performance wowed the audience of Dallas County sheriff's deputies, public defenders, jail officials, volunteers and representatives from grant programs that help fund efforts like Resolana.

"We're impressed by the human spirit that we see in them," said Johnson, the Resolana director. "They just really shine, even in the darkest of circumstances."

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Mabel Chute, 91, of Big Spring died Tuesday. Funeral services were at 10 a.m. today at Myers & Smith Chapel.

Crystal Nichole Ramirez Muniz, 30, of Big Spring, passed away Wednesday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home. A fund has been set up at Myers & Smith Funeral Home to help the family with funeral expenses.

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# CLOWNEY

Continued from Page 1B

recognized when he was Houston's only player selected to the Pro Bowl.

"I put in a lot of hard work all offseason and told the guys I was going to try to make the Pro Bowl this year," Clowney said.

"They stuck behind me. We stuck together. We've been through a lot as a team. To be where we're sitting right now, we're doing good. We just have to keep playing."

The Texans (8-6) can clinch their second straight AFC South title with a win on Saturday against the Bengals and a loss by the Titans, who play Jacksonville.

Clowney appeared in just four games as a rookie before having season-ending microfracture surgery. He was healthy in time for Houston's opener in 2015, but struggled with a variety of injuries and started just nine games.

This season he's missed just one game and his improvement has helped Houston's defense withstand the loss of J.J. Watt and the unit ranks No. 1 in the NFL in yards allowed.

"He's gone through some stuff the first couple of years and hasn't been able to get on the field and this year he's been able to stay on the field and been able to show what kind of ability he has," defensive coordinator Romeo Crennel said. "So I think that it's good that other people recognize that ability and he's been helping us win. So it's good."

It's easy to see that Clowney is having fun this season. He's always smiling and laughing as bounces around the locker room chatting with teammates, reporters and staff.

Things weren't always this way for the former South Carolina standout. After his microfracture surgery in 2014 when he wasn't able to put any weight on his leg for months he

wondered about his future.

"Sitting on my couch for two months and I was just thinking to myself: 'Am I going to be able to play another snap of football again?' At that time, that's what I was really thinking," he said. "Am I going to ever get to play again? So that was probably the lowest point."

Houston left tackle Duane Brown is very close to Clowney and one of his biggest supporters. He's also the player Clowney most often goes against in practice.

Brown was among the first to tweet congratulations to him on Tuesday night when Pro Bowl selections were announced.

"Clowney's a special person to me because I know everything he's been through in his short career, physically, mentally and everything it took to get to this point for him," Brown said.

"The surgery he had a couple years ago, (for) a lot of guys that's career threatening and they're never the same after that.

"For him to come back and not only be on the field but be this disruptive and be a game-wrecker the way he's been this year, even battling through more injuries ... I'm very happy for him."

Some people thought that Clowney had lost confidence after struggling through two seasons where he failed to make the kind of impact expected from a top overall pick. Clowney denied that and said this is the way he always expected to play.

"I probably never lost the confidence to play football. I always knew I could play football," he said. "I think other people probably lost more confidence in me than I did in myself. I'd say to myself: 'Just wait until I get healthy.' I just kept saying that to myself: 'Just wait until you get healthy and everything else is going to take care of itself.' I always knew I could play."

And this season he's shown everyone else that, too.

# Time running out for brutal Browns

CLEVELAND (AP) — Just when it can't get any worse for the Browns, it gets worse.

As the losses — 10, 11, 12, 13, 14 in a row — have multiplied, the pain has intensified.

"It's been a long year," running back Duke Johnson said.

Cleveland is two defeats from the ultimate disgrace — going 0-16, a fate only experienced by the 2008 Detroit Lions, the sad standard for futility for one season after losing every game. The Browns are now being compared to the hapless 1976 Tampa Bay Buccaneers, an expansion outfit which lost 26 straight over two seasons and whose coach John McKay famously said, "I'm all for it" when asked about his team's execution.

The Browns (0-14) have time to change history, but it's running short.

"No one is going to come in here and help us get a win over these last two weeks," said quarterback Robert Griffin III, who will start Sunday at home against the San Diego Chargers. "We have to do it, and I think everybody is motivated to

make that happen."

Sunday is Cleveland's only realistic chance to end the losing skid, which stretches to 17 since last season. The Browns, who haven't won since fallen quarterback Johnny Manziel led them past San Francisco on Dec. 13, 2015, will finish the season in Pittsburgh, where several previous seasons have ended with losses followed by coaching changes.

And while Hue Jackson's job appears safe despite the current 0-fer on his resume, the Browns would like nothing more than to reward their coach with his first win as an early Christmas gift.

The difference between 1-14 and 0-15 may not look like a lot, but don't tell the Browns that.

"It would be a big difference," cornerback Joe Haden said.

"From the outside, you really don't know what we put in, what we go through together, trying to get the scheme, get the game plan, execute it during the week. It's huge. When you win the games and come into the locker room, there's nothing like a winning locker room."

# TEXANS

Continued from Page 1B

and managed only 38 yards total.

**HOPE FOR HOPKINS:** Houston receiver DeAndre Hopkins should have reason to hope he'll have better numbers now that Savage has taken over at quarterback. Hopkins was third in the NFL with 1,521 yards receiving last year, but his numbers have suffered this season as Oswieiler

struggled to get the ball downfield and Houston's passing offense sank to near the bottom of the NFL.

Hopkins has 788 yards receiving and has just one 100-yard receiving game this season after finishing with six last year. Savage got the ball to Hopkins on Sunday and he finished with 87 yards receiving, which was his highest total since a 113-yard game against the Chiefs on Sept. 18.

**NO CHANGES:** Bengals coach Marvin

Lewis won't make any lineup changes with Cincinnati eliminated from playoff contention. Some of his younger players have gotten bigger roles as the season has evolved, but Lewis isn't going to increase their number of plays in the last two games.

"My thought is to win these next two football games with the best players we can put out there to play," Lewis said. "That's what we owe to everybody. This isn't junior high school."

# DALLAS

Continued from Page 1B

Prescott, Elliott and offensive linemen Tyron Smith, Zack Martin and Travis Frederick). The Lions don't have any. "I don't think we're going to have any sort of recount, but nevertheless, our guys are really focused on trying to win games," Lions coach Jim Caldwell said.

**GREGORY'S RETURN:** Jerry Jones says he expects Randy Gregory to play in his return from a 14-game suspension. The second-year defensive end, banned for multiple violations

of the NFL's substance-abuse policy, practiced for the first time Thursday. "Champing at the bit," Dallas coach Jason Garrett said.

**DIFFERENT DEZ:** In Detroit's 31-30 victory in the last regular-season meeting between these teams in 2013, Dallas receiver Dez Bryant had an infamous sideline outburst and shouting match with tight end Jason Witten in Detroit when the Cowboys couldn't hold a 10-point lead in the last 7 minutes.

But Bryant has shown more maturity this season, most notably when he calmly went to the sideline after his late fumble cost the Cowboys in a 10-7 loss to the Giants two weeks ago.

# NFL

Continued from Page 2B

in (10), Walter Payton (10) and Barry Sanders (10) as the only players with at least nine 1,000-yard seasons.

**Arizona (5-8-1) at Seattle (9-4-1)**

With the NFC West in their pocket, the Seahawks earned a first-round bye by winning and having the Lions and Falcons fall. The league's only undefeated team at home, Seattle is seeking the fourth perfect home record in franchise history. It also was done in 2003, 2005 and 2012.

But Arizona has won

two of its past three visits, and it dominated Seattle in the teams' 6-6 tie in October.

**RB David Johnson** has more than 100 yards from scrimmage in all 14 games, the longest streak to start a season in NFL history.

**San Francisco (1-13) at Los Angeles (4-10)**

Not much to recom-

mend in this one. San Francisco opened with a win over the Rams in their first game back in Los Angeles. The Niners haven't won since.

LA at one point was 3-1, fell apart, and Jeff Fisher was canned as coach. That didn't help at all in a lopsided loss at Seattle in interim coach John Fassel's first game at the helm.

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Roger's Reviews:

# Assassin's Creed

By **ROGER CLINE**

Staff Writer

I should have liked "Assassin's Creed," the new movie based on the Ubisoft video game of the same name, a lot more than I did. I mean, it's absolutely in my wheelhouse: A fantasy video game movie with time-travel and fantasy elements and a lot of action? I should love this thing.

Unfortunately, "Creed" is actually just a big fat mess of a movie; with a jumbled plot, a lot of unnecessary talking, and a washed-out color palette.

The movie starts off with some information about two warring groups, the Templars, who are evil and want to control everything, and the Assassins, who want to stop them from controlling everything. After this bit of exposition, the movie centers around one Callum Lynch (Michael Fassbender). We witness Callum as a child return home to discover that his father (Brendan Gleeson) has just murdered his mom (Essie Davis), and then a whole bunch of guys show up in black cars. Callum runs... and 30 years go by, during which he evidently becomes a career criminal and a murderer himself. We next see him on death row in Huntsville, where he is seemingly executed by lethal injection. But then he wakes up in some kind of research facility by Sophia (Marion Cotillard), a doctor. She tells him that he's dead, so far as the rest of the world knows, so he now belongs to her project. The idea is that she's going to hook him up to a giant robot arm called the Animus and plunge him into a virtual world so that he can send his consciousness back in time to his assassin ancestor Aguilar. The goal is to learn the location of the Apple of Eden, which supposedly contains the code to allow the Templars (oh yeah, Sophia's research facility is a Templar front) to turn off humanity's capacity for free will, and rule us directly instead of having to use distractions such as war, government, and consumerism to turn us into sheeple.

Other notable characters include Sophie's dad Mr. Rikkin (Jeremy Irons); and Ellen Kaye (Charlotte Rampling), an evil Templar mucky-muck; and Moussa (Michael K. Williams), another descendant of an Assassin being held prisoner at the research

facility. There are several more Assassin descendants, but they don't talk much. Look them up if you want.

\*Sigh\*. Yeah, I love complicated plots, but this one just makes no sense. There's just so much unexplained. Why is the research facility holding a bunch more descendants of Assassins? How does "genetic memory" even work to allow these descendants to use the Animus to flash back to their ancestors? Why do they need a giant



robot arm to fling the poor sap in the Animus all over the place, when you've got them hooked in by brain signal to the computer? Can't you just simulate the experience of movement virtually?

Exacerbating the confusion is a whole lot of talking. Yeah, there are some halfway decent action sequences, but they're separated by way too much jibber-jabber. Not only that, a lot of the time the jibber-jabber is unintelligible because of the thumping, rhythmic music playing over it. They should have toned the music down a skoch during the talky parts. Maybe it would have helped the viewer make a little more sense of the plot, but I doubt it.

The entire movie is filmed with a washed-out color palette. Many establishing scenes are also filmed with really annoying backlighting so that characters are silhouetted against a bright background.

All in all, I just felt bored for most of this movie. When I wasn't bored, I was trying to hear what people were saying or trying to figure out just what the heck was going on. Those stretches didn't last too long, because I just ultimately didn't care enough to keep up the interest for long. Five stars out of 10, and I have a feeling I'm being generous.

**Assassin's Creed**

Director: Justin Kurzel

Writer: Michael Lesslie, Adam Cooper, Bill Collage

Production companies: Regency Enterprises, Ubisoft Entertainment

PG-13, 115 min., Action/Adventure/Fantasy, Dec. 21, 2016

Roger saw this movie at Big Spring's own Cinemark Cinema 4, located in the Spring Town Plaza, 1801 E. FM 700. For more information visit [www.cinemark.com](http://www.cinemark.com) and enter the ZIP code 79720.

## Prosecutors: 'Making a Murderer' convict's confession legal

MADISON, Wis. (AP) — State attorneys are arguing a Wisconsin prison inmate featured in the Netflix series "Making a Murderer" voluntarily confessed to helping rape and kill a photographer and should remain behind bars.

Brendan Dassey was sentenced to life in 2007 in the death of photographer Teresa Halbach. He told detectives he helped his uncle, Steven Avery, rape and kill Halbach in the Avery family's Manitowoc County salvage yard. A federal magistrate judge ruled in August that detectives falsely promised leniency in exchange for his confession and ordered

Dassey released. The 7th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals blocked the release pending a state appeal. Deputy Solicitor General Luke Berg filed a brief Wednesday arguing Dassey's coercion claims have no legal or factual basis and the 7th Circuit has upheld techniques the detectives used.

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# Who's Who in Howard County

## Leticia Torres



**Where do you work?** Big Spring ISD Administration Office

**Where were you born?** Big Spring, Texas

**What city do you live in?** Big Spring

**Who is in your family?** Husband, Albert Children, Casie Adundez, Andrea Phinney, and Elle Torres.

**What hobbies, organizations, or clubs are you involved in?** Family gatherings

**What is your favorite movie?** It's a Wonderful Life.

**Where would you visit if you could go anywhere?** Spain or Italy.

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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 writers and not those of the Big Spring Herald unless otherwise indicated.

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The Herald welcomes letters to the editor.

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

## CONTACT US

The Herald is always interested in our readers' opinions.

In order that we might better serve your needs, we offer several ways in which you may contact us:

- In person at 710 Scurry St.
- By telephone at 263-7331
- By fax at 264-7205
- By e-mail at newsdesk@bigspringherald.com.
- By mail at P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721

## DAILY PRAYER

Thank You, Lord, for all You've done for us.

Amen.

# A house full of Christmas

Every room in Glenda Wilson's house in Colorado City has a Christmas display.

"In our bedroom back there you'll see our original aluminum Christmas tree. We were married in March of 1966 and that was our first Christmas tree. We have a color wheel turning on it now. We don't ever throw away anything. I guess that's why we have so much stuff."

One room has a complete farm scene.

"It has a blacksmith shop, livestock and things like that. We have fond memories of growing up in the country, so we made sure we have some agricultural things."

An elaborate infrastructure of saw horses and plywood holds up a multi-level display of 127 little lighted Christmas houses

and buildings. And that's just in her living room. She pointed out a few items.

"The candy factory up here has a windmill that's turning and making peppermint candy. At the gumdrop factory, the gumdrops are on a conveyor belt. Over here is the rocking horse factory. Down on that end we've got Santa Claus flying around, testing the toys. Next we have the ornament factory."

One room of her home has a Victorian village. She and her husband started collecting the little houses and accessories in 1994 when their daughter gave them one.

"People found out that we had them and they started bringing them to us. Our daughter gives us a piece every Christmas. They're always different. This little guy here is sweeping up the snow in front of the maintenance barn. She brought that one thanksgiving when it was cold and told us we'd need it so he could keep the snow off the streets."

Every room has a Christmas scene of some sort, all neatly dis-

played. Tables throughout the house are set with red and green napkins, tablecloths, dishes and centerpieces, all reflecting the holiday season. She has three Christmas trees full of lights and decorations. Toy dolls dance and sing.

"We've got Katie's Candied Apples. We have a granddaughter named Katie. That's why we have that. We have Pop's Peppermint Barrel. Our great grandchildren call their grandpa Pops. I like them all. There's not a favorite. They're a lot of fun to just sit down and look at them. Some years we don't put them out."

They have a special building where the items are stored when they're not on display. It takes hours and hours to set up everything.

"If we want it up by Thanksgiving we usually start around the first of October. It's different every year. I've never put it up the same way two years in a row. It takes a long time to put them away because we think about where we got this one or that one."



## 'Mind's eye' vision 20/20

You may recall "been there/done that" experiences differently. If so, be my guest. Mine is a mundane wish that you close out the old year as you choose. It is, after all, your life, and only a few hours remain before peals of 2017 bells are heard.

During an aborted springtime trip to San Diego—one of the world's most beautiful cities—I beheld the grandeur with just one eye. It was a strange way to awaken that fateful morning. Loss of half my vision overnight was not anticipated.

Dashed were plans to explore a city where all seasons yield to spring.

Taking priority were plans to change plane reservations for a return home to the Metroplex ASAP.

Back home, Dr. Parchue—an ophthalmologist whose name sounds like a sneeze—diagnosed a damaged and detached retina. Within hours, he had performed surgery, and my pilgrimage back to restored vision—albeit slower than preferred—was underway.

Caring friends asked if I'd been a wreck or sustained a blow to the head.

"Can't anything be the result of high mileage?" I countered.

It's a plus that the "mind's eye" is 20/20. Heading the recall list is akin to "California dreaming." To some readers, my memories of a shortened trip may seem to be in an unlikely order.

We had spent our last "full vision" day at the San Diego Zoo, SeaWorld and beach walking near the San Diego Hilton Resort and Spa, where the grounds were

awash in greenery, flowers and leisurely walkways.

What we most remember, however, were not "up close" visits to destinations featured in travel brochures. Instead, we recall the joy of children being children. Some busied themselves in simple joys of pursuing a mother duck with her ducklings. Others were enthralled by a collection of dogs, cats, birds and pigs. The "collection"—at least a large majority—has one thing in common. Before they were trained

chose to "sit a spell" on a hotel bench. I marveled at my wife's careful inspection of numerous flowering plants. She even spelled their names so convincingly that I would have challenged anyone suggesting corrections.

Soon to command my attention, however, were a couple of tykes, likely brother and sister. The older was perhaps six years of age; the other, around four. They fell behind a mother duck and her 10 trailing ducklings.

They mostly kept a safe distance a few paces behind. When the mother duck accelerated, her brood scampered to keep pace, and so did the children. I resisted the temptation to pick up a duckling for the children to feel their soft yellow down.

I did, however, reseat myself several times as they paraded up and down walkways. As dusk drew in, the parents herded the children toward the restaurant. The youngsters looked back, however, for final glimpses of the little ducklings as they followed their mother, waddling away into the night.

I was grateful for my doctor's dismissal some three months later. Surgery had been successful, and vision in my damaged eye was at least 95% renewed.

It's a grand feeling, at year's end, to enjoy reasonable vision and generally good health.

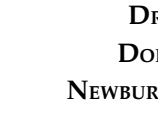
There's much for which to be thankful, including the "mind's eye," which seems never to age.

I intend to depend on all three eyes in 2017, however, and wish for you and yours good health and much happiness.

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.



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DR. DON NEWBURY

# Solo talks about future, equal pay fight

The Associated Press

Hope Solo says she hopes that someday she can return to the U.S. women's national team, but in the meantime she vows to keep fighting for equal pay for the players.

The goalkeeper was handed a six-month suspension and her contract with U.S. Soccer was terminated following the Rio Olympics, after she called Sweden's team "cowards" for their defensive style of play against the Americans in the quarterfinals.

"Let's be honest, it's not my decision if I return to the national team," she said. "I find it an honor and a privilege to represent our country at the highest level in a sport that I love, in a position that I love. And I would do almost anything to play at that level once again. I say almost, because at this point in time I believe our fight for equality is much bigger than being on the national team again."

The 35-year-old Solo is not eligible for reinstatement to the team until February. She said it's up to the U.S. Soccer Federation and coach Jill Ellis to allow her to return.

Her comments come as the team's players are negotiating a new collective bargaining agreement with U.S. Soccer. The current contract expires on Dec. 31, but according to the USSF neither side has filed a 60-day notice of termination, meaning that talks could continue into the new year.

Solo, a 17-year veteran of the team, is closely watching the negotiations, which have been ongoing this month. In a wide-ranging interview with The Associ-

ated Press on Thursday, she said she "hopes and prays" players don't back down in their ongoing fight to earn equitable salaries to the male national team players.

"I think many of the players are prepared to go all the way in," she said. "When we're supposed to have a new CBA by Jan. 1, now is the time you can be scared — you can be scared of going on strike, you can be scared of losing employment and a paycheck. And I think that I have been used as an example, and my firing instilled a lot of fear in the players. And I also know fear is what has held many movements back."

That's why she's speaking out now — because she can.

"There's no turning back for me," she said. "I think with some of the player there are different intentions — because they want to play the game that they love. It's easier for me to fight and put everything into it than it is for them."

Solo's year has been nothing if not eventful.

At the start, Solo and the national team were still basking in their victory at the 2015 Women's World Cup. Solo allowed only three goals in seven games with five shutouts during the tournament — earning her a second straight Golden Glove Award.

But with the CBA due to expire, Solo and four of her teammates filed a complaint in late March with the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission alleging wage discrimination. The players maintain they make far less than their male counterparts for the national team, despite outperforming them on the international stage. A decision by the EEOC is pending.



AP file photo

**Goalkeeper Hope Solo, whose contract with the U.S. Women's National Team was terminated following controversial remarks at the Summer Olympics, said she hopes to return to the team in the near future.**

On the field, Solo became the first goalkeeper with 100 international shutouts before the Olympics when the United States defeated South Africa 1-0 in Chicago. It also was her 150th career win. During the Rio Games she made her 200th appearance in goal for the United States, an international record.

But in the quarterfinals the defending champion U.S. women were handed their earliest-ever exit from the Olympics when Sweden advanced 4-3 on penalty kicks following a 1-1 draw.

Solo's infamous "cowards" quote came immediately following the loss. Sweden went on to play in the gold-medal match against Germany.

Solo said she spoke to Ellis and U.S. Soccer President Sunil Gulati following the loss, and felt that the issue was put to rest. After she returned to the United States, she said she was blindsided by the an-

nouncement about her suspension.

She said she believes U.S. Soccer wanted her off the CBA negotiations.

"Let's call it what is, which is a firing," she said. "It was a termination of my contract effective immediately with severance. That is a firing. It wasn't a suspension, that's what they told the media because it looked better. But I got fired. I got fired for what they say was using the word 'cowards' but in reality they got rid of an adversary in the fight for equal pay."

U.S. Soccer clarified that Solo was suspended following a culmination of actions, and separately her contract was also terminated with the team.

"As we have stated before, Hope was suspended for her cumulative actions over the course of time that reflected negatively on the U.S. Women's National Team and U.S. Soccer," the federation said in

a statement Thursday night. "Any indication that the suspension was only due to her comment after the Olympics, or because of current CBA negotiations, is completely inaccurate. We had numerous conversations with her in the past about her behavior and it was clear that any additional missteps could result in an additional suspension."

Solo has at times during her career been dogged by a number of off-the-field controversies. Notably, a domestic violence case stemming from a 2014 altercation at a family member's home in Washington state. The case is still pending and she cannot comment on the matter.

When asked if she's had regrets, she said she wished she would have distanced herself and her marriage from people who weren't healthy in her life. "Ultimately it came at a price with my public image and that was very hurtful, and it still hurts to this

day," she said.

Solo wants to keep the focus right now on her future. Coming off shoulder replacement surgery this fall, Her status with the team going forward will largely depend on how Ellis chooses to develop players ahead of the 2019 World Cup.

Solo said she will let history decide her legacy.

"Honestly, legacies are something people realize over time. I can't tell you what people are going to say what my legacy is. I know what I stood for," she said. "I know I never changed who I am: That I continued to fight for my teammates for better treatment, for better competition. I held everybody to higher standards and I think it made some people uncomfortable. But at the same time I believe in honesty and I believe in truth. And I'm proud to say I gave everything I am to goalkeeping, the game and the sport I love."

## IOC opens new doping cases for Russian athletes

GENEVA (AP) — On yet another doping-tainted day for Russian sport, 28 athletes now face IOC cases linked to cheating at the Sochi Winter Olympics and a major cross-country skiing event was removed from the country.

The IOC said Friday it has opened 28 disciplinary proceedings against Russian athletes whose urine samples were likely tampered with at the 2014 Olympics.

Six cases involve cross-country skiers who are now provisionally suspended by the International Ski Federation (FIS), which did not identify them. Six Russian men won five medals, including one gold, in cross-country skiing on home snow at Sochi.

The new wave of Olympic doping cases is set to produce a flow of verdicts and disqualifications next year that could fuel calls for some or all of the Russian team to be banned from the 2018 Pyeongchang Winter Olympics in South Korea.

The cases are based on evidence provided this month by World Anti-

Doping Agency investigator Richard McLaren.

McLaren detailed vast state-backed cheating in Russian sport that included swapping athletes' tainted samples for clean urine through the testing laboratory.

The Canadian law professor offered evidence of a method for state intelligence officers to break open supposedly tamper-proof glass sample bottles which had scratches behind the lid. Urine samples retained by the IOC since

Sochi included some with unnatural levels of salt in healthy humans.

In further fallout from McLaren's report, the world ski body said Russian officials have handed back hosting rights for the end-of-season World Cup finals in cross-country skiing.

The event was scheduled in March in Tyumen, which on Thursday also lost the right to host a biathlon World Cup event in March.

"The findings in the McLaren Report have

seriously damaged the integrity of sport and we are determined to ensure the necessary measures are undertaken to punish the offences," said FIS President Gian Franco Kasper.

The IOC said the 28 new cases being examined by its disciplinary commission are not positive doping tests.

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# Cancer-stricken 'Jeopardy!' player wins \$103K before death



AP photo

Cindy Stowell, right, appears on the "Jeopardy!" set with Alex Trebek in Culver City, Calif. Stowell, who died of cancer just days before her appearance on "Jeopardy!" aired won six contests in a row and more than \$103,000, some of which has been donated toward cancer research. Stowell's run ended when she finished second in her seventh appearance that aired on Wednesday, Dec. 21.

By PATRICK MAIRS

Associated Press

Faced with a terminal diagnosis in her battle against colon cancer, Cindy Stowell saw an appearance on "Jeopardy!" in her final months as a "good opportunity" to help others struggling against the disease by donating money she might win to cancer research.

She made the most of it by winning six nights in a row and more than \$103,000 in a run that ended on Wednesday's episode.

The Austin, Texas, woman died Dec. 5 at the age of 41, eight days before her first appearance aired on Dec. 13. "Jeopardy!" sent her advance copies of three of her appearances so she could watch them in the hospital, the show said in a statement. It also expedited getting her winnings to her.

Before her August audition for the show, Stowell emailed a "Jeopardy!" producer that she didn't have long to live and that if she were selected she'd like to donate any winnings to charities involved in cancer research.

She passed the audition and was booked for the first available taping on Aug. 31, "Jeopardy!" said.

She won four games taped that day and returned for a Sept. 13 taping. She won two more games before finishing

second in her final appearance.

Alex Trebek paid tribute to Stowell on Wednesday's program. The "Jeopardy!" host called her appearance "a fulfillment of a lifelong ambition."

The show's executive producer, Harry Friedman, added in a statement: "Cindy came on the show with a mission. We gave her the opportunity to fulfill that mission and she made the most of it."

In a video released by the show Wednesday night, Stowell called her appearance "a line in the sand" that she drew in her battle against the disease.

"I'm dying of cancer," she said. "I really want the money that I win to be used to help others and so this seems like a good opportunity."

The Cancer Research Institute tweeted its thanks to Stowell on Wednesday for donating winnings and inspiring others to do the same.

Stowell came from behind to win several times during her run, which she said made the experience stressful, yet fun.

"Even when you think the odds are completely against you somehow you know, via luck or something, things can work out."

# 17 stolen masterpieces returned to Italy with only scratches

By COLLEEN BARRY

Associated Press

VERONA, Italy (AP) — Seventeen masterpieces valued at 17 million euros (\$17.7 million) were returned to Italy from Ukraine on Wednesday after being stolen by masked, armed robbers from a Verona art museum last year.

Italian Culture Minister Dario Franceschini, who traveled to Kiev to retrieve the paintings — which included works by Rubens, Tintoretto and Mantegna — said the possibility of ever recovering them once seem remote. Still, the paintings returned with little more than scratches after their long ordeal, according to an art expert.

"It's an important day, because the works are all returning to Verona intact," Franceschini said. "It was an ugly story that became a beautiful story."

Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko handed over the paintings to Franceschini in a ceremony in

Kiev, saying "the theft of masterpiece paintings is akin to stealing part of the city's heart."

The paintings, wrapped in plastic bags, were recovered in May by Ukrainian border guards who intercepted them on a small island on the Dniester River during an attempt to smuggle them into Moldova.

They were stolen in November 2015 when three armed robbers entered the Castelvecchio Museum, located in a medieval castle, at closing time just before the alarm system was activated. The robbers calmly removed the paintings before escaping in a security guard's car.

A guard at the museum, Pasquale Silvestri Riccardi, was convicted of armed robbery and sentenced to 10 years and eight months in prison earlier this month. Five others were also convicted, including Riccardi's Moldovan girlfriend, who received six years, and his twin brother, who

See ITALY, Page 5C

# Bumper might have mitigated September train crash

By DAVID PORTER

Associated Press

HOBOKEN, N.J. (AP)

When a New Jersey Transit commuter train plowed off the end of a track in September, killing a woman standing in the Hoboken station and injuring more than 100 others, the last thing in its way was a concrete-and-steel bumper that was in place when the station opened in 1907.

Experts say more modern bumpers equipped with hydraulic shock absorbers and sled-like friction shoes — like those installed more than 25 years ago at NJ Transit's Atlantic City terminal — would not have been able to stop the train, which was traveling at 21 mph, but might have slowed it enough to lessen the damage.

Federal investigators are examining the role the aging bumper played in the Hoboken crash and whether other barriers could have made a difference.

For now, however, all but one of the tracks in the almost 110-year-old station that serves about 15,000 passengers a day still have the old-style, stationary bumpers at the end of the tracks, just a few feet from the busy terminal.

NJ Transit is in the process of hiring a consultant to review the bumping posts at Hoboken as part of an overall safety review of the terminal, Steven Santoro, NJ Transit's recently named executive director, told *The Associated Press*. The bumpers in Hoboken don't feature hydraulics

and aren't equipped with friction shoes. A bumping post with friction shoes would have to be placed farther away from the track's end and would effectively reduce the platform length, Santoro said. That, he said, would force NJ Transit to run trains "at least" one car shorter, which would potentially cause overcrowding.

It would "exacerbate an issue that already exists in terms of track lengths," he told the AP. "We would like every platform to be a 10-car platform but can't do that. We are physically constrained by the length of trains we have in our system, and we have to factor that into our analysis."

NJ Transit has embarked on a project to

See CRASH, Page 5C

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# Weekly oil report

## New Locations:

### Glasscock County

Encana Oil & Gas, Inc.  
370 17th Street, Suite 1700  
Denver, CO 80202-0000  
Jessica Gregg, Regulatory Analyst  
(720) 876-3926

#1 Garden City "40", drill, field transfer, API #42-173-33028  
Spraberry (Trend Area) Field, El: NA  
4 miles west of Garden City  
Section 40, Block 34, T&P RR Co. survey  
Total Depth: 10,300 feet  
Latitude 031.532780, Longitude -101.322210  
2530' FSL, 1903' FEL of 642.3-acre lease  
2530' FSL, 1903' FEL of the survey

Encana Oil & Gas, Inc.  
370 17th Street, Suite 1700  
Denver, CO 80202-0000  
Jessica Gregg, Regulatory Analyst  
(720) 876-3926

#3 Garden City "40", drill, field transfer, API #42-173-33785  
Spraberry (Trend Area) Field, El: NA  
4 miles west of Garden City  
Section 40, Block 34, T&P RR Co. survey  
Total Depth: 10,596 feet  
Latitude 031.531643, Longitude -101.315980  
990' FSL, 467' FEL of 642.3-acre lease  
990' FSL, 467' FEL of the survey

Encana Oil & Gas, Inc.  
370 17th Street, Suite 1700  
Denver, CO 80202-0000  
Jessica Gregg, Regulatory Analyst  
(720) 876-3926

#4 Garden City "40", drill, field transfer, API #42-173-34146  
Spraberry (Trend Area) Field, El: NA  
4 miles west of Garden City  
Section 40, Block 34, T&P RR Co. survey  
Total Depth: 10,632 feet  
Latitude 031.533856, Longitude -101.325663  
884' FNL, 660' FWL of 642.3-acre lease  
884' FNL, 660' FWL of the survey

Encana Oil & Gas, Inc.  
370 17th Street, Suite 1700  
Denver, CO 80202-0000  
Jessica Gregg, Regulatory Analyst  
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#5 Garden City "40", drill, field transfer, API #42-173-34574  
Spraberry (Trend Area) Field, El: NA  
4.30 miles northwest of Garden City  
Section 40, Block 34, T&P RR Co. survey  
Total Depth: 10,202 feet  
Latitude 031.535010, Longitude -101.322567  
467' FNL, 1709' FEL of 642.3-acre lease  
467' FNL, 1709' FEL of the survey

Encana Oil & Gas, Inc.  
370 17th Street, Suite 1700  
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Jessica Gregg, Regulatory Analyst  
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#6 Garden City "40", drill, field transfer, API #42-173-34658  
Spraberry (Trend Area) Field, El: NA  
4.30 miles northwest of Garden City  
Section 40, Block 34, T&P RR Co. survey  
Total Depth: 10,187 feet  
Latitude 031.535010, Longitude -101.322567  
467' FNL, 1709' FEL of 642.3-acre lease  
467' FNL, 1709' FEL of the survey

Encana Oil & Gas, Inc.  
370 17th Street, Suite 1700  
Denver, CO 80202-0000

#7 Garden City "40", drill, field transfer, API #42-173-37091  
Spraberry (Trend Area) Field, El: NA  
4.30 miles northwest of Garden City

See **OIL**, Page 6A



AP Photo/Reed Saxon, File

In this March 23, 2010, file photo, installers from California Green Design install solar electrical panels on the roof of a home in Glendale, Calif. In recent years, huge solar and wind farms have sprouted up on public desert land in the Western United States buoyed by generous federal tax credits.

## Green energy producers see positive future

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Swaths of virgin desert in the U.S. West in recent years have transformed into solar farms, a trend green energy supporters predict will persist even with the election of a president who is making fossil fuel-friendly Cabinet appointments and promises to bring back coal.

With the support of Congress, the renewable energy industry has enjoyed a tax credit-buoyed building boom under President Barack Obama, who has aggressively pushed to slash greenhouse gas emissions from the burning of coal and other fossil

fuels.

Electricity generated by solar panels and windmills has played a bigger role in the energy mix in recent years as the federal government and states seek to reduce heat-trapping gases through ambitious climate goals. And, despite President-elect Donald Trump's campaign pledge to revitalize the coal industry and "put our miners back to work," renewable developers are hopeful about their future.

"We're looking forward to competing with other energy sources as

See **FUTURE**, Page 6A

## Amy Schumer buys back family farm as gift for her father

Amy Schumer has given her father an early holiday gift by buying back the farm her family once owned.



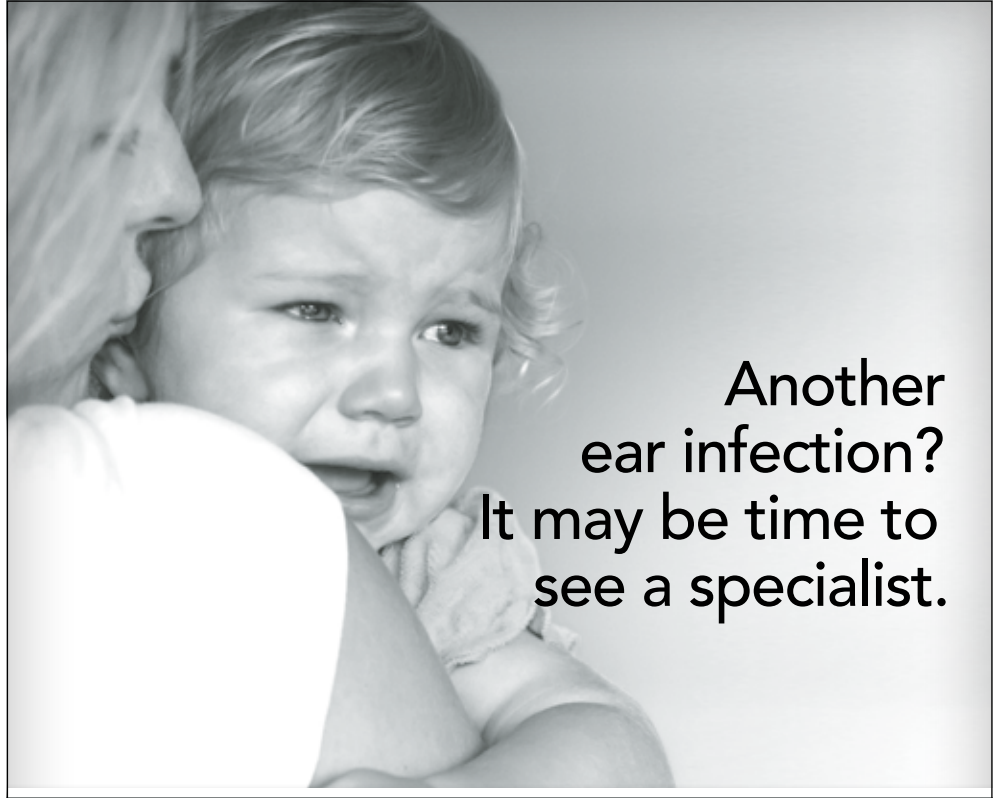
AP photo  
Amy Schumer

Schumer posted a screengrab on Instagram on Monday of her delivering the news to her father

on a video call. She also posted a video of herself as a child walking through a cornfield on the farm. She added in the caption, "We lost the farm when we lost everything else. But today I got to buy it back for him."

Schumer didn't say where the farm is located.

The comedian told The New York Times in 2013 that her family went bankrupt when she was 9.



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# Underground music gets scrutiny after deadly Oakland fire

By MICHAEL R. BLOOD

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The party is over at Purple 33.

About a week after 36 people died in a fire at an underground music party in Oakland, inspectors acting on a complaint discovered a makeshift nightclub and unpermitted living quarters concealed in a warehouse near Los Angeles International Airport.

Authorities searching the drab, two-story building found an illegally constructed dance floor, paired with a bar and DJ booth. Haphazard wiring snaked through walls, and an outdoor staircase capped by a bamboo canopy was flagged as a fire threat. The unlicensed club was shut down, and operator Donald Cassel, who also lives there, was ordered to clear out.

The closing of the space dubbed Purple 33 highlights growing friction between underground music venues that can be the only option for experimental or emerging performers and their fans, and authorities who see disasters-in-waiting.

Finding them is another matter, when clandestine events can be announced with a fleeting Facebook post or text message and, in many cases, vanish after the music stops.

"You have a situation where folks are coming together and they are not applying for special permits. They're just posting fliers 24 hours in advance, and they're bringing hundreds of people in for different functions," Oakland Fire Chief Teresa Deloach Reed said at a news conference days after the Dec. 2 fire during an electronic music party at an illegally converted warehouse nicknamed "Ghost Ship."

"We do not have the resources to track those types of functions," she conceded.

After the blaze, officials in LA, Baltimore and other cities announced plans to aggressively pursue illegally converted warehouses and oth-

er jerry-rigged living spaces. The threat of a crackdown is unnerving musicians and artists who live in them, and routinely accept risks that can come with performing on unlicensed stages. The Los Angeles case has similarities to Oakland, where a leased warehouse was converted into living space and an entertainment stage without proper permits or inspections.

"Lesser-known artists are happy to play nearly anywhere that will host them, because there are very few options," said Amanda Brown, co-owner of the Los Angeles record label 100% Silk, which lost two of its artists in the Oakland fire.

"These events are way more about community and shared experience than they are making money," she said in an email. "Most artists are very flexible and willing to deal with strange venues as long as there is a sound system and some enthusiasm for the music."

It's difficult to generalize about underground music and the places it's played, which sometimes hide in plain sight.

Purple 33 has a web page. It's like a jukebox, encompassing everything from punk to metal to electronic, a branch that itself is divided into dozens



AP photo

Flowers, pictures, signs and candles, are placed at the scene of the Ghost Ship warehouse fire in Oakland, Calif.

of splinters.

Similarly, the events can range widely: a couple of dozen people in a garment factory, an after-hours gathering in a coffee shop, 150 electronic music fans in a clearing in a forest. The scene is alternately inclusive, welcoming artists and fans of all demographics, and exclusive, since by definition it's hard to find if you don't know where to look.

The list of Oakland victims speaks to the diversity it attracts: a teacher, a computer engineer, a filmmaker, musicians and artists, a lawyer.

Regulations vary, but generally a gathering of

See OAKLAND, Page 13C

## ITALY

Continued from Page 4C

was sentenced to eight months.

Two Moldovans are on trial in their home country for the thefts.

Franceschini credited strong cooperation between law enforcement in the three countries for recovering the paintings and finding the thieves, giving particular praise to Italy's Carabinieri art squad. The culture minister also announced the government would introduce legislation this week making the theft or damage of Italy's cultural heritage specific crimes with elevated penalties.

Curator Ettore Napione traveled to retrieve the paintings, studying them carefully with gloved hands before wrapping them for the homeward journey. The works were displayed in simple wooden frames made for them after they were recovered, because the thieves had cut the canvasses from their original frames, which they then discarded.

"They suffered scratches, nothing very serious," Napione said.

The paintings are to be shown together at their home in the Castelvechio Museum for about a month beginning Friday before undergoing restoration and reframing.

## CRASH

Continued from Page 4C

construct three longer platforms at Hoboken as part of post-Superstorm Sandy flood mitigation, but that isn't expected to be finished until 2020, Santoro said.

A preliminary federal report on the Hoboken crash said the five-car train accelerated from 8 to 21 mph — more than twice the speed limit — as it approached the end of the track Sept. 29, before the emergency brake was engaged in the final second. Engineer Thomas Gallagher, who later was found to be suffering from sleep apnea, told investigators he had no memory of the train speeding up.

Even the most modern bumpers used in rail stations aren't designed to stop a train going that fast, state and federal rail officials and several experts told the AP. Yet it's possible one might have slowed the train enough to lessen the damage.

The train's lead car launched onto the platform, smashed into a wall and dislodged a canopy and brought concrete, metal and

wires raining down on the platform and train. Falling debris killed a woman on the platform. The family of the victim, Fabiola Bittar de Kroon, filed a notice this week of intent to sue.

"Had there been something in place that would absorb some of the kinetic energy of the train, therefore there may have been less damage to the structure and that piece may not have fallen? That's certainly possible," said Gus Ubaldi, a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers and a former engineering director for the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority.

At impact, bumping posts with friction shoes are "like a car brake: the brakes go on and you're going to slide a little bit, and it grabs the rail," Santoro said. "It's not going to stop immediately, but it's going to slow the train down."

Federal investigators are examining how the bumping post in Hoboken performed compared to one in a similar accident at Chicago's O'Hare Airport in 2014, according to two people

who were present at a briefing by investigators last month but weren't authorized to speak about it publicly.

A National Transportation Safety Board report faulted the Chicago Transit Authority for putting the bumping post too close to the end of the track and not leaving enough room for friction shoes. The bumping posts on two adjacent tracks were about 60 feet from the end of the track and were equipped with friction shoes.

Space considerations are a key factor, according to Carolyn Hayward-Williams, director of engineering for the American Public Transportation Association, a Washington, D.C.-based advocacy organization. More track space taken up by safety devices means less platform space to unload riders.

"Typically you see (bumping posts) as close to the station as possible," she said, "because track space is so precious and it impacts your capacity, how many trains you can put in, where you put your signals, and so on."

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Attorney At Law

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## OIL

Continued from Page 5A

Jessica Gregg, Regulatory Analyst  
(720) 876-3926

Section 40, Block 34, T&P RR Co. survey  
Total Depth: 10,227 feet  
Latitude 031.532752, Longitude -101.324043  
2330' FNL, 1709' FWL of 642.3-acre lease  
2330' FNL, 1709' FWL of the survey

Encana Oil & Gas, Inc.  
370 17th Street, Suite 1700  
Denver, CO 80202-0000  
Jessica Gregg, Regulatory Analyst  
(720) 876-3926

#8 Garden City "40", drill, field transfer, API #42-173-34850  
Spraberry (Trend Area) Field, EI: NA  
3.90 miles northwest of Garden City  
Section 40, Block 34, T&P RR Co. survey  
Total Depth: 10,164 feet  
Latitude 031.534150, Longitude -101.320794  
1709' FNL, 467' FEL of 642.3-acre lease  
1709' FNL, 467' FEL of the survey

Encana Oil & Gas, Inc.  
370 17th Street, Suite 1700  
Denver, CO 80202-0000  
Jessica Gregg, Regulatory Analyst  
(720) 876-3926

#9 Garden City "40", drill, field transfer, API #42-173-37146  
Spraberry (Trend Area) Field, EI: NA  
4.20 miles northwest of Garden City  
Section 40, Block 34, T&P RR Co. survey  
Total Depth: 10,152 feet  
X=1624224.8, Y=810356.7  
2301' FSL, 1701' FWL of 642.3-acre lease  
2301' FSL, 1701' FWL of the survey

Encana Oil & Gas, Inc.  
370 17th Street, Suite 1700  
Denver, CO 80202-0000  
Jessica Gregg, Regulatory Analyst  
(720) 876-3926

#40100 Garden City "40", drill, field transfer, EI: NA  
Spraberry (Trend Area) Field, API #42-173-37257  
3.70 miles northwest of Garden City  
Section 40, Block 34, T&P RR Co. survey  
Total Depth: 10,254 feet  
Latitude 031.530745, Longitude -101.321521  
467' FSL, 1988' FWL of 642.3-acre lease  
467' FSL, 1988' FWL of the survey

Encana Oil & Gas, Inc.  
370 17th Street, Suite 1700  
Denver, CO 80202-0000  
Jessica Gregg, Regulatory Analyst  
(720) 876-3926

#4011E Garden City "40", drill, field transfer, EI: NA  
Spraberry (Trend Area) Field, API #42-173-37258  
4.50 miles northwest of Garden City  
Section 40, Block 34, T&P RR Co. survey  
Total Depth: 10,228 feet  
X=1622764.9, Y=811096.9  
1940' FNL, 480' FWL of 642.3-acre lease  
1940' FNL, 480' FWL of the survey

CrownQuest Operating, LLC  
P.O. Box 53310  
Midland, TX 79710-0000  
Ann Ritchie, Agent  
(432) 684-6381

#1HB Foster "4344", drill horizontal, EI: NA  
Spraberry (Trend Area) Field  
9 miles southeast of Forsan  
A-797, Section 42, Block 30, W&NW RR Co. survey  
Total Depth: 9200 feet  
Latitude 031.582952, Longitude -101.195986  
200' FSL, 380' FWL of 5,920-acre lease  
200' FSL, 380' FWL of the survey

CrownQuest Operating, LLC  
P.O. Box 53310  
Midland, TX 79710-0000  
Ann Ritchie, Agent  
(432) 684-6381

#2HD Foster "4344", drill horizontal, EI: NA  
Spraberry (Trend Area) Field  
9 miles southeast of Forsan  
A-797, Section 42, Block 30, W&NW RR Co. survey  
Total Depth: 8000 feet  
Latitude 031.582951, Longitude -101.195952  
200' FSL, 410' FWL of 5,920-acre lease  
200' FSL, 410' FWL of the survey

XTO Energy, Inc.  
500 West Illinois, Suite 100  
Midland, TX 79701-0000  
Joanne Baltier, Regulatory Analyst  
(432) 682-8873

#203 Zant, re-completion, EI: NA, API #42-173-36497  
Spraberry (Trend Area) Field  
5.10 miles east of Spraberry  
T&P RR Co. survey  
Total Depth: 12,000 feet  
X=1563498.60, Y=828166.75  
467' FWL, 8415' FSL of 3,160-acre lease

See OIL, Page 7A

## FUTURE

Continued from Page 5A

a low-cost option," said Tom Kimbis, interim president of the Solar Energy Industries Association, a trade group.

There's the economic reality: Coal plants have shuttered in recent years as utilities favor cheaper, natural gas extracted from shale-rich places such as Pennsylvania, Ohio and West Virginia using the controversial drilling technique known as hydraulic fracturing. The plummeting cost of solar panels and wind turbines also has added to coal's woes.

On the campaign trail, Trump vowed to reverse the coal industry's declining fortunes and supported opening up offshore drilling in the Atlantic. Obama this week moved to permanently ban future oil and gas leasing in parts of the Arctic and Atlantic.

The day after Trump won, the American Wind Energy Association released a statement touting its contributions to the economy including the fees developers pay to farmers who agree to host wind turbines on their land and the jobs the industry creates. The trade group also noted that many wind farms are churning out power in traditional red states such as Wyoming, Oklahoma and Texas.

"An unstoppable shift to a cleaner energy economy is underway," said Tom Kiernan, chief executive of the American Wind Energy Association, calling wind a "mainstream energy source."

The sentiment was echoed recently by the outgoing head of the Environmental Protection Agency, Gina McCarthy, who credited the Obama administration with helping to create thousands of renewable energy jobs.

"The train to a global clean-energy future has already left the station," McCarthy said last month. "We can choose to get on board — to lead — or we can choose to be left behind, to stand stubbornly."

While wind and solar power have grown in recent years, renewable sources accounted for just 10 percent of total U.S. energy consumption and about 13 percent of electricity generation in 2015.

During his campaign, Trump called solar energy an "unproven technology" and wind power a "very, very poor source of energy." He also said tax credits and other subsidies for the renewable industry "distort" the market, but at the same time said the country should "encourage all facets of the energy industry," including wind and solar.

Environmentalists have raised concerns about his Cabinet picks for energy and interior secretaries — ex-Texas Gov. Rick Perry and Montana Rep. Ryan Zinke, strong supporters of the fossil fuel industry.

Messages to Trump's transition team were not immediately returned.

While the renewable industry has gained momentum in recent years, "the battle certainly got tougher" with the election of Trump, said Dan Kammen, an energy expert at the University of California, Berkeley and science envoy for the U.S. State Department.

Before 2009, there were no solar farms and only a handful of wind and geothermal plants on public lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management. Today, there are 13 solar plants, four wind farms and six geothermal plants online, generating about 3,500 megawatts of electricity, enough to power 573,000 homes. The number of renewable projects approved but not yet online is higher.

Last year, Congress in a show of bipartisan support agreed to extend the federal subsidies responsible for the renewable energy boom through the end of the decade.

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# BBB's top 10 consumer tips for 2017

Better Business Bureau is proud of our mission: to be the leader in advancing marketplace trust. In order to fulfill that mission, every year BBB offers thousands of tips for consumers to help them find a business they can trust.

BBB helps people find and recommend business, brands and charities they can trust. Better Business Bureau serving Central, Coastal, South-

west Texas and the Permian Basin compiled the top 10 consumer tips to help you fight scammers, prevent identity theft and save money in 2017:

- Do your research. Always check a business out with BBB before you buy.



HEATHER MASSEY

For any business, visit [bbb.org](http://bbb.org) to view their BBB Business Profile, which includes contact information, complaint details and customer reviews.

- Protect your identity. Always shred paper documents that include sensitive financial data and dispose of computers, cell phones and digital data safely. Safely store all personal documents, such as your Social Security card. Pull your credit report

at least once a year, and check your credit and debit card statements frequently.

- Create a budget. Setting a budget that works for you can help ease any financial stress and worry in the upcoming year. While you're shopping, keep track of the cost and avoid impulse purchases to prevent overspending. Also, know who or what you are shopping for and how much you are willing to spend.

- Shop on trustworthy websites. BBB recommends researching businesses before you shop, especially with online stores. While many online shopping sites are legitimate, there are fraudulent online retailers trying to scam unsuspecting shoppers. These scammers set up fake or fraudulent sites in order to gain access to personal information or

See **BBB**, Page 7C



## US showed strong growth last quarter

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. economy grew at a 3.5 percent annual rate in the July-September quarter, the fastest pace in two years and more than the government had previously estimated. But the growth spurt isn't expected to last.

The gain in the gross domestic product — the economy's total output of goods and services — came from added strength in consumer spending, business investment and the government sector, the Commerce Department said Thursday. The government had previously estimated last quarter's annual growth rate at 3.2 percent.

Thursday's GDP report "paints a picture of a healthy consumer, likely fueled by ongoing gains in employment, modest increases in wages, and solid balance sheets," Michael

Gapen of Barclays. The economy's acceleration last quarter marked a sharp pickup from the tepid annual growth of 0.8 percent in the first quarter and 1.4 percent in the second. Still, growth is expected to slow to a roughly 1.5 percent annual rate in the October-December quarter, reflecting in part less consumer spending and less business stockpiling.

Growth for the entire year, economists say, is likely to be around 1.5 percent. That would be down from 2015 and would be the weakest performance since the economy shrank 2.8 percent in 2009 at the depths of the worst economic downturn since the 1930s. The recovery began in mid-2009, but growth has averaged just over 2 percent, the weakest expansion in the post-World War II period.

President-elect Donald Trump had criticized the sluggish pace of growth during the campaign and said his economic policies would accelerate annual GDP growth to 4 percent or better.

To do that, Trump said he would eliminate many government regulations, boost spending on the nation's aging infrastructure and slash taxes.

Most economists don't think 4 percent growth is realistic, given a chronic slowdown in worker productivity and a slower-growing U.S. workforce due in part to retiring baby boomers.

Most forecasters expect growth of around 2.5 percent next year, though they say those estimates could rise if Trump wins congressional support for much of his economic program. Stock markets have

surged since Trump's election, partly a reflection of optimism that his proposals would boost growth and corporate profits.

Thursday's report was the government's third and final estimate of GDP growth for the July-September quarter.

The upward revision mainly reflected stronger consumer spending, which grew at a 3 percent annual rate, more than the 2.8 percent pace that was estimated a month ago. Consumer spending is closely watched because it accounts for about 70 percent of economic activity.

The government also upgraded its estimate for business investment.

It showed an increase at a 1.4 percent annual rate, up from a much smaller 0.1 percent rate in the previous estimate.

## Public Records

### Howard County Justice of the Peace Outstanding IBC Warrants:

Marcus Joe Anderson, 2621 Chanute Dr., Big Spring  
Steve Antoine, 1425 E. 6th St. #19, Big Spring  
Corina Avila, 1800 Winston St., Big Spring  
Katie Cole L. Baker, P.O. Box 3372, Big Spring  
Wayne Richard Buyce, 4042 Morningside Way, Canyon Lake

Vanessa Malu Calderon, 2600 Chanute Dr., Big Spring  
Raymond Carroll, 712 E. 17th St., Big Spring  
Gloria Cerna, PO Box 55, Lamesa  
Pedro Chavarria, 1408 E. Sixth St., Big Spring  
Matilda Cortez, 302 N. St. Teresa, Stanton  
Hannah Deaton, 19634 Atasca Oaks Dr., Humble  
Tina Marie Ellis, 4002 Austin Ave., Snyder  
Selena Bethani Enriquez-King, 100 E. Parker, Midland  
Jose Enrique Faz, 509 N. Goliad, Big Spring  
Juana Fierro, 406 N.W. 5th St., Big Spring  
Michael Dean Fleming, 5216 Tremont Ave Apt 901, Midland

William Gene Garner, 704 Rosemont, Big Spring  
Anthony Ray Garza, 117 E. Davis, Big Spring  
Guillermo Gomez, 2107 Morrison, Big Spring  
James Michael Griffin, 303 Butler St. #502, Atlanta  
Christina Nichole Gutierrez, 2809 25th St., Snyder  
Dylan Hammons, 4401 E. 11th Place, Big Spring  
Adela Juarez Hernandez, 908 NW First St., Big Spring  
Matias Hernandez Jr., 620 E. 4th St., San Angelo  
Kaleb Hill, 910 Baylor, Big Spring  
Shatiya Lasha Jenkins, 4590 N. Texas #198, Odessa  
Stephanie Ford Johnson, P.O. Box 483, Coahoma  
Keith James Kochmick, 1003 Stadium, Big Spring  
Caleb Browning Lyle, 1603 Vines, Big Spring  
Aaron Christopher Mack, 2134 Bonham Ave., Odessa  
Ruann R. Martinez, 1005 N.W. 2nd St., Big Spring  
Heriberto Palafox Mora, 1311 Mobile St., Big Spring  
Felicia Ornelas, 538 Westover No. 236, Big Spring  
Nicole Preston, 1605 E. 11th Place, Big Spring  
George Anthony Robinson Jr., 1905 Wasson Rd. #14, Big Spring

Andy Rodriguez, 1904 Runnels Street, Big Spring  
Linda Eva Rodriguez, 2519 Gunter Circle, Big Spring  
Juan Romero, 2504 March Circle, Big Spring  
Veronica Romero, 103 Becker Road, Big Spring  
Yuri Lozano Rubio, 421 Cedar, P.O. Box 173, Colorado City

Polly Ann Rusk, 4201 W. Highway 80, Big Spring  
Stacie Lyanne Salas, 5102 Wasson Road, Big Spring  
Shane Skaggs, 1 Courtney Place 301, Big Spring  
Brandy Logsdon Stanislaus, 2507 Carol Dr., Big Spring  
Kendra D. Tatum, 412 S. Moss Lake Rd., Big Spring  
Joe Anthony Villarreal, 2206 Cecilia, Big Spring

### Marriage Licenses

April Irvin Sanchez, 39, and Julie Ann Sanchez, 31, both of Big Spring.  
Timothy M. Lord, 28, and Kayley D. Granger, 26, both of Big Spring.

### County Court Judgments

See **PUBLIC**, Page 7C

## Unsafe transport leads to death: Farmworkers 'disposable'?

### The Associated Press

Jose Rangel Chavez and 18 other Mexican guest workers were dozing as their bus hurtled down Interstate 40 in a light rain. After nine months away from home, the 22-year-old was about to complete a meandering round trip of nearly 5,000 miles.

They were just north of Little Rock, Arkansas, as a half day's hard ride from the border, when the motor coach struck a concrete bridge support, peeling back the roof like a sardine can. Chavez and five others were killed; seven more workers were severely injured.

The crash in November 2015 was the result of chronic problems within an American agriculture industry dependent upon a reliable supply of low-wage, foreign-born workers. Chavez and the others were part of an annual mass migration made possible partly by a guarantee of free and safe transportation to and from the fields each day and, at season's end, back home to their loved ones.

But for many, that transportation is neither free nor safe.

It has been just over a half-century since the nation's worst fatal vehicle accident killed nearly three dozen migrants, a horror that farmworker advocates had hoped would bring lasting reforms. Yet, due to enforcement gaps and the sometimes callous attitudes of those who contract for the workers, laborers continue to ride in overloaded, poorly maintained, uninsured vehicles — often driven by a fellow crew member without a proper license, or with no license at all.

The Associated Press found more than a dozen accidents that left at least 38 dead and nearly 200 injured just since January 2015. The casu-



Wenceslao Rangel Gutierrez places a miniature horse statue on a photograph of his late son, Jose, next to his son's hat inside the newly built bedroom at their home in El Sabino, Mexico. The room and bed were paid for using money his son sent home from the U.S. while part of a guest worker program. Jose never got to see his new room, killed in a bus accident on his way back home.

AP photo

See **FARM**, Page 7C



**OIL**

Continued from Page 6A

467' FWL, 2160' FNL of the survey

Diamondback E&P, LLC  
500 W. Texas Ave., Suite 1200  
Midland, TX 79701-4203  
Jerry Russell, Agent  
(512) 469-0064

#1WA Riley "N 1819", drill horizontal, El: NA  
Spraberry (Trend Area) Field  
11.50 miles southwest of Garden City  
A-999, Section 18, Block 35, T&P RR Co. survey  
Total Depth: 9335 feet  
X=1586854, Y=780113  
416' FWL, 1788' FNL of 1,303.92-acre lease  
416' FWL, 1788' FNL of the survey

Diamondback E&P, LLC  
500 W. Texas Ave., Suite 1200  
Midland, TX 79701-4203  
Jerry Russell, Agent  
(512) 469-0064

#1WB Riley "O 1819", drill horizontal, El: NA  
Spraberry (Trend Area) Field  
11.50 miles southwest of Garden City  
A-999, Section 18, Block 35, T&P RR Co. survey  
Total Depth: 9535 feet  
X=11586825, Y=780123  
391' FWL, 1771' FNL of 1,303.92-acre lease  
391' FWL, 1771' FNL of the survey

Diamondback E&P, LLC  
500 W. Texas Ave., Suite 1200  
Midland, TX 79701-4203  
Jerry Russell, Agent  
(512) 469-0064

#1LS Riley "M 1819", drill horizontal, El: NA  
Spraberry (Trend Area) Field  
11.50 miles southwest of Garden City  
A-999, Section 18, Block 35, T&P RR Co. survey  
Total Depth: 8860 feet  
X=1586797, Y=780133  
366' FWL, 1754' FNL of 1,303.92-acre lease  
366' FWL, 1754' FNL of the survey

**Howard County**

Diamondback E&P, LLC  
500 W. Texas Ave., Suite 1200  
Midland, TX 79701-4203  
Jerry Russell, Agent  
(512) 469-0064

#1LS Middle Knott Unit "21", drill horizontal, El: NA  
Spraberry (Trend Area) Field  
1.82 miles southwest of Knott  
A-400, Section 21, Block 34, T&P RR Co. survey  
Total Depth: 8800 feet  
X=718395, Y=284112  
415' FEL, 220' FSL of 479.45-acre lease  
415' FEL, 2420' FNL of the survey

Diamondback E&P, LLC  
500 W. Texas Ave., Suite 1200  
Midland, TX 79701-4203  
Jerry Russell, Agent  
(512) 469-0064

#1WA Middle Knott Unit "21", drill horizontal, El: NA  
Spraberry (Trend Area) Field  
1.82 miles southwest of Knott  
A-400, Section 21, Block 34, T&P RR Co. survey  
Total Depth: 9150 feet  
X=718365, Y=284105  
445' FEL, 220' FSL of 479.45-acre lease  
445' FEL, 2420' FNL of the survey

Diamondback E&P, LLC  
500 W. Texas Ave., Suite 1200  
Midland, TX 79701-4203  
Jerry Russell, Agent  
(512) 469-0064

#1WB Middle Knott Unit "21", drill horizontal, El: NA  
Spraberry (Trend Area) Field  
1.82 miles southwest of Knott  
A-400, Section 21, Block 34, T&P RR Co. survey  
Total Depth: 9375 feet  
X=718336, Y=284099  
475' FEL, 220' FSL of 479.45-acre lease  
475' FEL, 2420' FNL of the survey

See **OIL**, Page 8A



AP Photo/John Minchillo, File

In this Dec. 15, 2016 file photo, Colo, a western lowland gorilla, rests in her enclosure at the Columbus Zoo, in Columbus, Ohio. Colo, the very first born and oldest surviving gorilla in captivity will celebrate her 60th birthday on Thursday, Dec. 22.

**Happy birthday to Colo: Oldest gorilla in US turns 60**

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — She is a mother of three, grandmother of 16, great-grandmother of 12 and great-great-grandmother of three. She recently had surgery to remove a malignant tumor, but doctors say she's doing well.

She's Colo, the nation's oldest living gorilla, and she turned 60 on Thursday at the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium.

Colo was the first gorilla in the world born in a zoo and has surpassed the usual life expectancy of captive gorillas by two decades. Her longevity is putting a spotlight on the medical care, nutrition and up-to-date therapeutic techniques that are helping lengthen zoo animals' lives.

"Colo just epitomizes the advances that zoos have made, going all the way back to her birth at Columbus," said Dr. Tom Meehan, vice president for veterinary services at Chicago's Brookfield Zoo and veterinary adviser to a national gorilla species survival plan.

The changes also mean more animals living with the normal aches and pains of growing older. Today, zoo veterinarians regularly treat animals for heart and kidney disease, arthritis, dental problems and cancer.

Hundreds of people gathered at the zoo Thursday to see Colo, singing "Happy Birthday" moments before the gorilla ambled into an enclosure decorated with multicolored construction paper chains and filled with cakes such as squash and beet and cornbread with mashed potato parsley frosting.

Among the first in line was Pam Schlereth of Columbus, who at 63 was just a little girl when her father brought her to see the newborn Colo in a gorilla incubator in 1956.

See **COLO**, Page 8A

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**BBB**

Continued from Page 6C

steal your money. Before you provide any personal or banking information over the Internet, look for the "s" in https:// when browsing a website.

- Keep your computer safe. If you haven't already done so, install anti-virus software on your computer and check regularly for software and operating system updates. Don't open attachments or click on links in emails unless you can confirm the email came from someone you trust. Always log out of websites you're not using.

- Give wisely. Most philanthropists give year-round. To ensure your time, treasure and talents are going to the cause you're looking to support, research all charities at give.org and check their BBB charity review to see how their monetary donations are distributed.

- Get everything in writing. Don't just take a company's word for it. Get every verbal agreement in writing to limit miscommunication and misunderstandings between what you expect and what the business delivers.

- Limit information shared on social media pages. Scammers use social media sites to gather information on potential victims. Avoid sharing too much personal information and check your privacy settings. Additionally, never announce on social media site that you are going out of town or won't be home for a specified amount of time.

- Never wire money to someone you don't know. Many scams require money to be wired back to the scammers. Money sent via a money wiring service is almost impossible to trace once it's wired.

Let your BBB help. BBB is here to promote marketplace trust. If you have an issue with a business or feel you have been scammed, file a complaint with your BBB.

*Heather Massey is the Regional Director for the Permian Basin office of Better Business Bureau serving Central, Coastal, Southwest Texas and the Permian Basin. Heather is available for media interviews and speaking engagements. You can reach her by phone: (432) 741-2592 or email: hmassey@permianbasin.bbb.org.*

**Man pleads not guilty in US cybercrime**

PITTSBURGH (AP) — A Bulgarian man pleaded not guilty Thursday to federal charges that he used sophisticated malware designed to steal banking credentials and other confidential information from infected computers of two western Pennsylvania companies and two California firms.

The U.S. Attorney's Office in Pittsburgh alleges Krasimir Nikolov, 44, of Varna, Bulgaria, gained access to online bank accounts by transmitting malware over Avalanche, a worldwide cybercrime network dismantled last month by federal and foreign authorities. Nikolov is one of at least five people arrested so far worldwide in the Avalanche investigation.

He appeared for arraignment Thursday on charges of conspiracy, unauthorized access of a computer to obtain financial information, and four counts of bank fraud. Although he speaks some English, he was aided by a translator. He also waived his right to a detention hearing, meaning he'll remain jailed until he stands trial.

Prosecutors allege in an indictment that Nikolov gained access to the online bank accounts of Nord-Lock Inc. in Carnegie and Protech Asphalt Maintenance of New Castle, as well as a golf equipment company in San Diego and a furniture company in Chula Vista, California.

They say he tried to transfer \$378,500 from Nord-Lock's PNC Bank account to a bank in Bulgaria, but the company caught onto the scheme and notified PNC Bank, which recalled the transfer so the company didn't lose any money.

The indictment also says Nikolov unsuccessfully attempted to transfer \$118,000 from the accounts of Foresight Sports, the San Diego company, and nearly \$738,000 from California Furniture Collections.

**FARM**

Continued from Page 6C

alties included a 4-year-old and a 5-year-old, traveling with migrant worker parents.

Grim as it is, the AP's tally is almost certainly a significant undercount.

"I think there's more unregistered, improperly insured, unsafe transportation out there for farmworkers than ... 20 years ago," says attorney Greg Schell, deputy director of Southern Migrant Legal Services.

A big reason, he and others contend: Rarely are those who profit most from this cheap labor made to pay. Instead, it is the families of people like Jose Chavez who lose.

Of the 1.1 million farmworkers in the U.S., 71 percent are foreign-born, according to the U.S. Department of Labor. Nearly half of those acknowledged working here illegally.

Chavez's employer, Vasquez Citrus & Hauling of Lake Placid, Florida, is one of thousands taking part in the federal H-2A guest worker visa program. In addition to wages of \$11.56 an hour, contractor Juan Vasquez

would provide Chavez room, board and, crucially, a guarantee of free transportation from Mexico and back.

Whenever he could, Chavez dutifully wired money home. Then, on Nov. 6, 2015, tragedy struck.

Investigators allege that the bus wasn't registered with the Labor Department — meaning the company was not authorized to use it to transport workers.

Schell, who's been working with the victims' families, says Vasquez should have had liability insurance of around \$5 million.

**PUBLIC**

Continued from Page 6C

(Note: The State of Texas is listed as prosecutor for all county court judgments)

Defendant: Martin Alvarado  
Offense: Theft of property \$50 to \$500  
Sentence: \$100 fine, \$337 court costs, 60 days in jail.  
Date: Dec. 6, 2016

Defendant: Allan Lee Smith  
Offense: Driving with an invalid license, with previous conviction or suspension, without financial responsibility  
Sentence: \$250 fine, 180 days in jail. Probated 6 months.  
Date: Dec. 13, 2016

Defendant: Blake Hooper  
Offense: Violation of a protective order  
Sentence: \$100 fine, \$342 court costs, 20 days in jail.  
Date: Dec. 1, 2016

Defendant: Jose Garcia  
Offense: Assault causing bodily injury family member  
Sentence: \$100 fine, \$292 court costs, 30 days in jail.  
Date: Dec. 1, 2016

Defendant: Stephanie Serrato  
Offense: Failure to identify giving false information  
Sentence: \$100 fine, \$292 court costs, 30 days in jail.  
Date: Dec. 1, 2016

Defendant: Jorge Gomez  
Offense: Evading arrest or detention  
Sentence: \$100 fine, \$292 court costs, 30 days in jail.  
Date: Dec. 1, 2016

Defendant: Ronald Haselby  
Offense: Criminal trespassing  
Sentence: \$100 fine, \$292 court costs, 60 days in jail.  
Date: Dec. 1, 2016

Defendant: Sabrina G. Perez  
Offense: Assault causing bodily injury family member  
Sentence: \$100 fine, \$292 court costs, 30 days in jail.  
Date: Dec. 14, 2016

Defendant: Rebecca I. Gonzales

Offense: Theft of property \$50 to \$500  
Sentence: \$100 fine, \$287 court costs, 30 days in jail.  
Date: Dec. 6, 2016

Defendant: Martin Alvarado  
Offense: Theft of property \$50 to \$500  
Sentence: \$100 fine, \$337 court costs, 60 days in jail.  
Date: Dec. 6, 2016

Defendant: Casey L. Smith  
Offense: Theft of property \$50 to \$500  
Sentence: \$500 fine, 180 days in jail. Probated 12 months.  
Date: Dec. 8, 2016

Defendant: Lena M. Shultz  
Offense: Theft of property \$100 to \$750  
Sentence: \$500 fine, 180 days in jail. Probated 12 months.  
Date: Dec. 8, 2016

Defendant: Tiara S. Ware  
Offense: Theft of property \$100 to \$750  
Sentence: \$500 fine, 180 days in jail. Probated 12 months.  
Date: Dec. 8, 2016

Defendant: Wayel S.E.M. Ali  
Offense: Possession of marijuana less than 2 oz.  
Sentence: Deferred adjudication: \$500 fine, \$352 court costs, 12 months probation.  
Date: Dec. 15, 2016

Defendant: Andres N. Solis  
Offense: Possession of marijuana less than 2 oz.  
Sentence: Deferred adjudication: \$500 fine, \$347 court costs, 6 months probation.  
Date: Dec. 6, 2016

Defendant: Rodney C. Burrow  
Offense: Driving with an invalid license with previous conviction or suspension, without financial responsibility  
Sentence: \$500 fine, 180 days in jail. Probated 12 months.  
Date: Dec. 6, 2016

Defendant: Aaron Rodriguez  
Offense: Driving while intoxicated  
Sentence: \$1,500 fine, 365 days in jail. Probated 24 months.  
Date: Dec. 1, 2016

**District Court Filings**

Bruce Lisooey vs. Billy Joe Henkel, et al, civil case  
Thomas Stevens vs. Lori Stevens, divorce  
Portfolio Recovery Associates LLC vs. Jennifer Lovett, contract - consumer/commercial debt



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COLO

Continued from Page 7A

"It's a tribute to the zoo that she's alive at 60 years old," Schlereth said.

Colo represents so much to the zoo, Tom Staf, president of the zoo, told the crowd. "It's all about connecting people and wildlife," he said.

Colo is one of several elderly gorillas around the country. The oldest known living male gorilla, Ozzie, is 55 years old and lives at the Atlanta Zoo, which has a geriatric gorilla specialty.

At Seattle's Woodland Park Zoo, staff members use acupuncture, massage, laser therapy, and heat and joint supplements to help Emma, a 13-year-old rabbit.

At the National Zoo in Washington, Shanthi, a 42-year-old Asian elephant with arthritis, receives osteoarthritis therapy and was recently fitted with specially crafted front foot boots to help her feet heal as medications are applied.

In Oakland, California, Tiki, a 27-year-old giraffe and one of the oldest in the nation, gets foot care, massage therapy, acupuncture and chiropractic care, along with traditional veterinary medicine. Gao Gao, a 26-year-old male panda at the San Diego Zoo with a heart condition, periodically undergoes cardiac ultrasounds.

"Geriatrics is probably one of our most common medical challenges that we face in a zoo situation," said Dr. Keith Hinshaw, director of animal health at the Philadelphia Zoo. "So pretty much anything that you could imagine would happen with an older person is going to happen eventually with any animal."

That's up to and including medication: JJ, a 45-year-old orangutan at the Toledo Zoo, is on the human heart medicines carvedilol and Lisinopril, along with pain and orthopedic medications. He also takes Metamucil.

Colo, a western lowland gorilla, holds several other records. On her 56th birthday in 2012, she exceeded the record for longest-lived gorilla. On Thursday, she surpasses the median life expectancy for female gorillas in human care (37.5 years) by more than two decades.

Other age-defying zoo animals:

POLAR BEAR

Coldilocks, a 36-year-old polar bear at the Philadelphia Zoo and considered the oldest polar bear in the U.S. The bears' typical lifespan in captivity is 23 years. The zoo says treating her early for kidney disease appears to have helped prolong her life.

RHINO

Elly, an eastern black rhino at the San Francisco Zoo estimated to be 46 years old, is the oldest of her species in North America. She has had 14 calves, and her offspring have produced 15 grandchildren, 6 great-grandchildren and 1 great-great-grandchild.

ELEPHANT

Packy, an Asian elephant at the Oregon Zoo, and at 54, the oldest male of his species in North America. The zoo says Packy, born in 1962, became the first elephant to be born in the Western Hemisphere in 44 years.

MONKEY

Nikko, a 33-year-old snow monkey at the Minnesota Zoo, the oldest male snow monkey in North America.

TORTOISE

Emerson, a Galapagos tortoise at the Toledo Zoo in Ohio, whose age is estimated at about 100.

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OIL

Continued from Page 7A

Surge Operating, LLC  
7850 N. Sam Houston Pkwy West  
Suite 300  
Houston, TX 77064-0000  
Connie Swan, Agent  
(918) 621-6533

#2AH Shroyer-Wilson Unit "A 23-14", drill horizontal, EI: NA  
Spraberry (Trend Area) Field  
4.25 miles northeast of Knott  
A-1106, Section 14, Block 33, T-2-N, T&P RR Co. survey  
Total Depth: 10,000 feet  
Latitude 032.430671, Longitude -101.573458  
325' FNL, 1298' FWL of 475.86-acre lease  
325' FNL, 1298' FWL of the survey

Hannathon Petroleum, LLC  
223 West Wall St., Suite 800  
Midland, TX 79701-0000  
Ryan Bergeron, Consultant  
(512) 478-3456

#3 Higgins "1", drill, EI: NA, API #42-227-38947  
Petey (Fusselman) Field  
5.70 miles southeast of Big Spring  
A-152, Section 1, Block 32, T-1-S, T&P RR Co. survey  
Total Depth: 10,000 feet  
Latitude 032.250589, Longitude -101.381545  
330' FSL, 336' FEL of 320-acre lease  
330' FSL, 336' FEL of the survey

Hannathon Petroleum, LLC  
223 West Wall St., Suite 800  
Midland, TX 79701-0000  
Ryan Bergeron, Consultant  
(512) 478-3456

#3 Click "26", drill, EI: NA  
Petey (Fusselman) Field  
6.60 miles southeast of Big Spring  
A-1277, Section 26, Block 32, T-1-S, T&P RR Co. survey  
Total Depth: 10,000 feet  
Latitude 032.193943, Longitude -101.387600  
1980' FSL, 1980' FEL of 640-acre lease  
1980' FSL, 1980' FEL of the survey

Hannathon Petroleum, LLC  
223 West Wall St., Suite 800  
Midland, TX 79701-0000  
Ryan Bergeron, Consultant  
(512) 478-3456

#3 Click "14", drill, EI: NA  
Petey (Fusselman) Field  
5.20 miles southeast of Big Spring  
A-1317, Section 14, Block 32, T-1-S, T&P RR Co. survey  
Total Depth: 10,000 feet  
Latitude 032.222021 Longitude -101.396073  
1980' FSL, 1980' FEL of 560-acre lease  
1980' FSL, 1980' FEL of the survey

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#6 J.B. Trust "14", API #42-173-37324  
Spraberry (Trend Area) Field, new well, EI: 2623' GR  
12.30 miles southeast of Stanton  
A-530, Section 14, Block 35, T-2-S, Wade RR Co. survey  
1915' FWL, 2030' FSL of the survey  
Latitude 032.0187972, Longitude -10.6338247  
Total Depth: 10,620 feet. PBTD: 10,613 feet.

Contractor not listed

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**NOTICE OF APPLICATION**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the SM ENERGY COMPANY, [RRC Operator No. 788997] has made application for a density exception permit under the provisions of Railroad Commission Statewide Rule 38 (16 Tex. Admin. Code section 3.38). Applicant seeks exception to the DENSITY requirement of the field rules for the AMENDED REENTER permit in Sec. 36, Bk. 32 T2N, T&P RR CO/CLINTON, C A Survey, A-620, SPRABERRY (TREND AREA) Field, HOWARD County, being 10 miles NE direction from BIG SPRING, Texas.

PURSUANT TO THE TERMS of Railroad Commission rules and regulations, this application may be granted **WITHOUT A HEARING** if no protest to the application is received within the deadline. An affected person is entitled to protest this application. Affected persons include owners of record and the operator or lessees of record of adjacent tracts and tracts nearer to the proposed well than the minimum lease line spacing distance. If a hearing is called, the applicant has the burden to prove the need for an exception. A Protest should be prepared to establish standing as an affected person, and to appear at the hearing either in person or by qualified representative and protest the application with cross-examination or presentation of a direct case. The rules of evidence are applicable in the hearing. If you have any questions regarding the hearing procedure, please contact the Commission's Docket Services Department at (512)463-6848.

**IF YOU WISH TO REQUEST A HEARING ON THIS APPLICATION, AN INTENT TO APPEAR IN PROTEST MUST BE RECEIVED IN THE RAILROAD COMMISSION'S AUSTIN OFFICE AT THE ADDRESS, FAX NUMBER, OR E-MAIL ADDRESS SET OUT ABOVE BY Jan 3, 2017 at 5:00 p.m. IF NO PROTEST IS RECEIVED WITHIN SUCH TIME, YOU WILL LOSE YOUR RIGHT TO PROTEST AND THE REQUESTED PERMIT MAY BE GRANTED ADMINISTRATIVELY.**

**THIS NOTICE OF APPLICATION REQUIRES PUBLICATION**

The location and identity of the well is as shown below:

FIELD: SPRABERRY (TREND AREA)

Lease/Unit Name : STRIPLING 36  
Lease/Unit Well No. : 1  
Lease/Unit Acres: 40.0  
Nearest Lease Line (ft) : 646.0

Lease Lines : 672.0 F S L, 646.0 F W L  
Survey Lines : 672.0 F S L, 1990.0 F E L

**Public Notice**

Field Rules for ALL fields on the permit application are as follows:

SPRABERRY (TREND AREA) :  
Special Rules 330/0, 80.0 acres.

This well is to be drilled to an approximate depth of 10000 feet.

If you have questions regarding this application, please contact the Applicant's representative, Leah Moon Beeton, at (832)701-1776, x125.

#9251 December 4, 11, 18 & 25, 2016

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1732 Purdue- 3 BDR, 2 bath, CH/CA, tile floors. Rent 1075, deposit 900. Application required. 432.816.1255

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2402 Marcy Drive 3 bedroom. Nice house w/garage \$1000/month, \$900/deposit No HUD/no pets/No smoking Rental references required. Call 432-270-3849

2507 Cindy- 3 BDR, 2 bath, CH/CA, New Carpet. Rent 1075, deposit 900. Application required. 432.816.1255

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**Legals**

CAUSE NO. P-14614

IN THE STATE OF KENNEITH B. THOMPSON DECEASED

IN THE COUNTY COURT OF HOWARD COUNTY, TEXAS

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF KENNEITH B THOMPSON, DECEASED

Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Testamentary for the Estate of KENNEITH B. THOMPSON, DECEASED were issued on December 20, 2016, in Cause No. P-14614 pending in the County Court of Howard County, Texas, to DEBORAH GAY ALLEN.

The residence of DEBORAH GAY ALLEN is 800 Wildfire Road, Big Spring, Texas 79720. All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to

**Legals**

present them within the time and the manner prescribed by law. DATED the 20th day of December, 2016

DEBORAH GAY ALLEN

#9264 December 25, 2016

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**Contract Bridge**

By Steve Becker

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

The bidding:  
South West North East  
1♣ Pass 1♥ Pass  
1NT Pass 3NT  
Opening lead — jack of spades.

Assume you're in three notrump and West leads a spade. You count your tricks and find that you have only seven of them. You have the prospect of an eighth trick if the hearts divide 3-3, and there is also the chance of winning a diamond finesse for your ninth trick.

But these possibilities, though certainly legitimate, are not as promising as the chance of developing two club tricks by forcing out the A-K. Furthermore, you still have a chance

to test your luck in the red suits later on if the need arises.

So you win the spade queen with the queen, cross to the jack of hearts and lead a low club. You hope East will follow low and West will win the trick with the ace or king because, in that case, you'll have nine sure tricks by forcing out the other high club, whatever West returns.

Unfortunately, East goes up with the ace of clubs at trick three and shifts to the jack of diamonds, attacking your principal weak spot. You had hoped this wouldn't happen, which was one reason you led the first club from dummy rather than your hand. However, it has happened.

Your best shot at this point is to play the ace rather than finesse the queen. You refuse the finesse because if East has the diamond king, the contract is ice-cold, whatever you do. But if West has the king, as in the actual deal, you could be defeated by a diamond continuation from West after he takes the queen with the king.

You next play a club, and, since West has the king, you make the contract. Your queen of diamonds is not subject to attack with West on lead, and no matter what he returns, you are certain of at least nine tricks.

Tomorrow: Famous Hand.  
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**sudoku**

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

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

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Tomorrow's Horoscope



HOLIDAY MATHIS

Venus and Jupiter Go Caroling

Venus and Jupiter angle each other in perfect harmony. Venus, the purveyor of love and beauty, is in the philanthropic, future-minded sign of Aquarius. Jupiter, the jolly giant of good fortune, is flying direct in Libra, the harmonious sign of peace and partnership. Let this destiny duet sing you a song of glad tidings of comfort and joy. ARIES (March 21-April 19). A warm feeling, sustained eye contact, a few laughs -- suddenly you're enchanted! If this happens to be an exchange with someone new to you, the relationship potential here is stable and lasting.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Because you don't show favoritism, you smile often and you're calm in every circumstance, you'll be the touchstone that the people around you depend on to feel a sense of home and peace. GEMINI (May 21-June 21). A little more faith and you're there. Go forward with your vision as if you knew for sure it would all work out. The funds will show up as needed, as if by magic. CANCER (June 22-July 22). The relationships at hand will give you all you need. Don't let digital technology impede the moment. The warm, alive people in the room will be the very best to reach to and connect with. LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You know, accept and love people for who they really are. No one is going to change just because it's the holidays, and you wouldn't really want people to anyway. Wondrous vibes are flowing. VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Success will depend upon

bringing the appropriate energy to the task at hand -- an easy, relaxed frame of mind, an open heart, an expectation that life will show its sweetness. LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Self-care is not an "extra," even now when there's so much going on. Take the time to make yourself happy. If that means doing something different from what the group is doing for a few minutes, so be it. SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Random acts of kindness will give you all the warmth of the season, whether you're the recipient or you're the giver. Most likely, you'll be both. And when you can give something that others really need, you'll be on top of the world. SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Maybe you'll do what's on the plan, and maybe you won't, but just having a plan will relax you. The best gift you can give yourself and the others around you is your own peace of mind. CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). In-

stead of going big, go small. You'll love what comes of concentrating your energy, and you'll gain a deep satisfaction as you focus in on your main sources of joy. AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You've an interesting, personal and extremely specific way of experiencing and showing gratitude. This will create vivid memories for you and the people around you. PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). When things happen too quickly, it's hard to savor the moment. That's why you'll encourage others to go slowly, take their time and be with you in the small interactions that add up to a charmed day. TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Dec. 25). You've battled your own ego and eschewed the ideology of self-entitlement. You'll go into this year with a humble desire to serve. You can't help that it leads to your advancement. The heart connection you make in the next 10 weeks will continue to grow stronger through

the year. May brings a windfall. Libra and Capricorn adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 25, 6, 48, 1 and 16. FORECAST FOR THE WEEK AHEAD: The last week of the year begins with glad tidings from Venus and Jupiter as they form a harmony trine, joining the philanthropic energy of Aquarius to the peaceful partnership style of Libra. The warmth of the holidays radiates like a bonfire, and we need only to reach out with open palms to feel its heat. Anyone having trouble getting into the spirit needs only to slow down, do less, think fewer thoughts and be open to the softness of the feeling. Monday brings a tonal change. Jupiter is shaken from his interest in Venus, the love goddess, by a startling interruption from Uranus. Thus begins a debate that happens every 14 years between Jupiter and Uranus about the nature of luck. Because good fortune can turn into bad luck and bad luck can turn

into the best thing that ever happened to a person, it is impossible to immediately define events as fortunate or unfortunate. Therefore, why try? Let time do its thing. Meanwhile, play your hand to your best advantage and stay positive. It's much easier to recognize opportunity and move quickly to seize it when your heart is light. CELEBRITY PROFILES: Christmas baby Jimmy Buffett is the king of Margaritaville. What was once a state of mind the artist captured in song has now become a lifestyle, not to mention a brand that covers shirts, drink blenders and even furniture. His having his sun, moon and Mars in powerhouse Capricorn suggests that in spite of his laid-back artistic style, Buffett is hardworking and highly competitive.

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Annie's Mailbox

Away for the Holidays

Dear Annie: Earlier this year, I moved to the East Coast for my first job out of college. My parents,

siblings and entire extended family are all back on the West Coast. Overall, I like it out here. I've been

keeping so busy with my new job that I've hardly had time to be homesick at all.

But now that it's the holiday season, I find myself missing them a lot. I get nostalgic thinking about all the Christmas mornings my sisters and I spent together. This year, I have to work a half day on Christmas, so I won't be flying home. Originally, my roommate was also going to be around, so we were planning on having our own little celebration, with eggnog and a Christmas movie marathon. But she just decided she's going to drive home to spend the weekend with her family.

I don't want to complain about having to work on Christmas, because really, I should be grateful to have a job when millions of people are out of work. But I just can't help feeling sad that I'm not going to get to hug my parents. At least I won't be totally alone. I am taking care of my

roommate's dog. Any tips for cheering up? -- Blue Christmas

Dear Blue: It's homesickness season, and when you're away from loved ones on Christmas, there's not a pill in the world that can fully cure the heartache. But gratitude is the best antidote we've got. So keep counting those blessings. Though you can't see your family members in person today, you can still talk to them. That is a gift.

Consider stopping by a retirement home and visiting with patients for an hour or two, or visit Volunteer-Match.org for other ideas on how to give back during the holidays. Your mood will get an instant boost from helping others. I hope you can make a trip home soon, but in the meantime, stay thankful. Merry Christmas.

Dear Annie: I think "Fed Up in Philly," who has been doing all the holiday hosting and cooking for 30 years, should take charge and email

the sister and brother. She needs to tell them that although Mom and Auntie have not complained, it's time the three of them took over the holiday entertaining. Their generation needs to step up. She should ask them to decide who wants to take a turn this year. They'll take advantage of her only if she lets them.

A side story: Many years ago, a co-worker with limited means was able to move from her teeny home (with her son and husband) to a slightly larger home. She was overjoyed to have room to host the family for Christmas Eve for the first time. When I spoke with her, I learned she had to work till 6 on Christmas Eve. Her solution to entertaining everyone was to order Chinese food and pick it up on her way home. It was her treat! I often remember this and think it is a great example of true holiday spirit. -- Happy Holidays

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Newsday Crossword

SATURDAY STUMPER by Lester Ruff Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS 1 APB responder 9 Experiences minimally 15 Street thief in the Bard's era 16 Space taken up 17 Fiery feedback 18 Smooth, as tap-water flow 19 Correct conclusion 20 She's billed after Bill in Groundhog Day 22 Finger food of a sort 23 Tesla, by birth 25 His Hampstead home is now his museum 27 Gull cousin 28 TV officer introduced in 1966 30 Ringlings, on posters 32 Unedited 33 Take the place of 35 Taking after 36 Delivery person 39 What poppies usually are 40 Strange to say 42 Fried-rice morsel 43 Narrow escape 46 Some Vonnegut characters 47 Metaphor for purity 48 Cell-phone satellites, essentially 52 Great-grandson of Marc Antony 54 Zucchini, for instance 56 "Tell me another one" 57 Antonym of "happies"

- 59 Address with amity 61 Name that means "beloved" 62 Recorded history 64 Baggage handler 66 Little crawler 67 Where "crop" is often found 68 Condensation-prone, perhaps 69 Condensation
- DOWN 1 Disunion 2 Sing in trills 3 Comes out with 4 Make fun of, maybe 5 Supreme Soviet successor 6 Activate 7 Apart (from) 8 They're often cited on newscasts 9 Product broken before bagging 10 Chops, drops, or lops 11 Carriage designed to impress 12 "Save the date" message 13 Spellbind 14 "The Instrument of the Immortals" 21 Brokerage in the S&P 500 24 Unable to get away 26 Certain 29 It might be working 31 Symbol of stubbornness 34 Preamble 36 Discount-cruise rarities 37 Certain palm fruit 38 Samsung offering 41 Party-tray department 44 Lack of audio/video synchronicity 45 Phone for fare 49 Puts to shame 50 Inhabitant of modern-day Sheba 51 Tablet accessory 53 Best Actress Oscar role for 1939 55 Fully rehearsed 58 Verse-reading event 60 Talker in Tik-Tok of Oz 63 "Over the Rainbow" is first sung near one 65 Decide what's fair or not

Grid for crossword puzzle with clues and answers.

Sudoku puzzle and answer key.

Sudoku puzzle and answer key.



# Denzel Washington can finally breathe easy about 'Fences'

By **LINDSEY BAHR**

AP Film Writer  
LOS ANGELES (AP) — Denzel Washington is feeling pretty good at the moment. It's mid-December in Los Angeles, Washington is a few weeks shy of his 62nd birthday, and the Screen Actors Guild has just recognized his adaptation of the August Wilson play "Fences" for its ensemble cast. He's also finally getting feedback from audiences as the film trickles out to theaters before opening wide on Christmas Day.

The ease around it is relatively new. He knew he had the goods, of course. "Fences," Wilson's 1983 play about an African American family in 1950s Pittsburgh, had already won the Pulitzer Prize, Tony Awards for the original Broadway cast, and another batch of Tonys for Washington and Viola Davis in their 2010 revival. But, it would also be the first big screen adaptation of a Wilson play, and only Washington's third time behind the camera.

"Going into the film, that's when there was pressure. It was like, 'That all worked, everything worked. Don't mess it up!'" says Washington. "My concern was, first, August Wilson and, second, my actors. And the Screen Actors Guild said, 'We recognize that.' So I was happy. I've kind of relaxed a little bit. And there's nothing you can do about it anyway! The movie belongs to the people now."

The few critiques that have been lobbed at the film about Troy Maxson (Washington), his wife Rose (Davis) and their family have zeroed in on that old idea that when you bring a play to the big screen, the director should "open it up" and disguise its essential play-ness. Washington hates that as criticism of his adaptation, and he gets especially animated about it.

"I did it this way on purpose because August Wilson is first, not, 'Hey! Denzel!'" Washington says, edging out of

his seat. "I can do all that. I can do ALL that. That whole big speech he made? I could have been pushing in on me. I could have done that. That's easy!"

The most difficult decisions he made during filming and editing were which actors to shoot and when. It's something that you don't have to decide in a play, when everyone can see everything happening. In some cases he extended scenes, cutting to another person in the kitchen overhearing something, or lingering on Davis for a beat instead of closing out the scene immediately. In others, he could increase the physicality of the moment.

To visualize things better, Washington, recalling Sidney Lumet's advice, staged a two-week rehearsal. He rented out a big church in Pittsburgh, blocked out all the sets using tape on the floor, and hired understudies to be off book. It would allow him and his director of photography, Charlotte Bruus Christensen, to walk around, see all the action happening and figure out the shots from there. There wouldn't be enough time during filming to do it then. And as far as performances were concerned, he knew he didn't have anything to worry about.

"Nothing beats the confidence of having done it and having been rewarded for it. Viola Davis is not suddenly going to lose the performance somewhere between 2010 and now," he says. "So when the band got back together and we started reading we were like, 'Oh yeah, we can still play.'" For the really tough calls, Washington says he would consult the spirit of Wilson in his sleep. Wilson's intent was always top of mind.

Washington did get the chance to meet the playwright once, about 13



years ago. It was a rainy day in Seattle and Washington went to his home to talk. His agent had said Wilson might be thinking about writing something for him.

"He talked about his process and how he writes and basically he was saying, 'You know, I don't write for anyone. The characters tell me.' It was so brilliant. I said, 'Well, what do you do?' And he said, 'Well, I close down my house and I listen to the people and they tell me what to say and I write it down,'" Washington recalls. "He was a lovely man. We sat on the porch. I didn't know that was the last time I was going to see him. Who knew?"

As for "Fences," while committing a play to film will certainly allow for a bigger audience not to mention the very probable outcome that it will be a go-to

for school curriculums, Washington doesn't believe that his is the final word on the play at all.

"Like Shakespeare, it's open to interpretation," Washington says. "Wait 25 years. Somebody might want to do a musical, for instance. I don't know."

## OAKLAND

Continued from Page 5C

100 people with live music on a stage would require one or more permits. Depending on its size, a fire marshal could make a spot check to ensure fire extinguishers are available and lighting is adequate, or officials might oversee the event.

In general, building inspectors in Los Angeles would reject applications for musical events in warehouses, since they are designed to hold goods, not parties.

A gritty location can be part of the allure, and Cassel and others see it as an escape from mainstream clubs that they see as unwelcoming, even hostile, to free spirits and nonconformists.

But a big part of it is economics. A maze of rules and the high costs that come with meeting them leave few alternatives for running events on a skimpy budget, they say.

"When you are charging five, six bucks and 50 people show up, it doesn't work to have a permit," said George Chen, who organized underground shows in the San Francisco Bay Area for over a decade.

Cassel acknowledges he ran Purple 33 without

proper authorization, but says it's not because he didn't try. The businessman-contractor-inventor who once sold skateboard parts claims he spent \$70,000 on licensing and other fees to try to get the city to green-light his club, whose patrons he calls "a family."

But neighbors who feared wild parties blocked the project. He went underground.

"I wanted to do everything legal. It takes a lot of money," Cassel, 56, said in an interview.

"But the greatest issue isn't the money. They don't seem to want to guide you along. At the end of the day, they say no." Despite Fire Department concerns, Cassel says the site was safe, with multiple exits, fire extinguishers and an emergency plan that could get everyone out in two minutes.

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**Back Row Left to Right:** Teresa Bynum, Pauline Nelson, Carolyn Freeman, Sara Beth Warren, Sue Ann Riddle, Dionne Pledger, Nancy Marshall, Pat Porter, Shirley Lee, Stephanie Wilkerson, Tammy DePauw, Jan Foresyth.  
**Not Pictured:** Stacy Barr, Verna Finkenbinder, Tootsie Grantham, Willa Ledford, Shirley Shroyer and Donna Love.

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