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BIG SPRING HERALD

TUESDAY, JANUARY 10, 2017



VOLUME 112, NUMBER 386 COPYRIGHT 2017 50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 SUNDAY

Let's go Hawks!



HERALD photo/Steve Reagan
 The men's and women's basketball teams fared well at their first conference game following the Christmas break. Both won their games against Western Texas College Monday night in the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum. For related story, see Page 7.

Commissioners discuss combing county library with college

By AMANDA ELSTON
 Managing Editor

Due to a possible roll back tax rate that will be discussed during the next Texas legislative session, Commissioner Craig Bailey proposed to discuss a possible inter-local agreement between Howard College and the county during Monday afternoon's county commissioner meeting. The roll back rate, drafted SB 2 by Houston Senator Paul Bettencourt, would lower the property tax rollback rate from 8 percent to 4 percent. The bill was drafted after Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick charged a spe-

cial Senate committee last session to come up with a way to solve rising property taxes. During Monday's meeting, Bailey proposed to discuss at a later date a shared library between the college and the county due to the possible lack of funding if the bill passes.

"The college is mandated by the state to have a library and this would give us an opportunity given the lack of funding," said Bailey. "We are in a situation going forward that the third item on (Patrick's) list is to roll back the rate from 8 percent to 4 percent."

See **COUNTY**, Page 3

The best in their class



HERALD photo/Lyndel Moody
 The following BSHS students earned a spot in the All-State Choir: Charlie Correa, Josiah Garcia, Bhili Gill, Christian Horton, and Ranen Wilson. Kaelob Stewart is an alternate.

BSHS choir students shine at contest, five earn spot in All-State

By LYNDEL MOODY
 Staff Writer

Add five more to the growing list of students earning spots in the All-State Choir from Big Spring High School.

The choir program had five of its students place in an All-State Choir at a very tough Area UIL competition held this past weekend, according to Beth Spence, assistant choir director. The students competed against participants in more than 75 programs ranging from El Paso to Fort Worth and Amarillo to San Angelo.

Earning a spot were Charlie Correa, Josiah Garcia, Bhili Gill, Christian Horton, and Ranen Wilson. Kaelob Stewart is an alternate.

Choir Program Director Gershom Garcia said he continues to be impressed by the area's musical talent.

See **CHOIR**, Page 3



HERALD photo/Lyndel Moody
 The following BSHS students earned a spot in the All-State Band: Abbey Bryan, Robert Sotelo, Aaron Blackshear, and Casey Shubert.

Four BSHS band students earn a spot in All-State Band

By LYNDEL MOODY
 Staff Writer

In one of the strongest performances at an area competition in years, four Big Spring High School band students earned a spot in the All-State Band this past weekend.

Earning a spot were Abbey Bryan, clarinet; Robert Sotelo, trombone; Aaron Blackshear, euphonium; and Casey Shubert, bass trombone.

"This was the our strongest performance at an area competition," said Rocky Harris, BSHS band director. "We had 18 students go and many of

them — although not all went on to state — earned much higher chairs than the competitors in their region."

Harris said band students competed against participants from four regions which included as far east as El Paso and west as Fort Worth and north to Amarillo and south to San Angelo.

Now all four will compete for a chair in the 4-A All-State Band when they attend the Texas Music Educator Association convention set for Feb. 8-12 in San Antonio.

See **BAND**, Page 3



JON HART DESIGN

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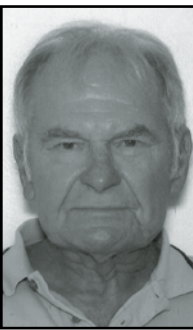
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Obituaries

Dale Kirkpatrick



Dale Kirkpatrick, 81, of Big Spring, passed away Sunday, January 8, 2017 at his residence. The family will receive friends from 6:00 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, January 10, 2017 at Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Graveside service will be held at 2:00 p.m. Wednesday at Mount Olive Memorial Park Chapel with Dr. Bob Hines, pastor of 1st Baptist Church Sand Springs officiating.

Dale was born November 20, 1935, in Big Spring, Texas to Odessa Bryant Kirkpatrick and Ira Kirkpatrick. He married Jean Buchanan on January 15, 1954 in Big Spring, Texas. Dale worked in the Oil Field for over 62 years before retiring. He en-

joyed playing the guitar, scuba diving, hunting and riding his motorcycle. He was a member of 1st Baptist Church of Sand Springs.

Dale is survived by his wife, Jean, of the home; children, Kellye Kirkpatrick of Allen, Martin Kirkpatrick and wife, Patty of Big Spring and Jacqueline Garcia of Austin. He is also survived by his grandchildren, Kristy Kirkpatrick, Leon Garcia and wife, Erica, Dawna Barker and husband, Jonathan, Eric Garcia and Travis Atkins; and his great-grandchildren, Leon and Jacob Garcia and Emilee and Conner Barker.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by one brother, Eugene, and three sisters: Laverne, Edith and Lois.

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

Paid obituary

Support Groups

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.

• A six-week course in Wellness and Quality of Life with Chronic Pain will start Tuesday, Jan. 10, at 6:30 p.m. at Spring Creek Fellowship located in the Spring Town Plaza, 1801 E. FM 700. There is no charge for the course, and a workbook will be provided. Contact Steve Purdy at 432-517-4840 for more information.

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

WEDNESDAY

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

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

THURSDAY

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

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

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

FRIDAY

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

SATURDAY

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

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.

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.

Ruth Evelyn Williams

Ruth Evelyn Williams, 96, formerly of Big Spring, died Monday, January 9, 2017 in Azle, Texas. Services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory.

Fire/EMS

Big Spring Fire Department/EMS reported the following activity:

• **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 2500 block of Larry. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

• **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 5900 block of N. Service Rd I-20. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

• **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 3200 block of Parkway. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

• **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 6400 block of S. Service Road.

• **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 1700 block of Lancaster. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

• **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 8900 block of S. Service Road. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

• **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 3600 block of Connally. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity:

• **ASHTON LOU-RISSA AKIN**, 23, of 123 Jonesboro Road was arrested on a warrant from another agency.

• **MINOR ACCIDENT** was reported at the intersection of Seventh Street and Main and the intersection of 14th Street and Gregg.

• **BURGLARY OF HABITATION** was reported in the 100 block of Broken Bow.

• **THEFT** was reported in the 200 block of Algerita Street, the 1700 block of E FM 700, and the 500 block of E 3rd Street.

• **STOLEN VEHICLE** was reported in the 3000 block of N Hwy 87.

• **CRIMINAL MISCHIEF** was reported in the 3600 block of W Hwy 80.

• 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,

• 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.

BIG SPRING HERALD

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The Big Spring Herald is a member of The Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce, Texas Press Association, West Texas Press Association, Texas Daily Newspaper Association, The Associated Press.

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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
BY THE MONTH HOME DELIVERY: \$9.00 monthly; \$97.20 yearly (includes 10% discount). MAIL SUBSCRIPTIONS: \$14.58 monthly Howard; \$18.33 elsewhere.

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Congress to quiz US intelligence official on hacking report

WASHINGTON (AP) — The nation's top intelligence official faces questioning on Capitol Hill on Tuesday about a report that fingered the Kremlin in hacking during the presidential campaign.

James Clapper, the director of national intelligence, is appearing before the Senate intelligence committee, where lawmakers' questions will expose the underlying debate over the future of U.S.-Russian relations. Clapper also addressed the Russian interference when appearing before the Senate Armed Services Committee last week ahead of the report's release.

The declassified report explicitly tied Russian President Vladimir Putin to the hacking of email accounts of the Democratic National Committee and individual Democrats like Hillary Clin-

ton's campaign chairman, John Podesta. Russia also used state-funded propaganda and paid "trolls" to make nasty comments on social media services, the report said, although there was no suggestion such operations affected the actual vote count.

The report lacked details about how the U.S. learned what it says it knows, such as any intercepted conversations or electronic messages from Russian leaders, including Putin. It also said nothing about specific hacker techniques or digital tools the U.S. may have traced back to Russia in its investigations.

Putin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters on Monday that the Kremlin still believes the U.S. accusations of election hacking have no substance.

"They are amateurish and

are hardly worthy of the high professional standards of top intelligence agencies," Peskov said. "We categorically rule out the possibility that Russian officials or official bodies could have been involved. We are tired of such accusations. This is beginning to remind us of a full-fledged witch hunt."

According to U.S. intelligence agencies, Russia provided the emails to WikiLeaks. The website's founder, Julian Assange, denies that is the case, but Democratic and Republican members of Congress have largely backed the accusation and many have demanded a sterner response.

On Monday, Assange called the report on hacking a politically motivated "press release" and said it provided no evidence that Russian actors

gave WikiLeaks hacked material.

President Barack Obama struck back at Moscow in late December with penalties aimed at Russia's leading spy agencies, the GRU and FSB, that the U.S. said were involved in the hacking. The GRU is Russia's military intelligence agency. The FSB is the main successor to the Soviet-era KGB.

On Monday, the U.S. levied economic sanctions against five Russians in connection to a 2012 U.S. law punishing Russian human rights violators. Americans are now banned from doing business with the men and any assets they may have in the United States are now frozen.

The most prominent individual targeted by the new sanctions is Alexander Bas-

trykin, who heads Russia's main investigative agency and is close to Putin. The two attended the same university together.

The Investigative Committee under Bastrykin investigated Russian whistleblower Sergei Magnitsky's death in prison in 2009, but closed the case after determining there was no evidence of a crime.

Two of the other Russians placed on the Treasury Department's list have been accused of trying to help cover up Magnitsky's death. Britain blames the two others for the London murder of a former Russian intelligence agent.

Forty-four Russians have now been subjected to U.S. sanctions under the so-called Magnitsky law, the State Department said.

Sessions says he'd be fair as AG, defy Trump if necessary

WASHINGTON (AP) — Sen. Jeff Sessions cast himself as a strong protector of law and order at his confirmation hearing Tuesday, promising that as attorney general he would crack down on illegal immigration, gun violence and the "scourge of radical Islamic terrorism."

Sessions, echoing rhetoric used on

the campaign trail by President-elect Donald Trump, warned of a country struggling to combat illegal drugs flooding across the border, spikes in violent crime in American cities and low morale among police.

"These trends cannot continue. It is a fundamental civil right to be safe in your home and your community,"

the Alabama

Republican said in laying out conservative priorities for the Justice Department at the opening of his Senate hearing. Politics got its share of attention, too, with Sessions promising to recuse himself from any investigation there might be into Democrat Hillary Clinton, because of comments he'd made during the campaign. Trump said previously that he would name a special prosecutor to look into Clinton's use of a private email server, but has since backed away. The FBI and Justice Department declined to bring charges last year.

Sessions has solid support from the Senate's Republican majority, but faces a challenge persuading skeptical Democrats that he'll be fair and committed to civil rights as the country's top law enforcement official. Sen. Dianne Feinstein hinted at those

concerns, saying "there is so much fear in this country" particularly among blacks.

Sessions, whose 1986 judicial nomination was derailed by allegations of racially charged comments, sought to confront that concern by saying he "understands the history of civil rights and the horrendous impact that relentless and systemic discrimination and the denial of voting rights has had on our African-American brothers and sisters. I have witnessed it."

"The office of the attorney general of the United States is not a political position, and anyone who holds it must have total fidelity to the laws and the Constitution of the United States," he said.

CHOIR

Continued from Page 1

"I am from the Houston area and you think coming from a region that large to a rural area here you are not going to see as much potential talent out here as there," he said. "There is a lot of talent in out here, as much or even more."

Since Garcia and Spence took over the program three years ago, the number of students earning a spot at All-State has been growing. Three years ago, three BSHS choir students earned a spot, last year that number grew

to four.

The students will perform during the Texas Music Educator Association convention, set for Feb. 8-12 in San Antonio. Correa will perform in the large school men's choir on Saturday. Garcia, Gill, Horton, and Wilson will perform in the small school mixed choir also held Saturday.

Ten choir students competed at area auditions including Avree Tubb, Jessica Reyes, Kenra Thi-beault, and Raymond Smalling.

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

the Alabama Republican said in laying out conservative priorities

BAND

Continued from Page 1

Also competing at area competition from BSHS were Gabriella Medina, Odalys Vela, Danielle Conner, Rose Carrizosa, Makaila Phillips, Aiden Newton,

Joseph Doll, Brandon Hilario, Mateo Rodriguez, Marcos Haro, Adrian Wilbert, Rocky Ramirez, Jeremy Gonzales, and Luke Wood.

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

COUNTY

Continued from Page 1

It is prudent to look at this and to preserve our library moving forward and to deliver this service to the public."

The inter-local agreement was to be discussed at Monday's meeting but was postponed by Bailey and tabled for a later date. Bailey encouraged those in attendance to contact local representatives concerning the bill.

District Clerk Colleen Barton brought a resolution before commissioners to stand in solidarity with the local court and clerks in opposition to a state-mandated e-filing system. The system, hosted by efiletexas.gov, makes court records available to lawyers and the public for a fee, paid to efiletexas.gov, rather than the county.

"County clerks are the custodians for court records," said Barton. "Counties are responsible for providing clerks and we oppose this amendment."

Barton said that nearly every clerk in the state is fighting the e-file mandate because of revenue lost.

Barton was also concerned about case information that would be readily available to the general public.

"There would be no way to expunge a case," said Barton. "Information would just be out there."

While clerks will still have to upload files to the site, Barton said that the more counties that stand together in opposition, the better chance they would have.

"We will have to use E-file Texas forever," said Barton. "But the more counties that approve this resolution, the better chance we have."

The resolution was passed by commissioners.

In other items, the commissioners: -discussed upgrading the IT servers from local machines to cloud storage. According to IT Director Johnny Moore, problems with email and file sharing on a county server last week led to the purchase of a cloud service that costs \$300 for five years and \$600 for five years after that.

"It's a very good deal," said Moore. "We have been kind of thinking about it. A new server would be around \$7,000."

The email is currently back up and running and

files are in the process of being restored.

• Bonding of the county's newly elected positions as presented.

• Approved shoulder widening/patching material bid for county roads.

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

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Dale Kirkpatrick, 81, died Sunday. The family will receive friends from 6:00 PM until 7:30 PM today at Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Graveside service will be held at 2:00 PM Wednesday at Mount Olive Memorial Park Chapel.

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Chief: Texas policeman suspended for 10 days after incident

DALLAS (AP) — A white Texas policeman was suspended without pay for 10 days, but will not be fired, after an incident in which he was caught on video wrestling a black woman and her daughter to the ground, Fort Worth Police Chief Joel Fitzgerald announced Monday.

Fitzgerald said the officer violated policy, is sorry for his behavior and is eager to resume active duty at the end of the suspension.

The incident happened after Jacqueline Craig complained that a neighbor choked her 7-year-old son. In the video, the officer questions whether that's a problem. One of Craig's daughters tries to push her mother away from the officer, but the officer forces Craig and the daughter to the ground. He thrusts a stun gun into Craig's back.

He arrested Craig and her daughters on charges that include disorderly conduct.

Craig's attorney had demanded that the officer be fired. The video was viewed millions of times on Facebook.

Texas lieutenant governor vows not to 'primary' governor

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick insists he'll run for re-election next year, trying to tamp down speculation he could mount a primary challenge against fellow Republican Gov. Greg Abbott.

Patrick told reporters at GOP of Texas headquarters Monday they could "put it in concrete" that he won't compete against Abbott in 2018 or ever.

An ex-conservative talk radio host and tea party firebrand, Patrick has said repeatedly he sees Abbott as an ally.

But he's fueled reports of rivalry by consistently getting to the right of the more lawyerly Abbott, a former state Supreme Court justice, on many social issues — including trying to ban transgender Texans from using the public restroom of their choice.

Patrick also fully embraced Donald Trump's presidential candidacy while Abbott was more cautious in his support.

85-year-old Texas man helps pull 2 women from burning car

BURLESON, Texas (AP) — Authorities credit an 85-year-old Texas man who walks with the aid of a cane for helping save the lives of two women whose speeding car flipped over onto his front yard and burst into flames.

Texas Department of Public Safety officials say the 22-year-old driver likely was driving too fast as she rounded a bend early Sunday and lost control in Burleson, south of Fort Worth.

Lindell Marbut witnessed the wreck, banged on the windshield with his cane and helped to pull the driver from the car as his caretaker called 911. The caretaker then helped him drag the passenger to safety.

Johnson County firefighter Keith Flemming told KDFW-TV that "it wouldn't have been a good turnout" had Marbut not intervened.

Oil slump socks Texas budget, making spending cuts likely

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — A prolonged oil slump is leaving Texas with a grim spending forecast, and one top Republican lawmaker says budget cuts are now certain.

Spending figures released Monday show that Texas won't escape the financial woes that Oklahoma, Louisiana and other energy-producing states have confronted following the oil bust.

Republican state Rep. Drew Darby says the Texas Legislature could be more than \$5 billion short of the money needed just to preserve current services. That deficit looms as lawmakers confront a growing child welfare crisis and pressure from public schools.

Republican Comptroller Glenn Hegar says oil and gas taxes plummeted by more than 50 percent last year.

China warns after Cruz, Abbott meet Taiwan's president



Taiwan's President Tsai Ing-wen delivers a speech before traveling to visit Central American allies including a U.S. transit, Saturday, Jan. 7, 2017, at the Taoyuan International Airport in Taoyuan, Taiwan. Tsai pledged to bolster Taiwan's presence on the international stage on her visit four Central American allies on a trip that includes U.S. transits and looks set to raise China's ire.

BEIJING (AP) — China reiterated its opposition Monday to any contacts between U.S. officials and Taiwan's government following a meeting between Texas Sen. Ted Cruz and Gov. Greg Abbott and the self-governing island's president, Tsai Ing-wen.

Cruz and Abbot met with Tsai on Sunday while she was passing through Houston on her way to visit Taiwan's Central American allies.

At a news briefing in Beijing on Monday, Foreign Ministry spokesman Lu Kang said China was firmly opposed to any contact between Taiwan's leader and "anyone from the U.S. government." He said such contacts threaten to disturb and undermine relations between Washington and Beijing.

China claims Taiwan as its own territory and has been ratcheting up diplomatic pressure on the independence-leaning Tsai since

her election last year.

Cruz said in a statement that he and Tsai "discussed our mutual opportunity to upgrade the stature of our bilateral relations" in their meeting, which addressed arms sales, diplomatic exchanges and economic ties.

An official with Republican President elect-Donald Trump's transition team said neither Trump nor transition officials would meet with Tsai. Her stop in the U.S. was scrutinized by Beijing for any signs that Trump's team would risk its ire by further engaging with Taiwan, which China considers to be its territory.

Trump breached diplomatic protocol last month by speaking by phone with the Taiwanese leader. Trump raised further concerns in Beijing when he questioned a U.S. policy that since 1979 has recognized Beijing as China's government and main-

tains only unofficial relations with Taiwan.

U.S. lawmakers often meet with Taiwanese presidents when they transit through the U.S., most recently in June, when Tsai met in Miami with Republican Sen. Marco Rubio of Florida.

The tabloid Global Times, published by China's Communist Party, said in an editorial Sunday that Beijing would take a hard line toward any contacts between Taiwan's government and the incoming Trump administration. China "should also impose military pressure on Taiwan and push it to the edge of being reunified by force," it said.

China has "seized the initiative. The U.S. and Taiwan now should restrain, or be forced to restrain, themselves," the newspaper said.

"Tsai needs to face the consequences for every provocative step she takes," it said.

Texas lawmakers look to help troubled child welfare system

By JAMIE STENGLE

Associated Press

DALLAS (AP) — Texas lawmakers agree on the need to improve the state's beleaguered child welfare system, but how to do it and to pay for it during a tight budget year are still very much up in the air.

With troubles mounting at the state agency that investigates reports of child abuse and, if needed, places abused children in foster care, lawmakers have already been filing bills that they think will help fix the system ahead of the legislative session that starts Tuesday.

"There's no bigger fight than the need to protect the lives of children. If others don't see that, then it's a travesty," said

state Rep. Armando Walle, a Houston Democrat who has proposed legislation that would address worker caseloads, which are often cited as a reason for high turnover.

Also looming is a federal judge's order requiring reforms at the Department of Family and Protective Services aimed at improving conditions for those in long-term foster care. In her December 2015 opinion, U.S. District Judge Janis Graham Jack wrote that these children "almost uniformly leave state custody more damaged than when they entered" and she described cases in which kids continued to suffer abuse as they ping-ponged through the system.

See **SYSTEM**, Page 5

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Missing Texas girl found during traffic stop in Louisiana

MANDEVILLE, La. (AP) — Authorities say a Louisiana sheriff's deputy found a missing Texas girl during a traffic stop.

The St. Tammany Parish Sheriff's Office said in a news release that a deputy stopped a car on Friday near Mandeville because it was traveling with its high beams on.

The deputy discovered that a girl in the vehicle had been reported missing from Houston on Thursday.

Authorities say three undocumented men from Guatemala were also inside the vehicle. They were taken into custody by U.S. Border Patrol agents.

Deputies were working with Houston police to get the girl back to Texas.

Sheriff Randy Smith says investigators are not yet sure why the girl was with the men. No criminal charges were immediately filed.

Texas court to hear UT regent's claim for access to records

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — The state's highest civil court will hear arguments by a controversial University of Texas regent that he's entitled to review student admissions and other records in an effort to identify what he sees as wrongdoing in the admissions process.

The Austin American-Statesman reports the Texas Supreme Court is scheduled to hear arguments Wednesday in the longstanding case brought by regent Wallace Hall.

Hall is seeking access to several hundred thousand pages of emails, interview notes and other records, including confidential student information.

He's also pursuing the names of officials who used their influence to help some applicants gain admission to the Austin campus despite subpar grades.

Former UT President Bill Powers has acknowledged providing admission to some students, saying it was in UT's interest to foster good relations with stakeholders.

Handcuffed Texas suspect shoots himself while in custody

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Texas police say a suspect in handcuffs pulled a handgun from his waistband and shot himself in the head while he was being driven to a police station.

Interim Austin police Chief Brian Manley says the man was arrested Sunday on suspicion of shoplifting and possessing a controlled substance.

Manley didn't explain if the man was searched or why he had a weapon while in custody.

He says the handcuffed man was inside a police car when he pulled the weapon and aimed it at his head. An officer ordered him to drop the weapon but minutes later the man shot himself.

The suspect was being treated late Sunday for life-threatening injuries. Manley has not released the suspect's name, but says he's in his late teens or early 20s.

Cockpit smoke forces Dallas Stars' plane back to airport

CAHOKIA, Ill. (AP) — A plane carrying the Dallas Stars hockey team was forced to return to a St. Louis-area airport because of smoke in the cockpit.

The Belleville News-Democrat reports the Boeing 737 took off at 11:52 a.m. from the St. Louis Downtown Airport in Cahokia, Illinois, but turned around within five minutes.

Mike Mavrogeorge, airport fire chief, says the smoke might have come from an electrical malfunction. He says there was no fire.

The plane was carrying 50 passengers including team members and staff.

The Stars were in St. Louis on Saturday night for a game against the Blues.

A backup plane was summoned to take the team to Los Angeles to face the Kings on Monday night.

Airport shooting raises questions about guns in baggage

By DAVID KOENIG

AP Airlines Writer

DALLAS (AP) — The suspect in a deadly shooting at a Florida airport used a gun that he had stored in his checked luggage, raising questions about airport security and whether safety officials need to change the current rules.

Esteban Santiago, 26, retrieved his gun from his bag on the carousel, loaded it in a bathroom of the Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport, then emerged shooting in the baggage-claim area Friday, killing five people and wounding eight, authorities said.

Transportation Security Administration rules prohibit guns in carry-on bags, but they allow passengers to ship guns if they are unloaded, put in a hard-sided, locked container that only the owner has the ability to unlock, and placed in a checked bag. Explosive or flammable ammunition such as gun powder is banned, but bullets are legal if carried in checked baggage.

That means gun owners can't get to their weapons during a

flight but can easily retrieve and load them after claiming their checked bags.

"This guy found a way to exploit a weakness in the system," said Henry Harteveltdt, a travel analyst in San Francisco.

A ban on shipping guns in luggage would hurt law-abiding hunters, he said, "but I don't think the TSA and FAA (Federal Aviation Administration) can ignore what happened. How many airline passengers today are worried that they are vulnerable?"

This is not the first shooting using weapons in checked baggage. In 1972, three members of the Japanese Red Army terror group retrieved guns and grenades from their bags after landing in Tel Aviv, Israel, and killed 26 people.

"This guy followed the script from 1972," said Jeffrey Price, an aviation-security expert who teaches at Metropolitan State University of Denver.

Price said that banning guns in luggage might have prevented Friday's attack but wouldn't stop a determined killer.

"What's to stop him from driving to the airport, parking his car, getting his gun and going into the airport and shooting people?" Price said.

A TSA spokesman referred The Associated Press to the agency's current rules but declined to comment further, including on whether Friday's shooting would lead to a review of those rules.

The TSA does not track the number of guns that passengers place in checked bags, but it is not a rare practice. Most airlines detail their gun-carrying policies on their websites. Santiago had flown out of Anchorage, Alaska. So many hunters from the Lower 48 visit Alaska that the state's Fish and Game Department also describes on its site how to travel with guns.

Price noted that passengers wishing to check guns must declare them and show that they are unloaded. He said airlines often have the gun inspected by TSA officers in another part of the airport. It's enough of

See SHOOTING, Page 14

SYSTEM

Continued from Page 4

Despite Republican Gov. Greg Abbott's calls after taking office in 2015 for improvements at DFPS, last year brought more bad news for the agency, which includes Child Protective Services. It emerged that some children taken from their families had to sleep in state offices, motels or emergency shelters because of a lack of other options, children believed to be at risk weren't being promptly seen, if at all, and more children were dying of abuse and neglect.

While the child welfare agency was granted about \$140 million in emergency funding last month to hire 800 new CPS workers and give pay raises to thousands of others, child welfare advocates say more changes are needed.

Will Francis, the governmental relations director for the Texas chapter of the National Association of Social Workers, said that while that money will help recruit workers, he doesn't want anyone to think it's the solution to the caseworker turnover prob-

lem. He said that in order to retain workers, their caseloads must be reduced to manageable levels. He also said there needs to be better training, including for how caseworkers can have more meaningful visits with children.

Walle, who pushed failed legislation in past sessions that would have improved worker caseloads and pay, said his bill this session addressing caseloads would cost an estimated \$200 million to \$300 million.

"Some folks thought I was crazy for continuing to fight this thing," said Walle, who added that he'd like to see a permanent salary increase for caseworkers, not just the temporary one approved in December.

Madeline McClure, founder and executive director of the Dallas-based advocacy group TexProtects: Texas Association for the Protection of Children, said there finally seems to be enough support for "a wholehearted comprehensive look at what it takes to recruit and maintain a quality workforce." Doing that will improve outcomes for children and their families, she said.

McClure said that the funding

approved last month will help, but that she's pushing for an additional salary increase for supervisors. "They're responsible for all of the cases underneath them," she said.

State Sen. Carlos Uresti, a San Antonio Democrat who co-sponsored a bill with two Republicans that would make an array of changes to the foster care system, said he believes the state has "stepped up" in a "bipartisan manner" for child welfare. Though there isn't an official cost estimate for the bill yet, he said he's sure it will be expensive.

Uresti said that although there seems to be momentum for reforms, it's also important to put more money toward prevention. He said it would help vulnerable children and would end up saving money that otherwise would have gone toward sending them to counseling, juvenile detention or prison.

"Until we do more in preventing child abuse and neglect, we're never going to fix the problem. You're always going to have kids coming in and out of foster care," Uresti said.

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Trump predicts all Cabinet picks will win confirmation



AP photo

Senate confirmation hearings for Trump's cabinet picks will begin Tuesday morning with his selection for U.S. attorney general, Sen. Jeff Sessions (R-Ala.), whom Trump called "a high-quality man."

By JILL COLVIN and STEVE PEOPLES

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Facing a week of high-profile tests for his administration-in-waiting, President-elect Donald Trump predicted Monday that all of his Cabinet picks would win Senate confirmation, while insisting there is a "very simple, very easy" way to disentangle himself from his global business empire before he takes office.

Trump's confidence comes as lawmakers in both parties eagerly await the submission of ethics forms from Cabinet nominees, including at least two billionaires whose extensive personal financial dealings have never faced public scrutiny.

"I think they'll all pass," Trump said between private meetings in his Manhattan sky rise, describing his Cabinet picks as "all at the highest level."

Senators are set to question Trump's picks for the nation's top diplomat, lead law enforcement officer and head of homeland security, among at least nine picks set to parade before Senate committees beginning Tuesday. A day later, Trump faces reporters

for his first formal news conference in nearly six months.

Among the topics he's expected to address: How the New York real estate magnate will build a firewall between his presidency and his global empire. Trump has pledged to step away from the Trump Organization during his time in office, but amid warnings from government watchdogs and officials in both parties, he has yet to say specifically how he would do that.

Trump insisted Monday it would be "simple" for him to disentangle himself from his extensive international business interests. The details, he said, would have to wait until Wednesday's news conference.

"All I can say is it's very simple, very easy," he said.

Trump continues to own or control some 500 companies that make up the Trump Organization and has said that he intends for his two oldest son and company executives to run the business while he's gone.

Trump met privately Monday with several international business leaders and media figures, as well as Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell.

McConnell, afterward, said they discussed his Senate agenda, including the upcoming confirmation hearings and repealing and replacing President Barack Obama's health care law.

While Democrats have complained about the quick pace of the hearing schedule, McConnell insisted that "Everybody'll be properly vetted as they have been in the past."

On Friday, Office of Government Ethics Director Walter Shaub said in a letter to congressional leaders that his office "has not received even initial draft financial disclosure reports for some of the nominees scheduled for hearings." Trump's incoming press secretary Sean Spicer insisted on Monday that "Everyone who has a hearing this week has their paperwork in."

But one of the committees that hasn't yet received the forms is the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee, which has scheduled a hearing this week for Betsy DeVos, Trump's pick to lead the Education Department. The Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee said it had also not received the forms for Trump's pick for commerce secretary, Wilbur Ross, though a spokeswoman said they're expected soon.

Committee aides said they had received ethics forms for Sen. Jeff Sessions, Trump's pick for attorney general; Rex Tillerson, Trump's choice for secretary of state; James Mattis, his pick for defense secretary; Rep. Mike Pompeo, his choice for director of the Central Intelligence Agency, and Chao, his pick for transportation secretary. Other confirmation hearings this week include retired Marine Gen. John Kelly for homeland security secretary and Ben Carson for housing secretary. Committees handling those nominations declined to comment on the records. McConnell said he's hopeful that up to six or seven of Trump's picks, "particularly the national security team," will be "in place on Day One." Trump's nominees, meanwhile, have been going through extensive preparation in the days leading up to the hearings.

Transition officials said the nominees have spent more than 70 hours participating in full-blown mock hearings, with volunteers playing the role of senators asking questions.

"They're listening, they're learning, they're preparing," Spicer said.

Questions about hacking swirl as Trump enters critical week

By JILL COLVIN and LAURIE KELLMAN

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — President-elect Donald Trump and his aides are entering a crucial week in his presidential transition as he and his Cabinet nominees undergo public questioning about their approach to Russia and potential conflicts of interests.

Most pressing during the upcoming days of confirmation hearings and Trump's first press conference in six months likely will be whether he accepts the conclusion of U.S. intelligence officials that Russia meddled in the U.S. election to help him win the White House.

Trump's incoming chief of staff, Reince Priebus, said Sunday that Trump indeed has accepted that Russia was responsible for the hacking, which targeted the Democratic National Committee and a top aide to former rival Hillary Clinton.

"He's not denying that entities in Russia were behind this particular campaign," Priebus said in a Sunday television interview.

That's more than Trump himself has said. As for potential retaliation, aides said those are decisions that Trump will make after he becomes president on Jan. 20.

Intelligence officials allege that Moscow directed a series of hacks in order to help Trump win the White House in the race against Clinton.

Trump has expressed skepticism about Russia's role and declined to say whether he agrees that the meddling was done on his behalf.

In an interview with The Associated Press after a briefing on the findings, Trump said he "learned a lot" from his discussions with intelligence officials, but he declined to say whether he accepted their assertion about Russia's motives.

Trump has said that improving relations with Russia would be a good thing and that only "stupid" people would disagree.

"My suspicion is these hopes will be dashed pretty quickly," said Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky. "The Russians are clearly a big adversary. And they demonstrated it by trying to mess around in our election."

An unclassified version of the report directly tied Russian President Vladimir Putin to election meddling and said that Moscow had a "clear preference" for Trump over Clinton. Trump and his allies have bristled at any implication that the meddling helped him win the election.

He won the Electoral College vote with 306 votes, well over the 270 votes required to become president.

Accepting those findings would be a positive step, but not enough, said

Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., who is calling for more penalties against Russia.

"He's going to be the defender of the free world here pretty soon," said Graham, a frequent Trump critic. "All I'm asking him is to acknowledge that Russia interfered, and push back. It could be Iran next time. It could be China."

The developments come during a consequential week for Trump, who will become the nation's 45th president on Jan. 20.

Beginning Tuesday, the Senate is to hold the first of at least nine hearings this week on Trump's Cabinet picks. But Democrats have voiced objections to the pace set by the Republican majority. The government ethics office says it hasn't received even draft financial disclosure reports for some of the nominees set to appear before Congress this week.

And on Wednesday, Trump is scheduled to hold a long-delayed news conference to describe his plans for his global business empire to avoid conflicts of interest while he's president.

While Trump has taken sporadic questions from reporters, it will be his first full-fledged news conference since July 27.

McConnell: Dems should 'grow up' and consider Trump nominees

WASHINGTON (AP) — Republicans on Sunday defended their party against Democratic complaints that Congress is being forced to consider nominees for Donald Trump's administration without completed ethics reviews.

"All of these little procedural complaints are related to their frustration in having not only lost the White House, but having lost the Senate," Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said on CBS' "Face the Nation."

"I understand that," he added, "but we need to sort of grow up here and get past that."

At issue is whether people picked by the president elect — in some cases millionaires and billionaires with complex personal finances — would face conflicts of interest when it comes to overseeing taxpayer spending. The Office of Government Ethics says in some cases the office hasn't received even draft financial disclosure reports for nominees appearing before Congress this week, when the Senate plans to hold at least nine confirmation hearings, beginning Tuesday.

McConnell suggested the complaints amounted to sour grapes from a party that did poorly in the 2016 congressional and presidential elections. The Kentucky Republican noted that Republicans were in the same boat eight years ago when they had to swiftly confirm multiple nominees who he described as "wildly liberal." But the director of the Office of Government Ethics, Walter Shaub, said the Republican management of the confirmation hearings is unusual considering that that in See **TRUMP**, Page 14

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How sweep it is: HC takes two against Western Texas

Howard women shine in rout of Westerners

By **STEVE REAGAN**
Staff Writer

Howard College's women's basketball team had all the answers Monday night.

Need some inside scoring in their game against Western Texas College? Check.

Need to score from the perimeter late? Check.

Need to shut down WTC's most consistent scorer in the second half? Check again.

Playing their most complete of the year, the Hawks remained undefeated in Western Junior Col-

lege Athletic Conference play with an 84-52 win over Western Texas in Dorothy Garrett Coliseum Monday night.

Three Hawks scored in double figures. DeAuja Thompson led the way with 22 points, followed by Fabrianna Dixon and Marie Tsoungui with 18 and 10 points, respectively.

The only thorn in Howard's side Monday was WTC's Catara Samuel, who almost single-handedly kept the Westerners in the game in the early going, scoring 15 of her team-high

21 points in the opening quarter. But Howard shut her down in the second half, and once that happened, Western became both out-manned and out-gunned.

The Hawks, meanwhile, had all sorts of scoring options available. In the first half, Howard scored almost at will from the inside, but when Western Texas closed off the interior in the second half, Howard began firing away from the perimeter, sinking seven of its nine three-pointers in the final two quarters.

The end result had Head Coach Earl Diddle smiling after.

"I'm just pleased to death," Diddle said. "After playing what I considered a national schedule on the road, this team certainly deserved to play like this. We shot the ball well, we took care of the ball, we made an adjustment at halftime on (Samuel) — she didn't score anything in the second half.

"They executed really well," Diddle added. "And

See **HC**, Page 13



HERALD photo/Steve Reagan

Howard College's Marie Tsoungui attempts a free throw against Western Texas College Monday.



HERALD photo/Steve Reagan

Howard College men's basketball coach Scott Raines talks to his team during a timeout of their game against Western Texas College Monday.

Hawks hold off WTC rally for 81-73 victory

By **STEVE REAGAN**
Staff Writer

Apparently, the Howard College men's basketball team doesn't want things to go easy for them this season.

The Hawks watched their seemingly comfortable 22-point second half lead all but evaporate going into the final minutes of their Monday game against Western Texas College. However, the Hawks regrouped in the late going and were able to hold off the Westerners, 81-73, for their first Western Junior College Athletic Conference victory of the year.

The Hawks had an outstanding defensive effort in the first half — at one stretch holding the Westerners scoreless for more than seven minutes — to

build a hefty 43-21 lead with slightly more than 18 minutes remaining in the game.

But the Westerners, led by University of Tulsa commit DaQuan Jeffries — caught fire, going on a 12-0 run to cut the deficit to 10 points, then gradually chiseled Howard's lead further, eventually getting to within three points of the lead on a three-point-er from Anton Bilous with 3:15 remaining.

That was as close as Western Texas got, however. Marcell Cherry and KJ Riley contributed vital free throws down the stretch, and Haywood Irwin added a three-pointer for good measure as the Hawks were able to hold on for the win.

See **HAWKS**, Page 13

'Bama-Clemson sequel takes place among title game classics

TAMPA, Fla. (AP) — You thought last year's College Football Playoff championship game was great?

The rematch was even better. And it will take a place in the history books.

Clemson won its first national title since 1981 with its 35-31 victory over top-ranked Alabama on Monday night, avenging its 45-40 loss in last year's championship game.

Heisman Trophy runner-up Deshaun Watson delivered as he has so many times in his career, throwing a 2-yard touchdown pass to Hunter Renfrow with a second remaining to finish a night when the Tigers amassed 511 yards against college football's most vaunted defense.

Oh, and Clemson denied Alabama a fifth national title in eight years.

Here are a few other epic games that belong in the club:

ALABAMA 45, CLEMSON 40 (2015)

With one big play after another — by both teams — Alabama beat Clemson in a thrill-a-minute game. Heisman Trophy winner Derrick Henry ran for three touchdowns, including a 50-yarder to open the



AP photo

Members of the University of Clemson football team celebrate their 35-31 victory over Alabama in the College Football Playoff championship game Monday night.

scoring. A daring on-side kick with the score tied 24-all led to an Alabama points explosion, with quarterback Jake Coker throwing for two long touchdowns to tight end O.J Howard, Oh, and Kenyan Drake returned a kickoff 95 yards for another score. Clemson didn't flinch. Clemson's Watson

threw four touchdown and had 478 total yards — 403 passing.

NOTRE DAME 10, MICHIGAN STATE 10 (1966)

A tie is an epic? When it comes to this one, it tops the list. Ara Parseghian's Notre Dame team came into the game unbeaten and ranked No. 1. Duffy

Daugherty's Michigan State team also was unbeaten and ranked No. 2. The game, sometimes referred to as the "Game of the Century," ended in controversy as Notre Dame, playing at Spartan Stadium, elected not to try for a score on the final series. The not-so-Fighting Irish ended up No. 1 in the final AP

poll. The game featured Terry Hanratty getting knocked out of the game after a sack by Michigan State's Bubba Smith. The Irish had the ball with 1:01 left after rallying to tie the score, and needed about 40 yards to get into Joe Azzaro's field goal range. Parseghian chose to run out the clock. Alabama

finished the same season 11-0-0.

MIAMI 31, NEBRASKA 30 (1984 ORANGE BOWL)

Miami, which considered shutting down its program due to lack of interest several years earlier, pulled off one of the greatest upsets to win its first national title. Led by gawky yet efficient quarterback Bernie Kosar, Miami built an early lead and the hometown crowd rocked the Orange Bowl. The potent Cornhuskers needed a trick play — a "fumblerooski" TD by lineman Dean Steinkuhler — to stay in the game. They pulled within a point with less than a minute left, but instead of kicking the extra point that would have assured a championship, coach Tom Osborne decided to go for the win with a 2-point try. Turner Gill's pass was swatted away by Ken Calhoun, and Miami benefited when higher ranked teams lost in earlier bowl games and rose from fifth to No. 1 in the final AP poll.

OHIO STATE 31, MIAMI 24, 2 OT (2003 FIESTA BOWL)

Miami was poised for another perfect season.

See **TITLE**, Page 13

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DATED the 6th day of January, 2017

Joshua Hamby
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8	4	2	7	3	1	6	5	9
9	7	5	6	8	4	3	1	2
1	2	4	3	6	7	9	8	5
5	3	7	9	1	8	4	2	6
6	9	8	5	4	2	1	7	3
2	6	1	8	7	3	5	9	4
4	5	3	1	2	9	8	6	7
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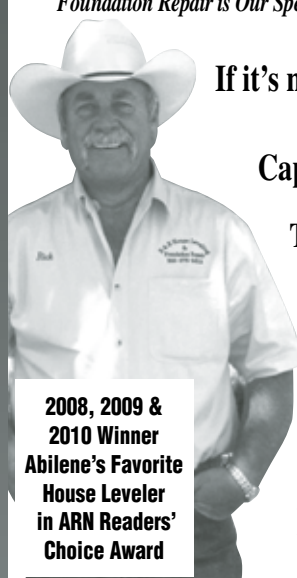
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HOLIDAY MATHIS

The Sun, Uranus and Metrics

There are certain metrics that matter to you. Maybe it's the distance you move in a day; maybe it's an amount of money saved or a number of customers connected with. The sun and Uranus angle to suggest keeping track of statistics to prevent generalities from obscuring your success. The actual numbers will be eye-opening.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You can prevent future discomfort by asking more questions about an upcoming social event. After all, if you don't know exactly what the occasion is, it's hard to dress for it.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You recognize that look when you see it -- like they've been tricked before and they're not about to be again. The thing is, you're not out to trick anyone. You're the real deal. You'll earn trust, in time.

GEMINI (May

21-June 21). People you don't know have something valuable to offer, even if you never so much as talk to them: Social osmosis is real! Spending time in a public or shared space will lead to good fortune, so make it happen.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Give second chances. You may be disappointed yet again, but you'll never regret making the more compassionate choice. In fact, you'll feel better regardless of how the other person responds.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You give your love in such a big-hearted way that it's hard for you to imagine withholding attention or affection to gain a certain affect. However, such tough-love tactics may serve an important purpose now.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). There's nothing hard about having happy relationships today. Your sunny attitude attracts people who casually give you exactly what you need, and if they want anything in return, it will be something that's easy for you to give.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You see things others don't, which is why the solution that is so clear to you is not being produced. Take the lead. Gently point out what's

missing. Use the diplomacy and charm that is your birthright. **SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** When you operate inside a group of people who are already very tight with one another it could make you feel like an outsider. With subtle intention, you'll be able to penetrate defenses and get as "inside" as you want to be.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). No matter how busy you get, if there's time to do a thing, there's time to do it right. Today's odd luck: The right way will also happen to be a rather quick fix.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Hitting the right tone will be important. If you're strictly rational, the others will think that you don't care. If you're too emotional, they'll be uncomfortable with how much you care. A moderate investment is what's needed.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). There's charm in the mundane! It takes a soulful, curious eye to see it. Go on and make a big deal out of small things. You'll love the conversations you get into.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). As you focus on executing a job very well, other seemingly unrelated aspects of life will im-

prove. Power dynamics are shifting. You're starting to get a sense of your influence, which is growing.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Jan. 10). You get scientific about your happiness, and this measured approach works wonders. Practical steps repeated will be the magical formula for changing your life in a very positive way. Your domestic scene gets upgrades in April. Close relationships take you on an adventure in July. October brings a windfall. Aquarius and Taurus adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 9, 20, 16, 44 and 3.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS: "I am a 24-year-old Aries. I work for an investment bank, go to school and am pursuing an acting career. Sometimes I feel so overwhelmed. I feel like quitting my job and bartending. Also, I have been on and off with this 24-year-old Sagittarius. He confuses me so much. I really like him and I've tried to move on, but it's like something keeps telling me to hold on. He tells me that he loves me and that he wants us to work, but he is afraid that things might not work out. We are so much alike. I would like to know if this relationship is worth my time and energy." No, it's not. Also,

don't quit your job and bartend. It won't be any easier than what you're doing now and is basically a lateral move that won't solve anything. The fastest way to becoming happy on a day-to-day basis is to get more sleep. As an Aries, you love to take on more than you can easily accomplish. You might opt to take fewer credits at school next quarter or even drop a class in favor of some ZZZs. If you can stop obsessing about this Sagittarius, that will free up more energy and leave a space for your own peace of mind to drop in -- and someone new will come after that.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Two-time world heavyweight boxing champion George Foreman shows his Capricorn business acumen in a variety of successful businesses. From grills to menswear to race cars, his winning spirit and can-do attitude give his ventures a powerful punch. Foreman was born under the moon of determination, Taurus. And with Mercury and Mars in quick-thinking Aquarius, he's a man of the future.

To write to Holiday Mathis, visit www.creators.com/author/holiday-mathis and click "Contact." COPYRIGHT 2017 CREATORS.COM

Annie's Mailbox

Witnesses of Abuse

Dear Annie: My daughter and I have witnessed aggressive acts in public areas and are at a loss as to what, if any, action we should take. The most recent example was when we watched

a man yelling at what appeared to be his significant other. He grabbed her by the arm, forcefully placed her in the car and buckled her seat belt. Then he went into the store, and she sat there, not moving and keeping her head down. We wanted to approach the wom-

an and ask whether she was OK, but we feared he was watching from the store. Another situation involved a young child between the ages of 3 and 5 with a cast on his arm. His guardian grabbed him by the other arm and threw him into the back seat of the car. There have been other situations, as well.

What does one do or say without making the victim's life even worse later when the victim and abuser are out of sight? Each time, we looked for a police officer, but

none was around. Annie, this just breaks our hearts, but what does a bystander do? -- Tears and Fears for the Victims All Over

Dear Tears: You were right to want to act. If you see such violence, you should call 911 immediately or find a police officer. Our justice system values and supports citizens speaking up when they see someone in danger, and there are laws in place to protect those who do so. These Good Samaritan laws protect these honorable citizens from legal

liability should their good intentions have unintended consequences. Familiarize yourself with the laws in your state.

As Albert Einstein said, the world will be destroyed not by those who do evil but by those who watch them without doing anything. By standing up for what you know is right and defending people who aren't in a position to defend themselves, you are saving the world, one good deed at a time.

Dear Annie: My sister-in-law is organizing a family vacation at a beach house, supposedly to celebrate my daughter's engagement. My daughter doesn't want to go, and the trip comes at a time when we will be really busy. The trip feels more like a getaway for the other family members than an actual celebration for my daughter. How can we stop this madness? -- Feeling Awkward

Dear Awkward: That's odd indeed. If it's really your daughter's party, then she can call it off if she wants to. She should tell her aunt that she really appreciates the thought but the timing just won't work -- and that she hones they'll

enjoy the getaway themselves all the same. I have a feeling they will.

Dear Annie: Your response to "Carol in Florida" regarding her experience with a person who got way too close while she was interacting with pharmacy staff was on the mark but left out an important detail. This fellow's behavior was probably a HIPAA privacy violation, and the staff member should have immediately recognized it as such and taken steps necessary to stop this intrusion. If Carol believes that her privacy was breached, she may wish to file a complaint. This can be done at https://www.hhs.gov. In my opinion, the person most in the wrong here was the assistant pharmacist for doing nothing. He or she needs to brush up on HIPAA rules. -- Minnesota Pharmacist of 42 Years

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. COPYRIGHT 2017 CREATORS.COM

Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

The bidding points the way

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

The bidding:
West 3♠ North Pass East Pass South 3♣
Opening lead — king of clubs.
One important component of good declarer play is the ability to picture the composition of the opponents' hands, even though their cards cannot actually be seen. Fortunately, in many deals it's not really very difficult for declarer to do that.
Consider this deal where West led the K-Q of clubs. East playing high-low, and then shifted to the nine of diamonds. Had declarer finessed, his chances would have come to a quick

end, since East would have won and returned a diamond for West to ruff. But South knew that the diamond finesse would fail. He assumed from West's three-club opening and the first three plays that West had started with the A-K-Q-10-x-x of clubs. He also knew that if West had either red king, he surely would have opened with one club rather than three. To stake his chances on a finesse in either suit was thus certain to lead to defeat. Therefore, after considering all his options, South went up with dummy's ace of diamonds, ruffed a club and played four more rounds of trumps, reducing his hand to two trumps, the 8-3 of hearts and the eight of diamonds. Dummy's last five cards were the A-Q of hearts and Q-10-5 of diamonds, while East's remaining cards were the K-7 of hearts and K-J-7 of diamonds. South now led the eight of diamonds, forcing East to win with the jack and either return a heart into dummy's A-Q or establish dummy's queen of diamonds by playing that suit. Declarer thus made his contract by taking advantage of an inference he could logically draw from the bidding. In effect, South played as though he had seen all 52 cards.

Tomorrow: The rationale of good defense.
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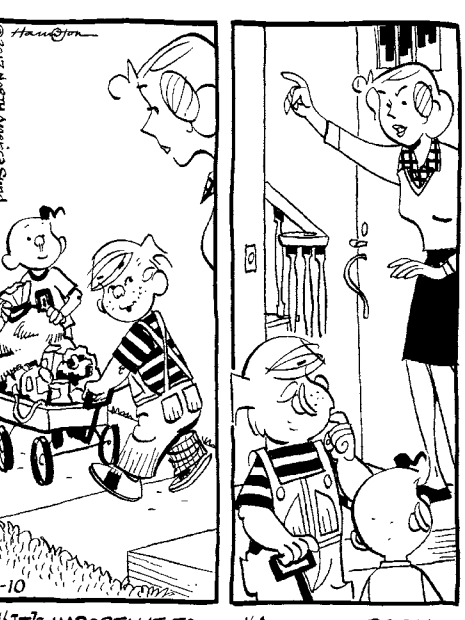
sudoku

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.

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

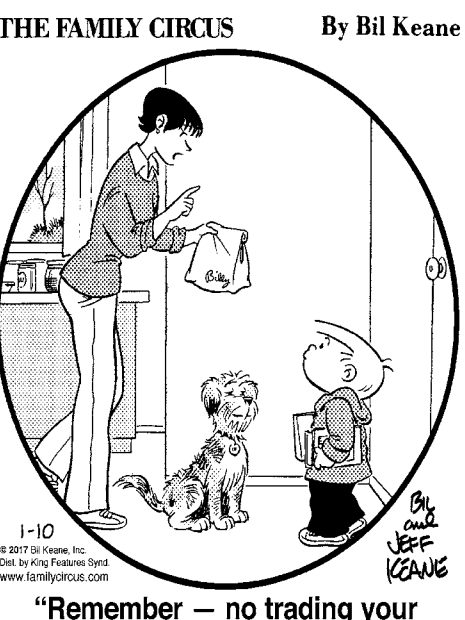
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	Midland	Spanish	Odessa	Odessa	Telemundo	Midland	Odessa	Odessa	Odessa	Midland	Atlanta	Atlanta	Sports	Sports	Sports	New York	New York	Discovery
5:PM	Local 2	Hotel	The List	News	Tele	News	Justice	Focus	Mama's	American	Seinfeld	Movie: Divergent, Ashley Judd (DVS)	SportsCenter	Around Pardon	Bask C'boys	NCIS (DVS)	Leah Remini	Moonshiners
5:30	ABC	Notic.	Mod Fam	CBS	Noticiero	News	Called	Business	Mama's	American	Seinfeld							
6:PM	Jeopardy!	Rosa de	Big Bang	News	Caso Cer-	News	J. McGee	PBS News-	M*A*S*H	Fam. Guy	Seinfeld	College Basketball	College Basketball	Big East Sportsday	NCIS (DVS)	Leah Remini	Moonshiners	
6:30	Wheel	Guadalupe	Big Bang	ET	News	HaYesod	Upd	Nazi Mega Weapons	M*A*S*H	Fam. Guy	Seinfeld			Champ Spotlight	WWE SmackDown!	Leah Remini	Moonshiners: Outlaw	
7:PM	Middle House	Despartar Contigo	New Girl	NCIS (DVS)	Silvana Sin Lana	The Wall	M:25		Griffith	The Flash	Big Bang			Stars In. Stars Pre.		Leah Remini	Moonshiners	
7:30	Fresh-O'Neals	Vino el Amor	(:01) Bones	Bull	La Doña (SS)	This Is Us	Light of the Southwest	American Experience	MacGyver	No Tomorrow	Big Bang	Good Behavior	College Basketball: Indiana at Maryland.	College Basketball: Kansas at Oklahoma.	NHL Hockey: Dallas Stars at Anaheim Ducks.	Shooter (DVS)	To Be Announced	(:01) Killing Fields
8:PM	S.H.I.E.L.D.	El color de la pasion	News	NCIS: New Orleans	El Chema (SS)	Chicago Fire			Heroes	Seinfeld	Big Bang	(8:57) Good Behavior				Incorporated	To Be Announced	(:01) Moonshiners
9:PM	Local 2	Impacto	Mod Fam	News	Tele	News	With Schol-	Charlie Rose	C. Burnett	King	Conan	(9:54) The Last Ship	SportsCenter	Basket DRL Drone Racing		Law & Order: SVU	Leah Remini	(:02) Killing Fields
10:PM	Jimmy Kimmel Live	Noticiero	Two Men	Late Show- Colbert	Titulares	Tonight Show	Ministerios	Newsline	Rules	Full	Conan	The Last Ship						
10:30	Contacto Deportivo	How I Met James Corden	How I Met Corden	Go Chema (SS)	Upd	Chevalme	Light of the Southwest	Mannix	Cheaters	Movie: A Perfect	The Last Ship							
11:PM	Nightline	La Mujer del	Middle	Insider	Paid	A Que No Me Delas	Law Order: CI	ET	Paid									
12:PM	Local 2	Impacto	Mod Fam	News	Tele	News	With Schol-	Charlie Rose	C. Burnett	King	Conan	(9:54) The Last Ship	SportsCenter	Basket DRL Drone Racing		Law & Order: SVU	Leah Remini	(:02) Killing Fields
12:30	Jimmy Kimmel Live	Noticiero	Two Men	Late Show- Colbert	Titulares	Tonight Show	Ministerios	Newsline	Rules	Full	Conan	The Last Ship						
1:PM	Contacto Deportivo	How I Met James Corden	How I Met Corden	Go Chema (SS)	Upd	Chevalme	Light of the Southwest	Mannix	Cheaters	Movie: A Perfect	The Last Ship							

DENNIS THE MENACE



"AND YOUR ROOM IS ON THIS PLANET."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

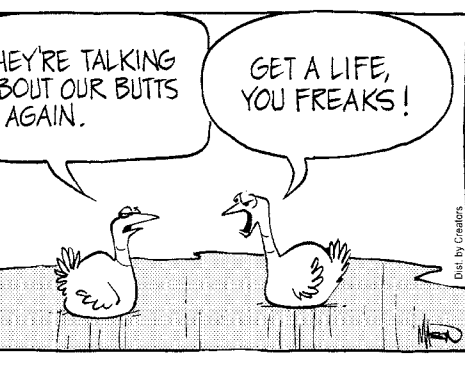
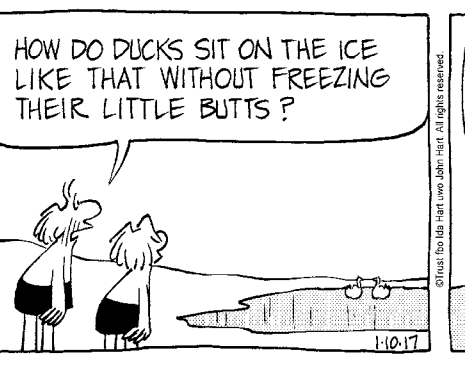


"Remember - no trading your roast beef and lettuce for peanut butter and jelly."

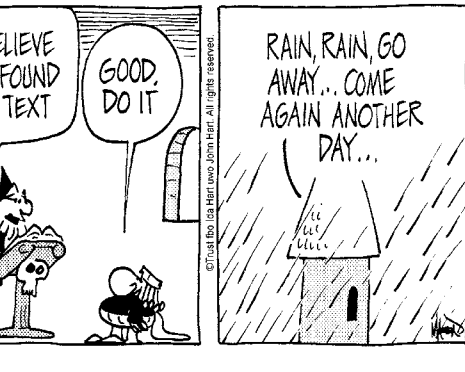
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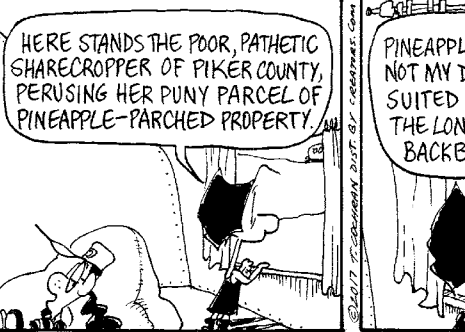
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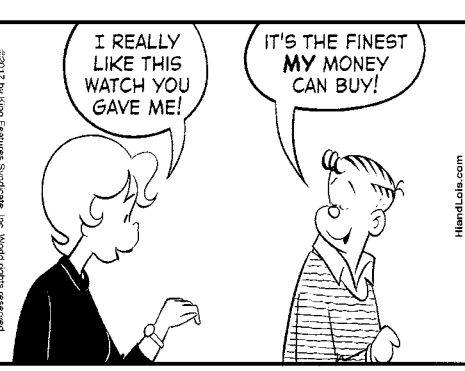
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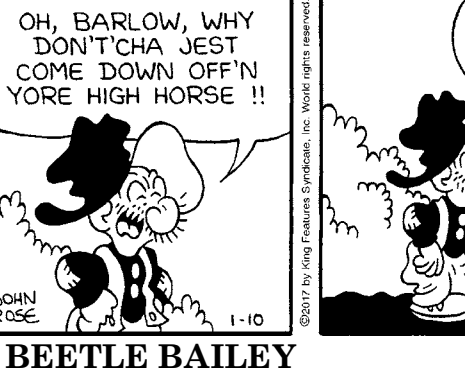
HI AND LOIS



THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BEEBLE BAILY



BLONDIE



This Date In History

Today is Tuesday, Jan. 10, the 10th day of 2017. There are 355 days left in the year.

Today's Highlights in History:

On Jan. 10, 1967, President Lyndon B. Johnson, in his State of the Union address, asked Congress to impose a surcharge on both corporate and individual income taxes to help pay for his "Great Society" programs as well as the war in Vietnam. That same day, Massachusetts Republican Edward W. Brooke, the first black elected to the U.S. Senate by popular vote, took his seat.

On this date:

In 1776, Thomas Paine anonymously published his influential pamphlet, "Common Sense," which argued for American independence from British rule.

In 1861, Florida became the third state to secede from the Union.

In 1870, John D. Rockefeller incorporated Standard Oil.

In 1917, legendary Western frontiersman and showman William F. "Buffalo Bill" Cody died at his sister's home in Denver at age 70.

In 1920, the League of Nations was established as the Treaty

of Versailles (vehr-SY') went into effect.

In 1946, the first General Assembly of the United Nations convened in London. The first manmade contact with the moon was made as radar signals transmitted by the U.S. Army Signal Corps were bounced off the lunar surface.

In 1947, the musical fantasy "Finian's Rainbow," with music by Burton Lane and lyrics by E.Y. Harburg, opened on Broadway.

In 1957, Harold Macmillan became prime minister of Britain, following the resignation of Anthony Eden.

In 1971, "Masterpiece Theatre" premiered on PBS with host Alistair Cooke introducing the drama series "The First Churchills." French fashion designer Coco Chanel died in Paris at age 87.

In 1984, the United States and the Vatican established full diplomatic relations for the first time in more than a century.

In 1994, President Bill Clinton, attending a NATO summit meeting in Brussels, Belgium, announced completion of an agreement to remove all long-range nuclear missiles from the former Soviet republic of Ukraine.

In 2000, America Online announced it was buying Time Warner for \$162 billion (the merger, which proved disas-

trous, ended in Dec. 2009).

Ten years ago: President George W. Bush said he took responsibility for any mistakes in Iraq and announced an increase in U.S. troops there to quell violence. The Democratic-controlled House voted 315-116 to increase the federal minimum wage to \$7.25 an hour.

Five years ago: Former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney won the New Hampshire Republican primary.

One year ago: French President Francois Hollande (frahn-SWAH' oh-LAWND') and other dignitaries held a special ceremony to honor those killed in Islamic extremist attacks around Paris in 2015. David Bowie, the chameleon-like star who transformed the sound and the look of rock with his audacious creativity, died in New York.

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Answer to previous puzzle

HATS	AWAKE	EMIT
ALOE	LABEL	LINE
RARE	BILLS	ANON
MINT	JULEP	SPEND
HEMS	BASSES	
ADMIT	OMELET	
RUINS	ABATE	ROB
KONG	STEPS	RODE
SSE	OKAYS	LENDS
RAPIDS	NICEST	
INARUT	SARI	
DOLES	MINIATURE	
TOON	CANAL	AHOY
ASIA	ALIKE	LOBE
GELLS	METED	SHED

1/10/17

Newsday Crossword

FROM THE NECK UP by Sally R. Stein Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS
- 1 Taper off, as wind
 - 6 Slight remnant
 - 11 List-ending abbr.
 - 14 From the sun
 - 15 Grown-up girl
 - 16 Vote like "aye"
 - 17 Terrifying
 - 19 Conclusion
 - 20 Having a sharp flavor
 - 21 Letters before F
 - 22 Oahu and Ireland
 - 25 Israel's region
 - 28 Pretty and delicate
 - 29 Cowboy's rope
 - 30 Sugar amts.
 - 31 Person from Houston
 - 32 Tax expert: Abbr.
 - 35 Donkey
 - 36 Ship's course, or alternate puzzle title
 - 38 Sizzling
 - 39 Place to exercise
 - 40 Designer Perry
 - 41 Humdingers
 - 42 Plane-flying guys
 - 44 Senator Sanders
 - 46 Triumphant result
 - 48 Sandwich meat
 - 49 Deep black
 - 50 Coins in Spain
 - 51 91, in Roman numerals
 - 52 Amazing
 - 58 Utensil for frying

- DOWN
- 1 Barbecue residue
 - 2 "Constrictor" snake
 - 3 __ Baba
 - 4 Kilt patterns
 - 5 Moving aimlessly
 - 6 Tiny tree branches
 - 7 Optimistic
 - 8 French friend
 - 9 Is able to
 - 10 Country in the UK
 - 11 Attention-getting
 - 12 Is likely (to)
 - 13 West Point student
 - 18 Raggedy doll
 - 21 "Don't __ stranger"
 - 22 Conventioneer's badge
 - 23 Smart-alecky
 - 24 Very tasty
 - 25 Long skirts
 - 26 Teheran's nation
 - 27 Small bell's sound
 - 29 Saw to a seat
 - 31 "Tall" stories
 - 33 Visit briefly
 - 34 Between ports
 - 36 "The buck stops __"
 - 37 Shade trees
 - 41 Do well financially
 - 43 Frosty
 - 44 Brooklyn or Manhattan, for short
 - 45 Ran off to wed
 - 46 Evening TV news time
 - 47 Open, as a toothpaste tube
 - 48 Overcooks
 - 50 Spruce up an article
 - 52 Jelly container
 - 53 Era
 - 54 Used to be
 - 55 Keogh alternative
 - 56 Small bite
 - 57 "Wow!"

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13		
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61							62							63

Baylor tops AP poll for first time ever

Associated Press

A decades-long Baylor fan got emotional with coach Scott Drew after the Bears won their last game to remain one of two undefeated teams in the country.

The fan told Drew, "I thought we could go to a Final Four, but I never thought I'd see the day when Baylor was ranked No. 1."

That day came Monday, when the Bears (15-0) moved up a spot to the top of The Associated Press men's basketball poll for the first time.

Baylor wasn't even

getting votes in the Top 25 poll at the start of the season two months ago, when its football team was in the midst of a 7-6 season overshadowed by scandal. Coach Art Briles was fired last May after an investigation that determined the school mishandled assault claims for years, including several against football players.

Now Baylor is the 59th school to be ranked No. 1 since the AP men's basketball poll started in the 1948-49 season. And the two-time national champion Lady Bears remain No. 2 in the women's poll.

"It's great seeing the excitement for Baylor University, and seeing the people that care so much about the university be able to smile and be excited," said Drew, who took over a tattered program when he arrived on the Waco campus in 2003.

Even new football coach Matt Rhule, hired last month, was in the front row of the student section for Saturday night's win over Oklahoma State.

"I think we're on that trajectory upward," said Mack Rhoades, who took over as Baylor's athletic director in

August.

Baylor got 55 of 65 first-place votes to replace Villanova on top after the defending national champion lost to Butler, leaving the Bears and No. 5 Gonzaga (15-0) as the only unbeaten teams. The Wildcats (15-1) got one first-place vote and dropped to third.

The Big 12 is 1-2 in the poll, with Kansas (14-1) moving from third to second with eight first-place votes. UCLA (16-1) stayed fourth with the other first-place vote.

Kentucky, Duke, Creighton, Florida State and West Virginia rounded out the top 10,

followed by North Carolina, Butler, Oregon, Louisville, Xavier, Arizona, Purdue, Wisconsin, Virginia and Notre Dame. The last ranked teams are Saint Mary's, Cincinnati, Florida and Minnesota, with Kansas State and Southern California tied for 25th.

Minnesota's first ranking in four seasons provides a Top 25 father-son duo with Louisville coach Rick Pitino and the younger Richard Pitino with the Gophers. Kansas State was last ranked in 2013-14. Virginia Tech and Indiana, earlier as high as No. 3, dropped out of the poll.

When Drew got to Baylor in 2003, the program was ravaged by the murder of a player by a teammate and scandalized by the former

coach who had tried to cover up NCAA violations in the aftermath. There were significant scholarship and recruiting restrictions, and even a season when the Bears were only allowed to play only their Big 12 Conference games.

They overcame all that, going to six NCAA Tournaments in the last nine seasons and twice getting to regional finals before losing to the eventual national champion.

"Everyone has goals and dreams, but few have the reality to see them achieved," Drew said. "When we were scouring the campus to fill out half the team with walk-ons, we dreamed of one day having a chance to be ranked No. 1."

HAWKS

Continued from Page 7

Cherry led all scorers with 25 points, and Riley and Dante Scott chipped in 12 and 11 points, respectively, for the Hawks, who improved to 11-4 overall and 1-1 in conference play with the win.

Jeffries led a trio of Westerners in double figures with 21 points.

HC Head Coach Scott Raines said his team has to figure out a way to avoid late meltdowns such as the one Monday.

"First off, the first half was a well as we're going to play defensively. The guys played really hard and competed," Raines said. "(The second half was a) good lesson for us: We're a little young, and we came out and weren't aggressive in the second half and (the Westerners were).

But I thought Marcel Cherry's aggression really helped us, and KJ Riley played 29 minutes and had only one turnover at the point ... I was really pleased with our effort overall. We've got to learn to play with a lead. As soon as you let down, bad things are going to happen."

With a young team on his hands — the Hawks only boast four sophomores in the lineup — Raines realizes that the rest of the season will

likely be a battle.

"We are getting better," he said. "If we can keep extending our stretches of good basketball, I'll take these guys over a lot of teams in our conference."

The Hawks return to action Thursday at Midland College. Tip-off is set for 7:30 p.m.

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

HC

Continued from Page 7

they stayed on the attack. A lot of teams up 20 would milk the clock, but we were getting some really good shots in the second half."

Howard, now 5-10 overall and 2-0 in conference play, returns to action Thursday when they travel to Midland College. Game time is 5:45 p.m.

Contact Staff Writer Steve Reagan at 432-263-7331, ext. 235.

TITLE

Continued from Page 7

They were a unanimous No. 1 choice riding a 34-game winning streak. Ohio State also was unbeaten, ranked No. 2, but appeared to be no match for the speedy Canes. Led by freshman running back Maurice Claret, though, Ohio State outplayed Miami for much of the game. But it was a still debated pass interference call in overtime that gave the Buckeyes another chance, and they won 31-24 in double OT. With his team down 24-17 and facing fourth down in OT, Craig Krenzel's pass into the end zone was called incomplete by one official, but another ruled interference against Miami. Ohio State then tied it, and won it in the second OT for its first national crown in 34 years.

TEXAS 41, SOUTH-

ERN CALIFORNIA 38 (2006 ROSE BOWL)

This game was like Alabama-Clemson for excitement, but had an even wilder finish. It was a No. 1 vs. No. 2 game, and USC was loaded — with two Heisman winners in running back Reggie Bush and quarterback Matt Leinart. Like Clemson's Deshaun Watson, Texas QB Vince Young piled up over 400 total yards, but his Longhorns came out a winner when he scored on fourth down in the closing seconds.

FLORIDA STATE 34, AUBURN 31 (2014 ROSE BOWL)

The Tigers stormed to a 21-3 lead before Heisman winner Jameis Winston led the Seminoles back. The lead went back and forth with the Tigers going ahead 31-27 with 1:19 left. But Winston led them to victory — and the national title — with a short TD pass to Kelvin Benjamin with 13 seconds to go.



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News in brief

Northern California, Nevada brace for more storms

FORESTVILLE, Calif. (AP) — Northern California and Nevada braced for another powerful storm after getting lashed by downpours that flooded roads, homes and vineyards and toppled a storied giant sequoia.

Parts of Northern California were soaked by more than a foot of rain over a 72-hour period that ended early Monday, forcing hundreds of people to evacuate and leaving thousands without power. The heavy rains forced rivers out of their banks and toppled trees, among them the famed "Pioneer Cabin" in Calaveras Big Trees State Park that had a drive-thru tunnel carved into its base more than a century ago.

A century strong storm was bearing down on the region and expected to hit Tuesday.

Emergency crews in rescue boats and helicopters took advantage of a one-day respite from the rains later Monday to rescue stranded people and assess damage after a weekend of stormy weather that authorities called the heaviest rain in a decade.

In the Sierra Nevada mountains, a winter storm warning was in effect until Thursday morning with the potential for blizzard and white-out conditions, said Scott McGuire, a forecaster for the National Weather Service based in Reno, Nevada.

Democrats to press attorney general pick as hearing opens

WASHINGTON (AP) — President-elect Donald Trump's pick for attorney general, Sen. Jeff Sessions, is set to be questioned by his peers in a high-visibility Senate Judiciary Committee confirmation hearing.

Sessions is likely to stress his conservative legal credentials even as he works to persuade Democrats on the panel that he can be fair and evenhanded as the country's top law enforcement official.

A two-day hearing will feature testimony from the Alabama Republican on Tuesday, followed the next day by statements from witnesses who support and oppose his nomination.

Democrats are expected to challenge Sessions' commitment to civil rights, a chief priority of the Justice Department during the Obama administration. They also are likely to press him on his hard-line stance on immigration policy. But Republicans have expressed strong support and are expected to secure more than enough votes needed to confirm him, including from some Democrats in conservative-leaning states.

The Alabama lawmaker is known as one of the most staunchly conservative members of the Senate, and has already drawn opposition from at least two Democrats, New Jersey Sen. Cory Booker and Ohio Sen. Sherrod Brown.

Life or death legal journey for airport shooting suspect

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (AP) — A legal journey that could mean life or death for the suspect in the Florida airport mass shooting has begun with appointment of a public defender to represent the Iraq war veteran blamed for killing five people and wounding six more.

U.S. Magistrate Judge Alicia Valle told Esteban Santiago, 26, at a hearing Monday that the three federal charges lodged against him could mean the death penalty if he is convicted.

"We are telling you the maximum penalty allowed by law so that you understand the seriousness of the charges," the judge said.

Shackled in a red jumpsuit in the heavily guarded federal courtroom, Santiago answered mostly yes or no to questions, and told the judge he understands the charges, which include committing violence against people at an international airport resulting in death, and two firearms offenses.

Roof's fate soon will rest in hands of 12 federal jurors

CHARLESTON, S.C. (AP) — Dylann Roof's assault on Emanuel AME Church left a total of 12 victims: Nine who were killed that June night and three who survived the hail of bullets in the basement of the beautiful, historic structure in downtown Charleston.

Now, after hearing testimony from relatives of those slain in the 2015 attack during a Wednesday night Bible study, the focus in Roof's trial again switches to a new set of 12 people: the jury.

On Tuesday, jurors are set to begin deliberating over whether Roof, 22, should get the death penalty or life in prison for his crimes. Their decision must be unanimous. If they are unable to agree, a life sentence is automatically imposed.

In a courtroom a mile from the slayings, the same jury last month convicted Roof of 33 federal crimes, including hate crimes and obstruction of religion. After a holiday break, jurors returned last week to court, where for four days prosecutors laid out their case for why Roof should be executed. The government called nearly two dozen friends and relatives who shared cherished memories and opined about

SHOOTING

Continued from Page 5

an inconvenience, he said, that he tells hunters to mail or use a delivery service to ship the gun to their destination.

The TSA has been confiscating more guns from carry-on bags. Screeners took away 2,653 guns in 2015, up 20 percent from 2014. The TSA frequently tweets photos of the arsenal that it scoops up at checkpoints.

a future without a mother, father, sister or brother.

Mournful Iranians attend funeral of former leader Rafsanjani

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — Hundreds of thousands of mourners flooded the streets of Tehran on Tuesday, beating their chests and wailing in grief for the late Iranian leader Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, who died over the weekend at the age of 82.

The crowds filled main thoroughfares of the capital as top government and clerical officials held a funeral service at Tehran University. Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei held prayers by Rafsanjani's casket, as other dignitaries knelt before the coffin on which his white cleric's turban was placed, reaching their hands out for one final embrace.

Just behind Khamenei was President Hassan Rouhani, whose moderate administration led the recent nuclear negotiations with world powers. Rouhani, who is all but certain to run for re-election in May, is viewed as embodying Rafsanjani's realist vision.

Hard-liners also took part in the ceremony Tuesday, which was a public holiday across the country. Among them was Qassem Soleimani, a general who heads the Iranian Revolutionary Guard's elite Quds Force.

TRUMP

Continued from Page 6

some cases, the office had not received even initial draft financial disclosure reports from Trump nominees.

"I am not aware of any occasion in the four decades since OGE was established when the Senate held a confirmation hearing before the nominee had completed the ethics review process," wrote Shaub.

Senate committee aides said hearings were held for former Education Secretary Roderick Paige and former Labor Secretary Elaine Chao before they received the same forms in 2001, and that they received the documents days after each of those hearings. Both were confirmed to serve in President George W. Bush's Cabinet.

Reince Priebus, Trump's incoming chief of staff, rejected any suggestion that Republicans should slow down. In an interview on "Fox News Sunday," Priebus said Democrats "have all the information" they need and should move fast because voters mandated it.

"Change was voted for and change we will get," he said.

Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., said the ethics review is aimed at ensuring wealthy Cabinet members work for the American people instead of "their own bottom line, and that they plan to fully comply with the law."

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