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HERALD

BIG SPRING FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2017



VOLUME 113, NUMBER 69 COPYRIGHT 2017 75 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 SUNDAY

Firefighter, Officer of the Year awards given



Courtesy photo

Firefighter of the Year winner Tracy Carey poses with her plaque next to Volunteer Fire Department Fire Chief Tommy Sullivan.

By **ERIN STEPHENS**
 Staff Writer

Two firefighters with Howard County's Volunteer Fire Department were recently recognized for their accomplishments. Tracy Carey was named Fire-

fighter of the Year and Battalion Chief Mitchell Hooper was named Officer of the Year. Both firefighters were presented with a plaque by Fire Chief Tommy Sullivan, at the annual VFD Christmas banquet. The VFD submitted three names for each



Courtesy photo

Officer of the Year winner Battalion Chief Mitchell Hooper poses with Volunteer Fire Department Fire Chief Tommy Sullivan.

category, a silent vote took place, results were then collected, and the person with the highest vote count won the position. Carey and Hooper won their new titles out of 47 firefighters.

Also at the banquet, a separate award was given to Hooper. He was presented with a

plaque for Firefighter of the Year by members of the local VFW Post 2013. His nomination for Firefighter of the Year will move to state level in Austin, TX early next year, and a new vote will be will cast by all VFW Post districts in the state of Texas. If he wins the vote at state



Courtesy photo

Fire Chief Tommy Sullivan, VFW Commander David "Gunny" Leonard, Battalion Chief Mitchell Hooper, and VFW Quartermaster Moses Tijerina pose after awarding Hooper with the VFW's award for Firefighter of the Year.

level, Hooper's nomination will then go to Washington, DC for nationals.

"I'm very proud of the winners. They've worked hard for the fire department this past

year and the recognition awards were well-deserved," said Fire Chief Tommy Sullivan.

Contact Staff Writer *Erin Stephens at 432-263-7331, ext. 232.*

Farm Service Agency - A vital source of assistance

Special to the Herald

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21, 2017 - Through the work of dedicated staff in over 2,100 county and state offices, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) provides vital farm safety-net assistance to agricultural producers across America.

"We've seen recent challenges in farm income and commodity prices," said Dr. Robert Johansson, Acting Deputy Under Secretary for the Farm Production and Conservation mission area. "The 'safety net' provided in the 2014 Farm Bill has helped producers withstand economic losses as well as losses resulting from

natural disasters. Loans for operating expenses, farm purchases and other purposes help current producers stay in business and allow a new generation of farmers and ranchers get their start."

Agriculture demands working capital. According to Johansson, FSA provided credit, either directly or guaranteed through commercial lenders, to 120,000 family farmers across the country.

In fiscal year 2017, USDA Farm Loan Programs pumped \$6 billion in support to a diverse group of producers across America. That was the second highest total in FSA history. Over \$2.5 billion of that total was direct and guaranteed operating loans, and another \$3.5 billion was allocated for direct and guaranteed farm



Art Club hosts Create Night

HERALD photo/Erin Stephens
 The Big Spring High School Art Club recently held a fundraiser titled "Create Night." The event took place in BSHS art teacher Andrea Phinney's classroom where the participants were led step-by-step through a holiday wreath painting. "The event was very successful and we hope to do another Create Night event in February," said Phinney. The Art Club usually takes an "art-filled" annual trip and this year they are heading to Austin, Texas, so they are currently raising money to take about 15 students. In the past two years, the high school art club visited Austin, as well as Seattle, Wash.

Russian hackers targeted more than 200 journalists globally

By **RAPHAEL SATTER, JEFF DONN and NATALIYA VASILYEVA**

Associated Press
 PARIS (AP) — Russian television anchor Pavel Lobkov was in the studio getting ready for his show when jarring news flashed across his phone: Some of his most intimate messages had just been published to the web.

See HACK, Page 3

Big Spring Herald's
Christmas Countdown



Kaylee says
 "Only 3 Days 'til Christmas!"
 (Kaylee McNally, Daughter Of Jennifer Martinez)

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See FSA, Page 3



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Obituaries

Robert E. Baker, Sr.



Robert E. Baker, Sr., 68, of Big Spring, died Monday, Dec. 18, 2017, at Midland Memorial Hospital. The family will receive friends from 6 p.m. until 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 22, 2017, at Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Funeral service will be at 11 a.m. Saturday at Myers & Smith Chapel with Elwin Collom, pastor of Hillcrest Baptist Church, officiating.

Robert was born April 13, 1949, in Big Spring, Texas, to Audie Loraine Turner Baker and Alvin Ernest Baker. He was a lifetime resident of Martin and Howard County. He worked all his life in the oil field. He was a pusher and a truck driver. Robert was a Baptist.

Robert is survived by four sons, Robert Baker, Jr. of Midland, Chad Lee Rader of Odessa, Michael Woellert and Larry Bounds, both of Abilene; four brothers, Alvin Baker and wife Edith of Coahoma, Nathan Baker of Big Spring, Jimmy Baker of Lubbock and Jesse Baker and wife Connie of Big Spring; two sisters, Glenda Bray and Susie Roach, both of Big Spring; 8 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by one sister, Alice Rueda.

Honorary pallbearers will be Edward Roach, Mike Baker, Joe McCormick, Mike McCormick, Cory Baker, Khas Baker and Randy Roach.

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

Paid Obituary

Jack Capps

Jack Capps, 81, of Big Spring, died Tuesday, Dec. 19, 2017, in Temple, Texas. Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 27, 2017, at Myers & Smith Chapel with Pastor Billy J. Capps of Sand Springs Baptist Church officiating. Burial will follow at Vealmoor Cemetery.

Jack was born on Aug. 10, 1936, in Lovington, N.M., to Francis Statham Capps and Irvin Thomas Capps. He married Jo Ann Watson on Nov. 10, 1955, in Levelland, Texas. Jo Ann passed away on March 18, 2013.

Jack was survived by one son, Billy J. Capps (Brenda) of Ackerly; one daughter, Denise Emfinger of Big Spring; three grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; two sisters, Charlene Metcalf of Temple, and Barbara Santiago of Sterling City; two brothers, Joe Kropp and D. Marvin Capps of Vernal, Utah.

In addition to his parents and wife, he was preceded in death by three sisters and two brothers.

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

Police, Sheriff reports

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity:

- **WESLEY RAY RIGSBY**, 28, of 704 Ombrage Rd. in Carencro, La., was arrested on a charge of public intoxication.

- **SARAH ALYSSABETH MORENO**, 29, of 504 E. Broadway in Stanton was arrested on outstanding warrants.

- **BRYCE TAVIN GARZA**, 18, of 1505 Johnson St. was arrested on outstanding warrants.

- **MONICA GRACE MARRIE SWANN**, 29, of 1503 S. Main St. was arrested on a charge of public intoxication.

- **WILLIE FOSTER**, 63, of 205 W. 18th St. was arrested on a charge of public intoxication.

- **CHRISTI GRANT HARRISON**, 48, of 5621 E. Midway Rd. was arrested on a charge of false

drug test/falsification device.

- **STOLEN VEHICLE** was reported in the 100 block of Cedar Road.

- **BURGLARY OF A VEHICLE** was reported in the 1700 block of North Highway 350.

- **THEFT** was reported in the 800 block of West Interstate 20 and the 800 block of Anna Street.

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

Note - Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 65 inmates at the time of this report.

- **RICARDO MIGUEL CARLOS**, 25, was arrested by DPS on warrants of no driver's license, and theft of property less than or equal \$2,500 to \$30,000.

- **WILLIE CHARLES FOS-**

TER, 63, was arrested by BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.

- **BRYCE TAVIN GARZA**, 18, was arrested by BSPD on warrants of evading arrest detention, and of evading arrest detention.

- **CHRISTI GRANT HARRISON**, 48, was arrested by HCSO on a charge of false drug test falsification.

- **SARAH ALYSSABETH MORENO**, 29, was arrested by BSPD on warrants of no driver's license when unlicensed, failure to maintain financial responsibility, and failure to appear.

- **WESLEY RAY RIGSBY**, 28, was arrested by BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.

- **MONICA SWANN**, 29, was arrested by BSPD on public intoxication.

Take Note

The Emergency Services Chaplains Corps is seeking volunteer chaplains. The corps provides spiritual services to Howard County residents and visitors in crisis situations. Prospective chaplains don't require any specific experience or education to qualify for the position, just a calling from God and a willingness to devote time to the program, which requires a 24- to 30-week training program and dedication of one day per week for emergency call-outs. Those interested should contact Senior Chaplain Joel Miller at 432-213-1221.

- Big Spring's Centennial Lions Club is holding a drive to collect books for the Salvation Army Boys and Girls Club. Books for kids in kindergarten through about 10th grade will be accepted, with special preference for books for younger children in kindergarten through third grade. Cash donations to allow the Lions to purchase additional books are also appreciated. Books or donations can be taken to the Salvation Army, 811 W. Fifth St., or to the home of Lions member Ken Lawhon at 1707 E. 15th St. For more information, contact Lawhon at 214-998-9716 or Lions member David Stives at

432-270-2251.

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

432-270-2251.

- Each week Kin-dred 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.

- 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.

Jose "Little Joe" Davila

Jose "Little Joe" Davila, 79, of Big Spring died Thursday, Dec. 21, 2017. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Anna Marie Miller



Anna Marie Miller, 67, of Midland, formerly of Big Spring, died Thursday, Dec. 21, 2017, in Midland after losing her battle with COPD. Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m., Wednesday, Dec. 27, 2017, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel with Dr. Randy Cotton officiating.

The family will receive friends from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., Tuesday, Dec. 26, 2017, at the funeral home.

She is survived by a son, Shane Miller of Big Spring; two daughters, Carol Jeter and husband, Steve and Meredith Burgess and husband, Tommy all of Midland; five grandchildren; two sisters; and numerous nieces, nephews and friends.

In addition to her husband, she is preceded in death by her parents; two brothers; and two sisters.

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

Fire/EMS

Big Spring Fire Department/EMS reported the following activity:

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

- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 400 block N Trades. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 1300 block of S Gregg. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

- **TRAFFIC ACCIDENT** was reported on Ranch Rd. 33 and Hwy 87. No transport.

Support Groups

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.

SATURDAY

- Alcoholics Anonymous open discussion meeting, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m. Open podium/speakers meeting 8 p.m. until 9 p.m. Open birthday night, no smoking meeting the last Saturday of each month at 8 p.m. Covered dish supper at 7 p.m.

SUNDAY

- Alcoholics Anonymous closed meeting from 11 a.m. to noon at 615 Settles. Open meeting 7 p.m. until 8 p.m.

MONDAY

- Reformers Unanimous International is a faith-based addictions program helping people find freedom from addiction. Meetings begin at 7 p.m. Mondays at Trinity Baptist Church in Big Spring. Enter at the main entrance of the church.

- Alcoholics Anonymous, As Bill Sees it, 615 Settles, 8 p.m. to 9 p.m.

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

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

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

HACK

Continued from Page 1

Days earlier, the veteran journalist had come out live on air as HIV-positive, a taboo-breaking revelation that drew responses from hundreds of Russians fighting their own lonely struggles with the virus. Now he'd been hacked.

"These were very personal messages," Lobkov said in a recent interview, describing a frantic call to his lawyer in an abortive effort to stop the spread of nearly 300 pages of Facebook correspondence, including sexually explicit messages. Even two years later, he said, "it's a very traumatic story."

The Associated Press found that Lobkov was targeted by the hacking group known as Fancy Bear in March 2015, nine months before his messages were leaked. He was one of at least 200 journalists, publishers and bloggers targeted by the group as early as mid-2014 and as recently as a few months ago.

The AP identified journalists as the third-largest group on a hacking hit list obtained from cybersecurity firm Secureworks, after diplomatic personnel and U.S. Democrats. About 50 of the journalists worked at The New York Times. Another 50 were either foreign correspondents based in Moscow or Russian reporters like Lobkov who worked for independent news outlets. Others were prominent media figures in Ukraine, Moldova, the Baltics or Washington.

The list of journalists provides new evidence for the U.S. intelligence community's conclusion that Fancy Bear acted on behalf of the Russian government when it intervened in the U.S. presidential election. Spy agencies say the hackers were working to help Republican Donald Trump. The Russian government has denied interfering in the American election.

Previous AP reporting has shown how Fancy Bear — which Secureworks nicknamed Iron Twilight — used phishing emails to try to compromise Russian opposition leaders, Ukrainian politicians and U.S. intelligence figures, along with Hillary Clinton campaign chairman John Podesta and more than 130 other Democrats.

Lobkov, 50, said he saw hacks like the one that turned his day upside-down in December 2015 as dress rehearsals for the email leaks that struck the Democrats in the United States the following year.

"I think the hackers in the service of the Fatherland were long getting their training on our lot before venturing outside."

"CLASSIC KGB TACTIC"

New Yorker writer Masha Gessen said it was also in 2015 — when Secureworks first detected attempts to break into her Gmail — that she began noticing people who seemed to materialize next to her in public places in New York and speak loudly in Russian into their phones, as if trying to be overheard. She said this only happened when she put appointments into the online calendar linked to her Google account.

Gessen, the author of a book about Russian President Vladimir Putin's rise to power, said she saw the incidents as threats.

"It was really obvious," she said. "It was a classic KGB intimidation tactic."

Other U.S.-based journalists targeted include Josh Rogin, a Washington Post columnist, and Shane Harris, who was covering the intelligence community for The Daily Beast in 2015. Harris said he dodged the phishing attempt, forwarding the email to a source in the security industry who told him almost immediately that Fancy Bear was involved.

In Russia, the majority of journalists targeted by the hackers worked for independent news outlets like Novaya Gazeta or Vedomosti, though a few — such as Tina Kandelaki and Ksenia Sobchak — are more mainstream. Sobchak has even launched an improbable bid for the Russian presidency.

Investigative reporter Roman Shleynov noted that the Gmail hackers targeted was the one he used while working on the Panama Papers, the expose of international tax avoidance that implicated members of Putin's inner circle.

Fancy Bear also pursued more than 30 media targets in Ukraine, including many journalists at the Kyiv Post and others who have reported from

the front lines of the Russia-backed war in the country's east.

Nataliya Gumenyuk, co-founder of Ukrainian internet news site Hromadske, said the hackers were hunting for compromising information.

"The idea was to discredit the independent Ukrainian voices," she said.

The hackers also tried to break into the personal Gmail account of Ellen Barry, The New York Times' former Moscow bureau chief.

Her newspaper appears to have been a favorite target. Fancy Bear sent phishing emails to roughly 50 of Barry's colleagues at The Times in late 2014, according to two people familiar with the matter. They spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss confidential data.

The Times confirmed in a brief statement that its employees received the malicious messages, but the newspaper declined to comment further.

Some journalists saw their presence on the hackers' hit list as vindication. Among them were CNN security analyst Michael Weiss and Brookings Institution visiting fellow Jamie Kirchick, who took the news as a badge of honor.

"I'm very proud to hear that," Kirchick said.

The Committee to Protect Journalists said the wide net cast by Fancy Bear underscores efforts by governments worldwide to use hacking against journalists.

"It's about gaining access to sources and intimidating those journalists," said Courtney C. Radsch, the group's advocacy director.

In Russia, the stakes are particularly high. The committee has counted 38 murders of journalists there since 1992.

Many journalists told the AP they knew they were under threat, explaining that they had added a second layer of password protection to their emails and only chatted over encrypted messaging apps like Telegram, WhatsApp or Signal.

Fancy Bear target Ekaterina Vinokurova, who works for regional media outlet Znak, said she routinely deletes her emails.

"I understand that my accounts may be hacked at any time," she said in a telephone interview. "I'm ready for them."

"I'VE SEEN WHAT THEY COULD DO"

It's not just whom the hackers tried to spy on that points to the Russian government.

It's when.

Maria Titizian, an Armenian journalist, immediately found significance in the date she was targeted: June 26, 2015.

"It was Electric Yerevan," she said, referring to protests over rising energy bills that she reported on. The protests that rocked Armenia's capital that summer were initially seen by some in Moscow as a threat to Russian influence.

Titizian said her outspoken criticism of the Kremlin's "colonial attitude" toward Armenia could have made her a target.

Eliot Higgins, whose open source journalism site Bellingcat repeatedly crops up on the target list, said the phishing attempts seemed to begin "once we started really making strong statements about MH17," the Malaysian airliner shot out of the sky over eastern Ukraine in 2014, killing 298 people. Bellingcat played a key role in marshaling the evidence that the plane was destroyed by a Russian missile — Moscow's denials notwithstanding.

The clearest timing for a hacking attempt may have been that of Adrian Chen.

On June 2, 2015, Chen published a prescient expose of the Internet Research Agency, the Russian "troll factory" that won fresh infamy in October over revelations that it had manufactured make-believe Americans to pollute social media with toxic rhetoric.

Eight days after Chen published his big story, Fancy Bear tried to break into his account.

Chen, who has regularly written about the darker recesses of the internet, said having a lifetime of private messages exposed to the internet could be devastating.

"I've covered a lot of these leaks," he said. "I've seen what they could do."

FSA

Continued from Page 1

ownership loans. This additional financing enabled farmers and ranchers across the country to access capital to start their operations, or to expand their existing operations. The new lending continued the recent growth in FSA's farm loan portfolio.

FSA highlights from the year include:

Agriculture Risk Coverage and Price Loss Coverage (ARC/PLC) and Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)

•USDA is issuing approximately \$8 billion in payments under the ARC and PLC programs to agricultural producers who suffered market downturns in 2016.

•In 2017, FSA distributed \$1.6 billion in CRP payments to over 375,000 Americans for doing their part in improving water quality, reducing soil erosion and increasing wildlife habitat.

Disaster Assistance

In response to Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria, USDA announced special procedures to assist producers in states and territories who lost crops or livestock or had other damage to their farms or ranches. Also, because of the severe and widespread damage caused by

the hurricanes, USDA provided flexibility to assist farm loan borrowers. FSA dispatched additional staff to the affected areas and, in response to a request for assistance, rolled out a special program providing vouchers to dairy herd owners in Puerto Rico who used the assistance to purchase feed.

USDA also provided extensive assistance for a variety of other disasters throughout the country, including drought in the northern high plains, wildfires in the west and central plains, floods, tornados, freezes and other storms. For example, in July, USDA authorized the use of additional CRP lands for emergency grazing and haying in and around portions of Montana, North Dakota and South Dakota affected by severe drought. USDA also added the ability for farmers and ranchers in those areas to hay and graze CRP wetland and buffer practices. This followed a previous action in April and June to assist the area and provided livestock producers with an additional feed source. In October, FSA teamed with other USDA agencies to provide assistance to wildfire-damaged areas of northern California, including loans and other disaster assistance programs.

New Farmers

In August, Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue signed a Memorandum of Understanding with officials from SCORE, the nation's largest volunteer network of expert business mentors, to support new and beginning farmers. The agreement provides new help and resources for beginning ranchers, veterans, women, socially disadvantaged Americans and others, providing new tools to help them both grow and thrive agri-business.

Johansson said these accomplishments are in line with Secretary Perdue's goals of maximizing the ability of the men and women of America's agriculture and agribusiness sector to create jobs, prioritizing customer service every day for American taxpayers and consumers and ensuring the food we produce meets the strict safety standards we've established while always remembering that America's agricultural bounty comes directly from the land.

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Ellen Frances (Hale) Fulghum, 80, died Friday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Jack Capps, 81, died Tuesday. Funeral services will be at 2 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 27, 2017, at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial at Vealmoor Cemetery.

Jose "Little Joe" Davila, 79, died Thursday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

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UPCOMING EVENTS
December 25-26: Christmas Holiday: City Offices Closed
February 10: Big Spring Symphony Presents "Winter Wonderland Concert": Municipal Auditorium. 7:30 PM
April 14: Big Spring Symphony Presents: "Music of the Beatles featuring Jeans N Classics Band": Municipal Auditorium. 7:30PM
April 28-29: A Joyful Season Shopping Expo. Dorothy Garrett Coliseum
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South Texas bishop expresses sorrow over 1960 slaying

BROWNSVILLE, Texas (AP) — A Roman Catholic leader in South Texas has expressed sorrow to relatives of a slain teacher in a 1960 killing blamed on an ex-priest who this month went to prison for the crime.

Bishop Daniel Flores of the Diocese of Brownsville on Thursday released a statement, on behalf of the church, with prayers that the family of 25-year-old Irene Garza finds peace.

Jurors on Dec. 7 convicted 85-year-old John Bernard Feit of murder in the death of Garza, who belonged to his parish. Feit received 57 years behind bars — the number of years since Garza was raped and killed.

Flores says the Diocese of Brownsville didn't exist then and he has no special insight into what was done or not done by civil and church authorities after the crime.

Texas attorney general: Guns allowed in some churches

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Texas' attorney general says licensed handgun owners can legally carry firearms into some churches in the wake of a gunman killing 26 worshippers during a Sunday service.

Republican Ken Paxton said Thursday exceptions are churches with posted signs banning firearms. He issued the opinion nearly two months after the massacre in the town of Sutherland Springs.

Paxton suggested after the Nov. 5 shooting that churches need armed parishioners or professional security. He also clarified Thursday that a state law passed this year exempts churches from paying certain private security fees.

U.S. House Republicans this month rammed through a bill that would make it easier for gun owners to legally carry concealed weapons across state lines. The vote was the first significant action on guns in Congress since the church shooting.

Police: Texas woman killed mother, abducted her newborn girl

DALLAS (AP) — A woman who was hiding a recent miscarriage from her family fatally stabbed a mother and abducted her infant daughter, Houston police said Thursday.

Erika Jisela Miranda-Alvarez, 28, is charged with capital murder in the death of 33-year-old Carolina Flores, police Chief Art Acevedo said at a news conference. He said Miranda-Alvarez had known Flores and Flores' brother for about five years.

Miranda-Alvarez concealed her miscarriage from family members and claimed that she had just returned from the hospital after giving birth, Acevedo said.

"The woman was due to have a baby in January and she lost that baby," he said.

The body of Carolina Flores was discovered around midday Tuesday. Police initially said they believed 6-week-old Shamali Flores was with her father, but he was found late Tuesday in San Antonio without the girl. A statewide Amber Alert was issued as part of the search for her.

Acevedo would say only that "investigative efforts" led police to a southwest Houston apartment complex early Thursday where officers happened to spot a couple holding a baby. They questioned the couple and determined Miranda-Alvarez was holding Shamali. The baby was not harmed.

Miranda-Alvarez was being held without bond at the Houston city jail. Online jail records don't indicate she has an attorney who could comment on her behalf. The suspect's boyfriend has not been charged and Acevedo said it appears he wasn't aware of the miscarriage.

Investigators believed the couple was preparing to leave the area with Shamali, he said.

The baby was evaluated at a hospital and is in the custody of state Child Protective Services.

Police officials at a news conference Wednesday had said the person who took Shamali likely knew her family. They also said it's possible the girl was taken by someone who had lost a child.

Dallas juvenile inmates rarely allowed outdoors

DALLAS (AP) — Former employees say inmates at a juvenile correctional center in Dallas are not allowed to go outside for months on end.

The Lyle B. Medlock Youth Treatment Center houses teenage boys who have committed offenses requiring secure placement. The inmates are supposed to receive counseling, life-skills training, drug education and outdoor recreation at the facility.

But former guards, probation officers and families of incarcerated teens tell the Dallas Morning News that the center rarely allows boys outside.

Gabriela Garza is a former probation officer. She says she saw the boys taken outside once in her six months there.

A state-funded watchdog says it's repeatedly warned the head of the Dallas County Juvenile Department, Terry Smith, about the lack of outdoor time. Smith says she didn't see the agency's complaints.

It's always ho, ho, ho for a Santa mugs collector in Texas



In a Nov. 30, 2017 photo, a collection of vintage Christmas ornaments and decorations are displayed in the home of Caroline Nelson, in Dallas.

By JAMIE KNODEL

The Dallas Morning News

DALLAS (AP) — Caroline Nelson is drinking in the holiday season, and she's got plenty of mugs and holiday spirit to go around.

The Dallas Morning News reports the Park Cities collector doesn't wait for December to roll around to start thinking about raising a glass to Christmas. She does so year-round while hunting for vintage ceramic Santa mugs to add to her collection, which is closing in on 200 pieces.

"There's just something so nostalgic about them," Nelson said of the classic drinkware that features a smiling Santa face. "It's hard for me to pass them by."

The mugs often have the tail of the big guy's hat twisted into a handle. Similar styles are still made today, and have spurred snowmen and reindeer variations. But Nelson is loyal to Santa.

In the five or so years since she started buying the drinkware, the collection has become a full-blown passion.

"I really like to buy them, and I don't want to stop. So what do I do?"

She and an aunt — an antiques dealer in Colleyville — set out at least once a week to see what they can find. "Every time I come home with a Santa, my kids just sigh and are like, 'Moooom,'" Nelson said.

She started buying the mugs without realizing that her family had them when she was a child. It took her brother reminding her to recall them from her own past.

The thrill of the hunt — and those jolly little smiles — keep her adding to her collection, and this past year, the hunt got even more exciting when she began collecting vintage glass Christmas baubles.

"I got on a huge ornament kick," and during a trip to Round Top antique market she bought

more than 100 of them.

Nelson appreciates each one for its history and delicate features, fully realizing that their age and dainty design require extra care when handling. But when they break, Nelson's heart doesn't. "That just means I get to go back out and hunt again."

Now that she's amassed hundreds of the mugs, Nelson has gotten pickier about the Santas she'll bring home. It's the facial features that often win her over — rosy cheeks, sparkling eyes, blemish-free foreheads. "They're all different and hard to resist," she said.

Nelson, who when she isn't on the lookout for Christmas collectibles designs and sells jewelry, is willing to overlook scratches and chips for other unique features, including candy-cane striped handles, a double-sided design (she's got one mug that features Santa on one side and Mrs. Claus on the other) or an unusual size. Her collection now includes several pitchers, punch bowls and cookie jars with the familiar winking face.

While her Santa mugs have had a prominent place in her Park Cities home in Christmas past, this is the first holiday season that Nelson and her children, Campbell, 12, and Charlie, 10, have trimmed their tree exclusively in vintage ornaments.

Much to Nelson's delight, Campbell, who has been known to grumble when her mom wants to detour to estate sales, was totally on board

with the old-world look. "When she was excited about how it turned out, I thought, 'I've finally won her over,'" Nelson said.

Back in their heydays, the ceramic mugs and glass ornaments were hugely popular mass-produced items, which means they aren't hard to find, even today.

Their popularity has soared again in recent years, and so have the price tags that come with them. Nelson's favorite spots to shop for new additions are flea markets, thrift shops and estate sales.

When you buy from antique malls, Etsy or Ebay, you should expect to pay more, she said. "You're paying for someone else's time who went out to find them," she said.

When you flip over any of Nelson's Santa mugs, there's a good chance you'll find a price tag. "Most of them I paid \$1 to \$5," said the collector, who keeps the price on the bottom just for fun.

The bigger Santas in her collection, including the 4½-foot tall guy greeting guests on her front porch, of course came with bigger price tags. But even with those, Nelson does her best to

See SANTA, Page 5



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Judge considers lifting ban on entry of refugee families

By **MARTHA BELLISLE**

Associated Press
SEATTLE (AP) — A federal judge said he would decide before Christmas whether to stop a Trump administration ban on certain refugees after hearing arguments Thursday that the ban is separating families and putting some refugees in danger.

Lawyers from the ACLU and Jewish Family Services asked U.S. District Judge James Robart for an injunction on a ban the administration has placed on refugees from some mostly Muslim countries.

The ban went into effect in October after President Donald Trump issued an executive order resuming the refugee program "with enhanced vetting capabilities."

The day before that order, Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, Acting Homeland Security Secretary Elaine Duke and Director of National Intelligence Daniel Coats sent a memo to Trump saying certain refugees must be banned unless additional security measures are implemented.

The banned refugees include the spouses and minor children of refugees who have already settled in the U.S. The action also suspended the refugee program for people coming from 11 countries, nine of which are mostly Muslim.

The ACLU argued the memo provided no evidence for why additional security was needed and didn't specify a timeframe for implementing the changes.

"Refugee resettlement is one of our proudest humanitarian achievements," ACLU lawyer Mariko Hirose said after the hearing. "We as Americans cannot let this administration destroy our refugee program and repeat the worst of this country's history by letting bigotry turn away those who need our help the most."

August Flentje, with the Department of Justice, told Robart that the ban is temporary and "is a reasonable and appropriate way for agency

heads to tackle gaps" in the screening process.

But Robart questioned whether Trump administration policies were trampling the Administrative Procedures Act, which says a process must be followed before shutting down a program.

The judge also questioned whether the Department of Homeland Security has the authority to stop the refugee program, when the Immigration and Nationality Act, passed by Congress, mandates the reunification of the families of refugees settled in this country.

After peppering the lawyers with questions, Robart said he is taking the motion for a preliminary injunction under advisement and would issue a ruling by Christmas, which is only one business day away.

The ACLU and Jewish Family Services lawsuits were consolidated and represent refugees who have been blocked from entering the country. Their lawyers say the ban on entry is causing irreparable harm and is putting some lives at risk.

The ACLU represents a Somali man living in Washington state who is trying to bring his family to the U.S. They've gone through extensive vetting, have passed security and medical clearances, and just need travel papers, but those were denied after the ban.

The delay creates major problems, Hirose said, because the medical clearances are only valid for a certain period of time, and the family will have to travel 500 miles over difficult terrain to get new medical certifications if the ban is not lifted soon.

The man "unquestionably has a statutory entitlement under the INA to be reunited with his family," but the administration has denied him of that right, the ACLU said.

Two other refugees included in the Jewish Family Services lawsuit are former Iraqi interpreters for the U.S. Army whose lives were put at risk for



AP photo

Mariko Hirose, right, a litigation director at the Urban Justice Center, Esther Sung, a staff attorney at the National Immigration Law Center, Rabbi Will Berkowitz, Jewish Family Service of Seattle CEO and Mark Hetfield, president & CEO the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society, stand in front of a federal courthouse after speaking with media members there Thursday, Dec. 21, 2017, in Seattle. Lawyers representing refugees who have legally settled in the U.S. are asking a federal judge to stop the Trump administration from keeping refugee families from entering the country. The ACLU, representing a Somali man living in Washington state, argued in federal court Thursday that Trump's indefinite ban on letting those families into the U.S. violates immigration law and the constitutional rights of the legal

their service.

Another is a transgender woman in Egypt "living in such extremely dangerous circumstances that the U.S. government itself had expedited her case until the ban came down," Hirose said.

Jane Doe 5 is a single woman in Iraq, Hirose said. Her husband divorced her after she was kidnapped and raped by militants because she worked with an American company. Her family is in the U.S. but she's

stranded by the ban, Hirose said.

Rabbi Will Berkowitz said after the hearing that Trump's order directly harms the people Jewish Family Services tries to help.

"We know exactly how perilous it is when this great country of ours shuts its doors to the most vulnerable based on their religion," he said. "The executive order and the actions of this administration are at odds with both our core Jewish values and American values."

Oklahoma regents vice chair to resign after anti-gay comment

By **KEN MILLER**

Associated Press

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — The vice chair of the University of Oklahoma Board of Regents announced Thursday he would resign after an uproar over a comment on public affairs television that appeared to liken gay people to pedophiles.

Oklahoma regents vice chair to resign after anti-gay comment

down before the start of the spring semester in 2018. Humphries said the board asked him to step down during the private meeting.

"I told (board Chairman) Clay Bennett on Saturday that if this was the will of the regents, I was happy to do that," Humphreys said. The board's meeting was called to discuss "any board member(s) as it may pertain to board leadership positions."

Humphreys publicly apologized for his comments on Tuesday. He said comments he made on the show that aired Dec. 10 went "off the rails" and that he regrets hurting people.

The LGBTQ advocacy group Freedom Oklaho-

ma had called for Humphreys to resign. Director Troy Stevenson, who had joined Humphreys on Tuesday and didn't renew his call for a resignation then, said Humphreys resignation "was the most appropriate response."

"It was the outcome we were hopeful for," said Stevenson, who had said he opposed Humphreys becoming chairman of the board of regents. Stevenson said he respects Humphreys and believes his previous apology was genuine.

The president of the OU Student Government Association, J.D. Baker, said resigning was the right thing for Humphreys to do.

"I didn't expect it but I think it's a positive decision in the right direction I think it helps us realize the gravity of his words and that they have impact," Baker said. Humphreys and others were discussing allegations against Minnesota Sen. Al Franken, who has announced he'll resign from the Senate over accusations of sexual misconduct, and allegations of improper behavior by President Donald Trump when Humphreys began to ramble about other subjects.

He said he was "going to make a lot of people mad today."

"Is homosexuality right or wrong? It's not

relative; there's a right and wrong," said Humphreys, a real estate developer and former Oklahoma City mayor. "If it's OK, then it's OK for everybody and, quite frankly, it's OK for men to sleep with little boys."

Humphreys said the day after the program aired that his moral position on homosexuality is that it is "against

the teachings of Scripture."

In a Dec. 11 statement, University of Oklahoma President David Boren said Humphreys was not speaking on behalf of the university. Boren said the school was committed to diversity and inclusiveness, adding: "I do not share his views on this matter."

SANTA

Continued from Page 4

score the best deal possible. After she spotted the nearly life-size version on Craigslist, she waited till after the season to get him — at a reduced price.

Most of the vintage ornaments Nelson has been able to snag for \$2 or \$3 a piece. Larger varieties or those with the indented reflectors are higher, but she said she generally won't pay more than \$15 for one.

For Nelson, finding the vintage piece is only the start of the fun. She also delights in finding the right place in her home to showcase it.

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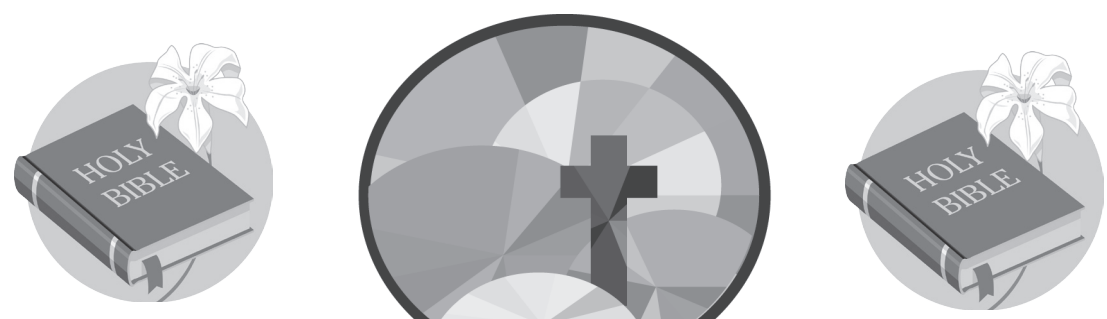
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Ezra was a meticulous record keeper. This may have been necessary for his reports to King Darius. His book is hard to read and understand because of the many lists.

The second Temple was completed and dedicated seventy years after the destruction of the first Temple. Notice that the Lord does special things according to sevens.

After the completion of the Temple, Ezra journeyed back to Babylon to bring to Jerusalem the things dedicated for the Temple.

Things dedicated for the Temple included one hundred talents of silver (3-3/4 tons), one hundred cors of wheat (600 bushels), one hundred baths each of wine (600 gallons) and olive oil (600 gallons) and unlimited salt. Imagine the number of camels needed to transport these generous gifts over the 500 mile journey!

The men accompanying Ezra are listed by fami-

lies, 1,687 men. Add to that their wives and children, which may have tripled that number.

Ezra did not ask for soldiers to escort them. He relied on the Lord for their protection from bandits.

When Ezra learned how many of the people had intermarried with idol worshippers, he was stricken with the guilt of the whole people of Israel. He prayed to God and confessed their guilt. He felt that they were too wicked to ask for mercy themselves.

Shecaniah suggested, "We have been unfaithful to God by marrying foreign women. Let us make a covenant with God to send away all the foreigners (some of these men had children by the foreign wives). Let us give a bill of divorcement to them according to Hebrew law."

Messengers were sent out and within three days all the men of Judah and Benjamin assembled to vote on the plan. Only three men dissented. Ezra listed each dissenter by his name and lineage.

After thorough examination, the elders found one hundred and ten men who were guilty of intermarriage with pagan women. Within three months the officials had prepared the official papers for the women to be sent away.

True to his practice of making lists, Ezra listed every man who had married a pagan wife and from

what tribe they descended.

The men made a guilt offering to the Lord. They knew intermarriage was against the rules God had given for the Hebrews. God knew that unless they kept separate from the pagans, the worship of idols would pollute the Hebrew nation.

This is what had happened other times and the worship of idols became the cause for the Lord removing his protection. This allowed other nations to conquer the Israelites and carry them into exile.

Do you remember why it was so necessary to keep the Hebrew bloodlines pure and to keep them from worshipping foreign idols? When God spoke to them from Mt. Sinai, He told them that He had spoken to every other nation about being His people. Each nation said 'no' because it would interfere with the way of life they enjoyed.

When He asked the Hebrews, they answered, "We will obey and we will hear." They promised to obey His word before they even knew what it would be.

For approximately 300 years they strayed and worshipped idols. Occasionally a loyal king came to power and led them back to God. But they were His people, and He was very slow to take away His blessings and protection.



EUNICE FILLER

Church News

Blessed Hands Deaf Church

Pastor Jim Walterhouse, wife Debbie, and the congregation of Blessed Hands Deaf Church invite you to worship with them Sunday at 2:00 pm as they celebrate the season of the birth of the world's Savior, Jesus Christ. Currently, Blessed Hands Deaf Church meets inside First Baptist Church at 705 W FM 700. For detailed information about BHDC, contact Pastor Jim at: jwalterhouse@gmail.com. Merry Christmas!

Forsan Baptist Church

This week the message comes from Luke 2:8-15 and is called Hear and Know.

A Candlelight Service will take place on Dec. 24 at 6 p.m.

Wednesday youth and children's activities will resume the week school starts back on January 10. Students from pre-k to 6th grade are provided a light snack right after school, with age-appropriate classes beginning at 4 p.m. Van rides are available at 5 p.m. IMPACT youth begins with a meal at 5:30, followed by class at 6 p.m. Van rides are available at 7 p.m.

Wednesday adult Bible study class begins at 6 p.m.

If anyone needs a ride to or from Wednesday evening activities, please call Pastor Darren Weaver at 432-213-2348.

First United Methodist Church

First United Methodist Church is located just off Gregg Street at the corner of Fourth and Scurry in downtown Big Spring. The usual Sunday Morning Schedule includes the 9 a.m. Traditions Service, featuring the pipe organ, Choir, trumpet, and hymns, followed by Sunday School, and then The Bridge service at 11 a.m. which features contemporary music led by a wonderful praise team.

On Sunday, Dec. 24, Pastor Derrell's message is "PEACE," and the scripture is from Luke 2: 1-20. Worship services are broadcast live each Sunday at 11 a.m. on radio station KXCS-105.5 FM. You can also find the services live streamed on our Facebook page, at First United Methodist Church Big Spring. You can watch previous worship services on that Facebook page, including recordings of our Christmas program, "Our Savior."

On Sunday, Dec. 24, there will be only one morning worship service, at 10:45 a.m.

On Sunday, Dec. 24, A Christmas Eve Communion and Candlelight Service will be held in the sanctuary at 6 p.m.

On Sunday, Dec. 31, there will be only one morning worship service, at 10:45 a.m.

The Youth will have a "New Year's Eve Party" on Sunday, Dec. 31, at 9 p.m. in the Partee Building.

All Wednesday activities are on break through the holidays and will resume on Wednesday, Jan. 10, 2018.

For more information on any activity, please

visit the website at www.fumcbs.com or phone the church office at 267-6394.

First Baptist Church

"For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." Isaiah 9:6

The community is invited to FBC's Christmas Eve worship service Sunday at 6 p.m.

This will be a time of grateful rejoicing, humble reflection, and focused adoration of Jesus Christ: the King of Kings, and Lord of Lords. Attendees will join in singing classic songs of the season. During the service, the last Advent candle, the candle of Christ, will be lit. Pastor Mark Lindsey will offer a Christmas devotional message, followed by worshippers partaking in The Lord's Supper. Special music will be provided by gifted musicians Alan and Lynda Schantz, and Joe Whitten. At the close of service will be the traditional Christmas Eve candle lighting. The candle lighting symbolizes Christ, His purity and the salvation He offers humanity; when a person accepts Jesus Christ as personal Savior, they are 'lit' from within by His Divine nature and Spirit. Jesus "put on flesh," and came to earth bringing light to the darkness of this world (John 8:12), and as participants light their candles they will be reminded that we are lit by Him, and lighted for Him.

There are no other services Sunday Dec. 24. Church offices will be closed Dec. 25-26. There are no activities Wednesday evening, Dec. 27th.

FBC is located at 705 W FM 700. There is always a place for you at First Baptist Church. Merry Christmas!

Midway Baptist Church

Midway Baptist Church is located at 6200 S Service Rd in the Midway area, with Dr. Michael Seay serving as pastor. Services at Midway Baptist Church begin each week with Sunday school classes for all ages at 9:45 a.m., followed by Sunday morning worship at 11 a.m. A children's church and nursery are provided. On Sunday and Wednesday evenings, worship begins at 6 p.m. Children's and youth programs are also available.

The ladies Prayer and Share group will not meet again until Monday, January 8th. They will resume at the regular time of 9:30 a.m. in the fellowship hall.

We will be having a candle light service and the Lord's Supper, Christmas Eve, December 24th during our evening service at 6 p.m. We would love to have you join us!

We hope that each of you have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We pray that you remember the reason for season and have a wonderful time.

Alive in Christ Lutheran Church

Alive in Christ Lutheran Church LCMS The Nativity of Our Lord Dec. 24, 2017, "Celebrating and Sharing God's Love and Grace in our lives."

We are located at 2805 Lynn Drive in the Kentwood Neighborhood in Big Spring. If you would like to reach Pastor Lamb or the church office please call (432) 264-7818, or e-mail us at alivein-christtx@gmail.com.

Bible Study and Sunday School begin at 9:30 a.m. and our Sunday Service begins at 10:30 a.m. If you are new to the area or haven't been to church before or in a while, please accept this as an invitation to join us this Sunday.

Our Wednesday Evening Advent Services will begin on Dec. 6 at 7p.m. We will serve a meal from 5:30-6:30 p.m. We will begin a new mid-week Bible Study class in January. The adult class will be led by Pastor Lamb. The youth will have a class led by Dolline Budke.

We will have regular service hours on Sunday morning, Dec. 24 and services again Sunday evening beginning at 7 p.m. Christmas morning our service will begin at 9:30 a.m. Please feel free to join us.

Bo Vizcaino will present the scripture readings this week.



Tune in to KBYG every morning for a devotional sponsored in part by the Lutheran Hour. Tune in to 106.3 FM or 1400 AM between 6:45 and 6:50 each morning for these wonderful devotions: "Morning Meditation Thoughts." Also tune in every Sunday morning at 8:30 to listen to the Lutheran Hour.

First Presbyterian Church

On Wednesday the Lectionary Bible Study, led by Craig Holstedt and Tom Koger, meets at 5 p.m. in the church library. The Chancel Choir rehearsal is at 6 p.m. on Wednesday.

Sarah Salinas, Glen Burch, and Mia Burch lit the Advent candle for the third Sunday in Advent last Sunday.

Saturday, Dec. 30, at 8:30 a.m. men of the congregation are cooking for a Prayer Breakfast. Josh McKain, Corps Officer of the Salvation Army will be the speaker. All are welcome and encouraged to bring a friend or neighbor.

Vicki McLean is in charge of Take Ten for this Sunday. Lector is Tom Koger. Ushers for the month are Velen Esquivel, Danny Kennemur, and John Yater.

Sunday, Dec. 24, the traditional Candlelight Service will be in the Sanctuary at 5:30 p.m. During the Christmas season the Christmas Joy Offering, to support past, present, and future Church leaders, will be accepted. Sunday morning worship service will be at 10:50 a.m. as usual.

The lectionary passages for the Fourth Sunday of Advent, Christmas Eve, are Isaiah 9:2-7; Psalm 96:9; Titus 2:11-14; and Luke 2:1-14(15-20). Rev. Craig Holstedt will deliver the sermon. The Chancel Choir will open the service with the Introit "Child of Light" by Lloyd Larson. The Choir will present the anthem "Emmanuel," by Allen Pote/Tom Long. The Offertory anthem will be "An Advent Song" by Joseph Martin.

The Congregation of First Presbyterian Church wishes the community of Big Spring a Blessed and Merry Christmas.

Please note that our worship service begins at 10:50 a.m. for announcements and parish concerns before our radio broadcast starts at 11.

If you cannot attend worship, you may listen in on KBST 1490 AM, beginning at 11 a.m. If you wish to have a printed bulletin for Sunday services, please call the church office at 263-4211. You may also see what's happening at the church by visiting our website www.fpcbs.org. On our website, you can find a link that will enable you to listen to several recent sermons by Rev. Craig Holstedt. We would be pleased for you to Like us on Facebook.

Cornerstone Covenant Church

We at Cornerstone Covenant Church would love the opportunity to Connect with YOU! Please join us this week at one of the following events:

Sunday, Dec. 24th - Join us this Sunday as we enter this wonderful season of sharing and great expectations. We offer both a 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. worship service so come on out as you can expect



Reflections: Finding Christmas

In spite of Facebook, email and e-cards, Americans will purchase and send approximately 1.6 billion Christmas cards this year. Christmas cards lift our spirits, keep us connected and represent a tangible expression of thoughtfulness in an increasingly digital world. Christmas is the time to communicate and gather with friends

The gathering part can be a challenge. Office parties, church groups, close friends and family quickly fill the calendar. Some of us will travel great distances and juggle schedules to spend this special time with family members we have not seen in a year.

All of this communicating and gathering challenges us for control of our time and our lives. With continuing duties for work, school and family overlaid with Christmas commitments, we sometimes find ourselves weary and exhausted, feeling as if our lives are spinning out of control.

Part of the tension comes from our effort to create

the perfect Christmas. We have made Christmas a spectacular event, spectacular performance, spectacular lights, the spectacular gift. But, we know down deep, that our lives are not spectacular. Most of our days and most of our lives seem rather common and ordinary.

It might help to remember that the first Christmas had little resemblance to our contemporary traditions and expectations. The birth of Christ occurred in the chaos of the common and the ordinary: a common stable surrounded by common animals in a common village. Few took notice.

There was no extravaganza staged in the cities. The angels' announcement occurred in a remote region with only a few simple shepherds present. The Magi, who observed the star in the east, came and went almost unnoticed.

It was for the common and the ordinary that Christ came. He grew up in a carpenter's shop in a remote village. He owned no house and had no possessions. He had no place to lay his head. After a brief public ministry in which he healed and taught thousands, he died upon a common cross

outside Jerusalem and was buried in a borrowed tomb. In birth, life and death, Jesus redeemed the common and the ordinary and elevated each of us to an extraordinary relationship with God.

The first Christmas was an "out of control" event for Mary and Joseph. The tax summons that took them to Bethlehem could not have come at a worse time. The baby was due. She was in no condition for such a long and arduous journey. When they arrived, the town was a bedlam of people. No one wanted to be there. They had come because they were obligated under Roman law. Of course, what appeared to be an onerous obligation and an inconvenient time was actually a fulfillment of prophecy that the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem.

Perhaps God planned it this way to teach us that His intervention must be experienced in the common and the ordinary chaos of life. When we look for Christmas in the spectacular, we can only experience it once a year. But when we discover Christmas in the common and the chaotic, it can change our life every day.



BILL
TINSLEY



CHURCH

Continued from Page 7

biblical teaching & preaching, genuine loving fellowship and live spirit filled praise & worship. We would love the opportunity this Sunday to share what God has for you, and get to know you better.

Sunday, Dec. 24th Christmas Concert at 11 a.m. Service- The days are getting shorter and the nights colder, meaning the countdown to Christmas is on its way. Join us as we prepare to celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. We will be having a Candle lighting service and our very own Children's Church department will be singing and performing.

Covenant Life New Believers Course - Are you a New Believer? Were you recently baptized? We have a course just for you. Our CLNB Course will be held each Sunday in December from 10 a.m.-10:50 a.m. in the Academic Resource Center. Members of our Pastoral Care Team will be sharing this 4 week course designed to walk you through the steps of: Salvation, Faith & Assurance, Power of the Holy Spirit and Overcoming Trials.

Tuesday, Jan. 9th- Join us at 7 p.m. as 50 & over small group will be gathering for a potluck and game night. Bring your game face and see you at the Flower's Residence 2405 E. 25th St. For more info please contact Faye Flowers at 432-213-3883.

Cornerstone Covenant Church (CCC) is a unified, spirit-led, purpose-driven church, which cultivates an atmosphere of faith so that lives can be transformed by Jesus Christ. Please join us every Sunday at 9 a.m., 11 a.m. and Wednesday at 7 p.m. for worship services.

CCC is located at 706 East 12th Street. For office hours or other questions please contact our Administrative Office at 432.264.0015 or email us at info@cccbigspring.org. You can also find us at facebook.com/CCCBigspring or visit us at www.cccbigspring.org if you would like more information.

Spring Creek Fellowship

We will not have our Classic Services (8:30 a.m.) or Connection Groups on Dec. 24 or Dec 31st. We will have services at 10:45 a.m. both days! Please join us at our Christmas Eve Service at 6 p.m. Don't forget our annual Christmas Eve Cookie Give Away! We will need as many cookies as you can bake to deliver to those working on Christmas Eve after the service! Please share your favorite holiday cookie!

Everyone is invited to our New Year's Eve Family Game Night at the church. Bring your favorite games to play for all ages! There will be a mean Domino game going on for sure!! We will start at 7 p.m. and see what happens! Please bring snacks to share.

The Women's Bible Study (previously Cheeze Nips) will not meet again until Tuesday January 9th at 7 p.m. and will have a new name!! For info call Jen Hollingsworth at 432-425-5141.

We will have a new "App" after the first of the year. It should be easier to work with have more applications. More news to come!!

New Connection Groups will be starting up in January. More info to come!!

Our Daily Bread Food Pantry will be open the 2nd and 4th Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. starting in January. If you are in need of food, please come see us! We are in the mall. Go in the door where the movie theater is located and we are in the first spot on the left!

You may also visit our Blessing Box just out-

side the front doors of the church entrance to get food. Donations are needed to keep us stocked for those in need. Please consider donating on a regular basis if you are able! Everyone is welcome to take what they need and donations are greatly appreciated. If you are interested in participating with the "Blessing Box" ministry, the "Our Daily Bread Food Pantry" ministry, please contact Kay Elder.

We are updating our files and need your help to make sure we

have the correct information for you and your family. Please fill out the forms left on the seats in the Sanctuary or contact the church office.

"People Caring for People" is a ministry serving widows in our area with small projects and "honey do" kinds of things. This ministry has no operating budget, so repairs are made with donations. If you would like to be a part of this ministry, either in a "hands on" way or by donation, please contact the church office.

The Spring of Siloam Christian Women's Job Corps is meeting Monday through Thursday at 6 p.m. in the Adult Connect area. Spring of Siloam provides job skills training for women in a Christian environment. For more information about serving or participating in this ministry, contact Nancy Escalante at 268-3992.

The Taylor School of Ministry is meeting in the room across from Evita's Restaurant in Spring Town Plaza. A two-year Associates Degree is offered through TSM. For more information, contact the church office.

Community Groups meet during the week in various homes and locations. These groups promote fellowship, discipleship, and service. Contact the church office for times and locations.

Our Nursery needs workers on Sunday mornings. If you have a heart for children and would like to give some of your time loving on our smallest members, please contact Donna Wennik.



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Longtime sportscaster Dick Enberg found dead at home at 82



games for nearly a decade," Padres owners Ron Fowler and Peter Seidler said in a statement.

Raised in Armada, Michigan, Enberg's first radio job was actually as a radio station custodian in Mount Pleasant, Michigan, when he was a junior at Central Michigan.

He made \$1 an hour. The owner also gave him weekend sports and disc jockey gigs, also at \$1 an hour. From there he began doing high school and college football games.

During his nine years broadcasting UCLA basketball, the Bruins won eight NCAA titles under coach John Wooden. Enberg broadcast nine no-hitters, including two by San Francisco's Tim Lincecum against the Padres in 2013 and 2014.

He said the most historically important event he covered was "The Game of the Century," Houston's victory over UCLA in 1968 that snapped the Bruins' 47-game winning streak.

"That was the platform from which college basketball's popularity was sent into the stratosphere," Enberg said just before retiring from the Padres. "The '79 game, the Magic-Bird game, everyone wants to credit that as the greatest game of all time. That was just the booster rocket that sent it even higher. ... UCLA, unbeaten;

Houston, unbeaten. And then the thing that had to happen, and Coach Wooden hated when I said this, but UCLA had to lose. That became a monumental event."

Enberg's many former broadcast partners included Merlin Olsen, Al McGuire, Billy Packer, Don Drysdale and Tony Gwynn. He even worked a few games with Wooden, whom he called "The greatest man I've ever known other than my own father."

Enberg called Padres games for seven seasons and went into the Hall of Fame in 2015 as the recipient of the Ford C. Frick Award.

"There will never be another Dick Enberg," CBS Sports Chairman Sean McManus said. "As the voice of generations of fans, Dick was a masterful storyteller, a consummate professional and a true gentleman. He was one of the true legends of our business."

John Ireland, the radio voice of the Los Angeles Lakers, tweeted: "If there was a Mount Rushmore of LA Sports with Chick Hearn, Vin Scully and Bob Miller, Rams, Angels, UCLA, NBC, and so much more. Was the first famous announcer I ever met, and he couldn't have been nicer. Definition of a gentleman."

Enberg won 13 Sports Emmy Awards and a Lifetime Achievement Emmy. He received a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame, and UCLA named its Media Center in Pauley Pavilion after Enberg this year.

At halftime of a UCLA game in February, former Bruins stars Bill Walton and Jamaal Wilkes presented Enberg with a No. 8 jersey, signifying the number of championships he called.

"That's not going to happen again," Enberg said before the game. "Who was looking over me? To be able to come in and ride the Wooden Wave."

"Kindest, most proactive possible treatment of newcomers in this business, for the length of his career," broadcaster Keith Olbermann said of Enberg on Twitter. "What a terrible loss."

The Hollywood Chamber of Commerce said flowers will be placed Friday on Enberg's star on the Walk of Fame.

AP photo

In this Sept. 29, 2016, file photo, San Diego Padres broadcaster Dick Enberg waves to a crowd at a retirement ceremony prior to the Padres' final home baseball game of the season, against the Los Angeles Dodgers in San Diego. Enberg, the sportscaster who got his big break with UCLA basketball and went on to call Super Bowls, Olympics, Final Fours and Angels and Padres baseball games, died Thursday, Dec. 21, 2017. He was 82. Enberg's daughter, Nicole, confirmed the death to The Associated Press. She said the family became concerned when he didn't arrive on his flight to Boston on Thursday, and that he was found dead at his home in La Jolla, a San Diego neighborhood.

By **BERNIE WILSON**

AP Sports Writer

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Dick Enberg, a Hall of Fame broadcaster known as much for his excited calls of "Oh my!" as the big events he covered during a 60-year career, has died. He was 82.

Enberg's daughter, Nicole Enberg Vaz, confirmed the death to The Associated Press. She said the family became concerned when her father didn't arrive Thursday on his flight to Boston, and he was found dead at his home in La Jolla, a San Diego neighborhood, with his bags packed.

His daughter said the family believes Enberg died of a heart attack but was awaiting official word.

"It's very, very, very shocking," said Vaz, who lives in Boston. "He'd been busy with two podcasts and was full of energy."

Enberg's wife, Barbara, already was in Boston and was expecting his arrival.

The family "is grateful for the kind thoughts and prayers of all of Dick's countless fans and dear friends," according to a statement released by Enberg's attorney, Dennis Coleman. "At this time we are all still processing the significant loss, and we ask for prayers and respectful privacy in the immediate aftermath of such untimely news."

Enberg got his big break with UCLA basketball and went on to call Super Bowls, Olympics, Final Fours and Angels and Padres baseball games as well as Rams football games.

He retired from his TV job with the Padres in October 2016, capping a six-decade career punctuated with countless calls of "Oh my!" in describing big plays. He also was well known for his baseball catchphrase of "Touch 'em all!" for home runs.

"Dick was an institution in the industry for 60 years and we were lucky enough to have his iconic voice behind the microphone for Padres

er also gave him weekend sports and disc jockey gigs, also at \$1 an hour. From there he began doing high school and college football games.

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Florida, Texas may attract athletes after tax law change



AP photo

In this Sept. 21, 2016, file photo, the Seattle Mariners play the Toronto Blue Jays in a baseball game at Safeco Field in Seattle. Big league teams in Texas, Florida, Nevada and Washington state may have become more attractive destinations for free agents following the enactment of tax law changes. The new law that takes effect next year caps deductions for state and local taxes at \$10,000 for married couples filing jointly. That has a huge impact for athletes with seven- and eight-figure salaries.

By **RONALD BLUM**

AP Baseball Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Teams in Texas, Florida, Nevada and Washington state may have become more attractive destinations for free agents following the enactment of tax law changes.

Deductions for state and local taxes are capped at \$10,000 in the year starting Jan. 1 for married couples filing jointly. That has a huge impact for athletes with seven- and eight-figure salaries.

"Obviously, the zero income-tax states have now more of an advantage than before," said baseball agent Scott Boras, who is negotiating big-money deals this offseason for free agents J.D. Martinez,

Eric Hosmer, Mike Moustakas, Jake Arrieta and Greg Holland.

Geography, family comforts, playing time and winning remain the most important factors for many.

"I understand the tax differential issue but have rarely thought it was outcome determinative in where a player signs," baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred said.

But the teams in states with a higher percentage of take-home pay make their advantage known.

"All teams in tax-free states do," Dallas Mavericks owner Mark Cuban said.

The \$10,000 limit also includes deductions for

property and sales taxes — large numbers for the most prominent athletes.

At the same time, the top tax rate has been lowered to 37 percent for single filers earning more than \$500,000 and married couples filing jointly earning more than \$600,000. That is down from 39.6 percent for single filers earning more than \$418,400 and married couples filing jointly earning more than \$470,700.

For baseball, the AL West becomes the most attractive for tax status. The World Series champion Houston Astros, along with the Texas Rangers and

See **TAX**, Page 15

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Contact our Job Center for Job Descriptions or to Arrange a Campus Tour 432-268-7341 or 432-268-7298 or Complete an application online at https://jobshportal.hhsc.state.tx.us/

Big Spring State Hospital 1901 North Highway 87, Big Spring, TX 79720

Custodial/maintenance position available at New Hope Christian School. Must be able to pass background and drug tests. Apply in person at 118 Cedar Rd.

Help Wanted Anchor truck drivers/installers wanted. No experience necessary. Benefits include health insurance, paid holidays, paid vacations, uniforms and scheduled days off. Commercial drivers license preferred but not required. Starting pay \$18-\$20 an hour. Must be at least 21 years old. 432-517-4527

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Needing a Local CDL Drivers Must Be Able to Pass a Drug Test Would Prefer Belly or End Dump Experience Pay is Commission Based. Contact Paul 325-725-6583

Wind Technician Invenergy LLC is hiring a Wind Technician for the Gunsight Energy Center, a 1200 MW wind power generation facility utilizing GE 1.79 turbine technology, located in Big Spring, TX. Qualified applicants are encouraged to visit www.inenergyllc.com and click on "Careers" https://inenergyllc.com/careers

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

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.

Help Wanted

O&M Manager Invenergy LLC is hiring an O&M Manager for the Gunsight Energy Center, a 120 MW wind power generation facility utilizing GE 1.79 turbine technology, located in Big Spring, TX. Qualified applicants are encouraged to visit www.inenergyllc.com and click "Careers." Invenergy LLC is a global developer, owner and operator of renewable and clean energy. Invenergy is a highly-experienced leader in innovative clean energy solutions. https://inenergyllc.wd1.myworkdayjobs.com/invenergy-careers

Parks Fuels is looking for a Outside Sales Manager who is capable of warehouse inventory and outside ordering. Excellent starting salary, car expense, retirement, & health insurance. Bring resume to 303 E. 1st St.

Parks Fuels is Looking For an Office Secretary. Should Have Excellent Organizational Skills w/ Attention to Detail. Required to Have The Ability to Use a Computer and Programs. Competitive Pay w/Health Insurance and Retirement. Please bring resume to 303 E. 1st. St. Big Spring.

Parkview Nursing and Rehab is currently accepting applications for: *Cook *Housekeeping/Laundry Aide part time Must be motivated, caring and that love the elderly. We offer Competitive Pay, Insurance, other benefits and a Great Family working environment! You can apply online at www.parkviewnursing.com or in person at 3200 Parkway.

Parkview Nursing and Rehabilitation is hiring Certified and Non-Certified Nurse Aides. We are seeking individuals who want a rewarding career and want to make a difference in lives. You can apply on-line at www.parkviewnursing.net or in person at 3200 Parkway.



The Big Spring Herald is hiring for newspaper delivery drivers. Routes run Monday through Saturday. Must have reliable transportation, valid driver's license and insurance. Apply in person at 710 Scurry, Big Spring, Texas. No phone calls please.

Help Wanted

Program Activities Specialist Girl Scouts of the Desert Southwest has a position available for a full time Program Activities Specialist who can work from home. If you reside in Big Spring, TX the Council will pay mileage.

The position provides Girl Scout activities and services directly for the girl and adult volunteers in the schools and other locations in the Midland, TX area.

Applications are accepted at 901 W Dengar Midland, TX 79705 Or Email resumes to pgonzalez@gdsdw.org or call Patty Gonzalez 915-566-9433, ext. 213

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Skills Required: High School Diploma or GED, 21 years of age or older, Class A CDL with Tanker and Hazmat Endorsements. Minimum of two years verifiable tractor-trailer experience or a graduate of an accredited truck driving school. Must have a clean driving record and be able to clear a background check pursuant to local, state and federal rules regarding transportation of hazardous materials, and pass D.O.T. physical, drug screen, and obtain a D.O.T. medical card. EEO/AA www.avfuel.com Apply Online: http://avfuel.iapplicants.com/ViewJob-763541.html



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Legals

RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS OIL AND GAS DIVISION

DISTRICT 08 Rule 37 Case No. 0308160 DATE OF ISSUANCE: Dec 14, 2017 Status/Permit No. 831527 NOTICE OF PROTEST DEADLINE: 5:00 PM, Jan 18, 2018 Address: Railroad Commission of Texas ATTN: Drilling Permit Unit P. O. Box 12967 Austin, Texas 78711-2967 Fax: (512) 463-6780 Email: SWR37@RRC.TEXAS.GOV

NOTICE OF APPLICATION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the CALLON PETROLEUM OPERATING CO, [RRC Operator No. 124828] has made application for a spacing exception permit under the provisions of Railroad Commission Statewide Rule 37 (16 Tex. Admin. Code section 3.37). Applicant seeks exception to the lease line distance requirement because the Applicant is less than the required Rule 37 lease line distance to an unleased or non-pooled interest within the subject unit for the AMENDED NEW DRILL permit in Sec. 33, Bk. 33 T3N, T&P RR CO Survey, A-350, SPRABERRY (TREND AREA) Field, HOWARD County, being 18.63 miles NW direction from BIG SPRING, Texas.

PURSUANT TO THE TERMS of Railroad Commission rules and regulations, this application may be granted WITHOUT A HEARING if no protest to the application is received within the deadline. An affected person is entitled to protest this application. Affected persons include owners of record and the operator or lessees of record of adjacent tracts and tracts nearer to the proposed well than the minimum lease line spacing distance. If a hearing is called, the applicant has the burden to prove the need for an exception. A Protestant should be prepared to establish standing as an affected person, and to appear at the hearing either in person or by qualified representative and protest the application with cross-examination or presentation of a direct case. The rules of evidence are applicable in the hearing. If you have any questions regarding the hearing procedure, please contact the Commission's Docket Services Department at (512)463-6848. If you have questions which are specific to the Application or the information set forth in this Notice, please contact the Commission's Drilling Permit Unit at rule 37 (512)463-6751.

Legals

PURSUANT TO THE TERMS of Railroad Commission rules and regulations, this application may be granted WITHOUT A HEARING if no protest to the application is received within the deadline. An affected person is entitled to protest this application. Affected persons include owners of record and the operator or lessees of record of adjacent tracts and tracts nearer to the proposed well than the minimum lease line spacing distance. If a hearing is called, the applicant has the burden to prove the need for an exception. A Protestant should be prepared to establish standing as an affected person, and to appear at the hearing either in person or by qualified representative and protest the application with cross-examination or presentation of a direct case. The rules of evidence are applicable in the hearing. If you have any questions regarding the hearing procedure, please contact the Commission's Docket Services Department at (512)463-6848. If you have questions which are specific to the Application or the information set forth in this Notice, please contact the Commission's Drilling Permit Unit at rule 37 (512)463-6751.

IF YOU WISH TO REQUEST A HEARING ON THIS APPLICATION, AN INTENT TO APPEAR IN PROTEST MUST BE RECEIVED IN THE RAILROAD COMMISSION'S AUSTIN OFFICE AT THE ADDRESS, FAX NUMBER, OR E-MAIL ADDRESS SET OUT ABOVE BY Jan 18, 2018 at 5:00 p.m. IF NO PROTEST IS RECEIVED WITHIN SUCH TIME, YOU WILL LOSE YOUR RIGHT TO PROTEST AND THE REQUESTED PERMIT MAY BE GRANTED ADMINISTRATIVELY.

THIS NOTICE OF APPLICATION REQUIRES PUBLICATION

The location and identity of the well is as shown below:

FIELD: SPRABERRY (TREND AREA)

Lease/Unit Name : WRIGHT UNIT 40-33 Lease/Unit Well No. : 3AH Lease/Unit Acres : 690.0 Nearest Lease Line (ft) : 1.0 Nearest Well on Lease (ft) : 646.0

Lease Lines : 823.0 F North L, 236.0 F West L Survey Lines : 823.0 F North L, 2404.0 F East L

Field Rules for ALL fields on the permit application are as follows: SPRABERRY (TREND AREA) : Special Rules 330/0, 80.0 acres. This well is to be drilled to an approximate depth of 8500 feet.

If you have questions regarding this application, please contact the Applicant's representative, Ryan Emery, at (281) 589-5200.

#9634 December 15, 22, 29, 2017 January 5, 2018

RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS OIL AND GAS DIVISION

DISTRICT 08 Rule 37 Case No. 0308161 DATE OF ISSUANCE: Dec 14, 2017 Status/Permit No. 831528 NOTICE OF PROTEST DEADLINE: 5:00 PM, Jan 18, 2018 Address: Railroad Commission of Texas ATTN: Drilling Permit Unit P. O. Box 12967 Austin, Texas 78711-2967 Fax: (512) 463-6780 Email: SWR37@RRC.TEXAS.GOV

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THIS NOTICE OF APPLICATION REQUIRES PUBLICATION

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Lease/Unit Name : WRIGHT UNIT 40-33 Lease/Unit Well No. : 4AH Lease/Unit Acres : 690.0 Nearest Lease Line (ft) : 1.0 Nearest Well on Lease (ft) : 639.0

Lease Lines : 793.0 F North L, 236.0 F West L Survey Lines : 793.0 F North L, 2404.0 F East L

Wellbore Profile(s) : Horizontal

Lateral: TH1 Penetration Point Location Lease Lines: 793.0 F NORTH L 236.0 F WEST L Terminus Location BH County: HOWARD Section: 40 Block: 33 T3N Abstract: 1250 Survey: T&P RR CO / BOYDSTON, J N Lease Lines: 100.0 F SOUTH L 330.0 F WEST L Survey Lines: 100.0 F SOUTH L 2721.0 F EAST L

Field Rules for ALL fields on the permit application are as follows: SPRABERRY (TREND AREA) : Special Rules 330/0, 80.0 acres. This well is to be drilled to an approximate depth of 8500 feet.

If you have questions regarding this application, please contact the Applicant's representative, Ryan Emery, at (281) 589-5200.

#9635 December 15, 22, 25, 2017 January 5, 2018

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Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

Bidding quiz



You have the following hand, neither side vulnerable:

♠ 874 ♥ 5 ♦ Q83 ♣ AKJ762

1. Your partner opens One Notrump, and your right-hand opponent bids Two Hearts. What would you bid?

2. Your partner opens One Spade, and you respond Two Clubs. Your partner then bids Two Spades. What would you bid now?

3. Your left-hand opponent opens Three Hearts, which your partner doubles, and the next player passes. What would you bid?

4. Your partner opens One Spade, and you respond Two Clubs. Your partner then bids Two Hearts. What would you bid now?
* * *

1. **Three notrump.** You can't be sure this is the best contract, but the odds favor making three notrump. Most players treat a bid of three clubs in this situation as competitive but nonforcing, and it would therefore be unwise to run the risk of partner's passing with a hand likely to produce game at notrump.

Partner is a strong favorite to have at least one heart stopper, and once this is granted, the best chance for game lies in notrump. Five clubs could be a better contract than three notrump, but there is no way of exploring that possibility without

bypassing the notrump game.

2. **Four spades.** You have only 10 points in high cards, but game is nevertheless likely given partner's spade rebid and the added value of your singleton heart. To merely invite partner to go on by bidding three spades is too pessimistic a view to take. It is unlikely partner will lose four tricks opposite this hand.

3. **Five clubs.** You can't afford to bid only four clubs because you would do that with a much weaker hand. The best way of showing your values is by jumping to five clubs, which just about represents what you have.

If partner passes, you will probably make just five clubs; if he raises to six, you will probably make that also. The trap to avoid is four clubs, which would not do your hand justice.

4. **Two spades.** Partner is most likely to have five spades and four hearts, or five spades and five hearts. Since you have a definite preference for spades, you should let partner know that right now. Partner already knows you have enough points to respond initially on the two-level, so there is no need to do anything more than bid two spades.

Note the difference in approach as compared with problem No. 2, where partner almost surely has six spades and did not bid a second suit.

Tomorrow: The dark side of the picture.
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SUDOKU

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

Level: Intermediate

Here's How It Works:

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

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

ANSWER:

Tomorrow's Horoscope

BY HOLIDAY MATHIS



Mercury Direct Is Here to Help

People aren't born appreciating tastes that fall into the "bitter" category. Coffee, beer, leafy greens, grapefruit -- all acquired tastes, and yet, these foods are favorites for many. Bitter experiences can have a similar addictive quality. For some strange reason, we keep coming back. Mercury straightens out to help us investigate the phenomenon.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Good fortune sometimes steals the credit that should really have gone to good planning. With this in mind, what can you start today that might pay you 10 years from now? Do it.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). If you could see everyone's thoughts, half the people wouldn't look nearly as confident. Self-doubt is really irrelevant to the success equation. Keep going through the motions necessary to make something happen.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). People talk about problems. It could help, although it could also be an addiction to the release and attention that come with complaining. As for speaking of your joys, make sure you're talking to supporters who won't be jealous.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). When your day is touched by nature, it's also touched by wonder. Your connection to nature makes you bigger and smaller all at once. It gives you a sense of belonging to life.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Knowledge is a gift that's light as air, bright as sunbeams and tricky to deliver. How it's packaged will matter. Put time and thought into how you're going to organize and pass on your knowledge. Your immortality depends

on it.
VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). To prefer people to be a certain way so that we may easily relate -- this is only natural, and yet incredibly selfish. Also, it keeps our hearts small. Practice loving people as they are, perfectly themselves.
LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Just before the bend, you've no clue as to the shape of the road ahead. There are others who have walked this road a thousand times.
SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You know the secret of good service: To be well-served, you first serve others well. And though you may not be acknowledged quickly for this today, the reward for getting the job done is that it's done.
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). When you think about it and apply yourself, you are creating your life. When you don't think about it and do whatever, you are creating your life. Either way will work well today, actually.
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You have new feelings about your role, or possibly you're just bored of it. So, you agreed to something. It doesn't mean you have to keep agreeing to it.
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You may feel alone in your ambitions, but it doesn't have to be this way. You'll have a greater sense of purpose (and accountability) if you include more people in this. A Taurus or Virgo would be ideal.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You don't feel the need to prove that you're unique. You've no big need to stand out either, as you'd much rather connect with others as equal co-creators in a shared experience.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Dec. 22). Reach out to important people who can help you move toward your dream. Boldness will be rewarded many times in 2018. Though you don't require people to be anything other than how they are, family will make you very proud. You'll work for the sheer enjoyment of it and make a killing. Gemini and Pisces adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 19, 40, 23, 38 and 15.

WEEKEND LOVE FORECAST: **ARIES:** They feel when you like them. It's a far better turn-on than the feeling they get when you merely want them to like you. **TAURUS:** Your words will matter a little. Your attitude will matter as much as your words times 100. **GEMINI:** Great relationships will take time, but great attractions will be more or less immediate. **CANCER:** When you want something and then do the opposite, it's a sign that not all of you is on board with the idea of this thing you want. **LEO:** Cinderella tried to change everything about herself for a chance at the ball, but the prince found her when she was back in rags and proposed anyway. **VIRGO:** The assumptions will get you. Assume nothing and you'll be delighted by what is brought to you. **LIBRA:** Stress is a test. It can be good for a relationship if the two decide to work together to get through it.

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	KMID (3) Midland	UNI (4) Spanish	KPEJ (5) Odessa	KOSA (7) Odessa	KTLE (8) Telemundo	KWES (9) Midland	KMLM (12) Odessa	KPBT (13) Odessa	KWWT (14) Odessa	KWES15 (15) Midland	WTBS (33) Atlanta	TNT (34) Atlanta	ESPN (35) Sports	ESPN2 (36) Sports	FSN (38) Sports	USA (55) New York	A&E (58) New York	DISC (60) Discovery	
5:PM	Local 2	P. Luche	Broke Girl	CBS 7	Tele	News	Dr. Young	Euromaxx	Hawaii	American	Family Guy	Bones		SportsCenter				Law & Order: SVU	Gold Rush
5:30	ABC	Noticiero	Mom	CBS	Noticias	News	Zion	Business	Five-0	American									Gold Rush
6:PM	Jeopardy!	Enamorámome	Big Bang	CBS 7	Caso Cerado	News	Hidden	PBS News-Hour	M*A*S*H	Fam. Guy	Fam. Guy	Grinch		College Basketball	C'boys	Mod Fam			Gold Rush
6:30	Wheel		Big Bang	ET		News	Creation		M*A*S*H	Fam. Guy	Big Bang	Wizard of Oz (DVS)	NBA Basketball: Clippers at Rockets		Mod Fam	Mod Fam			Gold Rush: Pay Dirt
7:PM	Shark Tank	Rey David	Hell's Kitchen (DVS)	I Love Lucy	Milagros de Navidad	Blindspot	News	Wash	Griffith	Masters of Illusion	Big Bang	Big Bang		College Basketball: Texas vs Alabama	College Basketball	Mod Fam	Live PD		Gold Rush: Gold Rush
7:30	S.H.I.E.L.D.	Mi marido tiene		Dick Van Dyke	Sangre de mi tierra	Dateline NBC	Light of Southwest	Christmas-2017	Mama's ALF	Countdown	Big Bang	Grinch			Mod Fam	Live PD			Gold Rush: Gold Rush
8:PM	(01) 20/20	Caer en tentación	News	Blue Bloods	Señora Acero 4		Light of Southwest	Eric Idle-Entire	Heroes	Page Six Inst.	Surprise!	(15) Movie: A Christmas Carol (DVS)	NBA Basketball: Lakers at Warriors		College Basketball	Mod Fam	Live PD		(01) Gold Rush
9:PM	Local 2	Impacto	Mom	CBS 7	Tele	News	News	Artists Den	C. Burnett	Seinfeld	Jokers			SportsCenter	Rangers	Mod Fam	Live PD		(01) Gold Rush
10:PM	Jimmy Kimmel Live	Noticiero	Mod Fam	Late Show-Colbert	Titulares	Tonight Show	Creation		Perry Mason	Rules	Drop/Mic				Best	Mod Fam	Live PD		(01) Tesla
11:PM	Nightline	Deportivo	How I Met James	James Corden	Señora Acero 4	Daly	Shabbat		Mani	(Off Air)					ACC	Mod Fam	Live PD		(01) Gold Rush
AM	Extra	Quiero Amarte	Two Men	Corden	Señora Acero 4	Daly	Shabbat		Mani	(Off Air)					ACC	Mod Fam	Live PD		(01) Gold Rush
12:PM	Paid Prg.	Las amazonas	How I Met	ET	Programa	News	Light of Southwest		Mani	(Off Air)					ACC	Mod Fam	Live PD		(01) Gold Rush
1:PM	Paid Prg.																		

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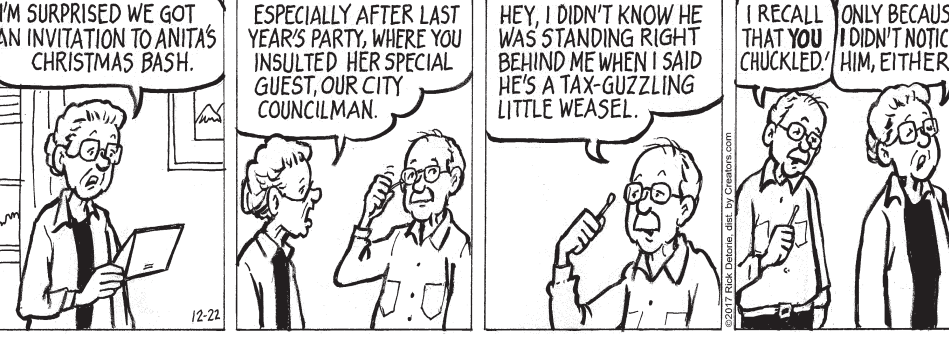
AGNES



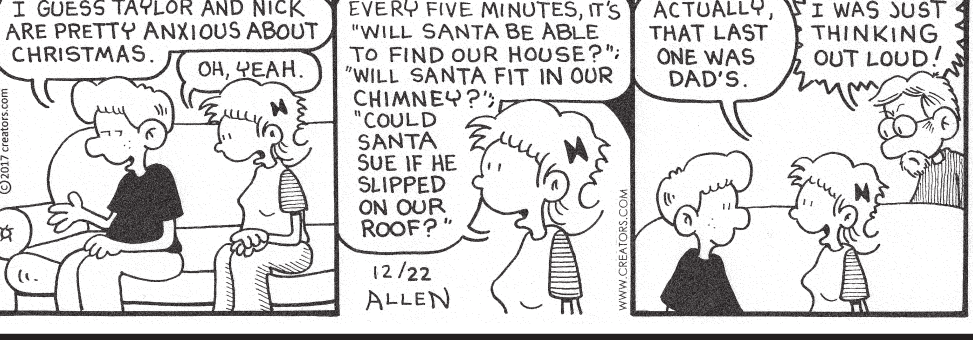
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ONE BIG HAPPY



NEST HEAD



MOMMA



This Date In History

Today is Friday, Dec. 22, the 356th day of 2017. There are nine days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:
On Dec. 22, 1944, during the World War II Battle of the Bulge, U.S. Brig. Gen. Anthony C. McAuliffe rejected a German demand for surrender, writing "Nuts!" in his official reply.

On this date:
In 1775, Esek Hopkins was appointed commander-in-chief of the Continental Navy.
In 1894, French army officer Alfred Dreyfus was convicted of treason in a court-martial that triggered worldwide charges of anti-Semitism. (Dreyfus was eventually vindicated.)
In 1910, a fire lasting more than 26 hours broke out at the Chicago Union Stock Yards; 21 firefighters were killed in the collapse of a burning building.
In 1917, Mother Frances Xavier Cabrini, who later became the first naturalized U.S. citizen to be canonized, died in Chicago at age 67.
In 1937, the first, center tube of the Lincoln Tunnel connecting New York City and New Jersey beneath the Hudson River was opened to traffic. (The second tube opened in 1945, the third in 1957.)
In 1940, author Nathanael West, 37, and his wife, Eileen McKenney, were killed in a car crash in El Centro, California, while en route to the funeral of F. Scott Fitzgerald, who had died the day before.
In 1968, Julie Nixon married David Eisenhower in a private ceremony in New York.
In 1977, three dozen people were killed when a 250-foot-high grain elevator at the Continental Grain Company plant in Westwego, Louisiana, exploded.
In 1989, Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu (chow-SHES'-koo), the last of Eastern Europe's hard-line Communist rulers, was toppled from power in a popular uprising. Playwright Samuel Beckett died in Paris at age 83.
In 1991, the body of Marine Lt. Col. William R. Higgins, an American hostage slain by his terrorist captors, was recovered after it had been dumped along a highway in Lebanon.

In 2001, Richard C. Reid, a passenger on an American Airlines flight from Paris to Miami, tried to ignite explosives in his shoes, but was subdued by flight attendants and fellow passengers. (Reid is serving a life sentence in federal prison.)
In 2010, President Barack Obama signed a law allowing gays for the first time in history to serve openly in America's military, repealing the "don't ask, don't tell" policy.
Ten years ago: A jury in Riverhead, New York, convicted John White, a black man, of second-degree manslaughter in the shooting death of Daniel Cicciaro (SIS'-ur-oh), a white teenager, during a confrontation outside White's house. (The 17-year-old was shot in the face after he showed up with two carloads of friends to confront White's son after a dispute at a party. White, who said the shooting was an accident, was later sentenced to two to four years in prison, but had his sentence commuted by New York Gov. David Paterson after five months.)
Five years ago: The late U.S. Sen. Daniel Inouye was praised as a humble leader who embodied honor, dignity and duty during a public visitation at Hawaii's state Capitol, five days after his death at age 88. Egypt's Islamist-backed constitution received a "yes" majority in a final round of voting on a referendum that saw a low voter turnout. A suicide bomber in Pakistan killed nine people, including a provincial government official, at a political rally held by a party that had opposed the Taliban.
One year ago: President-elect Donald Trump named close adviser Kellyanne Conway as his White House counselor and former Republican National Committee spokesman Sean Spicer as press secretary. The Syrian government took full control of the city of Aleppo for the first time in four years after the last opposition fighters and civilians were bused out of

war-ravaged eastern districts, ending a brutal chapter in Syria's civil war.
Today's Birthdays: Actor Hector Elizondo is 81. Country singer Red Steagall is 79. Former World Bank Group President Paul Wolfowitz is 74. Baseball Hall of Famer Steve Carlton is 73. Former ABC News anchor Diane Sawyer is 72. Rock singer-musician Rick Nielsen (Cheap Trick) is 69. Rock singer-musician Michael Bacon is 69. Baseball All-Star Steve Garvey is 69. Golfer Jan Stephenson is 66. Actress BernNadette Stanis is 64. Rapper Luther "Luke" Campbell is 57. Country singer-musician Chuck Mead is 57. Actor Ralph Fiennes (rayf fynz) is 55. Actress Lauralee Bell is 49. Country singer Lori McKenna is 49. Actress Dina Meyer is 49. Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, is 47. Actress Heather Donahue is 44. Actor Chris Carmack is 37. Actor Harry Ford is 35. Actor Greg Finley is 33. Actor Logan Huffman is 28. Rhythm-and-blues singer Jordin Sparks is 28. Pop singer Meghan Trainor is 24.

Thought for Today:
"Those wearing tolerance for a label call other views intolerable."
Phyllis McGinley
American poet and author (1905-1978).

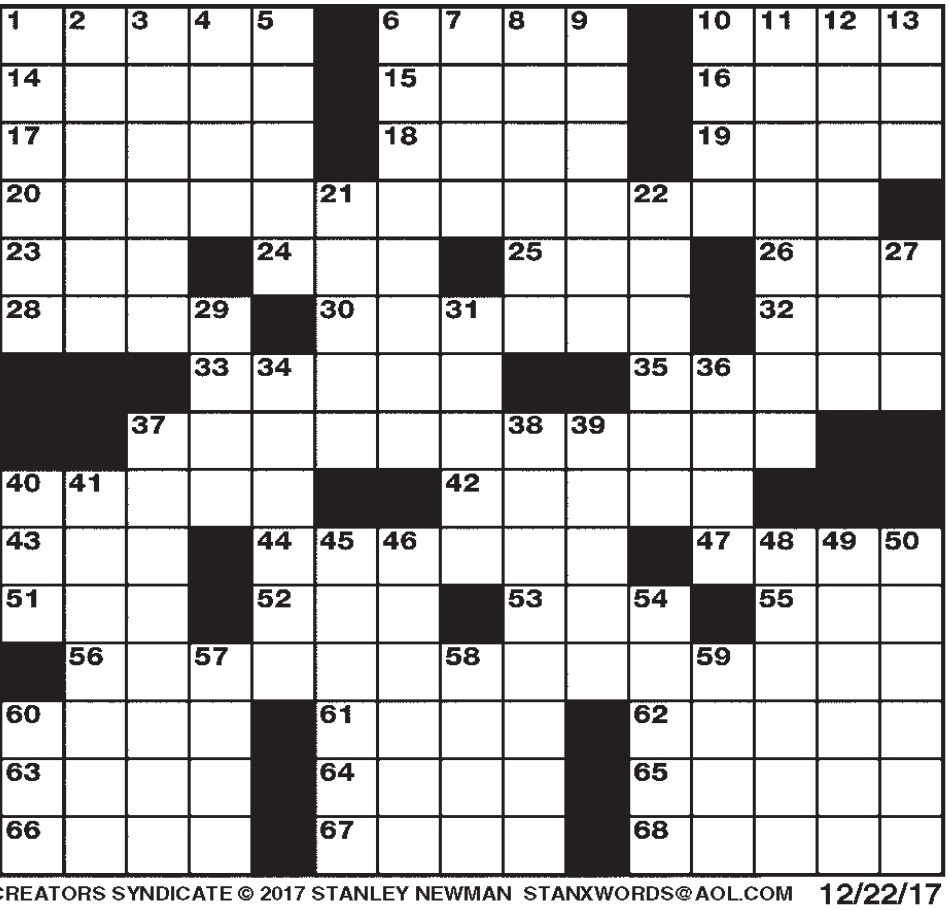
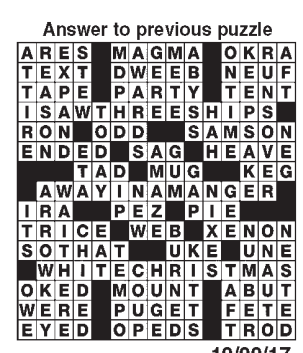
Newsday Crossword

ACROSS
1 Home to much Spanish art
6 Screens before LCDs
10 Cry of concern
14 Shadow remover
15 Nonclerical
16 Emotional tone
17 Colgate competitor
18 Tolstoy heroine
19 Certain sisterhood members
20 Lord of the Flies author
23 Corroded
24 Old-film cable channel
25 Old-school cheer
26 Lacking in excitement
28 Clancy hero
30 Roman orator
32 Unenviable mark
33 Later on
35 Means to ends
37 "Dock of the Bay" singer
40 Brainy bloc
42 Cool-headedness
43 Every bit
44 Hoop group
47 Major arcade producer
51 Center of feelings
52 String chaser
53 Dance club VIPs
55 Slip into
56 "Pied Piper" poet
60 Diminutive dog
61 "Mother of Presidents"

DOWN
1 Hawkish
2 Poe's autograph, e.g.
3 Funnel-shaped flower
4 Tot's tote
5 Sphere of influence
6 More cold and damp
7 Resounded
8 Export from Bolivian mines
9 Ladderlike
10 Prefix for directional
11 Early #1 song for Elvis
12 Dog show no-show
13 Fabric amts.
21 What the FDIC insures
22 Gandhi garments
27 "I knew it!"
29 Beltway Series team
31 Brunch serving
34 Future groom
36 Folks
37 Person watching

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38 Traditionally messy place
39 Nightclub of the past
40 Novelist Rita __ Brown
41 1 Across big name
45 Industrialists
46 All things considered
48 Westinghouse rival
49 Hopeless cases
50 Taiwan-born director
54 Toil, so to speak
57 Top-shelf
58 Spicy taste
59 Implicate
60 Excessively glib



Wilson helps No. 4 South Carolina rout Temple 87-60

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — A'ja Wilson had 28 points, 12 rebounds and eight blocks to help No. 4 South Carolina rout Temple 87-60 on Thursday night in a homecoming for Gamecocks coach Dawn Staley.

Staley grew up in Philadelphia, a mile from Temple where she coached from 2000-08. On Wednesday, the city celebrated her, renaming a few blocks Dawn Staley Lane as a day in her honor was celebrated at the Hank Gathers Recreation Center.

She gave the center, where the Hall of Famer honed her game growing up, a replica NCAA championship trophy similar to the one her team won in April.

The game against Temple was Staley's first against the school since she left for South Carolina following the 2008 season. She broke Nancy Wilson's program record with her 232nd victory.

The Gamecocks (11-1) raced out to a 26-9 lead behind Wilson. She outscored the Owls 10-9 in the quarter. South Carolina led 46-20 at the half and cruised to the easy win.

Tyasha Harris had 13 points and 11 assists for South Carolina.

Mia Davis had 19 points and 10 rebounds for Temple (8-4).

NO. 5 MISSISSIPPI STATE 76, SYRACUSE 65

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Victoria Vivians had 26 points to reach a milestone and added nine rebounds in Mississippi State's victory over Syracuse in the Duel in the Desert.

The 6-foot-1 senior guard became the third player in school history to reach 2,000 career points.

Teaira McCowan added 14 points and 13 rebounds for the Bulldogs (13-0) before fouling out late in the fourth quarter. The 6-foot-7 junior is averaging 24.5 points and 14.5 rebounds in her last four games.

Gabrielle Cooper led Syracuse (11-1) with 22 points and nine rebounds. Tiana Mangakahia added 20 points, and Miranda Drummond had 14.

NO. 7 TENNESSEE 83, STANFORD 71

STANFORD, Calif. (AP) — Jaime Nared scored a career-high 28 points, Evina Westbrook added 17 and Tennessee held off Stanford to improve to 12-0.

Mercedes Russell was held to three second-half points, but still managed to keep her streak of scor-

ing in double figures in every game alive with 11. She also had 10 rebounds.

Brittany McPhee returned to the Stanford lineup for the first time in over a month to score a season-high 27 points, one off her career best. Stanford is 6-6.

NO. 9 WEST VIRGINIA 66, MOREHEAD STATE 56

MORGNATOWN, W.Va. (AP) — Naomi Davenport scored 19 points and Teanna Muldrow had 18 points and 12 rebounds to help West Virginia beat Morehead State.

Katrina Pardee added 14 points, and Chania Ray had 11 for the Mountaineers (12-0).

Darriane Seward led the Eagles (9-4) with 23 points.

NO. 10 OREGON 84, NO. 19 TEXAS A&M 62

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Maite Cazorla scored 26 points, Sabrina Ionescu had 25 and Oregon beat Texas A&M in the Duel in the Desert.

Ruthy Hebard had 10 points and eight rebounds for Oregon. The Ducks (10-2) also beat the Aggies (10-3) last month in College Station in the Preseason Women's NIT semifinals.

Danni Williams led the Aggies with 22 points.

NO. 13 FLORIDA STATE 92, CREIGHTON 82

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — Chatrice White had 19 points and 11 rebounds in her home-state return to help Florida State beat Creighton.

White starred at Shelby-Rising City and was the first Nebraska high school female to be named a McDonald's All-American. The Seminoles (11-1) rebounded from an 87-72 loss to No. 8 Texas on Sunday. Creighton (6-4) had its three-game winning streak snapped.

Creighton's Audrey Faber scored 30 points and made seven 3-pointers.

NO. 14 DUKE 63, WYOMING 40

DURHAM, N.C. (AP) — Lexie Brown scored 23 points and Duke again clamped down on defense to beat Wyoming.

The Blue Devils held an opponent to 40 or fewer points for the third straight game — a program first

— with the Cowgirls shooting only 31 percent and Duke scoring 20 points off 22 Wyoming turnovers that included 13 steals.

Brown scored 20 or more points for the fourth straight game. Haley Gorecki added 14 points, nine rebounds and five steals for the Blue Devils (10-2), who won their fourth straight game.

Marta Gomez had nine points for the Cowgirls (7-4).

MICHIGAN STATE 83, NO. 22 SOUTH FLORIDA 73

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Shay Colley scored a career-high 27 points and Michigan State upset South Florida at the New Orleans Shootout.

Colley was 9 of 16 from the field and made 9 of 10 free throws in leading the Spartans (9-3) to their fourth straight victory. Jenna Allen added 17 points.

Laura Ferreira and Maria Jespersen scored 18 points for USF (10-3).

NO. 23 MICHIGAN 105, DELAWARE STATE 36

ANN ARBOR, Mich. (AP) — Katelynn Flaherty hit five 3-pointers and scored 22 points, Hallie Thome had 18 points and Michigan overwhelmed Delaware State.

The Wolverines (11-2) have won six straight. They held the Hornets (1-9) to 22-percent shooting.

NO. 24 CALIFORNIA 62, KENTUCKY 52

LEXINGTON, Ky. (AP) — Asha Thomas scored 17 points to help California beat Kentucky.

Mikayla Cowling added 15 points for the Golden Bears (9-2).

Maci Morris led Kentucky (8-5) with 21 points

NO. 25 IOWA 79, DRAKE 66

IOWA CITY, Iowa (AP) — Megan Gustafson had 27 points and 12 rebounds for Iowa.

Makenzie Meyer matched her career high with 21 points and had seven assists for the Hawkeyes (12-1).

Becca Hittner scored a career-high 27 points for the Bulldogs (5-7).

TAX

Continued from Page 9

Seattle Mariners, all have no state income tax. That means a player on one of those teams would play 99 or 100 of 162 games in states with no tax.

Rangers President of Baseball Operations Jon Daniels calls the tax advantage "more of kind of a side benefit than a feature."

"Some players and some agents care more than others. Some have been more focused on the sticker prices, especially agents that are paid on the gross," he said. "We try not to make it too much of a focal point of our recruiting efforts. I think when it's pushed too heavily it can be a turn-off."

Deals in all four major North American leagues are evaluated for their tax implications.

"The state with no income tax would always win the ties," said agent Joseph Linta, who negotiated Baltimore quarterback Joe Flacco's contract.

Money doesn't always dictate the decision, according to Boras and others.

"Kyle Juszczyk chose the 49ers over no state tax offers because he felt it was the right fit — despite the state tax," Linta said.

Already complex, negotiations could become even more nuanced.

"Teams based in Florida, Washington and Texas will clearly have an additional advantage over other clubs in contract negotiations with free agent players given the new tax code," baseball agent Jay Reisinger said. "They already had an advantage by virtue of no state income tax, but this will be magnified under the new tax code. Agents will also seek tax-equalization language in the event of a trade."

Knowing the Marlins have frequently sold off stars, Dee Gordon, Wei-Yin Chen and Christian Yelich had tax equalization provisions as part of their multiyear contracts with Miami.

California has the highest state tax in 2017, a 13.3 percent rate that includes a 1 percent mental health services tax for income over \$1 million.

New York has a top tax rate of 8.82 percent, and New York City has a maximum rate of 3.876 percent for a 12.696 percent total.

An athlete making \$10 million a season will get a federal tax savings of about \$250,000 with the cut in the top rate. But one who plays half his games in California will lose roughly \$650,000 in deductions: half the approximately \$1.3 million state tax. That wipes out the entire savings of the federal rate cut.

"The new U.S. tax law, in particular the loss of miscellaneous itemized deductions, will have a significant

impact on NHL hockey players," said hockey agent Allan Walsh.

A player who maintains an off-season residence in Florida or one of the other states with no tax — Alaska, South Dakota and Wyoming are in that group — would benefit by having more of his money paid in a signing bonus rather than salary that is attributable to a specific game. Nationals pitcher Max Scherzer's \$210 million, seven-year contract with Washington includes a \$50 million signing bonus that he intended to shield from the District of Columbia's top tax rate — 8.85 percent this year — by establishing Florida residency.

Under the new law, union dues and agent commissions are no longer deductible. An agency employee said players had called at the behest of their financial advisers asking if they could pre-pay commissions before Dec. 31 on deals to be negotiated later this offseason. The employee spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to make public statements.

The Major League Baseball Players Association received nearly \$17.6 million in 2016 from daily dues, currently \$80 during the

season. The NFL Players Association raised just over \$33.5 million in dues in the year ending Feb. 28.

The MLBPA may consider moves to lessen the impact of the change in tax treatment for dues.

"It's unfortunate when looking at ways to cut taxes that things went the other way with respect to those who work under the umbrella of a union or as a union member," said baseball union head Tony Clark, a former All-Star first baseman.

Owners and management feared a provision in the original version approved by the House of Representatives, which would have prohibited the use of tax-free municipal bonds for stadium financing. That was dropped from the final legislation.

"We were pleased that the bill did not adversely affect the tax issues related to stadium financing," Manfred said.

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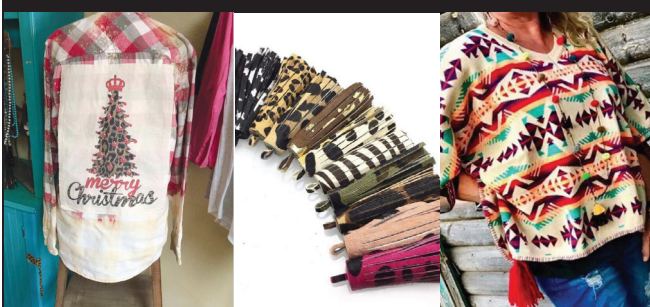
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