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BIG SPRING HERALD

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2017



VOLUME 113, NUMBER 60 COPYRIGHT 2017 75 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 SUNDAY

Dancing 'The Nutcracker'



The Dance Gallery performs Act II from The Nutcracker for the community at Coahoma Auditorium on Sunday Dec. 10. The Dance Gallery, directed by Stevie McKinnon, will feature some dancers in the upcoming ballet this Saturday, Dec. 16.

HC Board of Trustees discusses Lamesa Project, ISD dinner

By ERIN STEPHENS
 Staff Writer

The Howard College board meeting for the month of December consisted of new and ongoing topics. Howard College president, Dr. Cheryl Sparks, discussed one of the first topics on the agenda regarding the ongoing Lamesa Project. According to Sparks, Howard College has been in conversation with the Lamesa ISD superintendent, Jim Knight, about projects relative to the district's high school.



Sparks

"It's beginning to shape up, and a possible bond election might happen after the first of the year," she said. "In Lamesa ISD discussions, there has been more talk about Howard College's site moving by the high school. We've begun to look at the site and it's very impressive, with lots of opportunities."

The Howard College Board plans to include funds for the renovation of the space in an upcoming college bond election. Sometime in the early part of June, Howard College board members will go to Lamesa and meet with the Lamesa ISD school board.

Sparks also mentioned that the Coahoma ISD school board was selected "board of the year" for the entire state of Texas, at all levels.

"This is a huge accomplishment and the Coahoma ISD school board will be having a celebration in honor of their recognition on Dec 19; Howard College board members were invited to attend," said Sparks.

The Howard County Independent School Districts Dinner Meeting was also an item of discussion. The dinner brings college officials together with local school administrators, Sparks said.

"The dinner meeting is a chance for Howard College board members to network and talk about what everyone is doing in the way of education," she said.

The meeting will take place on Feb. 6 and Howard College will be hosting it in The Cactus Room.

The board briefly discussed

Commissioners consider meeting day change 90-day burn ban and New Years fireworks rules approved

By ROGER CLINE
 Staff Writer

At their meeting Monday afternoon, Howard County Commissioners considered changing the day they meet, but put any decision on the matter off to their next meeting.

At the meeting, Howard County Judge Kathryn Wiseman suggested moving the Commissioners Court meetings from their current time of 3:30 p.m. the second and fourth Mondays of each month, to 10 a.m. on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month.

The reason for the change would be to incorporate the regular meetings and the special Thursday meetings to approve payroll each pay period into one meeting.

"I was hoping to avoid having to meet so many times each month," Wiseman said. "That's all I was up to. So I don't know if y'all want to go with this or what you want to do. The good thing, and I think it's strictly by chance, it misses every holiday for 2018."

The commissioners decided to mull

the change and visit it again at their next meeting, which is scheduled Thursday, Dec. 28, at 10 a.m., since the regular meeting date falls on Christmas Day.

The court did approve county employee holidays for the upcoming year. Howard County employees will receive the following days off:

- Jan. 1 (New Year's Day)
- Jan. 15 (MLK Day)
- Feb. 19 (Presidents Day)
- March 30 (Good Friday)
- May 28 (Memorial Day)
- June 22 (Half day, close at noon. This is the day of Funtastic Fourth, which usually disrupts business at county offices).
- July 4 (Independence Day)
- Sept. 3 (Labor Day)
- Nov. 12 (Veterans Day)
- Nov. 22 and 23 (Thanksgiving Holidays)
- December 24 and 25 (Christmas Eve and Christmas Day).

In other business, commissioners approved a 90-day burn ban and a ban on certain firework sales during the New Years firework season.

"We need to do this now," said How-

ard County Volunteer Fire Department Chief Tommy Sullivan. "My biggest fear is these northers that come in with 10, 25, 40 miles an hour winds. You know, they only last two or three hours, but we could have the north end to the south end of Howard County on fire in two to three hours if we're not careful."

Sullivan said the ban would not stop county residents from burning their trash, as long as they follow the rules.

"This is not going to stop residents who, for public health reasons, have to burn their trash," he said. "But it sets the guidelines for it. Metal barrel, no holes in it, you have to have a tight screen on it, they have to have an extinguishing agent: water or a fire extinguisher, and the big thing, they have to be there from the time the fire is lit until it's completely extinguished. With this ban, it gives us teeth if that fire gets away from them and we have to use county resources to go put the fire out, then we can issue them a citation for failing to adhere to the burn ban. If it gets

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Coahoma ISD gets ready for concert

By ERIN STEPHENS
 Staff Writer

Coahoma ISD is decking the halls this holiday season, and are inviting the community to join them for their annual Christmas concert on Dec. 14 at 7 p.m.

Concert-goers will enjoy a variety of entertaining Christmas music.

The 6th, 7th, and 8th grade bands will be performing as well as the CHS band. In addition to traditional Christmas music, the "beginner band" will be showcasing skills they

have learned since the start of the school year and the high school band will have a preview of their 2018 UIL concert program. All bands will be performing separately. The concert will be held in the Coahoma High School auditorium.

"The high school band is now focusing on their concert contest that's coming up in the spring in hopes of bringing home another sweepstakes award. If they get a Division 1 at the sight-reading concert, they'll get a sweepstakes award,

meaning they got Division 1 for both of their major contests for the year," said Lyndell Moody of Coahoma ISD. "We encourage the public to come out and see all the fine work our students have accomplished this year and enjoy this festive event right before the Christmas break."

Attendees at this year's concert can expect to hear classic Christmas songs. The song list for 6th grade includes "Jingle Bells," Section Features, and "Jolly Old St. Nicholas." Seventh graders will be

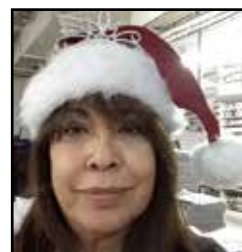
singing "We Wish You a Merry Christmas," "Power Rock," and "Have a Holly, Jolly Christmas." "Eighth graders are performing "Sleigh Ride," "The Christmas Song," and "And To All a Good Night." The high school band will perform "Christmas Holiday," "Hosts of Freedom," and "Do You Hear What I Hear."

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Big Spring Herald's Christmas Countdown



Estela says "Only 13 Days 'til Christmas!" (Estela Bermea, Mailroom)

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Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity:

- **GILBERT SILVA**, 30, of 1208 Mesa Dr. was arrested on a charge of jaywalking (crossed roadway intersection diagonally).
- **TRAVIS ALLEN MELTON III**, 37, of 1314 Birdwell was arrested on a warrant for no driver's license.
- **PATRICK MATHEW RIOS**, 25, of 910 Nolan St. was arrested on warrants for theft of property (less than \$100), failure to appear, and driving with an invalid license.
- **RONALD DWAYNE DODD**, 54, of 1109 Sycamore St. was arrested on an outstanding warrant.
- **WINNIE DENISE KNOX**, 56, of 2906 Parkway Rd. was arrested on warrants for failure to maintain financial responsibility, expired registration, and no driver's license.

ity, expired registration, and no driver's license.

- **BRYCE TAVIN GARZA**, 18, of 1505 Johnson St. was arrested on charges of manufacture or delivery of a controlled substance (4 to 200 grams), manufacture or delivery of a controlled substance (less than 28 grams), and unlawfully carrying a weapon; and on two outstanding warrants.
- **TRISTAN ROSS GALLOWAY**, 18, of 1610 S. Main was arrested on charges of manufacture or delivery of a controlled substance (4 to 200 grams), manufacture or delivery of a controlled substance (less than 28 grams), and unlawfully carrying a weapon.
- **BRITTANY ELLA MINEAR**, 28, of 2006 S. Johnson St. was arrested on an outstanding warrant.
- **NICOLE RAE PRATHER**, 22, of 2604 Lynn Dr. was arrested

on charges of evading arrest or detention with a vehicle, possession of marijuana (less than two ounces), an hindering apprehension or prosecution of a known felon.

- **ROBBERY** was reported in the 300 block of East 19th Street.
- **DISTURBANCE** was reported in the 100 block of Airbase Road.
- **CRIMINAL MISCHIEF** was reported in the 9200 block of South Service Road in Coahoma.
- **THEFT** was reported in the 1100 block of East Fourth Street, the 2000 block of South Johnson Street, and twice in the 1100 block of Lamesa Highway.
- **BURGLARY OF A HABITATION** was reported in the 2200 block of Nolan Street.
- **TELEPHONE HARASSMENT** was reported in the 800 block of Owens Street.

Sheriff

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

Note - Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 78 inmates at the time of this report.

- **RONALD DOOD**, 54, was booked by BSPD on a warrant for fraud (possession of a controlled substance or prescription).
- **TRISTAN ROSS GALLOWAY**, 18, was booked by BSPD on charges of manufacture or delivery of a controlled substance (4 to 200 grams), manufacture or delivery of a controlled substance (less than 28 grams), and unlawfully carrying a weapon.
- **BRYCE TAVIN GARZA**, 18, was booked by BSPD on charges

of manufacture or delivery of a controlled substance (4 to 200 grams), manufacture or delivery of a controlled substance (less than 28 grams), and unlawfully carrying a weapon; and motions to revoke probation for theft of a firearm and deadly conduct (discharge of a firearm).

- **RAYDEAN GAIL HYNES**, 52 was booked by DPS on a charge of driving while intoxicated.
- **WINNIE DENISE KNOX**, 56, was booked by BSPD on warrants for failure to maintain financial responsibility, expired registration, and no driver's license.
- **TRAVIS ALLEN MELTON III**, 37, was booked by BSPD on a warrant for no driver's license.
- **BRITTANY ELLA MINEAR**,

28, was booked by BSPD on a motion to revoke probation for possession of a controlled substance.

- **NICOLE RAE PRATHER**, 22, was booked by BSPD on charges of evading arrest or detention with a vehicle, possession of marijuana (less than two ounces), an hindering apprehension or prosecution of a known felon.
- **PATRICK MATHEW RIOS**, 25, was booked by BSPD on warrants for theft of property (less than \$100), failure to appear, and driving with an invalid license.
- **GILBERT SILVA**, 30, was booked by BSPD on a charge of jaywalking (crossed roadway intersection diagonally).

Take Note

• New hours for the Salvation Army - 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 call-outs. Those interested should contact Senior Chaplain Joel Miller at 432-213-1221.

• Big Spring's Centennial Lions Club is holding a drive to collect books for the Salvation Army Boys and Girls Club. Books for kids in kindergarten through about 10th grade will be accepted, with special preference for books for younger children in kindergarten through third grade.

Cash donations to allow the Lions to purchase additional books are also appreciated. Books or donations can be taken to the Salvation Army, 811 W. Fifth St., or to the home of Lions member Ken Lawhon at 1707 E. 15th St. For more information, contact Lawhon at 214-998-9716 or Lions member David Stives at 432-270-2251.

• Food 2 Kids Big Spring needs you! It is time to start sacking food for Big Spring elementary students who do not receive adequate food over the weekends. Members of the community can be a part by volunteering to sack the food. It just takes a couple hours of your time and the work is very rewarding. To volunteer, just show up at the time and dates listed. For more information, call, 432-935-3998.

If you want additional information about getting your child on this program please contact your child's school.

• Each week Kindred offers free health checks from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. at the Corner House Coffee Shop, 1701 Scurry St.

• Seniors and mature adults are invited to a dance on the first, third and fifth Friday of each month at the Dora Roberts Community Center.

Dances are from 7:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. with live bands. No alcohol or smoking permitted. There will be a pot luck as well so bring a dish if you want to eat.

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

• The Big Spring Art Association meets the third Tuesday of each month a 7 p.m. in the basement of the Howard County Library.

Obituaries

Lee Herndon

Lee Herndon, 92, of Big Spring, died Sunday, Dec. 10, 2017, at a local nursing home. Services are pending with Nalley-Pickle and Welch Funeral Home.

Fire/EMS

Big Spring Fire Department/EMS reported the following activity:

- **TRAUMA CALL** was reported in the 3100 block of Highland. One person was taken to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.
- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 1100 block of North Main Street. One person was taken to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.
- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported on Chapman Road.
- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 1700 block of Johnson Street. One person was taken to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

Support Groups

TUESDAY

• Big Spring and Snyder Parkinsons Support Group meeting at the Big Spring Senior Center at 10:30 a.m. the second Tuesday of the month.

This is a group for all Parkinson's disease patients, spouses and caregivers.

For more information about the support group or about Parkinson's Disease, contact Jo Bidwell at the Lubbock APDA office at 806-785-0942.

• Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m.; newcomers meeting 8 p.m. to 9 p.m.

• A six-week course in Wellness and Quality of Life with Chronic Pain will be held at Spring Creek Fellowship located in the Spring Town Plaza, 1801 E. FM 700. There is no charge for the course, and a workbook will be provided. Contact Steve Purdy at 432-517-4840 for more information.

WEDNESDAY

• **RSD (Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy)** a chronic pain disease, a support and informative group, meets at 213 Circle. Call Lucy at (432) 517-9207 for more information.

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

THURSDAY

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

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

• **Weight Watchers** meets at 6 p.m. at St. Paul Lutheran Church. Weigh-in is at 5:30 p.m. Weigh-in is confidential and you don't have to talk if you don't want to. Flexible payment options.

• A Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder support group meeting is at 6:30 p.m. at the VA Medical Center Veteran's Healing Center.

FRIDAY

• **AA** open discussion meeting from noon until 1 p.m. at 605 Settles. Open Big Book study meeting, 8 p.m. until 9 p.m.

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HC

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changes to the Howard College Catalog and Handbook, and the President's report was briefly discussed and Sparks mentioned the updated election guide regarding policy 2.5. Fitness center membership fees and reducing them for entities asso-

ciated with the college was also discussed. This month's president's report consisted of topics related to Coahoma UIL being hosted at HC's Big Spring campus, and Howard College taking a two-week break for Christmas.

Other items on the agenda included:

- Workforce Training/Continuing Education Report- a report on workforce training

was discussed. Big Spring's contact hours are slightly down from last year; while head count numbers are up.

• Strategic plan update- the board was updated on the review of annual program outcomes. These are programs that the college works on all year long.

- Howard County Appraisal District Board of Director Nomination Resolution- Di-

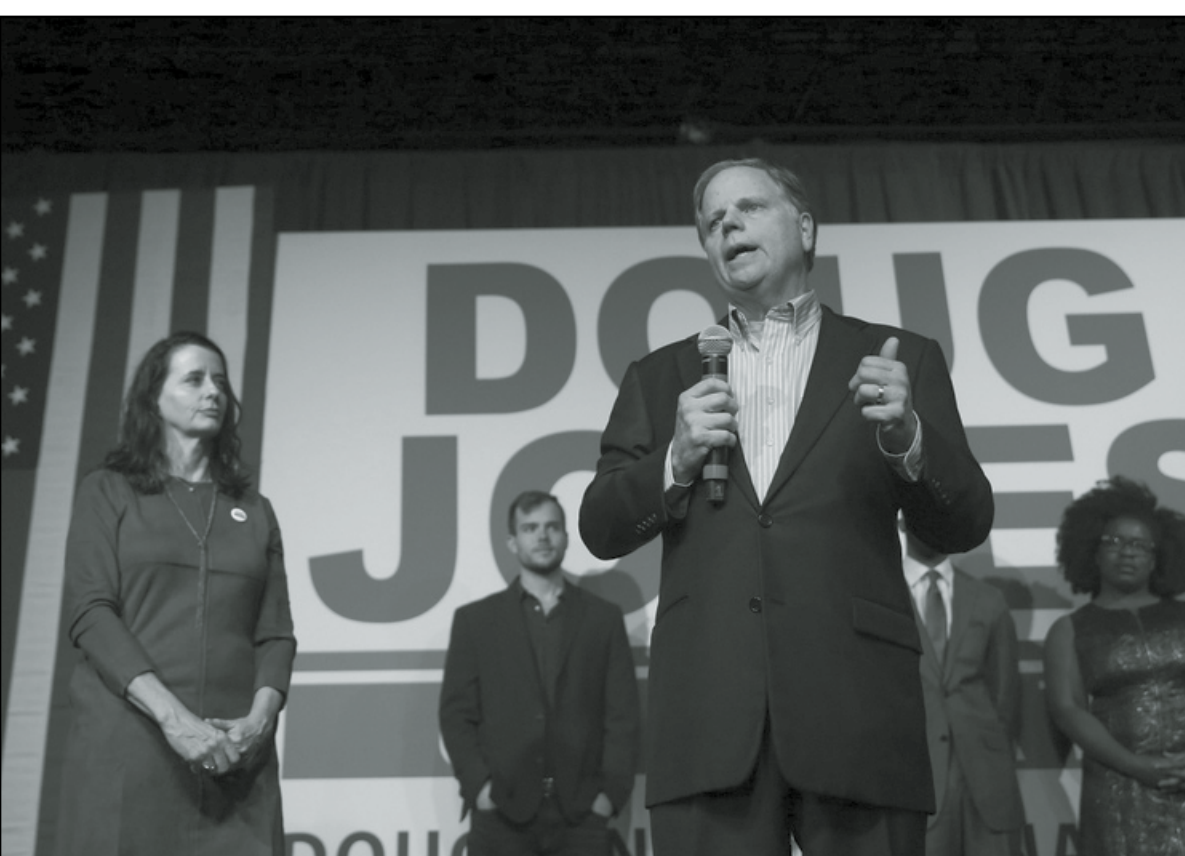
rector nominees are being collected by the appraisal district. At the January 22 board meeting, final votes will be made on this topic.

- Notice of filing for the trustee election was one of the last items on the agenda and it was voted on and approved by board. Those interested may complete an application to become a candidate between Jan 17 to Feb

16. There are seven board members; four are "by place" and three are "at large." This year, district 3 and 4 are up for election.

Contact Staff Writer Erin Stephens at 432-263-7331 ext. 232, or by email at citydesk@bigspringherald.com.

Alabama special Senate race now in hands of voters



AP photo

Democratic candidate for U.S. Senate Doug Jones speaks during a rally Monday, Dec. 11, 2017, in Birmingham, Ala. Jones is facing Republican Roy Moore.

By **BILL BARROW** and **KIM CHANDLER**

Associated Press
BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (AP) — Alabama voters headed to the polls Tuesday in Alabama's special Senate election and faced two choices: Either continue the "Trump miracle" in Washington or allow "decency" to prevail back home.

At the center is Roy Moore — "Judge Moore," to his supporters. The 70-year-old Republican was twice ousted as state Supreme Court chief justice after flouting federal law, and now he's attempting a political resurrection amid accusations of sexual misconduct with teenage girls when he was in his 30s.

In Moore's path is Democrat Doug Jones, 63, a former U.S. attorney best known for prosecuting two Ku

Klux Klansmen who killed four black girls in a 1963 church bombing.

More than two dozen people stood in line in the chilly morning air early Tuesday morning at Legion Field, a predominantly black precinct in Birmingham, to cast their ballots in a stadium office. Blue-tinted posters of college football players and cheerleaders lined one wall, and about 20 Doug Jones posters were planted near the parking lot.

"I do not want to see Roy Moore go in there. We don't need a pedophile in there," said Teresa Brown, 53, an administrative assistant at the University of Alabama at Birmingham who was voting at Legion Field. "We need someone that's going to represent the state of Alabama, work across party lines ... just be there for all the people,

not just a select few of the people."

Al Bright, 63, who does refrigeration repair, voted for Moore.

"I just believe regardless of the allegations against him, I believe he is an honorable man," Bright said.

Bright said he realized some people criticize Moore because he was removed from office because of actions he took to try to block same-sex marriage in the state.

"I don't think there's anything wrong with that because I believe in that as well," he said. "I feel the same — marriage is between a man and a woman."

Mary Multrie, 69, who works at a children's hospital and voted for Jones, said she was not influenced by accusations of sexual misconduct against Moore because she already did not like him. "He's not a

truthful man," Multrie said of Moore.

"He talks about God, but you don't see God in his actions."

Alabama Secretary of State John Merrill said early Tuesday that turnout for the special election could be as high as 25 percent of regis-

tered voters.

The winner will take the seat previously held by Attorney General Jeff Sessions. Republicans hold a narrow 52-48 Senate majority. A routine election in Republican-dominated Alabama wouldn't be expected to alter that balance because Alabamians haven't sent a Democrat to the upper chamber of Congress since 1992. President Donald Trump notched a 28-point win here in 2016 and remains popular in the state.

But Moore's baggage leaves the outcome enough in doubt that both Trump and his Democratic predecessor, Barack Obama, have weighed in with last-minute robocalls trying to sway voters.

The intensity also has spawned a steady stream of fake news stories that fill social media feeds of interested

people in Alabama and beyond. An Associated Press analysis, in cooperation with Facebook, counted as many as 200 false or misleading reports heading into the weekend. One website claimed one of the women who have accused Moore of sexual misconduct had recanted. She did not. Meanwhile, Moore's detractors took to social media to claim he had written in a 2011 textbook that women shouldn't hold elected office. He didn't.

In his final pitch before polls opened across the state at 7 a.m. CST Tuesday, Jones called the choice a "crossroads" and asked that "decency" prevail.

"We've had this history in the past, going down the road that ... has not been productive," Jones said. "We've lagged behind in industry. We've lagged behind in education. We've lagged behind in health care. It's time we take the road that's going to get us on the path to progress."

At his own election eve rally, Moore again denied all the allegations, calling them "disturbing" and offering voters a clear measure: "If you don't believe in my character, don't vote for me." Earlier in the day, Moore cast himself as the victim. "It's just been hard, a hard campaign," he said.

For Alabama, the outcome could be defining. Democrats and moderate Republicans see an opportunity to reject a politician who is already regular fodder for late-night television.

Alabama's senior senator, Richard Shelby, confirmed publicly that he wrote in a "distinguished Alabama Republican" rather than vote for Moore.

Many Republicans, however, see an opportunity to defend the state's conservative, evangelical bent in the face of unfair liberal criticism while delivering another victory for Trump and sending an anti-establishment senator into a federal government that has been reflexively unpopular among Alabama majorities for generations.

Trump's campaign architect and former White House adviser Steve Bannon told Moore supporters Monday evening the race is a "national election" that will determine whether the "Trump miracle" continues. Moore says he is aligned with the president and he makes similar arguments to Trump, blasting "the elite" in the "swamp" of Washington, D.C.

For Jones to win, he must build an atypical coalition, maximizing turnout among African-American voters and white liberals who often don't combine for more than 40 percent of the electorate, while coaxing votes from enough white Republicans who can't pull the lever for Moore.

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL
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Don Swinney, 81, died Saturday, December 09, 2017. Funeral services will be at 2:00 PM today at Myers & Smith Chapel. Burial will follow at Trinity Memorial Park.

Jeff Carter, 54, died Monday, December 4, 2017. A memorial service will be at 2:00 PM Wednesday at Myers & Smith Chapel.

Charles Mitchell, 69, of Big Spring, died Saturday, December 02, 2017 at his residence. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Donald Baker, 84, died Saturday December 09, 2017 at Scenic Mountain Medical Center. Services are pending with Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

COUNTY

Continued from Page 1

off their property we can give them a citation for reckless damage."

Sullivan said the ban would also not affect farmers who must sometimes burn their fields to clear them; farmers can get controlled burn permission and assistance from the HCVPD.

The commissioners also approved Sullivan's request for a ban on the sale of fireworks which incorporate stabilizing sticks or fins into their design, such as rockets or bottle rockets. Sullivan said

he specifically requested a ban on those items because they often fly far away from the launcher, and those who launch them might not be able to easily reach and put out any fires they might cause.

In other business, commissioners:

- Held a Financial Review Workshop in the second-floor conference room, prior to their regular meeting.

- Approved permission for County Road Engineer Brian Klinksiek to go out for bid on shoulder-widening material and road base material. They tabled action on his sealcoat plans and permission to go out for bids on sealcoating material, to give them time to read over the proposal.

- Approved permission for Klinksiek to order a motor grader and roller as per the county budget, but tabled action on ordering a water truck.

- Held an executive closed session to discuss a contract negotiation.

Contact Staff Writer Roger Cline at 432-263-7331 ext. 235.

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Man suspected of killing 3 in Houston captured in Dallas

DALLAS (AP) — Authorities say police in Dallas have captured a 35-year-old suspect in the fatal shooting of three people in a Houston home.

Jeffery Noble was booked late Sunday into the Dallas County jail and is being held on a charge of capital murder. Online jail records don't indicate whether he has an attorney.

The Harris County sheriff's office on Monday confirmed Noble's arrest but didn't offer details.

Investigators say Noble was seen leaving the scene of Friday's shooting. Authorities identified the victims as 67-year-old Robert Sciandra, 22-year-old Jessica Sciandra and 25-year-old Jordan Michael Collier. The relationship between Robert and Jessica Sciandra wasn't immediately clear.

Policyholders still waiting for payment after Hurricane Ike

HOUSTON (AP) — Several school districts, cities and other government agencies are still waiting for a Texas insurer to pay nearly \$60 million in claims from Hurricane Ike, adding to more insurance worries in the wake of Hurricane Harvey.

The Houston Chronicle reports that the Texas Windstorm Insurance Association provides insurance covering only wind and hail for nearly 235,000 policyholders in a 14-county area of coastal Texas. It doesn't cover claims arising from flooding, such as that caused by Harvey.

Texas City Independent School District leads the list of nine entities still seeking funds from the insurer with more than \$17 million in outstanding claims for Ike, which occurred in 2008.

A spokeswoman for the insurer says the pending Ike claims are outliers and don't indicate any problems for Harvey claims.

Murder trial underway for ex-officer accused of killing teen

DALLAS (AP) — Prosecutors are telling a Dallas jury that an off-duty police officer chased two teenagers who were burglarizing his SUV and killed one of them after firing his gun more than a dozen times.

Opening statements began Monday in the murder trial of Ken Johnson. He's pleaded not guilty in the death of 16-year-old Jose Cruz.

Johnson resigned from the police force in the Dallas suburb of Farmers Branch shortly after the March 2016 shooting in nearby Addison.

Authorities say the shooting occurred after Johnson saw the two people burglarizing his personal SUV. Surveillance video shows that Johnson chased the teens with his SUV, rammed the teens' car and repeatedly fired into their stopped vehicle.

The second teenager was critically injured.

Salvadoran man on Texas death row loses Supreme Court appeal

HOUSTON (AP) — The U.S. Supreme has refused to review an appeal from a 48-year-old Salvadoran man on Texas death row for the slayings of two Houston store clerks during an attempted robbery more than 17 years ago.

The high court had no comment in its decision Monday in the case of Gilmar Guevara.

Attorneys for Guevara asked the justices to reverse lower courts' rulings rejecting arguments that he's mentally impaired and ineligible for the death penalty. Guevara was convicted and sentenced to death for the fatal shootings of 48-year-old Tae Youk and 21-year-old Gerardo Yaxon. Youk was from South Korea and Yaxon from Guatemala.

Ridge expects to leave Texas medical center before Christmas

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — A spokesman says former U.S. Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge expects to leave a Texas medical facility in time to be home in Maryland for Christmas.

Ridge suffered a heart attack on Nov. 16 while attending a Republican Governors Association conference in Austin, Texas. He's been recovering at a local rehabilitation center.

The 72-year-old Republican served two terms as Pennsylvania's governor, from 1995 to 2001. He was the first homeland security secretary, serving under President George W. Bush until 2005.

Ridge's spokesman, Steve Aaron, also said Sunday that Ridge's hospitalization won't affect his security firm's contract with the Transport Workers Union of America to review airplane maintenance outsourcing to overseas companies.

Rash of retirements triggers Texas political bonanza



In this June 1, 2015, file photo, then Texas Rep. Kenneth Sheets, R-Dallas, poses with three of the six solid, mahogany gavels he broke during the legislative session in Austin, Texas. Sheets, a Marine and Iraq war veteran, is running to replace Jeb Hensarling from Dallas who is term-limited out of his chairmanship of the House Financial Services Committee. Five Republicans and two Democrats have announced that they'll be leaving office next year, along with the powerful GOP speaker of the Texas House and some of his top lieutenants.

By WILL WEISSERT

Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Is Texas' political dinner bell ringing?

An unusual rash of seven congressional retirements is triggering a stampede among ambitious conservatives — and, gasp, even some Democrats — who see a rare opportunity for seizing higher-profile office in the state.

Five Republicans and two Democrats in Congress have announced that they'll be stepping down next year. Also, the powerful GOP speaker of the Texas House and some of his top lieutenants are leaving, in what seems to be more of an actuarial blip than a seismic political shift.

But it's turned what once looked like a low-wattage off-year election into a political spectacle.

No real change is likely in party balance: The open Republican congressional seats should stay in GOP hands barring upsets, and the Democratic ones look equally safe. The Texas Legislature will remain solidly Republican-controlled no matter what.

Still, Texas will see a large throng of conservatives going at each other in a political climate already polarized by President Donald Trump. And the U.S. may be introduced to new faces from a place that lately has been

a launching pad for national GOP prominence, while giving rising Democratic stars potentially larger footholds in the country's largest red state.

"I think a lot of our representatives that represent themselves as conservatives really aren't," said David Balat, a former hospital CEO who's already firing early shots in his bid for the suburban Houston seat being vacated by retiring Republican U.S. Rep. Ted Poe. "When it comes down to how they vote, or how they behave, they do something that's generally geared to their own interest and own longevity."

Like Poe, set to retire next year are Republican Rep. Sam Johnson from suburban Dallas, Jeb Hensarling of Dallas, who is term-limited out of his chairmanship of the powerful House Financial Services Committee, and San Antonio's Lamar Smith who is similarly losing the House Science, Space and Technology Committee chairmanship.

Rep. Joe Barton, from Ennis outside Dallas who is Texas' most-senior member of Congress, joined the retirement group after a sex scandal.

The departing Dem-

ocrats are longtime Houston Rep. Gene Green and El Paso's Beto O'Rourke, who is trying to oust U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz next November.

Texas has the most open congressional seats in its history this cycle. Of 36 seats, only two were open in 2016. More than 50 Republicans alone are running. "It's almost like free-market competition," said Republican Party of Texas spokesman Jamie Bennett.

A vacancy in the Legislature may spark the biggest political scum of all.

Joe Straus, the moderate San Antonio Republican who kept state lawmakers from moving farther right on many hot issues, like the "bathroom bill" targeting transgender people, is leaving as House speaker. Some House Republicans are already pushing to adopt rules to ensure that Straus' replacement is more conservative.

The spate of competitive races should showcase the issues that conservatives believe are the best weapons to wield against each other.

One likely contentious point is who would be tougher on immigrants. That issue's potency was reflected

by the Legislature's recent approval of anti-"sanctuary cities" policies that can jail police chiefs and sheriffs who don't crack down.

Trickier would be trying to use Trump, who, said Rice University political science professor Mark Jones, "is too much of a wild card."

Some of his policies "are in line with movement conservatives," Jones said. But "the way he comports himself, as well as some of his other policies are not in line."


That hasn't spooked Roger Barone, a long-shot to replace Johnson, whose online profile says, "I only speak MAGA" for Make America Great Again.

Candidates relying on their colorful biographies include Eric Burkhart, a retired CIA operations officer, who wants to replace Smith. Burkhart says he survived being poisoned repeatedly over a three week period during lavish meals prepared by a Russian contact while working in the Balkans in 2001.

For most, the objective is to get to the rightmost point in the field while attempting to paint their opponents as closet moderates.

Former state


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Journalists consider response to errors after Trump attacks

By DAVID BAUDER

AP Media Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Some stinging mistakes in stories involving President Donald Trump have given him fresh ammunition in his battle against the media while raising questions about whether news organizations need to peel back the curtain on how they operate.

The president tweeted six attacks on what he calls "fake news" over the weekend, saying the "out of control" media puts out purposely false and defamatory stories. That led to a contentious exchange at Monday's White House press briefing between press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders and CNN's Jim Acosta.

"Journalists make honest mistakes," Acosta said. "That doesn't make them fake news."

When Sanders responded that reporters should own up to their mistakes, one said, "we do."

"Sometimes, but a lot of times you don't," she said. "There's a very big difference between honest mistakes and purposely misleading the American people."

Trump has his own issues: the Washington Post's fact-checking blog counted 1,628 false or misleading claims made by the president in his first 298 days in office.

Still, it was an undeniably bad week for news organizations reporting on investigations into the Trump campaign dealings with Russia. ABC News suspended Brian Ross for incorrectly reporting the timing of a Trump directive to Michael Flynn. Several news outlets wrongly reported that Trump and his family's bank records were the subject of the special prosecutor's subpoena. And CNN corrected a story on the timing of a tip to the Trump campaign about damaging information on Democrats.

With the hyper-speed of the modern news environment, the stories spread swiftly be-

yond their original source.

News organizations corrected themselves but fell short in their explanations, said Kathleen Hall Jamieson, a communications professor and the director of the Annenberg Public Policy Center at the University of Pennsylvania.

"When a mistake is made, the public really needs to understand why it was made and what corrections have been put in place to make sure it doesn't happen again," she said.

In announcing Ross' four-week suspension, ABC News issued a two-paragraph statement saying the story "had not been fully vetted through our editorial standards process." Executives were not made available to explain to the public what exactly that meant.

Ironically, the only time ABC News President James Goldston's reaction to the error was heard came from a leaked tape of him talking to staff members obtained by CNN's media reporting team.

Sanders specifically cited Ross' story when asked for an example of one that was purposely misleading.

When CNN made its mistake a week later, its own executives did not talk publicly about it — even when the topic was discussed on the network's weekend show about the media, "Reliable Sources."

Network representatives, speaking without allowing a name to be attached, blamed the error on sources that provided information to reporters Manu Raju and Jeremy



President Donald Trump walks across the South Lawn of the White House in Washington, Sunday, Dec. 10, 2017. Trump is returning from a trip to his Mar-a-Lago estate in Palm Beach, Fla.

AP photo

Herb. That still left questions: New York University journalism professor Jay Rosen wondered, for example, how it was possible that different sources made the same error about a date.

CNN earlier this year fired journalists involved in a discredited story about former Trump aide Anthony Scaramucci. CNN said — again, without allowing a name to be attached — Raju and Herb followed the network's procedures for sensitive stories. In the Scaramucci case, the reporters didn't. Again, it was up to consumers to decipher precisely what that meant.

CNN's communications staff, responding Monday to Trump's tweet that he once called anchor Don Lemon "the dumbest man on television," said "in a world where bullies torment kids on social media to devastating effect on a regular basis with insults

and name calling, it is sad to see our president engaging in the very same behavior himself. Leaders should lead by example."

With politicians targeting journalists, it is more important than ever to be clear, Jamieson said. People need to know that there are consequences when reporters make mistakes, and what those consequences are, she said.

She pointed to The Washington Post, which last Friday began what it said will be an occasional series of videos about its operations. The first, titled "How to Be a Reporter," featured interviews with two journalists who worked on the newspaper's story about Alabama Senate candidate Roy Moore dating young girls. The reporters explained how they were tipped to the story and went about reporting it.

"As corny as it sounds, the agenda is to find out what the reality is, what the truth is of the story," said reporter Stephanie McCrummen. "That's it."

Over the weekend, Trump demanded an apology from the Post for a photo that he said was deceptive about the number of people who attended his Florida rally, since it had been taken while people were waiting outside. Post reporter Dave Weigel apologized; Trump later said he should be fired.

On Monday, Trump said a Times story exaggerated the amount of time he watched television each day, and that he seldom watched CNN or MSNBC. The Times said its story was based on interviews with 60 people, "including many who interact with President Trump every day."

'One of my nightmares': Pipe bomb attack hits in NYC subway

By COLLEEN LONG

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — A man inspired by Islamic State extremists strapped on a crude pipe bomb, slipped unnoticed into the nation's busiest subway system and set the device off at rush hour Monday in a scenario that New York has dreaded for years, authorities said.

In the end, the only serious wounds were to the suspect himself, Akayed Ullah, a 27-year-old Bangladeshi immigrant and former cab driver, authorities said. But the attack sent terrified commuters flee-

ing through a smoky passageway, and three people suffered headaches and ringing ears from the first bomb blast in the subway in more than two decades.

"This was an attempted terrorist attack," Democratic Mayor Bill de Blasio told reporters. "Thank God the perpetrator did not achieve his ultimate goals."

The attack near Times Square came less than two months after eight people died near the World Trade Center in a truck attack authorities said was also inspired by the Islamic State group.

Law enforcement officials said Ullah was inspired by IS but apparently did not have any direct contact with the group and probably acted alone. Gov. Andrew Cuomo said there was no evidence, so far, of other bombs or a larger plot. He said officials were exploring whether Ullah had been on authorities' radar, but there was no indication yet that he was.

Investigators described the bomb as a low-tech explosive device attached to Ullah with Velcro and plastic ties. They were looking into how it was made.

Cuomo said there was reason to believe the attacker looked at bomb-making instructions online.

Authorities were searching Ullah's Brooklyn home and a rented space in a building nearby, interviewing witnesses and relatives, reviewing his subway fare card and looking for surveillance footage that might show his movements in the moments before the 7:20 a.m. attack.

Security cameras did capture the attacker walking casually through a crowded passageway under 42nd

Street between Seventh and Eighth avenues when the bomb went off amid a plume of white smoke, which cleared to show the man sprawled on the ground and commuters scattering.

"All we could hear was the chaos," said Elrana Peralta, a Greyhound customer-service worker who was working at the Port Authority bus terminal near the blast, though she did not hear it. Instead, she heard people yelling, "Get out! Get out! Get out!"

Port Authority police said officers found the man injured on the ground, with wires pro-

truding from his jacket to his pants and the device strapped to his torso under his coat. They said he was reaching for a cellphone and they grabbed his hands.

A photo published

See **NYC**, Page 6

TEXAS

Continued from Page 4

Rep. Kenneth Sheets, an Iraq war veteran, hopes to stake out the right flank in the race to replace Hensarling, saying, "People in this district are concerned about conserva-

tive issues."

But Sheets may have trouble owning that turf if he has to face ex-Florida Congressman Allen West, a tea party darling who once famously called then-President Barack Obama "probably the dumbest person walking around in America."

West has moved to Texas but hasn't announced plans to run.

On the Democratic side, state Sen. Sylvia Garcia is the favorite to replace Green, ending Houston's run as America's largest Hispanic city without a Hispanic in Con-

gress.

"That's significant, not just for me as a candidate, but for our community," said Garcia who would also be the first Hispanic woman from Texas in Congress.

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Class action lawsuit sought over 1966 Spain H-bombs accident



AP photo

In this Jan. 17, 1966, file photo, part of the wrecked fuselage of an USAF B52 bomber lies where it crashed near Palomares, northeast of Almeria, Spain, after a collision in flight with an USAF Kc 135 tanker while refueling. Veterans who say they responded to the 1966 accident involving U.S. hydrogen bombs in Spain and then became ill from radiation exposure have asked a federal appeals court to allow a class action lawsuit against the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. The request was filed with the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims on behalf of veterans who sought disability benefits from the VA but were denied.

By DAVE COLLINS

Associated Press
HARTFORD, Conn. (AP) — Veterans who say they responded to a 1966 accident involving U.S. hydrogen bombs in Spain and then became ill from radiation exposure asked a federal appeals court on Monday to allow a class action lawsuit against the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

Yale Law School students in Connecticut filed the request with the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims on behalf of veterans who sought disability benefits from the VA but were denied. The students represent Air Force veteran Victor Skaar, of Nixa, Missouri, and want to include other veterans who believe they deserve VA benefits.

VA officials did not immediately return messages seeking comment Monday. The motion names Veterans Affairs Secretary David Shulkin as the defendant.

On Jan. 17, 1966, a U.S. B-52 bomber and a refueling plane

crashed into each other during a refueling operation near the southern Spanish village of Palomares, killing seven of 11 crew members but no one on the ground. At the time, the U.S. was keeping nuclear-armed warplanes in the air near the Soviet border as the Cold War was in full swing.

The midair collision resulted in the release of four U.S. hydrogen bombs. None of the bombs exploded, but the plutonium-filled detonators on two went off, scattering 7 pounds (3 kilograms) of highly radioactive plutonium 239 across the landscape.

The 1,600 servicemen who were sent to the crash site area to recover the weapons and clean up the contamination were exposed to dangerous levels of radiation daily for weeks or months at a time, according to the court motion filed Monday. Many of the servicemen later developed various forms of cancer, blood disorders, heart and lung dysfunction and other sicknesses but were

denied disability benefits by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

"This class action seeks to compel the VA to acknowledge that veterans at Palomares participated in a radiation-risk activity that would make any radiogenic conditions they developed presumptively service-connected," said Derek Mraz, one of the Yale students working on the case. "The VA acknowledges this service connection for many other atomic veterans."

Skaar, the Air Force veteran, said he suffers from a blood disorder and developed melanoma and prostate cancer, which were successfully treated. He said he believes his ailments were related to his service in Palomares.

Skaar, 81, said he and other military members responded quickly to the Palomares accident and did not wear protective clothing or masks as they determined the scope of the contamination and "cleaned" it up. The cleanup involved removing

topsoil in some areas and hosing down buildings with water.

Skaar said he and his fellow servicemen did what they were ordered to do without complaint at Palomares and now feel betrayed by their government.

"It's absolutely ridiculous to see how we have been treated," he said. "We're all hurt. We were ignored, absolutely ignored."

The Yale students said they believe this is the first federal appeals court case involving Palomares veterans. The Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims, which hears appeals of VA denials of benefits, only recently was given authority to hear class action cases, they said.

The law school students also sued the Department of Defense in October on behalf of veterans groups seeking to compel it to release records relating to the Palomares accident, including environmental testing data and urine testing results. A department spokesman said he could not

comment on pending litigation.

The Yale students said original testing showed that many Palomares veterans were exposed to dangerously high levels of radiation, but a 2001 report commissioned by the VA concluded those results were "unreasonably high." And in 2013, VA officials used the 2001 report to conclude the veterans' exposure to radiation wasn't high enough to qualify them for free VA medical care and other benefits.

The students said the report and the 2013 conclusion are flawed.

U.S. Sen. Richard Blumenthal, D-Connecticut, said the VA needs to take another look at the veterans' claims.

"These veterans were exposed to dangerous radiation while they faithfully served our nation in the clean-up of the hydrogen bomb accident," he said in a statement. "They deserve a fair and consistent process for determining veterans benefits related to such exposure."

NYC

Continued from Page 1

by the New York Post showed a bearded man crumpled on the ground with his shirt apparently blown off and black soot covering his bare midriff.

Investigators said it was not clear if he set the bomb off intentionally or prematurely.

Law enforcement officials said the suspect was speaking with investigators from the hospital bed where he was being treated for burns to his hands and abdomen. The officials spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak publicly about the blast.

Ullah came to the U.S. from Bangladesh in 2011 on an F-4 visa, a preferential visa available for those with family in the U.S. who are citizens, a spokesman for the Department of Homeland Security said.

He had been licensed to drive a livery cab between 2012 and 2015, but the license was allowed to lapse, according to law enforcement officials and NYC Taxi and Limousine Commission.

White House spokeswoman Sarah Huckabee Sanders said the explosion showed the need for immigration reform, including ending what's known as "chain migration" within families. Republican President Donald Trump's administration has called for a "merit-based" immigration system that would limit family-based green cards to spouses and minor children.

"If that had been in place, that would have prevented this individual from coming to the United States," Sanders said.

Ullah lived with his father, mother and brother in a Brooklyn neighborhood with a large Bangladeshi community, residents said. The family's red, two-story brick home is just off a shopping strip.

News of his arrest stunned Alan Butrico, who owns the house next door and a locksmith business two doors down.

"It's very weird," Butrico said. "You never know who your neighbors are."

The last bomb to go off in the subway system was believed to be in December 1994, when an explosive made from mayonnaise jars and batteries wounded 48 people in a car in lower Manhattan.

The Times Square subway station is the city's busiest, with 64 million riders passing through every year. The subway system as a whole carried over 1.7 billion people last year.

Monday's explosion triggered a massive emergency response both above and below ground, halting what would ordinarily be a bustling rush hour at the "Crossroads of the World." But streets quickly began returning to normal.

"This is one of my nightmares, right: a terrorist attack in the subway system," Cuomo, a Democrat, later told cable channel NY1.

"The good news is: We were on top of it," he said, and "the reality was not as bad as the fear."

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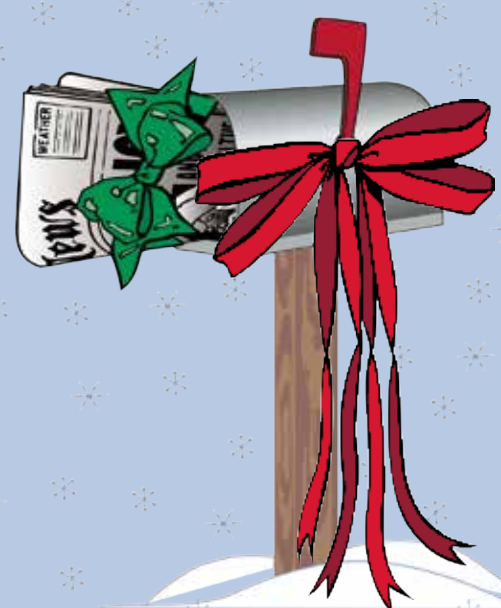
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Capela, Harden lead Rockets over Pelicans 130-123



By **KRISTIE RIEKEN**
AP Sports Writer

HOUSTON — In a season where the Houston Rockets have become one of the league's best teams, scoring a career-high in points like Clint Capela did on Monday night doesn't get congratulations. It draws comments on how he needs to play like he did over the New Orleans Pelicans more often.

Capela scored 28 points and James Harden scored 12 straight points for Houston in the fourth quarter as the Rockets rallied for the 130-123 victory over the Pelicans to extend their winning streak to 10 games.

"We're going to need nights like that from Clint to be consistent and be a beast like he did, blocking shots, dunking the basketball,"

Harden said. "And to close the game out he did a really, really good job. So progress, he's got to get better, but tonight was a good step for him."

Capela agreed with Harden's assessment.

"Of course it feels good and I'm happy tonight but I'm really trying to be consistent in what I'm doing," he said. "So I'm going to keep working and try to get better simply. It's just one game and there's going to be a lot of other ones, so just got to be ready for the other ones now."

The game was tied with about three minutes remaining after Harden made two free throws. Those were the first of seven straight by Harden that put Houston's up 124-119 with 1:30

See **ROCKETS**, Page 13

AP photo
Houston Rockets' Clint Capela (15) reaches for a rebound with New Orleans Pelicans' Houston Rondo, left, and E'Twaun Moore, right, during the first quarter of an NBA basketball game Monday, Dec. 11, 2017, in Houston.

Stars stop 3-game slide with 2-1 shootout win over Rangers

By **SCOTT CHARLES**
Associated Press

NEW YORK — The Dallas Stars put themselves in position for a big win on Monday night. It just took them a while to finish off the New York Rangers, thanks to Ondrej Pavelec.

Jason Spezza scored in the shootout, and the Stars snapped a three-game losing streak with a 2-1 victory over the Rangers.

"It would have been a shame to not get two points in this game the way we played," Dallas coach Ken Hitchcock said. "We are starting to really play strong 5-on-5 hockey right now. We are getting a lot of scoring chances and we are not giving up a lot which is a really good sign."

Kari Lehtonen made 24 saves for Dallas in the opener of its four-game East Coast road trip against the Metro-

politan Division. It was Lehtonen's 299th career NHL victory.

Dallas outshot New York 45-25, but Pavelec kept the Rangers in the game with an outstanding performance in goal.

"I don't think anyone in our dressing room doesn't know that other than Pavelec, we didn't play real well tonight," Rangers coach Alain Vigneault said. "There are two positives, Pavs played unreal and because of his performance we were able to get a point. Other than that, we weren't good."

The Stars had a 1-0 lead before Rick Nash tied it for the Rangers when he tipped in Brady Skjei's wrist shot with 3:41 left in regulation. Nash made contact with Lehtonen but the goalie was well outside the blue paint. Hitchcock challenged

See **STARS**, Page 13



AP photo
Dallas Stars defenseman Julius Honka, right, celebrates his goal with Jamie Benn (14) and Alexander Radulov, left, during the second period of an NHL hockey game Monday, Dec. 11, 2017, at Madison Square Garden in New York.

Cowboys improving without Zeke, playoff picture isn't



AP photo
Dallas Cowboys running back Rod Smith (45) runs for a touchdown against the New York Giants during the fourth quarter of an NFL football game, Sunday, Dec. 10, 2017, in East Rutherford, N.J.

By **SCHUYLER DIXON**
AP Pro Football Writer

FRISCO, Texas — The Cowboys are a win away from breaking even in six games without suspended star running back Ezekiel Elliott.

While Dallas has improved in two straight wins following three consecutive losses without last year's NFL

rushing leader as a rookie, the playoff outlook hasn't changed much.

The Cowboys (7-6) will need help even if they finish on a five-game winning streak.

The last game without Elliott, suspended six games over alleged domestic violence, is at Oakland (6-7) on Sunday night.

"We know where we are, we know

what we've got to do," quarterback Dak Prescott said after a career-high 332 yards passing in a 30-10 win over the last-place New York Giants that was tied going into the fourth quarter.

"We're excited for it and we're going to get back to work. We're hungry and motivated to keep going."

The most interesting decision the Cowboys will have once Elliott returns is how to use his replacements — Alfred Morris and Rod Smith.

Morris has been the starter — and steady, averaging 74 yards per game and 3.6 per carry. But Smith was the first one to show the explosiveness the Cowboys have missed without Elliott, taking a short pass 81 yards for a touchdown against the Giants.

The older brother of second-year Dallas linebacker Jaylon Smith had his first two-touchdown game with a 15-yard run to finish the scoring. Rod Smith has four TDs, three more than Morris.

"Rod's someone we've tried to put in in the third series of each of the halves," coach Jason Garrett said. "And also he plays a lot in situational football. You're always trying to look for ways to get him some more opportunities. It was kind of a situational-type opportunity for him that he was able to make a play for us in."

Linebacker Sean Lee returned after missing three straight games with a hamstring injury, making it five overall that he has missed. He had one of two late interceptions to help the Cowboys win the turnover battle for the second straight week after going minus-7 in the three straight losses.

With Oakland coming after the Giants, the Cowboys get a second straight opponent having a disappointing season that started with Super Bowl aspirations. Even though they had the prospect of Elliott's suspension hanging over them until it finally hit eight games in, the Cowboys had the same hopes.

Dallas is the only one of the three with a realistic chance to do something about it, and even those hopes are up for debate.

"For us, it is playoff time because of the situation that we're in," said receiver Cole Beasley, who had a 54-yard catch to set up Jason Witten's 20-yard TD grab against the Giants. "Guys are going to keep pushing to get victories because that's the type of guys that we have in this room."

If the Cowboys beat the Raiders, they are guaranteed a chance to match Seattle's record and hold the tiebreaker on the Seahawks by beating them at home in Elliott's return. At the moment, though, Seattle is the first team outside the playoff picture in the NFC.

"Margin of error is still small, and there's still a lot of good teams in the NFC that are playing well," Lee said. "We know we have to really continue to win if we want to put ourselves in good position."

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PUBLIC NOTICE
Advertisement for Sealed Bids

The Forsan Independent School District is now accepting bids for:

Ag Building Relocation & Completion - RFB# 17-001.

Documents may be obtained from Randy Johnson, Superintendent, Forsan ISD, 411 W 6th St., Forsan, TX 79733, (432) 457-2223. Responses will be accepted through 2:00 PM on Thursday, December 21, 2017, in the Administration Office, Forsan ISD, 411 W 6th St., Forsan, TX 79733, at which time they will be read into record. Bidders are instructed that a formal opening will not occur. Any bids received after the deadline will be returned to the sender unopened. The District will negotiate with the qualified bidder concerning the bid and references submitted. The final determination of award will be made at a future Board of Trustees meeting.

There will be a pre-bid conference held on December 18, 2017 at 2:00 PM in the Superintendent's office located in the Administration Office, Forsan ISD, 411 W 6th St., Forsan, TX 79733.

All questions should be directed to Randy Johnson, Superintendent, 411 W 6th St., Forsan, TX 79733, email rsjohnso@forsan.esc18.net or by phone (432) 457-2223. Forsan Independent School District reserves the right to reject any and all responses.

#9632 December 10, 12, 2017

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

THE SURFACE ONLY OF SECTION 43, BLOCK 37, TOWNSHIP 1 NORTH TEXAS & PACIFIC RAILROAD COMPANY SURVEY, ABSTRACT NO. 233, MARTIN COUNTY, TEXAS, CONTAINING 640.81 ACRES OF LAND, MORE OR LESS.

Such sale will be for cash, which may also be in the form of certified funds. The public auction will 288613 take place in front of the northeast corner of the Martin County Courthouse on the 2nd day of January, 2018 between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

For information about the property, please contact Brent Preston at (806) 470-0464.

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Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

Early bird catches the worm

East dealer.
Neither side vulnerable.

NORTH

- ♠ K 9 2
- ♥ A 7 2
- ♦ J 9 6 4
- ♣ A 8 5

EAST

- ♠ J 8 7 3
- ♥ 10 4
- ♦ A 5
- ♣ 10 9 6 3 2

WEST

- ♠ 10 5 4
- ♥ K 9 8 6 3
- ♦ K 7 3
- ♣ J 7

SOUTH

- ♠ A Q 6
- ♥ Q J 5
- ♦ Q 10 8 2
- ♣ K Q 4

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

There are some plays that run so contrary to normal procedure that when the opportunity to make them arises, they can be easily overlooked. Yet when these selfsame plays are later pointed out, their wisdom cannot be denied.

Take this case where West led a heart against three notrump. South took East's ten with the queen and counted eight winners in spades, clubs and hearts. Because his ninth trick could come only from diamonds, he crossed to the spade king at trick two and led a low diamond toward his hand.

East then made a very good play by rising with the ace and returning a heart, establishing West's suit. Since declarer could not come to nine tricks without continuing diamonds, the contract went down one, with the defenders scoring two diamonds and three hearts.

South's undoing occurred at trick one, when he won the ten of hearts with the queen. Had he refused to win this trick, declarer would have retained his Q-J as a second stopper against West's king, but with one important difference: After East returned a heart, he would have no more hearts to lead later on.

It then would not have mattered whether East won the first diamond lead or not. If he did, he could not continue hearts, giving South time to establish his diamond tricks. And if West won the first diamond lead, he would have no subsequent entry card to his long suit.

How can declarer know he should refuse to take the first heart trick? Because the chief threat to the contract is that West might have five hearts and a diamond entry. By ducking at trick one, South severs East-West communications without giving up his two heart tricks.

It is true that this approach would fail if West had five hearts and both diamond honors, but that holding is not nearly as likely as finding West with only one of the top diamonds.

Tomorrow: Rules are made to be broken.

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Tomorrow's Horoscope

By HOLIDAY MATHIS



Mercury Solar Conjunction

The alignment of Mercury and the sun reminds us that everyone likes to be in cahoots with success. Far fewer will align themselves with people and situations that are unproven. It's why, if you think you have an idea, it's good to put it in motion regardless of whether or not you have anyone else's support, just to prove the concept.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You are well aware that people have lives outside of the relationship you share, and yet today this fact will present itself in surprising ways within your inner circle.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Don't know what to do? A little thing like that shouldn't stop you. Jump in and start narrowing the field. Just be sure to get out quickly once you realize it's not for you. Either way, you'll stumble into luck with this approach today.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Q: What's sweet and best served cold? A: Either revenge or ice cream.

The former will be on your mind today, not in a vindictive way, just in the way that your success will surely annoy your enemies.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Even though you'd love to do all the things that matter to your dear ones, some of those things are hard, inconvenient or simply not interesting to you. And when you do them anyway -- that's love.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). The gap between the way you are and the way you want people to think you are -- well, that's a discrepancy for the ages. Since the same is true for everyone you know, why not give yourself a break? You're human.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Instead of simply saying "No," you'll say it more nicely -- something along the lines of "Sorry, it's not going to work" or "Thanks for asking. Wish I could."

Your good manners and superior language

will set you apart as a caring person.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). If you can't stick with a project, don't take that as a sign that you're personally lacking in any way. Take it as a sign that the right solution is still out there. The right solution is one you can stick with.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Those who are fantastic at turning a potentially negative thing into an absolutely positive statement are people who you need on your side right now. Find them, and discuss your plans.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). To try and make motivation happen for other people might be pointless. People generally motivate themselves. You can, however, inspire -- by what you say, by who you are -- and this is what you'll do.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Before you try to love others in (SET ITAL) your(END ITAL) way you'll hopefully remember that they can't comprehend it in that way. Figure out what communicates love in (SET ITAL)their(END ITAL) way, and bring it like that. You'll be golden.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You'll gain an advantage in a professional environment. New responsibilities will come with better pay. Tonight: Someone special will seem to favorably alter the light in the room.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Some live in unimaginable excess, while the lot of millions who are lacking in the basic survival needs is not so difficult to picture. You'll try to equalize whatever you can about the world today. Small efforts will count in a big way.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Dec. 12). Many crave your attention.

not least of all you. You may not be entirely sure the best way to deliver that, but this solar return is one of experimentation and learning how to best support yourself so that you can offer your unique contribution to the world. There's a mystery to solve in February. A sizable sale happens in April. Leo and Aries adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 3, 28, 20, 47 and 38.

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

AQUARIUS: The friendliest of puppies is Aquarius. She'll make people smile within seconds of meeting. Her gentle curiosity has a way of opening doors. This dog's network of friends includes humans, dogs, cats and more. Singles who own an Aquarius dog will find that the puppy is the best ice-breaker around. Also, the Aquarius dog can serve as a test for potential suitors. Anyone who cannot get along with the Aquarius dog is suspect.

Born into the sign of philanthropy, Aquarius pups make excellent service dogs, especially for the blind and ailing. They put people in a receptive mood and bring them together. This dog is somewhat indiscriminate and doesn't see differences in people, which puts those who feel like outsiders at ease.

Because of the Aquarius dog's high intelligence, extra challenges will be needed to keep this dog occupied. You should never underestimate an Aquarius dog's ability to destroy things, as this dog takes destruction to the level of art. Before you leave an Aquarius dog alone, look around and assess the worst that could go wrong. Then take measures to prevent that loss.

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

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SUDOKU

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

Here's How It Works:

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

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

ANSWER:

	KMID (3)	UNI (4)	KPEJ (5)	KOSA (7)	KTLE (8)	KWES (9)	KMLM (12)	KPBT (13)	KWTT (14)	KWES2 (15)	WTBS (33)	TNT (34)	ESPN (35)	ESPN2 (36)	FSN (38)	USA (55)	A&E (58)	DISC (60)
	Midland	Spanish	Odessa	Odessa	Telemundo	Midland	Odessa	Odessa	Odessa	Midland	Atlanta	Atlanta	Sports	Sports	Sports	New York	New York	Discovery
5:PM	Local 2	P. Luche	Broke Girl	CBS 7	Tele	News	Shofar	Focus	Hawaii Five-0	American	Fam. Guy	Bones	SportsCenter	Around Pardon Snow	Football Snow	Chrisley	The First 48	Moonshiners
6:PM	Jeopardy!	Enamorámome	Big Bang	CBS 7	Caso Cerado	News	Perspect	Business	M*A*S*H	Fam. Guy	Big Bang	Bones	NBA Basketball: Lakers at Knicks	College Basketball	Power of Unleash	Chrisley	The First 48	Moonshiners
7:PM	Middle Wheel	Rey David	Lethal Weapon	NCIS (DVS)	Milagros de Navidad	The Voice	News	Finding Your Roots	Griffith	Countdown	Big Bang	Major Crimes		C'boys	WWE SmackDown!	The First 48	Moonshiners: Outlaw	
8:PM	blackish	Mi marido tiene	Brooklyn Nine-Nine	Bull	Sangre de mi tierra	Gwen Stefani's You	Light of Southwest	Finding Your Roots	Mama's ALF	Fashion Show	Big Bang	Major Crimes		College Basketball: Michigan at Texas	CBR	The First 48	Moonshiners	
9:PM	Kevin (Probably) Impacted	Caer en tentación	News TMZ	NCIS: New Orleans	Señora Acero 4	Chicago Med	Light of Southwest	Frontline	Heroes	Page Six	Jokers	(:01) Major Crimes	NBA Basketball: Spurs at Mavericks			Chrisley	Who Killed Tupac?	Bushcraft Build-Off
10:PM	Local 2	Impacto	Mom	CBS 7	Tele	News	Creation	To Be Announced	C. Burnett	Seinfeld	Conan	(:02) Law & Order		SportsCenter	World Poker	Mod Fam	Who Killed Tupac?	(:02) Moonshiners
11:PM	Jimmy Kimmel Live	Noticiero	Mod Fam	Late Show-Colbert	Titulares	Tonight Show	M:25	Newsline	Perry Mason	Rules	Jokers	(:02) Law & Order	SportsCenter	Baseball Tonight	UEFA Soccer	Mod Fam	(:03) The First 48	Bushcraft Build-Off
12:AM	Nightline	Deportivo	How I Met James Corden	Señora Acero 4	Sangre de mi tierra	Seth Meyers	HaYesod On the (Off Air)	T. Smiley	Tw. Zone	King/Hill	Conan	(:12:02) Law & Order	SportsCenter	Jalen Fantasy	UEFA Champions League Soccer	Chrisley	The First 48	(:12:04) Moonshiners
1:AM	Extra	Quiero Amarte	How I Met Holly	ET	Programa De siones	Daily News	Light of Southwest	Hitchcock	King	Movie: King Kong, Adrien Brody	(:02) Law & Order	SportsCenter	NBA Basketball: Lakers at Knicks	Law & Order: SVU	Who Killed Tupac?	(:04) Moonshiners		

ANDY CAPP



AGNES



ARCHIE



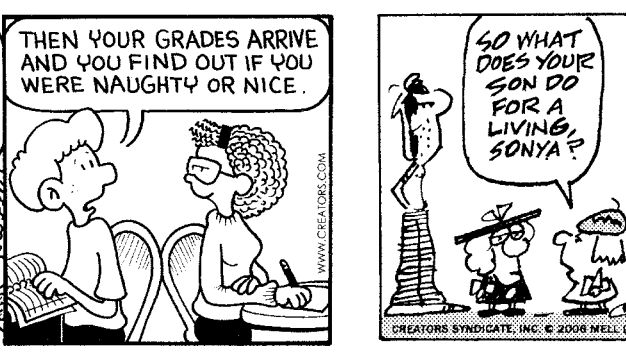
ONE BIG HAPPY



NEST HEAD



MOMMA



This Date In History

Today is Tuesday, Dec. 12, the 346th day of 2017. There are 19 days left in the year. Hanukkah, the Jewish Festival of Lights, begins at sunset.

Today's Highlights in History:

- On Dec. 12, 1917, during World War I, a train carrying some 1,000 French troops from the Italian front derailed while descending a steep hill in Modane (moh-DAN'); at least half of the soldiers were killed in France's greatest rail disaster. Father Edward Flanagan founded Boys Town outside Omaha, Nebraska.
- On this date:
 - In 1787, Pennsylvania became the second state to ratify the U.S. Constitution.
 - In 1897, "The Katzenjammer Kids," the pioneering comic strip created by Rudolph Dirks, made its debut in the New York Journal.
 - In 1906, President Theodore Roosevelt nominated Oscar Straus to be Secretary of Commerce and Labor; Straus became the first Jewish Cabinet member.
 - In 1925, the first motel — the Motel Inn — opened in San Luis Obispo, California.
 - In 1937, Japanese aircraft sank the U.S. gunboat Panay on China's Yangtze River. (Japan apologized, and paid \$2.2 million in reparations.)
 - In 1946, a United Nations committee voted to accept a six-block tract of Manhattan real estate offered as a gift by John D. Rockefeller, Jr. to be the site of the U.N.'s headquarters.
 - In 1947, the United Mine Workers union disaffiliated from the American Federation of Labor.
 - In 1963, Kenya became independent of Britain.
 - In 1977, the dance movie "Saturday Night Fever," a Paramount Pictures release starring John Travolta, premiered in New York.
 - In 1985, 248 American soldiers and eight crew members were killed when an Arrow Air charter crashed after takeoff from Gander, Newfoundland.
 - In 1997, Ilich Ramirez Sanchez, the international

al terrorist known as "Carlos the Jackal," went on trial in Paris on charges of killing two French investigators and a Lebanese national. (Ramirez was convicted, and is serving a life prison sentence.)

In 2000, George W. Bush became president-elect as a divided U.S. Supreme Court reversed a state court decision for recounts in Florida's contested election.

Ten years ago; Republican presidential rivals gathered in Johnston, Iowa, called for deep cuts in federal spending in a debate remarkably free of acrimony. President George W. Bush vetoed a second bill that would have expanded government-provided health insurance for children. Ike Turner, the rock pioneer and ex-husband of Tina Turner, died in San Marcos, California, at age 76.

Five years ago: North Koreans danced in the streets of their capital, Pyongyang, after the regime of Kim Jong Un succeeded in firing a long-range rocket in defiance of international warnings. Pope Benedict XVI sent his first tweet from his new account; it read, "Dear friends, I am pleased to get in touch with you through Twitter. Thank you for your generous response. I bless all of you from my heart."

One year ago: Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell and House Speaker Paul Ryan endorsed investigations into the CIA's belief that Russia had meddled in the November election to help Donald Trump win, a claim the president-elect called "ridiculous."

Today's Birthdays: Former TV host Bob Barker is 94. Basketball Hall of Famer Bob Pettit is 85. Singer Connie Francis is 80. Singer Dionne Warwick is 77. Rock singer-musician

Dickey Betts is 74. Hall of Fame race car driver Emerson Fittipaldi is 71. Actor Wings Hauser is 70. Actor Bill Nighy (ny) is 68. Actor Duane Chase (Film: "The Sound of Music") is 67. Country singer LaCosta is 67. Gymnast-turned-actress Cathy Rigby is 65. Author Lorna Landvik is 63. Singer-musician Sheila

E. is 60. Actress Sheree J. Wilson is 59. Pop singer Daniel O'Donnell is 56. International Tennis Hall of Famer Tracy Austin is 55. Rock musician Eric Schenkman (Spin Doctors) is 54. Rock musician Nicholas Dimichino (Nine Days) is 50. Author Sophie Kinsella is 48. News anchor Maggie Rodriguez is 48. Actress

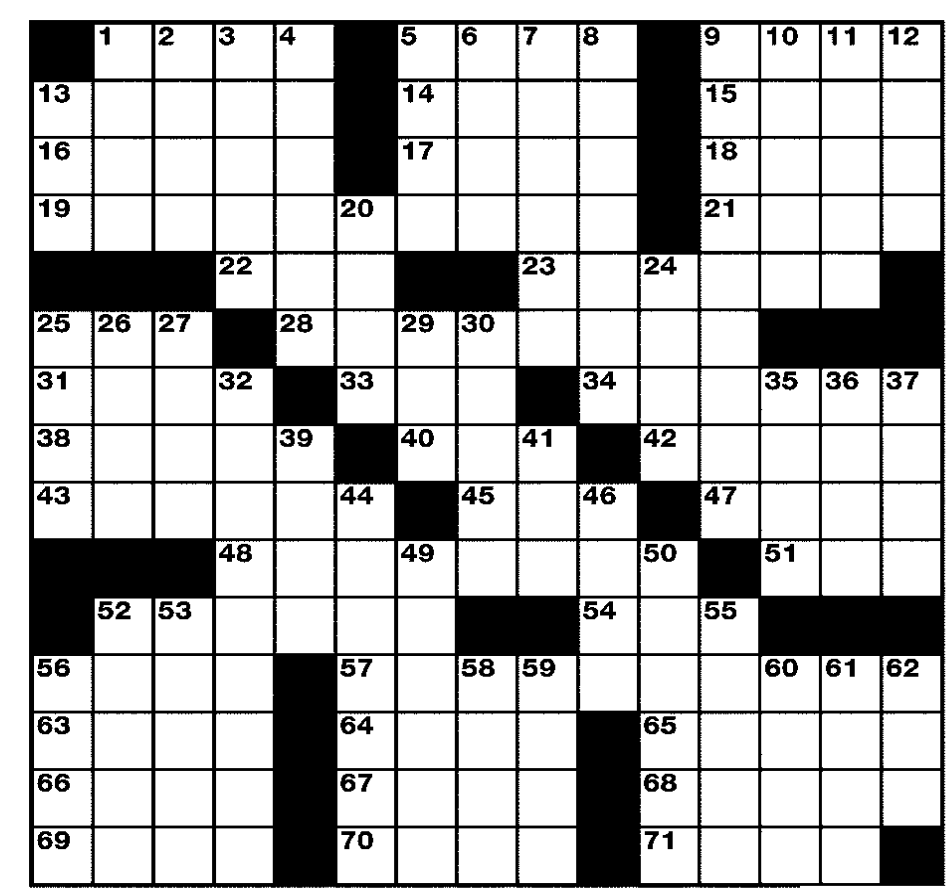
Jennifer Connelly is 47. Actress Madchen Amick is 47. Actress Regina Hall is 47. Country singer Hank Williams III is 45. Actress Mayim Bialik is 42. Model Bridget Hall is 40. Actor Lucas Hedges (Film: "Manchester by the Sea") is 21. Actress Sky Katz (TV: "Raven's Home") is 13.

Thought for Today: "Experience has taught me that the only cruelties people condemn are those with which they do not happen to be familiar." Ellen Glasgow American author (1874-1945).

Newsday Crossword

- ACROSS
- 1 Annoys
 - 5 Milky gemstone
 - 9 Milk that has no 33 Across
 - 13 Be nosy
 - 14 "Me neither"
 - 15 Kournikova of tennis
 - 16 Crown of a princess
 - 17 Old furnace fuel
 - 18 Tidy
 - 19 Red fruit
 - 21 Prefix for scope or vision
 - 22 Pt. opposite SSW
 - 23 Fill with dismay
 - 25 Historical period
 - 28 Be dazed
 - 31 Trees used for archery bows
 - 33 The "2%" of 2% milk
 - 34 Twofold
 - 38 Farm soil
 - 40 Coffee alternative
 - 42 Bogged down
 - 43 Discover by careful observation
 - 45 Paintings, sculptures, etc.
 - 47 Warty hopper
 - 48 Police vehicle
 - 51 Pie in the ___ (unrealistic prospect)
 - 52 Ashen complexion
 - 54 Potpie legume
 - 56 Prefix for final
 - 57 Red emergency vehicle
 - 63 Not a duplicate: Abbr.
 - 64 Working busily
 - 65 Ocean's highs and lows

- 66 Close by, poetically
 - 67 Religious offshoot
 - 68 Watchful
 - 69 Piggy bank opening
 - 70 Genealogy chart
 - 71 Starring role
- DOWN
- 1 "What's ___ for me?"
 - 2 Lion's warning
 - 3 Moslem holy book
 - 4 Gives rise to
 - 5 A single time
 - 6 Low-quality
 - 7 Where Noah's Ark landed
 - 8 Frog's perch in a pond
 - 9 Red Yuletide costume
 - 10 Prepare to propose
 - 11 Counting everything
 - 12 Chess game ending
 - 13 Thoroughfares that may cross aves.
 - 20 Burger meat
 - 24 High-school dance
 - 25 What contact lenses are placed on
 - 26 Bring in a harvest
 - 27 Out of whack
 - 29 Have dinner
 - 30 Pilfer
 - 32 Red traffic signal
 - 35 Male sibs
 - 36 Faucet problem
 - 37 Whirlpool
 - 39 Fling forcefully
 - 41 Circle segment
 - 44 Over the speed limit
 - 46 Mailing-box sealer
 - 49 Novelist or columnist
 - 50 Limo for a 24 Down, for example
 - 52 Great danger
 - 53 Mexican friend
 - 55 Limber
 - 56 Male children
 - 58 Pasta alternative
 - 59 Ending for luncheon
 - 60 Creative thought
 - 61 Uncool person
 - 62 Superlative suffix



Answer to previous puzzle

M	A	S	T	S	R	A	I	G	S	C	L	A	T
B	L	E	E	P	E	M	I	T	S	E	C	T	
A	M	A	N	A	L	O	V	E	I	L	I	E	
S	A	L	T	S	H	A	K	E	R	F	I	R	
M	I	X	E	D	I	S	O	N					
A	T	R	I	S	K	A	L	O	E				
S	O	A	R	E	L	M	O	L	I	M	E	S	
S	U	G	A	R	S	U	B	S	T	I	T	U	T
T	R	E	S	S	G	L	E	E	A	T	T	N	
T	R	E	S	S	V	I	S	E	H	A	L	T	T
N	I	N	E	P	M	S	E	T					
A	T	O	P	P	E	P	P	E	R	M	I	L	L
M	A	R	E	O	R	E	O	E	R	I	E		
E	L	S	E	R	I	O	T	S	T	A	F	F	
D	Y	E	S	T	E	N	S						

High school student carries collapsed marathoner to victory



AP photo

In this Sunday, Dec. 10, 2017, photo, Ariana Luterman, 17, back, helps Chandler Self, center, at the finish line during the BMW Dallas Marathon in Dallas, as Shalane Flanagan, four-time Olympian, left, watches.

DALLAS (AP) — In just 24 hours, her face and name have become world famous for what's seen as a supreme act of sportsmanship.

Dallas-area high school student Ariana Luterman was finishing the anchor leg of a girls' relay in Sunday's Dallas Marathon

when she saw the legs of the women's marathon leader, Dr. Chandler Self, start to buckle from exhaustion yards from the finish line.

Acting apparently instinctively, Luterman helped Self to her feet and half-carried her to the finish line, giving the New

York City psychiatrist the women's championship. Self's family later told her she'd been credited with the win.

Self said Luterman came alongside her two miles from the finish and encouraged her to finish the race. Video of the finish has gone viral.

Martin headed to Rangers after 2 years in Japan

By SCHUYLER DIXON

AP Sports Writer

ARLINGTON, Texas — The Texas Rangers are bringing another pitcher back from Japan to try to bolster their bullpen, and this time it's a homegrown talent who took a long road to his first shot at the majors three years ago.

The Rangers and right-hander Chris Martin have agreed on a \$4 million, two-year contract after the reliever spent the past two seasons in Japan, a person with direct knowledge of the deal told The Associated Press on Monday.

Texas will be Martin's third major league team after previous stints with Colorado and the New York Yankees. The person spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity because the deal was pending a physical.

Two years ago, the Rangers signed Tony Barnette after the right-hander spent six seasons in Japan. Earlier this month, Barnette signed for a third season in Texas after a strong debut in 2016

followed by a rough second year.

In two seasons with the Nippon Ham Fighters, Martin had a 1.12 ERA in 92 appearances, including 21 saves in 2016.

The 31-year-old Martin was born in Arlington and pitched at Arlington High School before twice opting not to sign after getting drafted. Martin hurt his shoulder after deciding to return to McLennan Community College in Waco and eventually had surgery.

Martin returned and tried to pitch for an independent league team in nearby Fort Worth but quit when the shoulder still bothered him. After three years out of baseball, Martin began throwing pain-free, starting a process that eventually got him a spot in the minors with the Boston organization.

He was traded to the Rockies three years later and had a 6.89 ERA in 16 appearances in the big leagues. The Yankees purchased Martin's contract and he had a 5.66 ERA in 24 games with them in 2015 before going to Japan.



STARS

Continued from Page 7

the play, but the referees stayed with the original call.

"I thought the mental toughness was after the (Nash) goal," Hitchcock said. "I don't know why that goal was allowed but I thought our next shift was outstanding. That to me is the mental toughness that we are starting to show. We had the Rangers in for 35 seconds in their own zone and that's a good sign."

Julius Honka put Dallas in front when he drove a slap shot past Pavelec at 6:30 of the second period for his first of the season. The 2014 first-round pick rejoined the lineup after sitting for the previous three games.

"If we play like that, we can beat any team in this league," Honka said. "We just have to keep going and keep up the good work."

New York generated very little offensive pressure for the first two periods. J.T. Miller had a breakaway opportunity at 8:46 of the second, but came up empty.

"I think everyone in here knows

that was embarrassing for two periods," Rangers forward Mats Zuccarello said. "They smacked us around and we didn't win one battle, we didn't win a puck battle in front of the net. We weren't first on the pucks. It's not acceptable for the team that we are supposed to be. I think everyone in here knows that."

NOTES: Rangers C Mika Zibanejad missed his sixth consecutive game due to a concussion. Zibanejad has been skating on his own and participated in New York's morning skate, but has not been cleared for contact. ... New York D Marc Staal skated in his 719th game, tying Andy Bathgate for 11th place on the franchise's career games list. ... Stars F Jason Dickinson, who was recalled from the minors over the weekend, played on Dallas' fourth line. ... Dallas F Antoine Roussel was held out after suffering an upper-body injury against the Golden Knights on Saturday.

UP NEXT
Rangers: Visit the Ottawa Senators on Wednesday.
Stars: Visit the New York Islanders on Wednesday.



ROCKETS

Continued from Page 7

left.

Jrue Holiday made a basket after that, but Harden hit a 3-pointer seconds later to push the lead to 127-121. Harden stole the ball from E'Twaun Moore after a timeout by New Orleans. He was fouled and made both free throws to make it 129-121 with 34 seconds left.

"James running out of gas in the first half, and then his leg was hurting him and all that," coach Mike D'Antoni said. "But then at the end he just puts daggers in people."

After scoring 48 points in Houston's last game, Harden finished with 26 on Monday, but he tied a career-high with 17 assists, finding the 6-foot-10 Capela under the basket again and again.

"Harden and CP3 closed out the game, they are both great players,"

New Orleans coach Alvin Gentry said. "We had our opportunity, but couldn't quite get it done."

Holiday had a season-high 37 points for the Pelicans and Rajon Rondo had a triple-double of 13 points, 12 rebounds and 12 assists. Moore had a career-high 36 points and made a career-most six 3-pointers on a night New Orleans set a franchise record with 18 3-pointers.

The Pelicans led by seven entering the fourth and were up by eight with about 10 minutes left when Moore scored all their points in a 6-2 run. Houston used an 11-3 spurt after that to tie it at 112-112 with about six minutes remaining. Paul made five points in that span and Capela capped it with two dunks.

New Orleans was without Anthony Davis, who sat out with a groin injury. He missed three games after sustaining the injury on Dec. 1 but played in

the last two games before the problem began to bother him again.

The Pelicans were up by 2 early in the third quarter when Holiday scored five quick points to push the lead to 89-82. They led by seven later in the quarter when Holiday got going again, scoring all of their points in a 5-2 run that made it 96-86.

Another basket by Holiday extended the lead to 13 points with about two minutes left in the quarter. But Paul outscored the Pelicans 8-2 the rest of the quarter to allow the Rockets to get within 103-96 entering the fourth. He made two 3-pointers in that stretch, with the second one coming just before the buzzer.

DeMarcus Cousins received a technical foul in the second quarter when he shoved Trevor Ariza away from him with two hands after Ariza fouled him. Ariza yelled at Cousins after

the push and Chris Paul and Harden pulled him away as he walked toward him before order was restored.

TIP-INS
Pelicans: New Orleans set a season-high with 74 first-half points. ... Holiday has scored 30 or more points in two straight games. ... Cousins had 24 points and 14 rebounds.

Rockets: Harden's 14 assists in the first half tied a franchise record for assists in a half. Harden also did it last year and John Lucas did it on Oct. 27, 1977. ... Paul finished with 20 points.

STREAKING
Houston's 10-game winning streak is tied for its longest since the Rockets won a franchise-record 22 straight games in 2008. They have lost just once in the last 17 games.

UP NEXT
Pelicans: Host Milwaukee on Wednesday.

Rockets: Host Charlotte on Wednesday.



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