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BIG SPRING HERALD

THURSDAY, MAY 4, 2017



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Local veterans help to beautify historic spring

By STEVE REAGAN
 Snyder Daily News

A little bit of Scurry County will be used to renovate Big Spring's namesake.

A group of veterans from the Big Spring VA Medical Center collected native foliage from Lynn Fuller's property south of Snyder Saturday morning to be used as part of the \$1.8 million renovation of the historic spring in Big Spring.

The spring, located at Comanche Trail Park, was a noted source of water for Native American tribes for hundreds of years, then for railroad companies when they came through West Texas beginning in the 1880s.

Burr Williams of the Sibley Nature Center in Midland, who helped oversee Saturday's project, said the foliage is similar to that which would have been prevalent at the spring when humans first passed through the area long ago.

"Basically, we're going to recreate what the place

looked like back then," Williams said.

The spring was popular with the Hermano, Comanche, and Apache tribes before Anglo settlers even heard of it, Williams said. Ironically, it was the horse culture that practically eliminated native plants and grasses in the area of the spring.

"The Comanches practically grazed the area to death," Williams said.

Deep Creek, which runs through Fuller's property, was practically a treasure chest of the plants and trees Williams was looking for.

"This is about the furthest north that you have these kinds of



Courtesy photo
Local veterans plant native foliage around the historic spring in Comanche Trail Park.

See **SPRING**, Page 3

The 'Tardy Bells' are ringing



Courtesy photo

Pictured are members of the Tardy Bells Handbell Choir at a performance. The handbell choir will perform this Sunday at 3:30 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church.

Handbell choir to hold concert this weekend

Special to the Herald

The Tardy Bells Handbell Choir will have a concert on Sunday, May 7, at 3:30 p.m. in the sanctuary of First Presbyterian Church, 701 Rannels St.

The handbells will be joined in this "Spring Ring" by Laura Holleman, who will play organ. The concert will include a variety of

music. Ms. Holleman, organist at First Presbyterian Church, will play the early American hymn, "How Firm a foundation" and the Shaker melody, "Simple Gifts."

The Tardy Bells will ring music as varied as "Processional" by Martin Shaw and selections from Mary Poppins. The handbells and organ will join together on "This Is My Father's

World," arranged by D. Linda McKechnie.

The Tardy Bells Handbell Choir is composed of retired teachers who are members of the Big Spring Area Retired Teachers Association, and other former teachers from the Big Spring and Coahoma communities. This is the ninth year as the handbell choir has been in existence.

GOP revives struggling health care bill and plans House vote

By ALAN FRAM and ERICA WERNER
 Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — In a startling turn-about, Republicans say they are ready to push their prized health care bill through the House

and claim a victory for President Donald Trump, six weeks after nearly leaving it for dead and days after support from GOP moderates seemed to crumble anew.

House leaders planned a vote Thursday on the legislation, revamped since collapsing in March to attract most hard line conservatives and some GOP centrists. In a final tweak, leaders were adding a modest pool of money to help

ing medical conditions afford coverage, a concern that caused a near-fatal rebellion among Republicans in recent days.

"We will pass this bill," House Majority Leader Kevin

See **BILL**, Page 3

Early intervention for children is the key, WTC stresses

Netflix show "13 Reasons" is pushing children's emotional health to forefront

Special to the Herald

The anti-bullying bills before the 85th Legislative session and the controversial Netflix drama "13 Reasons Why" has kicked open the door on how to raise an emotionally healthy child.

Never before has children's personal and emotional safety pushed itself to the forefront of public policy, mainstream and social media and educators' immediate concerns, said West Texas Centers CEO Shelley Smith, LMSW.

"I've been a licensed master social worker and worked in community mental health nearly my entire professional life and never before have I seen children's mental health shaken to the core as it has been as of late," she said. "It's talked about on television, Facebook, Twitter, and in school administration board rooms. But still, when it comes to affecting someone's own family, their own child, their own flesh and blood, it's as if this invisible wall goes up and they don't want to talk about it."

"It's easy to point out a societal issue or point the finger at other children who may have problems but it's so difficult to say, 'It affects my child,'" continued Smith.

"Somehow we have to get past that and get the child and really, the entire family in for assistance."

West Texas Centers provides mental health care to more than 2,000 children and their families each month in 23 rural West Texas counties through 15 mental health clinics. But clinicians only provide care to those who ask for help, Smith said.

"We just have to get consumers in the front door or on the telephone," Smith said.

West Texas Centers operates a 24-hour hotline and encourages walk-in traffic particularly during the month of May when professionals celebrate Mental Health Month. Mental Health Month is set aside each May to help increase awareness of mental health and to show support for people living with mental illness.

Fifteen years ago, the U.S. Surgeon General released its first and only report to date on mental health and listed stigma towards mental illness as a public health concern.

Unfortunately stigma prevents many parents from seeking assistance for their children, Smith said.

See **WTC**, Page 3



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Obituaries

Wallace Gene Spraberry



Wallace Gene Spraberry, 84, passed away peacefully on May 2, 2017, at his residence. He was the widower of Mary Lee Spraberry. They shared 60 years together.

Born in Dickens County, Texas, he was the son of V.C. and Alma Spraberry. He was retired from Sid Richardson Carbon Company after working for them for 28 years as an operations supervisor.

He was a member of Life Church. He enjoyed playing dominoes, watching Cowboys and Rangers games, and spending time with his grandkids. He will be remembered for his work ethic, determination, and his giving heart.

He is survived by his daughters Rhonda Sanders and husband Randy, and Sherre Davis and husband Robby, both of Big Spring; seven grandchildren, Josh Jones and wife Christy of Joshua, Texas, Stephanie Bissonnette and husband Joe of Big Spring, Michael Carr and wife Rose of Sherman, Texas, Ashley Keener of Chino, Calif., Sherrean

Jones of Big Spring, Garry Keener and wife Cristi of Big Spring, and Sloan Hohensee and husband Sterling of Big Spring; four stepgrandchildren, Dawn Holzapfel and husband Kent of Big Spring, Belinda Shiplett and husband Kyle of Moore, Okla., Karyl Ward and husband Adam of Austin, Texas, and Laura Lipham and husband T.J. of Big Spring; numerous great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his wife, his parents, and five siblings.

The family would like to thank the staff at Marcy Place Senior Living for their outstanding care.

The graveside service will be held on Saturday, May 6, 2017, at 10 a.m. at the Trinity Memorial Peace Chapel. The visitation will be held on Friday, May 5, 2017, from 6 to 8 p.m. at Myers and Smith Funeral Home.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorial donations be made in his name to the Alzheimer's Association at alz.org/donate.

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

Paid obituary

Peyton Ross Jennings



Peyton Ross Jennings, 19, of Big Spring died Sunday, April 30, 2017, in Martin County, Texas. Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m., Saturday, May 6, 2017, at Nalley-Pickle and Welch Rosewood Chapel.

The family will receive friends from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., Friday, May 5, 2017, at Nalley-Pickle and Welch Funeral Home. All are welcome to attend the celebration of Ross Jennings' life.

He was born Dec. 29, 1997, in Austin, Texas, the son of Gina Rae Jennings.

Ross graduated from Forsan High School in Dec.

2016, where he was a member of the varsity football team as a lineman, linebacker, and on special teams.

Ross is survived by his mother, Gina Rae Jennings; sister and brother-in-law, Hali Rae and Ricky "Buddy" Nelson; a nephew and niece; grandfather and grandmother, Joseph and Elizabeth Jennings; and aunts, uncles, and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his grandmother, Glynda Gale Pace; great-grandmother and great-grandfather, Georgia and Homer Jennings; great-grandmother and great-grandfather, Dorothy and J.L. Ford; and a cousin.

Arrangements under the direction of Nalley-Pickle and Welch Funeral Home and Crematory of Big Spring. Online condolences may be made at: www.npwelch.com.

Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity:

- **ALLAN LEE SMITH**, 47, of 510 17th St. was arrested on a warrant for bail jumping/failure to appear.

- **KRYSTAL KAY HENDERSON**, 31, of 1429 E. Sixth St. Apt. #6 was arrested on a warrant for theft (less than \$50), and on other outstanding warrants.

- **MELVIN WILLIAM BIDDLE**, 54, of 1004 E. 13th St. was arrested on a charge of public intoxication.

- **ERICA DAWN JUAREZ**, 35, of 400 N.E. 11th was arrested on warrants for failure to yield right of way at a stop intersection, and failure to control speed.

- **DANIEL JESSE LEMON**, 49, of 1206 Wood St. was arrested on warrants for criminal mischief (\$50 to \$500), and assault by contact.

- **PATRICIA ANN BACON**, 44, of 3100 Webb Lane was arrested on a charge of theft of property (\$2,500 to \$30,000), and on several outstanding warrants.

- **SARAH DEANN HEFFINGTON**, 33, of 3100 Webb Lane was arrested on a charge of theft of property (\$2,500 to \$30,000), and on an outstanding warrant.

- **THOMAS HUNTER STEINHOFF**, 23, of 3100 Webb Lane was arrested on a charge of theft of property (\$2,500 to \$30,000).

- **BURGLARY OF A BUILDING** was reported in the 1300 block of East Interstate 20.

- **MINOR ACCIDENT** was reported in the 800 block of West Interstate 20 and the 200 block of West FM 700.

- **DISTURBANCE** was reported in the 1500 block of Lincoln Avenue.

Sheriff

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

Note - Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 78 inmates at the time of this report.

- **KRYSTAL KAY HENDERSON**, 31, was booked by BSPD on warrants for theft (less than \$50), bail jumping/failure to appear, and unauthorized use of a vehicle.

- **ALLAN LEE SMITH**, 47, was booked by BSPD on a warrant for bail jumping/failure to appear.

- **BRANDON SAVOY TRUITT**, 35, was booked by BSPD on a warrant for invasive visual recording/bath or dressing room.

- **RACHEL RENEA YOUNG**, 24, was booked by HCSO on a motion to revoke probation for criminal mischief (\$500 to \$1,500).

Fire/EMS

Big Spring Fire Department/EMS reported the following activity:

- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 2300 block of Wasson Road.

- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 1800 block of Alabama.

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

- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 1700 block of East FM 700.

- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 500 block of Centerpoint. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 1000 block of Cameron Road. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 800 block of Jeffery Road. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

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

- **TRAFFIC ACCIDENT** was reported near mile marker 164 on Interstate 20.

Take Note

- Howard County Republican Club will hold its last meeting before summer break (June and July) on Monday, May 8, in the Howard College Cactus Room at 11:30 a.m. for a Dutch treat lunch with meeting to follow at noon. Special guest speaker will be Mayor Larry McLellan. For more information, contact Bo Fryar 432-270-8513.

- 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.

- 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/bigspringtx. 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.

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

- Each week Kindred offers free health checks from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. at the Corner House Coffee Shop, 1701 Scurry St.

Support Groups

THURSDAY

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

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

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

FRIDAY

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

SATURDAY

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

SUNDAY

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

MONDAY

- 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.

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

TUESDAY

- Big Spring and Snyder Parkinsons Support Group meeting at the Big Spring Senior Center at 10:30 a.m. the second Tuesday of the month.

This is a group for all Parkinson's disease patients, spouses and caregivers.

For more information about the support group or about Parkinson's Disease, contact Jo Bidwell at the Lubbock APDA office at 806-785-0942.

- Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m.; newcomers meeting 8 p.m. to 9 p.m.

- A six-week course in Wellness and Quality of Life with Chronic Pain will start Tuesday, Jan. 10, at 6:30 p.m. at Spring Creek Fellowship located in the Spring Town Plaza, 1801 E. FM 700. There is no charge for the course, and a workbook will be provided. Contact Steve Purdy at 432-517-4840 for more information.

- Al-Anon, 615 Settles for family members and friends of alcoholics meets at 8 p.m.

Big Spring Visitors Center
Located at 113 E. 3rd Street
Big Spring gift items and information on local and state attractions.
Monday-Friday: 8AM-5PM
432-263-8235
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SPRING

Continued from Page 1

native pecan and American Elm trees growing," he said. "The Deep Creek area gave them a chance to survive."

Aside from trees, veterans collected species of grass, wildflowers, sedge, and grapevines for transplanting in the spring area.

Planting of native vegetation will continue through the autumn months. Williams said officials will then evaluate how the plants and trees are performing before considering future steps.

Big Spring's Kent Ivey helped organize the group of about 10 veterans who helped gather the vegetation.

"This is a wonderful way for (the veterans) to get out and about and interact with the community," Ivey

said. "I talked to the volunteer coordinator at the VA about it and she helped set this up."

Ivey, a noted outdoor enthusiast, said vegetation along the Deep Creek area was ideal to help restore the spring to its natural state.

"I'd like to live there," he said. "We're just like the native people who used to travel through the area — We like to find a nice place to just sit beside the river."

Aside from native vegetation, the renovated spring will also feature attractions such as storyboards and educational signage, plaza seating for 1,000 people, observation decks, new artificial outflow which will create a waterfall and widened foot trails.

The first phase of renovation is expected to be completed later this year, officials said.

WTC

Continued from Page 1

"Mental Health Month and many of the hashtags that the National Alliance on Mental Illness or NAMI is advocating such as #IntoMentalHealth open the channels of communication," Smith said. "We want families to know it's ok to talk about mental illness. There's no shame in seeking help and that there is hope after diagnosis."

The sooner children receive assistance the easier it is to manage their behavior, their conditions and any subsequent treatment, Smith said. Some researchers believe helping young children and parents manage difficulties early in life may prevent the development of disorders. Once mental illness develops, the disease is more difficult to manage as it becomes a regular part of the child's daily routine.

"We encourage people to seek out help early on so their child's behavior and their conditions can be better managed," Smith said. "It makes such a huge difference."

West Texas Centers operates 15 mental health clinics for children and adults in their 23 counties in rural West Texas.

Clinics are open in Andrews, Dawson, Gaines, Garza, Howard, Mitchell, Nolan, Reeves, Runnels, Scurry, Terry, Upton, Ward, Winkler and Yoakum counties. Each clinic sees consumers and their families. Physicians, nurses and mental health specialists are trained to work with children and the problems they confront regarding their illness, schooling and medications.

Despite the open discussions regarding children's mental health, stigma plays a huge part in why people do not seek help.

West Texas Centers wants to make their clinics more approachable to people who may have been hesitant to seek help in the past by planning a number of events for Mental Health Month.

During the month of May, refreshments and snacks will be provided to consumers and their families when they arrive for appointments or visit the clinics to ask questions and obtain helpful information on mental health.

"Every clinic will have mental health professionals on hand to disseminate information on mental illness and to answer questions for anyone in the community," Smith said.

West Texas Centers also will sponsor an Art Contest this year as well and the top three entrants at each clinic will receive a prize.

Entry forms are available at each clinic or from Amy Vidal at amy.vidal@wtcmhmr.org or (432) 263-0007.

The theme of the contest is "What Makes Me Happy" and must be submitted on a letter-sized piece of paper with the child's name, age, school and phone number. Entries must be submitted to local mental health clinics by May 19. One entry is allowed per person.

"We are especially excited to be sponsoring the art contest this year," Smith said. "I cannot wait to see what our children draw for us. I believe it will be extremely eye-opening. Many clinicians and therapists say that artwork often is the best way to peer into a child's innermost thoughts. Sometimes children don't even know that they are sending others a message through their artwork. I'm really looking forward to all the entries."

For more information on Mental Health Month, please call Amy Vidal, your local mental health clinic or the West Texas Centers 24-hour Crisis and Information hotline at 1-800-375-4357.

BILL

Continued from Page 1

McCarthy, R-Calif., predicted late Wednesday. His view was echoed Thursday morning by the chairman of the House Freedom Caucus, Rep. Mark Meadows, R-N.C., who said in a television interview that "we're optimistic that we'll pass it out of the House today."

The bitter health care battle dominated the Capitol even as Congress prepared to give final approval to a bipartisan \$1 trillion measure financing federal agencies through September.

The House passed that legislation Wednesday 309-118, and Senate passage seemed certain as early as Thursday. That would head off a weekend federal shutdown that both parties preferred to avoid — especially Republicans controlling the White House and Congress.

The health care vote was scheduled after the White House and congressional leaders barraged rank-and-file holdouts with pressure in recent days. A wafer-thin margin seemed likely, thanks to opposition expected from every Democrat and more than a dozen Republicans plus lobbying against the bill by the AARP seniors organization, doctors, hospitals and patients' groups.

Just Tuesday, The Associated Press had counted 21 Republicans saying they would oppose the bill — one short of the 22 defections that would kill it if all Democrats voted no. Many others were undecided.

House approval would edge Republicans closer to repealing much of President Barack Obama's health care law, which would represent at least partial redemption of campaign pledges by GOP candidates — including Trump — since its enactment in 2010. Passage would also send it to an uncertain fate in the Senate, where some Republicans consider the House measure too harsh. Polls have shown Obama's much-maligned law has actually gained in popularity as the debate over a replacement health care program has accelerated.

"House Republicans are going to tattoo this moral monstrosity to their foreheads, and the American people will hold them accountable," said House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif.

Said Rep. Greg Walden, R-Ore.: "I think we're on the right track here. Obviously it's a work in progress, but I think we're on the right track."

ress, but I think we're on the right track."

Meadows, who appeared along with Walden on MSNBC's "Morning Joe" program, said that "at this particular point, what we've got is a bill that's better than where it started, drives down premiums."

The bill would eliminate tax penalties Obama's law which has clamped down on people who don't buy coverage and it erases tax increases in the Affordable Care Act on higher-earning people and the health industry. It cuts the Medicaid program for low-income people and lets states impose work requirements on Medicaid recipients. It transforms Obama's subsidies for millions buying insurance — largely based on people's incomes and premium costs — into tax credits that rise with consumers' ages.

The measure would retain Obama's requirement that family policies cover grown children until age 26.

But states could get federal waivers freeing insurers from other Obama coverage requirements. With waivers, insurers could charge people with pre-existing illnesses far higher rates than healthy customers, boost prices for older consumers to whatever they wish and ignore the mandate that they cover specified services like pregnancy care.

The bill would block federal payments to Planned Parenthood for a year, considered a triumph by many anti-abortion Republicans.

Obama's overhaul has extended health insurance to around 20 million Americans. The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office estimated in March that the GOP bill would end coverage for 24 million people over a decade. That office also said the bill's subsidies would be less generous for many, especially lower-earning and older people not yet 65 and qualifying for Medicare.

A CBO estimate for the cost of latest version of their bill will not be

ready before the House conducts its vote.

House Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis., pulled the plug on a March 24 vote as conservatives opposed the bill for not fully repealing Obama's law and GOP moderates considered its cuts too severe. That was a jarring setback for Trump and Ryan. But leaders gradually rebuilt support.

Conservatives were won over by provisions establishing the coverage waivers crafted by Reps. Tom MacArthur, R-N.J., a leader of the moderate House Tuesday Group and Mark Meadows, R-N.C., head of the hard line House Freedom Caucus.

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

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267-8288

Nell Wilson, 91, died Saturday. Graveside service will be at 3:00 PM today at Trinity Memorial Park Peace Chapel.

Wallace Spraberry, 84, died Tuesday. The family will receive friends from 6:00 PM until 8:00 PM Friday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Graveside service will be at 10:00 AM Saturday at Trinity Memorial Park Peace Chapel.

Raymond V. Gonzales, Jr., 37, died Thursday, April 27, 2017. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home. A fund has been established at Myers & Smith Funeral Home to help the family with funeral expenses.

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Family of boy killed on Kansas waterslide to receive \$20M

KANSAS CITY, Kan. (AP) — The family of a 10-year-old boy who died on a giant waterslide at a Kanas water park will receive nearly \$20 million in settlement payments, according to court documents. The largest payment to Caleb Schwab's family, \$14 million, will come from SVV 1 and KC Water Park, two companies associated with the Texas-based water park operator Schlitterbahn, The Kansas City Star reports.

The rest of the money will come from the general contractor, the raft manufacturer and a company that consulted on the 17-story "Verruckt" waterslide that was dubbed the tallest in the world. The waterslide at the park in Kansas City has been closed since Caleb's death on Aug. 7, 2016.

The settlements had already been announced, but the amount wasn't disclosed. The Star obtained the court documents after filing motions to in-

tervene. The newspaper argued that the amounts paid by each defendant should be released to ensure those responsible for Caleb's death are held publicly accountable.

Caleb's father is Republican Kansas state Rep. Scott Schwab. Attorneys for the family declined to comment to The Star. They said previously in a written statement that the family was "determined to hold all those responsible for this tragedy accountable, while doing all they can to ensure this never happens again to another family."

Schlitterbahn spokeswoman Winter Prosapio in an email to The Star that Caleb's family and the others affected will "forever be in our thoughts and prayers." The company previously announced it would tear down Verruckt once a court allows it, although it remains unclear when that will happen.



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Ask Us How!



WIGGINS' WORTHLY WELLNESS

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Texas divided on jailing delegates to 'convention of states'

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Texas legislators who support a convention of states to rewrite the U.S. Constitution are at odds over whether to jail delegates who "go rogue" and impose unwanted changes at the longshot gathering.

Republican Gov. Greg Abbott wants to bypass Congress and limit Washington's power via a federal balanced budget amendment and term limits. But conservatives fear a "runaway convention" where liberal-state representatives could soften the Second Amendment.

The Texas Senate made it a felony punishable by up to two years in jail for delegates who support "unauthorized" constitutional changes. The House on Wednesday, though, voted to scrap the possible jail time.

The disagreement could jeopardize Texas' endorsement of a convention that was already hard for many policymakers to imagine.

Baylor University the focus of 2nd federal investigation

WACO, Texas (AP) — Baylor University is the focus of a second federal investigation, this one focusing on how the university compiles and reports crimes that occur on campus.

The Waco Tribune-Herald reports that a Baylor vice president, Brian Nicholson, sent an email notifying staff that the probe also will include other areas, such as drug and alcohol abuse prevention efforts.

The investigation by the U.S. Department of Education follows another one the agency launched in October looking into Baylor's compliance with federal Title IX anti-gender discrimination regulations.

Baylor has faced lawsuits and a rash of accusations that campus leaders for years mishandled sexual-assault complaints.

An Associated Press review last year found that for years the number of sexual assaults Baylor reported was well below the numbers reported by similarly sized schools.

Texas officer who allegedly tried faking own death arrested

DALLAS (AP) — Investigators say an Austin police officer who allegedly tried to fake his own death and flee to Mexico has been arrested at a Texas airport.

Officer Coleman Martin was arrested Wednesday at Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport.

Austin police spokeswoman Officer Destiny Winston had no immediate information on whether Martin was arriving or trying to depart.

Winston says Martin faces a misdemeanor charge of making a false report.

The 29-year-old Martin was reported missing April 25 by his wife. An affidavit says Martin texted her about plans to drown himself in a South Texas lake.

A different woman later reported getting an email from Martin about staging his death at Lake Amistad. Authorities believe he went to Mexico.

Dallas County jail records didn't immediately list bond or an attorney for Martin.

Top Texas court reduces killer's death sentence to life

HOUSTON (AP) — A man on death row for killing a sheriff's deputy during a 1983 bank robbery near San Antonio has had his sentence reduced to life in prison by the state's highest criminal court.

The Texas Court of Criminal Appeals says 55-year-old Pedro Solis Sosa's intellectual disabilities make him ineligible for execution.

Sosa's trial court recommended the sentence be reduced, and the appeals court cited a March ruling from the U.S. Supreme Court in another Texas death row mental disability case to support Wednesday's decision.

Sosa was convicted of the November 1983 shooting death of Ollie Childress Jr., a Wilson County sheriff's deputy.

Records show Childress was abducted by Sosa and a nephew and used as a hostage in the bank holdup.

He subsequently was killed with his own gun.

Dallas suburb faces racial backlash after shooting



Dallas County Sheriff investigators finish up a follow up search for evidence at the intersection near where Jordan Edwards was killed by a police officer in Balch Springs, Texas, Wednesday, May 3, 2017. As the family of the black teenager slain by a white police officer calls for an indictment and more investigation, the Dallas suburb where he died faces some of the same issues with race as Ferguson, Cleveland, and other cities that have experienced high-profile police shootings of African-Americans.

By **CLAUDIA LAUER,**
NOMAAN MERCHANT and
JAMIE STENGLE

Associated Press

BALCH SPRINGS, Texas (AP) — The Dallas suburb where a white police officer shot and killed a black teenager as he left a party has a population that's just 20 percent white but a police department that's 80 percent white.

Balch Springs now confronts the same issues of race and law enforcement as Ferguson, Missouri, Baltimore and other cities that have been thrust into the spotlight because of police killings of African-Americans.

Officer Roy Oliver was fired three days after the Saturday night shooting. But lawyers for 15-year-old Jordan Edwards' family said Wednesday that the city must answer for more than Oliver, including a racial slur allegedly yelled at one of Edwards' brothers moments after the shooting. The family also wants the officer to be charged with a crime.

Edwards, his two brothers and two other teenagers were driving away from an unruly house party when the officer opened fire on their vehicle with a rifle. The bullets shattered the front passenger-side window and struck Edwards.

It took a few moments for Edwards' 16-year-old brother, who was driving, and other passengers to notice that he was slumped over in his seat. His brother pulled over and tried to call for help.

Police ordered him to step out of the car and back away. As he moved, he heard someone call him a racial slur and say he didn't understand directions, according to family lawyers Jasmine Crockett and Lee Merritt.

"When you have a police force that's completely the opposite the makeup of the town, I

do think it's a problem," Crockett said Wednesday in an interview. "I do feel there's a sense of fear that comes into a lot of officers' minds, because it's the fear of the unknown."

Police Chief Jonathan Haber said in a text message Wednesday that authorities are still reviewing video of the shooting but had not heard any racial slurs so far.

Asked about the department's racial makeup, spokesman Pedro Gonzalez said Balch Springs was "hindered" by competition from big-city police departments.

"Larger departments offer many other opportunities for advancements where Balch Springs PD is limited in advancement and salaries," Gonzalez said.

Balch Springs is a working-class suburb of 25,000 people east of Dallas. Despite its proximity to the city, the community has plenty of open land and is small enough that visitors can easily drive through it without noticing.

The suburb has seen major demographic change during the last two decades. The population has gone from majority white to about 55 percent Latino. Blacks make up 23 percent and whites just 19 percent, according to 2015 estimates. The mayor and city manager are both African-American women.

According to state records released Wednesday, 31 of the department's 39 officers are white. Minorities comprise the remaining 20 percent of the force — five African-Americans, two Latinos and one American Indian. Nationwide, about 27 percent of local police officers were minorities, according to a 2013 federal survey.

Oliver was hired in 2011 after working in various jobs for smaller North Texas suburb, Dalworthington Gardens. A statement from the suburb said he worked there from 1999 to 2011 as a public works employee, public safety officer and dispatcher, and had a clean record. He served six years in the Army, with two deployments to Iraq, and later completed almost two years in the Texas National Guard. His attorney, Cindy Stormer, did not return messages Wednesday.

City Manager Susan Cluse did not address the department's hiring practices, but said the police chief routinely tries to hear community concerns and had attended a "coffee with a cop" event on Saturday, before the shooting.

"We support our officers and our chief," Cluse said in an interview. "He's taking this to heart. We all have children. I'm an African-American mother."

Police issued a statement Sunday, saying the vehicle carrying Edwards was backing up toward officers "in an aggressive manner." But Haber corrected that statement after reviewing body camera video that showed the vehicle actually driving away from officers. Police have not released that video.

Attorneys for the Edwards family have issued statements discouraging protests or rallies in their son's name.

Local activists and ministers met Wednesday with Dallas County District Attorney Faith Johnson, whose office has a unit dedicated to reviewing police shootings. The activists said afterward that Johnson assured them she was studying the case closely. The Dallas County sheriff's office is also investigating.



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Border Patrol hits fairs, rodeos in zealous recruiting bid

By **ASTRID GALVAN**

Associated Press

FLORENCE, Ariz. (AP) — The beer was flowing and music was blaring in the middle of the Arizona desert when Ric Kindle approached a group of Border Patrol agents and customs officers out to recruit new hires.

This was no average job fair. This was Country Thunder, one of the nation's largest country music festivals, where U.S. Customs and Border Protection set up a booth in front of a pop-up casino and near the merchandise tent as part of an effort to recruit thousands of new agents and officers.

Customs and Border Protection, the parent agency of the Border Patrol and the office that oversees customs officers, has been hiring for several years and now may need to fill an additional 5,000 positions within the Border Patrol that President Donald Trump ordered under his plan to bolster border security. Both the Border Patrol and customs officers were at the festival.

Kindle, 24, said he'd be applying to the Border Patrol as soon as he got home at the end of the four-day festival. He said he's wanted to get into law enforcement ever since a local police officer took him on a ride-along when he was a teenager who skipped school and lacked motivation.

"I don't care what form of force it is, I just kind of want to make a difference," said Kindle, a Phoenix-area resident who works as a fast-food cook. He was volunteering for a nonprofit that raises money for families of first responders who are hurt or killed on the job.

The presence of border agents and customs officers at the country festival is part of an aggressive recruitment effort to seek out prospective employees. Customs and Border Protection has been showing up at bull-riding competitions, Big 10 and Big 12 sports tournaments, job fairs and country music fests like the

one last month in Florence, southeast of Phoenix.

"We do recruiting at pretty much anywhere we have an opportunity to show up. It could be something as small as a community event at a local park," said Border Patrol spokesman Vicente Paco, who handed out brochures to festivalgoers.

The recruiting comes as the agency is having a difficult time finding enough agents.

Prospective hires need to relocate to remote locations like the small town of Ajo, near the U.S.-Mexico border, and the southern Texas city of Harlingen. They also must get through a comprehensive vetting process that involves passing a lie-detector test in which applicants are asked about things like drug use and past criminal activity.

Customs and Border Protection also has had a hard time filling positions within its Office of Field Operations, which manages ports of entries and international arrivals at airports.

The Associated Press reported in January that about two-thirds of Customs and Border Protection applicants fail the required polygraph exam, more than double the average rate of applicants at eight law enforcement agencies that provided data to the AP. Customs and Border Protection officials have since pegged the failure rate at about 75 percent.

The agency has struggled to find enough customs officers since announcing an expansion effort in 2014. It said it was allocating 170 new jobs in Arizona, most of which would be assigned in Nogales, the state's busiest area for border crossings. As of April 1, the agency has filled 72 percent of those positions in the state.

The Border Patrol, meanwhile, has slightly fewer than 20,000 agents nationwide, a vastly larger number than it had in the 1990s but still smaller than a couple of years ago. The agency has lost agents to attrition and has a hiring rate of less than



AP photo

In this April 6, 2017 photo, a U.S. Border Patrol agent gives information about working for the agency to 24-year-old Ric Kindle, of the Phoenix area, at the Country Thunder Music Festival in Florence, Ariz. U.S. Customs and Border Protection, the parent agency of the Border Patrol and of Office of Field Operations, set up the recruitment booth at the festival in an effort to hire more agents and customs officers. President Donald Trump has ordered 5,000 new Border Patrol positions.

1 percent.

Trump's plan calls for bringing on 5,000 new Border Patrol positions. Congress still hasn't finalized funding for next year, and it's unclear whether the agency will get more money for hiring. Agent salaries start at about \$40,000 annually.

In April, then-Border Patrol Chief Ron Vitiello told The Associated Press the agency is working to improve the hiring process. It needs congressional approval to waive the polygraph in some instances.

The agency also will face competition from within the Homeland Security Department as Immigration and Customs Enforcement looks to hire about 10,000 agents. ICE says it's not undertaking any large-scale recruitment efforts at the moment.

"We just have to be a little bit faster than them," said Vitiello, who was promoted to a new job in the agency.

Not everyone agrees that the agency should expand and do so rapidly.

The nonpartisan American Immigration Council released a report in April questioning the expansion and noting that problems abounded when the Border Patrol grew from a little over 4,000 agents in 1994 to nearly 20,000 in 2016.

"The last time the Border Patrol received a large infusion of money to hire thousands of new agents, cases of corruption and misconduct spiked in the agency. New hires were not sufficiently vetted, novice agents were not adequately supervised, and agents who abused their authority acted with impunity," report author Josiah Heyman wrote.

To attract new agents, Border Patrol recruiters fan out to places like the annual Country Thunder event, which draws 30,000 people a

day.

Agents and officers touted the perks of joining as concertgoers in boots and cowboy hats stopped by. Most of the people who spoke with the agents were middle-aged and thanked them for the work they do, shaking their hands and some asking to take a photo with them.

Others inquired about the job.

Colten Demers, 22, said he's wanted to get into law enforcement for as long as he can remember. The son of a former police officer, Demers works two jobs as a security officer in Scottsdale, although he's applied to work at several police forces.

Demers would rather work in the city but said he wouldn't rule out joining the Border Patrol and that he likely will apply.

"We do need guys on the border," he said.

Facebook to hire 3,000 to review videos of crime and suicide

By **BARBARA**

ORTUTAY

AP Technology Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Facebook plans to hire 3,000 more people to review videos and other posts after getting criticized for not responding quickly enough to murders shown on its service.

The hires over the next year will be on top of the 4,500 people Facebook already has to identify crime and other questionable content for removal. CEO Mark Zuckerberg wrote Wednesday that the company is "working to make these videos easier to report so we can take the right action sooner — whether that's responding quickly when someone needs help or taking a post down."

Videos and posts that glorify violence are against Facebook's rules, but Facebook has been criticized for being slow in responding to such content, including videos of a murder in Cleveland and the killing of a baby in Thailand that was live-streamed. The Thailand video was up for 24 hours before it was removed.

In most cases, content is reviewed and possibly removed only if users complain. News reports and posts that condemn violence are allowed. This makes for a tricky balancing act for the company.

Facebook does not want to act as a censor, as videos of violence, such as those documenting police brutality or the horrors of war, can serve an important purpose.

Policing live video streams is especially difficult, as viewers don't know what will happen. This rawness is part of their appeal.

While the negative videos make headlines, they are just a tiny fraction of what users post every day. The good? Families documenting a toddler's first steps for faraway relatives, journalists documenting news events, musicians performing for their fans and people raising money for charities.

"We don't want to get rid of the positive aspects and benefits of

live streaming," said Benjamin Burroughs, professor of emerging media at the University of Nevada in Las Vegas.

Burroughs said that Facebook clearly knew live streams would help the company make money, as they keep users on Facebook longer, making advertisers happy. If Facebook hadn't also considered the possibility that live streams of crime or violence would inevitably appear alongside the positive stuff, "they weren't doing a good enough job researching implications for societal harm," Burroughs said.

With a quarter of the world's population on it, Facebook can serve as a mirror for

humanity, amplifying both the good and the bad — the local fundraiser for a needy family and the murder-suicide in a faraway corner of the planet. But lately, it has gotten outsized attention for its role in the latter, whether that means allowing the spread of false news and government propaganda or videos of horrific crimes.

Videos livestreaming murder or depicting kidnapping and torture have made international headlines even when the crimes themselves wouldn't have, simply because they were on Facebook, visible to people who

wouldn't have seen them otherwise.

As the company introduces even more new features, it will continue to have to grapple with the reality that they will not always be used for positive, or even mundane things. From his interviews and Facebook posts, it appears that Zuckerberg is aware of this, even if he is not always as quick to respond as some would hope.

"It's heartbreaking, and I've been reflecting on how we can do better for our community," Zuckerberg wrote on Wednesday about the recent videos.

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Name That Flower

There are hundreds of types of flowers. Fill in the blanks to name some of them.



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|--------------|----------------|
| 1) R _ SE | 5) I _ IS |
| 2) D _ _ SY | 6) P _ TU _ IA |
| 3) L _ LY | 7) V _ OL _ T |
| 4) P O _ _ Y | |

Answers: 1) Rose, 2) Daisy, 3) Lily, 4) Poppy, 5) Iris, 6) Petunia, 7) Violet

Flower Power



You might think flowers are pretty, but in the 1960s and 1970s, flowers took on a whole new meaning with the slogan "flower power." The Vietnam War had started, and many people did not think American soldiers should fight in it.

To show that they were not for the war, many people wore flowers in their hair, dressed in flowered clothing and handed out flowers. They were called "flower children," and their goal was to protest the war peacefully.

Flower children wanted peace, and they pushed for it with flowers. Peace did not come for some time, but eventually, the American soldiers came home and the Vietnam War ended.

What Rhymes with Bloom?

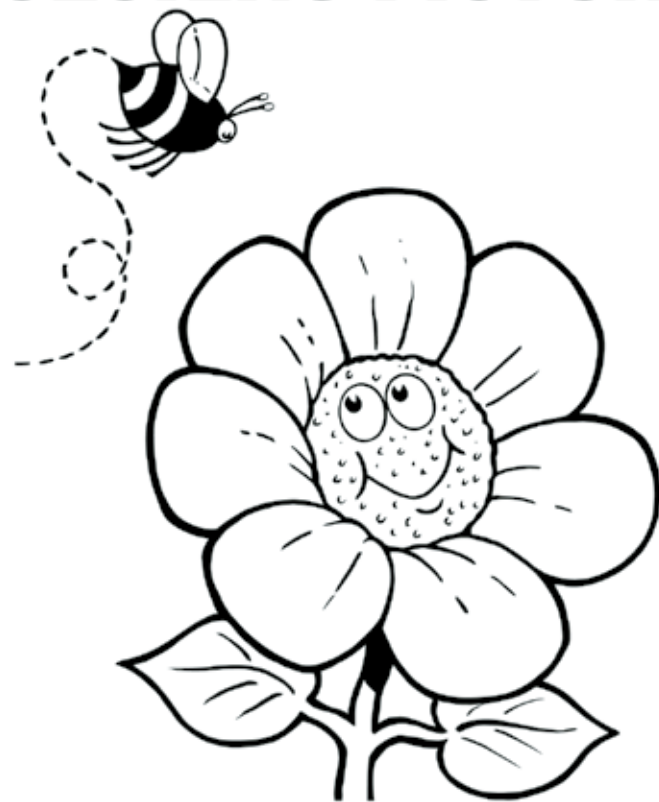


List 10 words that rhyme with "bloom."

- | | |
|----------|-----------|
| 1. _____ | 6. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 7. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 8. _____ |
| 4. _____ | 9. _____ |
| 5. _____ | 10. _____ |

Some answers: boom, broom, doom, gloom, groom, loom, room, tomb, whom, zoom

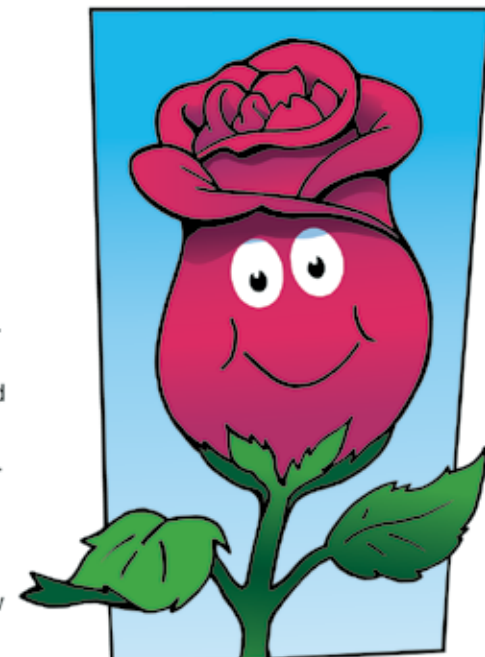
COLORING PICTURE



Fact or Fiction? Rose Challenge

There are over 100 types of roses. Here are some questions about them. How many can you answer correctly?

- Roses come in only one color, red. **Fact or Fiction?**
- Most roses have five petals. **Fact or Fiction?**
- Most roses are thornless. **Fact or Fiction?**
- The fruit of roses is called rose hips. **Fact or Fiction?**
- Rose hips are poisonous. **Fact or Fiction?**
- Most roses are grown in California. **Fact or Fiction?**
- George Washington grew roses. **Fact or Fiction?**
- Roses are used in perfume. **Fact or Fiction?**
- The rose is the national flower of England. **Fact or Fiction?**
- Roses are a popular way to show love. **Fact or Fiction?**



Answers: 1) Fiction, roses come in many colors, 2) Fact, 3) Fiction, most roses have thorns, 4) Fact, 5) Fiction, rose hips are used in all kinds of food and medicine, 6) Fact, 7) Fact, 8) Fact, 9) Fact, 10) Fact

JOKES



Q: What do you get when you plant kisses?

A: Tulips!

Q: What is a frog's favorite flower?

A: Croak-us!

Astros win over Rangers 10-1

HOUSTON (AP) — Marwin Gonzalez hit yet another big homer the Texas Rangers, and the Houston Astros are looking like the kings of the Lone Star State this season.

Gonzalez homered for the fourth time in his last three games, Carlos Correa had four hits and the Astros beat the Rangers 10-1 on Wednesday night.

Gonzalez had two hits and smashed a two-run homer off the batter's eye in center in the sixth inning for a 6-1 lead. He hit two home runs against Texas on Tuesday, including a go-ahead grand slam in the eighth that rallied Houston to an 8-7 win. He also homered against Oakland on Sunday.

Correa and Brian McCann sparked a four-run inning with solo homers off starter Nick Martinez (0-1). Correa finished 4 for 5 and a triple shy of the cycle.

"I didn't think he was going to go a

whole season without having a break-out night like this," Astros manager A.J. Hinch said of Correa, who raised his average to .255.

"What happens in baseball is we put too much emphasis on the cumulative stats, and you forget some of the quality plate appearances that come along with way. A night like tonight, we expect him to have every night, but it's the big leagues, and you can't do that."

With their fourth straight win, the Astros have the best record in baseball at 19-9, fueled by a 15-4 mark against the AL West. They matched their best 28-game start in franchise history, set by the 2006 club. Houston can sweep its four-game series with Texas by Thursday.

The Rangers, meanwhile, are hanging around the bottom of the division with an 11-17 record. They matched

See **ASTROS**, Page 13



AP photo/George Bridges

Houston Astros' Norichika Aoki slides safely into home before the tag by Texas Rangers catcher Jonathan Lucroy during the sixth inning of a baseball game Wednesday May 3, 2017, in Houston.



AP photo/Eric Gay

San Antonio Spurs forward Kawhi Leonard (2) works for an opportunity as Houston Rockets' James Harden, left, defends during the first half of Game 2 in a second-round NBA basketball playoff series, Wednesday, May 3, 2017, in San Antonio.

Spurs rebound to beat Rockets

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — In the midst of a resounding and redemptive victory, the Spurs' celebration came to an abrupt stop when Tony Parker was carried off the court with what appeared to be a serious left leg injury.

Kawhi Leonard had 34 points, eight assists and seven rebounds, and San Antonio battled through the loss of Parker to beat the Houston Rockets 121-96 on Wednesday night and even the Western Conference semifinals at one game apiece.

Parker departed with 8:43 remaining. Spurs officials said the 16-year veteran will undergo an MRI on Thursday morning and will update his status after, but San Antonio coach Gregg Popovich said following the game that "it's not good."

Teammate Manu Ginobili said Parker was still hurting and unable to put any weight on his left leg after the game.

"It's hard to see him limping and hurting now," Ginobili said. "You kind of know that we're not going to see him anytime soon. So, that's a tough blow. We'll see, we don't know."

Parker's left leg appeared to go limp as he rose to attempt a short jumper in the paint over Houston's Patrick Beverley with 8:52 remaining. Parker grabbed his left knee immediately upon landing and remained on the court for a few minutes. The 34-year-old attempted to limp off the court, but had to be carried off by teammates. Stadium officials had a wheelchair waiting for Parker after he entered the tunnel that leads to the locker room.

Parker finished with 18 points in 26 minutes.

The injury dampened a complete turnaround for the Spurs, who responded to a 126-99 defeat Monday with a similar domina-

tion in Game 2.

"I think we were able to get a feel for them in the first game," Leonard said. "Just trying to contest all shots, limit them to one possession, don't let them rebound the basketball on the offensive end and just get them off the 3-point line."

The Spurs limited James Harden to 13 points on 3-for-17 shooting.

"I just missed shots," Harden said. "I missed shots. I didn't convert my layups. We knew they were going to come out with some aggressiveness in Game 2."

The Rockets shot 11 for 34 on 3-pointers after going 22 for 50 in Game 1.

"They came out with a lot of energy," said Beverley, who had 12 points. "They came out with a lot more fight."

See **SPURS**, Page 13

Zeke and Dak on top again in NFL player merchandising

Here's more proof that the 2016 season was a superb one for rookies: Ezekiel Elliott and Dak Prescott topped NFL player merchandise and products sales.

The Dallas Cowboys running back who led the league in rushing and the quarterback who was the Offensive Rookie of the Year represent the first time two rookies led the list compiled by the NFL Players Association.

The list is based on total sales of officially licensed NFL player merchandise, tracking year-end results from March 1, 2016, through Feb. 28, 2017.

"It's pretty humbling," Elliott said. "When you're a rookie, you're just looking to put your head down, help

the team and learn the ropes. To accomplish this level of success off the field shows just how passionate football fans are in Dallas, in Ohio, my home state of Missouri, and all around the world. And to be up there with Dak and Dez (Bryant), alongside great players like Tom Brady and Odell Beckham, is very special to me."

Super Bowl MVP Brady was third on the list after holding the top spot for much of the measuring period. He was followed by yet another Cowboy, receiver Bryant, and Giants wideout Beckham Jr.

Brady vinyl figures were the most popular among those items, and he

See **NFL**, Page 13



AP photo/Michael Ainsworth, File

In this Nov. 24, 2016, file photo, Dallas Cowboys quarterback Dak Prescott (4) smiles as he and running back Ezekiel Elliott, right, participate in a post game interview.

Sports briefs

BASEBALL
BOSTON (AP) — The Boston Red Sox permanently closed Fenway Park a man they said used a racial slur toward another fan, a separate confrontation from the insults directed at Baltimore Orioles outfielder Adam Jones a night earlier but one the team says it is taking just as seriously.

One night after Jones spoke out about being called the N-word by a fan in the Fenway stands, rekindling the debate about the city's mixed history of racial tolerance, the ballpark was the site of another racial encounter.

Calvin Hennick, a Boston resident bringing his son to his first Red Sox game as a present for his sixth birthday, wrote on Facebook and confirmed to The Associated Press on Wednesday night that a neighboring fan used a variant of the N-word when referring to the national anthem singer. Surprised, Hennick asked him to repeat it, and the other fan did.

Hennick summoned security and they ejected the other fan, whose name has not been released. Hennick said the man denied to security using a racial slur.

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Vin Scully returned to Dodger Stadium, cracking jokes and telling stories as if he had never left.

Scully was back at the ballpark to become the 11th inductee into the Dodgers ring of honor

prior to a game against the San Francisco Giants. Scully retired last year following his 67th season broadcasting the team's games.

In a pregame ceremony, Los Angeles manager Dave Roberts walked Scully toward left field, and the entire team followed. They watched as Tommy Lasorda and Sandy Koufax unveiled a microphone bearing Scully's name, the only non-number in the ring. Scully shares the honor with Jackie Robinson, Tommy Lasorda, Pee Wee Reese and Don Drysdale, among others.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL
TAMPA, Fla. (AP) — A judge presiding over the first appearance of a South Florida football player charged with sexual battery not only had harsh words for the athlete in court, but questioned whether new coach Charlie Strong is a good fit for the program.

Circuit Judge Margaret Taylor of Hillsborough County told defensive end LaDarius Jackson during a hearing that she is a USF graduate who is "embarrassed and ashamed" in the wake of two separate arrests involving members of the team since March.

Jackson, 22, was arrested late Monday after a female acquaintance said earlier in the day that he assaulted her in student housing. Jackson was removed from team activity after being charged with sexual battery and false imprisonment.

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CEASED, THEIR KNOWN
AND UNKNOWN HEIRS,
DEVICES, SUCCESSORS,
ASSIGNS AND PERSONAL
REPRESENTATIVES OF
THEIR DECEASED
SPOUSES, IF ANY, Defend-
ants in the cause herein de-
scribed.

You and each of you are
hereby commanded to ap-
pear before the 118th Judi-
cial District Court in the
County Courthouse in
Garden City, Glasscock
County, Texas, at or before
10:00 a.m. on the first
Monday after the expiration
of forty-two (42) days from
the date of issuance hereof,
being at or before 10:00 a.m.
on Monday, 6/5, 2017, then
and there to answer the peti-
tion of Vermilion Cliffs Part-
ners, LLC in Cause No. 1833,
styled Vermilion Cliffs Part-
ners, LLC v. Dollie May
Wilson; John H. Wilson, Jr.;
Wynona D. Long; James R.
Long; Charles Esco Mason;
Carrie Lee Wilson Mason;
Walter Mason; Roberta Ma-
son Stillwagner; Terry Ma-
son; Alma Mason Tucker;
Onita Cross; Virgil Oliver;
Connie Robbins; John Mont
King; Joseph E. Robbins;
Bonnie Jean Aldridge;
Johnny Aldridge; Don Ald-
ridge; Ollie Mae Hall; Ima
Burlson a/k/a Ima Burlson,
Wanda Stephens, L.D. Mat-
lock, Bernice M. Van
Alstyne and the Bernice M.
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unknown surviving spouses,
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heirs, devisees, successors,

Public Notice

assigns and personal repres-
entatives of their deceased
spouses, if any, in which Ver-
milion Cliffs Partners, LLC. is
Plaintiff and Dollie May
Wilson, et al, are defendants.
The said petition, filed 4/7,
2017, discloses that the
nature of said suit is as fol-
lows: for appointment of re-
ceiver to manage the oil, gas
and mineral interests of the
Defendants, the identity or
whereabouts of whom are
unknown to Plaintiff under-
minable after diligent search,
and to negotiate, make and
enter into oil, gas and miner-
al leases containing pooling
provisions and other con-
tracts covering the mineral in-
terests of the Defendants in
the W/2 NW/4, and E/2 NE/4
of Section 9, R.R. Wade Sur-
vey, Glasscock County,
Texas, the W/2 SW/4, W/2
NE/4 and E/2 NE/4 of the
Section 36, Block 34, Town-
ship 2 South, T&P Ry. Co
Survey, Glasscock County,
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April day of 17, 2017, at
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REBECCA BATLA, Clerk of
the 118th Judicial District
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By:Rebecca Batla

#9366 April 20, 27 & May 4,
11, 2017

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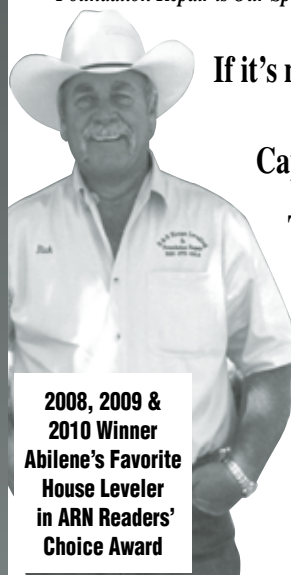


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GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You're not the only subject in the experiment called life, but when you're alone in your room it certainly feels that way. Connect with the others. Share data. You'll mess around with the outcome in a good way today.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You'll lead with your courage-filled heart today. It's not always wise to be brave, and yet if everyone were to stop and dwell upon the possible consequences, there wouldn't be any heroes among us.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). When you're not getting anywhere by looking at the problem head on, you cock your head to the side and suddenly you have a new slant on it. Bonus: Your brilliance will be celebrated by those smart enough to get you.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-

Tomorrow's Horoscope

Sept. 22). You don't want to spend your time fake laughing. No one does! And today you won't have to. Someone can make you laugh for real, and that humor-click will set off a lucky chain of events.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). When you love someone, flaws are part of the package. A mature person recognizes that trying to extract the flawed parts in order to love only the suitable parts isn't really love at all.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You'd be wise to pause and decide very carefully how you're going to interact with loved ones today. Negativity will be difficult to get past. It will take at least five positive interactions to nullify even one slightly negative interaction.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Society prefers it when personal information can be neatly categorized. Today you'll find yourself toying with different ways to frame information to find the most socially palatable presentation.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). To be grateful for circumstances you do not

prefer might seem like setting up an internal diametric opposition -- akin to tipping well for bad service. And yet, finding something to appreciate in a mess will attract good luck.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). For friendship, love and even certain business decisions, a mental match is essential. If you don't like how a person thinks, you're not going to want to share your ideas, plans and daily doings with that person on the regular.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). There was a time you enjoyed the escape of dreaming you were someone else. Currently, you find that loving who you are creates far more energy in your life.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (May 4). The love you receive over the course of this solar return will lift your spirits and fill your reserves until you have even more to give than you ever did. Also, a special relationship will teach you to tune into others even better than you already do. You'll win money this month. June and August represent big

professional opportunity. Leo and Scorpio adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 6, 40, 5, 38 and 18.

ASTROLOGICAL OF THURSDAY: Thursday comes from the Old Norse word Þorsdagr, meaning "Thor's day." Thor was the god of thunder, and in Romance languages Thor was equivalent to Jupiter. You can clearly see Jupiter's influence in the Spanish and French words for Thursday: Jueves and Jeudi, respectively.

So, how to align yourself energetically with the powerful planet of Jupiter? Think money and expansion. Thursdays should be the day that you focus on the bottom line for business. Things like setting budgets, invoicing, long-term planning -- these are all Thursday activities. Thursdays are also associated with publishing, broadcasting, higher learning and travel abroad, so any activities concerning those are also encouraged -- for example, making a public appearance, attending a workshop, getting a project to the printer or flying to Geneva to

broker world peace. Any kind of collaboration with foreigners should go well on Thursdays. The best tea to drink to tap into Jupiter's wisdom is made from the sage plant, but it can be hard to find depending on where you live. Green tea is another good option: the color of money. Thursday nights are for having fun. Watch a movie, laugh with friends, read a book and generally enjoy yourself.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Grammy-winning hit-maker Randy Travis was a celebrity guest on "American Idol" this year, helping contestants deliver authentic performances during country-music week. Taurus is the sign associated with country music because its energy is down-to-earth, rootsy and genuine. Travis has both his sun and communication planet Mercury in Taurus.

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

Discovery Skies

When you think you know a place, it's hard to see what's really there. The better you know it, the less you'll see. Exploring requires an open mind. With Mercury getting his groove back and the moon crossing into detail-oriented Virgo, it's an excellent time to revisit your scene with an open mind. Pretend you're new. What's here to discover?

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Children playing on the playground often don't have to have the rules clearly explained to them. They just join in with a willing spirit and soon absorb the rhythm of the game, much like you will today.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Mu-

Overprotective or Reasonably Cautious?

Dear Annie: I am a single mom with two boys, ages 4 and 7. We recently took a trip out to Chicago to visit my parents. Our flight was delayed by over an hour. My 7-year-old asked whether he could go into the men's bathroom alone. I said no and decided that the three of us should stay together while at a busy airport. I took

him into the ladies' room with me. As I directed him to go into a stall and I held my 4-year-old's hand, a woman said, "You know, he really is too old to be in a ladies' room." I explained that I didn't want him to be alone in a large public place; all it takes is one creep. Afterward, though, I began doubting myself. Was she right? Did I do the right thing? When is a child old enough to go to the bathroom alone in a public place? -- Cautious Mom

Annie's Mailbox

Dear Mom: You made the best decision for your family. And frankly, I would have done the same thing. If anything had happened to your son while he was unattended in the men's room, you never would have forgiven yourself. We must look out for and support our fellow mothers, not make them doubt themselves or feel uncomfortable about their decisions. You did the right thing.

Dear Annie: I have read your column for a long time but have never written to you before. I had to respond both to "Crybaby" and to the

advice you gave her. Until recently, I was just like "Crybaby." I thought that crying for a positive or negative reason was just how I responded and it was just who I was. My parents said I was a very sensitive and compassionate child, and I thought it "normal" to cry about many circumstances.

I lived with these emotions until I was thoroughly checked out with bloodwork. The cause was hormonal, and once the hormones were balanced, the emotions were also balanced. I could actually see people crying and listen to what they were

saying without crying myself. It was freedom I never thought I could have.

"Crybaby" should make sure her vitamins, supplements and hormones are balanced. Lack of sleep and stress deplete many important nutrients in our system. Also, behavior modification will not help "Crybaby" if it is hormonal or nutrient deprivation. A thorough blood analysis will show whatever deficiency she may have.

It is nice to know that there is a "Crybaby" out there who would understand what I faced for about

40 years. -- Drier My Eyes

Dear Drier: For anyone experiencing possible nutrient deficiencies or hormonal imbalance, bloodwork is a wise step, and I appreciate your raising the point. I'm sure "Crybaby" will be happy to hear she's not alone, too.

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



By Steve Becker
The delicate art of discovery

North dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.
NORTH
♠ K 10 5
♥ K Q 9 3
♦ 6 2
♣ A Q 9 4
WEST
♠ Q 8 7 6 2
♥ —
♦ J 9 8 3
♣ 10 7 5 2
EAST
♠ 4
♥ 8 6 5
♦ A Q 10 7 4
♣ K J 8 3
SOUTH
♠ A J 9 3
♥ A J 10 7 4 2
♦ K 5
♣ 6
The bidding:
North East South West
1 ♠ 1 ♦ 1 ♥ 2 ♠
2 ♥ Pass 2 ♣
4 ♥ Pass 4 NT Pass
5 ♦ Pass 6 ♥

diamond to South's king.
Declarer sees that the slam is ice-cold if he guesses which way to take the spade finesse. He therefore undertakes a campaign to determine which defender is more likely to have the queen of spades. Accordingly, he leads a trump to the nine, on which West shows out, then cashes the ace of clubs and ruffs a club.
South next leads a trump to the queen, ruffs the nine of clubs, leads a trump to the king and ruffs dummy's last club with his last trump, producing this position:
North
♠ K 10 5
♥ 3
West
♠ Q 8 7 6
East
♠ 4
♥ Q 10 4
South
♠ A J 9 3
Which way to take the spade finesse is no longer a problem. Having learned that East started with four clubs, all three missing trumps and five or six diamonds for his overcall, East cannot have been dealt more than one spade. So South cashes the ace of spades and leads a spade to the ten to bring home the slam.

Tomorrow: Bidding quiz.
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su | do | ku
© Puzzles by Pappocom

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

	1				2		8	
	2	9	7		4		6	
5			9			1		
1				2	5			7
	4	6	3		1	8	5	
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		1			9			5
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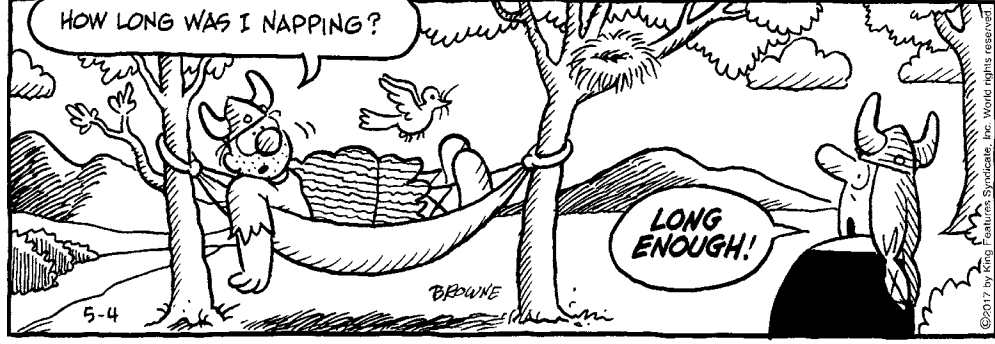
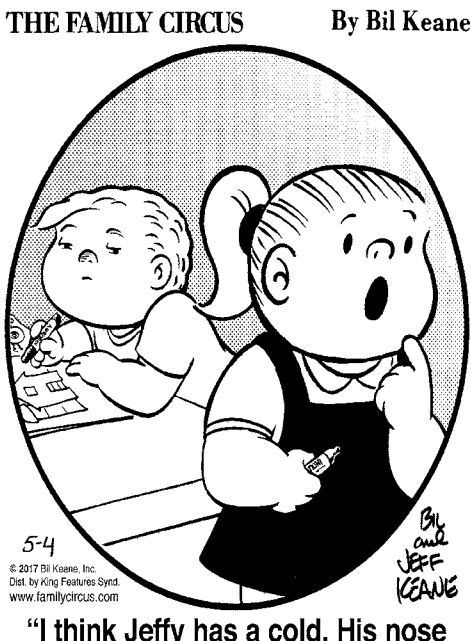
DON'T PAY
to find work before
you get the job. For
free information
about avoiding
employment service
scams, write the
Federal Trade
Commission,
Washington, DC 20580
or call the National
Fraud Information
Center, 800-876-7060.

	KMID (3) Midland	UNI (4) Spanish	KPEJ (5) Odessa	KOSA (7) Odessa	KTLE (8) Telemundo	KWES (9) Midland	KMLM (12) Odessa	KPBT (13) Odessa	KWWT (14) Odessa	KWES2 (15) Midland	WTBS (33) Atlanta	TNT (34) Atlanta	ESPN (35) Sports	ESPN2 (36) Sports	FSN (38) Sports	USA (55) New York	A&E (58) New York	DISC (60) Discovery
5:PM	Local 2	Hotel	The List	CBS 7	Tele	News	Some	Mind	Mama's	American	Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back	Bones	SportsCenter	Around Pardon	UEFA Outdoors	Law & Order: SVU	The First 48	Naked and Afraid
5:30	ABC	Noticiero	Mod Fam	CBS	Noticias	News	HaYesod	Business	Mama's	American		Bones	NBA Countdown	NFL Live	LSU Sportsday	Law & Order: SVU	The First 48	Naked and Afraid
6:PM	Jeopardy!	Rosa de Guadalupe	Big Bang	CBS 7	Caso Cerrado	News	All About	PBS News-Hour	M*A*S*H	Fam. Guy								
6:30	Wheel	La Reina de la	MasterChef	ET	El Capo (SS)	Super News	M:25	Two	M*A*S*H	Fam. Guy								
7:PM	Grey's Anatomy	La Reina de la	MasterChef	Big Bang	El Capo (SS)	Super News	M:25	Two	Griffith	Supernatural								
7:30	(:01) Scandal	Vino el Amor	The Mick (DVS)	(:01) Mom Life in	Guerra de idolos	Chicago Med	Light of Southwest	Home Fires	MacGyver	Riverdale	(:17) Movie: Star Wars: Return of the Jedi (DVS)							
8:PM	The Catch	La Piloto	News	The Amazing Race	La Querida	The Blacklist	Light of Southwest	Victorian Slum	Heroes	Seinfeld								
8:30	Local 2	Impacto	Mod Fam	CBS 7	Tele	News	Families	Charlie Rose	C. Burnett	King	Conan	Law & Order	Basketball: Conference Semifinal: Teams TBA.	SportsCenter	A&M Athl. Sportsday	Law & Order: SVU	(:03) The First 48	Naked and Afraid
10:PM	Jimmy Kimmel Live	Contacto	Deportivo	James Corden	La Querida	News	Rocks	Alfred Hitchcock Hr.	Cheaters	Seinfeld								
11:PM	Nightline	La Mujer del	Middle	Insider	Programa	(:08) Today	Light of Southwest	Mannix	Cheaters	Broke Girl	Law & Order	SportsCenter	NBA Basketball	Law Order: CI				
12:30	AM Paid Prg.	Mi Adorable	Law Order: CI	ET	Programa													
1:30	AM Paid Prg.	Mi Adorable	Law Order: CI	ET	Programa													

DENNIS THE MENACE

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

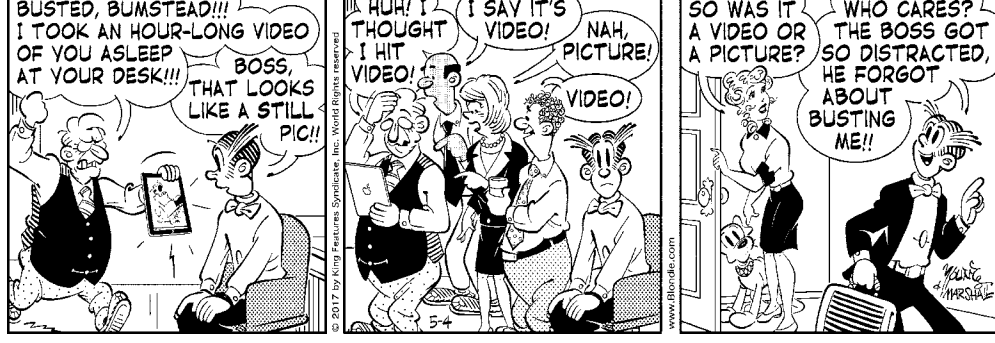
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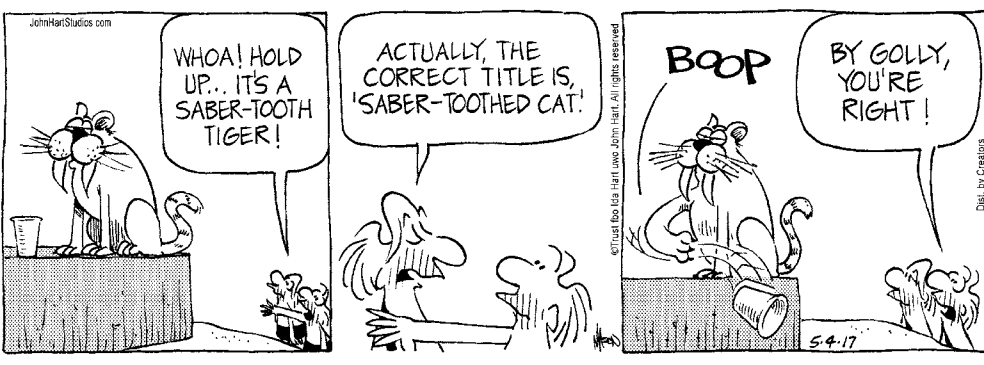
"DON'T WORRY, MOM! I'M USIN' CARPET SHAMPOO!"

"I think Jeffy has a cold. His nose keeps gargling."

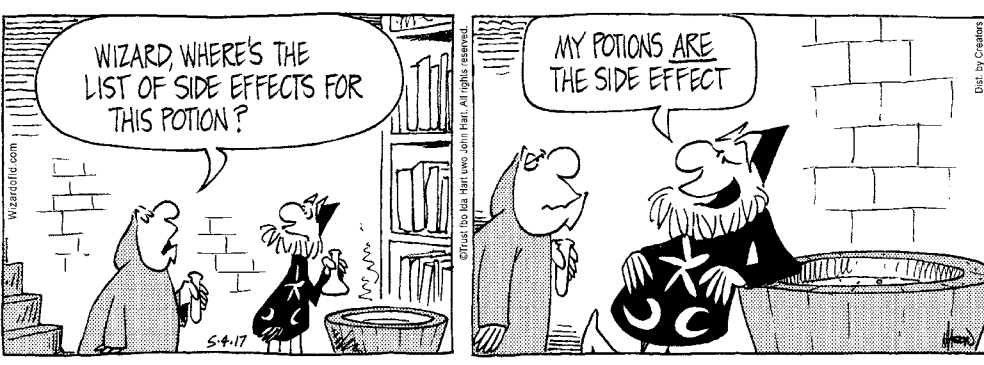
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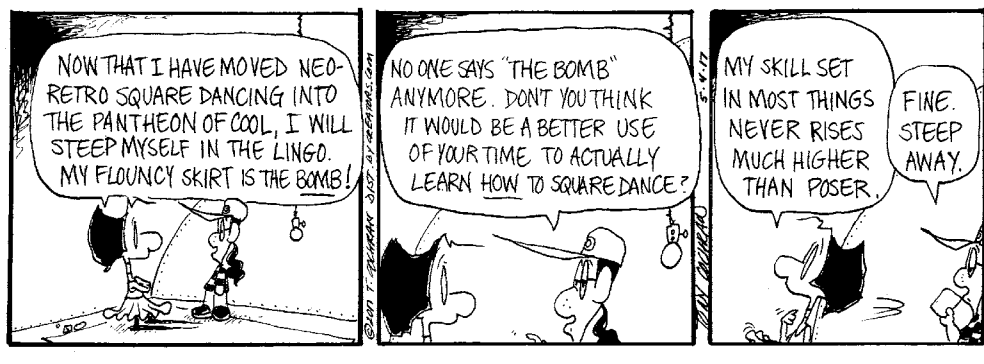
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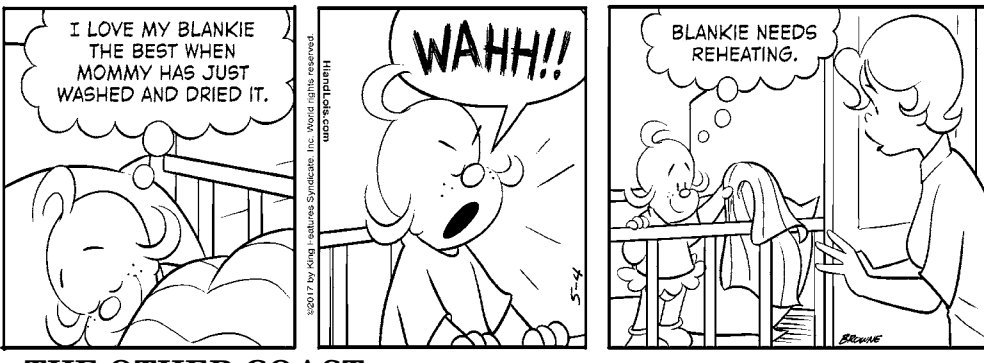
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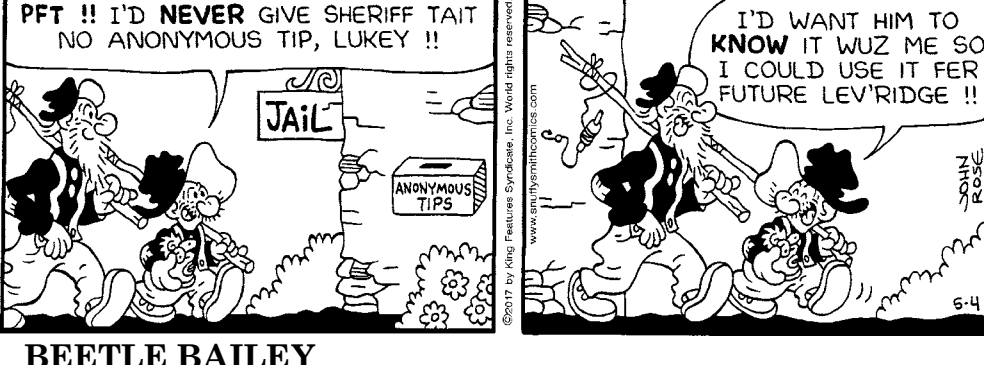
HI AND LOIS



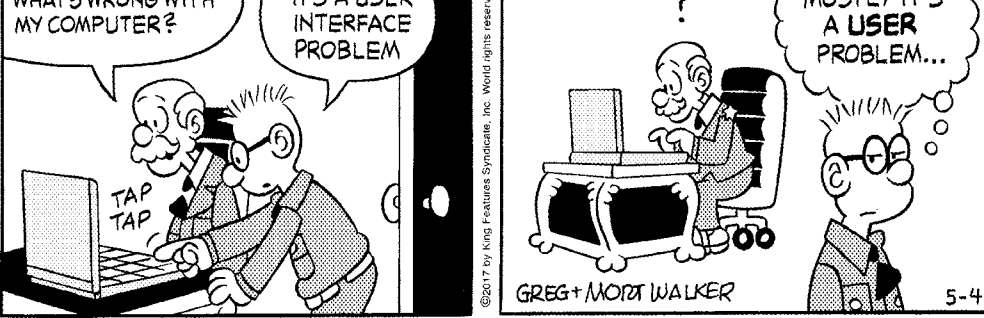
THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BEEBLE BAILEY



This Date In History

Today is Thursday, May 4, the 124th day of 2017. There are 241 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On May 4, 1942, the Battle of the Coral Sea, the first naval clash fought entirely with carrier aircraft, began in the Pacific during World War II. (The outcome was considered a tactical victory for Imperial Japan, but ultimately a strategic one for the Allies.)

On this date: In 1776, Rhode Island declared its freedom from England, two months before the Declaration of Independence was adopted. In 1830, the Edward Bulwer-Lytton novel "Paul Clifford," with its famous opening, "It was a dark and stormy night..." was first published in London. In 1886, at Haymarket Square in Chicago, a labor demonstration for an 8-hour work day turned into a deadly riot when a bomb exploded. In 1904, the United States took over construction of the Panama Canal from the French. In 1916, Germany, responding to an ultimatum from President Woodrow Wilson, agreed to limit its submarine warfare. (However, Germany resumed unrestricted submarine warfare the following year.)

In 1932, mobster Al Capone, convicted of income-tax evasion, entered the federal penitentiary in Atlanta. (Capone was later transferred to Alcatraz Island.)

In 1959, the first Grammy Awards ceremony was held at the Beverly Hilton Hotel. Domenico Modugno won Record of the Year and Song of the Year for "Nel Blu Dipinto Di Blu (Volare)"; Henry Mancini won Album of the Year for "The Music from Peter Gunn."

In 1961, the first group of "Freedom Riders" left Washington, D.C., to challenge racial segregation on interstate buses and in bus terminals.

In 1970, Ohio National Guardsmen opened fire during an anti-war protest at Kent State University, killing four students and wounding nine others.

In 1980, Marshal Josip Broz Tito, president of Yugoslavia, died three days before his 88th birthday.

In 1994, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and PLO leader Yasser Arafat signed an accord on Palestinian autonomy that granted self-rule in the Gaza Strip and Jericho.

In 2001, Bonny Lee Bakley, wife of actor Robert Blake, was

shot to death as she sat in a car near a restaurant in Los Angeles. (Blake, accused of Bakley's murder, was acquitted in a criminal trial but found liable by a civil jury and ordered to pay damages.)

Ten years ago: A tornado destroyed most of Greensburg, Kansas, killing at least 11 people. A judge sentenced hotel heiress Paris Hilton to 45 days in the Los Angeles County jail for violating probation in an alcohol-related reckless driving case by driving with a suspended license. (Hilton ended up serving three weeks.)

Five years ago: The U.S. and China outlined a tentative deal to send Chen Guangcheng (chehn gwahng-chung), a blind legal activist, to America for study and potentially bring a face-saving end to a delicate diplomatic crisis. (Chen left China on May 19, 2012.)

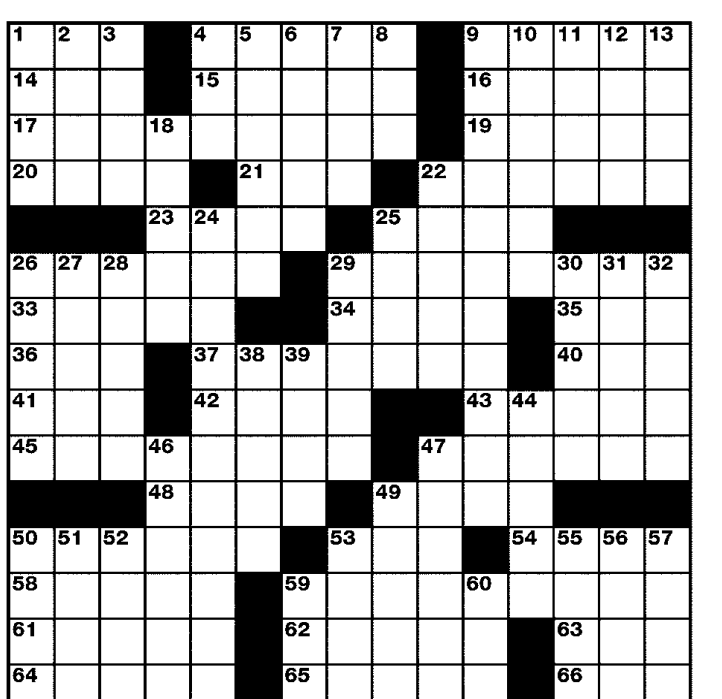
Answer to previous puzzle

F	O	P	S	A	S	A	M	U	M	P	S
E	R	I	C	T	E	R	R	A	T	A	
R	E	P	O	R	T	C	A	R	D	A	X
N	O	S	W	A	E	I	D	C	H	I	P
S	A	C	A	V	E	R					
A	R	T	P	H	O	N	E	N	U	M	B
E	A	R	S	E	R	A					
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L	U	M	P	S							
O	N	S									
S	I	T	S								
S	T	E	T								

Newsday Crossword

AT YOUR SERVICE by Mark McClain

- Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com
- | | | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------|
| ACROSS | DOWN | ACROSS | DOWN |
| 1 Sharp turn | 1 Reheats quickly | 58 Childish comeback | 1 Northwest Territories capital |
| 4 Star Trek role | 2 Kazakhstan's locale | 59 Auto brand | 10 Racetrack bet |
| 9 A long time | 3 Bravado | 61 Comparison stat | 11 Lhasa |
| 14 Tempe Pac-12 team | 4 Dashboard abbr. | 62 Garlicky sauce | 12 Kick back |
| 15 Hoodie cousin | 5 Loose robe | 63 Carpet feature | 13 Place for a coin |
| 16 Banish | 6 Cranky | 64 Pallid | 18 Kick back |
| 17 American Gothic implement | 7 Pickling candidate | 65 Tree surgeon procedure | 22 Briskly |
| 19 Horse-show gear | 8 Shoot the breeze | 66 Poky, for short | 24 Walk the Line Oscar winner |
| 20 Window framework | | | 25 Aim to discover |
| 21 Bag-checking agcy. | | | 26 Air Force Academy student |
| 22 Friend of Emerson | | | 27 Francois' farewell |
| 23 "As ___ saying..." | | | 28 Brightness measure |
| 25 Notice | | | 29 Ruin, as fun |
| 26 Talk-radio format | | | 30 Spring singer |
| 29 Opposite of "ashore" | | | 31 Go gaga (over) |
| 33 Movie ticket category | | | 32 Unsavory |
| 34 Hit like a hen | | | 38 Scientific study |
| 35 Crater Lake loc. | | | 39 Gaucho's gadget |
| 36 Not bright | | | 44 Wooden rod |
| 37 Sinatra's hometown | | | 46 Person from Perth |
| 40 Showy scarf | | | 47 By ___ (alone) |
| 41 Shoe spec | | | 49 South Pacific nation |
| 42 Well's race of the future | | | 50 Reality TV judge |
| 43 Nonliteral phrase | | | 51 Pate de foie ___ |
| 45 Sushi selection | | | 52 22 Across character |
| 47 "I wish!" | | | 53 Salon sweepings |
| 48 Organizer of Opens | | | 55 Furniture movers |
| 49 One-pot meal | | | 56 Itemization limiter |
| 50 Bond film antagonist | | | 57 Creditor's takeback |
| 53 Boasts | | | 59 Badger |
| 54 At least once | | | 60 Olive center |



What to watch in the leading soccer leagues in Europe

The Associated Press

It's another pivotal few days in the pursuit of the Premier League title.

Tottenham travels across London to the Olympic Stadium on Friday. A victory over West Ham would trim Chelsea's advantage at the top of the standings to one point, with the leaders not in action until Monday against Middlesbrough.

But if Mauricio Pochettino's team can't achieve a 10th straight league win, Chelsea will be able to wrap up the title next week when it follows up the Middlesbrough game with a trip to West Bromwich Albion on Friday.

Middlesbrough will be going to Stamford Bridge clinging to its Premier League status as the north-east side sits six points from safety with three games to go. Swansea, which is four points and a place better off, hosts Everton on Saturday. Hull, which is just above the drop zone, hosts already-relegated Sunderland.

In the chase for Champions League qualification, fourth-place Manchester City hosts Crystal Palace and third-place Liverpool plays Southampton the following day. Manchester United and Arsenal are left relying on City and Liverpool to slip up when they meet on Sunday at the Emirates Stadium.

SPAIN
It couldn't be much closer with both Barcelona and Real Madrid even on points.

Madrid needs 10 of the remaining 12 points in play to dethrone Barcelona as champion and claim its first league title since 2012. If they finish level on points, Barcelona wins on its head-to-head record. Madrid has four matches, while Barcelona has



AP photo/Alastair Grant
Tottenham Hotspur's Harry Kane, front, celebrates after scoring a penalty during the English Premier League soccer match between Tottenham Hotspur and Arsenal at White Hart Lane in London, Sunday, April 30, 2017.

three.
Madrid visits already-relegated Granada on Saturday. Then, after the second leg of the Champions League semifinals at Atletico Madrid next week, it faces league matches against Sevilla, at Celta Vigo and at Malaga.

The match at Celta was supposed to be played in February, but was postponed after heavy winds caused part of the stadium's roof to collapse. Now Madrid will have to play two matches in the final week of the season with the title possibly still at

stake.

Barcelona has the advantage of being able to fully focus on the title before turning to the Copa del Rey final against Alaves on May 27.

Barcelona's biggest challenge will be beating a fifth-place Villarreal side seeking a Europa League berth at Camp Nou on Saturday. It then has games at Las Palmas and back at home versus Eibar in the final round.

By Joseph Wilson in Barcelona.

ITALY
Treble-chasing Juventus can secure an unprecedented sixth straight Serie A title this weekend if results go its way.

A win in the derby at home against Torino on Saturday would see the team move 12 points clear of Roma, which visits AC Milan the following day.

Milan is still looking for its first win under its new Chinese owners and anything but a victory for Roma would hand Juventus the trophy because there will be only three rounds remaining. A draw would also be enough for Juventus if Roma loses at Milan.

Juventus is currently on a league record run of 33 straight victories at home. If Juventus does not clinch the title this weekend, it could win it the following Sunday — at Roma.

Since Serie A was founded in 1929, no club has won more than five straight titles. Torino won five consecutive titles from 1943-49 (including a season that was canceled because of World War II), Inter Milan took five straight from 2006-10 and Juventus claimed the same from 1931-35 before its current streak.

SPURS

Continued from Page 7

Popovich started Pau Gasol in place of David Lee to give the Spurs another outside shooter in the starting lineup and it paid off early. San Antonio shot 62 percent in the opening quarter and finished shooting 54 percent.

LaMarcus Aldridge had 15 points after being limited to four in the opener, and Danny Green added 12.

"We played a lot smarter than we did in Game 1," Green said. "We played at our pace, not theirs. Passed the ball, found each other, moved a lot better with more of an old Spurs basketball."

TIP-INS

Rockets: Houston had scored 100 points in every playoff game this season. ... Harden entered Wednesday averaging 31.0 points, 8.2 assists and 5.5 rebounds this postseason. Hall of Famer Michael Jordan is the only player to average 31 points, 8.0 assists and 5.0 rebounds in a single postsea-

son, doing so in 1991. . The league fined Nene \$15,000 for "escalating an altercation" after grabbing Dewayne Dedmon by the throat in Game 1 while the Spurs center was jawing with Harden. Nene was ejected from the game.

Spurs: Leonard tied his postseason high with 20 points in the first half as the Spurs opened up a 65-55 lead. . Parker joined longtime teammate Tim Duncan as the only players born outside the United States to score 4,000 points in the postseason. Parker, Jordan, Kobe Bryant and LeBron James are also the only players in league history with at least 4,000 points and 1,000 assists. . Parker and Ginobili won their 131st postseason game as teammates, matching the league record held by Parker and Duncan.

SOMBER NIGHT

Parker's injury came as he was enjoying a revival after struggling for much of the season.

His 18 points marked the sixth time in eight postseason games that he has scored 15-plus points after doing

so just 16 times in 63 regular-season games.

"He has the presence just like T.D. (Duncan) had that presence," said Patty Mills, who could start in Parker's absence. "He was rolling the last month going back to his old self."

Mills said he is not sure who will start at point guard if Parker is unable to play in Game 3, but said the team is ready to step up if needed.

"But I can tell you one thing, that we're all ready," Mills said. "We're all ready to step up and make an im-

ASTROS

Continued from Page 7

a season high with three errors and have lost five straight and eight of their last nine games on the road.

"We need some momentum," catcher Jonathan Lucroy said. "We need a stopper on the mound who can shut it down for us so the lineup can score some runs. We've got to play better all around, we've got to hit better, we've got to pitch better, we've got to play defense better. It's not just one-sided here, and there's a lot of different aspects. We've got to throw strikes, we've got to make plays and we've got to hit. Right now, we're not doing that."

Charlie Morton (3-2) allowed a run and five hits in six innings, striking out eight and walking two. The Rangers were hitless until Rougned Odor doubled in the fourth inning.

Josh Reddick added a two-run homer off Anthony Bass in the eighth.

Every Astros hitter reached base except for Jose Altuve, who had a rare 0-for-5 night. Gonzalez, Correa, George Springer and Alex Bregman all had multihit games. Houston im-

proved to 15-1 when scoring four runs or more.

TRAINER'S ROOM

Rangers: Cole Hamels is expected to miss eight weeks because of a strained right oblique. The Rangers put Hamels on the 10-day disabled list and recalled righty Bass from Triple-A Round Rock. Hamels was scratched from his scheduled start Tuesday. He said he felt discomfort in his right side while warming up.

Astros: RHP Collin McHugh (elbow) will travel with the team to Anaheim for this weekend's series and may start playing catch soon, Hinch said.

McCANN'S HOMER

McCann hit his fourth homer of the season and 236th of his career as a catcher, three shy of tying Roy Campanella for 10th most at the position. It was also the 1,600th home run by an Astro since Minute Maid Park opened in 2000, regular season and playoffs included.

NFL

Continued from Page 7

also led in plush dolls, player-identified kids T-shirts and jerseys.

Another rookie, Eagles quarterback Carson Wentz was seventh overall but tops in bobblehead sales.

NFL Players Inc., the marketing arm of the union, compiled the list, which is based on overall sales of all NFL player licensed products via online and traditional retail outlets as reported by more than 80 NFLPA licensees.

Among the product categories are men's, women's and youth game jerseys and T-shirts; wall decals; figurines; toys; matted and framed photos; vinyl collectibles; bobbleheads; ugly sweaters; plush dolls; drinkware; socks; mobile gaming; virtual goods; holiday ornaments and novelties. NFL Players Inc. said licensees generated retail sales exceeding \$1.6 billion during the year.

"It is pretty impressive on both of their parts and the parts of their fan base," said Steven Scobel, vice president, licensing and business development for NFL Players Inc. "I was surprised because in the third (business) quarter, Tom Brady was in first place, and after that quarter closed he went

on to win the Super Bowl and Super Bowl MVP. I kind of expected when we ran the numbers, he would be No. 1. So when it was Zeke and Dak, that was just a testament to what they were able to do on the field and their fan base did off the field."

Scobel credits some of Elliott's popularity to the strong devotion of Ohio State fans to their players when they head to the pros. He also notes that, unlike in past decades when team allegiance was often a deciding factor, many consumer decisions are driven by something else when it comes to the NFL.

"If you look at younger fans and the way they follow the game now and how they engage fantasy football," Scobel said, "even those who are not fans of the Cowboys are more prone to buy something of a player who is on their fantasy team. They have more allegiance to those players who are becoming stars, not necessarily to players from specific teams."



David L Ward, DDS, PC
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Parent's Corner: Be grateful for life

There is a famous quote by Abraham Lincoln: Most people are just about as happy as they want to be.

This seems to be a fairly true statement for just about everyone I know or have ever heard of. It's really interesting how we set ourselves up for the way we view life.

For instance: A famous writer was sitting in his study and suddenly picked up his pen and began writing: Last year, my gallbladder was removed.

I was stuck in bed due to this surgery for a long time. The same year I reached the age of 60 and had to give up my favorite job. I had spent 30 years of my life with this publishing company. The same year I experienced the death of my father, and in the same year my son failed in his medical exam



DARRELL RYAN

because he had a car accident. He had to stay in the hospital with a cast on his leg for several days. And, then the destruction of the car was a second loss.

His concluding statement: "Alas! It was such a bad year!"

A few moments later the writer's wife entered the room and found her husband looking dejected, sad and lost in his thoughts. She noticed that he had been writing, so she picked up the paper and carefully read what he had written.

She left the room without saying a word, but came back moments later with another piece of paper on which she had written her summary of the year's events and placed it beside her husband's paper.

He looked at without saying a word and took the paper that she handed him. As he took the paper she softly said: "This is my version of last year's events." Last year my husband turned 60 and was blessed with sound health and retired from his job. He finally got rid of his gallbladder which had given him many years

of pain. Now he can utilize his time to write better and with more focus and peace.

That same year his father, at the age of 95 without depending on anyone and without any critical conditions, met his Creator, and the same year, our son was blessed with life, even though car was destroyed, our son was alive and without permanent disability. This year was an immense blessing and it passed well!"

The husband looked at his wife and tears began to fill his eyes. He slowly reached out and took her hand and softly spoke. "My precious wife, you have just made me realize that events can be viewed in two completely different ways, one being negative, and the other being positive. And that through hardships and trials there are always things for which we should be grateful, and it's not happiness that make us grateful, it's gratefulness that makes us



happy.

I think Dennis Prager, the author of Happiness Is a Serious Problem: A Human Nature Repair Manual said it quite well:

"All happy people are grateful, and ungrateful people cannot be happy. Become grateful and you will become a much happier person."

Darrell Ryan is a long-time educator in Howard County.

Low-income, minority students lag in high school grad rates

WASHINGTON (AP) — Despite rising national graduation rates, low-income and minority students continue to lag behind their peers in finishing high school, according to a study released Wednesday.

While the national graduation rate for the year 2015 was 83.2 percent, it was only 77.8 percent for Hispanic students and 74.6 for black students, said the report by Civic Enterprises and the Everyone Graduates Center at the Johns Hopkins University. The report represented an analysis of federal data released in December and policy recommendations.

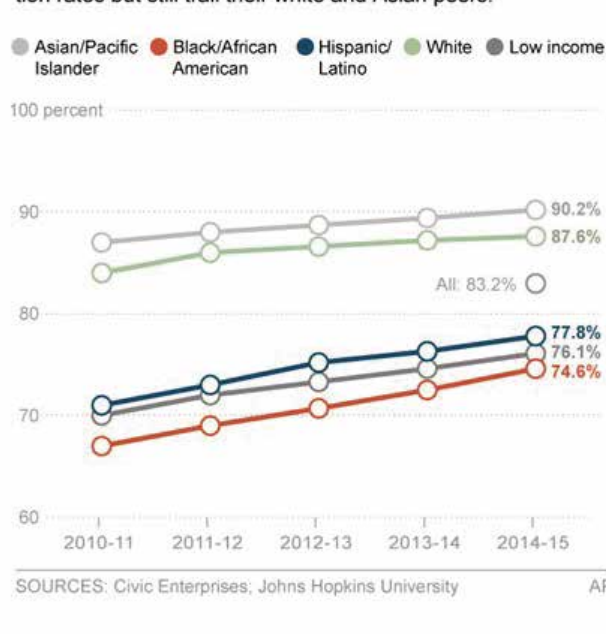
On the bright side, those students are catching up faster than their peers. Graduation rates have increased 7.6 percentage points for black students and 6.8 percentage points for Latino students since 2011, compared to 3 percent to 4 percent for white

students, said Jennifer DePaoli, a researcher with Civic Enterprises and the lead author of the report. The groups behind the report have been leading the GradNation campaign that advocates for a graduation rate of 90 percent by 2020.

"When we look at the big picture, this is good news. We have the highest graduation rates that this country has ever seen," said DePaoli. But for low-income and minority students and students with disabilities, more help is needed. States "are getting stuck with getting certain students across the finish line," DePaoli said.

Getting to graduation

Black and Hispanic U.S. high school students, as well as those from low-income families, are making gains in graduation rates but still trail their white and Asian peers.



New Mexico was the worst performing state, with a state-wide graduation rate of 68.6 percent, the only state below the 70 percent mark. Also, 44 percent of New Mexi-

co high schools were low graduation rate schools — schools that have more than 100 students and where the graduation rate is 67 percent or less.

Iowa was the first state to reach a 90 percent graduation rate. Other high achieving states were Vermont, New Jersey, New Hampshire, Texas, Tennessee and Kentucky.

The graduation rate among students with disabilities was 64.6 percent, a difference of nearly 20 percentage points from the overall rate. Similarly, English language learners had a graduation rate of 65.1 percent.

DePaoli said increased access to early childhood education has been shown to in-

crease academic outcomes, including graduation rates. "States need to focus heavily on equity," DePaoli said. "So many states have focused on increasing their graduation rates, now is the hard part."

Abigail Swisher, an education expert with New America said dual enrollment — allowing students to enroll in college-level courses while still in high school — has been shown to improve graduation rates for underprivileged groups of students.

"We found that that the counterintuitive solution would be to actually give them more challenging coursework in the form of opportunities to complete college level work in high school," she said. "When they have this opportunity ... they are more likely to enroll in college and persist with their degree in college as well."

Pentagon: Academy athletes must serve before going pro

CENTENNIAL, Colo. (AP) — The U.S. Defense Department has rescinded its 2016 policy allowing military service academy athletes to go straight to the pros upon graduation.

Athletes such as Air Force wide receiver Jalen Robinette, the NCAA's leader in yards per catch in 2016, will have to serve two years of active duty before applying for reserve status to pursue a career in professional sports.

"Our military academies exist to develop future officers who enhance the readiness and the lethality of our military services. Graduates enjoy the extraordinary benefit of a military academy education at taxpayer expense. Therefore, upon graduation, officers will serve as military officers for their minimum commitment of two years," Pentagon chief spokesman Dana W. White said Monday in a statement.

White added that the Defense Department "has a long history of officer athletes who served their nation before going to the pros including Roger Staubach, Chad Hennings and David Robinson."

Robinette, who is on track to graduate later this month, was expected to be a mid-round selection in last weekend's NFL draft, but he wasn't chosen after Air Force Academy officials were told Thursday night that the Air Force wouldn't allow him to go straight to the NFL.

Robinette was informed of this decision about an hour into the three-day, seven-round draft. The Academy said it wanted to let NFL teams know about the policy's reversal so teams would know he won't be available until 2019.

Robinette was the only NFL

draft prospect from the service academies this year.

This change also affects Air Force pitcher Griffin Jax, a third-round pick by the Minnesota Twins last summer.

Robinette, who led the country with 27.4 yards per catch in 2016, had prepared for the draft believing he'd be allowed to play in the NFL right away because of a Defense Department decision last summer.

After standout Navy quarterback Keenan Reynolds was drafted by the Baltimore Ravens in 2016, the Defense Department changed its policy for service academy athletes who are offered the opportunity to play professionally, saying they could receive reserve appointments upon graduation and start their pro careers immediately.

Although it was clear the Defense Department would rule on a case-by-case basis, Robinette and others believed this was a green light to prepare for an NFL career upon graduation.

Now, he'll have to wait until 2019.

Reynolds, who is trying to make it in the NFL as a wide receiver, spent most of last season on the Ravens' practice squad. He was elevated to the active roster for the season finale in January, but didn't play in the

game.

Reynolds is unaffected by the change in policy, which is effective as of April 29, and "does not impact graduates of service academies from prior years," Lt. Col. Myles B. Caggins III at the Defense Department told The Associated Press.

Robinette was the first Air Force player ever invited to the East-West Shrine Game, the Senior Bowl and the NFL combine. Starting in January, he maintained a full class load while commuting 100 miles six days a week to train with other hopefuls, including top-10 pick Christian McCaffrey, in suburban Denver.

Texas Senate extends easing testing for some high schoolers

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — The Texas Senate has voted to extend a 2015 law designed to help high school seniors graduate on time despite failing standardized tests needed to earn a diploma.

Amarillo Republican Sen. Kel Seliger's bill passed 28-3 on Monday and now heads to the Texas House.

It continues until September 2019 a program offering an alternative graduation plan for se-

niors who failed to pass up to two statewide exams in algebra I, biology, English I and II and U.S. history.

The law established individual educational committees to determine whether a student could graduate instead based on other factors, like passing all necessary classes with acceptable attendance and grades.

The program was set to expire, but its approval before the legislative session ends May 29 may help qualifying students graduate this spring.



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