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H BIG SPRING WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2017

HERALD



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Skid Row, Eric Paslay to headline 2018 Funtastic Fourth



Heavy Metal band Skid Row, left, and country singer/songwriter Eric Paslay will provide the headline entertainment for 2018's Funtastic Fourth Celebration, to be held in downtown Big Spring June 29 and 30.

By **ROGER CLINE**
 Staff Writer

You've heard of Christmas in July, but how about a little Independence

Day in December? Members of the Downtown Revitalization Association, the group who puts on the annual Funtastic Fourth Celebration in downtown Big Spring,

has announced the headlining musical acts for the 2018 festival.

"We're going to have Rock Night, featuring Skid Row, on June 29; and we're going to have Country Night on June 30, and it's featuring Eric Paslay," said DRA spokesman Allan Johnson. "Those are our headliners. That's really all we've got so far. We've got some other things in the works."

Johnson briefly explained the decision-making process the DRA uses to choose the bands each year.

"We've got an agency we work with. We have a group of people and

we get together and everybody discusses what we want that's in our price range," he said. "We're looking for big names. Eric Paslay is really big time in the country music business. He's a national headliner right now, so that's a major coup for us. We're trying to bring people into Big Spring. It's for tourism reasons. We're going to use local artists too, to open up for them."

Skid Row is a heavy metal band formed in 1986, originally hailing from New Jersey. Among the band's best-known songs are "18 and Life," "Youth Gone Wild," and "I Remember You." Skid Row received an American Music Award for "Favorite Heavy Metal/Hard Rock New Artist" in 1990; and was nominated but

See **FUNASTIC**, Page 3

20th Annual Silver Wings Ball clear for take off



The South Plains Jazz Band performs at the 19th annual Silver Wings Ball in January of this year. The 20th annual soiree will take off at the Settles Hotel Jan. 27, 2018

By **AMBER MANSFIELD**
 Staff Writer

Are you ready to dress to the nines for a night of music, laughter, and indulge in a five course meal? Then you're in luck, because it's time for the Hangar 25 Air Museum's annual Silver Wings Ball at the Settles Hotel come Jan. 27, 2018. This annual donation ball is held once a year in order to raise money for the Hangar 25 Air Museum.

"Since the museum is a non profit organization, we use this ball as an opportunity to raise funds to support the museum for a whole year," said Bond Ryan, Silver Wings Ball Committee Chairman. "But this year is a special year for the Hangar, this will be the '20th Annual Silver Wings Ball.'" Ryan goes on to say that this year they will be having some special on goings at this year's ball

to celebrate 20 years of helping preserve the history of the Museum.

"We don't want to give any details away, and just really want to incite people to come," said Ryan. "It's going to be a really good time for the guest, while supporting a great cause." This year you can expect a cash bar, live music, a five course meal provided by the Hotel Settles, a live and silent auction, which in previous auctions has been to include signed sports memorabilia and donations from local business' such as Elrods Furniture.

The largest fundraiser for the Hangar 25, the Silver Wings Ball will be held at the Hotel Settles, and the dress is formal/Texas formal wear. To start off this exciting year for the Silver Wings Ball, cocktail hour will begin at 5 p.m., followed by a sit down dinner provided by the Settles, and then the

See **BALL**, Page 3

U.S. Senate candidate O'Rourke holding town hall meeting in Big Spring Thursday

By **ROGER CLINE**
 Staff Writer

Robert Francis "Beto" O'Rourke, Democratic candidate for U.S. Senate, is planning a trip through West Texas to explain to local voters why they should vote for him instead of Republican incumbent Ted Cruz.



O'Rourke

nal District (El Paso), will hold town hall meetings in Big Spring and Anson on Thursday; Big Spring at 10 a.m. at the Dorothy Garrett Community Center in Comanche Trail Park, and Anson at 4 p.m. in that town's City Council Chambers.

The tour starts today, with town halls in Odessa and San Angelo; and continues Friday in Brownfield before O'Rourke heads to a "grass-roots event" in Fort Worth that evening.

A Facebook page managed by the O'Rourke campaign invites area residents to, "Come join Congressman Beto O'Rourke as he visits Big Spring on the campaign

See **O'ROURKE**, Page 3

Singer files sex assault complaint against former Trump aide

WASHINGTON (AP) — A singer and potential congressional candidate says she has filed a sexual assault complaint against President Donald Trump's former campaign manager for hitting her twice on her buttocks during a Washington gathering in November.

Joy Villa, a Trump backer who wore a "Make America Great Again" dress at the Grammys this year, said Tuesday she plans to meet with detectives in Washington next week about the complaint against Corey Lewandowski.

In a phone interview from Tampa, Florida, Villa said she was initially reluctant to come forward because she was worried about any backlash. But she said she called Washington's Metropolitan Police Department on Christmas Eve after a friend who witnessed the incident spoke about it publicly, and other

friends urged her to come forward.

"I didn't know him at all," Villa said about Lewandowski. "I only knew him by reputation. He broke my trust."

She said she saw him at a gathering at the Trump International Hotel on the day after Thanksgiving, and said Lewandowski struck her "extremely hard" even after she told him to stop. She said she felt it was "disgusting and shocking and demeaning."

Villa, who is considering a run for a Florida congressional seat, said she initially thought

See **COMPLAINT**, Page 3

Due to the weather, newspaper carriers may be running late for the next few days.

- The Big Spring Herald

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Obituaries

Theresa Stehling Lewis

Theresa Stehling Lewis, of Big Spring, died Sunday, Dec. 24, 2017, at her home surrounded by family. Theresa's death was caused by complications from cancer surgery. The family will receive friends from 5 p.m. until 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 28, 2017, at Myers and Smith Funeral Home, with a vigil service starting at 7 p.m. Funeral Mass will be at 10 a.m. Friday, Dec. 29, 2017, at Holy Trinity Catholic Church.

Theresa was born in Fredericksburg, Texas, on Dec. 4, 1938, to Hugo and Dora Stehling. She attended and graduated from the Seton School of Nursing in Austin, Texas. Theresa worked as a registered nurse in Austin for several years. In 1969, she married J. R. (Rod) Lewis and soon after became an ardent Red Raider fan.

Lois Wynell (Gray) Berry

Lois Wynell (Gray) Berry, 79, of Big Spring passed away Saturday, Dec. 23, 2017. She was born Nov. 15, 1938, in Santa Anna, Texas, to per parents, Jessie Coleman Gray and Eunice Eldred (Baker) Gray. She moved to Big Spring, Texas with her husband Eugene Berry and their five children in 1970.

Lois is survived by her loving husband, Eugene; sisters, Maxine Cope of Coleman, Texas and Carolyn Bluhm

Theresa is survived by her husband Rod of Big Spring, Texas; her daughter Christy and her husband Jeff Brorman of Big Spring, Texas and their eight children, Chance, Taylor, Blake, Brett, Aliscia, Luke, Presley, and Frazier; a son James with his wife Megan of Rockport, Texas and their four children; Alexis, Tomas, Sammy, and Christian; a daughter Stephanie with her husband John Timmons of San Angelo, Texas; Great grandchildren, Kenzlee and Roman.

Theresa was preceded in death by her parents, her brother, Hugo Stehling, and her sister, Loretta that died in infancy.

Pallbearers will be Jim Lewis, Jeff Brorman, John Timmons, Taylor Brorman, Blake Brorman, and Brett Brorman.

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

Paid Obituary

of Big Spring, Texas; her children, Janice Watson of Rankin, Texas, Juanita Emerson of Big Spring, Texas, Jimmy Berry of Big Spring, Texas, and James Berry of Midland, Texas. She is also survived by her 9 grandchildren and 22 great grandchildren.

Lois was preceded in death by her father, Jessie Coleman Gray; her mother, Eunice Eldred (Baker) Gray; brother, Billy Carl; brother, James Cody and her son, Jackie Lee Berry.

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

Pearl Kingston Armstrong



Pearl Kingston Armstrong, 83, of Ackerly, died Sunday, Dec. 24, 2017, at her residence. Funeral services will be 10 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 28, 2017, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel with Derrick Looney officiating. Interment will follow at Trinity Memorial Park.

The family will receive friends from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Wednesday at the funeral home.

She was born Dec. 25, 1933, in Nolan County, Texas, and married Howard Armstrong July 4, 1952, in Lamesa, Texas.

Survivors include her husband, Howard Armstrong of Ackerly; one son, Dennis Armstrong of O'Donnell; one daughter, Diann Armstrong of Houston; four grandchildren, LaDonna Denson of Big Spring, Sarah Crow of Sonora, Jesse Metcalf and wife, Frances, and Christopher Clark and wife, Jalisa all of Big Spring; seven great-grandchildren, Madison Smith, Taylor Timberlake, Zach Kinard, Woody Crow, Haylee Henderson, Greg Henderson and Nicole Clark; two brothers, Bobby Kingston of California and Jerald Kingston of Arizona; one sister, Ollie Holmes of Borden County; one sister-in-law, Judy Kingston of Borden County; one aunt, Barbara Kingston of Roscoe; and numerous nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents, E. S. "Shorty" and Bonnie Kingston; one sister, Nell Scott; and two brothers, Glen T. Kingston and Jimmy Wayne Kingston.

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

Paid Obituary

Sheriff

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

Note - Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 68 inmates at the time of this report.

• **LADONNA FAITH ARNOLD**, 38, was arrested by BSPD on a warrant of failure to control speed.

• **JOE ALBERT DEANDA JR.**, 37, was arrested by BSPD on

charges of failure to identify, and theft of property less than \$100.

• **BRYCE TAVIN GARZA**, 18, was arrested by BSPD on a warrant of aggravated robbery.

• **DACID J. LOPEZ JR.**, 27, was arrested by BSPD on a charge of driving hwi8le license suspended.

• **LISA MARIE MCNEW**, 37, was arrested by HCSO on warrants of motion to revoke on forgery, violation of probation,

and possession of methamphetamine.

• **JESSE TONY REYES JR.**, 31, was arrested by BSPD on a charge of driving while intoxicated.

• **ELIJAH ANTONIO RIOS**, 22, was arrested by BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.

• **BENITO VASQUEZ RODRIGUEZ**, 35, was arrested by HCSO on charges of two counts of assault class c.

Take Note

• The Emergency Services Chaplains Corps is seeking volunteer chaplains.

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

• Big Spring's Centennial Lions Club is holding a drive to collect books for the Salvation Army Boys and Girls Club. Books for kids in kindergarten through

about 10th grade will be accepted, with special preference for books for younger children in kindergarten through third grade. Cash donations to allow the Lions to purchase additional books are also appreciated. Books or donations can be taken to the Salvation Army, 811 W. Fifth St., or to the home of Lions member Ken Lawhon at 1707 E. 15th St. For more information, contact Lawhon at 214-998-9716 or Lions member David Stives at 432-270-2251.

• Food 2 Kids Big Spring needs you! It is time to start sacking food for Big Spring elementary students who do not receive adequate food over the weekends. Members of the community can be a part by volunteering to sack the food. It just takes a couple hours of your time

and the work is very rewarding.

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

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

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

• Seniors and mature adults are invited to a dance on the first, third and fifth Friday of each month at the Dora Roberts Community Center. Dances are from 7:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. with live bands. No alcohol or smoking permitted. There will be a pot luck as well so bring a dish if you want to eat.

Cost has dropped to \$5

per person thanks to a sponsor Marcy House, 2301 Wasson Road.

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

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

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

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Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity:

• **JESSE REYES TONY JR.**, 31, of 1006 Goliad St., was arrested on charges driving while intoxicated.

• **ELIJAH ANTONIO RIOS**, 22, of 2901 S Anderson Rd., was arrested on a charge of public intoxication.

• **BRYCE TAVIN GARZA**, 18, of 1505 Johnson St., was arrested on a warrant of aggravated robbery.

• **DAVID J. LOPEZ JR.**, 27, of 2044 Heritage Lane., was arrested on a charge of driving hwi8le license suspended.

• **JOE ALBERT DEANDA JR.**, 57, of 3700 Parkway St., was arrested on charges of failure to identify, and theft of property less than \$100.

• **LISA MARIE MCNEW**, 37, of 802 E CR 38, was arrested on warrants with three other agencies.

• **BENITO VASQUEZ RODRIGUEZ**, 35, of 621 S Sam Houston, was arrested on charges of two counts of assault by contact.

• **ACCIDENT MAJOR** was reported on 3rd and Gregg.

• **THEFT** was reported in the 500 block of S Birdwell Lane, and in the 1600 block of S Gregg St.

• **DISTURBANCE** was reported in the 200 block of Refinery Rd.

• **STOLEN VEHICLE** was reported in the 600 W

Fire/EMS

Big Spring Fire Department/EMS reported the following activity:

• **TRAFFIC ACCIDENT** was reported on Gregg and 3rd St. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

• **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 1800 block of N HWY 87. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

• **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 900 block of S Scurry. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

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

• **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 1300 block of Baylor. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

• **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 1800 block of N HWY 87. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

• **TRAFFIC ACCIDENT** was reported in the Mile marker 194 E I-20.

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O'ROURKE

Continued from Page 1

trail. Stop by, ask him questions and get to hear directly from Beto why he wants to represent you as the next US Senator from Texas."

O'Rourke was recently endorsed by the League of Conservation Voters, an environmental group which maintains an "Environmental Scorecard" to rate members of Congress on environmental and clean-energy issues.

An El Paso native, O'Rourke worked in the Internet Service Provider industry in New York and El Paso before beginning his political career as a member of the El Paso City Council, where he served from 2005 to 2011. He was elected to Congress in 2012, defeating fellow Democrat Silvestre Reyes, the incumbent, in the primary before defeating Republican challenger Barbara Carrasco in the general election.

In the House of Representatives, O'Rourke has served on the Commit-

tee on Armed Services, including the Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities, and the Subcommittee on Strategic Forces; and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, including the Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs, and the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations.

There are five Democrats, six Republicans, and one Independent running for the Senate seat in 2018. Democrats vying for the position include O'Rourke, Pavel Goberman, Sema

Hernandez, Edward Kimbrough, and Dustin Webb. Republicans include incumbent Ted Cruz, Stefano De Stefano, Bruce Jacobson Jr., Dan McQueen, Mary Miller, and Geraldine Sam. Independent Bob McNeil will represent the American Citizen Party in the election.

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

FUNTASTIC

Continued from Page 1

did not win the AMA the same year for "Best Heavy Metal/Hard Rock Album" for their self-titled album "Skid Row."

Eric Paslay is a country music singer and songwriter from Abilene. Paslay is known for hits such as "She Don't Love You," "A Song About a Girl," and "Less Than Whole." He was nominated in 2016 for a Grammy award for "Best Country Duo/Group Performance" along with Charles Kelley and Dierks Bentley for "The Driver."

The Funtastic Fourth Celebration is held in and around downtown Big Spring's Heart of the City Park each year. This year it is scheduled June 29 and 30.

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

BALL

Continued from Page 1

auctions. Tickets for this event are \$50 per person or reserve a table for \$500. There will be a game of chance going on during the ball, for a prize of a one night stay in the Hotel Settles' suite with an adjoining room and a bottle of bubbly.

"We want the community to come hang out, and bring awareness to preserving the history of the Museum," said Bond. "The Hangar is a big part of Big Spring's history and an important part of the community."

To purchase your tickets early, or too find out more information, contact Hangar 25 Air Museum at 432-264-1999.

Contact Staff Writer Amber Mansfield at 432-263-7331 ext 234, or by email at life@bigspringherald.com.

COMPLAINT

Continued from Page 1

it was sexual harassment, but police told her that touching someone on any body part that is sexual in nature constituted sexual assault. She said she was told it was classified as a misdemeanor.

"I was initially fearful to come forward with this," she said, adding that she did not want to bring shame or embarrassment on Lewandowski's family or hers.

"I did nothing wrong," Villa said. "I realized if he's not going to respond or apologize to me, I think it's the right thing to do."

Lewandowski did not respond to an email seeking comment.

Villa made news earlier this year when she wore a dress displaying Trump's campaign slogan at the Grammys. She explained her decision to wear the dress in an Instagram post, writing, "You can either stand for what you believe in or fall for what you don't." She added, "agree to disagree."

This is not the first time Lewandowski has faced police charges. In March 2016 he was charged with misdemeanor battery for an altercation involving a female reporter after a news conference in Florida. The charges were later dropped.

Trump fired him as campaign manager in June 2016.

www.bigspringherald.com

FEMA's disaster trailer tab: up to \$150K, 18 months of use

By EMILY SCHMALL and MICHAEL SISAK

Associated Press
FORT WORTH, Texas (AP) — The federal government typically spends up to \$150,000 apiece — not counting utilities, maintenance or labor — on the trailers it leases to disaster victims, then auctions them at cut-rate prices after 18 months of use or the first sign of minor damage, The Associated Press has learned.

Officials have continued the practice even amid a temporary housing shortage in Texas, where almost 8,000 applicants are still awaiting federal support nearly four months after Hurricane Harvey landed in the Gulf Coast.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency briefly halted trailer sales following Harvey but resumed them in November, online records show. Since then, at least 115 units manufactured this year have been sold for pennies on the dollar, and many of the online auctions have listed such things as dirty mattresses, missing furniture, pet odors or loose trim as the lone damage.

"I don't care what shape it's in, it beats sleeping on a dirt floor," said Christy Combs, who moved with her husband, four children and five dogs into a tent after their rented apartment in Aransas Pass, Texas, was left uninhabitable by floodwater.

FEMA has no written policy or regulation requiring disposal of used trailers, but an official confirmed to AP that it's a longstanding internal policy and that seldom are the housing units given to another family in need after the initial 18-month stint.

"Because of the challenges associated with damaged units, and the costs of life-cycle maintenance, and because we are required to maintain a ready reserve for disasters, FEMA, by practice, doesn't return used units to our reserve inventory," said Jenny Burke, a spokeswoman for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, which oversees FEMA.

Burke was unable to explain why FEMA leases new units for only 18 months before consigning them to the General Services Administration's online auction.

The agency's experience after Hurricane Katrina in 2005 could provide one explanation for a strict policy governing what kind of housing can go to storm victims. Some 144,000 FEMA trailers became symbols of the troubled federal response after some victims who lived in them for years won millions of dollars from lawsuits claiming the units leached high levels of cancer-causing formaldehyde.

FEMA spokesman Bob Howard stressed the units being used now are much higher quality than those and don't have formaldehyde problems, meeting



AP photo

In this Dec. 15, 2017 photo provided by Kim Porter, volunteers are shown getting gift packages together to distribute at the Rockport Relief Camp in Rockport, Texas. The federal government typically spends up to \$150,000 apiece — not counting utilities, maintenance or labor — on the trailers it leases to disaster victims, then auctions them at cut-rate prices after 18 months of use or the first sign of minor damage. Officials have continued the practice even amid a temporary housing shortage in Texas, where almost 8,000 applicants are still awaiting federal support nearly four months after Hurricane Harvey landed in the Gulf Coast.

U.S. Housing and Urban Development standards for mobile homes.

Harvey survivors in Texas have received 859 trailers so far, but another some 7,900 applicants are in need of some type of temporary housing assistance, whether rent, home repairs or trailers, Howard said.

FEMA's policy of selling off its used trailers left the agency with a standing inventory of only 1,700 units as an unusually active hurricane season battered southeast Texas, Florida, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands this year.

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Jack Capps, 81, died Tuesday, December 19, 2017. Funeral services will be at 2 p.m. Wednesday Sand Springs Baptist Church 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, with a Memorial Service at 6 p.m.

Theresa Stehling Lewis, 79, died Sunday. The family will receive friends from 5 p.m. until 7 p.m. Thursday followed by a vigil service at 7 p.m. at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral Mass will be at 10 a.m. Friday at Holy Trinity Catholic Church.

Lois Berry 79, died Saturday. Private family services will be held at a later date.

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Man arrested in Phoenix killings of estranged wife, 2 kids

PHOENIX (AP) — A man is accused of shooting and killing his estranged wife and their two children at a Phoenix apartment complex before getting into a Christmas Day shootout with officers, authorities said Tuesday.

Police responded Monday afternoon to a report of gunfire and found a woman dead in the parking lot. Officers later found the bodies of a 10-month-old girl and an 11-year-old boy inside the apartment.

Police tried to talk to Anthony Ross, 45, who barricaded himself inside the unit where he used to live, Sgt. Jonathan Howard said. Several hours later, he indicated he had killed the two children and began shooting at officers, authorities said. After a brief gun battle, he was taken into custody.

Ross, who was visiting Phoenix for the holidays, was not hurt, Howard said. One officer was injured by shrapnel and taken to the hospital in stable condition.

Authorities have not released a motive or the names of the woman and children. Police were investigating the shooting that they described as a domestic violence incident.

It was not clear if Ross had a lawyer who could speak on his behalf.

Tactical units on Monday escorted residents from the area, and some clustered outside a convenience store for hours until the standoff ended. Others returning home weren't allowed in.

"It's kind of crazy, just because it's supposed to be a holiday for your family and getting together," Sierra Scott, whose mother lives at the apartment complex, told Phoenix news station KSAZ-TV.

T.I. helps mothers with last-minute Christmas shopping

ATLANTA (AP) — Rapper T.I. spent Christmas Eve spreading holiday cheer among some single mothers, helping them with their last-minute shopping for gifts.

In a video T.I. posted on social media, the Grammy-winning artist entered an Atlanta-area Target on Sunday and called for all single mothers present to follow him. He strolled through the store alongside several mothers, went to the cash register with them and then paid for their Christmas presents.

T.I. says he spent \$20,000 within a 30-minute stretch. He had to leave after that because of a flight.

This isn't the first time T.I. has surprised shoppers by paying for their gifts. He appeared at metro Atlanta stores around Christmas in past years to help mothers in need, including making two different stops at Walmart stores in 2016.

Minnesota couple delivers Christmas Day baby on side of road

CHISAGO CITY, Minn. (AP) — A Minnesota couple delivered their baby on the side of a road while rushing to the hospital on Christmas Day, just two minutes after the mother's water broke.

Taylor and Hannah Lindeman told the Star Tribune that they were forced to pull over along Highway 8 at the edge of Chisago City and Wyoming to wait for an ambulance.

Taylor Lindeman says they were on the way to a St. Paul hospital in minus-2 degree (minus-19 Celsius) weather, but the baby "had other plans." Hannah Lindeman gave birth to a daughter, Poppy, in the car's front passenger seat.

A police officer arrived shortly after the birth and tied off the umbilical cord with a shoelace from Hannah's boot.

The couple expects to return home from United Hospital on Wednesday.

Woman stunned to find electric bill listed as \$284 billion

ERIE, Pa. (AP) — A Pennsylvania woman says she went online to check her electric bill and was stunned at the amount — more than \$284 billion.

The Erie Times-News reports that Mary Horomanski said her eyes "just about popped out" of her head when she saw the amount. She suspected that her family had put up their Christmas lights wrong.

The silver lining was that she didn't have to pay the full amount until November 2018 — only a \$28,156 minimum payment was due for December.

Horomanski's son contacted Penelac, her electric provider, who confirmed the error. Parent company First Energy said a decimal point was accidentally moved. Her new amount was quickly corrected to \$284.46.

Media face challenges in rush to sexual misconduct reckoning



AP photo

In this April 27, 2016 file photo, Tavis Smiley appears at the 33rd annual ASCAP Pop Music Awards in Los Angeles. Smiley said that he isn't just angry at PBS for firing him on sexual misconduct charges. He's angry about his depiction in the media.

By DAVID BAUDER
AP Media Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Talk-show host Tavis Smiley isn't just upset with PBS for firing him on sexual misconduct charges. He's upset about his depiction in the media

Smiley believes that if he hadn't talked publicly about romantic relationships with subordinates at his company, the behavior that led to his downfall, the public would make little distinction between him and those who have been accused of sexual assault or rape.

Conflation of different forms of misbehavior — the idea itself is controversial — is one of the issues facing media organizations covering the fast-moving story of sexual misconduct that went into overdrive with investigations into Hollywood mogul Harvey Weinstein's behavior.

"The media is painting with too broad a brush," Smiley said. "We have lost all sense of nuance and

proportionality in how we cover these stories."

Actor Matt Damon was torched for broaching the topic recently. He told ABC News that all accused men shouldn't be lumped together because there's a spectrum of behavior. There's a difference between a pat on the rear and child molestation, he said.

"Both of those behaviors need to be confronted and eradicated without question, but they shouldn't be conflated, right?" he said.

Actress Minnie Driver called Damon tone-deaf. Actress Alysa Milano, who began a cultural movement by urging other women who have been harassed to proclaim #MeToo on social media, tweeted in reply that victims are hurt by all forms of misconduct. All are evidence of misogyny.

Still, as the rush of stories about misbehavior slows down — if it slows down — the point Damon raises will loom larger.

Feral hog poison field tests in Texas, Alabama in 2018

By JANET McCONNAUGHEY

Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Feral swine do more than \$1.5 billion a year in damage around the country, and scientists are taking what could be a big step toward controlling them.

They are field-testing poison baits made from a preservative that's used to cure bacon and sausage.

The tests will cover two major habitats where feral hogs are common during seasons when they're most likely to go for bait, said Kurt VerCauteren, feral swine project leader for the U.S. Department of Agriculture Wildlife Services. Tests will start early in 2018 in dry west Texas and continue in humid central Alabama around midsummer.

The bait Vercauteren is working on uses the meat preservative sodium nitrite. It can keep an animal's red blood cells from pulling in oxygen. Pigs make very low levels of an enzyme that counteracts it, so it's more deadly to them than to humans or most domestic animals. Swine that gobble up enough sodium nitrite show symptoms similar to carbon dioxide poisoning: They become uncoordinated, lose consciousness and die within 90 minutes after eating it.

The prospect of a new way to fight the beasts

is good news to Samuel "Sammy" Williams, who farms about 2,000 acres (3,220 hectares) of cotton, corn and peanuts in Alabama near Georgia and Florida.

Williams said he's killed nearly 200 feral hogs a year for the past four years, but those that survived still damaged his crops. Swine love corn and peanuts and will root up cotton fields for weed tubers, he said. They also make "wallow holes" 4 to 6 feet (1.2 to 1.8 meters) across — though communal wallows can be much bigger.

"I saw one 20 to 25 feet (6 to 8 meters) across, and the hogs had knocked down a couple acres of corn right around that hole," he said.

Hogs did so much damage to a neighbor's 30-acre (12-hectare) hay field that the neighbor offered it free for Williams' use. He took the offer and installed an electric fence — but fencing all his fields isn't practical.

Hogs also can spread dozens of diseases. Their rooting and wallowing can destroy pretty much any terrain, fouling waterways and exposing banks to erosion. Invasive plants often take over uncultivated areas rooted up by hogs, VerCauteren noted.

See **HOGS**, Page 5

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MEDIA

Continued from Page 4

in discipline can contribute to conflation. In firing reporter Ryan Lizza, the New Yorker magazine cited "improper sexual behavior." Lizza said his bosses mischaracterized "a respectful relationship with a woman I dated." Her lawyer disputed this, saying the relationship wasn't respectful, but wouldn't say why.

A television news producer recently dismissed because of his behavior is concerned that he will be lumped in with bad-behaving media men like

Matt Lauer or Charlie Rose, and had his lawyer issue a statement saying his client was never "accused of any physical contact, language of a sexual nature or any sort of lewd conduct."

But how he's judged is ultimately out of his control, since neither employer nor employee will publicly say what the person actually did that cost him his job.

Early stories on misconduct cases — think the Times and New Yorker on Weinstein, The Washington Post on Rose and Roy Moore — were meticulously reported and have proven airtight. The challenge for news organizations is maintaining that rig-

or with more women coming forward to tell their stories and the pressure for scoops ratchets up.

"If you don't have one of these things really nailed down, it's a very bad thing for you," Lemann said. "Whoever gets one of these things wrong, it's going to be very embarrassing."

The story has already led to some unorthodox decisions. Vox.com assigned a woman who alleged harassment by Thrush, who said the incident still made her angry, to report and write on accusations by her and others. Having someone with a clear personal stake report such a sensitive story would make many news organi-

zations squeamish, although no substantive questions have been raised about her work.

Conservative commentator Hugh Hewitt wrote in The Washington Post about rough justice being dispensed by the media, "much of it deserved." Even the worst offenders deserve due process, he said. It isn't easy or quick — but other victims are watching, wondering whether it is safe to speak out.

"Rarely does media have such a complicated job with stakes as high as these," he wrote.

HOGS

Continued from Page 4

And hogs will eat just about anything. They compete with deer and turkey for acorns and also eat fawns and eggs, not to mention quail and sea turtle eggs.

Forty-one states joined USDA's feral swine control program in 2014, after Congress appropriated \$20 million a year. New York and Idaho since left it after going two years without any confirmed sightings of feral hogs, program manager Dale Nolte said. He said five other states — Washington, Maryland, Minnesota, New Jersey and Wisconsin — are believed free of feral swine, and are in a two-year evaluation period to be sure.

The program included \$1.5 million a year for toxic-bait research.

The federal government has previously approved a feral hog bait that uses the blood-thinner warfarin, but no states have approved it so far, VerCauteren said.

VerCauteren, who works out of Fort Collins, Colorado, worked on the sodium nitrite bait with scientists at Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Auburn University and in Australia and New Zealand.

If the field trials work well, the new bait might get federal approval in 2020, opening the way for states to approve it. But at least for the first several years, landowners will have to get the USDA to set up the bait and feeders.

"It's not going to be on the shelves of Home Depot," VerCauteren said.

It won't replace trapping, helicopter hunts and other methods, but should be a powerful addition to the anti-hog arsenal, VerCauteren said.

Much of the work so far has involved finding a way to get pigs to eat sodium nitrite, which tastes nasty and breaks down quickly in the presence of air or water. Researchers had to microencapsulate the powder to hide the taste, and find a coating that would both stand up to chewing and keep the chemical stable from the time the bait is made until it hits a pig's gut. They worked up a hog-tasty formula for bait in which to mix it.

Researchers also had to make sure other animals couldn't get into the bait feeders, and that hogs killed by sodium nitrite were safe for scavengers.

They're working on making bear-proof boxes, using cameras and sound recognition so only pigs can get in, but that's probably a couple of years away, VerCauteren said.

"Right now we just won't use the bait where there are bears," he said.

Kremlin: Russia election boycott campaign may be illegal



AP photo

Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny, who submitted endorsement papers necessary for his registration as a presidential candidate, gestures while speaking at the Russia's Central Election commission in Moscow, Russia, Monday, Dec. 25, 2017. Russian election officials have formally barred Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny from running for president.

By NATALIYA VASILYEVA

Associated Press

MOSCOW (AP) — The Kremlin hinted Tuesday at possible legal repercussions for Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny over his calls for a boycott of the March presidential election.

President Vladimir Putin's spokesman, Dmitry Peskov, wouldn't comment on the Election Commission's decision to bar Navalny from running but said the "calls for boycott ought to be carefully studied to see if they are breaking the law."

As expected, Russia's top election body on Monday formally barred Navalny from a presidential run. Navalny, an anti-corruption campaigner and Putin's most prominent rival, promptly put out a video statement saying that the ban shows "Putin is terribly scared and is afraid of running against me." He called on supporters to stay away from the vote in protest.

Meanwhile, Putin's backers convened Tuesday afternoon to formally nominate him for presidency after he announced that he will run as an independent candidate.

Prominent lawmakers, film actors, musicians

and athletes gathered at a Soviet-era exhibition hall to endorse him. Putin did not attend because of other engagements, Peskov said.

Putin, who has been in power for 18 years and is expected to easily win another six-year term, has so far refrained from campaigning. Navalny, meanwhile, has been aggressively seeking votes all year, reaching out to the most remote parts of the country.

Peskov rejected suggestions that Navalny's absence from the ballot could dent the legitimacy of Putin's possible re-election.

Russian law doesn't specifically prohibit someone from calling for an election boycott, but authorities last year blocked access to several websites that did so.

Navalny rose to prominence in 2009 with investigations into official corruption and became a protest leader when hundreds of thousands took to the streets across Russia in 2011 to protest electoral fraud.

A few years later, and after several short-term spells in jail, Navalny faced two separate sets of fraud charges, which were viewed as political retribution aimed at stopping him from running for office. In his only official campaign before his first conviction took effect, Navalny garnered 30 percent of the vote in the race for Moscow mayor in 2013.

The European Union said in a statement on Tuesday the decision to keep Navalny off the ballot "casts a serious doubt on political pluralism in Russia and the prospect of democratic elections next year."

The EU's spokeswoman for foreign affairs, Maja Kocijancic, pointed to a European Court of Human Rights ruling that Navalny was denied the right to a fair trial when he was convicted in 2013.

"Politically motivated charges shouldn't be used against political participation," Kocijancic said.

Macron gets tough as France struggles to deal with migrants

By ELAINE GANLEY

Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — It's getting colder, the clock is ticking and regional authorities are scrambling to meet President Emmanuel Macron's deadline: get migrants off France's streets and out of forest hideouts by year's end.



Macron

That won't likely happen, and Macron's government is now tightening the screws: ramping up expulsions, raising pressure on economic migrants and allowing divisive ID checks in emergency shelters.

Critics contend that Macron's increasingly tough policy on migrants — though wrapped in a cloak of goodwill — contradicts his image as a humanist who defeated an anti-immigrant populist for the presidency, and has crossed a line passed by no other president in the land that prides itself as the cradle of human rights.

From snowy Alpine passes to the borders with Spain or Germany, migrants keep making their way to France. In Paris alone, police have evacuated around 30,000 people camping on sidewalks in the last two years.

No one doubts that France's system of dealing with migrants needs fixing, with a perennial housing shortage and long wait times in applying for asylum.

"Living in the street. Living in a tent. Sometimes you get food. Sometimes you not get

food," said Samsoor Rasooli, a 25-year-old Afghan standing in line since 6 a.m. to apply for asylum at a Paris facility, where some spend the night on the sidewalk, strewn with filth, to keep their place. The door closed at mid-day, the 100 places allotted that day for applicants filled.

"It's winter. I can't sleep in the street," Rasooli said.

Asylum opens the way for temporary housing, but only one-third of the 95,000 applicants this year were accepted, government officials say.

The huge makeshift camp in the English Channel port city of Calais, dismantled last year, was emblematic of the problems. Its residents were dispersed around France, but others keep coming in hopes of reaching Britain, and are finding a rude welcome. France's highest administrative body said the migrants have been subjected to inhuman and degrading conditions, and an investigation ordered by the interior minister found that it was "plausible" that police used excessive force against migrants, as Human Rights Watch maintained.

A bill overhauling asylum and immigration policy will be debated in the spring, notably expediting asylum demands but also doubling to 90 days the time a person without papers can be held in a holding center,

the last step before expulsion — an approach the government says is "balanced" and "efficient."

Macron said in a speech in July in Orleans before a group of new citizens that he wanted people "off the streets, out of the woods" by the end of 2017. "I want emergency lodgings everywhere."

While his words conveyed humanity, the underlying message bites.

Macron has made clear he wouldn't accept economic migrants in France, wants those who don't qualify for asylum expelled and doesn't want them even trying to come to France.

The French president has been rolling out a multi-pronged approach that stretches to Africa, with points set up in Chad and Niger to pre-select those certain of gaining asylum — and weed out potential economic migrants.

At home, Interior Minister Gerard Collob has ordered prefects, regional representatives of the state, to crack down on illegal immigration, "act quickly" to expel those who fail to gain asylum

and report results within weeks, according to a November order cited by the newspaper Le Monde.

A newer set of orders in December rang alarm bells. Collob told regional authorities to set up "mobile teams" to run checks in emergency housing to ascertain the status of migrants. Emergency shelters are considered bedrocks of the French tradition of open arms to those in need and have long been considered untouchable, even by security authorities.

The accent on security in dealing with immigration has appalled even some who support the centrist Macron.

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HAPPY NEW YEAR

Leonard, Aldridge lead healthy Spurs past Nets, 109-97



AP Photo
San Antonio Spurs forward Kawhi Leonard (2) drives around Brooklyn Nets guard Caris LeVert (22) during the first half of an NBA basketball game, Tuesday, Dec. 26, 2017, in San Antonio.

By RAUL DOMINGUEZ

Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO — The Spurs' first game with every player healthy and available was the team expected.

There was some hesitation and a rash of early turnovers, but they grew comfortable as the game progressed.

Kawhi Leonard scored 21 points, LaMarcus Aldridge added 20 and San Antonio beat Brooklyn 109-97 on Tuesday night, its 15th straight win at home over the Nets.

"(The rash of injuries is) very unusual for us, but we still have a month and a half until the rodeo (road trip) starts," Spurs veteran Manu Ginobili said. "This is a good time to get everybody playing, everybody feeling good. Get Kawhi and Tony (Parker) back to their usual selves, back to their rhythm, feeling good and I think we are accomplishing that. Slowly, because they haven't been back for so long, but they are really showing progress."

San Antonio is third in the Western Conference at 22-11 despite being without Leonard and/or Parker for 30 games this season.

Aldridge has led the team during the duo's absence and his resurgent season has not slowed with their return. The 6-foot-11 forward was 7 for 15 from the field and had nine rebounds against Brooklyn.

"You know, obviously, watching (Aldridge and Pau Gasol) play and see them do the things they do for our team is great, and it inspires everyone on the bench, me, even guys play-

ing," Leonard said. "But just with me, just taking it slow and trying not to skip any steps, like I said before, so I can be healthy down the road."

Playing in just his fifth game, Leonard was 8 for 17 from the field in scoring a season high. He made his first appearance in the fourth quarter, scoring four points in three minutes.

"When Kawhi checked into the game in the fourth quarter, that wasn't a welcome sign," Nets coach Kenny Atkinson said. "It just changes the game. He makes such a difference. Defensively, it's just unbelievable. I felt like he was guarding our whole team at times."

Playing with a full roster for the first time led to some indecision, as the Spurs scored just 19 points in the opening quarter while trying to involve all their scoring options.

"We went to being too careful," said reserve guard Patty Mills, who scored 11 points. "That caused us to turn the ball over."

San Antonio had nine of their 12 turnovers in the first half, but offset that by holding Brooklyn to 36 percent shooting.

Gasol added 15 points, Parker had 14 and Ginobili had 11.

The Nets kept pace early despite injuries to their top two point guards, D'Angelo Russell and Jeremy Lin.

Caris LeVert led Brooklyn with 18 points and Allen Crabbe added 15.

"I like the process. The results weren't great offensively but we did some good things," Atkinson said.

See **SPURS**, Page 12

Barea, Mavs end another Raptors 6-game streak with 98-93 win



AP Photo
Toronto Raptors guard Kyle Lowry (7) dribbles against Dallas Mavericks guard Dennis Jr. during the first half of an NBA basketball game in Dallas, Tuesday, Dec. 26, 2017.

By SCHUYLER DIXON

AP Sports Writer

DALLAS — J.J. Barea has fresh memories of San Antonio scoring the final 13 points in a recent Dallas loss, and Atlanta getting the last five with the score tied in the Mavericks' most recent game.

The diminutive guard was happy to have a key role in a different ending for the last-place team in the Western Conference.

Barea scored 20 points, including a clinching layup in the final seconds, and the Mavericks ended another six-game winning streak by the Toronto Raptors with a 98-93 victory on Tuesday night.

The Mavericks held DeMar DeRozan and the Raptors to season lows in shooting percentage as Toronto lost for just the second time in 14 games, with each loss coming after six straight wins.

"I was thinking about our problems closing out, last three minutes, I was like, (hoping) it doesn't happen again," said Barea, who tied the team high with four as-

sists. "Something we've got to learn. We've got to do a better job of getting some important buckets at the end."

Dirk Nowitzki scored 18 points and fellow German Maxi Kleber had 15 points and matched his rookie season bests with five blocks and eight rebounds. Harrison Barnes had 16 points and 10 boards.

Kyle Lowry led Toronto with 23 points but didn't score in the fourth quarter, while DeRozan couldn't get going at all after averaging 37 points on a three-game road winning streak that ended.

Hounded by Dallas defensive specialist Wesley Matthews most of the game, DeRozan scored eight points while shooting 19 percent (3 of 16). His previous low was 20 percent (1 of 5) in his only other single-digit game this season — two points in a 112-78 win at Atlanta in November.

"A lot of shots I took that were in the paint, normally shots that I make," said DeRozan, who averaged 32 points during the most

recent six-game winning streak. "Missed a lot of floaters, easy things. One of them nights."

The teams combined to make just five of 31 shots in the final 8 minutes — including two misses by Serge Ibaka with the Raptors trailing by three before Barea hit a layup with 10 seconds left after dribbling out most of the shot clock.

The Raptors (23-9) came into the game with the best winning percentage in the Eastern Conference but shot under 40 percent for the first time this season.

Jonas Valanciunas had 17 points and 11 rebounds for Toronto, and Ibaka added 12 points and 12 boards.

Barea scored the first six points and hit a capping 3-pointer on a 17-0 run that put the Mavericks in front 83-73 late in the third quarter.

TIP-INS

Raptors: G/F C.J. Miles, a former Dallas high school player, hit a 3 in 10 minutes after missing three games because of a dental

See **MAVS**, Page 12

Jason Garrett to return as Cowboys coach in '18



AP Photo
Dallas Cowboys head coach Jason Garrett shouts in the direction of an official in the first half of an NFL football game against the Seattle Seahawks on Sunday, Dec. 24, 2017, in Arlington, Texas.

By SCHUYLER DIXON

AP Pro Football Writer

DALLAS — Cowboys owner Jerry Jones says coach Jason Garrett will return for an eighth full season after Dallas missed the playoffs in a year marred by the six-game suspension of star running back Ezekiel Elliott.

Jones said on his radio show Tuesday that Garrett's job "is not an issue here at all" while suggesting that there could be other changes to the coaching staff with several contracts expiring. Garrett has two years left on a five-year deal signed after Dallas won the NFC East in 2014.

"I certainly know a lot about Jason Garrett. Because of that, I can very quickly and candidly say that he's not, his job is not an issue here at all," Jones said.

Offensive coordinator Scott Linehan and defensive coordinator Rod Marinelli signed extensions last offseason, so they are not among those with expiring contracts.

"We've got a lot of different contracts that are various times coming up," Jones said. "We'll look at that. That doesn't mean there will be any material changes, but we will look at it."

The Cowboys (8-7), who finish the season Sunday at division champion Philadelphia, had an uneven start before three straight wins to get to 5-3 going into Elliott's suspension over domestic violence allegations.

Dallas lost the first three games without Elliott before winning three straight to stay in the race.

See **GARRETT**, Page 12

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Annie's Mailbox

The Mommy Burden

Dear Annie: My boyfriend and I are starting to get serious, and everything is going smoothly except for one constant bump in the road: his mother. His dad is out of the picture. She is single, and he is an only child and lives at home. She desperately wants him to be a mama's boy, but he never has been and never will be, which frustrates her. She needs to know where he is, texts him constantly, becomes judgmental when he drinks any alcohol or is out late, and demands his constant attention. He used to be able to maintain a balance; he would choose his battles but also try to talk her down and explain to her that he is an adult and can make his own choices. However, she seems to get needier as he and I get closer.

I try my best to be friendly and kind when I interact with her, but I've overheard conversations between the two of them (I know; I shouldn't eavesdrop) that basically come down to her accusing me of taking him away and being a bad influence. He is aware of how difficult she is and apologizes on her behalf, but I don't know what to do or say. Annie, I don't want to create conflict between my boyfriend and his mother, but I don't want to have to fight over him. Though her behavior irritates me, I would still like to get along with her, but she so clearly dislikes me, and nothing I've tried so far has changed that. How do I ensure that she will back off a bit so that my relationship can continue to grow? --
No More Tug of War
Dear No More Tug of War: It takes two to engage in tug of war, so step away from the rope and stay

out of the mud. Meet any of her rudeness with kindness. But do talk to your boyfriend about how you're feeling. It sounds as though his mom is overly dependent on him and he's enabling this dynamic. Though moving out would certainly help give him space from his mom, he might bring guilt with him, and then the codependent pattern might continue. Encourage him to attend a few therapy sessions so he can get a clearer perspective of his own emotional needs. Until he establishes healthy boundaries with her, it will be impossible for him to have a healthy relationship with you.
Dear Annie: I reluctantly agree with your assertion that "anyone who can't afford to leave a tip shouldn't be eating out in the first place." But you missed an opportunity to point out the absurdity of the modern tip system.

Tips are supposed to reward excellent service, not serve as mandatory wage supplements. Today service workers are being paid less than minimum wage in most places solely because the economic system has adapted to assume that standard levels of service will always be acknowledged by an "optional" payment, whose standard value has risen from 15 percent to 18 percent to 20 percent just over the past couple of decades.
This custom is silly. It's the economic equivalent of "participation awards."
Servers should be paid at least the same minimum wage as everyone else, and restaurants should adjust their prices accordingly. The custom of tipping should return to its roots as an optional gift for excellent service rather than an amount that the customer feels obligated to provide

to support underpaid waitstaff. -- Just a Tip for You
Dear Just a Tip for You: I agree with you. I'd love to see that system change here in the United States. Here's hoping -- though I'm not holding my breath.

Send your questions for

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

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

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

Such sale will be for cash, which may also be in the form of certified funds. The public auction will 288613 take place in front of the northeast corner of the Martin County Courthouse on the 2nd day of January, 2018 between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.
For information about the property, please contact Brent Preston at (806) 470-0464.

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Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

Partnership rapport

South dealer.
North-South vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ A Q 10 8 3
♥ K J 7 4
♦ K 6 5
♣ 8

EAST
♠ J 9 5 2
♥ Q 9 2
♦ 8 7
♣ A 9 7 4

WEST
♠ 6 4
♥ 10 8 6 3
♦ J 3
♣ K Q J 6 2

SOUTH
♠ K 7
♥ A 5
♦ A Q 10 9 4 2
♣ 10 5 3

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♦ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♦ Pass 2 ♥ Pass
3 ♦ Pass 5 ♦ Pass
6 ♦

Opening lead — king of clubs.

Point count is without question a valuable crutch to lean on when trying to reach the best contract. But other key factors can prove even more useful to experienced players.

Consider this case where South got to six diamonds on the sequence shown. True, each player had only 13 high-card points opposite his partner's 13, and it usually takes more high-card strength than that to make

a slam. But North went out of his way to pinpoint both his high-card strength and his 5-4-3-1 distribution, and his graphic description of both did not fall on deaf ears.

Although South could not see his partner's hand, he recognized that North had five spades and four hearts because he had bid spades first. South also inferred from partner's third-round leap to five diamonds that he had at least three diamonds — and therefore could not possibly have more than one club.

And so, while it might seem that South should have been more deeply concerned about his three club losers before undertaking a slam with his minimum-looking hand, the fact is that he was resting on very solid ground when he decided to bid six. As pays off so often in bridge, South gave much more credence to what he heard than what he saw.

It is quite likely that many pairs, including some long-standing partnerships, would fail to reach this excellent slam. The chief reason might be North's failure to describe his 5-4-3-1 pattern, which is the crux of the matter, or possibly South's failure to recognize the message his partner was imparting. In any case, the deal highlights the enormous value of close partnership rapport.

Tomorrow: A resistible temptation.
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SUDOKU

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

Level: Advanced

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

ANSWER:

Tomorrow's Horoscope

By Holiday Mathis



Mars and Neptune Play Pretend

As good actors know, it's challenging work to become someone you're not. It can also be fun, exciting and enlightening work. Pretending has a way of expanding our mind and being. This is the lesson of the current trine of Mars in Scorpio and Neptune in creative Pisces. There's luck in playing roles and tinkering with matters of identity.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). In the cry of one broken heart is the song of all the broken hearts through history. It's why you can't listen without echoing the mournful resonance inside you. At least there's a comfort and healing in this.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). If you don't easily fall asleep, there are good reasons; perhaps too much is on your mind, or an exciting possibility has you reeling. Or could you be awake in someone else's dream? Embrace the mystical: It's good for imagination.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). While Frank Sinatra may have had a hit doing it "My Way," for most people the real adventure begins when "My Way" doesn't pan out and we must learn to do it "A Way" (or in today's case, any possible way that will work, really).

CANCER (June 22-July 22). There's something coming your way -- an important sale or a bonus. The rewards will have a direct correlation to the work you put in and the stellar attitude in your approach. It's nice when things happen this cleanly.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You're usually pretty intuitive about what others might need, but what this intuition is probably telling you now is to just ask. You'll be quite surprised by what you hear.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-

Sept. 22). Dreams are good; plans are better. A little of both will serve you best. Because if you only plan, it won't be interesting enough, and if you only dream, it won't be practical enough.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You'll be on the hunt for a new experience. So while the cost matters, and the risk is a factor to consider as well, the enticement of the unfamiliar teamed with your curiosity will trump your trepidation.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You care about something that isn't conventional. Getting into it more might lead you slightly and temporarily away from certain people who will never really get it, but it will bond you with people who share your interest.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). The moment when it happens is not the next one; it's always this one... if for no other reason than the fact that you can't live or do anything in the next one. Keep reminding yourself to stay alert to what's happening now.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Since you are the beholder, you get to say what's beautiful. Try to do this away from the influence of others to get a true read. Otherwise you'll be unduly swayed.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). It's easy to say no when you have already said yes to something else. Since your schedule fills up on a first-come, first-served basis, you'll do well to be the first one to fill it up with what you really want your life to be about.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). According to Grabel's Law,

two is not equal to three, not even for large values of two. In a related story, getting something different from what you want (even if you get a lot of it) is still not getting what you want.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Dec. 27). An investment made years ago will finally pay off in 2018.

Among the stellar decisions you'll make this year will be your choice to rely on the reliable. Loved ones will give you the lift you need to stretch into new roles and challenges. A friendship gets sweeter with a shared adventure. Speak your heart in June. Gemini and Libra adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 30, 45, 22, 19 and 31.

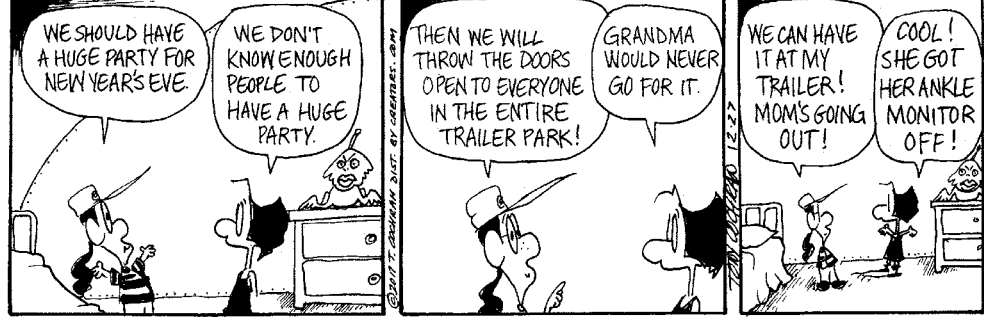
ASTROLOGICAL QUESTION: "My mom is insane. She only lets me watch television for two hours a week. My friends can all watch as much as they want and some even have televisions in their rooms. I'm a 13-year-old Libra, and my mom is an Aquarius. How can I change her mind?"

Consider the ancient Greeks. They believed that humans could only realize their full potential during free time. Education, arts and politics were pursuits of self-development that could and should occur when a person had finished their work. The Greek term for leisure is (SET ITAL)schole(END ITAL) -- the same word from which the English "school" comes from. To the Greeks, leisure time was study time. Thank goodness the Greeks didn't have television. Otherwise we might not have things such as maps, the alphabet or Hula-Hoops today.

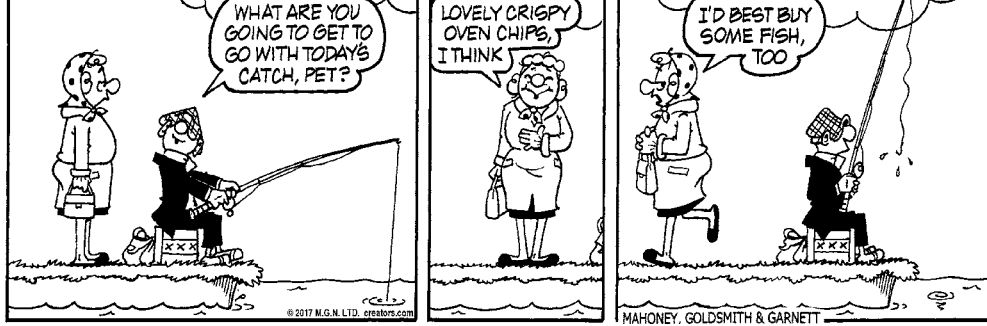
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5	Local 2	P. Luche	Broke Girl Mom	CBS 7	Tele Noticias	News	Inspired	Scully	Hawaii Five-0	American	Fam. Guy	Movie: Red, John Malkovich (DVS)	New Era Pinstripe Bowl -- Iowa vs Boston College.	SportsCenter	Cowboys	Law & Order: SVU	Storage	Homestead Rescue
6	Jeopardy!	Enamorán-dome	Big Bang	CBS 7	Caso Cer- rado	News	News	Business	M. Rantz	American	Fam. Guy	Movie: Red, John Malkovich (DVS)	College Basketball	SportsCenter	Cowboys	Law & Order: SVU	Storage	Homestead Rescue
7	Wheel	Rey David	Pregame	To Be An-nounced	Hasta que te Conoci	The Wall	News	Nature	Nature	Fam. Guy	Big Bang	The Librar- ians	College Football	Tennis	Law & Order: SVU	Storage	Homestead Rescue	
8	Speech	Mi marido tiene	College Football: Foster	SEAL Team	Sangre de mi tierra	Dolly Parton's Christmas of Many Colors	Light of Southwest	NOVA	Mama's ALF	Penn & Teller	Big Bang	The Librar- ians	College Football: Academy Sports and Outdoors	Tennis	Law & Order: SVU	Storage	Homestead Rescue	
9	Match Game	Caer en tentación	Farms Bowl -- Arizona vs Purdue.	Criminal Minds	Señora Acero 4	Light of Southwest	SuperNature	Heroes	Page Six	Seinfeld	Full	The Librar- ians	College Football: Academy Sports and Outdoors	Rangers C'boys	Movie: Fifty Shades of Grey (DVS)	Ozzy & Jack's		
10	Local 2	Impacto	CBS 7	Tele	News	News	Nature (DVS)	C. Burnett	Seinfeld	Conan	The Librar- ians	SportsCenter	Awards	Best	Storage	Homestead Rescue		
11	Nightline	Deportivo	How I Met	James Corden	Señora Acero 4	Daly	Shofar	Mannix	Top 30	Hawaii Five-0		SportsCenter	College Football	SuperCross Rewind	Storage	Homestead Rescue		
12	Extra	Quiero Amarte	How I Met	Access	Programa	Programa	Light of Southwest											
1	Paid Prg.	Las amazonas	Simpsons	Paid Prg.	Programa	Programa	Light of Southwest											

AGNES



ANDY CAPP



ARCHIE



MOMMA



NEST HEAD



ONE BIG HAPPY



This Date In History

Today is Wednesday, Dec. 27, the 361st day of 2017. There are four days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:
 On Dec. 27, 1927, the musical play "Show Boat," with music by Jerome Kern and libretto by Oscar Hammerstein II, opened at the Ziegfeld Theater in New York, beginning a run of 572 performances.
 On this date:
 In 1831, naturalist Charles Darwin set out on a round-the-world voyage aboard the HMS Beagle.
 In 1892, the cornerstone was laid for the Cathedral of Saint John the Divine in New York City.
 In 1904, James Barrie's play "Peter Pan: The Boy Who Wouldn't Grow Up" opened at the Duke of York's Theater in London.
 In 1932, New York City's Radio City Music Hall first opened.
 In 1945, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund were formally established.
 In 1947, the original version of the puppet character Howdy Doody made his TV debut on NBC's "Puppet Playhouse."
 In 1949, Queen Juliana of the Netherlands signed an act recognizing Indonesia's sovereignty after more than three centuries of Dutch rule.
 In 1968, Apollo 8 and its three astronauts made a safe, nighttime splashdown in the Pacific.
 In 1970, the musical play "Hello, Dolly!" closed on Broadway after a run of 2,844 performances.
 In 1979, Soviet forces seized control of Afghanistan. President Hafizullah Amin (hah-FEE'-zoo-lah ah-MEEN'), who was overthrown and executed, was replaced by Babrak Karmal.
 In 1985, Palestinian guerrillas opened fire inside the Rome and Vienna airports; 19 victims were killed, plus four attackers who were slain by police and security personnel. American naturalist Dian Fossey, 53, who had studied gorillas in the wild in Rwanda, was found hacked to death.
 In 1995, Israeli jeeps sped out of the West Bank town of Ramallah, capping a seven-week pullout giving Yasser Arafat control over

90 percent of the West Bank's one million Palestinian residents and one-third of its land.

Ten years ago: Opposition leader Benazir Bhutto, 54, was assassinated in a gun and suicide-bomb attack in Pakistan following a campaign rally. Kenya held an election pitting incumbent president Mwai Kibaki (mwy kih-BAH'-kee) against opposition candidate Raila Odinga (RY'-luh oh-DING'-uh); both candidates ended up claiming victory in a vote that observers said was seriously flawed. (Kenya was racked by weeks of ethnic violence; Kibaki and Odinga ended up forming a coalition government.)

Five years ago: An Indian-born man, Sunando Sen, was shoved to his death from a New York City subway platform; suspect Erika Menendez later pleaded guilty to manslaughter and was sentenced to 24 years in prison. (Authorities say Menendez pushed Sen because she thought he was Muslim; Sen was Hindu.) Retired Army general Norman Schwarzkopf, 78, died in Tampa, Florida. Character actor Harry Carey Jr., 91, died in Santa Barbara, California.

One year ago: Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe (shin-zoh AH'-shay), accompanied by President Barack Obama, visited Pearl Harbor in Hawaii, where he offered his "sincere and everlasting condolences to the souls of those who lost their lives" in Japan's 1941 attack; Abe did not apologize, but conceded his country "must never repeat the horrors of war again."

Actress Carrie Fisher died in a hospital four days after suffering a medical emergency aboard a flight to Los Angeles; she was 60. Cavaliers superstar LeBron James was voted AP Male Athlete of the Year after bringing the NBA title to Cleveland.

Today's Birthdays: Actor John Amos is 78. ABC News correspondent Cokie

Thought for Today:
 "Everybody gets so much information all day long that they lose their common sense."
 Gertrude Stein
 American author
 (1874-1946).

Newsday Crossword

NO FOOLIN' by Charles Slack
 Edited by Stanley Newman
 www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 __ Jones
Industrial
Average

4 Infant's ailment

9 Spaghetti or ziti

14 Early afternoon

15 Coral island

16 Homer's Trojan War epic

17 Speaks frankly

20 Straightens (up)

21 Hand over formally

22 Paradises

23 Very pale

25 Astronaut's insignia

29 Unlit

30 Sore spot

31 Lowly chess pieces

32 Regarding

33 Speaks to

34 Speaks frankly

37 Window coverings

39 Earl of tea

40 Puppy sounds

41 Immense

42 Burn slightly

46 Fencing weapon

47 When summer starts

48 Socially smooth

49 Place for protons

51 Some baseball pitches

52 Speaks frankly

57 Kennel club classification

58 Propelled with oars

59 Mother Teresa, for one

60 Reverend Jackson

61 Author Harriet Beecher __

62 Acquire

11 Command to Fido

12 Mai __ cocktail

13 Infomercials, e.g.

18 Website connection

19 All-important

23 Plays a part

24 Hunter's weapon

26 On the road

27 Long-running NBC weekend show

28 Wild equine

30 Seeks permission

31 Annoyingly slow

32 Pub beverages

33 Squirrel's hangout

34 "Tall" story

35 Placates

36 Spur, with "on"

37 Salon application

38 One's good name, for short

41 Indulges

42 Spiral shape

43 Ordering for dinner

44 Broad street

45 Take exception to

47 Scribble (down)

48 Leather variety

50 Oceanic movement

51 Scold, with "out"

52 JFK successor

53 Exist

54 Positive response

55 "__ to worry"

56 Early afternoon

Answer to previous puzzle

P	A	L	M	I	R	K	S	D	I	L
S	A	B	E	R	V	I	E	I	S	E
A	L	L	A	H	I	D	E	A	S	A
T	E	E	N	Y	W	E	E	N	I	H
DASHES ENACTS										
A	U	T	O	P	L	A	N	A	M	A
T	R	I	O	S	A	N	N	T	O	T
E	A	R	T	H	W	E	S	T	N	O
EARN RHYMED										
C	H	A	N	G	E	S	U	E		
H	U	L	A	M	I	S	C	E	L	L
T	I	R	O	N	O	D	I	E	P	I
N	O	N	O	N	T	O	R	N	E	M
A	N	D	I	E	L	S	E	D	O	S



AP Photo
San Antonio Spurs forward Kawhi Leonard scores against the Brooklyn Nets during the first half of an NBA basketball game, Tuesday, Dec. 26, 2017, in San Antonio.

SPURS

Continued from Page 6

TIP-INS

Nets: Russell has not played since Nov. 11, missing his 20th straight game. He is expected to be back in the first half of January after undergoing left knee surgery Nov. 17. ... The Nets are 4-41 on the road against the Spurs in franchise history. Their last win in San Antonio in the regular season was a 92-86 victory on Jan. 22, 2002, at the Alamodome. ... Atkinson was assessed a technical foul with 6:45 left in the third quarter after bolting from his seat and running to midcourt to protest an offensive foul call on Crabbe.

Spurs: San Antonio

coach Gregg Popovich has 1,174 career victories, placing him one shy of tying George Karl for fifth all-time. ... Gasol collected his 10,817th rebound, moving him past Jack Sikma for 30th in league history. ... Aldridge has led the Spurs in scoring 28 times in 33 games after doing so a combined 37 times in his first two seasons with the team. ... The Spurs are 16-2 at home, the league's best home record.

NOT ROCKET SCIENCE

Popovich shrugged off any difficulties he could face while trying to decide on rotations and minutes now that the Spurs roster is fully available.

"It's basketball, it's not the Middle East peace process," Popovich said. "It's not figuring out why our democracy is being eroded. It's pick-and-roll. Big deal?"

TIME WILL TELL

Ginobili said the team hopes to gel completely during the team's annual rodeo road trip, a month-long excursion in February while the AT&T Center is hosting the San Antonio Stock Show and Rodeo.

"That's when we usually start getting the shape that we want in the playoffs," Ginobili said. "So, that's when it starts and hopefully this year we are in the same mode and from there we keep building until April comes."

WELCOME HOME

Former Spurs star Tim Duncan was in attendance for the second time this season. Duncan's only appearance last season came during his retirement ceremony.

UP NEXT

Nets: Visit New Orleans on Wednesday.

Spurs: Host New York on Thursday.



AP Photo
Toronto Raptors guard DeMar DeRozan (10) goes up against Dallas Mavericks guard Wesley Matthews (23) during the first half of an NBA basketball game in Dallas, Tuesday, Dec. 26, 2017.

GARRETT

Continued from Page 6

The Cowboys lost a playoff elimination game to Seattle last week-end in the return of last year's NFL rushing leader.

Garrett has made the playoffs twice in seven seasons. He is 67-55 including the postseason and half the 2010 season, when he took over after Wade Phillips was fired. Garrett is a distant second to Tom Landry in tenure and wins.

Jones didn't offer specifics when asked why Garrett was the right person to lead the Cowboys. He has a 1-2 playoff record, and Dallas lost its first playoff game as the top seed in the NFC last season.

The Cowboys have alternated between winning the division and missing the playoffs the past

four years. In Garrett's first three full seasons, Dallas finished 8-8, losing a season finale with a play-off spot on the line each time.

"Let's basically not get into all the reasons why and I won't get into all the reasons why not," Jones said. "Let's just say that it's not in the best interest of the Cowboys to be considering a coaching change."

Garrett sidestepped a question about his future after the 21-12 loss to the Seahawks on Sunday.

"My job is to do the best job for this football team," Garrett said. "It was a tough loss for us today and we are going to get back to work and try to finish strong."

MAVS

Continued from Page 6

procedure. ... Coach Dwane Casey said C Lucas Nogueira was available after missing 11 games with a right calf injury, but he didn't play.

Mavericks: Nowitzki, in his 20th season, has at least 18 points in five of the past seven games after scoring that many just twice in his first 28 games. ... Barnes tied his career high with his sixth double-double. He did in Golden State's championship season of 2014-15.

DEFENSIVE FOCUS

DeRozan played 35 minutes to Matthews' 36. And wherever DeRozan went, Matthews followed. The results showed offensively for Dallas' defensive specialist. He was 2 of 9 from the field for five points. "He has an iron will to make it as hard as possible on these great players," coach Rick Carlisle said. "He expended so much energy defensively, his shooting was out of rhythm. That's going to happen."

UGLY QUARTER

The fourth quarter score was 16-13, Toronto. Both teams shot 26 percent in the quarter (5 of 19 for the Raptors, 6 of 23 for the Mavericks). Barea (3 of 5) was the only player with more than one field goal. The teams were a combined 3 of 17 on 3-pointers.

THE OTHER GERMAN

Kleber, also from Nowitzki's hometown of Wurzburg, Germany, matched Barnes for the team high with 13 points in the first half. It was capped by an alley-oop dunk when Yogi Ferrell grabbed a defensive rebound with 6 seconds left, raced the length of the court and tossed it to Kleber for the slam with a couple of seconds to spare.

Kleber (four blocks) and Nowitzki (three) combined for seven blocks in the first half. It was already a season high for Nowitzki, and Kleber matched his season best early in the third quarter. The Mavericks had a season-high 11 blocks.

UP NEXT

Raptors: Second night of back-to-back at Oklahoma City on Wednesday.

Mavericks: Also on back-to-back at Indiana on Wednesday.

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