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BIG SPRING HERALD

MONDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2017



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Lawson indicted for first-degree murder

Howard County grand jury hands down 21 indictments

By **ROGER CLINE**
 Staff Writer

The Howard County Grand Jury indicted 21 people Thursday in the 118th District Court, including one on a charge of first-degree murder.

According to District Attorney Hardy Wilkerson, Calvin Jacob Lawson, 34, of Big Spring was indicted for the offense of first-degree felony murder.

The crime, which occurred Oct. 2, involved the gunshot killing of 34-year-old Sterling McIntosh of Big Spring. The killing occurred in the 1600 block of Settles St.

If convicted, Lawson could

face life in prison. Others indicted Thursday include:

(Cases presented to the court by 118th District Attorney Hardy Wilkerson, prosecutor)

- Sandy Kay Deochoa, 41, of 1205 Burchill Dr. in Midland, Possession of a controlled substance (less than 1 gram) (state jail felony).
- Jose Moises Diaz, 67, of 302 Ave. M in Levelland, Driving while intoxicated (third of-



Lawson

fense or more) (third-degree felony).

- Dessie Gaddis, 27, of 5501 E. County Road 60 in Midland, Possession of a controlled substance (less than 1 gram) (state jail felony).
- Kyle Logan Gerstenberger, 25, of 3108 Sherman Rd., Possession of a controlled substance (less than 1 gram) (state jail felony).
- Emily Ann McKiernan, 19, of 4202 Parkway, Evading arrest with a vehicle (third-degree felony).
- Christopher Turner, 24, of 309 N.W. Ninth St., Evading arrest with a vehicle (third-degree felony), Injury to a child (state jail felony).

- Dennis Michael Richardson, 33, of 215 Sandlin Rd., Evading arrest with a vehicle (third-degree felony).

- Daniel Stevens, 30, of 5907 Fordham in Amarillo, Aggravated assault causing serious bodily injury (second-degree felony).

- Casey Adam Torrence, 26, of 2519 Ent, Theft (\$2,500 to \$30,000) (state jail felony).

- Anthony A. Vasquez, 41, of 2525 Midway Rd., Theft with two previous convictions (state jail felony).

- Daniel Montez Viera Jr., 29, of 1907 S. Main St., Driving while intoxicated with a child passenger (state jail felony).

- Paul Viera Jr., 32, of 1907 S. Main St., Evading arrest with previous conviction (state jail felony), Burglary of a building (state jail felony).

- Denny Ray Wanner, 42, of 617 Caylor, Theft of material (state jail felony).

(Cases presented to the court by 118th Assistant District Attorney Lindsay Phillips, prosecutor)

- Jose Lionel Cerda Jr., 17, currently a resident of the Howard County Detention Center, Aggravated robbery (first-degree felony).
- Jacob Nathaniel Puga,

See **JURY**, Page 3

Parade lights up Big Spring



HERALD photos/Roger Cline
 The Big Spring Herald Community Christmas Parade lit up Scurry Street Saturday night with floats, cars, and marchers. Above, Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus wave to the crowds at the end of the parade. At left, Disney Around the World makes its way down Scurry Street. The big winners in this year's parade were: 1st place - Delek US; 2nd place - Parkplace Retirement/Parkview Nursing; 3rd place - Lighthouse Restoration.

Coahoma FFA Chapter students shine at state

Special to the Herald

Members from the Coahoma FFA chapter returned home this past weekend after an outstanding performance at State Leadership Development Events (LDE). All eight students made the finals and Coahoma High School freshman Julia Cox qualified for nationals.

"They just went above and beyond what they imagined they could do," said Aaron Custer, Coahoma FFA Chapter advisor and CHS ag teacher.

The Coahoma FFA Radio Broadcasting team of Aubrey Green, Micah Worley, and Emilee Custer placed 7th out of 644 teams participating in LDE across Texas this year. Also, the Ag Advocacy team of Selina Baldwin, Macee Grant, Brylea Gordon, and Seth Brooks

See **FFA**, Page 3

Big Spring Herald's
Christmas Countdown



Marissa says
 "Only 21 Days 'til Christmas!"
 (Marissa Loftin, Sports Editor)

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Trump to scale back 2 national monuments in trip to Utah

By **CATHERINE LUCEY and KEN THOMAS**
 Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump plans to scale back two sprawling national monuments in Utah, re-

sponding to what he has condemned as a "massive federal land grab" and an important move for "state's rights."

Trump is traveling to Salt Lake City on Monday to outline his intention to shrink the Bears Ears and the Grand-

Staircase Escalante national monuments spanning millions of acres in Utah. The two national monuments were among 27 that Trump ordered Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke to review earlier this year.

Utah's Republican lead-

ers, including Sen. Orrin Hatch, pressed Trump to launch the review, saying the monuments declared by Presidents Barack Obama and Bill Clinton locked up too much federal land.

See **UTAH**, Page 3

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Obituaries

Virginia Louise Cansino



Virginia Louise Cansino 48, of Big Spring, Texas, went to be with the Lord after a long battle with cancer on Thursday, Nov. 30, 2017. Vigil service will be at 7 p.m. Monday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral Mass will be at 10 a.m. Tuesday at Holy Trinity Catholic Church with burial at Mount Olive Memorial Park.

She was born June 25, 1969, in Big Spring, Texas, to Maria Becerra Cansino and the Late Ponciano R. Cansino. She attended Garden City High and Howard College. She was a CNA for 20 years. She loved her job. Her pride and joy were her loving boys. The love of her boys made her forget her pain and fight. They were her strength. Virginia loved going to the movies with her boys, dancing, laughing, and spending time with her beloved cat Chapo. She also enjoyed her Sunday Menudo. She is survived by her three precious boys, Sebastian Duenez, Diego Duenez, and Ivan Duenez

all of Big Spring. Her mother, Maria Cansino of Big Spring. Six loving brothers, Walter and Shelly Cansino of Dallas, Hector and Sylvia Cansino of Big Spring, Ponciano JR and Judy Cansino of Lubbock, John Ross Cansino of Dallas, Buck and Margarita Cansino of Midland, and Robert and Andrea Cansino of Lubbock. Three loving sisters, Alma Ortiz, Norma and Mike Garcia all of Big Spring, and Teresa Cansino of Midland. She has numerous nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her Father Ponciano Cansino, brother in law, Rene Ortiz, and one nephew.

Her quote was, never stop living your life even when hard times come around...

Pallbearers will be Jay Cansino, Shawn Cansino, Marcus Arredondo, Alex Cansino, Sebastian Duenez, Eli Arredondo, Diego Duenez, Ivan Duenez, Ethan Cansino and Tristan Cansino.

Arrangements are by Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Pay your respects online at www.myersandsmith.com.

Paid obituary

Fire/EMS

Big Spring Fire Department/EMS reported the following activity:

- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 300 block of Veterans Blvd. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 3200 block of Parkway. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

- **TRAFFIC ACCIDENT** was reported in the 3600 block of N HWY 87. No transport.

- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 300 block of Veterans BLVD. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 900 block of NW and 1st. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

- **TRAUMA CALL** was reported in the 3700 block of Wasson Rd. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 300 block of Veterans Blvd.

- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported on S Birdwell and Stadium. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

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

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

- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 300 block of Veterans Blvd. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 1400 block of Nolan. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 3700 block of Wasson Rd. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

- **TRAUMA CALL** was reported in the 1900 block of Hilltop Rd. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 1200 block of Sycamore. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported on FM 700 and Virginia Ave. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 2400 block of S Main St. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

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

- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 3200 block of Collins Rd. No transport.

- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 1000 block of E 13th St. No transport.

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 hold-

ing 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.

Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity:

- **ANEL MELENDEZ**, 31, of 803 Timothy Lane, was arrested on the charges driving while intoxicated, prohibited weapons-knuckles, and possession of marijuana less than or equal too two ounces.

- **ANDREW JOSEPH KELLER MARTINEZ**, 31, of 106 Circle Dr., was arrested on a warrant of assault family violence threat or offensive touch.

- **KYLE WINDELL RICHARDS**, 34, of 1604 East 16th, was arrested on the charges of two counts possession of marijuana less than one gram, unlawfully carrying a weapon, and public intoxication.

- **ABEL SILVA**, 40, of 5108 Dawson Rd., was arrested on three counts of warrants with other agencies.

- **ASHLEY LYNN BUCK**, 21, of 538 Westover Rd., was arrested on the charge assault family violence threat of offensive touch.

- **ANGEL ENRIQUE HINJOSA**, 20, of 1501 Stadium St., was arrested on the charges of criminal trespass, resist arrest search or transport, evading arrest detention with previously conviction, and two counts of warrant with other agencies.

- **SIMON ANTONIO SALDANA JR.**, 47, of 401 N 2nd St., was arrested on a warrant of speeding.

- **THEFT** was reported on the 1800 block of S Gregg St., the 800 block of W I 20, the 200 block of W FM 700, the 1900 block of S Gregg St., and the 6000 block of N Salem Rd.

- **DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE** was reported on the 1905 block of Wasson Rd., the 100 block of Circle Dr., and the 500 block of Westover Rd.

- **BURGLARY OF HABITATION** was reported on the 2000 block S Anderson, and the 1500 block of S Main St.

Sheriff

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

Note - Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 68 inmates at the time of this report.

- **JAMES KEVIN BAILEY**, 53, was arrested by HCSO on a charge of driving while intoxicated.

- **ROY DWIGHT BIDDLE III**, 57, was arrested by BSPD on warrant of parole violation.

- **ASHLEY LYNN BUCK**, 21, was arrested by BSPD on a charge of assault family violence threat.

- **JESSICA MICHELLE CHAVERA**, 37, was arrested by BSPD on a warrant parent contributing to non-attend.

- **ISRAEL GARZA**, 38, was arrested by DPS on a charge of driving while intoxicated.

- **ALEJANDRO GOMEZ**, 36, was arrested by BSPD on a charge of aggravated assault with deadly weapon.

- **MAURICIO GARCIA HERNANDEZ**, 41, was arrested by HCSO on warrant of violate promise to appear.

- **ANGEL ENRIQUE HINOJOSA**, 20, was arrested by BSPD on warrant of bail jumping and failure to appear, and bond forfeiture tamper with identification, and charge of criminal trespass, resist arrest search or transport, and evading arrest detention.

- **JON PARTICK MORRIS LEOS**, 20, was arrested by BSPD on charges of evading attest detention with previous conviction, and unlicensed possession of firearm by felon.

- **ANDREW JODI MARTINEZ-KELLER**, 31, was arrested by BSPD on a warrant of assault family violence.

- **ANEL MELENDEZ**, 31, was arrested by BSPD on charges of driving while intoxicated, prohibited weapons-knuckles, and possession of marijuana less than two ounces.

- **JIMETRE POST**, 18, was arrested by BSPD on a warrant of theft of property less than or equal too \$100 to \$750.

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FFA

Continued from Page 1

placed 8th. That means they are in the top eight teams out of 286.

Cox placed 1st in the Jr. Creed contest. According to Custer, 641 students across Texas competed this year in Jr. Creed starting at the district level. Cox will participate in nationals set for October 2018 in Indianapolis, Indiana.

In all, the team had such a strong showing the program earned the Sweepstakes Award for Single Teacher Division. This is the first state sweepstakes award under Custer's 16-year leadership of the program.

"That's the ultimate. It means in Leadership contests the overall grand champion," Custer said. "It took every single kids' effort, everyone to place."

The young group, consisting of three freshman, four sophomores, and a junior, were competing against students from rural areas to large metroplex cities such as Houston and San Antonio. Only one student, sophomore Emilee Custer, had attended the state contest before.

Aaron Custer said he is proud of how all his FFA chapter students are support-

ive of each other in these contests.

"Julia was the last award they announced for us. We'd already gotten our radio and ag advocacy results. We were happy," he said. "They announced from 10th place to down to first. So they get 10,9,8,7,6,5,4,3 and our whole team was holding hands. Then they said Coahoma and everybody was excited for her."

On their return to Coahoma Saturday night, the group was greeted to a welcome home celebration and a police escort into town.

"Those kids deserve everything they get," Custer said.

FFA - Future Farmers of America - is a national program designed to bring about personal growth, leadership skills, and community mindedness in young people through agricultural education.

"We have a saying. I tell the kids the name on the back of your jacket is more important than the name on the front of your jacket," Custer said. "On the back of the jacket it says Coahoma and on the front of their jacket is their own personal name. We talk a lot about how we represent each other. That I represent them and they represent me and we represent our school district. We are never going



Courtesy photo

to do anything to put that into jeopardy.

"Their whole goal is personal growth," he continued. "These kids are dedicated to making themselves the kind of people that our world needs. They work hard. They are the hardest working kids you could imagine. These kids spend their lunches in the ag shop. They do their

regular school work and these contests."

The ultimate goal of the program, Custer said, is not about winning contest but teaching young people life-long, leadership skills.

"This program is designed for personal growth and to be the type of people we want in or community," he said. "No matter what career they

choose or what path they take in their lives, they are going to have the skills to interview well, get up and speak, and make ethical decisions."

"For some of these kids, competing at area is winning and for some of these kids, to stand up and talk in front of people, that is a win in itself," he said.

Stealth jets, other aircraft fly in US, South Korean drills

By YOUKYUNG LEE

Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — Hundreds of aircraft including two dozen stealth jets began training Monday as the United States and South Korea launched a massive combined air force exercise.

The war games come a week after North Korea test-fired its most powerful missile ever, an ICBM that may be able to target the eastern seaboard of the United States.

The five-day drill, which is called Vigilant Ace, is meant to improve the allies' wartime capabilities and preparedness, South Korea's defense ministry said.

The U.S. Seventh Air Force sent major strategic military assets, including an unusually large number of the latest generations of stealth fighter jets, for the annual training in the Korean Peninsula. They include six F-22 and 18 F-35 stealth fighter jets.

About 12,000 U.S. military personnel are participating. In total, 230 aircraft will be flying at eight U.S. and South Korean military installations in the South.

An official at the South Korean Defense Ministry, who spoke on condition of anonymity because of office rules, corrected his earlier statement that the exercise was the biggest ever.

Some local media report

that B-1B bombers will also join aerial drills, but officials did not confirm their participation.

The training, held each year in late fall, is not in response to any incident or provocation, the Seventh Air Force said in a statement.

North Korea's state media said the drill pushes the Korean Peninsula "to the brink of nuclear war."

Such language is typical in North Korean propaganda because the country claims U.S.-South Korean drills are preparation for invasion.

Still, always bad tensions are at a particularly dangerous point as North Korea edges toward its goal of a viable arsenal of nuclear-tipped long-range missiles, and as President Donald Trump ramps up his rhetoric toward the North, threatening, for instance, to unleash "fire and fury" against the country.

Pyongyang will "seriously consider" countermeasures against the drill, and the U.S. and South Korea will "pay dearly for their provocations," the Korean Central News Agency said on Sunday before the start of the exercises.

While many South Koreans typically ignore North Korea's rhetoric, some senior American officials have expressed worry following the ICBM test, North Korea's

third.

On Sunday, Lindsey Graham, a Republican U.S. senator from the state of South Carolina, said he believes that it's time for U.S. military families in South Korea to leave the country because conflict with North Korea is getting close.

The U.S. government has not announced a formal decision to evacuate U.S. citizens from South Korea, and there were no such signs in the diplomatic community in Seoul. evacuation of dependents by Seoul's closest ally and major military defender could prompt a panicked reaction by other countries, and among South Koreans.

In addition to American diplomats and other embassy workers, about 28,500 U.S. troops operate in South Korea, and many come to their posts with their families, who often live on huge, well-guarded military bases.

Also on Sunday, the White House national security adviser said that Trump will take care of North Korean threats by "doing more ourselves."

"The priorities that the president's given us to move as quickly as we can to resolve this crisis with North Korea," General H.R. McMaster told Fox News in an interview.

UTAH

Continued from Page 1

Trump's plans to curtail the strict protections on the sites have angered tribes and environmentalist groups who have vowed to sue to preserve the monuments.

In December, shortly before leaving office, Obama irritated Utah Republicans by creating the Bears Ears National Monument on 1.35 million acres of land sacred to Native Americans and home to tens of thousands of archaeological sites, including ancient cliff dwellings.

Trump signed an executive order in April directing Zinke to conduct a review of the protections. Trump is able to upend the protections under the 1906 Antiquities Act, which gives the president broad authority to declare federal lands as monuments and restrict their use.

The president said in April his order would end "another egregious abuse of federal power" and "give that power back to the states and to the people where it belongs."

Trump said at the time that he had spoken to state and local leaders "who are gravely concerned about this massive federal land grab. And it's gotten worse and worse and worse, and now we're going to free it up, which

is what should have happened in the first place. This should never have happened."

The move marks the first time in a half century that a president has attempted to undo these types of land protections. And it could be the first of many changes to come.

Zinke also has recommended that Nevada's Gold Butte and Oregon's Cascade-Siskiyou monuments be reduced in size, although details remain unclear. The former Montana congressman's plan would allow logging at a newly designated monument in Maine and more grazing, hunting and fishing at two sites in New Mexico.

Democrats and environmentalists have opposed the changes, accusing Trump and Zinke of engaging in a secretive process aimed at helping industry groups that have donated to Republican campaigns.

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Hilda Herrera, 61, died Wednesday. Funeral service will be at 10 a.m. this morning at Myers & Smith Chapel. Burial will be at Mount Olive Memorial Park.

Virginia Louisa Cansino, 48, died Thursday. Vigil service will be at 7 p.m. Monday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral Mass will be at 10 a.m. Tuesday at Holy Trinity Catholic Church. Burial will be at Mount Olive Memorial Park.

JURY

Continued from Page 1

17, of 1203 Wood, Aggravated robbery (first-degree felony).

• Christopher Scott Holmes, 45, of 706 Goliad, Theft

(aggregate \$2,500 to \$30,000) (state jail felony), Possession of a controlled substance (4 to 200 grams).

• Charmin Johnson, 43, of 1227 County Road 757 in

Jonesboro, Ark., Forgery of a financial instrument (state jail felony).

• Carey Mack Loya, 51, of 711 N. Aylesford, Possession of a controlled substance with intent to deliver (4 to 200 grams) (first-degree felony).

• Marcos Mendez, 24, of 1511 Johnson St., Evading arrest with a vehicle (third-degree felony).

• Cicily Tena, 31, of 507 English Dr. in Midland, Possession of a controlled sub-

stance with intent to deliver (4 to 200 grams) (first-degree felony).

Indictments are not convictions;

those listed here are presumed innocent until proven guilty.

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

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HOLIDAY COLORING CONTEST



Ages 3-6

Name

Age

Phone Number

Ages 7-12

Name

Age

Phone Number



COLORING CONTEST RULES



1. Contest open to children ages 3-12
2. Limit one contest submission per person
3. Contest entries may be completed using markers, crayons, or colored pencils.
4. Adults may assist in completing entry form information, but NOT in coloring pictures.
5. All entries must be received by the Big Spring Herald by 5 pm on Monday, December 11, 2017.
6. Winners will be published in the Sunday, December 17, 2017 edition.
7. Decision of judges is final.
8. Employees of the Big Spring Herald and contest sponsors are not eligible to win.
9. All submissions become property of the Big Spring Herald and may be published accordingly.

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Arrest made after ACC Championship fight video goes viral

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — Charlotte police have made an arrest after a fight in the stands of the ACC Championship football game that was seen by thousands on social media.

Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department spokesman Keith Trietley said stadium officials notified police about the disturbance in a seating section. Trietley says officers determined Reed Fletcher was a primary aggressor and arrested him.

Jail records show the 22-year-old Fletcher of Rogersville, Tenn., was charged with assault and battery, then released early Sunday on bond. No phone listing for Fletcher could be found in Rogersville.

Video from a bystander posted on Facebook shows multiple people throwing punches in the crowded stands. One man appears to be thrown from one row into another, emerging with blood on his face.

Police: Man angry about parking stabbed 2, mowed down others

NEW YORK (AP) — A man angry about a parking dispute stabbed two people and then drove into a group of pedestrians on a sidewalk Sunday, leaving one person dead and several others injured, one critically, police said.

The violent altercation started around 4:30 a.m. outside a hookah lounge in Queens, when the driver of a white Hyundai sedan got out of his car and stabbed two other people, New York Police Department Assistant Chief David Barrere said. They were both stabbed in the chest, authorities said.

A dispute ensued with others outside the club, and the man drove his car up onto the sidewalk and into a crowd of people before leaving the scene, Barrere said. It was unclear if the pedestrians were involved in the dispute.

One person was killed and five others injured, one of them critically, from getting hit by the car. The other people struck and the two people stabbed were in stable condition.

Police didn't release the identity of the person who was killed, but said he was 23 years old.

Authorities said the driver was in custody. Charges had not been filed as of Sunday afternoon.

Skiing Santas ho-ho-hold court at ski resort's annual bash

NEWRY, Maine (AP) — Santa Claus is known for shimmying down chimneys, but for one day a year, dozens of Santas try to avoid tumbling down a mountain.

The 18th annual Santa event took place at Sunday River ski resort in western Maine on Sunday. The event is highlighted by Santas skiing and snowboarding down the slopes to raise money for the Sunday River Community Fund, which benefits groups in the area.

One of the Santas was Yelena Walsh of Boston, a 50-year-old financial analyst who was once a professional skier in Russia. Walsh said the event is the highlight of her holiday season.

"In Russia, we didn't celebrate Christmas. We celebrated New Year," she said. "This is a very good and very festive way to start the ski season. It's an opportunity to dress up and act like a child."

The skiing Santas participate in full Kringle garb, including, of course, a white beard and red hat. The Santas must all donate a minimum of \$15.

Online registration to participate filled up in 10 minutes, said Darcy Lambert, a spokeswoman for Sunday River.

Chicago man arrested in Texas human smuggling case

LAREDO, Texas (AP) — A Chicago man has been arrested and charged with transporting undocumented immigrants after federal agents near the Texas-Mexico border found 12 people inside his tractor trailer truck.

The Border Patrol says Carlos Rodriguez was pulled over last week near Laredo after he failed to stop at a checkpoint on Interstate 35 north of the border city.

Court documents show the 12 people in the truck were from Mexico, Guatemala and El Salvador.

The San Antonio Express-News reports one of the truck occupants from Guatemala told authorities he paid about \$1,000 to be smuggled into the U.S. and that he'd have to pay another \$4,000 once he reached his destination in Florida.

Fight over travel restrictions back to appeals courts



By GENE JOHNSON and DENISE LAVOIE

Associated Press

SEATTLE (AP) — For most of the time Syrian refugee Mohammad Al Zayed has been in the United States, judges have been wrestling with the Trump administration's efforts to impose travel restrictions that he says would keep him from seeing relatives who remain overseas.

It's taken an emotional toll — one that continues this week as two U.S. appeals courts take up the issue yet again.

"It's been 10 months, and we're stuck," Al Zayed, a janitor at Chicago's O'Hare International Airport, said through an Arabic interpreter. "We can't go back. We can't bring our loved ones here."

Citing national security concerns, President Donald Trump announced his initial travel ban on citizens of certain Muslim-majority nations in late January, bringing havoc and protests to airports around the country. A federal judge in Seattle soon halted that ban as discriminatory, and since then, the restrictions have been up to the U.S. Supreme Court and back down to the federal district courts as the administration has rewritten them.

The third and latest version targets about 150 million potential travelers from Chad, Iran, Libya, North Korea, Somalia, Syria and Yemen, along with some Venezuelan government officials and their families.

The administration said the latest ban is based on assessments of each country's security situation and their willingness to share information about travelers. But judges in Hawaii and Maryland blocked it to varying degrees just before it was due to take effect in October. The judges found that the ban appears impermissibly discriminatory, has no legitimate national security purpose and violates U.S. immigration law.

On Wednesday, a three-judge panel of the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals will hear arguments in Seattle on the government's appeal of the Hawaii judge's ruling. The panel has already narrowed that decision to allow the administration to bar travelers who do not have a "bona fide" relationship with people or organizations already

in the U.S. — an approach that echoed the Maryland judge's ruling as well as an earlier travel ban decision from the U.S. Supreme Court.

A full complement of 13 judges on the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals is due to hear the government's appeal in the Maryland case on Friday in Richmond, Virginia.

Critics of Trump's travel restrictions insist that they make up the Muslim ban he promised during his campaign, and judges have seized on the president's public statements on Twitter and elsewhere in finding them unconstitutionally discriminatory.

This week's arguments arrive as Trump continues to stoke those anti-Islam sentiments: Just last week, he drew a sharp condemnation from British Prime Minister Theresa May's office when he retweeted a string of inflammatory videos from a fringe British political group purporting to show violence being committed by Muslims.

Government lawyers argue in briefs filed for the Maryland case that Trump's comments "primarily reflect an intent to protect the United States from the threat of terrorism by nationals from countries that pose heightened risks." The Trump administration says the travel policy will be reviewed periodically and the named countries are encouraged to work with the U.S. to address "inadequacies and risks" so that the restrictions "may be relaxed or removed as soon as possible."

AP photo
In this May 15, 2017, file photo, protesters wave signs and chant during a demonstration against President Donald Trump's revised travel ban outside a federal courthouse in Seattle. The fight over the latest version of President Donald Trump's travel ban continues Wednesday, when a three-judge panel of the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals hears arguments in Seattle.

Sunday, December 17!

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Johnson is 2017 COTY

Special to The Herald

Forsan's Seth Johnson was named the 2017 Region 1 Class AA Coach of the Year at the Texas Tennis Coaches' Association annual coaching clinic and conference. The award was presented by Patrick McEnroe, brother of retired tennis pro John McEnroe, during the awards banquet Friday night in Marble Falls.

Johnson has served as Forsan's head tennis coach for five years during which the UIL Tennis players and Team Tennis players have made consistent trips to the Regional Tennis tournaments and several have made it to State. In April of this year, the mixed doubles team of Freeman and Schafer won the bronze medal at the state tournament.

"I've been blessed to have an amazing wife to support me in everything I do, awesome kids to coach who make it look like I know what I'm talking about, and the best school in the state to represent," said Johnson.

Forsan ISD is proud of Coach Johnson and the talented students who choose to play tennis. The tennis parents and several local parents have been wonderful in supporting of this program with countless hours of service. Coach Lloyd Vedder serves as the tennis program's assistant coach.



Pictured above is Forsan's head tennis coach Seth Johnson with his Coach of the Year plaque at the TTCA conference.

Courtesy photo

Texas Bowl Matchup

Missouri (7-5, Southeastern Conference) vs. Texas (6-6, Big 12), Dec. 27, 9 p.m. EST

LOCATION: Houston

TOP PLAYERS Missouri: QB Drew Lock, 3,695 yards passing, national-best 43 passing touchdowns.

Texas: LB Malik Jefferson, team-high 110 tackles, including six games with double-digit tackles this season.

NOTABLE Missouri: After starting the season 1-5, the Tigers closed by winning their final six games —

averaging 51.3 points per game in those wins. Missouri's margin of victory was 30 points during its winning streak, and the school is trying to become the second in history (Rutgers, 2008) to win eight games after starting the season 1-5.

Texas: The Longhorns are led by first-year coach Tom Herman, who will make his return to Houston after leaving the Cougars after last season for Austin. Texas clinched a bowl berth with a 28-14 win at West Virginia on Nov. 18 before closing the regular season with a home loss to Texas Tech.

LAST TIME Missouri 17, Texas 5 (Nov. 12, 2011)

BOWL HISTORY Missouri: The Tigers are playing in their first bowl since the



2015 Citrus Bowl, and it's their second appearance in the Texas Bowl following a 35-13 loss to Navy in 2009.

Texas: The Longhorns are making their first bowl appearance since 2014, when they lost 31-7 to Arkansas in the Texas Bowl.

Belk Bowl Matchup

Texas A&M (7-5, 4-4 Southeastern Conference) vs. Wake Forest (7-5, 4-4 Atlantic Coast Conference), Dec. 29, 1 p.m. ET

LOCATION: Charlotte, N.C.

TOP PLAYERS

Texas A&M: WR Christian Kirk, 730 yards receiving, 7 touchdowns.

Wake Forest: QB John Wolford, 2,792 yards passing, 25 touchdowns; 615 yards rushing, 10 touchdowns.

NOTABLE

Texas A&M: Jimbo Fisher was recently hired by the Aggies as coach but will not coach in the Belk Bowl. Three of the Aggies' losses this season came against teams that were in the AP Top 25 at the time: Alabama (27-19),

Auburn (42-27) and LSU (45-21).

Wake Forest: After big wins against Syracuse and then 19th-ranked North Carolina State, the Deacons suffered a setback with a 31-23 loss to Duke in the regular season finale.

LAST TIME First meeting.

BOWL HISTORY Texas A&M: The Aggies are 17-21 in bowl games.

They have played nine straight bowl games but have lost the last two, including a 33-28 defeat last year to Kansas State.

Wake Forest: The Deacons are 7-4 in bowl games. This is their second straight bowl appearance, beating Temple 23-17 last year in the Military Bowl.



New Orleans Bowl Matchup

North Texas (9-4, 7-1 C-USA) vs. Troy (10-2, 7-1 Sun Belt), Dec. 16, 1 p.m. (ESPN)

LOCATION: New Orleans

TOP PLAYERS

North Texas: QB Mason Fine.

He's thrown for 3,749 yards, 28 touchdowns and 13 interceptions this season. Seven different receivers have caught at least 24 passes.

Troy: LB Tron Folsom. He leads the team with 77 tackles and also has nine tackles for a loss and an interception.

NOTABLE

Texas: The Mean Green set several single-season program

records, including scoring, total offense, passing yards and passing touchdowns. They won eight of their last 10 games.

Troy: The Trojans' biggest moment of the season was when they beat LSU 24-21 on Sept. 30.

LAST TIME Troy beat North Texas 14-7 in 2012. Troy has won eight of 10 vs. North Texas.

BOWL HISTORY North Texas is in its 10th bowl game and has 3-6 record in previous bowls.

Troy is in its seventh bowl game and has a 3-3 record in previous bowls.



Alamo Bowl Matchup

Stanford (9-4, Pac-12) vs. TCU (10-3, Big 12), Dec. 28, 6 p.m. EST

LOCATION: San Antonio

TOP PLAYERS

Stanford: RB Bryce Love, 1,973 yards rushing, 17 TDs.

TCU: QB Kenny Hill, 2,838 yards passing, 21 TDs

NOTABLE

Stanford: The Cardinal lost to USC in the Pac-12 title game 31-28, missing out on a New Year's Six bowl invite. But Stanford won its previous three games, including a 38-20 thrashing of

Notre Dame. TCU: The Horned Frogs lost twice to CFP participant Oklahoma and at Iowa State. TCU went 3-3 after starting 7-0.

LAST TIME TCU 31, Stanford 14. (Sept. 8, 2008)

BOWL HISTORY Stanford: First appearance in the Alamo Bowl, 29th school appearance in school history.

TCU: Second appearance in the Alamo Bowl in three seasons, 33rd bowl appearance in school history.



Top 25 Playoff Takeaways: Tide-Tigers III; Mayfield's legacy

By RALPH D. RUSSO

AP College Football Writer

For the third straight season, Alabama and Clemson will meet in the College Football Playoff. For the first time ever, Georgia and Oklahoma will play, and it will be in the College Football Playoff.

The field was set Sunday and it is probably going to be a while for fans who thought Ohio State, or maybe some other team, should have been in over Alabama to get past the selection of the Crimson Tide.

Too bad, because the games look pretty good. Recent history suggests Alabama and Clemson in the Sugar Bowl on



AP photo

Oklahoma quarterback Baker Mayfield celebrates as he puts on his championship t-shirt after their Big 12 Conference championship NCAA college football game against TCU on Saturday, Dec. 2, 2017, in Arlington, Texas.

Cotton Bowl Matchup

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — Ohio State (11-2, Big Ten) vs. Southern California (11-2, Pac-12), Dec. 29, 8:30 p.m. EST

LOCATION: Arlington, Texas

TOP PLAYERS

Ohio State: QB J.T. Barrett, 2,939 yards passing with 35 TDs; 732 yards rushing with 10 TDs.

USC: RB Ronald Jones, 1,486 yards rushing, 18 TDs; QB Sam Darnold 3,787 yards passing, 31 TDs (26 passing, five rushing)

NOTABLE

State: The last time the Buckeyes played at AT&T Stadium it was in the national championship game on Jan. 12, 2015, when they beat Oregon 42-20 in the first title game in the four-team College Football Playoff era.

USC: The Trojans are playing Ohio State in a bowl game for the eighth time, but the first time outside the Rose Bowl. Southern Cal won the last three times they played in Pasadena, California, at the end of the 1974, 1979 and 1984 seasons.

LAST TIME

USC 18, Ohio State 15 (Sept. 12, 2009).

BOWL HISTORY

Ohio State: Second appearance in the Cotton Bowl; 49th bowl overall.

USC: Second appearance in the Cotton Bowl; 54th bowl overall.



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Annie's Mailbox

Friend or Tenant?

were a vacation rental and you were splitting the cost, sure. But this is a condo she owns, and she's invited you to come visit. Perhaps the strain of the cost of the condo was more than she fully realized it would be; that's the only plausible explanation I can think of for her charging a fee. Regardless, treating friends like customers is no way to pay the mortgage. If she is looking to make \$350 a week off house-uests, she should open a bed-and-breakfast.

Dear Annie: I read the letter from "Family Matters," whose son and daughter-in-law have not yet invited her to their new home, and I related completely. You are absolutely right; giving the benefit of the doubt is very important in this situation, and I love what you had to say. But time may not change much, either. I have a similar situation. My son and daughter-in-law spend virtually every holiday with her family. I have also gotten very blue over this and felt very slighted and had my feelings hurt. But I finally decided that is completely pointless. Dwelling on hurt and anger breeds more hurt and anger. My husband and I have started our own tradition of combining Christmas and Thanksgiving and having a family dinner at our home between those holidays. We try to plan it early and

give all of our family members time to work it into their holiday schedules. I don't ever fix turkey and dressing, because it's a lot of work and everyone's had it recently. So the meal is simpler, which saves work and stress, leaving time to enjoy the day. I invite everyone to bring a dish, but I let everyone know it's not necessary. My perspective has changed. I no longer focus on being slighted or alone with my husband during the holidays. It's our time to do what we want and give to others through charity or goodwill. Our dinner with the family is all about stress-free fun -- enjoying the family, the grandkids and the day, guilt-free. I have a much better attitude, I get to host in my own home, and I get to make our own tradition. And there's a lot less work. It's fun, and I am all about

fun at this age. Happy holidays! -- Working on Me

Dear Working on Me: Your good spirit is contagious. Thanks for serving up some perspective with an extra helping of holiday cheer.

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

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Pursuant to the Decree and Order for Partition by Public Sale entered in Cause No. 7104 in the 118th District Court in Martin County, Texas, the following property will be sold by public auction:

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Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker
Famous Hand

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

The bidding:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 NT 2 ♥
2 ♣ Pass 2 NT Pass
3 NT Dble

Opening lead — king of hearts.
This deal was played in the semi-final round of the Vanderbilt Teams back in 1942. Four prominent New York players participated in the extraordinary goings-on.

Simon Rossant, holding the East hand, took no initial action over Ralph Hirschberg's opening one-spade bid. Jack Shore made a perfectly normal one-notrump response, and Joe Low then bid two hearts.

After North rebid his spades, Rossant passed again, whereupon South, paying undue homage to his

partner's voluntary rebid, said two notrump. Hirschberg raised Shore to three notrump, and Rossant finally came out of his shell long enough to say the word "double."

Low led the king of hearts and then, taking note of his partner's discouraging deuce, shifted smartly to the nine of clubs. This was greeted with enthusiastic approval by Rossant, who proceeded to take six club tricks in a row.

The six-of-hearts return by East then trapped Shore's Q-9, and Low cashed five heart tricks. By the time the dust settled, there was only one trick left for declarer to take, and he finished down eight — 2,300 points!

Considering that the most East-West could have made on the hand was two hearts with 100 honors, and that the North-South limit was two spades, this was a mammoth catastrophe. Whether North or South should be assessed the major portion of the blame is left to the tender mercies of the reader.

When the match was finally over, and before they had a chance to compare scores, one of Shore's teammates asked him how he and Hirschberg had fared on the set of deals they had just played.

Said Shore: "We had a very good game except for one hand!"

P.S. The Hirschberg-Shore team did not win the match.

Tomorrow: A necessary assumption.
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Tomorrow's Horoscope

BY HOLIDAY MATHIS



Mercury
Retrograde Blues

This Mercury retrograde is well underway, but don't you worry your (potentially relatively scattered) head about it, because avoiding the typical retrograde mishaps is rather simple. Always keep your keys and phone in the same place. Know your purpose at all times. Double-check yourself as you enter and exit any situation.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Your ideal day today is very different from what your ideal day would have been a few years ago -- more proof that you're growing and changing. You'll do a navigation check to make sure you're on track.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). It's not so easy for you to set boundaries today, but do it anyway. This is a situation to nip in the bud. Expect a little awkwardness. It'll be better to be a little uncomfortable now than feel totally stuck or cornered later.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You'll get advice. You can afford to be choosy about what you take seriously. Anyone with sight can see things, but it takes someone with wisdom to see into, beyond or through things.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You're holding on to a moment in the past to learn from it, or maybe it's because it has become so much of who you are. But are you giving it too much attention now? If it causes you sadness or sentimentality, let it go.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). If you start off the same way, you'll soon find yourself in the same spot that made you want

have a little joy in it? (END ITAL) Apply the same principle to an emotional healing, which doesn't have to be solely drudgery.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Because of your stellar sense of humor, you may be tempted to make light of something other people hold sacred. Q: If a joke falls in the forest and no one is there to laugh, was it funny? A: Nope.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Your insights today will be spot on, but that, in and of itself, is not a good enough reason to share them. Jot them down. Collect them. They're gold, but you have to wait for the right exchange rate to get the value.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Dec. 4). This year motivates you to create new rules and goals for yourself and stick with them. Your work will be graded over the next 10 weeks, and you'll love what comes of this. People do extreme things for their love of you. Your public persona becomes key to success in May. Fun changes ensue. Cancer and Taurus adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 5, 3, 22, 38 and 14.

PUPPY PROFILE: If you know when your pet was born, check out his or her sun sign and the personality that goes with it.

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SUDOKU

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

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: Beginner

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!

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

ANSWER:

	KMID (3) Midland	UNI (4) Spanish	KPEJ (5) Odessa	KOSA (7) Odessa	KTLE (8) Telemundo	KWES (9) Midland	KMLM (12) Odessa	KPBT (13) Odessa	KWWT (14) Odessa	KWES2 (15) Midland	WTBS (33) Atlanta	TNT (34) Atlanta	ESPN (35) Sports	ESPN2 (36) Sports	FSN (38) Sports	USA (55) New York	A&E (58) New York	DISC (60) Discovery
5:30	Local 2 ABC	P. Luche Noticiero	Broke Girl Mom	CBS 7	Tele Noticias	News Cost	Hidden Business	Over Business	Hawaii Five-0	American Fam. Guy	Fam. Guy	for Speed, Imogen Poots	Monday Night Countdown	SportsCenter	Texans Mod Fam	Mod Fam	The First 48	Street Outlaws
6:30	Jeopardy! Wheel	Enamorán-dome	Big Bang ET	CBS 7	Caso Cer-rado	News	Families Truth	PBS News-Hour	M*A*S*H	Fam. Guy	Fam. Guy		College Basketball	Focused Mod Fam	Mod Fam	The First 48	Street Out-laws: Full	
7:30	The Great Christmas Light Fight	Rosa de Guadalupe	Lucifer (DVS)	Big Bang Man-Plan	Jenni Rivera	The Voice	News Antiques Roadshow	Antiques Roadshow	Griffith	Fam. Guy	Fam. Guy	Movie: Ant-Man, Evangeline Lilly (DVS)	(15) NFL Football: Pittsburgh Steelers at Cincinnati Bengals.	College Basketball	WWE Monday Night RAW	The First 48	Street Out-laws	
8:30	The Good Doctor	Caer en tentación	News TMZ	Scorpion	El Señor de los	(01) The Wall	Light of Southwest	Independent Lens	Heroes	Page Six	American	(31) Movie: Need for Speed, Imogen Poots	Spotlight	Focused		The First 48	(02) Cash Cab	
9:30	Local 2	Impacto	Mom	CBS 7	Tele	News	News	To Be An-nounced	C. Burnett	Seinfeld	Conan		Basket	Poker	Mod Fam	(03) The First 48	(04) Street Outlaws	
10:30	Jimmy Kimmel Live	Noticiero	Mod Fam	Late Show- Colbert	Titulares	Tonight Show	House Aleph	Newsline	Perry Mason	Rules	Seinfeld		SportsCenter/WVan Pelt	SC Feat. E:60	Cowboys	Mod Fam	The First 48	Cash Cab
11:30	Nightline	Deportivo	How I Met	James Corden	El Señor de los	Daly	Hidden					(12:01) Law & Order	NFL Prime-Time	SportsCenter	UFC Re-loaded	CSI: Crime Scene	The First 48	Street Out-laws
12:30	Extra	Quiero Amarte	How I Met	Holly	Programa	News	Light of Southwest					(01) Law & Order	SportsCenter	Jalen Fantasy	Law & Order: SVU	The First 48	(08) Street Outlaws	
1:30	Paid Prg.	Las amazonas	Pawn Simpsons	Paid Prg.	Programa	(37) The												

ANDY CAPP



AGNES



ARCHIE



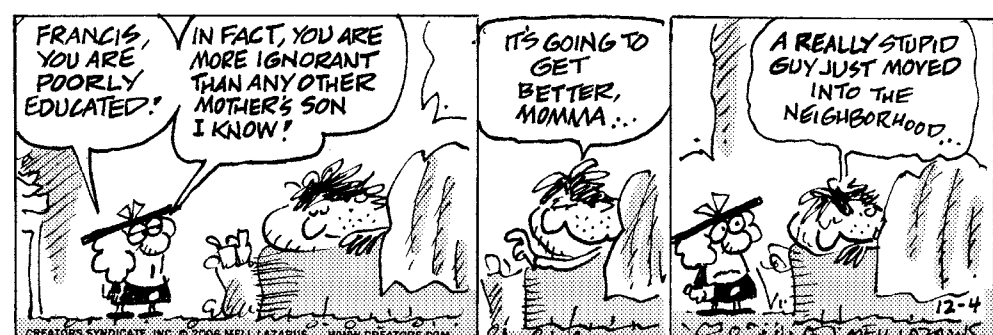
ONE BIG HAPPY



NEST HEAD



MOMMA



This Date In History

Today is Monday, Dec. 4, the 338th day of 2017. There are 27 days left in the year.

Today's Highlights in History:

On Dec. 4, 1942, during World War II, U.S. bombers struck the Italian mainland for the first time with a raid on Naples. President Franklin D. Roosevelt ordered the dismantling of the Works Progress Administration, which had been created to provide jobs during the Depression.

On this date:

In 1619, a group of settlers from Bristol, England, arrived at Berkeley Hundred in present-day Charles City County, Virginia, where they held a service thanking God for their safe arrival.

In 1783, Gen. George Washington bade farewell to his Continental Army officers at Fraunces Tavern in New York.

In 1867, the National Grange of the Order of Patrons of Husbandry, also known as The Grange, was founded in Washington, D.C., to promote the interests of farmers.

In 1918, President Woodrow Wilson left Washington on a trip to France to attend the Versailles (vehr-SY) Peace Conference.

In 1945, the Senate approved U.S. participation in the United Nations by a vote of 65-7.

In 1956, Elvis Presley, Johnny Cash, Jerry Lee Lewis and Carl Perkins gathered for the first and only time for a jam session at Sun Records in Memphis.

In 1965, the United States launched Gemini 7 with Air Force Lt. Col. Frank Borman and Navy Cmdr. James A. Lovell aboard on a two-week mission. (While Gemini 7 was in orbit, its sister ship, Gemini 6A, was launched on Dec. 15 on a one-day mission; the two spacecraft were able to rendezvous within a foot of each other.)

In 1967, actor-comedian Bert Lahr, who played the Cowardly Lion in "The Wizard of Oz," died in New York at age 72.

In 1977, Jean-Bedel Bokassa, ruler of the Central African Empire, crowned himself emperor in a lavish ceremony. (Bokassa was deposed in 1979; he died in 1996 at age 75.)

In 1984, a five-day hijack drama began as four armed men seized a Kuwaiti airliner en route to Pakistan and forced it to land in Tehran, where the hijackers killed American passenger Charles Hegna. (A sec-

ond American, William Stanford, also was killed during the siege.)

In 1991, Associated Press correspondent Terry Anderson, the longest held of the Western hostages in Lebanon, was released after nearly seven years in captivity. The original Pan American World Airways ceased operations.

In 1996, the Mars Pathfinder lifted off from Cape Canaveral and began speeding toward the red planet on a 310 million-mile odyssey. (It arrived on Mars in July 1997.)

Ten years ago: Defending his credibility, President George W. Bush said Iran was dangerous and needed to be squeezed by international pressure despite a U.S. intelligence finding that Tehran had halted its nuclear weapons program four years earlier, contradicting earlier U.S. assessments. Pimp C (Chad Butler), a rapper with the Texas hip-hop group Underground Kingz, was found dead in a hotel room in West Hollywood, California; he was 33.

Five years ago: Two Australian radio disc jockeys impersonating Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Charles made a prank call to a London hospital and succeeded in getting a nurse to tell them the condition of the Duchess of Cambridge, who was being treated for acute morning sickness; another nurse who had put the call through would be found dead three days later in an apparent suicide.

One year ago: A North Carolina man armed with a rifle fired several shots inside Comet Ping Pong, a Washington, D.C., pizzeria, as he attempted to investigate an online conspiracy theory that prominent Democrats were harboring child sex slaves at the restaurant; no one was hurt, and the man surrendered to police. (He was later sentenced to four years in prison.) Italian voters dealt Premier Matteo Renzi a stinging defeat on his reforms referendum, triggering his resignation. Actor Al Pacino, gospel singer Staples, pianist Martha Argerich, singer-songwriter

James Taylor, and Don Henley, Timothy B. Schmidt and Joe Walsh, the surviving members of the Eagles, received Kennedy Center Honors.

Today's Birthdays: Game show host Wink Martindale is 84. Pop singer Freddy Cannon is 81. Actor-producer Max Baer Jr. is 80. Actress Gemma Jones is 75. Rock musician Bob Mosley (Moby Grape) is

75. Singer-musician Chris Hillman is 73. Musician Terry Woods (The Pogues) is 70. Rock singer Southside Johnny Lyon is 69. Actor Jeff Bridges is 68. Rock musician Gary Rossington (Lynyrd Skynyrd; the Rossington Collins Band) is 66. Actress Patricia Wettig is 66. Actor Tony Todd is 63. Jazz singer Cassandra Wilson is 62. Country musician Brian Prout (Diamond Rio) is 62.

Rock musician Bob Griffin (The BoDeans) is 58. Rock singer Vinnie Dombroski (Sponge) is 55. Actress Marisa Tomei is 53. Actress Chelsea Noble is 53. Actor-comedian Fred Armisen is 51. Rapper Jay-Z is 48. Actor Kevin Sussman is 47. Actress-model Tyra Banks is 44. Country singer Lila McCann is 33. Actress Lindsay Felton is 36. Actor Orlando Brown is 30.

Actress Scarlett Estevez (TV: "Lucifer") is 10.

Thought for Today:

"Beauty is the promise of happiness."

Stendahl (Henri Beyle (ah-REE' behl))

French author and critic (1783-1842).

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Newsday Crossword

ACROSS

- Highly attentive
- Stock up on
- Corrosive compound
- Speak indistinctly
- Slacken off, as rainfall
- Mama's mate
- Wind-direction indicator
- Bowling lane
- Say grace, for example
- Greek sandwich holder with a pocket
- Aces and jacks
- Brings under control
- Bell-shaped spring flower
- Short putts
- "Scram!"
- Had sore muscles
- Go running after
- Teachers' org.
- Corporate heads: Abbr.
- Homes for hens
- Help with, as a crime
- Model airplane package
- Army drill instructor, informally
- Hold responsible
- What warehouses and attics are used for
- Inadequate in quantity
- Top-rated
- "Bucking" rodeo horse
- Dinner course with lettuce
- Billiards hall feature with pockets
- Recedes

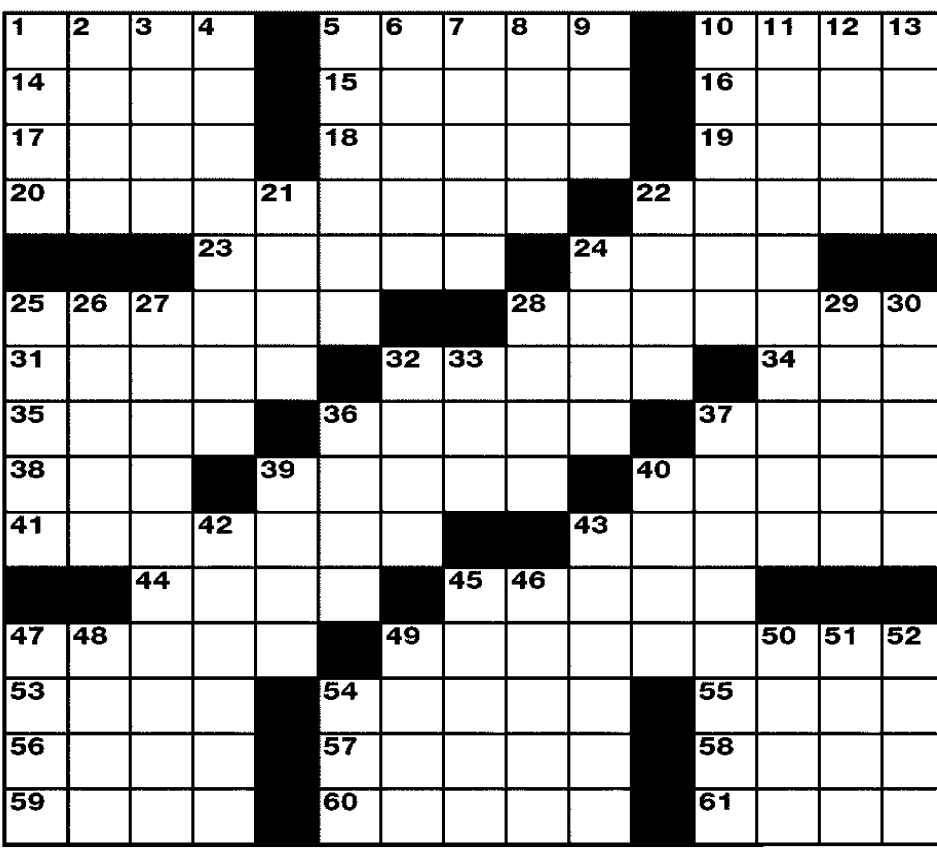
- Puffy sky sight
- Lion sound
- Share a border with
- Wallpaper adhesive
- "Guided" vacation
- Scottish caps
- Started a poker pot
- Concludes

DOWN

- Abbreviation on an invitation
- Jai ___
- Football kick
- International agreements
- Clock radios' buzzers
- Big brawl
- Book of maps
- Took to court
- Undercover agent

POCKET EDITION by Gail Grabowski Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

- Fill with dismay
- Frequent flier's tote with pockets
- Apple's tablet computer
- Portions of a week
- "Marching" musical group
- Quote as a reference
- Not as expensive
- Bulletin board fasteners
- Do great on a test
- Book with pockets for snapshots
- Stare in amazement
- Message from a supervisor
- Potato, informally
- Center of an apple
- Animal in a pigpen
- Zoo enclosure
- Priced separately, on a menu
- Beach surface
- Flexed
- Beef entrées cooked in the oven
- Shaped, as with clay
- Helpful upward push
- Itinerary
- Sofa or bench
- "Mamma Mia!" singing group
- Prepare for, as a vacation
- Timely benefit
- Praise highly
- Makes mistakes
- Tax expert: Abbr.



Answer to previous puzzle
SICEM BLUEPRINT
CNOTE AIRGUITAR
ATBAT STARTDATE
BERSERK NETDLIB
BRA SEOUT VIOL
ANNE PTAS PLANE
REDALERT BAA
DESITNY POSSESS
SPEAR PERI CUBA
HOSPITREWASHAMC
APT GAL SHORTER
BEEFARONI LOIRE
BREEZESIN SLOGS
YAMMERING TENET

NCAA

Continued from
Page 7

Jan. 1 will be entertaining. Rarely in his college career has Baker Mayfield failed to deliver for Oklahoma, and Georgia brings one of the best defenses the Heisman front-runner has ever faced in a brilliant career to the Rose Bowl.

Simply having the games back on New Year's Day is probably reason for celebration.

Twenty-five thoughts, take-downs and take-aways on the play-off:

1. Alabama vs. Ohio State. In the end, Alabama got in for being Alabama, the surest best in college football. When choosing between other flawed choices, 10 years of dominance gets the Tide the benefit of the doubt.

2. The problem with trying to predict the committee's tendencies is that after four years we're still learning those tendencies.

3. It is probably safe to say now that we should not get too hung up on conference championships, which begs the question: Why play conference championship games?

4. Money mostly. They are quality inventory for television partners and showcase events for the conference. But as conference tournaments have become just more games for the NCAA basketball selection committee to consider, the conference championship game in football is becoming the same. Sometimes it will be helpful. Sometimes not.

5. So how do conferences balance the desire to play a lucrative championship with a desire to create a fair and equitable way to determine a champion and best position teams to reach the playoff? The Big 12 seems to have provided the answer. You don't balance them. You just play the conference title game, cash the checks and live with the consequences.

6. It's becoming pretty apparent that the ideal way to reach the playoff is to bulk up the resume with 12 regular-season games, but come up just short of making the conference title game. Then take a weekend off and be one of the leaders in the clubhouse as the other contenders pound each other on championship weekend and maybe end up with, say, two losses.

7. It is a weird quirk that will continue to be an issue that undermines the selection process in the eyes of many fans.

8. So eight-team playoff? There is no appetite for it among those who lead the power conferences. The way the revenue is divvied up, not making the playoff only cost the Big Ten \$2 mil-



AP photo

Clemson's Kelly Bryant celebrates with the trophy for winning the game's most valuable player after Clemson's win over Miami in the Atlantic Coast Conference championship NCAA college football game in Charlotte, N.C., Saturday, Dec. 2, 2017.

lion dollars.

9. As long as the Big Ten gets the Rose Bowl two out of every three years, occasionally getting shut out of the playoff isn't the worst thing in the world.

10. As he has done before, Alabama coach Nick Saban said he would like to see all the Power Five teams play just Power Five teams and maybe even the same number of conference games.

11. Stanford coach David Shaw made a similar comment — as he has done before — wanting to see uniformity throughout college football. At least in terms of number of conference games and not scheduling FCS teams.

12. A few problems with all of that. First, Saban has one of the few college teams that has enough depth and talent to withstand 12 regular-season games against Power Five competition. For the three-quarters of Power Five teams that have no shot of ever winning a national title, this is a bad idea.

13. Uniformity in college football makes it look more like the NFL. Not only does that take a lot of the fun out of college football, it also makes the whole billion-dollar enterprise look more like a business than something that belongs embedded in institutions of higher learning. The antitrust lawyers know this, too.

14. Now about those playoff games. With Deshaun Watson in the NFL, don't expect the back-and-forth scoring the last two meetings between the Tigers and Tide have provided. The aggregate so far: Alabama 76, Clem-

son 75.

15. Kelly Bryant has been excellent in his first season as Watson's replacement for Clemson, but the junior is a long way from the first-round draft pick and Heisman runner-up. Bryant has 13 touchdown passes and 646 yards rushing (3.7 yards per carry).

16. A tip for Alabama defensive coordinator Jeremy Pruitt: When Clemson really needs a play, find No. 13 Hunter Renfrow. The former walk-on has 18 catches for 180 yards and four touchdowns in the last two national championship games against Alabama.

17. A tip for Clemson defensive coordinator Brent Venables: O.J. Howard is gone, but don't lose track of the Alabama tight ends.

18. By the time Clemson and Alabama play on Jan. 1, the Crimson Tide's linebackers should be as healthy as they have been since the start of the season. The Tide won't get Shaun Dion Hamilton back but Mack Wilson, Terrell Lewis and Christian Miller should all be far more effective since missing significant time during the regular season.

19. Alabama quarterback Jalen Hurts led his team to a championship game as a freshman, but there are still Tide fans who doubt him. Tough crowd.

20. Oklahoma comes into the playoff with the worst defense by far but the best quarterback by far among the four teams.

NBA Team Statistics

Includes games of Sunday, December 3, 2017

Team Offense

	G	Pts	Avg
Golden State	24	2837	118.2
Houston	22	2510	114.1
Cleveland	23	2563	111.4
Toronto	21	2328	110.9
Brooklyn	22	2415	109.8
Indiana	23	2498	108.6
New Orleans	23	2498	108.6
Philadelphia	22	2387	108.5
Orlando	24	2592	108.0
Minnesota	24	2590	107.9
Washington	22	2371	107.8
Phoenix	24	2570	107.1
Denver	22	2352	106.9
L.A. Lakers	23	2433	105.8
Charlotte	21	2215	105.5
Detroit	22	2310	105.0
L.A. Clippers	22	2307	104.9
Boston	24	2508	104.5
New York	22	2295	104.3
Atlanta	22	2272	103.3
Portland	23	2374	103.2
Milwaukee	21	2167	103.2
Utah	23	2372	103.1
Oklahoma City	22	2247	102.1
San Antonio	23	2319	100.8
Miami	23	2300	100.0
Dallas	23	2296	99.8
Memphis	22	2162	98.3
Chicago	21	2013	95.9
Sacramento	23	2200	95.7

Team Defense

	G	Pts	Avg
San Antonio	23	2235	97.2
Boston	24	2338	97.4
Oklahoma City	22	2179	99.0
Portland	23	2300	100.0
Utah	23	2300	100.0
Memphis	22	2232	101.5
Houston	22	2260	102.7
Detroit	22	2265	103.0
Miami	23	2384	103.7
Toronto	21	2177	103.7
Dallas	23	2386	103.7
New York	22	2284	103.8
Washington	22	2284	103.8
Milwaukee	21	2182	103.9
Sacramento	23	2430	105.7
Denver	22	2339	106.3
Golden State	24	2564	106.8
Chicago	21	2246	107.0
Charlotte	21	2247	107.0
Minnesota	24	2576	107.3
L.A. Clippers	22	2364	107.5
Philadelphia	22	2371	107.8
Indiana	23	2491	108.3
Atlanta	22	2387	108.5
Cleveland	23	2504	108.9
L.A. Lakers	23	2515	109.3
New Orleans	23	2517	109.4
Orlando	24	2672	111.3
Brooklyn	22	2492	113.3
Phoenix	24	2780	115.8

21. Baker Mayfield will win the Heisman next weekend and then have just one thing left to put him among the great college quarterbacks of all-time: A national title.

22. Oklahoma is 7-3 in its last 10 games against the SEC, including a rout of Auburn last year in the Sugar Bowl.

23. Georgia's Jake Fromm has the third-most touchdown passes in the SEC with 21. He also has the ninth-most passing attempts with 230. The freshman has been very good, but the two games he has thrown his most passes were Georgia's loss to Auburn (28) and its one-point win at Notre Dame (29).

24. Roquan Smith showed in the SEC championship why he might be the best linebacker in the country.

25. And the winners will be: Clemson and Georgia. With both campuses less than two hours away from Atlanta, tickets for the title game on Jan. 8 at Mercedes-Benz Stadium will be impossible to find.

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