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BIG SPRING TUESDAY, JANUARY 24, 2017



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County/College library in the future?

Area officials take first steps toward sharing library resources

By LYNDEL MOODY

Staff Writer

Howard College trustees approved an inter-local agreement with the Howard Coun-Commissioners Court Monday to share a head librarian position for both entities' program.

first step to merging library County library in that role resources for the two taxing entities in the future. Howard County Commissioners also approved the agreement Monday at their meeting.

"This position would give the ability to have a person who has supervision over all our (college) libraries as well

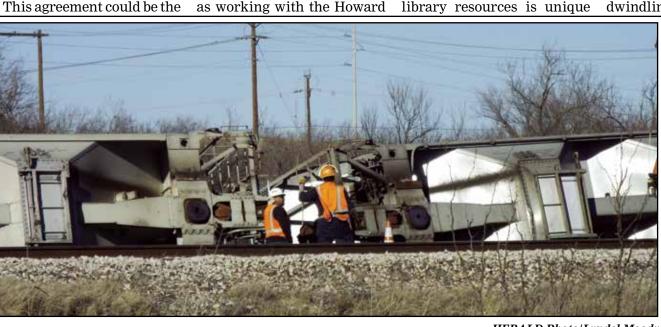
but also ... start researching and developing plans and to begin the conversation on: if we were do to this, how would we do this? What would it look like?" said Dr. Cheryl Sparks, Howard College president.

Sparks said the idea of combining county and college library resources is unique and different but added it is not without precedent within the United States. It is also not a new idea to Howard County with discussion on the same concept occurring in the 1980s.

Also present at the meeting was Howard County Commissioner Craig Bailey who said dwindling funding from the state is putting pressure on the county budget.

"Every year we are asked to do more on behalf of the state with no return from the state," he told Howard College trustees. "We coined the term unfunded mandates which are prevalent through-

See HC, Page 3



Union Pacific crews clean up and repair track after a minor trail derailment occurred

Minor train derailment occurred Sunday

By LYNDEL MOODY

Staff Writer

Union Pacific crews have been cleaning up from a minor train derailment near the Birdwell Lane/I-20 overpass which occurred in the early morning hours on Sunday.

According to Union Pacific Spokesperson Jeff De-Graff, a train was heading into the Big Spring rail DeGraf said clean up from the derailment is expectyard when eight rail cars derailed.

"All the cars were carrying sand," DeGraff said. "There were no hazardous material." DeGraf said the accident caused some delays

along the track on Sunday.

day," he said. "All the cars are safely off the line and they are doing minor repairs to the track. The sand will be offloaded onto other cars." ed to continue for a few more days.

Commissioners say agreement will help long-term funding for library

On Monday afternoon, Howard County commissioners approved the agreement between the county and Howard College to share a head librarian position, a first step which could lead to combining library resources.

Before the commissioners discussed the inter-local agreement, Howard County Library employee John Schafer spoke to the commissioners about the issue. Among many points, Schafer addressed his concern the county library would take a backseat to the interests of the college library.

"If this joint library venture was to press forward, it would take, what, three, four, five years to occur," said Schafer. "... If the college pays the major portion of the shared director's salary, provides insurance and benefits and the county supplements the shared director's salary ... by one third ... can it be assumed that the college library would be the first priority of the new director and the county library would be secondary consideration?"

See **COMMISSIONERS**, Page 3

Storms kill 20 in the South

By BRENDAN FARRINGTON and JAY REEVES

Associated Press

ADEL, Ga. — Bonnie and Wayne Collier were jolted awake in their mobile home by a cellphone weather alert early Sunday. They jumped up, turned on the TV, saw a tornado warning and decided to run.

"We heard the Code Red," said Bonnie Collier, 65. "He told me, 'Get up. We've got to get out."

Quickly, they headed to a

friend's nearby building just down the road from their mobile home near Cecil, Georgia. There they met up with their son, daughter-in-law and three grandchildren ages 5, 7 and 9.

They arrived just ahead of a tornado, part of an unusual midwinter barrage of tornadoes and thunderstorms that killed at least 20 across the Deep South over the week-

"My husband yelled, 'Get under the tables!' and then it

See STORMS, Page 3

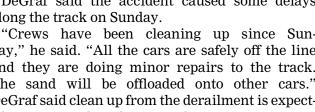






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HERALD photo/Lyndel Moody

Pictured from left, Alon Big Spring Refinery officials Jeff Brorman, plant refinery manager, and Jessica Rivera, assistant to the VP of Refining at Alon USA, hand over a ceremonial check to Meghan Bias, United Way of Big Spring and Howard County executive director, and Sandy Stewart, former director of the local United Way. The Big Spring Refinery donated \$71,489.86 to the 2016 United Way campaign.

Big Spring Refinery donates \$71,489 and change to United Way campaign receiving a ceremonial check Bias expected.

By LYNDEL MOODY Staff Writer

Meghan F. Bias, the new executive director of the United Way of Big Spring and Howard County, was all smiles last Thursday afternoon after from Alon USA Big Spring Refinery officials.

The check, which totaled \$71,489.86 and is the company's annual contribution to the 2016 United Way campaign, was \$10,000 more than

"This shows what commu-

nity support can do not only for the United Way but for the community as a whole," she said.

See UW, Page 3



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Obituaries

Rebecca "Becki" Torres



Rebecca "Becki" Torres, 79, of Big Spring died Friday, January 20, 2017, in Midland. Vigil services will be at 7:00 p.m. Wednesday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral Mass will be at 11:00 a.m. Thursday at Holy Trinity Catholic Church.

She was born May 4, 1937, to Cleofas Rocha Luevano and Agapito Luevano Sr., in Uvalde, Texas. She married Joe F. Torres on June 21, 1962, in Uvalde, Texas. They moved to Howard County in 1962 from Uvalde. She

graduated from Howard College with a Registered Nurse Degree. She worked as a Registered Nurse at Hall-Bennett Hospital, Malone-Hogan Hospital, and later Scenic Mountain Medical Center. She was also a Home Health Nurse.

She is survived by her husband: Joe F. Torres of Big Spring; two daughters: Michelle Torres Al-

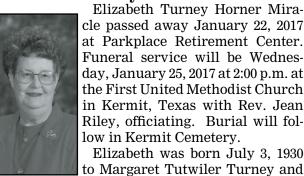
varez of Midland and Melissa Torres-Whitmer and her husband John of Kyle; five brothers: Roy Luevano and his wife Irma of Uvalde, Alfredo Luevano and his wife Odelia of Boerne, Pete Luevano and his wife Olga of Uvalde, Tony Luevano of Uvalde, and Hector Luevano and his wife Noemi of Uvalde; five grandsons: Teryn Gonzalez, Teyler Gonzalez, Noah Torres-Whitmer, Joshua Torres-Whitmer, and Micah Torres-Whitmer; three granddaughters: Amanda Alvarez-Ormsby and wife Sarena, Amber Garcia and her husband Rick, and Alicia Alvarez; two great granddaughters: Alyssa Gonzalez and Addyson Garcia; and several nieces and nephews. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in

death by two brothers: Henry and Alfonso Luevano; and two sisters: Elena Aguilar and Maria Del-

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

Paid obituary

Elizabeth Turney Horner Miracle



Funeral service will be Wednesday, January 25, 2017 at 2:00 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church in Kermit, Texas with Rev. Jean Riley, officiating. Burial will follow in Kermit Cemetery.

Joseph Turney in Mesilla, New Mexico. She married Richard Horner in 1950 and he passed away in 1982. She married Fred Miracle in 1986 and he also preceded her in death in 1998. Mrs. Miracle lived in Kermit from 1951 until 2012 at which time she moved to Big Spring.

Mrs. Miracle was a noted pianist and organist with a career as a church organist spanning 67 years. Fifty of those years were at the First United Methodist Church in Kermit. She also directed the hand bell choirs there as well.

She had a private piano and organ studio from 1957-1986, and taught over 800 students from 5-yearolds to grandparents during that time. She also accompanied the junior high and high school choirs as well as a number of choir and band soloists and ensembles at numerous contests and festivals.

Mrs. Miracle had been a member of the Odessa Music Teachers Association, the National Federation of Music Clubs and the National Guild of Organists. She judged extensively at piano contests and festivals throughout Texas and New Mexico, including the Kermit Keyboard Contest which she organized. She was awarded the Outstanding Judge's Certificate by the Texas State Music

Teachers Association. She had been a delegate to the Texas Music Teachers and the National Music Teachers meetings.

Mrs. Miracle graduated from the University of Texas of the Permian Basin in 1989 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Music. She began her career from 1989-1999 as the music teacher at East Primary School in Kermit. She was pleased to teach a number of children and grandchildren of former piano and organ students.

Elizabeth was active in the United Methodist Church, where she held many offices at the local. district, and conference levels of United Methodist Women. She was a lay delegate to the New Mexico Methodist Annual Conference for six years. Mrs. Miracle was a founding member of the Women's Division of the Kermit Chamber of Commerce and was selected as Woman of the Year in 2007. She had been a member of the Ambassadors of the Chamber of Commerce and the Medallion Home Hostesses and had had memberships in Beta Sigma Phi and Delta Kappa Gamma.

Elizabeth is survived by one daughter, Linda Miracle and her husband Dan of Big Spring; her grandsons: Thad Miracle, Ryan Miracle, Chris Horner, Matthew Horner and Justin Horner; her step-grandsons: Ron Gray, Shannon Casey and Lance Casey and six great grandchildren. In addition to her parents, husbands, and three brothers, she was also preceded in death by a son Richard Linzy "Dickie" Horner.

Pallbearers will be the grandsons.

Memorials may be made to the First United Methodist Church, 744 Jeffee Drive, Kermit, Texas 79745. Arrangements are by Myers & Smith Funeral

Home. Pay your respects online at www.myersandsmith.com. Paid obituary

Craig Forshee



Craig Forshee, 60, of Big Spring, passed away Saturday, January 21, 2017 at his residence. Private family services will be held at a later date

He was born February 17, 1956 in Neosho, Missouri to Carolyn Kay Potter Forshee and William Charles Forshee. He came to Big Spring from Tennessee in 1973. He

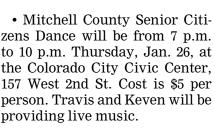
was a welder, mechanic and a heating and air conditioner technician.

He is survived by three sons: Jon Forshee and wife Stacie of Muenster, Clay Forshee also of Muenster and Travis Forshee and wife Kristen of Denton; his mother: Carolyn Forshee of Florida; one brother: Jeff Forshee of Florida and seven grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his father, Bill For-

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

Take Note



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

The next sacking session will be at 5:30 p.m. Feb. 6 and 7 at the old Lakeview High School gym located at 1107 N.W. Seventh St.

BIG SPRING

COLLISION CENTER

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To get there, take Gregg Street north and turn left on Delaney, which is the block just past the Salvation Army retail store. Delaney turns into Seventh Street, you will go over the railroad tracks and the school is on the left. If you want additional information about getting your child on this program please contact your child's school.

· Seniors and mature adults are invited to a dance on the first, third and fifth Friday of each month at the Dora Roberts Community Center. Dances are from 7:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. with live bands. No alcohol or smoking permitted. There will be a pot luck as well so bring a dish if you want to eat.

Cost is \$8 per person.

Meetings

Uptown

Salon & Day Spa

HIRING

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- The Big Spring Art Association meets the third Tuesday of each month a 7 p.m. in the basement of the Howard County Library.
- The Christensen-Tucker Post-2013 Veterans of Foreign Wars meets the first Tuesday of every month at 7 pm at 500 Driver Road. For more information, contact David Leonard, Post Commander, at 432-816-6004.
- The Big Spring Symphony Board of Directors meets every first Tuesday at 5:30 p.m. at the symphony office, 808 Scurry Street.
- Order of the Eastern Star Big Spring Chapter 67 meets the third Tuesday of each month at 219 Main St. Dinner begins at 6:30 p.m. Lodge meeting begins at 7:30 p.m.

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Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity: • ISRAEL TREVINO FLORES JR, 36, of 2211 S

- Runnels St. was arrested on a charge of assaultfamily violence. • MICHAEL DEAN NALL, 38, of 2102 Amy Lyn
- Avenue was arrested on a charge of unauthorized use of a motor vehicle. • RODOLFO BRITO, 20, of 2519 Gunter Circle
- was arrested on a warrant from another agency. • SUSAN ETTA HUMPHREY, 30, of 2689 Lake

252 CR (Colorado City) was arrested on a charge of

- public intoxication. • JOHN KHOURY, 24, of 22 Brickwood Drive (Little Rock, AR), was arrested on a charge of assault-family violence.
- ISAAC STEPHEN RODRIQUEZ, 32, of 512 Washington Boulevard was arrested on a warrant for theft of service. DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE was reported in
- the 2200 block of S Runnels. • THEFT was reported in the 1000 block of S Scur-
- MINOR ACCIDENT was reported in the 1000 block of Ridgeroad Drive.

Fire/EMS

Big Spring Fire Department/EMS reported the following activity:

- MEDICAL CALL was reported in the 300 block of Holley. One person was transported to SMMC. • MEDICAL CALL was reported in the 1800
- block of N. Hwy 87. One person was transported to SMMC. MEDICAL CALL was reported in the 2600 block
- MEDICAL CALL was reported in the 1900 block of N. Hwy 87. One person was transported to

of S. Gregg. One person was transported to SMMC.

- SMMC. • MEDICAL CALL was reported in the 700 block of Craigmont. MEDICAL CALL was reported in the 300 block
- of Veterans Blvd. One person was transported to • MEDICAL CALL was reported in the 2500 block
- of Langley. One person was transported to SMMC. MEDICAL CALL was reported in the 3200 block
- of Parkway. One person was transported to SMMC. • MEDICAL CALL was reported in the 1800 block of N. Hwy 87. One person was transported to
- MEDICAL CALL was reported in the 2100 block of Dogwood.

Support Groups

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

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

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

- Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m.; newcomers meeting 8 p.m. to 9 p.m.
- A six-week course in Wellness and Quality of Life with Chronic Pain will start Tuesday, Jan. 10, at 6:30 p.m. at Spring Creek Fellowship located in the Spring Town Plaza, 1801 E. FM 700. There is no charge for the course, and a workbook will be provided. Contact Steve Purdy at 432-517-4840 for more information.
- Al-Anon, 615 Settles for family members and friends of alcoholics meets at 8 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

- RSD (Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy) a chronic pain disease, a support and informative group, meets at 213 Circle. Call Lucy at (432) 517-9207 for more information.
- Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m.; open 12 & 12 study meeting 8 p.m. to 9 p.m.

THURSDAY

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

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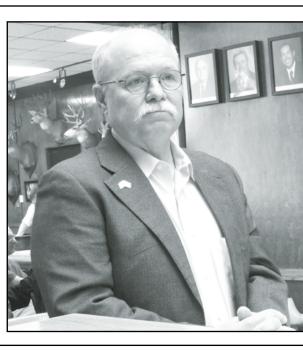
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"I would never want to get to a place where we had to decide on roads or library or something else and a library," he said. "I think it's our responsibility at this time to look to the future and look toward any and every opportunity we might have in order to preserve if not expand our ability to give this service to the taxpayers of Howard County."

> Craig Bailey, Howard County Commissioner Precinct 2

ments from unfunded mandates.

"There was a place in Midland's time when they were actually considering shutting their entire library's structure down," Bailey said. "They saw it as being a drain on the taxpayers. Most taxpayers want more services, best roads in the state, and decreased taxes, and sometimes those

some point in the future it will not be able to meet the financial requireextra. We donate about 50 cents per

dollar."

Rivera said the money is raised through a number of employee activities held during the campaign months from September to November such as Chicken Poop Bingo, a chili cook off contest, and dessert auction. Also, Alon sponsors a golf tournament in the summer.

Money raised from the campaign is allocated to the following United Way board approved agencies: The American Red Cross, Permian Basin chapter; Big Spring YMCA; Buffalo Trail Council, Boy Scouts of America; CASA of West Texas, Dora Roberts Rehabilitation Center; Emergency Services Chaplain Corps; Girl Scouts of the Desert Southwest; Isaiah 58; Mobile Meals; Northside Community Center; Rape Crisis Services of Big Spring; Spring of Siloam; The Salvation Army; The Salvation Army Boys and Girls Club; and the Westside Community Day Care Center.

For more information, visit the United Way office located inside the Big Spring Chamber of Commerce and Big Spring Economic Development building, 215 West Third St or call the office at 267-5201.

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

don't all fit together."

However, Bailey said, some prominent people in Midland stepped in to help create a strong library program.

"I would never want to get to a place where we had to decide on roads or library or something else and a library," he said. "I think it's our responsibility at this time to look to the future and look toward any and every opportunity we might have in order to preserve if not expand our ability to give this service to the tax payers of Howard County."

Bailey, who has taken the lead for the county on this issue, said he believed this cooperation between the two entities would beneficial for both. According to Sparks, the

county will kick in about 1/3 of the salary and benefits for the Dean of Librarian position. That person, once hired, will not only be responsible for researching and developing ways the county/college can combine services but also how to create a program that

will meet the future needs of the community, Sparks said.

In other business trustees:

- Issued a resolution of appreciation to a private donor who through personal donations and a matching grant from a Texas company gifted \$30,000 for the SWCID basketball program.
- Approved the hiring for architectural professional services to oversee the repair of major storm damage on the SWCID campus which occurred in April. The storm cost more than \$300,000 of damage to the SWCID cam-
- Approved the extending of Sparks' contract until 2019.
- · Issued a resolution of appreciation to the Dora Roberts Foundation for the agency's yearly donation to the college's nursing program. The foundation donated \$110,000 which subsidies two teaching positions and another \$50,000 to be used for scholarships.
- Heard the annual audit report. According to James Welch of Lee Reynolds Welch & Co., the college had no findings in its report.

Contiued from Page 1

Continued from Page 1

out most of the state these days."

In the long run, Bailey said

the county is worried that at

Every extra penny is helpful, as in the past few years, the local United Way campaign has struggled to make its annual \$330,000 campaign goal. Money raised through the United Way campaign goes to support 15 area non-profit agencies that provide programs ranging from weekday meals to the homebound elderly to supporting the Salvation Army Boys and Girls program. Officially, the 2016 campaign

has closed and funds have already been allocated to the various agencies, although the checks have not been written. Bias noted the extra \$10,000 donation from Alon will still be distributed to the agencies for this year's allocations.

"What money the United Way raises in the community, stays in the community and goes to the 15 area agencies," she said.

Under the leadership of Jessica Rivera, chairman for the Alon USA United Way campaign, the Big Spring refinery and its employees have more than doubled their contribution to the local United Way from \$32,573 in 2010 to \$71,489.86.

"This is really employee driven," said Jeff Brorman, plant refinery manager. "The company kicks in

OMMISSIONERS Continued from Page 1

Commissioner Craig Bailey assured Schafer that the planning of the joint library venture has been discussed at length between the two entities.

"Fact of the matter is that we have been meeting at different times to discuss even the feasibility of even taking the next step," said Bailey. "And if we hadn't seen an opportunity again, Mr. Schafer is viewing this strictly, I think, from a budgetary standpoint with regard to the library itself when in fact we are being confronted by state rules that are ultimately going to change the ways counties do business..."

Bailey mentioned the state is considering lowering the property roll-back tax rate in this session. If that occurs, Bailey said it would hinder the county's overall financing. The roll back rate, drafted by Houston Senator Paul Bettencourt, would lower the property tax rollback rate from 8 percent to 4 percent.

He said the agreement between the two entities would have "long-term viability" for the library program if that were to happen.

After the commissioners voted and approved the shared position, Howard College President Dr. Cheryl Sparks gave a few words to the court.

"This is a conversation that we all feel very passionately about," said Sparks. "...I think as we begin the research I think it's very important that when we begin the conversation we want to be transparent. Employees of both the college and the county need to be involved. We have to have their input. It's also very important

that we hear from our patrons. We want to listen to all the sides. I think it'll be important to gather the input as we go through the process." Also during the meeting, commissioners heard/ap-

proved: • Big Spring representative for Ports to Plains Gloria McDonald and Ports to Plains President Michael Reeves

- gave a presentation to commissioners about progress with the program. Reed explained to commissioners that extending I-27 south was the goal and encouraged commissioners and those present to help build up community support. The commissioners approved a resolution to support the extension of I-27.
- Approved requests for road maintenance.

& CHAPEL 24th & Johnson 267-8288

MYERS & SMITH

FUNERAL HOME

"Becki" Rebecca Torres, 79, died Fri-Vigil services will be at 7:00 PM Wednesday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral Mass will be at 11:00 AM Thursday at

Craig Forshee, 60, died Saturday. Private family services will be held at a later date.

Holy Trinity Catholic

Church.

Elizabeth Turney Horner Miracle, 86, died Sunday. Funeral service will be at 2:00 p.m. Wednesday at the First United Methodist Church in Kermit with burial in Kermit Cemetery.

STORMS Continued from Page 1

just came right over the top of us like a freight train."

When they emerged, the home they had been sleeping in was blown clear across the street, flattened and shattered to pieces. Her car and his pickup truck were buried under debris.

"If we had been five minutes later, they probably would have found us out here somewheres dead.

Collier returned Monday to pick through the wreckage, pulling out clothes and family photos with a mix of smiles and tears.

She laughed as 5-yeargranddaughter Rylee ran up, holding a photo and excitedly shouting "Mimi! This one's of you." But moments earlier, she choked back sobs talking about how she could have lost much more than her home.

be put back and replaced and family can't. And I'm just glad we got out OK," she said, wiping away a tear.

Mobile homes were especially vulnerable to the storms, with seven people alone killed early Sunday in one trailer park community a few miles away — Sunshine Acres — in the community of Adel.

Just the day after Devocheo Williams moved into Sunshine Acres, his mobile home — and

before dawn with terrifying swiftness.

"The whole trailer park was gone in 15 seconds," Williams said, describing a funnel cloud that appeared to loop back around and hit the place a second time. "It looked like a ball of fire was going 100

mph." Williams said Mon- | Any Entree \$9.00 or above | day he saw a little girl picked up by the winds and tossed into a ditch.

"Material things can many of those around Nearby, the girl's mothhim — were demolished er and a baby were as the winds descended trapped in rubble. He said he helped dig them

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3 relatives dead, 2 hurt in Texas double murder-suicide

MANVEL, Texas (AP) — Officials blame a marital dispute for a gunman wounding his wife and her sister and fatally shooting two other relatives before killing himself at their Houston-area home.

The Brazoria (bruh-ZOH'-ree-uh) County Sheriff's Office says 28-year-old Muhammad Hasan Nawazkhan died Sunday of a self-inflicted gunshot wound.

Lt. Varon Snelgrove on Monday said Nawazkhan and his wife, two of her sisters and the husband of one of those siblings all lived at the residence in Manvel. Snelgrove says dispatchers early Sunday received a call from Nawazkhan saving he shot his 31-year-old wife. Lesly Paredes was hospitalized Monday in critical but stable condition. Her wounded sister, 36-year-old Maria Paredes-Paz, was treated and released from a hospital.

Snelgrove says another sister, 49-year-old Alexy R. Garcia, and husband 30-year-old Carlos Antonio Garcia-Cerna, died at the scene.

Man, 18, rescued after 25-foot fall from El Paso mountain

EL PASO, Texas (AP) — Emergency responders have rescued a climber who fell about 25 feet from a West Texas mountain and landed on a ledge.

An El Paso Fire Department statement says a rescue basket was used to transport the seriously injured 18-year-old man down from McKelligon Canyon late Sunday afternoon. The canyon is part of Franklin Mountains State Park.

Department spokesman Carlos Briano said Monday that two men had been hiking with two boys - ages 11 and 12 - when one of the men fell. The other man called 911 and met emergency personnel as the boys stayed with the injured climber.

The victim, whose name wasn't released, was transported to a hospital. Further details on his condition weren't immediately available. The boys were safely escorted down the mountain by emergency responders.

1 burned worker dies after Amarillo construction site fire

AMARILLO, Texas (AP) — Officials say one electrical worker has died and another was critically hurt in a fire at a downtown Amarillo construction site. An official with University Medical Center in Lubbock says Roger Copelin suffered severe burns and died Sunday. Spokesman Eric Finley says Keath Garrison was in critical condition Monday in the burn unit.

Amarillo Fire Marshal's investigators are trying to determine what started Saturday's blaze that firefighters brought under control within minutes. Deputy Chad Parsons says the complex includes offices being built atop a parking garage.

A statement Monday from the contractor, Opus Design Build, says the company is also investigating the accident that involved workers employed by a subcontractor.

A spokesman for Xcel Energy says the complex will house the utility's new regional headquarters. Xcel is based in Minneapolis.

Houston looks to speed up funding for flood-control measures

HOUSTON (AP) — Officials intend to introduce an innovative plan to speed up funding for floodcontrol measures along Houston bayous.

The Houston Chronicle reports (http://bit. ly/2j9HGC8) the city council on Wednesday will consider a payment plan that would have the state give the city a \$46 million loan.

That amount would then be forwarded to the Harris County Flood Control District to expedite work along Brays Bayou. Federal authorities would then reimburse the county once the work is done.

City officials would then repeat the funding process for two other bayous, ultimately forwarding the county about \$130 million.

Officials say the action is necessary because of slow federal reimbursements that have delayed flood-control efforts.

Bush ready to leave intensive care, wife Barbara goes home



In this March 29, 2015, file photo, former President George H.W. Bush and his wife, Barbara Bush, speak at a college basketball game in Houston. Barbara Bush was discharged from Houston Methodist Hospital Monday, Jan. 23, 2017, while her husband is expected to be moved from the hospital's intensive care unit soon. The former president was struggling to breathe when he was admitted to the Houston Methodist Hospital Jan. 14, and had since been treated for pneumonia in the intensive care unit. Barbara Bush was suffering from bronchitis and entered the same hospital Wednesday, Jan. 18.

By MICHAEL GRACZYK

Associated Press

HOUSTON (AP) — Former President George H.W. Bush is still suffering from pneumonia, but is well enough to leave the intensive care unit at a Houston hospital, doctors said Monday. His wife, Barbara, has been discharged from the same facility after completing treatment for bronchitis.

The 92-year-old former president was struggling to breathe when he was admitted to the Houston Methodist Hospital Jan. 14. Last week, he was breathing with the aid of a ventilator in the ICU, but doctors removed the breathing tube on Friday and by Monday were talking about the possibility that he could return home soon.

Dr. Amy Mynderse said at a news conference that the former president is "sitting up, watching TV and is waiting anxiously for his favorite oyster stew for lunch."

"He's on minimal oxygen, joking and laughing with the nurses

and doctors," she said. Dr. Clint Doerr said Bush was still coughing "a fair amount"

but that if he continues to improve, he could be discharged from the hospital by Friday or over the weekend.

"He's excited to get home and he's feeling well," Mynderse said, describing Bush as "not

your average 92-year-old."

Mynderse said when she told Bush he was being released from intensive care, he asked her: "Can I just go home?"

Meanwhile, former first lady Barbara Bush, 91, who was admitted to the facility for treatment of bronchitis on Wednesday, is "back to her normal self," Mynderse said. Mrs. Bush was told she could return home Sunday but she opted to stay one more night to fully recover and remain close to her husband, according to family spokesman Jim McGrath.

The couple's 72-year marriage is the longest of any presidential couple in American history, and the doctors said they have been a great support to each other.

"They truly do have just such an amazing love for each other and that really came across here," Mynderse said, adding that Barbara Bush spent much her hospital stay by her husband's side.

"Part of why she ended up, I think, in the hospital was because even though she was ill, she was trying to be by his bedside all the time."

Doerr said: "They're essentially

therapy for each other. They help and are compliant in terms of when one of them doesn't want to take a breathing treatment, the other says, 'Get on that.' It helps our cause.'

Bush, who served as president from 1989 to 1993, has a form of Parkinson's disease and uses a motorized scooter or a wheelchair for mobility. He was hospitalized in 2015 in Maine after falling at his summer home and breaking a bone in his neck. He was also hospitalized in Houston the previous December for about a week for shortness of breath. He spent Christmas 2012 in intensive care for a bronchitis-related

cough and other issues. The former president and his wife appear to have touched the medical staff with their humility. Mynderse told reporters that when she informed the former president she would be speaking at a news conference Monday, he replied: "About what?"

"I said, 'About you!' And he said, 'People want to know about me?" she said.

"They're so humble. They truly are the most humble people," Mynderse said.

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Supreme Court rejects Texas appeal over voter ID law

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court on Monday rejected an appeal from Texas in its effort to restore its strict voter identification law.

The justices said they will not review a lower court ruling that held the law was discriminatory. That court ordered changes in the law before the November election.

Chief Justice John Roberts said in a brief statement that the court could take up the case at a later date because the case is continuing in federal district court in Texas. A hearing that had been set for Tuesday was rescheduled for next month.

Texas softened what election experts said was among the toughest voter ID measures in the nation. But Republican Attorney General Ken Paxton had wanted the Supreme Court to restore the law to its original state.

As written, the law required showing one of seven forms of photo identification, allowing concealed handgun licenses but not college student

The 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled last year by a 9-6 vote that Texas had violated the federal Voting Rights Act based on testimony that Hispanics were twice as likely and blacks three times more likely than whites to lack an acceptable ID under the law. Lower-income Texas residents also were more likely to lack necessary documents to obtain a free state voting ID, according to experts who supported the challenge.

The Supreme Court has been without a ninth justice since Justice Antonin Scalia's death nearly a year ago. President Donald Trump has said he will nominate a successor soon, and that person could be on the bench if and when the case returns to the Supreme Court.

Texas governor warns sheriff Austin 'sanctuary cities'

By PAUL J. WEBER

Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Republican Texas Gov. Greg Abbott on Monday told Austin's sheriff that her jail would become the first in the state to lose taxpayer money over so-called "sanctuary cities" policies unless she reverses plans to curtail working with federal immigration authorities by Febru-

President Donald Trump made similar vows as a candidate, declaring that his "Day One" priorities would include stopping all federal dollars to places where local officials rebuff federal agents and don't arrest or detain immigrants living in the country illegally. Several big cities, including New York and belt-tightening amid slumping Chicago, already have formal sanctuary policies on

Newly elected Travis County Sheriff Sally Hernandez on Friday — in a defiantly timed announcement after Trump was inaugurated — said starting Feb. 1 she would end her predecessor's policy of honoring all jail detainers sought by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. Hernandez is a Democrat whose campaign in Texas' most liberal city partly ran on promises to change how detainers are handled.

Abbott, who attended Trump's inauguration, is now effectively threatening to carry out the president's promise on a state level. Abbott has previously warned local officials against adopting sanctuary policies but has not delivered such a direct ultimatum before now.

"Your unilateral decision will cost the people of Travis County money that was meant to protect them," Abbott wrote. He said funding would be lost by Feb. 1 unless the county changes course.

The only money Abbott has the power to cut off for now is criminal justice grants controlled by his office. Travis County received about \$1.8 million of that grant money last year — about 1 percent of the sheriff department's budget.



Shoppers with their children react after San Antonio police helped them exit the Rolling Oaks Mall after a deadly shooting Sunday, Jan. 22, 2017, in San Antonio. Authorities say several were injured after a robbery at the shopping mall.

2 suspects in custody in deadly San Antonio mall shooting SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Two suspects are in

custody Monday after a robbery in a San Antonio shopping mall ended in a shooting that left one man dead and several other people injured, police said.

Police Chief William McManus said the two suspects robbed a jewelry store at the Rolling Oaks Mall on Sunday afternoon. After the two men fled the store, a man described by McManus as a "good Samaritan" tried to stop them.

One of the robbers fatally shot the man, McManus said. A second individual, who was carrying a licensed concealed handgun, then shot and wound-

The second suspect, who initially fled the scene, was apprehended Sunday night after a car crash in nearby Converse, police said in a statement early Monday. Two weapons were recovered from the suspect.

McManus called the fatal shooting "absolutely senseless." The victim's name was not immediately released by authorities.

The second robber fired his weapon as he fled the mall, injuring a man and a woman. They, along with the wounded robber, were taken to a hospital, said San Antonio Fire Chief Charles Hood.

Two other people — a woman who complained of chest pains and a pregnant woman who had labor pains — were also taken to hospitals, Hood said.

Authorities have released no details on the conditions of the injured bystanders, but police said the wounded suspect was in critical condition.

Authorities said both suspects face preliminary charges of capital murder and aggravated assault with a deadly weapon. Police have not released the names of the suspects.

Children's budget fight? Fetal remains ruling

By WILL WEISSERT **Associated Press**

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) - The

legislative session is just getting started, but tough budget choices could eventually pit Texas kid against Texas kid for increased state funding.

As they scramble to impose oil prices, lawmakers appear willing to spend to fix a flawed foster care system, but may do so while forgoing additional money for public education, which is far more expensive.

Republicans and Democrats agree that foster care needs improving — a federal judge is already ordering her own fixes after declaring in 2015 that the state's system violated youngsters' constitutional rights.

The initial state Senate version of the budget has proposed an additional \$260 million for foster care, and the House offered a bit more. But those numbers could climb since the Department of Family and Protective Services previously asked for \$500-plus million for emergency improvements alone.

Meanwhile, the Texas Supreme Court ruled last summer that Texas' school finance system,

while deeply flawed, is minimally constitutional — ensuing lawmakers dodged a bullet and won't have to devise a costly overhaul for how the state funds public

The House's draft budget inthe average annual increase in public school students statewide amid Texas' population boom, and an additional \$1.5 billion in funding on top of that — but only with the potentially major caveat that the Legislature hammer out a new school finance system.

The draft Senate budget has an outlay for rising enrollment costs, but not extra public education funding beyond that.

The budget isn't always a zerosum game where dollars flowing to one area neatly deplete spending elsewhere. Still, it's possible to envision public schools not getting funding beyond enrollment growth while more money flows to long-neglected foster care once the Legislature settles on a final budget.

Here are other, more-immediate things likely to make news in the coming week in Texas poli-

FETAL REMAINS RULING U.S. District Judge Sam Sparks plans to rule by Friday on whether Texas can enforce health department rules mandating burial or cremation of fetal remains

from abortions or miscarriages. The rules seek to ban hospitals and abortion clinics from disposcluded \$2.2 billion extra to cover ing of fetal remains as biological medical waste, usually meaning they are incinerated and placed in sanitary landfills. They would have taken effect last month, but advocacy groups sued, arguing they had no health benefit and could unduly burden women seeking abortions.

> In temporarily blocking the regulations while he mulls a more permanent ruling, Sparks has already said they serve no medical purpose and are purely political. Even as the case continues, though, GOP-backed bills in the Legislature seek to codify them into state law.

> ABBOTT, PATRICK TEAM UP FOR 'SCHOOL CHOICE'

> Gov. Greg Abbott and Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick are planning a relatively rare joint public appearance Tuesday at a state Capitol rally slated to feature thousands of parents, teachers and students clamoring for "school choice" in

See **TEXAS**, Page 14

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10-year-old boy drives to store, speeds away in police chase

FOSTORIA, Ohio (AP) — An erratic, speeding driver who led an Ohio officer on a brief pursuit turned out to be a 10-year-old boy who took his parents' car without permission and drove 11 miles to a nearby city to shop at a convenience store, police

An officer in Fostoria, roughly 40 miles south of Toledo, tried to stop a driver who wasn't using headlights and kept braking Sunday morning, and the vehicle took off at 70 mph, WTOL-TV reported. The vehicle eventually struck a curb and stopped in a restaurant parking lot, where the officer was surprised to discover that the driver was a child.

"It appears he wanted to go shopping," Police Chief Keith Loreno told The (Fostoria) Review Times.

No one was hurt, but police said the boy had nearly collided head-on with a tractor-trailer and jeopardized the safety of others in the area. "At one point, he far exceeded the speed limits of

the city," Loreno said. "Besides himself, he placed a lot of people in serious danger." The boy, from the nearby town of Kansas, was

taken into custody and charged with fleeing from a

law enforcement officer. His parents haven't been charged, but juvenile court and children's services are reviewing the

case, The Review Times reported. Loreno told WTOL-TV that the tale should be a reminder to parents to store their car keys somewhere safe, out of the reach of curious children.

Police: Burglary suspect left keys, cellphone at the scene

STRATFORD, Conn. (AP) — A man suspected of breaking into a Connecticut animal hospital looking for drugs made it easy for police to track him down — he left his keys and cellphone behind. The Connecticut Post (http://bit.ly/2kosUsj) re-

ports that police responded to a burglar alarm at The Pet Hospital in Stratford recently to find a rear window broken and blood on the window frame. Inside, police say they found a trail of blood on

appears the burglar was looking for drugs.

Police traced the phone to 31-year-old Nicholas Bruner and charged him with third-degree burglary and second-degree criminal mischief. He is **By SUDHIN THANAWALA** free on \$10,000 bond.

Bruner said he had lost the items but couldn't remember where.

Tom Brady wonders why Trump friendship is 'such a big deal' BOSTON (AP) — New England Patriots quarter-

back Tom Brady has opened up a bit on his friendship with President Donald Trump.

The night before his Friday inauguration, Trump mentioned in a speech attended by Patriots owner Robert Kraft that Brady had called to congratulate

When asked whether he called the Republican, Brady told Boston radio station WEEI-FM on Monday that "I have called him in the past, yes" and added "sometimes he calls me, sometimes I call

Brady says Trump is someone he's known for 16 years and he doesn't see why their relationship is "such a big deal." He says "if you know someone, it doesn't mean that you agree with everything they say or do." Brady and the Patriots take on the Atlanta Falcons in Super Bowl 51 on Feb. 5.

Hamas warns US against moving Israel embassy

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP) — Gaza's Hamas rulers are warning the U.S. not to move its embassy in Israel to Jerusalem, saying such a step could un-

In a statement Tuesday, the Islamic militant group said a move would "open a new chapter of conflict" and "add fuel to the fire."

Hamas is sworn to Israel's destruction. It has killed hundreds of Israelis in suicide bombings, and fought three wars with Israel since seizing control of Gaza 10 years ago.

The rival Palestinian Authority has also urged President Donald Trump not to follow through on his campaign promise to move the embassy. The Palestinians seek east Jerusalem, captured by Israel in 1967, as their hoped-for capital.

Crews restore power to most of Hawaii's Lanai Island

HONOLULU (AP) — Crews restored power to most of the residents of Hawaii's Lanai Island early Tuesday, but people living in one small town remain without electricity, Maui Electric Co. said.

The entire Hawaiian island of Lanai lost electrical service after strong winds snapped or damaged utility poles over the weekend.

The utility said that crews reconnected 1,575 Lanai City customers to electricity just before 1 a.m.

But, 125 customers in the Manele area remained without power. The utility said crews will continue repairs Tuesday.

Judge postpones sentencing of PG&E in case tied to blast



Jurors also convicted the util-

PG&E attorneys said during

trial that the company's engineers did not think the pipelines

posed a safety risk, and the com-

pany did not intend to mislead

The stakes in the case dropped

dramatically, however, when

prosecutors made the surprising

decision several days into jury

deliberations not to pursue a po-

tential \$562 million fine if PG&E

was found guilty of any of the

No PG&E employees were

Henderson said Monday that

requiring PG&E to mention

its pipeline convictions in any

publicity about its commitment

to safety seems an "appropriate

punishment and deterrent." He

said he was inclined to require

10,000 hours of community ser-

vice, with 2,000 of those per-

formed by high-level PG&E per-

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charged, so no one is facing pris-

pipeline safety counts.

ity of obstructing investigators

after the blast.

investigators.

on time.

sonnel.

In this Sept. 9, 2010 file photo, a massive fire roars through a neighborhood in San Bruno, Calif. Pacific Gas & Electric Co. says it is prepared to pay the maximum fine of \$3 the floor, along with keys and a phone. They say it million after a jury convicted the company of deliberately violating pipeline safety regulations before a deadly natural gas pipeline explosion in the San Francisco Bay Area and then misleading investigators looking into the blast. (AP Photo/Paul Sakuma, File)

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — A federal judge says he is inclined to require Pacific Gas & Electric Co. to mention its convictions in ads and have employees do thousands of hours of community service as part of its sentence in a criminal case stemming from a deadly natural gas explosion in the San Francisco Bay Area.

U.S. District Court Judge Thelton Henderson made the comment Monday as he pushed back his final sentencing decision, saying he needed more time to consider comments by attorneys for the government and PG&E. Henderson's move followed a

lengthy hearing that included emotional testimony from three victims of the 2010 explosion of a PG&E natural gas pipeline that killed eight people and destroyed 38 homes in the city of San Bruno.

"The loss of my loved ones, my personal belongings, my neighborhood, my life happened due to the negligence of a greedy company that put profits ahead of safety," said Sue Bullis, 56, who lost her husband, son and mother-in-law in the explosion.

She was hopeful the sentence would lead to changes at PG&E.

Henderson postponed his final decision on sentencing until Thurs-

The sentence will close one of the final chapters in the legal and regulatory fallout from the San Bruno

California regulators have previously fined PG&E \$1.6 billion for the explosion, and the company has spent hundreds of millions of dollars settling lawsuits by victims.

Julie Kane, a PG&E executive, apologized Monday in court to the victims and said the company was committed to safety.

sorry," she said.

PG&E is prepared to pay the maximum \$3 million fine it faces and has agreed to a monitor to oversee it as part of any sentence, said Steven Bauer, an attorney for the company. However, he asked Henderson

to set a time limit on the requirement involving ads and link the messages to improved safety.

Prosecutor Hartley West said she wanted to make sure PG&E isn't able to get out of the advertising requirement through a carefully worded ad that avoids using the term "safety."

Prosecutors have also asked Henderson restructure to PG&E's bonus program for employees — a sentencing requirement PG&E opposes.

Jurors convicted the company in August of five of 11 counts of pipeline safety violations, including failing to gather information to evaluate potential gas-line threats and deliberately not classifying a gas line as high

Prosecutors said the company deliberately misclassified pipelines so it wouldn't have to subject them to appropriate testing, choos-

ing a cheaper method to save

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Page 7 Tuesday, January 24, 2017

Do you have an interesting sports item or

OC sweeps Howard



Tony Claxton photo (www.claxtonphotography.com)

Howard College's Nic Thomas goes up for a shot during the Hawks' game at Odessa College Monday. Odessa won both games, taking the women's contest by a 66-53 score, and winning the men's game,

Overreactions: No stopping Falcons

The Associated Press

There's no stopping Matt Ryan and the Atlanta Falcons.

After piling up 540 points in the regular season, the NFL's highestscoring offense has been even better in the playoffs. The Falcons scored 36 points against Seattle last week and 44 more against Green Bay in a lopsided NFC championship game. Next up are the New England Pa-

triots in the Super Bowl.

Surely, Matty Ice, Julio Jones and Co. can put 40 on the scoreboard in Houston to bring the city of Atlanta its second championship ever and first in football.

Not so fast, Dirty Birds fans.

These Patriots (16-2) are more than just Tom Brady.

They have a defense that allowed the fewest points in the NFL this season, an average of 15.6 points per game.

Yes, the Falcons (13-5) are rolling. They've won six in a row, scoring at least 33 points in each. They scored at least 23 in every game this season except a 24-15 loss at Philadelphia in Week 10.

But we've seen this before in the Super Bowl and it usually doesn't work out well for the team with the best offense.

The last time the NFL's top-scoring offense played the league's stingiest defense in the Super Bowl was three year ago when Denver met Se-

set an NFL record with 606 points in 2013 but managed one touchdown in a 43-8 loss to the Seahawks. Carolina led the league in points

Peyton Manning and the Broncos

last season and lost 24-10 to Denver. Remember how Brady, Randy Moss and the Patriots fared against

the New York Giants after scoring

a then-record 589 points in 2007 and steamrolling to an 18-0 record. They lost 17-14 in the Super Bowl.

Of the top 25 scoring offenses in NFL history (average points per game), 13 have reached the Super Bowl. Those teams are 4-9. The 2009 Saints were the last one to win.

Conversely, 13 of the 25 stingiest defenses (average points per game allowed) have reached the Super Bowl. Those teams are 8-5.

Here are other overreactions following Championship Sunday:

OVERREACTION: Brady will carve up Atlanta's secondary. The Falcons allowed the fifth-most points and sixth-most yards passing this season.

REALISTIC REACTION: Many of those yards came in garbage time because the Falcons scored a ton of points and were winning so opponents had to pass against them to try to catch up. Brady can pick any defense apart, but Atlanta shut down Aaron Rodgers and nobody was playing better.

OVERREACTION: The Patriots can't cover Jones. Did you see those nine catches for 180 yards against Green Bay?

REALISTIC REACTION: Did you see New England's secondary led by CB Malcolm Butler and Pro Bowl safety Devin McCourty against Antonio Brown? He had only 77 yards on seven catches.

OVERREACTION: The Patriots will win because they want to stick it to Roger Goodell and the NFL for the "Deflategate" punishment.

REALISTIC REACTION: Coach Bill Belichick is a master at keeping his team focused on the task at hand. Vendettas don't propel teams to victory; talent does. The Patriots are motivated by winning their fifth Super Bowl title.

Late 3-pointer lifts Longhorns

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Anwas stationed as he released the shot. But he knew this: far enough to avoid interfer-

Jones made a 25-foot basket with 1.8 second remaining, and Texas pulled off a miraculous 84-83 win over Oklahoma Monday night to snap a five-game losing streak.

6-foot-4 freshman, The guarded tightly by 6-foot-7 Kristian Doolittle, launched his attempt from about four feet behind the line with.

"I just knew I had enough space away from him to he couldn't touch the shot," Jones said. "When it left my hand, it felt really good."

The Sooners (8-11, 2-6 Big dence. drew Jones had no idea how 12) led by five points after a "He knows he's good," ers, including three by Dafar behind the 3-point line he 7-0 push, but Eric Davis Jr. Smart said. "We need that." vis. made a 3-pointer for Texas (8-12, 2-6) with 11.5 seconds left. Oklahoma's Kameron McGusty missed two free throws before Jones hit the winner.

"He had some arc on the Doolittle said. "I ball," thought I was there on the release. Congrats to him. I know he's gonna cherish this for a long time."

Senior Shaq Cleare led Texas with a career-best 23 points. Davis scored 18, and Jones added 16. He converted all three of his 3-point shots, grabbed eight rebounds and had three steals.

Texas coach Shaka Smart Jones' appreciates confi-

Doolittle, a freshman, led Oklahoma with a careerbest 29 points. McGusty, also a freshman, scored a careerhigh 21.

The Longhorns took double-figure leads five times during the second half and led by 10 with nine minutes remaining. But Doolittle and McGusty kept Oklahoma in the game.

Texas led 41-39 at halftime despite receiving nothing offensively from its hottest player recently, Jarrett Allen. The freshman forward missed six of seven shots from the field and scored four points, but the Longhorns got 11 points from Cleare and hit five 3-point-

Allen finished with 10 points and 12 rebounds.

Oklahoma's top scorer this season, Jordan Woodard, missed his only shot and played just 10 minutes in the half because of foul trouble. Doolittle had 14 points and McGusty scored eight. Woodard finished with eight points.

"I'm proud of their fight and effort," Oklahoma coach Lon Kruger said. "We'll bounce back."

BIG PICTURE

Oklahoma: The Sooners have lost nine of their last 11, but freshmen McGusty

See HORNS, Page 13

Sports calendar

TODAY

Girls' basketball

Big Spring at Snyder, 6 p.m. Coahoma at Clyde, 6:30 p.m. Miles at Forsan, 6:30 p.m.

Boys' basketball

Big Spring at Snyder, 7:30 p.m. Coahoma at Clyde, 8 p.m. Miles at Forsan, 8 p.m.

THURSDAY

Men's basketball

New Mexico Military Institute at Howard College, 7 p.m.

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

Milwaukee knocks off Houston, 127-114

MILWAUKEE (AP) — Relegated to a reserve role in his previous game for breaking a team rule, Jabari Parker came out in "attack mode" against the Houston Rockets.

His play inspired teammate Giannis Antetokounmpo.

Antetokounmpo had 31 points, Parker scored 20 of his 28 in the first half and the Milwaukee Bucks snapped a five-game losing streak Monday night with a 127-114 victory over the Rockets.

"I see my teammate, my brother on the court, my guy, be in attack mode, and I'm like, yeah, this is the night, I've got to be in attack mode, too. We've got to get this one," Antetokounmpo

James Harden just missed triple-double with points, 12 assists and nine rebounds, but committed 11 of Houston's 22 turnovers. Patrick Beverley added 18 points for the Rockets, who fell to 1-1 on their five-game road trip. Milwaukee made 59 per-

cent of its shots, including 11 of 23 from 3-point range.

"We had a really good game last game (at Memphis) defensively, and this game we just let up," Harden said. "In order to get where we want to go, we have to be consistent on that end of the floor."

Antetokounmpo made 11

See **BUCKS**, Page 13

Spurs, minus 4 regulars, rout Nets

NEW YORK (AP) — With star forward Kawhi Leonard and three other regulars out, the Spurs' lineup was differ-

The expectations from their coach never are.

Patty Mills scored 20 points, LaMarcus Aldridge had 16 and San Antonio rolled to a 112-86 victory over the Brooklyn Nets on Monday night. Pau Gasol (broken bone, left

hand) and Tony Parker (sore left foot) didn't even make the road trip, while Manu Ginobili was scheduled for a night off but couldn't have played anyway because of back spasms. Then Leonard, the Western Conference player of the week, was scratched.

Without them, the Spurs put seven players in double figures and turned the game into a blowout with a 39-point third quarter. They improved

to 19-4 on the road.

"Everyone gets excited to be able to get the chance to get out there and play, but nothing changes," Mills said. "The game plan's still the same, what's expected of us is the same, so it's just that opportunity. But there is that excitement when we do it the right way, play the right way, share the ball and everyone does their little piece." The Spurs announced Leon-

ard was resting, though coach Gregg Popovich said the All-Star forward had a sore left hand, which was wrapped after Leonard was hit while scoring a career-high 41 points in an overtime victory at Cleveland on Saturday. "Our depth is one of our

strengths and everybody's ready to play, and of course Pop makes it very clear what he expects out of us out there, whether it's the first-team guys or the role players doing that," said David Lee, who had 15 points off the bench.

Isaiah Whitehead scored 19 points for the Nets, who got more bad news before the game when they announced Jeremy Lin will be sidelined another three to five weeks after aggravating his strained left hamstring. They have lost eight straight at home. "For whatever reason we

didn't come out with the energy and that's one thing that our team I will say usually brings," Nets coach Kenny Atkinson said. "Tonight we didn't bring it. I am disappointed. I am disappointed for the fans." TIP-INS

Spurs: With Gasol out, the Spurs signed veteran center Joel Anthony to a 10-day contract. The two-time NBA champion with the Miami

See **SPURS**. Page 13

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CITY OF BIG SPRING PUBLIC NOTICE

The Planning and Zoning Commission of the City of Big Spring will hold a Public Hearing at 5:30 P.M., Tuesday, February 07, 2017 in the City Council Chambers, 307 East 4th St., Big Spring, Texas to consider the following item:

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

The Planning and Zoning Commission will then forward a recommendation regarding the aforementioned item to the City Council, who will conduct its own public

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hearings at meetings on Tuesday, February 14, 2017 and February 28, 2017 at the same time and location, and will make the final decision on each matter.

#9282 January 24, 2017

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HOLIDAY **MATHIS**

Lunar Rule Change

The Sagittarius moon inspires risk-taking. How many levels of "undo" are available to you in a certain situation? What is the margin for error? Where the tolerance for mistakes is high, creativity and freedom rule. Then the Capricorn moon takes over to remind us that we need the limits and rules, otherwise nothing gets done.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Some say we live in an age of narcissism, but the reasons a person might post selfies are usually much more complicated and nuanced than that. Healthy self-expression will be the hallmark of the day.

TAURUS

(April 20-May 20). Truth-seekers like you are trustworthy.

though you should be very skeptical of truth-finders today. The more certain a person is of being right, the less likely that is to be the case.

GEMINI (May 21-

June 21). It feels as though you've come a million miles but you're still doing the same things. The Zen proverb says, "Before enlightenment, chop

wood, carry water. After enlightenment, chop wood, carry water."

CANCER (June 22-July 22). If the mountain is so tall that you can't see over it, you're unlikely to want to climb to the top. Who has time for an infinite journey? We all need hope, a vision of the pinnacle, a reason to think there is one.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Many people document special events, but it takes an artistic mindset to want to archive routine parts of life. You'll capture what's interesting about the day-to-day and later be glad for the reference to this time period.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-

Tomorrow's Horoscope

Sept. 22). Others will be bothered and hurt by things you can't predict and may never fully understand. You're more experienced. You're tougher. But you're still sensitive to the fact that everyone has a right to their feelings.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). If you had any resistance to authority, you'll drop it now. You need a leader more than you need to be the leader. Anyway, a power struggle would only waste time, when there's so much learning to be done. SCORPIO (Oct.

24-Nov. 21). Not knowing what to say to that person who is hurting, many will keep their distance. That's why you'll sidle up. Acknowledge the pain in the voice of compassion. You don't have to solve it, just acknowledge, "That must hurt."

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). This is no time to doubt, worry or overthink. This is a time to keep on trying, doing, going. The direction is simple and clear: forward, forward, ever forward.

CAPRICORN

(Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Even though you really want to know the whole story, you'll resist the urge to push the matter, because privacy is sacred. You respect everyone's right to it, including your own.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). While you can't force everyone to get along, you can create an atmosphere of support, tolerance and calm around you. Others are likely to relax into it today.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). The human body has a delayed response to satisfaction. If you keep eating until you're full, you'll usually discover that you're overstuffed instead. That's why, with food and most other pleasures, it's best to take it slow.

TODAY'S BIRTH-DAY (Jan. 24). Because your individual spirit and unique vision are so strong this solar return, in most matters you will set your own course. You'll feel your power surge to help you with a challenge of your own making through the next 10 weeks. Taurus and Aries

adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 6, 9, 40,

33 and 19. **ASTROLOGICAL**

QUESTIONS: "I keep

dreaming about the same unicorn. The unicorn is sometimes my pet, and other times it walks up to me but I know it's not mine. It has come to me on a beach and in a forest, and once it walked up to my front door. Usually the unicorn doesn't say anything, but a few times it has spoken to me. Once it wanted food, and another time it wanted to be brushed. None of my friends ever dream of unicorns. What do you think it means?"

One thing I find fascinating about unicorns is that the Greeks who wrote about unicorns did not include these writings with other mythology; rather, the unicorn is recorded in Greek natural history as though it were a real creature. In the Middle Ages it was widely believed that a unicorn's horn had magical powers but that due to its purity and great strength it couldn't be captured to harness those powers except by a virgin

of equal purity.

Given the modern associations of the unicorn to fanciful youth and the wonderment of childhood, I would suggest that your dream has to do with feeding and tending to the child inside of you. Are there things you wanted to pursue when you were younger but never had the chance? Your unicorn is urging you to pursue them now. **CELEBRITY**

PROFILES: Happy birthday to Neil Diamond, one of the most successful adult-contemporary artists in the history of the Billboard chart. This singer and songwriter has his natal sun and the communication planet, Mercury, in the quirky, humanistic sign of Aquarius. He says, "I try to be honest and truthful and soulful with the voice I have. If I make mistakes in notes ... I don't fix them. That's the way

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daughter was dropped

off for her freshman

year of college, she

and I felt very much

that this was a rite of

passage. We had both

it is."

Annie's Mailbox ®

Surprise! Pay Up

Dear Annie: My husband and I were recently invited to a surprise birthday party for his 30-year-old daughter, "Marcy." We received the "invitation" by text three days before the party via

er, and it was scheduled at an expensive restaurant. Seemed a little off, as it was less than two weeks before Christmas and many budgets are stretched now, but the son-inlaw and his family are well-to-do. We and other family members RSVP'd that yes, we

the son-in-law's moth-

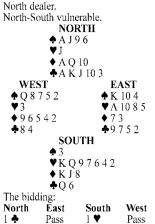


By Steve Becker

ing to that possibility. If West has the

The pessimistic approach

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North
1 ♣
2 ♠ Pass Pass Pass 3 NT Opening lead five of spades. A fine declarer hopes for the best

but prepares for the worst. Today's hand is a typical example Assume you're in six hearts and West leads a spade. As soon as

dummy comes down, you see that the only significant threat to the slam is that one defender was dealt four trumps to the A-10, about a 1-in-4 probability. You therefore adjust your think-Tomorrow: Probing far beneath the surface.

A-10-x-x, you are doomed whatever you do, so you assume East has Ordinarily, East would score two trump tricks with such a holding, but

if you play your cards right, you can limit him to one trump trick From the start you must play to shorten yourself in trumps, so after winning the spade lead with the ace,

you immediately ruff a spade. You then lead a trump to dummy's jack. Let's say East wins with the ace and returns a diamond — as good a defense as any. You win in dummy and ruff another spade, then lead the

king of trumps, on which West shows Your earlier preparations for a trump coup are now richly rewarded. You still have the Q-9-7 of trumps left over East's 10-8, and, to coup

him, you simply have to equalize your trump length with his. You therefore lead a club to the ten and ruff dummy's last spade as East discards his last diamond. club and then play your club win-

Next you cross to dummy with a ners. It does not matter whether East ruffs now or later; his 10-8 of trumps either immediately or eventually sucwere coming.

The day of the party, we all received another text with specific instructions about what time Marcy's husband would be bringing her and not to answer any calls from her; it was all a big happy surprise for her. The text also mentioned that the cost of a meal at this restaurant would be between \$75 and \$120 per couple. Am I a fuddy-duddy to think this was inappropriate? We let the text

inviter know that most of us would not be staying for dinner so she could change

the reservation. One person was angry and opted out completely. We went for the "surprise" part, gave Marcy our gifts and politely visited. When all the son-in-law's family abruptly took seats at one end of the table, we left. The son-in-law's comment when we left was, "Are you sure you don't want to stay?"

My husband and I would have been glad to assist financially with this party or suggest a less expensive alternative

so all our family could have attended without feeling burdened -- if

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

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

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we would have been asked. My husband loves his daughter, but it seems the sonin-law and his family buy her away from us whenever possible. And she loves it, but it really makes for some hard feelings, especially during the holidays. -- Family Stressed

Dear Stressed: Sending out a last-minute "Oh, by the way, hope you're all prepared to spend \$100 tonight" text? That's the wrong kind of surprise party.

I'm guessing that money has never been much of an issue for these people, so they're probably clueless. Clue them in. Ask them to get you involved earlier in the process next time so you can help plan and contribute. But once you have

communicated to them your wishes and been open about your expectations for them, you must let go of the hard feelings. As the saying goes, "resentment is like drinking poison and expecting the other person to die." Stay healthy. **Dear Annie:** This

is regarding your

to home. The day our

answer to "Child Forever," whose parents want her to live closer

been preparing for this last "untying," if you will (versus "cutting"). She has soared independently quite well. Yes, she's learned her life lessons, and yes, I've winced and cried with her. However, this is an (SET ITAL) adult (END ITAL) relationship. I respect her life and expect and receive reciprocation. She is a 10-hour drive away. She has offered her home to us and made clear that she wants to be involved in our lives should we need her -- and not from a selfish view that we would make good baby sitters, which you suggested to "Child Forever" about her parents. How incredibly sad that this narrow view is propagated by you! -- Mary Send your questions for

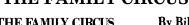
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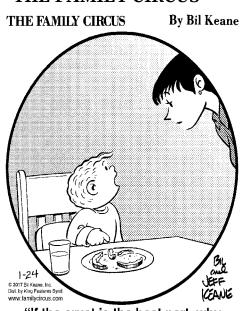
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_ :PM	Local 2	Hotel	The List	News	Tele	News	Justice	Focus	Mama's	American	Seinfeld	Bones	SportsCenter		Bear Bryant	Mod Fam	Leah Remini	Moonshiners
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DENNIS THE MENACE THE FAMILY CIRCUS HAGAR																		



THAT'S WHAT I CALL AN ALASKA*N TELEGRAM*."





"If the crust is the best part, why do they stick so much stuff in the middle?"

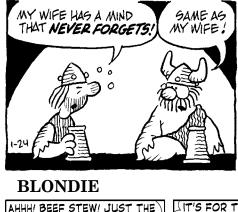
PICKAX AND IT TURNS MINECRAFT.

CALLED

SO NOW I JUST HIT

THE TREE WITH THIS

INTO FIREWOOD?







IT'S A MARRIED MAN'S

12-9, dismissing President George W. Bush's plans for a

LISTEN, I'M NOT FEELING ALL THAT WELL MYSELF!

LIKE IT THAT HELGA CAN REMEMBER OVER 300

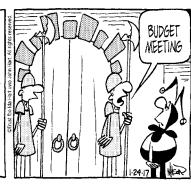
WIZARD OF ID

SHOW ME THE FUTURE OF CIVILIZATION.

BC



HA HA HA HA HA HA! THIS CALLS FOR MORE DRINKS!



AGNES I THINK WE COOL! SHOULD WE BE SHOULD BE A FREAK TEAM OR SHOULD WE HAVE CIRCUS SIDE SHOW FREAKS SEPARATE FREAKNESS?





HI AND LOIS





THE OTHER COAST



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HOW HIGH IS YOUR KITCHEN COUNTER? ☐ REAL HIGH ☐ JUMPABLE ☐ WALK IN THE PARK YOUR TOLERANCE FOR HAVING MUDTRACKED THROUGH THE HOUSE WE'RE COOL SO-SO OMG!

WHERE WILL I SLEEP AT NIGHT? □IN A CRATE □ ON YOUR BED □ IN YOUR BED

SNUFFY SMITH





BEETLE BAILEY





This Date In History

Today is Tuesday, Jan. 24, the 24th day of 2017. There are 341 days left in the year. Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 24, 1942, the Roberts Commission placed much of the blame for America's lack of preparedness for Imperial Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor on Rear Adm. Husband E. Kimmel and Lt. Gen. Walter C. Short, the Navy and Army commanders.

On this date:

In 1742, Charles VII was elected Holy Roman Emperor during the War of the Austrian Succession. In 1848, James W. Marshall

discovered a gold nugget at Sutter's Mill in northern California, a discovery that led to the gold rush of '49. In 1908, the Boy Scouts move-

ment began in England under the aegis of Robert Baden-In 1924, the Russian city of

Petrograd (formerly St. Petershurg) was renamed Leningrad in honor of the late revolutionary leader. (However, it has since been renamed St. Petersburg.)

In 1939, at least 28,000 people were killed by an earthquake that devastated the city of In 1945, Associated Press war

correspondent Joseph Morton was among a group of captives executed by the Germans at the Mauthausen-Gusen concentration camp in Austria. In 1961, a U.S. Air Force B-52

crashed near Goldsboro, North Carolina, dropping its payload of two nuclear bombs, neither of which went off; three crew members were killed. In 1963, a U.S. Air Force B-52 on a training mission crashed

into Elephant Mountain in

Maine; seven of the nine crew

members were killed. In 1965, British statesman Winston Churchill died in London at age 90.

In 1975, the extremist group FALN bombed Fraunces Tavern in New York City, killing four people.

In 1989, confessed serial killer Theodore Bundy was executed in Florida's electric chair.

In 1992, a judge in El Salvador sentenced an army colonel and a lieutenant to 30 years in prison for their part in the 1989 massacre of six Jesuit priests, their housekeeper and her daughter. (However, Col. Guillermo Alfredo Benavides and Lt. Yusshy Mendoza were freed in April 1993 under an amnesty law.)

The Ten years ago: Democratic-controlled Senate Foreign Relations Committee passed a nonbinding measure,

troop buildup in Iraq as "not in the national interest" of the United States. Colorado's Joe Sakic (SAK'-ihk) had four assists to lead the Western Conference to a 12-9 victory in the NHL All-Star game.

Five years ago: Declaring the American dream under siege, President Barack Obama used his State of the Union address to deliver a populist challenge to shrink the gap between rich and poor, promising to tax the wealthy more and help jobless Americans get work and hang onto their homes. Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney released his 2010 tax returns, showing that his annual income topped \$20 million and that he had paid about \$3 million in federal income

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HERE'S THE SCOOP by Billie Truitt

Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

38 Tugboat sound

40 Turn the wheel

43 Newborn cow

45 Parts of pogo

48 Losing streaks

sticks

50 Have high

hopes

52 Valentine

decoration

53 Joe Biden and

54 Disney Florida

theme park

55 Large quantity

destinations:

58 Catastrophic

59 Great joy

predecessors

51 Jogs

1/24/17

Newsday Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Knight's title
- 4 Otherwise
- 8 Lobster relative 12 Over 18
- 14 Knocks loudly
- 15 Extinct bird 16 Color variations
- 17 Luau instruments 18 Swindle
- 19 Vanilla/nut ice
- cream
- 22 USSR's CIA
- 23 Rebuke harshly
- 24 Emphatic agreement
- 26 Pampering treatment,
- for short 27 Assemble, as
- troops
- 29 Maple syrup
- source
- 34 Skiing surface
- 39 Puts in the mail
- 41 Impartial
- 42 Part of PTA:
- 44 Ink spots
- evidence
- 47 Snug and warm
- **51** "__ be the day!"
- 56 DVR button
- ice cream
- 63 1,760 yards
- 65 Quick haircut 66 Get ready, briefly

- - **DOWN**
 - aviator

 - goods
 - volcano
 - 6 Blueprint detail,
 - for short 7 Opinion pieces
 - 8 DJ's collection 9 Almond/
- 32 Four-door car 12 | 13
- 37 Radiate, as light

- Abbr.
- 46 Crime lab
- 49 Clean air org.
- 53 Song segments
- 61 Island near Maui
- 64 More pleasant
- 67 Gets taller

- 68 Come to a halt
- **70** __ sail (leave
- port)

- 1 Christmas Eve
- 2 "That makes sense"
- 3 Vends used
- 4 Go off like a
- 5 Canoeing spot
- - ice cream
 - marshmallow

- 10 Old saying 69 Glances at 11 Flops on stage
 - 12 Wagering site: Abbr. 13 Count in a
 - quartet
 - 20 Sprints and marathons
 - 21 Butterfly catchers
 - 25 Egotist's top
 - priority 27 Macho
 - 28 Cancel out 29 View from the
 - shore 30 Mornings, for
 - short
 - 31 Green ice cream 60 Ambulance 33 Money owed
 - 35 Brooch

14

- 36 Historical period 62 Baseball arbiter

- Abbr.

15

- 16 17 18 19 20 26 35 | 36 30 31 29 32 40 42 47 49 51 52 54 55 58 59

57 Vanilla/chocolate 65 66 67

68 69 70 CREATORS SYNDICATE © 2017 STANLEY NEWMAN STANXWORDS@AOL.COM 1/24/17

NASCAR overhauls race format

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — NASCAR is taking a progressive approach to modernizing its series with a radical new

It's complicated and confusing to explain.

But the panel that spent the last seven months on this overhaul promised it's going to be the best thing to happen in NASCAR in a very long

"Wait until you see it on the racetrack," said 2012 champion Brad Keselowski. "If vou are watching right now. please trust us. When you see this on the racetrack, this is going to be the best racing you've ever seen."

The overhaul announced Monday assigns three stages to every race. The top 10 drivers at the end of Stage 1 and Stage 2 will be awarded points

on a 10-through-1 scale. The third portion of the race will be for the overall victory, and although traditional point scoring will be applied for that stage, the win will be worth 40 points. The rest of the field will be scored on a 35 to 2 scale, and positions 36th to 40 will only receive 1 point. All bonus points accumulat-

ed through the 26-race regular season can be used in the 10-race playoff, which will no longer be called "The Chase." "You still have the start of

the race, you still have the end of the race, and in between, there's going to be a lot of moments," said Denny Hamlin.

"I think that there's a lot of different things within this you don't necessarily need to know how a watch works, you just need to know what time it is. I think you're going to see better racing on the racetrack, and that's all that matters."

NASCAR worked with a wide range of industry stakeholders to come up with the changes. Heavily involved were the television networks, retired drivers Jeff Gordon and Jeff Burton, current drivers from the driver council and team and track executives. Monster Energy, which signed last month as the title sponsor for NASCAR's top series, was only informed of the changes in the last few weeks. The new format begins with

the Feb. 26 season-opening Daytona 500. "As a driver, I'm happy to be

rewarded for performing well throughout the event, not just for how I finished," said Dale Earnhardt Jr.

SPURS

Continued from Page 7

Heat was with the Spurs in preseason but Popovich said they had too many players and no room for him. ... The Spurs have scored 100 or more points in 21 straight games, their longest streak since 22 in a row in 1995. Nets: Brooklyn gave guard

Caris LeVert the night off. LeVert had foot problems in college that delayed the start of his rookie season, but Atkinson said LeVert was just getting a night of rest and wasn't hurt. ... The Nets have lost the last four meetings.

POP THE POLITICIAN

Popovich chided himself for sounding like a politician when he said Leonard would be out for "an injury that's not really an injury.'

"That's an ignorant statement, wasn't it?" Popovich said, joking that "I shouldn't have done that. But it wasn't a lie."

TRADE TALK

Nets general manager Sean Marks said Lin's injury wouldn't influence whether he felt any urgency to trade center Brook Lopez, whose name is mentioned annually in trade rumors, before he could get hurt and ruin any chance of a deal.

"If things come up that make sense for us to move on, and that's got nothing to do with Brook, that's got to do with anybody, then we'll take a look at it," said Marks, a former Spurs player and assistant GM. "If not, we won't just jump the gun because of this, no."

UP NEXT

Spurs: Visit Toronto on Tuesday.

BUCKS

Continued from Page 7

of 17 shots and scored nine points in the final 4:16. Houston got no closer than six points in the final three minutes. Parker was back in

the starting lineup one game after coming off the bench while being disciplined for talking to the media about a players-only team meeting Friday night.

"This win really puts us in the right direction, the right mind frame," Parker said. "Hopefully, we can use this as ener-

HORNS

Continued from Page 7

and Doolittle

gy toward the next one." Jason Terry's 17-foot

jumper sparked an 11-0 run that gave Milwaukee the lead for good, 101-99. The Bucks extended the margin to 110-99 when Tony Snell hit a 3-pointer with 6:48 left. Terry had two steals during the spurt and Houston committed four turnovers.

"We just turned the ball over a little bit carelessly, and they answered on the other end with it," Houston's Ryan Anderson said.

Greg Monroe added 17 points and 10 rebounds in 27 minutes off the

in the worst way pos-

THROUGH Davis made a career-

best five 3-pointers for Texas, a welcome change for the sophomore guard. He began the night shooting 22.6 percent accuracy from long distance this season, including 5 for 19 his previous five games.

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Nene had 17 points,

bench for Milwaukee,

which lost 111-92 at

Houston last Wednes-

and Clint Capela and Anderson scored apiece for Houston. The Rockets scored

nine consecutive points to take a 78-77 lead on Capela's dunk with 8:03 left in the third quarter. Milwaukee guard Matthew Dellavedova had 10 points in the quarter, though, and the Bucks led 93-91 heading into the fourth.

The Bucks made 14 of 18 shots in the second period to open a 68-64 lead at halftime. Milwaukee shot 68 percent (28 for 41) in the first

Milwaukee's 68 points before halftime were the most the Rockets have allowed this season, frustrating coach Mike D'Antoni. Parker made eight of 12 shots and had six rebounds and five assists in the first half.

"He's a handful and once he gets started, it's hard to turn him off," D'Antoni said.

LINEUP INTACT With Anderson returning from the flu and Capela regaining his starting role, the Rock-

the only other meeting,

in 1995, between the

schools. Texas plays at Georgia Saturday after noon, also as part of the SEC/ Big 12 Challenge. Texas is 5-6 against Georgia, including a Longhorn victory in 2003, the last ets used their preferred starting lineup for the first time since Dec. 17 when Capela went out with a broken leg. The lineup of Capela, Anderson, Beverley, Harden and Trevor Ariza went 15-2 through Dec. 17.

DEFENDING HARD-

Parker said the Bucks wanted to keep the ball out of Harden's hands as much as possible. "When the ball is in his hands the majority of the time, it's usually going in the right direction (for Houston)," he said. "His assist-to-turnover ratio is very good and he scores 30 points a game. We just try to limit him and make it as tough as possible."

TIP-INS

Rockets: Harden didn't attempt a shot until he was fouled while taking a 3-pointer with 53 seconds left in the first quarter. He made his first five shots

and didn't miss until there was 6:21 left in the third. ... Sam Dekker, who scored 30 points in his first NBA start Saturday night, came off the bench and had four points in 17 minutes.

Milwaukee Bucks: scored the first 14 points of the second quarter. opening a 47-33 lead on Monroe's hook with 8:11 left. ... John Henson, who had started 34 consecutive games at center, was replaced by Miles Plumlee and didn't play.

UP NEXT

Rockets: At the Boston Celtics on Wednesday. Houston has won three consecutive games in Boston.

Bucks: Host Philadelphia 76ers on Wednesday. Milwaukee's nine-game winning streak over the 76ers was snapped last Monday when Philadelphia beat the Bucks 113-

scored 113 points in the last three games. Texas: The Longhorns kept saying they are improving during their five-game losing streak. Now, perhaps, they have

some tangible proof. "We needed this game

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sible," Cleare said. "We never close games." **DAVIS**

COMES

Davis hit 38.2 percent of his 3s as a freshman. UP NEXT hosts

Oklahoma

Florida Saturday afternoon in the SEC/Big 12 Challenge. Lon Kruger coached both schools to Final Fours, Oklahoma last season and Florida in 1994. Florida won





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News in brief

Trump bridge-building overshadowed by voter fraud line

WASHINGTON (AP) — Even as President Donald Trump starts reaching out to lawmakers and business and union leaders to sell his policies, he's still making false claims about election fraud.

During a bipartisan reception with lawmakers at the White House Monday evening, Trump claimed the reason he'd lost the popular vote to his Democratic rival was that 3 million to 5 million immigrants living in the U.S. illegally had voted. That's according to a Democratic aide familiar with the exchange who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the private meeting.

There is no evidence to support Trump's claim. The assertion appeared to be part of a developing pattern for Trump and his new administration in which falsehoods overshadow outreach efforts.

After a contentious weekend, Trump began his first full week as president bounding from one ornate room of the White House to another as he played host to business, labor and Congressional leaders. Again and again, he ordered aides to summon journalists from their West Wing workspace

Continued from Page 5

Patrick has long been the state's top advocate for school voucher programs that seek to provide public money who choose to send their children to private and religious schools. Those proposals have stalled, but Patrick did successfully oversee a major expansion of charter schools statewide while heading the Senate Education Committee in 2013.

The lieutenant governor has vowed not to challenge fellow Republican Abbott in the 2018 GOP primary — despite being far more vocal than the governor on many key issues that energize social conservatives, from school vouchers to an anti-LG-BT rights bathroom bill filed in the Legislature to fully embracing Donald Trump's presidential can-

Abbott has so far said little about a possible primary challenge from Patrick or anyone else — though he could change that Tuesday.

SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE

The upper chamber's chief budget writer, Republican Sen. Jane Nelson of Flower Mound, is convening Finance Committee meetings every weekday for the next three weeks. After an organizational gathering Monday, the first order of business will be a deeper discussion on public education funding the following day.

Answers to how much the state decides to spend on foster care and public schools — and on everything else in Texas' 2018-2019 budget — will begin being answered during these hearings.

at a moment's notice for unscheduled statements and photo opportunities.

UK government loses Brexit case, must consult Parliament

LONDON (AP) — Britain's government must get parliamentary approval before starting the process of leaving the European Union, the Supreme Court ruled Tuesday, potentially delaying Prime Minister Theresa May's plans to trigger negotiations by the end of March. The ruling forces the government to put a bill be-

fore Parliament, giving pro-EU politicians a chance to soften the terms of Brexit — Britain's exit from the EU. "Leave" campaigners had objected, saying Parliament shouldn't have the power to overrule the electorate, which voted to leave the bloc in a June 23 referendum. May had said she would use centuries-old powers

known as royal prerogative to invoke Article 50 of the EU treaty and launch two years of exit talks. The powers — traditionally held by the monarch —permit decisions about treaties and other issues to be made without a vote of Parliament. "The referendum is of great political significance, but the act of Parliament which established

it did not say what should happen as a result, so any change in the law to give effect to the referendum must be made in the only way permitted by the U.K. Constitution, namely by an act of Parliament," the president of the Supreme Court David Neuberger said in reading the judgement.

"To proceed otherwise would be a breach of settled constitutional principles stretching back many centuries," he said.

After rocky start, second day of Syria talks in Kazakhstan

ASTANA, Kazakhstan (AP) — The U.N. envoy for Syria pressed on with efforts Tuesday to shore up a shaky cease-fire between the Damascus government and its allies and rebel factions, as he shuttled between delegates from the two sides on the second day of peace talks in Kazakhstan.

Staffan de Mistura said there were reasons for "optimism" and promised an "outcome" for later in the day. The talks in Astana on Monday saw only a brief face-to-face meeting between the government and rebel representatives — their first since the Syrian war began in 2011 — that was quickly followed by harsh exchanges. The U.N. envoy told reporters outside the venue

in Astana's Rixos Hotel on Tuesday that discussions were underway to finalize a declaration to ensure that the cease-fire "becomes more solid." He did not elaborate.

'We are not far from a final declaration," he said. "There has been a lot of work done on it. If the one we are seeing is going to take place, there is some

optimism."

"There are very intense discussions because this is not about a paper but about a cessation of hostilities, and that means saving lives," de Mistura

Philadelphia bars employers from requesting salary history

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Despite a threat from cable giant Comcast to take legal action, Philadelphia has banned employers from asking potential hires to provide their salary history, a move supporters say is a step toward closing the wage gap between men and women.

Democratic Mayor Jim Kenney signed the measure on Monday, and said he's confident the bill can withstand legal challenges.

"I know that Comcast and the business community are committed to ending wage discrimination, and I'm hopeful that moving forward we can have a better partnership on this and other issues of concern to business owners and their employees, he said. "This doesn't need to be an either/or argument — what is good for the people of Philadelphia is good for business, too." Comcast and the city's Chamber of Commerce

have said the law goes too far in dictating how employers can interact with potential workers.

The City Council unanimously passed the ordinance in December.

Supporters contend that since women have historically been paid less than men, the practice of asking for a salary history can help perpetuate a cycle of lower salaries for women, continuing throughout their careers.

Israel mulls more administrative detentions, as numbers rise

SILWAD, West Bank (AP) — High school student Hamza Hamad spent 10 months in an Israeli jail for alleged links to the Islamic militant Hamas group, but was never charged with a crime.

The 16-year-old is one of the youngest among thousands of Palestinians who have been held in so-called administrative detention in half a century of Israeli military occupation.

The teen's case spotlights one of Israel's perhaps most contested policies, under which it can hold suspects for months or sometimes several years without charges.

Israel says the policy is a key tool in preventing attacks on civilians, but rights activists say it violates due process.

Numbers of detainees have fluctuated, from a few dozen to hundreds at any given time, with spikes during violent periods. Detainee figures are up again since October 2015, when Palestinians, mostly acting on their own, began stabbing or ramming cars into Israelis in a series of deadly attacks.





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