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BIG SPRING HERALD

SUNDAY, JANUARY 8, 2017



VOLUME 112, NUMBER 384 COPYRIGHT 2017 50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 SUNDAY

TEA's A-F accountably system draws ire

Many West Texas schools wouldn't make the grade under new system

By **LYNDEL MOODY**
 Staff Writer

A newly released work-in-progress report by the Texas Education Agency (TEA) on a new accountability system for public schools has drawn some strong criticism across the state.

Particularly irksome to school officials is a list of "what if" ratings for all school districts and individual schools based on what they would have received for the 2015-2016 school year under the proposed system.

Under the current system, school districts and individual schools are given either met standard or improvement required designations

based on their students' academic performance on standardized tests. The new system, which is expected to take effect in Aug. 2018, replaces the current one to a letter grading system both for overall performance and in each of five areas or domains used to track academic perfor-



mance. Those domains are Student Achievement (Domain I); Student Progress (Domain II); Closing the Performance Gaps (Domain III); Post Secondary Readiness (Domain IV); and Community and Student Engagement (Domain V). The rating list released Friday shows many West Texas and Texas school's as a whole not making the grade. In particular, Big Spring ISD received Fs in both Student Achievement and Closing the Performance Gaps, a C in Student Progress, and a D in Post Secondary Readiness. Coahoma ISD did not fair much better. Coahoma received a D in Student Achievement, Fs in Student Progress and Closing the Performance, and A in Post Secondary Readiness. Forsan, whose district has done very well under previous accountability ratings, received three Bs — Student Achievement, Closing the Performance Gaps, and Post Secondary Readiness — and a C for Student Progress.

See **TEA**, Page 3A

Commissioners to tackle routine items in Monday's meeting

By **STEVE REAGAN**
 Staff Writer

Howard County Commissioners will hold their first meeting of the new year when they convene at 3:30 p.m. Monday in the third floor courtroom of the county courthouse.

Routine items dominate Monday's agenda. Among matters commissioners will discuss are:

- Discussion and possible action on upgrading internet technology servers from local machines to cloud storage.

- Consideration of an inter-local agreement with Howard College.
- Discussion and possible approval of a resolution concerning e-file and copy fees.
- Bids for road shoulder widening and patching materials.
- Pipeline crossings and road maintenance.
- Routine financial and personnel matters.

Contact Staff Writer Steve Reagan at 432-263-7331, ext. 235, or email reporter@bigspringherald.com

Area's big day in Austin



Courtesy photos

At top County officials are recognized on the floor of the state House of Representatives at a previous Big Spring and Howard County Day in Austin event. At right, Big Spring High School choir members perform in the state capitol building in Austin



By **STEVE REAGAN**
 Staff Writer

Big Spring and Howard County officials believe that the a personal approach is the best way to ensure this area's needs are addressed by the Texas Legislature.

On Feb. 23, officials hope a busload of area residents descend upon Austin for the biennial Howard County Day in Austin.

The event, sponsored by the Big Spring Economic Development Corp., is designed to increase awareness of the Crossroads area in the state legislature.

A chartered bus will leave from the east parking lot of Howard College's Dorothy Garrett Coliseum at 4 a.m. on Feb. 23 and arrive at the Texas Capitol in Austin at approximately 9:15 a.m., said Teresa Darden Big Spring EDC executive assistant.

Once at the Capitol, planned activities include:

- 10 a.m. — Resolution proclaiming Howard County Day at the Capitol will be read in the House of Representatives chamber.

- 11 a.m. — Resolution proclaiming Howard County Day at the Capitol will be

read in the Senate chamber.

- Noon — Group photo in the Capitol rotunda.

- 12:15 p.m. — Big Spring High School singing group Rhapsody performs in the rotunda.

"This is a great chance to see first-hand how the legislature works," Darden said. "They make the laws that affect our lives, day after day. It's very important that we let them know we're interested in how the laws they make impact our lives."

The bus is scheduled to depart the Capitol at 1 p.m., with a lunch stop planned at Opie's, a barbecue restaurant in Spicewood, before participants arrive back in Big Spring at approximately 7 p.m., Darden said.

Cost for the event is \$40 for the bus ticket and \$29 for a black Howard County shirt.

"We're asking everyone to wear a Howard County shirt with khaki pants or skirt," Darden said. "If you don't already have one of the new, black Howard County shirts, you can order one by contacting the Chamber of Commerce or Big Spring EDC."

See **AUSTIN**, page 3A

Relatives: Airport shooting suspect had mental health issues

By **JASON DEAREN**
 Associated Press

The man police say opened fire with a gun from his checked baggage at a Florida airport had a history of mental health problems — some of which followed his military service in Iraq — and was receiving psychological treatment at his home in Alaska,

his relatives said Friday after the deadly shooting.

"Only thing I could tell you was when he came out of Iraq, he wasn't feeling too good," his uncle, Hernan Rivera, told The Record newspaper.

Esteban Santiago, 26, deployed

See **SHOOTING**, Page 3A

County Republicans meets Monday



Howard County Republicans will resume regular meetings beginning Monday in the Howard College Cactus Room at 11:30 a.m. for Dutch treat lunch, with meeting beginning at noon. Guest speaker will be Howard County Attorney Josh Hamby. Howard College is located at 1001 Birdwell Lane.

Find us online at: www.bigspringherald.com

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Obituaries

Levi "Pat" Patrick Carter IV



Levi "Pat" Patrick Carter IV, 61, of Benton, La., died Wednesday, Jan. 4, 2017, at Willis Knighton Bossier Health Center.

A memorial service will be held Sunday, Jan. 8, 2017, at 2 p.m. in the chapel of Melancon Funeral Home in Bunkie, La., with the Rev. Stephen Scot Chemino officiating. Burial will be at a later date in the Carter section of Pythian Cemetery. A memorial reception will be held at Melancon Funeral Home on Sunday, Jan. 8, from 1 p.m. until the memorial service.

A native of Bunkie, Pat retired with more than

35 years of service from Texaco-Chevron, having lived in Hobbs, N.M.; Big Spring and Cotulla, Texas; and Benton, La.

He is survived by his wife, Sarah Lee Alvarez Carter of Benton; two stepdaughters, Rikki Garcia and Lexy Ybarra of Benton; one son, Levi Patrick Carter V of Colorado Springs, Colo.; his parents, L.P. (III) and Mary Louise Nicholson Carter of Bunkie; four sisters, Sarah Nicholson Hounshell and husband William "Bill" of Cisco, Texas, Elizabeth Leatherwood Smith and husband Larry of Bunkie, Katherine Louise Butterworth and husband David of Phoenix, Ariz., and Rebecca Diane Meunier and husband Steve of Alto, N.M.; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Arrangements are under the direction of Melancon Funeral Home of Bunkie, La.

Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity:

- **ARMANDO ALANIZ III**, 22, of 1100 E. 12th St. was arrested on charges of possession of drug paraphernalia and possession of marijuana (less than 2 oz.).

- **BRIAN KEITH SIMMONS**, 23, of 1305 Pennsylvania Ave. was issued a citation for driving

with a suspended license.

- **JAMES ANTHONY TORRENCE**, 51, of 1401 N. Highway 87 Apt. #1404 was arrested on an outstanding warrant.

- **ASHLEY JIMENEZ MIRAMONTES**, 22, of 301 N.W. 10th St. was arrested on charges of criminal trespassing and possession of drug paraphernalia.

- **MONICA SOLIZ**, 33, of 609 E.

13th St. was arrested on a charge of theft of property (\$100 to \$750)/shoplifting.

- **MISTY JO LASATER**, 32, of 600 Nolan St. was arrested on a charge of theft of property (\$100 to \$750).

- **THEFT** was reported in the 2500 block of S. Gregg Street, the 1100 block of West Sixth Street, and the 200 block of West FM 700.

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. 16 and 17 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 Cha-

let, 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 fund-raisers 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.BecomeaCA-SA.org or 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.

Curtis G. Flanagan

Curtis G. Flanagan, 89, of Stanton died Friday, Jan. 6, 2017, in a Stanton hospital. Services are pending with Gilbreath Funeral Home in Stanton.

Sharon "KK" Shelton

Sharon "KK" Shelton, 68, of Big Spring died Friday, Jan. 6, 2017, in Midland. Services are pending at Myers and Smith Funeral Home.

Weather

Today: Not as cold. Sunny. Highs in the upper 30s. Light and variable winds becoming south around 10 mph in the afternoon.

Tonight: Not as cold. Mostly clear. Lows in the lower 20s. South winds around 10 mph.

Sunday: Not as cool. Sunny. Highs in the mid 50s. South winds 10 to 20 mph.

Sunday night: Not as cold. Clear. Lows in the mid 30s. Southwest winds 10 to 15 mph.

Monday: Warmer, Sunny. Highs in the upper 60s. Southwest winds 10 to 20 mph.

Monday night: Not as cool. Partly cloudy. Lows in the mid 40s.

Tuesday: Sunny. Highs in the mid 70s.

Tuesday night: Mostly clear. Lows in the lower 40s.

Wednesday: Mostly sunny. Highs in the lower 70s.

Wednesday night: Mostly clear. Lows in the mid 40s.

Thursday: Sunny. Highs around 70.

Thursday night: Increasing clouds. Lows around 40.

Friday: Cooler. Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of rain. Highs 53 to 59.

AP/National Weather Service reports for Borden, Scurry, Martin, Howard, and Mitchell counties, including the cities of Gail, Snyder, Stanton, Big Spring, and Colorado City.

Support Groups

SATURDAY

- Alcoholics Anonymous open discussion meeting, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m.

Open podium/speakers meeting 8 p.m. until 9 p.m.

Open birthday night, no smoking meeting the last Saturday of each month at 8 p.m. Covered dish supper at 7 p.m.

SUNDAY

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

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POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, TX 79721. Periodicals postage paid at Big Spring, Texas.

USPS 1431-48 USPS 0055-940 ISSN 0746-6811

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School Districts	Domain I	Domain II	Domain III	Domain IV
Big Spring ISD (M)	F	C	F	D
Big Spring High School (M)*	D	C	F	D
Big Spring Junior High School	F	C	F	F
Big Spring Intermediate	F	C	F	F
Goliad Elementary School	F	D	F	F
Marcy Elementary School (M)	F	F	F	F
Moss Elementary School (M)	C	A	D	F
Washington Elementary School	F	D	F	F
Coahoma ISD (M)	D	F	F	A
Coahoma High School (M)	D	F	D	A
Coahoma Junior High School (M)	C	F	F	C
Coahoma Elementary School	F	C	F	D
Forsan ISD (M)	B	C	B	B
Forsan High School (M)	B	A	C	B
Forsan Elementary School (M)	B	D	B	C
Bordan County ISD (M)	B	C	B	A
Ector County ISD (M)	F	C	F	D
Glasscock County ISD	B	B	C	C
Grady ISD	B	A	B	B
Midland ISD	D	C	F	F
Sands ISD	C	A	B	No rating
Stanton ISD	D	B	F	C

AUSTIN
Continued from Page 1A

Costs do not cover the lunch in Spicewood or food and drink on the bus, she added. Deadline to pay for a spot on the bus is February 17, while deadline for the Howard County shirts is January 25. For more information on the event, call Big Spring EDC at 264-6032 or Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce at 263-7641.

Contact Staff Writer Steve Reagan at 432-263-7331, ext. 235, or email reporter@bigspringherald.com

SHOOTING

Continued from Page 1A

in 2010 as part of the Puerto Rico National Guard, spending a year with an engineering battalion, according to Maj. Paul Dahlen.

In recent years, Santiago — a new dad, family said — had been living in Anchorage, Alaska, his brother, Bryan Santiago, told The Associated Press from Puerto Rico. Bryan Santiago said his brother's girlfriend had recently called the family to alert them to his treatment.

In November, Esteban told FBI agents in Alaska that the government was controlling his mind and was forcing him to watch Islamic State group videos, a law enforcement official said. The official was not authorized to discuss an ongoing investigation by name and spoke Friday on condition of anonymity.

The FBI agents notified the police after the interview with Esteban Santiago, who took him in for a mental health evaluation.

Bryan Santiago said his brother never spoke to him directly about his medical issues.

MYERS & SMITH
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Amelia Perez Saldivar, 84, passed away Thursday. Vigil service will be held at 7 p.m. Sunday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral Mass will be at 10:30 a.m. Monday at Holy Trinity Catholic Church. Interment will follow at Mount Olive Memorial Park.

Sharon "KK" Shelton, 68, passed away Friday. Services are pending.

TEA

Continued from Page 1A

In contrast, Bordan County which has excelled in the past years under the current accountability system received a B for the Student Achievement, two Cs for Student Progress and Closing the Performance Gaps, and an A for Post Secondary Readiness.

TEA did not give an overall letter rating for school districts and only gave ratings for four out of the five domains. The agency pointed out the work-in-progress report was fulfilling a legal requirement to Texas Legislature and not meant to be a reflection on what is occurring at the district level.

"It is important to note that the Met Standard/Improvement Required ratings issued in August 2016 and updated in November 2016 are the official academic accountability ratings for the 2015-16 school year. A similar process will be used for the 2016-17 school year," Texas Commissioner of Education Mike Morath stated in a new release Friday.

"The ratings in this report are for informational purposes to meet a legislative requirement and represent work-in-progress models that are likely to change before A-F ratings become effective in August 2018," he explained. "No inferences about official district or campus performance in the 2015-16 school year

"We do not have "F" students, teachers, campuses, administrators, district or community," said Chris Wigington, Big Spring ISD superintendent. "What we do have is a community school district that is dedicated to doing what is right for kids on a daily basis, and we will continue to do that in the future!"



Wigington

"As the Superintendent of Big

Spring ISD, I am proud of the work being done throughout our district," he continued. "It takes a special kind of person to know the job might be easier elsewhere, and choose to stay in Big Spring where we know we are needed. I see the work. I see the effort, and most importantly, I see the progress. We will not be burdened by the opinions of those who don't walk in our shoes. They can't possibly know what great things are happening here in Big Spring ISD."

should be drawn from these ratings, and these ratings should not be considered predictors of future district or campus performance ratings."

Big Spring ISD Superintendent released a statement Friday pointed out the A-F system "is not yet finalized and measurement components have not yet been explained to public schools which makes the release of ratings premature and deficient."

"For years now, as we have struggled mightily to improve our academic rating — and succeeded in the effort — the state has watched at a comfortable distance from the real-world problems we face, and placed labels on us and our students," Wigington said. "It is appropriate to point out that the A-F rating system does not adequately consider the differences in the degree of difficulty faced by educators in rural West Texas communities.

"This system ignores diversity, socioeconomic status, and mobility generated by the

economic instability of agricultural and oil industries," he continued. "For all intents and purposes, the expectations are the same here as in the affluent communities throughout the state. Unfortunately, those expectations are unreachable for the majority of Texas districts. Regardless of performance, only 10 percent of Texas public schools are "allowed" to receive an "A" rating."

Wigington added the system is not an accurate measurement of what is happening academically at Big Spring ISD or any Texas School.

"We do not have "F" students, teachers, campuses, administrators, district or community," he said. "What we do have is a community school district that is dedicated to doing what is right for kids on a daily basis, and we will continue to do that in the future!"

"As the Superintendent of Big Spring ISD, I am proud of the work being done throughout our district," he continued. "It takes a special kind of person to

know the job might be easier elsewhere, and choose to stay in Big Spring where we know we are needed. I see the effort, and most importantly, I see the progress. We will not be burdened by the opinions of those who don't walk in our shoes. They can't possibly know what great things are happening here in Big Spring ISD."

Wigington is not alone in his criticism. According to the Fort Worth Star Telegram (http://www.star-telegram.com), the Texas Association of School Administrators has called for the new system's repeal and is asking school boards to pass a resolution for the Texas Legislature to repeal the A-F rating system. As of Wednesday, 142 Texas school boards have adopted opposition resolution's, according to TASA the Star Telegram reports.

"The Texas Legislature's requirement to grade schools on an A-F scale is a flawed concept, and the preliminary ratings released to the public today (Friday) fail to provide meaningful information about schools,"

said James B. Crow Texas Association of School Board executive director in a release. "These new A-F ratings are just a symptom of the larger sickness: an unhealthy fixation on standardized testing and standardized expectations."

"There are 1,028 school districts in Texas, and no two are exactly the same," Crow continued. "Trying to apply the same accountability measures primarily based on one standardized test is a disservice to our kids, their families, and our educators. It's time the armchair educators stop trying to find new ways to sell tests, test preparation, and test administration. It's time to consider our students and schools as more than just a grade."

To view the full report, visit the TEA website at http://tea.texas.gov/Student_Testing_and_Accountability/Accountability/A-F_Accountability_Resources/.

Contact Staff Writer Lyndel Moody at 263-7331, ext. 234, or email citydesk@bigspringherald.com.

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Man gets prison for shining laser at Texas TV helicopter

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — A federal judge has sentenced a San Antonio man to eight months in prison for shining a laser on a television news helicopter.

Christopher B. Evans was sentenced on Friday for his Sept. 13 guilty plea to aiming a laser pointer at a flying aircraft. The 25-year-old

Evans could have been sentenced to up to five years in federal prison and fined up to \$250,000.

A WOAI-TV news helicopter was flying north of San Antonio International Airport early the morning of Oct. 27, 2015, when it was hit by the laser strike.

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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.

ADDRESSES

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

• **BARACK OBAMA**
President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

• **TED CRUZ**
U.S. Senator
B40B Dirksen Senate
Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-4305
Phone: 202-228-0462

• **JOHN CORNYN**
U.S. Senator
517 Hart Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-4305
Phone: 202-224-2934

• **RANDY NEUGEBAUER**
U.S. Representative
19th Cong. District
1510 Scurry
Big Spring
Phone: 432-264-0722

STATE GOVERNMENT

• **GREG ABBOTT**
Governor
State Capitol, Room 2S.1
P.O. Box 12428
Austin, 78711
Phone: 512-463-2000

• **DREW DARBY**
State Representative
Texas 72nd District

P.O. Box 2910
Austin, 78768
Phone: 512-463-0331

• **KEL SELIGER**
State Senator
Texas 31st District
401 Austin, Suite 101
Big Spring, 79720
Phone: 432-268-9909

BIG SPRING CITY COUNCIL

• **LARRY MCLELLAN**,
MAYOR — Office: 267-2711.

• **CARMEN HARBOUR**
— Work: 264-2401.

• **RAUL MARQUEZ JR**
— Cell: 816-1015.

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— Home: 267-8058.

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Work: 267-2501.

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• **KATHRYN WISEMAN**,
COUNTY JUDGE — Office:
264-2202.

• **OSCAR GARCIA** —
Home: 264-0026.

• **CRAIG BAILEY** —
Home: 264-2202.

• **JIMMIE LONG** — 267-4224.

• **JOHN CLINE** —
Home: 263-7158.

Downtown Sulphur Springs is changing

If you go to Sulphur Springs and haven't been there in a while, you'll notice downtown is a totally new place, with interesting restaurants, bars, shops and apartments. You might think you're in Key West or maybe even France.

“We made the sidewalks wider and the street narrower,” says city manager Marc Maxwell. Sometimes people complain about how narrow Main Street is because it's the narrowest of all the streets downtown. But a lot of times when they're complaining they're sitting at a café table outside on Main Street enjoying a meal or a drink.”

The transformation of downtown Sulphur Springs started eight years ago when the city was trying to figure out a way to get people downtown, especially at night. Since the city has 200

events, city leaders decided to call Sulphur Springs Celebration City.

“We're sitting on Celebration Plaza right now. We don't refer to it as the square anymore. From spring through fall every Friday and Saturday night there's something to do downtown. Friday night we show movies and Saturday night is the market itself. Vendors sell produce, prepared food and all kinds of crafts.”

Celebration Plaza has computerized lights and sound.

“All the trees have lights underneath them and we can even synchronize them to music. During Christmas we put on a beautiful light show with music that can be heard all over downtown. We're trying to create the magic that makes people want to come downtown.”

Downtown property values have gone through the roof since the renovations started. Previous vacant or burned buildings are now thriving businesses.

“We're working our way around the plaza, making changes in the streets leading to it.



TUMBLEWEED SMITH

BIG SPRING CITY COUNCIL

• **LARRY MCLELLAN**,
MAYOR — Office: 267-2711.

• **CARMEN HARBOUR**
— Work: 264-2401.

• **RAUL MARQUEZ JR**
— Cell: 816-1015.

• **JUSTIN MYERS** —
Home: 263-3771.

• **STEVE WAGGONER**
— Home: 267-8058.

• **RAUL BENAVIDES** —
Work: 267-2501.

• **JIM DEPAUW** — 263-0008.

HOWARD COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

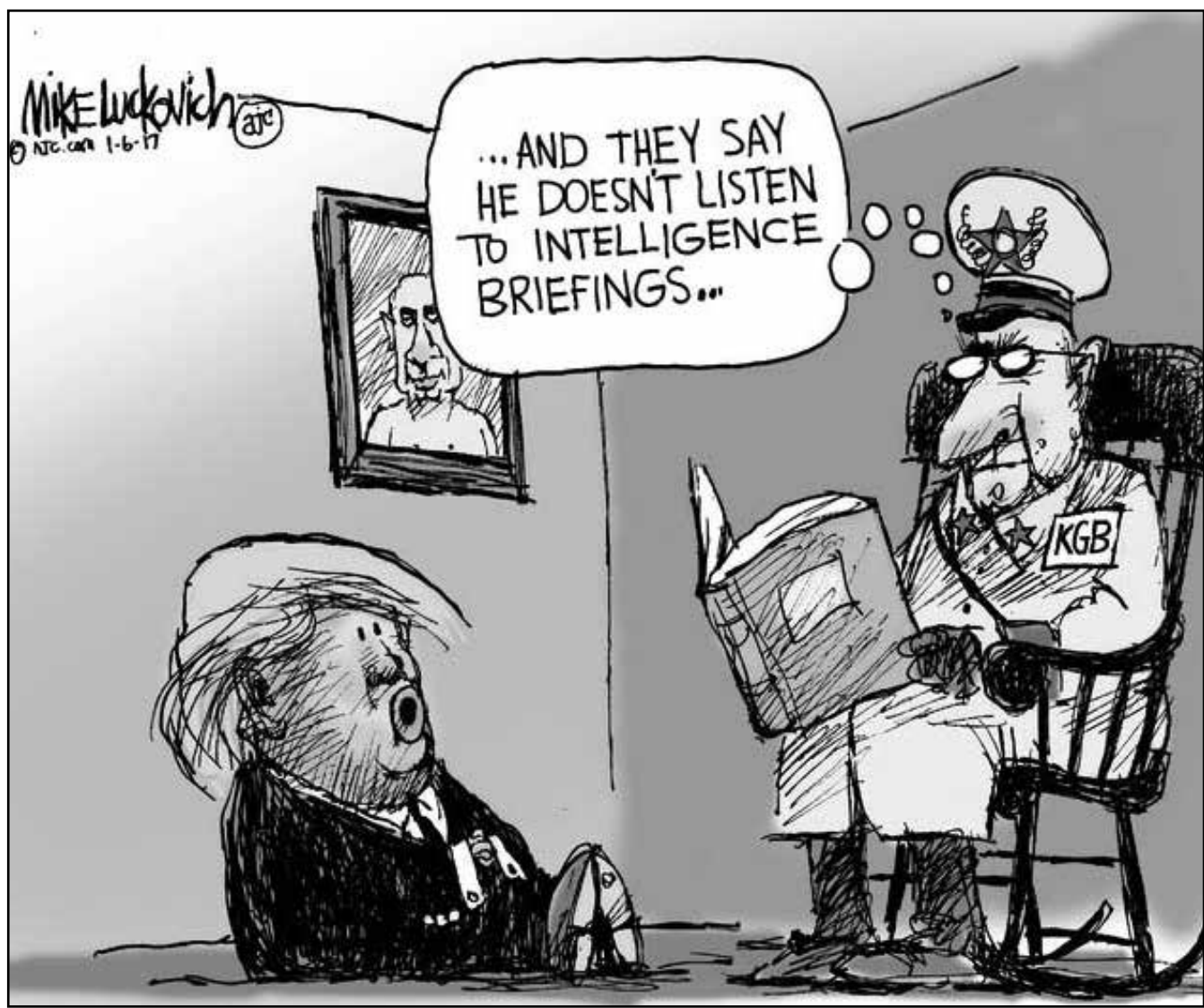
• **KATHRYN WISEMAN**,
COUNTY JUDGE — Office:
264-2202.

• **OSCAR GARCIA** —
Home: 264-0026.

• **CRAIG BAILEY** —
Home: 264-2202.

• **JIMMIE LONG** — 267-4224.

• **JOHN CLINE** —
Home: 263-7158.



LETTERS POLICY

The Herald welcomes letters to the editor.

- Sign your letter.
- Provide a daytime telephone number, as well as a street address for verification purposes.

- We reserve the right to edit for style and clarity.

- We reserve the right to limit publication to one letter per 30-day period per author.

- Form letters, letters that are unsigned or do not include a telephone number or address will not be considered.

- Letters should be e-mailed to editor@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

May we be cheerful givers to others and cheerful takers of Your love, Lord.

Amen.

Make way for Uncle Mort

Most folks in the thicket were surprised to learn that an “uppity lady from up north” had become owner of the crossroads general store on New Year's Day.

Finding her name — Sadie

Ladarovich — tough to pronounce, my Uncle Mort slapped a nickname on her that'll likely stick. “Sadie the Lady” from the outset, she announced several changes for the store.

Patrons applauded her daily breakfast specials. However, clapping slowed considerably as she posted “No Loitering” signs. Uncle Mort, who'll be 105 come July 4, figured the signs signaled warnings for him and his buddies. Sooner than later, he would try to convince Sadie that he and his buddies are “guests” who liven up the place, and — on occasion — are paying customers, too.

Exhibiting more poise than most folks thought he had, Mort joined friends in taking seats around THE table. It's the one they've claimed for decades for domino-playing, conversation-starting, problem-solving and opinion-offering, sometimes all during the same day.

They discuss topics ranging from Adam's rib to web pages and fibs. With such a vast expanse of history, they find it hard to follow rabbit trails that “don't wander too far off the

main road of popular topics,” they say.

“Hey, now, Sadie,” Mort said. “Remember we guys will be ever alert, even during breakfast. If a robber gets lost out here and tries to take your cash, we'll manhandle him for you.” (Later, they'd break the news to her about “toning down” her entrance. Her new Lexus stood out, as did her sleek after-five dress—and her diamond ring with enough sparkle to blind an entire time zone.)

Mort added an addendum to his breakfast order: “Make sure you use a clean plate.” When Sadie brought breakfast for the foursome, she asked, “Okay, who gets the clean plate?”

They brought out the dominos after chowing down, but soon “football talk” reduced the game to a slow shuffle.

At the one-hour mark, Sadie was still refilling their coffee cups. Mort told Sadie that his wife Maude would be “powerful pleased” to stitch up a nice, flour sack dress for her—one far more practical for wearing at work.

The men agreed the Dallas Cowboys will make it to the Super Bowl, the one big game remaining after a glut of college bowl games.

Overhearing, Sadie admitted she's a fan of Ohio State. “I expected the Buckeyes to give a strong statement from the git-go. Instead, they puttered around for 60 minutes, and never got around to saying anything.”

Everyone laughed. Maybe Sadie would fit in after all, they decided.

They wanted to do what they could to make this Yankee

woman feel good about her move down South.

Mort promised to “make a list” of suggestions. It would include advice to park the Lexus out of sight in back, place the diamond ring in a bank lock box and wear “everyday” clothes.

Sadie pondered things, but didn't speak: If these guys were Christmas tree lights, she wondered, would there be enough juice to light up the whole string?

Upon arriving home, Mort told Maude about the new store owner. “I think she'll adjust to life in the thicket, but it'll be gradual. First off, I'm hoping you'll make her a nice everyday dress. Folks around here won't cotton to buying groceries from a woman who looks like she's dressed for a New Year's Eve ball.”

“Reckon what size she wears?” Maude asked.

Mort suggested she use a pattern Maude follows when making a dress for herself. “She's a perfect size, too,” he beamed. He's been working the complimentary angle for the almost 85 years they've been wed. It works almost every time. Before taking another breath, Maude sat down at her Singer treadle sewing machine, ready to turn out a new frock. It would be made from sacks earlier filled with flour when purchased down at the crossroads store.

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

U.S. on track to become net energy exporter by 2026

By **Climate Central via AP**

The amount of energy Americans use and the pollution they emit from using coal, oil and natural gas are not likely to change radically over the next 30 years, even as the U.S. becomes a major energy exporter, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration's Annual Energy Outlook, published Thursday.

The outlook, which does not factor in any policies from the incoming fossil fuel-friendly Trump administration, shows that the U.S. is unlikely to make significant gains in reducing greenhouse gas emissions to meet its obligations under the Paris Climate Agreement, even though zero-carbon renewables are expected to grow faster than any other energy source over the next three decades.

Electricity generation is expected to remain the largest single use of energy in the U.S., but crude oil use for transportation is expected to be largest source of energy-related carbon emissions. Carbon emissions from transportation surpassed those from electric power generation for the first time in U.S. history in 2016.

The U.S. is likely to become a major exporter of energy because it is expected to produce about 20 percent more energy than it does today through 2040 while using only about 5 percent more energy, said EIA administrator Adam Sieminsky.

"We're going to have fairly strong domestic production of energy and relatively flat demand," he said. "You put those two together, it implies that the U.S. could become a net energy exporter." And that could happen as soon as 2026.

That scenario, in addition to gains in energy efficiency across the country and declining coal consumption, will keep annual carbon emissions from energy use roughly level with today's — about 5.2 billion metric tons of carbon dioxide, according to EIA data. Energy-related carbon emissions in the U.S. have been falling since they peaked at about 6 billion metric tons in 2007.

The EIA offers a variety of different projections for how Americans will produce and use energy in the coming decades. The scenario in which the U.S. emits the most carbon dioxide through 2040 is the one in which the Obama administration's signature climate change policy, the Clean Power Plan, is tossed out by the courts or the incoming Trump administration.

The Clean Power Plan, a major key to the success of the Paris Climate Agreement, was designed to limit carbon dioxide emissions from existing coal-fired power plants, encouraging utilities to generate more and more electricity using natural gas and renewables. But the plan's fate is in doubt because 24 states have sued to kill it, the Supreme Court has temporarily blocked it, and the incoming Trump administration has vowed to rescind it because it wants to revive the flagging coal industry.

Regardless of the fate of the Clean Power Plan, energy-related carbon emissions are not expected to change much. If the plan is rescinded or overturned, the U.S. will emit about 5.4 billion metric tons annually through 2040 — slightly higher than today. If the plan remains in place, emissions are expected to drop to about 5 billion metric tons annually.

The biggest change the EIA expects to see over the next 30 years is one that's already in progress today — Americans are expected to use more and more natural gas and renewables than they do now. Natural gas production is expected to grow 1.2 percent through 2050, with wind and solar power production growing 3.5 percent.

"If the Clean Power Plan is not implemented, if natural gas prices remain relatively low and the tax credits in the renewables area play out a little, we will see more natural gas in the future," Sieminsky said.

The fracking boom in the U.S. over the past decade has flooded the country with natural gas, bringing prices down. Cheap natural gas, more so than climate regulations under the Clean Power Plan, has encouraged electric power companies to switch away from coal-fired power plants, which have always formed the backbone of the energy grid. The trend is expected to continue over the next 30 years.

For example, just this week, the operator of one of the West's largest coal-fired power plants, the

See **ENERGY**, Page 6A

Oil Report

New Locations:

Reliance Energy, Inc.
 300 N. Marienfeld, Suite 1100
 Midland, TX 79701-0000
 Traci Coursey, Engineering Tech
 (432) 683-4816

XTO Energy, Inc.
 500 W. Illinois, Suite 100
 Midland, TX 79701-0000
 Kendall Chance, Drilling Tech
 survey
 (432) 620-6749

RSP Permian, LLC
 3141 Hood St., Suite 500
 Dallas, TX 75219-5020
 Teresa Clark, Regulatory Analyst
 (432) 818-1343

83

RSP Permian, LLC
 3141 Hood St., Suite 500
 Dallas, TX 75219-5020
 Teresa Clark, Regulatory Analyst
 (432) 818-1343

83

RSP Permian, LLC
 3141 Hood St., Suite 500
 Dallas, TX 75219-5020
 Teresa Clark, Regulatory Analyst
 (432) 818-1343

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

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

See **OIL REPORT**, Page 6A

Crockett County

#2 Halff "64", drill, El: NA
 Noelke (Clear Fork) Field
 6.30 miles southeast of Iraan
 A-569, Section 64, I&GN RR Co. survey
 Total Depth: 4250 feet
 X=825300.8, Y=10272254.0. Datum: NAD 83
 467' FNL, 7068' FEL of 640-acre lease
 467' FNL, 7068' FEL of the survey

Glasscock County

#4802BH Blalock "4802", drill horizontal, El: NA
 Spraberry (Trend Area) Field
 16.70 miles northwest of Garden City
 A-1095, Section 36, Block 36, G.B. Chambers

Total Depth: 8850 feet
 X=1565931.54, Y=842037.58
 1010' FWL, 600' FSL of 653.7-acre lease
 1010' FWL, 600' FSL of the survey

#3H Woody "3-46", drill horizontal, El: NA
 Spraberry (Trend Area) Field
 14.30 miles south of Stanton
 A-395, Section 3, Block 36, T-3-S, T&P RR Co. survey
 Total Depth: 9000 feet
 Latitude 031.552381, Longitude -101.450078, Datum: NAD

635' FNL, 1800' FWL of 489.87-acre lease
 635' FNL, 1800' FWL of the survey

#4H Woody "3-46", drill horizontal, El: NA
 Spraberry (Trend Area) Field
 14.30 miles south of Stanton
 A-923, Section 10, Block 36, T-3-S, T&P RR Co. survey
 Total Depth: 9000 feet
 Latitude 031.552392, Longitude -101.450033, Datum: NAD

635' FNL, 1840' FWL of 489.87-acre lease
 635' FNL, 1840' FWL of the survey

#5H Woody "3-46", drill horizontal, El: NA
 Spraberry (Trend Area) Field
 14.30 miles south of Stanton
 A-923, Section 10, Block 36, T-3-S, T&P RR Co. survey
 Total Depth: 9000 feet
 Latitude 031.552528, Longitude -101.445307, Datum: NAD 83
 670' FNL, 2480' FWL of 489.87-acre lease
 670' FNL, 2480' FWL of the survey

Howard County

#3AH Shroyer-Wilson Unit "A 23-14", drill horizontal, El:

Spraberry (Trend Area) Field
 4.50 miles northeast of Knott
 A-1106, Section 14, Block 33, T-2-N, T&P RR Co. survey
 Total Depth: 10,000 feet
 Latitude 032.430605, Longitude -101.573438
 350' FNL, 1298' FWL of 475.86-acre lease
 350' FNL, 1298' FWL of the survey

#2 State Wilkinson "30", drill, El: NA
 Cedar Flats (Mississippian) Field
 9.50 miles northwest of Elbow
 A-1655, Section 30, Block 34, T&P RR Co. survey
 Total Depth: 12,000 feet
 Latitude 032.124791, Longitude -101.394704, Datum: NAD 83
 746' FWL, 1282' FNL of 320.4-acre lease
 2070' FWL, 1282' FNL of the survey

FORSAN INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS FOR THE YEAR ENDED AUGUST 31, 2016					
Data Control Codes	10 General Fund	50 Debt Service Fund	Other Funds	Total Governmental Funds	
REVENUES:					
5700	Total Local and Intermediate Sources	\$ 7,603,707	\$ 2,310,860	\$ 276,743	\$ 10,191,310
5800	State Program Revenues	3,160,010	13,046	61,428	3,234,484
5900	Federal Program Revenues	14,748	-	244,858	259,606
5020	Total Revenues	10,778,465	2,323,906	583,029	13,685,400
EXPENDITURES:					
Current:					
0011	Instruction	3,923,864	-	142,944	4,066,808
0012	Instructional Resources and Media Services	58,234	-	-	58,234
0013	Curriculum and Instructional Staff Development	27,734	-	-	27,734
0023	School Leadership	401,775	-	-	401,775
0031	Guidance, Counseling and Evaluation Services	154,543	-	-	154,543
0033	Health Services	56,173	-	-	56,173
0034	Student (Pupil) Transportation	255,376	-	-	255,376
0035	Food Services	-	-	483,387	483,387
0036	Extracurricular Activities	439,634	-	-	439,634
0041	General Administration	447,659	-	-	447,659
0051	Facilities Maintenance and Operations	2,797,484	-	-	2,797,484
0052	Security and Monitoring Services	77,284	-	-	77,287
0053	Data Processing Services	312,677	-	-	312,677
0061	Community Services	-	-	15,072	15,072
Debt Service:					
0071	Principal on Long Term Debt	-	1,285,000	-	1,285,000
0072	Interest on Long Term Debt	-	810,601	-	-
0073	Bond Issuance Cost and Fees	-	191,135	-	191,135
Capital Outlay:					
0081	Facilities Acquisition and Construction	-	-	177,764	177,764
Intergovernmental:					
0091	Contracted Instructional Services Between Schools	1,661,106	-	-	1,661,106
0093	Payments to Fiscal Agent/Member Districts of SSA	96,571	-	-	96,571
0095	Payments to Juvenile Justice Alternative Ed. Prg.	6,000	-	-	6,000
0099	Other Intergovernmental Charges	150,775	-	-	150,775
6030	Total Expenditures	10,866,892	2,286,736	819,167	13,972,795
1100	Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures	(88,427)	37,170	(236,138)	(287,395)
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES):					
7901	Refunding Bonds Issued	-	8,480,000	-	8,480,000
7915	Transfers In	-	-	70,198	70,198
7916	Premium or Discount on Issuance of Bonds	-	1,460,894	-	1,460,894
8911	Transfers Out (Use)	(70,198)	-	-	(70,198)
8940	Payment to Bond Refunding Escrow Agent (Use)	-	(9,949,108)	-	(9,949,108)
7080	Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	(70,198)	(8,214)	70,198	(8,214)
SPECIAL ITEMS:					
7918	Chapter 313 PILOT Revenue	769,254	-	-	769,254
8912	Chapter 313 Tax Credit Payment	(432,236)	-	-	(432,236)
1200	Net Change in Fund Balances	178,393	28,956	(165,940)	41,409
0100	Fund Balance - September 1 (Beginning)	6,777,964	784,110	690,149	8,252,223
1300	Increase (Decrease) in Fund Balance	2,408	-	-	2,408
3000	Fund Balance - August 31 (Ending)	\$ 6,958,765	\$ 813,066	\$ 524,209	\$ 8,296,040

BIG SPRING STATE HOSPITAL

Big Spring State Hospital offers generous benefits packages, including paid vacation, sick leave and holidays, matching retirement and health insurance. Negotiable shifts.

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LICENSED VOCATIONAL NURSES

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DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK SERVICES

NURSE PRACTITIONER

PSYCHIATRIST, PSYCHOLOGIST

REHAB THERAPY TECH

ADMINISTRATIVE ASST.

ACCOUNTING TECHNICIAN

FOOD SERVICE WORKER

CUSTODIAN, RECEPTIONIST

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 OR CALL (432) 268-7341 or visit us at:
 Big Spring State Hospital 1901 N. Hwy 87 Big Spring, TX 79720

OIL REPORT

Continued from Page 5A

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

Tracker Resource Development III
1050 17th Street, Suite 2200
Denver, CO 80265-0000
James Clark, Consulting Engineer
(512) 415-4191

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1050 17th Street, Suite 2200
Denver, CO 80265-0000
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(512) 415-4191

Tracker Resource Development III
1050 17th Street, Suite 2200
Denver, CO 80265-0000
James Clark, Consulting Engineer
(512) 415-4191

Banner Operating, LLC
7500 Rialto, Bldg. 2, Suite 280
Austin, TX 78735-0000
Brett Garza, Consultant
(512) 906-2016, Ext. 102

Tracker Resources Dev. III, LLC
1050 17th Street, Suite 2200
Denver, CO 80265-0000
James Clark, Consulting Engineer
(512) 415-4191

Fossil Petroleum, LLC
P.O. Box 60903
San Angelo, TX 76906-0000
Greg Bilbro, DRGA
(512) 476-1245

Parsley Energy Operations, LLC
303 Colorado, Suite 3000
Austin, TX 78701-0000
Monna Coleman, Regulatory Tech
(737) 704-2339

Energy Management Company
3546 Caruth
Dallas, TX 75225-0000
Tom Douglass, Agent
(512) 495-6300

New Oil Completions: Howard County

Hannathon Petroleum, LLC
223 West Wall Street, Suite 800
Midland, TX 79701-0000
(432) 687-3700

Contractor not listed

Yates 1665'
Seven Rivers 1810'
Glorieta 2100'
S
San Andres 2650'
Clear Fork 2990'
Spraberry 4520'
Leonard 6350'
Dean 6600'
Wolfcamp 6660'
Canyon 8860'
Strawn 8975'
Pennsylvanian 8975'
Mississippian-Fusselman 9215'
Fusselman 9448'

#4AH Hamlin-Middleton Unit "16-21", drill horizontal, El: NA
Spraberry (Trend Area) Field, API #42-227-38791
2.50 miles east of Knott
A-1026, Section 16, Block 33, T-2-N, T&P RR Co. survey
Total Depth: 9500 feet
Latitude 032.423565, Longitude -101.604670. Datum: NAD 27
550' FNL, 609' FEL of 467.23-acre lease
550' FNL, 2078' FWL of the survey

Irion County

#2LU Barnhart "77S75", drill horizontal, El: NA
Spraberry (Trend Area) Field
20.30 miles west of Mertzon
A-393, Section 77, Block 14, H&TC RR Co. survey
Total Depth: 7200 feet
Latitude 031.242422, Longitude -101.160031, Datum: NAD 27
978' FWL, 450' FSL of 1,291.2-acre lease
978' FWL, 450' FSL of the survey

#3LM Barnhart "77S75", drill horizontal, El: NA
Spraberry (Trend Area) Field
20.30 miles west of Mertzon
A-393, Section 77, Block 14, H&TC RR Co. survey
Total Depth: 7500 feet
Latitude 031.24221, Longitude -101.159951, Datum: NAD 27
1003' FWL, 450' FSL of 1,291.2-acre lease
1003' FWL, 450' FSL of the survey

#4LU Barnhart "77S75", drill horizontal, El: NA
Spraberry (Trend Area) Field
20.30 miles west of Mertzon
A-393, Section 77, Block 14, H&TC RR Co. survey
Total Depth: 7200 feet
Latitude 031.242420, Longitude -101.159871, Datum: NAD 27
1028' FWL, 450' FSL of 1,291.2-acre lease
1028' FWL, 450' FSL of the survey

#17 Teague "9", drill, El: NA
Funk (San Andres) Field
18 miles northwest of San Angelo
A-308, Section 9, Block 5, H&TC RR Co. survey
Total Depth: 2000 feet
Latitude 031.311740, Longitude -100.454359
Total Depth: 2000 feet
1603' FSL, 233' FWL of 640-acre lease
1603' FSL, 389' FWL of the survey
SWR 36 (H2S)

#1LM Barnhart "77S75", drill horizontal, El: NA
Spraberry (Trend Area) Field
20.30 miles west of Mertzon
A-393, Section 77, Block 14, H&TC RR Co. survey
Total Depth: 7500 feet
Latitude 031.242423, Longitude -101.160111
953' FWL, 450' FSL of 1,291.2-acre lease
953' FWL, 450' FSL of the survey

#1 Hamilton Ranch, drill, El: NA
Lucky Mag (Consolidated) Field
1.50 miles north of Mertzon
A-458, Section 694-1/2, F. Lambrecht survey
Total Depth: 9000 feet
Latitude 031.171227, Longitude -100.484864. Datum: NAD 83
467' FSWL, 971' FSEL of 2,429.78-acre lease
1029' FSL, 1501' FNWL of the survey

Reagan County

#4207H Kathryn "43-42", drill horizontal, El: NA
Spraberry (Trend Area) Field
25.50 miles northwest of Big Lake
A-732, Section 6, Block D, L&SV RR Co. survey
Total Depth: 8916 feet
Latitude 031.271412, Longitude -101.452989
415' FNL, 2310' FWL of 639.7-acre lease
415' FNL, 2310' FWL of the survey

#1 University "12A", drill, El: NA
Big Lake Field
0.75 miles northeast of Texon
Section 12, Block 2, UL survey
Total Depth: 3300 feet
Latitude 031.140448, Longitude -101.411263
100' FWL, 1115' FNL of 329.8-acre lease
100' FWL, 1550' FSL of the survey
SWR 36 (H2S)

#1 Flanagan "A" Unit, API #42-22-38793
Spraberry (Trend Area) Field, new well, El: 2490' GR
5.10 miles southwest of Sand Springs
A-1276, Section 24, Block 32, T-1-S, T&P RR Co. survey
1875' FSL, 1930' FEL of the survey
Latitude 032.2115581, Longitude -101.3754674
Total Depth: 9545 feet. PBSD: 9543 feet.
Logs: Acceptable cased hole logs
Daily Potential: 164 Bbls 42.6 gravity oil w/ 505 BWPD
Pumping. GOR: 4756

Spud: 7-12-16. Completed: 10-04-16. Pay: NA
8-5/8" @ 4190 feet w/ 875 sx.; 5-1/2" @ 9543 feet w/ 960 sx.
2-7/8" @ 7992 feet
Perfs: 6388-9490
6388-9490: Acidize and fracture stimulated

ENERGY

Continued from Page 5A

Arizona's Navajo Generating Station northeast of the Grand Canyon, announced the plant and the coal mine that supplies it may close this year because of low natural gas prices, according to the Arizona Republic newspaper.

Despite growth in natural gas and renewables, the EIA expects coal production will continue a slow but gradual decline, falling only 0.7 percent through 2050.

Sieminsky said the decline in coal use in the U.S. will translate worldwide as well, and the fate of the Clean Power Plan isn't much of a factor in the long-term outlook for coal because utilities have already begun committing to using natural gas to generate electricity.

"Capital costs of building coal plants are high," he said. "A lot of countries are moving away from coal for air pollution reasons. It's not a climate issue — it's more of a health issue."

China, for example, has begun shuttering coal-fired power plants to reduce its urban smog — the worst in the world.

Climate Central is an independent organization of scientists and journalists researching and reporting the facts about our changing climate and its impact on the public. Climate Central surveys and conducts scientific research on climate change and informs the public of key findings. Climate Central is not an advocacy organization, according to its web-site: www.climatecentral.org

Coast Guard: Fire extinguished on platform in Gulf of Mexico

AP — A fire broke out on an oil production platform in the Gulf of Mexico early Thursday, forcing four workers to evacuate by lifeboat before the blaze was extinguished. There were no injuries and inspectors found no sign of pollution, authorities said.

The blaze was reported about 2:30 a.m. on a platform about 80 miles south of Grand Isle, Louisiana, and was extinguished nearly four hours later, the Coast Guard said in a statement.

The four workers were rescued by the crew of the 130-foot Mary Wyatt Milano, a supply vessel, the Coast Guard said. They were flown to a hospital in Houma to be evaluated, the Interior Department's Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement said in a statement.

The company that owns the platform, Renaissance Offshore LLC, has suspended oil production on it and a second platform it owns, the statement said, adding that 17 oil wells associated with the two platforms were similarly "shut in" before the workers were evacuated.

Company and government inspectors confirmed that no oil is leaking into the water from either the platform or the wells, said Renaissance spokesman Oliver Marsh.

"Initial efforts were made by the crew to extinguish the fire, (but) the decision was made to discontinue those efforts and abandon the platform due to heavy smoke," Marsh wrote in an email.

Crew members aboard the Mary Wyatt Milano and three other vessels battled the blaze. An HC-144 Ocean Sentry airplane from Mobile, Alabama, also responded, said Coast Guard Petty Officer Third Class Travis Magee.

Clean Gulf, a nonprofit oil industry cooperative that responds to spills and provides equipment to help clean them up, was on its way to the platform Thursday.

An oil platform exploded and sank in the Gulf of Mexico in April 2010, killing 11 workers. Millions of gallons of oil spewed into the Gulf for weeks before the oil well could be capped.

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Mexico gas protests, looting leave 2 dead, 700 arrested

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Anger over gasoline prices hikes in Mexico fueled more protests and looting Thursday, and officials said the unrest had resulted in the death of a policeman and a bystander, the ransacking of 300 stores and arrests of over 700 people.

The country's business chambers said the combination of highway, port and terminal blockades and looting this week forced many stores and businesses to close and threatened supplies of basic goods and fuel. The scenes of mass lootings came as parents faced the last shopping day to get presents for their children before the Jan. 6 Epiphany or Three Kings Day holiday.

Mexicans were enraged by the 20 percent fuel price hike announced over the weekend as part of a government deregulation of the energy sector.

While acknowledging the anger, President Enrique Peña Nieto said Thursday he would forge ahead anyway with the deregulated price scheme, which would do away with fuel subsidies

and allow gasoline prices to be determined by prevailing international prices.

"I know that allowing gasoline to rise to its international price is a difficult change, but as president, my job is to precisely make difficult decisions now, in order to avoid worse consequences in the future," Peña Nieto said in a televised address. "Keeping gas prices artificially low would mean taking money away from the poorest Mexicans, and giving it to those who have the most."

Peña Nieto said the other big challenge for Mexico in 2017 was to "build a positive relationship with the new U.S. administration," something he said would be done with Mexico's "unbreakable dignity."

While looting calmed somewhat Thursday, protesters blocked highways at about two dozen places. For much of the week, protesters have blockaded gas stations and some people have broken into stores to carry off merchandise.

Authorities said that one policeman was run over and

killed and another was seriously injured when they tried to stop robberies at a gas station in Mexico City. Police in the capital said they had arrested 76 people for looting about 29 stores.

In the Gulf coast state of Veracruz, a pickup truck trying to flee police during a store looting ran over a pedestrian, killing him, officials said.

Veracruz Gov. Miguel Ángel Yunes Linares ventured out Thursday and tried to persuade a crowd not to attack a grocery store that had already been looted a day earlier. He offered the crowd coupons for 500 pesos (\$23.25). Yunes later said that wasn't an incentive to stop looting, but rather offered as assistance to help single mothers buy holiday gifts.

In Mexico State, which borders Mexico City, 529 people had been detained as suspected looters. Four state police officers were fired and detained after they were caught on video taking some looted items and putting them in their patrol vehicles. The state government said the looting had quieted

down Thursday. But video of the Wednesday disturbances showed riot-like scenes of people streaming out of stores carrying flat-screen TVs and other items.

Officials claimed many of the lootings incidents were promoted through social media.

With blockades affecting everything from gas distribution terminals, seaports and highways to shopping centers and gas stations, the Communications and Transport Department announced it would cancel permits for any truckers who block roads.

Truck and taxi drivers have been among the most affected by the fuel price increases, which took effect as the government ends regulated prices for gasoline and diesel, which it says represented subsidies that unduly benefited wealthier Mexicans.

The change boosted the average price for a liter of premium gasoline to 17.79 pesos (about 90 cents). That makes 4 liters, or about a gallon, equal to nearly as much as Mexico's just raised minimum wage for a day's work — 80 pesos

(about \$4).

The Mexican Council of Bishops urged the government to reconsider the price increases, which it said especially hurt the poor.

"One has to be sensitive to the daily needs of the people," the bishops said in a statement. "It is not right to impose laws without taking into account peoples' realities and their feelings."

But the bishops also called on protesters to stop looting and "use peaceful and creative means to express their feelings."

The National Association of Self-Service and Department Stores of Mexico said in a statement Wednesday night that more than 79 stores had been looted and 170 were closed or blockaded in central Mexico, including the capital.

In the city of Veracruz, 50 establishments including convenience stores, supermarkets and big-box outlets suffered looting, according to a preliminary count by the local chamber of commerce Wednesday.

105-year-old Frenchman sets cycling record

SAINT-QUENTIN-YVELINES, France (AP) — Nearly a century ago, Robert Marchand was told by a coach that he should give up cycling because he would never achieve anything on a bike.

He proved that prediction wrong again on Wednesday.

In a skin-tight yellow and violet jersey, the 105-year-old Frenchman set a world record in the 105-plus age category — created especially for the tireless veteran — by riding 22.547 kilometers (14.010 miles) in one hour.

"I'm now waiting for a rival," he said.

Marchand had ridden faster in the past on the boards of the Velodrome National, a state of the art venue used to host the elite of track cycling. But he had warned before his latest attempt that his current form was not as good.

"I did not see the sign warning me I had 10 minutes left," Marchand said after his effort. "Otherwise I would have gone faster, I would have posted a better time. I'm not tired. I thought my legs would hurt, but they don't. My arms hurt, you have to hurt somewhere."

Three years ago at the same venue, Marchand covered 26.927 kilometers (16.731 miles) in one hour to better his own world record in the over-100s category.

Still, impressed fans and chanted "Robert, Robert" during the last minutes of his ride. Marchand received a standing ovation once he completed the last of his 92 laps and was then mobbed by dozens of cameramen and TV crews.

"He could have been faster but he made a big mistake. He has stopped eating meat over the past month after being shocked by recent reports on how animals are subjected to cruel treatment," Marchand's physiologist, Veronique Billat, told The Associated Press.

By way of comparison, the current overall world record for one hour is 54.526 kilometers (33.880 miles) set by British rider Bradley Wiggins in 2015. But Wiggins, who smashed the previous record using the world's leading track cycling equipment, is now retired.

Marchand, who lives in a small flat in a Parisian suburb with a meager pension of about 900

euros (\$940), keeps pedaling and stretching every day. As if time had no effect on him.

"He's got two essential qualities. A big heart that pumps a lot of blood, and he can reach high heart beat values that are exceptional for his age," said Billat, a university professor. "If he starts eating meat again and builds more muscle, he can better this mark."

Marchand, a former firefighter who was born in 1911 in the northern town of Amiens, has lived through two world wars. He led an eventful life that took him to Venezuela, where he worked as a truck driver near the end of the 1940s. He then moved to Canada and became a lumberjack for a while.

Back in France in the 1960s, Marchand made a living through various jobs that left him with no time to practice sports.

He finally took up his bike again when he was 68 years old and began a series of cycling feats.

The diminutive Marchand — he is 1.52 meters (5-foot) tall and weighs 52 kilograms (115 pounds) — rode from Bordeaux to Paris, and Paris to Roubaix

several times. He also cycled to Moscow from Paris in 1992 and set the record for someone over the age of 100 riding 100 kilometers (62 miles).

"If the president of his teenage club who told him he was not made for cycling because he was too small could see him today, he would kick himself," Marchand's coach and good friend Gerard Mistler told the AP.

According to Mistler, the secret behind

Marchand's longevity relates to his healthy lifestyle: eating a lot of fruits and vegetables, no smoking, just the occasional glass of wine and exercising on a daily basis.

"He never pushed his limits, goes to bed at 9 p.m. and wakes up at 6 a.m., there's no other secret," Mistler said. "If had been doping, he would not be there anymore."

To stay fit, Marchand

rides every day on his home trainer and puts himself through outdoor training sessions on the road when the weather is good enough.

"One needs to keep his muscles working," said Marchand, a faithful reader of communist newspaper L'Humanite.

"Reading a lot keeps his mind alert," Mistler said. "He does not watch much TV, apart from the Tour de France stages."

US belief missing journalist is alive boosts parents' hopes

HOUSTON (AP) — The parents of an American journalist taken hostage in Syria in 2012 say their hope that their son will come home safely has never wavered.

That faith recently got a boost from U.S. officials, who told the family they have high confidence Austin Tice is alive.

"On a certain level, people expect the parents, the family to be optimistic and to feel good about a positive outcome," Tice's father, Marc Tice, told *The Associated Press* during an interview at his Houston home Thursday. "Getting that word from official sources just reinforces that, yes, this is not wasted effort. This is real effort that needs to continue."

U.S. Department of State spokesman Frankie Sturm declined to comment about how officials determined Tice, who was kidnapped in August 2012 near Damascus while covering the civil war, remains alive in captivity.

Tice is a former Marine who has reported for *The Washington Post*, *McClatchy Newspapers*, *CBS* and other outlets, and disappeared shortly after his 31st birthday. A month after his kidnapping, a video was released showing a blindfolded Tice being held by armed men and saying "Oh, Jesus." He has not been heard from since.

The circumstances surrounding his disappearance are still a mystery, it's not clear what entity is holding him and no ransom demand has ever been made. But the press freedom group Reporters Without Borders has said that it doesn't believe Tice is being held by the Islamic State group.

Tice's parents got the update on his status late last year from James O'Brien, President Barack Obama's Special Envoy for Hostage Affairs. That position was created in 2015 following criticism over how the federal government handled efforts to free Americans taken hostage abroad.

In November, State Department spokesman John Kirby told reporters the U.S. will continue to work with the Czech government, which serves as protecting power for U.S. interests in Syria, to gather information about Tice.

"And we're obviously going to continue publicly and privately to urge all sides to ensure the safety of journalists that are operating in Syria, and obviously to call on Austin's captors to release him now and return him safely to his loved ones, which is where he belongs," Kirby said.


Marc Tice, 59, said it remains critical that his son's captors "reach out to us and let us know what can be done to complete the solution to bring our son home."

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4 suspects in beating of disabled man appear in court

CHICAGO (AP) — A judge rebuked four black people accused of beating a mentally disabled white man and broadcasting the attack on Facebook, sternly asking, "Where was your sense of decency?" before denying their attorneys' pleas to set bail so they might be released from jail.

"I find each of you a danger to yourself and society," Cook County Circuit Judge Maria Kuriakos Ciesil said, sounding baffled that the suspects who hold jobs, attend school, live with grandparents and, in one case, care for a brother in a wheelchair, could stand accused of attacking the 18-year-old victim. How, she wondered, could she agree to allow people accused of such "terrible actions" walk out of jail?

Prosecutors offered new details of the assault, explaining that one of the suspects demanded \$300 from the victim's mother and that the beating started in a van and continued at a house.

The suspects are accused of forcing the victim to drink

toilet water and kiss the floor. They allegedly stuffed a sock into his mouth, taped his mouth shut and bound his hands with a belt.

Authorities say they also threatened him with a knife and taunted him with profanities against white people and President-elect Donald Trump.

The 18-year-old victim, who is from a Chicago suburb, suffers from schizophrenia and attention-deficit disorder, authorities said.

The suspects are all are charged with two hate crimes — one because the young man was disabled and one because of race. They are also accused of kidnapping and battery, among other offenses.

The four were identified as Brittany Covington and Tesfaye Cooper, both of Chicago, and Jordan Hill, of suburban Carpentersville. All are 18. A fourth suspect was identified as Covington's 24-year-old sister, Tanishia Covington, also of Chicago.

Two of the suspects were arrested as juveniles on armed robbery and other serious

charges.

Hill was arrested in 2015 on allegations of armed robbery, possession of a stolen vehicle and residential burglary. Chicago police said they did not know the disposition of those arrests by suburban officers.

Tanishia Covington was arrested in 2007 on attempted armed robbery and aggravated battery charges. Police records do not show any convictions as a juvenile. As an adult, she was arrested on charges of battery and aggravated assault, but those charges were dropped.

The beating was captured on cellphone video by one of the assailants and has since been viewed millions of times on social media.

The uproar over the beating intensified the glare on Chicago after a bloody year of violent crime and protests against Mayor Rahm Emanuel and a police department that has been accused of using excessive force and hushing-up wrongdoing. The department has also been the subject of a long civil-rights investigation by the Justice

Department, which is expected to report its findings soon.

The incident also stirred emotions still raw after a presidential election campaign that split the nation. The case heightened political tensions on social media, with some conservatives suggesting it was linked to the Black Lives Matter movement. Police said there was no indication of any connection.

Excerpts of the video posted by Chicago media outlets show the victim with his mouth taped shut and slumped in a corner of a room. At least two assailants are seen cutting off his sweatshirt, and others taunt him off camera. The video shows a wound on the top of the man's head. One person pushes the man's head with his or her foot.

A red band also appears to be around the victim's hands. He was tied up for four to five hours, authorities said.

The incident began New Year's Eve, when the victim and alleged assailant Jordan

Hill met at a suburban McDonald's to begin what both the victim and his parents believed would be a sleepover, police said.

Instead, Hill drove the victim around in a stolen van for a couple of days, ending up at a home in Chicago, where two of the other suspects lived, Detective Commander Kevin Duffin said.

The victim told police what began as playful fighting escalated. A downstairs neighbor who heard noises threatened to call police. When two of the suspects left and kicked down the neighbor's door, the victim escaped. A police officer later spotted the bloodied and obviously disoriented man wandering down a street.

The victim's parents reported him missing Monday evening, two days after last hearing from him. The parents later received text messages "from persons claiming to be holding him captive," police said. While investigating the messages, police discovered the Facebook video.

FBI: Roof displaying racist symbols even during trial

CHARLESTON, S.C. (AP) — Dylann Roof is as entrenched in his white supremacist beliefs as ever, even wearing shoes on them, an FBI agent testified Friday.

Roof faces life in prison or execution for killing nine black church members in a racially motivated attack in 2015. He is representing himself during the sentencing phase of his trial, but so far he has not asked jurors to spare his life or cross-examine any witnesses put forth by prosecutors.

FBI agent Joseph Hamski said that Roof wore the shoes as recently as Monday. When authorities searched Roof's cell in August 2015 as part of a suicide watch, they also found a pair of white slip-on sneakers with a cross associated with white supremacy

drawn on them.

Hamski testified about Roof's conversations online before the shootings, where, as user "LilAryan," he interacted with others on a white supremacist website. The FBI agent read several passages from a journal found in Roof's cell. In it, Roof wrote at length about his thoughts on the superiority of the white race and he drew a variety of symbols associated with white supremacy, similar to what was on his shoes.

The same jury that last month convicted Roof of 33 federal charges, including hate crimes and obstruction of justice, will soon begin deliberating his fate for the slayings at Charleston's Emanuel AME Church.

Prosecutors have said they plan to wrap up their case on Monday, and

the judge said he expects jurors could begin discussions Tuesday.

Roof has said he doesn't plan on calling any witnesses. He addressed jurors directly during his opening statement, insisting he wasn't mentally ill, but he did not ask them to spare his life.

Much of prosecutors' case has focused on testimony from friends and family of the victims, and one of the three survivors of the shooting. Roof objected to the avalanche of emotional testimony, asking for limits on it or more frequent breaks. U.S. District Judge Richard Gergel has asked prosecutors to pare down their witness lists, saying he doesn't wish to hamper their case but that he'd like to keep the trial moving along.

On Friday, prosecutors called more

relatives of victims of the shooting.

Sharon Risher, church sexton Ethel Lance's oldest daughter, said her mother had her at age 14 and endured hardship and struggle, raising a biracial child in the 1950s and 1960s.

"I know that she had to deal with a lot of guilt and shame, but that didn't stop her because her mission then in life was to make sure that she was able to take care of me," Risher said.

Walter Jackson Sr., the self-proclaimed "favorite grandson" of 87-year-old Susie Jackson, said going to Sunday services with his grandmother was an "all-day thing," but he wouldn't have been anywhere else.

"I had a cool grandmother," he said. "She always encouraged me to be myself."

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A fun Friday for BSHS teams

Lady Steers open district play with win over Snyder

By STEVE REAGAN

Staff Writer

When you're a young team struggling to establish itself, a win is a win — style points are irrelevant.

Like any basketball squad loaded with underclassmen, the Lady Steers showed both flashes of promise and stretches of frustration Friday against Snyder, but in this case, the former outweighed the latter.

Rallying from an early deficit, Big Spring rode a strong inside defense and timely shooting to a 54-41 victory over Snyder to launch the team's District 3-4A campaign on a positive note.

The Lady Steers improved to 5-14 overall with the win, while Snyder fell to 4-21 overall and 0-1 in district play with the loss.

BSHS Head Coach Lacy Parker was happy with the win — up to a point.

"I wouldn't say it was pretty, by any stretch of the imagination," Parker said. "There were a lot of things we did I haven't seen us do since November; we went back a couple of steps in a lot of things. But when you can do that and not play your best, and still win, it's a good day."

The Steers spotted Snyder an early 7-1 lead before they began finding the range on offense to cut their deficit to 10-9 after one quarter.

Kamri Kemper tied the game 18 seconds into the second quarter with a free throw, then the Lady Steers began exerting control of matters, keyed by two plays from freshman Trinity Galloway.

Galloway, who was just called up to the varsity in December, sank a short jumper to give Big Spring its first lead of the game, then fed Kayleigh Penny on the following possession to give the Lady Steers a little bit of a cushion.

"The light bulb went off for (Galloway) over Christmas break at the tournament we played at," Parker said. "She has played some huge minutes. We all knew she could do it, we all had 100 percent confidence in her. It just took her realizing she could do it. She's going to be huge for us."

The score remained tight until midway through the third quarter, when Snyder's Kirsti Pierce sank a jumper to cut Big Spring's lead to 25-22. Af-

See **BSHS**, Page 2B



Big Spring's Amber Martinez scores two of her team-high 15 points during the Lady Steers' 54-41 win over Snyder Friday night in Steer Gym.

Tony Claxton photo (www.claxtonphotography.com)

Steers defeat Ft. Stockton

By STEVE REAGAN

Staff Writer

FORT STOCKTON — A hot start was just what the Big Spring Steers needed to put an end to a long losing streak.

The Steers stormed out of the gate, scoring 20 points in the first quarter, then held off Fort Stockton the rest of the way to take a 54-48 non-district basketball victory Friday night.

Jeremiah Rushin scored 18 points — 10 in the opening quarter — to lead the Steers, who notched their second victory of the season against 17 defeats.

BSHS Head Coach Nicholas Tyerman was understandably happy to see the end of the Steers' losing streak.

"We had some hiccups defensively in the second quarter, but this was probably our most consistent game of the year, as far as taking care of the ball and not having turnovers," he said.

Rushin and the Steers shrugged Fort Stockton's zone defense in the first quarter, which ended with Big Spring holding a 20-12 advantage.

"We were able to take

See **STEERS**, Page 2B

Wild Card Weekend



AP file photo

Oakland's Amari Cooper (89) breaks away from Houston defenders for a touchdown during the teams' game earlier this season.

Texans take on Oakland

HOUSTON (AP) — Two weeks ago, the Oakland Raiders were heading for the playoffs with MVP candidate Derek Carr at quarterback.

Now they're down to rookie third-string quarterback Connor Cook as they prepare for their first postseason game since the 2002 season with a wild-card matchup against the Houston Texans on Saturday.

Cook was named the starter this week after Carr broke his leg on Dec. 24 and backup Matt McGloin injured his shoulder

on Sunday. Cook, who made his NFL debut last week, will be the first quarterback in NFL history to make his first start in a playoff game.

But the Raiders (12-4) aren't feeling sorry for themselves.

"You do the best you can regardless of the circumstances," Raiders coach Jack Del Rio said. "To me it's a great opportunity. You have these great opportunities in life to be at your best, and you get these great challenges.

See **TEXANS**, Page 2B

Tannehill out as Dolphins prepare for Pittsburgh

DAVIE, Fla. (AP) — The Miami Dolphins dispensed with any pretense of suspense regarding their quarterback situation.

Big Spring native Ryan Tannehill was ruled out of Sunday's playoff game at Pittsburgh, and backup Matt Moore will start for the fourth week in a row. The Dolphins announced the decision Thursday after determining Tannehill still isn't ready to practice because of a sprained left

knee.

"It felt like it was the right thing to do," coach Adam Gase said, "just so we can move on in this week and not play, 'What are we going to do?' and focus on what we're doing right now with Matt."

Moore, a 10th-year pro, is 2-1 as Tannehill's replacement and will make his first career postseason start.

"He knows he's our relief pitcher," offensive coordi-

nator Clyde Christensen said. "We try to make the decision early in the week, because it's hard to get two guys prepared. He assumed he was doing it. He has continued to prepare as a starter."

If the Dolphins win Sunday, Tannehill could return for their second-round game Jan. 14 at New England. Such a scenario is the reason Miami

See **MIAMI**, Page 2B

Seahawks, Lions limp into playoffs

SEATTLE (AP) — Only a few weeks ago, the Seattle Seahawks and Detroit Lions were fighting for the No. 2 seed in the NFC playoffs and a coveted bye that makes getting to the Super Bowl so much easier.

Stumbles by both teams over the final few weeks have led to the Seahawks hosting the Lions in the NFC wild-card game on Saturday night and a test of whether momentum even matters going into the playoffs.

"There's obviously been

a bunch of different teams that have done different stuff going in and then turn on a real good show and get going in the playoffs," Seattle coach Pete Carroll said. "We'll see what happens."

Both teams will look back on the final few weeks with

a certain level of regret.

Detroit (9-7) faced a gauntlet schedule, closing with three playoff teams — Giants, Cowboys, Packers — and lost all three to give away the NFC North title and its shot of hosting a playoff game.

Seattle may view its stumble as more costly. The Seahawks (10-5-1) lost control of the No. 2 seed when they lost at home to Arizona in Week 16 and with it the chance to be

See **LIONS**, Page 3B

Green Bay-New York preview, Page 4B

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BSHS

Continued from Page 1B

ter that, however, it was all Lady Steers.

Alexis Delafuente started the run with a seeing-eye pass to Ka-Sondra Williams for an easy basket, and Logan Terrazas followed by scoring baskets on three of the Lady Steers' next four possessions. By the time Amber Martinez canned a mid-range jumper with 1:27 left in the third quarter, Big Spring had pushed its lead to 38-26, and maintained control the rest of the way.

Martinez scored 15 points — 9 from beyond the three-point arc — to lead Big Spring, while Pierce led Snyder with 16 points.

One win does not a season make, and the Lady Steers face a huge test in their next game Tuesday at Abilene Wylie, but for now the team can savor being unbeaten in the district standings.

"I am always proud of how competitive this team is," Parker said. "Today was not pretty, but they found a way to win, and sometimes, that's all it takes."

Contact Staff Writer Steve Reagan at 432-263-7331, ext. 235, or email reporter@bigspringherald.com



Tony Claxton photo (www.claxtonphotography.com)

Big Spring's Kamri Kemper attempts a shot during the Lady Steers' 54-51 win over Snyder Friday.

STEERS

Continued from Page 1B

advantage of a hole in their zone and score quickly," Tyerman said. "That forced them to change their defense on us."

The "hiccup" Tyerman alluded to came in the second quarter, when Fort Stockton turned the tables on Big Spring, scoring 19

points to take a 31-30 lead at intermission. However, the Steer reclaimed the lead in the third quarter and were able to hold off the Panthers the rest of the way.

The Steers' junior varsity and freshmen also were victorious Friday — the JV won, 50-39, while BSHS took the 9th grade game by a 48-47 score.

Big Spring plays its final non-district game of the season Tuesday

when the Steers host Midland High School at Steer Gym. Tyerman said he scheduled Midland for the expressed purpose of seeing how his team handles a full-court press, such as the one the Bulldogs feature.

"The most important thing I want to see is how they handle the full-court press," he said. "Midland ... tries to make you want to go faster than you want to,

and I want us to dictate the tempo as much as possible."

Tip-off Tuesday is scheduled for 7:30 p.m.

Contact Staff Writer Steve Reagan at 432-263-7331, ext. 235, or email reporter@bigspringherald.com

MIAMI

Continued from Page 1B

hasn't put him on injured reserve.

Gase said he believes Tannehill is close to returning to practice.

"We've got to keep talking to him, and he needs to keep letting us know where he's at and how he feels," Gase said. "We try to do different drills with him and just to try to figure out what he can articulate to us."

The Dolphins are 2-1 with Moore starting. He has eight touchdown passes, three interceptions and a quarterback rating of 105.6, which is

higher than Tannehill's career-best 93.5 this year.

"He's been in the league for more time than Tannehill, so he's got more experience," Steelers cornerback Ross Cockrell said. "For us on the back end, whether it's Matt Moore, whether it's Tannehill, it doesn't make a difference for our preparation. Our job is still to stop the run, create turnovers and put pressure on the quarterback."

Tannehill hadn't missed a game in five NFL seasons until he was sidelined against the Arizona Cardinals in Week 14. He has never played in the postseason, and the playoff game will be Miami's first since 2008.

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TEXANS

Continued from Page 1B

"So, how do you respond? What we want to do is respond like men and go in there full of energy and belief and fight our (tails) off."

Cook was a fourth-round pick after a four-year career at Michigan State where he threw for 9,194 yards with 71 touchdowns and 22 interceptions.

He expects to be a bit nervous early on Saturday, but believes his big-game experience with the Spartans will help him calm down quickly.

"You always have the nerves leading up to the game and once you get out there you have a couple snaps and you get hit, get knocked down then all of that stuff kind of goes away and you start to play ball," he said.

The Texans (9-7) also had a quarterback shakeup this week and Brock Osweiler returns to the starting lineup after being benched two weeks ago.

Tom Savage started Houston's last two regular-season games, but is out this week after suffering a concussion on Sunday.

Osweiler is looking to redeem himself and help Houston to its first playoff win since the 2012 season after failing to live up to expectations in his first season after signing a \$72 million contract.

Under his guidance Houston's passing game has been one of the worst in the league and he's thrown more interceptions (16) than touchdowns (15).

The Texans liked the way he performed after taking over when Savage went down on Sunday and expect him to build off that against the Raiders.

"There's nothing different from a regular-season game to a playoff game," Osweiler said.

"The stakes are higher, obviously ... but it's just a normal football game. I've had great success in this league playing football, so I'm very confident. I'm very confident in my teammates and I know we'll be ready to go."

Some things to know about the Raiders-Texans game.

TOP-RANKED DEFENSE: While Houston's offense has struggled this season, the defense has flourished despite a season-ending injury to star defensive end J.J. Watt. The Texans ended the regular season ranked first in the NFL for the first time in franchise history by allowing 301.3 yards a game. The emergence of 2014 top overall pick Jadeveon Clowney, who has a career-high six sacks and 16 tackles for losses, has been a key to Houston's success against the run, and safety Quintin Demps starred in the secondary with a career-high six interceptions.

OUT OF THE BACKFIELD: While the Raiders struggled to run the ball in the first meeting with a season-low 30 yards on 20 carries, that didn't mean it wasn't a productive game for the running backs. Latavious Murray, Jamize Olawale and Jalen Richard combined for 199 yards receiving on 11 catches, including a game-tying 75-yard TD pass to Olawale in the fourth quarter.

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Amid abuses, college sports sometimes gets it right

TAMPA, Fla. — Deshaun Watson wanted to be first. We're not talking about anything he's done on the football field.

The Clemson quarterback may be going for a national championship Monday night, but he's already scored one of the biggest victories of his life.

In just three years, Watson became the first member of his family to graduate from a four-year college. He walked across the stage a couple of weeks ago, wearing a cap and tassel rather than a helmet, to claim his degree in communications.

"No one can take that away from me," Watson said. "I put the time and the work in, and knowledge is something you can't take away from a person."

For all the well-documented abuses in college athletics, from players getting someone else to do their schoolwork to the massive academic fraud carried out by North Carolina, there are plenty of guys who do things the right way.

Many of them will be on the field in Tampa, suiting up for both teams.

They're all deserving of a shout-out.

Jonathan Allen, Alabama's star defensive lineman, returned to college for his senior season — time spent not only boosting his stock in the upcoming NFL draft but earning his diploma in financial planning.

Even if Allen goes on to have a long, successful career in the pros, he figures that having a degree will come in handy when he's done.

"There's no telling what I'll want to do after my football career," he said. "Just having that degree opens up way more doors."

That's a message that Alabama coach Nick Saban preaches to all his players.

"We tell guys when they come here, 'You're in the business of developing two careers, one off the field by graduating from school, and one on the field if you can become a good enough player to have an opportunity to play at the next level,'" Saban said.

Even at a powerhouse school such as Alabama, which is going for its fifth national title in eight years and sent countless players to the NFL, there are no guar-

antees of future riches on the gridiron. Besides, Saban adds, no matter how successful someone might be as a player, he's still likely to spend a majority of life not playing football.

"The key thing is the importance of education, the importance of developing a career off the field," the coach said. "If you're a great football player, which may be 1 percent of all college football players, you may play football for five, six, seven, eight years, probably no more, which means you're 30 years old and then your career is over. What do you do for the next 50 years of your life?"

The last two teams standing in college football both scored well on the most recent Academic Progress Rate (APR) released by the NCAA. Clemson ranked third in the Atlantic Coast Conference, trailing only Duke and Georgia Tech, while Alabama tied with Florida for the third spot in the Southeastern Conference.

Both Clemson and Alabama ranked among the top 25 in the Football Bowl Subdivision.

Of course, there's no denying that plenty of athletes — especially in big-time football and basketball programs that are really nothing

more than farm systems for the pros — have no concern about actually learning anything while in college.

Often, they are directed into so-called clusters — courses of study populated with star athletes, many of them largely intent on making academics as easy as possible so they can stay academically eligible just long enough to get started on their NFL or NBA careers.

But Watson's mother Deann, who battled cancer while raising Deshaun and his siblings on her own, had no intention of letting her son go down that path.

She stressed all along that he was at Clemson to not only play football, but to get his degree.

Watson took her prodding to heart, graduating a year ahead of schedule so he'd already have his diploma in hand before he headed off to the NFL after his junior season.

"It's amazing how he accomplished all this stuff," said Sonia Watson, who is Deshaun's aunt. "Not too many people could do that."

Watson graduated early from high school so he could enroll at Clemson in January 2014. He took on a massive workload during the 2015-16 school year, completing 37 academic hours so he would

have a light class load for his last semester in college.

The entire family was on hand to celebrate when he got his degree.

"That was very important to his momma," Sonia Watson said. "It's not just about football. It's about getting his degree, too. You never know what might happen. She kept a firm hand on his shoulder, and he got it done. We're so proud of him."

Watson's influence wore off on his teammates. His top receiver, Artavis Scott, also graduated in three years with a communications degree.

Clemson coach Dabo Swinney said Scott wasn't "very committed to being a great student coming of high school," but he began to realize the value of an education while rooming with Watson.

"It's just been awesome to watch (Scott) transform his life here and really value and be as hungry to be great academically as he's been athletically," Swinney said. "Those two just took off together."

College athletics has a lot of problems.

But sometimes they get it right.

Paul Newberry is a sports columnist for the Associated Press.



PAUL NEWBERRY

LIONS

Continued from Page 1B

resting. "History kind of shows you that it's a true restart," Detroit QB Matthew Stafford said. "We're looking at data and who's won it and how, and all that kind of stuff. I'm sure there's been teams that have gotten hot and gone and won it, but there are teams that have not had the finish that they wanted and still gone on to be really successful."

There is a lot in favor for the Seahawks playing at home against a Detroit franchise that last won a playoff road game in 1957. Seattle is 5-0 in the playoffs at home since 2010 and has won at least one game in each postseason appearance under Carroll. Since 2012, the Seahawks are 7-3 overall in the playoffs.

All that experience and success doesn't take into account the statistical differences. The Seahawks finished the regular season better than Detroit in every major statistical category offensively and defensively.

But the Lions have

shown resiliency all season, recovering from a 1-3 start and winning an NFL-record eight times when trailing in the fourth quarter or overtime.

"Their belief — like the way they believe — you can just see the energy change when they make a big play," Seattle linebacker Bobby Wagner said. "Whether it's on defense, special teams, offense. Something typically happens where they feed off that energy."

Here's what else to watch in the first playoff meeting between the teams:

RUN SOMEWHERE: Both the Lions and Seahawks have a run game neither is proud of going into the postseason.

Seattle finished the regular season 25th in the NFL at 99.4 yards per game. Detroit was worse at 81.9 yards per game, good for 30th in the league. The Lions are relying on Zach Zenner as their primary ball carrier with both Ameer Abdullah and Theo Riddick on injured reserve.

Seattle has shown flashes of being the run-first team of previous seasons, but failed to top 100 yards as a team

in the final three games of the regular season.

UNIKND QUARTER: Detroit's best quarter has been the second, outscoring teams by 18 points, helping it lead Dallas and Green Bay at halftime before losing both games. Detroit is down two points overall in the first and fourth quarters. In the third, the Lions have been outscored 85-53.

"The third quarters have not been kind to us," Lions offensive coordinator Jim Bob Cooter said. "We haven't had the ball a lot, we haven't made much out of that, we haven't created first downs to keep the ball, something we're working at."

FAMILIAR FACES: Outside of Stafford, there aren't too many recognizable faces with the Lions for Seattle's Cliff Avril to catch up with. Conversely, there are plenty of players still on the Seahawks

roster from when Golden Tate was Seattle's top wide receiver.

Avril is hoping to exchange pleasantries with Stafford in the form of sacks and quarterback hits. Avril is coming off the best season of his career with 11½ sacks and the key to Seattle's pass rush that tied for third in the league with 42 sacks.

Meanwhile, Tate caught 90 or more passes for the third straight season since leaving Seattle and joining the Lions.

A big game from Tate — especially on short passes — could be significant in making up for Detroit's lagging run game. **DETROIT VS EVERYBODY:** The Motor City often feels slighted, or overlooked, and the Lions have added to the story line because some officiating calls have not gone their way in recent seasons, including

last year in Seattle.

Detroit was once powerful, winning three NFL championships in four title game appearances between 1952 and 1957, but the Lions have won only one playoff game in six decades. Wives and girlfriends of Lions players wore black sweatshirts with "Detroit vs. Everybody," printed on them for the regular season finale against Green Bay.

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On the ball

Big Spring's Aissa Cervantes (55) grabs a rebound during the Lady Steers' District 3-4A basketball game against Snyder in Steer Gym Friday night. Other Lady Steers in on the play include Kamri Kemper (22) and Amber Martinez (2). Big Spring defeated Snyder, 54-41, to improve to 5-14 for the season and 1-0 in district play.

Tony Claxton photo
(www.claxtonphotography.com)

Packers, Rodgers look to keep streak going

GREEN BAY, Wis. (AP) — Aaron Rodgers backed up his confidence-boosting “run-the-table” statement with a remarkable six-game run of quarterback play that helped get the Green Bay Packers in the playoffs.

In the locker room, or on sideline conversations in practice, Rodgers' attitude didn't change. He remained steady, and believed in his teammates whether they were two games under .500 or NFC North champions.

Winners of six straight games, the Packers hope to keep their hot streak going Sunday when they meet the New York Giants in an NFC playoff game.

“The biggest compliment I could give him, he is coming in here every single week and been the same dude,” center Corey Linsley said Wednesday night after practice. “No matter when we were 4-3 or 4-6 or where we are now, he's never changed who he is. I think having that kind of consistency, with your leader is huge.”

A strong arm and uncanny knack to extend plays helps a lot, too.

Rodgers has thrown 15 touchdown passes without an interception during the winning streak. In fact, Rodgers hasn't been picked off since Week 10 in a 47-25 loss at Tennessee.

Keep in mind that Rodgers was hurt during much of December,



AP file photo

playing with either a sore hamstring or sore calf.

Both injuries have subsided, as evidenced by how much Rodgers hurt Detroit last week outside the pocket in a 31-24 win to clinch the NFC North title.

“Inside the pocket he can shred you, he can make all the throws,” Giants linebacker Jonathan Casillas said. “To think that such a good passer, you would think they'd get him out of the pocket, damper him, or put some type of uneasiness about him — but no, he's very comfortable outside the pocket.”

Rodgers was 23 of 45 for 259 yards, with two touchdowns and two interceptions in the teams' first meeting on Oct. 9, a 23-16 win for Green Bay at Lambeau

Field. That was back when the Packers were still trying to find their groove on offense.

Those big-play Packers are back, having scored at least 30 points each of the last four weeks.

But the Giants have changed, too, especially on defense. Just look at how New York flustered the high-octane Wash-

ington Redskins in a 19-10 win on the road that eliminated their NFC East foes from playoff contention.

The Giants have the second-best defense in the league, allowing just 17.8 points per game.

“Well, they're playing very good run defense ... and they've got playmakers in their back end,” coach Mike Mc-

Carthy said about the Giants' improvements since the teams met in Week 5.

But they perhaps haven't faced a quarterback on such a hot streak like the roll Rodgers is on now. He remarked that the Packers could “run the table” after their record dropped to 4-6, a scenario that seemed unlikely to a lot of people outside of the locker room at Lambeau.

There were certainly other factors at work besides Rodgers' stellar play.

The Packers, at least for a few games, got healthier at the injury-decimated positions of cornerback and linebacker.

Converted receiver Ty Montgomery has shown big-play flashes at running back, helping to make up for the season-ending ankle injury to Eddie Lacy in October. Receiver Jordy Nelson and Rodgers are proving to be a dangerous red-zone combination again.

But “run the table” stands as a turning point in remarkable late-season rebound in Green Bay. Those six straight wins mean a lot.

“Because guys have confidence and there's an expectation that you're going to win. Whereas before, it was . . . hope,” Rodgers said. “Now, there's an expectation that when we take the field we're going to come away with a ‘W.’”

Notes: WR Randall Cobb, who missed the last two weeks with an ankle injury, was limited in practice on Wednesday. Cobb appeared to be moving well on the practice field.

“I hope so,” Cobb said when asked if he would play against the Giants. “I expected to play last week, but that didn't happen so we'll see.” ... Joe Thomas, one of the Packers' best linebackers in pass coverage, missed practice after leaving the Lions game with a back injury.



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Recycle that Christmas tree!

Christmas is over, and millions of Americans still have a rapidly drying and needle-shedding forest denizen decorating their living rooms. The city of Big Spring is ready, willing, and able to take that live Christmas tree off your hands and recycle it for free.

"We've been taking Christmas trees at the landfill for free," said city Public Works Director Johnny Womack. "We'll continue to take them through the end of Saturday, Jan. 14. So if you take it out there, you can dispose of it for free."

Womack emphasized that there is no provision for the city to pick up used trees and transport them to the landfill.

"They have to bring it out there themselves," he



WOMACK

said. "We encourage them to do it because the worst thing you can do with a live tree is put it out in your alley, because it will catch fire. Give it a couple of months where it gets good and dry, and it will burn worse than a tumbleweed."

Womack said the trees are put to good use.

"We grind them up," he said. "In February probably, we'll have a company come in and they'll grind them up into mulch, and then we use the mulch at the parks and things like that to help conserve water and combat erosion. If we clean off a large area or something like that, we'll put down wood chips to keep the dirt in place. Also, the parks department uses it around trees and stuff like that."

Christmas ornaments and lights should be removed from the tree prior to bringing it to the landfill, but some of the more tenacious decorations aren't a problem, Womack said.

"Tinsel won't hurt. If it's a live tree you can bring that out," he said. "If it has a wood stand on it, you don't even have to take the stand off, just throw the wood stand in with the tree. As long as it's a real tree. No artificial ones."

And you don't need to chop your tree into pieces, either.

"Nope. You can bring it whole," Womack said. "The machine they bring out will process logs up to about a foot around. It's a huge machine."

After Jan. 14, the landfill will revert to its standard fee for processing trees, Womack said.

"\$45 a ton," he said. "The thing is, to get them mulched, chipped up, it costs money. Nobody does it for free, and because it costs us money, we have to charge. If we don't charge, it comes out of the landfill fund."

Portions of a ton are prorated based on the \$45 per ton figure, Womack added.

Christmas Tree Recycling

- Big Spring Landfill - 4100 E. FM 700.
- 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday
- Free recycling ends Saturday, Jan. 14.
- No pick-ups, you must get the tree to the landfill yourself.
- Live trees only.
- Remove all ornaments and lights. Wooden stands and small amounts of tinsel and frosting are okay.
- Tree disposal after Jan. 14 is \$45 per ton, prorated for fractions of a ton.



Story and photos/Roger Cline
Clockwise from top: The Big Spring Landfill is accepting used Christmas trees for free recycling through Jan. 14; remove all ornaments and lights from trees to be recycled. Some tinsel and wooden tree stands are okay; the landfill has already been accepting used trees for more than a week. Following Jan. 14, the rate for tree disposal is \$45 per ton; trees at the landfill waiting to be chopped into mulch for use on city property; the landfill will accept the trees during its normal hours, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.



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Fergusons mark 50th anniversary



Special to the Herald

Thomas Douglas Ferguson and Darla Jeanne Cooley Ferguson of Big Spring celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with a reception in the Lake Room at Dora Roberts Community Center Dec. 3, 2016. Family and friends from several cities in Texas, including Big Spring, Coahoma, Kerrville, Miles, San Angelo, Borger, Granbury, Houston, Dallas, North Richland Hills, Arlington, Fort Worth, and Denton, as well as from Minnesota and Missouri, were in attendance.

The celebration was held a week before their actual anniversary date so that the couple could attend their daughter Tanya's graduation from Texas Tech University with a master's degree in nursing informatics.

The couple was married Dec. 10, 1966 in Borger, Texas, after meeting in Borger when Tom and his best friend Jerry were on leave from the U.S. Navy.



Tom graduated from Texas Tech University in 1971 and served in the U.S. Navy for four years before working as a CPA for Hollingsworth. He then served for 26 years as finance director and city secretary for the City of Big Spring, retiring in 2001.

Darla worked at Anthony's Department store for many years as a sales associate and for two years at the Big Spring State Hospital as a switchboard operator, as well as BSISD cafeteria and Home Interiors.

They love to travel all over the United States with family, and go to the lake. They loved taking their grandkids on "boy trips" and "girl trips" to share traveling with them. Tom and Darla avidly attend their grandchildren's school events and sports as well as those of their own children when they were in school. Darla

was active in helping with the American Little League. They enjoyed square dancing and bowling in their younger years.

Children include Tanya Rodriguez and husband Jesse of Miles, Craig Ferguson and wife Stephanie of Coahoma, and Brett Ferguson and wife Kerry of Kerrville.

Grandchildren include Jay Rodriguez of and Ryan Rodriguez, both of Arlington; Jerred Rodriguez and Brandon Rodriguez, both of Miles; Aaron Ferguson of San Angelo; Kenneth Ferguson and wife Lindsey of Honolulu, Hawaii; Ashley Ferguson of Coahoma; Kelsie Johnson and husband Josh of Oklahoma; Allison Ferguson of Austin; and Jaydin Gutierrez, Shayla Ferguson, and Taylor Ferguson, all of Kerrville.

Great-grandchildren include Lane, Aubrey, and Holly Johnson, all of Oklahoma.

Propps and Watkins to wed



Special to the HERALD

Mr. and Mrs. Gregory Propps of Houston are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter Carly Danielle Propps, to Jackson Richard Watkins, son of Mr. and Mrs. Rick Watkins of Big Spring.

Ms. Propps is a graduate of Texas Tech University with a bachelor of science degree in human sciences.

Mr. Watkins, a mechanical engineering graduate of Texas Tech University, is employed by West Texas Gas.

A beautiful spring wedding is planned for the evening of March 10, 2017, in Conroe, Texas. The couple will honeymoon in St. Lucia, and permanently reside in San Angelo following the wedding.

Gannaway twins born in November



Special to the HERALD

Twins Evelyn Anne and Grayson Robert were born Nov. 7 at Midland Memorial Hospital to Miranda and Greg Gannaway of Midland.


Evelyn was 5 lbs., 11 oz. and 19 inches upon arrival, while her younger brother Grayson, born one minute later, was 6 lbs. 14 oz. and 19 1/2 inches.

The babies' maternal grandparents are Robert and Cathy Parsons, and their paternal grandparents are Donna Gannaway, and Lynn and Jeri Gannaway, all of Big Spring.

The twins have an older sister, Ella, to show them the ropes.


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Big Spring ISD

Monday: Breakfast: Cereal, cheddar cheese stick, apples, fruit juice, milk; Lunch: Spaghetti, Italian bread, green beans, potato rounds, peaches, fruit cup, garden salad, milk.

Tuesday: Breakfast: Pancake on a stick, grapes, fruit juice, milk; Lunch: Crispy tacos, ranch beans, Mexicali corn, veggie cups, pineapple chunks, milk.

Wednesday: Breakfast: Sausage breakfast pizza, apples, fruit juice, milk; Lunch: Salisbury steak, mashed potatoes and gravy, Tuscan vegetables, roll, fruity Jell-O, fruit cup, milk.

Thursday: Breakfast: Blueberry muffin, banana, fruit juice, milk; Lunch: Barbecue chicken leg, roll, brown rice, carrots, garden salad, veggie cups, strawberries, milk.

Friday: Breakfast: PBJ Uncrustable, orange smiles, fruit juice, milk; Lunch: Southwest chicken macaroni, breadstick, sweet fries, garden salad, twisted applesauce, fruit cup, milk.

Forsan ISD

Monday: Breakfast: Mini maple waffle or cereal with toast, fruit juice, mandarin oranges, fresh fruit, milk; Lunch: Country fried steak, steak fingers, or chicken nuggets, mashed potatoes, gravy, savory green beans, fresh fruit, milk.

Tuesday: Breakfast: Breakfast sliders or cereal with toast, fruit juice, applesauce, fresh fruit, milk; Lunch: X-treme burrito or cheese enchiladas, Spanish rice, refried beans, garden salad, salsa, cookie, fresh fruit, milk.

Wednesday: Breakfast: French toast or cereal with toast, fruit juice, mandarin oranges, fresh fruit, milk; Lunch: Pizza, crispy chicken salad, Italian vegetables, fresh veggie cup, garden salad, fresh fruit, milk.

Thursday: Breakfast: Breakfast pizza or cereal with toast, fruit juice, pears, fresh fruit, milk; Lunch: Chicken sandwich or French garlic bread pizza, corn, baby carrots, garden salad, fresh fruit, milk.

Friday: Breakfast: Cinnamon roll with bacon or cereal with toast, fruit juice, mandarin oranges, fresh fruit, milk; Lunch: Hamburger or chicken strips with gravy and roll, California blend veggies, tater tots, baby carrots, fresh fruit, milk.

Sands CISD

Monday: Breakfast: Pancake, bacon, fruit, fruit juice, milk; Lunch: Corn dogs, tater tots, baked beans, broccoli bites, apple-pineapple d'lite, fruit.

Tuesday: Breakfast: Sunrise sandwich, fruit, fruit juice, milk; Lunch: Grilled cheese sandwich, soup, cucumber dippers, tiny tomato cup, pears, lime sherbet cup, milk, fruit.

Wednesday: Breakfast: Biscuit, gravy, scrambled eggs, sausage, fruit, fruit juice, milk; Lunch: X-treme burrito, salsa, seasoned corn, fresh veggie cup, lettuce and tomato garnish, mandarin oranges, milk, fruit.

Thursday: Breakfast: Breakfast strudel, yogurt, fruit, fruit juice, milk; Lunch: Salisbury steak, biscuit, brown gravy, roasted potatoes, garden salad, fruity gelatin, milk, fruit.

Friday: Breakfast: Breakfast burrito, hash browns, fruit, fruit juice, milk; Lunch: Hot dog, corn chips, baby carrots, crunchy broccoli salad, fresh grapes, cookie, milk, fruit.

Big Spring Senior Center

Monday: Baked ham, au gratin potatoes, broccoli and cauliflower, chocolate cake, bread, milk.

Tuesday: Hot dog with chili, mustard/ketchup/relish, baked beans, carrots and corn, mixed fruit, milk.

Wednesday: Teriyaki chicken, pineapple lime rice, stir fry vegetables, egg roll, tapioca pudding, milk.

Thursday: Soft beef taco, lettuce/tomato/cheese, Mexican rice, pineapple chunks, milk.

Friday: Fish sandwich, tartar sauce, black-eyed peas, okra and tomatoes, sugar cookies, milk.

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Roger's Reviews:

Passengers



By **ROGER CLINE**

Staff Writer

So "Passengers," the fairly new spacefaring romance movie starring Jennifer Lawrence and Chris Pratt isn't the train wreck I thought it would be. I was picturing kind of "Titanic in space," with "Jack" and "Rose" trapped on a dying spaceship instead of an early 20th century ocean liner. No, "Passengers" isn't quite that kind of train wreck.



The movie is set on a giant starship called the Avalon, which is transporting 5,000 sleeping colonists to a new planet. The ship passes through a giant asteroid field, and is damaged, which causes one of the passengers, mechanic Jim Preston (Pratt), to wake up 90 years too early. After exhausting all options like trying to go back to sleep (needs a special machine to put him to sleep, which isn't on the ship), trying to wake up the crew (they're locked away in an impenetrable compartment), and trying to send a message back to Earth (due to the speed of light, he can expect a reply in about 70 years); he befriends an android bartender named Arthur (Michael Sheen, no relation to the other Sheens) whose dialog responses are wonderfully programmed, and explores the what luxuries he can access on the ship. After about a year, he's bored and depressed. Then he sees a beautiful young woman in one of the pods, and is obsessed with her. He reads her passenger file, and discovers that she is Aurora Lane (Lawrence), a writer. Some of her writing is in her file, so he reads that, and basically falls in love with her. He debates with himself about whether to wake her up, but does (of course). Sometime after that, the ship's systems, still out of whack from that asteroid collision, start to go haywire and a crew member, one Gus Mancuso (Lawrence Fishburne), wakes up. The three have to try to fix the ship and Jim and Aurora have some issues to work out when she learns she didn't wake up by accident.

There's some good stuff here. There are some breathtaking space scenes - watch for Jim's first spacewalk and the scene where Avalon slingshots around a star - and shots of the Avalon, which is a wonderfully impractical spaceship design emphasizing beauty and grace more than function; but that's appropriate as it's basically a giant luxury liner. Some of these visuals come across as slightly plastic-y, but that's also appropriate given the environment.

It's fun seeing Jim discover all the various ame-

nities on the ship, and then rediscover them in a different light when he has Aurora to experience them with (example: the Dance Off holographic video game isn't as fun alone as it is with a partner!).

The chemistry between Pratt and Lawrence is good. I felt jealous of him when they were in love, and sorry for him when she was mad.

There are a few flies in the ointment. Every resource Jim (and later, Aurora) can find calmly and happily assures them that the sleep pods in the ship are absolutely foolproof and there's no way they can malfunction. Really? Absolutely foolproof? To the extent where there's no way on this giant ship to put a person back to sleep after they wake up. I'm not buying it.

It is explained in the movie that Jim wakes up Aurora because of his loneliness and depression. I'm not quite willing to give him a pass there. If he's just lonely and depressed, well, there are 4,999 other people on board, and they apparently all have detailed files about their personal lives. Maybe do a little research? Look for a Star Trek fan, somebody that has fantasies of sci-fi style spaceflight. Or at least somebody whose psychological profile (because you know those have to be in there too) indicates they might be a little bit less devastated to learn they will have to spend their whole life practically alone on a spaceship. No, Jim woke up Aurora not simply because he was generically lonely, but because he was obsessed with her specifically. He knew he was ruining her life plan, and did it anyway. That's pretty dark, and not a great basis for a relationship.

Anyway, it's a pretty fun movie for the most part, if you ignore corporate stupidity and can get past the knowledge of what an evil stalker Jim actually is. Six and a half stars out of 10.

Passengers

Director: Morten Tyldum

Writer: Jon Spaihts

Production companies: LStar Capital, Village Roadshow Pictures, Wanda Pictures

PG-13, 1 hr. 56 min., Adventure/Drama/Romance, Dec. 22, 2016

Roger saw this move 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 and enter the ZIP code 79720.

Will Hollywood be in the mood to party at Golden Globes?

AP — Is Hollywood in the mood to party?

On Sunday, the movie industry will gather for the Golden Globes, which are regularly one of the most freewheeling and frothiest award shows of the year. Champagne will flow. Punchlines will fly.

But the tone of this year's ceremony may be different, and not just because it will be the first time in nearly a decade that someone other than Ricky Gervais or the Tina Fey-Amy Poehler duo is hosting.

Jimmy Fallon will emcee this year's show, to be broadcast live from Beverly Hills, Calif., by NBC at 8 p.m. EST Sunday. But the transition on the minds of Hollywood is the one taking place in Washington on January 20. The election of Donald Trump has loomed over this year's awards season, where the movie industry's usual self-congratulatory toasting has been mixed with a foreboding sense of dread.

"We are living in very troubled times," Kenneth Lonergan,

writer and director of one of the season's favorites, "Manchester by the Sea," said Wednesday at the National Board of Review Awards. "How troubled, we don't know yet. It's going to be a lot of trouble, or it might be bad trouble like we've never seen."

Such speeches have been commonplace throughout the litany of awards that lead up, ultimately, to the Feb. 26 Academy Awards.

At Tuesday's New York Film Critics Circle Awards, "Daily Show" host Trevor Noah compared the lauded "O.J.: Made in America" to the election: "another bad decision based on fame and race." At the Gotham Film Independent Film Awards in November, Damian Lewis archly intoned, "The film that receives the most votes ... is the winner. It's a brilliant idea," referring to Trump's loss of the popular vote.

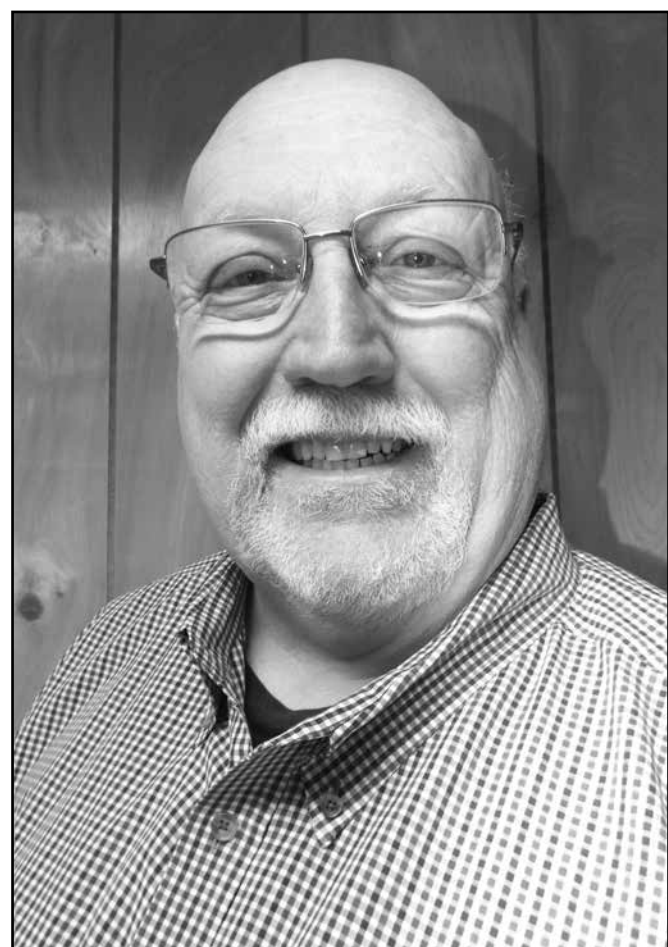
Barry Jenkins, the writer-director of the tender coming-of-age tale "Moonlight," said at the National Board of Review

Awards: "As we make America great again, let's remember some inconsiderable things in our legacy, because there was a time when someone like me was just not considered."

Fallon, who was criticized for what was considered a soft-ball interview of Trump on the "Tonight Show" during the campaign, isn't likely to set a very political tone for the evening. But speaking to The Hollywood Reporter, Fallon promised Trump jokes at what he called "the first and maybe the last party that we'll have in 2017."

The late-night host will also be trying to turn ratings back in a positive direction. Last year's ceremony, hosted by Gervais, drew 18.5 million viewers, down about 4 percent from the year before. Among the presenters on tap for the show, put on by the Hollywood Foreign Press, are Leonardo DiCaprio, Emma Stone, Ben and Casey Affleck, Viola Davis, Amy Schumer, Sting and Matt Damon.

Who's who in Howard County: Charles Smith



Where do you work: Realtor®, Home Realtors

Where were you born: Electra, Texas

City you live in: Big Spring, Texas

Family: Wife, Sharon Smith; daughter, Sunni Davidson; son-in-law, Jason; grandchildren, Haleyna and Gage Davidson

Hobbies, organizations, clubs: Permian Basin Board of Realtors, National Association Realtors, Texas Association of Realtors. Hobbies, stock watcher/traders.

Favorite book: the Bible, *Gracie a Love Story* by George Burns

Favorite show: The Wheel of Fortune

Favorite movie: Titanic

Where would you visit if you could go anywhere: Israel, Jerusalem.

Naomi Campbell reveals she was almost robbed in Paris

NEW YORK (AP) — Supermodel Naomi Campbell has revealed that she was the victim of an attempted robbery in Paris years ago.

Campbell says she can sympathize with Kim Kardashian West, who was tied up and held at gunpoint during a jewelry heist at a Paris hotel in October.

During an appearance Thursday on "The Wendy Williams Show," Campbell detailed an attempted robbery she says happened in November 2012.

Campbell says she decided to forgo her normal security measures during a quick visit to Paris. She says she was outside the home of fashion designer Azzedine Alaia (AZ'-uh-deen uh-LY'-uh) when someone opened her car door and said, "Naomi Campbell, we're going to kill you."

She says she had decided to fight to keep her belongings before people from Alaia's home came to her rescue.

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Getting fit? Don't get taken

For many of us, the New Year represents a clean slate and a chance to fulfill personal goals. If your New Year's resolution is to get fit, you are not alone.

While some people may sign up for a gym membership, others may consider participating in weight loss programs or purchasing heavily promoted diet products.

However, before you join a gym, fitness center or a weight-loss program, Better Business Bureau advises you to research your fitness options carefully.

If you are looking to join a gym or fitness center, BBB advises you:

- Check with BBB. Before signing a contract, research the gym at bbb.org to see its BBB Business Review, which shows any history of complaints, customer reviews and any advertising issues.

- Take a tour of the facility. Check the cleanliness of the facility and check that the gym equipment is in good condition. It may be a good idea to tour the gym at the time of day you will be using the facility to make sure the number of people there at that time will not limit your activities.

- Don't give in to sales pressure. Walk away from clubs that pressure you to sign a contract on the spot. BBB recommends taking a sample contract home to review before making a decision.

- Review the contract thoroughly before signing. Joining a gym usually comes with a contract, and not all contracts are the same. Make sure the contract lists all services and fees, and any promises made by the gym.

- Find out what is included in the monthly membership fee and what will cost extra. Also, inquire about their cancellation policy, and be sure to get this information in writing.

BBB also urges consumers to beware of deceptive weight loss claims and misleading advertisements. According to the Federal Trade Commission, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration has discovered hundreds of dietary supplements containing drugs or other chemicals, often in products for weight loss.

BBB offers the following advice to avoid misleading weight loss claims:

- Seek advice. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services recommends talking with your health care provider about your weight and ways to lose weight before committing to a weight-loss regime. Ask your doctor about safe and effective ways to control your weight suited best to your lifestyle and metabolism. Significant weight loss should not be undertaken without competent medical supervision.
- Beware of tricky ads. Some red flags in advertisements include very small print, asterisks and foot-

See **BBB**, Page 5C

Sherri Key wins realtor award

Special to the Herald

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Sherri Key, broker/owner with United Country Real Estate/Heart of the City Realtors in Big Spring, recently received the "And then Some" award from the Permian Basin Association of Realtors.

The award was one of many presented during the asso-



Key

ciation's annual awards banquet in December. The association president chose Key for going above and beyond what is expected of a real estate agent. She was nominated by a woman whom she not only sold land to, but helped with a personal dilemma.

"I was so surprised because I do what I feel like I'm supposed to do," said Key. "I was taught to help people and to be kind. It doesn't take much more to help those who need it. That's why we are in this business. We work together and we help each other out."

Key is a Big Spring native and she's no stranger to high achievements — she was awarded the Big Spring Real-

tor of the Year award in 2002 and the Ambassador's Award in 2012. She has been a member of the United Country Real Estate family since 2006.

Key and the UCRE/Heart of the City Realtors team can be contacted by phone at 432-714-4555 and their full listings can be viewed online at www.HeartoftheCityRealtors.com.

Ribbon cutting



Courtesy photo

Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce representatives were on hand recently to help Howard County officials and employees during a ribbon cutting to mark the opening of the Road and Bridge Department's new headquarters.

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
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
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
Kendra D. Tatum, 412 S. Moss Lake Rd., Big Spring
Joe Anthony Villarreal, 2206 Cecilia, Big Spring
Ricky Lynn Waltenbaugh, 538 Westover Road Apt. # 133, Big Spring

Marriage Licenses

Denzel Matthew Moore, 19, and Nikki Zoe Lopez, 19, both of Littlefield.
Nieberto Flores Gusman Jr., 43, and Monique Garcia, 29, both of Snyder.

County Court Judgments

(Note: The State of Texas is listed as prosecutor for all county court judgments)
Defendant: Christina M. Rodriguez
Offense: Fictitious/counterfeit insurance document display
Sentence: \$100 fine, \$337 court costs, 6 months probation. Deferred adjudication
Date: Dec. 20, 2016
Defendant: Steven R. O'Brien
Offense: Theft of property \$100 to \$750

Sentence: \$100 fine, 180 days in jail. Probated 6 months.
Date: Dec. 20, 2016

Defendant: David O. Yanez
Offense: Terroristic threat placing a person in fear of serious bodily injury
Sentence: \$500 fine, 180 days in jail. Probated 12 months.
Date: Dec. 22, 2016

Defendant: Tera Henry
Offense: Theft of property \$100 to \$750
Sentence: \$250 fine, \$292 court costs, 6 months probation. Deferred adjudication.
Date: Dec. 22, 2016

Defendant: Dominique S. Williams
Offense: Driving with an invalid license
Sentence: \$500 fine, \$244.10 court costs, one-time payment.
Date: Dec. 22, 2016

Defendant: Candice K. Mullins
Offense: Resisting arrest, search, or transport
Sentence: \$1,500 fine, 180 days in jail. Probated 24 months.
Date: Dec. 22, 2016

District Court Filings

Midland Foding LLC vs. Kim Mills, contract — consumer/commercial debt
One Bhavaniman LLC vs. Howard County Appraisal District, civil case
Richard Jenkins vs. Wendi Jenkins, divorce

Warranty Deeds

Grantor: Vance B. And Jocelyn S. Jacobs
Grantee: Jerry Sloan Jr.
Property: Lot 1, Blk. 2 Re-plat of Wasson Place Addition
Date: Dec. 29, 2016
Grantor: Susan Lowery and Jo Ellen Smith, heirs of Henrietta Lowe aka Carla Lowe, deceased
Grantee: Randy Joe Weaver
Property: Lot 1, Blk. 31 College

Building permits

Misty Mayo, 1508 Stadium Ave., res gas, Val: \$25, Fee: \$25
Jack Martin, 105 W. Eighth St. Apt. A, res re-roof, Val: \$4,000, Fee: \$30
Clifton F. Talbot, 1307 Scurry St., res gas, Val: \$3,000, Fee: \$32
KTTK Recording Studio, 310 E. Ninth St., com elec., Val: \$1,200, Fee: \$25
Michael L. McBrayer, 701 Colgate Ave., res re-roof, Val: \$11,000, Fee: \$65
Amanda O. Carrisalez, 2707 Clanton St., res re-roof, Val: \$5,000, Fee: \$35
Richard Grove, 4214 Parkway Rd., res HVAC, Val: \$4,800, Fee: \$45
Dean Christian, 3207 Cornell Ave., res re-roof, Val: \$6,000, Fee: \$40
Jimmy Wood, 3209 Cornell Ave., res re-roof, Val: \$7,900, Fee: \$50
Richard Atkins, 1301 Runnels St., res elec, Val: \$1,000, Fee: \$25
William Buehler, 1012 Stadium Ave., structure (fence), Val: \$1,500, Fee: \$25
Douglas D. Shelley, 1604 Vines Ave., res re-roof, Val: \$5,000, Fee: \$35
Dora Nelson, 1012 E. 21st St., demo (single family house), Val: \$11,800, Fee: \$50
Amanda Pinkley, 2719 Ann Dr., res gas, Val: \$1,000, Fee: \$32
Johnnie D. Hobbs, 705 Craigmont Dr., res re-roof, Val: \$3,250, Fee: \$30
J. Cadenhead, 811 Abrams St., res re-roof, Val: \$3,000, Fee: \$25
Mary Lou Rangel, 309 NW 11th St., res re-roof, Val: \$4,500, Fee: \$35

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See **PUBLIC**, Page 5C

Dow Jones nears 20,000 as wages report boosts stocks

NEW YORK (AP) — The Dow Jones industrial average is trading closer than ever to the 20,000 mark Friday as U.S. stock indexes close in on all-time highs following a shaky start. The federal government's December jobs report showed that wages jumped by the largest amount in seven years, though hiring was a bit weaker than expected. Technology and industrial companies are making the biggest gains.

KEEPING SCORE: The Dow Jones industrial average climbed 88 points, or 0.4 percent, to 19,987 as of 12:50 p.m. Eastern time. It traded above 19,999 earlier. The Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 12 points, or 0.5 percent, to 2,280. The Nasdaq composite jumped 42 points, or 0.8 percent, to 5,530. All three indexes are on pace for record closes. The small-cap Russell 2000 index added 2 points, or 0.1 percent, to 1,373.

US JOBS: The Labor Department said U.S. employers added 156,000 jobs in December, slightly less than analysts expected.

That follows a private payrolls report Thursday that also didn't quite meet expectations. However the government said hourly pay jumped 2.9 percent from December 2015, the biggest increase in seven years. Overall, job growth remained steady in 2016 but slowed a bit from 2015.

LEADING: Big names in technology moved higher after an initial stumble. Facebook rose \$2.81, or 2.3 percent, to \$123.48 while Apple gained \$1.39, or 1.2 percent, to \$118. Industrial com-

panies, which have climbed since the presidential election two months ago, also fared well. General Electric rose 20 cents, or 0.6 percent, to \$31.72 and Honeywell rose \$1.76, or 1.5 percent, to \$118.52. Johnson Controls climbed \$1.04, or 2.5 percent, to \$42.98.

BONDS: Bond prices fell. The yield on the 10-year Treasury note rose to 2.41 percent from 2.35 percent. Higher bond yields mean higher interest rates, which allow banks to make more money on lending. Banks did better than the rest of the market Friday afternoon. JPMorgan Chase added 39 cents to \$86.50. Among other financial firms, Goldman Sachs jumped \$4, or 1.7 percent, to \$245.32.

Companies that pay large dividends, including phone companies, utilities and household goods makers, lagged the market. Those stocks are often compared to bonds because of the steady income they provide. AT&T gave up 69 cents, or 1.6 percent, to \$41.47 and Wal-Mart fell 92 cents, or 1.3 percent, to \$68.29.

DAY IN COURT: Amgen climbed and Sanofi and Regeneron Pharmaceuticals fell after a court moved to block sales of Sanofi and Regeneron's cholesterol drug Praluent. A federal jury ruled in March that Praluent infringes on two patents that belong to Amgen. Both are costly biotech drugs designed to be injected once or twice a month. Sanofi and Regeneron said they will appeal the ruling, which came from U.S. District Court in Delaware.

PUBLIC

Continued from Page 4C

Park Estates

Date: Dec. 29, 2016

Grantor: Chance O'Daniel
Grantee: Cindy Lou O'Daniel
Property: ½ interest in a 11.234-acre tract in NW/4 Sec. 48, Blk. 32, T-1-N, T&P Railroad Co. Survey.
Date: Dec. 29, 2016

Grantor: Dolly Woodard
Grantee: Shereda Mintz
Property: Lot 19, Blk. 8, Wright's Airport addition
Date: Dec. 30, 2016

Grantor: Wendt Wendland and Catherine Wendland
Grantee: Chuck Rosenbaum
Property: Lot 13, Blk. 8, North Belvue Addition
Date: Dec. 30, 2016

Grantor: Gerald Kelly Rogers
Grantee: Kelly and Renee Rogers Farm Inc.
Property: Surface estate only of W/2 Sec. 38, Blk. 33 T-2-N T&P Railroad Co. Survey
Date: Dec. 30, 2016

Grantor: Terra Rebecca Melton aka Becky Melton
Grantee: Heather Beanland
Property: 6-acre tract in Sec. 32, Blk. 33, T-2-N T&P Railroad Co. Survey
Date: Dec. 30, 2016

Grantor: Bent Wood Creek LLC
Grantee: Daryl and Tillie Snelgrooves
Property: Surface estate only of a 3.86-acre tract in Sec. 4, Blk. 32, T-1-S T&P Railroad Co. Survey
Date: Dec. 30, 2016

Grantor: Robert L. Roberson aka Robert Roberson,

and Lucie Roberson
Grantee: Blake and Rachael Grantham
Property: NE/4 Lot 5, Blk. 3, Lockhart Addition
Date: Dec. 30, 2016

Grantor: Jose and Cindy Lugo
Grantee: Jeremiah Peters
Property: Surface estate only of a 0.042-acre tract in Lots 1 and 2, Blk. 22, Original Town of Big Spring
Date: Dec. 30, 2016

Grantor: Brandy Chavarria
Grantee: Jeffery and Kimberly Moss
Property: A 1.93-acre tract in Sec. 40, Blk. 32, T-1-N T&P Railroad Co. Survey
Date: Dec. 30, 2016

Grantor: Brandy Chavarria
Grantee: Jeffery and Kimberly Moss
Property: Surface estate only of a 3.505-acre tract in the south part of Sec. 40, Blk. 32, T-1-N, T&P Railroad Co. Survey
Date: Dec. 30, 2016

Grantor: Follow Thirty-one LLC
Grantee: Hue Management LLC
Property: A 139.18-acre tract in E/2 Sec. 25 Blk. 33, T-1-N T&P Railroad Co. Survey
Date: Jan. 3, 2017

Grantor: Patsy J. Steen and Kenneth R. Steen
Grantee: Kenneth E. Penn and Gwendolyn D. Penn
Property: A 3.5288-acre tract in NE/4 Blk. 32, T-1-N T&P Railroad Co. Survey
Date: Jan. 4, 2017

Grantor: Robert L. Roberson aka Robert Roberson and Lucie E. Roberson
Grantee: Blake and Rachael Grantham
Property: NE/4 Lot 5, Blk. 3, Lockhart Addition

Date: Jan. 4, 2017

Grantor: Ginger Anna Lara McEvers, Felicia Lara, Antonette Lara, Joanna Martinez Hernandez, Samantha Pattin Cluck, and Paula Pattin Solis, heirs of Guadalupe Pattin, deceased

Grantee: Hubert Hodges
Property: Lot 5, Blk. 7, Boydston Addition
Date: Jan. 4, 2017

Warranty Deeds with Vendor's Liens

Grantor: Merle Haney
Grantee: Tyler Tannehill and Kenzie Tannehill
Property: A 15.6-acre tract in SW/4 Sec. 47, Blk. 32 T-2-N T&P Railroad Co. Survey
Date: Dec. 29, 2016

Grantor: Maxwell and Mark Barr
Grantee: Jeffery Shane Sechrest and Michael Lee Sechrest
Property: Lot 5 and Lot 6, Blk. 19, Edwards Heights Addition
Date: Dec. 30, 2016

Grantor: James Dearld Fryar
Grantee: Jack K. and Sandy Taylor
Property: Lot 4, Blk. 30, College Park Estates
Date: Jan. 3, 2017

Grantor: Justin Smith and Kara Smith
Grantee: Joe T. DeLeon
Property: Surface estate only of Lots 6 and 7, Blk. 9, Douglass Addition
Date: Jan. 4, 2017

Grantor: Harrell and Darlene Newton
Grantee: Gregg Newton
Property: Surface estate only of a 2.0-acre tract in the S/2 of the S/4 of Sec. 10, Blk. 33, T-1-N T&P Railroad Co. Survey
Date: Jan. 4, 2017

PERMITS

Continued from Page 4C

Melissa Ann Soto, 1406 Goliad St. Apt. B, res HVAC, Val: \$2,900, Fee: \$45

Frank Garza Jr., 4201 Parkway Rd., res elec, Val: 0, Fee: \$25

Juanita Jordan, 506 Douglas St., res gas, Val: \$1,500, Fee: \$32

Magalina Teresa Christian, 1015 Wood St., structure (replace existing fence), Val: \$600, Fee: \$25

James W. Butler, 1305 E. 19th St., res HVAC, Val: \$4,500, Fee: \$45

Scenic Mountain Medical Center, 1601 W. 11th Place, com HVAC, Val: \$7,400, Fee: \$45

Manuel Valles Bretado, 2210 Cecilia St., structure (patio cover), Val: \$500, Fee: \$25

Nitelite Rentals LLC, 1503 Scurry, com re-roof, Val: \$2,400, Fee: \$25

Nitelite Rentals LLC, 809 E. 15th St., com re-roof, Val: \$2,200, Fee: \$25

Nitelite Rentals LLC, 107 E. 17th St., com re-roof, Val: \$1,800, Fee: \$25

Nitelite Rentals LLC, 1016 Bluebonnet Ave., res re-roof, Val: \$2,100, Fee: \$25

Nitelite Rentals LLC, 1504 Wood Apt. B, res re-roof, Val: \$2,200, Fee: \$25

Nitelite Rentals LLC, 1506 Wood St., res re-roof, Val:

\$2,200, Fee: \$25
Nitelite Rentals LLC, 1508 Wood St., res re-roof, Val:

\$2,200, Fee: \$25
Nitelite Rentals LLC, 1510 Wood St., res re-roof, Val:

\$2,200, Fee: \$25
Nitelite Rentals LLC, 1512 Wood St., res re-roof, Val:

\$2,200, Fee: \$25
Nitelite Rentals LLC, 1514 Wood St., res re-roof, Val:

\$2,200, Fee: \$25
Nitelite Rentals LLC, 1516 Wood St., res re-roof, Val:

\$2,100, Fee: \$25
Nitelite Rentals LLC, 1204 Stanford, res re-roof, Val:

\$1,900, Fee: \$25
Nitelite Rentals LLC, 1909 N. Monticello St., res re-roof, Val: \$2,300, Fee: \$25

Karie Holsenbeck, 803 Baylor Blvd., res re-roof, Val: \$8,600, Fee: \$55

Olivia Moron Hernandez, 1507 E. 17th St., res re-roof, Val: \$5,500, Fee: \$40

James Grimsley, 2101 Morrison Dr., res re-roof, Val: \$3,800, Fee: \$30

Mary O. Rosson, 1711 Purdue Ave., res re-roof, Val: \$4,600, Fee: \$35

The Life Center, 1801 S. Main St., commercial construction, Val: \$139,400, Fee: \$630; com plumb, Val: \$18,000, Fee: \$106; Total, Val: \$157,400, Fee: \$736

Nitelite Rentals LLC, 1511 Wood St., res re-roof, Val: \$2,200, Fee: \$25

Nitelite Rentals LLC, 1513 Wood St., res re-roof, Val: \$2,200, Fee: \$25

Keith Ray Fontana, 1 Coachman's Circle, accessory building, Val: \$3,500, Fee: \$30

K Donuts, 1901 S. Gregg St., com re-roof, Val: \$15,000, Fee: \$85

Tina Lee Cromeens, 3201 Fenn St., res re-roof, Val: \$10,210.09, Fee: \$65

Texas Ragdoll Nursing Agency, 1305 S. Gregg St., com re-roof, Val: \$3,700, Fee: \$30

Alberto Garza, 503 Douglas St., res gas, Val: \$750, Fee: \$32

JD Perez, 2206 S. Main St., structure (replace existing fence), Val: \$500, Fee: \$25

Monroe Casey Jr., 818 W. Eighth St., res elec, Val: \$500, Fee: \$25

Kenneth and Maruc Haas, 1001 W. Third St., res gas, Val: \$500, Fee: \$32

Marvin Lamb, 2200 Cecilia St., res re-roof, Val: \$5,000, Fee: \$35

Marvin Lamb, 2202 Cecilia St., res re-roof, Val: \$4,200, Fee: \$35

Anthony Heath Wright, 1601 Vines Ave., res elec, Val: \$1,000, Fee: \$25

Domingo Rios, 3206 Auburn Ave., structure (fence), Val: \$1,500, Fee: \$25

Matthew James Finkley, 2306 Brent Dr., res addition, Val: \$65,000, Fee: \$320

Priscilla Magallanes, 1511 Vines Ave., accessory building, Val: \$3,000, Fee: \$25

Mary Rawls, 510 Nolan Ave., res elec, Val: \$5,000, Fee: \$25

Reveille Patterson, 4215 Hamilton St., res gas, Val: \$1,000, Fee: 0

Crossroads Baptist Association, 1204 W. Fourth St., com re-roof, Val: \$7,100, Fee: \$50

Domingo Polendo Rios, 2610 Crestline Rd., res re-roof, Val: \$3,500, Fee: \$30

Texas Cajun Cafe, 802 W. Interstate 20, com elec, Val: \$1,000, Fee: \$25

BBB

Continued from Page 4C

notes, and before-and-after photos that seem too good to be true.

Watch out for false claims that promise weight loss in specific problem areas of your body and statements such as, "lose 30 pounds in 30 days!" Also, watch out for buzzwords like "breakthrough," "secret," "exclusive" or "miraculous" in advertisements. If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.

- Seek proof. Be cautious of vaguely worded testimonials that cannot be verified. Testimonials should never serve as a substitute for scientific proof of a program or product's efficiency.
- Watch out for fake news websites. If the

weight-loss product is advertised on a news website it must be legitimate, right? Scammers exploit your trust by using the logos and information from well-known businesses, news organizations or government agencies to set up fake websites. The website may sell or refer you to a weight-loss product with a "money back guarantee." Legitimate news organizations don't endorse products.

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: 432-563-1880 or email: hmassey@permianbasin.bbb.org.

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News in brief

US adds 156K jobs; unemployment rate ticks up to 4.7 pct.

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. employers added 156,000 jobs in December, capping a year of slower but solid hiring and providing the last major snapshot of the economy President-elect Donald Trump will inherit from President Barack Obama.

Friday's report from the Labor Department portrayed a job market that remains durable 7½ years after the recovery from the Great Recession began. Though the unemployment rate rose to 4.7 percent from a nine-year low of 4.6 percent, it did so for an encouraging reason: More people began looking for work. Because not all of them found jobs immediately, more people were counted as unemployed in December.

Hourly pay jumped 2.9 percent from a year earlier, the sharpest increase in more than seven years. That is a positive sign that the low unemployment rate is forcing some businesses to offer higher wages to attract and keep workers. Sluggish growth in Americans' paychecks has been a longstanding weak spot in the economic recovery.

For all of 2016, job growth averaged 180,000 a month, down from 229,000 in 2015, but enough to lower unemployment over time.

"While job growth has slowed somewhat, this is likely more due to a shortage of qualified workers rather than a lack of confidence among business leaders," said Sal Guatieri, a senior economist at BMO Capital Markets.

Hiring last month was led by the health care sector, which added 43,000 jobs, mostly in doctors' offices and hospitals. Manufacturing resumed hiring after four months of job cuts, adding 17,000.

Restaurants and bars gained 30,000 positions. Transportation and warehousing, fueled by the growth of online shopping during the holiday season, added 15,000. On the other hand, construction and mining companies shed jobs.

A broader gauge of unemployment, which includes part-time workers who would prefer full-time work as well as people who have stopped looking for jobs, dipped to 9.2 percent from 9.3 percent. That's the lowest level since April 2008.

"More people are back at work than at any point since the recession," noted Jed Kolko, chief economist at the job site Indeed. "However, Trump will inherit an economy that's riding high but faces long-term challenges. Fewer adults are at work than before the recession, manufacturing is lagging despite an uptick in December and the acceleration in wage growth, while great for workers, could raise inflation fears."

Obama admin blocks seismic surveys in Atlantic Ocean

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Obama administration on Friday rejected requests by energy companies to conduct seismic surveys in the Atlantic Ocean to map potential drilling sites for oil and natural gas.

The Interior Department said it denied six pending applications in part because President Barack Obama has blocked Atlantic drilling under a five-year offshore drilling plan finalized late last year.

Environmental groups and many East Coast lawmakers oppose the surveys, saying that loud sounds from seismic air guns could hurt marine life.

The advocacy group Oceana applauded the announcement by Interior's Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, saying the Obama administration was "finishing the job in protecting the Atlantic Ocean from offshore drilling activities."

Last month, Obama designated the bulk of U.S.-owned waters in the Arctic Ocean and certain areas in the Atlantic as indefinitely off limits to oil and gas leasing. The Dec. 20 designation was in addition to a five-year drilling plan announced in November that also blocked Atlantic drilling.

Environmental groups hope the indefinite ban, which relies on an arcane provision in a 1953 law, will be difficult for President-elect Donald Trump or other presidents to reverse. The White House said it's confident the president's order will withstand legal challenge and said the language of the statute provides no authority

for subsequent presidents to undo so-called permanent withdrawals of oil and gas leases from the Outer Continental Shelf.

The Atlantic waters placed off limits by Obama's order are 31 canyons stretching off the coast of New England south to Virginia.

Proposed seismic surveys that were rejected Friday stretch from Delaware to the northern half of Florida.

US trade deficit climbs to \$45.2 billion in November

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. trade deficit in November rose to the highest level in nine months as imports of oil and other foreign goods increased, while American exports fell for a second month.

The trade deficit jumped 6.8 percent to \$45.2 billion, the largest imbalance since February, the Commerce Department reported Friday. Exports edged down 0.2 percent to \$122.4 billion, reflecting lower overseas sales of American-made airplanes, autos and farm products. Imports rose 1.1 percent to \$231.1 billion, led by a 7.6 percent jump in oil.

President-elect Donald Trump made America's large trade deficits a central part of his campaign. He promised to impose high tariffs on countries such as China and Mexico unless they reformed what Trump charged were unfair trading practices that have cost millions of American jobs.

A lower deficit adds to the overall economy because it means American companies are selling more to foreign countries than Americans are purchases from abroad. The deficit is the difference between exports and imports.

In November, imports rose to the highest level since June 2015, and economists predicted further increases as the U.S. economy picks up momentum.

Sal Guatieri, senior economist at BMO Capital Markets, said the drop in exports in November was not surprising given that the value of the dollar has risen to a 14-year high against other currencies. A stronger dollar makes America products more expensive on foreign markets. Guatieri predicted the trade deficit would be a drag on growth going forward.

"Trade will weigh on economic growth this year but other sectors will more than pick up the slack," he said in a research note.

For November, America's deficit with China narrowed slightly to \$30.5 billion. For the first 11 months of 2016, the deficit with China totaled \$319.3 billion, 5.9 percent lower than the same period in 2015 but still the largest imbalance with any single country. The deficit with Mexico dropped 6.5 percent in November to \$5.8 billion and totaled \$58.8 billion through the first 11 months of 2016, up 4.9 percent from 2015.

US approves fix for some Volkswagen diesels

DETROIT (AP) — Volkswagen will soon be able to repair some of its diesel cars so they meet U.S. emissions standards.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the California Air Resources Board said Friday they have approved a fix for around 67,000 of the 475,000 Volkswagens and Audis with 2-liter diesel engines that were programmed to cheat on U.S. emissions tests.

The German automaker acknowledged the cheating in 2015.

The remedy will fix 2015 models of the Volkswagen Beetle, Beetle Convertible, Golf, Golf SportWagen, Jetta and Passat as well as the Audi A3. The EPA and Volkswagen say the fix won't affect the cars' fuel economy, reliability or driving characteristics. Volkswagen says 58,000 of those vehicles are in the hands of customers and 9,000 are at dealerships.

The remedy won't apply to older Volkswagens and Audi models which date to 2009. Volkswagen has submitted fixes for those models, but the EPA and CARB haven't yet approved them.

Volkswagen will reprogram the cars' software immediately. In about a year, the company will install hardware on the cars, including a diesel particulate filter.

The fix is part of a \$15 billion settlement approved by a federal judge in October. Under the settlement, Volkswagen owners and leaseholders were given the choice between selling

their cars back to Volkswagen or having them repaired by the company. Volkswagen also agreed to pay owners up to \$10,000 depending on the age of their cars.

Volkswagen had bought back more than 36,000 cars as of Jan. 3. It had also scheduled 130,000 appointments for future buybacks.

US factory orders drop 2.4 percent but investment up

WASHINGTON (AP) — Orders to U.S. factories fell for the first time in five months in November, but much of the weakness reflected a swing in the volatile category of commercial aircraft. A key category that tracks business investment spending posted an increase.

Factory orders dropped 2.4 percent after a 2.8 percent rise in October, the Commerce Department reported Friday. It was the first decline since June but the weakness was led by a 73.8 percent plunge in demand for commercial aircraft following a 94.5 percent surge in October.

A key category that serves as a proxy for business investment spending increased 0.9 percent after a 0.5 percent rise in October. This category has lagged for much of this year as a result of big cutbacks in the oil and gas industry.

Orders for durable goods, items expected to last at least three years, fell 4.5 percent, only a slight revision from a preliminary report showing a drop of 4.6 percent. Orders for nondurable goods such as chemicals, paper and clothing, were down 0.2 percent following a 0.6 percent increase in October.

The 0.9 percent increase in business investment, while still modest, was the third best showing this year, and it marked the first back-to-back gains since July and August.

Heiress in trouble over pro-Trump PAC

AUGUSTA, Maine (AP) — L.L. Bean heiress Linda Bean is in hot water with the Federal Election Commission over a political action committee she created to support Republican President-elect Donald Trump.

According to a Wednesday letter obtained by The Associated Press, federal regulators say Bean's Making America Great Again LLC was limited to individual contributions of \$5,000 in a single year— and Bean contributed \$60,000. The group spent \$66,862 supporting Trump.

Trump won enough support in the 2nd Congressional District to split Maine's electoral votes, taking one vote to Democrat Hillary Clinton's three.

The group on Friday took steps to change its registration to a super PAC that can raise unlimited funds.

Samsung's profit jumps despite Galaxy fiasco

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — Samsung Electronics Co. said Friday that its profits in the last quarter of 2016 surged 50 percent to the highest level in more than three years, despite the Galaxy Note 7 fiasco.

Analysts had expected Samsung's profits to surge thanks to its mainstay semiconductor business, but the result surpassed even the most optimistic forecasts. The semiconductor division cashed in on strong demand

and a tight supply for microchips during the September-December period, likely contributing to more than half of its quarterly earnings.

In its earnings preview, Samsung said it posted 9.2 trillion won (\$7.8 billion) in operating profit, up from 6.1 trillion won a year earlier. It was the biggest quarterly income since the third quarter of 2013.

Analysts polled by FactSet expected a figure of 8 trillion won.

Sales fell 1 percent to 53 trillion won (\$44.9 billion). The company did not give net profit or breakdown figures for its businesses, which are due later this month.

For the full year, the South Korean tech giant saw a 10 percent gain in its annual income, its best result in three years.

"It's thanks to the improvement in semiconductors and displays on top of favorable foreign exchange rates," said Kim Young Woo, an analyst at SK Securities.

The result is a bright spot for the tech giant that was obliged to do multiple recalls last year of products that included a popular smartphone and a washing machine.

The stellar financial results come as Samsung faces an investigation linking it to an influence-peddling scandal that led to the impeachment of President Park Geun-hye. Samsung already has postponed its annual personnel reshuffle, usually announced in December, due to the scandal.

T-Mobile says unlimited plans will be only option

NEW YORK (AP) — T-Mobile said unlimited plans will be the only option for new customers even though they are more expensive than some of its old, limited plans.

The company had said in August that it was phasing out its other plans in favor of unlimited. On Thursday, T-Mobile said those limited plans, which executives called a "relic," won't be sold anymore starting Jan. 22. Existing customers can keep their current plans.

While some existing customers could switch to the \$70-a-month unlimited plan and save money, others would pay more, according to prices on T-Mobile's website.

Most customers who just pay for one or two lines or who have a lower-data plan — two gigabytes per line — would save money by sticking to what they have. For example, a family of four getting two gigabytes per line was paying \$100 a month; with the unlimited plan, that costs \$160.

T-Mobile is still trying to lure users who don't use much data by offering them a \$10 credit if they use two gigabytes or less per line. A smaller rival, Google's "Project Fi," already credits customers for data they don't use.

And T-Mobile's unlimited plan isn't exactly unlimited. If the network is busy, T-Mobile may slow speeds on customers that used more than 28 gigabytes. And video gets degraded to DVD-level quality unless customers pay an extra \$15 a month.

The company will still offer cheaper prepaid plans as well, where you pay upfront.

T-Mobile also said that wireless bills will no longer come with taxes and fees on top of advertised prices for the unlimited plan. T-Mobile said it isn't raising prices to factor in the fees. Those extra charges typically come to about several dollars per line.

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Public Notice

CAUSE NO. P-14622

IN THE ESTATE OF PAULA M. ST. JOHN DECEASED

IN THE COUNTY COURT OF HOWARD COUNTY, TEXAS

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF PAULA M. ST. JOHN, DECEASED

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of PAULA M. ST. JOHN, DECEASED were issued on January 3, 2017, in Cause No. P-14622 pending in the County Court of Howard County, Texas, to MARIE A. COPELAND.

The residence of MARIE A. COPELAND is 216 Sandlin Road, Big Spring, TX 79720. All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and the manner prescribed by law. DATED the 3rd day of January, 2017.

MARIE A. COPELAND

Public Notice

CITATION BY PUBLICATION THE STATE OF TEXAS

TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN THE ESTATE OF ANGELA MARIE HARRISON, DECEASED, P-14620 COUNTY COURT, HOWARD COUNTY, TEXAS:

On the 19th day of December, 2016, Katie Lynn Harrison filed a Combined Application for Independent Administration and Heirship in a proceeding styled " In the Estate of Angela Marie Harrison, Deceased" and bearing the number P-14620 on the probate docket in the County Court of Howard County, Texas.

The Court will hear the aforesaid Application at 10:00 o'clock a.m. on the first Monday following the expiration of ten days, exclusive of the day of publication, from the date this citation is published, which will be Monday, the 16th day of January, 2017, at 10:00 o'clock a.m., in the County Court of Howard County, Texas.

All persons interested in the Estate of Angela Marie Harrison are hereby cited, directed, and commanded to appear at or before the time set for said hearing by filing a written contest or answer to said P-14620 should they desire to contest or oppose it.

Said written contest or answer shall be filed in the office of the County Clerk of Howard County, Texas in Big Spring, Texas.

The officer serving this citation shall, in compliance with the law, serve it by publication once in a newspaper of general circulation in this, the county in which such proceeding is pending, for not less than ten days before the return day hereof, exclusive of the date of publication, and the date of publication said newspaper bears shall be the day of publication.

If this citation is not served within 90 days from the date of issuance, it shall be returned unserved.

Donna Wright
Clerk, County Court of Howard County, Texas

BY: Donna Wright
Deputy

#9274 January 8, 2017

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Public Notice

following:
RFP # 17-013 Copier Leases

Proposals are to be opened and read aloud in the City Council Chambers at 307 East 4th Street, Big Spring, Texas 79720, with award to be made at a regularly scheduled meeting of the Big Spring City Council. Proposal information and specifications may be obtained from the Office of the Purchasing Agent, 1380 Airpark Drive East, Bldg. #19, Big Spring, Texas 79720. All proposals must be marked with the date of the proposals and a general description of the proposal item(s).

The City of Big Spring reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any or all formalities.

#9267 January 1 & 8, 2016

**CITY OF BIG SPRING
PUBLIC NOTICE**

The Planning and Zoning Commission of the City of Big Spring will hold a Public Hearing at 5:30 P.M., Tuesday, January 17, 2017 in the City Council Chambers, 307 East 4th St., Big Spring, Texas to consider the following item:

An ordinance of the City of Big Spring, Texas, amending Chapter Seventeen, Sec. 17-55 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Big Spring entitled "Golf Course Road" to read "Renaming Golf Course Road to Pat Simmons Way", and authorizing and directing to take all necessary action to change the street "Golf Course Road," located in Comanche Trail Park.

The Planning and Zoning Commission will then forward a recommendation regarding the aforementioned item to the City Council, who will conduct its own public hearings at meetings on Tuesday, January 24, 2017 and February 14, 2017 at the same time and location, and will make the final decision on each matter.

#9272 January 8, 2017

Notice of Application for Commercial Oil and Gas Waste Disposal Well Permit

Manhattan Petroleum, Inc., P.O. Box 11211, Midland, TX 79702, is applying to the Railroad Commission of Texas for a permit to dispose of produced salt water or other oil and gas waste by well injection into a porous formation not productive of oil or gas. The applicant proposes to dispose of oil and gas waste into the Montoya and Ellenburger formations, EZN SWD Lease, Well Number 1. The proposed disposal well is located 2.75 miles northwest of Big Spring, TX in the Spraberry (Trend Area) Field, in

Public Notice

Howard County. The waste water will be injected into strata in the subsurface depth interval from 10,400 to 11,400 feet.

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

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

#9268 January 8, 2017

Notice of Application for Commercial Oil and Gas Waste Disposal Well Permit

Manhattan Petroleum, Inc., P.O. Box 11211 Midland, TX 79702, is applying to the Railroad Commission of Texas for a permit to dispose of produced salt water or other oil and gas waste by well injection into a porous formation not productive of oil or gas. The applicant proposes to dispose of oil and gas waste into the Montoya and Ellenburger formations, 87 Airstrip SWD Lease, Well Number 1. The proposed disposal well is located 4.75 miles east of Knott, TX in the Spraberry (Trend Area) Field, in Howard County. The waste water will be injected into strata in the subsurface depth interval from 10,340 to 11,500 feet.

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

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

#9270 January 8, 2017

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

Notice is hereby given that Diamondback E&P LLC (RRC P-5 # 217012) is filing with the Texas Railroad Com-

Public Notice

mission the following P-17 Application for the exception to SWR 26 and/or 27 to surface commingle oil and casinghead gas production from leases: Riley G 1807 8WA (DP #817762), Riley H 1807 8WB (DP #817761), Riley F 1807 8LS (DP #817760), Riley D 1819 4WB (DP #814866), Riley E 1819 5WB (DP #814868), Riley B 1807 1WB (Lease ID #47522), and Riley C 1807 1WB (Lease ID #47498). All wells are in the Spraberry (Trend Area) Field in Glasscock County, Texas. This application is for common separation, common storage and casinghead gas metering by allocation by well test. Production will be allocated by W-10 Tests. Any royalty or working interest owners or offset operators who have not received written notification, please consider this your Notice of Application. If you have objections to the issuance of this permit, you may submit a letter to P-17 Department, Railroad Commission of Texas, P. O. Box 12967, Austin, Texas 78711. Unless the Railroad Commission receives a protest to this application, the Commission may issue a permit within 21 days following the date of last publication.

#9268 January 8, 15, 22, & 29, 2017

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C/HA
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Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

From darkness into light

East dealer.
East-West vulnerable.
NORTH
♠ Q 6
♥ K 5 3
♦ A 10 9 2
♣ J 9 6 4
WEST
♠ J 10 8 5 3
♥ Q 8
♦ 8 7 5 4
♣ Q 3
EAST
♠ A 9 2
♥ J 10 4
♦ 6
♣ A K 10 7 5 2
SOUTH
♠ K 7 4
♥ A 9 7 6 2
♦ K Q J 3
♣ 8

The bidding:
East South West North
1♣ 1♥ Pass 2♥
Pass 3♦ Pass 4♥
Opening lead — queen of clubs.

Assume you're in four hearts and West leads the queen and another club, which you ruff. The problem is to find the best method of play — and this is not easy even if you look at all four hands.

There are several assumptions you're entitled to make without seeing the East-West cards. One is that the trumps are divided 3-2, since you have no chance to make the contract

if they're divided 4-1. Another is that East, who opened the bidding, has the ace of spades.

It would be easy enough to make 10 tricks if West had three hearts and East two. You could cash the K-A of trumps, force out the ace of spades and later ruff a spade in dummy.

The danger in playing this way is that East might have three trumps, as in the actual deal. If you drew two rounds of trumps and then played a spade to the queen, East would take the ace and cash his high trump. You would then go down one, losing two spades, a heart and a club.

However, assuming East has the spade ace, there is a way to make 10 tricks regardless of which defender has three hearts. To accomplish this, you play the A-K of hearts and then lead the six of spades from dummy.

If East goes up with the ace, you no longer need to ruff a spade, so let's say he plays low. In that case, you win the spade with the king, lead a diamond to the ten, ruff a club and continue with a diamond to the ace.

If East ruffs, your only remaining loser is a spade; if he discards, you ruff dummy's last club and continue playing diamonds. Whatever East does, you are sure to finish with 10 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.

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

www.sudoku-puzzles.net

Tomorrow's Horoscope



HOLIDAY MATHIS

Mercury Direct and Unbroken

It's become popular to refer to people as "broken" when in fact we're completely intact -- though different kinds of intact, to be sure -- so as to enable different kinds of functions. The door-knob that isn't a mirror is no more broken than the refrigerator that's not an oven. Mercury's direct turn encourages us to see what we can do, ignore what we can't.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Stephen King said, "Quiet people have the loudest minds." You're feeling unusually introverted today, but this is something to embrace, not overcome. All the good action is inside you.

TAURUS (April

20-May 20). You're drawn to thought leaders who communicate through speeches, books and art. Here comes an expansion of vocabulary and ideology! Basically, you're raising your words, so you won't have to raise your voice.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). For everything you want, there is a person out there who has it. This is wonderful. It proves what's possible. Meeting such a person is an opportunity to learn what it takes to fulfill a particular appetite of yours.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). If you're going to be someone's anchor, you'd better prepare for it first. You'll need a metaphorical wetsuit, some flippers and, of course, an oxygen tank. Otherwise, the effort involves drowning.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Anyone can get lucky and do well under pressure once or twice. But to continually exhibit grace under the weight of a relentless opposing force -- that's how

diamonds are made. You have that kind of stamina in you.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Imagine that your problem is a destination, and then zoom in and out of it Google Earth-style. This or some such perspective-based whimsy could really break you out of a limiting mindset today.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Your intuition will protect you much better than fear ever could. But can you discern between the two? Listen carefully to the tone of your internal voices, because these two sound totally different.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). When will you get there? Whether you gauge by minutes, steps or songs, the real question is: Which way will be the most fun to measure the journey by?

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You, hard to love? Ridiculous! Anyone who thinks so has a hard time loving, period. You're extremely easy to love, and those with normal-sized hearts will delight in you

today.
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You know the type -- accidental expectation-raisers. They'll eat the last of the cereal and leave the empty box in the cupboard. Call them out. Otherwise, this will go on indefinitely.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You can't sing a duet by yourself, but it's a thing to try. To hear both parts in your head and only be able to sing one is to appreciate what another person brings to the song.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You care. That it doesn't matter to most other people won't change this. So it's a small detail; so it's widely unnoticeable. Bottom line: If it means something to you, it means something.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Jan. 8). You're developing anew this year, and the future is filled with possibility and fun in an area of life that seemed a little bleak before. Two people will make a big difference in your day-to-day. You're a cherished community

member. A project takes over your life in March and pays you in multiple ways. Pisces and Aquarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 7, 2, 19, 44 and 26.

FORECAST FOR THE WEEK AHEAD: Long ago, the mountain goat overtook the sea-goat as the most popular icon for Capricorn, and it is indeed an apt symbol, for Capricorn vibes are all about climbing. Whether we have ambitions for the corporate ladder, the social rungs, the political strata or something similar, Capricorn vibes are an energy boost in the up direction. Now, as the moon waxes toward a full Cancer moon on Thursday, this rising energy is effectively put to use in a more spiritual way. Metaphysical gurus talk of the ability to witness one's own life -- to detach and see oneself carrying out daily duties from a different point of view, preferably a higher elevation. Though Capricorn energy is all tied up in ego, this Cancer full moon can help us

detach from the ego for moments while we empathize and feel where the others around us are coming from. Mercury's direct motion, along with a cardinal grand cross, urges us away from petty thinking. Conflict can erupt from seemingly minute displays of disrespect. But on the bright side, anything done to counteract petty forces has a good chance of attracting good fortune and fine opportunity.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: The world continues to mourn David Bowie, even as we celebrate the birthday of this artistic superstar. The Capricorn avant-gardist kept inventing and reinventing himself right to the end of an extraordinary life. Capricorns make powerful leaders who strive to the top of their chosen category. Other Capricorn "kings" born today include Elvis Presley and Stephen Hawking.

To write to Holiday Mathis, visit www.creators.com/author/holiday-mathis and click "Contact."
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Annie's Mailbox

soon-to-be mother-in-law and I are in an all-out war via social media.

It all started when

she posted an article about politics that was full of blatant lies and misinformation. I commented with a

few links so she could do further research and see that she was totally wrong. She replied by saying that I am young and naive and my sources were biased. I doubt she even actually read them.

We went back and forth all day, and eventually I told her that she is an idiot if she truly believes what she was saying. She told me to talk to her again when I am ready to grow up. This was about two weeks ago.

My fiancée, "Becky," is not happy with me, to put it mildly. While she doesn't agree with her mom, she's furious that I would be so disrespectful. I feel that her mom was the first one to be disrespectful, by telling me I'm naive.

Becky wants me to call her mom and apologize, but I'm still so annoyed with this woman. On principle, I refuse to do it. I wasn't wrong, and I'm not backing down. I know you have to choose your battles, but I

think this one is worth fighting. Annie, what do you think? -- In the Doghouse

Dear Doghouse: I'm not one for name-calling, but I will say that if there's an idiot in this scenario, your future mother-in-law isn't it. You're not winning any battles, just losing the respect of your future in-laws. That's not to mention all the strain you're putting on your fiancée. If you want to debate politics, join a forum or call your representative or yell at the TV; do whatever it takes to get it out of your system. Just don't do it with your partner's family.

Dear Annie: This is in response to the letter from "Sad and Fed Up," whose husband drinks every night and has refused for years to have sex with her. You advised her to go to Alcoholics Anonymous, but AA is for alcoholics, not for their family members (unless she can find an "open" meeting). Al-Anon is specifically for the friends and

family members of those who are affected by the drinking of another person. That is where she will find the help and support she needs. My husband also drank every night (and sometimes all day, as well), until he died a few years ago, but I have made a good life for myself with the help of my wonderful Al-Anon friends. -- Helped by Al-Anon

Dear Helped: Thank you for correcting that. That was an error. Al-Anon is a wonderful organization, and I recommend it for anyone who has a problem drinker in his or her life. Find meetings in your area at <http://www.al-anon.org>.

Send your questions for Annie Lane to dearannie@creators.com. To find out more about Annie Lane and read features by other Creators Syndicate columnists and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate website at www.creators.com.

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Newsday Crossword

SATURDAY STUMPER by Frank Longo
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS**
- 1 Brit's informal eatery
 - 5 Carnival music
 - 10 Be out in the 90s, say
 - 14 Dandy
 - 15 *Hamilton's* writer and director got them for 2015
 - 16 Line used on a stage
 - 17 Expression of concern
 - 18 Drought dangers
 - 20 Contest with fencing
 - 22 Stand ___
 - 23 Oklahoma native
 - 24 Alkaline battery developer
 - 25 "Dressed all in fur" guy of rhyme
 - 30 Result of uncontrolled fusion
 - 31 Subject of the 1996 biography *Fever!*
 - 33 Finn, for one
 - 34 Major FedEx hub
 - 38 Whom Robert Frost was named for
 - 39 Began shooting
 - 40 Gone from the lot, say
 - 42 Shell stations?
 - 46 Gone from the stacks, say
 - 48 Candide, to Pangloss
 - 49 President after Aquino
 - 50 Icon of social estrangement
 - 54 For the baseline
 - 56 Misses
 - 57 Silver mining data
 - 58 Patent
- DOWN**
- 1 Keyboarding by-products
 - 2 *Chocolat* specification
 - 3 Port vessel, perhaps
 - 4 Join irreversibly
 - 5 ___ water
 - 6 Neighbor
 - 7 1099-___ (IRS form)
 - 8 Second of the Hebrew alphabet
 - 9 Nativity figure
 - 10 Young Agent K in *Men in Black 3*
 - 11 Something the TSA won't let you get away with
 - 12 Whom Renée Zellweger impersonated for *Vanity Fair*
 - 13 Destination for a short cruise from Los Angeles
 - 19 Speck
 - 21 SmartKey and SuperKey were early ones
 - 24 Marriage, per some ceremonies
 - 26 Refuse to let go of
 - 27 Plant's pistil part
 - 28 Graphic design specialty
 - 29 Traditional parka maker
 - 32 Smartphone conveniences
 - 34 Ultimate trailers
 - 35 A little more than 0
 - 36 Tank space sharer
 - 37 Fliers may be part of it
 - 41 Sunk
 - 43 Currently chilling
 - 44 Orbits
 - 45 Lexicographers' collection
 - 47 "___ explained..."
 - 50 Malarkey
 - 51 "Truly" alternative
 - 52 Obfuscation, so to speak
 - 53 They wear Star of Life patches
 - 55 Contraction candidate

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14				15					16			
17				18					19			
20				21					22			
23									24			
25					26	27	28	29		30		
				31					32		33	
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40				41	42					43	44	45
46				47					48			
49						50	51	52	53			
54					55					56		
57					58					59		
60					61					62		

Answer to previous puzzle

POW	SILL	GOOFS
RAVE	ILLIE	APRIL
AREA	GLEE	ZESTY
WARREN	BURGER	
EDS	VEE	ABATES
GETS	SIT	NEMO
ERA	GSUIT	SOME
HARP	FRANK	FURTER
REFS	AILS	OMITS
AYE	ISPY	SPINET
MEDINA	III	GNP
SALMON	PCHASE	
SHALT	CHAP	TWIT
IMPEI	ANNE	MALE
NORSE	TOED	LYE

sudoku
ANSWERS

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

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HERALD

Fading French town offers hope of new life for Syrian family



AP Photo/Thanassis Stavrakis

In this photo taken on Friday, Dec. 16, 2016, Iman Mshanati holds her six-month-old daughter Layan outside the town hall of Gray, eastern France. The Syrian family of Alahamad was among the lucky few accepted so far into a European relocation program.

By ELENA BECATOROS

Associated Press

GRAY, France (AP) — Gray is a dying town, its residents lament. Big businesses have moved away, taking jobs with them. Though it still lives up to its nickname “Gray la jolie,” or “Gray the pretty,” many stores now lie vacant, with fading “to rent” signs in their windows.

But for one Syrian family, the picturesque streets, red-tiled rooftops and quiet river walks offer hope of rebuilding their shattered lives, away from the fear of death lurking around every corner in their homeland.

“I will start to love life another time,” said Abd Alwahab Alahamad, a 43-year-old Damascus oncologist. “Because sometimes (in the) last two years, I thought it will be very difficult to stay alive.”

Like hundreds of thousands before them, the Alahamads risked everything to escape war and the dark brutality of the Islamic State group, embarking on a perilous and uncertain journey through checkpoints, bombs and a nightmarish sea crossing to Greece.

But after months of uncertainty and doubt, their luck began to change. Alahamad, his wife Iman Mshanati and their three children — 5-year-old Nora, 2-year-old Ahmed and baby Layan, born in Greece six months ago — were among the fortunate few accepted so far into an ambitious European relocation program.

Launched in late 2015, the program was designed to relieve pressure on Greece and Italy, the main entry points for more than a million people fleeing into the European Union. But it has come under fire for moving too slowly. Of the 66,400 people who should be relocated from Greece by this September, just 7,286 had been resettled by the end of December, according to figures from the International Organization for Migration, which organizes the transfers.

SeaWorld: Tilikum, orca that killed trainer, has died

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — Tilikum, an orca that killed a trainer at SeaWorld Orlando in 2010 and was profiled in a documentary that helped sway popular opinion against keeping killer whales in captivity at SeaWorld parks, has died.

Sea World officials said Friday that Tilikum died but did not give a cause of death. In a statement, the officials said Tilikum had faced serious health issues including a persistent and complicated bacterial lung infection. He was estimated to be 36 years old. A necropsy will be performed, according to the statement.

The 2010 death of SeaWorld trainer Dawn Brancheau during a performance with Tilikum after a “Dine with Shamu” show shocked the public and changed the future of orcas at SeaWorld parks.

Brancheau was interacting with Tilikum before a live audience at SeaWorld Orlando when he pulled her from a platform by her arm and held her underwater. An autopsy report said Brancheau drowned but also

France has taken in the most refugees from Greece, 2,420. The next highest-receiver is the Netherlands, which has taken 836.

Applicants cannot choose their destination. The Alahamads were assigned to France, a country neither the Russian-trained doctor nor his wife, a 33-year-old nutritionist and beautician, had ever visited.

“We are going into the unknown; We do not know the city, the people, nothing,” said Mshanti in a small apartment in Athens the day before the family’s flight to Paris, three small suitcases sitting neatly packed on the floor. “But we hear from people who had left before us that they are happy, and we felt relieved.”

The family had never intended to leave Syria. They didn’t expect the 2011 street protests against Syrian President Bashar Assad to turn into a full-blown civil war.

“At first everybody thought — not only me — that it will finish tomorrow, the day after tomorrow,” Alahamad said of the early days of the rebellion.

The trials of their months-long journey are etched on their faces.

In 2014, warned government forces were looking for him after he treated a man for gunshot wounds, Alahamad fled Damascus. He moved the family to an eastern town near the city of Deir-e-Zor, where his parents are from, and quickly found a job in a private clinic.

But the war followed.

The area was overrun by IS extremists who imposed strict Islamic rule. Mshanti had to wear the all-enveloping black abaya; Alahamad was questioned for treating female patients, and forced to watch a public killing. A family friend was beheaded, his body left on the street for three days. Relentless bombings claimed the lives of relatives and friends.

After a particularly close call, when rockets landed near their home,

suffered severe trauma, including multiple fractures.

SeaWorld Entertainment officials announced in March 2016 that the tourist attraction would end its orca breeding program and theatrical shows involving

killer whales.

While the breeding program continued, Tilikum was SeaWorld’s most prolific male orca, siring 14 calves during his time at SeaWorld Orlando. He arrived at the park about 25 years ago.

wounding relatives, Alahamad decided the time had come.

“I left. I left everything behind,” he said.

With two young children and a pregnant wife, the journey was harrowing. The nighttime treks and border crossing, the smugglers, the ride jammed into the back of a truck with nearly 100 others. But nothing compared to the boat crossing from Turkey to Greece. Nora cried, clutching her father’s hand. She was convinced they would die.

Their first try failed. The couple paid \$800 each, for four spots in an overcrowded dinghy that nobody on board knew how to drive. They went round in circles on the Aegean Sea until the Turkish coast guard intercepted the boat and took all its passengers to a detention center.

On their second attempt, a fellow passenger motored for hours through rough seas to the Greek island of Chios. The family reached mainland Greece 10 days later.

Alahamad spent months working as a volunteer doctor in refugee camps housing some of the more than 62,000 asylum seekers stranded in Greece by border closures and a deal between the EU and Turkey intended to stem the flow of migrants into Europe. He and Mshanti thought of staying, but Greece’s asylum system was overwhelmed.

So they applied for relocation. Months of waiting ensued, punctuated by interviews with authorities for the relocation procedure and Layan’s birth. Then in September, the news they had been waiting for: Their application was successful.

The Alahamads were assigned to Gray, a pretty, sleepy medieval town in eastern France of about 6,000 people on the River Saone just before it flows into Burgundy. They would be part of the second group of families sent there from Greece. The first arrived in March, with a maximum 29 people arriving each time.

Gray Mayor Christophe Laurencot stipulated the town would accept only families, and each would be assigned a social worker. The families are given housing while they apply for asylum, a process that normally takes about four months in the fast-track relocation procedure, said Guillaume Germain, regional director of the French Immigration and Integration Office. Once granted refugee status,

they can stay in state housing for another six months while searching for jobs and living arrangements of their own, but are free to move elsewhere in France if they prefer. Of the first five families to arrive in Gray, four have moved elsewhere.

But small, close-knit towns do not always embrace outsiders. To facilitate integration, Laurencot decided the best tactic was full transparency and informed residents about the program before the first arrivals in March.

“We had reactions straight away,” he said. “Good, less good or bad, I had them all.” Some residents offered overwhelming generosity, while others questioned why the state should help foreigners.

But, Laurencot said, “France is after all a country of hosts, a country of reception, a welcoming country. And it’s not enough to say it; we had to do it.”

So far, the mayor’s tactic appears to be working.

“It’s very, very good, we see them pass by, there are no worries on that account, everything is going well,” said Stephanie Vanhee, who runs an optical shop in Gray. Toddler Ahmed squealed with joy at being allowed to pet her puppy, Morito, during the family’s first tour around town. “It must be done, you know. We must receive them.”

Clothing store owner Roberte Fouillot said reactions were more or less positive, although there was some initial reticence to the idea, what with the recent terror attacks by Islamic extremists and demands on social services by needy French people. But images of the war in Syria in the media shocked her.

“These poor kids, these poor families who are suffering — it’s unacceptable in our day and age,” Fouillot said.

As for the issue of integration, Fouillot does not foresee problems.

“They are people like everyone else. We all have our religion,” she said. “Today, if everyone reached out to each other, well, there might be less wars, less misery in the world.”

The Alahamads arrived in Gray on a foggy mid-December night. Allocated a bare but warm apartment, Alahamad and Mshanti breathed a sigh of relief.

They look forward to learning French, finding work and sending the children to school. Alahamad hopes France will recognize his Russian medical degree.

An exploratory walk, with Nora and Ahmed playing excitedly in a small playground near the river, cemented their impression: The town was perfect. The worst, they hoped, was finally behind them.

“It’s difficult. We lost many things,” Alahamad said. “I want to start a new life. Now, I think we have a chance.”

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