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# BIG SPRING HERALD

FRIDAY, JANUARY 13, 2017



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## Arrington named to House Veterans' Affairs committee

By **LYNDEL MOODY**  
 Staff Writer

Make his count three now. On Thursday, newly-elected Congressman Jodey Arrington (R-D19) was tapped to serve on the House Committee on Veterans Affairs, making this his third appointment to a committee in just his first week on the job. He was also chosen to serve on House Committee on Agriculture and on the House Budget Committee.



Arrington

"The three committees to me cover the waterfront on the issues that are most important to West Texans," Arrington said in a phone interview Thursday. "While Agriculture is the most important in terms of our economic interests, and I think the Budget is the most important from our national perspective because it impacts everything across the board

in the federal government — all agencies — but the VA is personal for me.

"I never served in the military and I have the upmost respect for those who did, but now I get to serve those who served in the military," he continued. "I am going to be champion for our vets and I am going to fight for those who have bravely been willing to risk their very lives, so we can enjoy this great democracy and all of our freedoms. This is special to me."

Arrington was chosen to serve in a leadership role on the committee. He is the chairman of the subcommittee on Economic Opportunity.

"I'm excited to welcome Congressman Arrington to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs," said Chairman Phil Roe in a news release. "Jodey will bring his valuable experiences to the committee and will keep us moving in the right direction to build a better

See **TAPPED**, Page 3

## Cheering for the Hawks



Courtesy photo/Tony Claxton (www.claxtonphotography.com)

The Howard College cheerleaders perform Thursday night during the Howard Hawks-Midland Chaps basketball game. For related story and photos, see Page 7.

## Keeping the dream alive

### MLK march set for Monday

By **ROGER CLINE**  
 Staff Writer

If Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. had lived instead of being struck down by an assassin's bullet in 1968, he would have been 88 years old this weekend. An annual march organized by a local church will make its way down Martin Luther King Boulevard Monday to ensure that King's dream of a society unplagued by issues of race remains strong.

"The MLK march is an annual event that the church holds to commemorate the birthday of Martin Luther King," said the Rev. Michael Smith, pastor of Mount Bethel Baptist Church. "It's open to the city and all who would like to participate. We normally gather at Martin Luther King and Highway 87, also known as Gregg Street. It's our effort to just keep

the dream alive. It's not a day off it's a day on, and to remember Dr. Martin Luther King and all those who worked for the betterment of our nation."

The march will begin at 6 p.m., and will cover the entire length of Martin Luther King Boulevard, starting at US Highway 87 or Gregg Street and stretching to FM 700. Smith said there will be a short time for public officials to offer thoughts and memories at the end of the march.

"We are looking forward to possibly participation with the city of Big Spring and possibly any public officials that would like to participate," he said. "We are going to try to leave time for any public officials to speak and share their memories at the end."

See **MARCH**, Page 3

## DPS Marks National AMBER Alert Awareness Day today

### Special to the Herald

The Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) joins the country in observing National AMBER Alert Awareness Day today in remembrance of the 1996 abduction and murder of 9-year-old Amber Hagerman in Arlington, Texas.

AMBER stands for "America's Missing: Broadcast Emergency Response."

Additionally, Texas Governor Greg Abbott has declared Jan. 13 as AMBER Alert Awareness Day in Texas.

"The AMBER Alert program is a pivotal tool that leverages the public's assistance in law enforcement efforts to locate and bring home missing children," said DPS Director Steven McCraw. "We are thankful for the various public and private sector partners as well as the media who help push these critical notifications to the public. We also are grateful to the people of Texas, whose vigilance continues to help protect our most vulnerable population — our children."

In response to Amber Hagerman's death, law enforcement and media representatives in the Dallas-Fort Worth area created the first AMBER Alert program, which served as a model

See **AMBER**, Page 3

## A brighter future



Courtesy Photo

Members of Keep Big Spring Beautiful plant as part of the Big Spring ALON/Strive program recently. Under the program, for every gallon of fuel purchased at Alon-owned 7-11s in the area, Alon will plant trees locally and invest in certified carbon reduction projects.



## Mexico names new ambassador to US

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Mexico's president has nominated the current head of the North American Development Bank, Geronimo Gutierrez Fernandez, to be the country's new ambassador in Washington.

Mexico's Foreign Affairs Ministry announced the appointment Friday in a statement. Mexico's current ambassador in the United States, Carlos Manuel Sada Solana,

will become undersecretary for North America.

Gutierrez's appointment requires ratification by the Mexican senate.

He has been the managing director of the bank in San Antonio, Texas, since 2010. It offers financing to projects aimed at improving environmental and living conditions in communities along

See **MEXICO**, Page 3



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## Obituaries

### Van Brown



Van Brown, 81, of Big Spring passed away Tuesday, Jan. 10, 2017, at Continued Care Hospital in Midland.

The family will receive friends from 5:30 p.m. until 6:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 13, 2017, at Myers and Smith Funeral Home. Funeral service will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 14, 2017, at Myers and Smith Chapel with Ken McMeans, pastor of College Baptist Church, officiating. Interment with Air Force Honors will follow at Trinity Memorial Park.

Van was born on March 29, 1935, in Hamilton, Miss., to Ercelle Ward Brown and Calvin Hill Brown. He married Glendia Jackson on Aug. 24, 1957, in Abilene, Texas. They came to Big Spring in 1966. Van entered the United States Air Force at 17 years of age and served eight years. Following his discharge, he was a letter carrier for the U.S. Postal Service in Big Spring for 32 years. He owned Brown Fence Company for 20 years after his first retire-

ment, and then he worked for the Boll Weevil Eradication for nine years before his final retirement. Van coached little league baseball at the American Little League Park from 1971 until the late 80s. He enjoyed camping. He was an excellent husband and father. He was a member of College Baptist Church.

He is survived by his wife, Glendia Brown of Big Spring; two sons, Robert Brown and wife Dee of Fountain Hills, Ariz., and Rodney Brown and wife Dayna of Ft. Worth; six grandchildren, Tyson, Kyla, Tallon, Colt, Jonah, and Logan; and eight great-grandchildren. He is also survived by two brothers, Kermit Brown and wife Billie of South Carolina, and Gene Brown and wife Donna.

He was preceded in death by his parents; one son, Larry, in 1964; and four brothers, Calvin Hill Brown, Herbert Brown, Jimmy Brown, and Roy Brown.

Pallbearers will be Tyson Brown, Tallon Brown, Colt Brown, Matt Nordstorm, Jonah Robason, and Mark Dinsmore.

Arrangements are by Myers and Smith Funeral Home. Pay your respects online at [www.myersand-smith.com](http://www.myersand-smith.com).

*Paid obituary*

### Josephine "Josie" De Leon

Josephine "Josie" De Leon, 77, of Big Spring passed away Tuesday, Jan. 9, 2017, at University Medical Center in Lubbock.

Vigil service will be held at 7 p.m. Friday, Jan. 13, 2017, at Myers and Smith Chapel. Funeral Mass will be at 11 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 14, 2017, at Holy Trinity Catholic Church. Burial will follow at Trinity Memorial Park.

Josie was born on Feb. 3, 1939, in El Paso, Texas, to Enedina Roldan Fierro and Jose Fierro. She married Rodolfo "Rudy" De Leon on Dec. 14, 1956, in Big Spring. She has been a lifetime resident of Big Spring and a member of Holy Trinity Catholic Church. She was a homemaker.

She is survived by her husband, Rodolfo "Rudy"

De Leon of Big Spring; three daughters, Rosella Munoz and husband Robert of San Antonio, Janet De Leon of Big Spring, and Janel Ortiz and husband David, also of Big Spring; two sisters, Belen Alvarez and husband George of Garland, and Nina Wood and husband David of Big Spring; one brother, John Fierro and wife Juanita of Dallas; seven grandchildren, Rudolph Munoz of San Antonio, Adrian De Leon, Ashley Paredes, Jennifer De Leon, Justin Franco, Rene De Leon, and Marisol Ortiz, all of Big Spring; and five great-grandchildren, Riley Logsdon of Big Spring, Paislynn Munoz of San Antonio, Aubrielle De Leon, Adrian De Leon Jr., and Lilliana Franco, all of Big Spring.

She was preceded in death by her parents. Pallbearers will be Rudolph Munoz, Justin Franco, Adrian De Leon, Rene De Leon, Eddie De Leon, and Jeff Leal.

Arrangements are by Myers and Smith Funeral Home. Pay your respects online at [www.myersand-smith.com](http://www.myersand-smith.com).

*Paid obituary*

### Steve Fryar

Steve Fryar, 63, of Big Spring died Tuesday, Jan. 10, 2017.

Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 14, 2017, at Trinity Baptist Church in Big Spring with Derrick Looney officiating. Interment will follow at Evergreen Cemetery in Stanton.

The family will receive friends from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Friday, Jan. 13, 2017, at the Nalley-Pickle and Welch Rosewood Chapel.

Steve was born Jan. 31, 1953, in Big Spring, Texas, to the late Neil and Betty Lou (Blissard) Fryar.

He was a graduate of Stanton High School and Tarleton State University. While at Tarleton, Steve won the 1977 World Championship in Bulldogging in the College World Championship Rodeo. He

went on to make it in the National Finals Rodeo in 1980. He has also served on the Big Spring Rodeo Association Board and was inducted into the Tarleton State University Hall of Fame in 2015. He was also the Grand Marshall for the Big Spring Rodeo Parade that year.

Steve is survived by two daughters, Stephanie Fryar of Waco, and Julie Tarr and husband Stephen of Midland; one son, Sterling Fryar and wife Jessica of San Angelo; three grandchildren, Aizlee Tarr, Kannon Tarr, and Sloan Fryar; one brother, Danny Fryar and wife Billie of Stanton; and several nieces and nephews, and a host of friends.

The family suggests memorials be made to the Tarleton State University Rodeo Team, PO Box T 0640, Stephenville, Texas, 76402.

Arrangements are under the direction of Nalley-Pickle and Welch Funeral Home and Crematory of Big Spring. Online condolences may be made at: [www.npwelch.com](http://www.npwelch.com).

*Paid obituary*

## Sheriff

The Howard County Sheriff's Department reported the following activity:

Note - Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 85 inmates at the time of this report.

- **VICTORIA ALEXANDRIA BAIRD**, 42, was booked by BSPD on a warrant for city ordinance public nuisance, and credit card or debit card abuse.
- **JESSE ZANE CUMMINGS**,

34, was booked by HCSO on warrants for theft of property (\$30,000 to \$150,000), theft of property (\$100 to \$750), speeding, and violation of promise to appear.

- **MELINDA MACHADO GAMBOA**, 40, was booked by BSPD on a motion to adjudicate for possession of a controlled substance (less than 1 gram).

- **MICHAEL ALLAN GARZA**, 33, was booked by HCSO on a motion to adjudicate for possession

of a controlled substance (less than 1 gram).

- **STEPHANIE LYNN GONZALES**, 28, was booked by BSPD on a warrant for failure to appear.

- **LUIS ALBERTO VIERA**, 30, was booked by BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.

- **HERLINDA ALVAREZ VILLA**, 53, was booked by HCSO on a warrant for theft of property (\$100 to \$750).

## Fire/EMS

Big Spring Fire Department/EMS reported the following activity:

- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 1200 block of East 17th Street.

- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 2000 block of Rickabaugh. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain

Medical Center.

- **TRAFFIC ACCIDENT** was reported in the 1900 block of Wasson Road.

- **TRAFFIC ACCIDENT** was reported at the intersection of Wasson and Navajo roads.

- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 5100 block of Wasson Road. One person was transport-

ed to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 1600 block of Fordham Road. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 1300 block of South Gregg Street.

### Greg Bodin

Greg Bodin, 43, of Sand Springs died Wednesday, Jan. 11, 2017. Services are pending at Myers and Smith Funeral Home.

### Sue Ann Hodges

Sue Ann Hodges, 63, of Big Spring died Thursday, Jan. 12, 2017, in a Midland hospital. Services are pending with Nalley-Pickle and Welch Funeral Home and Crematory.

## Weather

**Today:** Much colder. Cloudy. Chance of rain or light freezing rain in the morning, Then a chance of showers in the afternoon. Highs in the lower 40s. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph. Chance of precipitation 40 percent.

**Tonight:** Cloudy with rain or light freezing rain likely. Lows in the mid 30s. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph. Chance of precipitation 60 percent.

**Saturday:** Cloudy with showers likely and isolated thunderstorms. Highs in the mid 40s. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph. Chance of precipitation 70 percent.

**Saturday night:** Cloudy with showers and thunderstorms likely near steady temperature in the lower 40s. East winds 10 to 15 mph. Chance of precipitation 70 percent.

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

## Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity:

- **VICTORIA ALEXANDRIA BAIRD**, 42, of 1512 Tucson Rd. was arrested on a warrant for dog or cat running at large; and on another outstanding warrant.

- **LUIS ALBERTO VIERA**, 30, of 1604 S. Main St. was arrested on a charge of public intoxication.

- **STEPHANIE LYNN GONZALES**, 28, of 2804 Williams Rd. was arrested on a warrant for failure to appear.

- **JESSE ZANE CUMMINGS**, 34, of 1963 Vat Rd. in Big Lake was arrested on warrants for theft of property (\$30,000 to \$150,000) and theft of property (\$100 to \$750).

- **MICHAEL ALLAN GARZA**, 33, of 1110 Johnson was arrested on a warrant for possession of a controlled substance (less than 1 gram).

- **THEFT** was reported in the 1800 block of South Gregg Street.

- **DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE** was reported in the 700 block of South Birdwell Lane.

- **MINOR ACCIDENT** was reported in the 1600 block of East 16th Street, the 2300 block of Brent Drive, the 500 block of Dallas Street, and the 3300 block of West Highway 80.

- **MAJOR ACCIDENT** was reported in the 1900 block of Wasson Road.

- **HARRASSMENT** was reported in the 3600 block of West Highway 80.

- **BURGLARY OF A HABITATION** was reported in the 500 block of Westover Road.

- **DISTURBANCE** was reported in the 1600 block of South Main Street.

- **CRIMINAL MISCHIEF** was reported in the 3100 block of South Highway 87.



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# MARCH

Continued from Page 1

Smith said the march is open to everyone, regardless of race or ethnicity. Promotional material for the event welcomes, "all members of the community, various church denominations, veterans, youth groups, and civic leaders."

"It's open to anyone and everyone," he said. "We would greatly encourage as many people of Big Spring and Howard County as possible to come and participate."

Smith reminded those planning to march that it will be dark shortly after 6 p.m., and encourages participants to bring lights. Bicycles, skates, and skateboards, or mobility devices such as electric scooters are welcome, he added.

"We even have some people that drive in their cars behind the marchers," he added.

Smith said King's vision of unity is of paramount importance, especially in these contentious times.

"I believe that Dr. King was a courageous human being, who, along with other unnamed soldiers, forged tremendous breakthroughs and made tremendous triumphs for all people of all nationalities, races, and cultures to be able to work together and collaborate to make this country what it can be. That's so vitally important in this historic day of transition and change. I think it's so important that we heed those lessons and work together."

# TAPPED

Page 1

VA. I look forward to working with Mr. Arrington as we continue our efforts to increase veterans' access to quality health care, honor our nation's heroes and ensure veterans and their families can utilize the services they have earned."

The Department of Veterans' Affairs oversees benefits and other services for the nation's veterans from health-care to the 135 national cemeteries located throughout the United States. The VA also operates the "nation's largest integrated health care system," according to its website, of more than 1,700 structures from hospitals to clinics and domiciliarys. The George H. O'Brien Jr. Medical Center in Big Spring is one of those facilities.

"I had Big Spring on my mind," Arrington said when he heard Thursday he was selected. "I called Mayor (Larry) McLellan earlier to say thank you for his support. He and Jim Parcell and Mike Moates, Branden Iden - a lot folks who are leaders in your community have been very supportive of me and have been good friends to me in this process. It was not lost on me how important the VA Hospital is to your community and the veterans."

"We have over 40,000 veterans in the district," he continued.

"West Texans love their men and women in uniform and they love their veterans. They expect we take care of them and we make good on our promises to provide services that we committed to."

Over the year, the VA health system has been fraught with serious issues. Veterans have reported dealing with long waits for health care, bureaucratic red tape, and lack of available care near to them.

"It's broken," Arrington said. "The federal government in so many areas and in so many ways is broken, and it's no longer serving the people. I can't think of a better example of how deeply flawed our federal government is and how problematic big government bureaucracy is than the veteran's health administration."

"I think there are good people who work in the VA," he continued. "I think they are people who love our country and our veterans. I think they are well-intending people, but I think the government system - I am including civil service, laws and rules, unions - they have created a monster in terms of giving incentives for the people who work for the VA to put the agency first and not the veteran first."

Arrington added it's time to change the system's dynamic so veterans are put first.

"We need to make sure the VA is accountable

# AMBER

Continued from Page 1

nationwide for alerting the public about abducted children. All 50 U.S. states and several other countries have an AMBER Alert program. The state program supplements existing regional alerting networks, autonomous from the state's network, which consist of a group of organized resources contained within multiple counties.

Established in 2002, the state-wide program managed by DPS provides law enforcement a mechanism for rapid notification of the

# MEXICO

Continued from Page 1

the U.S.-Mexico border and was created under the North American Free Trade Agreement. President-elect Donald Trump has said he wants to renegotiate that agreement.

Gutierrez would also face Trump's promise to build a border wall and deport thousands of immigrants.

just like other folks who work hard every day in Big Spring and through out District 19 in the private sector," he said. "The VA employees and the VA clinics and hospitals and the VA in Washington have to be held accountable. I think it's a lot of the blocking and tackling of running an organization that the private sector does very well, but when you have a monopoly and effectively a single-payer health insurer which is effectively what we have with the Veterans Health Administration, you get the outcomes that we've witnessed over the last several years."

Providing health care in rural areas such as West Texas adds to the challenge in the flawed system, Arrington said.

"The challenge with rural hospitals, you don't have the volume of patients that you would have in a metropolitan area. We need to take special measures when we consider veterans services that are provided, whether it is through clinics or through the hospital there in Big Spring, we need to consider that it's covering a large swath of rural America," he said. "When you look at it collectively, you have the volume, but you don't have it concentrated in one area. That deserves a unique consideration in terms of financial support."

In recent years, the VA system has added in the ability for veter-

media and the public in these serious child abduction cases when certain statutory criteria are met.

Since 2002 through the end of 2016, 154 children have been safely recovered during AMBER Alerts issued by DPS.

If your child is missing:

Immediately call your local law enforcement agency to file a missing persons report.

Be prepared to provide law enforcement with the most recent photo of the child, a detailed description of what the child was wearing and any other information that could help identify the child or the abductor, such as vehi-

cle and license plate information.

The National Center for Missing & Exploited Children also offers an emergency-response reference guide for families here [http://www.missingkids.com/en\\_US/publications/NC198.pdf](http://www.missingkids.com/en_US/publications/NC198.pdf).

DPS currently offers an email notification system that distributes AMBER Alert information at no cost to members of law enforcement, media and the public.

Anyone wishing to become a subscriber can register online with a valid email address and zip code at <http://www.dps.texas.gov/DEM/AMBERALERT/AMBERREGISTER.ASPX>.

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# READ READ

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Virginia Davidson, 96, died Tuesday. Funeral services will be at 10:00 AM Friday at Trinity Baptist Church with burial at Trinity Memorial Park.

Ascencio R. "Chencho" Robles, 69, died Monday. Funeral service will be at 2:00 PM Friday at Life Church with burial at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

Van Brown, 81, died Tuesday. The family will receive friends from 5:30 PM until 6:30 PM Friday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Funeral services will be at 2:00 PM Saturday at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial at Trinity Memorial Park.

Josephine De Leon, 77, died Tuesday. Vigil service will be at 7:00 PM Friday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral Mass will be at 11:00 AM Saturday at Holy Trinity Catholic Church with burial at Trinity Memorial Park.

Fernando Arriaga, 62, died Tuesday. Services will be at 3:00 PM Sunday at Myers & Smith Chapel.

Greg Bodin, 43, died Wednesday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

ans to seek medical attention from providers outside the system, but the option has run into some stumbling blocks. Arrington said he supports the idea of veterans having a choice of their health care providers.

"I think that it is important," he continued. "I think the veterans can choose to go to a VA clinic or a VA hospital, and many of them want to because there is specialized care for veterans - people who have experience taking care of our wounded warriors. And there is another element of having veterans together. If there is anything I have learned by talking and listening to the veteran community in Big Spring, it's that being together as a community was just as important to the healing as the actual physical healing."

"The choice has to work," he said. "I understand there are some challenges to the new program that allows veterans to access other provider networks outside the VA. We need to make sure we make that work. Just saying they have the option but failing to logistically administer that

is actually worse than providing the option at all because it further frustrates the people who are trying to access the health care. We've got to make sure that choice is working and effective"

Arrington will be the only Republican congressman from Texas to serve on this current committee.

"We have a lot of opportunities, I suspect, in this position which will allow me to tell the story about veterans who live in rural America and how important the VA hospitals in towns like Big Spring are, not just to the veterans but to the whole community," he said.

Contact Staff Writer Lyndel Moody at 263-7331, ext. 234, or by e-mailing [citydesk@big-springherald.com](mailto:citydesk@big-springherald.com).

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*Love has no fear because perfect love expels all fear. If we are afraid, it is for fear of judgment, and this shows that his love has not been perfected in us.*

1 John 4:18

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*Love has no fear because perfect love expels all fear. If we are afraid, it is for fear of judgment, and this shows that his love has not been perfected in us.*

1 John 4:18

The Lord says, "I will rescue those who love me. I will protect those who trust in my name. When they call on me, I will answer; I will be with them in trouble. I will rescue them and honor them. I will satisfy them with a long life and give them my salvation."

**Psalms 91: 14-16**

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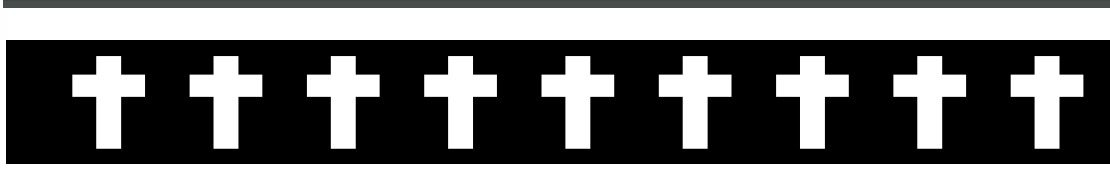
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Matthew 4:23

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*Rejoice, you people of Jerusalem! Rejoice in the Lord your God! For the rains he sends are an expression of his grace. Once more the autumn rains will come, as well as the rains of spring.*

(Joel 2:23)

*God's love supply is never empty. "For his unfailing love toward those who fear him is as great as the height of the heavens above the earth."*

(Psalm 103:11)

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# Did you ever wonder? Conquering Canaan

Why did God want to annihilate the Canaanite tribes? Several reasons factor in. To Abraham and to Jacob God declared the land of Israel was His special land. God said that the idol worshipping and terribly immoral lifestyle of the Canaanites had even polluted the land, His land.

Remember back to Noah's sons. God had blessed Noah and his sons when the Ark grounded and they stood on land again. However, afterwards Ham shamed their father by observing him naked.

Noah could not curse Ham because God had already blessed him. Instead, Noah cursed Ham's grandson, Canaan, who was also involved.

God passed over Ham and Jephthah because they shamed their father. He placed His favor on the younger son, Shem, because he showed respect for Noah.

Have you studied the migration of these peoples as their families grew? Over time, many of Canaan's sons settled in present-day Israel. The names of the Canaanite tribes are the names of Canaan's sons from whom they descended.

Tribes that descended from Canaan's sons are listed in the original Seventy Nations: Zidonite, Hethite, Jebusite, Amorite, Girgashite, Hivite, Arkite,

Sinite, Arvidite, Zemarite, Hamathite. How many of these you can find mentioned in the accounts of these wars of Joshua and Judges.

Ham's grandchildren through his son, Cush, settled in Arabia. God did not curse them, but they chose to worship idols instead of God Almighty, the God of Abraham.

God particularly selected Abraham because he understood that the idols his father made were nothing more than clay figures, having no power. When God spoke to Abraham, Abraham recognized holy power in the voice that he heard.

Now, many years later God brings His people, the Israelites, into Canaan. Is it really surprising that God wanted the Canaanites totally wiped out to clean up His land? Is it not justified?

Any time the descendants of Canaan recognized Him as the true God and worshiped Him out of pure faith, they would have been forgiven and brought into the congregation of God. We, too, have many chances before we are finally judged.

As God predicted, the Israelites were corrupted when they chose to have mercy and dwell among the Canaanites. They began to worship the idols they could hold in their hands. At times most of the people turned back to God and worshipped Him alone. But over many generations there were some who secretly clung to their small household gods and amulets.

Eventually idol worship became strong again

among God's people. This works off the principle of "a little yeast leavens the whole dough."

Each time, after long patience, God removed His protection. He allowed invasion forces such as Assyrians, Babylonians and Romans to conquer Israel. With each invasion many of the Israelites were removed to other areas of the world.

They were not only taken to Assyria, Persia and Rome. Many Hebrews were placed in Turkey, Russia, Poland, Germany, France, Spain, England, Egypt, and other countries in Africa. Did you know there is a very old Jewish cemetery in Harbin, China?

How interesting that we should come to this portion of scripture at just the time when Seventy Nations are holding a summit meeting. Their purpose is to force Israel to give up the land that God promised them, or at least major portions of it.

Psalm 83:5-6 says, "They say 'Come, let's wipe them out as a nation; let the name of Israel be remembered no more!' With one mind they plot their schemes; the covenant they have made is against You."

Let's watch closely to see how God interacts this time!

*Eunice Filler, author of "Rachael: Porch Swings and Spearmint Tea," is a former school teacher with ties to the Big Spring community. Questions? Fillereunice@yahoo.com.*



EUNICE  
FILLER

## Church News

### Birdwell Lane Church of Christ

Birdwell Lane Church of Christ is located at the southwest corner of 11th Place and Birdwell Lane. This Sunday, Bible study will begin at 9 a.m., and will address the topic "Abortion," while morning worship will start at 10 a.m. and the message will be on "Sin." At evening worship, starting at 5 p.m., "Church Leadership" will be the topic.

Wednesday, Jan. 18, Ladies Class will start at 9:30 a.m., while Bible study and devotional will start at 7 p.m.

### Blessed Hands Deaf Church

Pastor Jim Walterhouse and the congregation of Blessed Hands Deaf Church encourage you to gather with them in worship of The Living Hope, Jesus Christ, Sunday at 10:50 am or 2:00 pm. Select the time that is best for you, and join BHDC in a blessed time of praising God and learning from His Word.

Currently, BHDC meets inside First Baptist Church at 705 W FM 700. For detailed information about Blessed Hands Deaf Church, including Wednesday evening schedule and activities, contact Pastor Jim at jwalterhouse@gmail.com.

### Cornerstone Covenant Church

Cornerstone Covenant Church invites you to join them this week at one of the following events:

Radical ...It means being different from the usual or traditional. Sunday, Jan. 15 - 10:30 a.m. Worship Service: Find out how your life is impacted when you become radical in your prayer, in your praise, and in your generosity.

Sunday, Jan. 15 - Sunday School Classes- Currently being offered is a married couples only class entitled "Radical Marriage." Your marriage can be the greatest adventure of your lives when you let God evolve your relationship with your spouse. The class is from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. in the Chapel/ARC (academic resource center). Remember you do not have to be a member to attend. We hope to see you there.

Monday, Feb. 13 - Far Above Rubies Women's Ministry- All ladies are welcome to gather in the youth area at 6 p.m. Expect food, fun, fellowship, and lots of laughter. Each lady is asked to bring a favorite dish to share. For more information contact Debbie Rieger 432-935-1257

CCC is located at 706 E. 12th St. For office hours or other questions please contact the Administrative Office at 432-264-0015 or email Info@cccbigspring.org. You can also visit facebook.com/CCCBigSpring or www.cccbigspring.org if you would like more information.

### First Baptist Church

Monday, Jan. 16, all area women are invited to attend Bible Study beginning at 10 a.m. The group will be using Beth Moore's "Entrusted," which is a study of 2 Timothy. Carol Boyd will lead this study of the Scripture. Workbooks are \$13; call 267-8223 or 432-816-9915 for additional details. Bring a friend, enter through the west doors, and follow the signs to the meeting room.

Gather at 10:50 a.m. Sunday in worship and praise of God, "Who crowns the year with His goodness" (Psalm 65:11). Pastor Mark Lindsey brings the message "Partners in the Gospel". Drawn from Luke 5:1-11, listeners are encouraged to consider this account of Jesus' ministry in which He demonstrates the intersection of the truth of the Gospel and our daily lives. Music Minister Alan Schantz will lead the music during the service. Songs will include: "We Are An Offering", "Where He Leads Me", "I Surrender All", and "At The Cross(Love Ran Red)".

If you need assistance into the sanctuary, use the west circle drive and someone will be happy to help you inside and park your vehicle. If you are unable to attend the service, you can join the worship through the live stream at fbcbigspring.org.

At 9:30 a.m., Bible Fellowship groups meet throughout the building with children gathering in the Good News Garage on the first floor; and youth, college students, and adults coming together in second-floor classrooms. Greeters are available to help you find your class and direct you to coffee. Come early to enjoy time in fellowship.

Area children are invited to participate in Kids' Connection at 5:30 p.m.. Contact Children's Minister Justin Green at 267-8223 to learn more. There is no fee to attend.

Teens will gather at the Raffini's home at 6 p.m. for a time of fellowship and encouragement through prayer and Bible study. Contact Youth Pastor Jonathan Raffini at 270-8332 for details or if you need transportation.

At 6 p.m., the evening worship service will be held in the chapel.

Upward Basketball games have begun, and the community is invited to come out and cheer for the participants. This Bible-based sports program offers a special way to support children and their families in making Jesus part of their daily lives. Go to fbcbigspring.org or call 267-8223 for game schedules.

Area teens save the dates of Feb. 10-12 for Discipleship Now. Contact Jonathan at 267-8332 to sign up. The theme this year is "Fearless", and the weekend will focus on how to respond to situations that cause of fear or worry, and how to follow Jesus' example in these scenarios.

Wednesday evening activities begin at 6 p.m., and offer something for all ages. Go to fbcbigspring.org for details or call 267-8223.

FBC is located at 705 W FM 700.

### First Christian Church

First Christian Church is located at 911 Goliad St. Big Spring. They begin each Sunday with a fellowship hour at 9:15 a.m. offering coffee and donuts. Sunday school starts at 9:45 a.m. then worship begins at 10:50 a.m.

This Sunday, guest minister the Rev. Joel Miller will preach a sermon called "Know God's Wishes" which is taken from Matthew 7:15-29.

Assisting Rev. Miller in worship will be Linda Miracle, who will serve as liturgist.

Serving at the Lord's Table will be Shirley Lee and Joyce Davis. Greeters will be Deniece Walker and Larry Oster.

Choir Director Tara Trowbridge and Music Director Lawrence Thibeault will enhance the service through music. A few selections they are working on are, "Marching to Zion," "I Love to Tell the Story," and "We Have Heard a Joyful Sound."

First Christian is eager to welcome old and new members. If you have any questions regarding their services or any other goings on please call, 432-517-4821.

### First Presbyterian Church

On Wednesday, the Lectionary Bible Study, led by Craig Holstedt, will meet at 5 p.m., and the Chancel Choir will rehearse at 6 p.m. This week the Church Life committee meets at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday.

Children's Choir practice is at 5:30 p.m. Sunday afternoon. Also on Sunday, the Youth has the following schedule: dinner, 6:00; handbells, 6:30; and group meeting, 7:15 p.m.

The Service committee meets at 6 p.m. in the parlor on Thursday.

The next meeting of Presbyterian Women is Tuesday, Jan. 24 at 2 p.m. in the church library. Katie Grimes will lead the Bible study on Lesson 4 in the study book.

Claudie Patterson is in charge of Take Ten for this Sunday. Marj Carpenter is Lector. The congregation wishes to express appreciation to Linda Miracle for playing for the service last week in the absence of Laura Holleman, who was ill. The service was also enhanced by the trumpet music of Donovan Salinas and Glen Burch on "I Come with Joy" as the anthem and "Bread of Heaven" for the offertory.

Collection for Marion Medical Mission Water Wells began last week and continues through Sunday, Jan. 15. Through this mission, water wells can be provided for villages in Africa for \$400 each. Last year our church provided for 10 wells. The Session challenges the congregation to provide more wells with the goal of \$5000.

The Annual Congregational Meeting is set for Sunday, Jan. 29. All committee chairs are asked to turn in annual reports the week before that date.

The lectionary for the Second Sunday after Epiphany is Isaiah 49:1-7; Psalm 40:1-11; Corinthians 1:1-9; John 1:29-42. The Rev. Jim Longstreet, retired Presbyterian minister, will present the sermon in the absence of the pastor.

Please note that the worship service begins at 10:50 a.m. for announcements and parish concerns before the radio broadcast starts at 11.

If you cannot attend worship, you can listen in on KBST 1490 AM, beginning at 11 a.m. If you would like a printed bulletin for Sunday services, please call the church office at 263-4211. You can also see what's happening at the church by visiting the website www.fpcbs.org. On the website is a link to several recent sermons by the Rev. Craig Holstedt.

### First United Methodist Church

First United Methodist Church is located just off





## Reflections: Freedom to believe

I have not seen Martin Scorsese's new movie, "Silence." It has not yet come to a theater in our area. According to the synopsis, "A 17th century Portuguese Jesuit priest receives word that his mentor has renounced his faith while on a mission in Japan. Concerned, he travels to the island nation with another clergyman to investigate, only to find that the country's Christian population are being systematically exterminated. Witnessing the inglorious reality of torture and martyrdom committed against Japanese Christians rocks his faith to the core."



**BILL  
TINSLEY**

The story is based on historic events. Christianity had been introduced to Japan in the 1540s and quickly took root with more than 100,000 converts. But the government quickly saw the Christian faith as a threat and launched bitter persecution against Christian believers. Many were tortured and killed. The Christian faith went underground for centuries.

In the majority of the world today, faith in Jesus Christ comes at a high price. According to the Pew Research Center over 75 percent of the world's population lives in areas of severe religious restrictions. Egypt, Indonesia, Pakistan, Russia, and Turkey have the highest levels of religious restrictions. The Pew report stated that "When we analyzed religious restrictions imposed by government, China, the world's largest country by population, had the highest level."

The U.S. Department of State's annual International Religious Freedom report noted that "in Russia the government passed a new law limiting activity in houses of worship. The law imposes strict new reporting requirements for religious groups seeking to organize events and ceremonies in public spaces."

I sometimes wonder what my prayers sound like in God's ear compared to the prayers of those who suffer imprisonment, torture, and discrimination for their faith in Christ. I am afraid that many of my prayers center upon my own convenience and comfort, and that of my family and friends.

Jesus was clear regarding persecution for His followers. "If the world hates you, you know that it has hated Me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, because of this the world hates you. Remember the word that I said to you, 'A slave is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you" (John 15:18-20).

The writer of Hebrews reminds us, "Others experienced mockings and scourgings, yes also chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were tempted, they were put to death with the sword; they went about in sheepskins, in goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, ill-treated (men of whom the world was not worthy), wandering in deserts and mountains and caves and holes in the ground. ... Consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart. You have not yet resisted to the point of shedding blood in your striving against sin" (Hebrews 11:35-12:4).

Across the centuries, persecution has been the norm for followers of Christ. Our protections for religious freedom in America are unique. We must preserve, protect and extend these freedoms to all faiths and all forms of worship. How then should we pray? And how then should we live?

*Bill Tinsley reflects on current events and life experience from a faith perspective. Visit [www.tinsleycenter.com](http://www.tinsleycenter.com). Email [bill@tinsleycenter.com](mailto:bill@tinsleycenter.com)*

## Treasure hunters

Who doesn't like a good pirate story? "Long ago ol' so-and-so buried his loot and my great-great-great-grandpappy was one of his crew." I have watched a few episodes of a series called "The Curse of Oak Island" on History Channel. I'll admit that I get a little caught up in the intrigue of what they might find.

Why do people become so fascinated and captivated with the idea of treasure? We still do it in our world today. How many people buy lottery tickets? Why do people buy lottery tickets? Do they merely enjoy the gamble - wanting to see if they can beat the odds? Is their situation so desperate in their mind they believe that winning the lottery is their only hope? Do they think that by winning they would never have to worry about anything ever again?

It could be one of those reasons or some other. Whatever the reason, it reveals something about the heart of the person. By heart, I mean the core of that individual - what they truly believe in and what they are sure they can trust.

Do you believe that there is no "sure thing" in life? Many feel like life is just a game of chance. If the whole universe is the result of random events (the odds of which far exceed your chance of winning the lottery), then why not take a chance? You only have this one shot so you better go "all in" to make a name for yourself, to build up your treasure, to leave a legacy.

Maybe you believe in God but you don't trust him. "Where was God when my daddy lost his job?" "Where was God when mother got sick and died?" "Where was God when our child got sick and had to have treatments, surgeries, or transplants and now we have half a million dollars in medical bills?" It is tempting to say that it's up to me. If my life is going to get better, it will only be because I do something about it. "I've got to trust in myself because everybody else has always let me down!"

What do you trust in? If your or your family's finances were threatened, where would you turn for security? If your or your family's health was threatened, to whom would you go for comfort? If your life or your family members' lives were threatened, where would you seek safety?

In the very core of your being, what do you know to be true and how do you know it? The answer to that question will show you what and where your treasure is. Matthew 6:19-21, "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" (ESV).

*Greg Surles is the preacher at Birdwell Lane Church of Christ.*



**GREG  
SURLES**

## CHURCH

Continued from Page 5

Gregg Street at the corner of Fourth and Scurry in downtown Big Spring.

Each Sunday morning, the 9 a.m. Traditions service features the church's pipe organ, the Celebration Choir, and classic hymns of the faith.

The Bridge at 11 a.m. is led by the church's worship band and includes contemporary, upbeat music. Worship at The Bridge is led by Adrian Calvio and many others. The Bridge service is broadcast live each Sunday on radio station KXCS-105.5 FM.

This Sunday, Pastor Ivins will share a message at both worship services entitled "It's all in the Math." The message is taken from Isaiah 49:1-7.

During Wednesday Noon Bible study in Garrett Hall, Pastor Ivins will continue a study which surveys the major portions of the Bible. Participants will examine highlights from the Book of Ecclesiastes. A meal is also served during Noon Bible Study for a small charge. Meal service begins at 11:50 a.m. and everyone is invited.

The church is back to its regular Wednesday night schedule with supper at 5:30 p.m. and various age level groups meeting at 6 p.m. Wednesday night's menu includes King casserole, salad, dessert, and a drink.

The Bridge Worship Band also rehearses at 6 p.m. in the Sanctuary. The adult Celebration Choir will rehearse at 7:30 p.m. in the Music Suite upstairs.

Pastor Bill Ivins is leading a group to the Holy Land in June 2017. The group will depart in June. Persons who are interest-

ed in traveling to the Holy Land may phone Pastor Ivins in the church office to receive more information. The registration deadline is Feb. 27.

Make plans to attend "City Rock Fest 2017" on Saturday, Feb. 18. Sponsored by First United Methodist Church, the free concert will feature Christian rock bands like Disciple, Project 86, and Seventh Day Slumber. The concert will be held at the Municipal Auditorium in downtown Big Spring. Admission is free and doors open at 6 p.m. The concert begins at 6:30 p.m.

For more information on any activity, please visit our website at [www.fumcbs.com](http://www.fumcbs.com) or phone the church office at 267-6394.

### Forsan Baptist Church

The message series through the Book of Ephesians continues this Sunday. The series title is "Called to Purity," and the message this week comes from Ephesians 1:7-12 and is called "The Master Plan."

Spare It and Share It is a community event similar to a garage sale, except everything is free. Bring something to share, and take something someone else has spared. This will take place on Saturday, Jan. 28.

The Sunday evening study series is called The Names of God, which examines each name given in both the Old and New Testaments.

Youth and children's activities have resumed on Wednesday evenings, including classes for elementary students at 4, a meal for youth at 5:30 and classes for youth and adults beginning at 6.

Forsan Baptist Church is located at 201 Main in Forsan. Sunday School begins at 9:50, with wor-

ship services at 10:50 a.m. and 6 p.m. Wednesday services begin at 6 p.m. Rides for all youth activities are available if arranged ahead of time. Call the church at 432-457-2342 or Pastor Darren Weaver at 432-213-2348.

### Spring Creek Fellowship

"Let the Morning Bring," a downloadable song as well as a few other songs written and performed by Spring Creek's Fellowship Worship Team, is now on iTunes. If you would like to get these songs, go to iTunes and look for the download at <https://itunes.apple.com/us/album/let-the-morning-bring-single/id1176877429>

The "Connect Four" class will start meeting once a month on Jan. 15 immediately after service. Lunch will be provided for those attending. This class is for new members and those who want to know more about the church and its beliefs. It is a two-hour session and childcare will be provided.

A new session of the Chronic Pain Management class will begin Jan. 10 at 6:30 p.m.

"People Caring for People" is a ministry serving widows in the area with small projects and "honey do" kinds of things. This ministry has no operating budget, so repairs are made with donations. If you would like to be a part of this ministry, either in a "hands on" way or by donation, contact Bob Abendshan at 432-528-7397.

Men's Bible Study meets on Thursday nights from 7 to 9 p.m.

See **CHURCH**, Page 13



January 21:  
**Silver Wings Ball:**  
Hotel Settles.  
Contact 432-264-1999 or  
[hangar25@crcom.net](mailto:hangar25@crcom.net)

February 4:  
**Big Spring Symphony  
"Winter Wonderland  
Concert":**  
Municipal Auditorium, 7:30PM

February 11:  
**City RockFest Tour 2017:**  
Municipal Auditorium

February 11:  
**Run 2 to Love 2 Run 5k:**  
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### Split decision

Howard women win, men fall vs. Midland Thursday



Tony Claxton photo (www.claxtonphotography.com)

Howard's DeAuja Thompson (1) attempts a shot against Midland College Thursday.

By STEVE REAGAN

Staff Writer

MIDLAND — Come-from-behind rallies both helped and hurt the Howard College basketball teams Thursday.

Howard's women found themselves facing an early deficit, but a 22-point second quarter spurred them on to a 64-53 victory over the Midland College Lady Chaparrals. In the men's game, however, Midland showed it could do the come-from-behind things, as well, scoring the final 17 points of the game to down Howard, 67-57.

The HC women are now 7-10 overall and 3-0 in Western Junior College Athletic Conference action, while Howard's men fell to 12-5 and 1-2 with the loss.

Women's game

A major reason for How-

ard's less-than-stellar win-loss record is that Coach Earl Diddle the non-conference portion of the team's schedule with the toughest opposition he could find. Running that gauntlet, it seems, is starting to pay dividends, as Howard didn't wilt under heavy pressure from the nation's 17th-ranked Lady Chaps.

Trailing 17-9 after one quarter, the Hawks stormed back with 22 points in the second frame to take a 31-29 lead into intermission.

Diddle said one of the keys for his team is that it didn't panic in the face of the early deficit.

"I thought we stayed in our offense and we got some pretty good shots," Diddle told the *Midland Reporter-Telegram*. "I thought that gave us confidence for the second half."

See HAWKS, Page 14



Tony Claxton photo (www.claxtonphotography.com)

Howard College's KJ Riley attempts a shot during the Hawks' game at Midland College Thursday night.

### Sports calendar

TODAY

**Girls' basketball**

Sweetwater at Big Spring, 6 p.m.  
Jim Ned at Coahoma, 6:30 p.m.  
Forsan off

**Boys' basketball**

Sweetwater at Big Spring, 7:30 p.m.  
Jim Ned at Coahoma, 8 p.m.  
Forsan off

SATURDAY

**Powerlifting**

Big Spring meet at high school athletic training center.

To submit a calendar item, call 432-263-7331, ext. 235 or email reporter@bigspringherald.com

### Former Pat looks to lead Texans

HOUSTON (AP) — After spending his first 11 seasons with the Patriots before joining the Texans last season, Vince Wilfork has influenced plenty of players on both teams, which meet Saturday in a divisional playoff game.

"He was huge for me," New England defensive back Devin McCourty said. "He taught me a lot about being a pro, being a good football player — and this is coming from a defensive lineman talking to a secondary

guy. But what you need to do to be a good player, the time, the film work, taking care of your body. So I've learned a lot from him."

Wilfork appreciates the kind words from his former teammate. But his focus this week is making sure his new team realizes the opportunity it has, despite critics who say Houston has no chance to win.

"We are excited to have a chance. You have to be excited," Wilfork said. "There's a lot

of teams that are sitting back right now wishing that they were in our position. We aren't feeling sorry for nothing. We don't care if we're the last seed ... it's a new season. I have seen teams be where we are win it all. That's motivation."

Wilfork's return on Saturday to the place where he built his career could be the final chapter in his successful run. The 35-year-old revealed recently he's contemplating retire-

ment and said again this week that he was pondering hanging it up after this season.

"That's something I'll think heavy about once the season ends, to see what I really want to do," he said. "It's hard to walk away from something that you love and you've been playing for so long, but we can't play the game forever."

Wilfork, in his 13th NFL season, has started 15 games this season.

See TEXANS, Page 14

### Cowboys-Packers playoff history dates back decades

GREEN BAY, Wis. (AP) — The Dallas Cowboys and Green Bay Packers go way back, as in the 1967 NFL championship game played in such frigid conditions at Lambeau Field that it is known in league annals as the "Ice Bowl."

Cowboys receiver Dez Bryant has more recent memories, and they're painful for reasons other than the cold.

Two of the league's marquee franchises share a postseason history that dates back five decades. They have

met seven previous times in the playoffs, with Dallas holding a 4-3 edge going into the divisional round game on Sunday against the Packers at AT&T Stadium.

While the teams may not be heated divisional rivals, their postseason meetings often leave an impression.

"I hope the Cowboys don't spoil it, or I'll be really (angry) if they do," said former Packers offensive lineman Jerry Kramer.

He was one of the blockers for Hall of Famer Bart Starr's

game-winning, 1-yard quarterback sneak with 13 seconds left in the fourth quarter of Green Bay's 21-17 win in the Ice Bowl.

Each team has made 32 postseason appearances, tied with the New York Giants for most in NFL history.

Dallas and Green Bay have unique owners. For the Cowboys, owner Jerry Jones is part-showman, part-personnel executive and part-captain. Dallas stadium in a sprawling suburb.

Green Bay plays in the league's smallest market. Lambeau Field is the league's longest-tenured stadium, situated in the middle of a blue-collar neighborhood. It's the only publicly owned franchise in the NFL.

"Part of it is, I don't think the organizations could be more different. Their stadium and our stadium — ours is iconic, an older stadium. Their (stadium) is glitzy," Packers (stadium) is glitzy," Packers said. "But I have tremendous respect for the Dallas

organization and Jerry."

A look back at some postseason highlights of post-season between the teams:

NEW YEAR'S DAY: Fifty years ago on Jan. 1, the teams met in the 1966 NFL championship game, which took on new meaning since the winner would represent the league in the first Super Bowl against the AFL winner. Starr was 19 of 28 for 304 yards and four touchdown passes in the 34-27 victory at

See DALLAS, Page 14

### Mavs down Suns in Mexico City tilt

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Deron Williams' savvy floor game helped the Dallas Mavericks offset Devin Booker's sensational shooting in Mexico City.

Williams had 23 points and 15 assists, and the Mavericks defeated the Phoenix Suns 113-108 on Thursday night in the fourth regular-season NBA game played in Mexico.

Williams shot 9 for 15 from the field in a matchup of struggling teams south of the border. Harrison Barnes added 22 points and Dirk Nowitzki scored 18 for the Mavericks, who broke a three-game losing streak.

Williams has scored at least 20 points six times in his last 10 games.

er and as a scorer, and he was involved in key stops down the stretch," Dallas coach Rick Carlisle said. "When a veteran guy like that has a night like that, it's a real advantage for your team. He was solid and did it in a spectacular fashion — a sign of a great pro."

Booker scored 29 of his 39 points in the fourth quarter for the Suns. Tyson Chandler had 14 points and 19 rebounds.

Phoenix took a 59-57 lead at halftime, but Williams hit a couple of 3-pointers and a jumper in a 17-4 run that gave the Mavericks a 76-63 lead with seven minutes left in the third quarter.

The Suns pulled within four after a 3 by Booker with 13 seconds to play in the game, but Dorian Finne-Smith



AP photo Dallas' Deron Williams, left, drives the ball past Phoenix Suns Brandon Knight in the first half of their NBA game in Mexico City Thursday night.

made two free throws to seal it for Dallas.

"We wanted to get a win. We were sitting on a three-game losing

streak and Phoenix just beats us at home a couple of nights ago, so it was a good win for us", Nowitzki said. "We

made a nice little run in the third quarter and we were able to get some separation, but you've got to give them credit.

Devin Booker was fantastic in the second half. He made shot after shot and he kept them in the game."



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**ALON USA 12700 Park Central Drive Suite 1600 Dallas, TX 75251** is applying to the Railroad Commission of Texas for an amendment to an existing hydrocarbon storage facility permit.

The applicant is storing liquid hydrocarbons in the Salado Salt formation, Fee Lease, Well No. 1004. The refining facility is located approximately 4.02 miles, north-east of Big Spring, TX in the Big Spring (Fusselman) field in Howard County.

The storage cavern is located in the subsurface depth interval from 971 to 1,229 feet. The applicant is applying to increase the maximum authorized storage volume from 125,000 bbls to 185,000 bbls in Well No. 1004.

LEGAL AUTHORITY: Title 3 and 11 of the Natural Resources Code; Texas Civil Statutes, Article 6053-3; and the Statewide Rules of the Oil and Gas Division of the Railroad Commission of Texas.

Requests for more information about the application may be made to: Technical Permitting Section, Oil & Gas Division, Railroad Commission of Texas, P.O. Box 12967, Austin, TX 78711 (Telephone 512/463-6760). Persons who can show they may be adversely affected by the amended existing cavern may request a public hearing on the application. Such request must be received in writing within fifteen days of the last date of publication of this notice. Requests for hearing should be sent to the Technical Permitting Section at the address above.

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8	5	9	2	4	1	3	7	6
7	6	1	9	8	3	5	4	2
3	2	4	7	5	6	1	9	8
1	8	7	3	6	5	4	2	9
6	9	5	8	2	4	7	1	3
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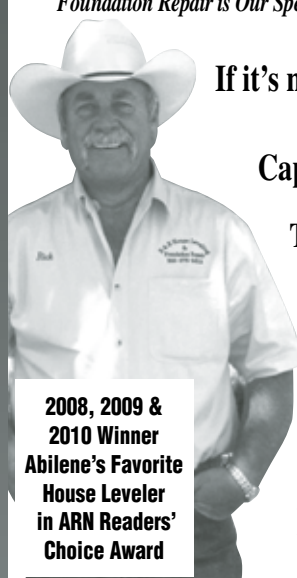
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BIG SPRING **HERALD**





**HOLIDAY MATHIS**

Mercury Lauds  
Friday the 13th

Europeans speak more languages than their North American brethren, a testament to living in close proximity to more countries. If you want to communicate better, Mercury seconds the motion on this, the 13th day of the month -- a Friday, to boot! Good news: You won't have to learn a new language; you'll just have to listen 20 percent better than before.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19).** Who has time to judge other people? Judges. Well, they're getting paid for it. Anyone who judges but isn't getting paid for it simply doesn't have enough excitement to draw the focus elsewhere.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** No opportunity can be written off today. Big and small, seize them all! Be on the lookout for opportunities that don't really seem like they are. Those are the ones to catch.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** The current problems are not interrupting your joy; in fact, they are a nice big slice of your joy. Somewhere in you, you know that you can overcome this, and overcome it you will.

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** You might know what the expectation would typically be in a given situation, but since there are individuals involved whose minds you can't read, you don't know what the expectation actually is. So, you may as well suit yourself.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** The one with the biggest picture wins every time. Today's win: The side benefits will outweigh the real ones. This will happen because you're playing a larger game than the one at the table you're sitting

**Tomorrow's Horoscope**

around.  
**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** Everyone on the earth's face wants to feel better, but each will go about it in different ways. Today, your tolerance for another person's methods will make both of your lives easier.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** Just as there are spaces in your home that you don't use, there are spaces in your psyche that go untouched -- that is, until certain people come along. You'll enjoy how the related emotional dynamic plays out today.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** Better to take one piece of good advice and apply it to your life than to listen to 60 adages and apply none.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** Bottom line: If you are worried about rejection, then your fear is stronger than your desire. It's not a good place to come from in business, and it's a disastrous position if pleasure is your aim.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).**

Your mind can be crueler to you than any person has ever been. Do not let negative thinking keep you from taking an exciting risk. If you desire it, you can break your mental chains.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** Remember when you went from one serious relationship straight into another and missed out on all that fun? What you learned from that will inform your weekend.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).** People like the idea of winging things spontaneously, because that feels fun in the mind. But when it translates to real life, well, it could go a lot of ways. And it will. It can't hurt to also have a plan in your back pocket.

**TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Jan. 13).** It's not enough for you to have a good experience, because you're looking for epic. You'll get that, too, especially when you make an effort in March (and then again with a ripe opportunity of June). Hard workers inspire you to work

even harder in the hot months. You'll sock away money to focus on an August opportunity. Taurus and Gemini adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 7, 30, 20, 12 and 1.

**WEEKEND LOVE FORECAST:** ARIES: Why not hold out for someone fun, good-looking and insanely hilarious? You know, someone like you. TAURUS: One truthful conversation will settle an issue for good. GEMINI: Talent, creativity and humor are the top qualities you look for. If someone happens to be good-looking, that's a bonus! CANCER: You have a lot outside of your relationships. Take stock in that, and your relationships will only grow stronger. LEO: It's pretty simple this weekend: The person who makes an effort will be the person who wins. VIRGO: Communication helps. Non-communication hurts. LIBRA: The one who doesn't want to lose you will make special efforts this weekend. SCORPIO: Arguments are a sign of relationship health.

SAGITTARIUS: You're trying to create an experience for people. You'll succeed in this. CAPRICORN: You play one role in one place, another role in another. You'll love the one who appreciates both and all. AQUARIUS: A person may hypothetically seem wonderful; then again, most people are not hypothetical. PISCES: You suspect that you're different, and you are. The one who gets this is a true love.

**COUPLE OF THE WEEKEND:** Cancer and Capricorn both start with a "C," and the similarities stop there. This water-and-earth combo will come together in fascination today, because one truly has no idea what the other is thinking. Capricorn is good at executing a plan powerfully. Cancer is more of a visionary who busts open the plan, poking at possibilities outside the range of the page.

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**Annie's Mailbox**

**Person Who Needs People**

**Dear Annie:** I am in my mid-60s. I live in a small town, where I know lots of people but have only one friend I can count on. Another really good friend had to move out of state for her job. And another friend, along with her husband, I have known for 35 years, but I get absolutely nothing in return. We only get together if I reach out to her. I'd like to cut her off, but I have no one to take her place. My extended

family members are not too far away, but they are too busy to make a phone call or send an email. I'm friendly with my husband's family members, who all live close by, but they never call or make any effort to keep us informed of family news. My husband has never helped in that regard because he doesn't keep in touch with them, either. He also makes no effort to get together with friends. I have a happy marriage but need more than my husband to keep me company. I need more than one

friend, as well. Having no friends is a problem I have had my whole life. My family of origin was rather dysfunctional, with a brother who was troubled and made it difficult for all of us. My parents were preoccupied with him and expected the rest of us kids to take care of ourselves, and because there were no other kids in the neighborhood to befriend, I feel that I was unprepared to make friends. Looking back now, I could have been a better friend to people as I became an adult but didn't really get it at the time and was very frivolous with friendships. I get along fairly well socially now, but there is no one I can call and say, "Hey, let's do something." I also worry about what would happen if my husband or I got sick,

which I'm seeing more with people in our age group. Whom would I call for support? Facebook makes me sad because it appears that others my age are still enjoying a very active social life. Has our culture created an atmosphere in which no one cares, or is it just me? -- Nobody Calls  
**Dear Nobody** Calls: First off, there aren't any people who are having as good a time as they seem to be on Facebook. If looking at those posts is bringing you down, log off for a while. Second, the best way to get somebody to call is to call her first. I know; you have tried reaching out to some people. But keep trying. Check out Meetup, a website designed to bring people together in real life over

common interests. There's a group for everyone -- amateur quantum physicists, alcohol-free adventurers, beer-drinking book-clubbers, puzzle enthusiasts, bridge players; I could go on all day. The point is that you need to get out and try new things. Friends are yours for the making.  
**Dear Annie:** Your advice to "Broken Living Room," in my opinion, missed the mark and may cause the breakup of a long-standing friendship. Chairs are engineered and constructed to withstand years of holding up under the strain of overweight bottoms. If this friend was capable of getting to "Broken Living Room's" house and getting herself seated, her weight was not the cause of

the chair's failure. The chair in question was either of poor quality or well on its way to failure before the friend sat in it. "Broken Living Room" should replace the chair with a quality chair, or she should find a place to put her fragile chair where heavy friends won't use it. Then she should forget the incident and nurture her friendship. She shouldn't blame the friend. -- Overweight Chair-User  
Send your questions for Annie Lane to [dearannie@creators.com](mailto: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](http://www.creators.com).  
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**Contract Bridge**

By Steve Becker

**Double-dummy problem**

**NORTH**  
♠ 5  
♥ 8 5  
♦ A K 7  
♣ A K 8 5 4 3 2

**WEST**  
♠ K 10 7  
♥ 9  
♦ Q 10 8 3  
♣ Q J 10 9 7

**EAST**  
♠ 8 6 4 3 2  
♥ Q 7 6 2  
♦ J 6 2  
♣ 6

**SOUTH**  
♠ A Q J 9  
♥ A K J 10 4 3  
♦ 9 5 4  
♣ —

This double-dummy problem was composed many years ago by Sidney Lenz. The object is to make Seven Hearts against the queen-of-clubs lead. Best defense is assumed, and, of course, declarer is allowed to see all 52 cards. \*\*\*

Win the queen of clubs with the king, discarding a diamond, and continue with the ace of clubs. Then:

- If East discards, overruff, cash the ace of spades and lead the queen through West's king. West must play the king of spades on this trick or the next one, whereupon you ruff in dummy and finesse the ten of trumps to score the rest of the tricks.
- If East discards a spade on the ace of clubs, trump the ace, play the

**Tomorrow:** Now you see it, now you don't.  
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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		5			8		
9			6					1
		8		3	2			7
		9		4	1			6
3								
			7	5		1		
1			3	6		4		
6						4		3
		2			7		8	

[www.sudoku-puzzles.net](http://www.sudoku-puzzles.net)

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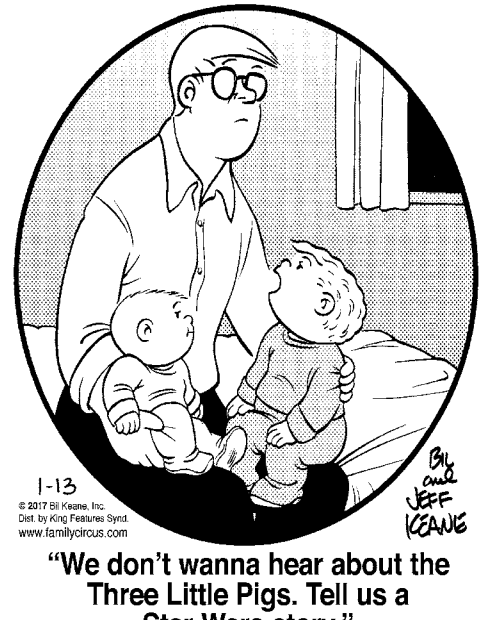
	KMID (3) Midland	UNI (4) Spanish	KPEJ (5) Odessa	KOSA (7) Odessa	KTLE (8) Telemundo	KWES (9) Midland	KMLM (12) Odessa	KPBT (13) Odessa	KWWT (14) Odessa	KWES2 (15) Midland	WTBS (33) Atlanta	TNT (34) Atlanta	ESPN (35) Sports	ESPN2 (36) Sports	FSN (38) Sports	USA (55) New York	A&E (58) New York	DISC (60) Discovery
5:PM	Local 2	Hotel	The List	News	Tele	News	Zola Lev.	Euromaxx	Mama's	American	Seinfeld	Castle	SportsCenter	Around		Mod Fam	The First 48	Gold Rush
5:30	ABC	Notic.	Mod Fam	CBS	Noticiero	News	Chevalme	Business	Mama's	American	Seinfeld	Castle	SportsCenter	Pardon		Mod Fam	The First 48	Gold Rush
6:PM	Jeopardy!	Sal y Pi-mienta	Big Bang	News	Caso Cer-rado	News	M.25	PBS News-Hour	M*A*S*H	Fam. Guy	Seinfeld	Castle	NBA Count-down	SportsCenter	Rangers	Mod Fam	The First 48	Gold Rush
6:30	Wheel		Big Bang	ET		News	All About		M*A*S*H	Fam. Guy	Seinfeld	Castle	NBA Count-down	SportsCenter	Cowboys	Mod Fam	The First 48	Gold Rush
7:PM	Last Man Dr. Ken	Despertar Contigo	Rosewood	MacGyver	Silvana Sin Lana	Grimm (DVS)	Upd	Wash	Griffith	The Vampire Diaries	Movie: Jack the Giant Slayer (DVS)	Movie: Bad Boys II, Jordi Mollà (DVS)	NBA Basketball: Boston Celtics at Atlanta Hawks.	DRL Drone Racing	Mavericks	Mod Fam	The First 48	Gold Rush: Pay Dirt
7:30	Shark Tank	Vino el Amor	Sleepy Hol-low	Hawaii Five-0	La Doña (SS)	Emerald City	Best of Light of the Southwest	On Story	Griffith	Crazy Ex-Griffriend			Basketball: Vipers at Legends	NBA D-League Basketball: Vipers at Legends	Mod Fam	Live PD	Gold Rush	
8:30								Great Performances					SportsCenter	TCU Bask The	Mod Fam		The Wheel	
9:PM	(:01) 20/20	El color de la pasión	News	Blue Bloods	El Chema (SS)	Dateline NBC		Heroes	Seinfeld	(:15) Movie: The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey, Richard Armitage (DVS)			NBA Basketball: Detroit Pistons at Utah Jazz.	SportsCenter	Mod Fam		(:01) Gold Rush	
9:30	Local 2	Impacto	Mod Fam	News	Tele	News	Upd	C. Burnett	King				SportsCenter	World Poker Tour	Mod Fam		(:01) The Wheel	
10:PM	Jimmy Kimmel Live	Noticiero	Two Men	Late Show- Colbert	Titulares	Tonight Show	BAS	Perry Mason	King				SportsCenter	High School Football	Mod Fam		(:01) The Wheel	
10:30	Contacto	Cleveland	How I Met James Corden	Mani	Yohanan	T. Smiley	Newsline (Off Air)	Tw. Zone	Rules				NFL Live	Law & Order: SVU	Mod Fam		(:02) Gold Rush	
11:PM	Nightline	La Mujer del	Insider	Paid	Paid	Paid	Paid	Mannix	Cheaters	Movie: Wild Wild West	Hawaii Five-0	SportsCenter	Sup. Bowl	NCIS: Los Angeles	Mod Fam		(:02) Gold Rush	
12:AM	Extra	La Mujer del	Insider	Paid	Paid	Paid	Paid											
1:30	Paid	Me Que No Me Dejas	Law Order: CI	ET	Paid	Paid	Paid											

DENNIS THE MENACE



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THE FAMILY CIRCUS

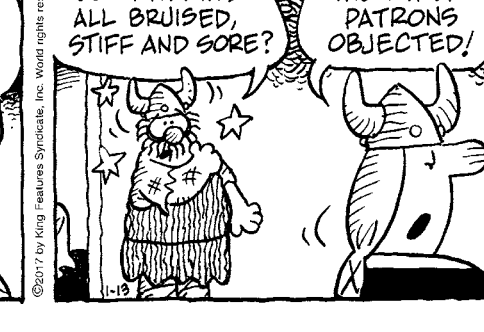


"We don't wanna hear about the Three Little Pigs. Tell us a Star Wars story."

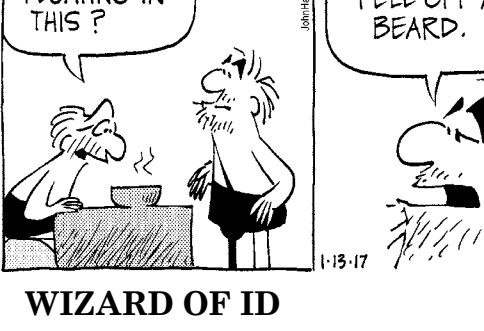
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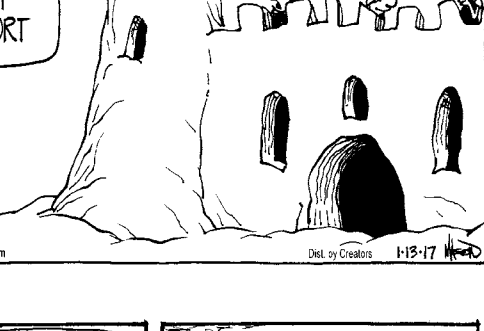
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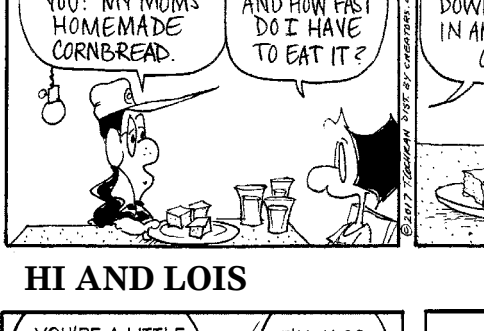
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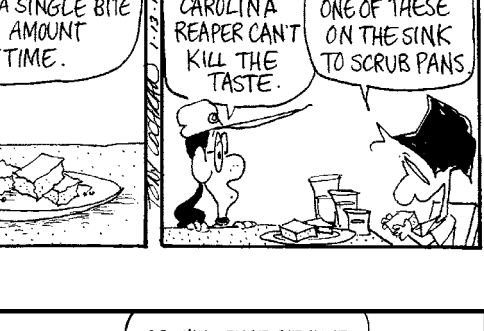
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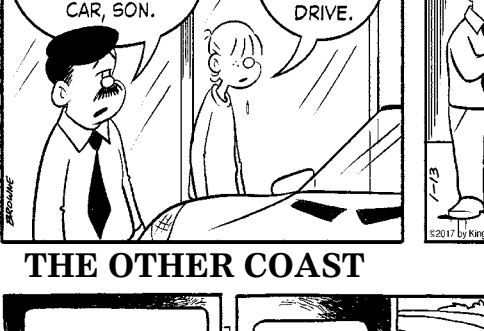
THE OTHER COAST



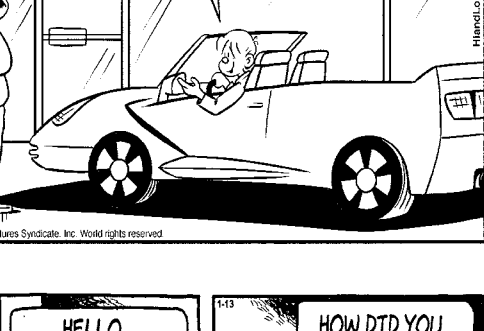
SNUFFY SMITH



BEEBLE BAILEY



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WIZARD OF ID



This Date In History

Today is Friday, Jan. 13, the 13th day of 2017. There are 352 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On Jan. 13, 1967, the Rolling Stones' double-A sided single "Let's Spend the Night Together" and "Ruby Tuesday" was released in the United Kingdom by Decca Records. (It was released the following day in the United States on the London label).

On this date: In 1733, James Oglethorpe and some 120 English colonists arrived at Charleston, South Carolina, while en route to settle in present-day Georgia.

In 1794, President George Washington approved a measure adding two stars and two stripes to the American flag, following the admission of Vermont and Kentucky to the Union. (The number of stripes was later reduced to the original 13.)

In 1898, Emile Zola's famous defense of Capt. Alfred Dreyfus, "J'accuse," (zhah-KOOZ') was published in Paris.

In 1915, a magnitude-7 earthquake centered in Avezzano, Italy, claimed some 30,000 lives.

In 1941, a new law went into effect granting Puerto Ricans U.S. birthright citizenship. Novelist and poet James Joyce died in Zurich, Switzerland, less than a month before his 59th birthday.

In 1962, comedian Ernie Kovacs died in a car crash in west Los Angeles 10 days before his 43rd birthday.

In 1978, former Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey died in Waverly, Minnesota, at age 66.

In 1982, an Air Florida 737 crashed into Washington, D.C.'s 14th Street Bridge and fell into the Potomac River while trying to take off during a snowstorm, killing a total of 78 people; four passengers and a flight attendant survived.

In 1987, West German police arrested Mohammed Ali Hamadi, a suspect in the 1985 hijacking of a TWA jetliner. (Although convicted and sentenced to life, Hamadi was paroled by Germany in Dec. 2005; he is on the FBI's Most Wanted Terrorists list.)

In 1990, L. Douglas Wilder of Virginia became the nation's first elected black governor as he took the oath of office in Richmond.

In 1997, seven black soldiers were awarded the Medal of Honor for World War II valor; the lone survivor of the group, former Lt. Vernon Baker, received his medal from President Bill Clinton at the White House.

In 2014, a shooting at a Wesley Chapel, Florida, movie theater left Chad Oulson, 43, dead; retired Tampa police captain Curtis Reeves, 71, is accused of killing Oulson during what authorities said was an argument over Oulson's texting.

Ten years ago: Nine people were killed in an apartment building fire in Huntington, West Virginia. Two miners were killed when a roof collapsed inside the Brooks Run Mining Co.'s Cucumber coal mine in McDowell County, West Virginia. The North Carolina state attorney general's office agreed to take over the sexual assault case against three Duke University lacrosse players at the request of embattled Durham County District Attorney Mike Nifong (all three players were later exonerated).

Answer to previous puzzle

B	A	L	S	A	S	O	L	E	V	I	E
A	L	O	U	D	C	H	E	X	O	N	T
M	A	C	R	O	A	N	N	A	I	T	C
A	S	K	I	N	G	T	O	O	M	U	C
N	I	P	S	L	E	E	D	S			
E	L	P	A	S	O	K	E	N	T	A	C
T	E	A	M	J	U	R	O	R	A	C	E
A	G	R	E	E	T	O	D	I	S	A	G
I	R	K	X	E	N	O	N	E	D	I	T
L	E	I	P	E	G	S	B	L	A	S	T
S	E	N	O	R	S	O	U	R			
G	O	O	D	Y	T	W	O	S	H	O	E
H	E	L	M	E	U	R	O	T	E	M	P
A	T	O	P	B	L	U	R	R	A	N	I
M	A	T	H	T	E	E	N				

1/13/17

Newsday Crossword

LOCKED OUT by Carolyn Stewart  
Edited by Stanley Newman  
www.stanxwords.com

**ACROSS**

1 Stumbling block  
6 Casino conveniences  
10 Van Gogh's sibling/supporter  
14 Fields of study  
15 Tap trouble  
16 Crescent tip  
17 Comment to a role model  
20 Metric measure  
21 Unconvincing  
22 Rack up  
23 Declassify  
25 Clothier concern  
27 Family nickname  
30 *Porto italiano*  
34 Maneuvered for advantage  
38 Indy Jones phobia  
39 Mideast's Gulf of \_\_\_  
40 Distress  
42 French bank  
43 Superficial appearance  
46 Stigma  
49 Late bloomers  
50 Where Heyerdahl went to school  
51 Liqueur flavor  
53 Novelist Cross  
58 Early bloomer  
61 Very narrow margin  
64 Dubbed ones  
65 What's keeping me locked out  
68 The bulk  
69 Excited about  
70 Party leader

**DOWN**

1 Short verse  
2 Australian naturalist  
3 Small ducks  
4 Fishing gear of a sort  
5 TV marketplace  
6 *Fantastic Four* star  
7 Spill over  
8 Menfolk  
9 Cold-weather runner  
10 Tourist draw  
11 DC collegian  
12 Aphrodite's boy  
13 Tedious task  
18 Assuage  
19 *East of Eden* director  
24 Oaf  
26 Ending for sit  
28 Chapel fixture  
29 Iberian sauce  
31 Steinbeck character  
32 Tax assessment  
33 "That's it"  
34 Web language  
35 Lines of admiration  
36 Phased-out Canadian coin  
37 Metaphor for childhood  
41 Half-square shapes  
44 Set upright  
45 Where Jacob Zuma is pres.  
47 Cellphone feature  
48 Ending for sit  
52 Savanna grazer  
54 Help-desk sign  
55 Family member  
56 Hot-air machine  
57 Biblical beasts  
58 Capital south of Quito  
59 Revered figure  
60 Ultimate  
62 Opposite of pro-  
63 Reversed figure  
66 Minor misstatement  
67 "That's it"

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
14					15					16			
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20					21				22				
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39						40	41			42			
43				44	45		46	47	48				
49							50						
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58	59	60				61	62	63			64		
65						66				67			
68						69				70			
71						72				73			

CREATORS SYNDICATE © 2017 STANLEY NEWMAN STANXWORDS@AOL.COM 1/13/17



**St. Petersburg defends transfer of landmark to church**

ST. PETERSBURG, Russia (AP) — In the latest scandal involving the powerful Russian Orthodox Church, authorities in St. Petersburg on Thursday defended a controversial decision to give a city landmark cathedral to the church.

Museum experts and locals in Russia's former imperial capital were rattled by the governor's announcement this week that he was transferring St. Isaac's Cathedral to the church. An online petition against that decision had tens of thousands of signatures by Thursday.

The neoclassical church, completed in the 19th century, has been an important museum since Russia's 1917 Bolshevik Revolution and is now the city's third most visited site. Some museum experts are concerned that the Orthodox Church will neglect its exhibits, which include a rare Foucault pendulum.

Mikhail Mokretsov, deputy governor of Russia's second-largest city, on Thursday vowed that the city hall will make sure that tourists get unfettered access to the site. He said the city will retain its ownership of the cathedral and will shoulder maintenance costs while the church will get operational rights.

Church spokesman Vladimir Legoyda on Thursday assured the public that visitors will not even notice the difference when the church begins to operate St. Isaac's.

"Nobody is going to limit the access to the cathedral," he told reporters. "It's in the church's interests to preserve museum heritage."

Although St. Isaac's was built as an Orthodox cathedral, except for a brief period it was always owned by the government.

Opposition lawmakers and activists plan to protest Friday against the decision, which they see as part of a growing trend toward social conservatism in Russia.

The Russian Orthodox Church has played an active part in President Vladimir Putin's efforts to consolidate Russian society by appealing to traditional values as opposed to Western liberalism.

The church's attempts to expand its influence have sometimes caused controversy, however.

On Wednesday, a senior Orthodox cleric in Siberia, the Metropolitan of Novosibirsk, Tikhon, lashed out at the local opera and ballet theater for staging the classic Christmas ballet, "The Nutcracker," which he insisted was based on a "occult subject."

**CHURCH**

Continued from Page 6

The title of the study is "To Live is Christ, To Die is Gain".

If you have a smartphone, take a look at the Spring Creek App. Go to the app store on your smartphone and search for Spring Creek Fellowship and download. Be sure to allow notifications when given the option, those messages are generated by the church office so it keeps you updated about upcoming events and much more.

**Weekly Happenings:**

- Sunday-8:15 a.m.-Classical Worship Service
- 9:15-10:15 a.m.-Sunday School/Connection Groups
- 10:15 a.m.-10:45 a.m.- "Holy Grounds Café" is open with snacks and fellowship.
- 10:45 a.m.-12 p.m.-Worship Service
- Tuesday-
- 12 noon- Narcotics Anonymous
- 6:30 p.m.-Pain Management Group
- Wednesday-
- Community Groups-various times and places
- Thursday
- 7 p.m.-"To Live is Christ, To Die is Gain" Men's Bible Study (begins July 28th)
- Friday-
- 7-8 p.m.- Narcotics Anonymous
- Saturday-
- 7:30 a.m.-Weekly Men's Prayer Breakfast & Fellowship
- 10 a.m.-"Sowing Seeds of Hope" Crafting fellowship

In 2015, Tikhon protested against Wagner's opera "Tannhauser." Several months later the Russian culture minister fired the theater's director and the opera was removed from the theater's repertoire.

**Church members join relatives in grief, anger at gunman**

CHARLESTON, S.C. (AP) — Family members of the nine people Dylann Roof killed in a Charleston, South Carolina, church weren't the only ones who suffered. Their church family grieved, too.

Along with the 32 family members of victims, three people connected to Emanuel AME Church spoke as Roof was formally sentenced to death Wednesday in federal court.

"When you have attended nine wakes and nine funerals, it is heartbreaking," said Ruby Martin, the most senior member of the church who admitted it took her several weeks after the 2015 shootings before she could go back.

Emotions expressed at Wednesday's hearing included laughter and tears; love and hate; anger and forgiveness; despair and hope. Some people shouted at Roof, wishing him to be condemned to hell. Others offered forgiveness, and one said she would visit him in prison as he awaits execution for the slaughter.

A jury sentenced Roof to death Tuesday on hate crime and obstruction of religion charges. U.S. District Judge Richard Gergel couldn't change it, but his words left little doubt he felt death was justified. "This hate, this viciousness, this moral depravity will not go unanswered," he said.

The 22-year-old avowed white supremacist didn't look at Gergel, just as he refused to meet the gaze of anyone who spoke Wednesday, including Janet Scott, an aunt of 26-year-old Tywanza Sanders, the youngest victim killed in the June 17, 2015, massacre.

"Dylann," Scott said quietly as she started speaking. "Dylann! DYLANN!" she said, shouting it the last time. Toward the end of her remarks, she said, "I wish you would look at me, boy."

Scott talked about her nephew's "great big heart," which could not be donated because of the police investigation.

Roof didn't take an opportunity to speak Wednesday. The day before, just before jurors deliberated his sentence, he didn't ask for mercy or apologize, instead saying he still "felt like I had to do it."

Some of the relatives looked directly at Roof. Others chose to look at jurors, who did not have to be in court Wednesday but told the judge they wanted to attend.

Sheila Capers, the sister-in-law of Cynthia Hurd, 54, who also was killed, said she prayed for Roof's soul to be saved.

"If at any point before you are sentenced and you're in prison and you want me to come and pray with you, I will do that," Capers said.

Felicia Sanders, who survived the attack, brought the bullet-torn, bloodstained Bible she had with her the night of the shooting. She told Roof he still lives in her head, and that when she hears a balloon pop or fireworks or even the soft thud of a falling acorn, she returns to that night.

"Most importantly, I can't shut my eyes to pray," Sanders said.

On the night of the shooting, Roof sat through a 45-minute Bible study session at the black church known as Mother Emanuel with 12 others. He opened fire as they stood and closed

their eyes for a final prayer. In all, he fired 77 shots. Each victim was hit at least five times.

The Rev. Daniel Simmons Sr., 74, was among those killed. His daughter, Rose Simmons, said Wednesday that her father "in his final act on this earth ... extended that hand of friendship and love even to an enemy. And, it cost him his life. So in him dying facing an enemy, I'm sure we can live facing ours."

She added, "Love conquers all."

Three people survived the attack. Roof told one of them he was sparing her life so she could tell the world he was killing the worshippers there because he hated black people.

When he was arrested, Roof told FBI agents he wanted the shootings to bring back segregation or perhaps start a race war. Instead, the slayings had a unifying effect as South Carolina removed the Confederate flag from its Statehouse for the first time in more than 50 years. Other states followed suit, taking down Confederate banners and monuments. Roof had posed with the flag in photos.

The jury convicted Roof last month of all 33 federal charges he faced. He insisted he was not mentally ill and did not call any witnesses or present any evidence.

Roof, who also faces murder charges in state court, plans to appeal the federal case. Prosecutors say he will remain jailed in Charleston until the state charges are resolved. No trial date has been set.

**Ousted Knights of Malta official takes case to order's court**

VATICAN CITY (AP) — The standoff between the Vatican and the Knights of Malta has taken a new twist, with the ousted foreign minister of the ancient aristocratic lay Catholic order appealing his suspension to the Knights' internal tribunal.

Albrecht von Boeselager was removed Dec. 8 after he refused a demand by the top knight to resign over revelations that the order's charity branch distributed tens of thousands of condoms in Myanmar under his watch. Catholic teaching forbids the use of artificial contraception.

In a statement Thursday, von Boeselager said that he filed an appeal with the Knights' tribunal Jan. 4. The appeal argues that "not even one of the conditions" governing suspension of members applied to his case.

Specifically, he said there was no reason to initiate a disciplinary procedure against him, and that regardless the one used to suspend him was invalid.

Pope Francis has intervened in the dispute, setting up a commission to investigate what the Vatican No. 2 has said was an "unprecedented crisis" within the order. The leadership of the Knights, however, has refused to cooperate with the pope's probe, citing its status as a sovereign entity under international law.

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## HAWKS

Continued from Page 7

The game was mostly a tight affair in the second half — Howard pushed its lead to 10 points early in the fourth quarter, but Midland rallied late before the Hawks finally secured the win.

DeAuja Thompson had 20 points, while Camille Hoover added 12 for Howard, which hosts Frank Phillips College at 5:45 p.m. Monday in Dorothy Garrett Coliseum.

## Men's game

Apparently, the Hawks only had so many rallies in them Thursday night.

First, they came back from an early 10-point deficit in the first half. Then, they grabbed the lead with another second-half run. But with the game in the balance, it was Midland that produced the winning rally.

The Chaparrals started the game strong, jumping out to a 12-2 lead, but the Hawks came back and eventually cut the lead to 31-28 at halftime.

After intermission, it was the Hawks' turn to come out firing, as they scored the first six points of the half and held a 57-50 lead with less than seven minutes remaining in the game. However, Midland blanked Howard the rest of the way and scored the game's final 17 points to take the win.

The Hawks were led by Marcel Cherry, who scored 20 points, and KJ Riley, who added 12.

Howard returns to action Monday when it hosts Frank Phillips College in a 7:30 p.m. game at Dorothy Garrett Coliseum.

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



Tony Claxton photo (www.claxtonphotography.com)

Howard College's Kendall Alsup, right, shoots over a Midland College defender during their game Thursday night.

## TEXANS

Continued from Page 7

It's his second year with the Texans after spending his first 11 years with the Patriots, where he won two Super Bowls. He's been to the postseason in all but one of his NFL seasons, and said the excitement of the playoffs never gets old.

"It always feels good to play football going into January and hopefully into February, because that means you've been doing something well, your ballclub's been doing something well, and you're playing toward one goal, and that's to win the Super Bowl," he said. "I've been on both sides where I won it and I've lost it, so I know both feelings, and I know what it takes to get to that."

Wilfork stepped in and immediately became a leader on Houston's defense when he arrived last season. His veteran presence became even more important this season when the 2015 Defensive Player of the Year J.J. Watt suffered a season-ending back injury after just three games.

Defensive end Jadeveon Clowney, the top overall pick in the 2014 draft who has had a breakout season to help Houston's defense rank first in the regular season, credited Wilfork for much of his improvement.

"Vince has taught me so much. He's a smart player. One of the smartest defensive players I think I've played with," Clowney said. "He knows what's going on. He knows what to look for when he sees certain formations."

At this point in his career, Wilfork enjoys helping his younger teammates almost as much as playing. He revels in the fact that players such as Clowney, outside linebacker Whitney Mercilus and rookie nose tackle D.J. Reader lean on him for help and advice — on football and on life.

"It's all leadership," Wilfork said. "Sometimes you have to understand how to get the best out of everyone. Sometimes coaches can struggle with that because they have so much of a bigger picture. They have to run a team."

## DALLAS

Continued from Page 7

the Cotton Bowl in Dallas. The Packers went on to beat the Kansas City Chiefs in the Super Bowl.

After joining the NFL as an expansion franchise in 1960, Dallas started a streak of 20 straight winning seasons in 1966.

ICE BOWL: The temperature was minus-13 at kickoff on Dec. 31, 1967, when the Cowboys and Packers met at Lambeau in a classic NFL

championship game. Cowboys equipment staff gave players a salve to rub on to keep warm, and put Saran Wrap around feet in an attempt to add another layer of warmth.

There wasn't much of a rivalry then because the Cowboys were still relatively new to the league, Kramer said, though the seeds of a rivalry were planted.

DALLAS DOMINATION: The Cowboys dominated in the mid-1990s with a star-studded lineup led by the Hall of Fame trio of Troy Aikman,

Emmitt Smith and Michael Irvin.

Dallas hosted the Packers and another future Hall of Famer, quarterback Brett Favre, for three straight seasons, from 1993-95, all Cowboys victories.

Kramer remembers a weekend in which he attended one of those playoff games and got frustrated by the brash and confident Cowboys. His anger boiled over in a radio interview.

The loss in the 1995 NFC title game served as a learning experience for Green Bay.

The Packers went on to beat New England in the Super Bowl in the 1996 season.

"Every year, you got better, you learned from your mistakes," former center Frank Winters said. "From a motivational point ... you tried to overcome those adversities, tried to learn from them and move forward."

They didn't face the Cowboys in the playoffs that year after Dallas was knocked out by Carolina. The Packers returned to the Super Bowl the following season, losing to Denver.

## OVERTURNED CATCH:

The Cowboys returned to Lambeau for a postseason game on Jan. 11, 2015. They left with a 26-21 loss after Bryant's leaping, 31-yard catch to the Packers 1 on fourth-and-2 with 4 1/2 minutes left was overturned by officials.

Cornerback Sam Shields had solid coverage. Coach Mike McCarthy saw otherwise and threw a challenge flag.

Replays showed that Bryant bobbled the ball as he rolled into the end zone, with part of it touching the field.

## BEST BITES

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