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BIG SPRING WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2017

HERALD



VOLUME 113, NUMBER 61 COPYRIGHT 2017 75 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 SUNDAY

City Council approves Historic Spring Project Phase 2

By **ROGER CLINE**
 Staff Writer

After a lengthy discussion of the risks and merits of the plan at Tuesday evening's meeting, the Big Spring City Council decided to move forward with Phase 2 of the Historic Spring Restoration Project.

"I think for everyone who has gone out to see Phase 1 of the Spring Project and what has been done out there as our namesake, to be something that will have a life-long effect for our residents of Big Spring and Howard County in trying to preserve our heritage in the spring," said

City Manager Todd Darden. "I thank Mrs. (Community Services Director Debbie) Wegman and her staff; Mr. Kelly (Cook, of KDC Associates in Midland), the architect; and our contractor, Mr. (Tommy) Hawkins, and the committee



Darden who had a lot of meetings associated with that project. We ended up with something fabulous and something we can be proud of."

Phase 2 of the project, with

a price tag of \$413,250, will include additional parking at the site, a pavilion, and a bridge connecting the pavilion to the Spring Plaza area. Phase 1 of the project cost about \$1.4 million, and included construction of the plaza and performance stage, including seating and several stone and metal monuments depicting local history; renovation of the spring itself, including pumping systems to recreate the spring's flow; and lighted observation walkways around the spring.

Some city council members worried that the money for Phase 2, to be taken from the

Hotel Tax Fund, could leave the fund dangerously low on cash.

"The Spring Project is something we do need to complete. It is an absolute jewel out there. However, all these numbers hedge on one thing and we all know what it is: It's the price of oil," said Councilman Raul Benavides. "Our hotel/motel revenue has increased so much, and, yes, we have two new hotels. We could have five new hotels. I don't see anything happening, but we don't predict the price of oil just like we don't predict the stock market. But that's what this hedges on. So

these numbers here, are they optimistic numbers? Realistic numbers? Worst-case-scenario numbers?"

City Finance Director Don Moore tried to placate Benavides' fears.

"As an accountant, I try to underestimate revenues and overestimate expenses," he said. "At this point in time, the financial picture looks pretty good. By the time you tell us to put it on the agenda and have your first and second round, we'll have to see again. But at this point, it's looking pretty good."

Councilman Terry See **CITY**, Page 3

Chamber Toy Drive to end Friday

By **AMBER MANSFIELD**
 Staff Writer

Christmas is the spirit of giving without a thought of getting back. The Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce has been doing just that, with their annual toy drive, in which they try to raise toys for other non-profit organizations



who help give back to underprivileged families. Each year the Chamber has been hosting a toy drive to hopes of helping out other organizations, who say all year is the time to give back and help others. Those organizations include: Cossacks Motorcycle Club, The Salvation Army, and CASA, who recruit, train, and support committed volunteers who are appointed to be the voice for children in court. Each one of these organizations extend helping hands all year long to those who need it most, and the Chamber simply wants to help out those non profits who never ask for anything in return.

"Help us, help those who work hard for community to give back," said Debbye

Valverde, the Executive Director Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce. "We really want these places to be able to provide a toy to every child, who may not have one other wise."

The toy drive's last day will be this Friday, and those who donate can drop off monetary or unwrapped toys for boys and girls from any age up to 18, at the Chamber of Commerce located at 215 W. Third St.

"We need donations in by Friday at noon at the latest," said Valverde. "That way we can get the toys in and the other organizations, and they will have time to distribute them."

There are a lot of children out there who may not get the same benefits as other children, and Christmas is such an important time in the life a child, it's detrimental that the community comes together to help every child experience a Christmas miracle.

"The toy drive has been a little slow, and we could really use everyone's help in trying to make sure every child has Christmas," said Valverde. "We only have a week left and even though we have had some generous donations, we really could use more, please everyone who can, lets make this happen."

There have been several business and individuals

See **DRIVE**, Page 3

Bulldogs come out on top



Courtesy photo
 Coahoma's Mason Moore, #12, takes the ball down the court in last night's match-up against the Hermleigh Cardinals. The Bulldogs beat the Cardinals with a whopping 80-40 score. For the full story, see Page 7.

Would-be suicide bomber in New York City faces court hearing

By **TOM HAYS and LARRY NEUMEISTER**
 Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — The man accused of carrying out a bomb attack in New York City's subway system was influenced by the sermons and writings of a radical Muslim preacher, Bangladeshi officials said Wednesday in the hours before the man was expected to have his first court appearance in the U.S.

Akayed Ullah, a Bangladeshi immigrant living in Brooklyn, had asked his wife in Bangladesh to read the writings and listen to the sermons of Moulana Jasimuddin Rahmani, the

currently imprisoned leader of a banned group called Ansarul-Bangla Team, said Monirul Islam, a top official of Bangladesh's counter-terrorism department.

The group has been linked to killings and attacks on secular academics and atheist bloggers in Bangladesh. Rahmani is serving time in prison for his involvement in the killings.

The wife was questioned in

Bangladesh and told investigators that her husband

See **NYC**, Page 3

Big Spring Herald's
Christmas Countdown

Tony says
 "Only 12 Days 'til Christmas!"
 (Tony Hernandez, Production Manager)



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Obituaries

Rodney "R.C." Carr



Rodney "R.C." Carr, 64, of Big Spring died Tuesday, Dec. 12, 2017, at his residence. The family will receive friends from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 14, 2017, at the Welch Reception Center located at 907 S. Lancaster. R.C. was born May 30, 1953, to Dalton and Emma Rose Carr. He is survived by a daughter,

Emileh Flitton and husband, Johnny of Midland; two grandchildren; a sister, Rhonda Harding and husband, Joe Pat of Vincent; a niece and nephew; and a brother, Rich Carr of Big Spring. R.C. is preceded in death by his father, Dalton Carr; his mother, Emma Carr Roach; a brother, Randy Carr; and a nephew, John Harding. Arrangements under the direction of Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home and Crematory. Online condolences may be made at www.npwelch.com.

Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity:

• **NICOLE RAE PRATHER**, 22, of 2604 Lynn Dr., was arrested on charges of evading arrest detention with vehicle or watercraft, possession of marijuana less than or equal to two ounces. • **GILBERT SILVA**, 30, of 1208 Mesa Ave., was arrested on the charge of assault by con-

tact. • **CORY WILKINS**, 40, of 1400 Wood St., was arrested on the charge of possession of marijuana less than or equal to two ounces. • **NICK HERNANDEZ**, 40, of 710 NW 8th St., was arrested on a warrant of criminal mischief less than or equal too \$750 to \$2,500. • **JOHN MARTIN RIOS**, 19, of 1507 S Johnson St., was arrested

on warrants of speeding, two counts of no driver's license when unlicensed, possession of controlled substance less than one gram, and possession of marijuana less than or equal too two ounces. • **DEBRA ANN LOPEZ**, 39, of 2410 Morrison Dr., was arrested on a charge of possession of dangerous drug. • **DIANA RODRIGUEZ ALVIZO**, 31, of

305 E 19th St., was arrested on a warrant of permit unlicensed operator to drive, all except parent or guardian. • **BURGLARY OF BUILDING** was reported on the 400 block of E 2nd St., 800 E 4th St. • **ACCIDENT MINOR** was reported on the 100 S Gregg St. • **THEFT** was reported on the 800 E 4th St.

Fire/EMS

Big Spring Fire Department/EMS reported the following activity:

• **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 200 block of Algertia. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center. • **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 2500

block of Langley. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center. • **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 300 block of Veterans Blvd. No transport. • **TRAUMA CALL** was reported in the 1800 block S Goliad. One per-

son was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center. • **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 5000 block of Dawson Dr. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center. • **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 1700

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

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 kinder-

garten 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. To volunteer, just show up at the time and dates listed. For more information, call, 432-935-3998.

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

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

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

Dances are from 7:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. with live bands. No alcohol or smoking permitted. There will be a pot luck as well so bring a dish if you want to eat. Cost has dropped to \$5 per person thanks to a sponsor Marcy House, 2301 Wasson Road.

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

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

• Big Spring Centennial Lion's Club meets twice a month at the Big Spring TA Truck Stop. They meet on the first Tuesday of the month at noon and the 3rd Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. Visitors are welcome.

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

Lupe Ortiz

Lupe Ortiz, 85, of Big Spring, died Tuesday, Dec. 12, 2017, at Scenic Mountain Medical Center. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Cindy Redding

Cindy Redding, 59, of Big Spring, died Tuesday, Dec. 12, 2017, in Ruidoso, New Mexico. The family will receive friends from 6 p.m. until 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 14, 2017, at Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Funeral service will be at 2 p.m. Friday at Myers & Smith Chapel.

Sheriff

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

Note – Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 79 inmates at the time of this report. • **DIANA RODRIGUEZ**, 31, was arrested by BSPD on a warrant of permit unlicensed operator to drive, all except parent or guardian. • **NICK HERNANDEZ**, 40, was arrested by BSPD on a warrant of criminal mischief less than or equal too \$750 to \$2,500. • **DEBRA ANN LOPEZ**, 39, was arrested by BSPD on a charge of possession of dangerous drug. • **NICOLE RAE PRATHER**, 22, was arrested by BSPD on charges of evading arrest detention with vehicle or watercraft, possession of marijuana less than or equal to two ounces. • **JOHN MARTIN RIOS**, 19, was arrested by BSPD on warrants of speeding, two counts of no driver's license when unlicensed, possession of controlled substance less than one gram, and possession of marijuana less than or equal too two ounces. • **GILBERT SILVA**, 30, was arrested by BSPD on the charge of assault by contact. • **CORY AUSTIN WILKINS**, 40, was arrested by BSPD on the charge of possession of marijuana less than or equal too two ounces.

Support Groups

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.

Correction

In Tuesday's edition of The Herald, it was incorrectly reported that 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. The correct information is as follows... The Lamesa ISD Board is considering including funds for the renovation of the space at the high school for Howard College, in an upcoming school bond election being discussed. Sometime in the early part of January, Howard College Board members will go to Lamesa and meet with the Lamesa ISD school board.

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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.

CITY

Continued from Page 1

McDaniel also urged caution. Addressing an early surplus to the General Fund from mineral royalties and bonuses of \$479,000 over an expected \$115,000 over the first three months of the fiscal year, McDaniel stressed the surplus will not continue. "It's going to go down. It's not going to continue at that rate. It never does," he said. "So consequently what's our 'Plan Two' if we're dependent totally upon the oilfield? We're saying that this thing is going to be taken care of because we're going to get all this money coming in. I'm just telling you what the facts are. It's going to go down."

McDaniel suggested accepting donations from area residents to help pay for the

work. "The other situation is, I really believe that there are individuals out there that are going to want to donate to this," he said. "Not only foundations in Midland, which is kind of obvious, but I feel like that should be 'Plan Two' as far as that's concerned. I really believe that we have got ourselves into a position where it appears to me that we need to be extremely careful about what we do this year, because we can't get into a cash-poor situation."

Several donations and grants have already been accepted by the council for the project, including a \$2,500 donation from the Big Spring High school Class of 1967, which was accepted at Tuesday night's meeting.

Other council members stressed urgency in completing the project.

"I've been out there probably more than the average person since this has opened, and there have been several times there hasn't been enough parking for people," Councilman Howard Stewart said. "Just like when we had the grand opening, we had to park them over at Kids' Zone to get them over there. Parking is an issue right now with the dozen spots? Sometimes we could have needed two dozen spots just from people stopping in to see it. That's why I think we need to go forward. It's risky, but I think it's worth the risk."

Councilman Jim DePauw said the heightened financial outlook helps make the risk a little more palatable. "I'm thinking we will make it because the Hotel Occupancy Tax is doing really well, and the reason it's doing really well is we've got an extra

two hotels that we didn't have last year," he said. "So in comparison to last year, we've got all those rooms in two new hotels. And I think there are some other things in the minors for the general funds that are exceeding what we budgeted for. I know it can be scary to get low on cash. Nobody likes that. But I think it's doable."

The council voted unanimously to move forward on the second phase of the project.

In other business, the council approved opening negotiations on a new easement for natural gas energy company Oneok, which will cross the Comanche Trail Municipal Golf west of U.S. Highway 87 between holes 2 and 7. The easement will run parallel to an existing easement.

The council also:

- Awarded bids for a new

fire truck pumper, in the amount of \$306,790 to Hall Buick Pontiac GMC of Tyler.

- Awarded bids for roof repairs to 12 city buildings stemming from 2015 hail damage in the amount of \$639,820.98 to Dura-Last and Prime Source Construction.
- Granted permission to seek engineering services for roadwork at the Airpark in relation to a TIGER grant to connect the Airpark to the Truck Reliever Route, and for 2018 street and parking lot sealcoat work.
- Accepted a donation of six park benches from Big Spring's Staked Plains Masonic Lodge #598, to be used throughout Comanche Trail Park as needed.

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

NYC

Continued from Page 1

discussed Rahman's writings with her during his last visit home, Islam said. Ullah, 27, was expected to make his first court appearance Wednesday in New York, where he is in a hospital being treated for burns from a pipe bomb he strapped to his body and detonated in a pedestrian tunnel linking two busy subway stations.

Prosecutors in New York said that after his capture, Ullah told interrogators he was on a mission to punish the U.S. for attacking the Islamic State group. "His motivation," Acting U.S. Attorney Joon Kim said, "was not a mystery."

Investigators found bomb-making materials in his apartment. They said he carried out the attack after researching how to build a bomb a year ago and planned his mission for several weeks. The bomb was assembled in the past week using fragments of a metal pipe, a battery and a Christmas tree light bulb, along with the metal screws, authorities said.

The defendant "had apparently hoped to die in his own misguided rage, taking as many innocent people as he could with him, but through incredible good fortune, his bomb did not seriously injure anyone other than himself," Kim said.

He was charged with providing material support to a terrorist group, use of a weapon of mass destruction and three bomb-related counts. He could get up to life in prison.

Relatives and police said Ullah last visited his wife and newborn son in Bangladesh in September, after which he returned to the United States.

Counterterrorism offi-

cials questioned the wife and her parents before releasing her Tuesday night, Islam said, adding that investigators were currently questioning his brother-in-law and also planned to question any known close associates.

Ullah's wife, Jannatul Ferdous, told ABC News in a brief interview conducted through the closed door of her home in Dhaka, Bangladesh, that she had never heard her husband speak negatively of the U.S. She said when she spoke to him by phone the morning of the bombing, he gave no indication of what he planned to do.

With a tragedy averted and a growing certainty that he acted alone, attention turned to how best secure New York City's vast public transportation system and the daunting task of identifying those eager to do it harm.

The security "requires every single member of the public's help," said New York Police Commissioner James O'Neill. "It requires their vigilance."

There also was political fallout, heightened by news that Ullah had taunted President Donald Trump on Facebook with a post that read, "Trump you failed to protect your nation."

In reaction to the bombing, the president demanded a tightening of immigration rules that allowed Ullah to enter the country in 2011 on a visa available to certain relatives of U.S. citizens. Less than two months ago, an Uzbek immigrant who came to the U.S. through a visa lottery was accused of killing eight people in New York by mowing them down with a truck along a bike path.

DRIVE

Continued from Page 1

who have donated either mon-

ey or toys to the Chamber's cause in helping out those organizations bring some Christmas joy to children's homes.

"We want to thank everyone

who has donated, to all the business who have donated to every single stranger, it helps more than you know" said Valverde. "And have a Merry Christmas."

Gillibrand got a fight she wants after Trump's fiery tweet

By **RICHARD LARDNER**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand got a fight she wants after President Donald Trump lashed out at the New York Democrat in a provocative tweet that claimed she'd begged him for campaign contributions and would "do anything" for them.

Gillibrand, who's up for re-election next year and is considered a possible presidential contender in 2020, has been an outspoken voice in the national debate over how to confront sexual assault and harassment. She's argued that the rules in institutions from Congress to Hollywood to the U.S. military are set to benefit the powerful and the favored at the expense of the vulnerable.

Gillibrand and a chorus of Democrats declared Trump's tweet to be sexually suggestive, an assertion the White House flatly rejected. Appearing Wednesday on NBC's "Today" show, Gillibrand was asked whether she'd misread the meaning of Trump's tweet. "No," she responded.

She said the tweet was "a sexual smear intended to silence me."

The fiery exchange with Trump could brighten the spotlight on Gillibrand's campaign to upend the dynamics and put power in the hands of the

victims while simultaneously pushing the 51-year-old mother of two boys to the forefront of an unformed Democratic presidential field.

She's scathed icons in her own party along the way. Gillibrand was appointed to Hillary Clinton's Senate seat, but she recently said Bill Clinton should have resigned the presidency for his improprieties. That led Clinton loyalists to criticize her as an ungrateful opportunist.

The back-and-forth between Trump and Gillibrand on Tuesday came as a wave of sexual misconduct allegations roils Capitol Hill, forcing several lawmakers out of office in just the last week alone. Sen. Al Franken, D-Minn., said he would resign amid an ethics probe into accusations that he sexually harassed several women. Reps. John Conyers, D-Mich., and Trent Franks, R-Ariz., also quit after misconduct accusations surfaced.

"I do think this is a reckoning. This is a watershed moment," Gillibrand said of the resignations in speaking to The Associated Press late last week. "Politicians should be held to the highest standards, not the lowest standards."

And she rejected the notion that she and other Democrats, by demanding

Franken and Conyers step aside, are making a calculation they hope will pay off politically as Trump continues to fend off allegations of sexual misconduct lodged over the last year by more than a dozen women.

"That couldn't be more cynical and backward," said Gillibrand, who was one of the first Democrats to call for Franken to step down. "It has nothing to do with politics. This whole debate is, 'Do we care about women.'" Gillibrand served notice several years ago that combating sexual assault would be her issue. A member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, she and other female lawmakers dressed down senior military leaders at a headline-making hearing, insisting sexual assault in the ranks has cost the services the trust and respect of the American people as well as the nation's men and women in uniform.

"Not every single commander neces-

sarily wants women in the force. Not every single commander believes what a sexual assault is. Not every single commander can distinguish between a slap on the ass and a rape because they merge all of these crimes together," Gillibrand told the uniformed men in 2013.

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL
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Jeff Carter, 54, died Monday. A memorial service will be at 2 p.m. today at Myers & Smith Chapel.

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

Donald Baker, 84, died Saturday. Services are pending with Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Cindy Redding, 59, died Tuesday. The family will receive friends from 6 p.m. until 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 14, 2017, at Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Funeral service will be at 2 p.m. Friday at Myers & Smith Chapel.

Lupe Ortiz, 85, died Tuesday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

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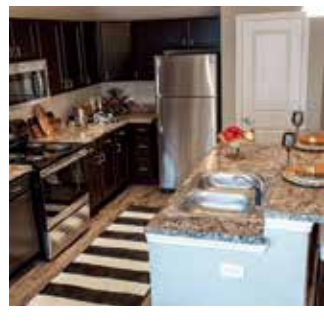
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This week I will continue with the fiction books. In "The Child" by Fiona Barton (F BAR F), a workman discovers a tiny skeleton as an old house is demolished. For journalist Kate Waters, it's a story that deserves attention. She cobbles together a piece for her newspaper, but at a loss for answers, she can only pose the question: Who is the Building Site Baby? As Kate investigates, she unearths connections to a crime that rocked the city decades earlier: A newborn baby was stolen from the maternity ward in local hospital and was never found. Her heartbroken parents were left devastated by the loss. As Kat is drawn into the pasts of the people who once lived in this neighborhood that has given up its greatest mystery, she soon finds herself the keeper of unexpected secrets that erupt in the lives of three women, and torn between what she can and cannot tell. "The Nearness of You" by Dorothy Garlock (F GAR D) finds Lily Denton spending her days working at the li-

brary and her nights hoping life doesn't pass her by. Ever since her mother died, her overprotective father won't ease up on her. Professional photographer Boone Tatum has a penchant for trouble,



MONICA MARTINEZ

and that's what landed him in this small town in the middle of nowhere. Yet the moment he meets beautiful Lily Denton and snaps her photograph, everything changes. Suddenly leaving is the furthest thing from Boone's mind or his heart. Danger slips silently into this sleepy town marking Lily as its own. Lily and Boone's dream of a life together will be thrown into peril unless Lily finds the courage to stand up for herself and a man she only just met and can't live without.

In "Defectors" by Joseph Kanon (F KAN J), Frank Weeks was exposed as a Com-

munist spy and vanished behind the Iron Curtain. Now, twelve years later, he has written his memoirs, a KGB-approved project certain to be an international bestseller, and has asked his brother, Simon, a respected New York publisher, to travel to Moscow to edit the manuscript. It's a reunion Simon both longs for and dreads. The book is sure to be filled with mischief and misinformation, Frank's motives suspect, the CIA hostile. The chance to see Frank, his adored older brother, proves irresistible. At first Frank is still Frank, but then Simon begins to glimpse another Frank, still capable of deceit, still actively working for "the Service." Pulled into Frank's twilight world, he finds himself caught between the KGB and the CIA in a fatal scheme that pits the brothers against each other.

In "Beach House for Rent" by Mary Alice Monroe (F MON M), Cara Rutledge rents out her quaint beach house to Heather Fordham for the entire summer. It's a win-win situation: Cara's generating income necessary to keep her

husband's ecotourism boat business afloat, and Heather has a quiet space in which to work and tend to her pet canaries uninterrupted. It isn't long before both women's idyllic summers are altered irrevocably: the alluring shorebirds and the man who rescues them begin to draw Heather out of the shell she's cultivated; at the same time, Cara's life reels with sudden tragedy, and she wishes to return to the beach house that had once been her port amid life's storms. When Heather refuses to budge from her newfound sanctuary, so begins the unlikely of rooming situations. While they start out as strangers, they learn that the only thing they can really rely on is each other.

In "The Best of Adam Sharp" by Graeme Simsion (F SIM G), Adam Sharp's piano playing led him into a passionate relationship with Angelina Brown, an intelligent and strong-willed actress. They had a chance at something more, but Adam didn't take it. Two decades later, Adam has the life he's planned for

himself. He's happy with his partner Claire, he excels in music trivia at quiz night at the local pub, he looks after his mother, he does the occasional consulting job in IT, but he can never shake off his nostalgia for what might have been. Then, out of nowhere, from another side of the world, Angelina gets in touch. Adam wonders what she wants and will he dare to live dangerously?

That's all the time for now so I leave you with a quote from Calvin Coolidge:

"Christmas is not a time nor a season, but a state of mind. To cherish peace and goodwill, to be plenteous in mercy, is to have the real spirit of Christmas."

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Texas man found dead with child appears to have killed self

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Officials in Central Texas say a 42-year-old man and a young girl were found dead with gunshot wounds in a home and it appears the man killed himself.

The Travis County sheriff's office says the two were found dead Monday in the home in southwestern Travis County.

Officials identified the man as Yariv Kaplan. Officials are still working to confirm the child's identity.

Kaplan's final cause and manner of death will be determined once officials receive the toxicology results from his autopsy.

Deputies found the bodies after responding to a call to check on the welfare of the home's residents.

Studies: Warming made Harvey's deluge 3 times more likely

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — New studies find global warming's fingerprints were all over the record rainfall from Hurricane Harvey this year.

While scientists say man-made climate change didn't trigger Harvey, two studies presented Wednesday calculate that a warmer, wetter world tripled the likelihood that the hurricane would douse and flood Houston. Other studies also find climate change factored into the storm's record rainfall.

Findings are being presented Wednesday at the American Geophysical Union meeting in New Orleans.

As Harvey battered Texas, researchers suspected that the storm was made worse by global warming, but didn't have the data to back that up until now.

Funeral set in San Antonio for slain San Marcos officer

SAN MARCOS, Texas (AP) — The funeral will be held for a Texas police officer who was fatally shot last week while trying to serve a warrant on a domestic violence suspect.

San Marcos Officer Kenneth Copeland's funeral is set for late Wednesday morning at Community Bible Church in San Antonio, located about 50 miles (80.46 kilometers) southwest of San Marcos. Interment follows on the church grounds.

A procession of emergency vehicle will escort Copeland's body from a funeral home in San Marcos to the San Antonio church.

The 58-year-old officer was a 19-year veteran of the San Marcos Police Department.

Copeland was shot Dec. 4. The man suspected of shooting him has been charged with capital murder of a peace officer.

Homeland Security chief lauds Texas 'sanctuary cities' ban

By WILL WEISSERT

Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — New U.S. Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen harshly criticized so-called "sanctuary cities" late Tuesday, urging the rest of the nation to emulate Texas' tough law banning them.

President Donald Trump's former deputy White House chief of staff, Nielsen was confirmed by the Senate last week. She wasted little time visiting Austin, where Travis County Sheriff Sally Hernandez once promised not to comply with some "detainers," or federal requests to hold for possible deportation people who were already jailed on non-immigration charges.

That helped prompt the Republican-controlled Texas Legislature to approve in May a sanctuary cities crackdown known as SB4, where sheriffs and police chiefs can face removal from office and even criminal charges for failing to fully enforce federal immigration policy. The measure now is being contested in federal court, but Nielsen nonetheless praised Texas for taking a "firm stand against dangerous and destructive sanctuary cities."

"I hope other states follow this lead," she said, calling for an elimination of a "shadow society outside the rule of law."

Choosing to come to Texas

to discuss sanctuary cities soon after taking her post sent a political message. Homeland Security has been leading the charge on implementing Trump's aggressive immigration agenda, and Nielsen has pledged to continue that.

She was in Baltimore earlier Tuesday with U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions, who said that this week's attack on the New York City subway system showed in the "starkest terms" that the failures of the U.S. immigration system are a national security issue.

Nielsen told reporters in Austin that years of relaxed federal immigration policy have also endangered police officers, saying "sanctuary cities put law enforcement lives at risk in favor of criminals who have no right to be in the United States."

Hernandez, a Democrat, had announced on the day of Trump's inauguration that Austin jails would only comply with federal requests to hold in jail immigrants suspected of violent crimes — not those being held on the most-common offenses like drunken driving. She cited a need to create trust between law enforcement and immigrant communities.

But Hernandez also announced policy changes after Texas' sanctuary cities ban was approved.

She was the only Texas law enforcement official to public-

ly oppose full compliance with federal detainer requests, but the state's largest cities, including Houston and Dallas, have joined forces in suing to block the law. Opponents argue such crackdowns make combating crime harder since it spreads fear and mistrust among immigrant communities and spooks potential witnesses to crimes from cooperating with police.

Nielsen didn't mention Hernandez by name, but called Texas' capital "a city whose political leadership has at times fought SB4." She urged Congress to deny "certain grants and funding" to communities nationwide that don't have anti-sanctuary cities policies.

"It is quite simple to me," she said. "If these sanctuary states and cities do not want to protect their citizens by upholding federal law, then they are not entitled to the federal government's money."

Also Tuesday, Nielsen announced that seven Texas counties had signed new agreements to join a federal program known as 287(g), which allows sheriff's deputies and other officials to get training to become certified immigration officers. Expanding the program has been a priority for the Trump administration, and the government now has 67 agreements with law enforcement agencies in 18 states — up from 31 agreements at the start of the year.

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In Alabama, an unusual alliance yields a Democratic upset

By **BILL BARROW**

Associated Press
MONTGOMERY, Alabama (AP) — Democrat Doug Jones assembled an unusual Deep South alliance to claim a Senate seat Tuesday in Republican-dominated Alabama, combining strong turnout among African-Americans and white liberals with enough crossover support from conservatives who couldn't stomach scandal-ridden Republican nominee Roy Moore.

Among those disaffected GOP voters was the state's most powerful Republican, Sen. Richard Shelby, who very well may have handed Jones his victory margin of about 1.5 percentage points. The six-term senator made a late campaign show of declaring he couldn't vote for Moore, an evangelical populist, after allegations from multiple women who said the 70-year-old molested and sexually pursued them decades ago, when they were in their teens and Moore was in his 30s.

Shelby, who was the last Democrat to win a Senate seat from Alabama in 1992 before switching parties two years later, declared the charges credible, despite Moore's denials, and the senior senator said he'd write in another Republican. Incomplete returns showed that about 1.7 percent of the more than 1.3 million Alabama voters did the same thing, almost certainly denying Moore votes that would have gone to any other Republican.

The result, driven also by surprisingly high turnout for a holiday season special election, upended the partisan splits in a state President Donald Trump won by 28 percentage points just 13 months ago. Republicans hold every other statewide office and six of seven U.S. House seats and

they dominate the state Legislature.

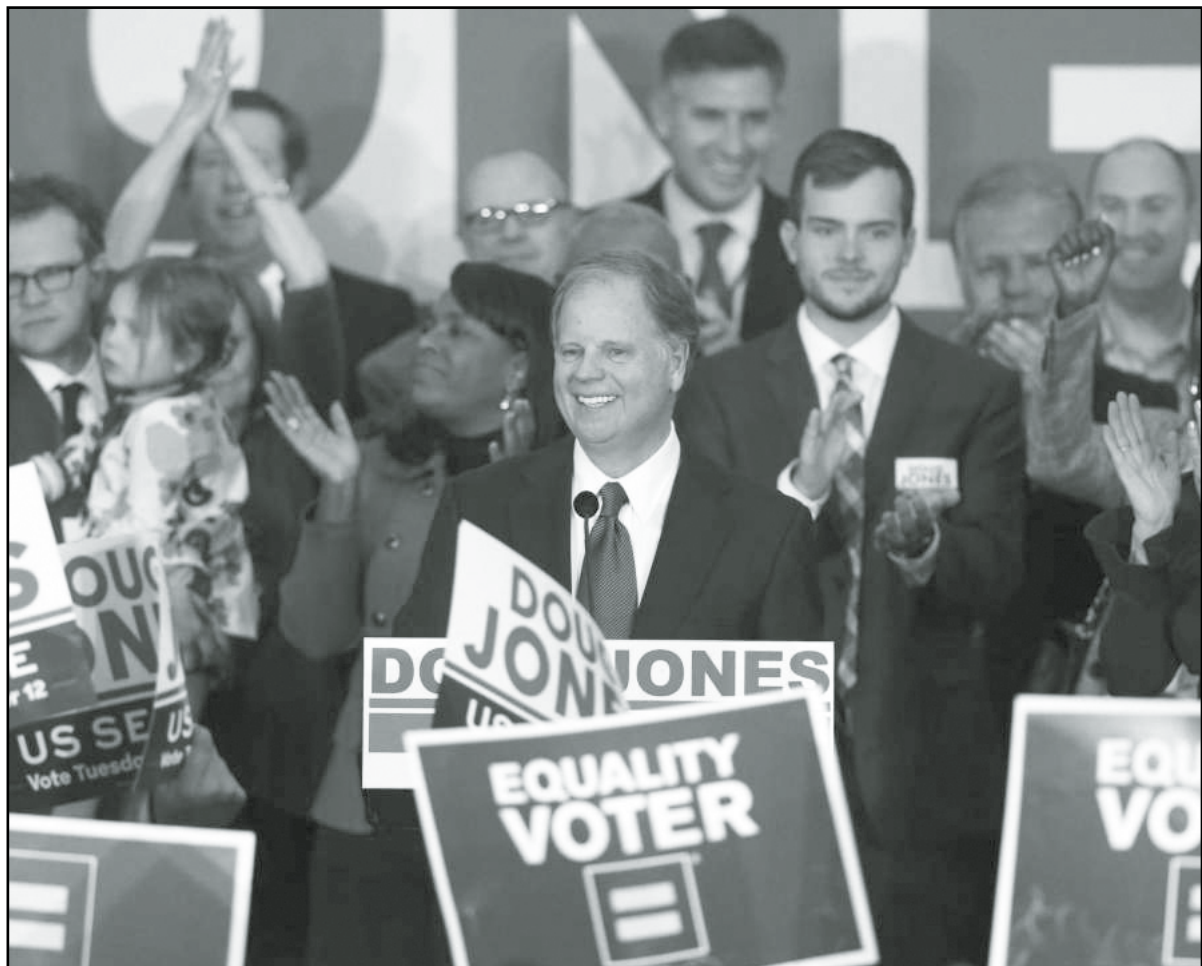
A 63-year-old former U.S. attorney, Jones will take the seat held previously by Attorney General Jeff Sessions.

Jones closed Democrats' usual gap by posting wide margins in the state's four most populous counties that fall along the Interstate 65 corridor, from Mobile County on the Gulf Coast to the NASA hub of Madison County near the Tennessee border. He also dominated the counties of the Black Belt, named for the color of its soil, and added wins in the counties of the state's two largest college campuses, the University of Alabama and Auburn University. Jones also narrowed the Republican advantages in several other counties across the state, though Moore dominated in many small towns and rural areas where his evangelical appeal is strongest.

The pattern copied the second of Moore's statewide victories for Alabama chief justice — but in that 2012 race, the Republican managed to survive with a 4-point victory. This time, voter turnout tended to be higher in Jones' strongholds than in Moore's.

Jefferson County, where Jones resides in a Birmingham suburb, highlights the Democrat's success in putting together disparate groups of Alabamians — black voters in the city and western suburbs, white Republicans from the southern suburbs. Jones won 68 percent to 30 percent in Jefferson, good for a 71,000-vote advantage, about 10 times his statewide margin. By comparison, Moore's Democratic opponent in 2012 managed 63 percent in that county.

To win black voters, Jones touted his biography as the prosecutor who won convictions of two Ku Klux Klans-



AP photo
Democrat Doug Jones speaks Tuesday, Dec. 12, 2017, in Birmingham, Ala. In a stunning victory aided by scandal, Jones won Alabama's special Senate election, beating back history, an embattled Republican opponent and President Donald Trump, who urgently endorsed GOP rebel Roy Moore despite a litany of sexual misconduct allegations.

men who killed four black girls in the 1963 bombing of Birmingham's 16th Street Baptist Church. To reach conservatives and moderate Republicans, Jones focused on Moore's baggage and featured Shelby's statements about his vote in television ads that ran in the campaign's closing days.

Ultimately the race was about Moore, from the allegations of misconduct to his controversial stints as Alabama Supreme Court chief justice, where both terms ended in his removal for defying federal law, including his refusal to acknowledge the U.S. Supreme Court's decision legalizing same-sex mar-

riage.

"I never thought ... Alabama would be so low, as it is at this point," said Rosa Thompson, a 78-year-old retired nurse from Demopolis, a Black Belt town. "We need Christians with true Christian values. Not just talk the word. We need them to live it. I think God will be pleased if we go out and vote for Doug Jones."

Moore certainly maintained his base despite the charges.

"The one that seems to be closest to God is the one I'm going to vote for," said Margie McMinn, 65, of Clanton, a retired textile worker.

In Midland City, where Moore closed his campaign

Monday night with a large rally, Pam McLain, 63, said she accepted Moore's denials of sexual misconduct. "I just don't believe it. I know it happens because it happened to me I have been sexually harassed on two different jobs but I don't believe this. I think it's been too long and I just don't believe it," McLain said.

Moore won McMinn's Chilton County with 75 percent of the vote and McLain's Dale County with 63 percent of the vote. But both gave him much smaller raw-vote victories, a trend that carried across the state's less populous counties.

Crews gain on huge California fire but wind threat remains

LOS ANGELES (AP) — After announcing increased containment on one of the biggest wildfires in California history, officials warned that communities remain at risk and the threat could increase as unpredictable winds whip up again.

Red Flag warnings for fire danger due to Santa Ana winds and a critical lack of moisture were extended, with a possible increase in gusts into the end of the week.

Evacuations continued Wednesday for the seaside enclaves of Montecito, Summerland and Carpinteria and the inland agricultural town of Fillmore.

Officials announced Tuesday night that crews had carved containment lines around one-quarter of the blaze straddling Santa Barbara and Ventura counties.

The so-called Thomas fire has burned over 900 structures, at least 700 of them homes, since it broke out Dec. 4. It stretches across nearly 370 square miles (958 sq. kilometers) of Southern California, making it the fifth largest in state history.

Elsewhere, fire officials announced that a cooking fire at a homeless encampment sparked a blaze last week that destroyed six homes in the Bel Air neighborhood of Los Angeles.

Arson investigators determined that the so-called Skirball fire near the world-famous Getty museum was started by

an illegal fire at a camp near a freeway underpass, city fire Capt. Erik Scott said.

The camp was empty when firefighters found it, but people apparently had been sleeping and cooking there for at least several days, he said.

Back at the largest of the wildfires, firefighters protected foothill homes while the flames churned mostly into unoccupied forest land, Santa Barbara County Fire Department spokesman Mike Eliason said.

Rock and Roll Hall of Fame member Eric Burdon and his wife, Marianna, of Ojai were among the people who fled the smoke Tuesday. Burdon, a member of the 1960s British Invasion band The Animals, wrote on Facebook last week about having to flee and returning temporarily to find their home still standing with ashes all around.

"A week like this gives you the perspective that life is what truly matters," he wrote.

A photo accompanying the post showed his handprint and signature written in ashes.

Mental health care worries linger 5 years after Sandy Hook

By **SUSAN HAIGH**

Associated Press
HARTFORD, Conn. (AP) — Anguished mothers with mentally ill children have sought out Liza Long for help ever since she wrote an essay, "I am Adam Lanza's Mother," comparing experiences with her son to the emotionally troubled 20-year-old who carried out the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting.

The massacre sounded alarms nationally about gaps in mental health care and led to calls for better screening and services, especially for young people showing a propensity for violence, but some key reforms enacted in the wake of the Sandy Hook shooting depend on funding that has yet to be delivered by Congress. And Long still hears almost daily from families overwhelmed by their children's behaviors

and struggling to get treatment.

"We're still not seeing the health access, the access to mental health care," said Long, an Idaho mother of four and community college instructor who credited her essay with attracting the attention of a physician who correctly diagnosed and treated her then-13-year-old son for bipolar disorder.

Like other mass shootings before and since, the tragedy prompted calls for tighter controls on guns and improved mental health treatment, but five years later, mental health care providers are waiting for promised boosts in funding, and many families are still battling insurance companies to cover their children's services. While advocates say

the quality of mental health care varies widely by state, they also see reason for optimism in a push for more early intervention programs and changing public attitudes about mental illness.

"There's a lot of reason to feel optimistic," said Ron Honberg, senior policy adviser at the National Alliance on Mental Illness. "But there are a lot of challenges too, particularly around financing these services."

The 21st Century Cures Act, which

was signed into law by then-President Barack Obama in December 2016, was inspired in part by the tragedy and included what proponents touted as the first major mental health reform package in nearly a decade. The measures that were included in the law but still await funding include grants for intensive early intervention for infants and young children showing signs of mental illness.

"There were a lot

See **SANDY**, Page 6

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SANDY

Continued from Page 5

of things people took credit for passing," said U.S. Rep. Elizabeth Esty, a Democrat whose district includes Newtown. "If they're not funded, it's a nice piece of paper and something hanging on somebody's wall, but it's not going to help save lives."

Mental health experts point out the vast majority of people diagnosed with psychiatric disorders do not commit violent crimes, and no motive has ever been determined for the Dec. 14, 2012, massacre in which Lanza fatally shot his mother at home and then gunned down 20 children and six educators at the school in Newtown.

A report by the Connecticut Child Advocate noted Lanza's mother rejected recommendations that her son be medicated and get treatment for anxiety and other conditions, but it concluded his actions were not directly caused by his psychiatric problems.

Rather, it said, his "severe and deteriorating internalized mental health problems," when combined with a preoccupation with violence and access to deadly weapons, "proved a recipe for mass murder."

In her column, Long wrote that she was terrified of her son, who was prone to violent rages and had been placed in juvenile detention facilities four times. Only a few weeks earlier, her son had pulled out a knife and threatened to kill her. Since receiving treatment, her son, who is now 18, has not had another violent episode.

"People don't understand the world that parents live in when they have

a child with mental illness," Long said. When other mothers reach out to her, she tries to match them up with resources in their states.

Many patients find the right treatment only after going through a lot of detours, said Dr. Vinod Srihari, director of the clinic for Specialized Treatment Early in Psychosis at the Connecticut Mental Health Center in New Haven.

"The nature of these illnesses is that they're often misunderstood," said Srihari, also an associate professor of psychiatry at the Yale School of Medicine. "And so, families with a young person with psychosis can often not rely on others around them to assist because what they're struggling with is misunderstood and could be a source of shame and embarrassment. And that means that they can't leverage their community supports to get the care they need."

U.S. Sen. Chris Murphy, a Connecticut Democrat, said he expects it will be difficult to secure funding for the new programs in the Republican-controlled Congress. But, he said, there are other recent reforms that are also making a difference.

The creation of an assistant secretary position at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services dedicated to improving behavioral health care has put pressure on insurance companies to cover the cost of mental health conditions equally as physical health, he said.

The 21st Century Cures Act also created a committee to advise Congress and federal agencies on the needs of adults and young people with serious mental illness. It is scheduled to meet Thursday, the fifth anniversary of the



AP photo

In this Dec. 14, 2012, file photo, officials stand outside of Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn. A 2014 report by the Office of Connecticut Child Advocate concluded that gunman Adam Lanza's actions were not directly caused by his psychiatric problems, but it noted that his mother rejected psychologists' recommendations that her son should be medicated and undergo treatment for anxiety and other conditions. Five years after the massacre, efforts to improve mental health care for young people have had mixed results.

Sandy Hook massacre, to discuss the group's first report to Congress.

Committee member John Snook, executive director of the Virginia-based Treatment Advocacy Center, said there is cautious optimism about improvements to come from the focus the Sandy Hook shooting put on men-

tal health.

"We are definitely cognizant that the window is closing and attention is shifting," Snook said. "You don't want another tragedy to be the reason people are reminded they need to focus on these issues."

Mentally ill, drug-addicted homeless pose challenge for city

By PHUONG LE

Associated Press

EVERETT, Wash. (AP) — This is the lesson that the working-class city of Everett has learned: It takes a community to rescue the hardcore homeless.

It takes teams of outreach workers — building relationships with men and women struggling with addiction or untreated mental illness, prodding them to get help. It takes police and other agencies, working together to provide for their needs.

Everett, hard-hit by the opioid epidemic, is trying an array of strategies to tackle homelessness, addiction, untreated mental illness and other problems on its streets.

For starters, the city put together a team that would track the 25 most costly and vulnerable cases, and hover over each one individually until he or she was in treatment or housing.

"It was when everything else seems to have failed," said Hil Kaman, who left his job prosecuting the homeless about a year-and-a-half ago and took up the challenge of finding solutions as the city's public health and safety director.

Officials also are pushing new permanent supportive housing and sending social workers out with police officers.

The city of 110,000 people north of Seattle and surrounding Snohomish County saw a 65 percent jump in people living outside in the past two years — among the largest increases on the West Coast in that time.

The number of unsheltered chronically homeless — those who have been homeless for longer than a year while struggling with a serious mental illness, substance use disorder or physical disability — has grown steadily in the Everett region, more than doubling since 2015.

The opioid epidemic, poverty, lack of unskilled jobs, rising rents and a shortage of affordable housing have made it harder for those who fall into homelessness to get out.

The problem is not limited to Everett. Up and down the West Coast, the high cost of housing has forced thousands of people to live on the streets, a trend that opioids have exacerbated.

"These are expensive places to live. It's expensive for everybody. But the burden falls the hardest on people with the biggest problems," said Steve Berg, vice president for programs and policy with the National Alliance to End Homelessness.

In 2011, roughly one in every five opioid-related deaths in Washington state took place in the city and surrounding

Snohomish County. That was the peak, but heroin deaths remain high and deaths from synthetic opioids such as fentanyl are climbing.

The crisis had become so dire that Everett city officials became the first to sue the manufacturer of the painkiller OxyContin in January. The lawsuit blames Purdue Pharma for an addiction crisis that has overwhelmed city resources and deepened its homelessness problem.

While that case works through the court, outreach workers are fanning out to find people camping under the freeway or living in the woods and try to connect them to services. Many of them initially deflect treatment. Some are too ill to even know they need aid.

James McGee, a former heroin addict who is now more than three months clean, sought help after he overdosed in a parking lot.

Over the summer, he walked into a police station and pleaded for help. Kaitlyn Dowd, a social worker with Everett police, helped connect him to treatment.

"It took me losing everything," said McGee, 27, who was living in his minivan but is now in sober housing and working, de-

termined to fix his life.

For every person who finds a treatment bed or permanent supportive housing, many more wait.

Experts say lack of on-demand treatment and a shortage of housing to meet specific needs are the biggest barriers to helping people off the streets. Without permanent housing, advocates and city officials say the homeless will end up back on the street after completing their treatment, repeating the cycle.

That's why Everett is breaking ground next month on a low-barrier permanent supportive housing project on city land. The project with Catholic Housing Services will house 65 chronically homeless people without requiring they first deal with substance abuse or other issues. Residents will have access to mental health, recovery and other services and around-the-clock, on-site staff.

Studies have found that such housing can save taxpayer money when compared to the costs of serving the chronically homeless in emergency rooms, shelters and jails.

But so many are on the waitlist that those units will fill up when it opens in 2019.

Hard cases resist easy solutions, but Everett's team persists.

A specialized team of mental health professionals, housing and recovery experts, social workers and officers worked for more than a year to build a relationship with Joshua Rape, a chronically homeless man who has bounced in and out of jail and the streets.

When he decided this fall that he was ready for treatment, the team got him into a motel until a slot opened up. They took turns checking in daily. In October, they drove him to catch a bus to the recovery center 200 miles away.

"We've all been counting down the days until he's been ready," said Dowd, the social worker.

Now Rape is back in Everett, having finished 30 days of inpatient treatment. For the first time, the man who has been homeless for six years will have his own place — a one-bedroom apartment that he'll move into this month.

"I had to make multiple attempts at doing this," he said.

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Rangers wrangle Steers in 79-68 thriller

By **MARISSA LOFTIN**
Sports Editor

Tuesday's basketball matchup between the Big Spring varsity Steers and the Midland Greenwood Rangers proved to be a very interesting one filled with excitement and drama as both teams battled it out, which included a huge 16 point come back by Big Spring. Greenwood still managed to hold them off and took home the 79-68 win.

Both teams started the game out with strong defense and continued to run a full court press on each other, which created a lot of turn overs as well as fouls. Early key steals to gain some momentum for the Steers were made by Zephaniah Nelson, Dimas Garcia, Mikal Banks, and Abel Clark.

Big Spring had success at the rim in the first quarter which included two shots made from behind the arc, one from Garcia and the other from John Ibanez. With help from Clark and Jeremiah Cooley, the Steers kept it close and trailed the Rangers 13-14 at the end of the first.

The second quarter is where things started to

go south for Big Spring. Greenwood's Max Montes buried a deep three for the first points of the quarter, and the momentum stayed with the Rangers until the end of the half. The Steers struggled to set up many plays against a tough Greenwood defense and committed a number of turnovers that allowed the Rangers to take a 41-28 lead at halftime. Fouls were also becoming an issue for Big Spring at this point as well, and Greenwood took advantage of their numerous trips to the charity stripe.

"I just thought we played hard, and we were fouled for four quarters. We had a little stretch there for about four minutes where we just didn't score there in the second quarter, but our guys continue to compete and overall that is going to help us in the end. We are going to be alright. We just have to have a couple breaks go our way," said head basketball coach Kris Wise. "Mostly what we need to take from this is just getting out of a trap. They trapped us a lot in their zone and it's something

See **STEERS**, Page 13



Tony Claxton (www.claxtonphotography.com)

Big Spring's Abel Clark puts in a layup during the Steers' home loss to Greenwood on Tuesday, December 12, 2017.



Tony Claxton (www.claxtonphotography.com)

Big Spring's Jeremiah Cooley is intentionally fouled during a layup attempt during the Steers' home loss to Greenwood on Tuesday, December 12, 2017.

Bulldogs handle Cardinals 80-40



Courtesy photo

Coahoma's Gage Hill takes the ball down the court in their basketball game against Hermleigh on Tuesday, December 12, 2017.

Special to the Herald

The Coahoma varsity Bulldogs were lethal at the post in their basketball game on Tuesday night as they soundly defeated the Hermleigh Cardinals 80-48 in a home victory held at the Coahoma ISD competition gym.

The 'Dogs were able to build a 13-point lead during the opening period of play. As the buzzer sounded to end the first quarter, Gage Clark released the ball to nail a goal behind the three-point line in dramatic fashion. It was the second three-pointer in a row for the Bulldogs coming immediately after one buried by Adam Clark.

Mason Moore and A. Clark were deadly when they got their hands on the ball as they racked up six points and seven points respectively out of the 25 scored in the first.

Early in the second quarter, G. Clark sank a three-pointer once more for the Bulldogs. Moore followed

shortly after with success also beyond the arc. It would be the first of three attempts he nailed in that quarter alone. Bryson Cline, Joe Manning, and Brice Martin all helped the 'Dogs head into halftime with a 52-23 lead.

The Bulldogs would extend the lead by five points in the third with strong efforts made at the rim by Moore, G. Clark, and Bracy Bacon. With an assist by A. Clark, Martin hit a successful layup off the fast break to add two more for the 'Dogs.

Morgan, Bacon, and Taylor Barnes took over for Coahoma after head coach Joe Mireles sat down G. Clark, Moore, and later A. Clark for the fourth quarter. Bacon notched the last points for the Bulldogs as he dropped one in from the three-point line.

The Coahoma varsity boys will be back in action at the Ropes ISD tournament this Friday and Saturday.

Forsan defeats Stanton 54-51

Special to the Herald

The Forsan Buffalo varsity basketball team took on the Stanton Buffaloes on Tuesday night, and came out victorious with a 54-51 win.

Forsan was down 11-3 to start things off, but went on a 21-3 run to close out the first half. All five starters scored four or more points each in the just first quarter alone, and the Buffs kept their rhythm through out the game with contributions from the whole team.

"Stanton is a good team, and a well coached team that made adjustments

and fought back to tie it up in the 4th quarter," said head boys basketball coach Cory Richardson. "Our guys did a great job, and this was a great game for us to prepare for district."

Team leaders for the game:

- Garrett Evans 17 pts
- Bryce Hergert 13 pts
- Kobe Richardson 12 pts
- Zane Riffe 10 rebounds

Forsan will open up the Sands tournament on Friday vs. Wellman Union at 1:30 p.m. District play for the Buffs begins on the 19th of December at home vs. Miles.



'Dogettes fall to Lady Cardinals 61-44



Courtesy photo

Coahoma's Abbie Lopez takes the ball down the court in their basketball game against Hermleigh on Tuesday, December 12, 2017.

Special to the Herald

The Coahoma Bulldogettes lost to the Hermleigh Lady Cardinals 61-44 on Tuesday night in the Coahoma ISD competition gym.

Caitlyn Corley, who had an outstanding night leading offensively on the court for Coahoma, helped kick off play by adding the first two points on the board for the Bulldogettes. Makayla Overton followed shortly using her sharp accuracy to sink a shot from behind the three-point line. The Dogettes end the first quarter trailing 15-5.

Abbie Lopez and Cassie Grant

jumped in to help Corley and Overton narrow the Cardinals lead to 8 points by the end of the second quarter. With an assist by Overton, Grant buried a goal from beyond the arc and Lopez dropped a field goal in for two, ending the half with a score of 25-17 in the Cardinals favor.

The Hermleigh girls were quick to rack up points as the second half of play began, but Lopez knocked down a field goal and two successful shots from the charity stripe to add four more for Coahoma.

Corley also added four points for the

See **'DOGETTES**, Page 13

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Contract Bridge



By Steve Becker

Rules are made to be broken

North dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.

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

The bidding:
North 1 ♠
East Pass
South 1 NT
West Pass

Opening lead — eight of spades.

There are all kinds of rules promulgated by all kinds of authorities that tell you never to do this, or always to do that, lest dire consequences ensue. But the mark of a good player is that he knows when to override these commandments. The experienced player has learned that when critical decisions have to be made, hard thinking is much more reliable. For example, take this deal where West leads a spade against South's

four-heart contract. East cashes the Q-A of spades and plays a third spade, hoping West will ruff. Declarer wins in dummy and returns the deuce of trumps. If East is a firm believer in "second-hand low," he follows with the three. South then finesses the jack and sooner or later makes the contract. West wins the jack with the queen and, let's say, returns a club. Declarer takes the ace, plays another trump, gobbling up East's king, cashes the A-K-Q of diamonds, ruffs his fourth diamond in dummy, ruffs a club and draws West's last trump to make the contract. But let's say that at trick four East plays second-hand high because he foresees what might occur if he follows low on the trump lead. In that case, declarer must go down one. If he wins with the ace and leads a second trump, West takes the queen and plays a third round of trumps. Eventually West scores a diamond trick to sink the contract. If declarer stops leading trumps after taking the king with the ace and attempts to cash the A-K-Q of diamonds, East ruffs the third diamond, and South winds up with the same unhappy result. The deal demonstrates that under certain circumstances, such as those in this deal, it can be right to play second-hand high.

Tomorrow: Bridge on a high level.
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Tomorrow's Horoscope

Scorpio Moon Glows on Hanukkah

By HOLIDAY MATHIS



The moon and Mars will come together in soulful Scorpio while many around the world light Hanukkah candles. This celebration of the miracle of light occurs for eight days indicated by the Hebrew calendar, a calendar based on the cycle of the moon and sun. May each experience his or her own radiant humanity as hope rules the night.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Arguably, half of belonging is just acting like you belong. Feeling like you belong is obviously huge, too. But if you do a little of both and still feel like a bit of a misfit, just know the others who "belong" feel about the same.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You may get a late start because there are certain things you'll do to get your head in the game; they take time. The rituals help! It's more than just coffee. It's ways you motivate yourself. Keep reinforcing what works.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You've felt at times that you were fundamentally different from those you were brought up around, so it's pretty refreshing when today you recognize some nice ways in which you are alike.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). The water drops seem to reach for each other. The stream is suddenly the river, and as the river connects with ocean, the river (SET ITAL)is(END ITAL) the ocean. Today your water-sign nature will echo this tendency to join completely.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You're changed by every circumstance, and that's a good thing. It means you're open to letting life in. It means you're listening and learning. It's true that you have to protect yourself at times by making yourself hard, but not now.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). It is often the case that one broken bulb renders the whole line of holiday lights useless. Let the metaphor remind us to check on one another so we can all be bright together.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Choose a memento representing

for you to dive in. This exhilaration will benefit many areas -- your health, your love life and more -- and the best part is that this will be true whether or not you get what you want. Capricorn and Libra adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 40, 3, 33, 38 and 50.

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

PISCES: Pisces is the old soul of the zodiac, and with a soul's age comes wisdom. The puppy born into the last zodiac sign has the ability to relate to and empathize with every sign that has come before and will be an emotional and spiritual touchstone for his owners. That is not to say that this puppy is always well-behaved. In fact the Pisces dog is highly impressionable and apt to follow along with what the other animals and people are doing. If there are troublemakers around, Pisces dog will be a troublemaker, too. If the prevalent energy is obedience, Pisces dog will fall right in line.

Unusually sensitive, Pisces pups sense changes in the moods and health of their owners. They react strongly to weather and find storms unsettling. They hear visitors from a great distance and will go after pests before others detect them. Because Pisces dogs are so sensitive, they are best reprimanded by a strong, calm presence. Anyone who feels out of control while dealing with a misbehaving Pisces will be met with a dog who is equally out of control.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: The Sagittarian sun influence in Taylor Swift is represented in her fearless genre-shifting. Sagittarius energy is one of exploration and restlessness. More of the story is told through Swift's Mercury, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune in Capricorn, the sign of ambition, power, business savvy and drive. Venus in Aquarius reveals that philanthropy will be even more of a calling in years to come.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Dec. 13). You're afraid of something, and you want it at the same time. Over the next seven weeks, desire takes over and fear lessens just enough

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

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SUDOKU

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

Level: Intermediate

Fun By The Numbers

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

Here's How It Works:

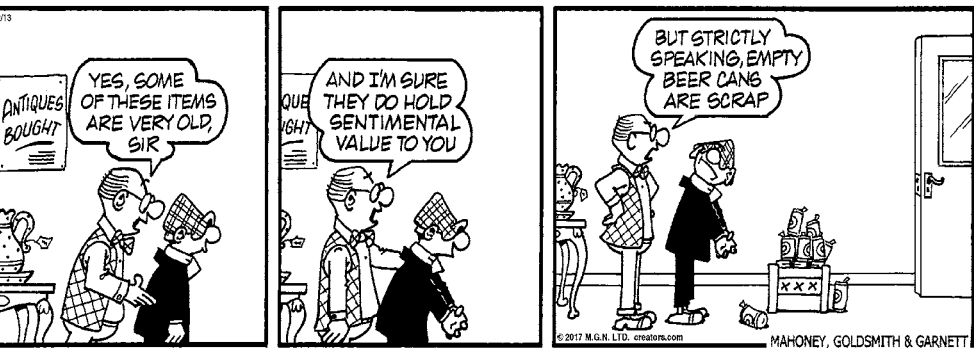
Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric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

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

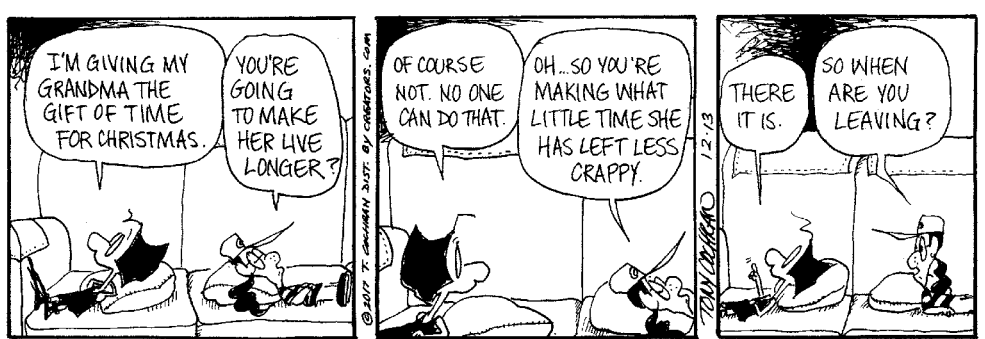
ANSWER:

Table with columns for station (KMID, UNI, KPEJ, KOSA, KTLT, KWES, KMLM, KPBT, KWWT, KWES, WTBS, TNT, ESPN, ESPN2, FSN, USA, A&E, DISC) and rows for time slots (5:00 PM to 1:00 AM) listing various TV programs and channels.

ANDY CAPP



AGNES



ARCHIE



ONE BIG HAPPY



NEST HEAD



MOMMA



This Date In History

Today is Wednesday, Dec. 13, the 347th day of 2017. There are 18 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On Dec. 13, 1937, the Chinese city of Nanjing fell to Japanese forces during the Sino-Japanese War...

On this date: In 1642, Dutch navigator Abel Tasman sighted present-day New Zealand.

In 1769, Dartmouth College in New Hampshire received its charter.

In 1862, Union forces led by Maj. Gen. Ambrose Burnside launched futile attacks against entrenched Confederate soldiers during the Civil War Battle of Fredericksburg...

In 1918, President Woodrow Wilson arrived in France, becoming the first chief executive to visit Europe while in office.

In 1928, George Gershwin's 'An American in Paris' had its premiere at Carnegie Hall in New York.

In 1944, during World War II, the light cruiser USS Nashville was badly damaged in a Japanese kamikaze attack off Negros Island in the Philippines that claimed 133 lives.

In 1962, the United States launched Relay 1, a communications satellite which retransmitted television, telephone and digital signals.

In 1977, an Air Indiana Flight 216, a DC-3 carrying the University of Evansville basketball team on a flight to Nashville, crashed shortly after takeoff, killing all 29 people on board.

In 1981, authorities in Poland imposed martial law in a crackdown on the Solidarity labor movement. (Martial law formally ended in 1983.)

In 1994, an American Eagle commuter plane crashed short of Raleigh-Durham International Airport in North Carolina, killing 15 of the 20 people on board.

In 1996, the U.N. Security Council chose Kofi Annan (KOH-fee AN-nan) of Ghana to become the world body's seventh secretary-general.

In 2003, Saddam Hussein

was captured by U.S. forces while hiding in a hole under a farmhouse in Adwar, Iraq, near his hometown of Tikrit.

Ten years ago: Democratic presidential hopefuls meeting in Johnston, Iowa, called for higher taxes on the highest-paid Americans and on big corporations in an unusually cordial debate.

Five years ago: U.N. Ambassador Susan Rice withdrew from consideration to replace outgoing Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton after running into opposition from Republicans over her explanation of the September attack on the U.S. consulate in Benghazi, Libya...

One year ago: President-elect Donald Trump announced his choice of ExxonMobil CEO Rex Tillerson to be U.S. secretary of state. Louisville quarterback Lamar Jackson was named 'The Associated Press' college football Player of the Year.

Today's Birthdays: Former Secretary of State George P. Shultz is 97. Actor-comedian Dick Van Dyke is 92. Actor Christopher Plummer is 88. Country singer Buck White is 87. Music/film producer Lou Adler is 84. Singer John Davidson is 76. Actress Kathy Garver (TV: 'Family Affair') is

72. Singer Ted Nugent is 69. Rock musician Jeff 'Skunk' Baxter is 69. Country musician Ron Getman is 69. Actor Robert Lindsay is 68. Country singer-musician Randy Owen is 68. Actress Wendie Malick is 67. Former Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack is 67. Former Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke is 64. Country singer John Anderson is 63. Singer-songwriter Steve

Forbert is 63. Singer-actor Morris Day is 61. Actor Steve Buscemi (boo-SEH-mee) is 60. Actor Johnny Whitaker (TV: 'Family Affair') is 58. Rock musician John Munson (Semisonic; 'Twilight Hours') is 55. Actress-reality TV star NeNe Leakes is 51. Actor-comedian Jamie Foxx is 50. Actor Bart Johnson is 47. Actor Jeffrey Pierce is 46. TV personality Debbie

Matenopoulos is 43. Rock singer-musician Thomas Delonge is 42. Actor James Kyson Lee is 42. Actress Chelsea Hertford is 36. Rock singer Amy Lee (Evanescence) is 36. Actor Michael Socha is 30. Neo-soul musician Wesley Watkins (Nathaniel Rateliff & the Night Sweats) is 30. Actor Marcel Spears (TV: 'The Mayor') is 29. Singer Taylor Swift is 28. Actress Maisey Stella is 14.

Thought for Today:

'A society in which men recognize no check upon their freedom soon becomes a society where freedom is the possession of only a savage few.'

Judge Learned Hand
American jurist
(1872-1961).

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Newsday Crossword

THREE-DIMENSIONAL by Fred Piscop
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

- 1 ___ Raton, FL
5 Straight from the garden
10 Drove too fast
14 Iridescent gem
15 Juliet's love
16 Canine visitor to Oz
17 Tonight Show host before Fallon
18 Bother incessantly
19 Curved doorway
20 Tailor's measurement
23 Summer shoe
24 Director Spike or Ang
25 Strong drain cleaner
27 Performed
28 Bikini part
31 Fields of expertise
35 Leave in a hurry
37 Bovine bellows
38 Just barely
41 Dealership displays
42 Boxing match
43 Overly demanding
44 Long-running NBC weekend show
45 Pigsty
46 Bro or sis
48 ___ for the course (normal)
49 Subtly suggests
54 Learned thoroughly
59 Wood strip
60 Justice Samuel
61 'Sound off' remote button
62 Small clue

- 63 More cordial
64 Stiffly formal
65 Unable to sit still
66 Summons from a teacher
67 In years past

DOWN

- 1 Door fasteners
2 Gig for a soprano
3 Religious doctrine
4 So all can hear
5 Without hindrance
6 Crowd sound
7 CPR experts
8 Aquatic mammal with whiskers
9 Innkeeper
10 Performer's platform

- 11 Place to dock
12 Engrave deeply
13 Homer Simpson shout
21 Tex-Mex dip
22 Homer Simpson neighbor
26 Zac of High School Musical
27 What IOUs represent
28 Physiques, informally
29 Goes bad
30 Very pale
31 Fundamentals
32 TV host
33 British nobleman
34 Expresses relief
36 Baton Rouge sch.

- 37 Onetime Chinese chairman
39 Spaniards, for example
40 Flowed back
45 Knee protector
47 Pretend not to hear
48 Pane sealant
50 Musical pace
51 Reject with scorn
52 Storage spot
53 Main subject
54 Rode (down), as a banister
55 Zesty flavor
56 Writer Wiesel
57 Board-game cubes
58 Agenda entry
59 'Steady as ___ goes!'

Grid for the crossword puzzle with numbers 1 through 67 indicating starting positions for clues.

CREATORS SYNDICATE © 2017 STANLEY NEWMAN STANXWORDS@AOL.COM 12/13/17

Answer to previous puzzle
IRKS OPAL SKIM
SNOOP NORI ANNA
TIARA COAL NEAT
STRAWBERRY TELE
NNE APPALL
ERA SEESTARS
YEWS FAT DOUBLE
EARTH TEA MIRE
SPYOUT ART TOAD
PROWL CAR SKY
PALLOR PEA
SEMI FIREENGINE
ORIG ATIT TIDES
NIGH SECT ALERT
SLOT TREE LEAD
12/13/17



Tony Claxton (www.claxtonphotography.com)

Steer point guard Dimas Garcia goes up for a layup during the Steers' home loss to Greenwood on Tuesday, December 12, 2017.

STEERS

Continued from Page 7

that we really hadn't struggled with, but we weren't ready for that tonight. Everything that they have been doing is a 1-3-1 or a man and they jumped in a 2-3, which we had seen some over the weekend, but it just caught us off guard, especially in the first quarter. When they jumped into it, it allowed them to get into a lead."

Despite shots from Cooley and another long range three-pointer from Garcia, the Steers watched their deficit increase in the third quarter.

They found themselves down by 16 with under two minutes remaining in the third, when Jaidon Judington stole the ball from Greenwood and followed with a fast break layup that got the team pumped. Right after, Garcia sank another long three that was followed with a deep pass from Ludington right to the rim for Cooley to smash it in. This got all of the Steer fans on their feet and it was off to the races from there.

Cooley, who exploded in the second half, was a rebound monster, and thanks to clutch shots made by Albert Martinez, Cooley and JaVone Ford, Big Spring brought themselves within one point of the Rangers (60-59) with five minutes remaining in the game.

It was excessive fouls that got the Steers in the big hole they dug themselves out of the first time, and so the same thing would happen again. The

Rangers took many trips to the free throw line, and we able to build upon their one point lead and turn it into an 11 point lead with under a minute left in the game. Big Spring had ran out of time. Even after great efforts from Cooley and Banks at the rim within that last minute, the Steers couldn't come back this time and the Rangers came away with the 79-68 win.

"We cut their lead to one or two points, but we just never could quite chip away and take the lead. What we needed to do, is we just needed one basket there to take the lead and I thought they were going to turn it around. We get so close, and that is a little bit of a struggle with being young. It's also just maintaining a line up and having everybody healthy and having everybody back from grades. But we are going to be okay, we just have to continue pushing and moving forward. We have some guys, Cooley, Harris, Letz and all those guys who are 6'3, 6'4 and we are going to have to be able to pound it down low. Once we start doing that, I think we will be okay and we'll start hitting some more shots," explained Hise. "Right now everybody is able to kind of pack it in on us right now and really take advantage of playing five guys inside the paint. We just aren't hitting shots right now, and that comes with it, but it will come within the season when we start shooting more. We are still learning. That is the biggest thing. We are still learning the new offense and the new defense. We got our red press in a little



Tony Claxton (www.claxtonphotography.com)

Big Spring guard John Ibanez takes a short jump shot during the Steers' home loss to Greenwood on Tuesday, December 12, 2017.

bit, and that 1-2-1-1 looks good. But it is our run and jump, which eventually is what we are going to be known for, is what is so close to being good. It's just a couple of things here and there that are a little slow."

It was no surprise that Cooley led the Steers in points as he dominated the boards for a majority of the game. He finished with 22 points, followed by Garcia and Ford with 13 points each.

"Cooley is an absolute beast. He can score as many as he wants to and he can rebound the ball as much as he wants to. Our biggest thing is just making sure he stays into the game and healthy because everybody aims for him, so mainly just to keep his head in the right place," said Hise, "If he keeps his head in the right place, options are endless for him. He could go anywhere he wants to go. He is as good as he wants to be, I'll say that."

With how many fouls Big Spring committed, you'd have thought we were watching a Greenwood free point contest. The Steers racked up a game total of 35 fouls compared to the Rangers' 19. Big Spring shot 13-17 of their free throws as Greenwood went 35-44.

Up next, the Steers will make their way to Seminole, Texas to face off with the Indians who are ranked third in the state. It will prove to be a tough and true test for

Big Spring, but that is what the pre-district games are all about.

"They may have the tallest starting line up in the state of Texas, 1A through 6A. I think their point guard is 6'2, they have a 6'6 post, a couple 6'3 guards and another 6'5 post. They've got an impressive first seven for sure, if not eight," said Hise of the Seminole Indians. "They are one of the best teams in the state of Texas in 4A and I look forward to playing them. I think our guys look forward to playing them as well. It will be a good test for us. We've played some very good teams so far so I think we are ready to see if we can play with somebody of that caliber right now."

That game is schedule to tip off at 7:30 p.m., Friday, December 15th in Seminole, Texas.

'DOGETTES

Continued from Page 7

Bulldogettes, however, the Lady Cardinals went on a run during much of the period to close out the third quarter on top 44-25.

Play intensified on the court as the last quarter began. Grant sank a three-point shot about mid match, and followed up with a field goal to add 5 more points for the Bulldogettes.

In all, Coahoma added 19 points through the efforts of Grant, Corley, and Overton while the Lady Cardinals added 17. It wasn't enough as Hermleigh still came away with the win.

The Coahoma girls varsity team will be back in action on Thursday at the Sands ISD tournament, which begins this weekend.



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HERALD

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