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# H BIG SPRING HERALD

MONDAY, MARCH 13, 2017



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## Pops in the Park committee gearing up for event

By SANDRENA KONING  
 Staff Writer

The annual Pops in the Park will be held once again on July 3, at the Comanche Trail Park. This year's event marks its 21st anniversary.

"This event is put on by donations only and contributions from the community as well as businesses," Debbye ValVerde Big Spring Cham-

ber of Commerce Executive Director said. "Cost for the event runs about \$40,000 dollars. It's by contributions that we put on this event, and it's free to our entire community."

The schedule for the event includes; pre-show, fireworks display, a tribute to veterans, and performances throughout the evening by the Big

Spring Symphony.

"The Big Spring Symphony performs, and we do have a pre-show," ValVerde said. "We also get to honor our vets from back then and now and thank those that served. We usually have the presentation of the flags and we do a special service tribute to all of the armed services during the event. That music is per-

formed by our very own local Big Spring Symphony. They play throughout the event because the fireworks are choreographed to their music. It happens at our amphitheater at Comanche Trail Park."

The fireworks display are contracted out to a professional company.

"Our fireworks cost about \$25,000 dollars and we do

have professionals that shoot off the fireworks," ValVerde said.

Food and drink vendors will be in attendance for the event with a wide variety of options.

"At the top of the amphitheater we do have vendors," ValVerde said. "They sell everything from fajita burritos, See **POPS**, Page 3

## Blood drive set for Friday

Special to the Herald

United Blood Services (UBS) and the Big Spring Center for Skilled Care will host a community blood drive Friday.

United Blood Services is looking to replenish its shelves for O- and O+ blood, but all blood types are still needed. The drive will be held in the BloodMobile in front of the Big Spring Center for Skilled Care facility, 3701 Wasson, from 9 a.m. to noon. To sign up ahead of time, which is encouraged, those interested can call 877-UBS-HERO or go to [www.blood-hero.com](http://www.blood-hero.com)



Donors must be at least 16 years old, weight at least 110 pounds, and be in good health to donate.

Donors between 16 and 22 must meet additional height and weight requirements. 16 year old donors must present a minor donor permit form signed by a parent or guardian. The permit can be found online at [www.unitedbloodservices.org](http://www.unitedbloodservices.org).

## Gas prices falling

Special to the Herald

Average retail gasoline prices in Texas have fallen 2.0 cents per gallon in the past week, averaging \$2.08/g yesterday, according to GasBuddy's daily survey of 13,114 gas outlets in Texas. This compares with the national average that has fallen 1.3 cents per gallon in the last week to \$2.29/g, according to gasoline price website GasBuddy.com.

Including the change in gas prices in Texas during the past week, prices yesterday

were 34.0 cents per gallon higher than the same day one year ago and are unchanged versus a month ago. The national average has increased 1.5 cents per gallon during the last month and stands 36.1 cents per gallon higher than this day one year ago.

According to GasBuddy historical data, gasoline prices on March 13 in Texas have ranged widely over the last five years: \$1.74/g in

See **GAS**, Page 3

## Taking a spin



HERALD photo/Roger Cline

Brandon Valdez, 13, of Forsan takes his hoverboard for a spin down Whipkey Drive in Comanche Trail Park. Valdez said he received the hoverboard as a present last Christmas.

## Knock it out of the park



HERALD photo/Roger Cline

Oscar Holguin, 8, takes a swing at a pitch by Michael Valencia during a pick-up baseball game of Valencia family and friends at Cotton Mize Field in Comanche Trail Park Sunday evening.

## Republicans brace for downbeat CBO analysis of health bill

WASHINGTON (AP) — Republicans pushing a plan to dismantle Barack Obama's health care law are bracing for a Congressional Budget Office analysis widely expected to conclude that fewer Americans will have health coverage under the proposal, despite President Donald Trump's promise of "insurance for everybody."

House Speaker Paul Ryan said he fully expects the CBO analysis, set to be released as early as Monday, to find less coverage since the GOP plan eliminates the government requirement to be insured.

But Ryan and Trump administration officials vowed to move forward on their proposed "repeal and replace" plan, insisting they can work past GOP disagreements and casting the issue as one of "choice" in which consumers are freed of a government mandate to buy insurance.

"What we're trying to achieve here is bringing

down the cost of care, bringing down the cost of insurance not through government mandates and monopolies but by having more choice and competition," Ryan, R-Wis., said on Sunday. "We're not going to make an American do what they don't want to do."

The CBO's long-awaited cost analysis of the House GOP leadership plan, including estimates on the number of people expected to be covered, will likely affect Republicans' chances of passing the proposal.

GOP opponents from the right and center are already hardening their positions against the Trump-backed legislation. House conservatives vowed to block the bill as "Obamacare Lite" unless there are more restrictions, even as a Republican, Sen. Tom Cotton, R-Ark., warned the plan would never pass as is due to opposition from moderates.

"Do not walk the plank and vote for a bill that cannot pass the Senate and then have to face the consequences of that vote," Cotton said. "If they vote for this bill, they're going to put the House majority at risk next year."

The GOP legislation would eliminate the current mandate that nearly all people in the United States carry

See **CBO**, Page 3

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# Conway says gov't has many ways to surveil people

WASHINGTON (AP) — Senior White House adviser Kellyanne Conway says the government has many options available to conduct surveillance against citizens beyond wiretapping.

In an interview with the Bergen County Record published Sunday, Conway had said that people should think beyond wiretapping in

terms of monitoring individuals, saying "there are many ways to surveil each other."

Her remarks came after a congressional aide's statement over the weekend saying the House intelligence committee had asked the Trump administration to provide by Monday evidence that Donald Trump's phones at Trump Tower in

New York were tapped. Trump has alleged that then-President Barack Obama ordered the surveillance — a charge that Obama has denied.

James Clapper, who was Obama's director of national intelligence, has said that nothing matching Trump's claims, made in a Twitter post, had taken place.

Conway told the

Bergen County Record, "You can surveil someone through their phones, certainly through their television sets — any number of ways."

Conway told ABC's "Good Morning America" Monday that "of course I have no evidence for this," saying that's why there's a need for an investigation.

"I wasn't making a suggestion about Trump Tower," she told the network. She said she was answering a question about surveillance "generally," and without specific reference to the current controversy.

FBI director James Comey has privately urged the Justice Department to dispute Trump's claim but has

not come forward to do so himself.

Sen. John McCain, an influential Republican, said Sunday: "I think the president has one of two choices: either retract or to provide the information that the American people deserve, because, if his predecessor violated the law, President Obama violated the law, we have got a serious issue here, to say the least, the Arizona senator said.

Trump asserted in a tweet earlier this month: "Terrible! Just found out that Obama had my 'wires tapped' in Trump Tower just before the victory. Nothing found. This is McCarthyism!" He continued the allegation against former Obama in other tweets but offered no evidence.

The request for evidence by Monday was made in a letter sent to the Justice Department by the House committee chairman, Rep. Devin Nunes, R-Calif., and the panel's ranking Democrat, Rep. Adam Schiff, D-Calif., said the congressional official. The aide wasn't authorized to discuss the request by name and requested anonymity.

## GAS

Continued from Page 1

2016, \$2.24/g in 2015, \$3.25/g in 2014, \$3.54/g in 2013 and \$3.67/g in 2012.

Areas in Texas and their current gas price climate: Midland Odessa- \$2.13/g, down 2.3 cents per gallon from last week's \$2.15/g; San Antonio- \$2.03/g, down 0.5 cents per gallon from

last week's \$2.03/g; and Austin- \$2.07/g, down 0.9 cents per gallon from last week's \$2.07/g.

"A sudden plunge in the price of oil is likely to weigh on gas prices, at least temporarily," said Patrick DeHaan, senior petroleum analyst for GasBuddy.com. "With little warning or expectation, crude oil last week broke out of

the rut it had well established, with crude prices falling out of a 3-month range of \$51-\$54 per barrel to \$49. Fundamentals of oil have weakened, and with last week's large 8.2 million barrel rise in crude oil inventories, the market has turned decidedly bearish for now.

"Naturally, when oil prices take a beating

such as they did last week, one might expect gasoline prices to move in lockstep, but due to the complex relationship of oil and gasoline prices and the middleman — U.S. refineries — motorists may not see as large a decline at the pump as they may hope for — but certainly stay tuned, DeHaan continued. "I remain

optimistic that the annual spring rally at the pump could be less severe than expected, but remain cautious as it remains difficult to know where the new path will lead oil prices in the week ahead,"

For LIVE fuel price averages, visit <http://FuelInsights.GasBuddy.com>.

## POPS

Continued from Page 1

hamburgers, frozen pineapples, kettle corn, everything is sold. It's mostly food vendors."

Planning meetings and fundraising efforts are on-going throughout the year. All of the funds raised will go towards the cost of the event.

"Our committee has planning meeting now up until the day of the event," ValVerde

said. "As far as pre-show that has yet to be announced. Letters will be going out to all previous contributors as well as businesses that have given in the past. Of course, any new businesses will also be receiving a letter."

Donations can be sent by mail or in person at the Big Spring Chamber of Commerce. ValVerde is the point of contact for the event.

"I can direct them. We have

different people who handle different parts of the event," she said. "So as far as food vendors, of course they will go to the city's permit office for that. I can direct them on who they need to call. We are a 501(c)(3), so all contributions are tax deductible."

For more information, contact ValVerde at 432-263-7641.

Updates for the event will be posted on Facebook at the Big Spring Area Chamber of

Commerce and the Pops in the Park event page:

[www.facebook.com/BigSpringAreaChamberofCommerce-128948388352/](http://www.facebook.com/BigSpringAreaChamberofCommerce-128948388352/)

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## CBO

Continued from Page 1

insurance or face fines. It would use tax credits to help consumers buy health coverage, expand health savings accounts, phase out an expansion of Medicaid and cap that program for the future, end some requirements for health plans under Obama's law, and scrap a number of taxes.

During the presidential campaign and as recently as January, Trump repeatedly stressed his support for universal health coverage, saying his plan to replace the Affordable Care Act would provide "insurance for everybody."

On Sunday, his aides took pains to explain that a CBO finding of fewer people covered would not necessarily mean that fewer people will be covered.

"If the CBO was right about Obamacare to begin with, there'd be 8 million more people on Obamacare today than there actually are," said Mick Mulvaney, director of the White House Office of Management

and Budget, disputing the accuracy of CBO data. "Sometimes we ask them to do stuff they're not capable of doing, and estimating the impact of a bill of this size probably isn't the best use of their time."

Health Secretary Tom Price said he "firmly" believed that "nobody will be worse off financially" under the Republicans' health care overhaul. He said people will have choices as they select the kind of coverage they want as opposed to what the government forces them to buy. In actuality, tax credits in Republican legislation being debated in the House may not be as generous to older people as what is in the current law.

Gary Cohn, Trump's chief economic adviser, described past CBO analyses as "meaningless."

"We are offering coverage to everyone," he said. "If you are on Medicaid today, you're going to stay on Medicaid. If you are covered under an employee-sponsored plan, you're going to be continued to be covered

under an employee-sponsored plan. If you fall into that middle group, we're going to provide tax credit so you can go out and buy a plan."

House conservatives weren't buying it.

Rep. Jim Jordan, R-Ohio, a co-founder of the House Freedom Caucus, criticized the plan as an unacceptable form of "Obamacare Lite." He and other caucus members want a quicker phase-out of Medicaid benefits and are opposed to proposed refundable tax credits as a new entitlement that will add to government costs.

Members of the caucus will meet with White House officials on Tuesday. They expressed hope that Trump is sincere in expressing a willingness to negotiate changes, criticizing Ryan for his "take it or leave it" stance.

"I'm not for this plan and I think there's lot of opposition to this plan in the House and Senate," Jordan said. "Either work with us or you don't end up getting the votes. That's the real choice here."

But pressuring the White House on the op-

posite side were moderate Republican governors and senators, who said Trump needed to allow for continuing Medicaid coverage for the poor.

"It's not like we love Obamacare. It means don't throw the baby out with the bathwater," said Ohio Gov. John Kasich, a Republican. "Don't kill Medicaid expansion. And you've got to fix the exchange, but you have to have an ability to subsidize people at lower income levels."

"We need to have Democrats involved so that what we do is going to be not only significant but will last," Ka-

sich added.

Ryan spoke on CBS' "Face the Nation," Price and Kasich appeared on NBC's "Meet the Press," Mulvaney spoke on ABC's "This Week" and CNN's "State of the Union," Cotton was on ABC's "This Week," and Jordan and Cohn appeared on "Fox News Sunday."

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Ruth Nicholson, 89, died Thursday. Graveside service were at 11 today at Trinity Memorial Park.

Jan Whitehead, 69, died Friday. Memorial services will be at 4 p.m. today at Spring Creek Fellowship.

Jesse Esquibel, Jr., 59, died Saturday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Larry Sandridge, 70, died Saturday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

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**Big Spring first baseman, Matthew Tarrats, tags out a baserunner between home and third in a rundown during the Steer's 7-6 win over Slaton Saturday afternoon, March 11, 2017.**



Tony Claxton (www.claxtonphotography.com)

**Big Spring third baseman Noah Gonzales throws to first for an out over pitcher Deryck Renteria during the Steer's 7-6 win over Slaton Saturday afternoon, March 11, 2017.**

## Steers finish 3-2 in West Texas Classic

By **MARISSA LOFTIN**  
Sports Editor

The Big Spring Steer baseball team competed in the West Texas Classic, which took place in both Greenwood and Big Spring over the weekend.

### Game One- Big Spring vs. Pecos

The Steers were able to take an early lead in the first inning of the game, when Matthew Tarrats brought one in on a single. Tarrats answered back with a run to tie the score, Big Spring had a huge third inning where they brought in seven runs, to bring them up 8-1.

By the fifth inning, Big Spring sealed the game by bringing four more across home plate to earn a run-rule win over Pecos.

The Steers racked up a total of 10 hits for the game. Riley Henson led the team on offense with 4 RBIs.

Henson, Tarrats and Noah Gonzales each collected multiple hits.

### Game two- Big Spring vs. Alpine

Big Spring's comeback effort from being down five runs in the fifth inning came up just short as they fell to Alpine 7-5.

Henson led the team on offense with two RBIs that came from his line drive triple to right field.

### Game three- Big Spring vs. Pecos

The Steers again prevailed over Pecos 6-4. After Big Spring reached a three-run lead going into the seventh inning, Pecos could not string together a comeback to stay alive and the

Steers' defensive stop would end the game.

Gonzales, Tarrats, Aaron Olague, Elijah Munoz, Edward Aguilar, and Brantz Burchett each knocked off one hit to lead the team at the plate.

### Game four- Big Spring vs. Midland High

The Steers fought back after falling down by five in the fifth inning. They would fall just short though, as they lost to Midland High in a 5-4 defeat.

The comeback effort consisted of four runs coming from a single by Tarrats, a triple by Cameron Mikels, and a stolen base by Aguilar.

Team leaders on offense were Aguilar, Olague, Tarrats, and Mikels who got one hit apiece in the game.

### Game five- Big Spring vs. Slaton

A walk-off single led Big Spring to a 7-6 win over Slaton.

The game was tied at 6 with the Steers batting in the bottom of the sixth inning when Gonzales singled, driving in the game-winning run.

Big Spring outhit Slaton 8-3 with contributions from Munoz, Aguilar, Tarrats, Mikels, Burchett, Gonzales, Jason Miramontes, and Kobe Gutierrez each of whom had one hit.

"Overall, it was a good weekend," said head coach Daniel Carrillo. "We continue to play in tight games, and it will only make us better and more comfortable in pressure situations as the games get bigger."

The Steers will take on Pecos again in an away game this afternoon.

## Bulldogs go 2-2 in Reagan County Tournament

By **MARISSA LOFTIN**  
Sports Editor

Over the weekend, the Coahoma varsity baseball team competed in the Reagan County Tournament, finishing with a 2-2 record. Two players, Logan Franklin and Alex Biddison, were named to the all tournament team.

### Game one- Coahoma vs. McCamey

After grabbing an early lead in the first inning, the Bulldogs went on to beat McCamey in a 4-3 victory.

Alex Biddison earned the win for Coahoma throwing for seven innings, giving up three runs, five hits, striking out six and walking one.

The Bulldogs totaled six hits for the game. Leading the team on offense were Logan Franklin and Braden Pearson who each collected multiple hits in the game.

### Game two- Coahoma vs. Fort Stockton

The Bulldogs' game against Fort Stockton was a heartbreaker as Coahoma lost the lead late in a 7-6 defeat.

Coahoma was able to take an early lead in the first, scoring on a stolen base during Logan Franklin's at bat where he would hit a triple.

Fort Stockton was able to score five runs in the second inning.

The game was tied at six with Fort Stockton batting in the bottom of the sixth when Bracy Bacon uncorked a wild pitch, scoring one run.

Zach Holmes took the loss for Coahoma, throwing five innings, surrendering six runs, seven hits and striking out two.

In this high-scoring affair, Fort Stockton out hit Coahoma 5-9.

Gaige Hill, Fletcher Mashburn and Franklin each drove in one run to lead the team on offense.

The Bulldogs tore up the base paths, as two players stole atleast two bases. Mashburn led the way with four.

### Game three- Coahoma vs. Reagan County

The Bulldogs watched the game

slip away early and could not recover as they lost to Reagan County 7-4.

Reagan County was able to establish an early lead, scoring two runs in the first inning and four in the second.

The Bulldogs went for a three-run third inning thanks to single by Franklin, and a double by Biddison. Unfortunately that was not enough to get the win.

Franklin took the loss for Coahoma, throwing for three innings, allowing three runs, six hits and striking out five.

Mashburn led the Bulldogs at the plate with two hits in his two at bats.

### Game four- Coahoma vs. Stanton

A walk-off walk led Coahoma past Stanton in a 6-5 victory for their final game of the tournament.

Despite allowing Stanton to score five runs in the fifth inning, the Bulldogs still held on to earn the win.

The game was tied at five with Coahoma batting in the bottom of the sixth when Biddison was walked and brought one across.

Landon Grant started the game for Coahoma on the mound. He pitched four and a third innings, allowing four runs, five hits and striking out three.

Pearson earned the win for the Bulldogs, pitching one inning, surrendering zero runs, one hit and walking one.

Offensive leaders include Pearson, Grant, Biddison, Franklin and Bacon who each drove in one run.

Biddison led Coahoma with two stolen bases, contributing to the team's total of six bases stolen.

"We played two solid games, so that is a good sign," said head baseball coach Bryan Jacobs. "I am very proud of the six kids on our team who played two baseball games on Thursday, and then competed very well in the track meet that evening."

The Bulldog's next game will be at Seminole this Thursday at 11 a.m. According to coach Jacobs, this game will be a great warm up for district, which begins the following week.

## Harden's triple-double helps Rockets top Cavs 117-112

HOUSTON (AP) —

James Harden and the Houston Rockets have shown at times this season that they could be title contenders. Lately, however, they've failed to rise to the occasion against the NBA's elite.

That changed on Sunday night when Harden had a triple-double of 38 points, 11 assists and 10 rebounds to outduel fellow MVP candidate LeBron James and lead the Rockets to a 117-112 win over the Cleveland Cavaliers.

"We beat Golden State. We beat San Antonio, but that was earlier," Rockets coach Mike D'Antoni said. "We haven't had one (recently), so this was good. This will give us a little boost."

The Rockets were up by six when Nene made

a layup before intercepting a bad pass by James. Patrick Beverley made a 3-pointer on the other end to push the lead to 116-107 with less than two minutes left.

Kyrie Irving hit a 3 with less than a minute to go and added two free throws after that to get the Cavaliers within four. But then Harden sank a free throw to end Cleveland's run and secure the victory.

It was the 16th triple-double this season for Harden and his 31st game with at least 30 points.

"It's a big win for us, especially because we're down the stretch and it's time to begin preparing ourselves for post-season," Harden said. "Big win against the defending champs."

James had 30 points

and Irving scored 28 for the Cavaliers, who lost for the fourth time in five games.

Cleveland coach Tyronn Lue thinks James and Irving struggled after the team also played on Saturday night.

"We played hard and fought down the stretch and got tired," Lue said. "I thought LeBron got tired and Kyrie got tired. What we took advantage of in the first half, we weren't able to get those things in the second half because our guys got tired."

James lamented the fact that Houston got 20 offensive rebounds to just four by the Cavaliers.

"They did a good job of crashing the glass," he said.

See **ROCKETS** Page 10



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HOLIDAY  
MATHIS

### Mercury Is Reborn

Mercury moves out of wise, soulful Pisces and into the realm of the zodiac's firstborn, Aries. This passage represents a quickening. Youthfulness and innocence are implied. The wires of communication are charged with a child-like zest, along with the arrogance forgivable only in children who don't know any better.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19).** Don't be quick to assume that another person's behavior is about you. Most people are focused on solving problems that have little or nothing to do with you.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** People around you will jostle

for position, trying to get there faster and first. What if you thought of everyone as you but in a different body? How would you do it differently than they do?

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** You may not want to share the conclusions you've drawn, as there are many around you, some of them close friends and colleagues, who won't agree. Instead, share the facts that led you to draw the conclusion.

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** You're going to rise to the competition. Do you know who it is? If you don't have any competition or it's way too easy for you, this is the time to go find those with the level of skill and talent that will push you.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** You'll be building on today's accomplishments, so it's important that you lay down a solid base. Generally, it will be much better to do something slowly and correctly than fast and wrong.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** The key to

## Tomorrow's Horoscope

success will be hidden in something small. Capture it first to allow for the detailed study. Take notes, or record instructions, or take a picture you can zoom in to on a smartphone.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** In a way, it is selfish to point out your own flaws or flubs. It brings the attention to you in a not very educational or entertaining way. Anyway, you're the only one who will notice if you mess up today, so move right along.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** Flowers given at random are much more effective than the ones given on a birthday or as an apology. Good luck seems doubly good when it comes from out of the blue. Use the power of surprise to your own benefit.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** One hobby isn't enough. You need three, really -- one that lets you be creative, one that gets you moving physically and one that will help you meet beneficial social and professional contacts.

**CAPRICORN**

**(Dec. 22-Jan. 19).** Your competitive advantage is that you pick up conversational cues. This includes taking notice of the topics people bring up. Casual references are often significant and not throwaways.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** What seems like a pesky problem is actually an opportunity to execute a task differently than it's been done in the past. With your cleverness, you'll turn this around and shine all the while.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).** There is a difference of many, many hours (perhaps years) between intimate knowledge and basic knowledge. If all that's needed is a basic knowledge, don't waste time learning more. Get up and running.

**TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (March 13).** You crave a life that's deeper and more profound. You'll pass up the values offered in sound bites and snack sizes to devote yourself to mastery and expertise levels of your interests. You'll

strike "gold" in May. Your personal life gets spicy in August. You'll take home a trophy before the end of 2017. Libra and Capricorn adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 2, 17, 3, 33 and 41.

**ASTROLOGICAL QUESTION:** "I'm an Aquarius working on professional goals that require me to put myself out there in a bigger way and risk wasting my time and energy on something that could flop. Presentations will be involved. I'm afraid of appearing foolish or just failing in general. How can I be more confident?"

As an Aquarius, you get your confidence from your strong understanding of and alliance with the human family. A true egalitarian, you know on a deep level that there is no person on the planet who is more important than any other person. Status is, therefore, both illusory and situational. Being successful in any given circumstance is a matter of being well-matched to what the situation calls for. If you're not well-

matched, it doesn't mean that you are less of a person. In fact, it's not personal at all. Just move to where your talents are better suited to what's going on. By the same token, you don't let success go to your head because you realize that it's just a formula you've figured out, not a reflection of your being more deserving or any different from anyone else.

**CELEBRITY PROFILES:** Billy Crystal claims that his wife, Janice, was his first and only date. Whether or not this is actually true, it is emotionally true for him; Pisces people allow more liberties with emotional truth than people with other sun signs, which is part of this sign's genius. Emotional truth translates into beautiful art, poetry, music and acting. Crystal's chart reveals a solid family man -- and a gambler when it comes to his art.

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## Annie's Mailbox

### Facing a Deal Breaker?

**Dear Annie:** After a series of, let's just say, not-so-nice relationships, my best friend and old college roomie set me up with a girl from his hometown named "Stephanie." I've never believed in love at first sight, but this was pretty close. We hit it off and have a ton in common. A year and a half later and we're engaged. I'm excited to make Stephanie my wife.

We decided to go to a pre-marriage retreat through our church. During the retreat, the leaders ask you all sorts of questions about your plans for the future. We were compatible on all the major answers -- except for one. "How many children would you like to have?"

I wrote that one or two would be nice; she wrote five! When we went back into our room to discuss, she explained how she came from a small family and always dreamed of having a bigger family. Well,

I came from a large family and never felt that I got enough attention, so I have always wanted to have just one child -- two at the most. Is this problem a deal breaker for our relationship? -- Apprehensive

**Dear Apprehensive:** Only you can determine what your own personal deal breakers are, as they're different for everyone. But if you're at all willing to consider having more children, perhaps you and Stephanie could meet right in the middle and settle on having three. And if you can diplomatically reach such an important agreement, you and Stephanie have the stuff of a strong partnership. Compromise and marriage go together like a horse and carriage -- and that's a good thing. Two hearts and

minds working together are better than one.

**Dear Annie:** I'm writing in response to the letter from "Feeling So Bad," who wrote about the death of her friend "Marie." She was angry that Marie's husband, "Bill," didn't provide updates about Marie's health or inform neighbors of her death.

I am sorry that "Feeling So Bad" lost her friend, but from her letter, it appears that her only contact with Marie or Bill was by phone. I guess she never took over a casserole that Bill could have heated up for dinner. I guess she never stopped by and offered to stay with Marie so that Bill could get out of the house to run errands, take a walk, go to a movie -- anything to give him some relief from the constant and often

overwhelming needs of his wife. Do you know that the stress of being a caretaker often results in the death of the caretaker before the patient? (Bill apparently was able to survive his wife, but only by a year.) I feel sorry that "Feeling So Bad" was upset not to get a notice. I expect that Bill, as I did after my husband died of Alzheimer's disease, slept for 24 hours. When my husband died, I didn't care about getting out "notices" to so-called friends. I did call those I knew cared.

Sorry, but I'm not sympathetic. Instead of feeling bad, "Feeling So Bad" should feel guilty that she ignored the needs of her friend and hope that next time, she will find time to actually visit and provide assistance. -- Voicing

a Sad Experience

**Dear Voicing:** I'm sorry for the loss of your husband. And your letter is a good reminder that it's important to reach out to friends and family who are grieving, even if we feel awkward or unsure of what to say. However, it seems you're still holding on to a lot of anger toward people who weren't there for you. For your own sake, I would encourage you to try to forgive them. Let go of that anger so you're free to more fully embrace life.

Send your questions for Annie Lane to [dearannie@creators.com](mailto:dearannie@creators.com). To find out more about Annie Lane and read features by other Creators Syndicate columnists and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate website at [www.creators.com](http://www.creators.com).  
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## Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

### Famous Hand

South dealer.  
Neither side vulnerable.

**NORTH**  
—  
♥Q 7 3  
♦K 9 8 6 4 3  
♣Q 10 7 2

**WEST**  
♠10 6 5  
♥10 9 8 2  
♦A 10 5  
♣9 6 3

**EAST**  
♠A 8 4 3  
♥J 6 5 4  
♦7 2  
♣8 5 4

**SOUTH**  
♠K Q J 9 7 2  
♥A K  
♦Q J  
♣A K J

The bidding:  
South West North East  
2♣ Pass 2♦ Pass  
2♠ Pass 3♦ Pass  
3NT Pass 4NT Pass  
6NT

Opening lead — ten of hearts.

One of the most remarkable deals this writer has ever been personally involved in is this one from the Reisinger Knockout teams at the 1994 Eastern States Regional.

North-South reached six notrump, a contract that offered great promise, save for the fact that the opponents held two aces. West led a heart, taken by the ace, and declarer, without betraying the slightest con-

cern, returned the jack of diamonds. West ducked the jack, and ducked again when declarer continued with the queen. West was, naturally, trying to prevent the establishment of dummy's diamonds, to which there were limited entries.

West succeeded in winning this battle, but lost the war. Having secured two diamond tricks, South now turned his attention to the spade suit, leading the king. East won with the ace and could do no better than return a heart to declarer's king. South then cashed the Q-J of spades, and when the ten fell, he sheepishly claimed the rest of the tricks to make the slam.

It is difficult to blame West for the outcome, since he had no way of knowing that his partner held the ace of spades. Indeed, even if West had taken the ace of diamonds, it is hardly likely that he would have returned a spade into the teeth of South's spade suit. And if he did not find the spade shift, declarer would have collected five diamonds, four clubs and three hearts to bring in the slam.

Even so, the fact remains that South bid and made six notrump missing two aces, a feat that left the defenders in a state of high agitation, and declarer in a state of embarrassed euphoria.

Tomorrow: Tug of war.

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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.

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

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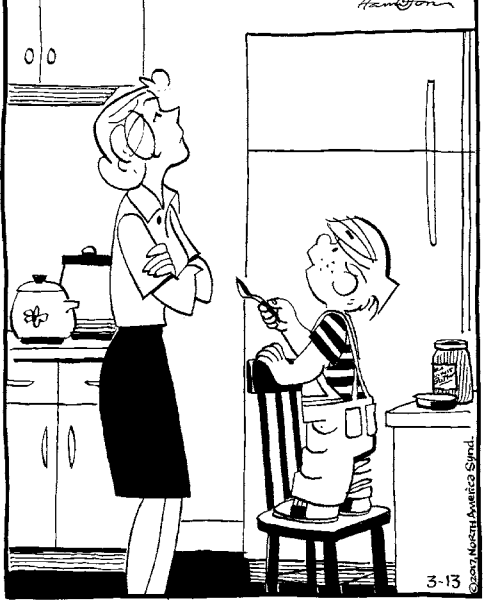
NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE!

23448



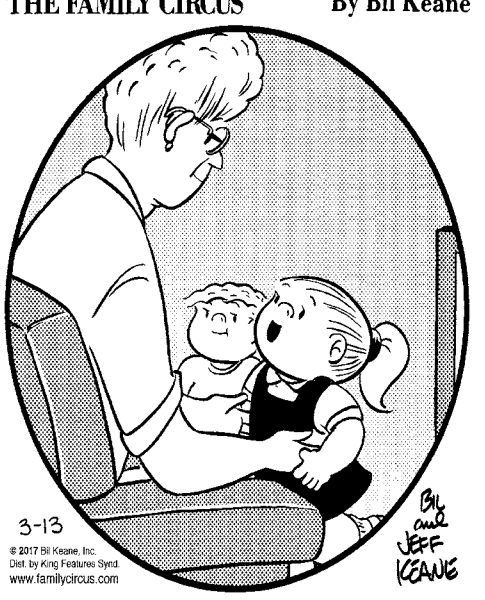
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	Midland	Spanish	Odessa	Odessa	Telemundo	Midland	Odessa	Odessa	Odessa	Midland	Atlanta	Atlanta	Sports	Sports	Sports	New York	New York	Discovery
5:00 PM	ABC Carrasco	Jefe Noticiero		tion	Pelicula: Ice Age 2: The Meltdown (SS)	Inside Ed. News	House R. Booker	Weekend Ireland	The Love Boat	Lili Taylor	Richard Armitage (DVS)	Replacements, Orlando Jones (DVS)	Winn Scott Van Pelt		UFC Main Event	Law & Order: SVU	American Pickers	Naked and Afraid
6:00 PM	Funny Home Videos	Notasario Univision	Burgers	60 Minutes	Little Big Shots	Shepherd's Heart	Nature (DVS)	Griffith	Griffith	Movie: Cruel Intentions	Night at the Museum: Secret of the Tomb	Movie: Thor, Anthony Hopkins (DVS)	Bracketology	College Track & Field	World Poker	Law & Order: SVU	American Pickers	Naked and Afraid
7:00 PM	Once Upon a Time	Su Nombre Era Dolores	Simpsons History	NCIS: Los Angeles	Siempre Niños (SS)	Little Big Shots	Messiah All About	Westminster	Columbo	S.H.I.E.L.D.	Night at the Museum: Secret of the Tomb	Movie: The Campaign (DVS)	NBA Basketball: Cavaliers at Rockets	Bracketology	Stars Pre.	Law & Order: SVU	American Pickers	Naked and Afraid
8:00 PM	Time After Time	Fam. Guy Last Man	Madam Secretary	Elementary	Don Francisco	Shades of Blue		Movie: Pollyanna, Kenneth Cranham	Kolchak: Stalker	Fam. Guy Seinfeld	Night at the Museum: Secret of the Tomb	Movie: The Campaign (DVS)	SportsCenter	SportCtr E:60	NHL Hockey: Dallas Stars at San Jose Sharks.	Law & Order: SVU	American Pickers	Naked and Afraid
9:00 PM	American Crime	Aquí y Ahora	Big Bang	CBS 7	Titulares	News	Zola Lev.	Western News	Honeyym. Cops Rel.	Cops Rel.	Movie: Sky High, Kelly Preston	Movie: The Replacements, Orlando Jones (DVS)	SportsCenter	ESPN FC	Postgame	Mod Fam	American Pickers	Naked and Afraid
10:00 PM	2 News	Jefe	Broke Girl	CBS 7	Titulares	News	Zola Lev.	Western News	Honeyym. Cops Rel.	Cops Rel.	Movie: Sky High, Kelly Preston	Movie: The Replacements, Orlando Jones (DVS)	SportsCenter	ESPN FC	Postgame	Mod Fam	American Pickers	Naked and Afraid
11:00 PM	Ninja Warrior	Noticiero	Texans Sports	UTPB	The Marine 3: Homefront (SS)	Whacked	Discovery Dollars	With Scholars (Off Air)	Mary Taxi	Movie: Sam Steele and the Junior Detective Sledge ...	Movie: The Time Machine	Movie: The Replacements, Orlando Jones (DVS)	SportsCenter	NBA Basketball: Cavaliers at Rockets	Spotlight	Chrysler	American Pickers	Naked and Afraid
12:00 AM	(.35) Blue Bloods	República Deportiva	Van Impe	UTPB	The Marine 3: Homefront (SS)	Whacked	Discovery Dollars	With Scholars (Off Air)	Mary Taxi	Movie: Sam Steele and the Junior Detective Sledge ...	Movie: The Time Machine	Movie: The Replacements, Orlando Jones (DVS)	SportsCenter	NBA Basketball: Cavaliers at Rockets	Spotlight	Chrysler	American Pickers	Naked and Afraid
1:00 AM	Paid Prg.	Al Punto	Simpsons	Person of Interest	Programa Paid Prg.	Programa Paid Prg.	Programa Paid Prg.	Programa Paid Prg.	Programa Paid Prg.	Programa Paid Prg.	Programa Paid Prg.	Programa Paid Prg.	SportsCenter	NBA Basketball: Cavaliers at Rockets	Spotlight	Chrysler	American Pickers	Naked and Afraid
1:00 AM	Paid Prg.	Netas Divinas	Paid Prg.	(.35) Rizzoli	Programa Paid Prg.	Programa Paid Prg.	Programa Paid Prg.	Programa Paid Prg.	Programa Paid Prg.	Programa Paid Prg.	Programa Paid Prg.	Programa Paid Prg.	SportsCenter	NBA Basketball: Cavaliers at Rockets	Spotlight	Chrysler	American Pickers	Naked and Afraid

DENNIS THE MENACE



"DON'T YOU HATE IT WHEN PEANUT BUTTER STICKS TO THE CEILING?"

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



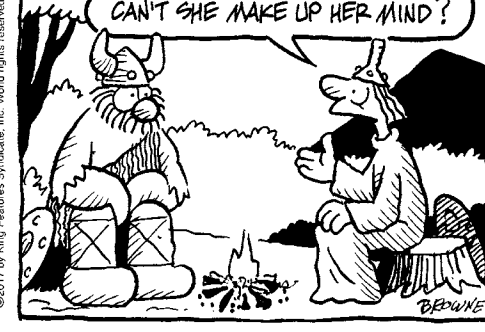
"I don't think Mommy would mind if you wanted to spoil us, Grandma."

HAGAR



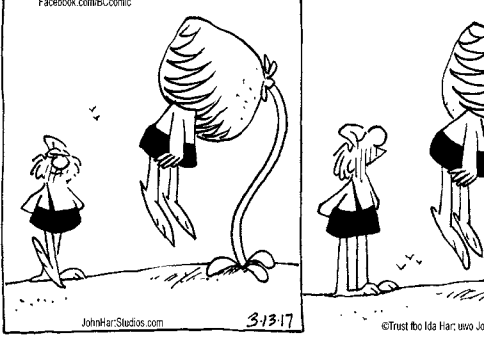
HELGA SAYS I'M PASSIVE-AGGRESSIVE!

BLONDIE

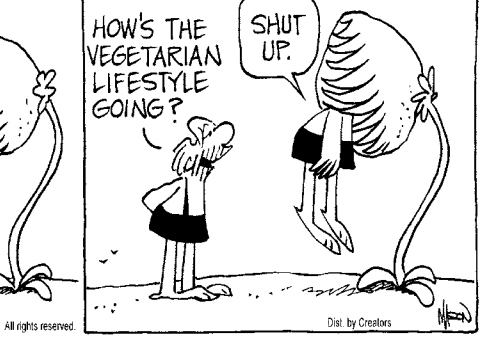


CAN'T SHE MAKE UP HER MIND?

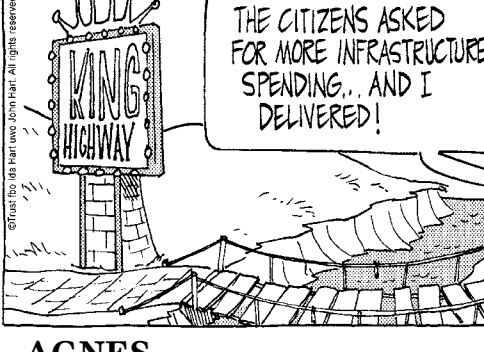
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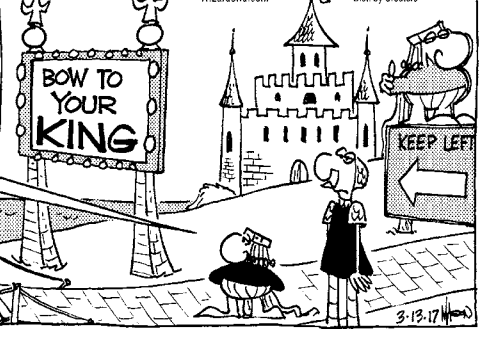
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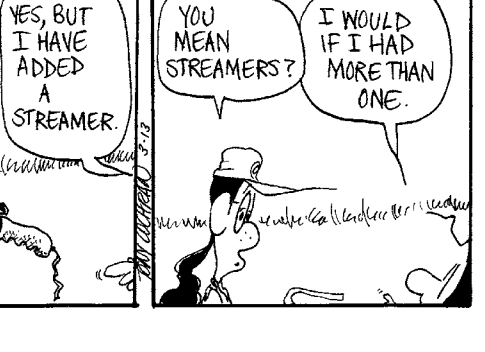
HI AND LOIS



THE OTHER COAST



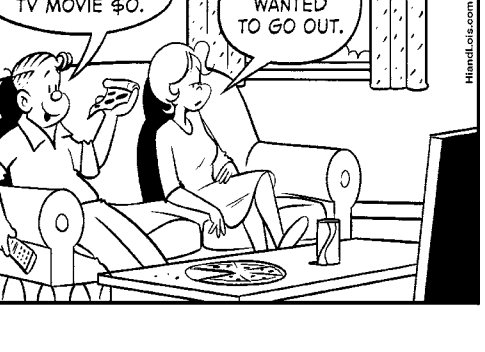
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BETLE BAILEY



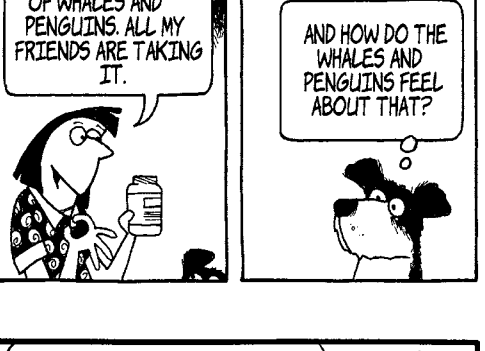
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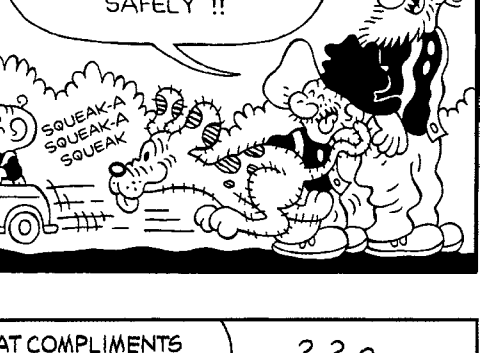
HI AND LOIS



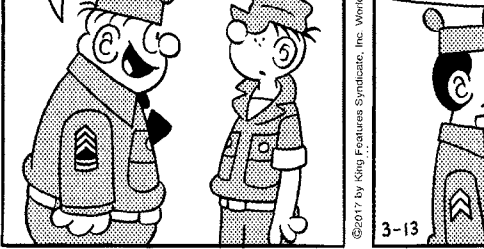
THE OTHER COAST



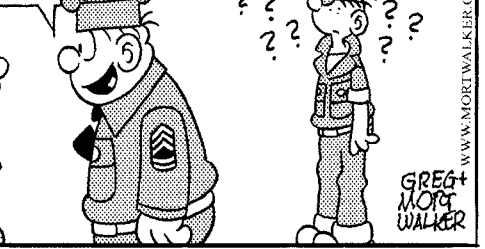
SNUFFY SMITH



BETLE BAILEY



THE OTHER COAST



This Date In History

Today is Monday, March 13, the 72nd day of 2017. There are 293 days left in the year.

Today's Highlights in History:

- 1933, banks in the U.S. began to reopen after a "holiday" declared by President Franklin D. Roosevelt.
- 1954, the Battle of Dien Bien Phu began during the First Indochina War as communist forces attacked French troops, who were defeated nearly two months later.
- 1964, bar manager Catherine 'Kitty' Genovese, 28, was stabbed to death near her Queens, New York, home; the case gained notoriety over the supposed reluctance of Genovese's neighbors to respond to her cries for help.
- 1980, Ford Motor Co. Chairman Henry Ford II announced he was stepping down, the same day a jury in Winamac, Indiana, found the company not guilty of reckless homicide in the fiery deaths of three young women in a Ford Pinto.
- 1996, a gunman burst into an elementary school in Dunblane, Scotland, and opened fire, killing 16 children and one teacher before killing himself.

In 1901, the 23rd President of the United States, Benjamin Harrison, died in Indianapolis at age 67.

In 1925, the Tennessee General Assembly approved a bill prohibiting the teaching of the theory of evolution. (Gov. Austin Peay (pee) signed the measure on March 21.)

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Newsday Crossword

BE FIRST by Gail Grabowski Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

- Hairdos
- Mosquito attack
- Skeptic's words
- Really like
- Region
- Casino city near Tahoe
- Enchanting
- Strike, as at a mosquito
- Kris Kringle
- Bottom of a boat
- Playing surface for pro hockey
- Hair-salon goops
- Rebellious uprisings
- Cold Russian region
- Drop into the mailbox
- Gorilla or chimp
- Applaud
- Auntie's daughter
- Elaborate party
- "On the \_\_\_ hand ..."
- Disneyland shuttle
- Royal decree
- Manuscript enclosure: Abbr.
- Shade source
- Give off
- In a half-hearted manner
- Bring cheer to
- Close with force
- Night before a holiday
- Maple or mahogany
- Unsuitable
- Zeus and Apollo
- Start over
- Opera solo
- Door-to-door cosmetics seller
- D.C. subway
- Short-tailed wildcat
- Home for a hawk
- Strong point
- Tax-collecting agcy.
- Completely confused
- Pass, as legislation
- Carryall bags
- Colorful house cat
- so (nevertheless)
- Seasons, as pretzels
- "Put a lid \_\_\_!"
- Wise person!
- Apple tablet computer
- Trusted completely
- Scrooge's shout
- Eye-color area
- Male singing voice
- "Bald" birds
- Apex
- Catch, as a fish
- Color slightly
- Swami's headgear
- Central American canal country
- Reflections from mirrors
- Allowed by law
- Elephant tusk material
- Petal \_\_\_ (ongoing annoyance)
- Swelled heads
- Butter portions
- Bike's wheel
- Jazz wind instrument
- Bank's addition into an acct.
- Forget-me-\_\_\_

DOWN

- Taxi
- Poems of praise
- Des Moines' state
- Decorative fabric border
- Irish \_\_\_ (hunting dog)
- Scrooge's shout
- Eye-color area
- Male singing voice
- "Bald" birds
- Apex
- Catch, as a fish
- Color slightly
- Swami's headgear
- Central American canal country
- Reflections from mirrors
- Allowed by law
- Elephant tusk material
- Petal \_\_\_ (ongoing annoyance)
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- Butter portions
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- Jazz wind instrument
- Bank's addition into an acct.
- Forget-me-\_\_\_

13x13 crossword grid with numbers 1-73.

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## Nor'easter to bring heavy snow, strong winds to Northeast

NEW YORK (AP) — A powerful nor'easter could bring blizzard conditions and more than a foot of snow to some parts of the Northeast, proving that winter is not done yet.

The National Weather Service issued a blizzard watch from late Monday night through Tuesday evening for New York City and parts of northern New Jersey and southern Connecticut, while winter storm warnings and watches were issued for the remainder of the Northeast.

Meteorologists said the storm could dump 12 to 18 inches of snow on New York City with wind gusts of 40 to 50 mph.

Mayor Bill de Blasio urged residents to avoid unnecessary travel and help keep the roads clear for sanitation crews and first responders.

"We're preparing for a significant storm on Tuesday, and New Yorkers should also prepare for snow and dangerous road conditions," de Blasio said.

## Rockets

Continued from Page 4

"Obviously, if we got some of those we would have given ourselves a better chance to get the win, but we didn't."

Deron Williams gave the Cavaliers a one-point lead on a 3 with about seven minutes left before Houston scored the next seven points, highlighted by Clint Capela's two-handed dunk on an assist from Harden to make it 107-101.

James ended a scoring drought of almost two minutes when he drained a 3-pointer just before the shot clock expired to get Cleveland within three.

Lou Williams gave Houston a six-point lead by opening the fourth quarter with a layup. Cleveland then used a 10-2 run, with 3s from James and Channing Frye, to go on top 96-94.

Cleveland led by 14 with about 10 minutes left in the third quarter after a 3-pointer by James. The Rockets then used an 18-7 run to get to 81-78 with less than four minutes left in the period. Houston had two 3-pointers in that span, one from Harden and one from Ryan Anderson.

Harden and James both added a basket after that before Houston missed six straight shots over the next two possessions.

Lou Williams finally got the Rockets going again when he made a 3-pointer that tied it at 83 with about two minutes left in the quarter.

The Cavaliers regained the lead with a 3 by Derrick Williams, but Houston scored the last seven points

of the quarter to take a 90-86 lead into the fourth. Harden capped that run by grabbing a steal from Irving and finishing on the other end with a layup.

The Cavaliers led 67-58 at halftime.  
TIP-INS  
Cavaliers: James finished with eight turnovers. ... Richard Jefferson had 16 points. ... Cleveland shot 17 of 43 on 3s.

Rockets: Beverley made three 3-pointers. ... The Rockets hit 16 of 45 3-point attempts. ... Harden also had a block and a steal.

UNWANTED VISITOR  
Play was briefly stopped midway through the second quarter when a fan ran onto the court and in the middle of all the players. He didn't touch any players, but came within a foot or so of both Jefferson and Beverley. The fan reached midcourt and waved a shirt over his head before being chased down by a group of security guards and dragged off the court. Players moved away from the area where the fan was caught and a couple of them shook their heads and laughed.

THEY SAID IT  
James on the Cavs' recent struggles: "We just have to figure it out. We are a team that is capable of doing that. We knew March was going to be a tough month when we looked at the schedule in the beginning."

UP NEXT  
Cavaliers: Host the Detroit Pistons on Tuesday.

Rockets: Host the Los Angeles Lakers on Wednesday.

## McCain to Trump: Provide wiretap evidence or retract claim

WASHINGTON (AP) — The House intelligence committee is asking the Trump administration for evidence that the phones at Trump Tower were tapped during the campaign as its namesake has charged, a request reinforced Sunday by an influential Republican senator who says the president must either come up with the evidence or retract his claim.

"I think the president has one of two choices: either retract or to provide the information that the American people deserve, because, if his predecessor violated the law, President Obama violated the law, we have got a serious issue here, to say the least," Sen. John McCain said.

President Donald Trump asserted in a tweet last week: "Terrible! Just found out that Obama had my 'wires tapped' in Trump Tower just before the victory. Nothing found. This is McCarthyism!" He continued the allegation against former President Barack Obama in other tweets but offered no evidence.

The request for evidence by Monday was made in a letter sent to the Justice Department by the House committee chairman, Rep. Devin Nunes, R-Calif., and the panel's ranking Democrat, Rep. Adam Schiff, D-Calif., a senior congressional aide said Saturday. The aide wasn't authorized to discuss the request by name and requested anonymity.

Obama's director of national intelligence, James Clapper, has said that nothing matching Trump's claims had taken place, but that has not quelled speculation that Trump's communications were monitored by the Obama administration. Trump has asked Congress to investigate.

## Turkey formally protests minister's treatment in Netherlands

ANKARA, Turkey (AP) — Turkey's Foreign Ministry on Monday summoned the Netherlands' top diplomat to formally protest its treatment of a Turkish minister in that country over the weekend as well as what it said was "disproportionate" use of force against demonstrators in a protest that ensued.

The Ministry said the Dutch Embassy's charge d'affaires, Daan Feddo Huisinga, was called to the ministry where a senior official handed him two formal protest notes.

The first protested what it said practices that were contrary to international conventions, diplomatic courtesy, and diplomatic immunities and requested a written apology from the Dutch authorities, a ministry statement said. Turkey also re-

served its right to seek compensation, the Dutch diplomat was told.

The second note protested the treatment of Turkish citizens who had gathered outside the Turkish consulate in Rotterdam, saying "disproportionate force" had been used against "people using their right to peaceful gatherings. It added that Turkish nationals had been subjected to "inhumane and derogatory" treatment and called for those responsible to be identified and punished.

It was the third time that the Dutch diplomat has been summoned since tensions broke out between the two countries after two ministers were prevented from campaigning in the Netherlands. The family affairs minister was escorted out of the country while the foreign minister was denied permission to land.

## Out of prison, then back in? Unique plan aims to break cycle

BOSTON (AP) — Tykeam Jackson's soft voice and warm smile give little hint of how the 21-year-old spent his youth: in and out of juvenile detention and jails, leading a life in Boston's mean streets centered on gangs and guns.

"I was always having guns to protect myself. I just kept getting caught," he said. "I was hanging around the wrong crowd, being in the wrong areas, getting into the wrong activities."

Over the past year, his outlook has changed. Even as a pending criminal case looms over him, he's slowly gaining confidence that he can break the cycle that has entangled him — with the help of a unique organization called Roca.

"They've gotten me in the right direction," he said. "Since I've been with Roca, my whole life has done a 360."

Roca is a nonprofit that seeks to steer hundreds of Massachusetts' highest-risk young men away from a return behind bars, using a distinctive blend of relentlessness and patience. Even the most troublesome participants are exhorted to persist with its multi-year education and job programs; Roca is loath to give up on any of them.

## Democrats warn against funding border wall in catchall bill

WASHINGTON (AP) — Top Senate Democrats are warning Republicans controlling Congress against adding billions of dollars for President Donald Trump's U.S.-Mexico border wall to an upcoming \$1 trillion-plus catchall spending package.

The warning from Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer and others came in a Monday letter to Majority Leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky. The letter also warns against adding other "poison pills" such as provisions to roll back environmental or consumer protections and urges additional money for domestic programs to match the administration's planned Pentagon increases.

"We believe it would be inappropriate to insist on the inclusion of (wall) funding in a must-pass appropriations bill that is needed for the Republican majority in control of the Congress to avert a government shutdown so early in President Trump's administration," said the letter, which was provided to *The Associated Press*.

At issue is a huge package of leftover spending bills for the fiscal year that began back in October. Congress faces an April 28 deadline to complete the measure and avert a partial government shutdown. It's separate from Trump's upcoming partial budget submission for the 2018 budget year that begins on Oct. 1. That proposal is expected on Thursday.

While the letter says it would be "inappropriate" to include money for the border wall, it says Democrats would "strongly oppose" other provisions, including moves against Wall Street regulations or even an attempt to "defund" Planned Parenthood.

## UNICEF says 2016 was worst year yet for Syria's children

BEIRUT (AP) — In Syria, last year was the worst yet for the country's rising generation, with at least 652 children killed in 2016, the United Nations' child relief agency said Monday.

There was no letup to attacks on schools, hospitals, playgrounds, parks and homes as the Syrian government, its opponents and the allies of both sides showed callous disregard for the laws of war.

UNICEF said at least 255 children were killed in or near schools last year and 1.7 million youngsters are out of school. One of every three schools in Syria is unusable, some because armed groups occupy them.



AP Photo/David J. Phillip

Houston Rockets' James Harden (13) goes up for a shot against Cleveland Cavaliers' Richard Jefferson (24).

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