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BIG SPRING WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2017

HERALD



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City councilman Waggoner resigns

By LYNDEL MOODY
 Staff Writer
 The Big Spring City Council gave the green light to nominate the Big Spring Refinery to a state enterprise project and received the resignation of Councilman Steve Waggoner Tuesday night. Waggoner, who represents District 4, is moving out of the city and sent a resigna-

tion letter which was conveyed by Big Spring Mayor Larry McLellan at the meeting. Waggoner was not in attendance at the meeting. McLellan said state rules require the city hold a special election for the position. In other business, the council approved the first reading of an ordinance nominating Alon USA, specifically the

Big Spring refinery, to the Governor Economic Development & Tourism through the Economic Development Bank as a state enterprise project. "It's an economic developmental tool for local communities to partner up with the state of Texas," said John Medina, assistant city manager. "It's designed to create jobs and retain jobs. We nominate

them because it's designed to be a nomination process for the community itself. "It allows the company, in this case Alon, to get refunds for state sales tax — not the city portion but the 6 ¼ (state sales tax) they pay on things that qualify for their specific purchases at this location," Medina continued. "What happens over a period of five

years...after around three years they can see some refunds probably up to \$500,000 dollars over a five year period." The council also approved:
 • Approved the final reading of an ordinance to hold joint elections on May 6 for municipal-schools. Up this cycle is District 1 currently
 See **CITY**, Page 3

Young Marines give back



Courtesy photos

The Young Marines started their campaign on installing smoke detectors for local Howard County Veterans. Their first customer was Gary Scott, pictured center, USMC retired. They were serenaded by Scott playing the Marine Corps Hymn on his bagpipes.

Cross Roads Young Marines help install smoke detectors to local veterans

By SANDRENA KONING
 Staff Writer
 The Cross Roads Young Marines are giving away and installing smoke detectors to area veterans. Howard County veterans looking to take part can call 432-517-4791 with their name, address, phone number, and branch of service to schedule an appointment. The Cross Roads Young Marines of Big Spring will help with installations during evening and weekend hours.

"We usually schedule them after 5, (p.m.) that way we know everybody is home and the kids are out of school because they're the ones that help install," Carrie Rodman said. "That's why we need to schedule it in the evening or on a weekend." "We install it in their home and test it and our smoke detectors are from The American Red Cross or certified," continued Rodman. The project is sponsored by the The Northside Movement in conjunction with The Young

Marines. Smoke detector giveaways and installation have already begun and will be ongoing. "We're working with The Northside Movement, so I don't know how many they have in stock per se, but I know we'll be able to get more but were just continuing it on," Rodman said. "We're just not going to have a set date, we're just going to keep going until we run out." See **PROJECT**, Page 3

Pat Simmons gets her Way

By LYNDEL MOODY
 Staff Writer

The Big Spring City Council honored Pat Simmons Tuesday night for her long-time community volunteerism by renaming a street in her honor.



Simmons

"I was approached by Gloria McDonald last summer, and I think she visited with the mayor about naming a street after Pat Simmons," said Jim DePauw, city council member. "For those of you who don't know Pat Simmons. Pat Simmons has honored this community for over 20 years with her complete dedication to volunteerism. She was the one that started the Festival of Lights which just celebrated it's 20th anniversary."

Simmons has been active in Keep Big Spring Beautiful and Keep Texas Beautiful as well as the annual Bird Count Day sponsored by National Audubon Society for many years. She is a regular attendee at city council meetings.

"She is always coming up with ideas to make Big Spring a better town," DePauw said. "That's always in the forefront of her mind."

During her 90th birthday celebration held in mid-December, Big Spring Mayor Larry McLellan announced the city planned to rename Golf Course Road located in Comanche Trail Park to Pat Simmons Way. Tuesday night the council made it official, and not without some enthusiasm. DePauw made the motion while McLellan, and councilmen Justin Meyer and Raul Marquez Jr. seconded.

"Pat's honored us with her volunteerism, I think it's time we honor Pat by naming a street after her," DePauw said.

Simmons said she was honored. "I highly appreciate this. It's a tremendous honor," Simmons said. "When they gave it to me, I thought 'they don't do that until after people die.'"

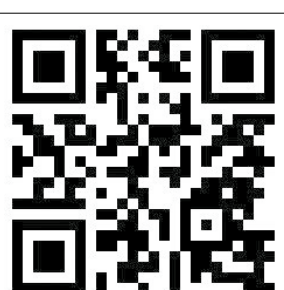
A final reading of the ordinance to rename the road is expected to be voted on at the next city council meeting.

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

To reach us: Please call 263-7331. Office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.



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Pentagon chief says NATO members must pay more

BRUSSELS (AP) — U.S. Defense Secretary Jim Mattis on Wednesday issued a sharp ultimatum to NATO Wednesday, telling allies they must start increasing defense spending by year's end or the Trump administration will "moderate its commitment" to them. He did not detail what the United States might do if NATO members failed to fall in line. Echoing a demand made repeatedly by Pres-

ident Donald Trump, Mattis said NATO must adopt a plan this year that sets milestone dates for governments to meet a military funding goal of 2 percent of gross domestic product.

The Pentagon chief called it a "fair demand" based on the "political reality" in Washington.

"No longer can the American taxpayer carry a disproportionate share of the defense of See **NATO**, Page 3

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CITY
Continued from Page 1

represented by Raul Marquez Jr. and District 3 represented by Justin Myers. Last day to file to run as a candidate if Friday.

- Approve the first reading of an ordinance to increase the airport budget to purchase road right access on property owned by Martha May. According to City Finance Director Donald Moore, this will allow the city to connect the reliever route to the industrial park. The cost for the purchase is \$75,364.06. Moore said the city is currently applying to a grant to help with funding to build a road to connect the reliever route to the Industrial Park.

- The following bids: \$17,693.06 by South Plains Implement for zero turn mowers for the parks department; \$10,098.32 from South Plains Implement for a utility cart for the golf course; \$18,816.17 from South Plains Implement for a rough mower for the golf course; and \$11,446.32 from South Plains Implement for a batwing mower for the airport. Also the council accepted a bid by Toshiba for a \$2,454.05 monthly lease for copiers. This is a 8.6 percent reduction from the previous copier lease contract from Xerox.

- First reading of an ordinance to amend the general fund budget to purchase two police vehicles which were damaged.

- A request by city officials to apply for the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistant Grant Program to secure fund-

ing for a new records management application service, operating systems and sql server software replacement project for the Big Spring Police Department. According to Police Chief Chad Williams the grant does not require any matching funds from the city.

- To take the 30 day opt out option in the Wells Fargo Bank depository agreement and to extend BBVA Compass Bank's exiting depository agreement for another two years.

- Accepted the Big Spring Police Department's annual contract report for 2016. Williams said the department received no complaints for racial profiling allegations.

- First reading of an ordinance to amend the airport fund budget for the purchase of a replacement truck.

- Final reading of an ordinance to purchase sports complex park shares to replace those damaged by hail in 2016. The cost will be covered by insurance, according to City Finance Director Donald Moore.

- Final reading of an resolution apply for a grant to finance the purchase of electronic ticket writers.

- Final reading or an ordinance to amend the city budget to cover demolition expenses, estimated at \$15,500, for the old Western Auto Store on Johnson St. The structure was destroyed by fire.

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

Migrant deaths in Mediterranean rising despite more aid EU reports

BRUSSELS (AP) — Migrant deaths have risen to a record level on the Libya-to-Italy Mediterranean Sea smuggling route, and the increasing number of rescue boats trying to prevent mass drownings there might actually be helping the smugglers, the European Union's border and coast guard chief says.

Frontex Executive Director Fabrice Leggeri said Wednesday that authorities face a "sad paradox," for as the international community increases its efforts to send more rescue ships close to Libya, more people die as smuggling rings pack ever more people onto tiny dinghies and push them out toward the open sea.

He said the recorded number of migrant drowning deaths on the route in 2016, which might be much less than the true loss of life, stood at 4,579. Leggeri called it "tragic and the reasons are well known: the number of

migrants now (arriving) on very small dinghies."

The Frontex report "Risk analysis for 2017" said smugglers have grown more bold and reckless, knowing that rescue boats will be right on the edge of Libya's territorial waters.

"Dangerous crossings on unseaworthy and overloaded vessels were organized with the main purpose of being detected" by military, EU or civilian vessels ready to pluck desperate migrants out of the water if necessary.

"Apparently, all parties involved in (search and rescue) operations in the Central Mediterranean unintentionally help criminals achieve their objectives at minimum cost, strengthen their business model by increasing the chances of success," the report said.

It said migrants and refugees setting off on the dangerous voyage were "aware of and rely on humanitarian assistance to

reach the EU."

Leggeri said smugglers along the lawless Libyan coast put an average of about 100 people on a small boat in 2015 then increased that to 160 per boat last year. He said that, together with a decrease in food and survival equipment like life vests, it was a prime reason for the number of casualties.

Compared to the record number of deaths last year, the central Mediterranean route saw 2,869 deaths in 2015 and 3,161 in 2014. There is little sign the surge is abating, even during this winter. There were 228 recorded deaths in January, by far the biggest total for the month in recent years.

Overall, central Mediterranean migrant crossings increased 17 percent last year to 181,459 people.

"This is and should be the focus we have to deal with," Leggeri said.

PROJECT

Continued from Page 1

Smoke detectors for the hearing impaired are available for those veterans in need.

"They're on back order, we have ordered them because we have a couple of people that need them," Rodman said. "We can get them."

The Northside Movement approached the Young Marines with the idea due to their involvement aiding local veterans. They prioritize involvement with local veterans and affiliations, but look for ways to stay active within the community.

"We have to have 50 hours of community service a year, but we go well above that. Our Young Marines just love giving back to our veterans and we like to give back to community," Rodman said

The Cross Roads Young Marines of Big Spring is open to all youth ages 8- 18. Membership

requirements are that youth are still attending school or home-schooled and must be in good standing.

"Scholarships are available, we don't put out the price because sometimes they think 'Oh, gosh I can't afford that' We don't turn anybody away," Rodman said.

To request more information or interested in joining The Cross Roads Young Marines, they can be contacted at:

The Cross Roads Young Marines of Big Spring
Headquarters
705 W FM-700
Big Spring, Texas
432-517-4791
Website: www.crossroadsym.org
Facebook page :www.facebook.com/
CrossRoadsYoungMarines/

Contact Staff Writer Sandrena Koning at 432-263-7331, ext. 234, or email reporter@bigspringherald.com

NATO

Continued from Page 1

Western values," Mattis told the alliance's 27 other defense ministers, according to a text of his remarks. "Americans cannot care more for your children's future security than you do."

Attending his first NATO defense ministers' meeting, Mattis tried to make his case by citing the threat from Russia. The gathering came at an awkward time for the United States, after Trump fired national security adviser Michael Flynn over Flynn's communications with Russia before President Barack Obama left office Jan. 20.

Mattis noted Russia's 2014 annexation of Ukraine's Crimea region and the Islamic State group's hold over parts of Iraq and Syria, and said that "some in this alliance have looked away in denial of what is happening."

"Despite the threats from the east and south, we have failed to fill gaps in our NATO response force or to adapt," he added.

The warning reflects Trump's wish for greater sharing of military costs. Trump has rattled European nations by suggesting the U.S. might not defend allies unwilling to fulfill their financial obligations as NATO members.

Mattis didn't go as far.

British's defense chief, Michael Fallon, said Mattis told NATO members that "Congress will not continue to tolerate unequal burden-sharing." But Fallon said Mattis also appeared to welcome a British proposal to create a road map for increased

spending by other countries.

Along with the U.S. and Britain, the other countries that also reach NATO's benchmark for military spending are Estonia, Poland and debt-ridden Greece.

"I have called today in the plenary session for those countries that haven't met 2 percent to agree to at least increase their budget annually," Fallon said. "An annual increase that we're asking them to commit to would at least demonstrate good faith."

The United States is by far NATO's most powerful member. It spends more on defense than all the others combined. The U.S. spent 3.61 percent of American GDP last year, according to NATO estimates — a level that has somewhat tapered off in recent years.

Germany, by contrast, spent 1.19 percent of its overall budget on defense. Ten countries spend even less, and seven — including Canada, Italy and Spain — would have to virtually double military spending to reach the target. One, Luxembourg, would require a four-fold increase to get close.

Mattis recognized Europe's worries and the desire for clarity on America's commitment to NATO. Trump has criticized the alliance as "obsolete" and repeatedly praised Russian President Vladimir Putin, stoking fears of a new U.S. approach to Moscow that includes lessened support for European allies near Russia's border who worry about being the next target.

In a brief public statement, made while standing alongside NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg, Mattis called the alliance "a fundamental bedrock for the United States and for all the trans-

The allies' interest and concern about the latest furor in Washington was evident as officials crowded around televisions at the NATO meeting to watch Mattis' initial appearance with Stoltenberg. Ministers immediately clustered around the retired Marine general as he entered the meeting room.

Stoltenberg said he has spoken to Trump twice by telephone, and received similar reassurance from Mattis and U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson.

"They have all conveyed the same message," he said, adding: "That is, that the United States will stay committed to the trans-Atlantic partnership."

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Don Nichols, 84, died Sunday. The family received friends 12:30 p.m. until 1:30 p.m. today at Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Graveside service followed at 2:00 PM at Coahoma Cemetery.

Rhonda Dunaway, 61, passed away Monday. The family will have a visitation from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. this evening at #3 Highland Heather. Graveside service will be held at 2:30 p.m. Thursday at Trinity Memorial Park Peace Chapel.

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Check this out at the Howard County Library

Since I didn't get through with all the western books last week, I will continue with them this week. "The Wild Rider" by Max McCoy (LP W MCC M) is the sequel to "The Sixth Rider."

Former cowboys and wage owners who had found another way of life came of age in a lawless land. They were the most famous outlaws in the West: the Wild Bunch, led by Gentleman Bill Doolin and sparked by the nerve of Sam Dalton, know as the Choc-taw Kid. The Wild Bunch held up banks and trains, but the boys lived by their own code and never killed during a robbery.

The town turned a blind eye to the outlaws who spent their money in the saloons and whorehouses. While Sam Dalton wavered between giving up the outlaw life to marry a pretty teenaged prostitute and busting his brother out of federal prison, the U. S. Department of Justice was massing an army of lawmen to raid the outlaw town and shut the Wild Bunch down for good.

"Tex" by Clarence E. Mulford (LP W MUL C) is A Hopalong Cassidy Novel. Tex Ewalt was educated before he came west and can quote Shakespeare, philosophy, and the Bible. He's gotten restless again and hopes to hook up with Hopalong Cassidy and Red Connors. He takes the train south to the mining town of Windsor, Kansas. Tex decides to stay

and make some money playing poker. Windsor is run by Gus Williams, an old enemy. Tex hadn't seen or heard of him since he shot a gun out of Williams' hand and beat him up in a corner of his own saloon 20 years ago. Introducing himself as Tex Jones, Tex plans to have a little fun at Williams' expense before the man discovers who he really is. The chaos that ensues leads to a fight between the miners and the railroad and more than one gunfight.

"Summer Warpath" A Circle V Western by Wayne D. Overholser (LP W OVE W) is the story of three men involved in the campaign to round up the wild tribes of the Cheyenne and Sioux and place them on reservations. Walt Staley has fallen in love with the daughter of a white man and his Cheyenne wife. She begs Walt to take her away with him, but the best he can do is promise to come back for her. He enlists as an Army scout under General Crook where he meets Dave Allison. The two become friends after Allison is transferred to active service under General Crook. Patrick O'Hara is a reporter for the Chicago Herald. His editor sends him to be attached to General Crook's expeditionary force. The events that occur will change the lives of these three men forever.

"Prairie Town" by Laurant Paine (LP W PAI L) is A Western Duo. In "Marshal Redleaf," Chet Redleaf must

find out who stole a shipment of \$4,000 from the local stage while the driver and guard were busy working on a wheel. The robbers left moccasin tracks not boot tracks which leads Redleaf to think it might have been an inside job. In "Prairie Town," Frank Leslie, owner of the

dian wife. Charles Tremeau thought his son should know the white world as well as the Indian so he sent him East to school. After he graduated, Julien returned to the West to live with the Cheyenne. When the army encircled the village and began the slaughter that would result in more than two hundred dead, Julien's wife was killed, their two children taken prisoner, and Julien left for dead. He

Matt Hurst must be added to the list of dead Hursts.

In "The Phantom Riders" by Leslie Scott (LP W SCO L), Keith Gordon offers Walt Slade a job on his ranch after witnessing Slade's courage and quick gun play against the drygulchers who had killed the sheriff. As a ranger, it was Slade's business to track down the well-organized gang responsible for the sheriff's death and all the other murders committed with shotguns. As a member of Gordon's outfit, Slade could better get at the bottom of the sabotage of the railroad into which all the ranchers of the valley had put their savings and futures. It was not difficult to trace railroad sabotage to the shotgun riders, but the mystery Walt Slade faced was why the road was being built over the Black Quag, that according to legend, swallowed everything. Slade's escapes from the gang and his eventual capture by them led him finally to the mystery of the railroad and the Black Quag, the secret that had turned men into murders.

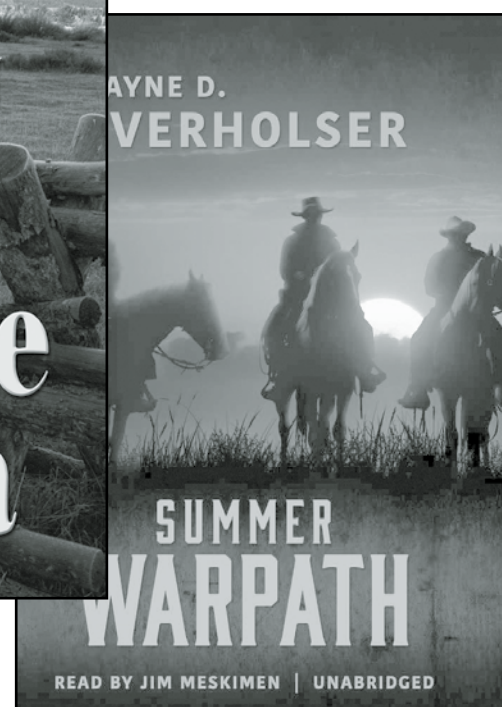
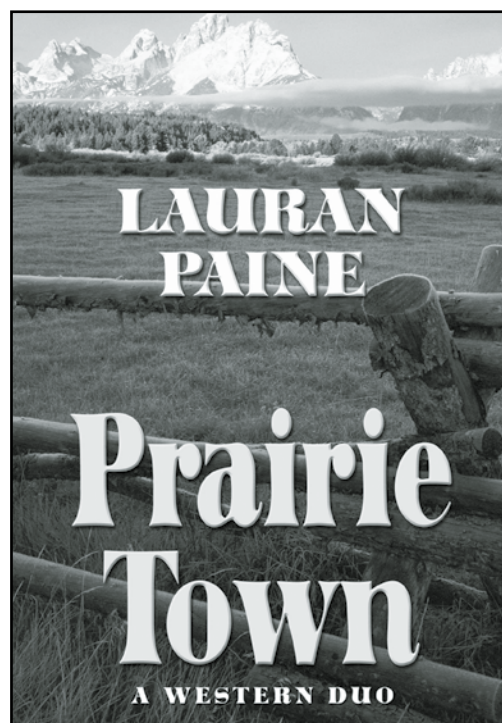
I'm done with the western books so until next week I leave you with a chinese proverb:

"Tell me and I'll forget; show me and I may remember; involve me and I'll understand."

We are open Monday to Friday, 9 am to 6 pm; the internet/video room closes at 5:30. You may reach us at 432-264-2260 and our fax number is 432-264-2263. Our website is howard-county.ploud.net. The library will be closed on Monday, Feb. 20, for Presidents' Day. Enjoy the holiday if you are lucky enough to be off!



MONICA MARTINEZ



Snowshoe Ranch, finds a body on his range and reports it to Marshal Hank Herman. Herman brings the body back to town. Finding no clues, he decides it is a routine killing and plans to bury the body the next day. The next morning, the body is gone. He couldn't call that mysterious slaying a routine affair now. The laziest, most indecisive lawman on earth couldn't help but be intrigued by the theft of a dead body.

"Gun This Man Down" by Lewis B. Patten (LP W PAT L) is A Western Duo. "The White Cheyenne" is the story of Julien Tremeau, son of a mountain man and his In-

was not dead, and he vowed vengeance on all white, including the man who had stolen his children.

In "Gun This Man Down," Matt Hurst returns to his hometown because his father and two brothers have been executed. The Hursts had been hated and branded as rustlers. The posse that captured them said they were caught red-handed with stolen cattle. Matt soon learns that isn't what happened, and those involved in the execution of the Hursts believe their job was left incomplete.

Roger's Retro Reviews: 2001: A Space Odyssey

Stanley Kubrick's "2001: A Space Odyssey," based on the short story "The Sentinel" by Arthur C. Clarke, is widely regarded as a classic of cinematic science fiction. It consistently tops lists of the "best science fiction movies of all time," such as that released by "Time Out London" and the "Online Film Critics Society." There are some good things about it. But...I am going to have to disagree with my esteemed critical colleagues.

"2001" starts out with a very cool intro shot from the perspective of the moon (the film came out in 1968, a year before people even made it to the moon), showing the Earth rising above the horizon, and then the sun rising above the Earth. The various heavenly (Earthly? Sunly?) bodies rise to the stirring notes and booming timpani of Strauss' "Also Sprach Zarathustra." For me, the music is quite literally the best part of this movie.



ROGER CLINE

After the intro, the movie starts out in pre-historic times ("The Dawn of Man" reads the title). This 15-minute vignette shows a conflict between two groups of hairy pre-humans over a pool of water. One group is chased from the pool by the other. The next morning, they discover a tall, oblong black monolith has appeared in their midst. Frightened, they approach it and touch it; seemingly nothing happens, but shortly one of the exiled group discovers how to use a large bone as a weapon. His tribe arm themselves and return to the pool, where he kills the leader of the enemy group. According to IMDb, the killer cave-man's name is "Moon-watcher" and is portrayed by Daniel Richter. At the end of the scene, Moon-watcher hurls his bone weapon into the air.

From the ancient past, we're catapulted into 2001...the future! Dr. Hey-



wood Floyd (William Sylvester) is on his way to the moon. On the wheel-like space station between Earth and the moon, he has a video call with his daughter (Vivian Kubrick), whose birthday, which Floyd will have to miss, is tomorrow. After the call, he

meets with some Russian scientists (Leonard Rossiter, Margaret Tyzack) on their way home to Earth. They ask him about a possible epidemic outbreak at the American base he's traveling to;

See RETRO, Page 5

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Odessa woman turns 100, sister recalls earlier times

By Silvio Panta

Odessa-American via AP
Most people tend to slow down in their more advanced years but Maria Dominga "Minga" Alvarado, along with her gregarious and outgoing younger sister Nicolasa, doesn't know when to quit, proving that age is merely a number.

Minga turned 100-years-young Saturday and celebrated the occasion in the company of loved ones, relatives and friends at the Lincoln Tower ballroom in downtown Odessa. Her sister Nicolasa, who is currently 97 but will turn 98 on March 5, was among the family members in attendance.

While Minga became a centenarian in style, both she and Nicolasa, who also goes by Nicki, reminisced about what they've seen, done and heard during their formative years in early 20th century Odessa. The Alvarado sisters said they believe their family was the second to have settled in Odessa in the early 1900s.

The first of two Latino families to have settled and raised a family in Odessa starting in 1907, both sisters said, was the family of Juan Ramirez, who was an employee of the Pacific Railroad, and the family of Diego Alvarado, the sisters' father, who worked for the railroad company as

well. Minga is known for being an avid reader and a lover of books, but Nicolasa is the talkative one who told of many things about the times in which they grew up.

"Let me tell you, my parents were very proud of their Mexican heritage and they passed that on to us," Nicolasa Alvarado said. "The language, the music, the food ... they really inculcated us to appreciate our heritage, but at the same time they wanted everyone to be good American citizens. So, they were strict."

Minga said her parents never wavered in parental duties. The job Diego had with the railroad was lucrative at the time but also allowed the Alvarado family to have a home, which was located on First Street, which parallels with the railroad tracks, the sisters said.

"My parents were still able to provide for our needs," Minga said. "(They were) people with wonderful values and they believed in the goodness of life. They were honest. We were hard working."

The sisters' niece Sharon Waite added that her family, as large as it was, lived in a home that had "a big lot with a water well."

"They grew things," Waite said.

"They didn't go without food." Minga heartily agreed. "Those were the good old days," she said.

Today, both sisters live together in an Odessa home next to Waite, who often keeps a watchful eye on them. Minga, the 12th of 14 children, was born to Guadalupe Salazar and Diego Alvarado on Feb. 11, 1917, and graduated from Odessa High School in 1935, Waite said.

Neither of the Alvarado sisters married, nor had children of their own, Waite said. Neither Minga, nor Nicolasa have any misgivings about skipping out on marriage and parenthood because they learned all that when they had to care for their parents' grandchildren.

Minga moved to San Antonio with her Nicolasa in tow when World War II broke out, and worked for the U.S. Air Force as a civil servant for many years before her retirement. Minga returned, along with Nicolasa, to Odessa in 2008 following the long hiatus.

When Sharon's grandmother died both Nicolasa and Minga helped in raising five grandchildren in the family, and another group of grandchildren in the family, she said.

"Their oldest brother had three

boys, and they (the Alvarado sisters) took them in also," Waite said.

Minga recalled those times. "The three boys had to sleep with my parents because their father, my oldest brother, was a foreman (with the railroad) and he was moving," Minga said.

"The boys couldn't go to school because they were on the move," Minga continued. "So, they stayed with us during the school year, and in the summer they would go to the parents wherever they were. And they graduated from Odessa High School."

"So, they were with us during the growing years," Minga said. "I don't know how my mother and father did it."

When asked what they recalled the most from their lives in Odessa, Nicolasa - who did most of the talking - spoke of the times spent with their parents during the Christmas holidays. Minga also remembered

"Just being with your parents, that was the greatest thing," Nicolasa said. "It just made Christmas fun in a Mexican family."

Minga was no less happy during her recollection of those times: "We made healthy tamales," she said. "They just fell apart."

Tornadoes suspected of causing damage southwest of Houston

DALLAS (AP) — Tornadoes are suspected of damaging homes and injuring people Tuesday southwest of Houston as a strong storm system moved quickly across much of the state.

National Weather Service meteorologist Scott Overpeck said agency teams were inspecting damage in three locations to confirm whether a tornado touched down Tuesday morning in each area.

Damage is evident in communities stretching from Van Vleck in Matagorda County north to Wharton and Rosenberg, he said.

The weather service had issued tornado warnings for dozens of counties extending from the San Antonio area over to Southeast Texas.

Doug Matthes, emergency management coordinator for Matagorda County, said it appears a tornado passed through Van Vleck and touched down in two locations.

"Tops of trees are twisted off and at least one home is completely torn apart," Matthes said.

A preliminary review of the damage in Van Vleck, a town of about 1,800 people near the Texas coast, indicates up to four homes were destroyed and several others damaged, he said. Seven people were transported by ambulance for medical care and it's not clear how many more may have been taken to hospitals by private vehicle, he said. The seven people taken by ambulance didn't appear to have serious injuries, he said.

The path of the tornado was close to a junior high school where students sheltered in place, Matthes said. Crews were working Tuesday afternoon to restore power and the Red Cross was offering assistance.

"It's a rural community so these folks take care of themselves," he said.

Elsewhere, more than 3 inches of rain fell in some areas west of Austin, and rain was mixing with snow in the Texas Panhandle, resulting in slick roads and delays in school openings.

Steve Gonzales/
Houston Chronicle via AP

At right, Cheryl Bradshaw looks at what is left of her only bathroom after a tree fell on her home Tuesday, Feb. 14, 2017 in Wharton, Texas. Tornadoes are suspected of damaging homes and injuring people Tuesday southwest of Houston as a strong storm system moved quickly across much of the state.



RETRO

Continued from Page 5

he says he isn't at liberty to say anything about it. When he arrives at the moon base, Floyd has a meeting with some moon scientists, and we find out that the epidemic rumor is a cover story that has been circulated to disguise a big discovery, an alien artifact in a crater on the moon. Floyd and some other guys ride out to the discovery site, and yep, it's the monolith. When sunlight hits it, it emits a blast of radio waves, aimed at Jupiter.

Next thing we know, we're on board the spaceship "Discovery One" which bears a passing resemblance with Moon-watcher's bone, long and narrow with a large round part on one end. Discovery One is crewed by David Bowman (Keir Dullea) and Frank Poole (Gary Lockwood); there are three other scientists asleep in coffin-like hibernation units. The ship is run by HAL 9000 (voiced by Douglas Rain), an artificially intelligent computer. When Bowman begins to wonder what the mission's ultimate purpose is, he asks HAL, who responds that the ship's communications antenna is broken and will fail soon. Bowman and Poole use a utility "pod" to retrieve the anten-

na, and discover that it is perfectly fine. This is surprising, because HAL computers are supposed to be foolproof. The two astronauts begin to suspect that HAL is malfunctioning and they meet inside one of the utility pods to get some privacy from the computer. Although they turn off all the microphones inside the pod, HAL is able to read their lips through the window of the pod, and follow their conversation, in which they discuss disconnecting the computer's intelligence circuits and leaving the automatic ship-running routines intact. From that point, HAL gradually descends into paranoia and begins taking action against his human shipmates.

I'll leave the spoilers there, but there is a whole other chapter of this movie after the conflict between the astronauts and HAL, and that's where things really get weird.

As I mentioned, I don't really like this movie. I mean, I want to like it - I love science fiction, and this is supposed to be the best sci-fi movie of all! And I can certainly see the groundbreaking work that Kubrick put into it. But there are long sequences where nothing much really happens. The sequence with Dr. Floyd's space plane slowly, slowly approaching the space sta-

tion as Strauss' (I guess Kubrick really likes Strauss) Blue Danube Waltz plays is excruciatingly long despite the wonderful music. In the transition between the Discovery One and the final act, there is a very long sequence of colored lights. It just goes on way, way too long. There are scenes of the Discovery One just flying through space for minutes at a time. It gets boring.

HAL is the most interesting character in "2001" bar none. His cold, calculating descent into madness is frighteningly wonderful to behold.

I am going to give "2001: A Space Odyssey" six stars out of 10. I definitely don't think it's the "Best Science Fiction Movie Ever Made." I'd give that honor to "Star Wars Episode 4: A New Hope" maybe. My advice? Watch it once, just to say you've seen it, but don't expect to stay awake through the whole thing.

2001: A Space Odyssey
Director: Stanley Kubrick
Writers: Stanley Kubrick, Arthur C. Clarke
Production company: Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer
G (I'm not sure how it rates "G" with several murders), 2 hrs. 29 min., Adventure/Sci-Fi, May 12, 1968

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Chris Kaufman/The Appeal-Democrat via AP

Evacuees sleep and relax at an emergency shelter set up at the Sutter High School gymnasium on Monday, Feb. 13, 2017, in Sutter, Calif. The thousands of people who were ordered to leave their homes after a damaged California spillway threatened to unleash a 30-foot wall of water may not be able to return until significant erosion is repaired, authorities said Monday.

Crews rush to repair dam

OROVILLE, Calif. (AP) — Crews working around the clock atop the crippled Oroville Dam have made progress repairing the damaged spillway, reducing the lake level by at least 8 feet overnight at a Northern California reservoir that has been central to the life of the towns around it for a half century.

Workers hoisted giant white bags filled with rocks, and at least two helicopters planned to fly in rocks Tuesday then release them into the eroded area of the spillway. Dump trucks full of boulders also were dumping cargo on the damaged spillway.

Workers are rushing to repair the barrier at the nation's tallest dam after authorities ordered the evacuation of nearly 200,000 people for everyone living below the lake amid concerns the spillway could fail and send water roaring downstream. Evacuations remain in place.

State Department of Water Resources officials hope to reduce the lake level to 860 feet by Thursday when storms will bring more rain, spokesman Chris Orrock said. The level was 884 feet on Tuesday morning.

The lake that for five decades has brought residents holiday fireworks and salmon festivals now could bring disaster.

"Never in our lives did we think anything like this would have happened," said Brannan Ramirez, who has lived in Oroville, a town of about 16,000 people, for about five years.

The Gold Rush town in the

Sierra Nevada foothills some 70 miles northeast of Sacramento is nestled near the foot of the dam, which was completed in 1968 and at 770 feet is the nation's tallest. Houses and churches are perched on tree-lined streets near the Feather River. Old, ornate Victorian homes sit alongside smaller bungalows.

"Everybody knows to go there for the Fourth of July," evacuee Crystal Roberts-Lynch said of the lake. "Then there's festivals wrapped around the salmon run." The mother of three, who has lived in Oroville for 10 years, was staying at a Red Cross evacuation center in Chico.

Local businesses, including one that sells supplies for gold-panning, dominate a downtown area that spans several blocks. A wide range of chain stores sit a short distance away along the main highway.

"The lake brings in an enormous part of the economy for the town. It definitely is a people-catcher," said Brannan Ramirez, who has lived in Oroville for about five years. "We get people from all over the country."

Cities and towns farther down the Feather River also are in danger.

Yuba City, population 65,000, is the biggest city evacuated. The city has the largest dried-fruit processing plant in the world and one of the largest populations of Sikhs outside of India.

The region is largely rural and its politics dominated by rice growers and other agricultural interests, including

orchard operators. The region is dogged by the high unemployment rates endemic to farming communities. There are large pockets of poverty and swaths of sparsely populated forests, popular with anglers, campers and backpackers.

For now, it's all at the mercy of the reservoir that usually sustains it, and provides water for much of the state.

"If anything, we would have thought that the dam would have been constructed better," Ramirez said.

Ramirez said it was "extremely frustrating" when he heard reports that emerged Monday of complaints about the potential danger that came from environmentalists and government officials a dozen years ago.

Those warnings described the very scenario that was threatening to unfold, though they were dismissed state and federal regulators who expressed confidence that the dam and its spillways could withstand serious storms.

The acting head of the state's Department of Water Resources said he was unaware of the 2005 report that recommended reinforcing with concrete an earthen spillway that is now eroding.

"I'm not sure anything went wrong," Bill Croyle said. "This was a new, never-having-happened-before event."

Roberts-Lynch didn't buy the explanations.

Pick for Medicare post faces questions on Indiana contracts



AP photo

Seema Verma, left, then President-elect Donald Trump's nominee for administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, gets on an elevator in the lobby of Trump Tower in New York. Verma, President Trump's pick to oversee Medicare and Medicaid consulted Vice President Mike Pence on health care issues while he was Indiana's governor, a post she maintained amid a web of business arrangements, including one that ethics experts say conflicted with her public duties.

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — President Donald Trump's pick to oversee Medicare and Medicaid advised Vice President Mike Pence on health care issues while he was Indiana's governor, a post she maintained amid a web of business arrangements — including one that ethics experts say conflicted with her public duties.

A review by The Associated Press found Seema Verma and her small Indianapolis-based firm made millions through consulting agreements with at least nine states while also working under contract for Hewlett Packard. The company holds a financial stake in the health care policies Verma's consulting work helped shape in Indiana and elsewhere.

Since 2011, her firm, SVC Inc., collected more than \$6.6 million in consulting fees from the state of Indiana, records show. At the same time, records indicate she also received more than \$1 million through a contract with Hewlett, the nation's largest operator of state Medicaid claims processing systems.

Last year, her firm collected an additional \$316,000 for work done for the state of Kentucky as a subcontractor for HP Enterprises, according to documents obtained by AP through public records requests.

A spokesman said Verma's work for Indiana predates Pence by over a decade and includes service under both Democratic and Republican governors. Her firm was "completely transparent in regards to its relationship with HP and ... there was never a conflict of interest," spokesman Marcus Barlow said in a statement.

In financial disclosures released this week, Verma reported she has an agreement to sell SVC Inc. to Health Management Associates of Lansing, Michigan, within 90 days of her confirmation.

A Pence spokesman did not respond to a request for comment.

Verma faces a Senate Finance Committee hearing on Thursday. Democrats in Washington are aware of many of her consulting arrangements, and have broader concerns about her philosophy about government entitlement programs, lack of background in Medicare and inexperience leading a large organization.

As a trusted adviser to Pence, she had an office in Indiana's government center and took on duties usually reserved for state administrators. Verma was also widely respected for her grasp on policy and designed a federal Medicaid waiver that allowed Pence to undertake his own conservative expansion of the program while still accepting money made available through the Affordable Care Act.

However, legal and ethics experts contacted by AP say Verma's work for Hewlett, and offshoot HP Enterprises, raised questions about where her loyalties lay — to the company, or to state taxpayers.

Conservative criticism of pope sparks rally of support

VATICAN CITY (AP) — Pope Francis' top advisers are rallying to his defense amid an unprecedented wave of conservative criticism that represents the biggest challenge to his mercy-over-morals papacy.

In an unusual gesture, the nine cardinals from around the world who advise Francis on running the church made a public show of support for the pope and his teachings this week after posters featuring a scowling Francis appeared around Rome. The posters referenced some perceived heavy-handed moves against conservatives and asked "Where's your mercy?"

And on Tuesday, the Vatican published a book by the Holy

See's top canon lawyer fully endorsing Francis' controversial opening to divorced and civilly remarried Catholics — the main bone of contention between the pope and conservative and traditionalist Catholics.

The book's author, Cardinal Francesco Coccopalmerio, said the Vatican bureaucracy and cardinals exist to help and serve the pope. "He knows we love him and we are with him," Coccopalmerio said in an interview with The Associated Press after the book launch.

He called the anti-pope posters "odious" and "from the point of view of

civility and manners, not nice and not condonable."

Conservatives and traditionalists have been wary of Francis ever since he emerged on the loggia of St. Peter's Basilica after his 2013 election without the red velvet cape of his predecessors. More recently, they have been alarmed by his takeover of the Knights of Malta sovereign religious order and the public sidelining of its conservative patron, Cardinal Raymond Burke.

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Forsan Buffaloes dominate Blizzards, 88-29



Courtesy Photo by Jodi Mims

Kobe Richardson taking a shot at the basket on Tuesday night's game against Winters.

By **MARISSA LOFTIN**

Sports Editor

For the first time since 2009, the Forsan Buffaloes clinched at least a share of the district title with their victory over the Winters Blizzards last night.

"We played really well, and we shot the ball really well," said Cory Richardson, head basketball coach for Forsan High. "We hope to build on this performance and continue what has been a great season."

Leading the Buffaloes in points was sophomore Kobe Richardson with a whopping 31 points. 18 of those came from sinking 6 three-pointers in just the first quarter alone.

Junior Garrett Evans was another high-scorer for Forsan with 15 points for the night.

The Buffaloes sank a total of 11 three-point shots last night against the Blizzards, and according to Richardson, that is the most they have made in one game so far this season.

Forsan hopes to continue their hot streak as they prepare for a match up with the Christoval Cougars. They will be playing for the first place seed in District 7-2A.

The game will take place in Sterling City on Friday night at 7:00pm.

Steers fall to Abilene Wylie 87-44

By **MARISSA LOFTIN**

Sports Editor

The Big Spring Steers lost to the 4th ranked Abilene Wylie Bulldogs last night, 87-44.

"The Steers competed hard but struggled on the defensive glass tonight," said head basketball coach Nick Tyerman.

With this game concluding the 2016-2017 regular season, the Steers will now begin to practice and come up with a game plan for their upcoming playoff game against the 18th ranked Burkburnett Bulldogs.

"We saw some good flashes against the pre-season," said Tyerman, "We feel that will help us in preparation for the game against Burkburnett."

The playoff game will be held in Anston, TX on Tuesday, February 21st at 7:30 PM.

Lady Buffaloes named bi-district champions



Courtesy photo/Jodi Mims

The Forsan Lady Buffaloes beat the Hamlin Pied Pipers 47-37 for the bi-district championship. They will now face the Sundown Roughnecks in a neutral playoff game.

Special to the Herald

The Forsan Lady Buffs beat the Hamlin Pied Pipers 47-37 last night in Hamlin, claiming the bi-district title.

To start the game, Hamlin was determined to set the tone of the game for themselves and came out with an aggressive full court man defense.

"It took a little while for us to adjust and get going," said head

coach Lloyd Vedder. "However, we kept our composure and locked down at the defensive end."

The second and third quarters were big for the Buffs, where they were able to turn a 1 point lead after the first into a 20 point lead heading into the 4th.

"I really felt coming into the game that we could control this one on the inside at both ends of the floor, and we did," said Ved-

der. Honorable mentions were Chasidy Grantham with 17 points, Jenna Evans with 6 blocked shots, and Kendall Phillips who came up with several key steals and free-throws in the second period.

Forsan will play 10th ranked Sundown for the area round of the playoffs in Seminole, TX at 6:30 p.m on Friday.

McNeace's double-double helps Sooners beat Longhorns 70-66

NORMAN, Okla. (AP) — This time, even without their leader, Oklahoma held onto a late lead and celebrated a win.

Playing for the first time without standout senior guard Jordan Woodard — who suffered a career-ending knee injury in a game three days earlier — Oklahoma hung on to beat Texas 70-66 on Tuesday night.

Jamuni McNeace scored 14 points and grabbed 14 rebounds — career highs in both categories — to help the Sooners end a seven-game losing streak during which they lost three times when leading in the final minute. One of those games was at Texas on Jan. 23, in which they blew a five-point lead in the final 19 seconds to lose 84-83.

Jarrett Allen led the Longhorns with 17 points and 10 rebounds, his 10th double-double of the season — the most in the Big 12 Conference.

The Sooners entered the game having lost 14 of 16, so it felt good just to win, Oklahoma coach Lon Kruger said.

"I'm very happy for our guys," Kruger said. "We've had a few (games) in position to finish and we haven't, but yet they stayed right there and hung together and worked hard and made progress."

This time, Texas led by as many as eight points in the second half before the Sooners rallied. Freshman Jordan Shepherd — score-



AP Photo

Oklahoma guard Rashard Odomes (1) blocks a shot by Texas forward Jarrett Allen (31) during the second half of an NCAA college basketball game in Norman, Okla., Tuesday, Feb. 14, 2017. Oklahoma won 70-66.

less to that point — hit a 3-pointer with 4:28 left to put Oklahoma ahead 58-56, then added another 3 during a 10-1 run that put the

Sooners up 65-57 with two minutes remaining.

See **SOONERS**, Page 13

Goodbye, Rangers: Veteran Colby Lewis sends farewell message

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — Colby Lewis has said goodbye to the Texas Rangers, the organization that drafted him and made both its World Series appearances with the veteran right-hander in the rotation.

Lewis released a statement Tuesday thanking the team and its fans when Rangers pitchers and catchers

were reporting to spring training in Arizona. He wrote that goodbyes "are inevitable and this is mine."

The 37-year-old Lewis is still a free agent, but turned down offers from the Rangers for a minor league contract. He never mentioned retirement in his statement.

Lewis was picked 38th overall by

the Rangers in the 1999 amateur draft and made his big league debut with them in 2002. He had right shoulder surgery in early 2004 before sitting out all of 2005. He then pitched for Detroit and Oakland and spent two years in Japan before returning to Texas in 2010.

Over 11 major league seasons, nine

of those with the Rangers, he is 77-72 with a 4.70 ERA. Lewis was 4-1 with a 3.11 ERA in 10 postseason games for Texas.

Lewis said he was "forever grateful" to the Rangers.

"They helped make my baseball

See **LEWIS**, Page 13

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HOLIDAY MATHIS

Peace and Harmony Moon

Under this harmonious Libra moon, peaceful interactions are often a function of setting up the right expectation. Relationships are agreements. What's usual might not be normal, and what's normal might not be usual. So forget about those kinds of terms, and focus on communicating in a way to create mutual satisfaction.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Contributing to the peace of the world will not require a grand gesture, just a little tolerance. Here's one sample recipe: 1. Leave well enough alone. 2. Don't fix what isn't broken. 3. Mind your own business.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You'll have to spend some money to go to the next level in a study, hobby or project. Is this really an expense, though, or is it a wor-

thy investment in who you are?

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). It's going to take an unrelentingly positive attitude to push through these early stages of a difficult project. Soon enough, you'll be able to quit manufacturing cheer, because you'll have enough actual positive reasons to continue.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You're innovative in your attempt to solve problems big and small. Right now, while you're busy doing it, there's someone out there saying it can't be done.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You can't take people at face value. The quiet ones might be concealing big emotion; the sweet ones can have a delightfully wicked edge; the funny ones get sad; the sad ones get funny. You wouldn't have it any other way.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). What you love will reward you for loving it. Try it and see. Also, be mindful of your loving style. Try to match it up with the preferences of your beloved over your own.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). As the world becomes increasingly litigious the contracts made in conversation seem less important

to some. That's why people who keep their word are superstars of good character.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Those with beautiful superficiality may also have deep beauty. Give it whirl and find out. You'll sense the true depth of a person inside five minutes of conversation.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Today will bring a series of inspired blunders and, like a skilled detective (Clouseau or Columbo), your unassuming ways will allow for the solving of a mystery.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You may know experts and gurus, but your own personal history is by far your greatest teacher. Future success will depend on today's review of what you did right, and what you could have done differently.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You decided upon a particular goal long ago but never could quite figure out how to fit the steps toward accomplishment into your life. That's because the timing wasn't as good as it is now. Try again.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You could change history just by saying yes. It follows that you can

also change it by saying no. Today brings the rare black-and-white decision. Only say yes if you can say it emphatically.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Feb. 15). You are the one who matters most to someone. Knowing that you have unconditional love and support gives you courage to do difficult things. You'll choose what you think is right, not what they pressure you to choose, and this sets off a chain of liberating choices. You'll love the development in April. Taurus and Gemini adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 2, 38, 9, 11 and 40.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS: "What's an ascendant in astrology?"

Your ascendant is more commonly referred to as your rising sign. "Pisces with Leo rising" means Leo is the ascendant. The ascendant is the constellation that was just rising on the eastern horizon at the moment of your birth. For those who believe in reincarnation, it is said that your ascendant in this life was your sun sign in your previous life. The Pisces in the example above was supposedly a Leo in a past life. Knowing your rising sign can give you a clue as to what sort of karmic

lesson you might need to learn this time around here on earth and what your true purpose might be. Because of this, your rising sign is equal in importance to your sun sign, so be sure to read horoscopes for both to get a more accurate astrological picture of your life. To learn your rising sign, you'll need to get your astrological chart done. Many websites will do this for free; just put it in a search engine: "free astrological charts." You'll need to know the date, time and city of your birth to cast your chart.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Matt Groening is a poster child for the zany, creative spirit of Aquarius. This creator of "The Simpsons" and many other wacky cartoon worlds was born when the sun was in intellectual Aquarius and the moon was in the sign of entertainment, Leo. Mercury and Venus were in Pisces, indicating that Groening's artistic method is so intuitive that the process is mysterious even to him.

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Annie's Mailbox

Overlooked Friend

Dear Annie: I am so upset I'm beside myself. Every time I think about it, I get so angry I could spit!

A neighbor and walking buddy of mine for many years, "Marie," died last year, and no one in our circle of friends knew about it. We knew she was in failing health

with Alzheimer's disease, but no one knew she was as bad off as she must have been. All contact we had with her was through her husband, "Bill," who had assured us that other than her ability to remember, she was fine.

One day, I was driving past the house of Marie's sister, "Nancy," and stopped as Nancy and her

husband were coming down the driveway. They confided that their brother-in-law never invited them to visit, and sometimes he even sent them away if they dropped by. However, I would often see Bill's side of the family visiting.

What's really got me going is that last week, there were two obituary notices in the local paper. One stated that Marie died last year and that a memorial service was to be held at a veterans cemetery later that day. The second announced Bill's death and said he would be receiving military honors at the same cem-

etry, inviting all their friends and neighbors to attend to honor Bill and pay their respects. Because of the short notice, I wasn't able to attend.

I feel bad for Marie and Bill's family, but even if I could have gone, I'm not sure I would have liked going to honor her husband. Marie was kept pretty isolated from us most of the time, and her husband walked with us when he could, much to our dislike. He was a very controlling and verbally abusive husband, selfish and self-centered. He would constantly monitor my friend's food intake.

Ugh -- it's got me going again.

How can I pay respects to someone I had no respect for whatsoever? What should I say to his family members if I see them? There's already a "for sale" sign on the lawn. -- Feeling So Bad

Dear Feeling: I am so sorry for your loss. If you see his family members, stop and talk to them, but only with words of compassion. Don't vent to them about Bill and how angry you are over his treatment of Marie. They are grieving a beloved member of the family.

I think that what is causing you the most anger is the feeling that your friend was forgotten. Try organizing a way to remember Marie. Perhaps you and your other walking buddies could pool money to sponsor a bench or another memorial marker in her name, or you could all organize a walkathon to raise money to help victims of domestic violence.

To anyone who suspects that a friend is being abused: Please call The National Domestic Violence Hotline at 800-799-7233.

Dear Annie: Let me add my voice to all the others I hope

are telling you just how wrong you were to advise "It Was 'Only' Sex" not to tell his adult son his true biological origins. People always deserve to know their true biological heritage, for reasons too obvious and incontrovertible to list. In fact, informing the son is the only decent reason for this wife to have caused such great pain by telling her husband at this late date. She has several people to ask forgiveness of, including the other siblings. -- Mental Health Professional

Dear Mental: Thank you for weighing in, and I have heard from others voicing similar opinions. My only caveat is that if this man decides to tell his son, I think he should implore his wife to be on board. It would be best for the two of them to sit all the kids down together so they can work through the pain of the revelation as a family. Otherwise, it might splinter them.

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.
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By Steve Becker

A tough defensive challenge

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

The bidding:
1♥ East South West
2♦ Pass 2♣ Pass
3NT Pass 2NT Pass
Opening lead — eight of hearts.

This deal comes from a par contest many years ago, and features an exceptionally difficult defensive play. It's not surprising that most of the participants holding the East cards missed their cue. East's double was conventional, instructing West not to make his normal lead, but to lead the first suit bid by dummy. And so, West dutifully led a heart.

dummy, recognizing that if East won with the ten and returned a heart, whether high or low, dummy would acquire a second heart stopper. The defense varied widely at this point. Most Easts shifted to a spade. Declarer won in dummy and led a club, taken by West with the king. A heart was returned, dummy's seven losing to the queen.

Since dummy still had the A-J of hearts, East could not return a heart. He led a spade instead, but that was his last gasp. A club from dummy to East's ace rang down the curtain, and declarer finished with exactly nine tricks.

A handful of Easts found the way to defeat the contract. When dummy played the nine of hearts at trick one, these Easts played the six! From then on, declarer was fighting a losing battle. South had to attack clubs, and when West won the first club lead with the king, he led a second heart. East, holding K-Q-10-4 behind dummy's A-J-7, was now in command of hearts, and declarer had to go down one, losing three hearts and the A-K of clubs.

East's extraordinary play at trick one was very well thought out. He had to assume that West had a club trick as well as another heart to lead, and he backed his convictions accordingly.

Tomorrow: Charting your course of play.

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.

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

Table with 30 columns (KMID, UNI, KPEJ, KOSA, KTLT, KWES, KMLM, KPBT, KWWT, KWES2, WTBS, TNT, ESPN, ESPN2, FSN, USA, A&E, DISC) and 24 rows of TV listings.

DENNIS THE MENACE



"MARGARET SAYS SHE HAS A CRUSH ON YOU, DENNIS." "NO WONDER I FEEL SQUASHED!"

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"Honey, I'm home!"

HAGAR



WHAT MADE YOU DECIDE TO BECOME A LAWYER? MY FATHER THOUGHT IT WAS A GOOD IDEA!

BLONDIE



LOU, I'M IN THE MOOD FOR A SLICE OF LEMON MERINGUE PIE AND A GLAZED DONUT

WIZARD OF ID

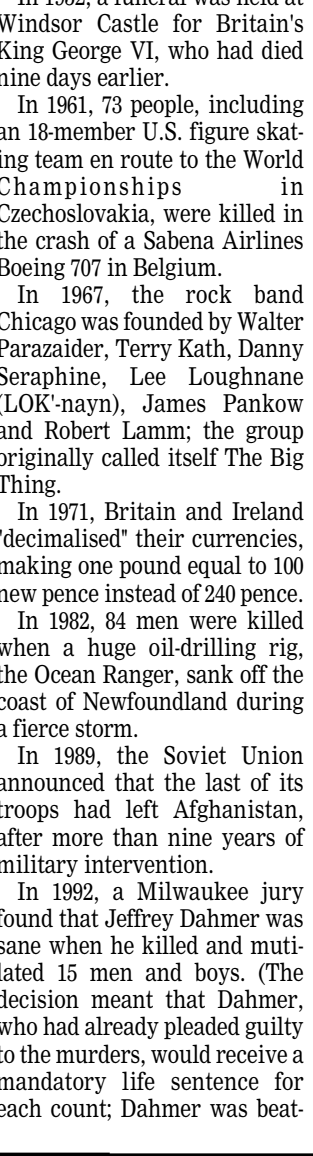


UH, THOR? YEAH...

This Date In History

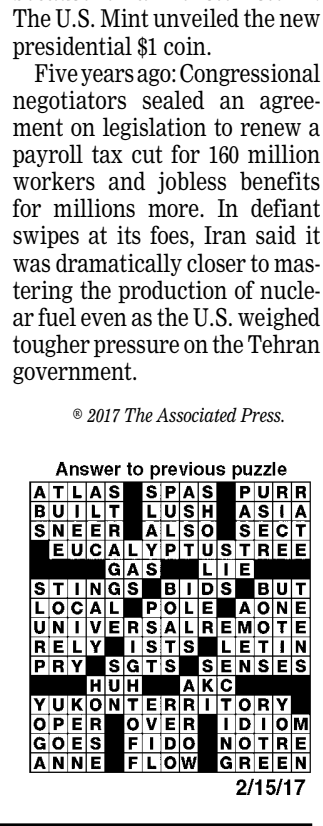
Today is Wednesday, Feb. 15, the 46th day of 2017. There are 319 days left in the year. Today's Highlight in History: On Feb. 15, 1867, 'On the Beautiful Blue Danube,' a waltz by Johann Strauss (the Younger), was publicly performed for the first time by the Vienna Men's Choral Society, garnering a polite, if decidedly less than enthusiastic, audience response. (A revised orchestral version proved much more successful.) On this date: In 1764, the site of present-day St. Louis was established by Pierre Laclède and Auguste Chouteau. In 1898, the U.S. battleship Maine mysteriously blew up in Havana Harbor, killing more than 260 crew members and bringing the United States closer to war with Spain. In 1933, President-elect Franklin D. Roosevelt escaped an assassination attempt in Miami that mortally wounded Chicago Mayor Anton J. Cermak; gunman Giuseppe Zangara was executed more than four weeks later. In 1942, the British colony Singapore surrendered to Japanese forces during World War II. In 1952, a funeral was held at Windsor Castle for Britain's King George VI, who had died nine days earlier. In 1961, 73 people, including an 18-member U.S. figure skating team en route to the World Championships in Czechoslovakia, were killed in the crash of a Sabena Airlines Boeing 707 in Belgium. In 1967, the rock band Chicago was founded by Walter Parazaid, Terry Kath, Danny Seraphine, Lee Loughnane (LOK'-nayn), James Pankow and Robert Lamm; the group originally called itself The Big Thing. In 1971, Britain and Ireland "decimised" their currencies, making one pound equal to 100 new pence instead of 240 pence. In 1982, 84 men were killed when a huge oil-drilling rig, the Ocean Ranger, sank off the coast of Newfoundland during a fierce storm. In 1989, the Soviet Union announced that the last of its troops had left Afghanistan, after more than nine years of military intervention. In 1992, a Milwaukee jury found that Jeffrey Dahmer was sane when he killed and mutilated 15 men and boys. (The decision meant that Dahmer, who had already pleaded guilty to the murders, would receive a mandatory life sentence for each count; Dahmer was beaten to death in prison in 1994.) In 2002, a private funeral was held at Windsor Castle for Britain's Princess Margaret, who had died six days earlier at age 71. Ten years ago: National Guardsmen in Humvees ferried food, fuel and baby supplies to hundreds of motorists stranded for nearly a day on a 50-mile stretch of Interstate 78 in eastern Pennsylvania because of a monster storm. The U.S. Mint unveiled the new presidential \$1 coin. Five years ago: Congressional negotiators sealed an agreement on legislation to renew a payroll tax cut for 160 million workers and jobless benefits for millions more. In defiant swipes at its foes, Iran said it was dramatically closer to mastering the production of nuclear fuel even as the U.S. weighed tougher pressure on the Tehran government.

AGNES



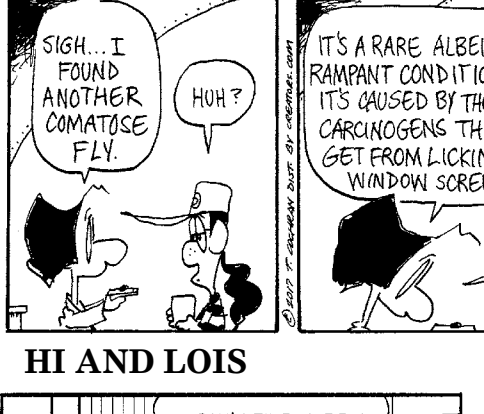
DEATH BEFORE DISHONOR!

HI AND LOIS



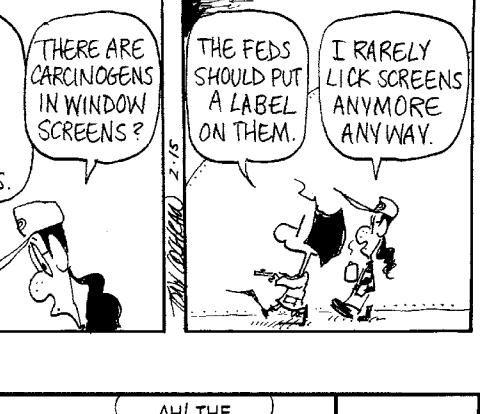
I CAN'T FIND TEDDY ANYWHERE TODAY. I WONDER WHERE HE WENT?

AGNES



SIGH... I FOUND ANOTHER COMATOUSE FLY. HUH?

AGNES



IT'S A RARE ALBEIT RAMPANT CONDITION. IT'S CAUSED BY THE CARCINOGENS THEY GET FROM LICKING WINDOW SCREENS.

Newsday Crossword

- ACROSS: 1 Ziti or elbows, 6 City near St. Petersburg, 11 S&L outdoor device, 14 Of the same value, 15 Squirrel snack, 16 Keogh alternative, 17 Easy job, 19 Guy, 20 Out of danger, 21 Luau instrument, 22 Needing a nap, 24 Jacket sleeves, 26 Drives too fast, 27 Explorer, 30 Very strict, 31 Assumed name, 32 Drug cop, 33 Definite article, 36 '80s fad doll, 40 Double-curve letter, 41 Catch sight of, 42 New Zealand native, 43 Windowpane sealant, 45 Beginning stage, 46 Tilts, 48 Drop in the mail, 50 1862 Tennessee battle, 51 "Now I get it!", 52 One of the Three Bears, 56 Box-office smash, 57 Infielders' warm-ups, 60 Washington's bill, 61 Wipe clean, 62 Author, 63 Part of mph, 64 More recent, 65 Disorganized, 9 Potential buyer, 10 Moose feature, 11 Endeavored, 12 Golf hazards, 13 Quite a few, 18 "Delicious!", 23 Poetic nightfall, 25 Civil rights icon, 26 Wander off, 27 Nutmeg spice, 28 "Such a pity!", 29 Barbecued "rack", 30 Oversentimental, 32 Sparrows' shelters, 33 Boxing stats, 34 Add to the payroll, 35 Make revisions to, 37 Arrive at one's destination, 38 "Hurry it up!", 39 Individually crafted, 43 Good buddy, 44 Still sealed, 46 Luster, 47 Ginger ale bottle size, 48 Transparent, 49 Portion of corn, 50 Browse for bargains, 51 Cathedral area, 53 Parisian pals, 54 Yankees' crosstown rivals, 55 Pale, 58 Ferret's foot, 59 Valuable stone

WE'RE STUFFED

Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com. Includes crossword grid and word list.

Answer to previous puzzle. Grid with words: ATLAS, SPAS, PURR, BUILT, LUSH, ASIA, SNEER, ALSO, SECT, EUCALYPTUSTREE, GAS, LIE, STINGS, BIDS, BUT, LOCAL, POLE, AONE, UNIVERSAL, REMOTE, RELY, ISTS, LETIN, PRY, SGTS, SENSES, HUH, AKC, YUKON, TERRITORY, OPER, OVER, IDIOM, GOES, FIDO, NOTRE, ANNE, FLOW, GREEN.

THE OTHER COAST



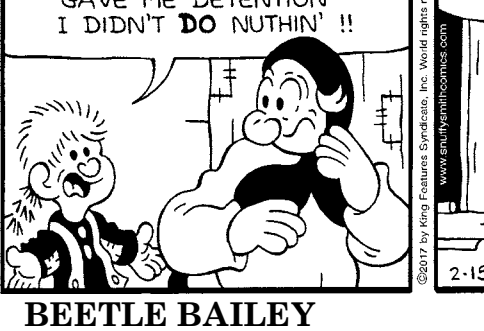
IT'S OK. HER BARK IS WORSE THAN HER BITE.

THE OTHER COAST



WELL THANK YOU FOR DIVULGING MILITARY SECRETS.

SNUFFY SMITH



I DUNNO WHY MIZ PRUNELLA GAVE ME DETENTION-- I DIDN'T DO NUTHIN' !!

SNUFFY SMITH



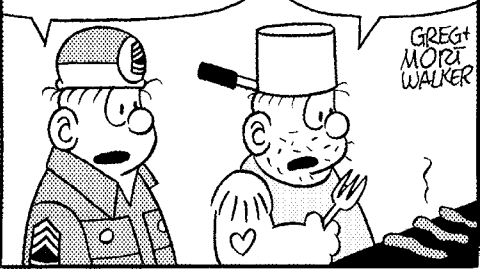
NUTHIN' IN MATH...NUTHIN' IN SCIENCE... NUTHIN' IN HISTRY...

BEETLE BAILEY



THIS IS A COMBAT ZONE, COOKIE. YOU SHOULD BE WEARING A HELMET.

BEETLE BAILEY



WHY THE POT ON YOUR HEAD, COOKIE? I DIDN'T BRING MY COLANDER.

LEWIS

Continued from Page 7

dreams come true. I pitched in two World Series with the uniform I love on my back," said Lewis, the winning pitcher against the New York Yankees in Game 6 of the 2010 ALCS that clinched the team's first World Series berth.

Lewis set career highs with 17 wins and 204 2/3 innings pitched in 2015, less than two years after a resurfacing procedure that was just short of a full hip replacement and unprecedented for a major league pitcher.

He was 6-5 with a 3.71 ERA in 19 games last year, when he missed two months in the middle of the season because of a strained right lat. He took a no-hit bid into the ninth inning of a game last June 16 at Oakland before giving up a leadoff double, and had been perfect until a two-out walk in the eighth.



AP photo

This Oct. 9, 2016 file photo shows Texas Rangers' starter Colby Lewis reacting after being pulled from the game in the third inning of game three American League Division Series baseball action in Toronto. Lewis pitched nine seasons for the Rangers, and was part of both of their World Series appearances (2010 and 2011). He was originally drafted by the Rangers in 1999, made his MLB debut for them from 2002-04, and rejoined them in 2010 after pitching two seasons in Japan. The 37-year-old right-hander is still a free agent. (Frank Gunn/The Canadian Press via AP)

SOONERS

Continued from Page 7

Shepherd's free throw with 10.4 seconds left stretched the lead to 70-66. Rashard Odomes blocked a layup attempt by Allen at the other end to seal the win.

"I definitely thought we were going to close out the game, just keeping the ball in my hands and being me strong with it and just getting into our sets," Shepherd said. "They were just knocking down shots."

Kerwin Roach Jr. added 13 points and Andrew Jones had 12 for the Longhorns, who shot 60.7 percent from the field in the first half but slumped to 34.4 percent in the second half.

"Very disappointed," Texas coach Shaka Smart said. "Give Oklahoma credit. They made plays they needed to make. They made shots. . I'm just real disappointed because the last couple of days, coming off our last game, our guys really had a good understanding of what we needed to do tonight and it didn't carry over."

Odomes and Kameron McGusty each scored 11 points for Oklahoma, with McGusty adding five steals.

Texas jumped to a 9-2 lead in the first three minutes and held the advantage throughout the first half. Seldom-used Oklahoma senior C.J. Cole's put-back with 1:24 left gave the Sooners their first lead at 38-37, but Roach Jr.'s layup 16 seconds later put the Longhorns back ahead 39-38 at halftime.

BIG PICTURE:

Oklahoma: The Sooners avoided their longest losing streak since 2010-11 (Jeff Capel's final season as coach), when they lost eight in a row. With Jordan Woodard out for the season with a torn ACL in his right knee, the Sooners have just one remaining starter from last season's Final Four squad (junior Khadeem Lattin), and are looking to the future and a confidence-building win like the one against the Longhorns can only help that process.'



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Lady Buffs receive send off



Courtesy photo/Diana Newton

Tuesday afternoon the students at Forsan Elementary sent off the Lady Buffs basketball team with a spirited show of support for their bi-district game.

Laine gets hat trick to lead Jets over Stars 5-2

WINNIPEG, Manitoba (AP) — Patrik Laine likes to score in bunches, especially against the Dallas Stars.

Laine got his third hat trick of the season, including the go-ahead goal late in the third period, to lift the Winnipeg Jets over the Stars 5-2 on Tuesday night.

It's his second three-goal game against Dallas this season. The Finnish rookie has 26 goals, including two in the third period while Winnipeg blew open a tight game.

"It was a huge game for me and my linemates and the whole team," Laine said. "These four last games haven't been that good, so it was just nice to have a game like this."

Joel Armia and Blake Wheeler also scored to help the Jets snap a four-game skid.

Jamie Benn and Tyler Seguin scored in the second period for Dallas to erase a two-goal deficit.

Connor Hellebuyck made 34 saves in his third straight start for the Jets since Ondrej Pavelec got a lower-body injury on Feb. 7.

Antti Niemi stopped 19 of 22 shots for Dallas.

The victory snapped a five-game home losing streak for the Jets, and Dallas got its sixth loss in its last seven games.

"I've never gone through a stretch where when you have opportunities and you have it on the right guy's stick, that the

puck hasn't gone in the net," Stars coach Lindy Ruff said. "(Patrick) Sharp hit two crossbars, a deflection hit the post and doesn't go in. (John) Klingberg (had) Seguin point blank in the slot. If you want to look at key opportunities, we missed."

Laine made it 3-2 with 5:07 left in the game, then completed his hat trick just over four minutes later with Winnipeg's second empty-netter.

"When you're assessing Patty Laine and where he's at — if he didn't score the three goals, I could've still come out and said that was his best game of the season," Jets coach Paul Maurice said. "All the other pieces to his game were NHL right on."

Laine opened the scoring late in the first period.

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News in brief

Early-morning pipeline explosion lights up South Texas sky

REFUGIO, Texas (AP) — A natural gas pipeline has exploded in South Texas, in a fiery display that lit up the sky and could be seen for miles.

Texas Department of Public Safety Sgt. Nathan Brandley says the explosion occurred early Wednesday near Refugio, a rural community north of Corpus Christi, about 15 miles from the Texas Coast.

Brandley says no one was hurt and that there are no refineries or plants nearby.

He says it's too early to know what triggered the explosion.

Brandley says crews are working to close the line and extinguish the flames.

Mishaps with transmission lines are not uncommon. In the past two decades, the U.S. government has recorded more than 2,000 accidents on gas transmission lines across the country.

Mystery of Etan Patz's disappearance ends in conviction

NEW YORK (AP) — It was one of New York City's most enduring mysteries: A sandy-haired, 6-year-old boy who vanished on his way to school. A fruitless search that scared a generation of parents. A family that fought for years to hold one man accountable, only to be told someone else was to blame.

Some questions remain in the 1979 disappearance of Etan Patz, but a jury decided Tuesday that it had enough evidence to convict a former convenience store clerk of luring the boy into a basement and killing him, after a first trial ended with a hung jury.

Pedro Hernandez confessed several years ago to choking Etan, but his lawyers said that admission was the false imagining of a troubled man whose mind blurred the boundary between reality and illusion.

During Hernandez's first trial in 2015, that argument won over a lone juror, who wouldn't budge and forced a mistrial. This second time around, the jury was unanimous, finding Hernandez guilty of murder and kidnapping after nine days of deliberations.

"We decided he has an illness ... but that didn't



Stan Patz, right, father of 6-year-old Etan Patz who disappeared on the way to the school bus stop 38 years ago, reacts after a news conference with Assistant District Attorney Joel Seidemann, following the second trial of Pedro Hernandez, who was convicted of killing the boy, Tuesday, Feb. 14, 2017, in New York's Manhattan Supreme Court.

make him delusional," said juror Michael Castellon. "We think that he could tell right from wrong. He could tell fantasy from reality."

Hernandez, 56, didn't react visibly as the verdict was read. Sentencing was set for Feb. 28. His lawyers said he planned to appeal.

"In the end, we don't believe this will resolve the story of what happened to Etan back in 1979," said lawyer Harvey Fishbein.

Etan's disappearance during his morning walk to the school bus helped end an era where parents felt comfortable letting their children roam.

He became one of the first missing children ever pictured on milk cartons. The anniversary of his disappearance has been designated National Missing Children's Day.

to Yosemite's El Capitan

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK, Calif. (AP) — Mother Nature is again putting on a show at California's Yosemite National Park, where every February the setting sun draws a narrow sliver of light on a waterfall to make it glow like a cascade of molten lava.

The phenomenon known as "firefall" draws scores of photographers to a spot near Horsetail Fall, which flows down the granite face of the park's famed rock formation, El Capitan.

Capturing the sight is a challenge. Horsetail Fall only flows in the winter or spring, when there is enough rain and snow. The sun lights up the fall for only about two minutes at dusk for a few days in February. Some photographers have had success this year as pictures of the glowing falls are showing up on social media.

'Firefall' phenomenon wows visitors



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- Best man
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- Photographer
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- Hair and Beauty
- Bridesmaid's attire
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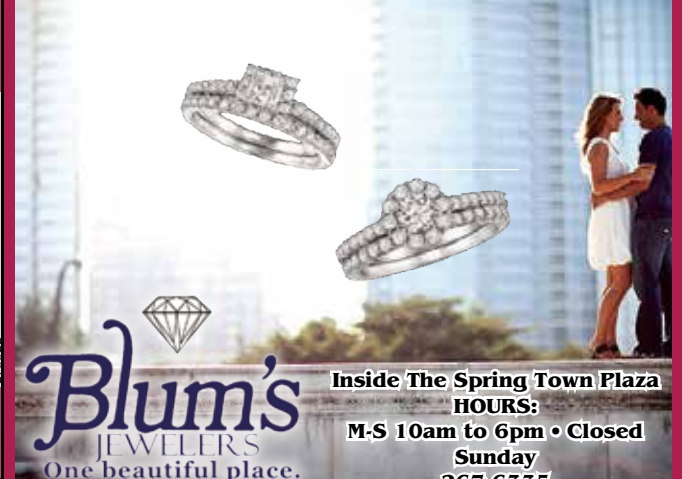
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