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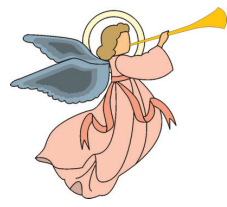
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HERALD

BIG SPRING MONDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2017



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The Christmas Story



And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) And all went to be taxed, everyone into his own city.

And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David) To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered.

And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.

And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

And suddenly there was with the angel a multi-

tude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us.

And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary kept

all these things, and pondered them in her heart.



And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

—Luke 2: 1-20

Christmas spirit, ugly sweater style

SMMC Christmas Sweater Contest brings out the ugly



Courtesy photos

SMMC employees got into the holiday spirit with several events throughout the month, including an ugly sweater contest held yesterday. Winner in the Ugliest Sweater category was Ashley Galindo (above left) with a theme of "Grandma Got Run Over By a Reindeer"; Most Creative sweater went to Heath White (below right) who was wearing a "Dude Looks Like a Lady" themed sweater; and Most Sparkle winner was Christine Everette (above right). Below left, "Scenic Santa's Helpers" Andrea Galvan, Julie Alvarez, Brandy Grant, and Mitzi Knight show off their North Pole fashion sense.



Fundraiser planned for local boy with heart condition

Midland meteorologist helping raise awareness

Special to the Herald

Eight-year-old Seth is like any normal kid, he loves Pokemon, dinosaurs, and sports. But he's not allowed to run, jump, push, or pull anything.

Seth was diagnosed with a connective tissue disorder called Ehlers Danlos, and he also has a rare heart defect called Anomalous Aortic Origin of a Coronary Artery (AAOCA). It's the second-leading cause of sudden cardiac death among teens and young adults. Doctors recently reviewed his CT Angiogram and next month, Seth will have to undergo surgery to prevent future problems when he got older.

"I'm scared," said Seth's mother, Jamie Forrester. "It's a lot to take in. Our family has gone through a lot medically in the past year. It was really sudden. We were told for the past 8 months, this was something he'd worry about when he was older, when he does competitive sports or joins the military. Now we're told something needs to be done or he could be one of those cases you could read about. It's scary."

Seth's parents have been working in fundraising efforts from working overtime to selling baked goods before Seth goes to Fort Worth next month. But not too many people know about Seth's rare heart condition. Which is why Forrester reached out to a close friend of ours, NewsWest 9 Meteorologist Derrick Jackson.

"I sent the message with the off chance," said Forrester. "We just toured the NewsWest 9 center. Seth said, 'Oh, I know that place! I know that green screen.'"

A post on social media with a picture of Seth holding a sign showed if he reached 500 likes, Derrick will wear a tie covered in hearts for AAOCA awareness.

"I immediately messaged her back," said Derrick. "I was like, 'You don't have to get likes or shares. I'd love to do this but at the same time we were thinking we need to do our best to raise awareness. Not only am I able to help but you can see the community come together to help him out as well so I thought that was very important.'"

The post exceeded its goal with over 800 likes.

"He's a good kid, it's hard," said Forrester. "It's hard asking for help. If nobody helps us fundraise and nobody does anything, I want people to know that there's these things out there, that Ehlers Danlos Syndrome. We went almost two years of him in pain every day."

See HEART, Page 3

Big Spring Herald's Christmas Countdown



Zayne says
Merry Christmas!

(Zayne Green, Son Of Lindsey Green)

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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. 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.

• 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 \$5 per person thanks to a sponsor Marcy House, 2301 Wasson Road.

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

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

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

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

• The Big Spring Symphony Board of Directors meets every first Tuesday at 5:30 p.m. at the symphony office, 808 Scurry Street.

• Order of the Eastern Star Big Spring Chapter 67 meets the third Tuesday of each month at 219 Main St. Dinner begins at 6:30 p.m. Lodge meeting begins at 7:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome. For more information, contact 432-271-2138.

• Membership to the Big Spring Native American Association is open to the public. People interested in Native American culture are encouraged to find out more about the organization by calling Richard "Indio" Lesser at 432-935-0125,

• Scenic Mountain Medical Center Auxiliary Group is looking to expand. Positions are available for the Auxiliary group and the Teen Volunteer program. Must be 15 years of age to take part in the teen volunteer program. If you would like to volunteer please contact Heath White at 268-4850.

• The Big Spring State Hospital Volunteer Services Council is in need of volunteers to fill a variety of needs to assist the hospital's patients. Applications to become a volunteer can be picked up at The Chalet, 115 E. Second St., Tuesday through Saturday between 8 a.m. and 3 p.m. or at the Big Spring State Hospital Community Relations Department, 1901 N. Hwy 87, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Volunteers can assist with a variety of functions, including The Chalet Resale Shop, various fundraisers and patient events. For more information, contact Dee Lindsey, Big Spring State Hospital Director of Community Relations, (432) 268-7535 or danielle.lindsey@dshs.state.tx.us

• Home Hospice is in need of volunteers of all ages. The organization is requesting volunteers

to visit patients. Volunteers set their own hours. For more information, contact Beverly Grant at 264-7599 or 432-967-0901.

• Mobile meals is in need of volunteer delivery drivers. If you would like to donate one hour per week to help deliver meals to the elderly, call Maria at 816-6474.

• Crossroads Hospice needs volunteers for patient care. Contact Eva at 263-5300.

• Victim Services is a non-profit independent community-based program serving victims of all violent crime, including, but not limited to, assault, sexual assault and domestic violence. Victim Services advocates are available 24 hours of day, 365 days a year to provide crisis intervention or accompaniment to the hospital and law enforcement agencies as needed. If you can commit to 30-hour training, an interview process and a background check, we need you. For more information, call Linda Calvio at 432-263-3312.

• Big Spring and surrounding counties are in need of foster families. Foster parents are the caretakers for the children in the community who have been abused or neglected. For more information on becoming foster parents or adoptive families, call the Children's Protective Services office at 432-263-9669.

• The mission of CASA of West Texas is to promote and support quality volunteers who speak for the best interest of abused and neglected children in court in an effort to find each child a safe, nurturing and permanent home. We need your help. If you're interested in volunteering, contact Sara Basaldua at 1-877-316-8346 or visit www.BecomeaCASA.org or www.casawtx.org.

• The Crossroads Young Marines is taking applications for another boot camp. For more information, call 432-517-4791. Young Marines welcomes boys and girls ages 8 to 18 who are still attending school.

• The Homeownership Preservation Foundation (HPF) is an independent national nonprofit dedicated to helping distressed homeowners navigate financial challenges and avoid mortgage foreclosure. To stop mortgage foreclosure and are need of help, the time to call 888-995-HOPE is now. HPF can provide counseling free of charge, in English and 170 other languages, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year.

Support Groups

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.

TUESDAY

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

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

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

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

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

WEDNESDAY

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

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

THURSDAY

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

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

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

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

FRIDAY

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

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.

A quiz on Christmas and Hanukkah in U.S. history

More than 90 percent of Americans will celebrate either Christmas on Dec. 25 or have celebrated Hanukkah from Dec. 12 to 20. For some, the observance is primarily religious and for others mostly cultural. The quiz below, from the Ashbrook Center at Ashland University in Ohio, provides an opportunity to test your knowledge of the holidays' history and traditions in the United States.

1. In 1659, celebrating Christmas in public was outlawed in which city?

- A. Philadelphia
B. Newport, R.I.
C. Richmond, Va.

D. Boston

2. Which was the first state to make Christmas a legal holiday?

- A. Arkansas
B. Alabama
C. Pennsylvania
D. New York

3. In what year was Christmas declared a federal holiday?

- A. 1870
B. 1972
C. 1824
D. 1931

4. During World War II, what leader said the following on a Christmas Eve broadcast from the White House: "Therefore we may cast aside for this night at least the cares and dangers which beset us, and make for

the children an evening of happiness in a world of storm"?

- A. Winston Churchill
B. Franklin Delano Roosevelt
C. Neville Chamberlain
D. Harry Truman

5. What presidential couple was the first to spend Christmas at the White House?

- A. James and Elizabeth Monroe
B. Andrew and Rachel Jackson
C. George and Martha Washington
D. John and Abigail Adams

6. Jewish songwriters wrote which of

the following popular Christmas songs?

- A. "White Christmas"
B. "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer"
C. "Silver Bells"
D. All of the above

7. Which president was the first officially to recognize Hanukkah?

- A. Warren Harding
B. Jimmy Carter
C. Woodrow Wilson
D. Dwight D. Eisenhower

8. Rabbi Max Lilienthal of what city is credited with hosting the first Hanukkah party for children?

- A. New York

B. Charleston, S.C.

C. Cincinnati

D. Baltimore

9. Who is considered the American "Mother of Hanukkah" and where was she from?

- A. Penina Moise of Charleston, S.C.
B. Bertha "Beatrice" Alexander Behrmanm of New York

- C. Rebecca Gratz of Philadelphia
D. Emma Lazarus of New York

10. Companies began advertising that their products made great Hanukkah gifts in the 1920s. What brand's ad claimed their flour made "the best flour for latkes," the potato pancakes traditionally served during Hanukkah?

- A. Gold Medal
B. Pillsbury
C. Aunt Jemima
D. King Arthur

Answers: 1-D, 2-B, 3-A, 4-A, 5-D, 6-D, 7-B, 8-C, 9-A, 10-C

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Commissioners' meeting rescheduled for Thursday morning

By ROGER CLINE

Staff Writer
Howard County Commissioners would normally hold their second December meeting Monday, but due to Christmas, they have rescheduled it to coincide with their regular payroll approval meeting on Thursday at 10 a.m.
At the final 2017 meeting, commissioners plan to revisit several issues discussed at their previous gathering; including 2018 Commissioners Court dates and county holidays, and granting permission for county road engineer Brian Klinksiek to go out for bids on sealcoat material to be used in maintenance of county roads.
In other business, the commissioners will consider authorizing work on bathrooms in the Howard County Courthouse Annex, located across Main Street from the main Courthouse.

In addition, commissioners will:
• Discuss approval of a field agreement for the Howard County trapper;
• Discuss and approve payroll for this pay period;
• Discuss and possibly approve joint election contracts and resolution;
• Accept a presentation of the BuyBoard Rebate Check;
• Discuss personnel considerations and a contract being negotiated in closed executive session.
Those who wish to address the Howard County Commissioners Court should arrive a few minutes early to fill out a short form. For more information, contact Howard County Judge Kathryn Wiseman at 432-264-2202.

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

HEART

Continued from Page 1

It's a step to make sure that, even during tough times, people don't forget the struggles for kids like Seth, who are just wanting to be a kid.
"Her message touched my heart," said Derrick. "I know it'll be a hard time for all of them. I'm going to stay in touch with Seth, his family, his brother. I'm going to do anything I can to help out. I'm more than happy to do something like this."
The family is holding a benefit on Dec. 31 at The Train Car. The community is invited to come and celebrate life. There will be drawings with various prizes and items from local businesses, challenges, and the Seth Special. This event is for 21 and over. The event will help spread awareness for the Heard Defect known as AAOCA and raise funds for medical expenses for the Open Heart Surgery Seth will be having Thursday, Jan. 11.
During this journey, the family asks that you send a card to Seth. You can log on to the Facebook page, "My Sweet Zebras," where you can also contact the family and keep up with their fundraising events and efforts.

Christmas carols in other words

By ROGER CLINE

Staff Writer
Music is a big part of the Christmas season – from traditional carols to old-timey standards to modern pop hits.
The earliest examples of Christmas music include chants and litanies for use in liturgical settings such as the Feast of the Nativity. Many of the earliest works are still in use in the Eastern Orthodox church.
Here's a list of 70 Christmas tune titles, but rewritten into a wordsmith's nightmare of high-falootin' dictionary-speak. See how many you can restore to their original form, then check for answers on Page 18.

1. Pendulating and circumnavigating the conifer erected in honor of the birth of Jesus.
2. The Primary occurrence of events leading to the French observance of Jesus' holy day.
3. Proceed to communicate this event while situated atop the peak.
4. Greetings, Miriam!
5. Infant, the temperature on the exterior of this domicile is frigid!
6. The chanson of Christ's holy day (Seeds of the deciduous beech in the family Fagaceae undergoing a chemical alteration upon being exposed to unconstrained flame)
7. May the Deity comfort you, convivial male members of polite society!
8. Hither our group approaches, soliciting hot mulled cider!
9. The flowering shrub in the family Aquifoliaceae and the climbing or ground-creeping woody plant in the family Auraliaceae.
10. Possess a flowering shrub in the family Aquifoliaceae, convivial, holy day of Christ!
11. This entity shall arrive at his/her preferred domicile for the purpose of observing Christ's birthday.
12. This one cogitates as he or she perambulates.
13. The local visual stimuli are commencing to resemble those typically associated with December 25.
14. Allow the firmament to produce crystalline precipitation! Allow the firmament to produce crystalline precipitation! Allow the firmament to produce crystalline precipitation!
15. Small male percussionist
16. This one will fail to receive any largesse upon December 25.
17. St. Nicholas, infant.
18. St. Nicholas approaches our medium-sized settlement.
19. Argentum and Aureum
20. Journey upon a runnered, animal-drawn conveyance designed for snow travel.

21. Pleasant, miniscule, Christ young male person.
22. Aloft upon the domicile's uppermost extremity



23. Argent tintinnabulators
24. Our group jointly requires a miniscule amount of Christ's holy day.
25. Our group desires that your group experience a jocund December 25.
26. Which youngster might the one here be?
27. Sir Green Cartoon Individual, thou art a beligerant sort.
28. Name meaning "Famous wolf", the crimson-proboscoïd caribou
29. Eight pm to six am without noise
30. Exuberance directed to the planet
31. Listen, aerial spirits announcing
32. Our group comprises a trio of monarchs
33. Yonder in the hay rack
34. Assemble, everyone who believes
35. Ah, hallowed post meridian
36. This one's having night fantasies of a light neutral-colored December 25.
37. A dozen twenty four hour yule periods
38. This event befell during a witching hour with high visibility.
39. Crystallized vapor-y, the homo sapiens constructed from crystallized precipitation.
40. The only gift I desire on December 25 is a fresh pair of incisors.
41. I spied my maternal parent osculating St. Nicholas.
42. Perambulating through a fantasyland some-

- time between December and February.
43. Adorn the vestibule
44. Tinkling tintinnabulators.
45. Our group has aurally observed cherubim at altitude.
46. Sapphire Holy day of Christ
47. The well-intentioned zoological specimens.
48. Possess for thine own a jocund small Dec. 25.
49. This personage observed the aural vibrations created by metallic, clapper-struck instruments upon December 25.
50. This personage visually observed a trio of ocean-going vessels arrive powered by wind.
51. Morally upright Bohemian monarch
52. Approach, approach, "God with us"
53. Jocund, ancient Santa Claus
54. (No locale exists such as) my domicile during the festive period around Christmas.
55. Winged messengers our group have detected aurally at altitude
56. Christmas-themed song presented by tintinnabulators
57. Do you aurally perceive that which I aurally perceive?
58. Ah, tiny medium-sized community famed for Jesus' birth
59. During the time period in which custodians of ovine animals observed herds of such animals for which they were responsible between eight p.m. and six a.m.
60. Hither approaches St. Nicholas
61. This time period is the superlatively enchanting period during the Earth's revolution around the sun.
62. My sole wish during the celebration of Christ's birth is thee.
63. My parent's dam was trampled by a caribou
64. I would like to receive a large, mostly herbivorous, semi-aquatic mammal native to sub-Saharan Africa in celebration of the birth of Jesus.
65. Tinkle tintinnabulator sway
66. Return to our domicile in conjunction with the celebration of the birth of Jesus, s'il vous plait.
67. Crystalline precipitation skinflint/High temperature skinflint
68. Rhythmically caress a cooking dish
69. Alegre nacimiento de Cristo
70. The tune performed by small striped rodents of the family Sciuridae (Celebration of Jesus' birth, refrain from tardiness)

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Jack Capps, 81, died Tuesday. Visitation will be from 6 p.m. until 7 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 26, 2017, at Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Funeral services will be at 2 p.m. Wednesday at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial at Vealmoor Cemetery.

Jose "Little Joe" Davila, 79, died Thursday. He will lie in state Wednesday, Dec. 27, 2017, from 9 a.m. until 9 p.m. at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

33 killed as bus falls into river in western India

NEW DELHI (AP) — At least 33 people were killed on Saturday after a passenger bus veered off a bridge and plunged into a river in the western Indian state of Rajasthan, police said.
Seven injured passengers were hospitalized in Sawai Madhopur district of Rajasthan state, 375 kilometers (235 miles) south of New Delhi, said police officer Narain Singh.
The speeding bus was trying to overtake another

vehicle when it rammed through the bridge railing, said B.L. Soni, another police officer. It fell 20 meters (65 feet)

down into the Banas river. See **BUS**, Page 18



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Texas jobless rate for November improves to 3.8 percent

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — The Texas jobless rate improved for the seventh month in a row, with November unemployment slipping to 3.8 percent, the Texas Workforce Commission reported Friday.

The figure represents the lowest unemployment rate for the state in four decades. Texas unemployment during October was 3.9 percent, according to the state agency.

The nationwide jobless rate held steady last month at 4.1 percent.

Amarillo and Midland had the lowest unemployment rates in Texas last month at 2.6 percent. The Beaumont-Port Arthur area had the state's highest jobless rate during November at 6.5 percent, the agency reported.

The Texas economy in November added 54,500 seasonally adjusted nonfarm jobs, according to the commission. Annual employment growth for Texas increased to 2.7 percent in November, marking 91 consecutive months of annual growth.

"The addition of 330,600 jobs over the year demonstrates the consistency with which employers in our state create job opportunities for the highly skilled Texas workforce," said commission Chairman Andres Alcantar.

Nine of 11 major industries showed increased growth in November, including professional and business services with 14,700 jobs added. Construction added 8,200 positions last month, according to the commission.

Plea in drug case means 10 years to life for Texas man

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — A Texas man faces a possible life sentence after pleading guilty to a drug charge at federal court in New Orleans.

Court documents show the minimum sentence faced by 27-year-old Victor Esquivel is 10 years.

Acting U.S. Attorney Duane Evans' office says in a Thursday news release that Esquivel, of Brownsville, pleaded guilty to conspiring to distribute cocaine.

Prosecutors said he conspired with two others to distribute about 28 kilograms of cocaine. The investigation developed from a St. Tammany Parish traffic stop involving one of the conspirators.

Sentencing is set for March 28.

Plane diverted to Texas airport after smoke reported

COLLEGE STATION, Texas (AP) — A United Airlines flight from Houston to Boise, Idaho, made an emergency landing at another Texas airport after smoke was reported in the aircraft.

Shortly after takeoff Thursday evening from Bush Intercontinental Airport, the plane was diverted to College Station about 100 miles northwest of Houston.

In a statement, United Airlines says the plane, which experienced a mechanical issue, landed safely. No injuries were reported.

College Station Fire Department Battalion Chief Greg Rodgers says smoke was reported on the plane. But first responders were unable to determine the source of the smoke.

The airline says a new plane was being sent to College Station to continue the flight to Boise.

Winners of the Texas AP HS football player of the year

Winners of the Texas Associated Press Sports Editors player of the year award:

- 2017: Spencer Sanders, QB, Denton Ryan
- 2016: Charlie Brewer, QB, Lake Travis
- 2015: Sam Ehlinger, QB, Austin Westlake
- 2014: Kyler Murray, QB, Allen
- 2013: Patrick Mahomes, QB, Whitehouse
- 2012: Kenny Hill, QB, Southlake Carroll
- 2011: Johnathan Gray, RB, Aledo
- 2010: Johnny Manziel, QB, Kerrville Tivy
- 2009: Scotty Young, QB, Denton Ryan
- 2008: Garrett Gilbert, QB, Lake Travis

Former Texas boys ranch residents say they suffered abuse

AMARILLO, Texas (AP) — The head of a ranch that houses at-risk children in the Texas Panhandle issued an apology after several former residents said they were abused by staffers there from the 1950s until at least the 1990s.

Former residents told The Guardian, a British newspaper, about abuse they suffered at Cal Farley's Boys Ranch. Steve Smith, a 68-year-old from Amarillo, told the newspaper for the Wednesday story that after his mother left him there as a boy, he was beaten many times and had to watch helplessly as his younger brother, Rick, was beaten.

A statement from the organization Wednesday said it was aware

of the claims regarding "harmful encounters they experienced at Boys Ranch years ago."

"For those who left Boys Ranch having experienced abuse of any form, I am truly sorry, both as the leader of this organization and as a man," Dan Adams, president and CEO of Cal Farley's, said in the statement. "It is for these reasons that regulatory oversight and strength-based models of care in this field evolved, and Cal Farley's strives to be a leader in observing both."

Adams told The Guardian that since he took over in 1996, corporal punishment has been phased out.

The privately funded, faith-based residential community is open to

children ages 5 to 18 and currently supports about 250 boys and girls. The ranch said at-risk boys and girls can be placed there by their parents, a managing conservator or guardian.

Rick and Steve Smith and others told The Guardian that the abuse was systemic and affected hundreds. Ed Cargill of New Mexico, whose time at Cal Farley's overlapped with Rick Smith's, said he made repeated escape attempts from the place he called "a paradise for adult abusers." He said that after one escape attempt he was made to run back in front of horses.

"Anytime I floundered, they'd hit me with coiled-up rope or run over me with the

damn horse," said Cargill, who said his dorm parent would also encourage other boys to administer physical punishment.

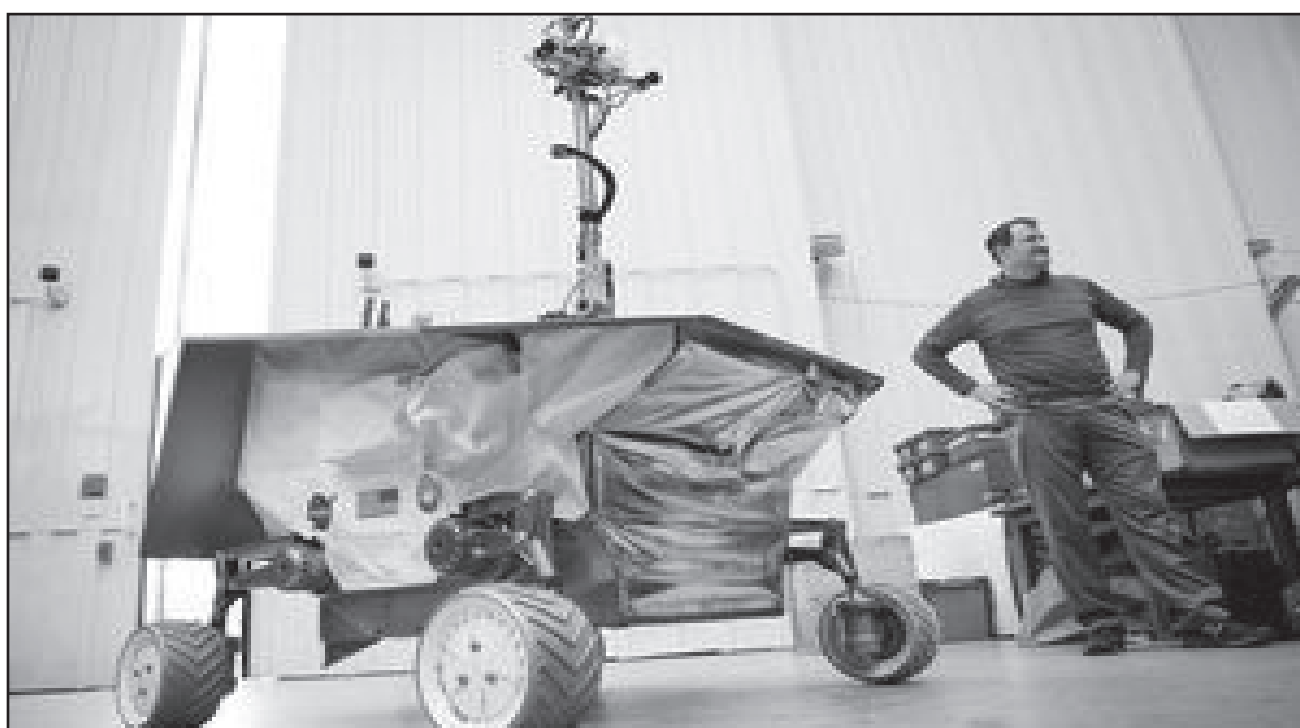
Bill Varnado, who was there at the same time as Steve Smith, said "you really didn't have to 'get in trouble' for them to beat the hell out of you." Normally, he said, "they used a belt, but as you got older they used their fists on boys."

Rick Smith said he was raped by another boy at the ranch. Cargill said that the wife of a staff member was having sex with him and three other boys.

Steve Smith told the Amarillo Globe-News they want more than an apology. Smith leads a

See RANCH, Page 5

NASA researchers working on lunar rover mini science lab



AP photo

In this Thursday, Nov. 30, 2017 photo, Bill Bluethmann, PhD talks about the Resource Prospector 2015 (RP15) Rover Prototype at the Johnson Space Center, in Houston. The rover is designed to drill into the moon's crust in search of water.

By ALEX STUCKEY

Houston Chronicle

HOUSTON (AP) — Even as President Donald Trump signed a directive this month to put boots back on the moon, a team of NASA researchers continued work on a quiet project to send an unmanned rover there.

The Houston Chronicle reports the project started three years ago, when several NASA centers, including Johnson Space Center in Texas, embarked on a

quest to learn more about availability of water on the moon. If there is enough water that can be collected easily, the elements could be broken down to create rocket fuel, for example, or astronaut life support.

The result of their efforts, thus far, is Resource Prospector: a 6-square-foot rover outfitted with a drill and mini science lab built to find and process water on the moon.

"Our mission is about taking

the next step toward chasing the water" on the moon, said Bill Bluethmann, the rover's element lead at Johnson Space Center.

Touting his new directive, Trump said, "This time we will not only plant our flag and leave our footprint, we will establish a foundation for an eventual mission to Mars and perhaps someday to many worlds beyond."

Launch of the rover still is

See NASA, Page 5

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Nearly \$1 billion raised for rebuilding Texas after Harvey

By NOMAAN MERCHANT
Associated Press
HOUSTON (AP) — The groups helping to rebuild on the Texas Gulf Coast after Hurricane Harvey have collected close to \$1 billion in donations, according to an Associated Press tally of major national and local organizations.

Much of that money is already being put to work after Harvey, which ravaged cities in Southeast Texas in August with high winds before dumping record amounts of rain on the rest of the coast, including Houston, the nation's fourth-largest city.

Here is a look at the fundraising picture after Harvey:

WHO'S RAISING MONEY?
Of the \$928 million raised by major groups involved in the recovery, the most money has been collected by the Red Cross, which said this month that it's raised \$493 million for Harvey relief.

The Greater Houston Community Foundation, which is operating the relief fund endorsed by Houston's top elected leaders, has raised more

than \$108 million. The Rebuild Texas Fund, administered by the family foundation of computer magnate Michael Dell, has raised more than \$89 million. The evangelical group Samaritan's Purse has also raised \$86 million. United Way has raised more than \$54 million.

The online campaign by Houston Texans star J.J. Watt raised \$37 million, and both the Salvation Army and a fund created by the government of Qatar have each pledged \$30 million.

HOW IS THE MONEY BEING SPENT?

At least 40 percent of the total amount has been spent or distributed so far, though some groups could not confirm how much they had disbursed for the AP's tally. Several major groups say they're planning to announce new recipients of aid this month and in January.

The Red Cross used \$254 million — more than half the money it has

See **HARVEY**, Page 6

RANCH

Continued from Page 4

Facebook group of other survivors that presented Adams in April with a proposal of how to deal with the past abuses.

The proposal included Boys Ranch issuing a public statement acknowledging wrongdoing, the creation of a fund for survivor care, utilization of best practices for abuse prevention and a review of marketing material to make sure information about the past is not misleading.

Smith also wanted the organization to stop honoring past staff accused of abuse. Cal Farley's dedicated a new dormitory to a former superintendent at the ranch alleged to be one of the worst abusers.

The Child-Friendly

Faith Project, a nonprofit that works to expose religious groups that abuse children, took the allegations to The Guardian after it became apparent Cal Farley's was not going to act on the proposal, said Janet Heimlich, the nonprofit's founder and a former journalist.

Heimlich first came into contact with Smith and the Facebook group after writing a blog post in 2015 praising Boy's Ranch for an advanced therapeutic model. Smith commented on the post and they got in touch.

Adams told the Globe-News he didn't want to initially make a public apology because it would give children, families and donors undue concern.

Heimlich agreed that Boys Ranch, which opened in 1939, had cleaned up since the

1990s and emphasized that it still maintains a "flagship model" for child therapy.

The ranch currently has a license with the state as a general residential operation providing child care and transitional living. Texas Health & Human Services Commission spokeswoman Christine Mann tells The Associated Press that they have no recent history of corrective or adverse actions. She said it was initially licensed by the state in 1979.

Texas Department of Family and Protective Services spokesman Patrick Crimmins said the ranch does have a contract in good standing to take in children in foster care. Over the last five years 19 foster children have been placed there, including 11 who are currently there.

NASA

Continued from Page 4

about five years away, but Bluethmann said that if the recent federal excitement helps get the rover into flight, "we'll be very excited."

In November 2009, NASA officials made an announcement that fundamentally changed how people viewed the moon: Water existed in a permanently shadowed lunar crater.

Many in the scientific community assumed the moon was a dry, desolate place. But data from NASA's Lunar Crater Observation and Sensing Satellite indicated otherwise.

"Up until that point, everyone was certain the moon was absolutely dry, and this flipped that on its head," said Dan Andrews, project manager for rover at NASA's Ames Research Center in California. This discovery "really was a game-changer for how we thought of the moon."

Scientists began chasing this new discovery in earnest. About five years later, NASA researchers began developing a rover that could find and capture this water.

Their budget is \$250 million — a small-scale project, Blu-

ethmann said. Fast forward to 2017 and the rover still is in the technology development phase. But researchers have a sense of how it will work.

Using mapping technology, the rover will determine the areas of the moon saturated with the most hydrogen. It is those areas where the rover will drill for water in 4-inch chunks, Bluethmann said, going down as far as a meter.

Soil samples will be brought inside the rover any time water — typically in the form of ice — is detected, he said, and machinery that will test the soil.

The soil will be weighed and heated, he added, and anything that comes off the sample will be captured.

Scientists want to understand "whether (the water) is on the surface so we get to it, whether we have to excavate to get it ... whether it's distributed as nice bricks or channels," Bluethmann said.

The discoveries made during this mission, slated for 2022 or 2023, could have serious ramifications for deep-space travel, he said.

If enough water is found, the hydrogen could be used to refuel rockets on the way to Mars, for example, and the

oxygen could be used to refuel life support for astronauts, he added.

This would not only make deep-space travel easier, it would make it cheaper.

"Launching 1 pound of any material into space costs thousands of dollars," NASA's website states. "One gallon of water weighs more than 8 pounds, so the ability to generate water, air and fuel in space could represent enormous cost savings for future deep-space missions."

The possibilities, Andrews said, have gained the attention of many commercial manufacturers.

"Really, I think the commercial world is hinging on what (Resource Prospector) finds about the nature of lunar resources," Andrews said. "If they are accessible and if clever folks can come up with methods to extract them that are financially viable, that could be a new market."

The rover is being built to last a full lunar day: about two weeks on Earth. It will stay on the moon, along with its samples, when the mission is complete, Bluethmann said.

Johnson's moon rover could gain traction under the Trump administration, which has expressed a re-

newed interest in human lunar exploration.

That interest was cemented Dec. 11 when Trump signed Space Policy Directive 1, urging NASA to return Americans to the moon.

The directive "marks an important step in returning American astronauts to the moon for the first time since 1972 for long-term exploration and use," Trump said.

The Trump administration has been working its way up to this announcement all year.

Vice President Mike Pence voiced an interest in returning to the moon in October during the National Space Council, according to The New York Times.

The council, created to coordinate policies between NASA and other agencies involved in space, was dissolved in 1993. But Trump this past summer re-established it through executive order.

"We will return American astronauts to the moon, not only to leave behind footprints and flags, but to build the foundation we need to send Americans to Mars and beyond," Pence said, according to the Times.

On the day of Trump's De-

cember announcement, officials with Johnson Space Center said it was too early to "understand how implementation of the new directive may affect our work." The center will undoubtedly be impacted: Johnson is where astronauts live and train before embarking on any space missions.

The move to return to lunar exploration comes after the Obama administration spent eight years pushing Mars travel over the moon. It's not clear how or when a lunar exploration endeavor will be executed by the current administration. Funding for the directive was not addressed during the Dec. 11 presidential announcement.

Though Andrews, the lunar rover project manager, did not directly comment on the Trump administration's renewed interest in the moon, he said NASA's focus on both lunar and deep-space missions will be helpful to their mission.

"I don't even think you have to be interested in the moon to see the value of Resource Prospector," he said. Its findings "could enable so many other destinations as well."

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HARVEY

Continued from Page 5

raised — to give out financial assistance, food and other relief. It also funded emergency shelters for weeks after the storm and other financial assistance to individuals and community funds.

Most of the other funds are helping smaller organizations that directly manage the cases of individual people in need or provide housing, job training, new furniture or mental health assistance. The Greater Houston Community Foundation has distributed at least \$36 million to local groups so far, with plans for a new round of grants in January focused on housing.

"We're trying to balance a sense of great urgency to make sure people who need help are getting it rapidly, while at the same time a sense of care and responsibility to our donors to ensure that the funds are being spent effectively and efficiently," said Renee Wizig-Barrios, the foundation's senior vice president.

ARE THE GROUPS WORKING TOGETHER?

Coordination between groups working to resolve a crisis is key, say experts on disaster recovery and people who were part of the rebuilding after disasters such as Hurricane Katrina and Superstorm Sandy.

Many of Houston's major aid groups have met twice so far to discuss priorities and the work they're doing. But the Red Cross was not invited to those two meetings, even though it has raised the most money. A spokeswoman for the Houston Endowment, which convenes the meetings, said the Red Cross wasn't included because the meetings are for groups that will make grants to local nonprofits.

Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner and Texas Gov. Greg Abbott have both criticized the Red Cross publicly. Abbott said in November that he was concerned that money given to the Red Cross "was not getting into the hands of the people who need it."

A Red Cross spokesman said this month that the group has "active collaborative efforts" with other organizations. The Red Cross has publicly committed that 91 cents of every dollar raised will go toward recovery work, though the organization has been sharply criticized for perceived misspending after the Haiti earthquake and Superstorm Sandy.



In this Nov. 17, 2017 file photo, George Dorsey, center, hugs Samaritan's Purse volunteers, Nikki Moore, left, and Samantha Roundtree, who are helping rebuild his hurricane-damaged home in Houston. The groups helping to rebuild on the Texas Gulf Coast after Hurricane Harvey have collected close to \$1 billion in donations. The evangelical group Samaritan's Purse has raised \$86 million.

WILL NONPROFIT AID BE ENOUGH?

By all accounts, no. Local and state officials say that while donor funds can help fill in gaps and immediately help people in need, most of the support for Texas' rebuilding will have to come from the Federal Emergency Management Agency and other U.S. government agencies.

FEMA says it has approved about \$1.5 billion in funding so far for almost 900,000 people in Texas.

Many thousands more are still waiting for an answer on their applications for disaster aid, or starting to file appeals of denials for help.

The U.S. House on Thursday passed an \$81 billion disaster aid package for hurricane-hit Texas, Florida, and Puerto Rico, along with regions of California ravaged by recent wildfires. The Senate isn't expected to vote until next month.

West Texas-based online radio show offers mental health help

By **SIMONE JASPER**

Midland Reporter-Telegram
MIDLAND, Texas (AP) — A Midland-based online radio show is spreading information about mental health, one broadcast at a time.

The "Eyes on Psych" program offers commentary to the visually impaired and other listeners.

The Midland Reporter-Telegram reports Chris Brown,

station manager at Recording Library of West Texas (RLWT), conceived the show more than one year ago. The nonprofit mainly serves people who are blind, and Brown said that population sometimes faces psychological difficulties.

"Some of these people are absolutely alone, and it's nice to have not only a voice of reason, but to get a good

laugh out of it from time to time, too," he said.

During 30-minute recordings, some of the insight comes from Lewis Busbee, a local licensed professional counselor. He agreed to participate in the show because he has known Brown for years and thinks the broadcast can help people understand how to cope with depression or anxiety.

"I think it's very valuable, and I think it's good to help people that need help," Busbee said. "Chris made it very clear that a lot of his listeners — they have a disability of one sort or another. Usually they're blind, and they're stuck in (the) house."

Busbee said he has noticed the need for affordable mental health resources locally. He said "Eyes on Psych"

shares with listeners the services that are available in the community.

The broadcasts have covered a variety of topics, ranging from addiction to relationships. One recent on-air guest, Cory Maxwell, offered comments about healthy eating habits. He said being on the show informed him about

See **RADIO**, Page 7



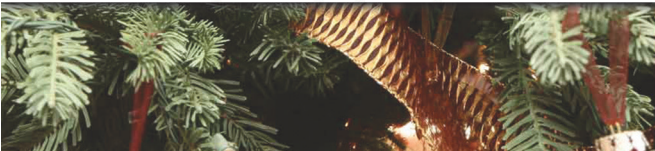
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TEXAS

Madrigal dinner returns to Snyder - thanks to choir director



By **RONALD W. ERDRICH**
Abilene Reporter-News
SNYDER, Texas (AP) — What is a madrigal dinner?

"The idea is that we are all going to be transported into a Medieval banquet hall," said Craig Robertson, describing his event. "The king and queen have thrown a celebration for us to get together and celebrate the yuletide spirit."

The Abilene Reporter-News reports this is Robertson's first year as the choir director at Snyder High School. He is also the theater director and head of the Fine Arts Department.

"So, I do a little of ev-

erything," he said. Robertson is also a 2008 Snyder High graduate and remembered the madrigal dinners from his days as a Tiger.

"We did it my sophomore and junior year. I loved singing the songs, the traditional hymns," he said. It not being a traditional concert made the experience a memorable one for both students and the parents who came to see them.

But the tradition went on hiatus. Robertson wasn't sure how long, but figured it was more than five years.

"We had lots of turnover in the choir department. I think it's a

great tradition and we thought we'd bring it back this year," he said.

The show is pretty straightforward. It borrows a little from dinner theater, though the plot only exists to move the varsity choir from one traditional song to the next. In between, the experience was punctuated by a few jokes from court jesters and sword fight or two.

The show was recently held at London Bleu, an event center, with the 35 members of the choir serving the catered barbecue meal.

Senior Ethan Gowin, portraying the king, proclaimed, "Let the feasting begin, bring forth the salad!"

Now, there was some prior mention of a boar's head. The Boar's Head Carol is actually a song from the 15th century traditionally sung at the beginning of the Christmas feast. The head was brought out, which no one actually ate, and was presented to the hunter who brought the beast down.

Most of the songs were traditional ones you'd expect to hear at this

time of the year.

"Even if you're not super-up on your Christmas hymns, you would recognize probably 70 percent of them," Robertson said. "There's a few we added in that are not traditional hymns, we found some cool pieces about knights and their swords and stuff like that."

The group sang 15 songs a capella. Robertson said one of his favorites was Brence Jasso's monologue about a lone guard standing watch in the middle of the night.

"He talks about being outside, cold, afraid and almost forgotten in the dark. But then the stars come out and he remembers the story of Jesus coming and remembers why it's important to make sacrifices for other people," Robertson said.

Some theatricality that came into play as a brief love triangle drama played out. Robertson's little sister, Brett, is a senior and played a unique role opposite Braison Kuhl.

In the scene, Brett's character objects to her father's decision for her

to marry Kuhl's character, stating she is in love with another. Later in the dinner, knight appears in armor to defend her honor and Kuhl engages the knight in swordplay. When Kuhl loses, the knight is revealed to Brett all along.

It was sort of reminiscent of a scene from "The Return of the King" where Eowyn takes her own helmet off to kill the ring wraith who is bragging that no man can kill him.

"Yes! I said that a lot, actually," laughed Brett. "I am no man!"

But this is real life and Kuhl stands a full head over Brett. He's also a middle linebacker on the Tigers football team.

"He's terrifying, he's so scary," Brett said, laughing again. "Normally, he's like this, right? Just happy and awkward and whatever. But then you put a sword in his hand and he comes flying at you? I mean, it's terrifying."

"In football, you learn to channel aggression, so this was a lot of fun," Kuhl said. "I had actually never done any theater. But she has

been preparing me for this for the past couple weeks and she's done an amazing job just getting me ready for it all."

Brett said she has had some stage combat training in theater and said Kuhl was a great partner in the scene. Still, they did have to adjust to each other's strength.

"I pulled back a little bit," he admitted. "But it was really easy going."

"I could go full speed," Brett replied. "But he works out, so."

She trailed off, and they both laughed.

"But even with that," Kuhl said. "I think we all did just amazing."

Brett nodded. "It's less about swordplay and more about the choir," she said.

Robertson echoed his sister's thoughts and wants to see the madrigal dinner regain its traditional role in the city.

"My kids are fantastic, they are really hard-working. We've memorized 14 songs in two months," he said. "We love reaching out to our community. I hope this continues."

RADIO

Continued from Page 6

RLWT.

"We've talked about any way that I can be involved in the future," Maxwell said. "I'm just so excited because what is being done here, I think is fantastic."

RLWT is a nonprofit that serves clients who have reading disabilities because of visual, physical or learning impairments. The organization creates audio recordings and operates a 24-hour radio station that broadcasts printed materials.

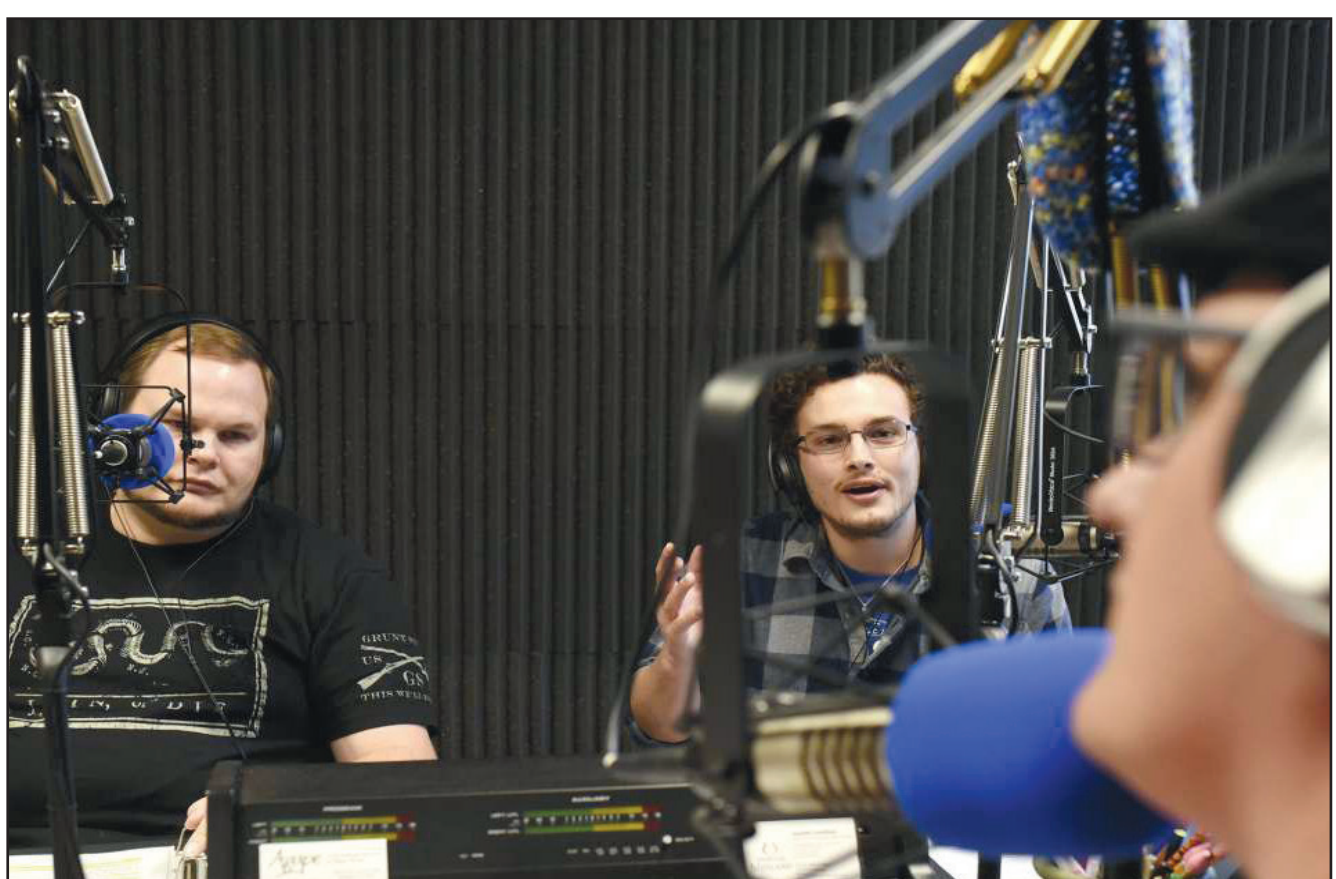
Brown said "Eyes on Psych" fits with the station's mission to reach a broad audience while addressing the experiences that clients face. He said the mental health radio show is a break from some of the informational content in the RLWT lineup.

"Ours kind of cuts through all of that," Brown said. "It's a real radio show, something that you would listen to for entertainment value."

Ideas for "Eyes on Psych" broadcasts come from current events and client experiences, according to Brown. The recordings are streamed most Friday afternoons on Facebook Live, giving those who tune in the chance to ask questions in real time.

Sarah January, administrative assistant at RLWT, said listeners have provided feedback about the show's approach.

"The conversational style is something that people comment on a lot," she said. "They say that it's really fun because it's like they're having a conversation with somebody right there in their home."



AP photo
Guests Lewis Busbee, left, and Cory Maxwell, center, talk with station manager Chris Brown, right, during the "Eyes on Psych" radio show Dec. 8, 2017, at the Recording Library of West Texas in Midland Shared Spaces.

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Sheriff: Boy's death in officer shooting 'tragic accident'



AP photo

Bexar County Sheriff Javier Salazar gives direction to deputies near the scene of an officer involved shooting on Thursday, Dec. 21, 2017 where officers killed a 30 year old female suspect. A stray bullet pierced the wall of six-year old Kameron Prescott's trailer. He died at a hospital.

SCHERTZ, Texas (AP) — The death of a 6-year-old boy who was shot and killed by a stray bullet when deputies near San Antonio opened fire on a woman being sought for crimes is a "tragic accident," a Texas sheriff said Friday.

The woman, 30-year-old Amanda Jones, was also fatally shot in the incident Thursday afternoon. Bexar County deputies had pursued her for a

car theft and other offenses about two hours before confronting her on the porch of a trailer that she had forced her way into, Sheriff Javier Salazar said. The boy, Kameron Prescott, was inside the trailer, although Salazar said deputies didn't know anyone was at the home in the San Antonio suburb of Schertz.

The child was struck in the torso by a bullet that pierced one of the trail-

er's walls. He was pronounced dead at a hospital.

The events unfolded Thursday morning when a man reported that Jones had stolen his car. Deputies found Jones hiding in the closet of a home where she pointed a gun at them before fleeing on foot, Salazar said. At one point she swam across a creek before running into a wooded area next to the trailer park where the boy lived.

Salazar said Jones tried to break into several homes at the trailer park in an effort to evade authorities before she came to the home where Kameron was inside with other family members.

Kameron was home because his elementary school let out students at noon for the Christmas break, the San Antonio Express-News reported.

The four deputies involved in the shooting have been put on administrative leave for five days.

"The deputies are of course understandably shaken up from this whole incident," Salazar said. "Officer-involved shootings are traumatic enough. Add to this one the death of an innocent 6-year-old and it's that much more troubling."

Anthony Fritcher, 33, told the Express-News that he was closing the back door of his home at the trailer park when the front door was flung open and the woman walked in, demanding the keys to a Kia Soul parked in the driveway. Fritcher, along with others in the home, charged at the woman, who ran outside and out of sight.

NASA astronaut, 1st to fly untethered in space, dies at 80



This April 29, 1990 photo made available by NASA shows astronaut Bruce McCandless aboard the space shuttle Discovery. The Johnson Space Center says McCandless died Thursday, Dec. 21, 2017 in California.

"The iconic photo of Bruce soaring effortlessly in space has inspired generations of Americans to believe that there is no limit to the human potential," Sen. John McCain

said in a statement. The Arizona Republican and McCandless were classmates at the U.S. Naval Academy.

NASA's Johnson Space Center said Friday that McCandless died Thursday in California. No cause of death was given.

McCandless said he wasn't nervous about the historic spacewalk.

"I was grossly over-trained. I

was just anxious to get out there and fly. I felt very comfortable ... It got so cold my teeth were chattering and I was shivering, but that was a very minor thing," he told the Daily Camera in Boulder, Colorado, in 2006.

During that flight, McCandless and fellow astronaut Robert L. Stewart pioneered the use of NASA's backpack device that allowed astronauts walking in space to propel themselves from the shuttle. Stewart became the second person to fly untethered two hours after McCandless.

"I'd been told of the quiet vacuum you experience in space, but with three radio links saying, 'How's your oxygen holding out?' 'Stay away from the engines!' 'When's my turn?' it wasn't that peaceful," McCandless wrote in the Guardian in 2015.

But he also wrote: "It was a wonderful feeling, a mix of personal elation and professional pride: it had taken many years to get to that point."

McCandless was later part of the 1990 shuttle crew that delivered the Hubble Space Telescope to orbit. He also served as the Mission Control capsule communicator in Houston as Neil

See **ASTRONAUT**, Page 9

Los Angeles won't join California's legal pot party Jan. 1

By **MICHAEL R. BLOOD**

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — There will be no legal pot party in Los Angeles on Jan. 1.

California kicks off recreational sales on New Year's Day, becoming the largest state in the nation with legal marijuana. But Los Angeles officials announced Friday that dispensaries in the city won't be part of the celebration.

The city won't begin accepting applications to sell legal recreational pot until Jan. 3, and it could take weeks before those businesses are properly licensed with the city and state and open their doors.

"Come Jan. 1 in the city of Los Angeles, there are no legal, adult-use sales," Cat Packer, who heads the city's Department of Cannabis Regulation, told reporters at City Hall.

"We are starting a process. This is something that is not going to happen overnight," Packer said.

Los Angeles is California's largest pot market and the opening of legal sales was widely anticipated. In March, 80 percent of city voters endorsed a ballot measure that set in motion creation of the new pot marketplace.

The decision to delay licensing, even for several weeks, was a disappointment for growers and sellers who have feared they could be squeezed out of the market if LA lagged in licensing.

"It's a scary time for the operators," said Adam Spiker, executive director of the Southern California Coalition, a marijuana industry group.

"It's not just the retailers. There is still complete uncertainty to other aspects of the industry," such as cultivation and transportation, he added. "At the

See **POT**, Page 9

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FBI: Man wanted to attack San Francisco's Pier 39 on holiday



In this Sept. 18, 2013, file photo, spectators at Pier 39 watch Emirates Team New Zealand and Oracle Team USA during the 11th race of the America's Cup sailing event in San Francisco. The FBI said Friday, Dec. 22, 2017, that it found a martyrdom letter and several guns in the home of a former Marine who may have been planning a Christmas Day attack on a popular San Francisco tourist destination.

By DON THOMPSON

Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — The FBI said Friday that it found a martyrdom letter and several guns in the home of a former Marine who said he wanted to carry out a Christmas Day attack on San Francisco's Pier 39, a popular tourist destination.

Everitt Aaron Jameson, 26, a Modesto tow-truck driver, was charged Friday with attempting to provide material support to a foreign terrorist organization.

Jameson told an undercover agent he believed to be associated with senior leadership of the Islamic State group that he wanted to conduct a violent attack on Pier 39, which is packed with restaurants, bars and souvenir shops, because it is heavily crowded, according to an FBI affidavit.

He told the undercover agent that Christmas Day would be "the perfect day to commit the attack" and that he "did not need an escape plan because he was ready to die," the affidavit

wrong.

"He wouldn't do that to innocent people," the elder Jameson told the Merced Sun-Star. "He's a loving, kind person that would never hurt nobody."

Everitt Jameson was under surveillance and "the public was never in imminent danger," FBI spokeswoman Katherine Zackel said in a statement.

She and San Francisco Acting Mayor London Breed both said there are no other known threats, though police

said. He asked for help obtaining a fully automatic military assault rifle, either an M-16 or an AK-47, along with ammunition and materials to make explosives, including nails, timers and remote detonators, the affidavit said.

However, Jameson told the undercover agent Monday that he had reconsidered and felt he could not carry out the attack after all, the affidavit says. He denied the allegations during a hearing in federal court Friday.

His father, Gordon Jameson, said he believes the FBI has the facts

increased their presence throughout the city after being notified of the FBI investigation several days ago.

"San Francisco is a city that proudly champions democracy, freedom and liberty. Sadly, that makes our home a target," Breed said in a statement. "We will not allow the thwarted attempts of one dangerous individual to disrupt our way of life. We will remain vigilant and continue to protect our city from any threat."

Jameson had posted radical jihadist messages online, including expressing support for the Halloween terror attack in New York City in which a driver used his truck to kill eight people, the FBI said.

"I'm glad to know we Muslims are finally hitting back," Jameson told an agency informant. He offered to use his tow truck to support the cause, the affidavit says.

The FBI began investigating in mid-September when it learned that Jameson was expressing support for posts that favored terrorism or the Islamic State group. He "loved" an online post that showed Santa Claus threatening an attack in New York with a box of dynamite.

Agents raided his home Wednesday, finding a martyr's letter signed with an Islamic variation of his name, along with his last will and testament updated in November. They also found fireworks, two rifles and a 9mm handgun.

During the search, Jameson "stated his support of ISIS and terrorism and discussed aspects of the plan to carry out an attack, noting that he would be happy if an attack was carried out," the affidavit says.

He was arrested Friday and faces up

See PLOT, Page 10

Bundy mistrial draws Sessions probe, calls for broad review

By KEN RITTER

Associated Press

LAS VEGAS (AP) — A mistrial in the federal prosecution of a family of ranchers who led an armed standoff against government agents prompted Attorney General Jeff Sessions to launch an investigation into the case and renewed calls for a broad review of U.S. attorneys in Las Vegas.

"You can bet that, suddenly, Sessions is asking, 'Who's our U.S. attorney in Nevada?'" Rory Little, a professor at the University of California Hastings College of the Law in San Francisco, said Friday. "And somebody says, 'Well, we don't have one.' And they put it on a fast-track."

Nevada has been without a top federal prosecutor since March, when Sessions, President Donald Trump's appointee, sought the resignations of 46 U.S. attorneys remaining from Barack Obama's administration.

The acting U.S. attorney led the troubled

From left, Ammon Bundy, Ryan Payne, Jeanette Finicum, widow of Robert "LaVoy" Finicum, Ryan Bundy, Angela Bundy, wife of Ryan Bundy and Jamie Bundy, daughter of Ryan Bundy, walk out of a federal courthouse Wednesday, Dec. 20, 2017, in Las Vegas. Chief U.S. District Judge Gloria Navarro declared a mistrial Wednesday in the case against Cliven Bundy, his sons Ryan and Ammon Bundy and self-styled Montana militia leader Ryan Payne.



ASTRONAUT

Continued from Page 8

Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin walked on the moon in 1969. During his spacewalk, "My wife was at mission control, and there was quite a bit of apprehension," McCandless wrote. "I wanted to say something similar to Neil when he landed on the moon, so I said, 'It may have been a small step for Neil, but it's a heck of a big leap for me.' That loosened the tension a bit."

Born in Boston, McCandless graduated from Woodrow Wilson Senior High School in Long Beach, California. He graduated from the Naval Academy and earned master's degrees in electrical engineering and business administration.

He was a naval aviator who participated in the Cuban blockade in the 1962 missile crisis. McCandless was selected for astronaut training during the Gemini program, and he was a backup pilot for the first manned Skylab mission in 1973. After leaving NASA, McCandless worked for Lockheed Martin Space Systems in Colorado.

"Bruce served his country with humility and dignity, and encouraged all of us to reach new heights," McCain said.

Survivors include his wife, Ellen Shields McCandless of Co-

POT

Continued from Page 8

end of the day, the city is not ready."

Los Angeles struggled for months to get rules in place to license businesses for legal sales, only agreeing to guidelines earlier this month. Packer was hired in August, just months before legalization kicked in.

Under Los Angeles rules, neighborhoods would be largely off-limits to pot businesses, and buffer zones would be set up around schools, libraries and parks. The city has long been a hive of unlicensed dispensaries, and hundreds have been shut down.

So far, legalization has re-

sulted in a patchwork of regulations around California.

Santa Cruz, San Diego, Shasta Lake, San Jose and West Hollywood are among the cities where businesses have been authorized for recreational sales. But Kern County is among the places that have banned all commercial marijuana activity.

In general, California will treat pot like alcohol, allowing people 21 and older to legally possess up to 1 ounce of the drug and grow six plants at home.

The slower rollout in Los Angeles will leave operators in a kind of legal limbo, at least temporarily. The state has said licensed businesses should only do business with other properly licensed operators.

However, Packer said that medicinal sales to consumers with a doctor's recommendation can continue. Medical marijuana has been legal in the state for two decades.

There could be more confusion to come.

The first licenses are expected to go largely to retailers. However, if not enough cultivators hold licenses, sellers would have to look elsewhere in California to stock their shelves.

"I will admit this is an incomplete process," Packer said.

The route to legalization began last year when state voters approved Proposition 64, which set the stage for recreational pot sales to adults.

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Mattis: 'Storm clouds gathering' over Korean Peninsula



Defense Secretary Jim Mattis greets soldiers at Fort Bragg, N.C., Friday, Dec. 22, 2017.

By **ROBERT BURNS**

AP National Security Writer

FORT BRAGG, N.C. (AP) — "Storm clouds are gathering" over the Korean Peninsula, Defense Secretary Jim Mattis declared Friday. And as diplomats try to resolve the nuclear standoff, he told soldiers that the U.S. military must do its part by being ready for war.

Without forecasting a conflict, Mattis emphasized that diplomacy stands the best chance of preventing a war if America's words are backed up by strong and prepared armed forces.

"My fine young soldiers, the only way our diplomats can speak with authority and be believed is if you're ready to go," Mattis told several dozen soldiers and airmen at the 82nd Airborne Division's Hall of Heroes, his last stop on a two-day pre-holiday tour of bases to greet troops.

Mattis' comments came as the U.N. Security Council unanimously approved tough new sanctions against North Korea, compelling nations to sharply reduce their sales of oil to the reclusive country and send home all North Korean expatriate workers within two years. Such workers are seen as a key source of revenue for North Korean leader Kim Jong Un's cash-strapped government.

President Donald Trump and other top U.S. of-

ficials have made repeated threats about U.S. military action. Some officials have described the messaging as twofold in purpose: to pressure North Korea to enter into negotiations on getting rid of its nuclear arsenal, and to motivate key regional powers China and

Russia to put more pressure on Pyongyang so a war is averted.

For the military, the focus has been on ensuring soldiers are ready should the call come.

At Fort Bragg, Mattis recommended the troops read T.R. Fehrenbach's military classic "This Kind of War: A Study in Unpreparedness," first published in 1963, a decade after the Korean War ended.

"Knowing what went wrong the last time around is as important as knowing your own testing, so that you're forewarned - you know what I'm driving at here," he said as soldiers listened in silence. "So you gotta be ready."

The U.S. has nearly 28,000 troops permanently stationed in South Korea, but if war came, many thousands more would be needed for a wide range of missions, including ground combat.

The retired Marine Corps general fielded questions on many topics in his meetings with troops at Guantanamo Bay naval base in Cuba and Naval Station Mayport in Florida on Thursday and at Camp Lejeune and Fort Bragg in North Carolina on Friday. North Korea seemed uppermost on troops' minds as they and their families wonder whether war looms.

AP photo

BUNDY

Continued from Page 9

prosecution against states' rights activist Cliven Bundy, his two sons and another man in the 2014 confrontation that stopped a federal roundup of Bundy cattle from public lands.

The case has local defense lawyers urging a review of the U.S. attorney's office in Nevada. Big federal cases have collapsed in the last 15 years over prosecutors' failure to share evidence with defendants.

"There's been a pattern of failure to turn over potentially exculpatory material for more than a decade," said Robert Draskovich, a defense lawyer involved in a \$14 million securities fraud case that was dismissed in 2006 and the failed racketeering prosecution that year against 42 Hells Angels members.

The latter case stemmed from a 2002 shooting in a casino in the resort town of Laughlin between rival motorcycle gangs that left three dead and more than a dozen injured.

This week, Chief U.S. District Judge Gloria Navarro declared a mistrial in the Bundy case. She blamed prosecutors, led by Acting U.S. Attorney Steven Myhre, for "willful" due process violations in failing to properly share evidence that could have helped defense attorneys.

The judge cited 3,300 pages of previously undisclosed FBI and Bureau of

Land Management records relating to the standoff that should have been provided to the defense and set a Jan. 8 hearing to decide whether charges should be dismissed outright.

She did not mention a whistleblower memo by a former Bureau of Land Management investigator that alleges widespread bad judgment, bias and misconduct during the planning and operation of the cattle roundup as well as "likely policy, ethical and legal violations" by federal officials.

The investigator, Larry Wooten, said he was removed from the investigation last February after he complained to the U.S. attorney's office in Nevada.

Justice Department spokesman Ian Prior declined Friday to comment about whether the memo was part of the review ordered by Sessions. He pointed to Thursday's announcement following the mistrial that Sessions "takes this issue very seriously and has personally directed" a review and report of the case against Cliven Bundy.

Myhre, the acting U.S. attorney, said in a statement through Prior that the Las Vegas office welcomed help "as we continue to evaluate the case in light of the court's ruling."

A federal prosecutor for more than 25 years, Myhre assumed the temporary top job in March, when Daniel Bogden departed under Trump's administration.

Bundy backers have called for

months for the administration to scuttle the prosecution, which led to the indictment of 19 people last year.

"This is the fruit of 10 months of lobbying," said Larry Klayman, a lawyer and conservative activist with close ties to Cliven Bundy but wasn't allowed to represent him in Nevada.

Klayman has sued in federal court in Washington, D.C., calling for a Justice Department ethics investigation.

Bundy supporters note that most defendants in the case served nearly two years in jail awaiting trials. Seven defendants pleaded guilty to lesser charges or were convicted of some charges.

Only Cliven Bundy remained behind bars during trial, protesting his prosecution and demanding a full exoneration.

Myhre casts the 2014 standoff as an armed uprising, not a peaceful protest over federal control of vast stretches of land in the U.S. West, as the Bundys claim.

He says the Bundys led hundreds of people and a self-styled militia that outnumbered and forced armed U.S. agents to withdraw from rounding up cattle.

Myhre failed to win

full convictions of six other men who had guns during the confrontation, including two famously photographed on a highway overpass pointing AK-47-style rifles toward heavily armed agents.

Little, the law professor and a former federal prosecutor, said a Justice Department review of prosecutor performance in Nevada will be distracting, time-consuming and could end careers.

"You're a long way from discipline. But the immediate impact is very harsh," he said. "Nothing is worse for a prosecutor than not knowing if they have complied with the rules and knowing that they could be held personally responsible."

PLOT

Continued from Page 9

to 20 years in prison if convicted. At a court hearing, he was ordered held for a Dec. 28 detention hearing.

The federal defender representing Jameson, Eric Kersten, did not return telephone and email messages seeking comment.

Jameson had attended Marine basic recruit training in 2009 and earned a sharpshooter rifle qualification. He was discharged for failing to disclose a history of asthma, the affidavit said.

He referred to his military service in comments to undercover agents.

"I have been trained in combat and things of war," Jameson told one agent.

Jameson made a pledge to the Muslim faith two years ago at an Islamic center in Merced, according to the affidavit. A message left at the Islamic Center of Merced was not immediately returned.

"The threat from radical Islamic terrorism is real — and it is serious," Attorney General Jeff Sessions said in a statement, but federal agents are protecting the nation from what he called "an alleged plot to kill Americans."

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Top sports leaders look at ways to address sexual misconduct



By **JANIEMCCAULEY**
AP Sports Writer

OAKLAND, Calif. — Top leaders from the major professional sports leagues and individual franchises along with high-profile former athletes have begun looking at ways to avoid the kinds of sexual misconduct scandals that have rocked the world of politics and the entertainment industry.

And lately, sports, too. The issue came up in discussions earlier this month during the first meeting of the Anti-Defamation League's new Sports Leadership Council, which is chaired by Pac-12 Conference Commissioner Larry Scott. NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell and Major League Baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred attended, joined by NCAA

President Mark Emmert among others such as Big East Commissioner and former WNBA President Val Ackerman, various pro sports owners and team presidents. Tennis star Venus Williams is taking part, while civil rights activists, women's advocates and sports agents are in the group as well.

The leadership council briefly discussed the topic of sexual misconduct as part of its larger agenda during its first meeting in New York but has yet to identify any specific initiatives. Scott stressed the goal of the group is to be proactive on any hot-button topics, such as sexual harassment and sexual misconduct, given recent firings and lawsuits filed around the country.

"It did come up, and it See **SPORTS**, Page 17

In this Oct. 12, 2017, file photo, Commissioner Larry Scott gestures while speaking about the formation of a task force on recruitment issues during NCAA college basketball Pac-12 media day, in San Francisco.

AP Photo

Oklahoma's Orlando Brown Jr chases late dad's NFL success



Freshman Trae Young doing it all for No. 17 Oklahoma



In this Oct. 28, 2017, file photo, Oklahoma offensive lineman Orlando Brown (78) blocks against Texas Tech during the second half of an NCAA college football game in Norman, Okla.

AP Photo

Oklahoma guard Trae Young celebrates after a fast-break basket against Northwestern during the first half of an NCAA college basketball game in Norman, Okla., Friday, Dec. 22, 2017.

AP Photo

By **CLIFF BRUNT**

AP Sports Writer

NORMAN, Okla. — Orlando Brown Jr.'s road to greatness hasn't been as straight as one might expect for the son of an NFL offensive lineman.

Oklahoma's dominant left tackle is a first-team AP All-American and a projected first-round draft pick. But years ago, he was a slow, chubby seventh-grader who lacked aggression.

"His dad would stay on him, like, 'You're playing too timid, you don't want to play this game, you don't want to play it because you're not playing the way you should be playing,'" said Orlando Jr.'s mother, Mira Brown.

Orlando Sr. went well beyond critiquing his son's lack of intensity. He taught him about focus, good eating habits and the importance of training and study. Though Orlando Sr. died in 2011, he still affects his son. In chasing his dreams of being better than his father, Orlando Jr. has become a player few thought he could become.

The 6-foot-8, 345-pounder is a key reason the Sooners will play in a play-off semifinal against Georgia on Jan. 1 in the Rose Bowl.

"I made a promise to my dad that I'd be a 10-year vet, NFL Hall of Famer," Orlando Jr. said. "That's kind of what my goal has been since I started playing. Obviously, you set smaller goals there — one of my goals was to be a unanimous All-American. I haven't

reached that top one yet — I'm not even in the league, kind of far from it, so I'm just continuing to work and stay grounded."

Orlando Jr.'s results are new, but his focus is not. Mira Brown said her son has been locked in since those junior high days when he weighed about 400 pounds.

"I've never had to tell Orlando, 'Let's go,'" Mira Brown said. "Even being sick, I've never had to say, 'Get up, come on,' any of that. He's always been ready to go."

Perhaps that's because he knows he has big shoes to fill. Orlando Sr. started 119 games combined for the Cleveland Browns and Baltimore Ravens. Orlando Jr. isn't even sure where the drive to exceed his dad's accomplishments came from.

"I don't know specifically what it was for me that set it off, but I just wanted to be great, man," Orlando Jr. said. "I probably could have been anything I wanted to be, but for me, it's just always been football."

The fact that he's even at Oklahoma is a bit of an accident. The native of Duluth, Georgia, had committed to Tennessee, but Mira Brown said the Volunteers pulled their offer. His first year on campus, he redshirted and played on the scout team.

It was a humbling beginning for a young man whose father was nick

See **BROWN**, Page 17

By **CLIFF BRUNT**

AP Sports Writer

NORMAN, Okla. — Trae Young is picking up admirers with every dynamic performance for No. 17 Oklahoma.

Check out this testimonial from Northwestern coach Chris Collins.

"I had the opportunity to coach Kyrie Irving at the same age, and he was similar like that before he got hurt," Collins said, remembering a younger version of the NBA All-Star.

"There was just a maturity to his game that he had. He knew how to change speeds. He looked like a veteran from day one and that's how Trae is out there. He plays at his pace. He knows where he wants to go."

"He looks like he really enjoys playing with these guys. It's really fun to watch but not fun to play against."

Young burned Collins' Wildcats for 25 points and 10 assists in the first half of a 104-

78 win on Friday. The freshman finished with 31 points and 12 assists.

It was another stellar night in a string of big games for the 6-foot-2 guard, who is bringing his hometown team back to national prominence. The Sooners struggled to an 11-20 record a year ago, but they look more like the team that went to the 2016 Final Four at the moment.

Young leads the nation in scoring and assists. The Norman North High graduate has the locals buzzing, too. Friday night's crowd of 11,259 was the biggest for a non-conference game at the Lloyd Noble Center since 2008, when Blake Griffin played for the Sooners.

"When you're winning, that's the main thing," he said. "This is fun. The crowd, it's continuing to grow. They played a huge, huge role tonight. The way we jumped out right out the gates, you can just tell — this is the best time to be a Sooner."

Young scored 43 points in a win over Oregon. He had 29 points and 10 assists in a win over then-No. 3 Wichita State and 29 points and nine assists in a victory against then-No. 25 Southern California.

But he really captured the attention of college basketball fans across the country when he tied an NCAA record with 22 assists against Northwestern State on Tuesday. He also had 26 points in the 105-68 win.

"Obviously Trae's ability to dictate and attack from the backcourt — that frees up a lot of other people," Oklahoma coach Lon Kruger said. "Trae is shooting the ball well. Guys are comfortable making the extra pass. Making good basketball plays. They have done a good job of that."

Young shoots out beyond 25 feet with ease. He is fast and quick with rare court vision.

See **YOUNG**, Page 17

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RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS OIL AND GAS DIVISION

DISTRICT 08 Rule 37 Case No. 0308063
DATE OF ISSUANCE: Dec 11, 2017 Status/Permit No. 831831
NOTICE OF PROTEST DEADLINE: 5:00 PM, Jan 16, 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 SM ENERGY COMPANY, [RRC Operator No. 788997] 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. 17, Bk. 31 T2N, T&P RR CO Survey, A-185, SPRABERRY (TREND AREA) Field, HOWARD County, being 13.6 miles NE 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

Public Notice

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 16, 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 : MIR-ACLE MAX A
Lease/Unit Well No. : 1744WA
Lease/Unit Acres : 638.5
Nearest Lease Line (ft) : 100.0

Lease Lines : 291.0 F N L, 2335.0 F W L
Survey Lines : 291.0 F N L, 2335.0 F W L

Wellbore Profile(s) : Horizontal

Lateral: TH1
Penetration Point Location
Lease Lines: 500.0 F S (OFF LSE) L
2306.0 F W (OFF LSE) L
Terminus Location BH
County: HOWARD
Section: 26 Block: 31 T2N
Abstract: 1542 Survey: T&P RR CO / KAASE, A
Lease Lines: 50.0 F S L
2307.0 F W L
Survey Lines: 50.0 F S L
2307.0 F W 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 9500 feet. If you have questions regarding this application, please contact the Applicant's representative, Jill Hamilton, at (432)8484855.

#9635 December 11, 18, 25, 2017 January 1, 2018

RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS OIL AND GAS DIVISION

DISTRICT 08 Rule 37 Case No. 0308284
DATE OF ISSUANCE: Dec 18, 2014 Status/Permit No. 832207
NOTICE OF PROTEST DEADLINE: 5:00 PM, Jan 22, 2015
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

Public Notice

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. 28, Bk. 33 T3N, T&P RR CO/ ALLEN, C T Survey, A-1237, 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.

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 22, 2015 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 33-40 A
Lease/Unit Well No. : 5AH
Lease/Unit Acres : 640.0
Nearest Lease Line (ft) : 1.0

Lease Lines :600.0 F S (offlease) L,2002.0 F W (offlease) L
Survey Lines :600.0 F S (offlease) L,2002.0 F W (offlease) L

Lateral: TH1
Penetration Point Location
Lease Lines: 600.0 F S (OFFLEASE) L
2002.0 F W (OFFLEASE) 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
331.0 F EAST L
Survey Lines: 100.0 F

Public Notice

SOUTH L
2309.0 F WEST 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.

#9646 December 25, 2017 January 1, 8, 15, 2017

RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS OIL AND GAS DIVISION

DISTRICT 08 Rule 37 Case No. 0308289
DATE OF ISSUANCE: Dec 20, 2017 Status/Permit No. 832209
NOTICE OF PROTEST DEADLINE: 5:00 PM, Jan 24, 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. 28, Bk. 33 T3N, T&P RR CO/ ALLEN, C T Survey, A-1237, 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.

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

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Public Notice

OUT ABOVE BY Jan 24, 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 33-40 A

Public Notice

Lease/Unit Well No. : 6AH
Lease/Unit Acres : 640.0
Nearest Lease Line (ft) : 100.0 Nearest Well on Lease (ft) : 659.0

Lease Lines : 630.0 F S (offlease) L, 2002.0 F W (offlease) L Survey Lines : 630.0 F S (offlease) L, 2002.0 F W (offlease) L

Wellbore Profile(s) : Horizontal

Lateral: TH1
Penetration Point Location
Lease Lines: 630.0 F S (OFFLEASE) L
2002.0 F W (OFFLEASE) L
Terminus Location BH
County: HOWARD
Section: 40 Block: 33 T3N

Public Notice

Abstract: 1250 Survey: T&P RR CO / BOYDSTON, J N
Lease Lines: 100.0 F SOUTH L
990.0 F EAST L
Survey Lines: 100.0 F SOUTH L
1650.0 F WEST 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.

Public Notice

If you have questions regarding this application, please contact the Applicant's representative, Ryan Emery, at (281)5895200.

#9645 December 25, 2017
January, 1, 8, 15, 2017

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North-South vulnerable.

NORTH

♠ J 6 5
♥ A K
♦ J 9 8 7 6
♣ 10 3 2

EAST

♠ K 7 4
♥ 8 7 6 5 3 2
♦ A 3
♣ J 7

WEST

♠ 10 9 8 2
♥ 10 9
♦ Q 10
♣ A 9 6 5 4

SOUTH

♠ A Q 3
♥ Q J 4
♦ K 5 4 2
♣ K Q 8

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
1♦	Pass	3♦	Pass

3 NT
Opening lead — five of clubs.

This deal occurred in the Japan-Switzerland match during the 1982 world team championship in Biarritz, France.

When Japan held the North-South cards, the bidding went as shown. The Swiss West led the five of clubs, and declarer, faced with a difficult decision, elected to play the ten from dummy.

East covered with the jack, ducked by South, and returned the seven of clubs, declarer's king losing to the ace. West then led the club

four, on which East, Jean Besse, world-famous Swiss expert, discarded the ace of diamonds!

It was a sensational discard, no doubt, but more importantly, it was the only card Besse could have played to defeat the contract. Had he not gotten rid of the ace of diamonds, the Japanese declarer would almost certainly have scored four diamond tricks — and the contract — by crossing to dummy with a heart and leading a diamond toward the king.

Besse had rightly concluded that if declarer held the K-Q of diamonds, three notrump could not be defeated. He therefore arbitrarily credited his partner with the queen of diamonds and treated the diamond ace as an albatross around his neck. Declarer eventually went down one, losing four clubs and a diamond.

At the second table, where the North-South cards were held by a Swiss pair, the final contract was again three notrump. At this table, however, West led the ten of spades instead of a club.

Declarer won the ten with the queen, played a heart to the king and returned a low diamond from dummy. After this start, there was no way he could be stopped from winning four diamond tricks, and he ultimately made four notrump to give the Swiss a gain of 730 points on the deal.

Tomorrow: The two-way finesse.

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SUDOKU

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

Level: Advanced

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!

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

ANSWER:

Fun By The Numbers

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

Tomorrow's Horoscope

BY HOLIDAY MATHIS



Peace on Earth and Other Planets

Santa famously keeps a list of who's naughty and who's nice, and Venus, in the early stages of Capricorn, totally supports the idea. Luckily, most who celebrate Christmas tend to be forgiving about whatever happened in the year that's mostly behind us. May the better angels prevail over a day to celebrate peace on earth, goodwill to all.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Home isn't a location; it's a heart space -- and one that you'll carry with you wherever you happen to be. Tonight features a scenario that's both unexplainable and poetic.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). A happy family can come in many forms, some of them not genetic in the least. You'll reach out to family of all kinds and in various ways. A reach-out can be an intention of the spirit, or it can involve a phone or maybe a hug.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). The implications of the holiday will soften the behavior of all, regardless of age or religious persuasion or any other category. It's as if there's niceness on the breeze that sooner or later touches everyone.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). In the very best sense, what's happening is a direct result of what you thought about, created and built. You'll stand back and be satisfied and maybe a little proud of the sweetness of the moment.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). There's a buzzy, excited feeling that perhaps has to do with getting to be around people who make you happy. A few laughs together -- enchanting memories are being made.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). The day will be characterized by warmth, extra smiles, unexpected kindness and good cheer. Relax. Be nice to yourself these last days of the year. Your heart can be

light if you let it be.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You feel as though you are very much wanted but not desperately needed. It's the ideal dynamic -- no pressure, just joy and appreciation. You're free to really be yourself.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Beautiful music will set the right tone on this day to pull loved ones closer, enjoy one another and, above all, give a free pass on all the petty stuff that gets in the way of pure love.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Things will go according to plan and unfold with the feeling you had hoped for. Two things are true: 1) All is well at the moment, and 2) if it's not, you'll fix it later; until then, refer back to 1.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). The action swings in and out of the fairy tale zone. Though there's a fantasy quality to the setting, the basics bring you back and ground you in what's real and the very practical ways of sharing your love.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). It's a cozy, drama-free day. Even the people who usually find something to be unhappy about will settle in for some contentment. Expect love, sharing, music, good food and more love.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You're looking for the brightest potential in each person you encounter (and in yourself, too), which is exactly what you'll find. Inside everyone is something to celebrate, and celebrate you will.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Dec. 25). You'll spend this year doing what makes you

money, what makes you better and what makes you happy. There won't be a whole lot of room for anything extra-neous, and you'll find the intensity of focus invigorating. Because your goal is to be a better person, you don't have to chase success. It finds you. Virgo and Cancer adore you.

Your lucky numbers are: 8, 20, 22, 30 and 1.

NEW SEASON SUPERPOWER: PART TWO OF TWO: Each sign has unique talents, tricks, mystifying qualities and secret strengths.

Which of those talents will the planets help you magnify to heroic proportions in the season ahead? LIBRA: Healing. You have an intuitive sense about what will heal others and yourself. SCORPIO: Easy Transitions. In a world of constant change, the ability to move gracefully between states is among the most powerful. SAGITTARIUS: Salesmanship. You can persuade people to buy the shirts from their own backs. Use your power for good and you'll be in a position to upgrade your lifestyle in a matter of a few months. CAPRICORN: Reframing. When something isn't working, you alter your frame of reference, choosing to see things in a different way. By doing so, you become wise. AQUARIUS: Quantum Travel. You are able to leap great distances in impossible amounts of time, seeming to exist in different places at once. This is especially helpful in your career; you learn the ropes of a new position in record time.

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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	KWES2 (15) Midland	WTBS (33) Atlanta	TNT (34) Atlanta	ESPN (35) Sports	ESPN2 (36) Sports	FSN (38) Sports	USA (55) New York	A&E (58) New York	DISC (60) Discovery	
5:30 PM	ball: Wizards at Celtics	P. Luche Noticiero	Broke Girl Mom	CBS 7	Tele Noticias	Stealers at Houston Texans.	Hidden Cost	Green Gables	Hawaii Five-0	American American	Movie: A Christmas Story (DVS)	Movie: A Christmas Story (DVS)	SportsCenter	College Basketball	Texans Texans	Avengers: Mark Ruffalo (DVS)	Movie: Walking Tall	Garage Rehab	
6:30 PM		Enamorán-dome	Big Bang Big Bang	CBS 7 ET	Pelicula: Percy Jackson: Sea of Monsters	Inside Ed.	Families	PBS News-Hour	M*A*S*H M*A*S*H	Fam. Guy Fam. Guy			Cntdown		MLB Baseball			Garage Rehab	
7:30 PM	NBA Basketball: Rockets at Thunder	Rey David	Show-Apollo	Kevin Can Man-Plan	Grinch	Movie: How the Grinch Stole Christmas	Truth	Antiques Roadshow	Griffith Griffith	iHeartRadio Jingle Ball 2017	American Fam. Guy	Movie: Remember the Titans (DVS)	(15) NFL Football: Oakland Raiders at Philadelphia Eagles.	World/Poker		WWE Monday Night RAW	Movie: The Rock, Ed Harris	Garage Rehab	
8:30 PM		Mi marido tiene	The Gifted	Superior	Sangre de mi tierra	Light of Southwest	Light of Southwest	Call the Midwife	Mama's ALF	Whose? Heroes	Page Six Tarantula		World/Poker		MLB Baseball			Garage Rehab	
9:30 PM	Pyramid	Caer en tentación	News	Scorpion	Señora Acero 4	Light of Southwest	Independent Lens	Heroes	Heroes	Seinfeld	Tarantula	NBA Basketball: Timberwolves at Lakers	World/Poker		C'boys	Mod Fam	(:03) Movie: Walking Tall	Garage Rehab	
10:30 PM	Jimmy Kimmel Live	Impacto	Mom	CBS 7	Tele	News	House	C. Burnett	Seinfeld	Conan	Conan		World/Poker		Rangers	Mod Fam		Garage Rehab	
11:30 PM	Nightline	Contacto Deportivo	How I Met James	Two Men Corden	Señora Acero 4	Daly	Seth Meyers	Shofar	TBA	Twilight ...	King	Conan	SportsCenter	SC Top Plays	UFC Countdown	XTERRA	Mod Fam	Fast N' Loud	
12:30 AM	Extra	Quiero Amarte	How I Met	Access	Señora Acero 4	Daly	Hidden	News (Off Air)	Hitchcock	King/Hill	Cops	Broke Girl	Inside the NBA	NBA Basketball: Cavaliers at Celtics	NBA Basketball: Wizards at Celtics	NBA Basketball: Wizards at Celtics	Psych: The Movie	Movie: The Rock, Ed Harris	Fast N' Loud
1:30 AM	Paid Prg.	Paid Prg.	Simpsons	Paid Prg.	Programa	(:37) The													

AGNES

I CAN'T BELIEVE I HAVE TO GO TO MASS TWO DAYS IN A ROW!

IT'S CHRISTMAS

I GET THAT... BUT WE SHOULD HAVE GOT A PASS FOR YESTERDAY.

GOD DOESN'T GIVE OUT PASSES.

CAN WE GET AN EARLY RELEASE TODAY?

MERRY CHRISTMAS, AGNES

ANDY CAPP

TWIST AND SHOUT!

NOEL!

BOOM! BOOM!

SANTAS A SCOTSMAN!

IT'S NOT A FANCY DRESS PARTY, BUT COME IN ANYWAY

ARCHIE

MERRY CHRISTMAS

MOMMA

THANK HEAVEN I'M NOT THE MATERIALISTIC TYPE.

MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM THE KIDS!

SEASON'S GREETINGS FROM MELL LAZARUS and his entire family!

PRAY FOR PEACE!

NEST HEAD

HOW WOULD YOU FEEL ABOUT SPENDING NEW YEAR'S EVE AT THE ASSISTED-LIVING FACILITY?

WILL MY ANSWER AFFECT WHETHER WE GO OR WAS THAT JUST A RHETORICAL QUESTION?

RHETORICAL. I ALREADY SIGNED US UP FOR IT.

THEN YOU ALREADY KNOW HOW I'D FEEL.

ONE BIG HAPPY

Season's Greetings from OUR FAMILY TO YOURS.

This Date In History

Today is Monday, Dec. 25, the 359th day of 2017. There are six days left in the year. This is Christmas Day.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 25, 1776, Gen. George Washington and his troops crossed the Delaware River for a surprise attack against Hessian forces at Trenton, New Jersey, during the American Revolutionary War.

On this date:

In A.D. 336, the first known commemoration of Christmas on Dec. 25 took place in Rome.

In 1066, William the Conqueror was crowned King of England.

In 1818, "Silent Night (Stille Nacht)" was publicly performed for the first time during the Christmas Midnight Mass at the Church of St. Nikolaus in Oberndorf, Austria.

In 1926, Hirohito became emperor of Japan, succeeding his father, Emperor Yoshihito.

In 1931, New York's Metropolitan Opera broadcast an entire live opera over radio for the first time: "Hansel and Gretel" by Engelbert Humperdinck.

In 1940, the Rodgers & Hart musical "Pal Joey" opened on Broadway, beginning a run of 374 performances.

In 1946, comedian W.C. Fields died in Pasadena, California, at age 66.

In 1961, Pope John XXIII formally announced the upcoming convocation of the Second Vatican Council, which opened in Oct. 1962.

In 1977, comedian Sir Charles Chaplin died in Switzerland at age 88.

In 1989, ousted Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu (chow-SHES'-koo) and his wife, Elena, were executed following a popular uprising. Former baseball manager Billy Martin, 61, died in a traffic accident near Binghamton, New York.

In 1991, Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev went on television to announce his resignation as the eighth and final leader of a communist superpower that had already gone out of existence.

In 2006, James Brown, the "Godfather of Soul," died in Atlanta at age 73.

Ten years ago: A tiger at the San Francisco Zoo

escaped her enclosure and killed a park visitor; two brothers also were mauled, but survived. (The tiger was killed by police.) Russia's military successfully test-fired a new intercontinental ballistic missile capable of carrying multiple nuclear warheads.

Five years ago: In his Christmas message to the world, Pope Benedict XVI called for an end to the slaughter in Syria and for more meaningful negotiations between Israelis and Palestinians, while encouraging more religious freedom under China's new leaders. Chicago mobster Frank Calabrese Sr., 75, died at a federal prison in North Carolina.

One year ago: A Russian Tu-154 carrying 92 people to Syria crashed into the Black Sea shortly after takeoff from Sochi, killing all 92 people on board. Decrying the suffering in Syria, Pope Francis wished Christmas peace and hope for all those scarred by war and terrorism, which he said was sowing "fear and death in the heart of many countries and cities." George Michael, who rocketed to stardom with WHAM! and went on to enjoy a long and celebrated solo career, died at his home in Goring, England, at age 53.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Dick Miller is 89. Author Anne Roiphe is 82. Actress Hanna Schygulla (SHEE'-goo-lah) is 74. Rhythm-and-blues singer John Edwards (The Spinners) is 73. Actor Gary Sandy is 72. Singer Jimmy Buffett is 71. Pro and College Football Hall-of-Famer Larry Csonka is 71. Country singer Barbara Mandrell is 69. Actress Sissy Spacek is 68. Former White House adviser Karl Rove is 67. Actress CCH Pounder is 65. Singer Annie Lennox is 63. Reggae singer-musician Robin Campbell (UB40) is 63. Country singer Steve Wariner is 63. Singer Shane MacGowan (The Pogues, The Popes) is 60. Baseball Hall of Famer Rickey Henderson is 59. The former Chair of the Council of Economic Advisers, Christina Romer, is 59. Actress Klea Scott is 49. Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau is 46. Rock musician Noel Hogan (The Cranberries) is 46. Singer Dido is 46. Rock singer Michael Powell (Third Day) is 45. Rhythm-and-blues singer Ryan Shaw is 37. Country singer Alecia Elliott is 35. Pop singers Jess and Lisa Origiasso (The Veronicas) are 33. Rock singer-musician Lukas Nelson (Lukas Nelson & Promise of the Real) is 29.

Thought for Today:

"It is Christmas every time you let God love others through you ... yes, it is Christmas every time you smile at your brother and offer him your hand."

Saint Teresa of Calcutta (1910-1997).

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Newsday Crossword

GROUP THINK by Gail Grabowski
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

- Steals from
- Mexican snacks in shells
- Miles away
- Oil cartel letters
- "__ seeing you!" ("So long!")
- Factual
- Netlike fabric
- Throw for __ (astonish)
- What's placed in a glove
- Group that travels with a movie star
- Arrived at
- Authorizes
- Thinnest American coin
- Confuses
- Greatly admires
- Lock of hair
- Brief film excerpt
- Tennis court divider
- "Shop __ you drop"
- Elaborate meal
- Nest egg letters
- Day before a holiday
- Dozed off
- Take effect
- Nullified
- Changed the color of again
- Very enthusiastic
- Southeast Florida city
- Modify
- Work group of legislators
- Bridle strap
- Submarine tracking device
- Des Moines' state

DOWN

- Guys' campus group
- First cousin's mom
- Decorate again
- Luau instruments, for short
- Donate
- Fender ding
- When some take a coffee break
- Operate an auto
- Convention group from a state
- Sit for a bit
- Spooky
- Get to one's feet
- Sesame __ bun
- Top of a toothpaste tube
- Made a quick escape
- Mix with a spoon
- "Half" prefix for final
- Newspaper issue
- Get even for
- Ammo-loading gadget for a musket
- __ Carlo, Monaco
- Public persona
- Typical Saudi
- Toy building-block brand
- Clever accomplishment
- Commotion
- Lambs' moms
- Make less difficult
- Sailor's distress signal

Answer to previous puzzle

ODDBALL RAMONA
YUJAGAIN IRONER
SORRENTO PETCAT
TWINN ESSES ARI
EONS CREON AMTS
RPG ARABY SLEET
SNARL ATERRE
QUALIFYINGEXAMS
UNREST NORMA
AIMEE IDLES HEM
SOAK INNIE HONE
ING MODEM PANDA
WINGIT SILENCES
AZALEA STENDHAL
REGONS SENSORY

12/25/17

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SPORTS

Continued from Page 11

has been a real issue," Scott said. "It's been an area of focus in sports generally for young male athletes to be role models."

Recent weeks have seen major misconduct allegations emerging in sports. Hall of Famer Marshall Faulk is among three NFL Network analysts suspended after a woman who worked as a wardrobe stylist at the network accused them in a lawsuit of sexual misconduct. That came after Hall of Fame quarterback Warren Moon was sued for sexual harassment by a woman who worked for him at his sports marketing firm. Moon denied the allegations again Thursday in a radio interview.

Last Sunday, Carolina Panthers owner Jerry Richardson announced he would sell the team while he is under investigation for sexual and racial misconduct in the workplace. The NFL plans to hire an outside counsel to investigate the allegations.

Scott realizes the importance of discussing cases of sexual misconduct.

"I can just speak for my own experience at the Pac-12 and throughout college sports, there's been a real embrace of a White House campaign called 'It's on Us' and a focus," Scott said. "Stanford's done some things here locally, too, from some PSAs to focus on awareness and the importance of everyone having the responsibility to be upstanders not bystanders, that it's on everyone to be aware of potential sexual harassment and misconduct. It's been an important area of focus in college sports. It's certainly on the agenda and on the list of issues that sports is confronting."

Golden State Warriors President and COO Rick Welts, who participated in the council's two-hour initial session by phone, just addressed sexual misconduct in a meeting with his small group of top executives and another with all of the franchise's

management leaders.

"You raise it as an issue that it creates a natural opportunity to be able to talk about it again," Welts said. "We have our regular harassment training. It's not a new subject, but it's certainly got a new focus right now. It's an opportunity to just kind of reaffirm the things that we want the organization to stand for and we're using it as an opportunity to do that. It was definitely a conversation."

Still, Welts said he often asks himself whether he is doing enough.

"You can do the training and have the conversations," he said, "then your control is gone."

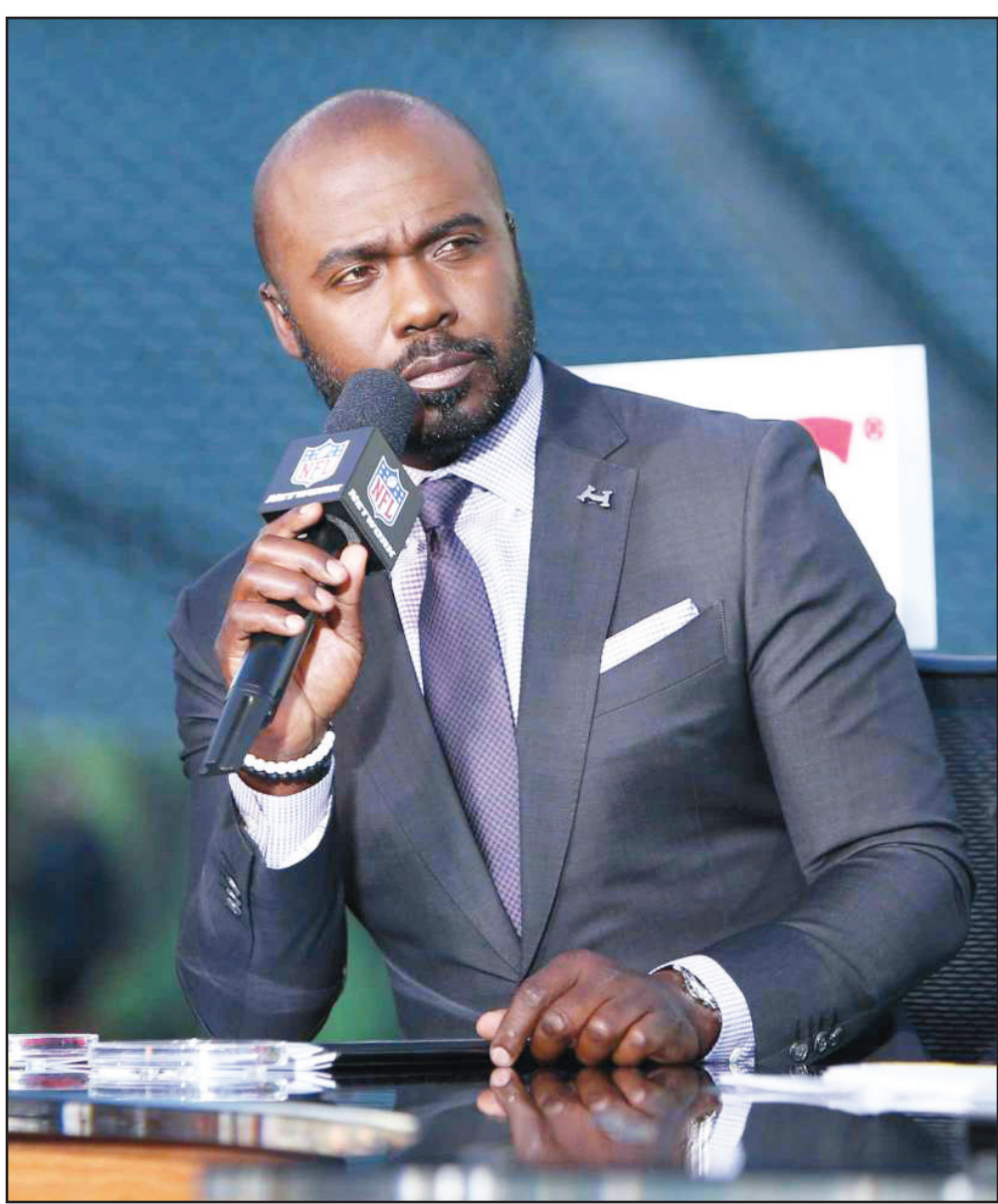
That's largely why the council wants to figure out how it might do more — in a united effort.

The goal of the group is to find ways to collaborate on understanding current events and how they affect sports, what athletes and sports officials can do with such a focus on the rise of sports stars' social stands and activism as well as brainstorming further ways of ensuring and improving unity and respect.

"It often draws attention to issues that are going on in society at large, things like racism, homophobia, religious intolerance, bullying, domestic violence issues," Scott said. "These are all issues that society's been wrestling over the last year and sport often comes into focus if these issues happen in sports. They get a lot of attention."

"Sports leaders have an opportunity to make an impact on these things. This is the first time I'm aware of that the entire sports community has come together to exchange ideas and views, share experiences and to explore opportunities that there might be for some collective activities or to work together to amplify the great individual work that individual athletes or teams or leagues are doing."

Major League Baseball states as one of its "workplace code of conduct" principles: "Harassment and discrimination are against MLB's values and



AP Photo

This Sept. 14, 2017, file photo shows NFL analyst Marshall Faulk speaking during a pre-game show before an NFL football game between the Cincinnati Bengals and the Houston Texans, in Cincinnati. Top leaders from the major professional sports leagues and individual franchises along with high-profile former athletes have begun looking at ways to avoid the kinds of sexual misconduct scandals that have rocked the world of politics and the entertainment industry.

will not be tolerated anywhere in the Major or Minor Leagues."

The council will continue to address the hot-button issues and current events facing not only sports but society.

Many of those involved figure as much positive change and dialogue that can happen the better.

"It's a big opportunity," Welts said. "It has just started."



YOUNG

Continued from Page 11

It adds up to one difficult package for opponents.

"With how deep he can shoot it from, you have to extend out on him, and then it just opens the floor," Collins said. "He does a great job. He changes speeds well and he is shifty. And so the moment you are kind of a little off balance, he does a great job getting into your body and kind of playing off your movements. He's got incredible vision. I always knew he was an incredible scorer. But the one thing I think he is underrated is his ability to pass. I thought he made some great passes and found

AP Photo

(left) Oklahoma guard Trae Young shoots over Northwestern guard Bryant McIntosh during the second half of an NCAA college basketball game in Norman, Okla., Friday, Dec. 22, 2017. Oklahoma won 104-78.

BROWN

Continued from Page 11

named "Zeus."

"I came in here with the mentality that I had to work, and I understood that," Orlando Jr. said. "I didn't think anything was going to be given to me. I basically lost my scholarship to Tennessee. I wasn't supposed to be here. I kind of had to come here with the mentality to work, and I understood that. I had two seniors in front of me, and once I realized how sorry I really was, I realized that I had to go to work. If anything, it helped me."

Brown's grades were shaky in high school, but Mira Brown said Orlando Jr., made the dean's list his first semester on campus and has been solid in the classroom ever since. He's on track to graduate in May with a degree in human relations.

"That means everything," Mira Brown said. "Being an NFL wife myself, playing in the NFL, not only is

it important to play the game in the NFL and reach your goals, it's also important to know what to do after your career in the NFL."

Orlando Jr. has been a good student in football, too, and that has helped him become a complete player. Oklahoma's second-team All-American linebacker, Ogbornia Okoronkwo, calls him the best player he's ever matched up with.



"There's so many things," Okoronkwo said. "His feet quickness, his strength in the run game, his hand quickness. Just so many things."

Oklahoma offensive line coach Bill Bedenbaugh said Brown is just starting to reach his potential.

"It's just a natural progression," Bedenbaugh said.

"I said this last

year — I thought he would make that improvement. But he's nowhere close to where he's going to be next year, two years, three years, four years down the road. I mean, he's got so much more that he can improve on. It's good to see the player he is right now. His best football is really ahead of him."

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Answers to 'Christmas Carols in other words'

Before you read these, **check out Page 3** for a list of Christmas song titles rewritten with much aid from a thesaurus.

See how many you can decipher, then come back here to see how you did!

1. Rocking Around the Christmas Tree
2. The First Noel
3. Go Tell It On the Mountain
4. Ave, Maria
5. Baby, It's Cold Outside
6. The Christmas Song (Chestnuts Roasting On An Open Fire)
7. God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen
8. Here We Come A-Wassailing
9. The Holly and the Ivy
10. Have a Holly, Jolly Christmas
11. I'll Be Home For Christmas
12. I Wonder As I Wander
13. It's Beginning To Look a Lot Like Christmas
14. Let It Snow! Let It Snow! Let It

15. Little Drummer Boy
16. I'm Getting Nothing For Christmas
17. Santa, Baby
18. Santa Claus Is Coming To Town
19. Silver and Gold
20. Sleigh Ride
21. Sweet Little Jesus Boy
22. Up On the Rooftop
23. Silver Bells
24. We Need a Little Christmas
25. We Wish You a Merry Christmas
26. What Child Is This?
27. You're a Mean One, Mr. Grinch
28. Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer
29. Silent Night
30. Joy To the World
31. Hark, the Herald Angels
32. We Three Kings
33. Away, In a Manger
34. Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful
35. Oh, Holy Night
36. I'm Dreaming Of a White Christmas

37. The Twelve Days of Christmas
38. It Came Upon a Midnight Clear
39. Frosty the Snowman
40. All I Want For Christmas Is My Two Front Teeth
41. I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus
42. Walking In a Winter Wonderland
43. Deck the Halls
44. Jingle Bells
45. Angels We Have Heard On High
46. Blue Christmas
47. The Friendly Beasts
48. Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas
49. I Heard the Bells On Christmas Day
50. I Saw Three Ships Come Sailing In
51. Good King Wenceslas
52. Oh Come, Oh Come, Emmanuel
53. Jolly Old St. Nicholas
54. (There's No Place Like) Home For the Holidays

55. Angels We Have Heard On High
56. Carol Of the Bells
57. Do You Hear What I Hear?
58. Oh, Little Town of Bethlehem
59. While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks By Night
60. Here Comes Santa Claus
61. It's the Most Wonderful Time Of the Year
62. All I Want For Christmas Is You
63. Grandma Got Run Over By a Reindeer
64. I Want a Hippopotamus For Christmas
65. Jingle Bell Rock
66. Please Come Home for Christmas
67. Snow Miser/Heat Miser
68. Pat-a-Pan
69. Feliz Navidad
70. The Chipmunk Song (Christmas Don't Be Late)

Gift wrap or tape in 1 hour: How Amazon aids procrastinators

By **JOSEPH PISANI**
AP Retail Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — With five days until Christmas, someone in New York urgently needed 10 rolls of wrapping paper. Another person needed a bag of potatoes and aluminum foil baking pans. And someone needed six rolls of Scotch tape, 100 blank envelopes, and 240 dog poop bags — in different colors.

Even after online shipping deadlines have passed, holiday procrastinators in more than 30 cities who have already paid for Amazon's \$99-a-year Prime membership can order this weekend to get gifts, food or decorations in two hours — or even one, for an extra fee. The minimum order is \$30.

There's no shortage of late shoppers. More people are waiting until the last minute to shop, according to research by GlobalData Retail, which found that fewer shoppers had finished buying gifts for adults in the last week before Christmas this year than in the previous two years. Prime Now delivers all year long, but the holiday season is the busiest. Amazon.com Inc. says Dec. 23 last year was the biggest day for Prime Now in its three-year history, although it wouldn't provide numbers.

Its workers will be delivering until 11:59 p.m. on Christmas Eve.

How does it happen? Unlike at the enormous warehouses that ship and box orders from Amazon.com's main site, there are no robots or conveyor belts. Instead, workers at a Prime Now facility grab a cart and pull items from shelves quickly. The selection is smaller at Prime Now, with tens of thousands of items available, compared to the hundreds of millions of items on Amazon.com.

Here's a look inside the maze of the three-story Prime Now facility across the street from the Empire State Building.

LABYRINTH OF GOODS

At first glance, the shelves can look like a disorganized mess of mismatched goods.

That's because when inventory comes in, items of all kinds are stocked on shelves that are broken into squares and rectangles with bright yellow dividers. One cubby, for example, had Calvin Klein boxers, a Rubik's Cube, Viva paper towels and Amazon's voice-activated device Echo Dot.

The system saves workers from spending a lot of time storing and organizing items. Amazon's technology knows exactly where every item sits, and tells the dozens of workers who collect items where to find them in the aisles.

"It's beautiful chaos," says Stephenie Landry, Prime Now's vice president.

ORDER'S HERE!

When a shopper places an order through the Prime Now app or site, it is sent to a hand-held scanner that the workers in the facility hold.

The employee, pushing a multi-level cart, gets to work. Because Amazon's technology knows the size and weight of each item, the scanner will tell a worker how many bags will be needed. Brown paper bags, rather than boxes, are how Prime Now items get delivered.

The scanner also shows the worker the fastest way to navigate the aisles of goods. Speed is critical — Amazon representatives asked an AP reporter and photographer to stand out of the way so as not to slow down the cart-pushing workers.

P R O -
T E C T -
I N G
T H E
P O T A T O
C H I P

B u t
t h e r e ' s
m e t h o d
i n
i t .
T h e
a i s l e s
a r e
a r r a n g e d
s o
t h a t
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D e l i c a t e
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c a n s
o f
t o m a t o
s a u c e
o r
b o t t l e s
o f
s p a r k l i n g
w a t e r .



AP photo

In this Wednesday, Dec. 20, 2017, photo, a clerk fills a customer order at the Amazon Prime warehouse, in New York.

mass transit to get the order out, depending on the city.

Besides the U.S. locations, Prime Now operates in some international cities, such as London, Milan and Tokyo. New York was the first city to get the service in 2014, says Landry, and a way to test if the concept could work elsewhere.

"If you can make it here, you can make it anywhere," she says.

TIME TO TAKE OFF

When the picker finishes up the orders, sticky labels with the customer's name and address are printed out from a machine and stuck on the bags.

The brown paper bags are sealed and then placed on tall racks to be delivered by someone else. The delivery person either drives, walks, bikes or takes



Thank You For Lighting Up Our Year!

Customers like you mean so much to us, at the holidays and year round. Thank you for sharing your time and friendship with us! We greatly appreciate your support, and we wish you all the best this Christmas Season & Beyond!

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710 Scurry

BUS

Continued from Page 3

The driver was among the dead, the Press Trust of India news agency said.

Rescuers have recovered 33 bodies from the river and all on board the bus have been accounted for, said Singh. The victims, who were from various Indian states, were on their way to a nearby Hindu temple in Lalsot, a town in Rajasthan state, for pilgrimage.

The bus had picked up passengers from the Sawai Madhopur railroad station when it crashed around 7 a.m., said Singh.

Police figures show India has the world's highest road accident death toll, with more than 110,000 people dying each year in crashes. Driver fatigue, negligence, poorly maintained roads and vehicle maintenance are the usual causes of such accidents in the country.