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# BIG SPRING HERALD

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2017



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## Seliger, Darby to host town hall meeting today

By **AMBER MANSFIELD**  
 Staff Writer

Today State Senator Kel Seliger of District 31 and State Representative Drew Darby are in Big Spring to meet and discuss with the people of Howard County at a town hall meeting. Senator Kel Seliger was first elected to the Texas Senate



Seliger



Darby

in 2004. The Senate District 31 spans 37 counties from the Panhandle to the Permian Basin and includes Amarillo, Midland, Odessa and Big Spring. Seliger currently serves as Chairman of the Senate Higher Education Committee and is a member of the Senate Education Committee, Senate Finance Committee, and Senate Commit-

tee on Natural Resources and Economic Development. Alongside Seliger at today's meeting will be Darby of House District 72. The town hall meeting will be held from 11 a.m. to noon at the Hall Center for the Arts at the Howard College Campus located on 1001 Birdwell Lane. During the meeting Seliger will discuss a variety of topics including the 85th Legislature in significance, the community college, and all the renovations around the area such as the US 87 truck

relief route. "I think it's great that Big Spring took the initiative to build the bypass to help better the town," said Seliger. "I'm also here to just listen to the citizens of Big Spring and talk about their wants and needs. People closest to a problem are usually the best at solving it." Senator Kel Seliger announced on Sept. 20 2017 that he will seek re-election to Senate District 31 come March 6, 2018, which will consist of serving a six-year term from Jan. 3, 2019, until

Jan. 3, 2025. Since he was first elected, Seliger has been recognized for his conservative principles, and his dedication to education, small government, and local control. If re-elected a few of Seliger's priorities will be on the state budget being spent efficiently to benefit the local people, Medicaid, and on education. "Education will always be one of my primary focuses," said Seliger. "But I'm here for the people of West Texas, they will always be my number one focus."

## Breast cancer: Know the risk factors and get tested

Special to the Herald

The chance that a woman will die from breast cancer is about 1 in 37, according to the American Cancer Society. Breast cancer is the most common cancer among American women and it's estimated that more than 252,000 will be diagnosed with new cases of invasive breast cancer this year. Several risk factors of the disease are beyond control, but there are some lifestyle changes that can be made to help reduce the risk of developing the disease. Additionally, understanding early detection methods and when to get screened can be critical in the survival rates of women who are diagnosed. Women have a much higher likelihood of being diagnosed with breast cancer than men; however, men can develop the disease too. White women are the most likely

to develop breast cancer, yet African-American women who develop it have higher mortality rates. Age is another contributing risk factor of the disease, with most invasive breast cancers detected in women 50 and older. About five to 10 percent of breast cancer cases are considered hereditary and result when certain gene mutations are present, which greatly increase the risk of diagnosis. Genetic testing can be done in some cases to identify whether or not the mutated genes are present. These are just some of the uncontrollable risk factors of developing the disease. Some breast cancer risk factors are linked to lifestyle behaviors that can be changed. Drinking two or more alcoholic beverages a day has been shown to result in a 20 percent

See **CANCER**, Page 3

## Raising the bar for environmental stewardship



Courtesy photo

**Jimmy Sterling of Coahoma's Sterling Cattle Company received the 2017 Environmental Stewardship Award for Region IV earlier this year.**

Special to the Herald

Rancher Jimmy Sterling of Sterling Cattle Company in Coahoma received the 2017 Environmental Stewardship Award for Region IV by The National Cattleman's Beef Association (NCBA) at their annual meeting in Denver, Colorado. The Environmental Stewardship award

recognizes beef producers who make environmental stewardship a priority on their farms and ranches while they also improve production and profitability. These environmental stewards serve as spokespeople for the cattle industry while sharing their stories of conservation and environmental practices.

"We are proud to accept this award because conservation is something you do because it is the right thing to do, not for the awards," said Sterling. "You have to be a steward for the long term and when you do that, you improve the land and your cattle at the same time." Sterling Cattle Company is a cow/calf opera-

tion started by Jimmy Sterling's father, J.M. Sterling, in 1954. In 1991, Sterling took over the ranch and now operates over 200,000 acres with his three daughters and their families. Sterling and his entire family have worked hard to become true stewards of the land.

## Halloween Safe Spots

If you would like your business or organization placed on the Big Spring Herald's list of Halloween Safe Spots, please e-mail your business name, and time, date, and location of your Safe Spot to [life@bigspringherald.com](mailto:life@bigspringherald.com). A list will be run Sunday, Oct. 21 and Sunday, Oct. 28.

## Trump's claim about predecessors, fallen troops disputed

By **CALVIN WOODWARD**  
 Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — For U.S. presidents, meeting the families of military personnel killed in war is about as wrenching as the presidency gets. President Donald Trump's suggestion Monday that his predecessors fell short in that duty

brought a visceral reaction from those who witnessed those grieving encounters. "He's a deranged animal," Alyssa Mastromonaco, a former deputy chief of staff to President Barack Obama, tweeted about Trump. With an expletive, she called Trump's statement in the Rose Garden a lie. Trump said in a news con-

ference he had written letters to the families of four soldiers killed in an Oct. 4 ambush in Niger and planned to call them, crediting himself with taking extra steps in honoring the dead properly. "Most of them didn't make calls," he said of his predecessors. He said it's possible

See **TROOPS**, Page 3



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# TROOPS

Continued from Page 1

that Obama "did sometimes" but "other presidents did not call."

The record is plain that presidents reached out to families of the dead and to the wounded, often with their presence as well as by letter and phone. The path to Walter Reed and other military hospitals, as well as to the Dover, Delaware, Air Force Base where the remains of fallen soldiers are often brought, is a familiar one to Obama, George W. Bush and others.

Bush, even at the height of two wars, "wrote all the families of the fallen," said Freddy Ford, spokesman for the ex-president. Ford said Bush also called or met "hundreds, if not thousands" of family members of the war dead.

Obama's official photographer, Pete Souza, tweeted that he photographed Obama "meeting with hundreds of wounded soldiers, and family members of those killed

in action." Others recalled his frequent visits with Gold Star families, and travels to Walter Reed, Dover and other venues with families of the dead and with the wounded.

Retired Gen. Martin E. Dempsey, the former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, confirmed these contacts, tweeting: "POTUS 43 & 44 and first ladies cared deeply, worked tirelessly for the serving, the fallen, and their families. Not politics. Sacred Trust."

Trump addressed the matter when asked why he had not spoken about the four soldiers killed in Niger. They died when militants thought to be affiliated with the Islamic State group ambushed them while they were patrolling in unarmored trucks with Nigerian troops.

"I actually wrote letters individually to the soldiers we're talking about, and they're going to be going out either today or tomorrow," he said, meaning he wrote to the families of the fallen soldiers. He did not explain why letters had not been sent yet,

more than a week after the attack.

"If you look at President Obama and other presidents, most of them didn't make calls," Trump said.

Pressed on that statement later, he said of Obama: "I was told that he didn't often, and a lot of presidents don't. They write letters." He went on: "President Obama, I think, probably did sometimes, and maybe sometimes he didn't. I don't know. That's what I was told. ... Some presidents didn't do anything."

Press Secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders said later that Trump "wasn't criticizing predecessors, but stating a fact." She argued that presidents didn't always call families of those killed in battle: "Sometimes they call, sometimes they send a letter, other times they have the opportunity to meet family members in person."

She said anyone claiming a former president had called every family was "mistaken."

Bush's commitment to writing to all military families of the dead and to reaching out

by phone or meeting with many others came despite the enormity of the task. In the Iraq war alone, U.S. combat deaths were highest during his presidency, exceeding 800 each year from 2004 through 2007. The number fell to 313 in Bush's last year in office as the insurgency faded. Bush once said he felt the appropriate way to show his respect was to meet family members in private.

Obama declared an end to combat operations in Iraq in August 2010, and the last U.S. troops were withdrawn in December 2011. As Obama wound down that war, he sent tens of thousands more troops into Afghanistan in 2009 and 2010, and the death count mounted. From a total of 155 Americans killed in Afghanistan in 2008, which was Bush's last full year in office, the number jumped to 311 in 2009 and peaked the next year at 498. In all, more than 1,700 died in Afghanistan on Obama's watch.

Among other rituals honoring military families, the Obamas had a "Gold Star"

Christmas tree in the White House decorated with hundreds of photos and notes from people who had lost loved ones in war. Gold Star families visited during the holidays, bringing ornaments.

Trump visited Dover early in his presidency, going in February with his daughter Ivanka for the return of the remains of a U.S. Navy SEAL killed during a raid in Yemen, William "Ryan" Owens.

Trump's relations with Gold Star families have not always been smooth, dating from his belittlement of the parents of slain U.S. soldier Humayun Khan, who was Muslim. Trump was angered when the soldier's father, Khizr Khan, was given a platform to criticize him at the Democratic National Convention.

Owens' grieving father said he didn't want to talk with Trump at Dover. But the sailor's widow, Carryn, attended Trump's address to Congress and wept as he thanked her.

# CANCER

Continued from Page 1

higher risk of developing breast cancer. Being overweight, especially after menopause, raises estrogen levels and can also increase risk. Additionally, more evidence is showing that exercising regularly can help lower the risk of developing breast cancer.

While there is very little known to directly prevent breast cancer, most doctors feel that early detection and regular screenings are the best way to help increase survival rates. Some symptoms of breast cancer are easy to detect, while others may only be found during screenings. You should contact your physician immediately if you experience any of the following:

- Discharge from nipples, especially blood and/or puss;
- A new lump, particularly if it is painful and doesn't leave after a menstrual cycle;
- Breast pain that does not go away;
- Breast infection, which include centralized redness, puss or fever;
- Nipple changes such as pulling inward, enlargement or itching;
- Change in the size or shape of breast;
- An asymmetrical breast;
- Skin changes on breast or swelling; and/or
- Lump in the underarm.

In general, starting at age 40 women should have a choice to get mammograms every year until they reach 55. After age 55, women should have a choice to switch to mammograms every two years, unless instructed differently by their doctor. Mammograms are the most common tests of breast cancer, but there are other tools that can be used depending on a woman's medical history. It is important for women to begin discussing risk factors with their doctor early on so the right screening and testing plan can be developed.

For more information about scheduling a screening test, please call 432-264-0602.

*Ginger Silva is the Scenic Mountain Medical Center Mammographer. She has 15 years experience as a mammographer. She has completed 10 state inspections and 4 MQSA accreditations while at Scenic Mountain Medical Center, all of which have been deficiency free.*

# New fires break out in California as wine country fires dim

By SUDHIN THANAWALA and TERRY CHEA

Associated Press

SANTA ROSA, Calif. (AP) — As fire crews gain on wildfires burning for more than a week in Northern California's wine country, new fires broke out in other parts of the state, including northeast of Los Angeles.

Fire fighters are battling a blaze that sprang up overnight in the southern Bay Area Santa Cruz mountains, prompting evacuation orders and threatening 100 homes. The fire has torched about 125 acres.

At least one structure was destroyed, Rob Sherman, assistant chief of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, told KNTV news.

Further south, crews with air support are racing to protect a historic observatory and communications towers from a growing brush fire on Mount Wilson northeast of Los Angeles.

The blaze was initially estimated at around 5 acres (2 hectares). Officials say the observatory has been evacuated and the fire is not burning near foothill residences.

A week after fleeing wildfires in Northern California, tens of thousands of people are drifting back into their neighborhoods. Some will face the prospect of destroyed homes.

All will face the possibility of lasting emotional damage.

The cluster of wildfires has been burning in Northern California's wine country for more than a week. The fires, the deadliest cluster in California history, have killed at least 41 people and destroyed nearly 6,000 homes.

"It's never going to be the same," said Rob Brown, a supervisor in Mendocino County, where all 8,000 evacuees were cleared to go home Monday. "You're

going to have to seek a new normal."

The fires, the deadliest cluster in California history, have killed at least 41 people and destroyed nearly 6,000 homes.

The thousands of calls coming from concerned residents in neighboring Sonoma County "have shifted from questions about evacuation to questions about coping," Sonoma County Supervisor Shirlee Zane said.

"Many people who call are sad and worried, the shock has worn off and the sadness, depression and loss is setting in."

As a former grief therapist, she advised people with a family member or loved one who has lost everything to understand they can't fix this but they can offer support.

"Provide a compassionate listening ear right now, and let them feel whatever they're feeling," Zane said.

And those who must rebuild from nothing are in for a changed life.

"You're in for decades," Brown said. "You'll see benefits within years, but you're literally in for decades of recovery."

Jennifer Kelly and her husband and three sons lost their home and everything in it to a fire in Middletown in Lake County two years ago.

Now, with the new home 95 percent rebuilt, there are distant sirens, helicopters and tankers, plumes of smoke, on-again, off-again evacuation orders.

"I'm pretty anxious," she said Sunday in their new home, 95 percent complete. "We wake up a few times a night, one time last week we saw red on the horizon which was a little intimidating."

The Kellys are ready to evacuate. Since they started from scratch two

years ago, aside from their pets there's not much to put in their van.

They have talked about what they'll do if it happens again: "We're moving far away, to Wyoming," she said.

The return home was emotional even for those whose properties were spared.

"When we came up to check on it, we were amazed it was here," said Tom Beckman. "All the trivial things we have to work on — cleaning up, replacing the stuff in the fridge and freezer — that's nothing compared to my friends who lost their homes."

In the hard-hit city of Santa Rosa, two hospitals were forced to close during the fires, leaving just one open, St. Joseph Health.

Eighty-three hospital employees and 51 doctors had homes destroyed during the fires, though many continued to report to work.

"We expect the number to go up," said St. Joseph Health spokeswoman Vanessa DeGier. "We have a bunch of folks going back tonight after evacuation was lifted."

There was also

good news to report.

Vicki White, chief nursing officer, said that a total of 36 babies were born at St. Joseph during the week since wildfires started, which represents about three times the normal delivery rate.

"All of those babies are doing very well," she said

Improving weather, the prospect of some light rain later in the week and tightening containment of the flames were tempered by the first death from the firefighting effort — a driver who was killed when his truck overturned on a winding mountain road.

The truck driver, who had been delivering water to the fire lines, crashed before dawn Monday in Napa County on a roadway that climbs from vineyards into the mountains. No other details were

available about the accident, which was under investigation, said Mike Wilson, a fire spokesman.

## MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

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Gabriel Dominic (DeLeon) Garcia, 21, of Big Spring, died Tuesday, Oct. 10, 2017 in Lubbock. Funeral service will be at 11 a.m. this morning at Holy Trinity Catholic Church. Burial will be at Mount Olive Memorial Park. Arrangements are by Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

JoAnn Kennedy, 65, of Big Spring died Saturday, Oct. 14, 2017. Graveside services will be at 2:30 p.m. today at Trinity Memorial Park Peace Chapel. Arrangements are by Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Sterling McIntosh, 34, of Big Spring, died Thursday, Oct. 12, 2017 at his residence. Memorial service will be at 2 p.m., Wednesday, Oct. 18 2017 at Myers & Smith Chapel.

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## Ex-Dallas superintendent's vacation spot raises questions

DALLAS (AP) — An apartment building in New Orleans links two central characters in the financial demise of a troubled government school bus agency in Dallas, raising ethical questions over rules governing conduct between school district officials and their vendors.

An investigation by KXAS-TV and the Dallas Morning News shows former Dallas County Schools Superintendent Rick Sorrells used a luxury vacation apartment in the New Orleans French Quarter since 2014. The neighboring apartment was used by Robert Leonard, the CEO of the company DCS partnered with on a risky business venture.

The educational agency partnered with Force Multiplier Solutions on a school bus camera venture that used millions of dollars and put DCS on the brink of financial collapse earlier this year.

The attorney for the New Orleans building's owner, Louis Faust, said Leonard is no longer a tenant and Sorrells' lease ends in November.

The neighboring apartments raised new questions about whether the relationship between Sorrells and Leonard went beyond the bounds of ethical guidelines governing the conduct of school officials and vendors.

"Certainly anyone who had a vetting responsibility for those contracts would be very uncomfortable with this kind of personal relationships overlaying a business relationship," said Cal Jillson, a political science professor at Southern Methodist University.

While Sorrells was superintendent, his agency's board approved contracts with Force Multiplier Solutions that directed more than \$70 million of public money to the company.

DCS is currently conducting an internal audit on business dealings between the agency and Force.

Sorrells lost his superintendent position this year amid the agency's financial troubles but will remain on the payroll until December as part of a retirement deal with the agency.

He said Leonard wasn't involved in his family getting the apartment. An attorney for Leonard said he's advised his client to not speak on the matter.

Don Southerland, a former FBI agent, said investigators need to ask more questions about the apartments because they could provide more insight into the relationship between the two men involved in a business arrangement that ended unsuccessfully. "There's a lot of smoke around this building," Southerland said.

## Another immigration detention center planned for South Texas

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement is planning to open another detention center in South Texas for people apprehended entering the country illegally.

The Austin American-Statesman reports the agency this month asked private companies to submit preliminary proposals for a new facility along the Interstate 35 corridor housing adult detainees.

There are already a number of such detention centers operating

south of San Antonio.

The request for proposals indicates ICE is open to new construction or the renovation of an existing facility. It would house about 1,000 beds.

ICE says it can't comment on pending contracts.

Arrests of immigrants crossing the border into Texas have declined sharply since the election of President Donald Trump, but arrests from domestic enforcement efforts in Texas and other states are on the rise.

## First Waco biker trial could have domino effect on others



Jacob Carrizal, the first biker to be prosecuted for his alleged role in the May 17, 2015, Twin Peaks shootout heads to court Wednesday Oct. 11, 2017, in Waco, Texas. Jury selection began this week in the first of those trials, against Bandidos Dallas chapter president Christopher "Jake" Carrizal for leading and engaging in organized criminal activity.

By EMILY SCHMALL

Associated Press

WACO, Texas (AP) — Steel barriers and sheriff's deputies surrounded the courthouse in Waco, Texas, in a show of heightened security as the trial began for an alleged leader of the Bandidos biker gang in connection to the deadliest shootout between biker groups in U.S. history.

But experts say the trial — the first stemming from the fatal May 2015 shooting — could reach far beyond the single case, as the government tries to convict other leaders and dozens of members.

It has been nearly 2 1/2 years since a confrontation between the Bandidos and the Cossacks left nine bikers dead and 20 wounded outside a Twin Peaks restaurant in Waco. Local police arrested 177 bikers after the mayhem, and more than 150 people were eventually charged.

Federal investigators also indicted the president and vice present of the Bandidos — though not for the shooting in Waco — and are set to bring them to trial next year. Five other Bandidos have pleaded guilty to federal charges.

The first to stand trial in Waco is Christopher "Jake" Carrizal, the Bandidos' Dallas chapter president,

whose trial began last week. Experts say a conviction in the case could have a domino effect by convincing other bikers to plead guilty and testify.

"Guys who are less involved start to turn and lead prosecutors all the way to the top guys," said Charles Falco, a law enforcement instructor and a former informant on California biker gangs for the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

Carrizal, 35, is charged with directing organized criminal activity that led to a violent brawl at the restaurant in Waco on May 17, 2015. If convicted, he could face a maximum sentence of life in prison.

The outcome of his trial also could affect

federal prosecutions of former Bandidos president Jeffrey Pike and vice president John Portillo. While the Waco shootout isn't mentioned in the federal indictments against both men on racketeering charges, including ordering killings and assaults, government witnesses have discussed the Waco incident in pretrial hearings, court records show.

"Anything presented in state court, where the standard for getting evidence admitted in lower, can be used in the federal trial," said Heidi Lambros, a criminal law public defender in Chicago.

Biker gangs are a small but violent criminal force in the U.S., with some 44,000 members or associates of

a handful of "outlaw" gangs, according to a 2015 FBI report. The Bandidos, founded in Texas, is among the largest of the criminal gangs, along with the Hell's Angels and a couple of others.

The Cossacks were considered less violent until the Waco confrontation.

The start of any Waco trials was delayed by the enormous volume of evidence and several bikers' attempts to have their cases dismissed. Defense attorneys argued the bikers were hastily arrested and charged without consideration of individual culpability. Carrizal's attorney, Casie Gotro, has said that the McLennan County District Attorney's office

See WACO, Page 5



## KBYG & KXCS Broadcasting Schedule

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 17

6:00 pm

Big Spring Volleyball vs. Sweetwater

KXCS FM

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 18

6:00 pm

Wild West Wingz Wonderful

World of Sports

KBYG AM/FM

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20

6:00 pm

Mitch McLemore Coach's Show (Big Spring)

KBYG AM/FM

7:00 pm

Big Spring Football vs. Abilene Wylie

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### Judge: Texas Gov. Abbott's removal of exhibit was improper

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — A federal judge has determined that Gov. Greg Abbott engaged in improper censorship when he ordered a mock Nativity scene be removed from the Capitol in 2015. U.S. District Judge Sam Sparks ruled late Friday that Abbott violated the First Amendment's free-speech guarantee. The Austin American-Statesman reports that Sparks also said the Wisconsin-based Freedom From Religion Foundation can seek to depose Abbott about his motives for removing the exhibit. The foundation sued Abbott last year over the removal of the display, which showed Benjamin Franklin, the Statue of Liberty, Thomas Jefferson and George Washington peering down at the Bill of Rights in a manger. Abbott called it a spiteful message of "tasteless sarcasm."

### 4-year-old girl among 2 killed in Houston attack; 2 survive

HOUSTON (AP) — Authorities say a man opened fire outside of a Houston apartment complex, killing a man and a 4-year-old girl and wounding the girl's mother and another man. Police say the gunman got away after the Sunday night shooting. They haven't disclosed a possible motive for the attack. Investigators say the four were in a breezeway at the complex when the attacker opened fire. The girl, Ashley Perdomo, was pronounced dead at a hospital and 31-year-old Miguel Marquez was dead at the scene. Authorities say the child's mother, 35-year-old Carol Perdomo, is in good condition. The other shooting victim, 30-year-old Zibullah Sahok, is listed in critical condition.

### East Texas man on death row loses US Supreme Court appeal

HOUSTON (AP) — The U.S. Supreme Court has refused an appeal from a man sent to death row for torturing and drowning an East Texas woman in his bathtub and then stuffing her body into a barrel with cement mix and lime before dumping it in a ravine. The high court, without comment Monday, declined to review arguments that 50-year-old Troy Clark had deficient legal help at his Smith County trial in 2000. Clark was condemned for the May 1998 slaying of a former roommate, 20-year-old Christina Muse of Tyler. Evidence showed Muse was hit with a stun gun, beaten, bound and kept in a closet before she was drowned at Clark's Tyler home. Records indicate Clark and a friend were using and selling methamphetamine and were worried she would snitch on them.

### Lockdown for vehicle crash lifted at San Antonio air base

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — San Antonio's Randolph Air Force Base has returned to normal operations after officials say they've been unable to find the driver of a stolen vehicle that crashed through a fence at the base. The base went on lockdown Saturday evening after Guadalupe County authorities say the stolen vehicle they were chasing tore through a base fence. Two men inside the vehicle were detained but the driver fled on foot. The vehicle was stolen from Harris County, about 200 miles to the east. Joint Base San Antonio issued a statement Sunday saying an overnight search failed to locate the missing driver.

# Army Sgt. Bergdahl pleads guilty to deserting his post



AP photo

Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl returns to the Fort Bragg courthouse after a lunch break on Monday, Oct. 16, 2017, on Fort Bragg, N.C. Bergdahl, who walked off his base in Afghanistan in 2009 and was held by the Taliban for five years, is charged with desertion and misbehavior before the enemy.

By JONATHAN DREW

Associated Press  
FORT BRAGG, N.C. (AP) — Army Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl, who was captured and held by the Taliban for five years after walking away from his post in Afghanistan, pleaded guilty Monday to desertion and endangering his comrades — charges that could put him behind bars for the rest of his life.

"I understand that leaving was against the law," said Bergdahl, who admitted guilt without striking a deal with prosecutors, meaning his punishment will be up to a military judge when he is sentenced later this month.

The guilty plea brings the highly politicized saga closer to an end eight years after Bergdahl vanished.

President Barack Obama brought him home in 2014 in a swap for five Taliban prisoners at Guantanamo Bay, saying the U.S. does not leave its service members on the battlefield. Republicans roundly criticized Obama, and Donald Trump went further while campaigning for president, repeatedly calling Bergdahl a "dirty, rotten traitor" who deserved to be executed by firing squad or thrown out of a plane without a parachute.

Bergdahl, 31, has said he walked away from his remote post in 2009 with the intention of reaching other commanders and

drawing attention to what he saw as problems with his unit.

He told the judge, Col. Jeffrey R. Nance, that he now understands that his actions prompted an intensive search during which some of his comrades were seriously wounded.

"At the time, I had no intention of causing search-and-recovery operations," he said in court. "I believed they would notice me missing, but I didn't believe they would have reason to search for one private."

Bergdahl, who received a promotion due all missing-in-action soldiers while he was in captivity, pleaded guilty to desertion and misbehavior before the enemy, a relatively rare charge brought against him for endangering comrades sent to find him.

The misbehavior charge carries a maximum penalty of life in prison, the desertion charge up to five years.

Bergdahl's answers to the judge's questions represented some of his most extensive public comments yet.

He told the judge he tried to escape from his captors 12 to 15 times with varying degrees of success. Once, he was on his own for about a week — hoping U.S. drones would spot him — before he was recaptured. He said he also tried to escape on his first day in captivity.

"As I started running there came shouts, and I was tackled by people. That didn't go so well," said Bergdahl, who spoke in even tones and wore a blue dress uniform.

He also reflected on what he thought were questionable tactics by U.S. soldiers and their Afghan allies in guarding a remote crossroads that could be bypassed by the Taliban on other routes. He said the setup "seemed to be a bit of a joke."

Pressed by the judge about his actions, Bergdahl acknowledged endangering his fellow service members.

"I left my platoon in a battlefield ... a situation that could easily turn into a life-or-death situation," he said.

At his sentencing, set to begin Oct. 23, his years in captivity could be factored in, but the hearing is also likely to feature damning testimony from fellow service members.

A Navy SEAL who suffered a career-ending leg wound and an Army National Guard sergeant whose head wound put him in a wheelchair would not have been hurt in firefights had they not been searching for Bergdahl, the judge has ruled.

Earlier this year, the defense was rebuffed in an effort to prove Trump had unfairly swayed the

See **GUILTY**, Page 6

## WACO

Continued from Page 4

denied her client access to certain records and may have "tampered" with evidence.

Investigators recovered hundreds of weapons after the shooting, including firearms, knives and brass knuckles

strewn across the restaurant and adjacent parking lot. State prosecutors said they were also awaiting results from DNA tests to determine who held the weapons used in the deaths and assaults.

Carrizal's trial was scheduled to begin Sept. 11, but it was reset after the first presiding judge was recused over

the appearance of potential bias in favor of the state. Carrizal unsuccessfully sought the removal of the replacement judge, too.

Gotro said the tight security at the Waco courthouse during Carrizal's trial was having a chilling effect on public access to the trial.

Last week, Gotro asked pre-

siding state District Court Judge Matt Johnson if there had been specific threats that required additional security for the trial.

She said a review of jury questionnaires showed that half of the potential jurors were scared to be there.

Johnson deferred to McClennan County Sheriff Par-

nell McNamara, who told The Associated Press on Thursday that "I have to do everything I can to provide safety to the citizens."

McNamara declined to say whether the measures address a specific threat.

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# Scientists witness huge cosmic crash, find origins of gold



AP photo

David Reitze of the California Institute of Technology and the executive director of the Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory, or LIGO, speaks at the National Press Club in Washington, Monday, Oct. 16, 2017, during an announcement on one of the most violent events in the cosmos that was witnessed completely for the first time in August and tells scientists where gold and other heavy elements come from.

By **SETH BORENSTEIN**

AP Science Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — It was a faint signal, but it told of one of the most violent acts in the universe, and it would soon reveal secrets of the cosmos, including how gold was created.

Astronomers around the world reacted to the signal quickly, focusing telescopes located on every continent and even in orbit to a distant spot in the sky.

What they witnessed in mid-August and revealed Monday was the long-ago collision of two neutron stars — a phenomenon California Institute of Technology's David H. Reitze called "the most spectacular fireworks in the universe."

"When these things collide, all hell breaks loose," he said.

Measurements of the light and other energy emanating from the crash have helped scientists explain how planet-killing gamma ray bursts are born, how fast the universe is expanding, and where heavy elements like platinum and gold come from.

"This is getting everything you wish

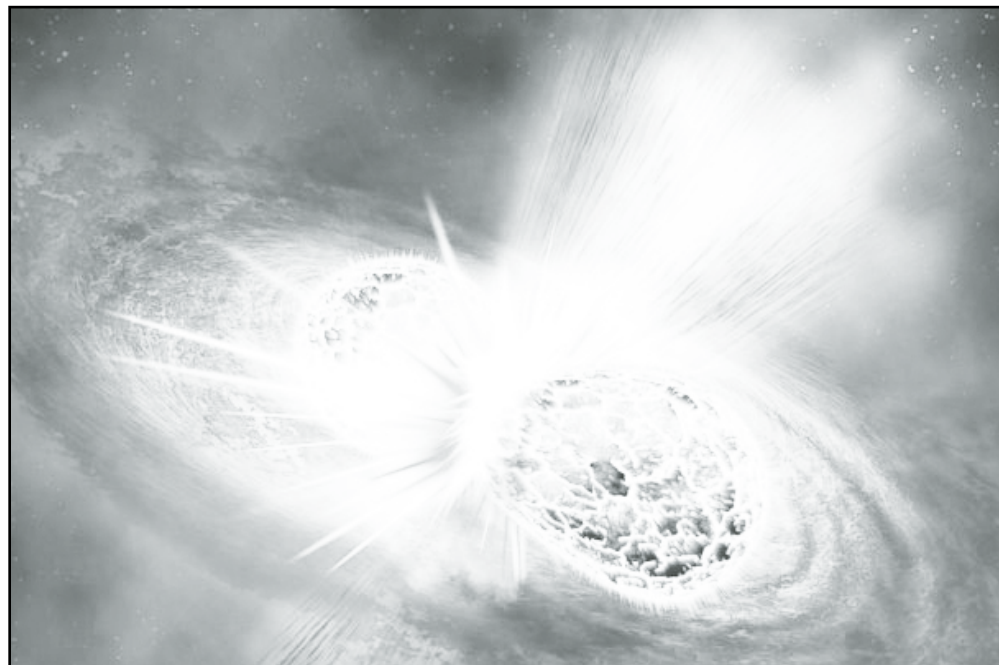
for," said Syracuse University physics professor Duncan Brown, one of more than 4,000 scientists involved in the blitz of science that the crash kicked off. "This is our fantasy observation."

It started in a galaxy called NGC 4993, seen from Earth in the Hydra constellation. Two neutron stars, collapsed cores of stars so dense that a teaspoon of their matter would weigh 1 billion tons, danced ever faster and closer together until they collided, said Carnegie Institution astronomer Maria Drout.

The crash, called a kilonova, generated a fierce burst of gamma rays and a gravitational wave, a faint ripple in the fabric of space and time, first theorized by Albert Einstein.

"This is like a cosmic atom smasher at a scale far beyond humans would be capable of building," said Andy Howell, a staff scientist at the Las Cumbres Observatory. "We finally now know what happens when an unstoppable force meets an immovable object and it's a kilonova."

The crash happened 130 million



AP photo

This illustration provided by the Carnegie Institution for Science depicts the collision of two neutron stars detected on Aug. 17, 2017. The explosion threw matter, light, radiation and gravitational waves into space. The discovery was reported on Monday, Oct. 16, 2017.

years ago, while dinosaurs still roamed on Earth, but the signal didn't arrive on Earth until Aug. 17 after traveling 130 million light-years. A light-year is 5.88 trillion miles.

Signals were picked up within 1.7 seconds of each other, by NASA's Fermi telescope, which detects gamma rays, and gravity wave detectors in Louisiana and Washington state that are a part of the LIGO Laboratory, whose founders won a Nobel Prize earlier this month. A worldwide alert went out to focus telescopes on what became the most well-observed astronomical event in history.

Before August, the only other gravity waves detected by LIGO were generated by colliding black holes. But black holes let no light escape, so astronomers could see nothing.

This time there was plenty to see, measure and analyze: matter, light, and other radiation. The Hubble Space Telescope even got a snapshot of the afterglow.

Finding where the crash happened wasn't easy. Eventually scientists narrowed the location down to 100 galaxies, began a closer search of those, and found it in the ninth galaxy they looked at.

It is like "the classic challenge of finding a needle in the haystack with the added challenge that the needle is fading away and the haystack is moving," said Marcelle Soares-Santos, an astrophysicist at Brandeis University.

"The completeness of this picture from the beginning to the end is unprecedented," said Columbia University physics professor Szabolcs Marka. "There are many, many extraordinary discoveries within the discovery."

The colliding stars spewed bright blue, super-hot debris that was dense and unstable. Some of it coalesced into heavy elements, like gold, platinum and uranium. Scientists had suspected neutron star collisions had enough power to create heavier elements, but weren't certain until they witnessed it.

"We see the gold being formed," said Syracuse's Brown.

Calculations from a telescope measuring ultraviolet light showed that the combined mass of the heavy elements from this explosion is 1,300 times the mass of Earth. And all that

See **CRASH**, Page 7

## Though off field, 5 college cheerleaders to protest anthem

KENNESAW, Ga. (AP) — Five cheerleaders at a college in Georgia say they'll kneel in the stadium tunnel when the national anthem is played at Saturday's homecoming game, moved off field by their university after an earlier protest.

The so-called Kennesaw Five will kneel until the U.S. flag "represents what it should," Kennesaw State University cheerleader Shlondra Young told The Atlanta Journal-Constitution.

"It was the scariest thing I've ever done," said another cheerleader, Michaelyn Wright, of their protest a

week earlier. The cheerleaders said they closely watched a national debate over NFL players kneeling during the anthem, adding they prayed before kneeling before a college game Sept. 30.

The decision to move the cheerleaders off field was made by the school's athletic department, which meets after each game "to determine how best to enhance the game day atmosphere," school spokeswoman Tammy DeMel said in a statement Monday to The Associated Press. It made no mention of the anthem protest.

"Some of the other changes have included painting the KS logo at midfield for the first time, processes to help expedite fan entry, and more loud speakers by the student section," the statement added.

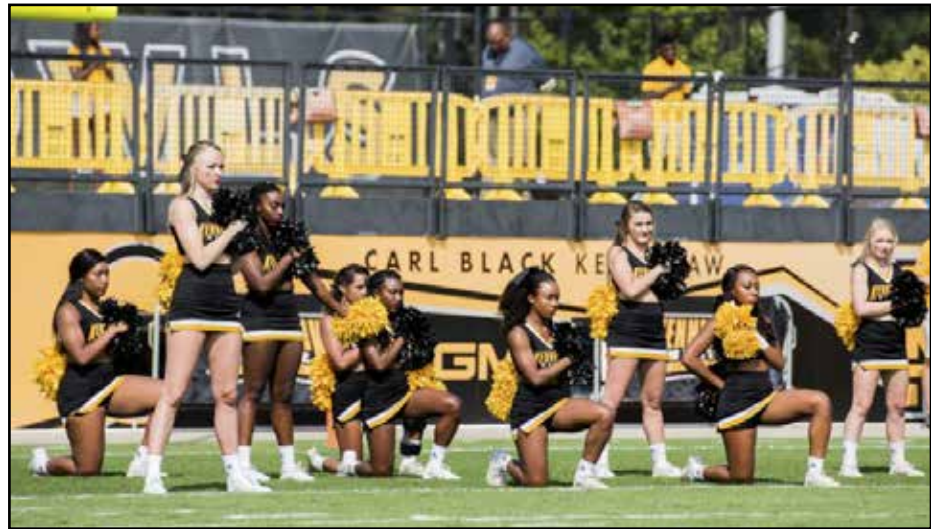
The NFL has been embroiled in controversy over players using the anthem before games to protest. Former 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick started the movement last season when he refused to stand during the anthem to protest racial inequality and police brutality. President Donald Trump and others have lashed out

at NFL players for not standing during the anthem.

Protests have spread outside the NFL at times. Last year in Pennsylvania, several cheerleaders at a high school in the community of Coraopolis knelt during the anthem at a football game attended by several war veterans. The backlash resulted in the school restricting atten-

dance at the school homecoming game to parents of players. And during last year's football season in Nebraska, six Omaha Central High School cheerleaders took a knee before a game to protest.

Sheriff Neil Warren in Cobb County, where the suburban Atlanta campus is located, called Kennesaw State President Sam Olens after the Sept. 30 protest, and was assured the demonstration wouldn't happen again, according to a report in The Marietta Daily Journal.



AP photo

In this Saturday, Sept. 30, 2017 photo, five Kennesaw State University cheerleaders take a knee during the national anthem prior to a college football game against North Greenville, in Kennesaw, Ga. The group of cheerleaders from the college in Georgia say they'll take a knee in the stadium tunnel when the national anthem is played at Saturday's homecoming game since their university moved them off the field after an earlier demonstration.

"My wife, Penny, had tears in her eyes, and we were both shocked to see such a lack of respect for our flag, our national anthem and the men and women that serve our nation," the sheriff, a longtime school booster, told the greater Atlanta newspaper.

He said his At-

lanta suburb has lost "sons and daughters" defending the country abroad, adding, "to witness these ill-informed students acting this way clearly tells me KSU needs to get busy educating these students on more than just passing their classes."

## GUILTY

Continued from Page 5

case. The judge ruled in February that the new president's comments were "disturbing and disappointing" but did not constitute unlawful influence by the soon-to-be commander in chief.

Bergdahl, who is from Hailey, Idaho, has been assigned to desk duty at a Texas Army base in the meantime.

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**CRASH**

Continued from Page 6

stuff — including lighter elements — was thrown out in all different directions and is now speeding across the universe. Perhaps one day the material will clump together into planets the way ours was formed, Reitze said — maybe ones with rich veins of precious metals.

"We already knew that iron came from a stellar explosion, the calcium in your bones came from stars and now we know the gold in your wedding ring came from merging neutron stars," said University of California Santa Cruz's Ryan Foley.

The crash also helped explain the origins of one of the most dangerous forces of the cosmos — short gamma ray bursts, focused beams of radiation that could erase life on any planet that happened to get in the way. These bursts shoot out in two different directions perpendicular to where the two neutron stars first crash, Reitze said.

Luckily for us, the beams of gamma rays were not focused on Earth and were generated too far away to be a threat, he said.

Scientists knew that the universe has been expanding since the Big Bang. By using LIGO to measure gravitational waves while watching this event unfold, researchers came up with a new estimate for how fast that is happening, the so-called Hubble Constant. Before this, scientists came up with two slightly different answers using different techniques. The rough figure that came out of this event is between the original two, Reitze said.

The first optical images showed a bright blue dot that was very hot, which was likely the start of the heavy element creation process amid the neutron star debris, Drout said. After a day or two that blue faded, becoming much fainter and redder. And after three weeks it was completely gone, she said.

This almost didn't happen. Eight days after the signal came through, the LIGO gravitational waves were shut down for a year's worth of planned upgrades. A month later the whole area where the crash happened would have been blocked from astronomers' prying eyes by the sun.

Scientists involved with the search for gravitational waves said this was the event they had prepared for over more than 20 years.

The findings are "of spectacular importance," said Penn State physicist Abhay Ashtekar, who wasn't part of the research. "This is really brand new."

Almost all of the discoveries confirmed existing theories, but had not been proven — an encouraging result for theorists who have been trying to explain what is happening in the cosmos, said France Cordova, an astrophysicist who directs the National Science Foundation.

"We so far have been unable to prove Einstein wrong," said Georgia Tech physics professor Laura Cadonati. "But we're going to keep trying."

**NYC 'remains a target,' FBI says after bombing conviction**



**In this courtroom artist's drawing, Ahmad Khan Rahimi, left, is seated next to his federal defender Meghan Gilligan, during the reading of a verdict in his trial, Monday, Oct. 16, 2017 in New York federal court. Jurors found Rahimi guilty of all charges, including counts of using a weapon of mass destruction and bombing a public place. The Afghanistan-born man who was living in Elizabeth, New Jersey at the time of the bombing, faces a maximum punishment of life in prison.**

**By LARRY NEUMEISTER**

Associated Press  
NEW YORK (AP) — The swift conviction Monday of a New Jersey man in a mostly botched bombing mission in Manhattan last summer was labeled a victory against terrorism by law enforcement officials, but they urged continued vigilance.

"It's very obvious that this city remains a target," said William F. Sweeney Jr., head of the city's FBI office, at a news conference outside Manhattan federal court after a jury that deliberated about four hours over parts of two days convicted Ahmad Khan Rahimi of all eight charges against him.

Sweeney credited hundreds of law enforcement officers in New Jersey and New York for an airtight

case against the 29-year-old Afghanistan-born Rahimi. Evidence at his two-week trial showed he had set off a pipe bomb along a Marine Corps charity race in Seaside Heights, New Jersey, as a morning prelude to the Sept. 17, 2016, evening bombing in Manhattan's Chelsea neighborhood that injured 30 people.

"Most importantly, I want to thank the public for how engaged they were when this was going on last September," Sweeney said. "It's that engagement that's critical, especially as we go forward into this holiday season. So I wanted to remind everybody to please stay attentive, to please stay alert, and if you do see something, say something."

Prosecutors say Rahimi, inspired by propaganda from al-Qaida and the Islamic State

group for four years, carefully planned a day of terror designed to kill Americans when he left his Elizabeth home with two pressure-cooker explosives and seven smaller bombs in a backpack.

They called it a miracle nobody died. The race had been delayed, and somehow a blast on Manhattan's 23rd Street that propelled a small trash bin 120 feet (37 meters), spread a rain of shrapnel and shattered apartment and car windows caused no fatalities.

Joon H. Kim, acting U.S. attorney in Manhattan, said Rahimi was "hoping to kill as many innocent people as possible" when he dropped off the 23rd Street explosive and a second pressure-cooker bomb on 27th Street that never went off.

"Today's verdict is a

victory for New York City. It's a victory for America in its fight against terror. It's a victory for all who believe in the cause of justice," Kim said.

With federal court as a backdrop, the prosecutor led an outdoor news conference minutes after the jury returned a verdict on charges carrying a mandatory life prison term. Sentencing for the 29-year-old former employee of a fried chicken restaurant is set for Jan. 18.

A relaxed Rahimi sometimes looked at jurors as the verdict was read but smiled afterward as he spoke with Sabrina Shroff, an assistant federal defender, and as he left court to return to prison. Shroff promised to appeal.

Defense lawyers did not challenge most of the evidence and

seemed to catch prosecutors by surprise when Shroff said in closing arguments that the jury should exonerate Rahimi on charges related to the bomb that never detonated, which would have spared him from a mandatory life term.

The docile defendant was a transformation from what a Linden, New Jersey, police officer encountered when he tried to help Rahimi after finding him sleeping in a doorway two days after the bombing, said John Miller, counterterrorism chief of the New York Police Department.

Miller said Rahimi fired a gun at the officer. Rahimi has pleaded not guilty to New Jersey charges stemming from the shootout that left him hospitalized for weeks afterward. The case is pending.

Miller said Rahimi's attack was one of two dozen plots against New York City since Sept. 11, 2001.

A notebook stained by blood and pierced by a bullet was found on Rahimi and became a centerpiece of trial evidence. Prosecutors said words in it described Rahimi's terrorism inspirations and his intent to kill and terrorize.

The jury also saw dozens of surveillance videos of Rahimi as he dragged through Manhattan bombs containing his fingerprints and DNA. His backpack of bombs was found the next day near a train station in New Jersey.

Miller said the case should be a warning to would-be terrorists.

"This is the wrong place to try and carry out an act of terrorism. Witnesses will come forward. Evidence will be developed. Arrests will be made. Prosecutions will be brought forth and they will be successful," he said.

**Crews search air, water for missing worker after blast**

**By KEVIN MCGILL**

Associated Press  
KENNER, La. (AP) — Authorities searched by air and water Monday for a contractor who disappeared when an oil and gas platform exploded on a lake near New Orleans. Seven people were injured, including three who were in critical condition, authorities said.

The Coast Guard reported that a fire aboard the structure was out by midday and there were no signs of pollution visible from the air. A Coast Guard helicopter, along with Coast Guard vessels and boats from local agencies, continued looking for the missing worker.

The Clovelly Oil Co. platform exploded Sunday night while maintenance was being done on the structure, sending a fireball high into the night sky, authorities and company officials said. The Kenner government Facebook page said authorities on the scene reported that cleaning chemicals had ignited on the structure, but the company said the cause of the

blast was unknown. Jefferson Parish Sheriff Joe Lopinto said the cause remained under investigation.

Residents along the shores of the lake said their homes shook about 7:15 p.m. Some reported that the air smelled of burning rubber.

"My house actually shook," Andrew Love, 32, told NOLA.com/The Times Picayune. "At first I thought it was a sonic boom or something, I had no idea what was happening."

Lopinto said there were no reports of structural damage to any homes.

Five of the injured were hospitalized with "blast-type injuries and burns," said Mike Guillot, director of East Jefferson Emergency Medical Services.

Two of the three people in critical condition were in a burn unit, Guillot said.

A statement from Clovelly Oil said three oil wells near the platform were shut in at the time of the explosion and its one gas well was flowing, but was successfully shut-in shortly after the explosion.

Clovelly does not know if any oil was released into the lake.

The platform is a storage and accumulation point for oil and gas from a number of wells, company spokesman Tim O'Leary said.

"It's basically an underwater storage tank. It takes oil and gas" from wells, he said. Once the tank is filled, the oil or gas is pumped into a barge and moved.

He said the four wells that feed the platform were drilled in the 1970s and are all in the lake, a brackish tidal basin that is fed both by the Gulf of Mexico and by fresh water from rivers and streams in 16 Louisiana parishes and four Mississippi counties.

Its water covers 630 square miles (1630 square kilometers) but it's generally only about 10 to 15 feet deep. It's 40 miles long and 25 miles wide.

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### Suspended Elliott getting emergency hearing in NY

By SCHUYLER DIXON  
AP Pro Football Writer

Attorneys for Dallas Cowboys star Ezekiel Elliott are set for an emergency hearing as they try court in New York in federal court to stop the running back's six-game suspension over domestic violence allegations, a person with direct knowledge of the situation told The Associated Press on Monday night. Elliott's legal team filed a request for a temporary restraining order Monday and will get a hearing Tuesday in the Southern District of New York, the person told the AP on condition of anonymity because the filing hadn't been made public.

Last year's NFL rushing leader is suspended for Sunday's game at San Francisco after a federal appeals court overturned an injunction that had allowed him to play this season.

The case is shifting to New York because the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans ordered the dismissal of Elliott's lawsuit in Texas. Elliott's attorneys have indicated they are still pursuing the case with the New Orleans court.

The person told the AP that U.S. District Judge Paul Crotty would hear arguments Tuesday in New York because the presiding judge,

Katherine Polk Fialla, is out of town.

Elliott was suspended in August by Commissioner Roger Goodell after the league concluded following a yearlong investigation that he had several physical confrontations in the summer of 2016 with Tiffany Thompson, his girlfriend at the time.

Prosecutors in Columbus, Ohio, decided not to pursue the case in the city where Elliott starred for Ohio State, citing conflicting evidence.

NFL Players Association attorneys, working on Elliott's behalf, indicated in an earlier filing Monday that they intended to seek a temporary restraining order and preliminary injunction through the New York court.

A three-judge panel on the appeals court ruled by a 2-1 vote last week that Elliott's attorneys filed the Texas lawsuit prematurely because an arbitrator had yet to decide on the running back's appeal through the NFL. Because the lawsuit was premature, the court vacated the injunction and tossed the lawsuit.

Elliott's attorneys have argued in subsequent filings that the dissenting judge in New Orleans agreed with the Texas judge's findings that the NFL appeal was unfair to Elliott.

NFLPA lawyers contended that league investigators

withheld key evidence from Goodell and said the hearing was unfair because arbitrator Harold Henderson refused to call Goodell and Thompson as witnesses.

In successfully arguing the case in Texas, Elliott's attorneys contended that he would suffer irreparable harm, one of the requirements for an injunction, because the suspension couldn't be undone even if he only served one game without a proper hearing of the entire case in federal court.

NFL attorneys countered that they followed the rules of the labor agreement in suspending Elliott, and that labor laws backed Goodell's power to suspend him. After Henderson rejected Elliott's appeal, the league filed a lawsuit with the Southern District of New York, asking it to confirm Henderson's ruling.

The Southern District was the venue for the "Deflategate" case that ended with New England quarterback Tom Brady serving a four-game suspension at the start of last season, more than a year after it was imposed. Brady won a preliminary ruling from a federal judge, just as Elliott did, before losing on appeal.



AP photo  
In this Oct. 1, 2017, photo, Dallas Cowboys' Ezekiel Elliott stands on the field during warmups before an NFL football game against the Los Angeles Rams in Arlington, Texas.

### Judge, Sabathia help Yankees beat Astros 8-1, trail ALCS 2-1



AP photo  
New York Yankees starting pitcher CC Sabathia reacts after getting out of the sixth inning of Game 3 of baseball's American League Championship Series against the Houston Astros Monday, Oct. 16, 2017, in New York.

By RONALD BLUM  
AP Baseball Writer

NEW YORK — Back in the Bronx, the big guys delivered.

Greeted by an array of "All Rise" signs in a ballpark that fits their style, Aaron Judge hit a three-run homer and made a pair of sparkling catches, leading CC Sabathia and the New York Yankees over the Houston Astros 8-1 Monday night and cutting their deficit to 2-1 in the AL Championship Series.

Todd Frazier hit a go-ahead, three-run homer into the short porch in

right field in the second inning against Charlie Morton.

The 6-foot-7 Judge entered in a 4-for-31 (.129) postseason slump that included one home run, four RBIs and 19 strikeouts. The slugger capped a five-run fourth with a laser of a drive to left field off Will Harris and robbed Yuli Gurriel and Cameron Maybin of extra-base hits.

"You see a guy put his head basically through the wall and then dive," Frazier said. "The ground is going to shake when he hits the

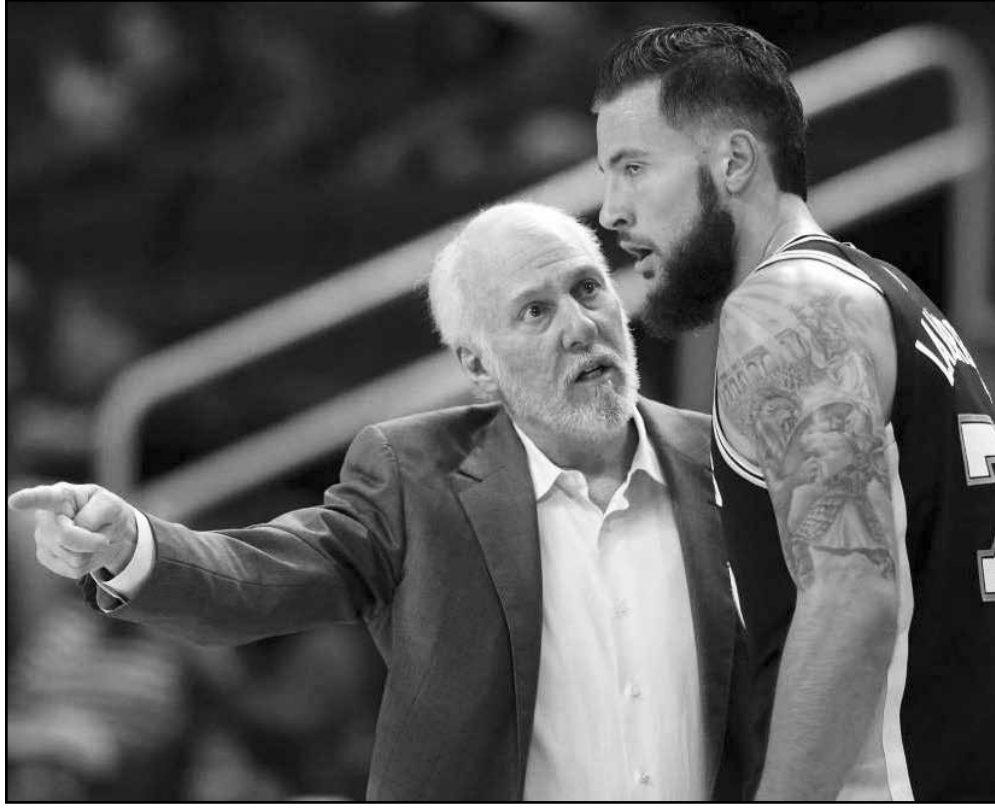
ground."

Sabathia, almost as big at 6-foot-6, allowed three hits over six scoreless innings for his first postseason win in five years. The Yankees stopped a seven-game ALCS losing streak dating to Sabathia's victory over Texas in 2010 — when Judge had just started his freshman year at Fresno State.

After a pair of 2-1 losses in Houston, the Yankees led 8-0 after four innings.

See **ASTROS**, Page 14

### The 10 things to know going into this NBA season



AP photo  
San Antonio Spurs head coach Gregg Popovich talks with San Antonio Spurs forward Joffrey Lauvergne (77) in the second half of an NBA preseason basketball game against the Houston Rockets Friday, Oct. 13, 2017, in Houston.

By TIM REYNOLDS  
AP Basketball Writer

Happy New Year, NBA.

The 72nd regular season starts Tuesday night, when Boston heads to Cleveland and Houston goes to Golden State. Fans in Cleveland will boo Kyrie Irving, fans in Oakland will cheer the Warriors' latest championship banner, and the march toward April will finally be underway.

The offseason was loaded with changes. Carmelo Anthony and Paul George went to Oklahoma City, Gordon Hayward and Irving went to Boston, Isaiah Thomas got sent to Cleveland, Jimmy Butler is now in Minnesota and Paul Millsap calls Denver home. That's seven All-Stars who moved, a record for an NBA offseason.

Every coach who started last season will start this season. That's an NBA first.

Here's 10 things to know about the NBA season that is finally here:

#### 10. QUICK STARTERS

San Antonio, Toronto and Miami will likely start 1-0 — because under current management, San Antonio, Toronto and Miami almost always start 1-0. Spurs coach Gregg Popovich is 18-2 on opening night, Raptors coach Dwane Casey is 7-1 and Heat

coach Erik Spoelstra is 7-2. Spoelstra has started 1-0 in each of the last six seasons, the longest such run in the NBA. A coach in need of a 1-0 start? Try New Orleans' Alvin Gentry. He's dropped five straight openers and is 2-9 on opening night. Brooklyn, Orlando, Milwaukee and Utah have the league's longest current opening-night losing streaks, starting 0-1 in each of the last four seasons.

#### 9. FROM DISTANCE

Last season was the third straight where the NBA's team single-season 3-point record fell, starting with Houston (933 in 2014-15), Golden State (1,077 in 2015-16) and Houston again (1,181 from 2016-17). Between the Rockets, Cleveland, Boston and the Warriors, four of the five highest single-season 3-point totals in history came last season. Don't expect the 3-ball to go away anytime soon, either.

#### 8. LEBRON'S MARKS

LeBron James' list of milestones is about to get longer. He comes into this season 1,213 points shy of becoming the seventh NBA player to reach 30,000, meaning it should happen by about the All-Star break barring any extended absence. He's also on pace to eclipse the 8,000-rebound and

See **NBA**, Page 14



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By Steve Becker

**Look before you leap**

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

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

Bridge does not lend itself well to hard and fast rules. Though the game is replete with general principles, a good deal of judgment and common sense is required to decide whether or not to apply them in specific situations. Thus, if South in today's deal follows the customary practice of immediately establishing his long suit at notrump, he will end up a sadder (but hopefully wiser) man. Observe what happens if declarer, Tomorrow: The right time for action. ©2017 King Features Syndicate Inc.

after winning the opening heart lead with dummy's king, decides to set up diamonds — the longest and strongest suit in the combined hands. East wins with the ace and returns a heart. South's jack losing to West's queen. A third heart drives out the ace, at which point declarer has only eight tricks. When he subsequently tries a club finesse for his ninth, West wins and cashes two hearts to score a one-trick set. The key to finding the proper line of play lies in the realization that after the diamonds are established, South will have only eight tricks. This means that sooner or later, the club finesse will have to be attempted. Since both clubs and diamonds must at some time be attacked, declarer should take the time at the outset to determine which one to play first, rather than automatically starting with the longest suit. In the present case, South can guarantee the contract by leading a club to the jack at trick two. If the finesse wins, he can next drive out the ace of diamonds to assure nine tricks. More importantly, if the club finesse loses, West can do no damage by returning a heart — which would hand declarer an extra trick with the jack — and no other return by West can stop South from getting home safely.

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## Tomorrow's Horoscope

## BY HOLIDAY MATHIS



gets smaller the same way the body does. Don't feed it as much. Don't give it everything it wants. The ego will serve you best when it's strong but lean.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** When you're the one in charge, it's easier to say yes. That's why effective leaders have to be people who aren't afraid of being unpopular and declining the proposals of their constituents.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** A slow, gradual approach will be very favorable for this leg of the journey. You'll be stronger and more certain by the time you get there, and you'll be received with confidence and trust.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).** To regret wasting your time is an even further waste of your time. So instead, you'll take action. You'll plug a leak, break a chain or erase the board and start all over.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** It will be difficult to get anything personal done if you involve too many people. When it comes to working alone, motivation is the hardest part, but after you get motivated you can work much faster than you would with a group.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).** A large gesture creates a big impression. That it's the (SET ITAL)right(END ITAL) impression is more important than its size, though. Think about what you're trying to accomplish, and make a plan instead of rushing forward with the first idea.

**TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Oct. 17).** Because you know that the minutes go by regardless of what you've put inside them, you are ever vigilant to fill your time with what has meaning and value to you. You have never been so in touch

with what moves you, and new inspiration and motivation comes each and every month of your next solar return. Aquarius and Virgo adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 3, 11, 40, 2 and 9.

**TURN THE DOWNSIDE OF YOUR SIGN INTO AN ASSET:** Each sign has strengths and weaknesses, and often they are the very same qualities. For GEMINI, being prone to communicate can be a blessing or a curse. The twins are not so great at keeping secrets, and they are the kinds of poker players who give way too much information with their many "tells."

Young Geminis are likely to be scolded by teachers, librarians and parents for chatting at the wrong time or blurting out what is obvious yet inappropriate. However, the drive to communicate is applied to tremendously successful effect in the area of sales. No one can work a room like Gemini! This sign can get rich on this ability to create rapport and keep the conversation charming!

**CANCER** natives can be moody little crabs if they let their feelings go unchecked. Intensity of feeling can make life difficult for those born under the Cancer sun, as well as difficult for the people they love. However, the crab's sensitivity can be an asset, too. When they apply themselves to the task of flowing more love and positive feelings into the world, the empathy, compassion and understanding of moonchildren becomes a healing force.

**CELEBRITY PROFILES:** The Grammy Award winner Eminem was initially rejected by fellow rappers. This only added to his growing anger over a difficult early life and eventually crystalized into a hard-cutting style that catapulted him to superstardom. Discord is upsetting to Libras, who really want everyone to get along. Libra's saving grace is the ability to turn the problem into artistic expression.

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## Mercury's Ego Challenge

Perhaps the big-ego lifestyle is one that seems vivid and glamorous, but it is also very difficult because of the many demands and expectations that must be met to nourish the big-ego appetite. One could use Mercury's plunge into the deep waters of Scorpio to go the other way, shrinking the ego through truth-seeking and loving sacrifice.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19).** Soon you'll go from stealing the show to having your own show. But you're not quite ready for either one just yet. Quiet observation and careful listening are the skills you most need to employ for now.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** People have unspoken demands of one another, and the agreement to those demands is often also something that is never discussed. But when it's time to change the deal, as it is now, the way to do it is with words.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** You need to express yourself. The added pressure you put on yourself about whether that expression is good enough is really unnecessary and could actually be quite harmful if you let it stop you.

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** If you can't figure out the business side of a problem, it's perhaps because the other sides of it are a little murky as well. But the good news is, as you sort through, organize and get clear, all sides improve at once.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** The stumbles and heartache and sacrifices -- they weren't for nothing. You'll solve the problem, win the project, save the day. At the very least you'll have a better idea than you would have come up with last month.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** You'd like to believe that people always get what they give, although it just doesn't seem to happen in some cases. Even if it's only true some of the time, it's still worth putting into practice. Your life is richer for it.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** The ego

together cuddled up on the sofa. I have even seen Frederick sleeping with his head in Steven's lap.

My daughter mentioned that sometimes Frederick sleeps in his brother's bed when she works third shift. I once tried to tell them they are too affectionate and need to cut it out. They both just laughed and said they love each other.

I don't think there is anything sexual going on between them, but I think that once Frederick reaches puberty, it could very well happen. I discussed it with my daughter, and she said she sees nothing wrong and I am just being old-fashioned. She said kids are a lot more

open these days. She said that they turned to each other when their dad died and that Frederick sees his big brother as a father figure.

I can understand that, but am I wrong to be disgusted by their behavior? -- Concerned Grandfather.

**Dear Concerned Grandfather:** Your daughter is fine with her sons' dynamics, and that's enough. You have to trust the job you did as a parent in teaching her good judgment -- that if something inappropriate were going on between her sons, she would stop it. Steven must be a mature and caring person to take his little brother under his wing as he has. Of that you should be proud.

## SUDOKU

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

Level: Intermediate

## Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

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

ANSWER:



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## Annie's Mailbox

Affectionate Brothers

**Dear Annie:** My daughter is single and raising two sons. Her husband died in an automobile accident four years ago.

I am worried about the relationship between her sons, "Steven," 16, and "Frederick," 10. I think they are too close and too affectionate with each other. Steven is very protective of Frederick, and Frederick worships his big brother. When I visit them or they come to my house, they cling to each other. They are constantly hugging and even kissing, which I honestly find a bit disgusting.

Sometimes they watch TV

together cuddled up on the sofa. I have even seen Frederick sleeping with his head in Steven's lap.

My daughter mentioned that sometimes Frederick sleeps in his brother's bed when she works third shift. I once tried to tell them they are too affectionate and need to cut it out. They both just laughed and said they love each other.

I don't think there is anything sexual going on between them, but I think that once Frederick reaches puberty, it could very well happen. I discussed it with my daughter, and she said she sees nothing wrong and I am just being old-fashioned. She said kids are a lot more

open these days. She said that they turned to each other when their dad died and that Frederick sees his big brother as a father figure.

I can understand that, but am I wrong to be disgusted by their behavior? -- Concerned Grandfather.

**Dear Concerned Grandfather:** Your daughter is fine with her sons' dynamics, and that's enough. You have to trust the job you did as a parent in teaching her good judgment -- that if something inappropriate were going on between her sons, she would stop it. Steven must be a mature and caring person to take his little brother under his wing as he has. Of that you should be proud.

**Dear Annie:** On what planet does "Discouraged in KY" live to think that fat people do not get rude things said to them?

I've been overweight most of my life. All through my childhood, comments were made -- not by friends or strangers but by relatives and by my mother. None of those people hesitated to express comments about my weight. To them, I was my weight.

At this point in my 68-year-old life, I still have to watch what I eat, but I'm reasonably comfortable with my size. Nevertheless, a new acquaintance asked me not long ago whether I have a goiter. My neck hangs down and always has: everyone on my

father's side of the family has this neck, and mine is worse because of a lifetime of weight gain and weight loss. After the goiter comment, I feel self-conscious. I think people see nothing but my neck when they look at me. And so it goes. Rude comments are still coming in. -- Enough Already in FL

**Dear Enough Already:** Thanks for writing. I'm printing your letter, as it offers another example of something not to say to a friend (or to anyone, period). If you want to try worrying less about people looking at your neck, pick out something about yourself you love -- your eyes, smile, earlobes, whatever -- and believe that's what people see when

they see you. It might not always be true, but if you're going to assume something, why not assume something good?

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

New York Yankees' Aaron Judge makes a diving catch on a ball hit by Houston Astros' Yuli Gurriel during the fifth inning of Game 3 of baseball's American League Championship Series Monday, Oct. 16, 2017, in New York.

**ASTROS**

Continued from Page 8

"Just the energy, the fans," Sabathia said. "We can kind of feed off their energy."

New York improved to 4-0 at home this postseason. The Yankees were an AL-best 51-30 at home this season.

"We're somewhat built for this ballpark," manager Joe Girardi said.

Houston scored on a bases-loaded walk in the ninth before postseason star Jose Altuve

grounded into a game-ending double play with the bases loaded.

Sonny Gray starts Game 4 for New York in the best-of-seven series on 11 days' rest Wednesday against Lance McCullers Jr.

Frazier got the Yankees rolling, taking an awkward hack at a low, outside fastball and slicing an opposite-field drive over the right-field scoreboard.

"You don't think it's going, just because how unorthodox the swing was," Frazier said.

Judge used his height

and long left arm to make a leaping catch with his left shoulder slamming into the right-field wall against Gurriel starting the fourth.

Being a rookie, he politely waited outside the dugout for all the veterans to descend the steps after the third out — as he always does — then capped a five-run bottom half with a laser of a line drive that just cleared the left-field wall.

Then in the fifth, he sprinted into short right for a diving back-

hand catch on Maybin.

On the first chilly night of the autumn with a game-time temperature of 57, Sabathia relied on the sharp, slow slider that has helped revive the former flamethrower's career.

Pitching with caution to Houston's dangerous lineup, he walked four, struck out five and pitched shutout ball for the first time in 21 career postseason starts. During the regular season, he was 9-0 in 10 starts following Yankees' losses.

*Manuela turns 100!*

Our mother, Manuela Moron of Big Spring, Tx celebrated her 100th birthday last Sunday with her kids, grandkids, great grandkids, & great great grandkids. She turned 100 years young on Tuesday, Oc-

tober 10, 2017. On Tuesday, she celebrated with her six daughters & one son. She was born in Bakersfield, California, met the late Simon Moron in Melvin, Tx & they married in 1936 in Brady, Tx.

They moved to Howard County in 1944. She enjoyed quilting, embroidering, crocheting, & gardening!

She continues to be a devoted Catholic. She enjoys her family around her.

Her daughter's are Stella Moron, Alice Salazar (married the late Leo Salazar), Terry Cervantez, Olivia Hernandez (married

to Rudy Hernandez), Amy Hernandez (married to Louis Hernandez), and Sally Munoz (married the late Samuel Munoz), her son is Ray Moron, and she has 17 grandchildren, 43 great grandchildren & 15 great great grandchildren.

She is part of five generations as of now & counting.



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**NBA**

Continued from Page 8

8,000-assist marks this season. The only other player in NBA history with 25,000 points, 6,000 rebounds and 6,000 assists is Kobe Bryant. James already has all those numbers, and counting.

**7. WHERE'S THE DEFENSE?**

In 2014-15, half the league — 15 teams — held opponents under 100 points per game. Two seasons later, San Antonio and Utah were the only teams that managed the feat. The league's planned crackdown on traveling this season might help, but it'll be interesting to see if defensive numbers improve in this era of 3-point-reliant, pace-and-space basketball.

**6. MAYBE MINNESOTA**

Think about this, with apologies to fans in the Pacific Northwest: There have been more NBA playoff games in Seattle over the last 13 years than in Minneapolis. This will finally be the year that changes. The Timberwolves, who last reached the postseason in 2004, should return this spring even in a loaded Western Conference with Karl-Anthony Towns, Andrew Wiggins and new addition Jimmy Butler leading the way.

**5. SPURS CHASE HISTORY**

If the Spurs win 41 games this season — a safe bet — it'll be the 21st consecutive season where San Antonio finishes the regular season at .500 or better. That would tie the NBA mark in that department, matching the feat set by the Utah Jazz from 1983-84 to 2003-04. The Spurs set a record for consecutive winning seasons last year with their 20th. (Utah was 41-41 in 1984-85.)

**4. DIRK'S LONGEVITY**

Dallas' Dirk Nowitzki enters this season 31 games away from passing Kevin Willis for No. 6 on the NBA's all-time list. At 48,673 minutes, he's also within striking distance of No. 5 Elvin Hayes (50,000), No. 4 Jason Kidd (50,111) and No. 3 Kevin Garnett (50,418).

**3. STEPH WATCH**

Stephen Curry will have just turned 30 when this regular season ends. And by then, he legitimately could be No. 3 on the NBA's all-time 3-point list. Curry starts this season No. 10, and at his current pace will pass Ray Allen for the top spot sometime in the 2019-2020 season.

**2. NEW DEADLINE**

No longer will the All-Star Game be overshadowed by talk of who's getting moved where (like last year, when DeMarcus Cousins was traded to the Pelicans while players were still in locker rooms in New Orleans immediately after the game). The trade deadline will now be 10 days before the All-Star break, so this season that means Feb. 8.

**1. AND THE WINNER IS ...**

How can anyone pick against Golden State right now? The Warriors will get their third title in four years, which is the easiest prediction possible. So we'll finish this with some probably less-than-chalk picks: LeBron James is going to reclaim the MVP award, the Rockets will have a game where they connect 30 times from 3-point range and Charlotte's Steve Clifford will be coach of the year.

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