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H BIG SPRING HERALD

TUESDAY, JUNE 27, 2017



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Boil water advisory under effect for specific areas

Herald Staff Report

Certain areas of the city are under a boil water notice until further instruction according to city officials. The boil water notice is in effect for the following areas:

- Donley Street – even and odd sides of 1600 block thru 1900 block
- 19th Street – 1004 thru

1006 even side only

- 20th Street – even and odd sides of 1000 block
- 21st Street - even and odd sides of 1000 block
- State Street – even and odd sides of 2000 block south to FM 700
- 1001, 1005 and 1213 E. FM 700
- The Reserves Apartment Complex

A 6-inch water line became

contaminated Monday while under repair.

“The line was already isolated as were all house meters in the area,” read a press release from the city of Big Spring. “The line was disinfected and flushed.”

As a precautionary measure, residents of the impacted areas will need to boil their water prior to consumption.

“Children, seniors, and persons with weakened immune systems are particularly vulnerable to harmful bacteria, and all customers should follow these directions,” read the press release. “To ensure destruction of all harmful bacteria and other microbes, water for drinking, cooking, and ice should be boiled and cooled prior to use. The water should be brought to a

vigorous boil and then boiled for two minutes. In lieu of boiling, you may purchase bottled water or obtain water from some other suitable source.”

According to the city the boil water notice will be in effect until further notice.

For further questions, contact the Public Works Director at 432-264-2501.

Once every ‘century’



HERALD photo/Robert Barlow

The agave americana plant, also known as the “century plants” or the “American aloe”, is a special plant that gained its nickname from its semelparous nature. In other words, this means the plant only flowers once at the end of its long life which can range anywhere from 10 to 30 years, and some have even been reported living longer. This particular “century plant” is located on Main Street and has reached the flowering stage of its life cycle.

Commissioners give invite to military to perform exercises

By ROBERT BARLOW
 Staff Writer

Howard County Commissioners approved an invitation to the United States military to conduct unconventional warfare training in Howard County again and gave the go-ahead to increase road boring permit fees by \$400 when they meet Monday.

“We have a letter from Thomas Meade who is a commander for the U.S. Army,” Howard County Judge Kathryn Wiseman relayed to the court. “He’s asking for an invitation this year for military training for unconventional warfare and Exercise 18.”

This is not the first time the military has held special training in the area. After the announcement in 2015 about “Jade Helm” operations, a number of conspiracy theories circulated throughout the internet with rumors that the U.S. military was about to invade Texas.

The court had little discussion on the subject during their meeting Monday with Commissioner John Cline asking if the exercises would be conducted the same as before. The motion was approved unanimously to invite back the military. The exercise will be held beginning March to June 2018.

In other business, companies will be paying more to apply to lay pipe under country roads, but the new fees will not go into effect for the next 30 days.

During the meeting, Road and Bridge Administrator Brian Klinksiek brought a proposal to the court in regards to increasing the road boring permit fee from \$100 to \$500.

“I am asking to raise the road boring fee,” said Klinksiek. “That was based on some information further south, not necessarily a neighboring county.”

In addition to this, Klinksiek also wanted to instate a penalty for companies who violate codes or do not get a permit with the penalty, also costing

See COURT, Page 3

Howard College hires new head librarian

By LYNDEL MOODY
 Staff Writer

Howard College officials announced the hiring of a new head librarian Monday who will oversee both the college and Howard County library programs.

Mavour Braswell, who is currently employed at McLennan Community College (MCC) in Waco, will join Howard College in mid-August, Howard College President Dr. Cheryl Sparks informed trustees during



Sparks
 their monthly board meeting. Before joining MCC, Braswell was employed at Midway ISD, a community close to Waco for more than 10 years, according to Dr. Amy Burchett, vice president of academic and student affairs, who was on the hiring committee.

“We are looking forward to having Mavour started in August,” Sparks said. “We know she has a lot of work ahead of her and she is very excited about it. Of course the first or-

der will be the day-to-day operations for both the college and the county and then she will begin the research (on the viability of merging the college and county library programs).”

In January, the college and county signed an agreement to share a head librarian for both programs. The two entities are in talks of a possible merger of the two programs which has caused concern in the community worried about losing the community library.

As part of Braswell's new duties, she will be tasked with researching the viability of combining the two programs, which if it

does occur, will be overseen by the college. Sparks said the college and county plan to take a thorough look at the situation before making any decision.

“As a part of the interview process, we talked to the candidates about the importance of community input and the interest that we all have in trying to make sure that if we do this, we come up with something better, and meeting the needs of a college library, but also the needs of a public library. Those are different,” Sparks said. “Her experience lends itself well to the position. She had the college experience and public

See HC, Page 3

Closure at park

The Russ McEwen Aquatic Center will be closed Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday, July 2, 3, and 4, 2017, for Pops in the Park and Independence Day. The Aquatic Center will re-open for regular hours on Wednesday, July 5, 2017.



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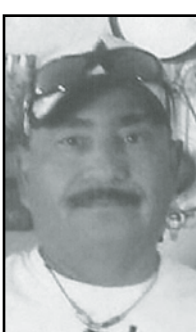
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Obituaries

Antonio Reyes Pena, Sr.



Antonio Reyes Pena, Sr., of Big Spring, Texas, passed away Sunday, June 25, 2017, at Scenic Mountain Medical Center in Big Spring.

He was born June 10, 1959, in Bronte, Texas, to Audon Valdez and Olivia (Reyes) Pena. Tony married Rose Lopez at the Runnels County Courthouse in Ballinger. He was a construction worker employed by Super Rod Manufacturing.

Preceding him in death were his father, Audon Pena, Sr., and a sister, Adelia Garcia.

Tony is survived by his wife, Rose, of Big Spring; children, Antonio Pena Jr., Angela Olivares, Bobby Pena, and Gabriel Pena all of Big Spring; and his mother, Oliva Pena of San Antonio. Also surviving are his brothers and sisters, Audon Pena Jr. of Ballinger, Vera Juazer of Arlington, Lydia Rodriguez of Sweetwater, Adelia Garcia of Greeley, Colorado, Hope Pena of San Antonio, Armando Pena and Rudy Pena both of Ballinger, and Arthur Pena of San Antonio.

A memorial service will be held Friday, June 30, at 11 a.m. at Lange Funeral Home Chapel in Ballinger.

Guests may register online at ballingerfuneralhome.com.

Ava B. Kelley Miller

Ava B. Kelley Miller of Big Spring, 92, died Monday, June 26, 2017 at a local hospital. Services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home and Crematory.

Robert "Big Rob" Ramirez

Robert "Big Rob" Ramirez, 20, of Big Spring died Sunday, June 25, 2017. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Support Groups

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.

WEDNESDAY

• RSD (Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy) a chronic pain disease, a support and informative group, meets at 213 Circle. Call Lucy at (432) 517-9207 for more information.

Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity:

• **STEPHEN DUANE HECTOR**, 53, of 2107 Williams Road, was arrested on charges of possession of marijuana less than 2 ounces and on two warrants from other agencies.

• **JAMES LEE WOODARD**, 53, of 3601 Connally, was arrested on a warrant for expired registration.

• **SIMON JACOB ARENIVAZ**, 26, of 2603 Ent Drive, was arrested on a charge of possession of a controlled substance less than one gram.

• **THEFT** was reported in the 1000 block of South Birdwell Lane.

• **DISTURBANCE** was reported in the 1200 block of Sycamore Street.

• **BURGLARY OF HABITATION** was reported in the 500 block of West 17th Street and the 2500 block of Chanute Drive.

• **THEFT OF FIREARM** was reported in the 3600 block of West Highway 80.

• **CRIMINAL MISCHIEF** was reported in the 1500 block of East 11th Place.

• **STOLEN VEHICLE** was reported in the 600 block of Circle Drive.

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

Note - Officials with the How-

ard County Jail reported having 83 inmates at the time of this report.

• **SIMON JACOB ARENIVAZ**, 26, was booked by the BSPD on a charge of possession of a controlled substance less than one gram.

• **STEPHEN DUANE HECTOR**, 53, was booked by the BSPD on a warrant for criminal mischief between \$750 and \$2,500, assault that causes bodily injury to family member, and on a charge of possession of marijuana less than 2 ounces.

• **JAMES LEE WOODARD**, 53, was booked by the BSPD on a warrant for displaying expired registration.

Take Note

• "Getting Back to School Ready" will be presented - at Scenic Mountain Medical Center - by Dr. Joseph Chavez for the next Lunch n Learn, July 13 at 11:30 a.m.

The presentation is free to attend and will focus on immunizations and getting kids ready to go back to school.

To RSVP, call 432-268-4699.

• Maranatha Baptist Academy has open enrollment for the 2017-2018 school year beginning June 26 - July 13, 2017.

Office hours are 8-10:30 a.m. Come in and pre-register for the new year. Uses Accelerated Christian Education curriculum. Ages four years through high school.

Please contact Dr. Lillian Bohannon at 432-213-1046 for an appointment.

• KBST and Back in Motion Chiropractic will hold their annual Community Blood Drive Friday, June 30, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The United Blood Services Bloodmobile will be in the parking lot of Back in Motion, 1113 S. Scurry St. Donors will receive a KBST Pops in the Park T-shirt, an entry in a drawing for four Schlitterbahn tickets, a July 4 Goody Bag, a free cholesterol check, and grilled hot dogs and ice cream; plus, the opportunity to meet your favorite KBST radio personality. Appointments are strong-

ly encouraged. To make an appointment, call Maegan at 267-2225, or 1-877-UBS-HERO and give them the sponsor code "motion"; or enter "motion" at www.bloodhero.com.

• The Big Spring Salvation Army is holding a fan drive to collect and distribute electric fans to those in Howard County who need one but can't afford it. 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.

People who need a fan should call the Salvation Army at 432-267-8239 to register and receive the distribution date.

• 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.

• Seniors and mature adults are invited to a dance on the first, third and fifth Friday of each month at the Dora Roberts Community Center.

Dances are from 7:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. with live bands. No alcohol or smoking permitted. There will be a pot luck as well so bring a dish if you want to eat.

Cost has dropped to \$5 per person thanks to a sponsor Marcy House, 2301 Wasson Road.

• The Big Spring Art Association meets the third Tuesday of each month a 7 p.m. in the basement of the Howard County Library.

• Big Spring Centennial Lion's Club meets twice a month at the Big Spring TA Truck Stop. They meet on the first Tuesday of the month at noon and the 3rd Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. Visitors are welcome.

• The Christensen-Tucker Post-2013 Veterans of Foreign Wars meets the first Tuesday of every month at 7 pm at 500 Driver Road. For more information, contact David Leonard, Post Commander, at 432-816-6004. All combat veterans of foreign wars are invited to come.

• The Big Spring Symphony Board of Directors meets every first Tuesday at 5:30 p.m.

at the symphony office, 808 Scurry Street.

• Order of the Eastern Star Big Spring Chapter 67 meets the third Tuesday of each month at 219 Main St. Dinner begins at 6:30 p.m. Lodge meeting begins at 7:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome. For more information, contact 432-271-2138.

• Staked Plains Masonic Lodge No. 598 meets the second Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. (dinner is at 6 p.m.) at 219 1/2 Main St. All Masons are welcome.

• Membership to the Big Spring Native American Association is open to the public. People interested in Native American culture are encouraged to find out more about the organization by calling Richard "Indio" Lesser at 432-935-0125,

• Scenic Mountain Medical Center Auxiliary Group is looking to expand. Positions are available for the Auxiliary group and the Teen Volunteer program. Must be 15 years of age to take part in the teen volunteer program. If you would like to volunteer please contact Heath White at 268-4850.

• The Big Spring State Hospital Volunteer Services Council is in need of volunteers to fill a variety of needs to assist the hospital's Applications to become a volunteer can be picked up at The Chalet, 115 E. Second St., Tuesday through Saturday between 8 a.m.

and 3 p.m. or at the Big Spring State Hospital Community Relations Department, 1901 N. Hwy 87, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Volunteers can assist with a variety of functions, including The Chalet Resale Shop, various fund-raisers and patient events. For more information, contact Dee Lindsey, Big Spring State Hospital Director of Community Relations, (432) 268-7535 or danielle.lindsey@dshs.state.tx.us

• Home Hospice is in need of volunteers of all ages. The organization is requesting volunteers to visit patients. Volunteers set their own hours. For more information, contact Beverly Grant at 264-7599 or 432-967-0901.

• Mobile meals is in need of volunteer delivery drivers. If you would like to donate one hour per week to help deliver meals to the elderly, call Maria at 816-6474.

• Crossroads Hospice needs volunteers for patient care. Contact Eva at 263-5300.

• Victim Services is a non-profit independent community-based program serving victims of all violent crime, including, but not limited to, assault, sexual assault and domestic violence. Victim Services advocates are available 24 hours of day, 365 days a year to provide crisis intervention or accompaniment to the hospital and law enforcement agencies as needed. If you can commit to 30-hour training, an interview process and a background check, we need you. For more information, call Linda Calvio at 432-263-3312.

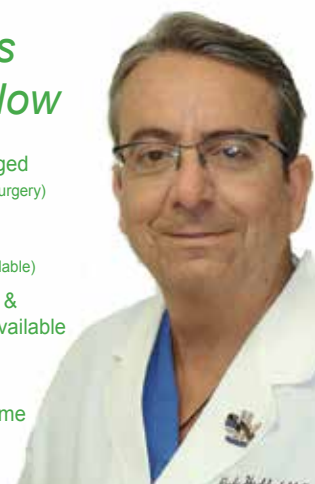
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Ruling in travel ban leaves myriad questions unanswered

By ALICIA A. CALDWELL

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court's decision to partially reinstate President Donald Trump's temporary travel ban has left the effort to keep some foreigners out of the United States in a murky middle ground, with unanswered questions and possibly more litigation ahead.

The justices ruled Monday in an unsigned opinion they would hold a full hearing on the case in October. In the meantime, the administration can bar travelers from six majority-Muslim countries from the U.S. if they don't have a "credible claim of a bona fide relationship" with someone or some entity in the country.

It's unclear what will ultimately constitute a "bona fide relationship," though the ruling suggested that an American job, school enrollment or a close relative could meet that threshold. Equally un-

clear is how many foreigners will be affected from the six countries: Syria, Sudan, Iran, Yemen, Libya and Somalia.

The ruling was seen as at least a partial victory for Trump in the biggest court case of his presidency. Trump claims the temporary ban is needed to prevent terrorist attacks. Opponents reject that and argue it's a backdoor way to bar Muslims from entering the United States, as Trump promised in his campaign.

The early indications are that the administration will use the decision to take a tough line on travelers from those countries. A senior U.S. official familiar with the situation said the Trump administration has plans in place to relaunch the stalled ban and tourists will be among those kept out.

Under these plans, largely orchestrated by White House adviser Stephen Miller, tourists from those countries and any academics, lecturers or others in-

cluded are not permitted to speak or make presentations in the U.S. will be barred. Those groups are regarded as unable to show a substantial and pre-existing tie to a person or institution in the United States.

The official who described the plans was not authorized to discuss them publicly by name and spoke on condition of anonymity.

But some immigration lawyers and advocates said relatively few people would fall under the ban because these travelers tend to have sufficient relationships with people or institutions in the United States.

Jamal Abdi, policy director for the National Iranian American Council, said most Iranians who visit the United States have relatives here or are coming to work or study. He said his group has no idea

how the administration plans to judge family relationships and a hard line could mean a significant number of Iranians will be kept out of the country for the time being.

It could also mean more lawsuits if advocates for immigrants believe the administration is going beyond the Supreme Court's guidelines in barring visitors to the United States.

Like the fate of would-be tourists and scholars, the immediate future for refugees is murky.

In its opinion, the court partially reinstated Trump's temporary prohibition on refugees from any country, using criteria similar to that used in the travel ban. The effect on refugees could be greater because they are less likely to have family, school or business relationships in

the United States.

Lavinia Limon, CEO of the U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants, said she was dismayed by the ruling, but insisted that her agency has "an existing relationship with incoming refugees, certified and arranged through the Department of State."

"Travel plans are in process, beds have been made and staff around the country plan to meet new Americans at the airports today, tomorrow and in the coming weeks and months," Limon said.

Trump's initial travel ban caused panic and chaos at airports around the world in late January as it took effect immediately after being signed. Refugees, legal U.S. residents and visa holders were turned back at airports or barred from boarding U.S.-bound planes.

HC

Continued from Page 1

school experience. A lot of what we see in the public library is a lot of the children's aspect, so she has that background.

"She understands the importance that we want to move quickly, but this is a big decision," Sparks continued. "We want to gather our information, we need input, we need to figure out exactly what it would look like. What it needs to be in the event that we decide to go forward."

Sparks said once two entities have an understanding of what type of program they want to create, then they will have to develop a cost plan and find funding before actually implementing the new program.

"Everybody is anxious of what it is going to be but at this point it's premature," Sparks said. "We still need to gather all the information and get the input of people who are going to be involved. Not only the employees, but also the patrons and the community at large as far as what we want."

In a bit of good news, Sparks relayed to the board that the college was reaccredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS)/Commission on Colleges (COC) recently.

"We are so pleased to share with the board and the public the reaffirmation of Howard College for another 10 years by SACS/COC, and as I have shared with the board and in previous meetings, Dr. Amy Burchett has taken the lead in this process. It is a process that takes a good seven years to prepare for a reaffirmation visit, and she certainly provided leadership for her team and in the achievement we were able to share today. We will give

ourselves a couple of days and get started on the next one."

In other business, Sparks informed trustees the college should hear by Saturday if the San Angelo campus will receive a Helping Hands grant. Helping Hands is a charity run by Mueller Inc. in which the company will build a metal building to the recipients specific needs. Howard College has applied for one of these grants in hopes to have a building constructed to offer a construction trades program on the San Angelo campus. As part of the grant, the college will have to find funding to build the pad which the metal structure will sit on.

"The Home Building Association in San Angelo is helping to get support both in kind and donations to build the pad and electrical," Sparks said. "They figured it will be a 383,000 project without the building. They have already raised \$305,000."

Sparks added the college is in talks with the Economic Development Corporation in San Angelo and the Concho Valley Workforce Board to help fund some of the start up costs of the construction trades program. Both entities heavily funded the college's LVN to RN transition program on the San Angelo campus. Sparks added the San Angelo Foundation board voted to add \$10,000 for the project.

Trustees also approved a \$71,405 bid for a five year lease on equipment for the college's fitness center. According to college officials, membership fees collected within the next five years will balance out the cost for the lease.

Contact Staff Writer Lyn-del Moody at 263-7331, ext. 235, or email citydesk@big-springherald.com.

COURT

Continued from Page 1

another \$500.

"Additionally wanting to know if there was a possibility to put a \$500 penalty for failure to get a permit," stated Klinksiek.

Klinksiek added the fees currently do not cover the cost of maintaining the roads and hopes that the increase in price will help Howard County's capability to keep the roads repaired and useable.

"The weaker our roads are with every hole we punch under them, sooner or later that is a significant maintenance problem for the county," Klinksiek said.

Klinksiek also hoped the new fees would help finance another employee to help enforce the standards required by the county during the road boring construction projects.

However, the change was met with some concern from a company called Crown-Quest who has been working in Howard County for around 20 years. The company had a representative present to address their concerns to the court.

"We just wanted to voice our concern. The current permit fee is \$100, but the county is thinking about increasing it to between \$500 and \$1,000," said Lauren Melear, a representative for CrownQuest. "We were just concerned it could add up for oil and gas companies, especially when you have multiple lines on one road bore."

Klinksiek addressed the company's concerns, but also stated that not all companies are performing their projects completely up to county standards and this is to help fix problems caused by the companies that aren't doing things

properly.

"I can understand Crown-Quest's concern," said Klinksiek. "My concern is that this is the only money we get for something that turns a road bed into Swiss cheese."

The motion was approved by the court with the contingency that the effective date be delayed for 30 days so Klinksiek can notify companies of the changing fees.

Klinksiek also had 10 road boring requests presented to the court with five in Precinct 1, three in Precinct 3, and two in Precinct 4. All were approved by the court.

The court also heard from Lisa Reyna, chief appraiser for the Howard County Appraisal District, who presented the annual operating budget.

"There's about a \$19,000 difference between the budget last year and this year," said Lisa Reyna, "It's less, \$19,000 less."

Judge Wiseman read out the list of entities the funds collected from the property tax benefits from, along with the percentage of it they receive. Howard County will get 17.5 percent, Howard College 11.8 percent, Permian Basin Underground Water District .2 percent, city of Big Spring 9.6 percent, city of Coahoma .2 percent, city of Forsan, .04 percent,

Big Spring ISD 35.7 percent, Borden ISD .1 percent, Coahoma ISD 6.8 per-

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Southwest flight diverted after woman attempts to open door

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas (AP) — Authorities say a Southwest Airlines flight from Los Angeles to Houston was diverted after a passenger became disruptive and attempted to open an exterior door while the plane was in the air.

Southwest Flight 4519 was diverted Sunday to the Texas Gulf coast city of Corpus Christi where the passenger was removed.

John Hyland, chief of public safety for Corpus Christi International Airport, says an off-duty officer on the flight helped to restrain the passenger.

He says the woman was pacing back and forth along the aisle and not following instructions from crew before she reached for the door.

Hyland says the woman was committed for a mental health evaluation.

The flight carrying more than 170 passengers and crew later continued on to Houston, about four hours behind schedule.

Texas inmate set to die in October for prison officer death

HUNTSVILLE, Texas (AP) — A 37-year-old prisoner on Texas death row for the slaying of a corrections officer has received an execution date for later this year.

Texas Department of Criminal Justice spokesman Jason Clark says the agency has received court documents setting Robert Pruett for lethal injection Oct. 12.

Pruett was set to die last August but the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals halted the punishment after Pruett's lawyers appealed a trial court ruling on new DNA testing in his case.

In April, the appeals court ruled the trial outcome wouldn't have changed if new DNA test results had been available.

Pruett already was serving a 99-year murder sentence from Harris County when he was condemned for fatally stabbing corrections officer Daniel Nagle in December 1999 at the McConnell Unit prison near Beeville.

Jeff Bezos' rocket engine plant to come to northern Alabama

HUNTSVILLE, Ala. (AP) — A rocket company owned by Amazon-founder Jeff Bezos is coming to Huntsville.

Alabama Gov. Kay Ivey announced Monday that Blue Origin, a private spaceflight company, will build its BE-4 rocket engine in Huntsville.

Ivey says the project will create 350 new jobs and be a \$200 million investment.

According to the company's website, the powerful BE-4 engine is designed to end dependence on Russian-built engines for launching payloads into space.

Ivey said on social media that the project will build on the historic role that Huntsville and Alabama have played in the development of the American space program.

Fire at air station injures 2 Marines working on aircraft

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Authorities say a sudden burst of fire at a Marine Corps air station has injured two Marines who were performing routine maintenance on a combat jet.

The Marine Corps says the fire erupted after 10 p.m. Sunday at Air Station Miramar in the San Diego area.

The Marines were being treated for severe burns at the regional burn center at UC San Diego Health.

Their injuries initially were attributed to an explosion, but the Marine Corps later called it a "ground flash fire."

The Marines are from a reserve unit based in Fort Worth, Texas.

The fire is under investigation.

The Marine Corps did not release other details, including the identities of the Marines or damage caused by the fire.

Analysis: Texas gave House GOP biggest gerrymandering bump



AP photo

In this May 30, 2013 file photo, Texas state Sen. Juan "Chuy" Hinojosa looks at maps on display prior to a Senate Redistricting committee hearing in Austin, Texas. Republican friendly voting districts may have helped the party win an additional four congressional seats last fall, the largest boost in the nation, according to a national Associated Press analysis, helping explain why a fiercely conservative state has moved even farther to the right in recent years despite a booming Hispanic population that tends to favor Democrats.

By WILL WEISSERT

Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Voting districts drawn by Texas' Republican-controlled Legislature helped the party win nearly four more U.S. House seats than it otherwise would have in the last election, which was more than any other state, an Associated Press analysis of the results of federal and state legislative races found.

Gerrymandering, in which the party in power alters the electoral maps to favor itself, helps explain why the GOP continues to be so dominant in Texas despite the rapid growth of the state's Hispanic population, which tends to back Democrats. The findings also underscore years of federal court rulings that have found Texas' electoral maps to be unconstitutional and discriminatory.

The AP scrutinized all 435 U.S. House races in November using an "efficiency gap" statistical method designed to calculate partisan advantage. It found that the GOP may have won as many as 22 additional congressional seats than expected based on the average vote share in congressional districts across the country.

The AP's analysis was based on an "efficiency gap" formula developed by University of Chicago law professor Nick Stephanopoulos and Eric McGhee, a researcher at the non-partisan Public Policy Institute of California. Their mathematical model was cited last fall as "corroborative evidence" by a federal appeals court panel that struck down Wisconsin's Assembly districts as an intentional partisan gerrymander in violation of Democratic voters' rights to representation. The U.S. Supreme Court has agreed to hear an appeal.

Stephanopoulos and McGhee computed efficiency gaps for four decades of congressional and state House races starting in 1972, concluding the pro-Republican maps enacted after the 2010 Census resulted in "the most extreme gerrymanders in modern history."

The efficiency gap formula compares the statewide average share of the vote a party receives in each district with the statewide percentage of seats it wins, taking into account a common political expectation: For each 1 percentage point gain in its statewide vote share, a party normally increases its seat share by 2 percentage points.

The AP used their method to calculate efficiency gaps for all states that held partisan House or Assembly elections for all of their districts in 2016. It showed that Texas provided the GOP with 3.7 extra House seats. The next closest pro-GOP states were Michigan, North Carolina and New York, which each gave the party at least two House seats that they otherwise would not have gotten.

Texas' high number of extra Republican House seats was partly the result of its sheer size. The state's 36 congressional districts are second only to the 53 in California, where a nonpartisan commission draws electoral maps.

Texas' 10.3 percent efficiency gap favoring Republicans was the 10th highest among the more than two dozen large states that comprise the vast majority of congressional seats, just behind the 10.7 percent Democratic advantage in Maryland.

Overall, Republicans won 25 U.S. House seats from Texas in November, including eight in which they ran unopposed. Democrats won 11 seats, including two in which they ran unopposed.

Rice University political science professor

Mark Jones said Texas' Legislature has been effective at drawing congressional districts that Republicans win comfortably but often not overwhelmingly, while disproportionately packing liberal voters into districts that Democrats are favored to win anyway.

"Republicans have been most strategic in creating as many safe Republican districts as possible," Jones said.

He noted that all 11 Texas' congressional districts where racial minorities constitute a majority of voters elected Democrats to Congress. But liberal-minded Austin is the nation's largest city not to anchor a congressional district. Instead, it's dived into six districts that include swaths of conservative suburbs, helping ensure that all but one of the congressmen representing the state capital are Republican.

Hispanics accounted for two out of every three new Texas residents in the 2010 census. Hispanics generally vote Democratic, but a Texas Democrat hasn't won statewide office since 1994, the nation's longest losing streak.

The Legislature drew congressional districts

See TEXAS, Page 5

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What's happened to the pro-gun wish list in Washington?

By **LISA MARIE PANE**

Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — Gun rights advocates entered the Trump era with high hopes. After years of frustration they thought a gun-friendly president and Congress would advance their agenda. At the top of the list: a gun-owner's ability to bring a legal weapon across any state lines, a policy known as reciprocity.

But many of their favorite initiatives have stalled in Washington, set aside as the city is closely watching the investigations into President Donald Trump's administration. Republicans are focused on other priorities, especially health care, but also keeping gun rights on the back burner may be the fact that because they are, in fact, a heavy lift.

Congress faces a public weary of mass shootings, terror attacks and random violence — most recently in the shadows of the nation's capital when a man disgruntled about Trump and conservatives opened fire on a ballfield where Republican congressmen were practicing for a baseball game, injuring five people including a House Republican leader. And while a recent Pew study showed Americans pretty much split on support for gun control, specific provisions like keeping guns away from the mentally ill or those on watch lists are actually quite popular.

"Reciprocity in particular is going to prove to be a harder sell," said Robert Spitzer, chairman of the political science department at State University of New York at Cortland. "Think gun-toting civilians in Times Square. It's going to be a hard sell, and the Republicans will have to squander what few political resources they have to push the bill along."

The year started off with promise for the gun industry when Congress almost immediately scrapped a rule created to deny people with some mental disorders from

purchasing a firearm. On his first day in office, the new Interior secretary — who rode to work that day on horseback — lifted a ban on hunting with lead ammunition on federal park land.

Gun rights groups have other key items on their agenda. After reciprocity, a perennial favorite is a measure that would make it easier to buy suppressors, commonly referred to as silencers. Supporters argue it would not only lower noise from guns — especially long guns used by hunters — but also add a potential market as they see sales drop.

So what's happened? Not much.

Gun-control advocates say one reason is that they've become better organized and energized over the past decade after a spate of high-profile shootings — from the near-fatal attack on then-Arizona Rep. Gabby Giffords to the killing of 26 people, including 20 children, at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Connecticut. The gun industry chalks the delays up to the normal course of business, further complicated by the splintered politics taking hold in Washington.

The gun lobby argues that the current patchwork of laws for concealed carry permits turns law-abiding gun owners into potential felons simply for crossing a state border since each state sets its own standards for who can carry, including which state's permits it will honor. For example, someone who has a weapons permit in Georgia is prohibited from bringing their gun into 17 states. But for someone whose license is from Connecticut, there are two dozen states that won't let them bring a weapon in.

Gun-control advocates contend that reciprocity would drop the standard to the lowest common denominator, essentially forcing all states to honor the most permissive laws on the books.

"What it's really about is



AP photo

In this photo from March 10, 2017, a line of AR-15s are on display at gunmaker Daniel Defense in Black Creek, Georgia. Gun rights advocates entered the Trump era with high hopes. After years of frustration they thought a gun-friendly president and Congress would advance their agenda.

guns everywhere for anyone, no questions asked," said John Feinblatt, president of Everytown for Gun Safety. "And that's the gun lobby's agenda."

Reciprocity returned to the forefront almost immediately after the Alexandria shooting, with Kentucky Rep. Tom Massie introducing legislation that would specifically allow gun owners with valid permits to bring their weapons into the District of Columbia. That is in addition to the measures seeking national reciprocity that remain pending in the House and the Senate.

Starting the day of the shooting, advocates noted that gun-wielding Capitol police, who were at the field as security for Rep. Steve Scalise, the majority whip, saved the lives of others armed only with baseball bats. They said

that others at the field were unable to carry a firearm because of plans to travel back to D.C. afterward. Gun-control advocates, however, note that in this particular case, lawmakers already have the ability to seek a permit in D.C. by virtue of working there.

"The gun industry isn't ready to call its agenda a lost cause just yet. But there is a growing impatience.

"We would like to see quicker action on these bills and we're just now beginning to press the leadership to say now's the time. Let's not let this delay any longer," said Erich Pratt, executive director of Gun Owners of America.

But gun-control advocates caution that Republicans are treading in politically treacherous territory.

"Republicans have limited

amount of political capital. ... And it's political capital being spent by the day," said Peter Ambler, executive director of Americans for Responsible Solutions, the outfit founded by Giffords and her husband, Mark Kelly. "They're very wary of putting a lot of their members through a series of tough votes."

Larry Keane, senior vice president and general counsel for the National Shooting Sports Foundation, and a veteran of lobbying on behalf of gun rights, said gun bills typically take years, sometimes decades, to be enacted.

"The fact that you have a pro-gun Republican in the White House and pro-gun majorities in both the House and Senate, it doesn't mean that you're just going to get your Christmas list all at once and right away. It takes time."

STATE

Continued from Page 4

based on the 2010 census, but they were never used because a federal court found they deliberately diluted the power of Hispanic voters. A three-judge panel redrew the maps used since, though they tracked many of the originals.

During years of subsequent legal battles, federal courts have repeatedly ruled against Texas maps, including in March when the state's congressional maps were declared unconstitutional and three districts' boundaries voided.

Kayleigh Lovvorn, a spokeswoman for Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton, whose office is defending the state in the redistricting case, declined to comment about the AP's findings.

Voting districts aren't the only reason that Republicans continue to hold such sway over Texas politics, though. The Hispanic population is quickly growing, but it hasn't fully flexed its political muscle yet. Hispanic voter turnout in November was 40.5 percent. That's up from 38.8 in the previous presidential election, but well below the 47.6 percent turnout of Hispanics throughout the country, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

Promised college loan forgiveness, borrowers wait and wait



AP photo

In this June 16, 2017, photo, Danielle Ramos, 30, poses at MassBay Community College in Wellesley, Mass., where she pursued her education after being defrauded by a for-profit college.

By **COLLIN BINKLEY**

Associated Press

BOSTON (AP) — Danielle Ramos' student-debt nightmare was supposed to be over.

Like thousands of others who studied at failed for-profit colleges, she was promised by the U.S. Education Department under President Barack Obama that her federal loans would be forgiven by now. But as the weeks tick by with no reprieve, the 30-year-old college student fears the financial burden

will force and her 4-year-old son to move back with her parents.

"I'm a single mom, so that's really scary," said Ramos, of Framingham, near Boston. "It's just a lot of uncertainty. I'm probably going to have to rely on family to help

me, and it doesn't feel fair."

Borrower advocates say the pipeline to loan forgiveness appears to have slowed significantly since President Donald Trump took office, stirring concern that some students may be left in the lurch. Some also see it as a sign that the department is veering from its predecessor's years of work to rein in fraudulent for-profit colleges.

Education Department officials dispute those claims, saying they're working quickly to clear a backlog that was inherited from the previous administration.

When Obama left office, 16,453 borrowers were waiting for loan cancellations that had already been approved, and more than 64,000 others had filed new applications. For months, advocates

say, it appeared few or none of those cases were being processed. Democrats in the Senate requested an update from the Education Department in May but say they received no response.

On Monday, the Education Department released data showing that 7,085 of the 16,453 previously approved claims have now been discharged, amounting to \$92 million in loans. According to the data, which were provided first to The Associated Press, another 7,300 cases are in the final stages of the process and will be discharged shortly, while the remaining 2,000 are currently being processed by the department.

Still, the wait has left some borrowers paying for loans that were promised to be

See **LOANS**, Page 6

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Police: Girl's actions caused her to fall from NY park ride



her being carried to a nearby park security golf cart before being whisked away from the scene.

Warren County sheriff's Lt. Steven Stockdale told The Post-Star of Glens Falls that "human error" on the part of the teen caused her to slip out of the two-person gondola, which traverses the popular summertime tourist attraction located in Queensbury, 55 miles (88 kilometers) north of Albany. Police released no other details on what the girl may have done to cause her to slip under the restraining bar.

The teen was taken to Albany Medical Center for unspecified injuries. Her name hasn't been released by police. The hospital said it can't release patient information without the patient's name.

Stockdale said in an email that "it looks like she's going to be ok."

State inspectors cleared the ride for resuming operation, but park officials said the gondolas would remain idle for at least a second day Monday, pending an internal review.

Dennis Speigel, president of International Theme Park Services, a Cincinnati-based industry consultant, said he was familiar with the Sky Ride from visits to the park with his longtime friend, the late Charles Wood, the park's founder.

"It's not something that you could just slip out of," Spiegel said. "If a rider wants to circumvent the safety stipulations, they can do it. It wouldn't surprise me at all if they put additional safety restrictions on this ride, maybe safety belts."

Police said the ride was functioning properly when the girl and her brother got on it around 8 p.m. as the sun was setting on a clear, calm evening. The ski lift-style gondolas, one of the oldest rides in a park that opened in 1954 as Story Town, offer riders a slow-moving view of other attractions. After the girl began dangling from the gondola, word was relayed to the operator to stop the ride. As the teen helplessly flailed her legs, people on the pavement below yelled for her to let go and they would catch her. Matthew Howard Sr., a contractor from Schenectady visiting the park with his family, was among those who broke her fall. "I couldn't let that little girl die," Howard told The Associated Press on Sunday.

In this June 24, 2017, image made from a video provided by Leann Winchell, a 14-year-old girl falls from an amusement park ride at Six Flags Great Escape Amusement Park in Queensbury, N.Y.

QUEENSBURY, N.Y. (AP) — As authorities tried to determine exactly how a 14-year-old Delaware girl managed to fall from a New York amusement park ride, one industry expert said even the strictest safety guidelines won't prevent accidents if customers don't follow the rules.

Police said Monday it appears the teen's actions, and not mechanical malfunctions, caused her to slip under a metal restraining bar on the Sky Ride gondola while riding with her brother Saturday at Six Flags Great Escape. The girl dangled briefly while her brother held her, screaming for help. The ride was stopped, and she dropped about 25 feet (about 8 meters) into a crowd poised to catch her.

Onlookers, many of them recording the incident with their cellphones, broke into cheers and applause when the girl landed safely in the arms of several people. The videos posted online show

Pharmacy head to be sentenced in deadly meningitis outbreak



Barry Cadden, president of the New England Compounding Center, along with members of his legal team, arrive at the federal courthouse for sentencing Monday, June 26, 2017, in Boston.

By DENISE LAVOIE

AP Legal Affairs Writer BOSTON (AP) — The co-founder of a pharmacy is set to be sentenced Monday in a nationwide meningitis outbreak that killed more than 60 people and sickened hundreds more.

Barry Cadden, 50, was acquitted of second-degree murder charges under federal racketeering law but convicted on conspiracy and fraud charges.

Cadden was charged in connection with a 2012 fungal meningitis outbreak that was traced to contaminated injections of medical steroids made by the New England Compounding Center in Framingham.

Prosecutors say Cadden ran the center in a dangerous way by skirting industry regulations on sterility in an effort to push production and make

more money.

Prosecutors will ask the judge to sentence him to 35 years in prison. Cadden's lawyer says he should get 2½ to 3 years.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Amanda Strachan told the judge on Monday that the center was "a massive reckless and fraudulent organization." She said 20 victims who were sickened and relatives of people who died will give victim impact statements before Cadden is sentenced.

The outbreak of fungal meningitis and other infections in 20 states was traced by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to contaminated injections of medical steroids, given mostly to people with back pain.

The CDC put the death toll at 64 as of October 2013. Federal prosecutors

say 12 more people have died since then, raising the total to 76. More than 700 people were sickened. Indiana, Michigan and Tennessee were the hardest.

The scandal prompted increased scrutiny on compounding pharmacies, which differ from ordinary drugstores in that they custom-mix medications and supply them directly to hospitals and doctors. In 2013, in reaction to the outbreak, Congress increased federal oversight of such pharmacies.

Federal prosecutor Amanda Strachan told the jury during the two-month trial that the deaths and illnesses happened because Cadden "decided to put profits before patients."

LOANS

Continued from Page 5

wiped clean by now. Some have lost wages and tax returns to debt collectors.

Ramos ran up \$15,000 in debt to attend the American Career Institute, a chain of for-profit colleges that abruptly closed in 2013 after she received nine months of training as a medical assistant. Now enrolled at MassBay Community College and working toward a certificate in surgical technology, Ramos says she hasn't heard any update on her debt cancellation and worries she'll still have to pay it back.

"Because of the education I got at Mass-Bay, I'm going to be able to get good-paying job. But it's not fair that I'm going to have to use that money to pay back something that didn't deliver," she said.

The Obama administration cracked down aggressively on for-profit colleges that enticed students to take on hefty loans with promises they couldn't keep. It pressured chains including Corinthian Colleges and ITT Technical Institute to close, and it approved at least \$655 million in loan cancellations from those chains.

Under Trump, the department's new data suggest, no new loan discharges have been approved from the pool of 64,301 pending applications. A department spokeswoman did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

"In its last three months, the Obama administration approved more than 12,000 loans for discharge," said Pauline Abernathy, executive vice president of the In-

stitute For College Access and Success, a nonprofit advocacy group based in Oakland, California. "In its first five months, the Trump administration has approved zero, while tens of thousands of applications languish and borrowers are left waiting for relief."

In May, a group of Democratic lawmakers urged Education Secretary Betsy DeVos to speed up the process. Attorneys general from 17 states and Washington, D.C., later told DeVos the delay was harming borrowers. And a coalition of 31 advocacy groups for military veterans sent a letter to members of Congress this month saying many veterans are waiting for loan discharges, adding that "any delay is an affront to defrauded service members."

After publicly saying little on the topic for weeks, DeVos said this month that nearly 16,000 cases are now being processed and that "some borrowers should expect to obtain discharges within the next several weeks." Her statement didn't provide an explanation for the delays.

Sen. Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts, a Democrat, said the slowdown can't be explained as a hiccup in the new Republican administration's transition to office.

"This is the Trump administration stepping on a bunch of people who have already been stepped on many times before," Warren said in an interview. "Students who were cheated by predatory for-profit schools should not have to wait another

day to get their loans canceled."

For some borrowers, the wait has stretched more than a year.

Sarah Dieffenbacher is waiting on an application she filed in March 2015 after taking out \$50,000 in federal loans to attend a Corinthian Colleges campus in Ontario, California. She has since defaulted on her loans, and a collector is trying to garnish her wages. On June 9, a federal judge reviewing her case told the Education Department to make a decision within 90 days.

On June 14, DeVos drew a new round of criticism from borrower advocates when she announced plans to rewrite Obama-era rules that were meant to streamline the complex path toward loan forgiveness. She described the rules, which were set to take effect in July, as "a muddled process that's unfair to students and schools."

An Education Department spokeswoman said the 64,301 pending cases will be reviewed under current rules.

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The Latest: Westbrook caps historic season with MVP award



AP photo

Kia NBA Most Valuable Player, Best Style & Game Winner Award winner, Russell Westbrook, poses in the press room at the 2017 NBA Awards at Basketball City at Pier 36 on Monday, June 26, 2017, in New York.

NEW YORK (AP) — The Latest on the NBA awards show (all times local):

11:10 p.m.
Russell Westbrook has won the NBA's MVP award after setting a record with 42 triple-doubles last season.

The Oklahoma City All-Star joined Oscar Robertson as the only players to average a triple-double for an entire season, leading the Thunder into the playoffs after Kevin Durant left for Golden State.

Westbrook beat out Houston's James Harden and San Antonio forward Kawhi Leonard for the league's top honor.

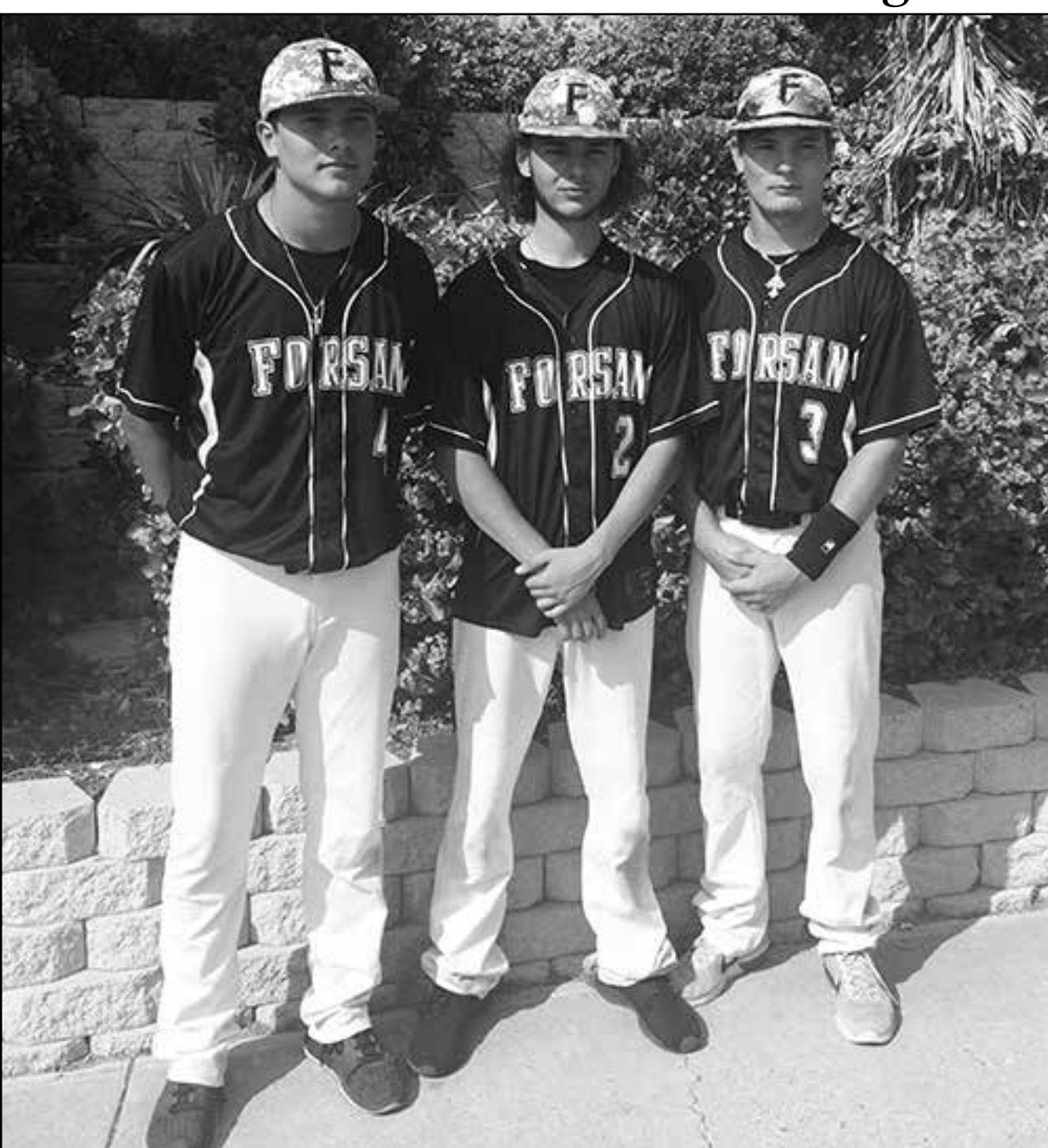
He ended the two-year reign of Stephen Curry, who last season was the league's first unanimous MVP.

It capped off the NBA Awards show on Monday night, which included stirring tributes to Monty Williams, Craig Sager and Bill Russell.

10:55 p.m.
Draymond Green is the Defensive Player of the Year, ending Kawhi Leonard's two-year reign.

See **NBA**, Page 13

Christian, Yeater, and Prater represent Forsan in 2017 GWTBCA All-Star games



Courtesy photo

Pictured above are Taylor Christian, Ricky Prater, and Blaze Yeater at the GWTBCA All-Star games held at Lubbock Christian University on Saturday, June 24.

By **MARISSA LOFTIN**

Sports Editor

The best of the best baseball players in the area made their way to Lubbock over the weekend and formed two teams to face off in the Greater West Texas Baseball Coaches Association (GWTBCA) All-Star games held at Lubbock Christian University last Saturday.

Taylor Christian, Ricky Prater and Blaze Yeater, three recent graduates of Forsan, represented their former high school in

the game.

Taylor and Yeater were on Team 1, and Prater was on Team 2. Yeater drove in three of Team 1's 12 runs, two of them coming on a fielder's choice-error when Team 2 failed to turn a double play, and another on an RBI groundout as part of a two-run sixth inning.

Seven pitchers for Team 1 combined to hold Team 2 to just two hits, and Team 1 pulled out seven runs in the final four innings to come away for a 12-3 victory.

"Ricky had a few balls hit his

way and played pretty well on defense. Taylor played left and center field most of the game but didn't get much action as only one ball was hit out to him, and Blaze was able to make a few outs, hit the ball hard, had a good inning of pitching and picked a kid off his base," said Forsan head baseball coach Stephen East. "I was glad they got to be part of this game. We are really going to miss these guys, and really appreciate their leadership and their hard work. They're definitely going to be hard to replace."

Stars acquire defenseman Marc Methot in a trade with Vegas



AP photo

This May 15, 2017 file photo shows Ottawa Senators' Marc Methot (3) watching from the bench during the third period of Game 2 of the Eastern Conference final in the NHL hockey Stanley Cup playoffs against the Pittsburgh Penguins in Pittsburgh.

(AP) - Marc Methot could go from playing with Erik Karlsson to pairing up with another young Swedish defenseman after a trade to the Dallas Stars.

Dallas acquired the 32-year-old Methot from the Vegas Golden Knights on Monday for goaltending prospect Dylan Ferguson and a 2020 second-round pick.

The teams announced the deal less than a week since the Golden Knights took Methot in the expansion draft from the Ottawa Senators.

Methot has two years left on his contract at a salary-cap hit of \$4.9 million. He has 120 points in 579 games over 11 seasons with the Columbus Blue Jackets and Senators. Karlsson

won a Norris Trophy and was a finalist two more times playing alongside Methot, who could be playing alongside John Klingberg in Dallas.

"He has proven to be a capable and steady defenseman that can play well with an offensive-minded partner, and he will add a tremendous amount of leadership and experience to our blue line," Stars general manager Jim Nill said.

The Stars took Ferguson in the seventh round, 194th overall, in the draft last weekend. The 18-year-old played 31 games last season with the Western Hockey League's Kamloops Blazers, going 16-10-2 with a 2.74 goals-against average and .922 save percentage.

Down 7 and missing Francona, Indians rally to top Texas 15-9



AP photo

Cleveland Indians' Edwin Encarnacion, left, and Carlos Santana celebrate after both score on Lonnie Chisenhall's two-run single in the sixth inning of a baseball game against the Texas Rangers, Monday, June 26, 2017, in Cleveland.

By **STEVE HERRICK**

Associated Press

CLEVELAND (AP) — The Indians trailed by seven runs and were without manager Terry Francona by the fourth inning Monday night. Coming off a disheartening sweep to a division rival, Cleveland badly need a few runs.

They got them, and then they kept on going. Francisco Lindor, Lonnie Chisenhall and Carlos Santana each had three RBIs to help

Cleveland rally and beat the Texas Rangers 15-9 on Monday night after Francona left the game because he wasn't feeling well.

The Indians came back after trailing 9-2 in the fourth inning to avoid their first four-game losing streak since 2015.

"It's awesome," said Chisenhall, whose two-run single with the bases loaded in the sixth gave Cleveland the lead. "This is the best win of the year."

The Indians said Francona was evaluated by the team's medical staff and checked out fine. He experienced similar symptoms as when he left a game June 14, when he was taken to a hospital.

The team wouldn't say if Francona had been hospitalized again. An update is expected Tuesday.

"It's a genuine concern for not just me, but the whole staff and the

See **TEXAS**, Page 13

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Community Supervision Officer (Adult Probation) Salary \$40,014 + DOE. Must have a bachelor's degree from an accredited university and pass a background check/drug screen. Excellent Benefits including Insurance, Retirement, Holidays, 35/hr work week. Professional team with options to grow and advance. Come help make a difference & keep our community safe! Obtain application at Howard County Annex, 315 South Main, Suite B, Big Spring, TX or call us to email or fax the application to you (432)264-2245. Applications due July 7, 2017.

D & R Casing Services now hiring for Casing Inspection Positions. Call 432-263-8900 for more information.



Experienced Loan Officer Needed
Complex Community Federal Credit Union is now accepting applications for the Loan Officer position in Big Spring, Texas.

Qualifications: Lending experience is required, preferably in the credit union industry. Candidates must have proven sales experience, strong attention to detail, and must be highly motivated. Bilingual candidates preferred but not required. Candidates must be at least 18 years of age and have a member focused attitude.

This position has a bonus program based on ancillary sales. Benefits include medical, dental, vision, 401(k) and more!
Applications can be found and dropped off at any branch location or at 503 E. FM 700 Big Spring, TX.

Family service counselor needed for Trinity Memorial Park and Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home. For more info call 325-280-8920.

Fuel tanker driver needed. Requires Class A CDL w/Hazmat. 2 years tanker/fuel preferred. Local hauling. No overnights. Good pay with benefits. \$600 sign on bonus. 432-683-2868 or 432-288-3761.

Hillcrest Child Development Center has a full time & part time position available Mon-Fri. If you are energetic and love kids please come apply. Must have high school diploma or GED. Hillcrest CDC, 2000 West FM 700.

Help Wanted

Full-time position available in Big Spring, TX to provide tobacco, alcohol and other drug prevention to youth and adults in Howard and Martin Counties. Strong communication and people skills to coordinate this program. Must be dependable, responsible and an organized team player that is mission driven. Requirements include related work in prevention or community setting at least one (2) years' experience and have some supervisor experience. Bilingual a plus. Send resume to mbrenem@pbrcada.org. Deadline July 1, 2017.



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Seeking receptionist/admin. Office, secretarial, accounting and/or Quick-Books experience a plus but not required. Must have solid written communication skills and excellent computer skills. MS OFFICE TESTING REQUIRED. M-F 8-5. Pay \$10+/hour DOE. Health, vision, and dental 100% paid by company! EOE. Apply in person at 9400 S. Service Rd, Coahoma, TX, or call 432-394-4604.

Service Technician Sub-Surface Irrigation Technician repairs & maintains pumps, valves, piping, drip tape, filters. Construct filter stations, digging trenches, laying water & conveyance lines, electrical wiring, concrete pad, erecting metal buildings. Install & maintain computerized controllers & timers. Operate & maintain various machinery, equipment & tools. Complete daily work orders & reports. Drive & travel within service area & occasional overnight trips. Must maintain valid driver's license. Physically demanding must be able to stand, walk, kneel, bend operate shovel for long periods outside in varying west Texas weather conditions. Must have good hand-eye coordination & people skills. Some computer, electrical & mechanical experience helpful. www.eco-drip.com

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



The Colorado River Municipal Water District, regional raw water supplier for the Permian Basin, is accepting applications for following positions.

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Not all humans can do it, but since getting from place to place is essential to life, we find ways.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). A search is on to fill a slot in your life. You're not interested in finding the perfect person for the job, especially since you've a better probability of finding Big Foot. What you want is a good fit.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). The interaction has ups and downs, but overall you enjoy what's going on between you and a certain unpredictable someone. You've quite a few inside jokes, and you'll get some more out of today's zaniness.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). As the right-

hand man to your own spirit, you'll need to call out some orders. Break your chains; revolt against your own bullying thoughts; flee the captor that is a limited idea of what you're capable of.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Physical hygiene isn't the only kind that makes an impression in the physical realm. Mental and emotional hygiene are just as (if not more) important. People will sense those first, anyway.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You're curious about how you can become more powerful in your own life by having more means at your disposal. This is, of course, not the only or even the main route to

influence. In regards to power, love really does conquer all.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You've a potent charm, and there will be those afraid to get mixed up with it. They are right to be wary, of course. That which has the potential to affect people greatly should be wielded with the utmost care.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You're spiritually ambitious. Reinvention is the heartbeat of your day. There's great effort that goes into constant renewal, but it's like anything. The more you do it, the better you get at it and the more automatic it becomes.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). A huge

part of parenting in the modern world is taking your children where they need to be when they need to be there, and self-parenting is no difference. Show self-love by getting yourself there on time.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You inoculate yourself against the virus of egoism by being in service to those around you. To keep your ego in constant check is to remain connected to the energy of the world.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). There's something so expedient and attractive about your usual decisiveness, though today will call for a different approach. Before you take a position, live in the ques-

tion a while longer.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Attaining your heart's desire will require a different method of payment than money. You'll have the chance to pull together the best gifts you have to offer the others for what you want in return.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). If you try to use them as your main navigation, logic and ego will steer you wrong; let intuition guide you instead toward what your soul needs (which will be different from what your family wants from you).

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

Cosmic Empathy Challenge

Mercury and Jupiter in conflict make it harder to empathize with one another. Some are more talented at empathy than others, but all humans have a responsibility to use empathy either way. Awareness and feeling for our fellow beings is like walking:

Annie's Mailbox

A Neighbor's Casual Touching

Dear Annie: I have a problem with my neighbor that I don't know how to handle. We have been neighbors for three or four years. "Mr. Yates" has a seriously ill wife who is homebound. He does everything for her, in addition to doing all the work on the property. He has been helpful to me.

Here's the problem: He can't ever seem to talk to me (a woman) without touching me. It's always on the arm or shoulder, nothing inappropriate. But I hate it, so I end up

avoiding him (and his wife). I think it is a habit he has formed and he doesn't even realize he does it. But I don't know what I can say to him to get him to stop. Can you give me a suggestion? -- Wanting to Be a Good Neighbor

Dear Wanting: Being a good neighbor does not mean being subjected to physical contact that makes you feel uncomfortable. I'm not saying that is your neighbor's intention, but it's the effect nonetheless, and that means it's got to stop. Some people suggest feigning a sneeze or a cough whenever you run into a "hugger" whom

you don't want to hug. A similar trick might help prevent any unwanted contact from Mr. Yates. You could also try standing far away from him, keeping your arms folded against your chest, offering cues that you're not open to contact. If all else fails and you'd like to try speaking with him about the issue, I would probably step away from him when he tries to place a hand on your shoulder and say something like, "Please don't take offense, but I'm not a touchy-feely person."

Dear Annie: I am privileged to train and place psychiatric service dogs with our military veterans who struggle with post-traumatic stress disorder. Your re-

sponse to "Frustrated," who is annoyed that people seem to take dogs everywhere, was spot on -- because you shamed people who falsely represent their pets as service dogs and because you reminded the general population that not all symptoms of disabilities are visible on the outside.

Service dogs are growing as a treatment option for a variety of conditions beyond their original use as guides for the sight-impaired. Service dogs can be trained to alert hearing-impaired individuals to certain sounds and can calm children who have autism. Through training, they can detect and alert their handlers to highs and lows in blood sugar,

impending seizure activity, irregular heart rhythms, and impending panic attacks, and they can interrupt road rage.

Please encourage your readers to visit the government website dedicated to the Americans With Disabilities Act, specifically the page about service animals. The site, ADA.gov, features informative Q&As that clearly explain the rights and obligations of service dog teams and of the public entities those teams wish to access.

The wording of the ADA does an excellent job of protecting the privacy of the human portion of the service dog team -- though that same wording impedes the ability of business owners to deal with imposters. With a little reworking, the ADA could be as valuable to the vendors and merchants as it is to the service dog teams. Please encourage people who are interested to talk with their govern-

ment representatives and support legislation that would make it a crime to falsely represent a personal pet as a service dog. This could give merchants and local law enforcement a means to prevent people from misrepresenting their pets as service dogs. Change needs to start at the grass roots. Are there enough people willing to make this happen? -- Dog Trainer

Dear Dog Trainer: Thank you for your important work training and placing service dogs with our veterans. Your passion on this subject is obvious and admirable. I'm printing your letter in hopes of furthering the conversation across the country.

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

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SEE DEALER FOR DETAILS

Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

Nothing succeeds like success

North dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ 8 2
♥ Q 7 5
♦ Q 6 3
♣ A K Q 4 2

WEST
♠ 10 9 5
♥ K 9 8 3 2
♦ J 9 5 4
♣ 7

EAST
♠ 6 3
♥ A J 10 6 4
♦ K 10 8
♣ J 9 3

SOUTH
♠ A K Q J 7 4
♥ —
♦ A 7 2
♣ 10 8 6 5

The bidding:
North East South West
1 ♠ 1 ♥ 1 ♠ 2 ♥
Pass Pass 6 ♠
Opening lead three of hearts.

Bridge is mostly a game of hard rules and cold percentages, but it nevertheless offers a lot of room for ingenuity. For example, consider this deal where declarer found a simple solution to an awkward problem that threatened to send his slam down the drain.

He ruffed East's ten of hearts at trick one and drew three rounds of trumps, discarding a heart from

dummy as East likewise discarded a heart. Declarer then cashed the A-K of clubs and was naturally disappointed when the jack did not appear. This left the club suit hopelessly blocked, and there seemed to be no way to cash dummy's fifth club and get rid of one of his two diamond losers.

Without that essential discard, declarer's only alternative appeared to be to try to make an extra trick in diamonds by leading toward dummy's queen. If West had the king, the contract would be made, but if the queen lost to East's king, as it would have in the actual case, the slam would go down.

However, declarer had no desire to bank all his hopes on the location of the club suit, and instead found a way to overcome the blockage in the club suit. At trick seven, with the Q-4-2 of clubs still in dummy opposite his 10-8, he led dummy's queen of hearts and discarded a club on it!

West won with the king, but there was nothing he could do to stop South from scoring the rest of the tricks. Declarer could win any return, lead his remaining club to the queen and discard the 7-2 of diamonds on the 4-2 of clubs to bring home the slam.

Tomorrow: You don't need a calculator.
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sudoku

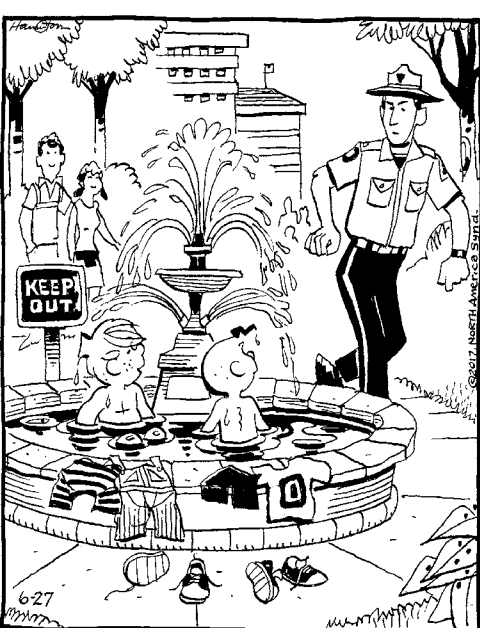
Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9 with no repeats. That means no number is repeated in any row, column or box.

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

www.sudoku-puzzles.net

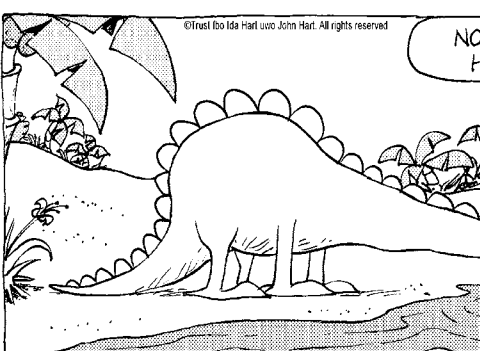
Table with 20 columns (KMID, UNI, KPEJ, KOSA, KTLE, KWES, KMLM, KPBT, KWWT, KWES2, WTBS, TNT, ESPN, ESPN2, FSN, USA, A&E, DISC) and 24 rows of program listings.

DENNIS THE MENACE

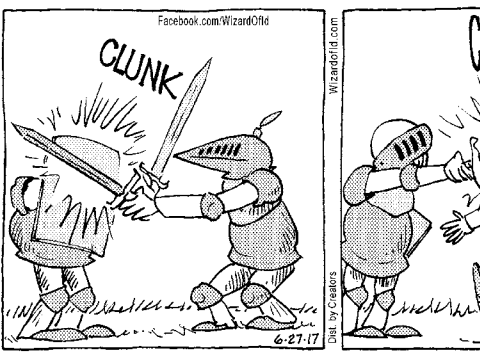


“WHEN HE SHOUTS AT US, JOEY, START CRYING AND HE’LL LET US GO.”

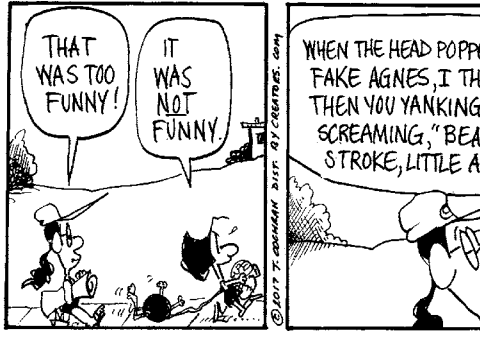
BC



WIZARD OF ID



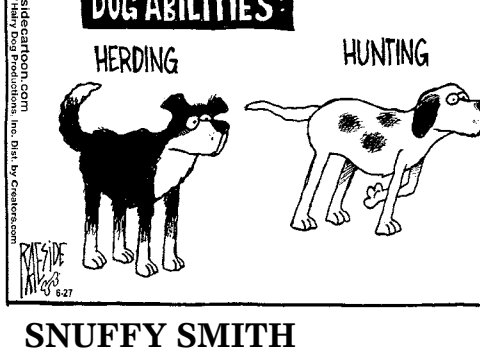
AGNES



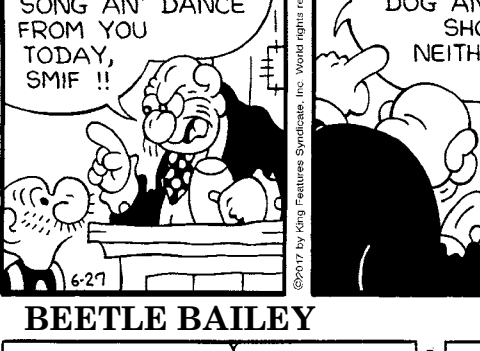
HI AND LOIS



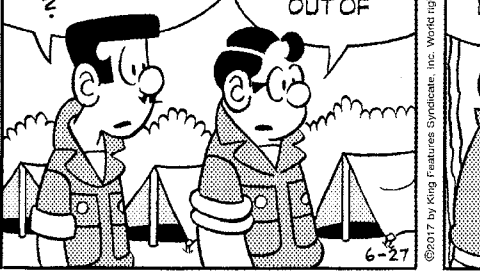
THE OTHER COAST



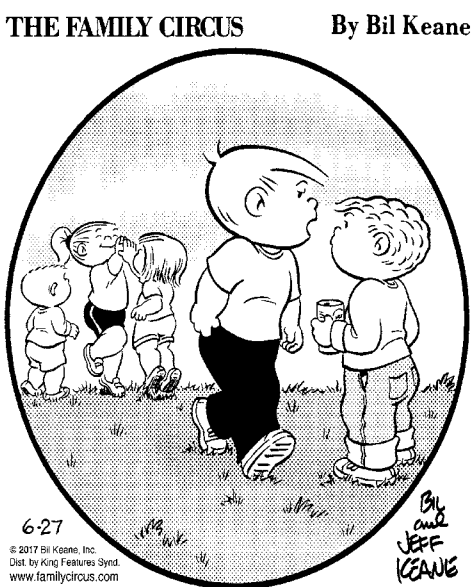
SNUFFY SMITH



BEETLE BAILEY



THE FAMILY CIRCUS



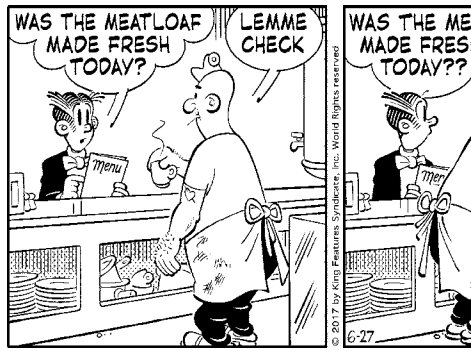
“Don't play follow-the-leader with Dolly. She makes you do BALLET steps!”

By Bill Keane

HAGAR



BLONDIE



This Date In History

Today is Tuesday, June 27, the 178th day of 2017. There are 187 days left in the year. Today's Highlight in History: On June 27, 1957, Hurricane Audrey slammed into coastal Louisiana and Texas as a Category 4 storm; the official death toll from the storm was placed at 390, although a variety of state, federal and local sources have estimated the number of fatalities at between 400 and 600. On this date: In 1787, English historian Edward Gibbon completed work on his six-volume work, "The History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire." In 1844, Mormon leader Joseph Smith and his brother, Hyrum, were killed by a mob in Carthage, Illinois. In 1864, Confederate forces repelled a frontal assault by Union troops in the Civil War Battle of Kennesaw Mountain in Georgia. In 1905, the Industrial Workers of the World was founded in Chicago. In 1922, the first Newberry Medal, recognizing excellence in children's literature, was awarded to "The Story of Mankind" by Hendrik Willem van Loon.

In 1944, during World War II, American forces liberated the French port of Cherbourg from the Germans. In 1966, the Gothic soap opera "Dark Shadows" premiered on ABC-TV. In 1974, President Richard Nixon opened an official visit to the Soviet Union. In 1977, the U.S. Supreme Court struck down state laws and bar association rules that prohibited lawyers from advertising their fees for routine services. The Republic of Djibouti became independent of France. In 1986, the International Court of Justice at The Hague ruled the United States had broken international law and violated the sovereignty of Nicaragua by aiding the contras. (The U.S. had already said it would not consider itself bound by the World Court decision.) In 1990, NASA announced that a flaw in the orbiting Hubble Space Telescope was preventing the instrument from achieving optimum focus. (The problem was traced to a mirror that had not been ground to exact specifications; corrective optics were later installed to fix the problem.) In 1991, Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall, the first black jurist to sit on the nation's highest court, announced his retirement. (His departure led to the contentious nomination of Clarence

Thomas to succeed him.) Ten years ago: Former Treasury chief Gordon Brown became British prime minister, succeeding fellow Labourite Tony Blair. Five years ago: Britain's Queen Elizabeth II and former Irish Republican Army commander Martin McGuinness offered each other the hand of peace during a private meeting inside Belfast's riverside Lyric Theatre. A 22-year-old former Texas Tech University student from Saudi Arabia, Khalid Ali-M Aldawsari, was convicted in Amarillo of attempting to use a weapon of mass destruction. Thought for Today: "A man, after he has brushed off the dust and chips of his life, will have left only the hard, clean question: Was it good or was it evil? Have I done well — or ill?" — John Steinbeck, American author (1902-1968).

© 2017 The Associated Press.

Answer to previous puzzle: A crossword grid with words like SNAPS, SILT, AWLS, HOVEL, AMID, VIAL, ATONE, JAMS, INTO, WINNEBAGO, YACHT, APOKE, BATHES, LAWYEN, PUREE, ICIER, ADORN, SOW, SIN, ACORN, TIE, ADD, TWEET, AGENT, ORES, CLERKS, OHWELL, FAULT, PAPAL, WINTERIZE, ERAS, GENT, GENOA, RENO, ORES, EARNS, AMEN, VERY, SLEET.

Newsday Crossword

SOCIAL NETWORK by Billie Truitt

- ACROSS: 1 Woman's dress of India, 5 Pathway between floors, 10 Large pigs, 14 Be mindful of, 15 Macaroni and spaghetti, 16 Money in France, 17 Word-of-mouth, 18 Assumed name, 19 "Now," in a memo, 20 Election faction, 23 Family members, 24 Undercover agent, 25 Sad song genre, 28 President before JFK, 31 Piles, 35 Talk wildly, 36 Tutti-ice cream, 38 River, in Mexico, 39 Sports fan's souvenir, 42 Prefix for angle, 43 Recruit deceptively, 44 Slender woodwind, 45 Taco topping, 47 PC panic button, 48 Expenses, 49 That guy's, 51 Sweet bread spread, 52 Quality of a call, 60 Fly high, 61 Book of fiction, 62 Gumbo veggie, 63 Harbor city, 64 Detect with one's nose, 65 Shed tears, 66 Swiss peaks, 67 Ahead of schedule, 68 Astronauts' org.

- DOWN: 11 Banish, 12 Color of overcast skies, 13 Soak (up), 21 "the season . . .", 22 Rosebush pest, 25 Unruly kids, 26 First lady before Michelle, 27 Up to, 28 Window covering, 29 Hoodwinks, 30 Code of conduct, 32 Many Egyptians, 33 Cockpit boss, 34 Shoe bottoms, 36 Move to and hour, 40 Wheat or rice, 41 Fast-growing community, 46 Basketball court garb, 48 Spending limit, 50 Have a feeling, 51 Sweet bread spread, 52 Swimming area, 53 Angel's instrument, 54 Capital of Italia, 55 At any time, 56 What an amoeba has one of, 57 Scandinavian furniture chain, 58 Mined materials, 59 California wine valley, 60 Pampering place.

A crossword grid with numbers 1-66 indicating starting positions for words.

NBA

Continued from Page 7

Green was rewarded for his do-everything role with the NBA champion Golden State Warriors. He led the league in steals and on Feb. 10 had the league's first triple-double ever that didn't include points, finishing with 11 rebounds, 10 steals and 10 assists.

Leonard was trying to be the first to win three in a row since Dwight Howard. Utah's Rudy Gobert was the other finalist during Monday night's NBA Awards show.

10:35 p.m.
The Milwaukee Bucks and Houston Rockets have become double winners at the NBA Awards show.

Giannis Antetokounmpo won the Most Improved Player award, following Malcolm Brogdon's victory for Rookie of the Year to open the show on Monday night.

Mike D'Antoni was then voted Coach of the Year, the second time he has won the award. He led the Rockets to 55 victories and a league record for 3-pointers this season.

D'Antoni, who also won the award while coaching Phoenix, followed Rockets guard Eric Gordon's win for Sixth Man of the Year.

10:15 p.m.
Bill Russell has received the first Lifetime Achievement award, responding with some trash talk and then praise for the big men who honored him.

Hall of Famers Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, David Robinson, Shaquille O'Neal, Alonzo Mourning and Dikembe Mutombo were on stage Monday night at the NBA Awards show to present the honor to Russell, who won 11 championships as a player with the Boston Celtics and went on to become the NBA's first black coach.

Russell pointed at them and said he would kick all their butts. After a long laugh from the crowd that was standing and cheering, Russell told the other centers that "you have no idea how much respect I have for you guys."

The NBA Finals MVP award is named for Russell, who was one of the most dominant defensive players in NBA history.

9:30 p.m.
Houston guard Eric Gordon has won the Sixth Man of the Year award in his first year as a reserve.

Gordon beat out Rockets teammate Lou Williams and former NBA Finals MVP Andre Iguodala for the award given to the league's top player off the

bench.

Gordon set an NBA single-season record for most 3-pointers off the bench, helping the high-scoring Rockets make more shots behind the arc than any team in history.

The Rockets had a chance for a big night on Monday at the first NBA Awards show, with James Harden a finalist for MVP and Mike D'Antoni a finalist for Coach of the Year.

9:20 p.m.
Malcolm Brogdon of the Milwaukee Bucks is the NBA's Rookie of the Year.

The guard won the first award Monday night during the first NBA Awards show that was hosted by Drake. Brogdon beat out finalists Joel Embiid and Dario Saric, both of the Philadelphia 76ers.

Brogdon was a second-round pick out of Virginia who led all rookies with 4.2 assists and 1.12 steals per game in helping the Bucks reach the playoffs.

Embiid had the strongest stats, averaging 20.2 points, 7.8 rebounds and 2.45 blocks, but was limited to just 31 games because of injuries.

8:55 p.m.
Golden State's Draymond Green was the leading vote-getter for the All-Defensive team.

He was joined on the first team by Utah center Rudy Gobert and Spurs All-Star Kawhi Leonard — who join Green as the finalists for Defensive Player of the Year to be announced Monday night during the NBA Awards show. Leonard won the award the last two seasons.

Green received 99 of a possible 100 first-team votes from a panel of media voters. Gobert got 97 and Leonard received 93.

The Clippers' Chris Paul and Houston's Patrick Beverley were the two guards on the first team.

The second team guards were Tony Allen of Memphis and Danny Green of the Spurs. New Orleans All-Star Anthony Davis was the center and Milwaukee's Giannis Antetokounmpo and Oklahoma City's Andre Roberson the forwards.

8:40 p.m.
Philadelphia's Dario Saric and Milwaukee guard Malcolm Brogdon were unanimously selected to the All-Rookie first team.

Both players received all 100 first-team votes from a panel of sports writers and broadcasters.

They were joined by Joel Embiid, Saric's teammate in Philadelphia, along with Sacramento guard Buddy Hield and Knicks forward Willy Hernangomez. There were four international players on the first team for the first time in the award's history.

TEXAS

Continued from Page 7

team, as well," bench coach Brad Mills said. "I'm glad the doctors checked him out and we'll move down the road and hopefully we'll know something tomorrow."

Francona presented Rangers first baseman and former Indian Mike Napoli with his American League Championship ring before the game. Mills came out to fetch starter Carlos Carrasco in the fourth inning, the first sign the players had that Francona wasn't there.

"I know he's watching somehow and he's proud of what we were doing," Chisenhall said. "You always want him to feel good. His health is the most important thing."

The Indians scored a run in the fourth, four in the fifth, took the lead with five in the sixth and added three in the seventh.

Adrian Beltre, Elvis Andrus and Joey Gallo each homered off Cleveland starter Carlos Carrasco to help build Texas' lead, but then the Indians offense finally woke up. Cleveland had been shut out twice, went 1 for 23 with runners in scoring position and got swept over three games by the Minnesota Twins in its previous series.

Cleveland set a season high in runs, matched a season best with 19 hits and was 11 for 28 with runners in scoring position. Every starter except Kipnis had at least two hits.

The comeback moved the Indians back into a first place in the AL Central with a half-game lead over Minnesota.

Bryan Shaw (2-2) pitched 1 1/3 scoreless innings for the win. Tanner Scheppers (0-1) allowed all three batters he faced to reach the base.

"I think coming off the type of series we just came off of, any win would be a good win," Shaw said. "But for us to come back the way we did shows the drive that we have to win."

Andrus added a solo homer off Dan Otero in the fourth after his three-run shot in the second. Beltre had a three-

run homer during a four-run first, and Gallo added a solo shot for his 20th of the season.

"That's one game that absolutely doesn't feel good," Rangers manager Jeff Banister said. "There is nothing more you can say than that."

Carrasco allowed eight runs — tying a career high — in 3 1/3 innings.

Cole Hamels, making his first start since April 26, allowed seven runs in 4 1/3 innings. The left-hander had been on the 10-day disabled list with a strained right oblique.

Napoli returned to Progressive Field for the first time since helping the Indians reach the World Series last season. He was 1 for 4 with three strikeouts.

Francona left a game two weeks ago against the Los Angeles Dodgers at Progressive Field. He underwent a series of tests and was released from the hospital a few hours later. Francona returned to work the following night.

The 57-year-old Francona missed a game last season in August after experiencing chest pains.

NOT A FAN FAVORITE

While the crowd cheered Napoli, Rangers catcher Jonathan Lucroy was booed every time he came to the plate. Lucroy vetoed a trade last July that would have sent him from the Brewers to the Indians.

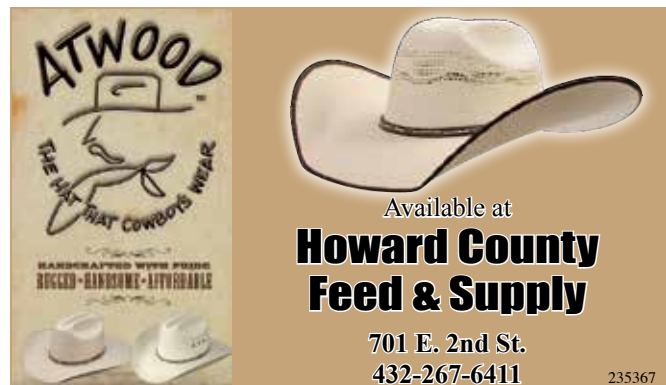
TRAINER'S ROOM

Rangers' LHP Martin Perez (broken right thumb) is eligible to come off the disabled list on July 3, but Banister said his return will be delayed.

Indians' OF Austin Jackson (left quad tightness) had tests Monday. A decision will be made Tuesday whether he has to go on the disabled list.

UP NEXT

Rangers' RHP Tyson Ross allowed seven runs over three innings in a 7-5 loss to Toronto on June 21.



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Trump takes another swipe at CNN following resignations

NEW YORK (AP) — President Donald Trump used the resignations of three CNN journalists involved in a retracted Russia-related story to resume his attack on the network's credibility Tuesday. The story was about a supposed investigation into a pre-inaugural meeting between a Trump associate and the head of a Russian investment fund. CNN accepted the journalists' resignations Monday.

Trump wrote in a Tuesday morning tweet, "Wow, CNN had to retract big story on 'Russia,' with 3 employees forced to resign. What about all the other phony stories they do? FAKE NEWS!"

A message seeking comment was left at CNN. The story was posted on the network's website Thursday and was removed, with all links disabled, Friday night. CNN immediately apologized to Anthony Scaramucci, the Trump transition team member who was reported to be involved in the meeting.

The story's author, Thomas Frank, was among those who resigned, according to a network executive who requested anonymity because the person was not authorized to discuss personnel issues. Also losing their jobs were Eric Lichtblau, an assistant managing editor in CNN's Washington bureau, and Lex Haris, head of the investigations unit.

CNN, in initially taking down the story, said it didn't meet its editorial standards. The episode is a damaging blow for a network that Trump has frequently derided as "fake news," and for a story that never even made it onto any of CNN's television networks.

The story had been quickly questioned both internally and externally, including by the conservative site Breitbart News. It was determined that the story was posted without going through the expected checks and balances for a story of such sensitivity, the executive said.

The failure to follow proper procedures is what led to the resignations, the CNN executive said.

It's not immediately clear what in the story is factually incorrect, or whether CNN will continue to report on the issue. The retracted story had said the Senate investigations committee was looking into a Jan. 16 discussion between Scaramucci and Kirill Dmitriev, whose Russian Direct Investment Fund guides investments by U.S. entities in Russia. Scaramucci, in the story, said he exchanged pleasantries in a restaurant with Dmitriev.

The report also said that two Democratic senators wanted to know whether Scaramucci had indicated in the meeting whether sanctions against Russia would be lifted, a decision that could impact the investment fund.

Following the retraction, Scaramucci tweeted that CNN "did the right thing. Classy move. Apology accepted. Everyone makes mistakes. Moving on."

Haris, in a statement to CNN's "Reliable Sources," noted that he'd been with CNN since 2001, "and am sure about one thing: This is a news organization that prizes accuracy and fairness above all else. I am leaving, but will carry those principles wherever I go."

Hackers strike across Europe, sparking widespread disruption

PARIS (AP) — Hackers have caused widespread disruption across Europe, hitting Ukraine especially hard.

Company and government officials reported serious intrusions at the Ukrainian power grid, banks and government offices. Russia's Rosneft oil company also reported falling victim to hacking, as did Danish shipping giant A.P. Moller-Maersk.

"We are talking about a cyberattack," said Anders Rosendahl, a spokesman for the Copenhagen-based group. "It has affected all branches of our business, at home and abroad."

Ukrainian Deputy Prime Minister Pavlo Rozenko on Tuesday posted a picture of a darkened computer screen to Twitter, saying that the computer system at the government's headquarters has been shut down.

There's very little information about who might be behind the disruption, but technology experts who examined screenshots circulating on social media said it bears the hallmarks of ransomware, the name given to programs that hold data hostage



AP photo

In this Jan. 13, 2017 file photo, Anthony Scaramucci, a senior adviser to President-elect Donald Trump, talks to reporters in the lobby of Trump Tower in New York. CNN isn't commenting Monday, June 26, as to what led it to retract a story about a supposed investigation into a pre-inaugural meeting between an associate of Trump and the head of a Russian investment fund. The story posted Thursday on CNN's website said Senate investigators are looking into the meeting between Scaramucci and Kirill Dmitriev, whose Russian Direct Investment Fund guides investments by U.S. entities in Russia. Scaramucci, in the story, said he exchanged pleasantries in a restaurant with Dmitriev.

by scrambling it until a payment is made.

The world is still recovering from a previous outbreak of ransomware, called WannaCry or WannaCrypt, which spread rapidly using digital break-in tools originally created by the U.S. National Security Agency and recently leaked to the web.

tions or barred from participating in U.S. cultural exchange programs, although the U.S. president has the authority to waive sanctions.

It wasn't immediately clear what led the administration to downgrade China, but previous editions of the annual human trafficking report have cited China as a "source, destination and transit country" for forced labor and sex trafficking.

China hits back at US on human trafficking downgrade

BEIJING (AP) — China has pre-emptively hit back at the United States for speaking "irresponsibly" ahead of an expected Trump administration move to name China among the world's worst human trafficking offenders.

Foreign ministry spokesman Lu Kang said Tuesday that China strongly opposes the U.S. using its domestic laws to attack another country's record, and maintained that the results of China's anti-human trafficking efforts are "obvious for everyone to see."

The U.S. State Department was expected to unveil later Tuesday a 2017 human trafficking report that downgrades China to the lowest "Tier 3" category, which includes North Korea, Zimbabwe and Syria. The report is the first major U.S. reprimand of China's human rights record under the Trump administration, which has generally played down the promotion of rights in its foreign policy, including with China.

Tier 3 countries can be penalized with sanc-

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