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BIG SPRING HERALD

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25, 2017



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Back to the farm

City council approves property rezoning request from single family to agriculture, but plans to tighten guidelines

By **STEVE REAGAN**
 Staff Writer

A small section of property within the city limits has been zoned for agriculture use, but residents aren't likely to see a bunch of cows or horses grazing there anytime soon.

During their Tuesday meeting, the Big Spring City Council gave final approval to a re-

zoning request from property owner Ann Sanders to change the designation of nine acres along Wasson Road from Single Family 2 to Agriculture.

The property, in the general vicinity of Wasson and Parkway, was used for agriculture purposes before it was annexed into the city in the 1960s, City Manager Todd Darden said. Tuesday's move by the council opens up the

possibility of that sort of usage again, if the property owners receive further clearances from city officials.

Darden said there are several further steps Sanders or her designees must take before the property is open to agriculture use again.

"The agriculture zoning designation is the most the

See **CITY**, Page 3

Spring project going up



HERALD photo/Lyndel Moody

Crews have begun work on a \$1.8 million renovation project at the historic spring in Comanche Trail Park. Phase one of the project is expected to be completed by late spring or early summer, said Debbie Wegman, community services director for the City of Big Spring.

Big Spring HS Speech and Debate teams sweep cross-examination district meet

Special to the Herald

For the 16th year in a row, the Big Spring High School Speech and Debate team will be sending representatives to the University Interscholastic League Cross-Examination State Meet.

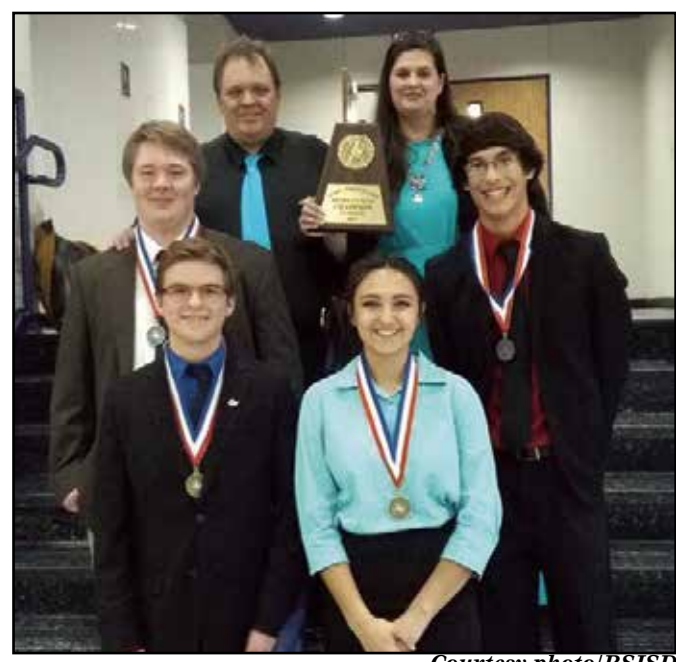
The teams of Seth Hamby with Alessx Sosa, Gabriel Williams, and Daniel Luna placed first and second respectively at the District 5 4A Cross-Examination Meet to qualify.

"Cross-examination is a bit different from most events," coach Jennifer Adams said. "Only two teams in the district qualify for the State Meet."

For Sosa, the qualification marks her third trip to a state meet, although in a different event.

"I've placed at state in journalism events the past two years. Debate is new for me, but I'm hoping that we will be successful at the state meet," she said.

Hamby will be attending his second state meet for the year.

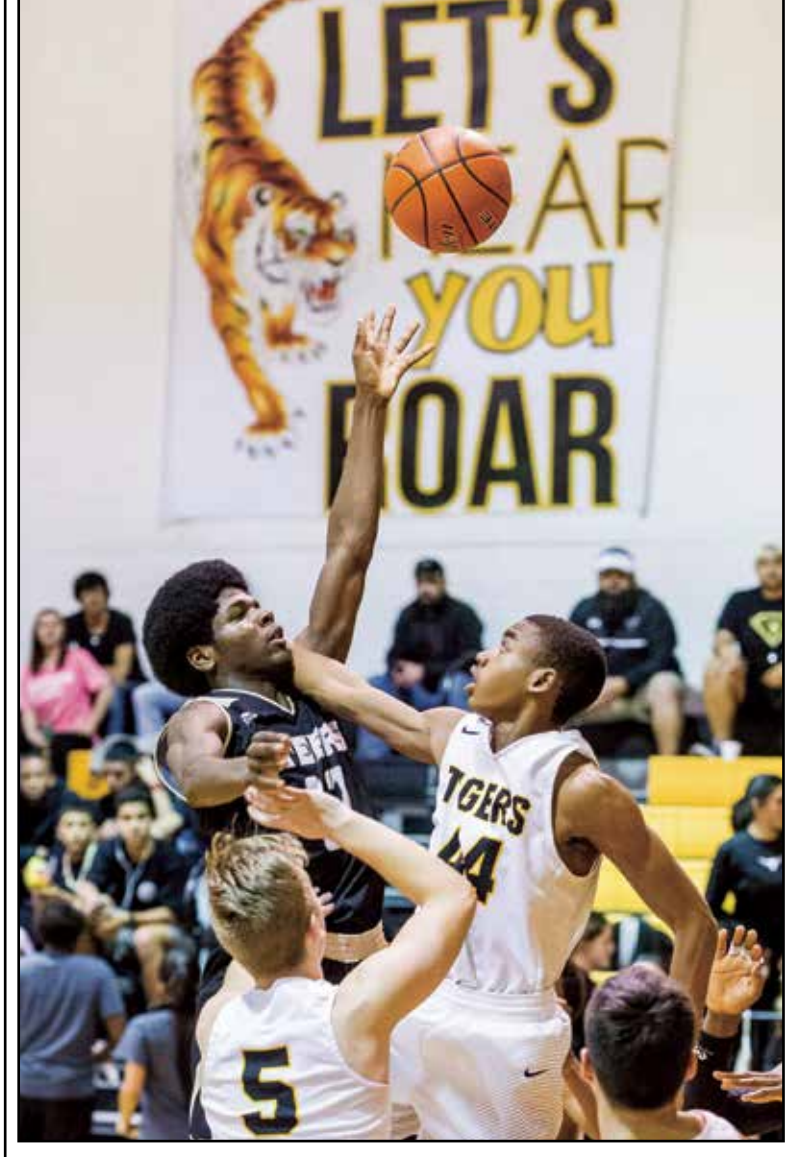


Courtesy photo/BSISD

Pictured in the front row is Seth Hamby, Alessx Sosa. Second row, Gabriel Williams and Daniel Luna, and back row Coaches Clint and Jennifer Adams

See **BSHS**, Page 3

Going for the basket



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

Big Spring Steer Jeremiah Rush gets fouled by a Snyder player while shooting for the basket during Tuesday night's loss to the Tigers. See more photos and highlights of the game on Page 7.

New Howard County Chief Appraiser introduces herself to college trustees



Lisa Reyna

By **LYNDEL MOODY**
 Staff Writer

The new Howard County Chief Appraiser stopped into the Howard College board of trustees meeting Monday to introduce herself.

Lisa Reyna officially began the job as the county's chief appraiser on Jan. 1, replacing Ronnie Babcock.

"I have a big job ahead of

me for sure," Reyna said. "Although it's going to be challenging, I'm really up for the task. I've been with the appraisal district — next month — for 11 years."

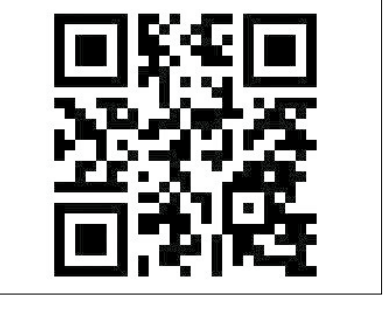
The appraisal district is responsible for appraising property and mineral values in the district. Taxing entities uses these number to determine their yearly tax base and figure their upcoming budgets.

Reyna said she began with the appraisal district working in the deed department, moving up to an appraiser position before being promoted to senior appraiser then deputy chief appraiser.

The Howard County Appraisal District is located at 315 S. Main St.



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Obituaries

Merle Spurlock



Merle Spurlock, 68, of Big Spring died Monday, Jan. 23, 2017, at Parkview Nursing and Rehabilitation Center.

The family will receive friends from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 26, 2017, at Myers and Smith Chapel. A service will begin at 6 p.m. at Myers and Smith Chapel with the Rev. Billy Guy, pastor of Full Gospel Fellowship, officiating.

Merle was born on June 25, 1948, in Big Spring, Texas, to Leone Townsend Bain and Richard "Blackie" Bain. She had been a resident of Big Spring for most of her life but lived in Hobbs, N.M., for many years. During her lifetime, Merle

worked as a model, a radio announcer, trained horses, rescued animals, and sold oilfield supplies. She was a Baptist.

She is survived by one son, Clint Melton of Big Spring; one daughter, Bennie Foster and husband Mike of Coweta, Okla.; one brother, J. T. Fulcher and wife Dorothy of Onalaska; two sisters, Mary Railsback and husband Doyle of Big Spring, and Myrna Cobb and husband Danny of Hobbs; nine grandchildren; several great-grandchildren; and a number of cousins, nieces, and nephews.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by one son, Mark Sheldon Pries; and three brothers, Richard McKinley Bain II, Billy David Fulcher, and Albert Fulcher.

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

Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity:

- **SUSAN ETTA HUMPHREY**, 30, of 2689 Lake 252 County Road in Colorado City was arrested on a charge of public intoxication.
- **JOHN KHOURY**, 34, of 22 Brickwood Dr. in Little Rock, Ark., was arrested on a charge of assault/family violence (threat or offensive touch).
- **MATTHEW SCOTT REAVES**, 33, of 705 W. 18 was arrested on a warrant for unlawful restraint.
- **ERNESTO RODRIGUEZ**, 21, of 200 Carey St. was arrested on warrants for speeding, racing and exhibition of acceleration,

and no driver's license.

- **AVEL ABREO RAMIREZ**, 70, no address given, was arrested on a citation for failure to identify and theft of property (less than \$100)/shoplifting.
- **JUSTIN STEWART DAVENPORT**, 31, of 13056 FM 1178 in Clyde was arrested on a charge of public intoxication.
- **JUAN M. GARCIA**, 51, of 205 Becker Rd. was arrested on an outstanding warrant.
- **DISTURBANCE** was reported in the 3600 block of West Highway 80.
- **CRIMINAL MISCHIEF** was reported in the 3200 block of Rickabaugh Drive, at the intersection of Northwest Third and

Runnels streets, and in the 100 block of East 15th Street.

- **BURGLARY OF A BUILDING** was reported in the 2900 block of East Interstate 20.
- **BURGLARY OF A HABITATION** was reported in the 500 block of North Lancaster Street.
- **MINOR ACCIDENT** was reported in the 3200 block of Auburn Avenue.
- **HARASSMENT** was reported in the 300 block of West 18th Street.
- **THEFT** was reported in the 900 block of Willia Street.
- **BURGLARY IN PROGRESS** was reported in the 1000 block of South Scurry Street.

Sheriff

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

Note - Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 82 inmates at the time of this report.

- **JUSTIN STEWART DAVENPORT**, 31, of 13056 FM 1178 in Clyde was arrested on a charge of public intoxication.
- **FABIAN GARCIA**, 59, was booked by HCSO on a parole violation.
- **JUAN MANUEL GARCIA**, 51, was booked by HCSO on a

warrant for illegal dumping (5 to 500 lbs).

- **SUSAN HUMPHREY**, 30, was booked by BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.
- **STEVEN RAY JOHNSON**, 23, was booked by STE on a motion to revoke probation for evading arrest or detention.
- **JOHN EDISON KHOURY**, 34, was booked by BSPD on a charge of assault/family violence (threat or offensive touch).
- **AVEL ABREO RAMIREZ**, 70, was booked by BSPD on

charges of failure to identify and theft of property (less than \$100).

- **MATTHEW SCOTT REAVES**, 33, was booked by BSPD on a warrant for unlawful restraint.
- **ERNESTO RODRIGUEZ**, 21, was booked by BSPD on warrants for speeding, racing and exhibition of acceleration, and no driver's license.
- **KEITH S. WALKER**, 60, was booked by HCSO on a warrant for evading arrest or detention with a vehicle.

Fire/EMS

Big Spring Fire Department/EMS reported the following activity:

- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 1700 block of Alabama. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.
- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 3200 block of Parkway. One person was transported to

Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 1300 block of Wright.
- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 1900 block of North Highway 87. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.
- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 1800 block of North

Highway 87. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 2900 block of Melrose. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.
- **OUTSIDE RUBBISH FIRE** was reported in the 1200 block of East 17th Street.

Take Note

• Mitchell County Senior Citizens Dance will be from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 26, at the Colorado City Civic Center, 157 West 2nd St. Cost is \$5 per person. Travis and Keven will be providing live music. Bring a dish to share for pot luck.

• 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. To get there, take Gregg Street north and turn left on Delaney, which is the block just past the Salvation Army retail store. Delaney turns into Seventh Street, you will go over the railroad tracks and the school is on the left.

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

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

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

Meetings

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

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

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Markus Allan Garza Jr.

Markus Allan Garza Jr., 27, of Big Spring died Monday, Jan. 23, 2017, at Scenic Mountain Medical Center. Services are pending at Myers and Smith Funeral Home.

Billy L. Johnson

Billy L. Johnson, 78, of Big Spring died Tuesday, Jan. 24, 2017, in a Midland Hospital. Services are pending with Nalley-Pickle and Welch Funeral Home and Crematory.

Ramon G. Torres Jr.

Ramon G. Torres Jr., 60, of Big Spring died Monday, Jan. 23, 2017, in a Midland Hospital. Services are pending with Nalley-Pickle and Welch Funeral Home and Crematory.

Weather

Today: Cooler. Mostly cloudy in the morning then clearing. Highs in the mid 50s. West winds 10 to 15 mph.

Tonight: Clear. Lows in the upper 20s. Northwest winds around 10 mph in the evening becoming light and variable.

Thursday: Sunny. Highs in the mid 50s. West winds around 10 mph.

Thursday night: Mostly clear. Lows in the upper 20s. Light and variable

winds.

Friday: Sunny. Highs around 50. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph.

Friday night: Mostly clear. Lows around 30.

Saturday: Sunny. Highs in the lower 50s.

Saturday night: Clear. Lows around 30.

Sunday: Sunny. Highs in the upper 50s.

Sunday night: Mostly clear. Lows in the lower 30s.

Monday: Sunny. Highs in the lower 60s.

Monday night: Mostly clear. Lows in the upper 30s.

Tuesday: Sunny. Highs in the lower 60s.

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

Support Groups

WEDNESDAY

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

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

THURSDAY

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

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

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

FRIDAY

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

SATURDAY

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

SUNDAY

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

MONDAY

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

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Trump announces 'major' voter fraud investigation

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump tweeted early Wednesday that he is ordering a "major investigation" into voter fraud, revisiting unsubstantiated claims he's made repeatedly about a rigged voting system.

The investigation, he said, will look at those registered to vote in more than one state, "those who are illegal and ... even, those registered to vote who are dead (and many for a long time)."

Depending on results, Trump tweeted, "we will strengthen up voting procedures!"

Trump has been fixated on his loss of the popular vote in the election and a concern that the legitimacy of his presidency is being challenged by Democrats and the media, aides and associates say.

Trump's own attorneys dismissed claims of voter fraud in a legal filing responding to Green Party candidate Jill Stein's demand for a recount in Michigan late last year.

"On what basis does Stein seek to disenfranchise Michigan citizens? None really, save for speculation," the attorneys wrote. "All available evidence suggests that the 2016 general election was not

tainted by fraud or mistake." Secretaries of state across the country have dismissed Trump's voter fraud claims as baseless. After the president's morning tweets, Ohio Secretary of State Jon Husted wrote on Twitter, "We conducted a review 4 years ago in Ohio & already have a statewide review of 2016 election underway. Easy to vote, hard to cheat."

Trump's exaggerations about inauguration crowds and assertions about illegal balloting have been distractions as advisers' have tried to launch his presidency with a flurry of actions on the economy.

His spokesman, Sean Spicer, has twice stepped into the fray himself, including on Tuesday, when he doubled down on Trump's false claim that he lost the popular vote because 3 million to 5 million people living in the U.S. illegally cast ballots.

All 50 states and the District of Columbia have finalized their election results with no reports of the kind of widespread fraud that Trump is alleging.

"He believes what he believes based on the information he was provided," said Spicer, who provided no evidence to back up the presi-

dent's statements. If the president's claim were true it would mark the most significant election fraud in U.S. history — and ironically, would raise the same questions about Trump's legitimacy that he's trying to avoid.

Rep. Elijah Cummings, ranking Democrat on the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, said Wednesday his panel has already sent letters to the attorneys general in all 50 states asking for reports of any election irregularities.

"The president can join me and my staff," Cummings said on MSNBC. He also said he wants Congress to restore voting protections, citing a Supreme Court ruling that "gutted" key sections of the Voting Rights Act, particularly the provision requiring southern states to get clearance in advance from the Justice Department before legislating changes in voting laws and procedures.

Some Trump allies say he is justified in using his platform to defend his standing. They point to Georgia Democratic Rep. John Lewis' pre-inauguration statement that he did not see Trump as a legitimate president, as well as U.S. intelligence agencies' assess-

ment that Russia meddled in the election in order to help Trump win.

"Segments of his own government keep driving this narrative," said Roger Stone, a longtime confidant. "I don't think it hurts to point it out."

Key advisers in Trump's inner circle concede the focus on crowd claims and alleged voter fraud have been a distraction.

After Friday's inaugural festivities, the new president grew increasingly upset the next day by what he felt was "biased" media coverage of women's marches across the globe protesting his election, according to a person familiar with his thinking. Trump was particularly enraged with CNN, which he thought was "gloating" by continually running photos of the women's march alongside the smaller crowds that attended his inauguration the day before, according to this person, one of several White House aides and associates who spoke on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak publicly about private conversations.

Tuesday night on Twitter, Trump slammed CNN again, referring to the network as "FAKE NEWS @CNN" while

praising rival Fox News Channel.

Trump has had a tumultuous relationship with the press, frequently calling the media dishonest and insulting individual reporters by name at his rallies and on Twitter. Still, two people close to Trump said he expected his coverage to turn more favorable once he took office. Instead, he's told people he believes it's gotten worse.

The bad press over the weekend has not allowed Trump to "enjoy" the White House as he feels he deserves, according to one person who has spoken with him.

The result has been a full display of Trump's propensity for exaggeration and more. During an appearance at the CIA Saturday, he wrongly said the inaugural crowds gathered on the National Mall stretched to the Washington Monument, despite clear photo evidence to the contrary. And during a reception with lawmakers from both parties Monday night, he repeated his false assertion that millions of illegal immigrants provided Hillary Clinton's margin in the popular vote.

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Study: More than 313K victims of human trafficking in Texas

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — A University of Texas study estimates there are more than 313,000 victims of human trafficking in the state who are forced into prostitution or to perform labor.

The study by UT's School of Social Work found that about 234,000 people

work under involuntary servitude or debt bondage, while some 79,000 children and young adults are coerced or deceived into prostitution.

The authors say the numbers are conservative estimates and that their study should serve as a point of reference for

law enforcement tasked with reducing human trafficking in Texas.

The Austin American-Statesman reports that authorities at a news conference last week said Texas is a hub for human trafficking in the U.S. and that Houston specifically has the highest number of victims in the country.

CITY

Continued from Page 1

restrictive the city has," Darden said. "There's about six more steps the property owner must take before (the property can be used for agriculture purposes), and none of those steps have been taken yet."

Even though they gave approval to the rezoning request, city council members voiced concerns about the possibility of farm animals figuratively rubbing shoulders with their city neighbors.

"I think we owe it to other property owners to tighten up the guide-

lines (regarding agriculture usage in the city limits) to something close to what the U.S. Department of Agriculture abides by," District 3 Councilman Justin Myers said. "I don't think anybody has any issues with the current owner ... We just need to tighten tit up a little bit."

In particular, Myers wants officials to fine tune zoning guidelines to avoid having a "crazy" amount of farm animals within the city limits.

In voting for the zoning change, the council also formally directed city officials to revisit the zoning guidelines

and come back to the council with any recommended changes.

In other business Tuesday, council approved:

- Holding joint municipal-school elections on May 6. District 1, currently represented by Raul Marquez Jr., and District 3, represented by Myers, will decide council members this year.

Marquez said he will run for a second term, while Myers has not yet announced his intentions.

- The purchase of sports complex park shades to replace those damaged by hail in 2016. The cost will be covered

by insurance, City Finance Director Donald Moore said.

- Amending the city budget to cover demolition expenses, estimated at \$15,500, for the old Western Auto store on Johnson Street. The structure was destroyed by fire in 2016.

- A request from city officials to apply for a grant to finance the purchase of electronic ticket writers.

- The naming of Alex Calvio to be the city's representative on the Howard County Appraisal District Board of Directors, replacing Tim Blackshear.

- An assumption agreement between the

local Economic Development Corp. and John Crane Production Solutions.

- A six-month extension of a lease subsidy between EDC and Big Spring Rail.

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

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BSHS

Continued from Page 1

He placed 13th at the UIL Congressional Debate State Tournament earlier in January.

"Abilene Wylie provided us some good competition at district. Hopefully, this was the test we needed to ready us for state." Hamby

said. This will be Williams and Luna's first state meet.

With the placings, the BSHS Speech and Debate team earned the overall Cross-Examination Debate District team award. This is the 10th year in a row that the team earned this award.

The team of Hayley

Jenkins and Keanna Pena placed fifth while Kimberly Chapel with Seth Rios placed sixth.

The UIL State Cross-Examination Meet will be held on the campus of the University of Texas March 17-18.

"After the success of last year, we knew we were in a rebuilding year," Adams stated. "It feels great to have

the students hard work validated."

Charles Myers

Attorney At Law

Family Law And

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Bahorich reappointed Texas Board of Education chairwoman

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Praising her "exemplary leadership," Gov. Greg Abbott has reappointed Houston Republican Donna Bahorich chairwoman of Texas' sometimes controversial Board of Education.

Bahorich is less-outspoken than some board social conservatives, who long raised ideological objections when setting academic curriculums and approving textbooks.

That bloc of Republicans helped emphasize conservative ideals in past history curriculums and was wary of climate change science.

Such debates were less common since Bahorich was first appointed chairwoman in June 2015. Still, how Texas teaches the theory of evolution may be re-examined during an upcoming meeting on science curriculum in April.

Meanwhile, some classroom advocates objected to Bahorich for once choosing to home-school her three sons before later sending them to public school.

Bahorich's nomination through February 2019 must be approved by a two-thirds Texas Senate vote.

2 suspects charged with capital murder after mall shooting

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — The two men police say attempted to rob a jewelry store at a San Antonio mall have been charged with capital murder in the death of a Samaritan who attempted to intervene.

San Antonio police said in a statement Tuesday that Jose Luis Rojas and Jason Matthew Prieto, both 34, each is being held on a \$1.5 million bond.

Rojas is hospitalized in critical condition after being shot multiple times Sunday by another Samaritan at the Rolling Oaks Mall.

The first Samaritan, 42-year-old Jonathan Murphy, was not armed when he confronted the suspects and was fatally shot.

It's not known whether Rojas and Prieto have attorneys to speak on their behalf.

Police say another shooting occurred Tuesday just outside a different mall. No one was hurt in that incident.

Texas woman who claimed to be 'voice of God' gets 6 years

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP) — Prosecutors say a North Texas woman who claimed to be the "voice of God" must serve six years in prison for forcing two immigrants to work for years without pay.

Olga Sandra Murra of Fort Worth was sentenced Monday and ordered to pay the immigrants \$795,000. Murra was convicted of two counts of forced labor and two counts of harboring an illegal immigrant.

Authorities say Murra in the 1990s helped smuggle the two Mexicans into the U.S. She forced them to work in her cleaning business, kept them in Fort Worth and El Paso, and withheld pay and identification documents.

Officials say Murra represented herself as the "voice of God on earth," made both women sleep on a floor and forced them to listen to recordings of her Bible readings.

Bush recovering from pneumonia, doing physical therapy

HOUSTON (AP) — Former President George H.W. Bush is increasing his activity as he recovers from pneumonia at a Houston hospital.

Bush spokesman Jim McGrath said Tuesday that the 92-year-old Bush is sitting up, talking with physicians, staff and visitors, and returning phone calls. The nation's 41st president also is working with physical therapists to help him regain strength.

Bush was admitted to Houston Methodist Hospital on Jan. 14 for breathing difficulties blamed on pneumonia. He later was moved to intensive care when doctors inserted a breathing tube.

He was moved from the ICU on Monday afternoon.

Former first lady Barbara Bush was discharged from the same hospital Monday.

Monday after five days for treatment of bronchitis. McGrath says she returned as a visitor Tuesday to be with her husband of 72 years.

Texas GOP stars push school choice, but will it be enough?



Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick speaks during a rally in support of school choice on the steps of the Texas Capitol, Tuesday, Jan. 24, 2017, in Austin, Texas. The Texas governor and the Bush family's rising political star have added muscle to a rally supporting school vouchers — but such plans still may not pass the fiercely red state's Legislature. Vouchers would give families state money to help pay for private and religious schools.

By WILL WEISSERT
Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — The governor of Texas and the Bush family's rising star added political muscle Tuesday to a rally supporting school vouchers, which have stalled repeatedly in the country's largest Republican state despite steadfast support from top conservatives.

Marching bands with thundering drumlines and hundreds of students and teachers — many in yellow-and-black "National School Choice Week" scarfs — converged outside the Texas Capitol. Gov. Greg Abbott made a relatively rare appearance with Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick, a tea party favorite who has long been Texas' leading advocate for vouchers where families get state money to remove children from public schools and send them to private and religious alternatives.

"This is not a Republican issue, it's not a Democrat issue," Abbott said. "This is a civil rights issue."

Thirteen states and the District of Columbia offer some form of vouchers, according to the National Conference of State Legislators, and academic studies show mixed classroom results that can be similar to those of traditional public schools.

The rally came as Texas Senate budget writers discussed how

much funding will be needed to educate the state's 5.3 million public school students. Texas currently spends about \$2,700 per-pupil under the national average, ranking 38th in funding nationwide, according to the Texas State Teachers Association.

Kathy Miller, president of the education watchdog group Texas Freedom Network said Tuesday that vouchers "are a scheme that strips critical funds from public schools and gives a discount to individuals who can already afford private school."

In 2013, Texas expanded its number of public charter schools, though advocates say waitlists of children wanting to attend them still exceeds 100,000 — and suggest that vouchers could fill that void. Many students at the Capitol rally attended charter schools or were on waitlists for them, just like at similar "School Choice Week" events nationwide.

"This is not a war on public education," Patrick said. He said vouchers don't "take money from the education system" because public schools will cut costs by no longer having to educate students who transfer to private alternatives.

Texas Land Commissioner George P. Bush also is a longtime school choice supporter. The

grandson of one former president, nephew of another and son of failed 2016 White House hopeful Jeb Bush, George P. once served on the board of one of Texas' largest charter school operators. He applauded other speakers but didn't address the crowd himself Tuesday — unlike during past rallies.

Last session, a sweeping voucher plan passed the Texas Senate, but died in the House, where Democrats have long teamed with rural Republicans wary of hurting schools that are the lifeblood of their small communities to keep public money in public schools. The Senate this year is promoting "educational savings accounts" letting families use public money for private schooling, as well as tax breaks for businesses that sponsor private school scholarships.

So far, though, there is little indication such plans will be any better received in Texas' lower chamber than in the past.

"Traditionally, the members of the House have not supported spending taxpayer dollars at private schools," Jason Embry, a spokesman for Republican Texas House Speaker Joe Straus, said Tuesday "and there are many questions to be answered on this issue in the months ahead."

Sentencing set for man convicted of plotting Texas attack

By JACQUES BILLEAUD
Associated Press

PHOENIX (AP) — An American-born Muslim convert convicted of supporting the Islamic State group and helping to plot a 2015 attack on a Prophet Muhammad cartoon contest in Texas was scheduled to be

sentenced Tuesday.

Abdul Malik Abdul Kareem, an Arizona moving company owner, provided the guns that two friends used to open fire outside the anti-Islam event in suburban Dallas and hosted the two Islamic State followers at his home to discuss the upcoming

attack, authorities have said.

Prosecutors are seeking a life sentence, while Kareem's lawyer has asked for less than six years of prison time.

Kareem, 45, grew up in a Baptist household, but converted to Islam as an adult. He abandoned his birth name of

Decarus Lowell Thomas and legally became Abdul Malik Abdul Kareem in 2013.

Kareem watched videos depicting violence by jihadists with the two friends, encouraged them to launch violent attack to support the

See **ATTACK**, Page 14

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Trump admin orders EPA contract freeze and media blackout

By **MICHAEL BIESECKER** and **JOHN FLESHER**

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Trump administration has instituted what it described as a temporary media blackout at the Environmental Protection Agency and barred staff from awarding any new contracts or grants, part of a broader communications clampdown within the executive branch.

Emails sent to EPA staff since President Donald Trump's inauguration Friday and reviewed by The Associated Press detailed specific prohibitions banning press releases, blog updates or posts to the agency's social media accounts.

The Trump administration has also ordered what it called a temporary suspension of all new business activities at the department, including issuing task orders or work assignments to EPA contractors. The orders were expected to have a significant and immediate impact on EPA activities nationwide.

Similar orders barring external communications have been issued in recent days by the Trump administration at other federal agencies, including the Agriculture and Interior departments. Staffers in EPA's public affairs office are instructed to forward all inquiries from reporters to the Office of Administration and Resources Management.

"Incoming media requests will be carefully screened," one directive said. "Only send out critical messages, as messages can be shared broadly and end up in the press."

A review of EPA websites and social media accounts, which typically include numerous new posts each day, showed no new activity since Friday.

White House spokesman Sean Spicer said Tuesday he had no information on the blackout. He said aides were looking into the circumstances.

Doug Ericksen, the communications director for Trump's transition team at EPA, said he expects the communications ban to be lifted by the end of this week.

"We're just trying to get a handle on everything and make sure what goes out reflects the priorities of the new administration," Ericksen said.

Beyond what was stated in the internal email, Ericksen clarified that the freeze on EPA contracts and grants won't apply to pollution cleanup efforts or infrastructure construction activities.

Officials at state and local agencies that rely on EPA for funding said they were left in the dark, saying they had received no information from EPA about the freeze.

"We are actively seeking additional information so we can understand the impact of this action on our ability to administer critical programs," said Alan Matheson, executive director of Utah Department of Environmental Quality. The executive director for the advocacy group Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility, Jeff Ruch, said the orders go beyond what has occurred in prior presidential transitions.

"We're watching the dark cloud of Mordor extend over federal service," Ruch said Tuesday, referring to the evil kingdom in the epic fantasy "The Lord of the Rings."

Ruch noted that key posts at EPA have not yet been filled with Republican appointees, including Trump's



White House press secretary Sean Spicer calls on a reporter during the daily briefing at the White House in Washington, Tuesday, Jan. 24, 2017. Spicer answered questions about the Dakota Pipeline, infrastructure, jobs and other topics.

nominee for EPA administrator, Scott Pruitt. That means there are not yet the new senior personnel in place to make key decisions.

Environmentalists said the orders were having a chilling effect on EPA staff, many of whom were suffering from low morale. Trump and Pruitt have both been frequent critics of the agency and have questioned the validity of climate science showing that the Earth is warming and man-made carbon emissions are to blame.

Liz Perera, climate policy director for the Sierra Club, said Trump's move to freeze all EPA communications and contracts should be "a major red flag for all Americans."

"EPA was created to ensure that all Americans can enjoy clean air to breathe, clean water to drink and have their health protected from environmental and climate threats," Perera said.

Some staff at the Agriculture Department also received orders not to release any documents to the public.

"This includes, but is not limited to, news releases, photos, fact sheets, news feeds and social media content," read an email to staff at the agency's Agricultural Research Service, which was obtained by the AP.

ARS spokesman Christopher Bentley said the ban would not include scientific publications released through peer-reviewed professional journals.

"As the U.S. Department of Agriculture's chief scientific in-house research agency, ARS values and is committed to maintaining the free flow of information between our scientists and the American public as we strive to find solutions to agricultural problems affecting America," Bentley said, according to a statement.

It was not immediately clear whether similar instructions were given to others within the department. The AP reported over the weekend that staff at the Interior Department were temporarily ordered to stop making posts to its Twitter account. The prohibition came after the official account of the National Park Service, a bureau of the department, retweeted a pair of posts to its 315,000 followers that seemed to be a swipe at Trump on his initial day in office. The first

was a photo that compared the crowd gathered on the National Mall for Trump with the much larger gathering that stood in the same spot eight years earlier for President Barack

Obama's swearing-in. Trump later falsely claimed that more than 1 million people attended his inauguration, which Spicer insisted was the most watched in history.

NOTICE OF RATE CHANGE REQUEST

On December 30, 2016, as required by order of the Public Utility Commission of Texas ("PUC" or "Commission") in Docket No. 45414, Sharyland Utilities, L.P. ("Sharyland") and Sharyland Distribution & Transmission Services, L.L.C. ("SDTS") (collectively "Applicants"), regulated electric utility companies, filed an application with the PUC titled Amended Application of Sharyland Utilities, L.P. and Sharyland Distribution & Transmission Services, L.L.C., Statement of Intent to Change Rates, and Request for Grant of a Certificate of Convenience and Necessity and Transfer of Certificate Rights ("Amended Application").

The Amended Application requests: (1) the setting of new wholesale and retail rates that Sharyland will charge its customers; (2) the establishment of rates that SDTS will charge its only customer, Sharyland; and (3) the grant of a certificate of convenience and necessity ("CCN") and transfer of CCN rights to SDTS. This proceeding is the first in which Sharyland's rates will be set on a system-wide basis.

The Amended Application is based on a twelve-month test year ending December 31, 2015. The Amended Application supports an increase in Sharyland's adjusted test-year retail base rate revenues of approximately \$1.4 million or 1.4 percent, exclusive of riders. Sharyland's system-wide cost-based retail base rate revenue requirement is \$101.2 million, plus an additional \$2.23 million that Sharyland is seeking to recover on an annual basis through certain riders. This includes a proposal to recover \$30 million for deferred costs associated with construction of the electric system in the McAllen division during its initial years of operation. As proposed, monthly delivery rates for an average residential customer consuming 1,333 kWh in the Stanton, Brady, and Celeste divisions will decrease by approximately \$3.14 per month, exclusive of riders, but in McAllen and Mission they will increase by approximately \$35.69 per month, exclusive of riders. The Amended Application also supports a total wholesale transmission cost of service of \$147.6 million, plus an additional \$3.7 million that Sharyland is seeking to recover on an annual basis through certain riders.

The Amended Application also supports a total revenue requirement for SDTS of approximately \$170 million. SDTS' proposed rates are lease payments that SDTS will charge only to Sharyland for leasing its transmission and distribution assets. In a new tariff for SDTS, separate rates will be provided for the leasing of transmission assets and for the leasing of distribution assets.

The Amended Application also requests that the PUC grant a CCN to SDTS and transfer rights under Sharyland's CCNs to SDTS authorizing SDTS to own transmission and distribution assets and lease those assets to Sharyland for the provision of electric service, along with any other rights as necessary. No new facilities are being sought in the Amended Application.

The Amended Application potentially affects all customers and classes of customers in Sharyland's Stanton, Brady, Celeste, and McAllen divisions. The Amended Application also affects all customers taking service under Sharyland's Tariff for Wholesale Transmission Service. In addition, the result could be a change in Sharyland's transmission cost of service rates, which would impact all load serving entities in the Electric Reliability Council of Texas. The Applicants have proposed that the requested rates be made effective February 3, 2017.

A complete copy of the Amended Application is available for inspection at the following locations:

- Sharyland
1031 Andrews Highway, Suite 400
Midland, Texas 79701
- or-
- 1807 Ross Avenue, Suite 460
Dallas, Texas 75201
- Sutherland Asbill & Brennan LLP
600 Congress Avenue, Suite 2000
Austin, Texas 78701

Persons who wish to intervene in or comment upon these proceedings should notify the Public Utility Commission of Texas (Commission) as soon as possible, as an intervention deadline will be imposed. A request to intervene or for further information should be mailed to the Public Utility Commission of Texas, P.O. Box 13326, Austin, Texas 78711-3326. Further information may also be obtained by calling the Public Utility Commission at (512) 936-7120 or (888) 782-8477. Hearing- and speech impaired individuals with text telephones (TTY) may contact the commission through Relay Texas by dialing 7-1-1. The deadline for intervention in the proceeding is February 13, 2017.



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Water lead-level falls below federal limit in Flint



AP photo

In this March 21, 2016 file photo, the Flint Water Plant water tower is seen in Flint, Mich. Michigan environmental officials announced Tuesday, Jan. 24, 2017, that Flint's water system no longer has levels of lead exceeding the federal limit.

By DAVID EGGERT

Associated Press

LANSING, Mich. (AP) — Flint's water system no longer has levels of lead exceeding the federal limit, a key finding that Michigan state environmental officials said Tuesday is good news for a city whose 100,000 residents have been grappling with the man-made water crisis.

The 90th percentile of lead concentrations in Flint was 12 parts per billion from July through December — below the "action level" of 15 ppb, according to a letter from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality to Flint's mayor. It was 20 ppb in the prior six-month period.

Based on the sample of 368 residential sites, Flint's lead levels are again comparable to other similarly sized U.S. cities with older infrastructure, state officials told The Associated Press ahead of an official announcement.

"This is good news and the result of many part-

ners on the local, county, state and federal levels working together to restore the water quality in the City of Flint," the department's director, Heidi Grether, said in a statement. "The Flint water system is one of the most monitored systems in the country for lead and copper, and that commitment will remain to ensure residents continue to have access to clean water."

Residents, whose mistrust in government remains high nearly three years after a fateful switch of the city's water source in April 2014, are being told to continue using faucet filters or bottled water because an ongoing mass replacement of pipes could spike lead levels in individual houses. The replacement of the lines is expected to take years.

Tuesday's announcement drew immediate skepticism from some Flint residents.

Melissa Mays said it "means nothing. There's still lead in the system."

"Especially with disruptions, main breaks —

pieces of lead scale will be breaking off until these pipes are replaced," Mays said. "You cannot tell me the water is safe because you have not tested every home."

Flint's public health emergency began when officials failed to properly treat lead lines for corrosion while the city was under state management.

State officials acknowledged the lead problem in October 2015. Lead from old pipes leached into the water supply because corrosion-reducing phosphates were not added due to an incorrect reading of federal regulations.

Elevated levels of lead, a neurotoxin, were detected in children, and 12 people died in a Legionnaires' disease outbreak that experts suspect was linked to the improperly treated water. An ongoing investigation has led to charges against 13 current or former government officials, including two managers that Gov. Rick Snyder appointed to run the city.

Snyder has apologized for the crisis that has largely been blamed on his administration.

"The remarkable improvement in water quality over the past year is a testament to all levels of government working together and the resilient people of Flint helping us help them through participation in the flushing programs," he said in a statement. "There is still more work to do in Flint, and I remain committed to helping the residents recover and restore their city."

While it is important for cities to be below the federal limit, experts say there is no safe level of lead and the crisis has exposed gaps in a monitoring system that can mislead individual homeowners and renters into thinking their tap water is safe when only some homes with lead pipes are sampled.

Michigan's letter to Flint Mayor Karen Weaver was reviewed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency before it was sent. Because the city exceeded the federal limit in the first half of 2016, it must continue replacing at least 7 percent of its lead service lines by June 30.

Though the requirement may be discontinued if the water supply is at or below the limit in the next monitoring period, the state said it would continue supporting Flint's plan to replace more pipes.

Howard County Junior Live Stock Show results

Steer Exhibition

Grand Champion, Barrett Howe
Reserve Champion, Tatum Miller

British Steer Champion, Barrett Howe

British Steer Reserve, Colt Nichols

Class 1 British: 1st, Colt Nichols; 2nd, Koby Nichols

Class 2 British: 1st, Barrett Howe

Exotic Steer Champion, Tatum Miller

Exotic Reserve Champion, Seth Brooks

Class 3 Exotic: 1st, Tatum Miller; 2nd, Seth Brooks; 3rd, Tatum Miller.

Class 4 Exotic: 1st, Koby Nichols; 2nd, Colt Nichols.

Heifer Exhibition

Grand Champion Heifer, Barrett Howe

Reserve Champion Heifer, Tatum Miller

Class 5 Heifers: 1st Barrett Howe; 2nd, Tatum Miller; 3rd, Tatum Miller.

Barrow Exhibition

Grand Champion, Tatum Miller

Reserve Champion, Delilia Miller

Duroc Champion, Baxton Richters

Duroc Reserve Champion, Aaron Turnbough

Class 1 Light Weight Duroc: 1st, Braxton Richters, Coahoma FFA; 2nd, Aaron Turnbough, Coahoma FFA; 3rd, Braiden Boaz, Coahoma FFA; and 4th, Kaylee Kernick, Coahoma FFA.

Class 2 Heavy Weight Duroc: 1st, MaKynlee Overton, Coahoma FFA; 2nd, Sydney Spark, Coahoma FFA; and 3rd, Shawnee Harris, Howard County 4-H.

Hamp Champion, Madlyn Nichols

Hamp Champion, Madlyn Nichols

Class 3 Light Weight

Hamp: 1st, Madlyn Nichols, Sands FFA; 2nd, Kristin Allen, Howard Coun-

ty 4-H; 3rd, Kaitlyn Wiggins, Howard County 4-H; and 4th, Gaige Hill, Coahoma FFA.

Class 4 Middle Weight Hamp: 1st, Madlyn Nichols, Sands FFA; 2nd, Colt Woodall, Howard County 4-H; 3rd, Vance Ott, Howard County 4-H; 4th, McCray Jacobs, Coahoma FFA; 5th, Landon Kelley, Howard County 4-H; and 6th, Bailey Wells, Coahoma FFA.

Class 5 Heavy Weight Hamp: 1st, Gatlin Martin, Coahoma FFA; 2nd, Kolby Denton, Howard County 4-H; 3rd, Joseph Mosino, Howard County 4-H; and Clayton Tucker, Howard County 4-H.

WOPB Champion, Isabella Cox

WOPB Reserve Champion, Madlyn Nichols

Class 6 WOPB: 1st, Isabella Cox, Coahoma FFA; 2nd, Madlyn Nichols, Sands FFA; 3rd, Kacee Allen, Howard County 4-H; 4th, Theron Ott, Howard County 4-H; 5th, Braiden Boaz, Coahoma FFA; and 6th, Wiley Gaskins, Sands FFA.

BOPB Champion, Kyla Lacefield

BOPB Reserve Champion, Fletcher Mashburn

Class 7 BOPB: 1st, Fletcher Mashburn, Coahoma FFA; 2nd, Theron Ott, Howard County, 3rd, Wiley Gaskins, Sands FFA; and 4th, Vance Ott, Howard County 4-H.

Class 8 Heavy Weight BOPB: 1st, Kyle Lacefield, Coahoma FFA; and 2nd, Theron Ott, Howard County 4-H.

Cross Champion, Tatum Miller

Reserve Cross Champion, Delilia Miller

Class 9 Light Weight Cross: 1st, Delila Miller, Sands FFA; 2nd, Wiley Gaskins, Sands FFA; 3rd, Koybn Ramey, Howard County 4-H; 4th, Kasey Hogue, Sands FFA; 5th, Kaeli Woodall, Howard County 4-H; 6th, Wiley Gaskins, Sands FFA; 7th, Colt Woodall, Howard County 4-H; 8th, Kobyn Ramey, Howard County 4-H; 9th, Kobyn Ramey, Howard County 4-H; 10th, Braxton Richters, Coahoma FFA; and 11th, Vance Ott, Howard County 4-H.

Class 10 Light Middle Weight Cross: 1st Micah Worley, Howard County 4-H; 2nd, Brayden Worley, Howard County 4-H; 3rd, Garrett Anderson, Coahoma FFA; 4th, Kacee Allen, Howard County 4-H; 5th, Braiden Boaz, Coahoma FFA; 6th, Theron Ott, Howard County 4-H; 7th, Kobyn Ramey, Howard County 4-H; 8th, Kristin Allen, Howard County FFA; 9th, Brady Anderson, Coahoma FFA; 10th, Sydney Sparks, Coahoma FFA; and 11th, Vance Ott, Howard County 4-H.

Class 11 Middle Weight Cross: 1st, Madlyn Nichols, Sands FFA; 2nd, Julia Cox, Coahoma FFA; 3rd, Kaitlyn Wiggins, Howard County 4-H; 4th, Kristin Allen, Howard County 4-H; 5th, Gaige Hill, Coahoma FFA; 6th, Braxton Richters, Coahoma FFA; 7th, Charles Mashburn, Coahoma FFA; 8th, Kolby Denton, Howard County 4-H; 9th, Katie Averette, Howard County 4-H; 10th, Audry Turnbough, Coahoma FFA; 11th, Joe Mashburn, Coahoma FFA; 12th, Erynn Kelley, Howard County 4-H; and 13th, Aubrey Parum, Howard County 4-H.

Class 12 Middle Heavy Weight Cross: 1st, Julia Mashburn, Coahoma FFA; 2nd, Boyd Cox, Coahoma FFA; 3rd, Micah Worley, Howard County 4-H; 4th, Kasey Hogue, Sands FFA; 5th, Trey Brumley, Coahoma FFA; 6th, Colt Woodall, Howard County 4-H; 7th, Fletcher Mashburn, Coahoma FFA; 8th, Gatlin Martin, Coahoma FFA; 9th, Kaeli Woodall, Howard County 4-H; 10th, Jacki Torbik, Howard County 4-H; and 11th, Sydney Sparks, Coahoma FFA.

Class 13 Light Heavy Weight Cross: 1st, Abigail Lopez, Coahoma FFA; 2nd, Makayla Overton, Coahoma FFA; 3rd, Grayson Jacobs, Coahoma FFA; 4th, Aubrey Parum, Coahoma FFA; 5th, Joseph Mosino, Howard County 4-H; 6th, Brayden Worley, Howard County 4-H; 7th, Julia Mashburn, Coahoma FFA; 8th, Fletcher Mashburn, Coahoma FFA; 9th, Katie Averette, Howard County 4-H; 10th, Joe Mashburn, Coahoma FFA; 11th, Del Rae Miller, Sands, FFA; and 12th, Charles Mashburn, Coahoma FFA.

Class 14 Heavy Weight Cross: 1st, Tatum Miller, Howard County 4-H; 2nd, Kaylee Kernick, Coahoma FFA; 3rd, Katie Averette, Howard County 4-H; 4th, Ethan Lopez, Coahoma FFA; and 5th, Jacki Torbik, Howard County 4-H.

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Big Spring goes 1-for-2 in Snyder

By LARRY MCCARTY
Special to the Herald

GIRLS
SNYDER — Big Spring controlled the offensive boards to build a 13-point first-quarter lead and defeated the Snyder Lady Tigers 57-31 in a District 5-4A basketball game



Tony Claxton photo (www.claxtonphotography.com)
Big Spring's Aissa Cervantes attempts a shot against Snyder Tuesday.

Tuesday. Snyder (4-25, 0-5) trailed 21-8 going into the second quarter. Big Spring controlled the next three minutes and built a 25-10 lead. For Snyder, Michelle Martinez scored, Michelle Rios made two free throws, and Allegra Escobedo's three-point play pulled the Lady Tigers with 25-17.

Big Spring (6-17, 2-3) regained a double-digit lead and led 30-19 at halftime.

Snyder's offense never got untracked during the second half. The Lady Steers increased its lead to 41-22 by the end of the third quarter and broke the game open with a 7-0 run to start the fourth quarter.

Kirsti Pierce scored 11 points for Snyder. Escobedo had seven points and Rios added five points.

Kayleigh Penny led Big Spring with 18 points and Kamrey Kemper had nine points.

The Lady Steers will return to action Friday at home

See **BSHS**, Page 13



Tony Claxton photo (www.claxtonphotography.com)
Big Spring's CJ Harris (24) blocks a shot attempt from a Snyder ball player during their game in Snyder Tuesday night.

Area hoops: Forsan sweeps Miles

By STEVE REAGAN
Staff Writer

FORSAN — The rematch between the Forsan Buffaloes and the Miles Bulldogs was a lot closer than the first game between the two teams, but the final result — a Forsan win — was the same.

The Buffaloes defeated Miles by almost 40 points

when the two teams met in December, but they had a much bigger fight on their hands Tuesday, squeaking out a 69-60 win.

Forsan jumped out to a 19-13 win after one quarter, but were unable to shake off the Bulldogs after that. Forsan stretched its lead to 10 points at halftime, and played Miles

even the rest of the way.

The Buffaloes return to action Friday at Ozona. Game time is 8 p.m.

The Forsan girls also had a tough time with Miles, coming back from an early deficit to take a 45-39 win.

The win was the Lady Buffaloes' 20th of the season against seven defeats. Even

more importantly, it virtually locked up a playoff spot for Forsan, which is now 7-2 and in second place in district action.

Macey Evans had 17 points and Chasidy Grantham 9 for the Lady Buffs, who return to action Friday at Ozona. Tip-off is at 6:30 p.m.

Spurs hold on to down Toronto

TORONTO (AP) — Down a trio of stars on Tuesday night, many NBA teams would struggle to get the job done.

Not the San Antonio Spurs. Without Kawhi Leonard, Tony Parker and Pau Gasol, the Spurs beat the Toronto

Raptors 108-106 for their fifth straight victory.

"One thing about being here is, there's more about the system," said LaMarcus Aldridge. "They've been good over the years of plugging guys into the system. We try to have players here who

we can plug in and get the job done."

Aldridge led the Spurs with 21 points, while Patty Mills added 18 and fellow reserve Davis Bertans chipped in with 12.

The Spurs improved to 36-9, their third-best record

through 45 games, behind only the 38-7 records of the 2010-11 and 2015-16 squads. On top of that, they improved to 20-4 on the road, the eighth team in NBA history to win 20 of their first

See **SPURS**, Page 13

Sports calendar

THURSDAY

Men's basketball
New Mexico Military Institute at Howard College, 7 p.m.

FRIDAY

Girls' basketball
Abilene Wylie at Big Spring, 6 p.m.
Colorado City at Coahoma, 6:30 p.m.
Forsan at Ozona, 6:30 p.m.

Boys' basketball
Abilene Wylie at Big Spring, 7:30 p.m.
Colorado City at Coahoma, 8 p.m.
Forsan at Ozona, 8 p.m.

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

A look inside some key numbers for Super Bowl matchup

The Associated Press

From Tom Brady looking to become the first quarterback to win five Super Bowl titles to Matt Ryan seeking to give Atlanta its first, there are plenty of numbers that will get a lot of attention leading up to the Big Game.

Here's a look at some others that fans might not be as familiar with:

BEST VS. BEST: This marks the sixth Super Bowl matching the NFL's highest-scoring team (Atlanta) against the team that allowed the fewest points (New England) during the regular season. The top defense won four of those previous five matchups, including Seattle over Denver three years ago. The only time the top offense came out on top was in the 1989 season when San Francisco topped Denver.

FAST STARTERS: The Falcons have set an NFL record by scoring a touchdown on eight straight opening drives. That figure to be tougher against a Patriots team that was second best in the league this year, allowing just 16 points on opening drives with the only



AP file photo

TD coming for Buffalo on Oct. 2. The Patriots have allowed an average of just 19 yards on those drives with half of their opponents failing to generate even a single first down.

FRONT RUNNERS: The Patriots haven't trailed in a game since Nov. 27 against the Jets. Brady threw a game-winning TD pass to Mal-

colm Mitchell with 1:56 remaining in a 22-17 victory that day and New England has gone 421:56 without being behind in a game. New England trailed by 10 points at one point in that game, their largest deficit of the season with Brady active. If it's hard to take a lead against the Patriots, it's even harder to come back. New

England has won 57 of the past 58 games when leading after three quarters with the lone loss coming last season to Brock Osweiler and Denver.

THIRD TO NONE: Forcing an offense into third down is usually a good step for a defense. Doing it against Brady or Ryan isn't much help. Including the playoffs,

Brady leads the NFL with a 132.8 rating on third down, with Ryan next among starters at 120.6. Brady has converted on 51.8 percent of his third-down passes and Ryan is at 49.7 percent. Ryan has been even better of late, with a 141 rating and first downs on 59.3 percent of his throws the past six games.

BETWEEN THE HASHES: Ryan has been nearly unstoppable when targeting the middle of the field in the regular season and playoffs, according to Sportradar. He has completed 86 of 117 passes between the hashes for 1,230 yards, nine TDs and no interceptions and a 132.8 passer rating. Ryan is 13 for 14 for 138 yards throwing down the middle in the playoffs.

GO DEEP: Ryan also was the most efficient deep thrower in the NFL in the regular season and playoffs, according to Sportradar, going 30 for 63 for 1,122 yards, 10 TDs, no interceptions and a league-best 133.4 rating on throws at least 21 yards downfield. The Patriots were the second-best defense against the deep pass, allowing just 28.2 percent to be completed with only three TDs, five interceptions and a 47.5 rating that was the second lowest.

BEAT THE HEAT: Teams blitzing the Patriots and Falcons have had little success this season, with Brady leading the NFL with a 124.3

See **SUPER**, Page 13

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Apply in person at Credit World, 1611 S. Gregg. Now hiring Sales Clerk/C.S.R. and Delivery Drivers, must pass drug screen and criminal background screens. Drivers need to have a good driving record and ability to lift heavy items.
Blue Sky Pipeline Services is looking for a Heavy Equipment Operator. Our Heavy Equipment Operators, operate one or several types of power construction equipment, such as; excavators, backhoes, motor graders, skid-steer, scrapers, shovels, tractors, or front-end loaders to excavate, move, and grade earth, and/or erect structures. Must have at least 3 years experience, valid CDL drivers license and experience digging around live lines. Please contact our office at 432-943-5228 for information on applying for the position. In depth skills, duties and responsibilities to be determined during interview.

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The Wood Group is hiring Licensed Vocational Nurse for Residential facility. Fulltime M-F (8am to 5pm). A Texas LVN licenses is required. To apply visit our website www.thewoodgroup.us and fax application to 432-264-2773. For questions call 432-264-2750.

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Public Notice
CITY OF FORSAN TEXAS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM

The City of Forsan is giving notice of the City's intent to submit a Texas Community Development Block grant application for a Community Development Fund grant request of \$350,000.00 for water system improvements in Forsan. The application is available for review at the City Hall during regular business hours.

#9283 January 25, 2017
PUBLIC NOTICE

City of Big Spring Zoning Board of Adjustments and Appeals

The City of Big Spring Zoning Board of Adjustments and Appeals will hold a meeting on Wednesday, February 8, 2017 at 5:30 pm in the City Council Chambers, located at 307 E. 4th Street Big Spring, Texas to consider the following:

Public Notice

Permian Basin Women's Resource Center, Inc., N/35 of LT 11 ALL LT 12 BK 4 of College Heights Addition, Located at 1801 Main St. (more specifically, this property occupies 0.273 acres located at the South East corner of E 18th St. & Main St.), is requesting one (1) variance out of Article 6, Section 6-6 of the City of Big Spring Zoning Ordinance for the following under the title of (NS) Neighborhood Service: request for a variance to encroach eleven (11') into the maximum fifteen (15') side yard setback as regulated by the City of Big Spring Zoning Ordinance.

#9283 January 23 & 25, 2017
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1104 Nolan 3 bedroom/2 bath. **NO PETS** Please call 432-517-0025 or 432-517-0640

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

4104 Muir. 2 bed, 2 bath, 2 living areas, CH/A. Rental References required. \$900/month, \$900/dep. Prefer non-smoker/ no HUD/no pets. Call 432-270-3849

605 N. Main. Very clean 2 bed, 2 bath, all appliances. No pets/smoking. \$1,300/month, \$1,300/dep, all bills paid. References required. Call 432-213-2319

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6	5	2	3	4	9	7	1	8
4	9	1	5	7	8	2	6	3
8	7	3	1	2	6	9	5	4
9	1	4	2	5	3	8	7	6
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Tomorrow's Horoscope



HOLIDAY MATHIS

Solar Science and Superstition

What do you think is nearer to the truth: superstition or science? Brilliant minds have fought for both sides and still other brilliant minds have melded the two, with intriguing results -- something to investigate in today's problem-solving under the eccentric Aquarius sun and practical Capricorn lunar influence.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Even when the situation is far from ideal, your positive, upbeat and honest attitude will make it better. The "honest" part is key. Temper optimism with realism.

TAURUS (April

20-May 20). If you take the exact path you took yesterday, you'll still learn something new. You can't help it: Your curious mind will keep seeing more and more as you relax into a routine.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Should you play dumb to avoid hurting someone's feelings or avoid a confrontation? You're too smart to do this believably, but it still might work to buy you some time in an awkward situation.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). The saying goes, "Enough is enough." While that may be true, getting to "enough" can be tricky. Usually you don't know the right amount until you've gone over it. Well, next time you can use what you know to scale it back.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). If there were some way to be certain of beauty, truth or any answer at all really, no one would still be questing. If it has to be eternally sought, there's nothing to be found.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-

Sept. 22). It's not true that you live within the confines of your head. Context matters. You're different in different situations. Your head changes with the location and the environmental factors and influences therein.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Because you're paying such a marvelous quality of attention to all that's going on around you, what you'll learn today will make you a more discriminating and reflective person.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Too much activity can be numbing. It's like you can't tell if you're in the swing of things or just watching yourself go through the swinging motions. Either way, it's time to slow down and rest.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You'll do excellent work because of your ability to prioritize, focus and dedicate yourself to the task until it's finished. Your work ethic now compares to that of your heroes.

CAPRICORN

(Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Our feelings show up with the purpose of helping out, but they are often misguided. When negative feelings impede your progress, keep asking, "What am I telling myself that is making this difficult?"

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Just as the bees and gophers have work to do, your nature comes with a work-drive as well. Loving yourself is pushing yourself to fulfill the job at hand.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). A person who doesn't realize that he or she is wrong will have no desire to do right. Pangs of guilt or shame could be the first sign that a person will soon be blossoming into improvement.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Jan. 25). You'll be part of a tight team this year. Furthermore, you're the reason it's tight: You're the glue. Together you'll earn a top honor in March. April and September are the best times to travel and accomplish a mission. You'll get

closure on past pain in May and almost immediately a new source of joy opens. Scorpio and Gemini adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 9, 5, 14, 27 and 37.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS: "I'm a 23-year-old Cancer guy. I want to make a change, but I'm afraid that my family will disapprove. My parents have a definite vision for my future, and if I don't continue to work the job they want me to have and be in the relationship they prefer for me, then I feel like I am letting them down. I don't think I could live without my family's support. And yet, I am not living my own life. If I choose the partner I really want, my family would not agree. Maybe they wouldn't even talk to me again. What should I do?"

Right now you think that your family is your protection, but you would be surprised at how well you can protect yourself on your own. Cancer is a highly sensitive sign, but like the crab you

have a tough shell of protection around you. Ask yourself honestly if you are developing this affection just because you know your parents wouldn't like it, or if there's really something of value in this rebellious relationship. Your parents want the best for you, but they cannot live their own lives through you, any more than they can live your life for you.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Alicia Keys is an Aquarian diva born when the sun, Mercury and Mars were all in the sign of philanthropy. Her cosmic alignment suggests that Keys is likely to lead a musical movement that brings awareness to a suffering part of the world. Venus in Capricorn is further indication that this Aquarian pop star has what it takes to be a leader through music.

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

Annie's Mailbox

Mending a Broken Heart

Dear Annie: I am writing to you with my heart completely shattered. Someone I had been seeing for a while, whom I thought felt the same for me as I do for him, made a complete fool out of me and burned me to the ground.

I am not a clinging vine and was very understanding about his job and never made demands on his time. He lied to me, blew me off and just stopped communicating with me. He

wouldn't answer my calls or reply to my text messages. I have not slept well in almost a week.

My wise-beyond-her-years daughter told me not to let him have so much power over me, but I am having a very hard time with this. What can I do to put him out of my mind and move on? I didn't deserve what he did to me, and I know he doesn't deserve me, but that doesn't make this hurt any less. Any advice? -- Brokenhearted in North Dakota

Dear Brokenhearted: In this case, daughter knows best.

She sounds like an intelligent, kind young woman, and you must be a remarkable woman yourself to have fostered those qualities in her. Keep setting a great example. Act how you'd want her to act if some guy did this to her.

As for making it hurt less, time is the best salve, but exercise works wonders, too. Make a playlist of empowering songs and go for a run, do yoga or just jump around the house.

Although it hurts terribly now, that ache in your heart will get a little duller every day. Any man who's too

cowardly to have an honest conversation is not worth your time. Eventually, you'll want to thank this loser for breaking up with you.

Dear Annie: I hope you can help me with my request. It came to my attention the other day that many elderly people and those without a computer are not aware of those family members and friends who post online condolences.

A 90-year-old family friend of mine had no idea that over two dozen people had written to her and her family when her husband passed

away two years ago. I copied this information for her and sent it to her. She was very grateful. She was also a bit hurt that the funeral home and her own children did not think or care to do the same. Please, Annie, put the word out there. Funeral homes should make this a part of their package. She called me again to say that she has called several of the people who posted their condolences online, and she said that this is the best she has felt in over two years! It's such a small thing to do when someone is mourning,

but it means so much. -- Spreading the Compassion

Dear Spreading: Thank you for this thoughtful note. In this day and age, many people have forgotten how to truly reach out to others outside of social media. I'm sure your message will inspire a few.

Send your questions for Annie Lane to dearannie@creators.com. To find out more about Annie Lane and read features by other Creators Syndicate columnists and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate website at www.creators.com. COPYRIGHT 2017 CREATORS.COM



By Steve Becker

The pessimistic approach

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

ing to that possibility. If West has the A-10-x-x, you are doomed whatever you do, so you assume East has them.
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 out.
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.
Next you cross to dummy with a club and then play your club winners. It does not matter whether East ruffs now or later; his 10-8 of trumps either immediately or eventually succumb to your Q-9.

The bidding:
North East South West
1♣ Pass 1♥ Pass
2♠ Pass 3♥ Pass
3NT Pass 6♥ Pass
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.
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sudoku

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

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

www.sudoku-puzzles.net

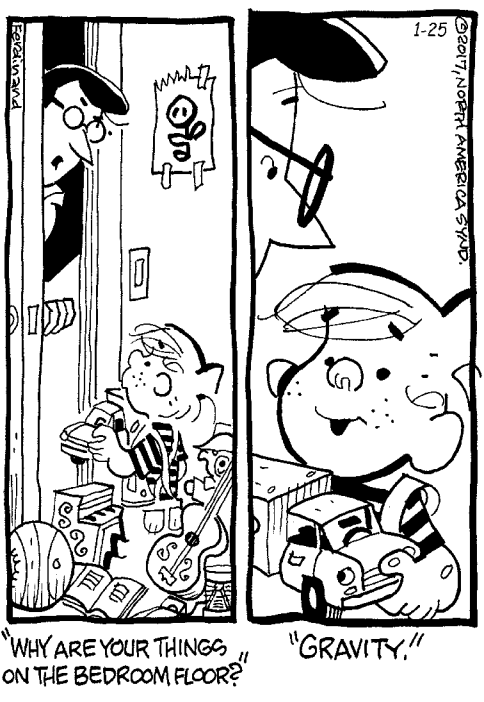
BIG SPRING LITTLE LEAGUE

Big Spring Little League will hold signups for 2017 season on Saturday, January 14th from 10AM - 3 PM at the Springtown Mall. Signups will also be held on Saturday, January 21st from 10 - 3 and Monday - Friday January 23 - 27 from 5:30 PM - 7PM with the final day being Saturday, January 28th from 10-3. Ages 4 -16 can play. Cost is \$90 a child and a birth certificate is required. For more information contact Robert Smith at (432) 816-8161 or Corey Wood at (432) 213-0427.

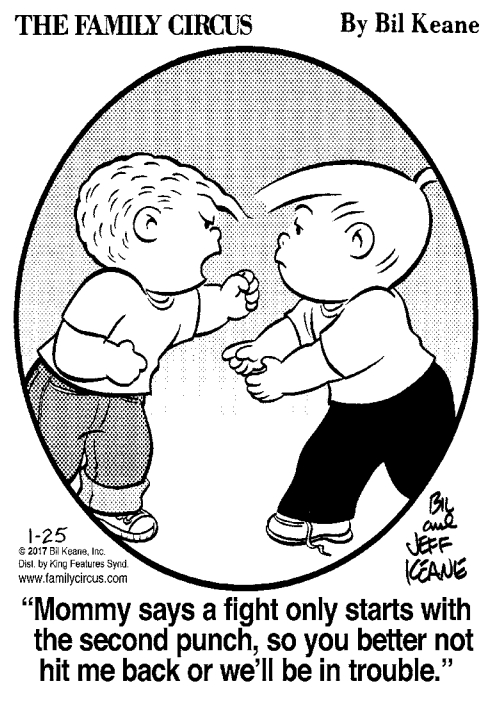


Table with 30 columns representing different TV channels and their programming schedules for the day.

DENNIS THE MENACE



THE FAMILY CIRCUS



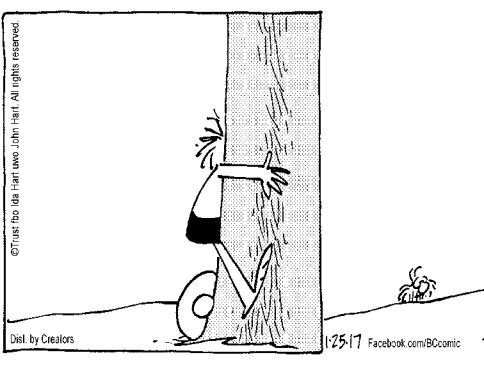
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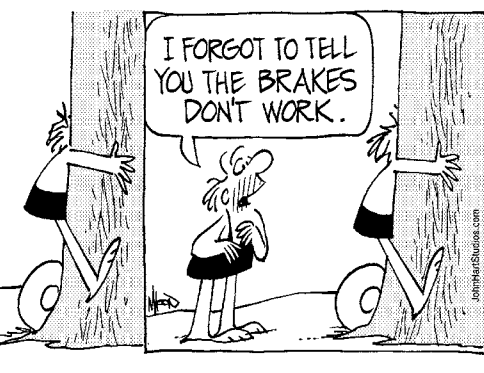
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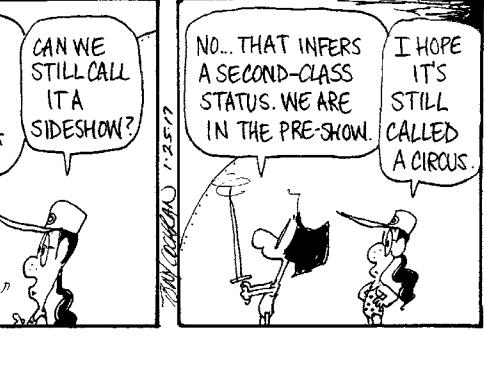
HI AND LOIS



THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BEETLE BAILEY



NEWSDAY CROSSWORD

ACROSS 1 Back muscles, briefly 5 M, in Einstein's equation 9 Serious criminal 14 Govt. workplace monitor 15 Fashion magazine 16 Martini gamish 17 New York/Vermont/Quebec lake 19 Greet the day 20 Bank robbery 21 Disorderly crowds 23 Sugar-bowl invader 24 Remove from office 27 Wander around 29 New Hampshire lake 34 Vow at an altar 35 Lamb's dad 36 Hereabouts 39 Franoise's head 41 Homeric epic 43 Fey of TV 44 Former South Vietnamese capital 46 Airport screening agcy. 47 Crow's sound 48 Louisiana lake 52 Crystal-ball gazer 53 Burning heap 54 "Zip it!" 57 Defeat soundly 59 Electric bill info 63 Capital on the Nile 65 Maine lake 68 Give permission for

This Date In History

Today is Wednesday, Jan. 25, the 25th day of 2017. There are 340 days left in the year. Today's Highlight in History: On Jan. 25, 1947, gangster Al Capone died in Miami Beach, Florida, at age 48. In 1533, England's King Henry VIII secretly married his second wife, Anne Boleyn, who later gave birth to Elizabeth I. In 1890, reporter Nellie Bly (Elizabeth Cochrane) of the New York World completed a round-the-world journey in 72 days, 6 hours and 11 minutes. The United Mine Workers of America was founded in Columbus, Ohio. In 1915, America's first official transcontinental telephone call took place as Alexander Graham Bell, who was in New York, spoke to his former assistant, Thomas Watson, who was in San Francisco, over a line set up by American Telephone & Telegraph. In 1924, the first Winter Olympic Games opened in Chamonix (SHAH'-moh-nee), France. In 1936, former Gov. Al Smith, D-N.Y., delivered a radio address titled "Betrayal of the Democratic Party" in which he fiercely criticized the New Deal policies of President Franklin D. Roosevelt. In 1945, the World War II Battle of the Bulge ended as German forces were pushed back to their original positions. Grand Rapids, Michigan, became the first community to add fluoride to its public water supply. In 1955, the Soviet Union formally ended its state of war with Germany. In 1961, President John F. Kennedy held the first presidential news conference to be carried live on radio and television. In 1971, Charles Manson and three women followers were convicted in Los Angeles of murder and conspiracy in the 1969 slayings of seven people, including actress Sharon Tate. Idi Amin seized power in Uganda by ousting President Milton Obote (oh-BOH'-tay) in a military coup. In 1981, the 52 Americans held hostage by Iran for 444 days arrived in the United States. In 1990, an Avianca Boeing 707 ran out of fuel and crashed in Cove Neck, Long Island, New York; 73 of the 158 people aboard were killed. Actress Ava Gardner died in London at age 67. In 1997, astrologer Jeane Dixon died in Washington, D.C. Ten years ago, Ford Motor Co. said it had lost a staggering \$12.7 billion in 2006, at that time the worst loss in the company's 103-year history. (Ford later reported a loss of \$14.6 billion for 2008.) Five years ago, U.S. military forces flew into Somalia in a nighttime helicopter raid, freeing an American and a Danish hostage and killing nine pirates. U.S. Rep. Gabrielle Giffords of Arizona returned to Congress to officially tender her resignation a year after she was shot and severely wounded in her home district. First lady Michelle Obama and Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack, along with celebrity chef Rachael Ray, announced new guidelines for more healthful school meals during a visit with elementary students in Alexandria, Virginia.

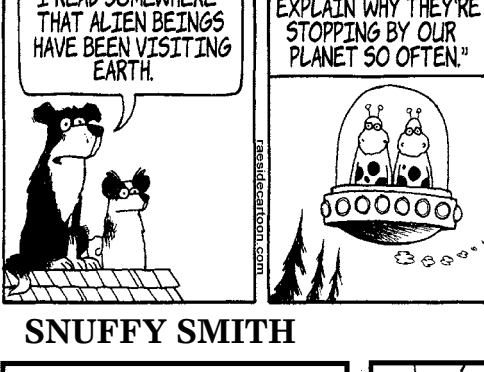
Answer to previous puzzle grid with letters and numbers.

LANDS O'LAKES by Mark McClain Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS 9 Abandon 10 Quarterback Manning 11 The Simpsons daughter 12 Where a cake bakes 13 Egg-hatching spot 18 Spitting sound 22 Border line 25 Dash entrant 26 Greenish blue 28 Vegan's avoidance 29 Clever people 30 Brainstorm 31 Surly server's "reward" 32 Wesson's firearms partner 33 Author Jong 37 __ B'rith 38 Show boredom 40 Swelled heads 42 Letters meaning "Now!" 45 Barely losing 49 Cracker debris 50 Factual 51 Filmed again 54 Shady scheme 55 __ and hearty (robust) 56 Place for sledding 58 Marina occupant 60 Prefix for dynamic 61 Make progress 62 Barely defeat 64 Piglet's little pal 66 Grand __ Opy 67 Make some clothes

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers and letters.

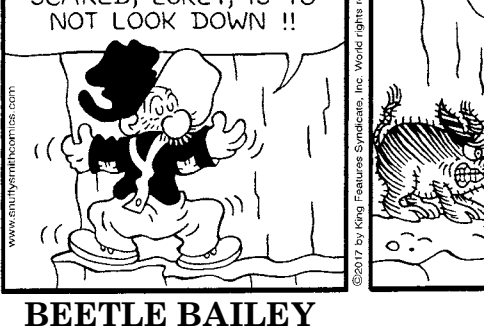
THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BEETLE BAILEY



NEWSDAY CROSSWORD

ACROSS 1 Back muscles, briefly 5 M, in Einstein's equation 9 Serious criminal 14 Govt. workplace monitor 15 Fashion magazine 16 Martini gamish 17 New York/Vermont/Quebec lake 19 Greet the day 20 Bank robbery 21 Disorderly crowds 23 Sugar-bowl invader 24 Remove from office 27 Wander around 29 New Hampshire lake 34 Vow at an altar 35 Lamb's dad 36 Hereabouts 39 Franoise's head 41 Homeric epic 43 Fey of TV 44 Former South Vietnamese capital 46 Airport screening agcy. 47 Crow's sound 48 Louisiana lake 52 Crystal-ball gazer 53 Burning heap 54 "Zip it!" 57 Defeat soundly 59 Electric bill info 63 Capital on the Nile 65 Maine lake 68 Give permission for

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SUPER

Continued from Page 7

rating against the blitz, according to Sportradar, and Ryan ranking second at 122.0. The Steelers tried to combat that by rushing three on 19 of Brady's pass attempts last week, but he completed 13 of those for 137 yards.

WATCH THE FAKE: No team ran play-action as much as Atlanta this season, doing it on 26 percent of offensive plays in the regular season, according to game-charting data from Football Outsiders. The Falcons averaged

10.4 yards per play on play-action, compared to 7.8 on other plays. New England faced the second-lowest percentage of play-action plays at 13 percent, allowing 8 yards per play, compared to 6.1 yards on other plays.

COMEBACK KIDS: Brady has led the Patriots on a game-winning, fourth-quarter drive in all four of his Super Bowl wins, rallying from 10 points down to beat Seattle two years ago, overcoming a one-point deficit against Carolina in 2004 and leading tiebreaking drives against St. Louis (2001) and Philadelphia (2005). Brady came up

short in two last-minute desperation drives in both losses to the Giants, but still has a 50-37 career record in game-winning and comeback attempts, according to Scott Kacmar of Football Outsiders. Brady has the best winning percentage among active players with at least 10 attempts, with Ryan not far behind in fourth place with a 34-37 mark.

SNEAKY TOM: Brady has been one of the best QBs at converting sneaks in his career, getting first downs on 98 of 108 (90.7 percent) runs on third or fourth-and-1 in his career, compared to a league-wide

rate of 69.8 percent in that span. After being nearly perfect (66 for 67) from 2004-12, Brady has been more ordinary of late at 21 for 28 the past four years.

BIG-PLAY THREATS: It's no surprise that Julio Jones is the NFL's most dangerous big-play receiver. His 31 catches this season of at least 20 yards lead the NFL. But he hasn't been able to match the far less heralded Chris Hogan in the postseason. Hogan has eight catches of at least 20 yards in New England's two playoff wins and needs just one more in the Super Bowl to tie Larry Fitzgerald (2008).

Big Spring Little League will hold signups for the 2017 season Friday, Jan. 23-27 from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Springtown Plaza, with the final day being Saturday, Jan. 28, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Ages 4 to 16 can play. The cost is \$90 per child and a birth certificate is required. For more information, contact Robert Smith at 432-816-8161 or Corey Wood at 432-213-0427.

SPURS

Continued from Page 7

24 games, according to NBA Stats.

"There's a couple times we've had some guys out and in the past we've always had a next-man-up mentality and guys always performed and got it done," said Danny Green. "I think we're just now getting that chemistry, guys are getting confident and starting to pick up that slack."

In a back-and-forth fourth quarter that saw eight lead changes — after just two in the preceding 36 minutes — the Spurs finally took control on a floating jump shot from rookie De-jounte Murray with 1:29 to play.

Terrence Ross shot an airball on a 3-pointer on the Raptors' next possession, and after four consecutive scoreless possessions between the teams, Aldridge had a chance to establish a

four-point lead with 11.3 seconds left on a pair of free throws, but he missed his second shot.

Norman Powell cut the lead to one with a dunk with 6.2 seconds remaining, and after Aldridge split another pair of free throws with 5.1 seconds to go, Powell missed a 3-pointer as time expired.

"Down the stretch, very honestly, it just went away," coach Gregg Popovich said. "We didn't do anything special to deserve it other than playing hard just like they did, so we're thrilled with the win."

The mood around the Raptors' locker room was somewhat less jubilant after they lost four in a row for the first time since March 4-10, 2015. With Eastern Conference All-Star starter DeMar DeRozan sidelined with a sprained ankle, Kyle Lowry had 30 points and Ross added 21 off the bench.

After falling behind

by as many as 13 points, Toronto didn't take its first lead of the game until 1:19 to go in the third quarter, and ultimately fell just short in the seesaw fourth.

"I was really proud of the way they played," coach Dwane Casey said. "It comes back to the will thing. It's not the 3-point shots or the fancy plays, it's the fundamentals: box out, free throws, layups tonight in the second half."

Despite registering his fifth 30-point game of the season, and putting in a game-high 41:45 of court time, ultimately Lowry chose to place the blame on himself for his team's current woes.

"I'm just going out there, do whatever my job is, and right now it's to go out there and try and win games, and unfortunately I'm not doing a good job of that right now," he said. "Got to figure it out, got it figure it out no matter what."

TIP-INS

Spurs: Leonard (left hand) and F Jonathon Simmons (right wrist) sat out. ... Green tied his season high with four blocked shots. He had four against Boston on Nov. 25. ... San Antonio scored 100 or more points for the 22nd consecutive game.

Raptors: DeRozan (right ankle) was inactive for the game. Following the sprain he suffered in Sunday's loss to Phoenix, the Raptors said that he will also miss Wednesday's game in Memphis before they re-evaluate the injury. ... F Jared Sullinger made his first start since April 13, 2016, when he was still with

Boston. ... After missing the last six games with a sore left knee, Patterson returned to action on Tuesday.

THE HUNGER FOR VICTORY

"You make adjustments, make substitutions, get certain groups on the court, call timeouts, yell and scream and beg and love and be crazy and then you win or you lose and then what happens? You get to go to dinner, which is sometimes the best part of the evening, with a nice glass (of wine)." — Popovich, on the ups and downs of the game of basketball.

MOVING ON UP
With his 1,126th win

Tuesday night, Popovich is now one from tying Jerry Sloan for most career wins with one NBA franchise. Casey had described Popovich as the best coach in all of sports earlier in the day, but before the game, Popovich politely disagreed.

"That's very flattering but obviously untrue," he said. "I've been around a long time and we've won some games, and if you've forgotten, I got to coach Tim Duncan. That made me look pretty good."

UP NEXT
Spurs: Visit New Orleans on Friday looking for a sixth straight win over the Pelicans.

BSHS

Continued from Page 7

against Abilene Wylie. Game time is 6 p.m.

Big Spring	21	9	11
16-57			
Snyder	5	14	3
9-31			

Big Spring scorers — Kayleigh Penny 18, Kamrey Kemper 9, Amber Martinez 8, Logan Terrazas 6, Trinity Galloway 6, Aisa Cervantes 5, Starr 3, Kasondra Williams 2.

Snyder scorers — Kirsti Pierce 11, Allegra Escobedo 7, Michelle Rios 5, Jordan Phillips 4, Natalee James 2, Nicole Martinez 2.

BOYS

Snyder proved it could protect fourth-quarter leads and jumped back into the District 5-4A basketball race by defeating Big Spring 55-44 at Tiger Gym Tuesday.

The Tigers (6-21, 1-3) held leads at Sweetwater and Brownwood at home during the fourth quarter. Big Spring (3-20, 1-2) pulled within 12

points with two minutes left, but never closer.

Depending on results from Friday's games, Snyder could move into a three-way tie for third place at the end of the district's first half. Big Spring hosts Wylie while Brownwood will host Sweetwater.

Nathan Kendrick led Snyder with 16 points. Alonzo Wesley had 14 points. All eight players scored against the Steers.

Jeremiah Rushin scored 13 points for Big Spring. C.J. Harris and Zephaniah Nelson each had eight points.

Alonso Wesley made two 3-pointers and Cowley had a 3-pointer in leading the Tigers to an 11-5 first-quarter lead.

The Tigers held Big Spring to one basket and one free throw during the second quarter. Snyder led 13-8 before finishing the quarter on a 16-0 scoring run for the

29-8 halftime lead.

Big Spring outscored the Tigers 13-7 during the third quarter and trailed 36-21 going into the fourth quarter.

Big Spring scorers — Jeremiah Rushin 13, C.J. Harris 8, Zephaniah Nelson 8, Abel Clark 7, Javone Ford 5, Dimas Garcia 3.

Snyder scorers — Nathan Kendrick 16, Alonzo Wesley 14, Kalen Cowley 6, Logan Greene 5, Cedrick Quiroz 4, Chris Dickinson 4, Trey Samaniego 3, Barron Wesley 3.

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News in brief

Congressional Republicans gather in Philly to plot course

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Congressional Republicans are heading to Philadelphia where they will hear from President Donald Trump at their annual policy retreat.

The joint gathering of House and Senate Republicans comes as Trump's presidency gets off to a rocky start. Republicans hope to come together and chart a course forward on a range of policy issues, particularly repealing and replacing former President Barack Obama's health care law.

Lawmakers will also hear from British Prime Minister Theresa May, the first time a foreign head of state has addressed such a gathering. And football star Peyton Manning will appear.

The two-day conclave of work sessions, speeches and schmoozing gets under way Wednesday, with

the high point coming Thursday with Trump's lunchtime speech. Lawmakers hope the gathering will help solidify their agenda for the year.

Officer suspended for excessive force had 8 commendations

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP) — A white North Texas police officer suspended without pay for 10 days after wrestling a black woman and her daughter to the ground has numerous commendations in his personnel file for actions taken in the course of his duties.

The Fort Worth Police Department released records for Officer William Martin Tuesday night in response to a request by The Associated Press under the state Public Information Act. They include eight commendations in 10 years' service.

Martin had been suspended after the Dec. 21 incident captured on video that went viral on the internet. Jacqueline Craig and Martin had a tense conversation before he can be seen wrestling her to the ground. She was charged with resisting arrest and failure to identify a fugitive from justice.

Minnesota Gov. Mark Dayton says he has prostate cancer

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP) — Minnesota Gov. Mark Dayton announced Tuesday that he has prostate cancer, revealing the diagnosis hours after collapsing while delivering his State of the State address the night before.

The 69-year-old Dem-

ocratic governor said he plans to finish the final two years of his term, during which he faces a unified GOP front after Republicans took control of the Senate and strengthened their House majority in November.

Asked whether he still felt up to the job, Dayton said: "I think I am. If I don't, I won't continue."

Dayton underwent tests Tuesday at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester to determine what caused the collapse. In a statement Tuesday evening, Clinic spokesman Karl Oestreich said the governor's fall was not related to the cancer diagnosis.

"Mayo Clinic believes this episode was situational and related to standing for a long time while giving his speech and possible dehydration," Oestreich said. Dayton was encouraged to stay hydrated. The governor will return to Mayo next week to determine treatment for the prostate cancer.

"I take it very seriously. I have an obligation to all of the people of Minnesota," he said.

'1984' sales soar after Trump claims, 'alternative facts'

NEW YORK (AP) — After incorrect or unprovable statements made by Republican President Donald Trump and some White House aides, one truth is undeniable: Sales of George Orwell's "1984" are soaring.

First published in 1949, Orwell's classic dystopian tale of a society in which facts are distorted and suppressed in a cloud of "newspeak" topped the best-seller list of Amazon.com as of Tuesday evening. The sales bump comes after the Trump administration's assertions his inauguration had record attendance and his unfounded allegation that millions of illegal votes were cast against him last fall.

Trump adviser Kellyanne Conway coined an instant catchphrase Sunday when she called his claims about crowd size "alternative facts," bringing comparisons on social media to "1984."

Orwell's book isn't the only cautionary tale on the Amazon list. Sinclair Lewis' 1935 novel about the election of an authoritarian president, "It Can't Happen Here," was at No. 46. Aldous Huxley's "Brave New World" was at No. 71. Sales also were up for Hannah Arendt's seminal nonfiction analysis "The Origins of Totalitarianism."

ATTACK

Continued from Page 4

terrorist group and researched travel to the Middle East to join Islamic State fighters, prosecutors have said.

Kareem also inquired about explosives to blow up the Arizona stadium where the 2015 Super Bowl was held, but later set his sights on the cartoon contest after the stadium plan fell through, the prosecutors said.

The verdicts against Kareem 10 months ago marked the second conviction of someone within the United States on charges of supporting the Islamic State.

Kareem was convicted of conspiring to support a foreign terrorist

organization, interstate transportation of firearms and other charges.

His brother has said Kareem was a Muslim throughout his adulthood, but that his faith deepened over the last five years after he was jailed on a drunken driving conviction.

His friends, Elton Simpson and Nadir Soofi, were killed in the May 2015 police shootout outside the cartoon contest in Garland, Texas. A security guard was wounded, but no one else was injured. The contest featured cartoons that are offensive to Muslims.

It is unknown whether the Texas attack was inspired by the Islamic State or carried out in response to an order from the group.

Kareem testified at his trial that he did not know his friends were going to attack the contest and did not find out about the attack until after Simpson and Soofi were killed.

Kareem told jurors that he evicted Simpson from his home because he believed Simpson was putting tracking devices in his car. He also said he strongly disapproved of Simpson using Kareem's laptop to watch al-Qaida promotional materials.

Prosecutors said Kareem tried to carry out an insurance scam to fund a conspiracy to support the Islamic State group and attempted to indoctrinate two teenage boys in his neighborhood on radical jihadism.



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