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# BIG SPRING HERALD

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2017

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## Last day for Chamber banquet tickets

**By LYNDEL MOODY**  
 Staff Writer

The deadline to purchase tickets for the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce annual banquet is at 5 p.m. today.

This year's theme is Mardi Gras. To help enhance the festive atmosphere, the

members of Jazz Café will be performing a number of jazz style pieces.

The West Texas band was founded in Odessa. Band founder Pano Mata was born and raised there.

Mata has an extensive background in public school musical education. He spent 10 years as a head band director

in West Texas before leaving to join the fundraising industry.

Since then, Pano has had the time to perform jazz music. He has performed with Joe Posada, Lanny Morgan, Clark Terry, Midland-Odessa Symphony, Amarillo Symphony, and the San Angelo Symphony.

Rounding out the Jazz Café members are Dan Ferguson, Albert Madrid, and Josh Goates.

The annual Chamber banquet will be held Tuesday on the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum floor.

Outgoing Chamber President Adrian Calvio will present an overview of all the

chamber accomplishments of the past year and incoming Chamber President Andrea Barr will speak on the the organization's goals for the upcoming year.

A highlight of the annual banquet is the Big Spring Area Chamber's Man and

See **CHAMBER**, Page 3

## Run 2 Love 2 Run

5K race to benefit CASA of West Texas

**By AMANDA ELSTON**  
 Managing Editor

For all of those in love, and for all of those who just love to run, Permian Basin Events is hosting their annual Run 2 Love 2 Run 5K this month. The Valentine's Day themed run/walk, scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 11 at the Big Spring State Park, will benefit the Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of West Texas.

"This is the second time we have done this for CASA," said Cherise Felty, event organizer. "We usually have some purpose we do for each race."

See **RACE**, Page 3

## TxDOT making signal upgrades



TxDOT crews are upgrading the signal cameras Tuesday and today. These upgrades will allow the signal shop at the TxDOT headquarters in Abilene to diagnose problems and make adjustments to the signals remotely, according to Mary Belle Turner, TxDOT spokesperson for the Abilene office. This work should be wrapped up today, she added.

HERALD photo/Lyndel Moody

## State settles Western Union for \$5 million

**Special to the Herald**

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton announced Tuesday a \$5 million settlement with Western Union to protect consumers from wire fraud scams.

The deal, which involves 49 states and the District of Columbia, resolves an investigation into complaints by people who used Western Union's wire transfer service to send money to third parties who were involved in schemes to defraud them.

In addition to the settlement with the states, Western Union agreed to pay \$586 million to a fund that the U.S. Department of Justice will administer to provide refunds to wire fraud victims nationwide, including approximately 39,000 consumers in Texas.

"This settlement serves as a cautionary tale that scam artists are always looking for new ways to fool people into wiring them money, including schemes purportedly involving family members, romantic interests, lotteries and contests," Attorney General Paxton said. "Western Union has agreed to

See **SETTLE**, Page 3

## Texas governor echoes Trump with 'sanctuary city' crackdown

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Texas Gov. Greg Abbott on Tuesday embraced President Donald Trump's proposed crackdowns on so-called "sanctuary cities" but didn't mention the president's recent order for a partial immigration ban as Muslim leaders and hundreds of supporters rallied outside the Capitol.

The "Texas Muslim Capitol Day" event was scheduled months ago but took on a more defiant tone — and attracted much larger turnout than usual — after Trump last week banned immigrants from seven Muslim-majority nations from traveling to the U.S. The event's organizers said they brought private security with them for the first time because of heightened political tensions, but only a few protesters showed up to greet them.

At the same event in 2015, one Republican legislator instructed her staff to ask Muslims visiting her office to take a loyalty pledge to the U.S.

No Republicans spoke at the rally, and Democrats criticized Abbott for not using the spotlight of his State of the State address to say where he stands on Trump's immigration ban. Abbott also didn't mention Trump's plan to build a wall along the border of Mexico.

"The new administration in Washington has shown the potential to finally secure the border," Abbott said. "But as (former University of Texas football coach) Darrell Royal said: 'Potential just means you ain't done it yet.'"

Opposition to sanctuary cities is one area where Abbott and Trump clearly see eye-to-eye. Abbott instructed lawmakers to send him a bill by June that punishes local governments that don't cooperate with federal immigration authorities.

A Texas crackdown could be even tougher than Trump's: Abbott wants to not only withhold taxpayer money to cities that don't arrest or detain immigrants in the country illegally, but also the power to remove locally elected officials from office if they don't comply.

"To protect Texans from deadly danger, we must insist that laws be followed," Abbott said.

Travis County Sheriff Sally Hernandez, who runs the jails in the state capital of Austin, the state's most liberal city, plans to stop honoring all federal immigration detainers on Wednesday and only comply with holds for murder, aggravated sexual assault and human trafficking. Abbott says he is immediately cutting off grant funds that totaled \$1.8 million last year and has asked state agencies for a list of other state dollars sent to the county, one of the biggest in Texas.

See **CRACKDOWN**, Page 3



Abbott

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## Obituaries

## Hollis Kennemer



Hollis Kennemer, 85, of Luther passed away Saturday, Jan. 28, 2017, at his residence.

The family will receive friends from 6 p.m. until 7 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 1, 2017, at Myers and Smith Funeral Home. Funeral service will be at 11 a.m. Thursday at Myers and Smith Chapel. Burial with military honors will follow at Trinity Memorial Park.

Hollis was born Dec. 16, 1931, to Stella McCarty Kennemer and Elmer Kennemer in Brookshire, Runnels County. He has been a resident of Howard County for over 55 years. He married June Boatler in October 1955 and she preceded him in death on Feb. 20, 2006. He was a veteran of the United States Army serving in Korea. He was discharged in 1954. He was a Fina distributor from 1962 until 1976. He also farmed at Ackerly until 2006. He enjoyed fishing, hunting and passing the

time visiting and entertaining people. His greatest love was his family, especially the grandchildren.

Hollis is survived by two sons, Edward Kennemer of Luther, and Mark Kennemer and wife Patricia of Ackerly; four grandchildren, Chad Kennemer and wife Meagan of Midland, April Kennemer of Lamesa, Audra Leonard and husband Ben of Midland, and Meredith Warren of Bend, Ore.; three brothers, Truman Kennemer and wife Linda, Clyde Kennemer and wife Betty, and Aubrey Kennemer and wife Paula, all of San Angelo; four great-grandchildren, Jace DeLong and Jackson DeLong of Lamesa, and Charlee Leonard and Foster Kennemer, both of Midland; and several nieces and nephews.

In addition to his parents and wife, Hollis was preceded in death by one brother, David Kennemer.

Pallbearers will be Junior Alexander, Cade Peterson, Bill Shock, Roddy Cathey, Andy Anderson, and Eugene Clanton.

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

*Paid obituary*

## John Alton "Big John" Moseley

John Alton "Big John" Moseley, 63, of Big Spring, Texas, passed from this earthly life to his eternal reward in Christ on Sunday, Jan. 29, 2017, in Big Spring.

John was born June 27, 1953, in Denton, Texas, to Billy Richard and Wilma Jeane Smith Moseley. He graduated from Paris High School in 1971 and Paris Junior College in 1973. He also attended The University of Texas of the Permian Basin.

John had a long career as a journalist starting as a reporter for the Paris News and then as the sports editor. He also served as editor of the Clarksville Times and the Mount Pleasant Daily Tribune. John moved to Big Spring in 1993 when he was hired as the sports editor of the Big Spring Herald. He later became the managing editor until 2011. John fell in love with the people of Big Spring and called it home, although he remained fiercely proud of his Paris roots.

John was an active member of Narcotics Anony-

mous since the program saved his life on Sept. 8, 1992. He was extremely proud of his involvement in its spiritual program, and gave freely of his time to express his gratitude for the gift of recovery he'd been given. He served in many capacities, including multiple local groups, as well as on the area and regional levels. John possessed a great love for the Statewide Quarterly Texas Unity Convention and served several terms on the service body, as well as being a regular attendee for more than 20 years. He was greatly loved by his NA family and is survived in the rooms by his sponsorship family and the many members whose lives he had touched. He will be honored with an Infinity Medallion at Lake Whitney on Saturday, Feb. 18.

John was preceded in death by his father, Bill. He is survived by his daughter, Jennifer Dungan-Moseley of Oakland, Calif.; his mother Jeane of Denton; his brother and sister-in-law, Mark and Debbie of Denton; brother, Keith of Justin; nephews Taylor and John Paul Moseley of Denton; niece Lorrie Winget and husband Tracey of Minden, La.; and nephew Austin Moseley of Tyler.

*Paid obituary*

## Jose "Pepe" Castillo



Jose "Pepe" Castillo, 85, of Midland died Monday, Jan. 30, 2017.

Viewing will be from 8 p.m. to 9 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 1, 2017, at Nalley-Pickle and Welch Funeral Home in Big Spring. Vigil/rosary services will be at 7 p.m. Wednesday at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel in Big Spring. Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 2, 2017, at Holy Trinity Catholic Parish in

Big Spring. Burial will follow at Mt. Olive Memorial Park in Big Spring.

He was a member of San Juan Catholic Church in Midland. Jose was an Army veteran of the Korean War and was awarded the Bronze Star. He was a member of the Democratic Party and a Christian.

Survivors include his wife, Dora Castillo; one son, Joe Castillo Jr. and wife Kathy; four daughters, Rosa Sotelo and husband Pete, Carol Subia

and husband Rudy, and Tina De La Rosa and husband Marcos, all of Midland, and Janie Valdez of Waco; one brother, Jesus Castillo of Midland; five sisters, Mary Carrasco of Lockhart, and Juanita Galindo, Emalia Navarrete, Maria Elena Ochoa, and Rosa Enriquez, all of Midland; 16 grandchildren; 38 great-grandchildren; and 5 great-great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Pedro and Maria Marquez Castillo; an infant daughter, Maria Castillo; one brother, Florencio "Roy" Castillo; and one sister, Socorro Ruiz.

The family wishes to thank the staff at Lamun-Lusk-Sanchez Texas State Veterans Home for the care given our husband and father. In lieu of flowers the family suggests memorials to Lamun-Lusk-Sanchez Texas State Veterans Home, 1809 N. Hwy 87, Big Spring, Texas, 79720.

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

## Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity:

- **MELVIN WILLIAM BIDDLE**, 54, of 1004 E. 13th St. was arrested on an outstanding warrant.
- **ROBERT GUADALUPE SANCHEZ**, 29, of 130 E. Merritt St. in Prescott, Ariz., was arrested on a charge of public intoxication.
- **JORDAN KEVIN LUKE GEORGE**, 19, of 3601 Faudree Rd. Apt. #0513 in Odessa was arrested on a charge of theft of property

- (\$100 to \$750)/shoplifting.
- **ROBERT WAYNE ADAMS**, 73, of 2151 Madison Ave. in Montgomery, Ala., was arrested on warrants for theft of property (less than \$100) and failure to appear.
- **GERARDO PINA**, 32, of 1700 N. FM 700 was arrested on warrants for failure to maintain financial responsibility and speeding.
- **DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE** was reported in the 1000 block of E. 13th Street.
- **DISTURBANCE** was re-

- ported in the 1000 block of North Main Street and the 900 block of North Lamesa Highway.
- **CRIMINAL MISCHIEF** was reported in the 3300 block of East Interstate 20.
- **THEFT** was reported in the 500 block of East Third Street and the 200 block of West Marcy.
- **STOLEN VEHICLE** was reported in the 1300 block of Mt. Vernon Avenue.
- **MINOR ACCIDENT** was reported in the 1000 block of North Lamesa Highway.

## 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.
- **ROBERT WAYNE ADAMS**, 73, was booked by BSPD on warrants for theft of property (less than \$100) and failure to appear.
- **MELVIN WILLIAM BIDDLE**, 54, was booked by BSPD on a warrant for possession of marijuana (less than 2 oz.).
- **JORDAN KEVIN GEORGE**, 19, was booked by BSPD on a charge of theft of property (\$100 to \$750)/shoplifting.
- **KEVIN MICHAEL KUZMICH**, 37, was booked by HCSO on a warrant for theft (less than \$500).
- **ASHLEY RAE MIRAMONTES**, 22, was booked by HCSO on a motion to revoke probation for theft of property (\$50 to \$500).
- **GERARDO HERNANDEZ PINA**, 32, was booked by HCSO on warrants for failure to maintain financial responsibility and speeding.
- **ROBERT SANCHEZ**, 29, was booked by BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.

## Fire/EMS

Big Spring Fire Department/EMS reported the following activity:

- **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 500 block of Westover Road. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.
- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 1000 block of North Main Street. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.
- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 300 block of Veteran's Boulevard. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.
- **TRAFFIC ACCIDENT** was reported near mile marker 177 on Interstate 20.
- **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 700 block of East 11th Place.
- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 700 block of South Gregg Street. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.
- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 1400 block of Runnels. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.
- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 2500 block of Larry. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.
- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 2100 block of Morrison. One person was transported to Scenic

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## 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.

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### Canada shooting victim dreamed of water for Guinea village

CONAKRY, Guinea (AP) — Relatives of a Guinea man killed in this week's shooting at a mosque in Canada say he was working on a project to bring drinking water to his home village at the time of his death.

Alpha Barry, an uncle of victim Mamadou Tanou Barry, says the 42-year-old accountant frequently sent financial and other aid to relatives in this West African nation while caring for two children of his own in Canada.

On Sunday night, he was among six people killed in the attack on the Quebec Islamic Culture Centre. Another Guinean, Ibrahim Barry, was also among the dead.

Alpha Barry says the unfinished water project involved installing a 100-meter-deep well in his remote village outside Labe, Guinea's second-largest city located hundreds of kilometers (miles) inland from the capital, Conakry.

### EU, Mexico to speed up trade talks amid Trump fallout

BRUSSELS (AP) — The European Union said Wednesday that it will speed up talks with Mexico on a new trade agreement amid signals from U.S. President Donald Trump that he intends to renegotiate major international trade pacts including one with Mexico.

EU and Mexico trade chiefs have agreed to hold negotiations on April 3-7 and June 26-29. They will also meet between rounds to push for further progress.

EU Trade Commissioner Cecilia Malmstrom and Mexican Economy Minister Ildefonso Guajardo said in a statement that "we are witnessing the worrying rise of protectionism around the world. Side by side, as like-minded partners, we must now stand up for the idea of global, open cooperation."

Trade between the two more than doubled between 2005 and 2015 from 26 billion euros to 53 billion euros (\$28 billion-\$57 billion), but their current trade pact dates from 2000.

In Brussels, top EU officials have also expressed concern that the policies of the new U.S. administration will undermine relations between Europe and the United States.

"We follow with growing anxiety

how the recent, and the announced steps, would affect the strategic trans-Atlantic relationship," European Commission Vice-President Maros Sefcovic told reporters after a meeting of the EU executive's top policy officials.

He said the EU has "never been so overwhelmed by calls from around the world" to show leadership on free and open trade, climate talks and development aid.

"I am convinced that the U.S. never had a better ally than a united Europe. We should treasure this relationship and not forget about it," Sefcovic said.

### South African protesters say EU is dumping low-cost chickens

PRETORIA, South Africa (AP) — Workers and managers in South Africa's chicken industry have marched to the office of the European Union delegation, alleging their livelihoods are in jeopardy because of allegedly illegal dumping of EU chicken meat in the local market.

The protest in Pretoria on Wednesday follows plans by RCL Foods and

other chicken producers to cut several thousand jobs, citing the impact of low-cost chickens from Europe. Protesters want the South African government to impose tariffs on chicken imports from Europe to help protect the local industry.

EU trade officials deny any dumping, saying EU imports are legal.

### Pennsylvania mayor accused of disturbing graves

SHAMOKIN, Pa. (AP) — Authorities have accused a Pennsylvania mayor of disturbing 14 graves with the construction of a cellphone tower in the cemetery where he serves as board president.

Investigators say Shamokin Mayor Bill Milbrand allowed a construction crew to build the tower over the graves.

The mayor has denied the charges and said he had little involvement in directing the project, which he says will generate money for the upkeep of the cemetery. Some of the graves date to 1919. Milbrand tells The Associated Press on Wednesday that he can't comment until he speaks to a lawyer.

## CHAMBER

Continued from Page 1

Women of the Year announcement, recognizing individuals who are making positive changes to the community every day, ValVerde said.

Also at this banquet, the chamber will be presenting the Russ McEwen Community Hero award.

Tickets are \$30 each and can be purchased by visiting the Chamber office at 215 West Third or by calling 432-263-7641.

The annual banquet is sponsored by Alon USA, Big Spring Convention and Visitor's Bureau, GEO Prisons, H-E-B, Oncor, SM Energy, Scenic Mountain Medical Center, State National Bank, WalMart, Water Water, Wells Fargo Bank, Star Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram, and All Washed Up.

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

## SETTLE

Continued from Page 1

establish an anti-fraud program, which should help ensure consumers can safely wire funds and avoid being ripped off by crooks."

Anti-fraud measures Western Union agreed to in the settlement include:

- Anti-fraud warnings on forms that consumers use to wire money;
- Mandatory and appropriate training and education for Western Union's agents about

fraud induced wire transfers;

Heightened anti-fraud procedures when warranted by circumstances such as increased fraud complaints; Due diligence checks on Western Union agents who process money transfers; Monitoring of Western Union agent activity related to prevention of fraud-induced money transfers; and Prompt and appropriate disciplinary action against Western Union agents who fail to follow required protocols con-

cerning anti-fraud measures.

In addition to Texas, the following participated in the settlement: Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio,

Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming, and the District of Columbia.

## RACE

Continued from Page 1

We donate to a lot of different causes...CASA will actually be out there. They will have a table set up and handing out candy (Hershey's Kisses.)

Felty encouraged experienced runners and casual walkers alike to come out and enjoy the event.

"It is totally fine to walk," said Felty. "We have a lot of people that do that. It's not just for couples. A lot of people come out as a family like mothers and daugh-

ters, sons and dads...it is very family friendly."

For runners interested in racing, prizes will be given for 1st-3<sup>rd</sup> place in the categories of male/female, age group, and couples. For those just interested in celebrating Cupid's favorite holiday, prizes will be given for best Valentine's Day themed costume as well.

"Our prizes are going to be different types of stuffed animals," said Felty. "We have prizes for best costume and best time in different categories."

According to Felty, the 5K starts near the

state park and will be timed. Each participant will receive a bib in order to find out their race time.

"We have a display on the outside of our trailer that shows what everyone's time was when they finish so they can go over there and look," said Felty.

Run 2 Love 2 Run is the first race of the year for Permian Basin Events.

"It's a lot of fun. We do a lot of races," said Felty. "We do this and we do Master the Mountain and the Moonlight Runs. We also do the Kids Triathlon and the

Comanche Warrior Triathlon. This kind of kicks it off."

To register for the Run 2 Love 2 Run 5K, participants are encouraged to register ahead of time online at permianbasinevents.com. Participants can also register the morning of the race at 9 a.m. at the starting line.

"Because it is at the state park, they will close the gates after 9 a.m., so they need to come before that," said Felty. "It's always cheaper to register online and they are guaranteed a shirt if they register ahead of time.

Sometimes we run out of those."

Run 2 Love 2 Run 5K beings at 10 a.m. at the Big Spring State Park on Saturday, Feb. 11. For more information, go to permianbasinevents.com.

"We just want people to know that it's for everyone," said Felty. "You don't have to be a runner. Some people run part of it and walk part of it and that is fine too. It's fun and a way to get started if you're starting on your fitness priorities."

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Addie Peterson, 102, died Thursday. Funeral service was held today at 11:00 AM at First Baptist Church. Interment followed at Mount Olive Memorial Park.

Hollis Kennemer, 85, died Saturday. The family will receive friends from 6:00 PM until 7:00 PM this evening at Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Funeral service will be at 11:00 AM Thursday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Burial with Military Honors will follow at Trinity Memorial Park.

Visitation for James Weaver will be held at 10:00 AM Friday, February 3, 2017 at Myers & Smith Chapel.

Memorial Celebration for Greg Bodin will be held on Saturday from 2:00 PM until 3:00 at the Heritage Museum.

## CRACKDOWN

Continued from Page 1

Democratic Rep. Ana Hernandez accused Abbott of having "chosen to side against local law enforcement by supporting policies that will tear apart Texas families."

Abbott also wants no cutbacks to Texas' \$800 million border security operation despite lawmakers facing a cash crunch in the wake of the oil bust and Trump's promises to lock down the U.S.-Mexico border. Abbott said he would travel to the border on Wednesday to meet with new Homeland Security Secretary John Kelly.

Outside the Capitol, the scene was peaceful as hundreds of supporters cheered and waved signs that read, "Hate Has No Home Here" and "We Stand With Our Muslim Neighbors." Unlike two years ago when hecklers interrupted the rally, so-called

"peace observers" from an assortment of nonprofits and interfaith groups formed a massive circle to prevent the few protesters that were present from interfering.

Mustaafa Carroll, executive director of the Houston chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations, said organizers of the "Muslim Day" event had hired guards this time because "they're very aware of what's going on" in the current climate.

"While I am troubled by the turmoil, I am heartened by the resistance. There is discord in the country, but it is a discord born of patriotism and love of country," Democratic state Rep. Celia Israel told the crowd.

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# New development in store for Austin's South Congress Avenue

By SHONDA NOVAK  
and LORI HAWKINS

Austin American-Statesman

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Dramatic changes are coming to South Congress Avenue, setting up a transformation that some Austinites say threatens the funky fabric of one of the city's best-known destinations.

The Austin American-Statesman reports a wave of upscale shops, restaurants, offices and boutique hotels is headed to the area — displacing some of the homegrown businesses that many patrons and merchants say have given South Congress the eclectic character that has become synonymous with the city's identity.

The new development is being driven by market forces that include rising property values and higher rents as the area has grown ever more popular with tourists.

Two mixed-use projects and two high-end hotels are among the planned projects that signal more change for a street that within a few decades has transformed from a seedy red-light

district into a mix of mostly local shops, music venues, hotels and restaurants that have helped give Austin its "weird" vibe.

The next stage of evolution is raising questions about whether South Congress can stay true to its roots or whether it will morph into a homogeneous row of high-end national chains.

Numerous mom-and-pop businesses have come and gone since 2000 as rents have continued to rise and developers have bought up properties to build new, pricier projects.

"The whole feel of that street is definitely changing," said Steve Wertheimer, owner of the Continental Club, a landmark music venue on South Congress for decades. "I hear a sucking sound every day with the soul being slowly drained out of this area. The local folks, who made this street so attractive by breathing new life back in the area, are having a difficult time remaining here. Increasing rents and taxes, along with (parking issues) are taking a toll on merchants' bottom lines and their livelihoods."

See AUSTIN, Page 5



Deborah Cannon/Austin American-Statesman via AP/Austin American-Statesman via AP  
A Wednesday, Jan. 11, 2017 photo shows a view of South Congress Avenue in Austin, Texas. Dramatic changes are coming to South Congress Avenue, setting up a transformation that some Austinites say threatens the funky fabric of one of the city's best-known destinations. A wave of upscale shops, restaurants, offices and boutique hotels is headed to the area — displacing some of the homegrown businesses that many patrons and merchants say have given South Congress the eclectic character that has become synonymous with the city's identity.



AP Photo/Mary Altaffer, File

In this June 25, 2016 file photo, Cub Scouts watch a race during the Second Annual World Championship Pinewood Derby in New York's Times Square.

## Boy Scouts allows transgender kids into boys-only programs

By CLAUDIA LAUER  
Associated Press

DALLAS (AP) — A New Jersey woman whose son was asked to leave his Boy Scouts troop after leaders found out he is transgender said she has mixed emotions about the organization's decision to allow transgender children who identify as boys to enroll in its boys-only programs.

The Boy Scouts of America announced Monday that enrollment in its boys-only programs will now be based on the gender a child or parent lists on his application to become a scout, rather than the gender listed on the child's birth certificate.

Eight-year-old Joe Maldonado was asked to leave his scout troop in Secaucus, New Jersey, last fall after parents and leaders found out he is transgender. The organization's statement did not specifically mention Joe's case, but said it changed the policy because of the larger conversation about gender identity taking place around the country.

"For more than 100 years, the Boy Scouts of America, along with schools, youth sports and other youth organizations, have ultimately deferred to the information on an individual's birth certificate to determine eligibility for our single-gender programs," the statement

said. "However, that approach is no longer sufficient as communities and state laws are interpreting gender identity differently, and these laws vary widely from state to state."

Kristie Maldonado, Joe's mother, said she had mixed emotions Monday night when a Boy Scouts representative called to tell her the organization would allow her son to re-enroll in his troop. Maldonado said she would like her son to rejoin the Secaucus troop, but only if the scout leader who threw him out of the troop leaves.

She said Joe, who will turn 9 on Wednesday, has spoken

See SCOUTS, Page 5

## Texas mulls changing science standards questioning evolution

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — The Texas Board of Education is hearing arguments over changing state science curricula that critics say are designed to challenge the theory of evolution and leave students wondering whether a higher power created the universe.

After Tuesday's public hearing, the board will hold preliminary votes later this week on whether to alter classroom standards in place since 2009. Texas is a large textbook market, so what it teaches can influence content nationwide.

A committee of science teachers and academics wants the Republican-controlled board to scrap requiring high school students to consider "all sides" of scientific theories such as evolution. Those opposing the standards say they let religious ideology take precedence over science.

Supporters counter that the curriculum encourages critical thinking. It's endured despite past federal court rulings opposing teaching creationism.

## Texas truck driver accused in fatal Oklahoma wreck kills self

DALLAS (AP) — A Texas truck driver accused of causing a 2014 crash in Oklahoma that killed four college softball players has died by suicide at his home.

The prosecutor in the Oklahoma case, Murray County District Attorney Craig Ladd, confirmed to The Oklahoman that 55-year-old Russell Staley died just days before a scheduled court hearing.

Tarrant County medical examiner's office records show Staley died Friday of a gunshot wound at his home north of Fort Worth, Texas.

Staley was scheduled for trial in March on four counts of manslaughter in the deaths of the softball players from North Central Texas College.

The Oklahoma Highway Patrol determined Staley lost control of his semitrailer on Interstate 35 near Davis, Oklahoma, crossed the center line and crashed into the team's bus.

## Texas jailers charged with selling drugs to county inmates

GATESVILLE, Texas (AP) — Two jail guards for a sheriff's office near Waco have been arrested on charges they sold drugs to county inmates.

The Killeen Daily Herald reports 25-year-old Kevin Arzate and 34-year-old Paul Robert Picetti each was charged with delivery of a controlled substance.

Authorities say the arrests of the men, who worked for the Coryell County sheriff's office, came after an undercover operation into the sale of illegal contraband.

The sheriff's office was joined by the Texas Rangers in the investigation. Both men were arrested last week.

Coryell County online jail records show Arzate and Picetti are no longer being held.

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**AUSTIN**

Continued from Page 4

Those concerns are shared by Jimmy Haddox and Eric Massey, who opened Wet Salon on South Congress 17 years ago. Soon, it will be torn down to make way for a mixed-use project. Haddox said Wet will move to another site farther south on Congress.

The investors setting their sights on the area, Haddox said, “will lose the funky and fun integrity of South Congress once they drive the small businesses out.”

Inez Escamilla owns Ignite Fitnez, a fitness center on South Congress that, along with several other businesses, is being displaced by a planned mixed-use project.

“I just feel like everything that has made Congress hip and funky is going to be gone,” said Escamilla, who will move her gym to a new project being built on St. Elmo Road south of Ben White Boulevard.

The ongoing wave of change on South Congress is just the latest evolution for the avenue.

During the 1920s and 1930s, South Congress was a major highway into Austin, and the thoroughfare became home to dozens of tourist stops, diners and service stations.

In the 1960s, many of the motor courts closed or fell into disrepair. By the mid-1980s — when Guero’s Taco Bar was still a feed store and the now swank Hotel San José was a run-down flophouse — prostitutes and drug dealers were as likely to stroll the avenue as shoppers. There was even an adult movie theater into the 1990s.

If the 1980s were a low point for the avenue, the 1990s marked the beginning of its renaissance. Secondhand stores and vintage shops moved in, drawn by affordable rent, and the area became a magnet for out-of-towners in search of the Austin experience.

In recent years, the transformation continued, with shopping and dining becoming more upscale, boutique hotels opening and trendy national retailers moving in.

Today, the district has something for everyone: The Continental Club, one of the city’s top live music venues; casual and fine dining; high-end fashion and jewelry stores; vintage apparel; antiques and rare books; a soda fountain and old-time confections; novelty toys; folk art and curios from around the globe. You’ll also find a store with every costume imaginable, from the Addams family to Zorro.

Now, an influx of planned projects will further expand the avenue’s offerings. The list includes:

- A mixed-use project including retail, office and restaurant space on South Congress just north of Academy Drive. Several local businesses, including Doc’s Motorworks and Wet Salon, will be torn down to make way for the development. A number of the businesses, including Wet, Texas National Outfitters, Ignite Fitnez and Parts & Labour, have already found new homes on South Congress or elsewhere.

- Saint Vincent, a new three-story project with shops and offices at the former St. Vincent de Paul thrift shop site at South Congress Avenue and East Gibson Street.

- Kimber Modern, a 34-room hotel that will include retail, event space and parking, being developed on Elizabeth Street, behind Guero’s Taco Bar. Rob Lippincott, who co-owns Guero’s, also owns the hotel site.

- Hotel Magdalena, an upscale 89-room hotel at Academy Drive and Music Lane, which will include a restaurant, bar and event space. It’s

being launched by hotelier Liz Lambert, who also operates the nearby Hotel San José, Hotel St. Cecilia and the Austin Motel.

Lambert says she wonders about the future of South Congress.

“I don’t know if the block will be able to retain the unique identity it has had until now, I don’t think anyone does,” said Lambert, who also owns the neighboring Jo’s Coffee known for its “i love you so much” mural. “It’s also possible that its identity evolves in a good way. I don’t think change is inherently bad.”

“Obviously some of the future is determined by the real estate market, and that concerns people because we don’t always know who the new people are who are coming in,” Lambert said. “Coming from a company that’s been in this area for close to two decades, I think the most important thing we can do is talk about change, to explore what elements of it are inevitable and what elements we can influence.”

As the South Congress area has gentrified, it has become more expensive to own or rent commercial property there.

Rising rents are leading to departures of some longtime residents, including Hill Country Weavers, a yarn and fiber arts shop that occupied two bungalows at South Congress and East Milton Street for 22 years.

“The building sold, and my rent was going to triple,” said owner Suzanne Middlebrooks, who recently moved the business to a larger space on Manchaca Road. “I love South Congress — it’s a very creative, inspiring place. But as the rents go up as they are, you need some deep pockets to make sense of it. It’s really hard for a small local business to make it work.”

Matt Green, a local developer, said some rents in the area are topping \$60 per square foot. Green, managing partner in Austin for the Kor Group, is developing the planned Saint Vincent mixed-use project on South Congress.

Wertheimer has witnessed the avenue’s evolution for 30 years and experienced its escalating rents and property values firsthand.

“Unless you are an owner-occupant or have a friendly and very understanding landlord, it’s going to be really difficult for someone local, in the vein of the type of businesses that have been on South Congress all these years, to survive,” Wertheimer said.

Wertheimer said his property value soared nearly 40 percent from 2015 to 2016 and his property taxes jumped almost 35 percent, rising to \$10,294 from \$7,634 in 2015.

Wertheimer leased the Continental Club, now a historic landmark, for a decade before buying it 20 years ago. He said he purchased it for \$200,000, “and I thought I’d overpaid.” The property was valued at \$425,735 last year by the Travis Central Appraisal District.

Asked if he would ever consider selling the Continental Club, he said: “There’s nothing that would make me even think about it. It’s precious to me. So much of the fabric of what I fell in love with in this town is disappearing. South Congress to me was the last vestige of what Austin used to look like. I cannot imagine that street without a Continental Club down there. I’m trying to save what I can save.”

Blair Helgren shares a similar view of South Congress. His family has owned businesses on South Congress



In a Sunday, Jan. 22, 2017 photo, a man and his dog walk past Yard Dog Art on South Congress in Austin, Texas. The gallery, which features U.S. and Canada work, is a long time establishment on the street.

Avenue since the mid-1920s, when his great-grandfather opened a barber shop.

His grandfather and brother later opened a hardware and paint store, and eventually the family bought the entire block of 1700 South Congress. Today, the block is home to local retailers including Farm to Market Grocery, Big Top Candy Shop, Avenue Barbershop and Monkey See, Monkey Do.

“I’m a fourth generation, and we have seen the changes firsthand. In the mid-’80s to the mid-’90s there were spaces on the block I could not lease, and we had problems with prostitutes and drug dealers all the way through the ‘90s,” he said.

Today, Helgren faces a different challenge: “How do we keep the local culture? We’re not interested in any type of tear down or redevelopment. But as property taxes increase, that’s the hardest thing — finding the right balance to be able to have a local and eclectic tenant that can pay the rental rate. We’re doing our best to make that happen.”

When Helgren’s longtime tenant antique store Off the Wall decided late last year to close its storefront, Helgren said national chains were interested in the space.

But he said he opted to charge lower rent to enable local artisan boutique Parts & Labour, which is being displaced by a new South Congress development, to take the space.

“We were blindsided when we learned our space was being torn down,” said Lizelle Villalpando, Parts & Labour co-owner. Helgren, she said, worked with Parts & Labour to make the move work.

“He told me, ‘I want to do everything I can to keep South Congress the South Congress that we love,’” said Villalpando, who is relocating the store in March. “It was the best possible thing that could have happened to us.”

Will the vibe survive? Despite the ongoing changes, some South Congress business owners say they are optimistic their neighborhood can weather the next stage without losing its character.

“I do love the funky, keep-it-weird street South Congress is, but it seems change, gentrification and maturation is inevitable,” said Alan Lazarus, co-owner of Vespaio and Enoteca restaurants on the avenue. “I don’t think things can ever stay the same. It’s just evolving into some-

thing else, but that’s not necessarily a bad thing. It’s maturing.”

Lazarus was a pioneer on South Congress when he and two partners opened Vespaio 18 years ago.

The changes taking place now on South Congress are part of a natural evolution in a growing city like Austin, Lazarus said — and a boost for its economy and tax base. Through the years, Vespaio and its sister restaurant have made a livelihood for hundreds of employees, he said.

In addition, 40 South Congress businesses alone generated \$731,521 last year in property tax revenue for the city and county, according to the Travis Central Appraisal District. That’s an increase of 114.7 percent from five years ago, and a 400 percent increase from a decade ago, based on appraisal district values for those properties in 2011 and 2006 respectively.

Brandon Hodge, president of the South Congress Merchants Association, said the avenue’s future is promising, and said that despite changes over time, it has largely kept its local character and flavor.

“We tend to get concerned over short-term changes, but when you step back and look at South Congress as a whole, it is overwhelmingly composed of locally owned businesses. I think you can still count the chains on one hand,” Hodge said. Hodge owns a novelty/toy store — Monkey See, Monkey Do — and Big Top Candy Shop on South Congress.

Hodge said the “unique collaboration” of businesses on South Congress will “continue fighting to maintain that funky flavor that we all established together.”

Shoppers who frequent South Congress are hopeful Hodge is right, and that the vibe will live on.

On a recent weekday afternoon, a steady stream of passers-by paused to snap photos in front of the “i love you so much” mural outside Jo’s Coffee.

“The locals will keep it funky,” said Mary Pat Wehmeyer, 21, a native Austinite. “People are moving here for the funkiness and quiriness.”

**SCOUTS**

Continued from Page 4

publicly about the incident. She called him a “ham” and noted he had a big birthday party on Saturday with the mayor of Secaucus in attendance.

“I’m so grateful. I really am that they’re accepting and that there won’t be any issues. They (other transgender youth) won’t have to go through what my son went through,” Maldonado said by phone Monday. “It’s a big change for everybody that all are accepted now ... I’m so delighted that they finally called and they did say this, but I’m still angry.”

Maldonado said the decision to remove her son from the troop made him feel different, and she wanted to make sure he knew the troop made a mistake.

The Boy Scouts said the enrollment decision goes into effect immediately.

“Our organization’s local councils will help find units that can provide for the best interest of the child,” the statement said.

Zach Wahls, co-founder of the groups Scouts for Equality, called the decision historic.

“The decision to allow transgender boys to participate in the Cub Scouts and the Boy Scouts is an important step forward for this American institution,” he wrote in a statement posted to social media. “We are incredibly proud of Joe Maldonado — the transgender boy from New Jersey whose expulsion last year ignited this controversy — and his mother Kristie for their courage in doing what they knew was right. We are also proud of the Boy Scouts for deciding to do the right thing.”

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## Roger's Retro Reviews: 1984

In April of 1984, I turned 15 years old. I was a freshman in high school. Now, 32 years later, two recent events led me to pick the movie "1984," based on the George Orwell classic dystopian novel, as my retro review.

First, its star, the great John Hurt in the lead role of Winston Smith, recently died. Hurt's stellar career also included classics such as "A Man For All Seasons," "The Elephant Man," "Alien," and the Harry Potter series. Second, Amazon recently announced that the novel "1984" has once again found purchase atop its best-seller list; an achievement apparently made possible by comparisons in some minds with the Trump presidency.

In the movie, in April of 1984, Smith lives and works in the nation "Airstrip One," the former United Kingdom, which is ruled by the all-encompassing Ingsoc Party. His job is as a censor in "MiniRec" (the Ministry of Records), where he alters or destroys news reports to reflect the Party in a favorable light. For example, when one article reports that the weekly 30-gram-per-week chocolate ration will be reduced to 25, Smith changes it to read that the ration is being increased from 20 to 25 grams per week.

Smith and the other inhabitants of Airstrip One are required to attend hate rallies, in which images of the

nation's enemies in the endless war are displayed; these are Eurasia and Eastasia. One is always the hated enemy and the other is a trusted ally, but throughout the movie their status flip-flops seemingly at random.

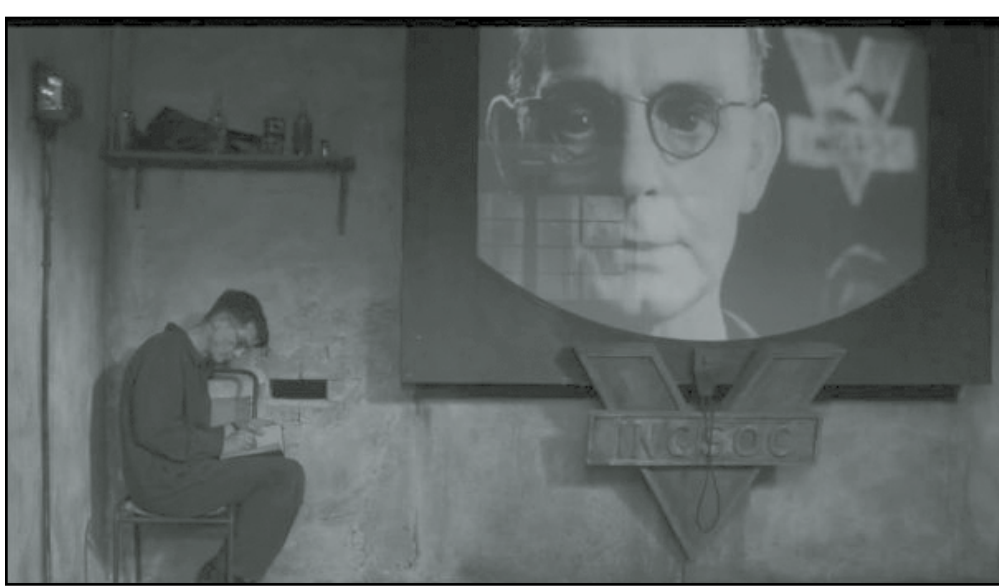
Also shown during the rallies is the despised perpetual traitor Goldstein (John Boswall) spouting anti-Party propaganda to frenzied boos and jeers of the audience. The rallies end with the looming, mustachioed face of the beloved Big Brother (Bob Flag), and all is well. Smith is also a "thought criminal"; that is, he has forbidden thoughts, which he records in a hidden diary in his apartment.

A seemingly chance encounter in the hallway introduces him to the beautiful young Julia (Suzanna Hamilton), and the two begin a secret love affair, using the room over the pawn



shop owned by Mr. Charrington (Cyril Cusack); but their idyllic love nest is raided by the Thought Police, and Smith is taken to the Ministry of Love for "rehabilitation" (read: "torture") to purge his mind of his thought crimes. His torturer is O'Brien (Richard Burton in his last film role).

The movie effectively contrasts the world of Airstrip One, with its filthy, run-down buildings, overall-uniformed workers, and cafeterias providing slop to eat and gin to drink; with Smith's fantasy world of bright,



Courtesy photo

green hills, trees, and open spaces.

The barrage of news broadcasts, in which residents of Airstrip One are treated to contradictory reports, convicted thought criminals confessing

their crimes, and reports that Smith has, himself, altered into their present untrue form, are constantly in the background

"1984" is an important film in that it raises questions about truth and propaganda. How do we know what is true when we get all our information from outside sources? It's not an easy film to watch. There is very little excitement or action; if that's what you're after, then "1984" isn't the film for you.

Something like "V for Vendetta"

(which also starred Hurt, incidentally) explores a lot of the same themes as "1984" while providing a much more entertaining backdrop. Also, the "Star Trek: The Next Generation" episode "Chain of Command" (1992) includes scenes pulled practically straight from the movie ("There are four lights!").

While I recognize the importance and artistry of this movie, I can't say that it's a movie I enjoyed watching, and it's not something I'm eager to watch again. Seven stars out of 10, for its ideas rather than its watchability.

1984

Director: Michael Radford

Writers: Michael Radford, based on the novel by George Orwell

Production Companies: Virgin Films, Umbrella-Rosenblum Films

R, 1 hr. 53 min., Drama/Sci-Fi, Oct. 10, 1984

## Cassatt in the Basin! returns

### Special to the Herald

The highly esteemed, New York based Cassatt String Quartet is performing its 11th annual residency, Cassatt in the Basin!

Residencies aim to give Basin area students the opportunity to study with artist teachers, to develop both chamber music and orchestra skills, to develop chamber music audiences of the future, and specifically focus on daily chamber music coachings, as well as lecture demonstrations.

Jennifer Leshnow, the Cassatt String Quartet's second violinist, is a graduate of Permian High School and a former member of the Thouvenel String Quartet, formerly in residence with the Midland-Odessa Symphony and Chorale.

Jennifer was the principal 2nd violinist with the MOSC from 1991-1994. Ms. Leshnow is also a former student of Dorothy Croft, respected leader in music education and other cultural activities in Odessa. Additionally, Jennifer is a graduate of the Shepherd School of Music at Rice University and Peabody Conservatory.

This Cassatt in the Basin! residency features Dan Welcher's Lone Star Sinfonietta, a triple string quartet for the Cassatts and students. Dan Welcher is one of the most renowned composers of his generation, and is on the faculty at the University of Texas in Austin.

A full residency schedule is posted at [www.CassattInTheBasin.net](http://www.CassattInTheBasin.net). Videos of Cassatt in the Basin! may be viewed there, as well as on YouTube.

The Cassatt String Quartet was the first quartet chosen for Juilliard's Young Artists Quartet Program. Since

then, they have performed at New York's Alice Tully Hall, and Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall, Tanglewood Music Theater, the Kennedy Center in Washington, DC, Theatre des Champs-Élysées in Paris, and the Beijing Central Conservatory in China. At the Library of Congress, the Cassatt performed on the library's matched quartet of Stradivarius instruments, and they performed the three complete Beethoven Quartet cycles at the University at Buffalo.

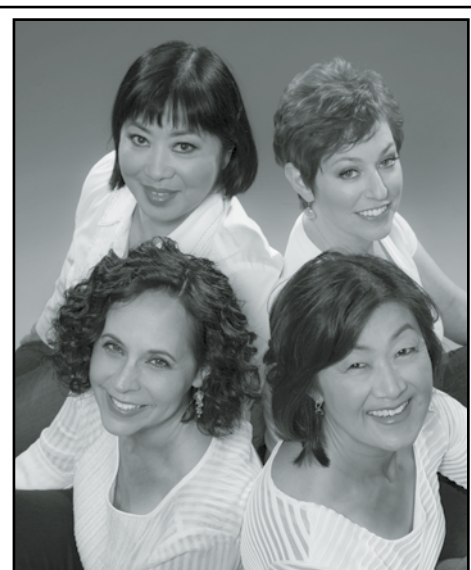
The Cassatt has been heard on NPR's Performance Today, Boston's WGBH, and New York's WQXR and WNYC.

The remaining schedule for the Cassatt in the Basin! is as follows:  
Thursday — Open rehearsal  
The Patrons Gallery of the Wagner

Noel Art Museum  
4090 E. University Blvd., Odessa, Texas

6:30-8:30 p.m. — Dan Welcher's Lone Star Sinfonietta (Triple String Quartet with Cassatts and students)  
Free and open to the public.

Saturday — Final Concert  
Bonham Jr. High Auditorium  
2201 E. 21st Steet, Odessa, Texas  
9:30 – 11:30 a.m. – Dress rehearsal  
Noon – Dan Welcher's Lone Star Sinfonietta (Triple String Quartet with Cassatts and students)  
also, the Cassatts play excerpts of Beethoven's String Quartet, Op. 132  
Free and open to the public.



Courtesy photo

Cassatt String Quartet

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## A tale of two rallies

Forsan boys win, girls lose vs. Irion Co.

By **STEVE REAGAN**  
Staff Writer

**FORSAN** — It's not how you start, it's how you finish. Both the Forsan High School boys' and girls' basketball teams can attest to the truth of that old adage after their games against Irion County Tuesday night. The FHS boys started sluggishly, then caught fire in the second half to take a 52-45 victory, while the Lady Buffaloes staged a furious rally to tie their game at the end of regulation, but then faltered in overtime, suffering a 40-32 loss.

**Boys game**  
Having defeated Irion County earlier this season, the Buffaloes may have been underestimating their opponents Tuesday. If that was the case, however, they were given an unpleasant jolt of reality early in the game,

See **FHS**, Page 13



Tony Claxton photo (www.claxtonphotography.com)  
**Big Spring's Jeremiah Rushin (12) puts up a shot during the Steers' 49-46 win at Sweetwater Tuesday night.**

## Steers come up clutch

Rushin's last-minute heroics fuel 49-46 win over Sweetwater

By **STEVE REAGAN**  
Staff Writer

**SWEETWATER** — After a season of struggles, the Big Spring Steers find themselves in the driver's seat for a spot in the state basketball playoffs.

The Steers, rallying from an early deficit, grabbed the lead in the second quarter, then held on for dear life to defeat Sweetwater, 49-46, and at least lay a firmer claim to one of the four playoff spots from District 5-4A.

The win, Big Spring's second in five district games, puts the Steers in third place, one game up on Sweetwater and Snyder with three games remaining in the season.

On Tuesday, the Steers trailed, 11-7, after one quarter, but used a 19-point explosion in the second quarter to take a 26-25 lead into intermission. From there, it was a very closely fought game, with the lead changing hands numerous times until Big Spring's Jeremiah Rushin came up big in the closing seconds.

After Sweetwater tied the game at 46-all, Rushin connected on a shot with 26 seconds remaining to put Big Spring back in the lead, then added a free throw with two seconds left to give the Steers a bit of

See **BSHS**, Page 13

## Leonard's 36 points leads Spurs by Thunder, 108-94

**SAN ANTONIO (AP)** — The San Antonio Spurs have admired the outstanding season Russell Westbrook is having and the Oklahoma City Thunder point guard didn't disappoint in person.

Neither did the Spurs, who took playing Westbrook as a great challenge.

Kawhi Leonard scored 36 points and San Antonio held Westbrook scoreless in the fourth quarter for a 108-94 victory on Tuesday night.

"You're just fired up just playing against Russ out there," Leonard said. "(Westbrook is) out there competing on every possession. The way he's been playing, he has been ridiculous. So, you defi-

nately want to rise up to the challenge."

It was the Spurs' first game against the Thunder since Oklahoma City bounced them out of the Western Conference playoffs last season following a franchise-record 67 wins in the regular season.

The Thunder look vastly Durant to free agency and trading Serge Ibaka, but Westbrook continued to terrorize San Antonio.

Westbrook had 27 points, 14 assists and six rebounds, but was shut out after scoring 14 points in the third. He shot 0 for 4 in the fourth and finished 7 for 17 from the field.

"I think everybody in this

locker room loves those challenges," said Spurs guard Danny Green, who was Westbrook's primary defender. "Top teams, the best players, that's what we're here for. We grew up watching this game and want to play in these games. To play against the best, beat the best and compete against the best and see where we stand individually and as a group."

LaMarcus Aldridge added 25 points for San Antonio, which improved to 17-6 at home.

Spurs coach Gregg Popovich collected his 1,126th career victory, leaving him one shy of tying the league record for most wins with one fran-

chise held by Utah's Jerry Sloan.

Leonard had 12 points in the final quarter, including a dynamic three-point play for a 91-81 lead. The Spurs had to rally after Westbrook sparked a 23-4 run in the third that erased an 18-point deficit and gave the Thunder a 69-68 lead.

Green limited Westbrook in the opening 16 minutes, blocking his 3-point attempt in the first quarter and drawing consecutive offensive fouls on the mercurial point guard in the second period.

"(Green) set the tone for us defensively and did a really good job on a great player to start the game," Popovich

said. "That was important for us."

Rookie forward Domantas Sabonis matched a season high with 13 rebounds and had 13 points. The Thunder's bench was outscored 32-22.

"I'm not sure (how to help the second unit)," Westbrook said. "We have to figure it out. Sometimes you have to figure it out. I'll do a better job of trying to figure some things out myself to be able to at least help that second unit out whatever it is I can do."

**TIP-INS**

Thunder: Oklahoma City finished 7-8 in January, its first month with a losing

See **SPURS**, Page 13

## Super Bowl:

### Ex-coaches and players marvel at Brady's success

**HOUSTON (AP)** — Marv Levy, the only coach in NFL history to take a team to four consecutive Super Bowls, looks at what Bill Belichick and Tom Brady have done together with the New England Patriots and marvels.

"Really, it is remarkable that they keep going back, and they maintain the focus and dedication necessary to do it," the former Buffalo Bills coach said. "It just becomes, quote, old hat. It's just almost unfathomable what they've accomplished. So they sure do deserve great credit, and it shows you that the draft isn't perfect. Sixth-rounder at quarterback. Many will rate him the greatest quarterback ever. It's an amazing streak they have going."

Consider this: Belichick and Brady not only are the NFL's most successful coach and quarterback duo, they've nearly lapped their closest competition. They

are preparing for their record seventh Super Bowl on Sunday, while only three other coaches reached the Super Bowl with the same quarterback as many as four times.

Chuck Noll and Terry Bradshaw went 4-0 in Super Bowls in the span of six years. Tom Landry went 2-2 with Roger Staubach and the Dallas Cowboys. Joe Montana is a perfect 4-0 in the Super Bowl, though only three of those rings came with coach Bill Walsh.

And then there's Levy, who teamed with Jim Kelly to take the Buffalo Bills to the Super Bowl between 1991 and 1994, losing each time.

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Levy had general manager Bill Polian and owner

See **SUPER**, Page 13



Tony Claxton photo (www.claxtonphotography.com)  
**Big Spring's Alexis Starr and Amber Martinez battle a Sweetwater player for control of the ball during their District 5-4A basketball game Tuesday night in Sweetwater. The Lady Steers were defeated, 41-35.**





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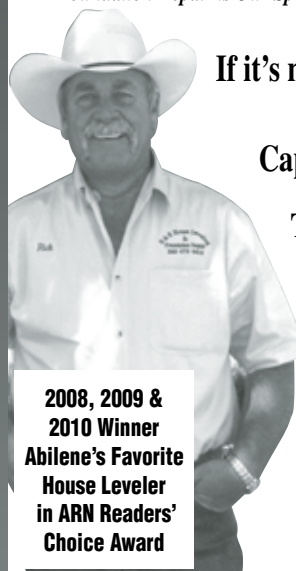


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not the same as you were yesterday. What's different about you? This doesn't have an easy answer, and that's what's so compelling about it. The mystery of you is ever-unfolding.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** Teenage life is typically wrought with drama, as the skills of emotional coping are in early development. Most outgrow the allure of perpetual drama, opting to apply energy to more necessary adult pursuits. Most. Not all.

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** Time proves that even the greatest innovations, inventions and solutions are but temporary answers. There's not one right explanation or one correct method that will hold forever. The best answers beg more questions.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** Would you believe there are people who are daunted by pressures of "having fun," unsure exactly how (or even why) such a thing should be accomplished? These people need you! Go help!

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-**

Tomorrow's Horoscope

**Sept. 22).** As sure as rain makes you wet and food makes you full, perfection makes you miserable. Don't strive for superior results today. Don't strive, period. Put your head down, work humbly, and happiness will creep up on you.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** Since you're confident in your ability and secure in your knowledge, you're not overly concerned about appearing smart or correct or cool. Your nonchalance only makes you smarter, more correct and way cooler.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** Some people ask questions to make a point -- a move that says, "I'm so right I can even manipulate (SET ITAL) you (END ITAL) to say I'm right." Be wary of these people, and don't use the tactic yourself. Ask questions out of curiosity, not arrogance.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** Conflict is more interesting than peace, but most people who are living purposefully find that it's not worth the energy it takes to

witness or take part in it. You're right to be protective of your precious energy reserves.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).** A little mystery doesn't scare you off. You're not like the ones who need all to be certain. You realize that it will never be. The constant is change. The essence of life is surprise.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** Options may be added and taken away. But the ability to make a choice will always be yours. When you start feeling closed in by the circumstances, just remember that you can choose. You're in control.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).** Questions and answers do not a conversation make. Connections are forged with twists, surprises, a sense of play and true and honest sharing. You can achieve it by listening better.

**TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Feb. 1).** There's much about your current life that you can relax into, and yet specific needs and wants will have you leveraging your current

situation into a new adventure. The next 10 weeks bring an odyssey of characters, challenges and environments. Win a prize in April. May features hearts and flowers. Cancer and Gemini adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 10, 4, 38, 22 and 17.

**ASTROLOGICAL QUESTION:** "I'm a Cancer born July 17, 1967, and I've been dating a Capricorn born January 12, 1962, for 7 years! I would like to get married (although we argue every day). He says marriage is just a piece of paper. He was really burned bad by his ex-wife."

Cancer wants nothing more than to build a home and have a family -- with the right person. You are still, unconsciously, asking yourself if he's it for you. For the most part, I see him as happy with the way things currently stand. That you have not handed over an ultimatum yet is a powerful testimony to the unyielding fortitude of Capricorn! As Saturn wrangles with your Venus, you're contemplating the bottom

line of your heart. So what would this piece of paper change, for you? Would it change the quality of love shared, alter the balance of power, or offer financial security or anything else you don't currently have? This is the perfect time to bring up your needs as plainly and clearly as possible -- once. Then let the subject rest. Your heart will beat out your answer within six weeks.

**CELEBRITY PROFILES:** One of the greatest leading men of all time, Clark Gable was deemed the king of Hollywood. The Aquarian actor played Rhett Butler in "Gone With the Wind" and starred in over 80 pictures, usually as the loveable rogue -- gruff on the outside, golden-hearted on the inside. It's significant that Gable's moon is in Cancer, the sign of maternal influence; his own mother died before he was a year old.

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Venus in Pisces Brings Opportunity

Venus has gotten mighty comfortable in the sea of Pisces, where love and intuition snuggle up together, souls knit themselves to one another, communication flows on verbal and nonverbal levels and felicity is the norm. Take advantage of the ease around relationships. Share your heart. Later this week the page will turn.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19).** Trying to do everything possible will only deplete you. Hit the top priority. Make a trade-off, then make another. If you only get one thing done, but it's your primary source of satisfaction, you've won.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** You're

Not Gonna Return the Honor

**Dear Annie:** I was at a dinner party with my girlfriends last week, and we got on the subject of weddings. Someone we know had posted wedding photos on Facebook, and it got us talking about all the details -- dress,

location, etc. When the wedding party was mentioned, my friend "Jessica" said, "Well, of course, I'll let you girls all pick your dresses when I get married." I looked around and thought, "Me? I would be one of her bridesmaids?" I was pretty stunned. Jessica and I have known each other for years, but we only just started getting to

know each other one-on-one a few months ago. She's a lovely girl, and I am glad we are better friends now, but truthfully, I'd feel a little out of place in her wedding party. I mean, her birthday passed in November, and I didn't even have the day memorized. It came and went, and I had no idea. (Whoops.) More importantly, I know I won't ask her to be a bridesmaid at my wedding. I'm dreading that situation. Any thoughts on this? -- Not Always a Bridesmaid

**Dear NAAB:** Hold your high heels. From your letter, it doesn't sound as if Jessica is even engaged yet. No

need to start sweating her wedding plans. Whenever that time actually comes, the two of you may be much closer and you'll be happy to play an important role in her special day. And don't worry; you don't have to make someone a bridesmaid purely because you were one of hers. There are so many other factors -- the size of your wedding party, whether you have sisters, sisters-in-law or longtime childhood friends to include, etc. A true friend wouldn't hold it against you.

**Dear Annie:** I like to read advice columns, yours and others, but I usually

skip the response to the problem. Invariably, the answer will be "seek therapy," as if that were some kind of magic solution. Let me tell you what "seeking therapy" means for me and, I suspect, most Americans.

I live in a small town; resources for therapy are scarce. I do not qualify for employer insurance or benefits. My individual insurance does not cover counseling. I could, conceivably, drive an hour to the nearest large city for a chance at quality therapy. I would have then spent an hour driving there, an hour in the appointment and an hour driving back -- three hours in which I lost potential wages, shelled out money I can't spare and used gas I was counting on to get me to and from work.

This doesn't even address the issue of getting my employer to OK my missing work on a regular basis (therapy not being a one-and-done undertaking) and the fallout that comes from being known as an employee with issues. Yes, I know about privacy policies at work. We all know the reality is different.

If I were still a mother with young children, throw in child care issues while

seeking therapy.

Turn to my religious adviser? Don't have one. Talk to my physician -- during the 10 minutes he spares me to write a prescription I can't afford?

Combine all these issues for two people seeking couples counseling and look at the likelihood of success.

If you detect a touch of bitterness in my letter, it is because it is there. Telling me to seek therapy is akin to saying, "Let them eat cake." -- Frustrated

**Dear Frustrated:** Thank you for this reminder of how difficult it can be to find mental health care. Have you tried remote counseling? Services such as BetterHelp and Talkspace connect patients with health care professionals via video chats, text messages and phone calls. This might be a more convenient and affordable option for you. Be well.

Send your questions for Annie Lane to [dearannie@creators.com](mailto:dearannie@creators.com). To find out more about Annie Lane and read Annie's other Creators Syndicate columnists and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate website at [www.creators.com](http://www.creators.com). COPYRIGHT 2017 CREATORS.COM

Annie's Mailbox

**Contract Bridge**

By Steve Becker

**Imaginative defense**

North dealer.  
North-South vulnerable.

**NORTH**  
♠ Q J 10  
♥ A K 9 6  
♦ Q J 2  
♣ 8 7 4

**WEST**  
♠ 7 5 3 2  
♥ Q 10 7 5 4 2  
♦ 10  
♣ 6 5

**EAST**  
♠ A K 9 8 6  
♥ J 8  
♦ 9 7 4 3  
♣ A 3

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

The bidding:  
North East South West  
1♥ 1♠ 3♦ 4♣  
Dble Pass 5♣ Pass  
Opening lead — two of spades.

The armchair analyst is usually a magnificent cardplayer; he rarely makes the wrong play after seeing all 52 cards. Certainly declarer would have fared better on this deal had he been given the privilege of a peek at the opposing cards. As it was, though, he fell prey to an exceedingly clever trap laid by East.

The deal occurred in a top-flight

rubber-bridge game. West led the spade deuce against five diamonds, and East won with the ace! East then returned the six of spades (!), which declarer ruffed.

After South played the Q-J of diamonds and learned of the 4-1 trump division, he shifted his attention to clubs, playing the king. East ducked and won the next club with the ace.

East then returned the king of spades. South ruffed, reducing his own hand and dummy's to one trump while East had two trumps left. Eventually South went down two as a result of East's shrewd defense.

Had South known that East had started with both top spades, he would, of course, have discarded a club at trick two and made the contract. However, ruffing the spade was entirely normal, as West could have had the king, and the 4-1 trump division was as yet undisclosed.

East disguised his hand beautifully with his first two plays. Had he played the A-K of spades instead of the A-6, declarer would have made the contract easily. But East, who knew that the trumps would break poorly for declarer, led back a low spade in the hope that South would take a normal trump break for granted.

Tomorrow: A 100 percent certainty.  
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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.

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

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**FHS**

Continued from Page 7

as the Hornets spotted their hosts an early 6-2 lead, then reeled off 12 unanswered points to take a 14-6 lead into the second quarter.

Give the Buffs credit, however — they answered their wakeup call with authority, tying the game by intermission, then taking control in the second half.

“Our motto this year has been: Respect everyone, fear no one, but I don’t think we respected (Irion County) in the first quarter, and they reminded us quickly that they’re a good team,” FHS Coach Cory Richardson said. “We kind of got sucker punched, and it took us awhile to get our act together.”

The biggest agent for change Tuesday was the Buffaloes switching to a 2-3 zone, a defensive look they haven’t given opponents much this season. It paid huge dividends in the third quarter, which saw Forsan force nine turnovers to break the halftime deadlock and grab a 39-33 lead.

“It was a look we haven’t shown much this year ... and it was effective for us,” Richardson said. “We were able to get some steals and some easy layups from it.”

The Buffs extended their lead to as much as 14 points in the fourth quarter before a final Irion County rally made the final score respectable.

Tearell McVea scored 20 points and Kobe Richardson added 19 to lead Forsan.

The Buffaloes, who have clinched a playoff spot, remain one game behind Christoval in the district standings with three games left in the regular season. Forsan returns to action Friday at Eldorado. Game time is 8 p.m.

**Girls game**

It can fairly be said that the Forsan

Lady Buffaloes gave everything they had for as long as they could Tuesday — but the game went on a little longer.

The Lady Buffs unleashed a furious defense in the second half, which helped them overcome a double-digit deficit and send their game against Irion County into overtime. But all that extra effort, it seems, left Forsan with little more to give in the extra four minutes, as Irion County outscored the Lady Buffaloes, 8-0, to secure the win.

“I think some of it was some of those girls played the entire game, and we had our chances,” FHS Coach Lloyd Vedder said. “We had some key turnovers in the final minutes before that last second shot (in regulation) ... When we went out in overtime, they still felt good, but I think their legs were pretty much dead. (Irion County) made some shots and started to pull away because we didn’t come down on our end and convert.”

The end of the game somewhat masked a remarkable defensive stand by the Lady Buffs after they trailed by 14 points in the half — in the final two full quarters, they limited Irion County to only three points, and none in the third quarter.

On offense, meanwhile, Forsan finally began solving the 2-3 zone which gave it so many fits in the first half, launching a run in the final minutes, and when Macey Evans hit a turnaround jumper with 1:45 remaining in regulation to tie the game at 32-all, the game was clearly in Forsan’s hands.

Having put their opponents on the ropes, however, the Lady Buffs’ couldn’t put them away — Forsan turned the ball over twice in their final three possessions of regulation, and Jenna Evans’ last-second shot bounced harmlessly off the rim to send the game into overtime.

The Lady Buffaloes, now third in the district standings, close out regular season play Friday at Eldorado. Game time is 6:30 p.m.

**SPURS**

Continued from Page 7

record this season. ... Westbrook, Sabonis and Andre Roberson have started all 49 games. ... Oklahoma City played eight of its last nine games on the road, closing that stretch with a 4-5 record. The Thunder will play nine of their next 11 at home.

Spurs: The Spurs have scored 100-plus points in 25 straight games, their longest streak since 29 straight in 1987-88. ... Leonard has scored in double figures in 77 straight games, the franchise’s longest streak since Tim Duncan had 91 in 2002-03. Hall of Famer George Gervin owns the franchise record with 406 straight games in double figures from Nov. 21, 1978, to Dec. 16, 1983.

**NO WAY**

Donovan acknowledged there are times when he is tempted to keep

Westbrook out there for the entire, but said he would not play his All-Star point guard 40-plus minutes unless it’s an overtime game.

“That’s not fair to him or his career,” Donovan said. “It’s not even fair to our team if we are trying to evolve into being a good team.”

Westbrook agreed that playing extended minutes would not only hurt him, but also the team.

“I would play all night if I could, but obviously that’s not good for me for the long run,” Westbrook said. “You’ve just got to be able to trust other guys. We have enough in this room to be able to come out and compete.”

Westbrook, who is averaging 34.7 minutes per game, played 34 minutes against the Spurs.

**UP NEXT**

Thunder: Host Chicago on Wednesday night.

Spurs: Host Philadelphia on Thursday night.

**BSHS**

Continued from Page 7

breathing room.

“That was tremendous execution on our part, and showed we can learn from our mistakes,” BSHS Coach Nicholas Tyerman said of his team’s last-minute heroics. “We ran the same kind of play we ran that failed (in a loss to Brownwood earlier this season), but we executed it perfectly.”

Rushin and John Ibanez led the Steers with 12 points each, while Kobe Clark led all scorers with 16 points for Sweetwater.

The Steers will try to avenge a one-point loss suffered earlier this sea-

son when they host a rematch with Brownwood Friday at Steer Gym. Game time is 7:30 p.m.

**Girls game**

A cold fourth quarter doomed the Big Spring Lady Steers Tuesday, as they were outscored 11-2 in the final eight minutes en route to a 41-35 loss.

The Lady Steers, now 2-5 in district play, led 10-5 after one quarter and 33-30 heading into the final quarter before Sweetwater rallied to take the win.

Kayleigh Penney and Logan Terrazas each scored 11 points, and Amber Martinez added 10 for the Lady Steers, who close out the regular season at home Friday against Brownwood. Game time is 6:15 p.m.

[www.bigspringherald.com](http://www.bigspringherald.com)

**SUPER**

Continued from Page 7

Ralph Wilson in Buffalo, and points to Patriots owner Robert Kraft and Belichick as the key in New England because they know what type of players they want on the roster. Belichick hasn’t shied away from brash personalities, bringing in wide receiver Randy Moss and even giving defensive lineman Albert Haynesworth and wide receiver Chad Johnson chances. Moss stuck around much longer than expected and prospered before being cut loose during the 2010 season. Wide receiver Chris Hogan languished on the Buffalo squad the past four years only to tie for the league lead averaging 17.9 yards per catch this season.

Since Kraft took over, this is the Patriots’ eighth Super Bowl — twice what Denver and Pittsburgh have managed — with four championships.

“Total organization wins,” Levy said. “It starts with their owner Robert Kraft, who I think has been a great owner. Their personnel department, their scouting staff, their coaching staff. Total organization wins, and as much credit as Brady and Bill Belichick deserves, it’s the others that are in there.”

**DRIVE TO WIN AGAIN**

Making one Super Bowl appearance is tough enough that four franchises have yet to do

it even once — Detroit, Cleveland, Jacksonville, Houston — while this is just the second trip for the Atlanta Falcons. Finding the drive and motivation to chase success again and again simply isn’t easy.

The roster turnover around Brady certainly helps keep the appetite strong. Among those on the roster for Sunday’s game, 32 have never played in a Super Bowl.

**SALARY CAP ERA**

Belichick is the only coach since the NFL put in a salary cap starting in the 1994 season to win four Super Bowls. Noll, the man Belichick is tied with, won his four rings with Pittsburgh in the 1970s. Figuring out how to fit salaries in a budget wasn’t an issue for Chicago’s George Halas or Curly Lambeau and Vince Lombardi with the Green Bay Packers — the only other coaches with five or more NFL championships.

Montana credits the Patriots with building around Brady and a core of players in an era when big paydays await after winning a Super Bowl ring.

**CHEMISTRY**

Since Belichick and Brady went to their first Super Bowl together in 2002, others in the NFL have tried to tap their formula for success, luring away coordinators as head coaches or hiring personnel men to run their teams. Yet, Brady and Belichick have a chance to become the first men with five Super Bowl rings while the Falcons are still looking for their first.

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**Trump taps conservative Judge Neil Gorsuch for Supreme Court**

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump has nominated Neil Gorsuch, a fast-rising conservative judge with a writer's flair, to the Supreme Court, setting up a fierce fight with Democrats over a jurist who could shape America's legal landscape for decades to come.

At 49, Gorsuch is the youngest Supreme Court nominee in a quarter-century. He's known on the Denver-based 10th Circuit Court of Appeals for clear, colloquial writing, advocacy for court review of government regulations, defense of religious freedom and skepticism toward law enforcement.

"Judge Gorsuch has outstanding legal skills, a brilliant mind, tremendous discipline and has earned bipartisan support," Trump declared, announcing the nomination in his first televised prime-time address from the White House.

Gorsuch's nomination Tuesday was cheered by conservatives wary of Trump's own fluid ideology. If confirmed by the Senate, he would fill the seat left vacant by the death last year of Antonin Scalia, long the right's most powerful voice on the high court.

With Scalia's wife, Maureen, sitting in the audience, Trump took care to praise the late justice. Gorsuch followed, calling Scalia a "lion of the law."

**Conservative Gorsuch emulates Scalia minus the rough edges**

WASHINGTON (AP) — If confirmed by the Senate to the Supreme Court, Neil Gorsuch would fill the seat of the man he seeks to emulate as a judge.

He would be the first justice to serve alongside a colleague for whom he

worked. Gorsuch described his former boss, Justice Anthony Kennedy, Tuesday as one of the judges who brought him up in the law.

President Donald Trump nominated Gorsuch to fill the seat of Justice Antonin Scalia, who died nearly a year ago. Trump said he was delivering on his pledge to choose someone in Scalia's mold.

Gorsuch, a federal appeals court judge in Denver for the past 11 years, said he adheres to Scalia's approach to the law, evaluating the Constitution and laws by how they were understood when they were written. He also shares with Scalia a flair for writing.

But unlike the sometimes irascible Scalia, Gorsuch approaches his work with a courtly manner more reminiscent of Kennedy.

**Israeli forces begin evacuation of West Bank outpost**

AMONA, West Bank (AP) — Israeli forces began an operation to evacuate settlers from a West Bank outpost on Wednesday whose slated destruction could rupture Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's narrow coalition, dominated by ultranationalists who support settlements.

Unarmed police in blue sweat-shirts and black baseball caps made their way up the hill around midday Wednesday. On the hilltop, youngsters erected makeshift barricades from smashed tiles, rusty metal bars and large rocks to slow their advance. Some protesters threw rocks at security forces, while others set fire to tires and trash piles.

Activists gathered in homes, praying, singing religious songs and dancing. Residents have said they plan to resist their evacuation peacefully. Some chained themselves to heavy objects and locked their doors.

A few residents left their homes with young children in the arms.

Bilha Schwartz, 24, came along with her husband and nine-month-old daughter to support the residents. "If they want it they can take it, we will not fight. We will leave but we will come back," she told *The Associated Press*.

**Senator: Army Corps told to approve Dakota pipeline easement**

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — The Army Corps of Engineers was ordered to allow construction of the Dakota Access pipeline to proceed under a disputed Missouri River crossing, North Dakota Sen. John Hoeven said. It's the latest twist in a months-long legal battle over the \$3.8 billion project.

The Standing Rock Sioux, whose opposition to the project attracted

thousands of supporters from around the country to North Dakota, immediately vowed to again go to court to stop it.

Hoeven announced late Tuesday that the acting Secretary of the Army, Robert Speer, had directed the Army Corps of Engineers to "proceed" with an easement necessary to complete the pipeline. Hoeven said he also spoke with Vice President Mike Pence, just a week after President Donald Trump signed an executive order signaling his support for the project.

A spokesman for the U.S. Army did not immediately respond to requests for comment Tuesday night. Hoeven spokesman Don Canton said that Speer's move means the easement "isn't quite issued yet, but they plan to approve it" within days.

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