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H BIG SPRING HERALD

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2017



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HC discusses Harvey relief efforts, enrollment improvements

By ERIN STEPHENS
 Staff Writer

The Howard College Board of Trustees met yesterday to discuss new and ongoing topics on the agenda for the month of November, including enrollment improvement and hurricane relief efforts.

Director of Marketing for Howard College Cindy Smith spoke about ongoing Hur-

ricane Harvey relief efforts. Howard College has been collecting toys and food to send to Alvin Community College. Collections were received until 5 p.m. yesterday, and will be sent out today. Smith says collections should make it to recipients by the Nov. 27.



Sparks

Howard College President Dr. Cheryl Sparks led the discussion on a building project in Lamesa.

"Dawson County has provided a space for the Howard College campus and there is conversation going on in

Lamesa right now, relative to Lamesa ISD, about considering some renovations at the high school site and there is talk about the possibility of including Howard College at the high school site," said Sparks. "We'll continue visiting with them about that, but they're getting very serious, although a bond election hasn't been called yet.

They're currently looking at what they think is important for their school district and community and we're humbled that they consider us to be a part of that conversation."

The next item discussed on the agenda was the Howard County Independent School Districts dinner meeting.

See HC, Page 3

DPS urges drivers to drive safely over holiday

Special to the Herald

AUSTIN – As Texans prepare for the Thanksgiving holiday, the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) is reminding motorists to make safety a priority and to enjoy the holiday weekend responsibly.

"Thanksgiving should be a time of celebration with family and friends, and we are encouraging everyone to take some simple but potentially life-saving steps to celebrate responsibly," said DPS Director Steven McCraw. "DPS Troopers will also be on the lookout for drivers who needlessly endanger others by disregarding the law. Everyone, especially motorists, has a part to play in keeping our roadways safe, and it is imperative that you take this responsibility seriously."

DPS Troopers, and other Texas law enforcement agencies, will be patrolling around-the-clock during the holiday weekend looking for drunk drivers, speeders, seat belt violators, and other motorists who are endangering themselves or the public.

During the Thanksgiving weekend in 2016, DPS troopers issued 51,592 traffic citations and warnings for a variety of violations, including speeding, no insurance and seat belt/child safety seat usage. DPS patrols also resulted in 275 driving while intoxicated arrests, 198 fugitive arrests and 141 felony arrests during the same time period.

DPS offers the following tips for safe travel during the Thanksgiving holiday:

- Do not drink and drive.
 - Slow down – especially in bad weather, construction areas, heavy traffic and unfamiliar areas.
 - Eliminate distractions while driving, including the use of mobile devices.
 - Buckle up everyone in the vehicle – it's the law.
 - Don't drive fatigued – allow plenty of time to reach your destination.
 - Drive defensively, as holiday travel may present additional challenges.
 - Before your trip begins, make sure your vehicle is properly maintained and always double check to make sure all cargo is secure.
 - Slow down or move over for police, fire, EMS, Texas Department of Transportation vehicles and tow trucks that are stopped on the side of the road with emergency lights activated – it's the law.
- Also, show the same courtesy to fellow drivers stopped along the road.
- Monitor weather and road conditions (<https://drivetexas.org>) wherever you are traveling. In the event of inclement weather, use extra caution on roadways.

Students spread Christmas joy



Courtesy photo

Cassie Guterrez, left, Laura Romero, and Andrew Romero tape together postal boxes for the Adopt a Military Hero Christmas 2017 project.

By KAREN MCGINNES
 Special to the Herald

In a sea of packing tape and cardboard, Coahoma High School's National Honor Society helped prepare boxes on Thursday evening, Nov 16 for the annual Adopt a Military Hero Christmas 2017.

The boxes were packed with goodies and mailed to deployed mem-

bers of the military. CHS juniors, Andrew Romero, Cassie Gutierrez, Emily Krabill, Aaron Rodriguez, Laura Romero and senior, Diana Gonzalez, along with other members of the community, folded and taped 500 boxes in less than an hour.

On Sunday, Nov. 19, the boxes were filled with goodies for our deployed military family as a result of generous donations from business-

es, organizations and individuals in the community. The contents of the boxes will include a variety of toiletries, books, socks, snacks, heartfelt cards from hundreds of Howard County children and more.

When thanked for their time Laura Romero said, "Thank you for asking for help. We are happy to be here."

Turkeys seeking Thanksgiving pardon must strut stuff

By STEVE KARNOWSKI
 Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — What makes a good presidential turkey? Showmanship. A readiness to strut his stuff and gobble on command, yet enough restraint to stay on a ta-

ble for the big photo op.

So say a Minnesota turkey farmer and 4-H kids who raised the turkey that will go to the White House for an official pardon from President Donald Trump on Tuesday. It's the 70th anniversary of the National Thanks-

giving Turkey tradition. Here's a little deeper look at the event and what goes into it:

THE TRADITION

White House archives show that Americans have sent presidents holiday turkeys at least since 1873 under President

Ulysses S. Grant. But the National Thanksgiving Turkey dates from 1947, when the National Turkey Federation became the official supplier and presented a 47-pound gobbler to President Harry

See PARDON, Page 3

Book signing at Heritage Museum

HERALD photo/Erin Stephens
 The Heritage Museum hosted a book signing Saturday for Kelila Slate, who writes under the moniker Estella Stone. Attendees of the event gathered in the museum's main lobby to hear Slate speak about her troubled childhood, which is the topic of her book, *Keeping Silent: A Childhood Lost*.



Obituaries

Eric Allen Kiker



It is with incredible sadness that the family of Eric Allen Kiker announces his passing after a tragic car accident returning home from work on Saturday, Nov. 18, 2017, at the age of 43 years.

Eric will be lovingly remembered by his wife of almost five years, Janey; and his stepchildren, Trent Murley, Sky Murley, and Blake Murley.

Eric will also be fondly remembered by his dad and mom, Monty and Brenda Kiker; brother and sister-in law, Terry and Melanie Kiker; niece and nephew, Holley and Hunter Kiker; father-in-law and mother-in-law, Charles and Roline Murray; sister-in-law and brother-in-law, Scott and Felicia Lindsey; and nephew, Joshua Talley. He will also be missed by many members of extended family, friends, and loved ones. He was preceded in death by his grandparents.

Eric was an exceptional man that had a heart on fire to serve the Lord. He was passionate and generous in his efforts to love and build others up. His

smile and laugh was infectious and unforgettable. He enjoyed family trips, studying the Bible, bonfires, pranking, and spending time with the people he loved. He was a founding member of The New Life Church of Odessa, a Big Brother to two young men, and was a loyal and diligent worker, lastly working as a gas plant operator for Energy Transfer Partners.

The family is having a viewing from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 21, 2017, at Nalley-Pickle and Welch Funeral home. A graveside funeral service in memory of Eric will be held at 11 a.m., Wednesday, Nov. 22, 2017, at the Peace Chapel at Trinity Memorial Park. Pastor David Bosley will be performing the service on site. A reception will follow at The Nazarene Church at 1400 S. Lancaster in Big Spring.

Eric, you will be forever in our hearts and your laughter will linger in our ears. We love you and will see you again one day!

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

Paid obituary

Bernice Cutright



Bernice Cutright of Lubbock passed away on Thursday, Nov. 16, 2017, at the age of 99.

She was born Nov. 3, 1918, in Sayre, Okla., to William and Marion (Robb) Baggett. She married Marple Cutright, who preceded her in death in 1973.

Those left to cherish her memory are her children, Dru Castleman of Lubbock, Maurice Cutright and wife Judy of Burleson, Texas, Cheryl Ross and husband Robert of Tulsa, Okla., and Mark Cutright and wife Leslie of Lubbock; nine grandchildren; and 24 great grandchildren.

Bernice was preceded in death by her husband; parents; and two siblings.

Visitation will begin at 3 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 21, 2017, with the family receiving friends 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at Combest Family Funeral Homes. Services are scheduled for 10 a.m. Wednesday, Nov. 22, 2017, at Green Lawn Church of Christ, with interment to follow at 2:30 p.m. at Trinity Memorial Park in Big Spring, Texas.

www.combestfamilyfuneralhomes.com.

Paid obituary

Sheriff

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

Note – Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 71 inmates at the time of this report.

• **MONICA MARICE GARCIA**, 30, was booked by BSPD on warrants for failure to signal a lane change and expired driver's license.

• **JUSTIN MICHAEL OVALLE**, 20, was booked by BSPD on warrants for expired registration and no driver's license.

• **BRANDON THOMAS POWELL**, 20, was booked by BSPD on warrants for use of vision-reducing matter on windows, and violation of promise to appear.

• **BERENICE MESTA SIERRA**, 29, was booked by BSPD on a charge of theft (less than \$100).

• **CARL WILLIAM-TABOR WELLS**, 35, was booked by HCSO on warrants for criminal trespassing and possession of a controlled substance (less than 1 gram).

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.

• Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m.; open 12 & 12 study meeting 8 p.m. to 9 p.m.

THURSDAY

• GriefShare is a biblical support group that focuses on helping people who are dealing with a loved one's death. Each DVD session features nationally respected grief experts and real-life stories, followed by small group discussion about the topics presented (with workbook support). Weekly 10/5/17 through 01/11/18; 6:00 - 8:00 pm at Trinity Baptist Church in Big Spring. Call Vivian Gordon at 432-466-3583 for more information.

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

Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity:

• **BRANDON THOMAS POWELL**, 20, of 5600 S. Service Road was arrested on outstanding warrants.

• **MONICA GARCIA**, 30, of 1208 Wood St. was arrested on warrants for failure to signal a lane change and expired driver's license.

• **JUSTIN MICHAEL OVAL-**

LE, 20, of 1900 Martin Luther King Boulevard Apt. #603 was arrested on warrants for expired registration and no driver's license.

• **CARL WILLIAM-TABOR WELLS**, 35, of 102 Merrick Rd. was arrested on warrants for criminal trespassing and possession of a controlled substance (less than 1 gram).

• **THEFT** was reported in the 1100 block of North Lamesa High-

way, and the 1100 block of East Fourth Street.

• **CRIMINAL MISCHIEF** was reported in the 500 block of South Aylesford Street.

• **STOLEN VEHICLE** was reported at the intersection of FM 2599 and Wilkerson Road, and in the 3600 block of West Highway 80.

• **BURGLARY OF A BUILDING** was reported in the 3600 block of West Highway 80.

Fire/EMS

Big Spring Fire Department/EMS reported the following activity:

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

Medical Center.

• **PUBLIC SERVICE CALL** was reported in the 600 block of Caylor.

• **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 500 block of Northeast Ninth Street.

• **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 500 block of West 17th Street. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

Take Note

• 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 a 7 p.m. in the basement of the Howard County Library.

• Big Spring Centennial Lion's Club meets twice a month at the Big Spring TA Truck Stop. They meet

on the first Tuesday of the month at noon and the 3rd Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. Visitors are welcome.

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

• The Big Spring Symphony Board of Directors meets every first Tuesday at 5:30 p.m. at the symphony office, 808 Scurry Street.

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

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

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

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

• The Big Spring State Hospital Volunteer Services Council is in need of volunteers to fill a variety of needs to assist the hospital's 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. Volunteers can assist with a variety of functions, including The Chalet Resale Shop, various fund-raisers and patient events. For more information, contact Dee Lindsey, Big Spring State Hospital Director of Community Relations, (432) 268-7535 or danielle.lindsey@dshs.state.tx.us

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

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

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HC

Continued from Page 1

"In the past we've had a joint dinner that included both the Howard College board and ISD boards," said Sparks. "We haven't done this in several years but feel it's a good time to start again and will begin reaching out to the boards to see if we can get them to meet with us for what will be more of a social event than formal meeting."

Next, the student roundtable report was discussed.

"Something we've been doing for 25 years is something called 'student roundtables,'" said Sparks. "We have these on our Big Spring, San Angelo, and SWCID campuses. We start each

meeting by going over what students brought up the semester before and the answers that we provided and any action we may have taken to what students brought up. After that, students then give us new things they feel we should look at and I always let the students know this is an opportunity for them to provide constructive criticism because this is how we will improve."

Sparks went on to explain that this is a way students can have a running idea of what's happening up until the next meeting. She believes roundtables are a great way to continuously improve what they're doing with students because it's been very effective for years.

Accountability reports on

enrollment comparisons/ trends with peer and West Texas colleges this fall was the next item discussed on the agenda. This reported included data from the last ten years and showed where Howard College was in Fall 2008 compared to where they are now.

"We compare Howard College to our peer colleges and that's how we're able to see how we're doing," said Sparks. "We're pleased to see that our overall enrollment is looking better in relation to other campuses."

Positions consideration was the next agenda item and the conversation was led by Sparks.

"If there are positions that we want to add to the budget during the year, I bring them

to the board for approval," said Sparks. "I'd like to get the board's approval on two part-time San Angelo positions that we're wanting to make full-time. We have the money in the budget to do this and we have a request from GEO to add two GED instructors and two ESL instructors at the GEO prisons."

There was a motion to add these positions to the budget and it was approved by the board.

The President's Report on upcoming activities was read by Sparks. The Luminaria will be held on the Big Spring site on Nov. 28. A special event on the 30th of November will be held to acknowledge an individual from Richland College who has given gifts to SWCID. On Dec. 5 the

board will attend the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Convention in Dallas, TX.

Additional item(s) on the agenda included:

- The board discussed the Election Services Contract with Howard County
- Catalog and Handbook Changes- changes were made to a retirement policy
- New Phone System for Big Spring and SWCID- West Texas Telecom in Stanton was recommended as the company to use for the new phone system at Big Spring and SWCID campuses. Monthly cost for Big Spring is \$3,015 and for SWCID is \$404. Additional equipment cost is \$44,350 for Big Spring and \$7,160 for SWCID.

PARDON

Continued from Page 1

Truman. In those days the turkeys were destined for dinner.

Formal pardons began with President George H.W. Bush in 1989, though stories of spared turkeys date back to President Abraham Lincoln. President John F. Kennedy sent his 1963 turkey back to its farm. Sometime around the Nixon era the White House began sending them to petting zoos after the ceremonies, though without formal pardons.

MINNESOTA'S GOBBLERS

The perk of taking presidential turkeys to Washington goes to the chairman of the National Turkey Federation. This year that's Carl Wittenburg, from the Minnesota town of Alexandria.

Wittenburg recruited five Douglas County 4-H members to help. They're the same teens he and his wife, Sharlene, mentored to a second-place finish in the statewide 4-H Science of Agriculture Challenge this summer with a project on turkey bedding. None of the girls had worked with turkeys before. Now they're all going to the White House to help oversee the bird, though Wittenburg's 19-year-old son, Wyatt, will lift it up onto the table.

The Wittenburgs grow more than 100,000 turkeys annually for Northern Pride Cooperative in Wyndmere, North Dakota, but they raised the presidential flock on their smaller hobby farm near Alexandria. The birds hatched in late June. The star and an understudy who would step in if there's a last-minute problem will be around 47 and 37 pounds (21 and 17 kilograms) respectively by pardoning time.

THE CHALLENGES

The goal is getting the turkeys used to people. Teaching them to stay on the table and behave is the key, said Katie Kent, 18. The birds are hand-fed grub worms as bribes.

"We're getting them used to being on that table and getting them to gobble and strut on command," said Kodi Bundermann, 17.

Strutting for a turkey means fanning out his tail feathers and puffing out his body feathers. Toms do it to look good to the hens, Wittenburg said. Gobbling also is a male behavior; females click or cluck. It's hard to get turkeys to strut on command, he said, but they'll gobble nine times out of 10.

The 4-Hers also play them music. They seem to like country, said Christina Kuismi, 16.

"They love anything shiny, or even the ends of shoelaces, which are a little shiny," Kuismi said. "They like to untie shoelaces. They've gotten really good at it."

Another challenge for the ceremony is that turkeys are very easily distracted, she said.

"They're just very easily entertained," she said. "They just want to go everywhere and see everything and explore."

THE STARS

The team selected the two best birds from a flock of about 20. They looked for showmanship and character with an absence of any stage fright, Wittenburg said. They wanted turkeys that would strut and gobble for the cameras and the president yet remain calm on the table, he said.

The birds got officially named Drumstick and Wishbone on Monday, and the White House opened a Twitter poll on which one Trump should pardon. They stayed at a hotel near the White House for the run-up to the big show. A flockmate was pardoned by Minnesota Gov. Mark Dayton on Friday.

The presidential birds will finish out their lives in leisure at Virginia Tech, joining the 2016 winners, Tater and Tot, at Gobbler's Rest in Blacksburg. With luck, they might live another year or more. A few of their predecessors have hit the ripe old age of 2. Very few domestic turkeys live that long. The vast majority get sent to processing plants when they're between 14 to 20 weeks old.

THE RISKS

Pardons have not always gone smoothly and gratitude is not guaranteed.

In 2001, a turkey named Liberty pecked President George W. Bush in the midsection — some reports say his crotch — drawing laughs from the crowd and an awkward expression from the president's face.

Another memorable photo shows a grimacing President Ronald Reagan getting a face full of feathers when the 1984 turkey started flapping its wings. A turkey also flapped around on Reagan before jumping off the table and strutting around the White House lawn in 1981.

TURKEY FACTS

Minnesota is the top turkey-producing state, with 450 farmers raising about 46 million turkeys this year. North Carolina is No. 2. They're among six states that account for nearly two-thirds of U.S. turkey production. The others are Arkansas, Indiana, Missouri and Virginia.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture projects that farmers will raise nearly 245 million turkeys this year. The National Turkey Federation estimates that Americans will eat about 46 million for Thanksgiving, 22 million at Christmas and 19 million for Easter. But most turkeys are destined to become deli meat, sausage and other products.

Melania Trump, son Barron receive White House Christmas tree

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP)

— Melania Trump and son Barron joined in a time-honored tradition of receiving the official White House Christmas tree, which will become the showstopper for a president who has vowed to put Christmas back at the center of the winter holidays.

A military quartet played holiday tunes Monday as a horse-drawn wagon carried the 19 1/2-foot (5.9-meter) Balsam fir from Wisconsin up the White House driveway.

The first lady, wearing a red turtleneck and a coat draped over her shoulders, and 11-year-old Barron, in a dark suit coat, white shirt and dark slacks, circled the tree and then visited with growers Jim and Diane Chapman. The Chapmans own a Wisconsin Christmas tree farm and won an annual contest sponsored by the National Christmas Tree Association.

"This is a beautiful tree. Thank you so much. We will decorate it very nicely," the first lady told the Chapmans and other family members. "I hope you can come and visit with us."

The White House grounds superintendent and the chief usher, who oversees the residence, picked out the tree during a September scouting trip.

After Mrs. Trump and Barron gave their symbolic approval, the tree was carefully carted off to the Blue Room where, after a slight

trim and the removal of a monstrous chandelier, it will take center stage.

President Donald Trump has been eagerly waiting to celebrate a Trump Christmas at the White House. During last year's presidential campaign, he railed against the habit of saying "Happy holidays" instead of "Merry Christmas," characterizing it as a "chipping away at Christianity."

"And we're not going to let that happen anymore, folks. I'll tell you," the then-candidate said at a March 2016 news conference in Florida. "A lot of times I'll say at the rallies around Christmastime we're going to start saying Merry Christmas again. You know, they don't say it anymore. The department stores don't put it up. We're going to start saying it again."

Invitations to dozens of holiday parties hosted by the Trumps are going out. The subject line of one emailed invite references a White House "Christmas reception" while the language of the invitation itself refers to a "holiday reception."

The tree for the Blue Room usually arrives the day after Thanksgiving, but it was delivered early this

year to accommodate the Trumps, who are spending the holiday at their Mar-a-Lago estate in Palm Beach, Florida.

While the Trumps are away, a small army of volunteer decorators and florists from around the country will descend on the White House on Friday and spend the holiday weekend transforming the 132-room mansion for Christmas, complete with a tree in every public room.

The White House kitchens will go into overdrive preparing all the food and cakes, cookies and pies that are typically served at the parties, along with the gingerbread White House — which, for health reasons, is never eaten. In recent years, cookies in the image of former President Barack Obama's dogs Bo and Sunny were always among the first items to be slipped into purses for the trip home.

Trump does not have a pet.

The White House plans to unveil the holiday decor on Monday, and the first lady will also welcome children and students from Joint Base Andrews for a holiday arts and crafts event. The president plans to light the National Christmas Tree on the Ellipse on Thursday.

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AP source: Authorities believe border agent may have fallen

By **CLAUDIA LAUER**
and **DAVID WARREN**

Associated Press

DALLAS (AP) — Investigators believe a border patrol agent who died in West Texas after suffering extensive injuries to his head and body may have fallen down a 14-foot (4-meter) culvert, and his partner, who radioed for help, has no memory of what happened, according to a U.S. official with knowledge of the investigation.

FBI spokeswoman Jeanette Harper said in a statement Monday that both agents were found late Saturday night in a culvert near Van Horn and that both had traumatic head injuries. Harper said Rogelio Martinez died early Sunday. The FBI is leading the investigation and results of his autopsy are pending.

Another U.S. official, who was briefed on the investigation but is not authorized to speak publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity, said Monday that Martinez was found at the bottom of the culvert and that investigators believe he may have fallen. The official said it happened after dark in an area that's known for drug activity and where agents often look for drugs in culverts.

Authorities haven't offered an official explanation of what happened to Martinez and his partner, and a border patrol supervisor said reports that the agents were attacked are "speculation."

Several elected officials, including President Donald Trump, have called Martinez's death an attack. Rush Carter, a supervisor for the U.S. Customs and Border Patrol region that includes the area where Martinez died, said all the agency can con-

firm is that the two "were injured while performing their regular duties."

"We are waiting for the investigation to fully determine how those injuries happened," Carter said Monday night.

Harper told the San Antonio Express-News on Sunday that Martinez and his partner were "not fired upon," but she didn't elaborate.

Martinez's father told the El Paso Times that his son suffered serious injuries that left his head "destroyed." The agent repeatedly suffered cardiac arrest before succumbing to his injuries, an emotional Jose Martinez said.

"I would tell him, 'Son, that job is too dangerous.' But he would say, 'Dad, it's the job I like. I want to defend my country from terrorists. I want to prevent terrorists and drugs from coming into the country,'" Martinez said.

Rogelio Martinez, father to an 11-year-old, lived in El Paso and joined the Border Patrol in 2013.

CBP issued a statement Sunday that was thin on details, saying the two agents "were responding to activity" near Interstate 10 and close to Van Horn, about 30 miles (50 kilometers) from the border with Mexico and 110 miles (175 kilometers) southeast of El Paso. A CBP spokesman said Martinez and his partner were taken to a hospital, where Martinez died. Martinez's partner, whose name hasn't been released, was in serious condition.

Kevin McAleenan, acting commissioner of CBP, said in a letter sent to border agents on Sunday that Martinez was unconscious when agents found him with "multiple injuries" to his head and body.



AP photo

Chris Cabrera, a spokesman for a border patrol agents union, the National Border Patrol Council, told

The Associated Press that the two agents appeared to have been struck in the head with a rock or rocks. Cabrera said agents who responded to the scene described it as "grisly" and said Martinez and his partner had "extensive injuries."

Texas Gov. Greg Abbott announced a \$20,000 reward Monday for information that leads to an arrest or conviction in the case. The Republican also tweeted that "resources must be increased to prevent these attacks in the future."

Republican Sen. Ted Cruz took a similar approach in a news release: "We are grateful for the courage and sacri-

fice of our border agents who have dedicated their lives to keeping us safe."

Trump took to Twitter on Sunday to insist that Martinez's death underscores the need for a wall along the border between the U.S. and Mexico.

"Border Patrol Officer killed at Southern Border, another badly hurt. We will seek out and bring to justice those responsible. We will, and must, build the Wall!" he tweeted.

The president offered his condolences to Martinez's family. He also said Martinez's partner was "brutally beaten and badly, badly hurt" but that it "looks like he'll make it."

Authorities haven't said whether they have any suspects or whether they think smugglers or people who

were in the country illegally were involved.

Border Patrol records show that the agency's Big Bend sector, which includes the area where the incident occurred, accounted for about 1 percent of the more than 61,000 apprehensions its agents made along the Southwest border between October 2016 and May 2017. The region's mountains make it a difficult area for people to cross illegally into the U.S. from Mexico.

The Border Patrol website lists 38 agents, not including Martinez, who have died since late 2003. Some were attacked while working along the border and others were killed in traffic accidents.

Martinez is the second agent to have died this year.

Rare 'Dracula' poster sells for \$525,800 at auction

DALLAS (AP) — An auction house says a rare poster for the 1931 horror film "Dracula" has sold for \$525,800.

Dallas-based Heritage Auctions said the sale Saturday appears to be the highest amount a movie poster has garnered at auction. Heritage says the poster, which features the image of actor Bela Lugosi as Dracula, is one of only two known to be left of that particular version.

The buyer wishes to remain anonymous.

Heritage says the poster was put up for auction by the family of long-time cinematographer and photographer George J. Mitchell Jr., who had owned the poster since the 1950s.

Mitchell's son, Arthur Mitchell, said in a news release that his late father, who loved horror films, had childhood memories of seeing "Dracula" when it was released.

1 killed, 1 injured in crash of Air Force training jet

DEL RIO, Texas (AP) — An airman has been killed and another injured after an Air Force training jet crashed near Amistad Reservoir on the Texas-Mexico border.

An Air Force statement says the twin-jet, two-seat T-38 Talon jet aircraft assigned to Laughlin Air Force Base near Del Rio went down about 4 p.m. Monday about 14 miles (23 kilometers) northwest of the base.

One airman was dead at the scene. The injured airman was taken to Val Verde Regional Medical Center in Del Rio. No identities have been released, and no information has been made available regarding what led to the crash.

A board of Air Force officers will investigate.

Attorneys filing Vegas shooting lawsuits with 450 plaintiffs

BY **KEN RITTER**

Associated Press

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Attorneys who filed one of the first lawsuits after the Oct. 1 mass shooting that killed 58 concert-goers and left hundreds injured on the Las Vegas Strip filed four new negligence cases Monday on behalf of more than 450 victims.

This time, however, Houston-based lawyers Chad Pinkerton and Mo Aziz filed the cases in Los Angeles against companies including MGM Resorts International, the corporate owner of both the Mandalay Bay resort and the Route 91 Harvest Festival concert venue.

Pinkerton said the intent was to get the cases before a jury less likely to be influenced by the size and clout of a casino company that is both an active political contributor in Nevada and the largest employer in the state.

"Los Angeles is a better venue for fairness for our clients," Pinkerton said in a telephone interview ahead of a news conference announcing the filing of two wrongful death lawsuits, a third case stemming from a woman's head wound and a fourth on behalf of 450 people claiming injuries in the worst mass shooting in modern U.S. history.

"There would be certain advantages for MGM to defend its case in Nevada," Pinkerton said, adding that a jury in MGM Resorts' hometown might include people with direct or indirect ties to the company and its more than 70,000 employees.

The company has said through representatives it won't litigate shooting lawsuits in the media. In statements, it has blamed the massacre on the

gunman, Stephen Paddock.

Defendants in the new lawsuits also include Live Nation Entertainment, the concert promoter. In a statement, the Beverly Hills, California-based company expressed sorrow for "countless people forever impacted by this senseless act of violence" and said it

was cooperating with an active FBI investigation. It declined to comment about the lawsuits.

Documents submitted Monday in Los Angeles also seek compensation from Paddock's estate.

See **VEGAS**, Page 5



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After US pushback, AT&T prepares to fight for Time Warner



AP photo

In this Wednesday, Dec. 7, 2016, file photo, AT&T Chairman and CEO Randall Stephenson, left, testifies on Capitol Hill in Washington, before a Senate Judiciary subcommittee hearing on the proposed merger between AT&T and Time Warner, as Time Warner Chairman and CEO Jeffrey Bewkes listens at right. The Justice Department intends to sue AT&T to stop its \$85 billion purchase of Time Warner, according to a person familiar with the matter who was not authorized to discuss the matter ahead of the suit's official filing.

By TALI ARBEL

AP Technology Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Seeing an attempt to block its buyout out of Time Warner as a "radical" departure by the U.S. government, AT&T is preparing for a fight to see the \$85 billion deal through.

One key asset owned by Time Warner, CNN, could create problems for the U.S. and President Donald Trump, whose very public spat with the news network has raised suspicions that he might have interfered with the department's decision.

DOJ's antitrust chief, Makan Delrahim, insists that Trump did not tell him what to do. White House spokeswoman Sarah Huckabee Sanders said Monday she wasn't aware of any specific action related to the case taken by the White House.

In a press release, Delrahim said that a combined AT&T-Time Warner would "greatly harm American consumers" by hiking television bills and hampering innovation, particularly in online television service. The DOJ said AT&T would be able to charge rival distributors such as cable companies "hundreds of millions of dollars more per year" for Time Warner's programming — payments that would ultimately get passed down to consumers through their cable bills.

In an emailed statement Monday, AT&T general counsel David McA-

tee said the lawsuit is a "radical and inexplicable departure from decades of antitrust precedent" and that the company is confident that it will prevail in court.

AT&T runs the country's second largest wireless network and is the biggest provider of traditional satellite and cable TV services. Time Warner owns HBO, CNN, TBS and other networks, as well as the Warner Bros. movie studio.

The government's objections to the deal surprised many on Wall Street. AT&T and Time Warner are not direct competitors, and "vertical" mergers between such companies have typically had an easier time winning government approval than deals that combine two rivals.

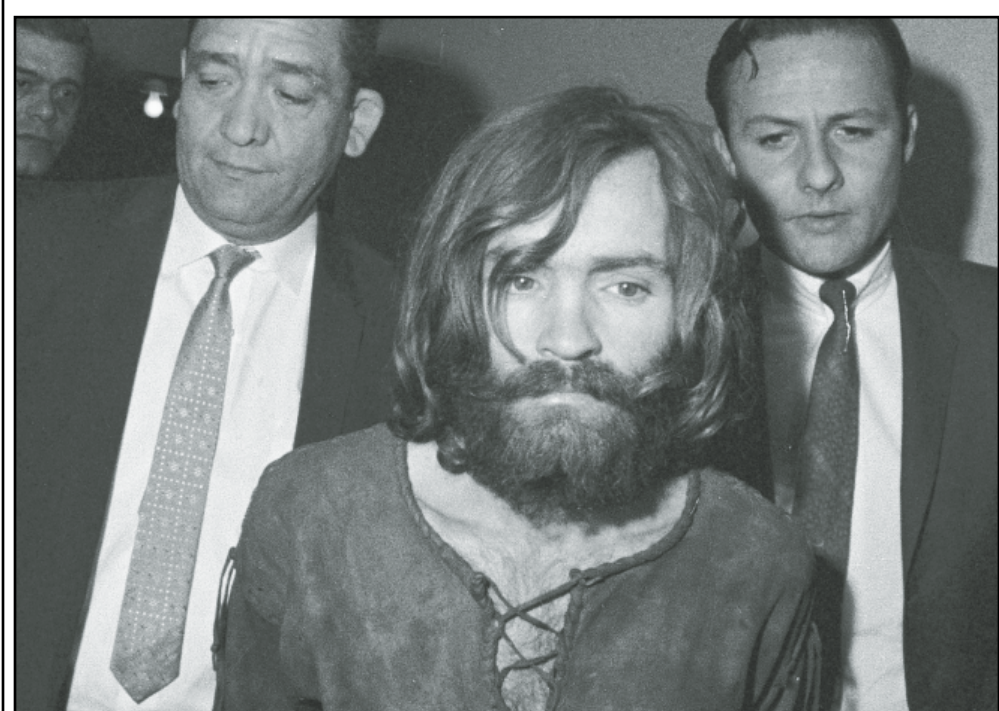
The last time the U.S. government won a court victory in a vertical merger antitrust case was in 1972, when the Supreme Court said Ford's takeover of a spark-plug business violated antitrust law.

Many had expected government approval of the deal because Obama-era antitrust officials approved a similar deal — Comcast's purchase of NBCUniversal — in 2011, after imposing restrictions on Comcast's behavior that were meant to protect consumers.

As a candidate, however, Trump vowed to block the pending AT&T-Time Warner deal because it would

See AT&T, Page 6

Manson has endured as the face of evil for nearly 50 years



AP photo

In this 1969 file photo, Charles Manson is escorted to his arraignment on conspiracy-murder charges in connection with the Sharon Tate murder case. Authorities say Manson, cult leader and mastermind behind 1969 deaths of actress Sharon Tate and several others, died on Sunday, Nov. 19, 2017. He was 83.

By BRIAN MELLEY

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Other killers snuffed out far more lives than Charles Manson did in 1969. Yet he has endured for nearly a half century as the personification of evil, even in an age in which mass shootings leave dozens dead at a time.

Manson, the hippie cult leader who died Sunday at 83, horrified America more than a generation ago with the way he seemed to have turned young people murderously against everything their parents cherished. That horror continued long after he had been locked up, in large part because of the demonic image that crime experts say he cultivated with his bizarre behavior and his searing, wild-eyed gaze.

"He had that maniacal look that was always so striking," said James Alan Fox, a criminology professor at Northeastern University in Boston, calling Manson the most notorious killer of all time. "Manson was memorable: his voice, his appearance, his mannerisms, as well as his crimes and the 'crazy Charlie' act he put on."

Manson was convicted of orchestrating the

slaughter of pregnant actress Sharon Tate and six other people over two successive August nights in Los Angeles. Prosecutors said he was trying to foment a race war, an idea he supposedly got from a misreading of the Beatles song "Helter Skelter."

He was sentenced to death, but that was commuted to life in prison after the California Supreme Court struck down the death penalty in 1972.

The murders were horrific in their brutality. Tate, a beautiful 26-year-old actress known for "Valley of the Dolls," was stabbed and hung from a rafter in her living room. The intruders scrawled "Pigs" and a misspelled "Healter Skelter" in the victims' blood.

To his long rap sheet, historians might add this: accessory to the murder of the 1960s. The Manson family's crimes, along with the deadly violence that erupted later in 1969 during a Rolling Stones concert at California's Altamont Speedway, seemed to mark the demise of the hippie ideal of peace and love.

Manson's notoriety developed in part because he played an integral role ending the mood of wishfulness and illusion that marked that era, said Todd Gitlin, author of "The Sixties: Years of Hope, Days of Rage." Although Manson wasn't typical of the counterculture, he could be seen as the poster child for violence that some associated with the anti-establishment movement.

Gitlin said he and others in the underground press were as aghast at the crimes as those in the so-called silent majority, which President Richard Nixon had dubbed the older generation.

"The country was deeply divided," Gitlin said. "One of the things that deeply divided it was culture. So Manson was a gift to those Americans who felt that once you escaped from button-down America, you were prone to become a dangerous sicko."

Although Manson didn't carry out the murders himself, he has managed to endure in the annals of American crime as the cult leader who persuaded middle-class kids to kill for him.

"Manson was a manipulator. In a sense, he was a puppeteer," said Jeff Guinn, author of "Manson: The Life and Times of Charles Manson." "Manson would seem to be all kinds of things to all kinds of people, but nearly all of it was an act."

Had Manson been executed, he might barely be remembered today, Guinn said.

Instead, with a healthy assist from news coverage, he was able to capture the public's attention every few years when he got a parole hearing or in the occasional interviews he granted, in which he often put on his "crazy Charlie" act, crime experts said.

With the swastika he carved in his forehead plainly visible, Manson crossed his eyes to make funny faces, shouted theatrically and occasionally uttered gibberish.

While he spoke earnestly about a troubled childhood and professed his innocence, he also made grandiose and odd remarks. He claimed in an interview that he created God and said they were best friends.

VEGAS

Continued from Page 4

They included a re-filing of a negligence claim originally filed Oct. 10 in Las Vegas on behalf of a wounded California woman, Paige Gasper, with four new plaintiffs added. Gasper's original case was dismissed Friday in Nevada.

"Most of our clients from California," Pinkerton said. "Most all are getting their treatment here."

The lawsuits do not seek class-action status, but Aziz said he expects they will be consolidated during pretrial investigations and evidence exchanges.

The new lawsuits followed a wave of cases filed last week in Nevada state court in Las Vegas on behalf of 14 concertgoers, including some who were shot, injured or say they were traumatized trying to escape.

A Chicago law firm helped prepare those filings, involving plaintiffs from the Chicago area and a California man who was shot and wounded.

Police and the FBI say the 64-year-old Paddock rained bursts of gunfire for 10 minutes from a 32nd-floor room at the Mandalay Bay into a crowd of 22,000 people in the concert venue across Las Vegas Boule-

vard.

Paddock, a high-stakes video poker gambler with homes in Reno and the southern Nevada resort town of Mesquite spent several days amassing an arsenal of assault-style weapons and ammunition in a two-room suite. Authorities say he killed himself before officers reached his room. A motive for the deadly rampage has not been identified.

Plaintiffs in mass-shooting lawsuits face a high legal bar to prove responsibility and liability by someone other than the shooter, and lawsuits can take years in court.

But Pinkerton said he

believes he can show that tragedy could have been avoided if hotel and corporate officials followed hotel weapon possession policies already in place and implemented recent safety recommendations.

"We know in this day and age that evil does happen, and we have to protect against that," the lawyer said. "This was the largest venue security failure in U.S. history."

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AT&T

Continued from Page 5

concentrate too much "power in the hands of too few." As president, Trump has often blasted CNN for its coverage of him and his administration, disparaging it and its reporters as "fake news."

At a press conference Monday, AT&T CEO Randall Stephenson addressed speculation over whether the government's lawsuit was "all about CNN," saying, "Frankly, I don't know." But Stephenson said AT&T would not agree to anything that would result in it losing control of CNN.

A person familiar with the matter, who could not go on the record, previously told the Associated Press that DOJ wanted the combined company to sell either Turner — the parent of CNN, TBS and other networks — or DirecTV to satisfy its antitrust concerns. A DOJ official, speaking on condition of anonymity in order to discuss a pending legal case, said Monday that the government is still willing to work with AT&T on "structural relief," or selling off assets.

AT&T has argued that buying Time Warner would let it package and deliver video more cheaply, over the internet, rather than in expensive cable bundles. It already has a DirecTV Now streaming service, which puts popular live TV networks online, and costs \$35 a month and up, cheaper than traditional cable bundles.

Consumer advocates and some Democratic politicians applauded the lawsuit as a blow against media consolidation. Consumers Union, an advocacy group that opposes the deal, said there were "legitimate reasons" to block the deal to protect consumers, but called reports of political pressure "concerning."

The consumer advocacy group Free Press likewise praised the DOJ action, but its president, Craig Aaron, objected to Trump's "saber-rattling" against CNN and other outlets that air criticism of the administration. Aaron called on the Justice Department to demonstrate its independence by reviewing TV station owner Sinclair's proposed takeover of rival Tribune. Sinclair is a conservative-leaning company.

Delrahim, the antitrust chief, has previously expressed a preference for requiring companies to sell off assets rather than allowing mergers to proceed with conditions on the merged company's behavior.

Comcast has faced criticism for breaking some promises related to the conditions on its NBCU deal. For example, the FCC fined Comcast \$800,000 for not doing enough to let customers know they could just get internet as a standalone service. Bloomberg TV also complained that it was exiled in Comcast's channel lineups far from other news and business networks. The FCC agreed.

The DOJ official said Monday that the AT&T merger was more harmful to consumers than the Comcast-NBCU deal in part because DirecTV has customers across the country. Comcast only operates in certain regions.

This isn't the first time that AT&T has faced pushback from the government over an acquisition. The Justice Department also sued to block its \$39 billion bid of T-Mobile, a direct competitor, in August 2011. AT&T walked away months later.

CBS suspends Rose, PBS halts his show following allegations



In this April 13, 2017 file photo, Charlie Rose attends The Hollywood Reporter's 35 Most Powerful People in Media party in New York. The Washington Post says eight women have accused television host Charlie Rose of multiple unwanted sexual advances and inappropriate behavior. CBS News suspended Charlie Rose and PBS is to halt production and distribution of a show following the sexual harassment report.

By **DAVID BAUDER**

AP Media Writer
NEW YORK (AP) — Charlie Rose is the latest public figure to be felled by sexual misconduct allegations, with PBS halting distribution of his nightly interview show and CBS News suspending him Monday following a Washington Post report with the accusations of eight women.

The women, who all worked for Rose or tried to work for him, accused the veteran newsman of groping them, walking naked in front of them and telling one that he dreamed about her swimming nude.

Rose, 75, said in a statement that he was "deeply embarrassed" and apologized for his behavior.

"PBS was shocked to learn today of these deeply disturbing allegations," the public broadcasting service said in a statement. "We are immediately suspending distribution of 'Charlie Rose.'"

Three women went on the record in the Post's deeply-reported story. Reah Bravo, a former associate producer for Rose's PBS show who began working for him in 2007,

told the newspaper: "He was a sexual predator, and I was his victim." She said Rose groped her on multiple occasions and once, during a business trip to Indiana, called her to his hotel room where he emerged from a shower naked.

Kyle Godfrey-Ryan, one of Rose's former assistants, was 21 when she said Rose repeatedly called her to describe his fantasies of her swimming naked at the pool at his Long Island home while he watched from his bedroom. She said she was fired when Rose learned she had spoken to a mutual friend about his behavior.

Megan Creydt, who worked as a coordinator on Rose's PBS show in 2005 and 2006, told the newspaper that she was sitting in the passenger seat as Rose drove in Manhattan one day when he put his hand on her thigh. Five women interviewed by the Post described similar grabs to their legs in what many interpreted as an attempt to see their reactions.

Rose said that he has behaved insensitively at times "and I accept responsibility for that, though I do not believe that all of these al-

legations are accurate. I always felt that I was pursuing shared feelings, even though I now realize I was mistaken. I have learned a great deal as a result of these events, and I hope others will, too."

Rose's interview show is seen in 94 percent of the country on PBS stations. It is re-broadcast on Bloomberg's cable network, which also announced Monday it was suspending the show. He interviews a wide circle of people in the media, politics and entertainment — this month including Harvard President Drew Faust, rapper Macklemore and the Post's Robert Costa, who talked about that paper's sexual harassment investigation of Alabama Senate candidate Roy Moore.

He also hosts "CBS This Morning" with Gayle King and Norah O'Donnell, a critically-acclaimed morning news programs which has been gaining the past few years on its better-known rivals. Rose also conducts interviews for "60 Minutes."

Despite his age and heart troubles in the past, Rose had been one of the busiest figures in television.

Two hours after the Post story went online, one of its authors, Amy Brittain, tweeted that "sadly, my inbox is already flooded with women who have had similar, disturbing encounters with Charlie Rose."

Rose owned his interview show, even though PBS distributed it, and that raised questions of what recourse women who had complaints about his behavior could do. The Post quoted Yvette Vega, his long-time executive producer, as saying she failed and deeply regretted not helping women who complained about his behavior.

But it apparently was a poorly-kept secret in the industry. Two former employees interviewed by the Post said young women hired by the show were known as "Charlie's Angels." A Post contributing writer who worked on the story said she was reporting on some of the allegations while working at another news organization in 2010 but could not confirm them.

Stories of sexual misconduct have been coming in a flood since The New York Times first reported on Hollywood mogul Harvey Weinstein's behavior in early October. Even on Monday, the Times suspended White House reporter Glenn Thrush while it looked into a story about him making drunken, unwanted advances on women. In the news business alone, NBC political reporter Mark Halperin and top National Public Radio news executive Michael Oreskes have lost their jobs.

Interviewed last April outside a Time magazine gala, Rose was asked by The Associated Press about Fox News' Bill O'Reilly, who lost his job when it was revealed his network had paid millions of dollars to settle claims women had made against him.

"All of the cases that raise the issue of sexual harassment, which is a terrible thing, (and) has probably been not exposed enough," Rose said. "Not enough in the sense of the attention in the past, so that people were afraid to come forward. I think people are coming forward now."

Judge permanently blocks Trump sanctuary cities order

By **SUDHIN**

THANAWALA

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — A federal judge on Monday permanently blocked President Donald Trump's executive order to cut funding from cities that limit cooperation with U.S. immigration authorities.

U.S. District Court Judge William Orrick rejected the administration's argument

that the executive order applies only to a relatively small pot of money and said Trump cannot set new conditions on spending approved by Congress.

The judge had previously made the same arguments in a ruling that put a temporary hold on the executive order targeting so-called sanctuary cities. The Trump administration has appealed that decision to the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of

Appeals.

"The District Court exceeded its authority today when it barred the President from instructing his cabinet members to enforce existing law," Department of Justice spokesman Devin O'Malley said in a statement late Monday. "The Justice Department will vindicate the President's lawful authority to direct the executive branch."

Orrick's ruling

came in lawsuits brought by two California counties, San Francisco and Santa Clara.

San Francisco City Attorney Dennis Herrera said the ruling was "a victory for the American people and the rule of law."

"President Trump might be able to tweet whatever comes to mind, but he can't grant himself new au-

thority because he feels like it," he said in a statement.

A lawyer for the DOJ argued during a hearing before Orrick in April that the executive order applied to only a few grants that would affect less than \$1 million for Santa Clara County and possibly no money for San Francisco.

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Cowboys' playoff hopes rest on winning without Elliott



By SCHUYLER DIXON
AP Pro Football Writer

FRISCO, Texas (AP) — The Dallas Cowboys may not have any realistic playoff hopes remaining by the time suspended running back Ezekiel Elliott returns for the final two games of the regular season.

If the defending NFC East champs are to stay in the postseason picture, they probably have to win at least three games without last year's NFL rushing leader, who has four games left in a six-game ban for alleged domestic violence.

The Cowboys (5-5) have been outscored 47-0 in the second half of consecutive losses without Elliott, including 30-0 by Philadelphia on Sunday night as the Eagles all but wrapped up the division title with a 37-9 victory.

Dallas has its quick Thanksgiving turn against the Los Angeles Chargers (4-6), followed by another Thursday game against NFC East rival Washington.

"Coach (Jason) Garrett couldn't put it in better words in giving our options all the way down from 11-5 to 5-11," said Dak Prescott, last year's NFL Offensive Rookie of the Year but now with three more interceptions than he had all of last season (four). "It's up to us to figure out what we want to do."

The Cowboys are hopeful four-time Pro Bowl left tackle Tyron Smith can return against the Chargers after missing two games with groin and back injuries. The optimistic view would be a return against the Redskins for 2016 All-Pro linebacker Sean Lee, who missed two earlier games and was out again against the Eagles with hamstringing issues.

Prescott was sacked eight times against the Falcons before the Cowboys stabilized things somewhat with Byron Bell starting instead of Chaz Green in Smith's spot. Still, the Cowboys have just one

See **COWBOYS**, Page 13

AP photo Philadelphia Eagles' Nigel Bradham (53) scores a touchdown after recovering a Dallas Cowboys' Dak Prescott (4) fumble in the second half of an NFL football game, Sunday, Nov. 19, 2017, in Arlington, Texas.

Success story? Texas bowl eligible for 1st time since 2014



to be huge for Herman and the entire program going forward.

Herman got the job at Texas because Charlie Strong had three straight losing seasons. Strong's first 11 games mirrored Herman at this point, but after promising the program would not have another five-loss season, Strong had two more and was fired with a 16-21 record overall.

"Still a ton left to play for. I think our guys know that," Herman said

Monday ahead of Friday's game against Texas Tech (5-6). "We've talked to the guys about leaving your legacy."

Herman called reaching a bowl game the "minimum" standard for Texas. He now has to avoid the finish that hit Strong back in 2014 when the Longhorns got crushed in the regular-season finale and then the bowl game to finish 6-7, turning a promising season into a dud.

"They don't want to be remembered as the senior class that helped usher in a new way of doing things, a return to prominence," Herman said.

Herman took a trip down bad-memory lane of just how rough things have been of late:

—Texas hasn't won eight games in a season since 2013, and even that wasn't good, enough as coach Mack Brown was pushed out despite his team going into the final game with a chance to win the Big 12 title.

—Texas hasn't finished the season on a three-game win streak since 2009.

—The Longhorns are 1-6 in their last senior tribute home finales.

Beat struggling Texas Tech on Friday and win the bowl game and the Longhorns will be 8-5 and clearly on an upward trend.

Linebacker Naashon Hughes is one of the few seniors still left from the team that played in a bowl game.

"I've seen a lot of change," Hughes said. "We've finally taken a step in the right direction and we want to keep in going, so that means we've got to keep working even harder."

Herman said he doesn't sense any letdown coming after qualifying for a bowl. He's determined to make sure the program finishes above .500 this season.

"To finish 6-6, that's average. We want to make this legacy, the jumping off point for a new chapter in Texas football, better than average," Herman said.

AP photo Texas head coach Tom Herman watches his team from the sidelines during the first half of an NCAA college football game against West Virginia, Saturday, Nov. 18, 2017, in Morgantown, W.Va. Texas defeated West Virginia 28-14.

By JIM VERTUNO

AP Sports Writer

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Finally, Texas coach Tom Herman has some tangible evidence if he wants to declare his first season a success. The Longhorns are bowl eligible for the first time since 2014.

No more having to fall back on clichés about playing hard and being almost good enough to beat ranked teams. Texas finally beat a ranked opponent last week, pushing the Longhorns to 6-5 on the season. It was small step that could eventually prove

No. 19 LSU views Texas A&M visit as high-stakes game

By BRYAN LAZARE

Associated Press

BATON ROUGE, La. (AP) — LSU coach Ed Orgeron and the 19th-ranked Tigers can hardly afford to have their remarkable turnaround fizzle out now.

A home finale against Texas A&M is all that stands between the 19th-ranked Tigers (8-3, 5-2 Southeastern Conference) and their best record in SEC play since 2012, not to mention the possibility of 10 victories for the first time since 2013.

None of that looked likely after a stunning upset loss at home to Troy on Sept. 30, LSU's first nonconference loss in Death Valley since 2000. If anything, a first losing season since 1999 looked more likely. But the Tigers have rallied to beat five SEC opponents in their last six games, with the lone loss coming in a competitive matchup at No. 1 Alabama.

"This game is everything," said Orgeron, an energetic Louisiana native whose first full season as head coach has been eventful. "Everything we've built and everything we've done is on the line in this game. We want to finish (the regular season) with nine wins. We want to go to a good bowl. These guys deserve that and Texas A&M is the next step."

The Tigers have not lost to the Aggies since Texas A&M entered the SEC. LSU is 5-0 against Texas A&M, all against coach Kevin Sumlin.

Since being eliminated from SEC West title contention with its loss to Alabama, LSU has bounced back with comfortable victories against Arkansas and Tennessee.

Orgeron kept the season from going off the rails after a turbulent September that also included a 30-point loss at Mississippi State before the Troy loss.

"We had to look at ourselves," Orgeron said. "We're 3-2 and were not playing very well. Frankly, we were embarrassed. That's what brings out the best of you as a coach and a player. I thank the guys for their leadership, the way we practiced."

"Thank God the Florida field goal kicker missed the extra point," Orgeron added, referring to a 17-16 victory over the Gators the week after the Troy loss. "The Florida game gave us confidence. It set the blueprint. It set the blueprint for Auburn when we down 20 points. We had some young guys who understood how to go to meetings, how to practice, how to finish and how you've got to play."

LSU overcame a 20-0 deficit in a 27-23 victory over Auburn, which currently is ranked sixth in the AP Poll and could climb into the CFP picture by beating Alabama in the Iron Bowl at home this weekend. LSU then knocked off Ole Miss, Arkansas and Tennessee.

"A lot of leaders stepped up after the Troy game," senior quarterback Danny Etling said. "This wasn't how the season was going to go. Now, it's extremely important to finish with a win. This is one of our last chances to play as this team."

Texas A&M has made a comeback of its own after being convincingly beaten at home by Mississippi State and Auburn. The Aggies beat New Mexico and Mississippi to improve to 7-4. More importantly, Texas A&M can get its first winning SEC record since 2012 by defeating LSU.

"Texas A&M is explosive on offense and talented on defense," Orgeron said. "They made some big plays on us last year in the second half. Our guys get fired up to play against them. Houston is a big recruiting area for us. We have a lot of guys from Houston and Texas."

With the new early signing period beginning Dec. 20, Orgeron sees LSU's resurgence as a recruiting boon.

"Winning these last three games would mean a lot," Orgeron said. "We make calls to recruits on Sundays. The response from the players is a lot better on a Sunday night when we have won. Recruiting is the lifeblood of any program."

Derrius Guice ran for a school-record 285 yards in the Tigers' 54-39 victory at College Station last Thanksgiving. LSU held a 34-10 third-quarter lead, but the Aggies kept scoring against a very good defense.

"This game means a lot," sophomore defensive end Rashard Lawrence said. "We were at rock bottom earlier this year. We know that. Everybody knows that. I feel it is important to finish it big. We have to play a 60-minute game even if we are up or down. No game is easy."

Rangers acquire Herrera from Yankees; add 6 to 40-man roster

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — The Texas Rangers have added six minor league players to their 40-man roster, along with right-hander Ronald Herrera after acquiring him in a trade from the New York Yankees.

With the moves Monday, the Rangers protected those players from being available next month at the end of the winter meetings when other teams can draft players left off major league rosters.

Texas purchased the contracts of right-hander Ariel Jurado, catcher Jose Trevino and infielder Isiah Kiner-Falefa from Double-A Frisco; and the contracts of right-hander Jonathan Hernandez and left-handers Brett Martin and Joe Palumbo from High-A Down East.

To get the 22-year-old Herrera, Texas gave up minor league lefty Reiver Sanmartin. Herrera was a combined 8-1 with a 1.91 ERA in 14 starts in the Yankees' minor league system, and made his major league debut with two relief appearances.



Herrera



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Annie's Mailbox

Different Priorities in Retirement

Dear Annie: My husband and I have just retired, and I'm beginning to worry about our personality differences.

We live in the same town as our children and grandchildren. I love to help out with baby-sitting and carpooling. I love my children and grandchildren and enjoy being a part of their lives. I have friends who like to meet for lunch and club meetings, and I volunteer some, too. In short, I keep busy.

My husband doesn't have anything much to do or many friends. And he doesn't seem as into being a grandparent as I am. He never misses the grandkids when we are away traveling. He's grumpy.

I think that being a grandparent is an important part of grandchildren's lives. Plus it's such a blessing to be with them. I want them to know we love them and care about them.

I have hinted at all of these feelings a thousand times to my husband, but he just doesn't get it. I'm losing hope. The grandkids may look back one day and remember his lack of affection and interest. Is there anything I can do? -- Personality Problems

Dear Personal-ity Problems: One plainspoken truth is worth a thousand hints. Talk to your husband about how you're feeling. Explain to him why you love to spend time with the grandchildren and that you want to be a team with him, and say it's hard to be a team un-

less you both commit. You can start small, asking him to pick one day a week when together you will focus on the grandchildren for some part of the day. Encourage his participation by focusing on what he does do instead of what he doesn't.

Dear Annie: "Susanah" and I have been friends on and off for over 30 years. She lives in a town that is approximately 75 miles from where I live. The problem is I am tired of being the one who keeps in touch. The most recent time I complained via email about that, she admitted that she had been "negligent," and I agreed. Unfortunately, I haven't heard from her in two months. Should I continue to keep the friendship going or let it die? -- Friendship Is a Two-Way Street

Dear Friendship Is a Two-Way Street: Your signature says it all: Friendship is a two-way street, and your lane is looking worse for wear. Allow some distance to grow between you and her and see what she does to traverse it. If six months or a year from now she contacts you, let your heart tell you whether it wants to open up to her. Don't ignore her out of pride or as a punishment. Thirty years of friendship can't be cast aside hastily.

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

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♥ A Q 10 6
♦ 10 8 5
♣ K Q 10 9

WEST
♠ 10 9 6 5 4
♥ 5 3 2
♦ 7 2
♣ 7 6 4

EAST
♠ A 7 2
♥ K
♦ A K J 9 6 3
♣ 8 5 2

SOUTH
♠ K J 8
♥ J 9 8 7 4
♦ Q 4
♣ A J 3

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North East South West
1 ♠ 1 ♦ 1 ♥ Pass
2 ♥ 3 ♦ 4 ♥

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The line of defense adopted by the opponents sometimes provides declarer with the precise information he needs to land his contract. What the defenders do — and just as importantly, what they don't do — is often highly significant.

Consider this case where South reached four hearts after East had bid diamonds twice. East won the diamond lead with the king and played the ace, West following with the deuce. East then cashed the ace of spades and, despite his partner's discouraging four-spot, continued with a

second spade, taken by South with the king.

A less-perceptive declarer might now have brought an unhappy conclusion to the proceedings — at least from his viewpoint — by attempting a heart finesse and losing to East's king. But South had watched the play to the first four tricks very attentively, and drew the correct inference. So, at trick five, he led a heart to the ace and dropped East's singleton king to bring in the contract.

The winning play in trumps was predicated entirely on East's defense. It was clear to everyone at the table that West had started with just two diamonds and was in an overruffing position.

When East played the ace and another spade instead of playing a third diamond, there could be only one rational explanation. Obviously, East was afraid declarer would ruff the diamond with the jack, and West would be unable to overruff. This would reveal the location of the king, and South would therefore not attempt the finesse.

So declarer correctly interpreted the spade continuation at trick four as an attempt to lure him into taking the finesse in hearts. But if that was what East wanted, then it couldn't be right for South to oblige him. He therefore declined the offer and was amply rewarded when the unguarded sovereign fell.

Tomorrow: Solution to a quandary.

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SUDOKU

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

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

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!

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

ANSWER:

Tomorrow's Horoscope

BY HOLIDAY MATHIS



Solar Change

The sun moves out of Scorpio, leaving that scorpion's stinger in the past. Sarcasm may be a sign of a healthy brain, but it's not always a sign of a healthy attitude. You may like a good laugh as much as the next person, but at whose expense? Support people. Love them. Put that at the core of all you do and you'll be cosmically aligned.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You can't expect to think differently if you're using the same references as everyone else. For this reason and more, it's time to go digging deeper for new influences.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Knowing your weakness is the first step. From there you can build on your strengths enough to compensate, find a way to capitalize on the inherent gift in your weakness, or work directly to develop the weak area.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). People may ask about your plans, but you might want to show them what you've already done instead. That will speak with more volume and clarity, leaving no room for doubt.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). There's something to be said for feeling like you have to impress a person. It will be interesting to see how the nearness of such a person changes your approach. Of course, it's nicer to be with people who already get you.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You're so close to success on a project, though you may have to redefine it. For instance, success may be simply finishing the thing so you can move on and never look at it again.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Breathe. Of course, that's not your only job in the process of helping this thing along. Breathing in; breathing out; plus investing some of your

faith: Hit those three, and then step back. Your job is done.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). It might sound like a mean thing, but a big part of your happiness, success and well-being is just knowing who to stay away from. It's better to be alone than with an influence that makes you behave as less than you really are.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). On this day of cosmic change, you'll adapt more easily to the transition than most, if only because you long ago accepted the temporary nature of all things. For this reason and more, someone wants to hold your hand.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You don't have to wait until tomorrow to get your second chance. By then you might not even want it anymore. To a person of action, now is the second chance -- and now and now.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). The bottle of water by your side helps you stop and think while you stop and drink. A more thoughtful (and hydrated) approach to speaking with people and doing your work will lead to an important breakthrough.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You'll be in a position to defend a person or idea, and because you're so loyal you'll do this well. For this reason, knowing whether the person or idea is in the right will be crucial. Find out first.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). There's that one person you like to have around -- the one who's like a candle in a dark room, mysterious, warm and

always casting a lovely quality of light on you.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Nov. 21). Your creativity is going strong through the end of the year, but it's your practical efforts and team building actions that carry a plan to the payout. Give your body a new way to express your energy in 2018. You're strong, graceful and competitive. The places you see will invite you back: This is love. Leo and Capricorn adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 6, 27, 15, 42 and 50.

HOLIDAY COPING STRATEGIES BY SIGN, PART ONE: 'Tis the season to remember that as fantastic and horrible as things get in families, you're pretty much stuck with each other. Blood is thicker than water -- though generally not as fun to drink or swim in. ARIES: If you see an in, declare yourself the leader and start making decisions for the group. Be decisive and quick so they won't know what hit 'em. And if you can make your decisions seem like the group's, you'll be even more effective. TAURUS: Make yourself comfortable. Others learn from your "chill" example. Calm and steady wins the race, and it also wins whatever ridiculous argument is going on at the moment. GEMINI: Chances are, your family can be clueless -- not as individuals, but as a group. They can collectively not notice that they drove away and left Timmy at the truck stop, or that Aunt Jane is tipsy and needs coffee, or that the dog has been licking the turkey legs. That's OK. You're clueful. Drop those clues, generously and often. Eventually everyone will get the answer, even if you have to supply it for them.

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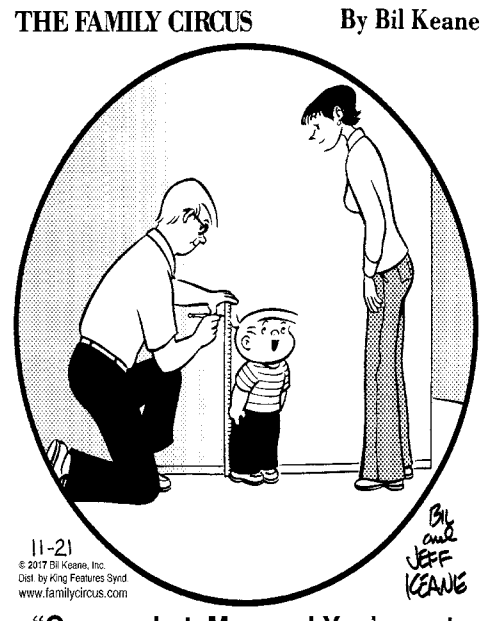
Table with 20 columns (KMID, UNI, KPEJ, KOSA, KTLT, KWES, KMLM, KPBT, KWWT, KWES2, WTBS, TNT, ESPN, ESPN2, FSN, USA, A&E, DISC) and 24 rows of TV listings.

DENNIS THE MENACE



'DENNIS CALLED ME 'GRAMMY.' 'SO, WHAT DO YOU WANT... A GRAMMY AWARD?'

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

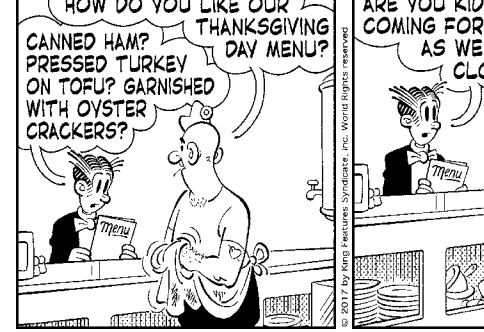


'Guess what, Mommy! You've got a bigger boy today.'

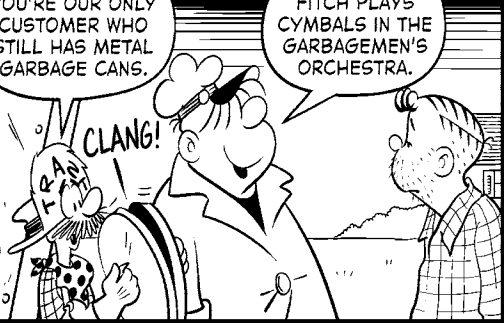
HI AND LOIS



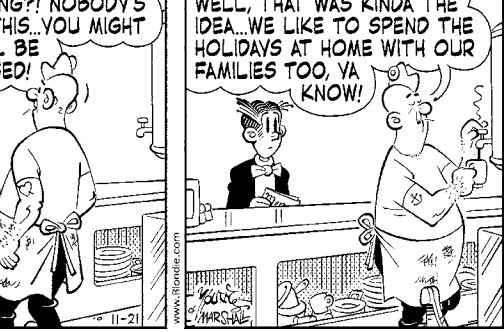
BLONDIE



BEETLE BAILEY



BEETLE BAILEY



This Date In History

Today is Tuesday, Nov. 21, the 325th day of 2017. There are 40 days left in the year. Today's Highlight in History: On Nov. 21, 1942, the Alaska Highway, also known as the Alcan Highway, was formally opened at Soldier's Summit in the Yukon Territory. On this date: In 1789, North Carolina became the 12th state to ratify the U.S. Constitution. In 1864, President Abraham Lincoln signed a letter expressing con-

lences to Lydia Bixby, a Boston widow whose five sons supposedly died while fighting in the Civil War. (As it turned out, only two of Mrs. Bixby's sons had been killed.) In 1922, Rebecca L. Felton, a Georgia Democrat, was sworn in as the first woman to serve in the U.S. Senate; her term, the result of an interim appointment, ended the following day as Walter F. George, the winner of a special election, took office. In 1927, picketing strikers at the Columbine Mine in northern Colorado were fired on by state police; six miners were killed. In 1934, the Cole Porter musical "Anything Goes,"

starring Ethel Merman as Reno Sweeney, opened on Broadway. In 1967, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Air Quality Act. In 1969, the Senate voted down the Supreme Court nomination of Clement F. Haynsworth, 55-45, the first such rejection since 1930. In 1973, President Richard Nixon's attorney, J. Fred Buzhardt (buh-ZAHRDT), revealed the existence of an 18-1/2-minute gap in one of the White House tape recordings related to Watergate. In 1974, bombs exploded at a pair of pubs in Birmingham, England, killing 21 people. (Six suspects were convicted of the

attack, but the convictions of the so-called "Birmingham Six" were overturned in 1991.) In 1980, 87 people died in a fire at the MGM Grand Hotel in Las Vegas, Nevada. An estimated 83 million TV viewers tuned in to the CBS prime-time soap opera "Dallas" to find out "who shot J.R." (The shooter turned out to be

J.R. Ewing's sister-in-law, Kristin Shepard.) In 1985, U.S. Navy intelligence analyst Jonathan Jay Pollard was arrested, accused of spying for Israel. (Pollard later pleaded guilty to espionage and was sentenced to life in prison; he was released on parole on Nov. 20, 2015.) In 1992, a three-day tornado outbreak that struck 13 states began in the Houston area before spreading to the Midwest and eastern U.S.; 26 people were killed. Sen. Bob Packwood, R-Ore., issued an apology but refused to discuss allegations that he'd made unwelcome sexual advances toward ten women over the years. (Faced with a threat of expulsion, Packwood ended up resigning from the Senate in 1995.) Ten years ago: New Hampshire set its earliest-ever presidential primary, deciding on Jan. 8, 2008. Officials announced the recall of more than a half-million pieces of Chinese-made children's jewelry contaminated with lead. Engineer Herbert Saffir, who created the five-category system used to describe hurricane strength, died in Miami at age 90. Five years ago: Two weeks after he was re-elected to a ninth full term in Congress, Democratic Rep. Jesse Jackson Jr. of Illinois quietly resigned in a letter in which he acknowledged an ongoing federal investigation. (Jackson would eventually be sentenced to 2 1/2 years in prison for illegally spending campaign money.) Israel and the Hamas militant group in Gaza agreed to a cease-fire to end eight days of the fiercest fighting in nearly four years.

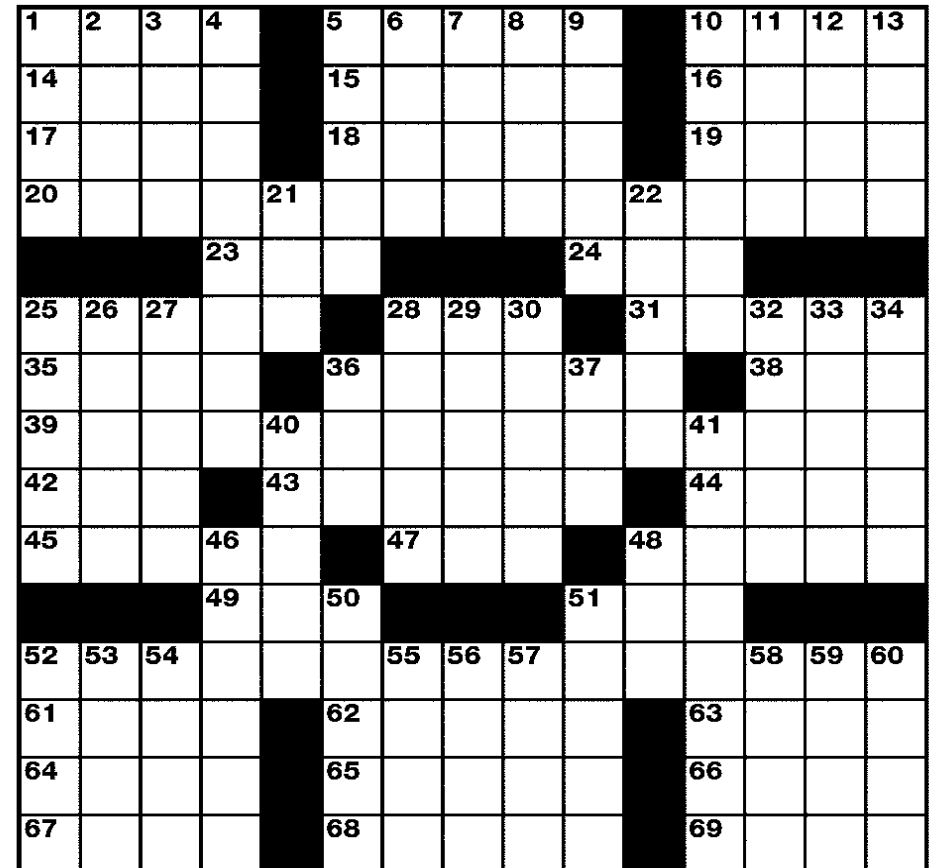
One year ago: President-elect Donald Trump held court from his perch high above Manhattan, receiving a line of former rivals, longtime allies and TV executives while overseeing his White House transition. An elementary school bus crash in Chattanooga, Tennessee, claimed the lives of six children. Today's Birthdays: Actor Joseph Campanella is 93. Actor Laurence Luckinbill is 83. Actress Marlo Thomas is 80. Actor Rick Lenz is 78. Singer Dr. John is 77. Actress Juliet Mills is 76. Basketball Hall of Famer Earl Monroe is 73. Television producer Marcy Carsey is 73. Actress Goldie Hawn is 72. Movie director Andrew Davis is 71. Rock musician Lonnie Jordan (War) is 69. Singer Livingston Taylor is 67. Actress-singer Lorna Luft is 65. Actress Cherry Jones is 61. Rock musician Brian Ritchie (The Violent Femmes) is 57. Gospel singer Steven Curtis Chapman is 55. Actress Nicolette Sheridan is 54. Singer-actress Bjork (byork) is 52. Pro and College Football Hall of Famer Troy Aikman is 51. Rhythm-and-blues singer Chauncey Hannibal (BLACKstreet) is 49. Rock musician Alex James (Blur) is 49. Baseball Hall of Famer Ken Griffey Jr. is 48. TV personality Rib Hillis is 47. Rapper Pretty Lou (Lost Boyz) is 46. Football player-turned-TV personality Michael Strahan (STRAY'-han) is 46. Actress Rain Phoenix is 45. Country singer Kelsi Osborn (SHEDAISY) is 43. Actor Jimmi Simpson is 42. Singer-actress Lindsey Haun is 33. Actress Jena Malone is 33. Pop singer Carly Rae Jepsen is 32. Actor-singer Sam Palladio is 30.

Newsday Crossword

UNREAL by Billie Truitt Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS 1 End-of-class signal 5 Fall flower 10 Mona ___ 14 Bassoon's cousin 15 Tire in the trunk 16 Slanting typeface: Abbr. 17 Stray animal 18 Mischievous fairy 19 Achy 20 Spandex or polyester 23 Fish appendage 24 ___-Caps (movie candy) 25 Rhythm and ___ (music style) 28 OH clock setting 31 Grind, as teeth 35 Toe the ___ (behave) 36 Contest a verdict 38 Little green vegetable 39 Beads on some necklaces 42 Command to Fido 43 Judge's order 44 Shed feathers 45 Teakettle vapor 47 Full collection 48 Tightly compressed 49 Recycling container 51 Distant 52 Pink lawn decoration 61 Doozy 62 Computer message 63 Veggie on cobs

- 64 Cold War adversary: Abbr. 65 Ice cream holders 66 Keep ___ (persevere) 67 Wearing footwear 68 Happen next 69 Jules Verne captain DOWN 1 Gift-box decorations 2 Online auctioneer 3 Cut of meat 4 Two ___ (clumsy dancers' woe) 5 Colorado ski resort 6 Roasting rod 7 Cab 8 Explorer called "the Red" 9 Coral structures 10 Capital of Portugal 11 "Believe ___ not..." 12 Dress of India 13 Actor Baldwin 21 That man's 22 Hidden motive 25 Great happiness 26 Restrict 27 Join together 28 Heroic tales 29 Piece of pollen 30 Guiding principle 32 Cook's covering 33 Auctions off



Answer to previous puzzle: PORTS ACES CART OVERT TORO ODOR MEDIA OMIT NOPE PROGRAMMER FRIENDS VISA UPEND SLICES SEAR WAGO LEAP TERSE AVON EATUP NEIL PANDA RODE CANS IRON PLEDGE HAMMER NASA ISEE PROHIBITED DARN HOSE ERODE EMIT ASIA LARGE SITS NERD SNEER

Thought for Today: "You simply cannot hang a millionaire in America." Bourke Cockran American politician and orator (1854-1923).

No. 16 Texas A&M routs Oklahoma State behind Williams



By DENIS P. GORMAN

Associated Press
NEW YORK (AP) — Robert Williams was asked whether he detected hesitancy from the Oklahoma State Cowboys to challenge him in the paint. The reigning SEC Defensive Player of the Year grinned, then laughed. Question answered. "I do my best not even just to block it but to contest it," Williams said after scoring 11 points, grabbing 11 rebounds and a throwing down handful

of alley-oop dunks to help No. 16 Texas A&M beat Oklahoma State 72-55 in the first game of the 2017 Progressive Legends Classic on Monday night. Williams added three steals and two blocks for the Aggies (3-0). DJ Hogg led all scorers with 18 points. Tonny Trocha-Morelos finished with 12 points and Admon Gilder had 10. "Our biggest strength is our depth," Aggies coach Billy Kennedy said. "We can play big. We can play small. We have a lot of guys who can score the basketball." Scoring was among a myriad of issues for Okla-

homa State (3-1). Brandon Averette led the Cowboys with 10. The Aggies took a 39-22 lead into halftime, thanks to Williams and a 25-7 run over the final eight minutes of the half. Williams checked in five minutes into the game and scored nine points in the first half, eight on alley-oops. "A lot of their run was that we had breakdowns defensively," first-year Oklahoma State coach Mike Boynton said. "We just didn't execute. "I don't know from a schematic standpoint there was anything to adjust." Texas A&M extended the lead to 22 after Gilder knocked down a jumper 1:22 into the second half. Oklahoma State outscored the Aggies 18-8 in the next 8:03 to cut the deficit to 52-42. "They've got a good team," Kennedy said. Just as it looked as if Oklahoma State would seriously challenge Texas A&M, the Aggies had a 12-3 run to push their advantage to 64-45. The stretch was punctuated by Gilder's 3-point baskets on back-to-back possessions. "Texas A&M is a really good team," Boynton said. "Credit to them. I don't know if it was their best game but they played pretty well. ... They were just better than us." **BIG PICTURE** Oklahoma State: The Cowboys shot 25.7 percent from the field in the first half while surrendering 15 baskets on 28 shots. Texas A&M: There is a reason SEC and national media pieced Texas A&M to finish third in a pre-season poll. The Aggies are tall, long and against Oklahoma State seemingly contested every pass and every shot. **SWAT STUFF** Williams' streak of consecutive games with at least one blocked shot reached 32 in the win over Oklahoma State. **UP NEXT** Oklahoma State: The Cowboys will play Pittsburgh in the consolation game Tuesday. Texas A&M: The Aggies will play Penn State in the championship game Tuesday.

COWBOYS

Continued from Page 7

touchdown in 22 possessions worth counting in the two games without Elliott and Smith. "Now the problem is between injuries and potentially not having players for other reasons, you've got to hang in there and get a win when maybe the personnel doesn't look like you can do it, and you've got to stay eligible to get in that playoff," owner Jerry Jones said. "We're not doing that right now." The Cowboys, who are giving up 181 yards rushing per game without Lee, looked good for a half against the Eagles' fourth-ranked offense. But they crumbled after halftime and couldn't even stop the Eagles on three of four 2-point conversions when Philadelphia lost kicker Jake Elliott to a head injury. With Lee already out, the Cowboys lost what amounts to his replacement in Anthony Hitchens to a groin injury. It's unclear whether Hitchens will play Thursday. As long as Hitchens and Lee are out, Dallas could be back where it was early in the season with forcing second-year linebacker Jaylon Smith to play too many snaps in what amounts to his rookie season because he spent a year recovering from a college knee injury. "We've got a couple of guys out, but that's not something we're going to use as an excuse," said linebacker Justin Durant, a veteran the Cowboys hope can help keep them afloat without Lee. "We've got to make plays and we didn't do that." Alfred Morris, the clear choice as Elliott's replacement after the Cowboys had 2015 rushing leader Darren McFadden inactive against the Eagles, had 91 yards rushing. It was his most since his last game with Washington two years ago. But Morris' 5.4-yard average didn't translate to the passing game for Prescott, who had a career-high three interceptions and lost a fumble that was returned for a touchdown in his worst game as a pro. Prescott, who set an NFL rookie record with a 104.9 passer rating last year, is completing 62 percent of his passes with no touchdowns, three interceptions and 12 sacks without Elliott. "I'm not trying to carry the whole team," Prescott said. "I'm not putting more on myself at all. I simply have to play better." Same for most of the Cowboys.

O'Brien doesn't expect Foreman to play again this season



By KRISTIE RIEKEN

AP Sports Writer
HOUSTON (AP) — Coach Bill O'Brien said Monday that he doesn't expect D'Onta Foreman to play again this season, the latest blow to a Houston Texans team riddled with injuries. Foreman sustained what the team called a left ankle injury on Sunday after scoring his second fourth-quarter touchdown in a 31-21 win over the Arizona Cardinals which ended a three-game skid. O'Brien insisted on Monday that he didn't have a lot of details on the running back's injury but

added that: "It probably doesn't look great (for him) to be able to play." If Foreman can't play again this season he'll join defensive end J.J. Watt, linebacker Whitney Mercilus and quarterback Deshaun Watson on injured reserve. Foreman, who won the Doak Walker Award last season at Texas as the top collegiate running back, has seen limited playing time this season. His best game came on Sunday when he ran for a career-high 65 yards with his first two touchdowns. "D'Onta was starting to really play well," O'Brien said. "He's

a big guy, a real tough, physical runner, good out of the backfield, in the passing game. Was really starting to understand our offense so it's ... tough for him. But he's a young player, he'll be back." His injury comes after the Texans (4-6) got their offense going for the first time since Watson was injured on Nov. 2. Houston had scored 30 or more points in a franchise-record five straight games before Watson sustained a season-ending knee injury. Tom Savage was only able to lead the offense to two touchdowns combined in two losses in the first two games after Watson was hurt. Savage shook off two early turnovers on Sunday to throw for a career-best two touchdowns and help the Texans end their losing streak and stay in playoff contention. "He was not discouraged at all," O'Brien said. "He was great on the sideline and came back and I thought he played a really good, tough football game." Savage said the key to his success on Sunday was forgetting the problems he had in the past two games and early against the Cardinals and remaining

See **TEXANS**, Page 14

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LaVar Ball questions Trump's role in son's release

WASHINGTON (AP) — Outspoken basketball dad LaVar Ball questioned the extent of President Donald Trump's involvement in securing his son's release from the custody of Chinese authorities during a combative 20-minute CNN interview on Monday night.

The president, in tweets Sunday, said he should have left LiAngelo Ball and two other UCLA basketball players accused of shoplifting in jail because LaVar Ball "is unaccepting of what I did for his son" and "very ungrateful!" LaVar Ball has refused to thank Trump.

LaVar Ball didn't back down during the CNN interview, telling host Chris Cuomo that Trump has more important things to do than ask for his gratitude.

"That's on your mind, that a father didn't say 'Thank you'? And you're the head of the U.S.? Come on," Ball said. "There's a lot of other things that's going on. Let him do his political affairs and let me handle my son, and let's just stay in our lane."

Ball suggested that he and Chinese president Xi Jinping had more to do with securing his son's release than the president.

"Did (Trump) help the boys get out? I don't know. If I was going to thank somebody, I probably would thank President Xi. He's in China. He's the president of China," Ball said, later adding: "I helped my son get out of China. I had some people that had boots on the ground that knew the situation."

Ball also pushed back against Trump's suggestion that shoplifting "is a very big deal in China."

"It wasn't a big deal because being raised in South Central LA, I've seen harsher things. I've seen 16, 17-year-old kids that have had to go to jail for life, that were my friends," Ball said.



In this July 7, 2017, file photo, LaVar Ball, father of Los Angeles Lakers' Lonzo Ball and UCLA player LiAngelo Ball, watches the Lakers play the Los Angeles Clippers during an NBA summer league basketball game, in Las Vegas. President Donald Trump tweeted Sunday, Nov. 19, that he should have left three UCLA basketball players, including LiAngelo Ball, accused of shoplifting in China in jail after LaVar Ball minimized Trump's involvement in winning the players' release during an interview Saturday, Nov. 18, with ESPN.

AP photo

"He wasn't physical. He returned it. He fessed up to it."

LiAngelo and fellow UCLA freshmen Jalen Hill and Cody Riley have been suspended indefinitely. They were arrested and questioned about stealing from high-end stores next to the team's hotel in Hangzhou, where the Bruins stayed before leaving for Shanghai to play Georgia Tech. All three apologized for their actions and

thanked Trump for his role in securing their release, which occurred while the president was traveling in Asia.

The trio isn't allowed to suit up, be on the bench for home games or travel with the team. Without them, No. 23 UCLA lost to Creighton on Monday night in the Hall of Fame Classic.

LaVar Ball is attempting to build an empire around the basketball

skills of his three sons — Los Angeles Lakers rookie Lonzo, LiAngelo and prep prospect LaMelo — and his own bombastic personality. He started an apparel company, Big Baller Brand, with shoes that retail for \$500 or more, and he got in several plugs for his products during the CNN interview.

TEXANS

Continued from Page 13

convinced that he could do better than he had shown so far.

"You're not going to get anywhere by sulking or holding your head down," he said. "As a quarterback, your team needs you out there to be the leader, so I am going to just go out there and keep slinging it and play confident. That's really all I can do. I am confident in myself. I know I can do it."

O'Brien said Savage was aided on Sunday by other members of the offense playing better. He pointed to Houston running for 134 yards and singled out receivers Braxton Miller and Bruce Ellington for playing great against the Cardinals.

Of course, Savage's success was also helped by the continued great play of star receiver DeAndre Hopkins. He ranks third in the NFL with 879 yards receiving and his nine touchdown receptions lead the league.

"A lot of guys around him played well ... I think that helped Tom," O'Brien said. "Guys around him playing well and then he had confidence once he started hitting some throws. So I think Tom did a good job."

The Texans will look to build on Sunday's success as they prepare for a visit to Baltimore next Monday night.

O'Brien said they might need to sign a running back to fill in for Foreman, but that he expects to have Alfred Blue back after he missed Sunday's game with a hamstring injury.

Blue has played sparingly this season as Houston relied on Lamar Miller and Foreman. But he has a history of filling in for injured players and has 1,689 yards rushing in four seasons with the team.

FIFA bans 3 soccer officials for life for taking bribes

By GRAHAM DUNBAR

AP Sports Writer

GENEVA (AP) — Three soccer officials who pleaded guilty in American courts to accepting bribes were banned for life by the FIFA ethics committee on Tuesday.

They include former FIFA audit committee member Richard Lai of Guam, who testified in federal court that the source of his bribe money was Olympic powerbroker Sheikh Ahmad al-Fahad al-Sabah of Kuwait.

"His guilty plea related, amongst others, to schemes in which he received bribes in exchange for his support in relation to the FIFA presidential elections and to gain control and influence within the AFC (Asian Football Confederation) and FIFA," the soccer body said of Lai in a state-

ment.

Sheikh Ahmad referred his own case to the ethics committees of FIFA and the International Olympic Committee in April after Lai's guilty plea was revealed. The Kuwaiti royal also withdrew from an election to retain his seat representing Asia on the FIFA Council.

The sheikh has denied wrongdoing and continues to work on Olympic duty, including chairing an IOC panel with a \$500 million budget to distribute grants, and leading the global group of national Olympic committees known as ANOC.

Two more former soccer federation presidents, Rafael Esquivel of Venezuela and Julio Rocha of Nicaragua, were also banned for life Tuesday. They were arrested in Zurich in May 2015 in early morning

raids on luxury hotels and later extradited to the United States.

Though the life bans were announced during the trial in Brooklyn of three other FIFA-connected officials from South America, the ethics panel investigations were separate and did not use new evidence being aired daily in court.

FIFA said its ethics judges imposed "appropriate fines in relation to the amounts of the bribes that they have admitted having taken."

Esquivel was fined 1 million Swiss francs (\$1 million), Lai was fined 870,000 Swiss francs (\$870,000), and Rocha was fined 500,000 Swiss francs (\$500,000). It is unclear if FIFA can enforce fines on people who have left the sport.

Lai, who is an American citizen, previously agreed to pay "more than \$1.1 million in for-

feiture and penalties," the U.S. Department of Justice said in April.

In court, Lai pleaded guilty to wire fraud conspiracy charges related to taking about \$1 million in bribes, including at least \$850,000 from Kuwaiti officials.

Esquivel agreed to forfeit \$16 million a year ago when he pleaded guilty to charges of racketeering conspiracy, wire fraud conspiracy and money laundering conspiracy. His offenses were linked to the awarding of contracts for media and marketing rights to South American soccer competitions.

However, Esquivel's name was cited Monday in Brooklyn during testimony in the ongoing trial of former soccer executives from Brazil, Paraguay and Peru, who deny corruption charges.

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