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H BIG SPRING HERALD

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2017



VOLUME 113, NUMBER 330 COPYRIGHT 2017 75 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 SUNDAY

Wine and dine event to be held at Settles

By **AMBER MANSFIELD**
 Staff Writer

Looking for a way to treat yourself to a little something extra? Then it's not too late to reserve a seat Wednesday for the Coelho Wine Dinner at the Settles Hotel in the Grand Ballroom. This event will be a four-course wine dinner that will feature food of the fall season that will be paired with hand-selected wines.

The Coelho Winery will be showcasing several Portuguese wines this Wednesday at the dinner. Winemaking techniques of Portugal have been influenced by the Phoenicians, Carthaginians, Greeks, and originate with the Romans. The family name Coelho, means "rabbit" in Portuguese, and when following the Coelho rabbit, you will find your way to wine with a long family history. The Coelho Winery has brought their Portuguese wine to be paired with a four course meal that will be prepared by the chef of the Settles.

The first course will be baby spinach and arugula with goat cheese, fig, walnut salad and terrine brown butter vinaigrette. This will be paired with the 2015 Renovação Pinot Gris. The second course will be smoked Dorper lamb ribs with cassoulet and jicama apple slaw, and this course will be paired with the 2015 Bunny Cuvee Pinot Noir. The third course is cracked pepper prime rib with butternut squash and aged gouda tart that will be paired with the 2014 Atracao Pinot Noir. The fourth and final course will be choices of El Rey chocolate mousse, Grand Marnier crème brulee, or coconut pecan macaroon, all paired with the 2014 Paciência Pinot Noir.

The Coelho Wine Dinner will begin at 6:30 p.m. this Wednesday at the Settles in the Grand Ballroom. The wine dinner event is \$100 a person.

"We do these wine events periodically," said Andrea Barr, general manager of the Settles. "Seats are filling up fast, so be sure and call to get your reservation in."

To get your reservation call Barr at 432-268-0801 or abarr@hotelsettles.com.

Make your voices heard

Election Day: Seven state constitutional amendments on ballot, CISD bond

By **ROGER CLINE**
 Staff Writer

Election day is here. Today is your last chance to cast your ballot in the current election, which includes seven proposed state constitutional amendments and a bond proposal for Coahoma schools.

Polls are open from 7 a.m. until 7 p.m. today. For a list of polling places by precinct, see Page 3.

Issues on the ballot this year include seven state constitutional amend-

ments, and a proposed bond issue for Coahoma schools.

Proposed Constitutional Amendments include:

- Proposition 1: Authorizes tax exemption for property of partially disabled veterans or their spouses, received as donations from charity.
- Proposition 2: Makes changes to home equity loan provision of the Constitution. Changes include lowering the cap on home equity loan-related fees from 3 to 2 percent, but ex-

cluding certain additional fees from counting toward the cap; allowing home equity loans against agricultural property; allowing refinancing of a home equity loan with a purchase money loan; and allowing advances on a home equity line of credit as long as the principal amount remained below 80 percent of the fair market value of the borrower's house.

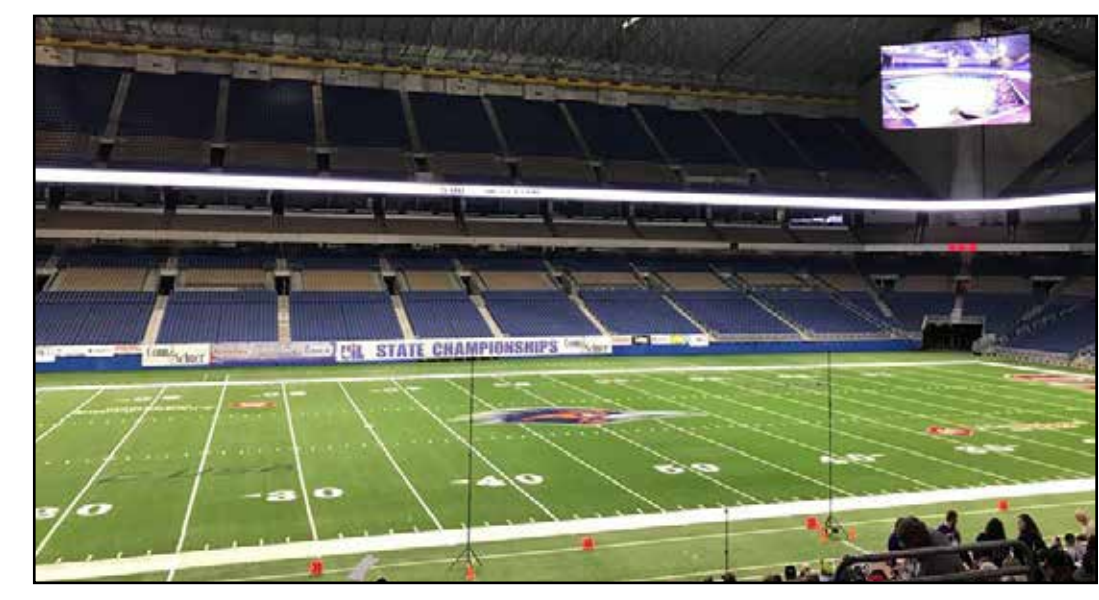
- Proposition 3: Provides that unsalaried officials appointed by the governor with consent of the Senate

cannot be in office beyond the end of the legislative session following the expiration of their terms.

- Proposition 4: Allows the legislature to pass laws requiring courts to inform the state attorney general of a legal challenge to the constitutionality of a state law.
- Proposition 5: Expands the definition of "professional sports team" for the purpose of deciding which charitable

See **VOTE**, Page 3

Forsan band marches to State finals



Courtesy photo
 The Forsan marching band, led by Jim Rhodes and Chans Moellendorf, advanced to finals at the state band competition in San Antonio last night. Seven out of 18 bands advanced to the finals and the Buffalo band was one of them. The last round of the contest took place at 9 a.m. The Forsan band marched at 9:42 a.m. At press time, the results had not yet been announced.

SMMC to host health fair

Special to the Herald

Scenic Mountain Medical Center is working with several other healthcare organizations and area businesses and organizations to bring a focus to healthy living, as we enter into the holiday season. On Nov. 16 from 4:30 p.m. – 7 p.m. at Ryan Hall, located at 605 N. Main St., more than 15 vendors will be offering health information.

"The holiday season can be stressful so it is the perfect time to draw attention to the resources located

here in town that can help relieve those stresses," Amanda Duforat, SMMC Marketing Mgr. said. "We will have health information, financial information, resources for those dealing with substance abuse and more. This is just one more opportunity for the community to join us and educate themselves on services that are offered locally."

There is no admission charge for the health fair, but those attending will have an opportunity to register for a Thanksgiving meal basket. The basket will include the makings of a Thanksgiving meal for a family of

four to six people.

"This time around, with it being so close to Thanksgiving, we wanted to do something a little different for the door prizes," said Duforat. "One of the stresses can be figuring out the Thanksgiving meal, especially if you have a big family. The main goal behind this health fair is to help people reduce the stress of the holidays and what better way to do that than by providing the holiday meal."

The community is encouraged to come out and see what the area

See **FAIR**, Page 3

BSJHS makes the grade



Courtesy photo

Big Spring Junior High recently received a banner in recognition of the distinction that the campus earned following last year's STAAR test. The campus earned the distinction in marking Student Growth (which ranked among the highest 25 percent of junior high campuses in the state). BSJHS is proud of the hard work provided by both staff and students to earn this award.

Air Force admits fault in reporting shooter's past crimes

By **JIM VERTUNO, WILL WEISSERT and PAUL J. WEBER**
 Associated Press

SUTHERLAND SPRINGS, Texas (AP) — The gunman who killed 26 people at a small-town Texas church had a history of domestic violence that spanned years before the attack, and was able buy weapons because the Air Force did not submit his criminal history to the FBI as required by military rules.

If the past offenses by Devin Patrick Kelley — who fired at least 450 rounds at helpless worshippers on Sunday morning — had been properly shared, they would have prevented him from buying a gun, the Air

Force acknowledged Monday.

Investigators also revealed that Kelley had sent threatening text messages to his mother-in-law, a member of First Baptist, before the attack, and that sheriff's deputies had responded to a domestic violence call in 2014 at his home involving a girlfriend who became his second wife.

Later that year, he was formally ousted from the Air Force for a 2012 assault

See **SHOOTER**, Page 3



Obituaries

Kenneth Duffer Sr.



Kenneth Duffer Sr., 77, of Big Spring died Sunday, Nov. 5, 2017, at his residence. Funeral services will be 2 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 8, 2017, at the Nalley-Pickle and Welch Rosewood Chapel. Interment will follow at Trinity Memorial Park.

The family will receive friends from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 7, 2017, at the funeral home.

He was born Oct. 5, 1940, in Colorado City, Texas, and married Leona Burch Aug. 20, 1960, in Coahoma, Texas.

Kenneth came to Howard County as a young boy and graduated from Forsan High School in 1959. He worked for Cosden Refinery for 32 years before retiring. His hobbies included welding, woodworking, gardening, and fishing, as well as any other outdoor activity. He also enjoyed being with his "tractor buddies" and showing off their antique tractors and demonstrating how older equipment worked to the younger generation.

Survivors include his wife, Leona Duffer; three children, Dianna Osburn and husband Billy, Kenny Duffer and wife Lori, all of Big Spring, and Peggy Bryant and husband Toby of Greenwood; his mother, Sybil Duffer of Big Spring; two sisters, Linda Strickland and husband Eddie, and Anna Mahan, all of Odessa; a sister-in-law, Jeannette Duffer of Big Spring; eight grandchildren, William Osburn and wife Lindsey, Felicia Arnold and husband Jason, T.R. Bryant and wife Carla, Morgan Cwelich and husband John, Stephanie Duffer, Melissa Duffer, Mallory Clinkscales and husband Austin, and Gunner Kennedy; and 12 great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his father, Les Duffer; and a brother, Lester Duffer.

The family suggests memorials to Shriners Hospitals for Children at www.shrinershospitalsforchildren.org/donate or to Compass Hospice, 1900 S. Gregg St., Big Spring, Texas, 79720.

Arrangements are under the direction of Nalley-Pickle and Welch Funeral Home and Crematory. Online condolences can be made at www.npwelch.com.

Paid obituary

Take Note

• The BSHS annual powderpuff games begin Thursday, Nov. 8. Registration for participants is from 6-7 p.m. at Thursday and is \$10 each. The games begin at 7:30 p.m. at Blankenship Stadium. It will be a \$5 entry fee and a \$3 entry fee for students. Concessions will be available. Come out and support your favorite powderpuff player, coach, and cheerleader as each class competes for the title of 2017 BSHS Powderpuff Champion.

• The Emergency Services Chaplains Corps is seeking volunteer chaplains. The corps provides spiritual services to Howard County residents and visitors in crisis situations. Prospective chaplains don't require any specific experience or education to qualify for the position, just a calling from God and a willingness to devote time to the program, which requires a 24- to 30-week training program and dedication of one day per week for emergency call-outs. Those interested should contact Senior Chaplain Joel Miller at 432-213-1221.

• Big Spring's Centennial Lions Club is holding a drive to collect books for the Salvation Army Boys and Girls Club. Books for kids in kindergarten through about 10th grade will be accepted, with special preference for books for younger children in kindergarten through third grade. Cash donations to allow the Lions to purchase additional books are also appreciated. Books or donations can be taken to the Salvation Army, 811 W. Fifth St., or to the home of Lions member Ken Lawhon at 1707 E. 15th St. For more information, contact Lawhon at 214-998-9716 or Lions member David Stives at 432-270-2251.

• 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.

• Howard County Republicans meet the second Monday of each month. Club members meet in the Cactus Room at Howard College at 11:30 a.m. for Dutch treat lunch and meeting at 12 p.m.

• The Big Spring Art Association meets the third Tuesday of each month at 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 patients. 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. For more information, contact Dee Lindsey, Big Spring State Hospital Director of Community Relations, (432) 268-7535.

Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity:

• **KIMBERLY DANIELLE BUCHANAN**, 24, of 2109 1/2 S. Johnson St. was arrested on an outstanding warrant.

• **KIMBERLY JO KENNEMUR**, 44, of 3805 Hamilton St. was arrested on warrants for theft of property (\$100 to \$750).

• **BRANDY ANN MARTINEZ**, 20, of 1907 S. Main St. was arrested on an outstanding warrant.

• **LINDSEY MAE WOODARD**, 19, of 3704 Boulder was arrested on a charge of possession of marijuana (less than 2 oz.).

• **DEVANTE BERNARD LLOYD**, 24, of 3623 Conally St. was arrested on an outstanding warrant.

• **BRODY ERIC GUTIERREZ**, 25, of 109 Wildfire Rd. was arrested on warrants for possession of marijuana (less than 2 oz.), and bail jumping/failure to appear.

• **MINOR ACCIDENT** was reported on the Interstate 20 Service Road, in the 1000 block of East Second Street, and in the 1100 block of North Lamesa Highway.

• **THEFT** was reported in the 1300 block of South Gregg Street.

Sheriff

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

Note – Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 62 inmates at the time of this report.

• **KIMBERLY DANIELLE BUCHANAN**, 24, was booked by BSPD on a warrant for failure to appear (forgery of a financial instrument).

• **BRYCE JON CORNETT**, 22, was booked by HCSO on a motion to revoke probation for possession of a controlled substance with intent to deliver.

• **EDUARDO GALLARDO JR.**, 31, was booked by HCSO on an attorney general's warrant for failure to appear (contempt of court).

• **BRODY ERIC GUTIERREZ**, 25, was booked by HCSO on a motion to revoke probation for possession of marijuana (less than 2 oz.); and on a warrant for bail jumping/failure to appear.

• **DEVANTE BERNARD LLOYD**, 24, was booked by BSPD on a warrant for bail jumping/failure to appear.

• **BRANDY ANN MARTINEZ**, 20, was booked by BSPD on a motion to adjudicate for possession of a controlled substance (less than 1 gram).

• **LINDSEY MAE WOODARD**, 19, was booked by BSPD on a charge of possession of marijuana (less than 2 oz.).

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 be held 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.

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.

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DOROTHY GARRETT COLISEUM	42, 45, 46 404, 405	1001 BIRDWELL LANE BIG SPRING, TEXAS
SAND SPRINGS FIRESTATION	408, 409	8209 N SERVICE RD. SAND SPRINGS, TEXAS
COAHOMA COMMUNITY CENTER	207, 207C	306 NORTH AVE COAHOMA, TEXAS

VOTE

Continued from Page 1

foundations are allowed to hold raffles. The proposal specifies sports teams that are members of various organizations such as Major League Baseball, the National Basketball Association, the National Hockey League, the National Foot-

ball League, and several others; a person hosting a motorsports racing team event sanctioned by NASCAR, INDYcar, etc., at a venue with seating for 75,000 or more; an organization hosting a Professional Golf Association event; or "any other professional sports team defined by law"; legally as "professional sports teams."

- Proposition 6: Provides

property tax exemptions for residence homes of surviving spouses of first responders killed in the line of duty.

- Proposition 7: Authorizes the legislature to allow banks, credit unions, and other financial institutions to promote savings by offering their customers prizes drawn at random.

The Coahoma school bond election in the amount of \$4

million will provide for improvements and expansion of school infrastructure in the Coahoma school district.

Contact the Howard County Election Office at 432-264-2273 or visit www.votetexas.gov for more information.

Contact Staff Writer Roger Cline at 432-263-7331 ext. 235, or by email at reporter@big-springherald.com.

FAIR

Continued from Page 1

businesses have to offer and educate themselves on resources available in Howard County. There will be information for all ages,

on almost every topic of healthy living. For those who haven't seen the recent renovations at Ryan Hall, this will be a good opportunity to do that and find out about the project. For more information, call Duforat at 432-268-4699.

SHOOTER

Continued from Page 1

on his ex-wife in which he choked her and struck her son hard enough to fracture his skull.

At a news conference in South Korea, President Donald Trump was asked if he would support "extreme vetting" for gun purchases in the same way he has called for "extreme vetting" for people entering the country. Trump responded by saying stricter gun control measures might have led to more deaths in the shooting because a bystander who shot at the gunman would not have been armed.

"If he didn't have a gun, instead of having 26 dead, you would have had hundreds more dead," Trump said.

In the tiny town of Sutherland Springs, population 400, grieving townspeople were reeling from their losses. The dead ranged from 18 months to 77 years old and included multiple members of some families.

"Our church was not comprised of members or parishioners. We were a very close family," said the pastor's wife Sherri Pomeroy, who, like her husband, was out of town when the attack happened. "Now most of our church family is gone."

The couple's 14-year-old daughter, Annabelle Pomeroy, was among those killed.

Kelley's mother-in-law sometimes attended services there, but the sheriff said she was not at church Sunday.

The massacre appeared to stem from a domestic situation and was not racially or religiously motivated, Texas Department of Public Safety Regional Director Freeman Martin said. He did not elaborate.

Based on evidence at the scene, investigators believe Kelley died of a self-inflicted gunshot wound after he was chased by bystanders, one of whom was armed, and crashed his car.

The 26-year-old shooter also used his cellphone to tell his father he had been shot and did not think he would survive, authorities said.

While in the military, Kelley served in logistics readiness at Holloman Air Force Base in New Mexico from 2010 until his 2014 discharge, Air Force spokeswoman Ann Stefanek said.

He was discharged for the assault involving his previous wife and her child and had served a year of confinement af-

ter a court-martial. Under Pentagon rules, information about convictions of military personnel for crimes such as assault should be submitted to the FBI's Criminal Justice Investigation Services Division.

Stefanek said the service is launching a review of its handling of the case and taking a comprehensive look at its databases to ensure other cases have been reported correctly.

A few months before he received the bad-conduct discharge, sheriff's deputies went to his home to check out the domestic violence complaint involving him and his then-girlfriend. People in the house said there was no problem, and no arrests were made. Kelley married the girlfriend two months later.

Also in 2014, he was charged with misdemeanor animal cruelty in Colorado after a neighbor reported him for beating a dog. Kelley initially refused to speak with officers about the incident. He denied abusing the animal but complied with an order to pay almost \$370 in restitution. He was also the focus of a protective order issued in Colorado in 2015.

Once the shooting started, there was probably "no way" for congregants to escape, Wilson County Sheriff Joe D. Tackitt Jr. said.

The gunman, dressed in black tactical gear, fired an assault rifle as he walked down the center aisle during worship services. He turned around and continued shooting on his way out of the building, Tackitt said.

About 20 other people were wounded. Ten of them were still hospitalized Monday in critical

condition.

Investigators collected hundreds of shell casings from the scene, along with at least 15 empty magazines that held 30 rounds each.

Kelley lived in New Braunfels, about 35 miles (55 kilometers) north of the church, authorities said. Investigators were reviewing social media posts he made in the days before the attack, including one that appeared to show an AR-15 semi-automatic weapon.

Less than two months ago, Kelley had started a job as an unarmed security guard at a nearby resort.

He "seemed like a nice guy" and did not cause any problems, said Claudia Varjabedian, manager at the Summit Vacation Resort in New Braunfels.

On Sunday, the attacker pulled into a gas station across from the church, about 30 miles (50 kilometers) southeast of San Antonio. He crossed the street and started firing the rifle at the church, then continued firing after entering the white wood-frame building, Martin said.

As he left, the shooter was confronted by an armed resident — later identified as Stephen Willeford — who had grabbed his own rifle and exchanged fire with Kelley.

Willeford had help from another local resident, Johnnie Langendorff, who said he was driving past the church as the shooting happened. The armed resident asked to get in Langendorff's truck, and the pair followed as the gunman drove away.

"He jumped in my truck and said, 'He just shot up the church. We need to go get him.' And I said 'Let's go,'" Langendorff said.

The pursuit reached speeds up to 90 mph (145 kph). Willeford told Arkansas TV stations KHBS/KHOG that he kept a 911 operator advised of the situation during the chase. The gunman eventually lost control of his vehicle and crashed.

Near but far: Trump, Kim find themselves closer than ever

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — It's obvious to anyone who looks at a map but also, this week, especially noteworthy: The leaders of two nations that have squared off with harsh words and the threat of nuclear war are now closer to each other than New York City's Trump Tower is to the White House.

That's presuming North Korean leader Kim Jong Un is in fact in Pyongyang, which is likely, though not as definite as U.S. President Donald Trump's presence in Seoul, the South Korean capital. The American leader was there on Tuesday, meeting with South Korean President Moon Jae-in and urging Kim to "come to the table" and "make a deal."

The proximity of Trump and Kim this week is an interesting blip and, probably, little more. But it underscores a daily fact of life for the residents of the two Koreas' capitals: Their seats of government, mortal enemies linked by a common heritage, spend every day virtually breathing down each other's geographic

necks. Seoul, home to the Blue House where South Korea's president works, is just 125 miles (200 kilometers) from Pyongyang's Kim Il Sung Square and the heart of the North Korean regime. New York City, by comparison, is 205 miles (330 kilometers) from Washington, D.C.

Many recent presidents have gone even closer to Pyongyang by visiting the Demilitarized Zone that marks the border between North Korea and South Korea.

For direct comparison, here is an assortment of approximate distances:

- Seattle to Vancouver, British Columbia: 120 miles (195 kilometers)

- Beirut to Jerusalem: 150 miles (240 kilometers)

- Singapore to Kuala Lumpur: 200 miles (320 kilometers)

- London to Paris: 215 miles (345 kilometers)

- Miami to Havana: 230 miles (370 kilometers)

- Johannesburg to Cape Town, South Africa: 785 miles (1260 kilometers)

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Texas church gunman sent hostile text messages before attack

By **JIM VERTUNO**

Associated Press

SUTHERLAND SPRINGS, Texas (AP) — The gunman who killed 26 people at a small-town Texas church sent threatening text messages to his mother-in-law before the attack, which appeared to have been driven by domestic tensions, authorities said Monday.

A day after the deadliest mass shooting in state history, investigators also revealed that the shooter had been confronted about domestic violence at least twice in the last five years, including an assault on his ex-wife and a child that ended his Air Force career and another report of violence against a girlfriend who became his second wife.

In the tiny community of Sutherland Springs, population 400, grieving townspeople were reeling from their losses. The dead ranged from 18 months to 77 years old and included multiple members of some families.

The attack appeared to stem from a domestic situation and was not racially or religiously motivated, Texas Department of Public Safety Regional Director Freeman Martin said.

Based on evidence at the scene, investigators believe Devin Patrick Kelley died of a self-inflicted gunshot wound after he was chased by armed bystanders and crashed his car.

The 26-year-old shooter also used his cellphone to tell his father that he had been shot and did not think he would survive, authorities said.

The investigation showed that Kelley had displayed a pattern of violence spanning years.

In 2014, sheriff's deputies went to his home to check out a domestic violence complaint involving him and his then-girlfriend. People in the house said there was no problem, and no arrests were made. Kelley married the girlfriend two months later.

That same year, Kelley was discharged from the Air Force for assaulting his previous wife and a child and had served 12 months of confinement after a 2012 court-martial.

He was also charged with misdemeanor animal cruelty in 2014 in Colorado and was the focus of a protective order in that state in 2015.

The gunman's family relationships at the First Baptist Church in Sutherland Springs were uncertain. The

sheriff said the shooter's former in-laws sometimes attended services at the church but were not there on Sunday. Martin said the text messages were sent to the gunman's mother-in-law, who attended the church. It was unclear if they were referring to the same people.

Once the shooting started, there was probably "no way" for congregants to escape, Wilson County Sheriff Joe D. Tackitt Jr. said.

The gunman, dressed in black tactical gear, fired an assault rifle as he walked down the center aisle during worship services. He turned around and continued shooting on his way out of the building, Tackitt said.

About 20 other people were wounded, 10 of whom were still hospitalized Monday in critical condition.

Authorities said Kelley lived in New Braunfels, about 35 miles north of the church. Investigators were reviewing social media posts he made in the days before the attack, including one that appeared to show an AR-15 semi-automatic weapon.

Less than two months ago, Kelley had started a job as an unarmed security guard at a nearby resort.

He "seemed like a nice guy" and did not cause any problems, said Claudia Varjebadian, manager at the Summit Vacation Resort in New Braunfels.

In the Air Force, Kelley served in Logistics Readiness at Holloman Air Force Base in New Mexico from 2010 until his 2014 discharge, Air Force spokeswoman Ann Stefanek said.

On Sunday, the attacker pulled into a gas station across from the church, about 30 miles (48.28 kilometers) southeast of San Antonio. He crossed the street and started firing the rifle at the church, then continued firing after entering the white wood-frame building, Martin said.

As he left, the shooter was confronted by an armed resident who "grabbed his rifle and engaged that suspect," Martin said. A short time later, the assailant was found dead in his vehicle at the county line.

Twenty-three of the dead were found in the church. Two were found outside and one died after being taken to a hospital, Martin said.

The man who confronted Kelley had help from another



AP photo

Law enforcement officials move flowers left at the scene of a shooting at the First Baptist Church of Sutherland Springs, Monday, Nov. 6, 2017, in Sutherland Springs, Texas. A man opened fire inside the church in the small South Texas community on Sunday, killing and wounding many.

local resident, Johnnie Langendorff, who said he was driving past the church as the shooting happened.

The man exchanged fire with the gunman, then asked to get in Langendorff's truck, and the pair followed as the gunman drove away.

"He jumped in my truck and said, 'He just shot up the church. We need to go get him.' And I said 'Let's go,'" Langendorff said.

The pursuit reached speeds up to 90 mph. The gunman eventually lost control of his vehicle and crashed. The armed man walked up to the vehicle with his gun drawn, and the suspect did not move. Police arrived about five minutes later, Langendorff said.

"There was no thinking about it. There was just doing. That was the key to all this. Act now. Ask questions later," he said.

Among those killed was the church pastor's 14-year-old daughter, Annabelle Pomeroy. Pastor Frank Pomeroy and his wife, Sherri, were both out of town when the attack occurred, Sherri Pomeroy wrote in a text message.

Church member Nick Uhlig, 34, who was

not at Sunday's service, told the AP that his cousin, who was eight months' pregnant, and her in-laws were among those killed. He later told the Houston Chronicle that three of his cousin's children also were slain.

Officials had initially said the dead ranged in age from 5 to 73 years old.

Three weapons were recovered. A Ruger AR-556 rifle was found at the church, and two handguns were recovered from the suspect's vehicle, according to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

The assailant did not have a license to carry a concealed handgun, Martin said.

The church has posted videos of its Sunday services on a YouTube channel, and authorities say they were reviewing video footage recorded inside the church.

In a video of its Oct. 8 service, a congregant who spoke and read scripture pointed to the Oct. 1 Las Vegas shooting a week earlier as evidence of the "wicked nature" of man. That shooting left 58 dead and

more than 500 injured.

Sunday's attack came on the eighth anniversary of a shooting at Fort Hood, between Austin and Waco, where 13 people were killed and 31 others wounded by a former Army major.

The previous deadliest mass shooting in Texas had been a 1991 attack in Killeen, when a mentally disturbed man crashed his pickup truck through a restaurant window at lunchtime and started shooting people, killing 23 and injuring more than 20 others.

One of the most infamous mass shootings in American history happened when Marine sniper Charles Whitman climbed a clock tower at the University of Texas' Austin campus in 1966 and began firing on people below. He killed 13 and wounded nearly three dozen others after killing his wife and mother before heading to the tower. One victim died a week later, and medical examiners attributed a 17th death to Whitman in 2001.

2 men in a truck chase down Texas church shooter: 'Let's go'

By **WILL WEISSERT and JIM VERTUNO**

Associated Press

SUTHERLAND SPRINGS, Texas (AP) — Johnnie Langendorff said Monday he was driving to Sutherland Springs to pick up his girlfriend when a barefooted man who'd been exchanging gunfire with the suspect in a deadly Texas church shooting jumped into his pickup truck and exclaimed, "We need to go get him!"

Moments later, the two men were in hot pursuit of a vehicle driven by Devin Patrick Kelley, 26, who police say went on a shooting rampage Sun-

day at First Baptist Church in Sutherland Springs that left 26 people dead and about 20 others injured.

"He jumped in my truck and said, 'He just shot up the church, we need to go get him.' And I said, 'Let's go,'" Langendorff, a 27-year-old Seguin resident, told The Associated Press on Monday.

Langendorff said he didn't know the name of the armed resident who had sheltered behind a parked pickup truck while exchanging gunfire with Kelley. But when the armed resident

See **CHASE**, Page 5



KBYG & KXCS Broadcasting Schedule

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7

6:00 pm

Big Spring Lady Steer Basketball vs. Grady
KBYG AM/FM

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 8

6:00 pm

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Violence followed Texas church gunman after high school



Don Christensen, told The New York Times that Kelley fractured the child's skull. Kelley was sentenced to 12 months of confinement and ultimately removed from the military with a bad conduct discharge and a reduction of rank.

His wife, Tessa Kelley, filed for divorce the same year as the court-martial. In paperwork associated with the divorce, Tessa Kelley said she was working at Taco Bell for \$7.50 an hour while Devin Kelley was in detention.

The divorce was finalized in October 2012.

Kelley's discharge was complete in 2014, Stefanek said.

That February, sheriff's deputies arrived at his family's home in New Braunfels just after 10 p.m. one night to investigate a potential domestic violence case.

AP photo

This undated photo provided by the Texas Department of Public Safety shows Devin Kelley, the suspect in the shooting at the First Baptist Church in Sutherland Springs, Texas, on Sunday, Nov. 5, 2017. A short time after the shooting, Kelley was found dead in his vehicle.

By FRANK BAJAK, NOMAAN MERCHANT and PAUL J. WEBER

Associated Press
NEW BRAUNFELS, Texas (AP) — Wherever Devin Patrick Kelley went after graduating from high school, a trail of violence followed.

In New Mexico, Kelley was kicked out of the Air Force following a court-martial two years after he enlisted for abusing his wife and reportedly hitting her child hard enough to fracture his skull. In Colorado, he was charged with misdemeanor animal cruelty after someone saw him punch a dog several times. And in Texas, sheriff's deputies were called to his parents' house after his girlfriend told a friend he was abusing her.

Authorities say Kelley opened fire Sunday at the First Baptist Church of Sutherland Springs, Texas, killing 26 people and wounding about 20 others.

According to their investigation, Kelley entered the small church during worship services dressed in black tactical gear and carrying an assault rifle. He fired it as he walked down the center aisle, shooting people

who had no way to escape.

Authorities have said the suspect's mother-in-law attended the church and she'd gotten threatening texts from him. Kelley's parents and other relatives did not return numerous messages from The Associated Press seeking comment. But according to military officials and authorities in three states, the 26-year-old Kelley had a history of threatening loved ones with violence.

A native of the San Antonio suburb of New Braunfels, Kelley graduated from high school in 2009, according to a district spokeswoman. He enlisted in the Air Force the following year and was assigned to Holum Air Force Base in New Mexico, with the responsibility of moving passengers, cargo and personal property in military transportation. He got married for the first time in 2011.

But according to Air Force spokeswoman Ann Stefanek, Kelley faced a court-martial in 2012 on allegations that he abused his spouse and a child. While Stefanek did not outline what he was accused of doing, the Air Force's former chief prosecutor,

grabbed the young Husky, threw it into the air, then onto the ground and dragged it to his camper.

According to local court records, he was given a deferred probationary sentence and ordered to pay \$368 in restitution. A protection order was issued against him in January 2015, The Denver Post reported.

He apparently moved back to Texas and sought work as a security guard, obtaining a state private security license in June and getting a job at the Schlitterbahn water park in New Braunfels. But he was fired after less than six weeks, the water park said in a statement.

He then was hired as a security guard at the Summit Vacation Resort, also in New Braunfels. A manager there told the AP that Kelley "seemed like a nice guy" and didn't cause her any problems.

A motive for the mass shooting remains unclear, but Kelley appears to have targeted a church that was long attended by his wife's family.

Leading up to the shooting, authorities say, Kelley had sent threatening text messages to his mother-in-law, who attended the First Baptist Church of Sutherland Springs, about 30 miles (48 kilometers) southeast of San Antonio. Texas Department of Public Safety Regional Director Freeman Martin said there was a domestic situation going on within the family.

According to online records, Danielle Kelley's mother has an address in Sutherland Springs and a Facebook account linked to her lists several members of the church as friends, including the pastor's wife.

A resume posted online linked to an email address associated with Danielle Kelley identifies her as a teacher at the church from 2009 to 2013. Among the responsibilities it listed at the church were to "teach the children about GOD" and "be a positive influence in their life."

The dead inside the church ranged from 18 months to 77 years old. About 20 other people were wounded, 10 of

See GUNMAN, Page 6

CHASE

Continued from Page 4

jumped into Langendorff's truck, the pair immediately began pursuit of Kelley's vehicle in a chase that clocked speeds upwards of 90 mph.

Texas Department of Public Safety Regional Director Freeman Martin said at a news conference Monday that the armed resident riding with Langendorff was toting an "AR assault rifle and engaged" the shooter.

Langendorff said Kelley eventually lost control of his vehicle and crashed, prompting the armed resident to cautiously approach the vehicle with his gun drawn. But Kelley didn't move.

Police arrived about five minutes later, said Langendorff, who did not know if the resident had wounded Kelley during their earlier gunfire exchange. Based on evidence at the scene, investigators believe Kelley died of a self-inflicted gunshot wound.

"There was no thinking about it," Langendorff said. "There was just doing. That was the key to all this. Act now. Ask questions later."

Asked if he felt like a hero, Langendorff said: "I don't really know how I feel. I just hope that the families and people affected by this can sleep easier knowing that this man is not breathing anymore and not able to hurt anyone else. I feel I just did what was right."

While Langendorff did not identify the man who returned gunfire with Kelly before jumping into his truck, Sutherland Springs resident Julius Kepper said the man was his neighbor, Stephen Willeford, whom he has lived next door to for about seven years. Kepper said he was home when the shooting started Sunday and heard Willeford exchange gunfire, but by the time he got out of his house and looked around police already were arriving.

Kepper described Willeford as a gun and motorcycle enthusiast who regularly takes target practice at property out in the country, and has as many as five Harley Davidsons.

"Avid gun collector, a good guy," Kepper said.

Kepper and other neighbors said Willeford's family has been in the Sutherland Springs area for at least three generations, including a father and grandfather who were in dairy farming. Stephen Willeford is married with two grown children and works as a plumber who installs lines on major projects such as hospitals, Kepper said.

He called Willeford a "free spirit" sort who loves motorcycles despite losing both parents to a motorcycle crash when he was a young adult. "It was almost the same spot where they ran (the shooter) off the road," Kepper said.

Kepper said he's not surprised Willeford would exchange gunfire with the church gunman. Others in the neighborhood would have done the same if they knew what was happening, he said.

"Just like everybody else around here. He was just the first one there," Kepper said.

Willeford, 55, told The Dallas Morning News for a story published Monday that he was the first person to confront Kelley.

"I didn't want this and I want the focus to be on my friends," he told the newspaper. "I have friends in that church. I was terrified while this was going on."

No one answered the door at the Willeford residence Monday. Food that had been delivered to the house was stacked up on the front porch.

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Lawmakers bicker over whether tax bill helps middle class

By **MARCY GORDON**
and **ERICA WERNER**

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — House Republicans and Democrats bickered heatedly Monday over whether the GOP tax bill truly helps the middle class, as the Ways and Means Committee kicked off a marathon session to amend and vote on the far-reaching legislation President Donald Trump hopes to sign into law by year's end.

Republicans focused on findings by Congress' non-partisan Joint Committee on Taxation that the bill would lower taxes across all income levels over the next several years.

"Clearly this is helping real people. It's helping teachers, it's helping students, it's helping struggling families that are living paycheck to paycheck," said GOP Rep. Erik Paulsen of Minnesota.

Democrats returned repeatedly to a section of the analysis showing taxes would actually go up beginning in 2023 for some 38 million taxpayers or families making \$20,000 to

\$40,000 a year.

"There are a lot of people expecting a tax cut who would be big losers under this bill," proclaimed Democratic Rep. Bill Pascrell of New Jersey. "This is a joke and you've got to face up to it."

At stake is whether the GOP will succeed in passing the most sweeping rewrite of the tax code in decades, which would be a major achievement for congressional Republicans and Trump after a year largely devoid of legislative wins. And looking ahead to 2018 midterms where Democrats will aim to wrest back control of the House from the GOP, each side is trying to win the political debate over who is truly looking out for middle-class Americans.

The legislation adds \$1.5 trillion to the ballooning national debt, delivers a major tax cut to corporations, and repeals the estate tax, which would benefit a tiny percentage of the wealthiest families in the country. It also simplifies the loophole-ridden tax code by collapsing today's seven personal income tax

brackets into four, nearly doubles the standard deduction used by people who don't itemize, and increases the child tax credit, an element championed by first daughter Ivanka Trump.

The nonpartisan Tax Policy Center on Monday found that under the bill, 12 percent of people would face tax increases next year, growing to 28 percent by 2027 after some of the measure's tax reductions have expired.

It said there would be an average overall tax cut of \$1,100 next year, falling to \$700 by 2027. But the size of those reductions would vary by income, with greater benefits going to those with larger earnings.

Next year, people earning up to \$25,000 annually would see their after-tax income grow by an average 0.3 percent, or about \$40.

The top 1 percent of earners making over \$730,000 would get average cuts of \$37,000, or around 2.5 percent.

Despite the various analyses, Republicans argued vociferously that the legislation

is targeted toward the middle class.

"It's about making America's economy stronger than ever by delivering more jobs, fairer taxes and bigger paychecks across the nation," said Ways and Means Committee Chairman Kevin Brady, R-Texas.

Brady is aiming to push the legislation through committee and to the full House later this week, and GOP leaders are aiming for House passage before Thanksgiving.

The committee's top Democrat, Richard Neal of Massachusetts, countered that the bill "puts the well-connected first while forcing millions of American families to watch while their taxes go up." He complained that Republicans crafted it in private without input from Democrats.

The tax proposal is the first major rewrite of the U.S. tax code in three decades. After embarrassing failures to make good on years of promises to repeal "Obamacare," the tax bill is enthusiastically backed by Trump, House GOP leaders and many rank-

and-file Republicans, who are promising a simpler IRS code, a more globally competitive business tax structure, and tax cuts for the middle class and families with children.

But there's considerable trepidation as well. In addition to the overall increases in later years for lower-income Americans, many earners in the upper-middle class, especially those from high-tax states, are facing tax increases.

That's because the measure would no longer permit taxpayers to deduct state income taxes from their federal taxes.

Powerful lobbyists are fighting to protect favored deductions, while a few well-financed interest groups, including the National Association of Homebuilders, have already vowed to oppose the legislation.

The homebuilders group has voiced concerns over Republicans' decision to lower the mortgage interest deduction from \$1 million to \$500,000.

Fed leadership overhaul widens under Trump



AP photo

In this Tuesday, March 21, 2017, file photo, William C. Dudley, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, speaks during a panel discussion at The Bank of England in London. Dudley will retire as president and CEO of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York in 2018. Dudley's term ends in 2019 and he plans the retirement for the middle of 2018 to make sure a successor is in place.

By **MARTIN**
CRUTSINGER

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — A revamping of the Federal Reserve's leadership is widening with the announcement Monday that William Dudley, president of the New York Fed and the No. 2 official on the Fed's key interest rate panel, will retire next year.

Just last week, President Donald Trump chose Fed board member Jerome Powell to replace Janet Yellen as Fed chair in February. The post of Fed vice chair remains vacant. So do two additional seats on the Fed's seven-member board. And a fourth seat may open as well next year.

The unusual pace of the turnover has given Trump the rare opportunity for a president to put his personal stamp on the makeup of the Fed, which operates as an independent agency. Investors are awaiting signals of how Trump's upcoming selections might alter the Fed's approach to interest rates and

regulations.

Trump has made it known that he favors low interest rates. He has also called for a loosening of financial regulations. The Fed has played a key role in overseeing the tighter regulations that were enacted after the 2008 financial crisis, which nearly toppled the banking system.

The uncertainty surrounding the Fed's top policymakers has been heightened by the slow pace with which the Trump administration has moved to fill openings.

To date, the administration has placed one new person on the Fed board: Randal Quarles, a veteran of the private equity industry who is thought to favor looser regulations, was confirmed as the first vice chairman for supervision. That still left three vacancies on the Fed's board: Just as Quarles was joining the board last month, Stanley Fischer was stepping down as Fed vice chairman.

And Yellen her-

self could decide to leave the board when her term as chair ends on Feb. 3, even though her separate term on the board runs until 2024.

Dudley's announcement that he plans to retire by mid-2018 also creates an opening on the committee of board members and bank presidents who set interest rate policies. Dudley's position is particularly crucial: As head of the New York Fed, he is a permanent voting member of the Fed committee that sets interest rates.

The committee is composed of the board members and five of the 12 regional bank presidents. Unlike the New York Fed president, the other regional bank presidents vote on a rotating basis. The New York Fed president also serves as vice chairman of the rate-setting panel.

he might be headed. With Powell, the president opted for continuity on rates by selecting someone who for years was the lone Republican on the board but who remained a reliable vote for the gradual approach to rate hikes Yellen favored.

And in the bank supervision post, analysts say Trump might have been signaling that he wants to reverse, or at least weaken, Yellen's backing of the reforms instituted by the 2010 Dodd-Frank financial overhaul law. During the campaign, Trump argued that Dodd-Frank was harming the economy by constraining back lending.

Quarles has been critical of aspects of that law. To a lesser extent, so, too, has Powell, who will be the first Fed chairman in nearly 40

years to lack a degree in economics. Powell, a lawyer by training, amassed a fortune as an investment banker at the Carlyle Group.

"With his background, Powell can be expected to work well with Wall Street and the business community in general," said Sung Won Sohn, an economics professor at California State University, Channel Islands.

A senior administration official indicated that one important attribute for the open positions will be a diversity of backgrounds.

"We believe the Fed will function best with a wide range of skill sets," said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss personnel decisions. This official would not give a timetable for when the administration's next nominations for the Fed might occur.

Though Trump will choose officials to fill the openings on the board, the choice of Dudley's replacement will fall to the board of the New York Fed. The New York Fed said a search committee had been formed to choose a successor to Dudley, who joined the New York Fed in 2007 after more than two decades at Goldman Sachs.

The announcement from the New York Fed said Dudley, 64, intended to step down in mid-2018 to ensure that his successor would be in place well before the mandatory end of Dudley's term in January 2019.

After overseeing the New York Fed's securities operations for two years, Dudley succeeded Timothy Geithner as its president after Geithner was tapped by President Barack Obama to become Treasury secretary in 2009.

GUNMAN

Continued from Page 5

whom were still hospitalized Monday in critical condition.

Authorities recovered a Ruger AR-556 rifle at the church and two handguns from Kelley's vehicle. They say all three were purchased by Kelley.

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State cross country results



Courtesy Photo

Pictured above are Cooper Miller and Aaron Martinez of Big Spring High School at the State cross country meet on Saturday, November 4. Miller finished 92nd with a time of 17:54.54. Martinez finished 40th with a time of 17:11.89.



Courtesy Photo

Pictured above is Sands Freshman, Me-A Gonzalez, running at the State cross country meet. She finished 34th with a time of 13:12. "Me-A ran a great race at the state meet. She consistently ran well all season and has a tremendous work ethic!" said Dustin Wall of Sands CISD.

Howard College Kid's Day Softball Camp

Special to The Herald

Hawk Softball will be hosting a Kid's Day Camp on Sunday, Nov. 12, 2017, for kids ages 6 to 12.

Cost: \$30/per camper

Location: Foundation Field on the campus of Howard College

Time: 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Please RSVP prior to the day of the camp.

The clinic will be instructed by Head softball coach Kelly Raines, along with former players and now assistant coaches Shelby Shelton and Liz Torres, and also our current Hawk softball players.

Come out and spend your Sunday afternoon at the ball field with the Hawks!

For more information and to RSVP, please contact assistant coach Liz Torres at ltorres@howard-college.edu.



CGA 2017 Fall Session Championship results

Special to The Herald

The 2017 Chicano Golf Association Fall Session came to an end on Saturday with a final tournament. This fall we had 18 participants.

Team Anika Sorenstam: Hope Lopez, Makayla Calvio and Avery Williams. Team Nancy Lopez: Esperanza De Los Santos, Analisa De Los Santos and Bella De Los Santos. Team Lee Trevino: Jason Ortega, Mason Ornelas and Max Myers. Team Gary Player: Jake Myers, Brayden Cervantes and Kylan Henigan. Team Arnold Palmer: Trevor Cole, Erich Byerly and Kian Mulkey.

The Team Jacob Nicklaus, made up of Jacob Marquez, Brycen Cervantes and Aralius Diaz, won the Tournament and are the 2017 Fall Session Champions.

Closest to the Pin Award went to Kian Mulkey. In the Long Drive Competition for each age group, the Awards went to Brycen Cervantes, Erich Byerly and Kian Mulkey.

A special thanks to sponsors Sonic Drive-in, Parkview Nursing, Chicano Golf Association, Gaurdian Energy Services, Golf Store and Comanche Trail Golf Course.



Courtesy photo

Pictured above is CGA Director Luis Porras along with the 2017 Fall Session Champions Jacob Marquez, Brycen Cervantes and Aralius Diaz.

Junior High Lady Steer basketball update

Special to The Herald

The eighth grade "B" Lady Steers played hard against the Andrews Mustangs and came away with a 12-point win. They had some great defensive plays that led to steals and points. Leading defensive players were Mallory Paul, Gabby Gonzales, and Kayleigh Muniz. Leading scorers were Trinity Robertson and Kayleigh Muniz with 8 points.

The eighth grade "A" team beat the Andrews Mustangs 38-37. Ryen Terrazas passed to Alex Enriquez who made the game winning layup with 6 seconds left to seal the win. Alex Enriquez led in scoring with 12 points, followed by Ryen Terrazas with 7 points. On defense, Tristan Smith, Mya Blanco and Kalyn Whitehead played well.

The seventh grade "B" team lost 18-28 to An-

draws in a hard-fought game. They hustled the whole game and were led by Genevieve Bedinger and Kristen Bermea. Kierstan Furuya and Jalen Sykes were strong on defense, while Emily Matthews and Mia Bustamante were leading the offense. Great effort, ladies.

The seventh grade "A" Lady Steers led the first quarter and went on to win 34-20, bringing home a W. The entire team played with such heart and such a strong will to compete, while at the same time improving. Elaine Arredondo led the team with 12 points and handled the ball well, seeing the court as she dribbled. Daniah Wrighter was a beast underneath the goal. Kadence Canales and Gissele Houdlin ran the floor, playing great defense and getting many steals to help further the lead. They have a lot to learn and it's good to have a group willing to do just that.



Pick Six: Oklahoma, Texas among teams set for tourney return



AP photo

In this Friday, March 10, 2017 file photo, TCU head coach Jamie Dixon yells for a call during first half of an NCAA college basketball game against Iowa State in the semifinals of the Big 12 tournament in Kansas City, Mo.

By STEVE MEGARGE

AP Sports Writer

Oklahoma went from the joy of a 2016 Final Four appearance to the misery of a 20-loss campaign last season.

Now the Sooners have a chance to redeem themselves.

"Last year motivates me every day," Oklahoma forward Khadeem Lattin said. "It's something I lose sleep over, I've lost plenty (of) sleep over. I'm ready to get it right."

Oklahoma isn't the only team left out of last season's NCAA Tournament that believes it will earn a bid this time around.

Penty of teams have chances for a big turnaround. Especially with many of the nation's top incoming freshman headed for programs coming off disappointing seasons.

Which teams that missed the 2017 tournament are mostly likely to return in '18? Here's a sampling:

ALABAMA

2016-17 record: 19-15, lost in first round of NIT

Alabama's hopes of earning its first NCAA tournament berth since 2012 may depend on the uncertain status of freshman guard Collin Sexton and top returning starter Braxton Key. Alabama announced Monday that the NCAA hasn't yet cleared Sexton to play and that Key has a surgery injury that requires surgery with no timetable set for his return. Sexton was rated as the country's No. 5 prospect according to composite rankings compiled by 247Sports. Alabama returns Dazon Ingram, shot blocker Donta Hall and Riley Norris while adding Ohio State transfer Daniel Giddens.

MISSOURI

2016-17 record: 8-24

New Missouri coach Cuonzo Martin has dramatically improved the talent base of a program that has finished in the SEC basement the last three years. Missouri landed top recruit Michael Porter Jr., a pre-season AP All-America selection. Porter headlines a Missouri recruiting class that was ranked fourth nationally according to the 247Sports Composite, behind only Duke, Kentucky and Arizona. Missouri returns Jordan Barnett, Kevin Puryear and

See PICK SIX, Page 13

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FRIDAY, NOV. 17TH**

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2017 CHRISTMAS PARADE ENTRY FORM

Name Of Organization _____
Contact Person _____
Mailing Address _____
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Type of Entry _____
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Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker
Sylvia

South dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH			
♠	A 6	♥	A Q
♦	A K 9 2	♣	A K J 10 9 7
WEST			
♠	K 4 3	♥	J 9
♦	8 7 6	♣	A K 6 5 4
EAST			
♠	—	♥	10 8 7 6 5 4 3
♦	Q J 10	♣	8 3 2
SOUTH			
♠	Q J 10 9 8 7 5 2	♥	K 2
♦	5 4 3	♣	—

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
1 ♠	2 ♣	Dble	Pass
4 ♠	Pass	6 ♣	Pass
Pass	Dble	Redble	

Opening lead — king of clubs.
It took Sylvia a long time to learn point count. This was not because she opposed point count as a matter of principle — there was more to it than that. The truth of the matter was that Sylvia held the curious notion that you measured a hand by the number of tricks you could take, so that counting the number of points you held was in effect an exercise in futility.

members of the club, as South, would either pass or open three spades. But Sylvia appraised her hand differently. She felt she'd make lots of tricks with spades as trumps, so she opened one spade.

West overcalled with two clubs, which was followed by a bloodcurdling double by North. After Sylvia then blithely jumped to four spades with her six high-card points, North can hardly be blamed for raising her to six.

It's easy to see that Sylvia had to lose a spade and a diamond for down one. But defeat never occurred to her. She rolled merrily along, taking tricks left and right, until she finally had 12 of them.

She trumped the club lead, led a spade to dummy's six and ruffed another club. A heart to the queen and a club ruff were followed by a heart to the ace and another club ruff. Then, after leading a diamond to the king, Sylvia trumped dummy's last club. Now she led the ace and another diamond, losing to East's queen.

This left her with two cards — the Q-J of spades — while West had the K-4 and dummy the ace of spades and nine of diamonds. When East returned a heart, Sylvia ruffed with the jack, and West's seemingly invincible trump trick went up in smoke.

Tomorrow: Bad news, good news.
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Tomorrow's Horoscope

Venus Costume Change

By HOLIDAY MATHIS

If Scorpio were a dress, it would be a red dress -- the kind pop songs are written about, worn when the heroine of the story is dead serious about getting hers. So don't be surprised if, while Venus transits through Scorpio, your desire takes on new urgency, your strategy becomes more aggressive and the mood intensifies to slightly dangerous.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You've plenty of hustle to apply and just the right circumstances to apply it. You're about due to fall into the kind of sweet luck that happens when a hard worker meets a soft opportunity.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Some people show strength to the world, overcoming their obstacles and achieving their goals publicly. Stronger still are those who quietly fight private battles that no one will ever know about.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You don't have to know steps 10 through 100 to get started. All you have to know is step one. Although, a general knowledge of steps two through nine would be extremely helpful to your momentum.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Seasons change. Don't confuse the season for a fact of life. This is not the way it's going to be forever. For better or worse, this moment will pass. Let that inform your priorities today.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). It might be hard to see at first, but take a step back and view it again and you may notice that you have much more power in the situation than you're using. Things will continue on just the way you allow them to.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). There are consequences to every action: some foreseeable, some not. You'll drive yourself crazy trying to project an end result before you make your choice. This is a situation where you really have to go with your gut.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). The desire to raise your voice can seem to happen after you're already yelling.



you'll be part of a group that makes a difference. A stellar deal will go down in February. Cancer and Libra adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 9, 40, 14, 23 and 18.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTION: ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS: "Is a solar eclipse a good or bad omen in astrology? I was born during one."

I believe that no omen is inherently good or bad. The astrological aspects just are, and our interpretation of them creates an effect that we either like or don't like, to varying degrees. However, throughout ancient history, a solar eclipse has traditionally been interpreted as a negative omen -- understandably so. To primitive people, the idea of the sun going away, even for a few minutes, would be gravely distressing: "When is it coming back? It's kind of our everything!" In fact, there are documented cases of astrologers being executed for failing to predict solar eclipses! The Greeks considered the sun going dark as a sign that the gods were furious. And other cultures assumed that evil entities ate the sun. But there have also been cases where the solar eclipse was taken as a sign that it was time to stop a war. Since you were born under a solar eclipse, I would guess that you are magnificently generous and selfless. You have the unique ability to extend an unbiased opinion and are often times remarkably broadminded.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Rolling Stone magazine called Joni Mitchell "one of the greatest songwriters ever." The Scorpio artist got her start busking on the streets of Toronto and went on to become one of the most influential and important artists in music. Mitchell's communicative Mercury is in passionate, poetic Scorpio, and there's a mystical Pisces moon to add even more water-sign intuition and emotional depth.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You may have to go far out of your way to make the situation work today, but don't let that stop you from taking on the work. Like a glow stick, you'll have to do some serious bending before you shine.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Nov. 7). Emotional baggage falls by the wayside as you get the love and respect to help you move beyond old ideas about yourself. This month you'll spot an excellent opportunity and move quickly to realize its potential. At year-end,

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

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

Level: Beginner

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6	1	9	7	5	8	3	2	4
8	3	5	2	9	4	1	7	6
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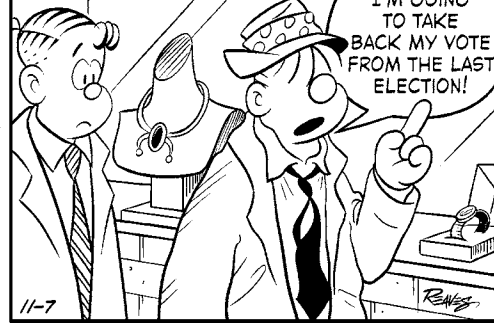
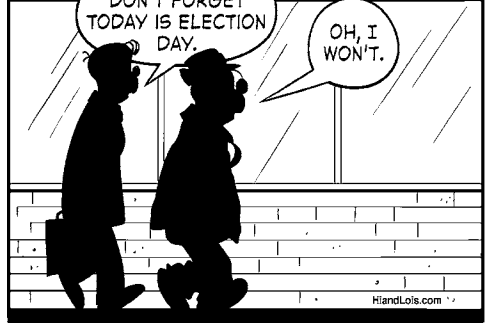
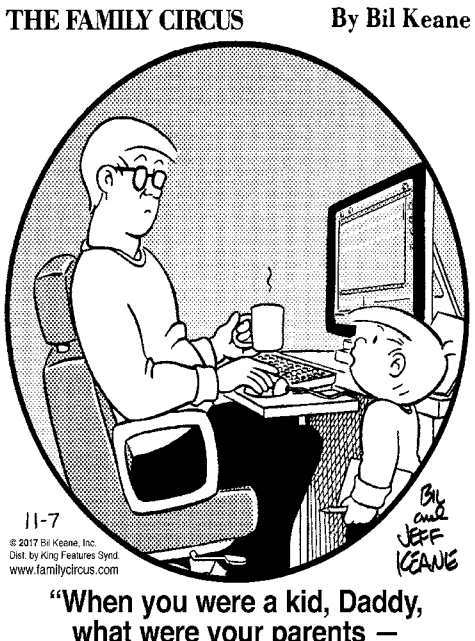
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5:PM	Local 2	P. Luche	Broke Girl	CBS 7	Tele	News	Shofar	Focus	Hawaii	American	Family Guy	Bones	SportsCenter	Around	UFC Un-	Law & Order:	Leah Remini	Moonshiners
5:30	ABC	Noticiero	Mom	CBS	Noticias	News	Perspect	Business	Five-0	American			Pardon		SVU			
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10:30	Jimmy Kim-	Noticiero	Mod Fam	Late Show-	Titulares	Tonight	M.25	Newsline	Perry Mason	Rules	Jokers	Law & Order	SportsCenter	30 for 30	Power of	SVU		
11:PM	mel Live	Contacto	Mod Fam	Colbert	Sin Senos Si	Show	Zion			Rules	Jokers	Law & Order	SportsCenter		CBR	Law & Order:	Leah Remini	Moonshiners
11:30	Nightline	Deportivo	How I Met	James	Señora	Seth Meyers	HaYesod	T. Smiley	Twi. Zone	King/Hill	Conan	Law & Order	SportsCenter		UEFA Soc-	Damnation	Scientology	Moonshiners
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THE FAMILY CIRCUS

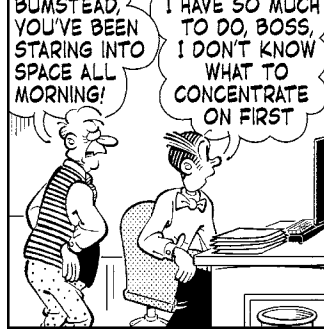
HI AND LOIS



"MY MOUTH IS IN THE MIDDLE, THAT'S WHY I EAT WITH BOTH HANDS."

"When you were a kid, Daddy, what were your parents — hunters or gatherers?"

BLONDIE



BEETLE BAILEY



This Date In History

(however, Tyler died before he could take his seat).
 In 1867, Nobel Prize-winning scientist Marie Curie was born in Warsaw.
 In 1916, Republican Jeannette Rankin of Montana became the first woman elected to Congress, winning a seat in the U.S. House of Representatives.
 In 1940, Washington state's original Tacoma Narrows Bridge, nicknamed "Galloping Gertie," collapsed into Puget Sound during a windstorm just four months after opening to traffic.
 In 1944, President Franklin D. Roosevelt won an unprecedented fourth term in office, defeating

Republican Thomas E. Dewey.
 In 1954, the CBS News program "Face the Nation" premiered with Ted Koop as host; the guest was Sen. Joseph R. McCarthy, R-Wis.
 In 1962, Republican Richard Nixon, having lost California's gubernatorial race, held what he called his "last press conference," telling reporters, "You won't have Nixon to kick around anymore." Former first lady Eleanor Roosevelt, 78, died in New York City.
 In 1972, President Richard Nixon was re-elected in a landslide over Democrat George McGovern.
 In 1973, Congress over-

rode President Richard Nixon's veto of the War Powers Act, which limits a chief executive's power to wage war without congressional approval.
 In 1989, L. Douglas Wilder won the governor's race in Virginia, becoming the first elected black governor in U.S. history; David N. Dinkins was elected New York City's

first black mayor.
 In 1991, basketball star Magic Johnson announced that he had tested positive for HIV, and was retiring. (Despite his HIV status, Johnson has been able to sustain himself with medication.)
 In 1996, the U.S. liquor industry voted to drop its decades-old voluntary ban on broadcast advertising. A Nigerian Boeing 727 jetliner crashed en route to Lagos, killing 144 people. NASA's Mars Global Surveyor blasted off on a mission to map the surface of the red planet. (It went into orbit around Mars the next year.)
 Ten years ago: An 18-year-old gunman opened fire at his high school in Tuusula, Finland, killing seven other students and the principal before taking his own life. A cargo ship struck the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge, causing the San Francisco Bay's worst oil spill in nearly two decades. Space shuttle Discovery and its crew returned to Earth, concluding a 15-day space station build-and-repair mission. At the Country Music Association Awards, Kenny Chesney won his second straight entertainer of the year award, while Carrie Underwood made it back-to-back trophies as female vocalist of the year; Brad Paisley was named male vocalist.
 Five years ago: One day after a bruising election, President Barack Obama and Republican House Speaker John Boehner (BAY'nur) both pledged to seek a compromise to avert looming spending cuts and tax increases that threatened to plunge the economy back into recession. A 7.4-magnitude earthquake killed at least 52 people in

western Guatemala.
 One year ago: In Philadelphia, with tens of thousands shivering in the cold, Barack and Michelle Obama passed the torch to Hillary Clinton in an emotional but anxious plea to elect her president. Meanwhile, Donald Trump accused Clinton of being protected by a "totally rigged system" and urged voters to "beat the corrupt system and deliver justice." Dozens of buildings sustained "substantial damage" after a 5.0 magnitude earthquake struck Cushing, Oklahoma, home to one of the world's key oil hubs, but officials said no damage was reported at the terminal. Former U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno, 78, died in Miami. Singer-songwriter Leonard Cohen, 82, died in Los Angeles.
 Today's Birthdays: Evangelist Billy Graham is 99. Former U.S. Sen. Rudy Boschwitz, R-Minn., is 87. Actor Barry Newman is 79. Singer Johnny Rivers is 75. Former supermodel Jean Shrimpton is 75. Singer-songwriter Joni Mitchell is 74. Former CIA Director David Petraeus is 65. Jazz singer Rene Marie is 62. Actor Christopher Knight (TV: "The Brady Bunch") is 60. Rock musician Tommy Thayer (KISS) is 57. Actress Julie Pinson is 50. Rock musician Greg Tribbett (Mudvayne) is 49. Actress Michelle Clunie is 48. Actor Christopher Daniel Barnes is 45. Actors Jeremy and Jason London are 45. Actress Yunjin Kim is 44. Actor Adam DeVine is 34. Rock musician Zach Myers (Shinedown) is 34. Actor Lucas Neff is 32. Rapper Tinie (TY'nee) Tempah is 29. Rock singer Lorde is 21.

Newsday Crossword

V-THREE by Billie Truitt
 Edited by Stanley Newman
 www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS**
- 1 Fail to attend
 - 5 Goes out, as the tide
 - 9 Post office purchase
 - 14 Deposit of 17 Across
 - 15 Aviation prefix
 - 16 Draw with crayons
 - 17 Mined rocks
 - 18 Make airtight
 - 19 "Greetings!"
 - 20 Rooster on a rooftop
 - 23 Informal assent
 - 24 Zesty dip
 - 25 Odor
 - 27 "Needless to ..."
 - 30 Trickery to mislead
 - 34 Red-meat entree
 - 40 Oz canine
 - 41 Similar to
 - 44 Arctic ice mass
 - 45 Funny writers
 - 46 Data entry pro
 - 49 Sense of wonder
 - 50 Hangs on to
 - 53 Tactless
 - 58 Prohibit officially
 - 61 Futile effort
 - 64 Deliver a speech
 - 66 "Bye-bye!"
 - 67 Restore to health
 - 68 In a little while
 - 69 Any farm harvest

- DOWN**
- 1 Reduces speed
 - 2 Seoul, South ___
 - 3 Model of perfection
 - 4 Nuisances
 - 5 Make less difficult
 - 6 Brewery product
 - 7 Crowd's cheer for a diva
 - 8 Sun-related
 - 9 Devious plan
 - 10 Tip of a shoe
 - 11 Wartime partner
 - 70 Computer owner
 - 71 Steakhouse order
 - 72 Garment edges
 - 73 Adolescent
 - 12 Lawn tunneler
 - 13 Object held on stage
 - 21 Undue speed
 - 22 Silent agreement
 - 26 Second part of a play
 - 28 Belly muscles
 - 29 Informal assent
 - 31 Extremely long time
 - 32 "Let's leave ___ that"
 - 33 Soft throw
 - 34 Break in diplomacy
 - 35 Merely
 - 36 At the peak of
 - 37 Mideast noble
 - 38 Australian bird
 - 39 Disaster relief org.
 - 42 Solemn promise
 - 43 Standing tall
 - 47 Very strict
 - 48 Beverage brewed from bags
 - 51 Throw to a batter
 - 52 Catch in a trap
 - 54 Shorten further
 - 55 Entertain
 - 56 Buying binge
 - 57 Back of a ship
 - 58 Flash of lightning
 - 59 Typical Saudi
 - 60 Western defense org.
 - 62 Molecule part
 - 63 Bugler's "lights out" tune
 - 65 Prime-time hour

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Answer to previous puzzle

RAFTS	HABA	OPEC
OPERA	ETAL	BORE
METAL	LOLL	ALAN
ADAMS	APPLE	MAST
	AMS	GLARES
COARSE	FLEE	
OKGO	SKIP	FLEAS
PROPOSING	GATOAST	
EAGER	LEAS	BRIE
	SETS	PRELAW
PESTOS	LEO	
RATE	CASINO	CHIP
OGRE	OXEN	SHADE
PLAN	REEK	TATER
SEWS	TSKIS	STEAK

Rangers exercise option on Perez, decline Napoli, Barnette

By STEPHEN HAWKINS

AP Sports Writer

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — The Texas Rangers declined their 2018 club options for slugger Mike Napoli and reliever Tony Barnette on Monday, and won't make a \$17.4 million qualifying offer to free agent pitcher Andrew Cashner.

Texas did exercise its \$6 million club option for 13-game winner Martin Perez, a 26-year-old left-hander, while Napoli and Barnette became free agents.

Perez, who would have gotten a \$2.45 million buyout if his option hadn't been picked up, had team highs with 32 starts and 185 innings pitched. He became the first Rangers pitcher to make at least 30 starts in consecutive seasons since Matt Harrison in 2010-11.

General manager Jon Daniels said the Rangers wouldn't make qualifying offers on any of their free agents. That includes Cashner, the Texas native who was 11-11 with a 3.40 ERA in 28 starts in his only season with the Rangers, and center fielder Carlos Gomez.

When Napoli signed last spring to return for his third stint with the Rangers, he got \$8.5 million for this year with an \$11 million club option for 2018. He will instead get a \$2.5 million buyout after hitting a career-low .193 with 29 home runs.

Napoli started 116 games, 90 at first base and 26 as the designated hitter. He didn't play after Sept. 14 because of a stress reaction in his lower right leg.

Texas had a \$4 million club option on Barnette, who will get a \$250,000 buyout. He was 2-1 with a 5.49 ERA in 50 appearances this year.

Daniels said the team still has an interest in bring-

ing Barnette back, and is still talking to him.

The GM said the Rangers "haven't necessarily closed the door on Nap either." But Daniels said the initial focus this off-season is on pitching, and that corner bats aren't a top priority for position players at this point.

Cashner last November agreed to a \$10 million, one-year deal to join the Rangers. He was a first-round pick by the Chicago Cubs out of nearby TCU in 2008.

While the Rangers will stay in touch with Cashner, Daniels said the pitcher is hoping to get a multiyear deal. The GM wasn't sure if Cashner would have accepted the qualifying offer, but said it was an economic decision by the team not to extend one.

Catcher A.J. Jimenez and right-hander Austin-



AP photo

In this Oct. 4, 2015, file photo, Texas Rangers' Mike Napoli talks with teammates in the dugout during a baseball game in Arlington, Texas.

Bibens-Dirkx, who was 32 last May when he made his major league debut after 318 games over 12 minor league seasons, were assigned outright to Triple-A Round Rock and can choose free agency.

PICK SIX

Continued from Page 7

Terrence Phillips, who all had double-figure scoring averages last season.

OKLAHOMA

2016-17 record: 11-20

After going from the Final Four in 2016 to 20 losses season last season, Oklahoma should find a happy medium between those two extremes. The Sooners lost their leading scorer in Jordan Woodard but return three starters in Kameron McGusty (10.9 ppg last season), Rashard Odomes (10.1) and Khadeem Lattin (8.4). Oklahoma also adds promising freshman point guard Trae Young, rated as the nation's No. 23 recruit in his class by the 247Sports Composite.

TEXAS

2016-17 record: 11-22

Texas' freshman class should help the Longhorns rebound from a dismal 2016-17. Texas' incoming group was ranked sixth in the 247Sports Composite and features 6-foot-11 forward Mohamed Bamba, the nation's No. 3 overall recruit. Freshman Matt Coleman could take over immediately as the Longhorns' top point guard. Texas returns guards Andrew Jones and Kerwin Roach Jr., who each averaged over nine points last season. Tulane transfer Dylan Osetkowski was the Green Wave's leading rebounder two years ago.

No 25 TEXAS A&M

2016-17 record: 16-15

Texas A&M is the only team in the preseason Top 25 that failed to earn an NCAA bid last season. Robert Williams' surprising decision to return for his sophomore season rather than entering the NBA Draft makes the Aggies legitimate NCAA Tournament contenders, though he has been suspended for the Aggies' first two games. Williams, one of four returning starters, averaged 11.9 points and 8.2 rebounds last season. Texas A&M also returns Tyler Davis (14.1 ppg, 7 rpg last season), Admon Gilder (13.7 ppg) and Tonny Trocha-Morelos (8.1). Davis and Trocha-Morelos are both 6-10.

TCU

2016-17 record: 24-15

After winning the NIT in coach Jamie Dixon's first season, the Horned Frogs have their sights set on their first NCAA Tournament appearance since 1987. TCU returns all five starters, including pre-season all-Big 12 forward Vladimir Brodziansky. The Horned Frogs also add VCU graduate transfer Ahmed Hamdy and New Mexico Junior College transfer Shawn Olden, who began his college career at Pepperdine.

32nd Annual Big Spring Herald Community Christmas Parade

5:30 pm, Saturday, December 2nd

Parade Theme

"Christmas Around The World"

DEADLINE!
FRIDAY, NOV. 17TH

*Entry Forms Turned In After November 17 Will Be Placed At The End Of Line-Up

2017 CHRISTMAS PARADE ENTRY FORM

Name Of Organization _____
 Contact Person _____
 Mailing Address _____
 Phone _____
 Type of Entry _____
 (Ex. Walking, Float, Car, Truck, Semi, Fire Truck, Motorcycle, ATV, Horse, etc.)

*Please Read Guidelines Below.

Mail, Fax or Hand Deliver to:

PARADE COMMITTEE/BIG SPRING HERALD
 P.O. Box 1431 • 710 Scurry • Big Spring, TX 79721 • 432-263-7331
 FAX 432-264-7205 Email advertising@bigspringherald.com

Free To Enter!

Parade Guidelines:

1. The parade's official Santa Claus will be provided by the Herald. **No Other Santas Allowed**
2. Floats not to exceed 52' in length, 8' in width, 14' in heights.
3. Parade entries not in line by start of parade will be ineligible for awards.
4. Do not throw candy from float, you may walk beside your float if you wish to throw candy.
5. You will receive your float number and instructions about 1 week prior to parade.
6. If your float number isn't Clearly Visible on the driver side, your float will not be judged.

MATTRESS BLOWOUT SALE!

Plush or Euro Top	
TWIN SET	\$397
FULL SET	\$447
QUEEN SET	\$497
KING SET	\$697
Pillowtop or Extra Firm	
TWIN SET	\$447
FULL SET	\$497
QUEEN SET	\$547
KING SET	\$747
Extra Plush Pillowtop	
TWIN SET	\$497
FULL SET	\$647
QUEEN SET	\$697
KING SET	\$897
Plush	
TWIN SET	\$177
FULL SET	\$247
QUEEN SET	\$277
Pillowtop	
TWIN SET	\$247
FULL SET	\$297
QUEEN SET	\$347
KING SET	\$497
Memory Foam	
QUEEN SET Starting at	\$447
Memory Foam Cool Gel Infusion	
QUEEN SET Starting at	\$697

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 MANY ITEMS AT OR BELOW WHOLESALE!
 OVER 50 MAJOR BRANDS!
WE'LL SAVE YOU MONEY!

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FEMA rethinking ban on disaster aid to church buildings



In this Aug. 31, 2017 file photo, Vice President Mike Pence, with his wife Karen, speaks to residents affected by Hurricane Harvey during a visit to the First Baptist Rockport Church in Rockport, Texas.

By **DAVID A. LIEB**
Associated Press

When disaster strikes, houses of worship are often on the front lines, feeding and sheltering victims. Yet churches, synagogues and mosques are routinely denied aid by the Federal Emergency Management Agency when it comes time to repair or rebuild their damaged sanctuaries.

Pressure is mounting to change that after this year's series of devastating hurricanes damaged scores of churches in Texas, Florida and Puerto Rico.

FEMA is rethinking its policies in the face of a federal lawsuit, scheduled for a hearing Tuesday, by three Texas churches hit by Hurricane Harvey. President Donald Trump has signaled his support, via Twitter, for the religious institutions.

At the same time, several members of Congress have revived legislation — first proposed after 2012's Hurricane Sandy — that would force FEMA to pay for repairs at places of worship.

The debate centers on two key questions: Does providing such aid violate the First Amendment separation of church and state? Or is it an infringement on the First Amendment right to free exercise of religion to deny churches the same aid available to numerous other nonprofit organizations, such as libraries, zoos and homeless shelters?

"It seems like the only reason churches are excluded is because they're churches, and it just seems discriminatory to me," said Bruce Frazier, pastor of Rockport First Assembly of God Church, which is part of the lawsuit.

Religious entities already can receive some government help in disasters. They can be reimbursed by local governments for sheltering evacuees and can receive U.S. Small Business Administration loans to repair their buildings. FEMA grants are available to religiously affiliated schools, health care providers and nursing homes. And FEMA also can provide money to repair church-run facilities that function like community centers, but only if less than half the space or use is for religious purposes.

Over the past five years, FEMA has authorized a net of \$113 million for about 500

religiously affiliated entities such as schools, medical clinics and community centers after hurricanes, tornadoes, floods and other disasters, according to an AP analysis of data made public as part of the lawsuit.

But FEMA hasn't supplied money to repair sanctuaries, and its 50 percent rule excludes many other types of church facilities.

"It is the faith community that responds so robustly to the need. And then to say, 'Tough luck, we're not going to help you put your own facility back together' is wrong," said Rep. Christopher Smith, a New Jersey Republican sponsoring the bill that would change the policy.

Not everyone shares that view, noting constitutional concerns.

"I really can't see anything more core and more of an establishment of religion than building a house of worship," said Maggie Garrett, a lawyer who has lobbied against FEMA aid to religious institutions on behalf of Americans United for Separation of Church and State.

FEMA declined to comment, citing the lawsuit. But in a court filing, the U.S. Justice Department said the challenged policies are being reconsidered.

High winds and flooding from Hurricane Katrina in 2005 damaged more than 1,000 buildings owned by the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of New Orleans. FEMA later came through with more than \$300 million, an amount the archdiocese's chief financial officer, Jeff Entwisle, described as "extraordinary assistance."

Even so, he estimated that FEMA deemed less than one-third of the buildings eligible for funding. The archdiocese opted not to rebuild nearly one-quarter of its churches and schools.

When Hurricane Harvey slammed Texas in August, it blew down the steeple, ripped away the front doors and destroyed the roof of Frazier's church, causing extensive water damage. The church applied for FEMA disaster aid but was directed instead to private insurance coverage and the Small Business Administration for a loan.

Frazier said the church of about 125 members couldn't afford wind-storm insurance and can't even af-

ford the loan payments that would be necessary to fully rebuild.

"We're just asking to get help," Frazier said.

"I mean, we're struggling."

The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston and Congregation Torah Vachessed, a Houston-area synagogue flooded by Harvey, filed briefs in support of the churches that are suing. The synagogue asserted that the "pernicious effect of FEMA's policy of explicit discrimination" is "to deter and discourage the exercise of the Jewish faith."

The lawsuit contends hundreds of other places of worship also are being denied access to FEMA funding, but it's hard to say how many would seek federal aid if given the opportunity or how much money is at stake.

First Baptist Rockport Church, a mile from the

First Assembly of God, sustained about \$1 million in damage when Hurricane Harvey collapsed a choir room wall and caused leaks in the roof. Senior Pastor Scott Jones said he doesn't fault others who seek FEMA aid, but his church won't be doing so.

"We believed that God would provide for us another way, and that we were going to respect the separation of church and state, and not expect or count on help from the federal government," Jones said.

Last June, the U.S. Supreme Court found that a Lutheran church in Columbia, Missouri, had been wrongly excluded from a state grant program to install a soft playground surface made of recycled

tires. Chief Justice John Roberts called it "odious to our Constitution" to deny an otherwise eligible recipient solely because it's a church.

Richard W. Garnett, a University of Notre Dame law professor who runs the school's program on Church, State and Society, said that based on that ruling, there is a good chance the high court would allow FEMA to provide aid to rebuild places of worship.

"The purpose of the support would not be to subsidize religious worship but rather to clean up the community and help local institutions that themselves provide important relief services to those in need," Garnett said.

Enter Your Favorite Recipes In Our 18th Annual HOLIDAY COOKBOOK CONTEST CATEGORIES:

PRIZES
PRIZES
PRIZES

- Appetizers
- Desserts
- Vegetables
- Casseroles
- Main Dish



RECIPE ENTRY DEADLINE:
Thursday, November 9, 2017

Winners will be published in the
cookbook on Sunday, Nov. 19, 2017

HOW TO GET YOUR ENTRY TO US:

Mail to:
PO Box 1431, BS, TX 79721

Bring to:
710 Scurry, Big Spring

Fax to:
(432) 264-7205 or

Email to:
angela@bigspringherald.com

*** Official Entry Form ***

YES! Enter my recipe(s) in the
18th Annual Holiday Cookbook Contest.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip _____

Phone: _____

Please type or print your recipe legibly
and submit it with this form

*Finalist will be required to cook entry and drop off at the Big Spring Herald on the day of judging
Winners will be notified and empty containers may be picked up the day after judging of the contest.

**ALL FOOD ENTRIES BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE BIG SPRING HERALD,
REMAINING FOOD PORTIONS WILL NOT BE RETURNED.**

1st Place In Each Category Wins A Prize!

Gifts Baskets Provided By:

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*Inspirations
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