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# H BIG SPRING WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26, 2017

# HERALD



VOLUME 112, NUMBER 163      COPYRIGHT 2017      50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 SUNDAY

## New plastic company coming to Big Spring? City attorney Kaye Edwards resigns at Tuesday's city council meeting

**By ROBERT BARLOW**  
 Staff Writer  
 A new business may be soon occupying the city-owned facility which formerly housed Western Container and the city will be searching for a new attorney as Kaye Edwards tendered her resignation Tuesday night during the city council meeting.

Negotiations with a plastic company for a lease agreement in what is now the former Western Container facility were approved by city council members.  
 "This is an agreement we've been working on for several months," said City Manager Todd Darden. "We've negotiated, in principle at least,

an amount per square foot for the building,"  
 The company had met previously with the Economic Development Corporation at a conference and has since made several site visits to the property express-



Darden

ing their interest. The EDC has also recently offered an incentive agreement to the company and are still waiting for a response.  
 "We're just asking for your permission to finish those negotiations once they sign the letter of intent with the EDC," said Darden.  
 The possibility of a new

company moving in could also lead to the creation of some additional jobs in Big Spring, helping the city economically by partially filling in the gap that was left behind by the closure of Western Container.  
 "They intend to start with See CITY, Page 3

## Morton named CASA of WT Volunteer of the Year



Courtesy photo

**Deb Morton (center) accepts her award as CASA of West Texas Volunteer of the Year. Also pictured are Sara Basaldua, CASA volunteer coordinator (left) and Patty Pisklak, CASA of West Texas executive director.**

**By ROBERT BARLOW**  
 Staff Writer  
 With over half a decade of volunteer work helping give children a voice under her belt, Debra Morton was nominated as Volunteer of the Year with CASA of West Texas.  
 CASA of West Texas nominates one volunteer a year for their exceptional dedication to the children they help. This year, Debra Morton was chosen for her long term service to the organization and continued dedication

through some more of the challenging situations.  
 Morton has been with the organization for seven years and has the same giving spirit as when she first started. Morton and her husband have 15 grandchildren, and her love of children ultimately led her to respond to an ad in the newspaper for volunteers at CASA.  
 "If I could be a foster parent I would probably have ten kids," said Morton.  
 See CASA, Page 3

## HC president to speak about library issue at Friends of the Library meeting Thursday

**By LYNDEL MOODY**  
 Staff Writer

Howard College President Dr. Cheryl Sparks will speak about the hiring process for the new college/county librarian during the upcoming Friends of the Library meeting.

Friends of the Library will meet at 5:15 p.m. Thursday in the basement of the Howard County Library, 500 S. Main St. The Friends of the Library supports the community library's programs such as the Summer Reading Program.  
 Earlier this year, college trustees and Howard County Commissioners — the governing body for Howard County which oversees the community library program — agreed to share a head librarian to over see all of the college's academic libraries and the community library. The agreement was a cost savings measure for both taxing entities. Both entities publicly stated neither has had luck finding a qualified candidate with the salary range they could offer.  
 Part of the new duties for

the new hire will be to research merging to the programs with the college overseeing a hybrid community/academic library on the Big Spring campus. That announcement has caused concern within the community. Officials for both entities have stressed no decision has been made on the issue and they are only looking into the possibility.



Sparks

At the last college board of trustees meeting Monday, Sparks touched on the issue after she updated the board on where the hiring for a new librarian currently stood.  
 "I personally see this as a four stage type process," Sparks told trustees. "The first thing we are doing is going through a conceptual phase. Looking at what will it be. How it would work. Each community and each library has its uniqueness... Then you start looking at the space. What do we need for the space for what we want to do."  
 Sparks said if the college and county then agreed to go ahead with the merging, the third step is fundraising for the project with the fourth step implementation.  
 "There is a lot of work to be done for that whole process," Sparks said.

## BSHS students shine at academic state meet

**Special to the Herald**

Two Big Spring High School students competed at the first part of the University Interscholastic League State Meet this past weekend on the campus of the University of Texas. Both students brought home medals.

Britney Tan placed third in ready writing and Alexess Sosa placing fourth in editorial writing.

"This year is unique because the Academic State

Meet was divided up into the testing events early and the speech events towards the end of May," Academic Coordinator Jennifer Adams said. "We had great results in the first half and are working hard to echo these results at the Speech State Meet."

Happy with her result, junior Tan said, "I'm really excited that I got the bronze in ready writing. I'm glad that I have another year to improve on my finish."

Tan also competed at the state meet in feature writing. Bronze is the highest place of any Big Spring High School student to date in ready writing.

Senior Sosa finished her UIL academic career as one of the most state decorated Steers.

"While not the result that I was shooting for, I am proud to have medaled at the state meet for a fourth time," Sosa said. "Lots of people don't even make the state meet and when they do, not many can say that they medaled every time."

Sosa has two previous medals in editorial writing as well as an octa-finalist finish at the cross-examination state meet.

Seniors Ashlan Armstrong and Seth Hamby qualified to compete at the speech portion in late May.



Courtesy photo

**Pictured are Alexess Sosa left, and Britney Tan. The duo earned medals at the UIL academic state meet this past week.**

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Obituaries

David C. Brown



David C. Brown, 64, of Stanton died Monday, April 24, 2017, at his residence. Graveside funeral services will be 11 a.m. Thursday, April 27, 2017, at the Evergreen Cemetery Chapel with the Rev. Charlie Stevens officiating. The family will receive friends from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Wednesday, April 26, 2017, at Gilbreath Funeral Home. He was born March 18, 1953, in Stanton, Texas, and married Debbie White Melton June 3, 1989, in Martin County, Texas. David was a lifelong resident of Stanton and had worked various jobs during his life, including being a telephone man, operating a backhoe, and pipeline welding. He enjoyed farming and ranch-

ing and loved being a cowboy. Survivors include his wife, Debbie Brown of Stanton; three sons, Stoney Brown and wife Lorena of Stanton, Tim Melton and wife Kari of Abilene, and Dennis Melton and wife Ashley of Stanton; one daughter, Brittany Brown Biery and husband Andy of Rockport; one brother, Jerry Brown and wife Lyn of Midland; one sister, Linda Phillips and husband, Arnold of Stanton; two brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law, Larry and Karen White of Midland, and Bobby and Doris Holland of Stanton; and 12 grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents, Boots and Irene Brown; and one brother, Glenn Brown. The family suggests memorials to a charity of your choice. Arrangements are under the direction of Gilbreath Funeral Home of Stanton. Online condolences may be made at www.npwelch.com.

Paid obituary

Burel Wolf

Burel Wolf, a longtime resident of Lancaster, Texas, passed away on April 22, surrounded by his family. Burel was born at home in Vincent, Texas, on June 20, 1939, to John Andrew Wolf and Esther Mae McAlister Wolf. A graduate of 1957, his school years were spent in Coahoma, Lamesa, and Welch, Texas. There are many stories of the "Wolf" boys and their mischievous adventures. Burel always denied each one, but always had a twinkle in his eye. Burel is survived by his wife of 57 years, Linda Lee Jeter Wolf; son, Douglas Glen Wolf of Venus, Texas; daughter, Martha Wolf Salas of Lancaster, Texas; grandson, Richard C. Salas and wife Shannon; great-grandchildren Carissa, Meghan, and

Malakai; sisters, Wilma Jean Walker, Wanda Wilson, and Helen Davis; and numerous cousins, nieces, and nephews. Preceding Burel in death are his parents, John and Esther Wolf; brothers Charlie, William "Bill", Buren, Loyd, John Jr, and Calvin; and sisters Frances, Lorene, Edna, and Patsy. Burel's family and friends have many cherished memories to hold on to. All who knew Burel cared and respected him as a strong and loving family man, always willing to quietly buy your meal, donate to help others, or just drop off a bag of garden-fresh vegetables on your porch. For full obituary including service information or to send the family condolences, please visit www.byrumfuneralhome.com.

Paid obituary

Delores N. LeVier



Dolores N. LeVier, 90, of Big Spring died Monday, April 24, 2017, in Big Spring. The family will receive friends from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. Thursday, April 27, 2017, at Myers and Smith Funeral Home. Funeral service will be at 11 a.m. Friday at Myers and Smith Chapel with Dan Miracle officiating. Burial will be at Trinity Memorial Park. Dolores was born July 30, 1926, in Banty, Okla., to Ola Kelso Thompson and Olan H. Thompson. She married Francis Willis LeVier on July 12, 1947, in Valley Center, Kan. The couple came to Big Spring in 1961, where she worked for GAMCO Industries for over 20 years. She was a member of the First Christian Church. Dolores is survived by two daughters, Frances Hobbs and husband Leon of Liberty Hill, and Amy Schultz and her husband Chuck of Kingsville; five grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Francis Willis LeVier in June 2002; and one son, Roger LeVier in 2015. The family suggests memorials to Isaiah 58 Food Ministry or the First Christian Church. Arrangements are by Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Pay your respects online at www.myersand-smith.com.

Raul "Pelon" Gonzales Sr.

Raul "Pelon" Gonzales Sr., 65, of Big Spring died Sunday, April 23, 2017, at Scenic Mountain Medical Center. Vigil service will be held at 7 p.m. Friday, April 28, 2017, at Myers and Smith Chapel. Funeral mass will be at 10 a.m. Saturday at Holy Trinity Catholic Church. Burial will be at Coahoma Cemetery.

Samuel Ray Myers Jr.

Samuel Ray Myers Jr., 90, of Big Spring died Monday, April 24, 2017, at Lamun-Lusk-Sanchez Texas State Veterans Home. Funeral service will be at 2 p.m. Saturday, April 29, 2017, at Myers and Smith Chapel. Burial with Military Honors will be at Trinity Memorial Park.

Support Groups

- WEDNESDAY
• RSD (Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy) a chronic pain disease, a support and informative group, meets at 213 Circle. Call Lucy at (432) 517-9207 for more information.
• Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m.; open 12 & 12 study meeting 8 p.m. to 9 p.m.
- THURSDAY
• Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, open discussion noon to 1 p.m.; women's meeting; 6:30 until 7:30 p.m. Newcomers' meeting, 8 p.m. until 9 p.m.
- FRIDAY
• AA open discussion meeting from noon until 1 p.m. at 605 Settles. Open Big Book study meeting, 8 p.m. until 9 p.m.
- SATURDAY
• Alcoholics Anonymous open discussion meeting, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m. Open podium/speakers meeting 8 p.m. until 9 p.m. Open birthday night, no smoking meeting the last Saturday of each month at 8 p.m. Covered dish supper at 7 p.m.
- SUNDAY
• Alcoholics Anonymous closed meeting from 11 a.m. to noon at 615 Settles. Open meeting 7 p.m. until 8 p.m.
- MONDAY
• Reformers Unanimous International is a faith-based addictions program helping people find freedom from addiction. Meetings begin at 7 p.m. Mondays at Trinity Baptist Church in Big Spring. Enter at the main entrance of the church.

Police blotter

- The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity:
• JOE ANTHONY VILLARREAL JR., 30, of 2206 Cecilia St. was arrested on an outstanding warrant.
• MARY BEATRICE RODRIQUEZ, 51, of 210 N. Fourth St. in Coahoma was arrested on warrants for failure to appear, no safety belt for a child under 17, and failure to maintain financial responsibility; and on other outstanding warrants.
• JANELL OLAGUE, 36, of 2538 Gunter Circle was arrested on warrants for no driver's li-

- cense and failure to appear; and on other outstanding warrants.
• ELVIS EUGENE LANG, 41, of 901 N.W. Third St. was arrested on warrants for criminal mischief (\$100 to \$750), and possession of marijuana (less than 2 oz.).
• MARCIELLA PINEDA SANCHEZ, 28, of 1315 Mulberry Ave. was arrested on warrants for failure to maintain financial responsibility, failure to control speed, failure to yield right of way turning left, failure to appear, and no driver's license.
• JAMON LA TRELL TRIB-

- BLE, 20, of 928 Gross Rd. was arrested on an outstanding warrant.
• DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE was reported in the 2200 block of Cecilia Street.
• BURGLARY OF A HABITATION was reported in the 500 block of Washington Boulevard and the 1600 block of Settles Street (Rear).
• BURGLARY OF A VEHICLE was reported in the 4200 block of Parkway Road.
• BURGLARY OF A BUILDING was reported in the 6400 block of Perimeter Road.

Sheriff

- The Howard County Sheriff's Department reported the following activity:
Note - Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 77 inmates at the time of this report.
• JARED GRIFFIN BABB, 26, was booked by HCSO on warrants for speeding, possession of drug paraphernalia, and violation or promise to appear.
• RENE A RENNA BOOKER, 35, was booked by BSPD on two

- warrants for theft of service (\$750 to \$2,500); and on a charge of possession of marijuana (less than 2 oz.).
• ROBERT GUTIERREZ, 47, was booked by HCSO on warrants for failure to appear/aggravated assault with a deadly weapon, driving while intoxicated, violation of promise to appear, and bail jumping/failure to appear.
• GRACIELA LEAL, 46, was booked by BSPD on warrants for harassment, driving with an

- invalid license, running a stop sign, and theft.
• EMMANUEL PINEDA MALDONADO, 31, was booked by HCSO on a warrant for assault causing bodily injury/family violence.
• ROY ALTON MCGEE, 45, was booked by HCSO on a warrant for criminal trespassing.
• JOE ANTHONY VILLARREAL, 30, was booked by BSPD on a warrant for issuance of bad check.

Fire/EMS

- Big Spring Fire Department/EMS reported the following activity:
• TRAFFIC ACCIDENT was reported on Highway 87.
• MEDICAL CALL was reported on Interstate 20 near Exit 165. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.
• MEDICAL CALL was reported in the 500 block of Westover Road. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.
• MEDICAL CALL was reported in the 2600 block of Connally. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.
• MEDICAL CALL was reported in the 600 block of South Nolan. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.
• MEDICAL CALL was reported in the 300 block of East Third Street. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.
• MEDICAL CALL was reported-

- ed in the 3600 block of Connally. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.
• MEDICAL CALL was reported in the 1600 block of Tucson. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.
• MEDICAL CALL was reported in the 8600 Block of Interstate 20 South Service Road. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.
• MEDICAL CALL was reported in the 1900 block of Simler Drive. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.
• MEDICAL CALL was reported in the 600 block of South Nolan. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.
• MEDICAL CALL was reported in the 1400 block of East Sixth Street. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

- tain Medical Center.
• MEDICAL CALL was reported in the 500 block of Westover Road.
• MEDICAL CALL was reported in the 300 block of Tulane. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.
• MEDICAL CALL was reported in the 1700 block of Apron Drive. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.
• TRAFFIC ACCIDENT was reported on Moss Lake Road.
• MEDICAL CALL was reported in the 3700 block of Wright Avenue. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.
• PASSENGER VEHICLE FIRE was reported in the 200 block of South Scurry Street.
• FIRE SPRINKLER ALARM ACTIVATION was reported in the 1200 block of Birdwell Lane.

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# Take Note

- The West Texas Marine Corps League will be having their first meeting on Monday, May 1, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. Meeting location will be at 705 FM 700 in Big Spring.
- The Marine Corps League perpetuates the traditions and spirit of ALL Marines, retired, active duty or reserve, FMF Corpsmen and Chaplains, who proudly wear or who have worn the Eagle, Globe and Anchor of the Marine Corps.
- The Marine Corps League is Marines helping Marines in and around Howard County. For more info call Doc Rodman at 325-232-0665

- The Big Spring Salvation Army and the Big Spring Center for Skilled Care are holding a fan drive to collect and distribute electric fans to those 55 and older in Howard County. Those wishing to donate can take new or gently used box or pedestal fans to the Salvation Army headquarters at 811 W. Fifth St. Monday through Friday 9 a.m. to noon and 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.; or to the Center for Skilled Care at 3701 Wasson Rd. Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Seniors 55 and older who need a fan should call the Salvation Army at 432-267-8239 or the Center for SKilled Care at 432-606-5012 to register and receive the distribution date.

- The Permian Basin Underground Water District for will host its 2017 Rainwater Harvesting Workshop, at 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. Thursday, May 4. The presentation will take place at the PBUWCD office at 708 W. St. Peter Street in Stanton, Texas and is free to the public. This year's guest speaker will be Extension Agent in Horticulture Jeff Floyd with the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service.

- The Texas Department of State Health Services accredited food handlers program is being offered in Big Spring on April 27 at 10 a.m. and at 3 p.m. at Howard College's GC Broughton Agriculture Complex, 2411 Echols Drive. The class, which is being offered by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, is required for all food service employees to help

promote the service of safe food. The class is a basic overview of food safety practices that are necessary to ensure such safe food practices as: good personal hygiene, prevention of cross contamination, and good time and temperature practices. The cost of the program is \$20. To register, call 432-264-2236.

- Registration is now begin taken for cancer survivors/caregivers who will be attending the 2017 Howard/Glasscock County Relay for Life. To register by phone or online call 1-800-227-2345 or www.relayforlife.org/bigspiringtx. For assistance, you may contact Howard Stewart at 432-935-0582 or Beverly Grant at 432-967-0901.

- The Howard County A&M Club is accepting applications from current A&M students. Students must be Howard County residents and will enroll for at least 12 hours. For more information and to find the application, visit <https://westexags.com/>. Deadline for applications for current A&M students is June 1, 2017.

- The Howard County Fair thanks everyone who has picked up a crossstitch square for the annual quilt fundraiser. There are still a few squares left, so if you can do one, please see Cheryl at the Heritage Museum during regular hours, Tuesday through Saturday.

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

The next sacking session will be at 5:30 p.m. April 20 and 21 at the old Lakeview High School gym located at 1107 N.W. Seventh St. To get there, take Gregg Street north and turn left on Delaney, which is the block just past the Salvation Army retail store. Delaney turns into Seventh Street, you will go over the railroad tracks and the school is on the left.

# CITY

Continued from Page 1

one line at first and they gave us a very aggressive timeline as far as getting that line on service, approximately 30 employees," said Darden. "The company is looking for growth, and I think it's a good deal for our community and our economy here in Big Spring."

After meeting in closed session, the council resumed and accepted the resignation of the city attorney Kaye Edwards, who has been with the city for almost three years.

"I would like to thank Mrs. Edwards for her service, I believe she's been the city attorney for over two years now, and she's done a fine job for us," said Jim De-

Pau, District 6 council member. "We really respect Mrs. Edwards and wish her all the best."

The rest of the council as well as the mayor agreed and wished the best for the retiring attorney.

In other news, the council also approved the reinstatement of a school zone for the Anderson Accelerated High School. This will

change the current speed limit to 20 miles per hour for certain parts of the day while school is in session. This affects a portion of 13th Street and Airbase Road that are located near the school.

Other items covered at yesterday's meeting included:

- A resolution for the closure of part of the one way streets for the Fun-

tastic Fourth on June 23 through June 25 was approved.

- Chief Williams presented a bid for two new police cruisers for the Big Spring Police Department and was approved by the city council.

- The council also gave approval for a new power line to be built at the Comanche Trail Park.

# CASA

Continued from Page 1

"So I saw this as a way, a stepping stone to that. As a way to become involved with children and to really be a part of their life."

When Morton first started she came into the program with her husband. Over time, she recruited her cousin and sister into volunteering as well. Morton has helped new volunteers that have just started in the program get adjusted to the types of situations that they may have to encounter. Morton would help "walk alongside" these new volunteers and give them help as they needed it.

"One of the reasons we selected Deb is because she serves as a mentor for new volunteers as well, and I think that's critical," said Tracy Fryar, program supervisor for CASA. "This type of volunteer work can

be really overwhelming when you come in, it's a lot of responsibility to know that your making recommendations to the judge that will not only affect the child's future but the family as a whole."

Morton went on to say this type of volunteer work can be very challenging at times, but the happiness you receive from helping these children makes it all worth while. According to Morton, the experiences she has had with CASA has helped her gain valuable insight to the importance of other areas of her life and to not take anything for granted.

"I'm very blessed by it all, I hug my kids a little tighter," Morton said. "A lot of times when we have new volunteers I sit back and I think that each one of those volunteers represents a child, and it's a very hopeful image for me."

Morton has been impacted deeply by her

time with CASA but she mentioned the training she received was really influential on how she handled some situations not only in the program, but in her personal life as well.

"There is a lot of guidance and they're working these cases together, a lot of team work is involved," said Fryar.

Morton learned about being chosen for the award during the annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner in Midland and she said she was both "surprised and humbled" by the news. Volunteer of the Year is a special recognition that is reserved for one person in the CASA West Texas organization, which spans over seven counties across the area.

Morton, who also works a full-time job, stresses that it doesn't take much time to offer some help to the program. She encourages anyone who thinks this may be something they

are interested in to call the office and find out more about what they can do to help. It can be challenging but is very rewarding in the end, she said.

"You know after that fifth or sixth visit and they (children) are peeking out the window or running out to the yard," said Morton. "Just them knowing you and then when you get a picture they color for you, or you get to see a report card or even a note from their mom and dad that says they are doing OK after the case is gone. Those are heart moments that you can't buy with money. If you can give a little bit of your time, it can really be fulfilling."

CASA West Texas is always looking for new

volunteers that can come out and help no matter how much time you may have to spare. With a new training session coming up in June, Fryar urges anyone interested to get in contact with the organization through their website or by calling (432) 263-4162 for more information.

Contact Staff Writer Robert Barlow at (432) 263-7331 ext. 234.

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Kenneth W. Franklin, Sr., 73, died Saturday. Graveside services with Military Honors will be at 2 p.m. today at Trinity Memorial Park Peace Chapel.

Dolores N. LeVier, 90, died Monday. The family will receive friends from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m., Thursday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Funeral service will be at 11 a.m. Friday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Burial will be at Trinity Memorial Park.

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Wednesday, April 26, 2017



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# Check this out at the Howard County Library

This week I have mystery books for you. "The Crossing" by Michael Connelly (M CON N) is a Bosch Novel. Detective Harry Bosch has retired from the LAPD, but his half brother, defense attorney Mickey Haller, needs his help. A woman has been brutally murdered in her bed, and all evidence points to Haller's client, a former gang member turned family man. Mickey is sure it's a setup, but Bosch doesn't want anything to do with crossing the aisle to work for the defense. Though it goes against all his instincts, Bosch takes the case. With the secret help of his former LAPD partner, Harry starts digging. Soon his investigation leads him inside the police department, where he realizes that the killer he's been tracking has also been tracking him.



MONICA MARTINEZ

In "The Devil's Triangle" by Catherine Coulter and J. T. Ellison (LP M COU C), FBI Special Agents Nicholas Drummond and Michaela Caine are the government's Covert Eyes-leading a top-notch team to tackle international crimes and criminals. Their first case threatens their fledgling team when a dangerous and enigmatic thief calls from Venice asking for help.

Kitsune has stolen an artifact from the Topkapi Museum in Istanbul, and

now the client wants her dead. She has a warning for the Special Agents: she's overheard talk that a devastating Gobi Desert sandstorm that's killed thousands in Beijing isn't a natural phenomenon but was man-made.

"Clownfish Blues" by Tim Dorsey (M DOR T) finds Serge A. Storms rolling down the highway of his dreams in a vintage silver Corvette with Coleman riding shotgun.

Their adventure traveling the byways of Florida's underbelly is about to take a detour. Someone is trying to tilt the odds in the state lottery amid a conga line of huge jackpots, resulting in more chaos than any hurricane season. Soon crooked bodega owners, drug cartels laundering money, and venture capitalists trying to win one for the mathletes want in. Serge and Coleman get hip to this timely and lucrative trip, but they are also gambling with their lives. Winning has never been this deadly or this much fun!

"Racing the Devil" by Charles Todd (M TOD C) is an Inspector Ian Rutledge Mystery.

Scotland Yard's Inspector Ian Rutledge finds himself caught in a twisted web of vengeance, old grievances, and secrets that lead back to the war that still haunts him. On the eve of the bloody Battle of the Somme, a group of English officers have a last drink before returning

to the Front. They discover that before the fighting began, they had all lived within a hundred miles of one another and have a passion for motorcars. They make a promise that they will meet in Paris a year after the war ends. They will celebrate

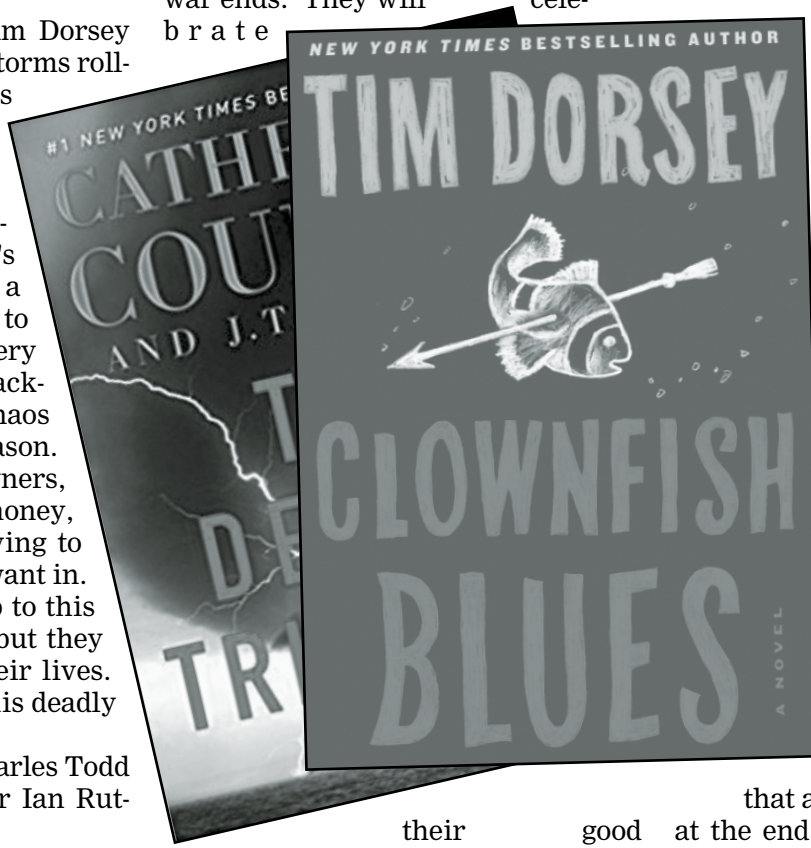
fog-shrouded road and another crash, badly injuring the driver. No one knows or will admit to recognizing who was behind the wheel of the rogue motorcar.

One year later, a local rector, driving a car he borrowed from a captain in the Great War, loses control of his motorcar and is killed.

Called to investigate this perplexing case, Ian Rutledge discovers that the truth is elusive. The stony villagers are adept at keeping secrets, frustrating his search for a faceless killer hiding in the shadows. When the cold-blooded murderer strikes again, he chooses a child. It will take all of Rutledge's skill to stop him before an innocent young life is taken.

That's all for this week. Until next time, I leave you with a quote from Kathleen Norris:

"Just the knowledge that a good book is awaiting one at the end of a long day makes that day happier."



their good fortune by racing motorcars they own, beg, or borrow from Paris to Nice.

Although their automobiles are not designed for racing, the officers meet as planned and set out for Nice. On the way to their destination, one vehicle is nearly run off the twisting,

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# Roger's Retro Reviews: Big Trouble in Little China

I was in high school when "Big Trouble in Little China" came out, and, weirdly enough, it was kind of an influential movie for me. Its protagonist, truck driver Jack Burton (Kurt Russell) is a bit of an odd duck. He thinks he's God's gift to...well...everybody, but he's actually a socially inept loud-mouth. And yet he makes it work, saves the day, and ends up making his style cool...at least while the movie lasts. It's every awkward kid's dream, and it's set against a backdrop of mystery and magic.



ROGER CLINE

The movie's narrative is framed with the interrogation of one "Egg" Shen (Victor Wong), an old Chinese-American tour bus driver in San Francisco's Chinatown. The interrogator tells Shen not to protect Burton, and says that a whole block in Chinatown exploded in green flame. Shen then makes a couple of bold claims; first, that Jack Burton is a hero, and second, that magic is real. The interrogator tells him to prove the later claim, which he casually does by causing lightning bolts to arc

between his hands.

We join Jack Burton driving his 18-wheeler "The Pork Chop Express" down lonely and rain-pummeled highways, keeping up a constant stream of philosophy over the CB radio. One small snippet of this filibuster: "When some wild-eyed, eight-foot-tall maniac grabs your neck, taps the back of your favorite head up against the barroom wall, looks you crooked in the eye, and asks you if you paid your dues; you just stare that big sucker right back in the eye, and you remember what ol' Jack Burton always says at a time like that: 'Have you paid your dues, Jack? Yes sir, the check is in the mail.'"

After the opening credits, Jack pulls into a rain-drenched Chinatown market, where industrious locals start unloading his cargo. At the market, Burton meets up with his friend, Wang Chi (Dennis Dun), and wins about \$1,100 from him in a card game. Wang offers to slice a glass bottle in half with one blow from a knife for "nothing or double"; Jack agrees, but Wang fails. Wang says he has the money at his restaurant, but he has to go to the airport to collect his green-eyed, Chinese fiancée Miao Yin (Suzee Pai). Burton drives him to the airport in his truck to keep an eye on him. Reporter Gracie Law



(Kim Cattrall) is at the airport also to meet a Chinese friend, but the Lords of Death street gang tries to kidnap Law's friend. Jack gets involved, and the Lords snatch Miao instead, planning to sell her to the White Tiger brothel.

Heading back to Chinatown to try to rescue her from the Lords of Death, Jack and Wang come across a funeral procession in an alleyway, and soon find themselves in the middle of a gang war between the Chang Sing (the good guys) and the Wing Kong (the bad guys). Soon, three seemingly invulnerable warriors - Thunder (Carter Wong), Rain (Peter Kwong), and Lightning (James Pax) show up, each with weather-related magical powers. Jack tries to flee in his truck, but ends up running over the leader of the Wing Kong, a sorcerer named Lo Pan (James Hong). Jack instinctively gets out to check on him, but Lo Pan isn't hurt. He rises up, magical light streaming from his eyes and mouth. Wang and Jack run off into the alleys and manage to escape.

At Wang's restaurant, they meet up with Gracie, Wang's friend Eddie Lee (Donald

Li) and Egg Shen, the tour bus driver from the opening frame, who is also something of a sorcerer. They devise a plan to sneak into the brothel with Jack disguised as a customer, which goes well until the three storm warriors show up and kidnap Miao to take her to Lo Pan.

Wang and Jack then try to infiltrate Lo Pan's business front disguised as electricians, but are quickly captured. Wang then tells Jack that Lo Pan is under a curse and needs to sacrifice a green-eyed girl - Miao - to break it.

I'll stop the spoilers there, except to mention (for those who haven't seen it) that Gracie Law also has green eyes.

"Big Trouble in Little China" is a fun, action-filled film. The secret Chinatown it presents is intriguing and the buddy chemistry between Russell and Dun is great. The three storm warriors are great; their over-the-top acting style - especially that of Wong's Thunder - is definitely explosive and fun.

And it's funny. Russell plays his blunt, socially awkward, loudmouth fish-out-of-water trucker character to the max, and his reactions to the mysteries and wonders

of magical Chinatown are hilarious. Li's Eddie is also a funny character, and adds some chuckles into the mix.

This is not a movie for feminists. Cattrall plays Gracie Law well, but if you're down on the "damsel in distress" plot device, then you won't enjoy that aspect of this movie, because it's used a lot. And there are the Asian stereotypes. I'd almost say that this movie couldn't be made in today's politically correct climate, but I hear one Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson is interested in a possible remake, so there's that to look forward to.

"Big Trouble in Little China" was a formative part of my youth, and holds great nostalgia for me. I don't think it's a superb piece of cinematic art or anything, but it's a fun, exciting movie. Seven and a half stars out of 10.

*Big Trouble in Little China*  
Director: John Carpenter  
Writer: Gary Goldman and David Z. Weinstein, adaptation by W.D. Richter  
Production company: TAFT Entertainment Pictures, SLM Production Group  
PG-13, 1 hr. 39 min., Action/Adventure/Comedy, July 2, 1986.

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## Austin mayor says city no 'sanctuary' after Sessions meeting

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Austin Mayor Steve Adler says he left a meeting with U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions believing that the Texas capital isn't a "sanctuary city" in the eyes of the federal government.

Adler and other mayors met with Sessions on Tuesday in Washington to get a better understanding of what it means to be considered a "sanctuary community." The label could cost cities and counties federal grant money as part of the Trump administration's immigration crackdown.

Republican Texas Gov. Greg Abbott has already denied Travis County some state grant funds for refusing to continue honoring all federal immigration detainer requests.

Adler says he didn't directly ask Sessions whether Travis County qualifies as a "sanctuary city." But he said Sessions told him that not honoring voluntary detainer requests wasn't a punishable violation.

## Harris County courthouse annex renamed for slain officer

HOUSTON (AP) — A Houston-area government building where a law enforcement officer was ambushed and shot to death while arriving for work will carry his name.

Harris County commissioners voted Tuesday to rename a courthouse annex in Baytown for Precinct 3 Assistant Chief Deputy Clinton Greenwood.

The 57-year-old Greenwood was fatally shot April 3 outside the building. Investigators later determined the man identified as the attacker killed himself the following day in Houston.

Records show the gunman had complained online and to the sheriff's department over what he felt was mishandling of a domestic dispute from several years ago.

## Critics protest closing Texas fishing spot Rollover Pass

GALVESTON, Texas (AP) — Some fans of fishing at the popular Rollover Pass cut in Texas have protested plans to fill the gap and build a park and pier.

The Galveston County Daily News reports a judge last week affirmed the authority of Galveston County commissioners, who in 2016 voted to use eminent domain to acquire the property.

No timetable was set to fill the 200-foot-wide channel connecting Galveston Bay to the Gulf of Mexico.

The Bolivar Peninsula travel and fishing destination is owned by the Gulf Coast Rod, Reel and Gun Club. About two dozen pass supporters demonstrated Monday.

The pass was created through a public-private partnership and dredged by Texas in 1954. The Texas General Land Office has pushed for closure amid concerns about erosion and silt reaching nearby shipping lanes.

## Texas Senate approves harsher punishments for corpse abuse

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — The Texas Senate has approved a bill making abusing a dead body a felony punishable by at least six months in jail.

Under current law, abuse of a corpse is a state misdemeanor and mandates up to a year in jail and a maximum \$4,000 fine. Republican Sen. Brian Birdwell's proposal would make it a felony with a minimum penalty of six months behind bars and up to \$10,000 in fines.

Birdwell said current punishments weren't steep enough in cases where families entrust a loved one's remains to interment services, only to have abuse occur.

The bill keeps as a misdemeanor the crime of vandalism or property damage related to graves or cemeteries that don't specifically involve corpses.

## Texas county looking for water solutions following floods

HOUSTON (AP) — County commissioners in the Houston area have approved a \$160,000 study this month to investigate whether capturing floodwaters and storing them underground is feasible.

The Houston Chronicle reported researchers from Texas A&M University will study whether the impact of floods can be reduced by using high-powered pumps to whisk water into aquifers or old oil wells underground.

Harris County thinks floodwater could help serve Houston's increasing water demands and preserve water for drought conditions.

Though moving or pumping excess rainwater has been come widespread across the country, some hydrologists and engineers are skeptical it will work in the county, citing water quality concerns and the sheer immensity of the flooding problem.

"Because the floodwaters come with the debris — high level of sediments, junk, potentially anything that's in its way comes along — you've got to filter that out before you think about putting down any injection well," said Susan Roberts, chairwoman of the groundwater management committee at the American Water Works Association.

Some cities in Texas have seen success with water strategies similar to what Harris County is considering including San Antonio, Kerrville and El Paso.

# Tough court on immigration serves as model for Trump plans



In this April 11, 2017, file photo, Attorney General Jeff Sessions, center, tours the U.S.-Mexico border with border officials in Nogales, Ariz. A courthouse on the border in Texas is serving as a model for the kind of tough immigration enforcement advocated by President Donald Trump. "This is a new era. This is the Trump era," Sessions said during a visit to the border in Nogales, Ariz., this month.

By ALICIA A. CALDWELL

Associated Press

DEL RIO, Texas (AP) — One by one, the Mexican men stood in the jury box, shackles rattling as they fidgeted slightly and pleaded guilty to crossing the U.S. border illegally.

They had come for better jobs, many to earn more money to help raise their children, their defense lawyer told a federal magistrate in a quiet west Texas courtroom about 3 miles (5 kilometers) north of the Mexican border. The magistrate, Collis White, warned that a guilty plea would mean jail time and they couldn't return to the United States legally for years. Speaking in Spanish, each of the 15 men said they understood. They faced up to six months in jail, but most were sentenced to just a few days.

They had the misfortune of landing in America's toughest courthouse for people who cross the border illegally. In other jurisdictions, authorities routinely skip the criminal charges and order quick deportations. But for the last decade, just about everyone arrested near Del Rio gets prosecuted.

That tough approach is a model President Donald Trump hopes to replicate as part of his sweeping plans to stop illegal immigration, the cornerstone of his campaign. He wants to prosecute many more people caught crossing the border illegally as a warning to others that crossing the border illegally has serious consequences.

Supporters of aggressive prosecutions point to a drop in arrests for illegal border crossings

in the Del Rio area as evidence that the tough approach works. Fewer arrests are seen as an indication that fewer people are trying to cross illegally.

Stepping up prosecutions wouldn't be cheap. Immigration cases already account for more than half of federal prosecutions. Trump is seeking hundreds of million dollars more for more jail cells, prosecutors and marshals to transport prisoners. It's unclear if Congress will give him the money.

Civil libertarians object to the prosecutions, saying those arrested are rushed through the legal system without having a chance to exercise their rights.

And a previous attempt to expand the Del Rio approach had mixed results. Prosecutions spiked at the end of the Bush administration and during the first years of the Obama administration, but later declined. Limited resources, including jail space and not enough prosecutors, contributed to that drop.

Still, Trump administration officials plan

to press ahead. Attorney General Jeff Sessions and Homeland Security Secretary John Kelly made the point as they've toured the border in recent weeks, saying that those who enter the U.S. illegally will be prosecuted and deported. The Justice Department this month called on prosecutors to appoint border security coordinators in every judicial district.

"This is a new era. This is the Trump era," Sessions said while visiting the border in Nogales, Arizona.

In White's Del Rio courtroom, cases of illegal border crossings were handled in under a minute. Only one man was sentenced to more than a few days.

"If you can find a legal way to come back, you're more than welcome," White told the men, his words translated by an interpreter. "But it has to be just that."

The new push for prosecutions comes as the number of people crossing the border illegally has plummeted. Under President Barack Obama, there was a

steady decline in arrests. And in March, the second full month of the Trump administration, border agents reported the fewest border crossings in a single month in at least 17 years.

Illegal immigration straddles a line in federal courthouses. Being in the United States illegally — whether after crossing a border or overstaying a visa — is a civil offense. But those caught crossing the border illegally, can face criminal charges, though that generally doesn't happen. Those who return illegally after being convicted can face years imprisonment.

The Del Rio prosecution strategy was the result of an earlier push to secure the border. Before it started, agents in the Border Patrol's Del Rio Sector arrested more than 68,000 people in a 12-month period. Now arrests in the area have dropped to an average of about 20,000 a year.

The acting chief patrol agent in Del Rio, Matthew Hudak, said the

See TRUMP, Page 14

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### Steer golf heads to regionals



Courtesy photo

Pictured above are members of the Big Spring High School golf team who qualified for regionals. From left to right: Jack Everett, Nolan Dominguez, Coach Ariel Falcon, Abbey Bryan, Zach Bennet, Ryan Dimidjan, and Nolan Otto. Regionals will be take place today and Thursday in Lubbock.

### Steer baseball season ends after 23-3 loss to Wylie

By **MARISSA LOFTIN**  
Sports Editor

The Big Spring varsity baseball team really needed to pull out a win in their game vs. Wylie on Tuesday in hopes of making a playoff appearance, but that wasn't the case as they fell to the Bulldogs in a one-sided 23-3 defeat.

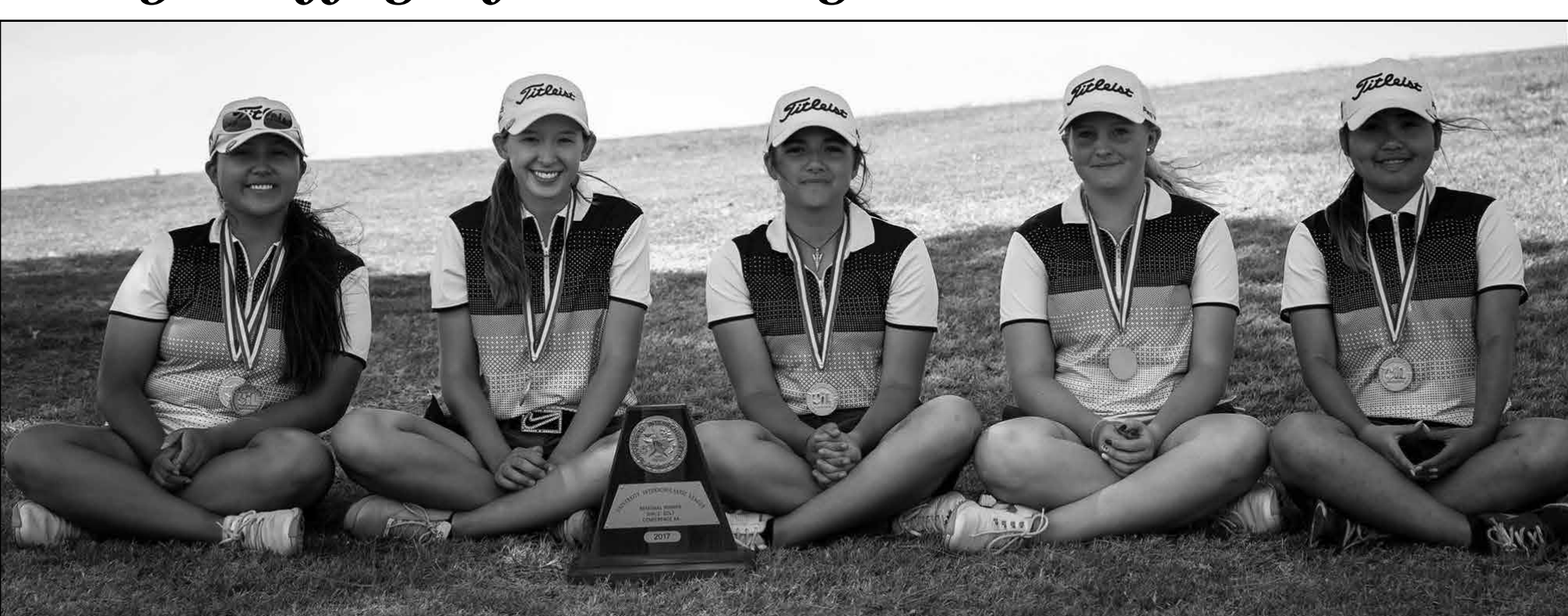
Wylie got straight to business by establishing an early seven-run lead over the Steers in the bottom of the first inning, which came on an RBI single by Conner Carlton, a score by Sam King on a sacrifice fly from Bryce Gist, a walk with the bases loaded by Big Spring pitcher

Riley Henson that drove Carlton across the plate, a walk by Big Spring pitcher, Matthew Tar-rats, that sent Tyler Henson across for a score, a run by Cameron Hanna on a ground out play, and a 2RBI double by Blake Smith.

The Steers had no answer other than a nice defensive stop in the bottom of the second inning, which started with a double play from pitcher Tarratz to short-stop Eli Munoz to first baseman, Brayden Sizenbach, followed with a pop out to Munoz, to

See **STEERS**, Page 13

### Lady Buff golf wins regionals, state bound



Courtesy photo

Pictured above are members of the Forsan Lady Buff golf team with their first place trophy from the regional tournament which took place Monday and Tuesday. The girls will now take their skills to the state tournament, which will be held on May 15-16 in Austin, Texas. From left to right: Razyl Yanez, Jillian Jones, Alexis Stercks, Sierra Huitt, and Alysa Le. "I am very proud of the girls. We played great on day one and battled through some tough course conditions on day two. Overall, they had a great tournament," said golf coach Dave Park. "The kids are very excited to advance to state for the 2nd year in a row. We have three weeks before the state tournament and will need to stay focused and continue to work hard, as they have done all year."

### Bulldogs clinch 3rd with 12-2 win over Colorado City

By **MARISSA LOFTIN**  
Sports Editor

Five RBIs from Adam Clark led the way to victory for the Coahoma varsity baseball team in their district championship game against Colorado City on Tuesday, where they came out on top with a final score of 12-2 after just five innings of play.

The Bulldogs grabbed an early five-run lead over the Wolves with an RBI single by Logan Bracy, an RBI single by Fletcher Mashburn, a score on a balk by Colorado City pitcher, Nathan Perez, and a 2RBI triple, both by Clark in the second.

Coahoma extended their lead to 10-0 in the top of the third inning, thanks to a score by Braden Pearson on a ground out play, an RBI single by Bracy Bacon, a 2RBI single by Mashburn, and another triple by Clark that drove Mashburn in for a score.

With an RBI single by Jacob Munoz, and a score by Aston Briseno from a bases-loaded walk by Bulldog Pitcher, Alex Biddison, the Wolves put up two runs of their own in the bottom of the third.

Unfortunately for them, that didn't get them too far. Coahoma turned around and matched those two runs in the top of the fifth in-

ning, putting them at a 12-2 lead when Clark singled out to left field and drove Bacon and Zach Holmes across the plate for a pair of Bulldog runs.

Biddison showed no mercy from the mound, as he followed with three back-to-back strikeouts in the bottom of the fifth to put an end to the game and ensure the 10-run victory for Coahoma.

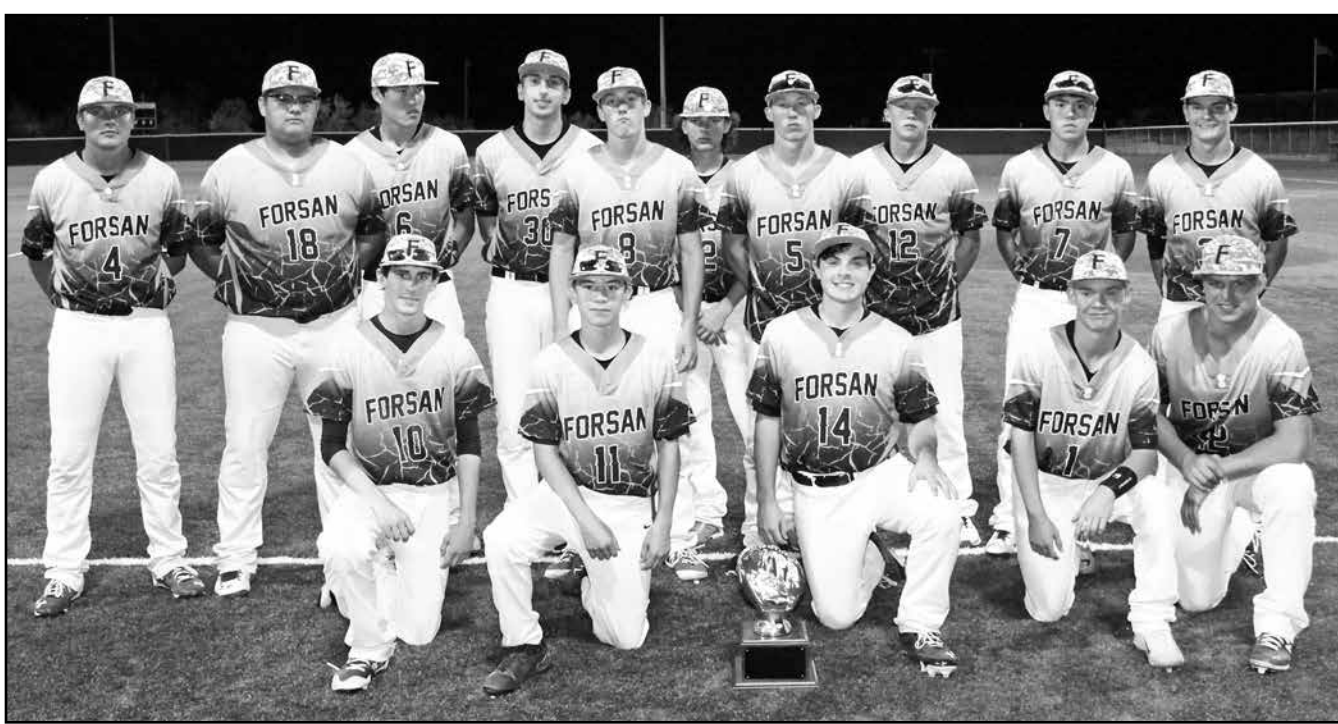
Biddison was tagged with the win for the Bulldogs, as he threw for all five innings, surrendered two runs on five hits, walked two, and sat ten.

Coahoma had a total of 13 hits for the game, with Clark and Holmes leading the way with three hits each. Clark led the team on offense with five runs batted in.

"We were able to hit the ball really well tonight, and show some discipline at the plate," said head baseball coach Bryan Jacobs. "We have a little time to work on our defensive fundamentals and really emphasize on our bunt game, which has been lacking, for our playoff game against Early."

Their location and time for their matchup with the Early Longhorns has not yet been determined.

### Forsan wins district championship in doubleheader split vs. Ira



Courtesy photo by Shaun McVicars

Pictured above is the Forsan Buffalo varsity baseball team with their district championship trophy. The team clinched the title after winning game one vs. the Ira Bulldogs in Tuesday's doubleheader.

By **MARISSA LOFTIN**  
Sports Editor

It was an evening of solid baseball in Tuesday's district doubleheader matchup between the Buffs and the Bulldogs as both teams walked away with a win. Forsan took the first game with a final score of 7-5, ensuring their title as district champions, and Ira came away a 9-3 win in the second game, breaking the Buffs' three year long streak of undefeated district games.

**Game One: Forsan 7 - Ira 5**  
Ricky Prater kicked things off

in the first inning with a sacrifice bunt that brought Blaze Yeater across the plate for the first run of the game.

Ira came right back at them and stole the lead with a score by Hunter Cotton on an error, followed with an RBI single by Karson Valentine to put the score at 2-1.

After a scoreless second inning, the Buffs plated four runs on a solo home run out to right field by Lane Schafer, an RBI triple by Ehren Hillger, and an RBI double by Taylor Christian in the third, followed with an RBI single by

Yeater in the fourth. Down 5-2, the Bulldogs shifted into gear and put three runs of their own on the board to tie it up at five, thanks to back-to-back RBI singles by Anthony Coy and Cotton, followed with a score by Coy on an error.

After another scoreless inning that was the fifth, Forsan snagged the lead once again from a score by Kobe Richardson on an error and an RBI single by Prater.

Ira had no answer in the sixth and seventh innings, and with

See **BUFFS**, Page 13





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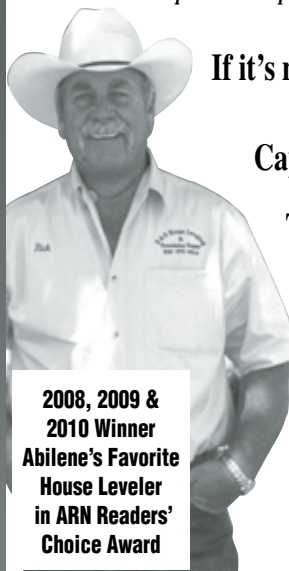
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Tomorrow's Horoscope



HOLIDAY MATHIS

New Moon in Taurus

There's been confusion and miscommunication during this Mercury retrograde. But on the bright side, it's helped us to identify what's historically kept us from moving forward. The new moon in Taurus rules the day with an agenda of assisting us over and around those obstacles -- in the improbable, mystical manner of a cow jumping over the moon.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19).** If you're in a disagreement with a friend, it's all you'll be able to think about until the issue is resolved. So resolve it quickly. Plain and simple, all is healed by hugs; there's no better relief than a heart-to-heart embrace.

**TAURUS (April**

**20-May 20).** You've been watching out for a chance to show someone how much he or she means to you. You'll now have the perfect opportunity to give from the heart and be received as such.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** Experiments aren't just for scientists. You already know what will happen when you try things the way you have in the past. Now you want to know what will happen when you try things totally differently -- or better yet, when you don't try them at all!

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** This isn't a fairy tale. There won't be a hero or someone who needs saving. The roles are complex and nuanced. And the ending is wide open. You get to decide.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** Aiming for a new level of accomplishment, you'll discover that this pursuit isn't for amateurs. It's actually more of a lifestyle than a game at these higher levels.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** You'll

respectfully go forward with a pretty ambitious aim. When someone pushes back, consider that this may be a test, a tease or the reaction of threatened competition. Analyze carefully before you proceed.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** The news can be like the sound of an oncoming storm: frightening, even though you're warm indoors and there's very little chance of the weather affecting you anytime soon. You're going to be fine. You are protected.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** Reason may be powerless in the poetry of love, but it works wonders to sort out the details of a shared lifestyle. The thing currently impeding free-flowing love is a logistical matter.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** Your social life can't be sorted out with a quiz, questionnaire, profile or series of hypothetical imaginings. At most, you can "match" with someone online, but you won't know if there's real chemistry until you're face to face.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).** You're charming, well-liked and imperfect. Don't let early obstacles and false starts dissuade you. You're just getting warmed up! Sometimes it just takes a few tries before your ideas and methods are accepted.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** When you don't have as much experience as the others, you have to work harder, be more original and have superior powers of diplomacy. There's a way to defer to the big shots and still be powerful in your own right.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).** Some togetherness brings an excited buzz. Other togetherness is more like a dreadful drone. You'll be in tune with the music of relationships and, even better, able to change the station when you need to.

**TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (April 26).** You'll connect with someone who has a similar inner drive to accomplish a joint goal in May. You've been

generous, so when it's your turn to be on the receiving end in June, relax and accept. Celebrations (especially formal ones) will bring lucky opportunities. Your family grows, and financial success follows the spurt. Libra and Gemini adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 9, 34, 3, 31 and 16.

**ASTROLOGICAL QUESTION:** "My Leo girlfriend wants to move in with me, and I'm psyched to move the relationship forward. One hitch: She doesn't like my dog (or any dog) and wants me to find him another home. How can I change her mind?"

Your best bet is to embrace your Leo love for all she has to offer without expecting her to change. She won't. And maybe that's why you like her. You'll never be bored, because she'll never let you know all of her. Just as soon as you think you can predict her next move, she'll prove inconsistent. There's always a mystery going behind her eyes, a secret part she won't give up, and maybe even a hidden

agenda. She's more fun than she is nice, more entertaining than she is appropriate, more truthful than she is supportive. And even the sweetest kitten in the world has a ferocious instinct. So as much as I would love to tell you there's a compromise to be struck, it's really not true. Cat or dog -- you'll just have to choose.

**CELEBRITY PROFILES:** Channing Tatum will reprise his role of Jenko in the newly announced "23 Jump Street." Tatum was born when the sun was in sensual Taurus, the sign of money, appetite and sheer determination. Tatum's natal moon, Jupiter and Saturn are all in the disciplined sign of Virgo, declaring a tendency to set impossibly high standards -- and then achieve them.

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Annie's Mailbox

Never Good Enough for Mom and Dad

**Dear Annie:** My parents don't care about whether I'm happy; they only care about whether I'm successful. That basically says it all. They always complain about my grades and compare me with the other kids, talking about how jealous they are that the other parents have honor-roll kids they can brag about. And even though my grades have been mostly bad, I do occasionally

do well, but they have very rarely told me that they are proud of me -- especially my dad. I don't think I have ever heard him say the word proud in any context.

And that's not just true with respect to my classes. I'm also in the school band, on the football team and a Boy Scout, and they refuse to acknowledge my accomplishments in any field. I understand that as a sophomore in high school, I need to prepare for my future, but it's as if that's all they care about, and they don't

care at all about how I feel. I've started to have frequent suicidal thoughts because of it. I just don't know what to do anymore. Any advice you could give me on how to talk to them about this would be appreciated. -- Not Good Enough

**Dear Not:** I'm proud of you for taking the time to write and ask for help. Whatever you do, do not hurt yourself. Please discuss the thoughts you're having with your parents, a guidance counselor or the Suicide Prevention Lifeline (which offers totally confidential support). If you ever feel as if you're a serious danger to yourself, dial 911.

Your parents seem to have their priorities out of order, but that doesn't mean you're not good enough or that they don't love you. I'm sure that they really believe the pressure they're piling on is ultimately in your best interest and will motivate you to do better. Their idea of success may always be different from yours, but there are ways (especially once you're older and out of the house) you can make peace with that. Life is much bigger than it looks right now.

**Dear Annie:** After reading the letter from "Brokenhearted Mom" -- who followed her adult child to a new city, only to be left

out in the cold and dumped on -- I was heartbroken for her. This woman's children should be ashamed of themselves!

You only get one mom, and when she's gone, that kind of unconditional love will be gone, as well. You just can't replace her. If she lives anywhere near me, I would be delighted to come over on a weekend and put together her furniture. I can just hear my mom saying it's just the right thing to do. I lost her six years ago. My mother never met a stranger. If this woman is nearby, I would really be willing to help her. I live in Louisville, Kentucky. -- Missing Mom

**Dear Missing:** Thank you for your sweet and concerned letter. Unfortunately, I don't think "Brokenhearted Mom" is anywhere near Louisville, but I've passed your note along so she knows that others are thinking of her. Please keep sharing your generous heart with the world.

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). COPYRIGHT 2017 CREATORS.COM

Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker  
Evasive tactics

South dealer.  
Both sides vulnerable.  
**NORTH**  
♠94  
♥AK  
♦AJ74  
♣J8532  
**WEST**  
♠A853  
♥QJ943  
♦92  
♣106  
**EAST**  
♠QJ102  
♥10865  
♦65  
♣K97  
**SOUTH**  
♠K76  
♥72  
♦KQ1083  
♣AQ4  
The bidding:  
South West North East  
1♦ Pass 2♦ Pass  
3♠ Pass 4♠ Pass  
5♦

Opening lead — queen of hearts.  
Three notrump played by South would have been a far better contract, but the way the bidding went, South wound up at five diamonds. North would have done better to bid three hearts over three clubs at his second turn in an effort to sound out the possibility of game in notrump. Had he done that, South would have been able to bid notrump to arrive at the best contract.  
West led the queen of hearts against five diamonds, and South had

to play very carefully to get home safely. Eleven tricks were far from certain when dummy first appeared. The principle danger was that East would win a club trick at some point and shift to a spade, defeating the contract if West had the ace of spades.  
Faced with this threat, declarer did all he could to avert it. He won the heart in dummy, cashed the king and ace of diamonds, then led a low club and finessed the queen, hoping it would lose to the king — but it didn't.  
If South had now played the ace of clubs in the hope of catching the king, he would have gone down one. But he realized there was a chance to make the contract even if East had started with three clubs to the king.  
Accordingly, he entered dummy with a heart and led another low club. When East followed with the nine, South ducked and was rewarded when West was forced to win the trick with the ten. West could then do no better than cash his ace of spades to hold South to 11 tricks.  
It is interesting to note that West could have defeated the contract by dropping the ten of clubs on the queen the first time clubs were led, but this play, it should be stated, is much easier to make on paper than at the table.

Tomorrow: A signal experience.  
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su | do | ku

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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. Solution, tips and computer program at [www.sudoku.com](http://www.sudoku.com)

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



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6:PM	Jeopardy!	Rosa de Guadalupe	Big Bang	CBS 7	Caso Cerado	News	Shepherd's Heart	PBS News-Hour	M*A*S*H	Fam. Guy	Seinfeld	NBA Basketball: First Round: Teams TBA.	MLB Baseball: New York Yankees at Boston Red Sox.	SportsCenter	Spring Pregame	NCIS (DVS)	Storage	The Last Alaskans
7:PM	Gold	La Reina de la	Shots Fired	Survivor	Guerra de Idolos	Blindspot	News	Nature (DVS)	Griffith	Arrow	Big Bang			SportsCenter Special	MLB Baseball: Minnesota Twins at Texas Rangers.	NHL Hockey: Conference Quarterfinal: Teams TBA.	Storage	The Last Alaskans
8:PM	blackish	Vino el Amor	Empire (DVS)	Criminal Minds	La Doña (SS)	Law & Order: SVU	Light of Southwest	NOVA	MacGyver	The 100	Big Bang						Storage	The Last Alaskans
9:PM	Designated Survivor	La Pilioto	News	Criminal Minds	El Capo (SS)	Chicago P.D.	Light of Southwest	Wild Weather	Heroes	Seinfeld	Full	NBA Basketball: First Round: Teams TBA.	Baseball Tonight	Rookie	Rookie			Naked and Afraid
10:PM	Local 2	Impacto	Mod Fam	CBS 7	Tele	News	News	Charlie Rose	C. Burnett	King	Conan		SportsCenter	NFL Live	Postgame A&M Athl.	NCIS: Los Angeles	Storage	Alaskan Bush
11:PM	Jimmy Kimmel Live	Noticiero	Two Men Cleveland	Late Show-Colbert	Titulares	Tonight Show	Dr. C. Stanley	Newsline	Perry Mason	King						NCIS: Los Angeles	Storage	Alaskan Bush
12:AM	Extra	La Mujer del	How I Met	Corden	El Capo (SS)	News	Zola Lev.	(Off Air)	Alfred Hitchcock Hr.	Raising Cheaters	Detour		SportsCenter	Jalen	MLB Baseball: Minnesota Twins at Texas Rangers.	Friday-Tykes	Storage	Alaskan Bush
1:AM	Paid Prg.	Mi Adorable	Law Order: CI	Paired Prg.	Programa	Programa	(:08) Today	Light of Southwest	Mannix	Paid Prg.	Detour		SportsCenter	SportsCenter Special		Law Order: CI	Storage	Alaskan Bush
2:AM	(:07) ABC World News	P. Luche Hotel	Movie: White Overl	(:07) CBS Overnight	Programa	Programa	En Esta	The Dr. Oz Show	Light of Southwest	Paid Prg.	Detour	Preview	MLB Baseball:	SportsCenter		Law Order: CI	Storage	The Wheel

**DENNIS THE MENACE**

"REMEMBER, JOEY... CUTE IS GOOD, BUT THE SECRET IS TO LOOK INNOCENT."

**THE FAMILY CIRCUS** By Bil Keane

"Look! The lamp is wearing a skirt just like mine."

**HAGAR**

"PREPARE TO MEET THE ENEMY!"

"I HOPE THEY LIKE ME!"

"WHAT CAN I SAY? I'M INSECURE!"

**BLONDIE**

"HEY LOU, WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE 3-MINUTE EGGS AND THE 4-MINUTE EGGS?"

"ONE MINUTE"

"I THOUGHT THERE WAS SOME GOOD REASON"

"WHY WOULD YOU THINK THAT?"

**WIZARD OF ID**

"SERIOUSLY?"

"NO WORRIES!"

"I'VE FACTORED IN LIFT, THRUST, DRAG AND WIND SPEED..."

"JUST NOT GRAVITY."

"...IT'S ALWAYS SOMETHING."

**AGNES**

"LISTEN, BIG BAD. IF YOU WANT TO FIX YOUR REPUTATION, YOU GOTTA WORK ON THAT TEMPER"

"FOLLOW ME..."

"MAKE IT THROUGH THIS MONOPOLY GAME WITHOUT HUFFING, PUFFING, OR BLOWING MY HOUSE DOWN"

**HI AND LOIS**

"HAVE YOU PICKED A VICE PRESIDENT TO RUN WITH YOU YET?"

"I'M SURE YOU HAVE YOU IN MIND."

"HEY! I BRING A BUCKET LOAD TO THE TABLE."

"FRECKLES AND THE SKILL OF BURPING IS NOT A BUCKET LOAD."

"I HAVE THREE REESE'S CUPS."

"SO PUT ON THIS TIE."

**THE OTHER COAST**

"THAT'S A REAL LUXURY STROLLER."

"ONLY THE BEST FOR MY BABY."

"SEE YOU AROUND!"

"OURS GETS BETTER MILEAGE."

**SNUFFY SMITH**

"KOKO, I'M TIRED OF LOOKING AT YOUR DROOL-STAINED RATTY OLD FUTON."

"SO I'VE MADE SOME CHANGES TO GIVE IT SOME CLASS."

"THROW PILLOWS?"

**BEEBLE BAILY**

"WHAR YA MOVIN' TO, RUPERT?"

"I AIN'T !!"

"I'M HOPIN' ALL MY OL' JUNK WILL !!"

"MOVIN' SALE"

**YOUR WIFE HAS YOU ON A MONITOR?**

"YES, SHE KNOWS WHAT I'M DOING EVERY MINUTE OF THE DAY"

"I DIDN'T KNOW MY LIFE WAS THAT BORING!"

**This Date In History**

Today is Wednesday, April 26, the 116th day of 2017. There are 249 days left in the year.

**Today's Highlight in History:**  
 On April 26, 1777, according to a widely accepted account from the American Revolutionary War, 16-year-old Sybil Ludington, the eldest child of Col. Henry Ludington, a militia commander in Dutchess County, New York, rode her horse into the night to alert her father's men of the approach of British regular troops who were sacking Danbury, Connecticut. (Ludington, sometimes referred to as "the female Paul Revere," was said to have covered 40 miles, more than twice the distance of the Boston silversmith's ride.)

**On this date:**  
 In 1607, English colonists went ashore at present-day Cape Henry, Virginia, on an expedition to establish the first permanent English settlement in the Western Hemisphere.  
 In 1865, John Wilkes Booth, the assassin of President Abraham Lincoln, was surrounded by federal troops near Port Royal, Virginia, and killed.  
 In 1913, Mary Phagan, a 13-year-old worker at a Georgia pencil factory, was strangled; Leo Frank, the factory superintendent, was convicted of her murder and sentenced to death. (Frank's death sentence was commuted, but he was lynched by an anti-Semitic mob in 1915.)  
 In 1923, Britain's Prince Albert, Duke of York (the future King George VI), married Lady Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon at Westminster Abbey.  
 In 1937, German and Italian warplanes raided the Basque town of Guernica during the Spanish Civil War; estimates of the number of people killed vary from the hundreds to the thousands.  
 In 1945, Marshal Henri Philippe Petain (an-REE' fee-LEEP' pay-TAN'), the head of France's Vichy government during World War II, was arrested.  
 In 1952, the destroyer-mine-sweeper USS Hobson sank in the central Atlantic after colliding with the aircraft carrier USS Wasp with the loss of 176 crew members.  
 In 1964, the African nations of Tanganyika and Zanzibar merged to form Tanzania.  
 In 1972, the first Lockheed L-1011 TriStar went into commercial service with Eastern Airlines.  
 In 1986, an explosion and fire at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant in Ukraine (then part of the Soviet Union) caused radioactive fallout to begin spewing into the atmosphere. (Dozens of people were killed in the immediate aftermath of the disaster while the long-term death toll from radiation poisoning is believed to number in the thousands.)  
 In 1994, voting began in South Africa's first all-race elections, resulting in victory for the African National Congress and the inauguration of Nelson Mandela as president. China Airlines Flight 140, a Taiwanese Airbus A-300, crashed while landing in Nagoya, Japan, killing 264 people (there were seven survivors).  
 In 2000, Vermont Gov. Howard Dean signed the nation's first bill allowing same-sex couples to form civil unions.

**Newsday Crossword** **DOUBLE NEGATIVES** by Charles Slack Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

**ACROSS**

1 "Busy" bug  
 4 Rascal  
 9 Taper off  
 14 OR workers  
 15 Less tanned  
 16 Excessive enthusiasm  
 17 Perform on stage  
 18 San Antonio landmark  
 19 More mature  
 20 "We can excuse that mistake"  
 23 Largest Greek island  
 24 Skillet  
 28 Roll call response  
 29 Allow entrance to  
 33 Mrs. Zeus  
 34 Thorny plant  
 35 Topped with froth  
 36 Daredevil's credo  
 40 Tinker Bell, for one  
 41 \_\_\_ Island (Brooklyn neighborhood)  
 42 T. Rex, for short  
 43 The Vikings  
 44 Derisive shout  
 48 Acid neutralizer  
 50 Tenant-owned apartment  
 51 Bodybuilder's slogan  
 56 Part of NPR  
 59 Be nosy  
 60 Finance deg.  
 61 Signs of the future  
 62 Make amends

**DOWN**

12 Reason for extra innings  
 13 Portion of corn  
 21 Chowd down  
 22 Frequently, in poetry  
 25 Green or yellow fruit  
 26 General's employer  
 27 Aye's opposite  
 29 Gallery display  
 30 '70s music  
 31 Posh residence  
 32 Smoothing tools  
 33 Pay for  
 35 Take wing  
 36 Perform perfectly  
 37 Sound from a sty  
 38 Sounding dissatisfied  
 39 "How about that!"  
 40 Medicine testing agcy.  
 43 Slight chill in the air  
 44 Slow run  
 45 Tooth covering  
 46 Fit to consume  
 47 Jimmy's successor  
 49 Off the leash  
 50 Dealt with adversity  
 52 Without delay, in a note  
 53 Captivated by  
 54 Cozy corner  
 55 \_\_\_ of the above  
 56 Steal from  
 57 End of Homer's boast  
 58 Family room

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# Rockets advance with 105-99 win over Thunder

HOUSTON (AP) — James Harden had 34 points and his supporting cast helped the Houston Rockets overcome a 47-point game by Russell Westbrook to get a 105-99 victory over the Oklahoma City Thunder on Tuesday night to advance to the Western Conference semifinals.

The Thunder head home a year after advancing to the Western Conference finals after Houston took this series 4-1.

The Rockets used a 5-1 run, with all their points coming on free throws, to pull away from the Thunder and make it 98-91. Victor Oladipo threw a pass about 5 feet above Westbrook's head and out of bounds on the next possession and Harden made a layup on the other end with about 3 minutes left.

The Rockets began eating up the clock after that and Oklahoma City missed shot after shot that could have closed the gap.

Houston couldn't add to its lead though and the Thunder cut it to 4 points twice in the final seconds, with the second one coming on a basket by Alex Abrines. But Harden made two free throws both times they got close to secure the win.

After scoring 20 points in the third quarter, Westbrook made just 2 of 11 fourth-quarter shots in a disappointing end to a stellar season where he became the first player since Oscar Robertson in 1961-62 to average a triple-double by scoring an NBA-best 31.6 points a game, with 10.7 rebounds and 10.4 assists. He also set an NBA record for most triple-doubles with 42 to help the Thunder withstand the loss of All-Star Kevin Durant in free agency.

He had 11 rebounds and nine assists to come just shy of his fourth straight triple-double in this series, but he made just 5 of a career-high 18 3-point attempts.

Lou Williams added 22 points and Patrick Beverley had 15 to help the Rockets get out of the first round for the second time in three seasons in front of a crowd that included Hall of Famer Hakeem Olajuwon, rapper Travis Scott and his rumored girlfriend and reality star Kylie Jenner.

The Thunder had a five-point lead entering the fourth quarter and led by 3 after a jump shot by Jerami Grant early in the quarter. The Rockets then used a 10-2 run to take an 86-81 lead with about 9 minutes left. Williams made the last eight points in that stretch, making three free throws to start it and capping it with a 3-pointer from way behind the line.

Houston was up by 6 early in the third quarter before using a 7-2 spurt to make it 61-50 with about 7 minutes left in the quarter. Harden got things going in that span and Beverley capped it with four straight points.

The Thunder started rolling after that, using a 12-3 run, with seven points from Westbrook, to get within 2 with about 5 minutes left in the quarter. Houston's offense went cold in that span with its only points coming on free throws by Harden.

Five straight points by the Thunder a couple of minutes later, highlighted by a 3-pointer from Westbrook, gave the Thunder a 69-68 lead.

Harden made two free throws after that before Westbrook hit two 3-pointers in about 30 seconds to extend Oklahoma City's lead to 77-70.

The Rockets were unhappy with a few calls in the first quarter and team owner Leslie Alexander got up from his courtside seat and walked over to a referee during play late in the quarter apparently to express his displeasure before sitting back down.

Houston led 51-44 at halftime.

Thunder: Led by as many as 8 points early. ... Oladipo had 10 points and eight rebounds. ... Abrines had 11 points. ... Westbrook received a technical for arguing with Beverley in the fourth.

Rockets: Made just 1 of 13 3-point attempts in the third quarter. ... Williams has scored at least 20 points in three of the last four games. ... Houston made just 6 of 37 3-point attempts overall. ... Beverley received a technical for arguing with Westbrook in the fourth. ... Harden made 16 of 17 free throw attempts.

Rockets: Will face either Memphis or San Antonio in the second round.



AP photo

Houston Rockets' James Harden (13) goes up for a shot as Oklahoma City Thunder's Andre Roberson defends during the first half in Game 5 of an NBA basketball first-round playoff series, Tuesday, April 25, 2017, in Houston.

## BUFFS

Continued from Page 7

two ground outs and a fly out induced by Buffs' pitcher, Christian, the game ended with Forsan on top in a hard-fought 7-5 victory.

"Game one was a back-and-fourth battle. Coach Goodwin had Ira ready to play today," said head baseball coach Stephen East. "The defense played really great behind Blaze, and we had some nice hits when we really needed them. They made us work for that win."

Yeater was tagged with the win, as he threw for five and one-thirds innings, surrendered five runs on five hits, walked two, and struck out three. Christian recorded the last three outs and earned the save, pitching one and two-thirds innings with zero runs surrendered on one hit.

Forsan had success at the plate with a total of eleven hits for the game. Yeater led the team with four hits in four at-bats, and one run batted in.

### Game Two: Forsan 3 - Ira 9

Hillger grabbed an early first inning lead for the buffs with a single out to right field which pushed Kolby Watson in for the first run of the game.

Ira, determined to not have a repeat of the previous game, established a good rhythm at the plate and drove in five runs the following inning. Their big inning was thanks to an RBI single by Anthony Sosa, a bases-loaded walk by Buff pitcher Valdez that drove Josh Salazar across the plate, a 2RBI single by Valentine, and an RBI single by Kade Sanders.

Forsan answered back when Valdez singled hard out to left field and sent

Austin Darden in for a run, but that wasn't enough to get back in the game.

Both teams displayed great defense as they held each other from crossing the plate for three innings, and followed with one run from each team in the sixth, a Bulldog score by Coy on an error and a Buffalo score by Prater on a ground out play.

With a 6-3 lead in the seventh inning, Valentine stepped up to the plate and tripled out to center field which sent Sosa, Cooley and Coy in for the last runs of the game. Bulldog pitcher, Sanders, then induced two strikeouts and a pop out in back-to-back fashion to bring the game to an end and ensure Ira's 9-3 victory over Forsan.

"I thought we came out flat in the second game, and Ira came out on fire. They made routine plays and their pitchers did well on the mound," said East. "We were disappointed that we were not able to go undefeated in district play again this year, but two losses in four years and four straight district championship titles is definitely something to be proud of."

The Buffs' three-man pitching committee of Valdez, Prater, and Hillger allowed nine runs from six hits, walked twelve, and struck out six.

Darden contributed two of the teams five hits. Hillger led Forsan on offense with two of their three runs batted in.

Forsan will make their way to Ft. Stockton to take on Ft. Hancock on Friday, May 5 at 6 p.m. for the first round of the playoffs. But before that, the Buffs will have a warm up game to help get them fully prepared this Friday, April 28 vs. Nazareth.

The game will take place at Lubbock Christian High School at 6:30 p.m.

## STEERS

Continued from Page 7

keep Wylie from adding to their lead.

Unfortunately, the third was a different story as the Bulldogs iced the game with a huge 16-run inning, putting the game out of reach for Big Spring. Their big inning was kicked off with a solo home run by Hanna on the very first pitch he received, followed with an RBI double by Smith, a score by Gatlin Martin on a passed ball, a score by Smith on a balk by Big Spring pitcher Tristian Myrick, a score by King on an error, an RBI double by Hanna, a 2RBI home run by Caleb Mutton, a 2RBI double by King, an RBI single by Gist, a walk with the bases loaded by Steer pitcher, Kobe Gutierrez that drove Hutton Frazier across for a score, and a 2RBI double by Mason Shubert.

Although a comeback from a 23-0 deficit was out of the question, the

Steers did manage to bring across four runs of their own in the top of the fourth with an RBI single by Jason Miramontes, a score by Brett Berringer on a fielder's choice play, and a score by Gutierrez when Sizenbach was hit by a pitch with the bases loaded.

Both teams held each other scoreless in their following at bats and with three back-to-back outs, a fly out, strikeout, and pop out induced by Bulldog pitcher, King the game came to a close after a rough four and a half innings of play.

Wylie took home the 23-3 victory over the Steers, maintaining their undefeated district record for the regular season. For Big Spring, this loss brought them to the end of the road.

"Its always tough to see the season end, especially in April rather than May. I can still proudly say that we battled hard through it all, we just have to continue to grow and better

ourselves," said head baseball coach Daniel Carrillo. "My hat goes off to the four seniors for being true trail blazers and setting the foundation of this program. Now we all have to take a look in the mirror and ask ourselves what we can do and what we are willing to sacrifice to get better."

The Steers finished with a 13-15-1 record for the season, with a district record of 1-6.

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# France says analysis shows Syrian regime behind sarin attack

By **THOMAS ADAMSON and NATALIYA VASILYEVA**

Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — France's foreign minister said on Wednesday that the chemical analysis of samples taken from a deadly sarin gas attack in Syria earlier this month "bears the signature" of President Bashar Assad's government and shows it was responsible for the deadly assault.

According to Foreign Minister Jean-Marc Ayrault, France came to this conclusion after comparing samples from a sarin attack in Syria from 2013 that matched the new ones. The findings came in a 6-page report published Wednesday.

The Kremlin promptly denounced the French report, saying the samples and the fact the nerve agent was used are not enough to prove who was behind it. Assad has repeatedly denied that his forces used chemical weapons and claimed that myriad evidence of a poison gas attack is made up.

But Ayrault said France knows "from sure sources" that "the manufacturing process of the sarin that was sampled is typical of the method developed in Syrian laboratories."

"This method bears the signature of the regime and that is what allows us to establish its responsibility in this attack," the top French diplomat added, saying that France is working to bring those behind the "criminal" atrocities to international justice.

France's Foreign Ministry said blood samples were taken from a victim in Syria on the day of the April 4 attack in the opposition-held town of Khan Sheikhoun in Idlib province in which more than 80 people were killed.

Environmental samples, the French ministry said, show the weapons were made "according to the same production process as the one used in the sarin attack perpetrated by the Syrian regime in Saraqeb" on April 29, 2013.

Ayrault also said that French intelligence services showed that only Syrian government forces could have launched such an attack — by a bomber taking off from the Sharyat airbase. "The regime's Air Force... is the only one with these aerial capabilities," Ayrault said.

Meanwhile, France's presidency said the country's intelligence services presented evidence showing the

Syrian government "still holds chemical warfare agents, in violation of the commitments to eliminate them that it took in 2013." It said that information will be made public, without offering details.

It's thought that Assad's government still has a stockpile of tons of chemical weapons, despite saying it had handed over all of them.

Speaking to reporters in Moscow, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said Russia's position on the attack is "unchanged" and that "that the only way to establish the truth about what happened near Idlib is an impartial international investigation."

Russia has previously urged for an international probe, and Peskov expressed regret that the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, or OPCW, has turned down the Syrian government's offers to visit the site of the attack and investigate.

The French minister's comments came as the OPCW, which is investigating the April 4 attack, held a ceremony in The Hague marking the 20th anniversary of the Chemical Weapons Convention.

In a video message to the ceremony, U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said that the organization's progress over two decades seeking to eliminate chemical weapons is now under threat.

"In the Middle East, belligerents are breaking the norm against chemical weapons," he said. "The recent attack in Syria was a horrific reminder of the stakes. There can be no impunity for these crimes."

The United States has also blamed Assad's government for the April 4 attack. The Trump administration fired cruise missiles at a Syrian air base in retaliation and issued sanctions on 271 people linked to the Syrian agency said to be responsible for producing non-conventional weapons. Syria has strongly denied the accusations.

Earlier Wednesday, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said the U.S. airstrike at the Syrian military base damages the prospects of a political settlement for the war-torn country.

Lavrov told a security conference in Moscow the U.S. response "pushes the prospect for a wide international front on terror even further away."

He also



AP photo

**In this Tuesday April 4, 2017 file photo, Abdel Hameed Alyousef, 29, holds his twin babies who were killed during a suspected chemical weapons attack, in Khan Sheikhoun in the northern province of Idlib, Syria. France's foreign minister says chemical analysis of samples taken from a deadly sarin gas attack in Syria shows that the nerve agent used "bears the signature" of President Bashar Assad's government and shows it was responsible. Jean-Marc Ayrault says France now knows "from sure sources" that "the manufacturing process of the sarin that was sampled is typical of the method developed in Syrian laboratories." But Kremlin promptly denounced the French report.**

dismissed claims that international experts cannot visit the site in Khan Sheikhoun because of security precautions and criticized the OPCW for failing to go there. Lavrov says claims that the experts were warned by a U.N. body against traveling to the location because it's unsafe are "lies," adding that Moscow went back to the U.N. and found out that there was no such warning.

Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu said Russia had to boost security measures at its air base in Syria after the U.S. airstrike at the Syrian base. Russia has provided an air cover for the government's offensive on Islamic State militants.

In other developments, the U.S.-backed Syrian Kurdish forces asked for the U.S.-led coalition to provide

air cover over northern Syria, to protect them from Turkish and Syrian government air raids.

The request came a day after Turkish air strikes killed 20 Syrian Kurdish fighters in attacks that Ankara said targeted Kurdish rebel positions in Syria and Iraq.

A video emerged on the internet on Wednesday purporting to show an American officer inspecting the site, drawing large crowds who followed him around. The officer was not identified in the video.

The Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces are the U.S.'s main partner in the battle against the Islamic State group in northern Syria. NATO member Turkey sees some of the SDF fighters as an extension of a terror insurgency group within its own borders.

## US Navy fires warning flare at Iran vessel in Persian Gulf

By **JON GAMBRELL**

Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — A U.S. Navy guided-missile destroyer fired a warning flare toward an Iranian Revolutionary Guard vessel coming near it in the Persian Gulf, an American official said on Wednesday, the latest tense naval encounter between the two countries.

The incident happened Monday as the vessel attempted to draw closer to the USS Mahan despite the destroyer trying to turn away from it, said Lt. Ian McConnaughey, a spokesman for the Bahrain-based 5th Fleet.

The "Mahan made several attempts to contact the Iranian vessel by bridge-to-bridge radio, issuing warning messages and twice sounding the internationally recognized danger signal of five short blasts with the ship's whistle, as well

as deploying a flare to determine the Iranian vessel's intentions," McConnaughey said in a statement to The Associated Press.

The Iranian vessel came within 1,000 meters (1,100 yards) of the Mahan during the incident, the lieutenant said.

The vessel later turned and sailed away.

Iranian authorities did not immediately report the incident on Wednesday.

The U.S. and Iran routinely have tense encounters in the Persian Gulf and the nearby Strait of Hormuz, through which a third of all oil traded by sea passes.

Iran views the American presence as a provocation and its paramilitary Revolutionary Guard shadows U.S. Navy ships in the Gulf, occasionally firing missiles or rockets nearby.

## TRUMP

Continued from Page 6

effort has succeeded for several reasons.

"Policy matters, enforcement matters, the work of agents matters," Hudak said.

It helps that the Border Patrol's sector there only covers one judicial district. In other areas, agents often work across state and judicial district lines, making it more difficult to coordinate prosecution, jail space and transporta-

tion.

The often-brief court proceedings alarm civil libertarians.

Celia Wang, deputy legal director for the American Civil Liberties Union, said border crossers facing prosecution are urged to plead guilty and don't fully know the implications of that.

Immigrants convicted of a crime often lose their chance to make claims to stay in the United States, including asylum.

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