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# HERALD

**BIG SPRING** WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2017



VOLUME 113, NUMBER 55 COPYRIGHT 2017 75 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 SUNDAY

## Jodey Arrington announces re-election bid

By **ROGER CLINE**  
 Staff Writer

Local US Congressman Jodey Arrington (R-Texas) has announced that he plans to run for re-election in 2018.

In a statement released Tuesday, Arrington said, "I am excited to announce my campaign for re-election and ask for your continued support. In less than a year in office, we have become a strong voice in the People's House

for our West Texas families, advanced our conservative principles, and delivered on our promise to rein in Washington and restore power back to 'We the People.'"



Arrington

Election Day 2018 is Tuesday, Nov. 6. While not a presidential elec-

tion year, all Representatives and 34 (9 Republican and 25 Democrat) Senators are up for re-election in 2018.

Arrington, a Lubbock resident, was originally elected to the post in January of this year, taking over from Congressman Randy Neugebauer (R-Texas), who decided not to run for re-election at the time.

During his first year in office, Arrington has served on three House committees: Ag-

riculture, Veterans Affairs, and Budget, and was selected as chairman of the VA Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity. Arrington worked to restore cotton to the 2018 Farm Bill and asked helped draft a letter with fellow Texas Congressman Mike Conaway (R-Texas) of the 11th Congressional District asking President Donald Trump for emergency relief for cotton growers. The letter was

signed by 135 members of Congress.

"We have been working tirelessly to get cotton back into the Farm Bill and the B-21 Bomber at Dyess AFB (in Abilene), and the prospects for both - at this point - look good," Arrington said in the statement. "I've done what I said I would do, from being a champion for our

See **BID**, Page 3

## Sledding across America



Huskies Sarah and Lobo pull 42-year-old Georgie Cutright on a practice run through the parking lot of Big Spring's West Texas Inn Tuesday afternoon. Cutright, a self-proclaimed "Mascot for God," is traveling across America from Knoxville, Tenn., to Venice Beach, Calif., in this way to spread the joy and love of God to those who see and meet him and his canine companions.

### 'Mascot for God' stops in Big Spring on his cross-country journey

By **ROGER CLINE**  
 Staff Writer

The Iditarod is a thousand-mile long dog sled race held annually in Alaska, in which teams of dogs pull sleds and their rider through mile after mile of ice and snow.

Georgie Cutright is doing something similar across the continental United States, pulled over asphalt and concrete on his skateboard-mounted sled by his two companion huskies, Sarah and

Lobo. But this trio aren't doing it for the competition of a race, they're doing it for the Lord.

"I'm just a mascot, you know?" Cutright said. "You don't cheer for mascots. I'm just a mascot for God."

The 42-year-old traveler said his most recent journey - seeing the country from behind his faithful canine friends - started to prove a point to his non-believing daughter.

"I was traveling through Knoxville on my way to Florida, and my van broke down, and I came to the realization that it was kind of now or never to live out a dream and do something nobody else had ever done before," Cutright said. "This

just kind of came up, you know? Before I left, I told my daughter... she doesn't really believe in God, you know? I was like, 'Hey, you know, through God, I'm gonna make these dogs famous, and I'm going to be one of the most filmed men in the world for a while. I'll do God, and I'll prove to you that if a good-for-nothing old man with nothing to offer anybody can go out and spread joy and love, and you would hear of it through other outlets other than me just saying it, God would prove himself to you.'"

After deciding to make the trip, Cutright said things happened

See **SLED**, Page 3

## Open enrollment to end Dec. 15

Special to the Herald

Are you still uninsured? If so, there's still time to sign up for health insurance and avoid the penalty.

"With many people lacking access to a computer or just need help maneuvering through the Marketplace website, our application counselors can help," said SMMC CEO Emma Krabill. "We can assist individuals and their families evaluate the available health plans and determine if they're eligible for Medicaid or other insurance options. But you have to call for an



Krabill

See **INSURANCE**, Page 3

## House conservatives show openness to bill averting shutdown

By **ALAN FRAM** and **ANDREW TAYLOR**

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Hard-right House conservatives signaled an openness Wednesday to backing a short-term spending bill this week, raising the

odds that Congress will pass the measure and prevent a partial government shut-down on Saturday.

"We've got to get across the finish line on tax reform," Rep. Mark Meadows, R-N.C., leader of

See **BILL**, Page 3

**Big Spring Herald's Christmas Countdown**



**Mingo** says "Only 19 Days 'til Christmas!"  
 (Domingo Hernandez, Mailroom)

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## Obituaries

### Charlie Smith



Charlie Smith was born Oct. 1, 1935, to B.L. & Nora Smith in Courtney, Texas, and passed away Monday, Dec. 4, 2017. He married Lou Ann Lamb Nov. 24, 1956. She preceded him in death July 27, 1991. He then married Betty Jane Blake July 1, 1992. Their children include Betty and Ray McKim, Sherry and Lee Cook, Jerry and Tahita Holloway, Belynda Campbell, Don and Donna Blake, John Smith, Ray Blake and Jim and Valerie Smith. His grandchildren include Jeff and Sonja Leary, Jason and Mauri Hopper, Michael and Chandra Brooks, Tonia Brooks and fiancé, Chris Baltzell, Alayna Smith and fiancé, Jeromy Yager, Trent and Brandi Smith, Savannah and Josh Tunnel, Sean Smith, Jessica and Marcus Washington, Winston Holloway and fiancé, Cathleen Cantrell, Dylan Cade, Andrew Blake, Jordan and Jeffery Kulaga, Megan and Brandon Taylor and Madison, Tyler Hinrichs, Macki and Emory McKim and Malory McKim.

He was also blessed with 18 great-grandchildren.

He is also survived by his brother, Glen Smith and wife, Paula; and a sister, Rose Pritchett.

Charlie always enjoyed life to the fullest, whether it was work or play. He grew up working in the cotton fields and enjoyed hunting, shooting and family. He started the Martin County Super Shooters in 1977 and coached hundreds of kids in Martin County and other surrounding counties. He knew no boundaries when it came to spending time with kids. He loved telling stories, especially ones involving his family.

In lieu of flowers donations can be made to Martin County 4H, American Cancer Society or the charity of your choice.

Viewing for the public will be Wednesday from 8 a.m. until 6 p.m. The family will receive friends from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Wednesday at Gilbreath Funeral Home in Stanton, Texas. A memorial service will be 2 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 7, 2017, at the Martin County Community Center. A private family burial will follow at Evergreen Cemetery. Pallbearers will be his Grandsons.

Arrangements are under the direction of Gilbreath Funeral Home. Condolences can be made at [www.npwelch.com](http://www.npwelch.com).

*Paid obituary*

### Aiden Thomas Rodriguez

Aiden Thomas Rodriguez, 7 months, died Monday, Dec. 04, 2017, at Scenic Mountain Medical Center. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

### Jeannie Cunningham



Jeannie Cunningham, 74, of Sand Springs, died Monday, Dec. 4, 2017, at Scenic Mountain Medical Center. The family will receive friends from 6 p.m. until 7 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 6, 2017 at Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Funeral services will be at 2 p.m. Thursday at Myers & Smith Chapel with Pastor Michael Seay, pastor of Midway Baptist Church officiating.

Burial will follow at Trinity Memorial Park.

Jeannie was born Dec. 8, 1942, in Pioneer, Texas, to Doris Ruth Sheehan Fleener and Ellis Franklin Fleener. She grew up in Levelland, Texas, before coming to Big Spring to attend Howard County Jr. College in 1960. She married Don Cunningham in Big Spring on Jan. 18, 1963. Don had passed away on May 11, 2012. Jeannie was a homemaker and owner of Santa Fe Sandwiches and Grill. The love of her life was her grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Jeannie is survived by two daughters, Jill Ringener and Jancy Cunningham, both of Sand Springs; four grandchildren, Tiffany Ringener, Jared Ringener and wife Kristina, Janessa Ringener, and Jacy Jo Don Cunningham; two great grandsons, Kole James and Cooper Chang-Ringener; one sister, Jo Ogle and husband Chuck; one brother, Richard Fleener; six nieces: Katherine Phillips, Teri Leach, Sheila Cunningham, Debbie Cunningham, Michelle Couch and Suzanne Richardson; six nephews, Gus, Scott, Paul, Rafe, Richie and Ted Fleener, Charley Ogle; one brother-in-law, Ron Cunningham and wife Marisue and one sister-in-law, Martha Fleener. A special thank you, to Richie Fleener, who was a caregiver to Don and Jeannie and was like a son.

In addition to her parents and husband, Jeannie was preceded in death by one brother, Robert Fleener and one nephew, Jason Ogle.

Pallbearers will be Kasey Foster, Ted Fleener, Richie Fleener, Rod Harris, Charley Ogle, Paul Fleener.

Arrangements are made by Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Pay your respects online at [www.myersandsmith.com](http://www.myersandsmith.com).

*Paid obituary*

## Police, Sheriff reports

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity:

- **AARON CHRISTOPHER VERA**, 25, of 1302 HWY 176, was arrested on a warrant of theft of service less than or equal to \$100 to \$750.

- **JESSE REY NUNEZ JR.**, 22, of 105 E 24th St., was arrested on a warrant of driving while intoxicated.

- **LIOVARDO AGUILERA**, 45, of 1610 S Owens St., was arrested on a warrant of theft in between \$2,000 to \$30,000.

- **DAVID RAMOS GALINDO**, 64, of 1905 Wasson Rd., was arrested on a charge of criminal trespass, and on a warrant of Criminal Trespass Bond Forfeiture.

nal Trespass Bond Forfeiture.

- **TRAY AUSTIN BRIM**, 20, 1106 W 3rd St., was arrested on a warrant of assault causes bodily harm.

- **CRIMINAL MISCHIEF** was reported on the 600 block of Steakley.

- **THEFT** was reported on the 200 block of Circle Dr.

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

Note – Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 72 inmates at the time of this report.

- **LIOVARDO AGUILERA**, 45, was arrested by BSPD on a warrant of theft in between \$2,000 to \$30,000.

- **TRAY AUSTIN BRIM**, 20, was arrested by BSPD on a warrant of assault causes bodily harm.

- **BILLY JOE EDMONDSON**, 37, was arrested by HCSO on a warrant of order of modified condition of community supervision.

- **DAVID RAMOS GALINDO**, 64, was arrested by BSPD on a charge of criminal trespass, and on a warrant of Criminal Trespass Bond Forfeiture.

- **ABEL HERNANDEZ HINOJOS**, 45, was

arrested by HCSO on a warrant of terroristic threat cause fear.

- **JESSE REY NUNEZ JR.**, 22, was arrested by BSPD on a warrant of driving while intoxicated.

- **ROBERT JOHN RIOS JR.**, 21, was arrested by HCSO on a warrant of sex offenders duty to register.

- **AARON CHRISTOPHER VERA**, 25, was arrested by BSPD on a warrant of theft of service less than or equal to \$100 to \$750.

- **TERRY LEE ZYLSTRA JR.**, 47, was arrested by HCSO on a warrant of theft of property less than or equal to \$100 to \$750.

## Take Note

- New hours for the Salvation Army!

Our days and hours are:

Tuesday - 9 a.m. -12 noon and 1p.m. - 3 p.m.

Wednesday - 1p.m. - 7 p.m. (a late afternoon and evening added)

Friday - 9 a.m. - 12 noon and 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.

Food Pantry is on Wednesdays and Fridays at the above mentioned hours.

- 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 callouts. 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.

- 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.

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220755

## Fire/EMS

Big Spring Fire Department/EMS reported the following activity:

- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 700 block of Ohio. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 2900 block of E HWY 80. No transport.

- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 1900 block of Tucson. No transport.

- **MEDICAL 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 3202 E 11th. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 1600 block of Lancaster. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

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

- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 1400 block of E 6th St. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

- **TRAUMA CALL** was reported in the 2500 block of Fairchild. No transport.

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The Big Spring Herald is a member of The Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce, Texas Press Association, West Texas Press Association, Texas Daily Newspaper Association, The Associated Press.

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POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, TX 79721. Periodicals postage paid at Big Spring, Texas.

USPS 1431-48 USPS 0055-940 ISSN 0746-6811

BY THE MONTH HOME DELIVERY: \$13.00 monthly; \$140.40 yearly (includes 10% discount). MAIL SUBSCRIPTIONS: \$16.00 monthly in Howard County; \$19.50 elsewhere.





HERALD photo/Roger Cline

The skateboard-mounted lawn chair traveler Georgie Cutright is using to cross the country, towed by his Husky companions Sarah and Lobo. The deck of the "longboard"-style skateboard has been replaced with a wider, more stable one, and the aluminum lawn chair has been replaced several times.

## SLED

Continued from Page 1

quickly.

"Two weeks later, I was on the front page of the Knoxville newspaper, and daily-mill.com did a feature on me, and it just kind of went worldwide from there," he said. "It was amazing once I decided to actually do it, how fast it came to fruition."

Cutright already had the vital elements for his trip by that point: His trusty canine companions, and his homemade chariot.

"I've had Sarah since mid-August of last year, and I've had Lobo since September 1 of last year," he said. "They're both rescue dogs. I got them both in California, and we

kind of traveled and had different adventures together, and then my daughter kind of called me up and said, 'Hey, you can go everywhere but come visit me?' I didn't even think that she wanted to see me. So I went there with 67 cents in my pocket."

The "dogsled" was cobbled together from a large skateboard – called a 'longboard' – Cutright found on the beach, and an old aluminum lawn chair.

"I found a longboard on the beach one day, and I sat there for four hours waiting for the owner, and I said, 'Well, if nobody comes by dark, I'll take it,'" he said. "I waited for somebody to come and get it, and nobody came and got it, so I left with a longboard. It was a really cool longboard. I

liked it a lot, and Sarah would pull me around on it."

After also finding a workable lawn chair, Cutright duct-taped the two together to form his trusty conveyance, and stuck an American flag on the back. While riding through Texas, Cutright has also added a Texas flag to the mix. Since then, many modifications and repairs have been made to the device. The original deck of the longboard has been replaced by a wider deck, giving the vehicle more stability and better handling.

"This is the third lawn chair I've had on it," Cutright said. "Before, when I had the narrower longboard, the chair would hang over the edges, and that made the aluminum kind of buckle from my weight. I've had this chair a

long time."

Cutright set out from Knoxville, Tenn., in mid-March, and is ultimately heading for Venice Beach, Calif.

"I started in Knoxville, but the police made us stop. 2.2 miles into the trip, about 12 cops showed up," he said. "My final destination is Venice Beach, Calif., and that's where I hope to end up. But you know, if at any time the dogs are not up to it, or they're not healthy or happy, I'm going to call it quits. But right now as you can see, they're pretty rambunctious. If I don't run them, they're like this non-stop."

Cutright said life on the road isn't all fun times.

"I've been attacked by wild animals. Several things like that have happened to us. I don't really talk about those much. I expect those things to happen from time to time. I'm scared of it, but it's dangerous being on the road," he said. "I do like this kind of lifestyle a little bit, but it's very dangerous, and it's hard on my family and it's hard on me. At times it's rough. I like the freedom of being able to go wherever I want to go, but the stability of a home would mean so much more. But I don't ever want to tell people that I'm hopeless or whatever. I'm not."

Cutright said he plans to remain in Big Spring today, and head west on Thursday, aiming for El Paso.

The weather's kind of stuck me here to this point. I was staying here to relax and because it's probably the last cheap motel I'm going to come to for quite a while, you know? I thought I'd take advantage of the price while I had the money. I don't travel with money. I spend it as I get it. I like to keep it in the community where I get it. People sometimes give me money, and if I were to just carry it

with me, I might get robbed. I want to keep it where it's given to me. I want to keep it in that community. Really, money's just imaginary anyway."

Cutright said his mission is to spread the love and joy of God.

"My mission in life is to give others the joy in life that I've found through God. We try to fill all our lives with people, places, and things, and different aspects of our lives, and finding gratification in an instant at any moment in our lives. We've grown unappreciative of God and what he's done for us," he said. "If we don't follow that purpose, it's almost like blasphemy. When I started following what I thought was God's plan for me, things just started falling into place. Sometimes I'd get smacked in the back of the head, and I would go back to the path where I left off, almost like dominos, and I'd start rebuilding from that point. When I started doing that, it just started going real easy. It's been pretty intense, this whole trip."

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

### MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

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267-8288

Jeannie Cunningham, 74, died Monday. The family will receive friends from 6 p.m. until 7 p.m. today at Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Funeral services will be at 2 p.m. Thursday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Burial will follow at Trinity Memorial Park.

Esther Cano, 81, died Monday. Vigil service will be at 7 p.m. Thursday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral Mass will be at 10 a.m. Friday at Holy Trinity Catholic Church. Burial will be at Coahoma Cemetery.

Aiden Thomas Rodriguez, 7 months, died Monday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Charles Mitchell, 69, died Saturday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Jeffrey Carter, 54, died Monday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

## BID

Continued from Page 1

veterans, to passing tax reform, Obamacare repeal, and other important initiatives out of the house, to fighting the root of Washington's culture problem by introducing term limit legislation."

While Arrington is the only Republican so far to announce intent to run for the 19th Congressional seat, Democrat Miguel Levario, a Lubbock resident and Texas Tech history professor, has announced his bid to challenge Arrington for the seat. Levario will meet with Howard County Democrats 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Dec. 11 at the Train Car Cigar Bar.

## INSURANCE

Continued from Page 1

appointment; open enrollment ends December 15."

The penalty fee for not having insurance has increased this year. If you can afford health insurance coverage, but don't sign up, you may have to pay a penalty. For more information about this year's penalty fees, visit [healthcare.gov/fees](http://healthcare.gov/fees).

The good news is based on household income and dependents, some individuals may qualify for financial assistance from the government – or subsidies –

## BILL

Continued from Page 1

the House Freedom Caucus, told reporters after the group met privately early Wednesday. "Any distraction from that is a problem." Asked if a federal shutdown would be a problem, he said, "Of course."

Top Republicans plan to push legislation through Congress this week financing federal agencies through Dec. 22, a period

that would allow time for both parties to bargain over long-term budget decisions and other issues. Government closures would begin at midnight Friday night unless lawmakers approve more money.

The roughly 30-member caucus has been trying to win promises of tight budget curbs and other concessions from leaders in exchange for backing the short-term bill. Without support from many of them, Republicans would need votes from Demo-

crats to push the temporary spending measure through the House, and Democrats have not said what they will do. Meadows and other caucus members said the group had made no final decision to back the short-term spending measure and planned to meet with House leaders later in the day. "We want to stay focused on tax reform," said Rep. Jim Jordan, R-Ohio, another conservative leader. Top Republicans are adamant about not sparking a federal

towards the cost of the premium and other financial obligations like co-pays or deductibles.

Some of the mandatory benefits included in all Marketplace plans include doctor visits, prescription drugs, hospital and emergency department care, lab services, pediatric care, and free preventive and wellness services. Coverage cannot be denied for individuals with a pre-existing health condition.

"Let us help take the frustration out of the enrollment process. Call 432-268-4855 for an appointment before December 15 and let us help you get a healthy start to the New Year," said Krabill.

shutdown that would deal the latest blow to a party that has strained all year to show it can govern effectively.

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## Texas county approves new building regulations post-Harvey

HOUSTON (AP) — In the wake of devastating flooding from Hurricane Harvey, officials in the Texas county that is home to Houston have approved new building regulations that they're touting as the toughest in a major U.S. metropolitan area for construction in flood-prone locations.

The new rules, which take effect Jan. 1, will increase how high new homes and other structures in Harris County must be elevated to avoid floodwaters. Some new structures could be elevated up to 8 feet higher than under current regulations.

The rules cover unincorporated parts of Harris County, where nearly 2 million people reside, but not structures within Houston city limits.

The new regulations approved Tuesday by Harris County commissioners will have builders adhere to construction standards within a 500-year flood plain instead of a 100-year flood plain.

## Former monk testifies in murder trial of ex-priest

EDINBURG, Texas (AP) — A former monk has testified that an ex-priest accused of killing a Texas woman in 1960 confessed to him three years after the killing.

Dale Tacheny testified Monday in the murder trial for John Feit, who is accused of suffocating Irene Garza after she went to confession at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in McAllen. An autopsy determined the teacher and former beauty queen was beaten, raped while unconscious and asphyxiated.

Tacheny said the now 85-year-old Feit confessed to him in 1963, after the church sent Feit to a Missouri monastery where Tacheny worked. The former Trappist monk said Feit expressed no remorse during the confession.

Tacheny said he didn't initially report the crime because it "was not my place to make a judgment." The 88-year-old said he instead tried to counsel Feit to change his behavior toward women. But in 2002, Tacheny went to police in San Antonio and reported what Feit allegedly told him decades earlier.

Investigators said Feit gave them conflicting versions of what happened the day Garza died in April 1960. They said Feit initially alleged he didn't take Garza's confession and that another priest was present at the time. But he later said he was alone and had taken Garza's confession, according to investigators. Feit's attorney argues there is no physical evidence linking his client to the killing. He also said Tacheny made assumptions about the crime when he reported it to police in 2002.

## Feds pay most of \$1.7B Texas has spent so far post-Harvey

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Texas had spent nearly \$1.7 billion on Hurricane Harvey recovery through the end of October, with more than three-quarters of that coming from federal funds.

The nonpartisan Legislative Budget Board told a state Senate committee on Tuesday that federal funding accounted for more than \$1.3 billion of what's been spent post-Harvey so far.

That doesn't account for \$5 billion in additional, U.S. Housing and Urban Development funds being distributed via federal block grant programs.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency has awarded \$1.1 billion to the Texas land commissioner's office to assist those who lost homes during the storm. The agency expects to spend \$810 million of that during fiscal year 2018.

Republican Sen. Jane Nelson, who heads the committee, said "This is going to be a long and costly recovery."

# Border arrests fall, deportations soar in Trump's first year



In this photo taken Monday, Dec. 4, 2017, in Nogales Mexico, crosses with the names of migrants who have died on the northbound journey to the United States. The federal government on Tuesday, Dec. 5, 2017, issued its most complete statistical snapshot of immigration enforcement under President Donald Trump, saying Border Patrol arrests plunged to a 45-year low while arrests by deportation officers soared.

By ELLIOT SPAGAT and JILL COLVIN

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Border Patrol arrests plunged to a 45-year low, but detentions by deportation officers away from the U.S.-Mexico border soared during President Donald Trump's first months in office, as his efforts to overhaul the nation's immigration system took effect.

In all, the Border Patrol made 310,531 arrests during the fiscal year that ended Sept. 30, a decline of 25 percent from a year earlier and the lowest level since 1971. But U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, whose officers pick up people for deportation, made 143,470 arrests, an increase of 25 percent. After Trump took office, ICE arrests surged 40 percent from the same period a year earlier.

"The president made it clear in his executive orders: There's no population off the table," Thomas Homan, ICE's acting director, told reporters in Washington on Tuesday. "If you're in this country illegally, we're looking for you and we're going to look to apprehend you." Overall, ICE said deportations totaled 226,119, a decline of 6 percent from the previous year, but that number masks a major shift away from the border. ICE often takes custody

of people at the border before deporting them; the sharp drop in Border Patrol arrests means fewer people to remove.

ICE said "interior removals" — people deported after being arrested away from the border — jumped 25 percent to 81,603. And they were up 37 percent after Trump's inauguration compared to the same period a year earlier.

In February, former Homeland Security Secretary John Kelly, who now serves as Trump's chief of staff, scrapped the Obama administration's instructions to limit deportations to public safety threats, convicted criminals and recent border crossers, effectively making anyone in the country illegally vulnerable.

At the Capitol on Tuesday, a group of 34 House Republicans asked Speaker Paul Ryan to act this month on legislation dealing with 800,000 young migrants brought to the United States as children and now living here illegally.

Reasons for the precipitous drop in border arrests are unclear, but Trump's election may have deterred people from trying. Trump has yet to get funding for the first installment of his proposed border wall with Mexico and the number of Border Patrol agents declined

to less than 19,500 as the government struggled to fill vacancies continued during his presidency.

The numbers released Tuesday provide the most complete statistical snapshot of immigration enforcement under Trump. And they show that deportation officers are taking his call for an immigration crackdown to heart, even without the funding increase that the president has sought from Congress for more hiring.

South of the Arizona border in the Mexican town of Nogales, many of the deportees who were eating breakfast Monday at a dining room run by a nonprofit group had been picked up in the U.S. far from the border.

"We are seeing a lot of people now who have long established ties in the United States," said Joanna Foote Williams, the Kino Border Initiative's director of education and advocacy, as about 40 men and a few women ate eggs, refried beans and tortillas.

Trump campaigned as an immigration hardliner, accusing Mexico of sending rapists and other criminals to the U.S. and promising to build "a great wall on our southern border." As president, he has signed a series of travel bans aimed at curtailing who can enter the country, pushed to overhaul the legal im-

migration system and tried to crack down on so-called sanctuary cities that refuse to share information about illegal immigrants with federal authorities.

The sharp drop in border arrests may be used by Trump's critics to question the need to spend billions of dollars on a border wall and hire 5,000 more Border Patrol agents. Officials said they believe a wall is still necessary.

Homan said that, every time a wall barrier has been built, illegal crossings have decreased significantly.

"Why would we not want to build a wall?" he asked. "What is the cost of national security and public safety?" Despite the overall decline in border arrests, the numbers have increased every month since May — largely families and unaccompanied children.

About 58 percent of Border Patrol arrests were people from countries other than Mexico — up from 54 percent from a year earlier — largely from Central America. Starting around 2011, large numbers from El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras began entering the country in South Texas, which replaced Arizona as the busiest corridor for illegal crossings.

Ronald Vitiello, Customs and Border

See BORDER, Page 5

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# Oregon fugitive arrested at Texas university using alias

MEDFORD, Ore. (AP) — An Oregon fugitive recently arrested at the University of Texas, Arlington, has a history of using aliases and supplied a fake identity to enroll in a graduate program there, authorities said.

Daniel Charles Ray Hanson, 42, is jailed in Fort Worth, Texas, on a felony charge of tampering with a government document and has previously gone by aliases including Skylar Michael Gregory Joyner, Skylar Michael Dal Porto and Michael Gregory Joyner, the Mail Tribune reported Monday. It wasn't clear if Hanson

had retained an attorney. Authorities didn't return calls from the Mail Tribune.

The newspaper obtained a 28-page report from University of Texas police detailing a monthslong investigation into Hanson's activities and identity that involved fingerprint experts and law enforcement agencies in Oregon, Texas and California. Some of the report was redacted.

During the Texas investigation, authorities realized Hanson was wanted on a 2001 forgery warrant in Oregon over falsifying his birth date so he could enroll in a local high school. He pretended

to be a 17-year-old homeless boy when he was already in his 20s and had graduated in 1994.

He was enrolled at the University of Texas, Arlington's School of Social Work under the name Skylar Michael Gregory Joyner. In January, the school's Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services authorized a tuition waiver under the false ID, granting him a tuition waiver that totaled \$14,588 for fall 2016 and spring 2017 semesters.

An angry outburst in April led five professors and another student to file more than 30 pages of complaints against

him, and school administrators decided to remove him from the doctoral program. As part of that process, administrators asked the university police to perform a background check.

University police gathered Hanson's fingerprint cards from police agencies in Oregon, and Medford police interviewed Hanson's father to confirm his identity.

A warrant for his arrest was issued May 11 by Texas authorities after a trained fingerprint examiner confirmed they matched the others. By then, Hanson had left his apartment.

He was arrested in October in Atlanta, the newspaper said.

Oregon court records show Hanson was convicted of felony arson and misdemeanor reckless endangering in a 1995 case for setting fires and damaging property at a Salem dormitory for the Tokyo International University of America, which is affiliated with Willamette University.

Hanson had a full-ride scholarship to Willamette that year, previous news reports show.

# Texas' first Hispanic female sheriff enters governor's race

By PAUL J. WEBER

Associated Press  
AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Texas' first Hispanic female sheriff announced Wednesday she is running for governor in 2018, making her the biggest Democrat in the race to challenge Republican Gov. Greg Abbott.

Dallas County Sheriff Lupe Valdez, who says she is stepping down as sheriff after 12 years to launch her campaign, starts out as an underdog. Texas hasn't elected a Democratic governor since 1990 and Abbott coasted to a 20-point win just three years ago against Wendy Davis, whose defense of abortion rights catapulted her to national political stardom.

In Valdez, 70, Democrats are now putting up a far different candidate: a one-time migrant worker and Army veteran with more than 40 years in law enforcement. She was Texas' first openly gay sheriff and has publicly clashed with Abbott over her handling of federal immigration detainees in the nation's seventh-largest jail system.

Several other lesser-known Democrats, including the son of a former Texas governor in the 1980s, are also running. But the true Democratic heavyweights took a pass, including Julian Castro, who was President Barack Obama's housing sec-

retary and is a former mayor of San Antonio.

Texas Democrats have faced uncomfortable questions for months about whether they can field a credible gubernatorial candidate. Valdez, a former U.S. Department of Homeland Security agent, says she is a proud Democrat.

"Opportunity in Texas ought to be as big as this great state, but it is out of reach for far too many, that's why I'm running for Texas Governor," Valdez said in a statement. She is expected to formally file Wednesday.

Valdez was among about 40 female sheriffs in the U.S., a number that amounts to only about 1 percent of the total sheriff population, according to the National Sheriffs Association. Abbott, who is facing re-election for the first time, approaches next year's midterm elections in a better position than few other incumbent governors in the U.S. He has no serious GOP primary challenger and already has more than \$40 million in campaign funds socked away.

He remains popular among social conservatives who drive Texas politics and is steering the state through the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey, which could become the costliest national disaster cleanup in U.S. history. He has pressed the White

See RACE, Page 6

# California suburbs again under siege from wind-driven fires



Flames consume a home on Via Arroyo as a wildfire rages in Ventura, Calif., on Tuesday, Dec. 5, 2017.

By KRISTA FAURIA and BRIAN MELLEY

Associated Press  
VENTURA, Calif. (AP) — For second time in two months, wind-driven fires tore through California communities in the middle of the night, leaving rows of homes and a psychiatric hospital in ruins Tuesday and sending tens of thousands of people fleeing for their lives.

There were no immediate reports of any deaths or serious injuries in the blazes burning in Southern California's Ventura County, on the edge of Los Angeles and in inland San Bernardino County.

The Ventura County wildfire broke out Monday and grew wildly to nearly 80 square miles (207 square kilometers) in a matter of hours. It was fanned by dry Santa Ana winds clocked

at well over 60 mph (96 kph) that grounded firefighting helicopters and planes.

Lisa Kermode ignored the first evacuation alert that buzzed on her phone when it said the fire was 15 miles way. But the flames were nearly on top of her an hour later when she rounded up her three children, still in their pajamas, and told them to grab some jeans.

They returned Tuesday to find the home in ashes, including a Christmas tree and the presents they had just bought.

"We got knots in our stomach coming back up here," Kermode said. "We lost everything, everything, all our clothes, anything that was important to us. All our family heirlooms — it's not sort of gone, it's completely gone."

A smaller fire erupted

on the northern edge of Los Angeles, threatening the Sylmar and Lakeview Terrace neighborhoods, where residents scrambled to get out as heavy smoke billowed over the city, creating a health hazard for millions of people.

Just eight weeks ago, wildfires that broke out in Northern California and its wine country killed 44 people and destroyed 8,900 homes and other buildings.

Fires aren't typical in Southern California this time of year but can break out when dry vegetation and too little rain combine with the Santa Ana winds. Los Angeles has gotten hardly any measurable rain in two months.

Like the deadly Oc-

tober fires in Napa and Sonoma counties, the blazes are in areas more suburban than rural.

"That means that there are going to be far greater numbers that are going to be evacuated, as we're seeing now. And counties and cities are going to have to expand their budgets," said Char Miller, a professor of environmental analysis at Pomona College who has written extensively on wildfires. "These fires are not just fast and furious, but they're really expensive to fight."

The early official count was that at least 150 structures burned in the Ventura County fire, but it was sure to go

See FIRES, Page 6

# BORDER

Continued from Page 4

Protection's acting deputy commissioner, said he was "very concerned" about increases in families and children crossing in recent months. During the fiscal year, which included the Obama administration's final months, border authorities stopped people traveling as families 104,997 times on the Mexican border and unaccompanied children 48,681 times.

CBP also said inspectors at land crossings, airports and seaports denied entry 216,370 times during the fiscal year, a decline of 24 percent from 2016. Border Patrol arrests occur outside of those official points of entry.

CBP, which has faced allegations of excessive use of force, said its employees used firearms 17 times during the fiscal year, down from 27 the previous year and 58 in 2012. They used "less-lethal" devices such as pepper spray 979 times, up from 947 a year earlier. CBP said its employees were assaulted 847 times, up from 585 a year earlier and less than 600 each year going back to 2012.

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# APNewsBreak: Accusers take on toxic culture in TV newsrooms

By MICHAEL R. SISAK and YVONNE LEE

Associated Press

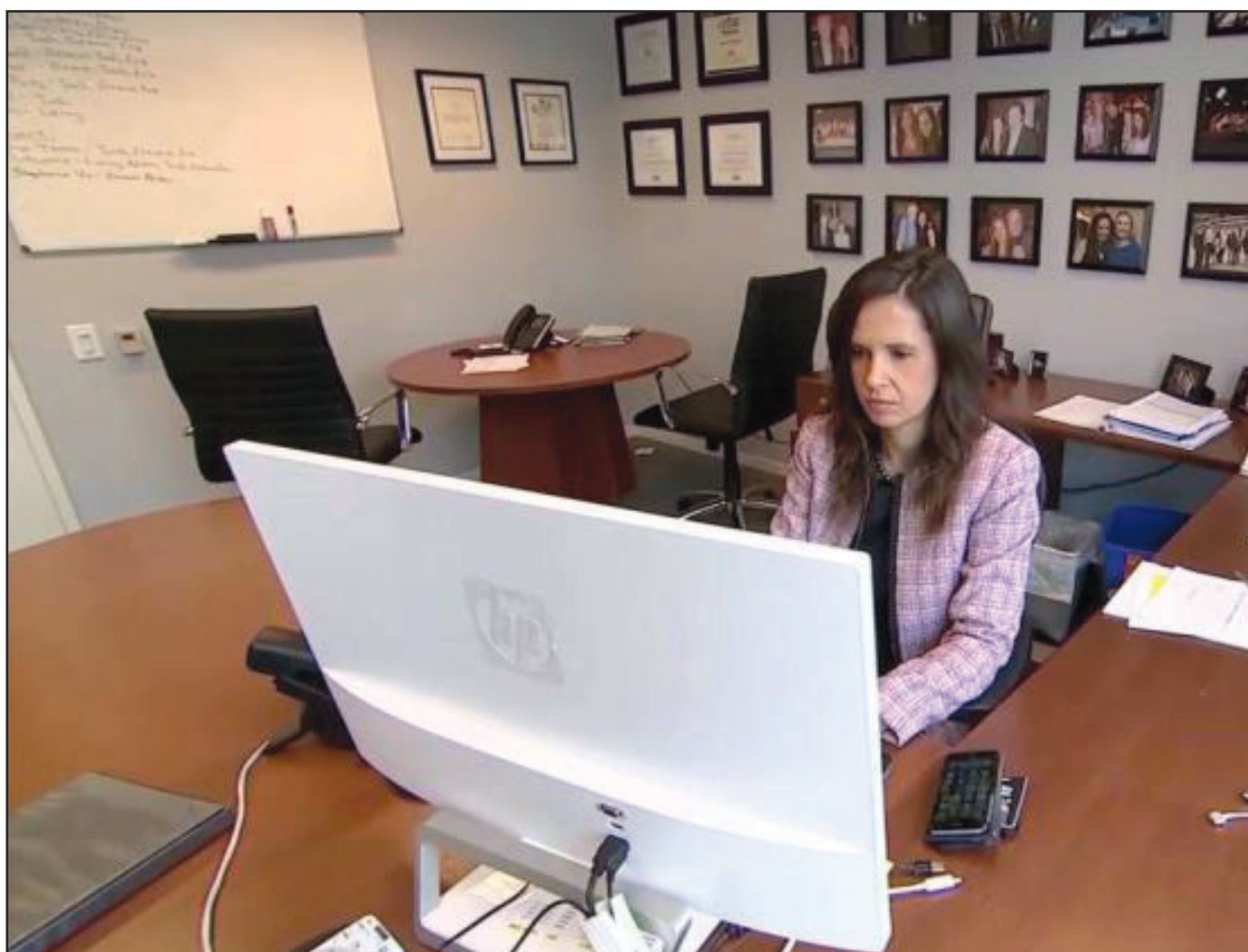
Women who say they were sexually harassed or mistreated by powerful men in television news have banded together to form a support network aimed at changing a newsroom culture they say has given men a free pass to misbehave for decades.

The women behind the Press Forward initiative tell The Associated Press they want a zero-tolerance policy for sexual misconduct at networks, better awareness of legal rights for women coming into the industry and better accountability for executives to ensure safety and improvements.

"Women should not have to go to work and worry that something like this is going to happen to them," said Eleanor McManus, who said she was a 21-year-old job seeker when then-ABC News political reporter Mark Halperin tried to kiss her during a meeting in his office. "Women should not worry that mentors may act in an aggressive manner toward them. That's not fair."

Press Forward evolved over the last two months after McManus and other women went public with allegations against Halperin, CBS and PBS host Charlie Rose and NBC's "Today" show host Matt Lauer, and others.

Halperin has said that he is "profoundly sorry for the pain and anguish" he has caused and, in reading the women's accounts, recognized "conduct for which I feel profound guilt and responsibility." Rose and



In this Dec. 4, 2017, image made from a video, Eleanor McManus works at her desk at Trident DMG, the Washington public relations firm she co-founded. McManus formed a support group for women like her who say they were victimized by powerful men in the television news business and is the co-founder of Press Forward, an initiative aimed at changing newsroom culture.

AP photo

Lauer have also offered apologies, while saying some the allegations are untrue. All have been fired.

This was the second wave of an industry-wide reckoning that began at Fox News with the removal last year of Fox News chief Roger Ailes and the dismissal in April of the network's star host Bill O'Reilly. But the most recent revelations came as many Hollywood and other media executives have faced allegations, and more network women have come forward.

At first, McManus and

a small group shared stories and hugs over drinks. They kept in touch via text messages and private Facebook groups, including one called "The Silver Lining." Now they have reached out to other women with shared experiences to build a growing coalition.

"Nobody here is wallowing in their pain and anger," said Dianna Goldberg May, a former ABC News researcher who said Halperin demanded she close the door and sit on his lap in his office in the mid-1990s when she was 23. "We are doing

something to effect positive change in the workplace."

The group's first mission: figuring out what's needed to make the television news business more equitable and effective. The women say they'll spend the next six months talking with everyone from interns to executives and designing the best practices that tear down the status quo.

After Lauer's firing, NBC initiated a review of its handling of the matter and implemented in-person training on sexual harassment awareness and appropriate behav-

ior in the workplace.

McManus said some of the networks have already expressed an interest in working with Press Forward.

"There are many reasons to have an industry-wide conversation about how we're doing and how we're living up to our norms," said McManus, a co-founder of the Washington, D.C. public relations firm Trident DMG. "This is, perhaps, the most pressing because this is about the shameful power imbalance that has been in place too

See CULTURE, Page 7

## RACE

Continued from Page 5

House for billions of dollars in additional recovery aid, and state leaders drew high marks in a recent survey of Harvey-affected residents by the Kaiser Family Foundation.

But Democrats are likely to target two of Abbott's most divisive pursuits: his "sanctuary cities" ban signed in May; and a so-called bathroom bill targeting transgender people, which failed to pass amid backlash from big corporations such as Amazon and Google.

The new "sanctuary cities" law, known as SB4, is Abbott's toughest crackdown on immigration and was partly fueled by Valdez's decision in 2015 that Dallas jails would stop automatically honoring federal immigration detainers for minor offenses. At the time, Abbott responded by threatening to pull \$250 million in criminal justice grants to counties that followed Valdez's lead, though Dallas never lost any funds.

Ann Richards was the state's last Democratic governor and 1994 was the last time Democrats won any statewide office in Texas — the longest losing streak of its kind in the nation.

## FIRES

Continued from Page 5

higher.

Mansions and modest homes alike were in flames. The Hawaiian Village Apartments burned to the ground. The Vista del Mar Hospital, which treats patients with mental problems or substance abuse, including veterans with post-traumatic stress syndrome, smoldered after burning overnight.

Aerial footage showed dozens of homes in one neighborhood burned to the ground and a large subdivision in jeopardy as the flames spit out embers that could spark new blazes.

More than 27,000 people were evacuated, and one firefighter suffered bumps and bruises in a vehicle accident in Ventura County.

The fire erupted near Santa Paula, a city of some 30,000 people about 60 miles (97 kilometers) northwest of Los Angeles known for its citrus and avocado orchards and farm fields along the Santa Clara River.

"We had the fire come through here, pretty dramatically, all night long," said Karen Heath-Karayan, who stayed up with her husband to douse embers that rained on their home and small lot where they sell Christmas trees. "It was really scary."

They were ordered to evacuate as flames got within about 100 yards (90 meters), but they decided to stand their ground to protect their property, where they have chickens and goats.

They hosed down their roof and hit hotspots before winds pushed the fire over a hill toward neighboring Ventura, a city of 106,000 where more people

were ordered to clear out.

"It was just exponential, huge growth because the winds, 50 mile an hour out of the east, were just pushing it and growing it very, very large, very quickly," Ventura County Fire Chief Mark Lorenzen said shortly after sunrise.

Thomas Aquinas College, with about 350 students, was evacuated.

The fire on the northern edge of Los Angeles was estimated at more than 6 square miles (15 square kilometers) and had burned homes, though no immediate damage estimates were released. About 2,500 homes were ordered evacuated.

Alan Barnard watched flames come downhill toward his Lakeview Terrace home and told his wife to grab their 11-month-old grandson and leave. He stayed to collect a few possessions and then took his dog and

left the quiet cul-de-sac.

When he returned later, a bedroom and his garage were destroyed, but three-quarters of the house remained intact.

"We're pretty much out of the main danger now," he said as he tried to spray hotspots with a garden hose. "We consider ourselves very lucky."

Southern California's gusty Santa Ana winds have long contributed to some of the region's most disastrous wildfires. They blow from the inland West toward the Pacific Ocean, speeding up as they squeeze through mountain passes and canyons.

Nearly 180,000 customers in the Ventura County lost power, and schools in the district were closed. Some firefighting efforts were hampered when pumping stations lost power.

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# Check it out at the Howard County Library

This week I'll start with a biography of David O. Brown, a retired Dallas Police Chief. "Called to Rise" (B BRO D) is written by David O. Brown with Michelle Burford. On July 7, 2016, protesters marched in the streets of Dallas to demonstrate against the killings of unarmed black men by the police. As the peaceful event drew to a close, a sniper opened fire, targeting white cops in a killing five of them. Into this charged situation stepped Dallas police chief David O. Brown, who with a historic new tactical approach, quickly ended the gunman's siege and calmed his community and the nation. In this powerful memoir, Chief Brown takes us behind the scenes of that tragedy and shares intimate moments from his early life: his childhood, in which he was raised by a single mom in a neighborhood poor in resources but rich in love and faith; his college years-cut short when he felt called to save his hometown from its descent into drug-related violence; and, as he

moved up the ranks, a series of deeply personal tragedies. Chief Brown believes that we have to band together to engage in the kind of dialogue that can lead to solutions. In place of complaining, we all



MONICA MARTINEZ

have to take action, and one first great step is to tune in to what is being said. "Called to Rise" explores the keys to that dialogue-trust, transparency, and compassion-that have made Brown a leader on the front lines of social change in America.

Next, I'll start with the fiction books. In "Wired" by Julie Garwood (F GAR J), hot-shot FBI agent Liam Scott has a problem: a leak deep within his own department. He needs the skills of a topnotch hacker to work on a highly sensitive project, but he can't use one of his own. He finds the perfect candidate in Allison Trent. Allison doesn't

look like a hacker, and when she's not in college working on her degree, she models on the side. Behind her gorgeous face is a brilliant mind for computers, and her real love is writing and hacking code. Her dream is to write a new security program that could revolutionize the tech industry. When Liam offers her the job, she turns him down flat. What Liam doesn't know is that Allison is hiding secrets that she doesn't want the FBI to uncover. Liam will do nearly anything to persuade her to join his team, even break a few rules if that's what it takes.

"Into the Water" by Paula Hawkins (F HAW P) finds a single mother dead at the bottom of the river that runs through town. Earlier in the summer, a vulnerable teenage girl met the same fate. They are not the first women lost to these dark waters, but their deaths disturb the river and its history, dredging up secrets long submerged. Left behind is a lonely fifteen-year-old girl. Parentless and friendless, she now finds herself in the care of her moth-

er's sister, a fearful stranger who has been dragged back to the place she deliberately ran from and vowed to never return.

In "Come Sundown" by Nora Roberts (F ROB N), the Bodine ranch and resort is a family business for vacationers who want to ride horses or couples holding weddings under the wide-open sky. Bodine Longbow does all she can to keep things running with the help of her siblings, the staff, and the new hire, Callen Skinner. Not far away, an aunt Bodine has never met lives in her own twisted version of a family, one no one knows about, one she never chose. Years ago, Alice was a rebellious eighteen-year-old who ran off looking for freedom and adventure. Now she cowers in fear, rarely seeing the sunlight, her mind shattered by a man who views her and her offspring as his rightful property. Many quietly presume that she is long dead. When Bo and Cal discover the battered body of a young bartender in the snow, it's the first sign that danger lurks in the mountains that

surround them, and it will not be the only murder to unnerve this peaceful town. The greatest shock is yet to come when Alice returns. The threat that follows in her wake will test the bonds that hold Bodine to this place and these people, and thrust her into a darkness she could never have imagined.

That will be all for this week so I leave you with a quote from Brian Tracy:

"Develop an attitude of gratitude, and give thanks for everything that happens to you, knowing that every step forward is a step toward achieving something bigger and better than your current situation."

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AP photo

This Nov. 8, 2017 photo released by NBC shows Matt Lauer on the set of the "Today" show in New York. On the week host Matt Lauer was fired because of sexual misconduct charges, NBC's "Today" show beat its rivals at ABC for the first time in three months.

## CULTURE

Continued from Page 6

long."

They already have plenty of ideas.

May, now a lawyer, wants the government to give sexual harassment victims more time to file a complaint. Currently, they have up to 300 days.

McManus wants newsrooms to evolve so women at all levels are not afraid to report wrongdoing by a top anchor or producer. "We stayed silent because we thought we were the only ones," said McManus. "We didn't think that this happened to others, and that's why we stayed si-

lent so long. The cult of silence is finally broken." Emily Miller tweeted that Halperin sexually assaulted her while she was a researcher at ABC News. Lara Setrakian was 24 when she says Halperin kissed and touched her while they talked politics in his office.

They said they learned later that some people at the network had been aware of Halperin's behavior, but that it didn't stop. Setrakian said Halperin's treatment of young women was considered an "open secret" in some circles.

"There's clearly a problem here," said Setrakian, now the chief executive of the digital media outlet News

Deeply. "They should be launching rigorous investigations on how to fix the problem."

Changing the culture of television news so that men and women are on equal footing — with the same opportunities for advancement — is vital to ensuring its future, Setrakian said.

That means not only eliminating the sexual misconduct that has caused scores of women to leave the industry, she said, but getting rid of double standards that judge women on their appearance.

"The current culture is muddling the meritocracy," Setrakian said. "It's pushing talented people out. It's

allowing toxic behavior to affect the performance and contribution of certain colleagues. That's bad for business." Marcy McGinnis, who worked her way from secretary to senior vice president at CBS News, said as much as women should be told what resources are available to them if there is an incident, men need to know how to act in the workplace.

"Then we wouldn't have to train women how to deal with it," said McGinnis, who now works at the Alan Alda Center for Communicative Science at Stony Brook University. "Why don't we go to the source and fix that?"

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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.
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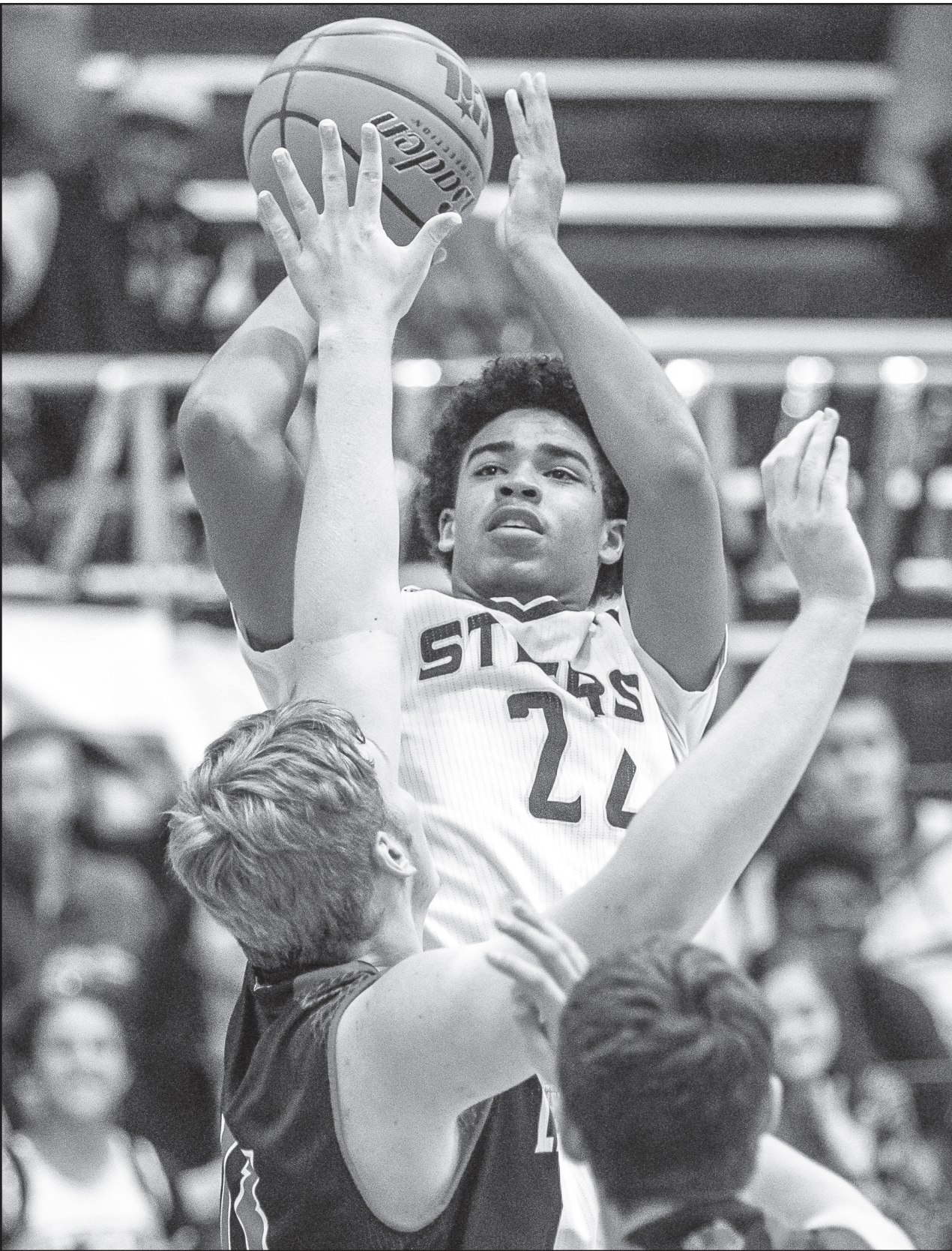
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### Levelland downs Big Spring 73-52 in home opener



Tony Claxton (www.claxtonphotography.com)

Big Spring's Abel Clark shoots for three over a defender during the Steers' loss to Levelland in Steer Gym on Tuesday, December 5, 2017.

By **MARISSA LOFTIN**  
Sports Editor

While the Steers fell in a 21-point loss to Levelland Tuesday night, the 73-52 score doesn't exactly tell the tale of how evenly matched these two teams were and how exciting this game was to watch.

Both teams got off to an electric start sinking shots left and right. Abel Clark and John Ibanez managed two steals early in the game, and Dimas Garcia got the crowd on their feet when he buried a jump shot after shaking off his defender with ankle-breaking footwork. After a couple of lead changes, The Lobos managed to work their way up to a 23-16 lead by the end of the first.

In the second quarter Levelland's offense never let up, and Big Spring started to miss a lot of their shots and also committed a few turnovers. This bumped the Lobos up to an even larger 41-25 lead at halftime.

The third and fourth quarters were filled with quality basketball as both teams moved the ball well, both teams having success on offense and defense. Unfortunately for Big Spring, the second quarter slump put them in a hole that they couldn't come out of against a very good Levelland team. The Steers and the Lobos continued to battle it out point for point until the game clock hit zero, but it was the Lobos who came out on top and brought home a 73-52 victory.

"We played really hard,

and this is our first time where we have had less than 18 turnovers. That is cutting it down a lot. We also shot 80% from the free throw line. Those two positives kept us in the game for a while. With that being said, they (Levelland) are a dang good team and the shot lights on for three quarters. It doesn't happen a lot on high school basketball, but they shot close to 60% in the first three quarters. Any time you play a team that shoots that well, its going to be hard to play with anybody," said head basketball coach Kris Hise. "Hopefully we get to the point where we do that, and where we are pushing the ball well. Our defense is picking up. The pressing is decent but its still new to them. That is the big thing, but they still trust that it's just going to take a little time."

Clark lead Big Spring at the rim with a total of 18 points for the game. Ibanez trailed with nine points, which were all made from behind the three-point line, and Garcia finished with eight.

Although the season is young, the team shows a lot of potential. First year Big Spring head basketball coach, Hise, was pleased overall with the way the team fought until the end and how quickly they have adapted to the transition.

"It's been impressive how fast they have picked it up, and how fast we have been playing even without the guys that are out right now. We are still missing

See **STEERS**, Page 15

### Lady Steers blow out Lady Birds 69-6

By **MARISSA LOFTIN**  
Sports Editor

It was all Big Spring on Tuesday night as the Lady Steers pummeled the Lady Birds of Crane, Texas in basketball action and came out with a huge 69-6 blow out win.

As the score suggests, this one was very one-sided. Big Spring controlled every aspect of the game and made it look easy as they grabbed a quick 19-0 lead throughout the first quarter.

Crane got off to a horrendous start as they committed turnover after turnover, and could not handle the Lady Steer defense. Trinity Galloway, Kayleigh Penny, Logan Terrazas, Amber Gonzales, Kamri Kemper and Alexis Starr all had steals in the first half.

By the end of the second quarter, the Lady Birds managed to put four points on the board to avoid the shut out. The Lady Steers had worked their way up to a 38-4 lead at the half.

Big Spring's offense was flowing and their turnovers were minimal. Crane could not contain them on either side of the ball.

It was the same song and dance for the remainder of the game; Big Spring controlling the boards, on fire at the rim and delivering a stout defense. The Lady Birds continued to fight for every shot, but only managed to make one more basket until the final buzzer. With poor ball-handling, bad passes, an abundance of turnovers and fiercely contested

shots, Crane couldn't get anything to work for them. With a final score of 69-6, the Lady Steers came out with a win in dominant fashion.

"The girls did a really really great job. They did exactly what we wanted to do tonight, and that was to just focus on us, running our plays, executing them and our defense. You know, executing our defenses that we have going. Right now, our defense is really good. Playing a team like that, we were able to fix the little bitty things that need to be tweaked. Offensively, we ran every offense that we run against a zone, which was great. We did it well and obviously the score proved it," said head girls basketball coach Katie Voss.

The Lady Birds' turnover numbers were baffling, as they finished with a grand total of 36 compared to the Lady Steers' 11.

Big Spring's Martinez, who caught fire in the second quarter and never let her foot off the gas, had a huge breakout performance as she made a whopping five shots from beyond the arc and lead the team in scoring with a total of 22 points for the game. Starr trailed right behind her with 14 points, and Penny with nine.

"She (Martinez) was due for a great game. She is one of those players that we have who is super young. She is only a sophomore. She needed that breakout game and I think this was that breakout game for her confidence level to shoot

See **LADY STEERS**, Page 15



Tony Claxton (www.claxtonphotography.com)

Logan Terrazas takes a jump shot during the Lady Steers' win over Crane in Steer Gym on Tuesday, December 5, 2017.



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CAUSE NO. P-14735

IN THE ESTATE OF COLLEEN HATFIELD DUNN, DECEASED

IN THE COUNTY COURT OF HOWARD COUNTY, TEXAS

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF COLLEEN HATFIELD DUNN, DECEASED

Notice is hereby give that original Letters of Testamentary for the Estate of COLLEEN HATFIELD DUNN, DECEASED were issued on November 30, 2017, in Cause No. P-14735 pending in the County Court of Howard County, Texas, to JONETTA MARIETTA DUNN SWEATT and TERRY JOHN DUNN.

The residence of JONETTA MARIETTA DUNN SWEATT is 2701 Clanton, Big Spring, Texas 79720. The residence of TERRY JOHN DUNN is 17 Meadowbrook Road, Big Spring, Texas 79720.

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and the manner prescribed by law. DATED the 30th day of November, 2017.

JONETTA MARIETTA DUNN SWEATT  
TERRY JOHN DUNN

#9624 December 6, 2017

Comments: On 12/05/2017

Mitchem Wrecker picked up a Mitsubishi Lancer, black in color. The car was picked up at 709 NW 8th St., on 12/01/2017 at 9:50 AM and is being stored at Mitchem Wrecker, 5715 West I-20, Big Spring TX. The total amount of charges currently owed on the care are \$464.25.

For more information, go to [www.tdlr.texas.gov](http://www.tdlr.texas.gov)

#9629 December 6, 2017

Key Energy Services, LLC, 1301 McKinney St., Houston, TX. 77010.  
Is applying to the Railroad Commission of Texas for a COMMERCIAL DISPOSAL WELL PERMIT to dispose of produced salt water or other oil and gas waste by well injection into a porous formation not productive of oil or gas. The applicant proposes to dispose of oil and gas waste

**Public Notice**

into the San Andres and Clearfork formations Son of Big Bad Lease, Well Number 1. The proposed injection well is located 5 miles North-east of Knott in the Parallel-Wolfe (Fusselman) Field, in Howard County. Legal description, Sec. 9, Blk 33, T-2-N, T&P RR Co. Survey. A-322. Fluid will be injected into strata in the subsurface depth interval from 3430 to 6100 feet.

LEGAL AUTHORITY: Chapter 27 of the Texas Water Code as amended, Title 3 of the Texas Natural Resources Code, as amended, and the Statewide Rule of the Oil and Gas Division of the Railroad Commission of Texas.  
Request for a public hearing from persons who can show they are adversely affected or requests for further information concerning any aspects of the application should be submitted in writing, within fifteen days of publication, to the Environmental Services Section, Oil and Gas Division, Railroad Commission of Texas, P.O. Box 12967, Austin, Texas 78711 (Telephone 512-463-6792).

#9626 December 6, 2017

**NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR COMMERCIAL OIL AND GAS WASTE DISPOSAL WELL PERMIT**

Probity SWD, LLC P.O. Box 996, Big Lake, TX 76932 (Company Name/Address)

is applying to the Railroad Commission of Texas for a permit to inject fluid into a formation, which is non-productive of oil and gas.

The applicant proposes to inject fluid into the Montoya/El-lenburger formations.

Penny 846 SWD Well Number #1. The proposed disposal well is located 2 miles South West of Knott in the Spraberry (Trend Area) field, in Howard County.

Fluid will be injected into strata in the subsurface depth interval from 10300 to 12250 feet.

LEGAL AUTHORITY: Chapter 27 of the Texas Water Code, as amended, Title 3 of Texas Natural Resources Code, as amended, and the Statewide Rules of the Oil and Gas Division of the Railroad Commission of Texas.

Requests for a public hearing from persons who can show they are adversely affected, or requests for further information concerning any aspect of the application should be submitted in writ-

**Public Notice**

ing, within fifteen days of publication, to the Environmental Services Section, Oil and Gas Division, Railroad Commission of Texas, P.O. Box 12967, Capitol Station, Austin, Texas 78711 (Telephone 512-463-6792).

#9627 December 6, 2017

**NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR OIL & GAS WASTE DISPOSAL WELL PERMIT**

SM ENERGY COMPANY; 6301 HOLIDAY HILL RD, BLDG 1, MIDLAND, TX 79707 (Company Name/Address)

Is applying to the Railroad Commission of Texas for a permit to dispose of produced salt water or other oil and gas waste by well injection into a porous formation which is productive of oil and gas.

The applicant proposes to dispose of oil and gas waste into the San Andres and Glorietta formations. RC Hunt SWD Well Number 1.

The proposed disposal well is located 5.2 Miles in a South-west direction from Ackerly, Texas, in the Ackerly (Dean) field, in Section 41, Block 34, Township 3 North, Texas & Pacific Railroad Company Survey, Martin County, Texas.

The waste water will be injected into strata in the subsurface depth interval from 3,900' to 5,100 feet.

LEGAL AUTHORITY: Chapter 27 of the Texas Water Code, as amended, Title 3 of the Natural Resources Code, as amended, and the Statewide Rules of the Oil and Gas Division, Railroad Commission of Texas.

Requests for a public hearing from persons who can show they are adversely affected, or requests for further information concerning any aspect of the application should be submitted in writing, within fifteen days of publication, to the Environmental Services Section, Oil and Gas Division, Railroad Commission of Texas, P.O. Box 12967, Capitol Station, Austin, Texas 78711 (Telephone 512-463-6792).

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BIG SPRING HERALD

# Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

## Solution to a dilemma

West dealer.  
Neither side vulnerable.

**NORTH**  
♠ 6 3  
♥ 9 5 4  
♦ J 4  
♣ J 10 8 5 3 2

**WEST**  
♥ 2  
♠ Q 10 7 6 2  
♦ 9 6 2  
♣ K 9 7 4

**EAST**  
♠ Q J 10 9 8 4  
♥ J 8 3  
♦ 5  
♣ A Q 6

**SOUTH**  
♠ A K 7 5  
♥ A K  
♦ A K Q 10 8 7 3  
♣ —

The bidding:  
West North East South  
Pass Pass 2 ♠ 6 ♦  
Opening lead — two of spades.

One of the greatest thrills you can experience at the bridge table is to bring home a seemingly unmakeable contract through your own ingenuity. And if the contract also happens to be a slam — well, that's just the icing on the cake.

Consider this deal where South leaped directly to six diamonds after East's weak two-spade opening. The jump to six was certainly a reasonable choice for South, who had no way to find out what his partner's

hand looked like. Depending on what North held, the combined hands could have been laydown for a grand slam or, on a really bad day, might not even have produced 11 tricks. So South chose the middle road.

West led what was obviously a singleton spade, and, after taking the ace, declarer was left to ponder what to do with his two spade losers. Ordinarily, he would next have played the king of spades and then tried to ruff one or both low spades in dummy. But in the actual case, West was virtually sure to trump the king of spades and return a trump, leaving South with only one trump in dummy to ruff his two spade losers.

After giving the matter due thought, the solution — a rather unusual one — came to him. At trick two, instead of playing the king of spades, he led a low spade!

East won with the nine and returned a trump, but he was fighting a losing battle. South went up with the ace and trumped his seven of spades with dummy's jack of diamonds. He then ruffed a club, drew trumps and claimed the rest of the tricks to make the slam.

The solution was easy enough to find once South made the effort to look for it. Necessity, it would seem, is still the mother of invention.

**Tomorrow:** Three chances are better than one.

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## Tomorrow's Horoscope

By HOLIDAY MATHIS



Mercury-Saturn  
Conjunction  
Warning

This Mercury-Saturn alignment reminds us that creatures of all kinds have similar ways of dealing with pain. One way is to lash out -- either in an attempt to keep others away or with the intent of causing others to experience the pain, too. In short, when you know someone is hurting, approach with great readiness, because anything can happen.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19).** Your sensory awareness leans toward the spiritual today. It's as if your ears can hear intentions instead of words; your eyes can see vibes instead of faces; and your hands can touch souls.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** Just because you see what's funny about the situation doesn't mean you're making fun of it. Make sure people know your intention -- to bring levity and amusement into play, not to make others ashamed.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** In the same way that telling people to "relax" tends to really agitate them, suggesting that people "be themselves" just might send a thinking person into an identity crisis. Offer no advice, only a hand to hold.

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** People don't grow alone. They might grow solo, but it's because they are in an environment conducive to growth. To give yourself the best chance at success, build an environment conducive to your own growth.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** One coping mechanism that really works to manage stress is to walk away from the stressors. Leave the room. Leave the building. Changing your view will change your perspective.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** Remove yourself from stressors. Go easy. If you get angry once, you'll only get angry again later

with yourself for allowing yourself to lose your cool in the first place.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** When you see the truth and they don't, it can be really frustrating. But you actually don't need them to know the truth in order to accomplish your goal. Knowing it yourself will be enough to get you there.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** Plan your next move quietly, and keep it to yourself. It's not that you can't trust the people around you -- you can -- but you'll learn to trust yourself more if you keep this one close to the vest.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** Truly, the same condition that one person calls good fortune another will deem miserable, and both will be accurate. Today you'll benefit from seeing everything as a neutral circumstance.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).** You've already attracted a rapt audience. If you walk, they'll follow. If you run, they'll chase. Decide carefully what you want to do with this attention before you make your next move.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** Shakespeare summed it up for you in his "Sonnet 116": "Love is not which alters when it alteration finds." Your heart hasn't been updated as to recent observations, and even if you were to tell it, it wouldn't care.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).** You're slow to bring yourself to believe in all that's going on today. You've been burned before by buying in too early. Anyway, it behooves you to do more research and fact-checking.

**TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Dec. 6).** Your

ideas get funding. Your goals attract a cheering section. Your problems bring you to answers. One of the secrets to your success is in continually finding happiness in the right places: inside you, inside the work, inside the details. It's your attitude more than anything that unlocks the chains that once held you back. Libra and Taurus adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 5, 35, 33, 8 and 11.

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

**LIBRA:** The Libran realm of the sky highlights design and aesthetics. It is where art and culture come together. It is the realm of beauty, fun, ease and love, sweet love. This is why the Libran dog, regardless of pedigree, comes across as a designer breed. The Libra dog is born with dignity, refinement and universal appeal.

This pup blends seamlessly into multiple-pet families and has the uncanny ability to tolerate even the most difficult of personalities. It's not because the Libra dog cowers or suffers bullies kindly; rather, it's because the Libran dog has a strong sense of inner structure that other animals and people find it easy to understand. It is immediately apparent how to include and interact with this animal. The dog is, in short, likable.

People and families going through rough times may find the Libra dog to be a harmonious influence that brings them together in shared love and amusement. Libra is the sign of peace and diplomacy, and this dog can accomplish a kind of treatise forged in the language of love.

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## SUDOKU

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

Level: Advanced

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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!

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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!

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

ANSWER:



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

ANDY CAPP



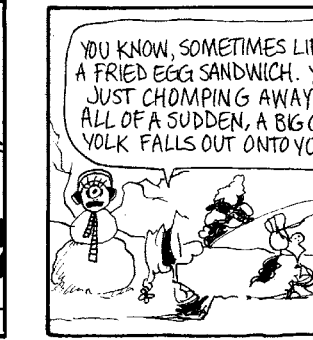
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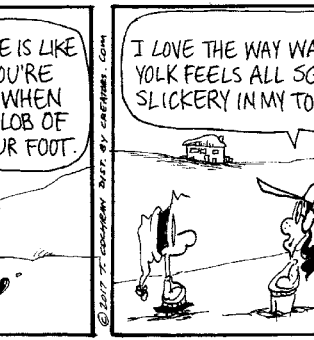
ARCHIE



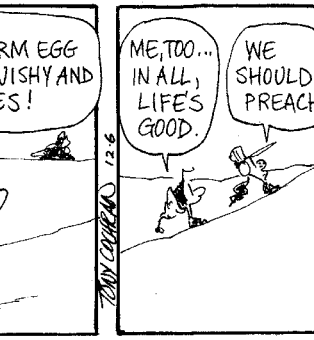
ONE BIG HAPPY



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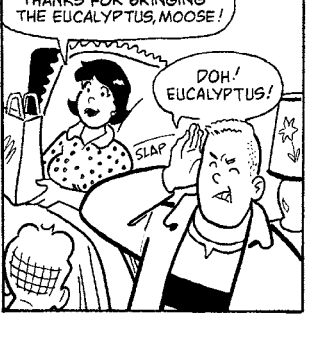
NEST HEAD



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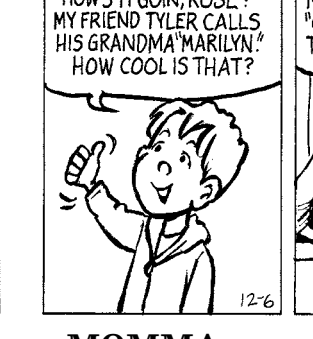
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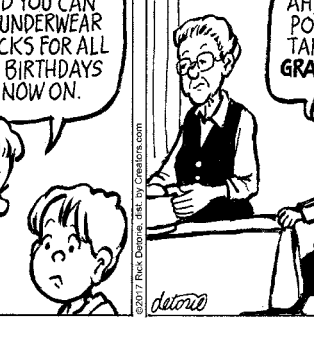
ONE BIG HAPPY



MOMMA



NEST HEAD



This Date In History

Today is Wednesday, Dec. 6, the 340th day of 2017. There are 25 days left in the year. Today's Highlights in History: On Dec. 6, 1917, some 2,000 people were killed when an explosives-laden French cargo ship, the Mont Blanc, collided with the Norwegian vessel Imo at the harbor in Halifax, Nova Scotia, setting off a blast that devastated the Canadian city. Finland declared its independence from Russia. On this date: In 1790, Congress moved to Philadelphia from New York. In 1865, the 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, abolishing slavery, was ratified as Georgia became the 27th state to endorse it. In 1889, Jefferson Davis, the first and only president of the Confederate States of America, died in New Orleans. In 1907, the worst mining disaster in U.S. history occurred as 362 men and boys died in a coal mine explosion in Monongah, West Virginia. In 1922, the Anglo-Irish Treaty, which established the Irish Free State, came into force one year to the day after it was signed in London. In 1942, comedian Fred Allen premiered "Allen's Alley," a recurring sketch on his CBS radio show spoofing small-town America. In 1947, Everglades National Park in Florida was dedicated by President Harry S. Truman. In 1957, America's first attempt at putting a satellite into orbit failed as Vanguard TV3 rose about four feet off a Cape Canaveral launch pad before crashing down and exploding. In 1967, three days after the first human heart transplant took place in South Africa, a surgical team at Maimonides Medical Center in Brooklyn, New York, led by Dr. Adrian Kantrowitz transplanted the heart of a brain-dead two-day-old baby into an 19-day-old infant who died six hours later. In 1973, House minority leader Gerald R. Ford was sworn in as vice president, succeeding Spiro T. Agnew. In 1982, 11 soldiers and six civilians were killed when

an Irish National Liberation Army bomb exploded at a pub in Ballykelly, Northern Ireland. In 1989, 14 women were shot to death at the University of Montreal's school of engineering by a man who then took his own life. Ten years ago: CIA Director Michael Hayden revealed the agency had videotaped its interrogations of two terror suspects in 2002 and destroyed the tapes three years later out of fear they would leak to the public and compromise the identities of U.S. questioners; the disclosure brought immediate condemnation from Capitol Hill. Republican presidential hopeful Mitt Romney, speaking at the George Bush Presidential Library and Museum in Texas, said his Mormon faith should neither help nor hinder his quest for the White House as he vowed to serve the interests of the nation, not the church, if elected president. Five years ago: Shocking some of his closest Republican colleagues, Sen. Jim DeMint of South Carolina announced he would resign his seat to head Washington's conservative Heritage Foundation think tank. Marijuana possession became legal in Washington state, the day a measure approved by voters to regulate marijuana like alcohol took effect. One year ago: President-elect Donald Trump officially announced he would nominate retired Marine Gen. James Mattis to be his defense secretary, bringing his pick onstage at a rally in Fayetteville, North Carolina; Mattis briefly addressed the crowd as he thanked Trump for choosing him. Today's Birthdays: Comedy performer David Ossman is 81. Actor Patrick Bauchau is 79. Country singer Helen Cornelius is 76. Actor James Naughton is 72. Former Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood is 72. Rhythm-and-blues singer

Frankie Beverly (Maze) is 71. Former Sen. Don Nickles, R-Okla., is 69. Actress JoBeth Williams is 69. Actor Tom Hulse is 64. Actor Wil Shriner is 64. Actor Kin Shriner is 64. Actor Miles Chapin is 63. Rock musician Rick Buckler (The Jam) is 62. Comedian Steven Wright is 62. Country singer Bill Lloyd is 62. Singer Tish

Hinojosa is 62. Rock musician Peter Buck (R.E.M.) is 61. Rock musician David Lovering (Pixies) is 56. Actress Janine Turner is 55. Rock musician Ben Watt (Everything But The Girl) is 55. Writer-director Judd Apatow is 50. Rock musician Ulf "Buddha" Ekberg (Ace of Base) is 47. Writer-director Craig Brewer is 46. Actress Colleen Haskell is

41. Actress Lindsay Price is 41. Actress Ashley Madekwe is 36. Actress Nora Kirkpatrick is 33. Christian rock musician Jacob Chesnut (Rush of Fools) is 28. Tennis player CoCo Vandeweghe is 26. NFL quarterback Johnny Manziel is 25.

Thought for Today: "When you have exhausted all possibilities, remember this — you haven't." Thomas Edison American inventor (1847-1931).

Newsday Crossword

- ACROSS 1 \_\_\_ Lee cakes 5 Minor error 9 Swap 14 Shape of a face 15 Deep sleep 16 Inflexible 17 Give up, as territory 18 Stadium crowd sound 19 Insurance broker 20 British bat-and-ball competition 23 Double-curve 24 Woolly female 25 Of food programs 29 Back-to-health program, for short 31 Drizzles or showers 33 Compete 34 Apple desktop computer 36 Flavor enhancer initials 37 Police officers, informally 38 Star-Kist competitor 42 Money in Mexico 43 Neighbor of Tarzan 44 Knight's title 45 Brewery product 46 24 sheets of paper 48 Take home a shelter animal 52 "The Blue Danube" composer 54 Cold-cream container 56 Neither here \_\_\_ there 57 Inept soldier of the comics

DON'T BUG ME by Carolyn Stewart Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

- 8 Blissful place 9 Tracks down 10 "That's correct!" 11 Era 12 Loud noise 13 Summer hrs. in Pittsburgh 21 Meat grilled on a skewer 22 Slight hints of color 26 River near Shakespeare's home 27 Morning TV host Kelly 28 "I agree!" 30 Bullets, for short 32 Traffic light color 35 Contract section 37 Bit of Miss Muffet's meal 38 Suspenders alternative 39 Software purchaser 40 New Testament letters 41 Headgear for a princess 42 Faux \_\_\_ (minor error) 46 Powerful chess pieces 47 Pops out, as a DVD 49 Connected to the Internet 50 Written in verse 51 Secret meetings 53 Detest 55 Bottomless pit 58 The Dalai \_\_\_ 59 Printers' supplies 60 Businesses: Abbr. 61 Bug in a colony 62 Espionage org.

13x13 crossword grid with numbers 1-70 indicating starting positions for clues.

Answer to previous puzzle: BOAR ACTED PLOP ABLE CHINO RAGE ROOF HINDU OWLS BEE INONES BONNET NEO TUT TRAIT SIP TOASK REFS CALICO PHI ATTHEDROPOFAHAT PREASASET WILT SORER HTS BADLY ATM OAK FEATHERINTHECAP LAME NOFAT NOVA EVER SWIPE EPIC DENY ASTER DESK



# STEERS

Continued from Page 9

three key players that will be back with us. Thursday we will have one back, and Friday will be the first day all season that we'll have everybody on our team there for a game. We have had bits a pieces. Every one has played but not everyone has suited up all for the same game due to injury purposes or grades etc," said Hise. "They have picked everything up so quick. They've only been with me for three weeks now. It's hard to believe that we have played eight games now, but it's just impressive that they have picked up so well what they already have. We haven't even had double-digit practices because of the tournaments, so it's been fast and furious right now. Everything is thrown at them, but I think the game is starting to slow down for them as fast as we just played. At the beginning of the season, everything seemed so fast paced and that was a lot of the reason we were having a lot of turnovers. We have kept ourself in games with the speed that we play at and how hard we play on defense. It's only going to get better."

Expectations for the Steers are high as the season gets going and the team starts finding their groove. Hise is planning to use the pre district season to get the team fully prepared for district play coming up this January. Up next on their schedule is the Midland Lee Tournament, which should consist of quality opponents.

"We have the luxury to have 17 more games, including tournament games, before district starts. I expect us to be rolling by district. I mean every single game has been better, even our attitudes, how we approach the games and the intensity that we bring out in the game. It's just been so good. You don't always get that. You don't always get four quarters, especially when your down 12 points or six points with a minute left. These guys are fighting hard, and as a coach that's what you want to see. They have an effort that us not coachable, and it will pay off for them in the end," said Hise. "We will also have more depth and a lot of our big guys will be back, so we will be able to kill it on the boards hopefully. With C.J. Harris and Jeremiah Cooley back, I mean you can't teach 6'4 and 6'5. We have four games this weekend, and I just expect us to get better after each one. When they go out, they give everything they've got. That is all you can ask for in a coach. We just have to keep fighting."



Tony Claxton (www.claxtonphotography.com)

**Big Spring's John Ibanez shoots a layup during the Steers' loss to Levelland in Steer Gym on Tuesday, December 5, 2017.**



Tony Claxton (www.claxtonphotography.com)

**Big Spring's Alexis Starr takes a three point attempt during the Lady Steers' win over Crane in Steer Gym on Tuesday, December 5, 2017.**

# LADY STEERS

Continued from Page 9

back up," said Voss. "She does great things for us on and off the floor, and both offensively and defensively. For her to come out and have the game that she had tonight was just a really great thing for us going into this weekend."

Big Spring sophomore, Kenzi Rodrigues, also made her presence on the court known as she sank two second-half threes and put her strong defensive skills on display.

"She (Rodrigues) is one of those that needed confidence too, and every shot she knocks down she gets a little bit more confident," said Voss. "Whether its a free throw, a two point shot or a three, like she did tonight, she is going to be a key player for us especially when district comes around. Defensively, she has some really quick feet but she knows how to score offensively for us as well."

Up Next, the Big Spring Lady Steer basketball team will make their way to Andrews for the Andrews Tournament which will be held this weekend December 7-9. Coach Voss and the team are looking to build upon the good things and get some quality minutes of practice in before hitting the road against some pretty good opponents.

"More than anything, I just hope to see execution. I think that we are kind of at the point in our season where we are learning from our mistakes and that kind of stuff, but we really need to be executing our offenses and executing the things that we do well," said Voss. "Each team that we play from now on is going to be tough. So, really my hope for the weekend is that we will be able to execute both offensively and defensively, and just to create some things. We are starting to do a really good job of creating some stuff on our own and that is a really great thing for us. A month ago, we wouldn't have known how to do that at all. So they're starting to think for themselves and move and do those things."

## Big news for Big Spring: Comprehensive general surgery is here.

Scenic Mountain Medical Center has teamed with Texas Tech Physicians Surgery Permian Basin to expand the general surgery services available to you right here in Big Spring. We now provide a full range of procedures, including treatment for reflux disease, hernias, gallbladder issues, hemorrhoids and more. And in many cases, minimally invasive surgical techniques may be used. These surgeons are dedicated to providing the general surgery care you need, close to home.

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## Russian President Putin announces re-election bid

MOSCOW (AP) — Russian President Vladimir Putin on Wednesday declared his intention to seek re-election next March, a vote he appears certain to win.

The Russian leader chose an enthusiastic audience of the GAZ automobile factory workers in Nizhny Novgorod to make the announcement.

"I couldn't find a better place and moment for that," he said, to massive applause. "Thank you for your support, I will run for president."

Putin has been in power in Russia since 2000. He served two presidential terms in 2000-2008, then shifted into the prime minister's seat because of term limits, but continued calling the shots while his ally, Dmitry Medvedev, served as placeholder president. Medvedev had the presidential term extended to six years and then stepped down to let Putin reclaim the presidency in 2012.

While few doubted that Putin would run in the March 18 vote, a delay in announcing his bid was seen as part of the Kremlin's political maneuvering.

Putin's approval ratings top 80 percent, making him certain to win an easy first-round victory. Blue-collar workers and state employees form the core of his support base.

"Thank you for your work, for your attitude to your jobs, your factory, your city and your country!" Putin told workers. "I'm sure that together we will succeed."

Just hours earlier, Putin was asked about his intentions at a meeting with young volunteers in Moscow. He said he would decide shortly if he would seek another six-year term.

The upper house of parliament is expected to give the formal start to the election campaign later this month.

The veterans of past campaigns — Communist chief Gennady Zyuganov, ultranationalist Vladimir Zhirinovskiy and liberal leader Grigory Yavlinsky — all have declared their intention to run. They will likely be joined by Ksenia Sobchak, a star TV host who is the daughter of late former St. Petersburg Mayor Anatoly Sobchak, who was Putin's boss in the 1990s.

The most visible Putin foe, Alexei Navalny, also wants to run, even though a conviction he calls politically motivated bars him from joining the campaign. He has organized a grassroots campaign and staged rallies across Russia to raise pressure on the Kremlin to let him register for the race.

## Catalan leader speaks for first time since warrants lifted

BRUSSELS (AP) — Catalonia's secessionist leader says that he and four of his closest allies will stay in Belgium for the foreseeable future even though Spain has lifted the international arrest warrants against them.

Carles Puigdemont said Wednesday that even if they are allowed to walk free in Belgium they could still be detained if they return to Spain where there is a rebellion and sedition case pending against them.

Puigdemont said that because of that "for the moment we plan to stay here," possibly until after the Dec. 21 regional election which will be a key factor in Catalonia drive from independence from Spain. They were Puigdemont's first comments since the warrants were dropped.

## Greek high court to rule on Russian bitcoin suspect

ATHENS, Greece (AP) — Russian cybercrime suspect Alexander Vinnik, who is wanted in the United States on charges of laundering billions of dollars' worth of the virtual currency bitcoin, appeared Wednesday before Greece's Supreme Court for a hearing into his extradition to the U.S.

Vinnik is the subject of a judicial tug-of-war between the U.S. and Russia, which is also seeking his extradition on lesser charges.

Court officials said a decision on the U.S. request would be announced on Dec. 13. If it decides in favor of extradition to the U.S., Greece's justice minister will have the final word on where the suspect will be sent. Lower courts in Greece have approved both extradition requests.

Vinnik is fighting his extradition to the United States, but not to Russia.

The U.S. is accusing Vinnik of laundering \$4 billion worth of bitcoins through BTC-e, one of the world's

largest digital currency exchanges, which he allegedly operated.

Russia, meanwhile, wants him back to face charges related to a 667,000-ruble (\$11,500) fraud.

On Wednesday, Vinnik repeated arguments made earlier, maintaining that he was the operator and not owner of the trading platforms.

The court heard testimony from two Russian businessmen and an expert who formerly headed the Greek Police's cybercrime division.

Vinnik's lawyers described the arguments made in the U.S. request as vague and failing to fully comply with procedure.

"We presented our legal arguments, which in our view should lead the Supreme Court to reject the extradition request," lawyer Alexandros Lykourazos, heading Vinnik's defense team, told the AP.

## Rare skeleton shown of human ancestor, 3.6 million years old

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — Researchers in South Africa have unveiled what they call "by far the most complete skeleton of a human ancestor older than 1.5 million years ever found."

The University of the Witwatersrand displayed the virtually complete Australopithecus fossil on Wednesday.

The skeleton dates back 3.6 million years. Its discovery is expected to help researchers better understand the human ancestor's appearance and movement.

The researchers say it has taken 20 years to excavate, clean, reconstruct and analyze the fragile skeleton.

The bones were discovered in the Sterkfontein caves outside Johannesburg after foot and leg bone fragments were found from rock blasted from the cave by miners.

The researchers hail the skeleton project as important for South Africa's heritage and "our common humanity."

## Man held in terror plot to kill British prime minister

LONDON (AP) — A man has been ordered held Wednesday after being accused in a plot to assassinate Prime Minister Theresa May.

Naa'imur Zakariyah Rahman, 20, has been remanded in custody at Westminster Magistrates' Court.

The plan allegedly involved planting a bomb near the entrance of Downing Street and then continuing the attack with a knife and suicide vest in a bid to kill the U.K. leader in the ensuing chaos.

He is charged with preparing acts of terrorism and appeared alongside another man, Mohammed Aqib Imran, who is accused of trying to join the Islamic State group but wasn't charged in connection with the assassination plot.

Rahman is also accused of assisting Imran in terror planning.

The pair was arrested in London and Birmingham on Nov. 28 by the Metropolitan Police Counter Terrorism Command.

Britain's media had reported earlier that two men were involved in the plot to kill May.

## Apple CEO hopeful banned apps will return to China store

HONG KONG (AP) — Apple's chief executive said Wednesday he's optimistic some apps that fell afoul of China's tight internet laws will eventually be restored after being removed earlier this year.

Speaking at a business forum in southern China, CEO Tim Cook also dismissed criticism of his appearance days earlier at an internet conference promoting Beijing's vision of a censored internet.

Cook's high-profile appearance Sunday at the government-organized World Internet Conference drew comments from activists and U.S. politicians who say Apple should do more to push back against Chinese internet restrictions.

He said he believed strongly in freedoms but also thought that foreign companies need to play by local rules where they operate.

When asked about Chinese government policies requiring removal of apps, including ones from operators of virtual private networks that can get around the country's internet filters, he said, "My hope over time is that some of these things, the couple things that have been pulled, come back."



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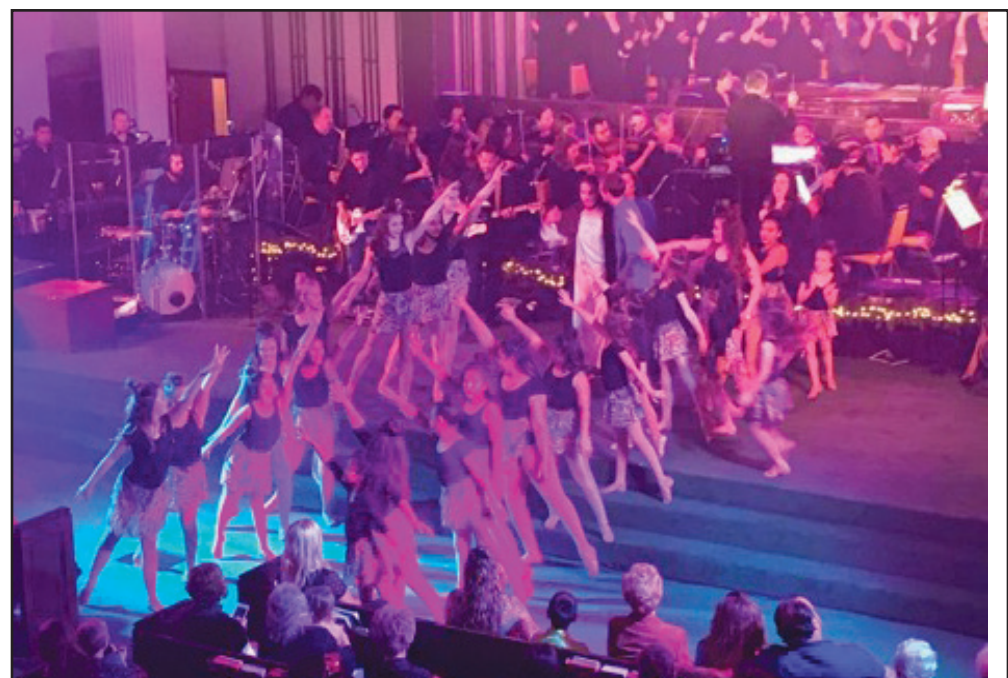
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