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BIG SPRING HERALD

TUESDAY, JANUARY 2, 2018



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Texas Monthly covers filming of 'The Iron Orchard'

By **AMBER MANSFIELD**
 Staff Writer

If you happen to be a fan of the book, "The Iron Orchard," or are familiar with the filming that took place for the movie in Big Spring, then you're going to want to pick up the 2018 January issue of "Texas Monthly" magazine.

In January's issue, there is an article titled, "The Making of 'The Iron Orchard.' Brushes with Fame and Fortune in the West Texas Oil Patch," written by Christian Wallace, Assistant Editor of Texas Monthly.

Wallace goes into detail of the making of the "The Iron Orchard". "The Iron Orchard" is the story of Jim McNeely, a young man thrust into the vibrant and brutal West Texas oilfields circa 1939 who works his way through the ranks to ultimately become a formidable wildcatter. The book is what Ty Roberts, director of "The Iron Orchard" based his movie on. Wallace's article goes into detail of Roberts and his 26 day marathon shoot, and the obstacles Roberts had to overcome from the very beginning.

"I came out to Big Spring and spent four days on the set," said Wallace. "I got to hang out with the cast

and crew and just sit back watch them act our their scenes. Basically I was a fly on the wall to observe them."

One of the scenes Wallace observed is set just ten miles outside of Big Spring. In fact, Roberts and his crew shot one of the most critical points for his movie there.

"Every person part of the cast and crew acted like a pro," said Wallace. "It was very impressive and entertaining to watch."

While Wallace watched filming, he got to witness Roberts and his crew's dedication to capture the nature of the book and the life of a someone in the oil field business. Wallace himself has a healthy understanding of the life of someone in that line of work, having had worked in the oilfield before.

"For one year, I worked in the oil field when it was booming to help pay off student loans," said Wallace. "And let me tell you, that is hard work. I have an enormous amount of respect for roughnecks and those who make a career in the oil field business, and for Roberts in trying to recreate and capture it on film." Wallace writes in the article the arduous work that Roberts dished

See **IRON**, Page 3

Suspect sought in weekend burglary



Courtesy photo

Special to the Herald

Big Spring and Howard County

Crime Stoppers is asking for the public's help in locating a burglary suspect(s) who broke into Dragon

China Buffet over the weekend.

On Dec. 30, 2017 at approximately 10:00 a.m., the Big Spring Police Department was dispatched to Dragon China Buffet, 1300 South Gregg Street, in reference to a burglary. Upon arrival, officers were informed that at approximately 3:00 a.m., an unknown suspect cut the chain of the front door security gate and used a hammer to break the front glass door to enter the building.

The suspect caused an estimated \$800

in property damage while gaining entry into the Dragon China Buffet. A coin-operated machine was burglarized and it was estimated that the suspect stole \$60.00. The suspect was wearing blue jeans, a black shirt, black hat, black face mask (covering mouth and nose), light colored work boots and a light colored oil field issued shirt.

Crime Stoppers urges anyone with information about this crime to contact their TIPS line anonymously by calling 432-263-8477. Each call is completely anonymous.

City crews working on water main breaks

Special to the Herald

Sub-freezing weather has gripped Howard County for the past few days, and the frigid temperatures have wreaked havoc on Big Spring water mains.

Several breaks, including to

a main near the intersection of 16th and Nolan, and another on Vicky, as well as others, are being addressed by City of Big Spring work crews Tuesday.

In a comment to KBYG radio, Public Works Director Johnny Wommack said the city workers are addressing each situ-

ation as soon as they can, and bringing in additional manpower. He asks that residents be patient, as there are a lot of main breaks due to the weather.

As always, drivers should take extra care around city crew work sites.

Adult education comes to the Northside

By **ERIN STEPHENS**
 Staff Writer

A small group of concerned Big Spring residents formed what is known as the Northside Movement in 2014. Founder of the organization Nati Saldivar and her daughter Eddi Saldivar work hand in hand to bring about much-needed change to the community.

"We're federally recognized as a 501 C3, or civil non-profit organization," said Eddi. "Thanks to a grant from the Ryan Foundation and Permian Basin Area Foundation, we transformed an entire city block here on the Northside."

St. Thomas Church is one building that was purchased by the NSM for events like coat drives, educational programs, and Sunday breakfasts. In addition to hosting community events, the NSM assists Northside residents in need of shelter, food, and other essentials necessary for survival.

"We saw a need for the northern sector of the city and began going to city council meetings and the movement started to grow and has continuing to grow," said Eddi. "The reason we do this for our city is because we truly love Big Spring."

A recent collaboration between Howard College and the NSM will soon bring a new opportunity to the area. According to Eddi, the NSM



File photo

Volunteer Michelle Deanda (left) and founder of the NSM Nati Saldivar (right) work at an event hosted at Ryan Hall.

is partnering with the college and HC president Dr. Cheryl Sparks to bring education classes to Northside residents.

On January 22, free adult education and literacy classes will be offered at Ryan Hall located at 605 N. Main in Big Spring. Adult education and literacy classes provide English language, math, reading, and writing instruction to help people of all ages acquire the skills needed to succeed in the workforce, earn a high school

equivalency, or enter college or career training.

"In addition to the new AEL classes, we're going to launch a program for elementary students to do homework," said Eddi. "One of our goals is to supply laptops and printers to area kids so they can have a place to come do their homework and if they need tutoring, hopefully we can get that for them as well."

See **NSM**, Page 3

Deadly, bone-chilling cold grips wide swath of US

MILWAUKEE (AP) — Bone-chilling cold gripped much of the U.S. as 2018 began, breaking century-old records and leading to several deaths that authorities attributed to exposure to the dangerously low temperatures.

The National Weather Service issued wind chill

advisories and freeze warnings Tuesday covering a vast area from South Texas to Canada and from Montana through New England. Authorities opened warming shelters in the South as temperatures dipped notably close to zero in Alabama and Georgia.

The bitter cold wave developed

much of the Midwest on Monday, yet that didn't deter hundreds of people from ringing in the new year by jumping into Lake Michigan. Throngs of people took part in the Polar Plunge in Milwaukee, despite sub-freezing temperatures and a warning of potential hypothermia from the local fire chief. Organizers canceled a

See **COLD**, Page 3



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Obituaries

Mary Joe Harland



Mary Joe Harland, 91, of Big Spring, died Saturday, Dec. 23, 2017, in a Lubbock hospital. Funeral services will be 2 p.m., Wednesday, Jan. 3, 2018, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel with Dr. Sandy Sandlin officiating. Interment will follow at Trinity Memorial Park

The family will receive friends at 1 p.m. one hour prior to service time at the funeral home.

She was born April 18, 1926, in Stanton, Texas, and married Grady Lee Harland March 6, 1948, in Big Spring. He preceded her in death in 1988.

Mrs. Harland was a homemaker and enjoyed cooking and took great pride in her home. She en-

joyed playing bridge and other card games. She was a member of First Christian Church.

Survivors include her son, Mike Harland and wife, Katrina of Lewisville; her daughter, Khenda Davis and husband, Malcolm of Galveston; four grandchildren, Brock Davis, Brooke Davis, Christopher Harland and Luke Harland; and a sister, Katherine Hudgins of Abilene.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Joseph and Beulah Morrison.

The family suggests memorials to First Christian Church, 911 Goliad St., Big Spring, Texas 79720.

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

Paid obituary

Gladys Wallace



Gladys Wallace, 75, of Fresno, Texas, died Monday, Dec. 25, 2017, at her home.

She will lie in state Wednesday, Jan. 3, 2018, from 11 a.m. until 8 p.m. at Jackie Warren Funeral Home, 702 S. Terrell, Midland, Texas. Funeral service will be at 11 a.m., Thursday, Jan. 4, 2018, at St. Paul C.M.E. Church of Midland. Burial will be at Resthaven Memorial Park.

Gladys was born March 11, 1942, in Colorado City, Texas, to Charlie M. Lee Thompson and Ulysses Thompson. She married Curtis Wallace Jr. on Dec. 25, 1962, in Midland, Texas. He preceded her in death on June 9, 2005. She served as an usher at St. Paul C.M.E. Church for over 55 years. Gladys

moved to Fresno, Texas, from Midland in 2004, and had lived there for the past 13 years. She was a member of the St. Paul C.M.E. Church.

She is survived by her two daughters, Lavett Wallace and LaGayle Wallace, both of Fresno, Texas; one son, Michael Wallace and wife Carolyn of Wylie, Texas; three grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; two brothers, Ulysses Thompson Jr. and wife Sue of San Angelo, Texas, and John Wesley Thompson and wife Mildred, also of San Angelo, Texas; four sisters, Quilla Beaty, Shirley Watson, and Ora Roberts, all of Midland, Texas, and Gloria Roberts and husband Norman of Arizona; and numerous nieces and nephews.

In addition to her parents and husband, she was preceded in death by two brothers, Dickie Thompson and Clyde Thompson.

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

Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity:

- **FIDEL MARTINEZ**, 42, of 1610 Bluebird St. was arrested on an outstanding warrant.
- **RICHARD HERNANDEZ**, 45, of P.O. Box 206 in Lenora was arrested on a warrant for theft of service (\$100 to \$750).
- **TRISTAN ROSS GALLOWAY**, 18, of 1610 S. Main was arrested on a warrant for aggravated robbery.
- **ROBERT ANTHONY GRIEGO**, 27, of 1017 Stadium Ave., on a charge of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon.
- **BARRY CARLOS HARRIS**, 47, of 1406 Dixie was arrested on an outstanding warrant.
- **JULIAN MICHAEL CHAVEZ**, 24, of 1109 E. 13th St.

was arrested on charges of possession of a controlled substance (less than 28 grams) in a drug-free zone, possession of marijuana (less than 2 oz.) in a drug-free zone, and unlawfully carrying a weapon.

- **JULIAN MARTINEZ JR.**, 60, of 1217 S. Fort Worth St. in Midland was arrested on an outstanding warrant.
- **ALLAN LEE SMITH**, 48, of 510 E. 17th St. was arrested on a charge of driving with an invalid or suspended license.
- **DAMIAN ISMAEL LUJAN**, 33, of 1014 Nolan was arrested on charges of theft of service (100 to \$750), criminal mischief (\$100 to \$750), evading arrest or detention, public intoxication, and possession of marijuana (less than 2 oz.).

• **AUSTIN REED SUTTON**, 32, of 1708 S. Main St. was arrested on a charge of discharging a firearm within city limits.

• **BURGLARY OF A HABITATION** was reported in the 1200 block of South Johnson Street, the 1000 block of Buena Vista Drive, and the 1300 block of South Johnson Street.

• **DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE** was reported in the 2600 block of Barksdale and the 800 block of West FM 700.

• **THEFT** was reported in the 200 block of West FM 700.

• **CRIMINAL MISCHIEF** was reported in the 1500 block of Stallings Road.

• **STOLEN VEHICLE** was reported in the 3600 block of West Highway 80 and the 2100 block of North Highway 87.

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.

•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.

• Staked Plains Masonic Lodge No. 598 meets the second Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. (dinner is at 6 p.m.) at 219 ½ Main St. All Masons are welcome.

• 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

Nicky Lee Clark



Nicky Lee Clark, 65, of Big Spring, died Sunday, Dec. 31, 2017, at his home.

The family received friends from 6 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 1, 2018, at Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Funeral service will be at 4 p.m. today at Myers & Smith Chapel, with Skip Hedgpeth, Home Hospice Chaplain, officiating.

Nicky was born June 11, 1952, in Big Spring, Texas, to Opal Ione Billingsley Wheeler, and was raised by Jake Wheeler. He was a lifetime resident of Big Spring. He married Sharon Becker on Jan. 25, 1974, in Ackery, Texas. Nicky retired from Express Energy. He was a Baptist.

Nicky is survived by his wife Sharon Clark of Big Spring; two sons, Randy Clark of Fort Stockton and James Clark and husband Michael Feaster of Big Spring; two daughters, Stormy Burdell and husband Jonathon Paul, and Courtney Dugan, all of Big Spring; 15 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren; three brothers: David Wheeler of Tye, Kenneth Wheeler and Ronnie Wheeler, both of Clyde; and two sisters, Cleda Edson of Waricka, Okla., and Glenda Edmondson of Coahoma; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Nicky was preceded in death by his parents and two sisters.

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

Paul Mize

Paul Mize, 73, of Big Spring, died Sunday, Dec. 31, 2017, at Scenic Mountain Medical Center. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Ruben Ortiz

Ruben Ortiz, 47, of Big Spring, died Friday, Dec. 29, 2017, at Midland Memorial Hospital. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Marjorie Schulze

Marjorie Schulze, 92, of Big Spring, died Monday, Jan. 1, 2018, at her home. Services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home.

Catherine Woods

Catherine Woods, 95, of Roswell, N.M., died Sunday, Dec. 31, 2017. Services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home.

Support Groups

TUESDAY

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

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

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

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

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

WEDNESDAY

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

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

THURSDAY

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

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COLD

Continued from Page 1

similar event on the Chicago lakefront, after the temperature there dipped below zero and thick white steam rose from the lake. Organizers said the arctic blast made jumping into the lake too dangerous. An annual New Year's Day water ski show on Pigeon Lake in western Michigan was canceled for the first time since the event was launched in 1980 because the water was frozen solid.

Temperatures plunged below zero elsewhere in the Midwest, including in Aberdeen, South Dakota, where the mercury dropped to a record-breaking minus 32 (-36 Celsius). The city's previous

New Year's Day record had stood for 99 years.

In Nebraska, temperatures hit 15 below zero (-26 Celsius) before midnight Sunday in Omaha, breaking a record low dating to 1884. Omaha officials cited the forecast in postponing the 18th annual New Year's Eve Fireworks Spectacular that draws around 30,000 people.

It was colder in Des Moines, Iowa, where city officials closed a downtown outdoor ice skating plaza and said it wouldn't reopen until the city emerged from sub-zero temperatures. The temperature hit 20 below zero (-29 Celsius) early Monday, with the wind chill dipping to negative 31 degrees (-35 Celsius).

The weather service said temperatures in Indianapo-

lis early Tuesday tied a record low of minus 12 degrees Fahrenheit (minus 24 degrees Celsius) for Jan. 2 set in 1887. Indianapolis Public Schools canceled classes for Tuesday on all its campuses due to the predicted sub-zero temperatures. Students had been scheduled to return from winter break. In northeastern Montana, the wind chill readings dipped as low as minus 58 (-50 Celsius). And in Duluth, Minnesota, a city known for its bitter cold winters, the wind chill dipped to 36 below zero (-38 Celsius). Plunging overnight temperatures in Texas brought rare snow flurries as far south as Austin, and accidents racked up on icy roads across the state. In the central Texas city of Abilene, the local po-

lice chief said more than three dozen vehicle crashes were reported in 24 hours.

It's even cold in the Deep South, as temperatures plummeted early Tuesday to 14 (-10 Celsius) in Atlanta and 26 (-3 Celsius) as far south as New Orleans. Temperatures fell to 8 degrees near Cullman, Alabama, and 20 degrees in Mobile, Alabama. Georgia saw one of its coldest temperatures of the winter: 2 degrees shortly before dawn at a U.S. Forest Service weather station at Toccoa, Georgia. Warming shelters were opened across the South as freeze watches and warnings blanketed the region, including hard freeze warnings for much of Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama.

The cold is blamed in at

least nine deaths in the past week. Most recently, police in St. Louis said a homeless man found dead inside a trash bin Monday evening apparently froze to death as the temperature dropped to negative 6 degrees (-21 Celsius). Sheriff's officials in Fond du Lac County, Wisconsin, said a 27-year-old woman whose body was found Monday evening on the shore of Lake Winnebago likely died of exposure. The Milwaukee County Medical Examiner's Office said two men whose bodies were found Sunday showed signs of hypothermia. Police believe the cold weather also may have been a factor in the death of a man in Bismarck, North Dakota, whose body was found near a river.

NSM

Continued from Page 1

We want this to be a great community center for them to meet."

Eddi and other members of the NSM are always working on new ideas for Northside residents and are open to suggestions from anyone who feels led to involve themselves in their organization. Future plans include free parenting classes and lectures on loans, credit reports, and basic financial tips delivered by various speakers.

"We really want to fulfill the needs of the community and make things more accessible," she said. "I'm a third generation Big Springer and I've lived here all my life and I love this town and county."

For more information on how to contribute to the NSM, contact Nadi Saldivar at 432-466-5363. According to Eddi, another great way to help out is to attend their weekly Sunday breakfast held at St. Thomas Church every Sunday morning at 9 a.m. The breakfast serves as a way to raise money for the NSM, where visitors can attend and buy a breakfast plate. All proceeds for the Sunday breakfast and related fundraisers go to the NSM. Since the organization is federally recognized, all donations are tax deductible.

"Every dollar counts here and we stretch every dime into a dollar," said Eddi.

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

IRON

Continued from Page 1

out to capture an accurate description of someone who is in that life style, with the hopes of seeing his film hit the big screen in Hollywood. The article explains every angle of the book, the history behind the book, Roberts journey into seeing an authentic West Texas movie make its mark, and the actual making of the movie.

The article "The Making of 'The Iron Orchard.' Brushes with Fame and Fortune in the West Texas Oil Patch," can be read now in January's issue of Texas Monthly magazine.

Trump accuses DOJ of being part of 'deep state'

By CATHERINE LUCEY and DARLENE SUPERVILLE

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump accused the Justice Department Tuesday of being part of the "deep state" and urged prosecution against a top aide to former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and former FBI Director James Comey.

He also claimed that U.S. sanctions on North Korea were having a "big impact" and that he was responsible for preventing commercial aviation deaths in 2017.

Trump's latest tweets pressed familiar arguments for the president, who is set to begin his first full year in office with the victory of tax legislation but the Russia investigation still hanging over his administration.

"Crooked Hillary Clinton's top aid, Huma Abedin, has been accused of disregarding basic security protocols. She put Classified Passwords into the hands of foreign agents," Trump tweeted in an apparent reference to a report by the conservative Daily Caller.

"Remember sailors pictures on submarine? Jail! Deep State Justice Dept must finally act? Also on Comey & others," he added.

As he remains shadowed by the special counsel's Russia investigation, Trump has seized on recent revelations of anti-Trump behavior by

some FBI officials, including some who once worked on special counsel Robert Mueller's probe of Russian meddling in the 2016 presidential election, to claim bias against him.

The president's reference Tuesday to "Deep State Justice Dept" suggests that federal law enforcement is part of an entrenched bureaucracy that Trump and his supporters say didn't want him to be elected and is actively working to undermine his presidency.

Trump's reference to sailors likely referred to a Navy sailor convicted of taking photos of classified areas inside a submarine.

Trump's blast at the Justice Department came after he returned to the White House from a holiday getaway to face legislative challenges, midterm elections and global threats. He issued confrontational tweets targeting Iran, which in recent days has been rocked by anti-government protests, and Pakistan.

"The people of Iran are finally acting against the brutal and corrupt Iranian regime. All of the money that President Obama so foolishly gave them went into terrorism and into their 'pockets.' The people have little food, big inflation and no human rights. The U.S. is watching!"

On Monday, Trump slammed Pakistan for "lies & deceit," saying it had played U.S. leaders for "fools" by not doing enough to control militants.

"The United States has foolishly given Pakistan more than 33 billion dollars in aid over the last 15 years, and they have given us nothing but lies & deceit, thinking of our leaders as fools. They give safe haven to the terrorists we hunt in Afghanistan, with little help. No more!" Trump said.

Pakistani officials, including Foreign Minister Khawaja Asif, said the country would make clear "the difference between facts and fiction."

It was not immediately clear what prompted Trump to comment on Pakistan. The U.S. has long accused Pakistan of allowing militants to operate relatively freely in its border regions to carry out operations in neighboring Afghanistan. The U.S. said in August that it would hold up \$255 million in military assistance for Pakistan until it cracks down on extremists threatening Afghanistan.

Meanwhile, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un said Monday the United States should be aware that his country's nuclear forces are now a reality, not a future threat. To that, Trump said only: "We'll see."

At home, Trump is hoping for more legislative achievements after his success on cutting taxes. He plans to host Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky and House Speaker Paul Ryan of Wisconsin at Camp David next weekend to map out

the 2018 legislative agenda. Republicans are eager to make progress before attention shifts to the November midterm elections.

The GOP wants to hold the House and Senate, but must contend with Trump's historic unpopularity and some recent Democratic wins, including the pickup of a Senate seat in deeply Republican Alabama.

The White House has said Trump will come forward with his long-awaited infrastructure plan in January. Trump has also said he wants to overhaul welfare and recently predicted Democrats and Republicans will "eventually come together" to develop a new health care plan.

Ryan has talked about overhauling Medicaid and Medicare and other safety-net programs, but McConnell has signaled an unwillingness to go that route unless there's Democratic support for any changes. Republicans will have just a 51-49 Senate majority — well shy of the 60 votes needed to pass most bills — giving leverage to Democrats.

Congress also has to deal with a backlog from 2017, including agreeing on a spending bill by Jan. 19 to avert a partial government shutdown.

There's also providing additional aid to hurricane victims, lifting the debt ceiling, extending a children's health insurance program and extending protections for immigrants brought to the U.S. illegally as children.

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL
24th & Johnson
267-8288

Fermin L. Florez, Jr., 67, died Wednesday. Funeral Mass was at 10 a.m. this morning at Holy Trinity Catholic Church. Interment was at Trinity Memorial Park.

Nicky Clark, 65, died Sunday. Funeral service will be at 4 p.m. today at Myers & Smith Chapel.

Gladys Wallace, 75, died Monday. Funeral service will be at 11 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 4, 2018, at St. Paul C.M.E. Church, 409 Lee, Midland, Texas. Interment will be at Resthaven Memorial Park.

Ruben Ortiz, 47, died Friday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Paul Mize, 73, died Sunday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

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16 hurt, 4 seriously, in Bronx fire

NEW YORK (AP) — The Fire Department of New York says 16 people are hurt, four of them seriously, in a fire raging through a Bronx building.

Officials say over 200 firefighters have responded to the blaze at a four-story building near the Bronx Zoo in Van Nest. It was reported about 5:30 a.m. Tuesday.

WABC-TV reports there are twelve apartments in the building, but the blaze appears to have started in a first-floor furniture store.

The blaze comes only days after the deadliest residential fire to hit New York City in at least a quarter century swept through a Bronx apartment building, killing 12 people.

NBC names Hoda Kotb as Lauer replacement on 'Today'

NEW YORK (AP) — NBC News opened the new year by appointing Hoda Kotb (HOH'-dah KAHT'-bee) as co-anchor of the "Today" show's first two hours with Savannah Guthrie, replacing Matt Lauer following his firing on sexual misconduct charges in late November.

Kotb will continue to co-host the show's fourth hour with Kathie Lee Gifford.

She has subbed for Lauer beginning on the day he was fired. Despite the turmoil, "Today" won four straight weeks in the ratings over ABC's "Good Morning America," after it has spent much of the past few years in second place.

Her appointment bucks the trend of morning news shows to have male and female co-hosts. But with sexual misconduct charges are a regular occurrence, the timing could be right for NBC.

Guy Fieri's Times Square restaurant closes for good

NEW YORK (AP) — A restaurant run by television star and celebrity chef Guy Fieri in the heart of New York City's Times Square has shut its doors for good.

The restaurant, Guy's American Kitchen & Bar, served its last public meal Saturday. Restaurant officials held a private dinner event on New Year's Eve for its last night of operation.

The restaurant opened in 2012, where it was greeted with a no-star review from The New York Times' restaurant critic.

Fieri said in a statement that he was proud of the restaurant serving millions of patrons for over five years, and did not give a reason for its closure.

The restaurant was part of the Blue Stein Group, a New York collection of restaurants that includes the Heartland Brewery chain.

Mummers parade goes on as planned despite bone-chilling cold

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Thousands of marchers have braved bone-chilling temperatures and wind chills to take part in Philadelphia's annual Mummers Parade, the oldest continuous folk parade in the country.

Organizers had considered postponing the event because of concerns over the brutal weather conditions. But they voted to go ahead with the New Year's Day parade, which featured performers dressed in colorful costumes adorned with sequins and feathers marching down the city's main north-south thoroughfare.

Temperatures were in the single digits when the parade started. Concerns had been raised the frigid temperatures could be dangerous for parade participants and some instruments used by marching string bands.

Heating tents and warm buses were set up along the route for the Mummers.

Philadelphia has hosted the Mummers Parade since 1901.

Leader of NYC Ballet retiring amid misconduct investigation

NEW YORK (AP) — The longtime leader of the New York City Ballet is retiring in the midst of an investigation into accusations of sexual misconduct by him.

Peter Martins wrote a letter to the company's board of directors on Monday announcing his retirement, saying the scandal had "exact[ed] a painful toll on me and my family."

The 71-year-old Martins told board members he continues to deny sexually harassing or abusing members of the company, including dancers. He said he had been the subject of news articles reporting largely anonymous and decades-old accusations.

City Ballet announced last month Martins would take a leave of absence from the company and its School of American Ballet during an independent investigation. The company hired a law firm to conduct the investigation after receiving an anonymous letter accusing Martins of harassment.

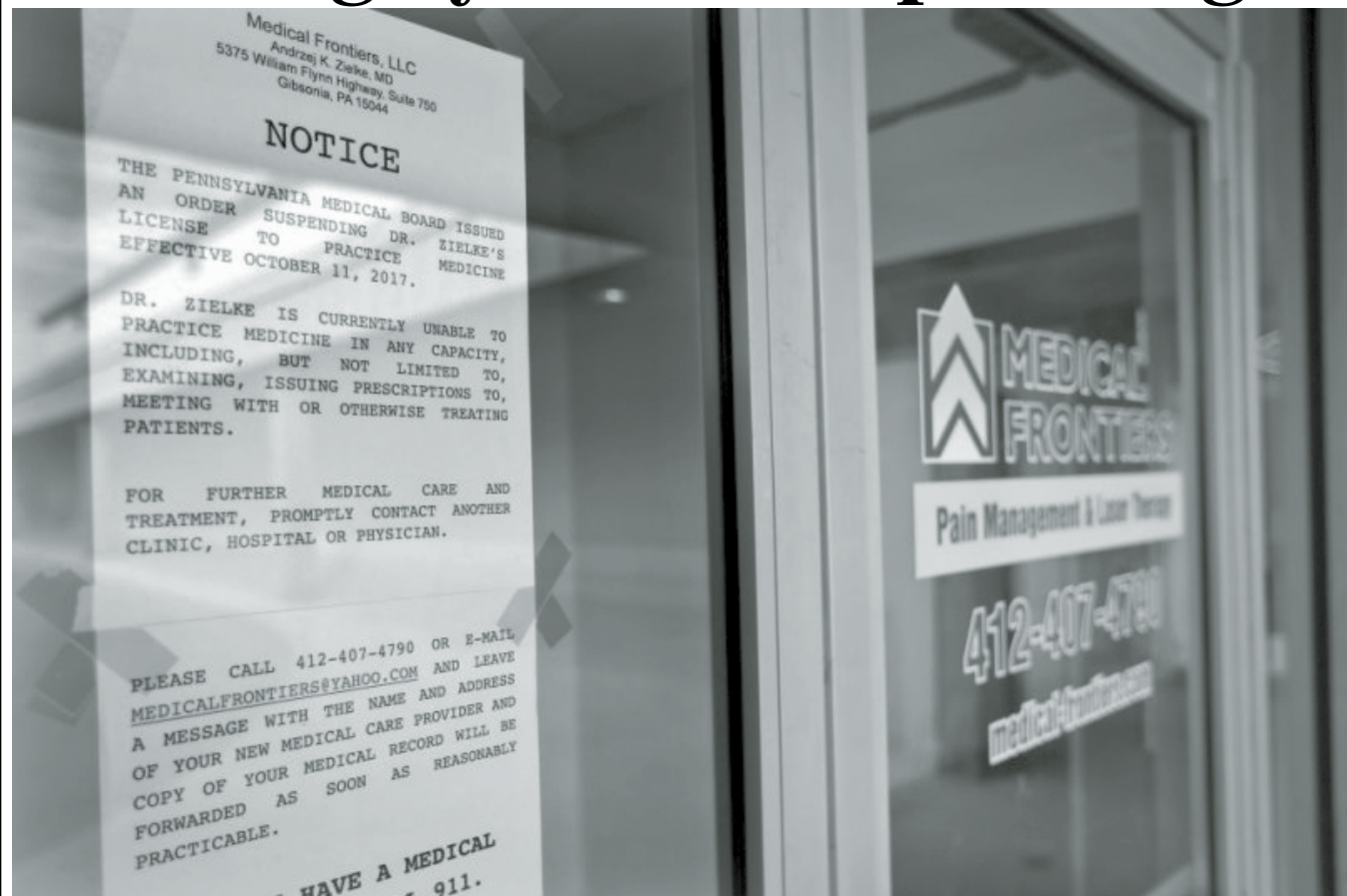
Martins said he had "cooperated fully" in the investigation.

"I believe its findings would have vindicated me," he wrote in his letter to the board.

He said that to "bring an end to this disruption which has enveloped the Ballet and the School,"

See **BALLET**, Page 5

Feds employ data-driven early warning system in opioid fight



In this Dec. 21, 2017, photo, a notice stating the license to practice medicine for Dr. Andrzej Zielke has been suspended, is posted on the door at the closed Medical Frontiers office in Gibsonia, Pa. The Justice Department is giving federal prosecutors in 12 regions ravaged by the opioid abuse epidemic a trove of data officials say will help them stop over-prescribing doctors. But some experts say doctors are just a small part of a problem that won't be cured without prevention and treatment.

By **SADIE GURMAN**

Associated Press

PITTSBURGH (AP) — The pain clinic tucked into the corner of a low-slung suburban strip mall was an open secret.

Patients would travel hundreds of miles to see Dr. Andrzej Zielke, eager for what authorities described as a steady flow of prescriptions for the kinds of powerful painkillers that ushered the nation into its worst drug crisis in history.

At least one of Zielke's patients died of an overdose, and prosecutors say others became so dependent on oxycodone and other opioids they would crowd his office, sometimes sleeping in the waiting room. Some peddled their pills near tumble-down storefronts and on blighted street corners in addiction-plagued parts of Allegheny County, where deaths by drug overdose reached record levels last year.

But Robert Cessar, a longtime federal prosecutor, was unaware of Zielke until Justice Department officials handed him a binder of data that, he said, confirmed what pill-seekers from as far away as Ohio and Virginia already knew. The doctor who offered ozone therapy and herbal pain remedies was also prescribing highly addictive narcotics to patients who didn't need them, according to an indictment charging him with conspiracy and unlawfully distributing controlled substances.

Zielke denied he was overprescribing, telling AP he practiced alternative medicine and many of his patients stopped seeing him when he cut down on pain pills.

His indictment in October was the first by a nationwide group of federal law enforcement officials that, armed with new access to a broader array of prescription drug databases, Medicaid and Medicare figures, coroners' records and other numbers compiled by the Justice Department, aims to stop fraudulent doctors faster than before.

The department is providing a trove of data to the Opioid Fraud and Abuse Detection Unit, which draws together authorities in 12 regions across the country, that shows which doctors are prescribing the most, how far patients will

travel to see them and whether any have died within 60 days of receiving one of their prescriptions, among other information.

Authorities have been going after so-called "pill mills" for years, but the new approach brings additional federal resources to bear against the escalating epidemic. Where prosecutors would spend months or longer building a case by relying on erratic informants and only limited data, the number-crunching by analysts in Washington provides information they say lets them quickly zero in on a region's top opioid prescribers.

"This data shines a light we've never had before," Cessar said. "We don't need to have confidential informants on the street to start a case. Now, we have someone behind a computer screen who is helping us. That has to put (doctors) on notice that we have new tools."

And Rod Rosenstein, deputy attorney general, told AP the Justice Department will consider going after any law-breaker, even a pharmaceutical company, as it seeks to bring more cases and reduce the number of unwarranted prescriptions.

Attorney General Jeff Sessions has been in lock-step with President Donald Trump about the need to combat the drug abuse problem that claimed more than 64,000 lives in 2016, a priority that resonates with Trump's working-class supporters who have seen the ravages of drug abuse firsthand. The president called it a public health emergency, a declaration that allows the government to redirect resources in various ways to fight opioid abuse.

But he directed no new federal money to deal with a scourge that kills nearly 100 people a day, and critics say his efforts fall short of

what is needed. The Republican-controlled Congress doesn't seem eager to put extra money toward the problem.

While the effectiveness of the Trump administration's broader strategy remains to be seen, the Justice Department's data-driven effort is one small area where federal prosecutors say they can have an impact.

The data analysis provides clues about who may be breaking the law that are then corroborated with old-fashioned detective work — tips from informants or undercover office visits, said Shawn A. Brokos, a supervisory special agent in the FBI's Pittsburgh division. Investigators can also get a sense for where displaced patients will turn next.

Authorities acknowledge there are legitimate reasons for some doctors to prescribe large quantities of opioids, and high prescribing alone doesn't necessarily trigger extra scrutiny. What raises red flags for investigators are the dentists, psychiatrists and gynecologists who are prescribing at surprisingly high rates.

The effort operates on the long-held perception that drug addiction often starts with prescriptions from doctors and leads to abuse of more dangerous black market drugs like fentanyl, which, for the first time last year, contributed to more overdose deaths than any other legal or illegal drug, surpassing pain pills and heroin.

But that focus can cause law-abiding physicians to abandon disabled patients who rely on prescriptions, for fear of being shut down, said University of Alabama addiction researcher Stefan Kertesz. Those patients will turn to harder street drugs

See **OPIOIDS**, Page 5

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OPIOIDS

Continued from Page 4

or even kill themselves, he said.

"The professional risk for physicians is so high that the natural tendency is to get out of the business of prescription opioids at all," he said.

Another addiction expert, Dr. Andrew Kolodny, founder of Physicians for Responsible Opioid Prescribing, said prosecutors' emphasis on "drug-dealing doctors" is appropriate but inadequate on its own.

"It's just not really going to have that much of an impact on an epidemic," he said. The bigger change will come from a stronger push for prevention and treatment, he said. And, he added, "They should go after the bigger fish... the legal narcotics distributors and wholesalers who have literally been getting away with mass manslaughter."

Investigators said Zielke charged \$250 a visit and made patients pay in cash. But Zielke said prosecutors unfairly targeted him. Instead of more prosecutions, he said, the government "should promote more alternative therapies," he said. "And they should find out why so many people have pain."

A second indictment by the anti-fraud unit involved a cardiologist in Elko, Nevada, accused of routinely providing patients fentanyl and other painkillers they did not need. Justice officials hope to expand the data-driven work nationwide.

Will it work? As Soo Song, who watched addiction warp communities while serving as acting U.S. attorney in western Pennsylvania, put it: "The best measure of success will be if fewer people die."

BALLET

Continued from Page 4

however, he had decided it was time for him to retire.

Board chairman Charles Scharf heaped praise on Martins for his work but said the investigation would continue.

"We thank Peter for his tremendous contributions to New York City Ballet as ballet master in chief for over three decades, leading the Company to exceptional artistic heights and accomplishments," Scharf wrote in a statement. "At the same time, the board takes seriously the allegations that have been made against him and we expect the independent investigation of those allegations to be completed soon."

Taliban ambush kills local police chief in Afghanistan

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — A district police chief in Afghanistan was killed in a Taliban ambush as he rushed to a checkpoint that was under attack, an official said.

Iqbal Bahir, the spokesman for the police chief of the western Farah province, said two other policemen were wounded in the attack late Monday.

The Taliban, who carry out near-daily assaults on Afghan security forces, claimed the attack.

Elsewhere in Afghanistan, an official said airstrikes in the northern Jawzjan province killed at least 26 Islamic State fighters. Mohammad Reza Ghafari, spokesman for the provincial governor, said those killed included foreign fighters from France and Uzbekistan. He says another 20 militants were wounded.

In the eastern Nangarhar province, at least one civilian was killed and 14 others were wounded Monday during a battle between Afghan security forces and Islamic State fighters, said Attahullah Khogyani, a spokesman for the provincial governor, who said "dozens" of militants were killed. Inamullah Miakhial, a spokesman at the local hospital, said women and children were among those wounded.

An affiliate of the Islamic State group emerged in Afghanistan in 2014 and has steadily expanded its presence, carrying out a number of deadly attacks, including a suicide bombing at a Shiite cultural center in Kabul last month that claimed at least 41 lives.

Pakistan summons US envoy to protest Trump tweet

ISLAMABAD (AP) — Pakistan has summoned the U.S. ambassador and Islamic groups have held rallies in major cities after U.S. President Donald Trump lashed out at the country over its alleged support for extremists.

In a New Year's Day tweet, Trump said the U.S. had "foolishly" given Pakistan more than \$33 billion in aid and had gotten nothing in return but "lies & deceit," saying Pakistan gives "safe haven to the terrorists we hunt in Afghanistan."

Hundreds of supporters of the Jamaat-ud-Dawa group chanted against Trump at a rally in Lahore and called for the U.S. ambassador to be expelled. Jamaat-ud-Dawa is headed by Hafiz Saeed, the founder of a militant group blamed for the 2008 Mumbai attacks, who lives openly in Pakistan despite a \$10 million reward offered by the State Department.

Iran's top leader blames protests on meddling by 'enemies'



AP photo

In this picture released by official website of the office of the Iranian supreme leader, Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei speaks in a meeting as he sits under a portrait of the late Iranian revolutionary founder Ayatollah Khomeini, in Tehran, Iran, Tuesday, Jan. 2, 2018. Khamenei said Tuesday that the country's enemies have meddled in recent protest rallies. The report on the website of Ayatollah Ali Khamenei quoted him as saying "in recent days" enemies of Iran have utilized various means including money, weapons, politics and intelligence apparatuses.

By NASSER KARIMI and JON GAMBRELL

Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — Iran's supreme leader on Tuesday blamed the protests roiling the country on "enemies of Iran" who he said were meddling in its internal affairs, as state television reported that overnight clashes between protesters and security forces killed another nine people.

The demonstrations, the largest seen in Iran since its disputed 2009 presidential election, have brought six days of unrest across the country and resulted in at least 21 deaths.

The protests began Thursday in Mashhad over Iran's weak economy and a jump in food prices. They have since expanded to several cities, with some protesters chanting against the government and the supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. Hundreds of people have been arrested and a prominent judge on Tuesday warned that some could face the death penalty.

In comments posted to his official website, Khamenei appeared to blame foreign nations for at least exacerbating the unrest gripping Iran.

"In the recent days' incidents, enemies of Iran utilized various means — including money, weapons, politics and intelligence apparatuses — to create problems for the Islamic system," he said, in his first public remarks since the demonstrations began.

Khamenei said he would elaborate further in the coming days.

Iranian leaders often accuse the United States, Israel and Britain of seeking to overthrow the clerically overseen government.

State TV reported that six people were killed during an attack on a police station in the town of Qahdarijan. It said the clashes were sparked by rioters who tried to steal guns from the police station.

State TV also said an 11-year-old boy and a 20-year-old man were killed in the town of Khomeinishahr, while a member of Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard was killed in the town of Najafabad. It says all three were shot by hunting rifles, which are common in the Iranian countryside.

The towns are all in Iran's central Isfahan province, some 350 kilometers (215 miles) south of Tehran.

The semi-official Mehr news agency said an assailant using a hunting rifle killed a policeman and wounded three others in Najafabad.

President Hassan Rouhani has acknowledged the public's anger over the flagging economy, which has benefited from his signature 2015 nuclear deal with world powers, but not in a way that has brought immediate gains for most Iranians.

Rouhani and others have warned that the government wouldn't hesitate to crack down on those it considers lawbreakers. None of the protest rallies so far have received prior permission from the Interior Ministry, making them illegal.

U.S. President Donald Trump

on Tuesday wrote on Twitter that "the people of Iran are finally acting against the brutal and corrupt Iranian regime."

"All of the money that President Obama so foolishly gave them went into terrorism and into their 'pockets,'" Trump wrote, apparently referring to the nuclear deal reached under his predecessor. "The people have little food, big inflation and no human rights. The U.S. is watching!"

It is unclear what effect Trump's string of tweets is having on the protests. Some have shared them online, but many in Iran distrust him because he has refused to re-certify the 2015 nuclear deal and his travel bans have blocked Iranians from getting U.S. visas.

Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman Bahram Ghasemi urged the U.S. president to stop tweeting and focus on his own country's problems.

"It is better for him to try to address the U.S.' internal issues like the murder of scores killed on a daily basis in the United States during armed clashes and shootings, as well as millions of the homeless and hungry people in the country," Ghasemi said, according to the state-run IRNA news agency.

In Tehran alone, 450 protesters have been arrested in the last three days, the semi-official ILNA news agency reported Tuesday. ILNA quoted Ali Asghar Nasserbakht, a deputy governor of Tehran, as saying security forces arrested 200 protesters Saturday, 150 Sunday and 100 Monday. So far, authorities have not released a nationwide figure for arrests.

The head of Tehran's Revolutionary Court reportedly warned Tuesday that arrested protesters could potentially face the death penalty when they are put on trial.

"Obviously one of their charges can be Moharebeh," or waging war against God, Iran's semi-official Tasnim news agency quoted Mousa Ghazanfarabadi as saying. Moharebeh is punishable by death in Iran. He was also quoted as saying some protesters will come to trial soon on charges of acting against national security and damaging public property.

Iran's Revolutionary Court handles cases involving alleged attempts to overthrow the government.

Egypt executes 4 convicted militants over 2015 attack

CAIRO (AP) — Egypt on Tuesday executed four alleged Islamic militants following their conviction by a military tribunal in the killing of three military academy students in a 2015 bomb attack that wounded six others.

The attack took place outside a stadium in the Nile Delta city of Kafr el-Sheikh as the military cadets were waiting for a bus to take them to the academy.

Egypt has struggled to combat an Islamic State-led insurgency based in the northern

Sinai Peninsula that has claimed attacks across the country in recent years.

Tuesday's executions at a prison in the Mediterranean port city of Alexandria bring to 19 the number of convicted militants executed over the past week.

Authorities executed 15 militants on Dec. 26 after a military court convicted and sentenced them to death over a 2013 attack on a military checkpoint in the Sinai Peninsula. An officer and eight soldiers were

killed in that attack.

Six militants were hanged in a separate terror case in 2015 after being convicted by a military tribunal.

Rights groups say the legal process is flawed. They decried last month's executions, arguing that at least one of the 15 was tortured in detention and that relatives were not allowed to see them on the day of their execution in accordance with regulations covering capital punishment.

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Texas upends Iowa State 74-70 in OT

By **LUKEMEREDITH**
AP Sports Writer

AMES, Iowa — After overtime games, Texas finally survived an extra session thanks to a career-best shooting effort from Dylan Osetkowski. Osetkowski scored a career-high 25 points with seven 3-pointers — including the go-ahead bucket with 33.5 seconds left in overtime — and Texas beat Iowa State 74-70 on Monday night to improve to 3-0 on the road.

Mohamed Bamba had 10 points, 16 rebounds and four blocks for the Longhorns (10-4, 1-1 Big 12), who have also beaten VCU and Alabama away from Austin this season. But after dropping OT games against Duke and Gonzaga, Osetkowski helped Texas survive a game that featured 17 lead changes and ended with its first win in Ames since 2010.

"All I did was shoot the ball with confidence," Osetkowski said.

He got plenty of help from Bamba, who blocked Cameron Lard under the basket with

two minutes left in overtime. Matt Coleman then beat Nick Weiler-Babb off the dribble and got a reverse layup under Lard to put Texas ahead 67-63 with 1:41 to go.

Iowa State responded though, as Lard and Jackson scored in the paint to tie it at 67.

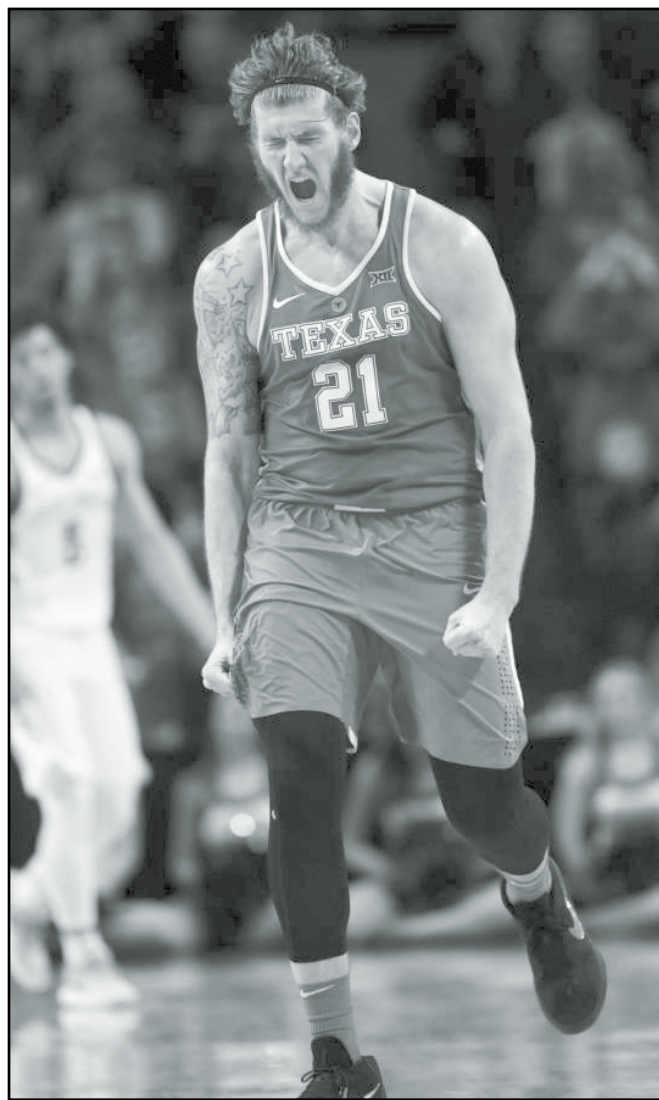
As he had all night, Osetkowski pulled up from the elbow and calmly put Texas ahead by 3. Bamba redirected a Donovan Jackson floater, and Coleman iced it at the line.

"It just shows our fight," Coleman said. "You've got to find a way to win."

Jackson scored 24 points to lead Iowa State (9-4, 0-2), which is off to its first 0-2 start in league play since 2010-11. Lard added a career-best 21 points with 16 rebounds.

"With this team, we're going to grow with every week, every game," Iowa State coach Steve Prohm said. "We've just got to continue to work."

THE BIG PICTURE
Texas: With Iowa State
See **TEXAS**, Page 12



AP photo
Texas forward Dylan Osetkowski celebrates after making 3-point basket at the end of an NCAA college basketball game against Iowa State, Monday, Jan. 1, 2018, in Ames, Iowa. Texas won 74-70 in overtime.

Texas Tech fires women's basketball coach Candi Whitaker

LUBBOCK, Texas (AP) — Texas Tech has fired women's basketball coach Candi Whitaker.

The Lady Raiders are 6-7 on the season. Big 12 play with a 41-point loss to Oklahoma and a 97-49 defeat to No. 6 Baylor on Sunday.

Whitaker, who graduated from the school in 2002, was hired in Texas Tech in 2013. She had a 54-82 record as head coach, with her best season coming in 2014-15 when the Lady Raiders were 15-16. As a player, Whitaker helped the Lady Raiders make the Sweet 16 of the NCAA Tournament in back-to-back seasons. Texas Tech announced the move on Monday. Its next game is Wednesday against Kansas.



Assistant coach Shimmy Gray-Miller will take over as the interim coach and lead the program for the remainder of the season.

Houston's Harden out at least 2 weeks with hamstring injury



AP photo
Houston Rockets guard James Harden dribbles the ball in the first half of an NBA basketball game against the Lakers on Sunday, Dec. 31, 2017, in Houston.

HOUSTON (AP) — Rockets star James Harden will miss at least two weeks with a left hamstring strain.

The team announced Monday that the NBA's leading scorer has a grade 2 strain and will be re-evaluated in two weeks.

Harden was injured on a missed layup late in the fourth quarter of Houston's 148-142 double-overtime win against the Los Angeles Lakers on Sunday night. He said after the game that he didn't think the injury was serious, but the guard was walking with a pronounced limp.

The Rockets have the second-best record in the Western Conference behind Golden State at 26-9, and Harden leads the NBA with his scoring average of 32.3 points per game. He also is averaging 9.1 assists, ranking third in the league.

Harden, who has played every game this season, has been extremely durable during his career, missing just two games since the start of the 2014-15 season.

S-E-C! S-E-C! Alabama vs. Georgia for national championship



AP photo
Georgia tailback Sony Michel (1) celebrates with teammates after scoring the game-winning touchdown in the second overtime period to give Georgia a 54-48 win over Oklahoma in the Rose Bowl NCAA college football game, Monday, Jan. 1, 2018, in Pasadena, Calif.

By **RALPH D. RUSSO**
AP College Football Writer

S-E-C! S-E-C!

Alabama and Georgia won their College Football Playoff semifinals on Monday and will meet in the national championship next week in Atlanta, the home of the Southeastern Conference title game.

"Couldn't have scripted it better in some ways," SEC Commissioner Greg Sankey said. "It will be one of the sweetest drives from Birmingham (Alabama, where the SEC offices are located) to Atlanta that we've ever experienced."

The fourth-ranked Crimson Tide smothered No. 1 Clemson 24-6 in their Sugar Bowl rubber match after the third-ranked Bulldogs won the first overtime in Rose Bowl history, a wild 54-48 victory that

eliminated No. 2 Oklahoma and Heisman Trophy winner Baker Mayfield.

It will be the second time in seven seasons that the national title will come down to two SEC teams. Alabama beat LSU in New Orleans to win the 2011 championship.

At least this all-SEC affair next Monday night won't be a rematch: Georgia and Alabama did not play in 2017.

Both will be making a return trip to Mercedes-Benz Stadium. Alabama started this season in the shiny new home of the Atlanta Falcons by beating Florida State. The Tide hoped it would be the first of three trips to Atlanta, but it let the second one slip away. Alabama's regular-season finale loss at Auburn cost the Tide the SEC West and spot in the conference title game against Georgia.

It did not, however, cost the Crimson Tide a playoff spot. The College Football Playoff selection committee gave Alabama the final spot even though the Tide failed to win its conference. Did Alabama deserve the benefit of the doubt after a season in which it was low on marquee victories? Ohio State fans didn't think so, and the Buckeyes finished fifth in the final CFP rankings.

Fueled by the doubters, Alabama smashed the defending national champions from Clemson. The Crimson Tide will be playing in the title game for the third straight season and looking for its fifth national championship under Nick Saban since 2009.

The Bulldogs made the playoff by avenging a late-season loss to Auburn, beating the Tigers in the SEC title game on

Dec. 2 at Mercedes-Benz Stadium, about 70 miles from its campus in Athens.

"Going back home to Atlanta," Georgia star tailback Nick Chubb said. "We've been there

See **NCAA**, Page 12

Fate of several NFL coaches to be decided in coming days

By **MARK LONG**
AP Sports Writer

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — Jack Del Rio and Chuck Pagano are already out. Todd Bowles, Adam Gase and Dirk Koetter are coming back.

Ben McAdoo is long gone.

The fate of several other NFL coaches could be determined in the next few days, maybe even the next few hours.

It's shaping up to be another "Black Monday" for the league. There have been at least six coaching changes every year since 2011, a streak that is expected to continue in 2018.

Here's a look at the teams considering moves, including those that already have made them:

ARIZONA: Bruce Arians declined to announce a decision on his future following a 26-22 victory at Seattle. There has been mounting speculation for weeks that Arians will leave the Cardinals (8-8) at the end of the season. He was emotional and spoke with pride about his team's performance in the finale, which included winning a third straight game in Seattle.



See **NFL**, Page 12

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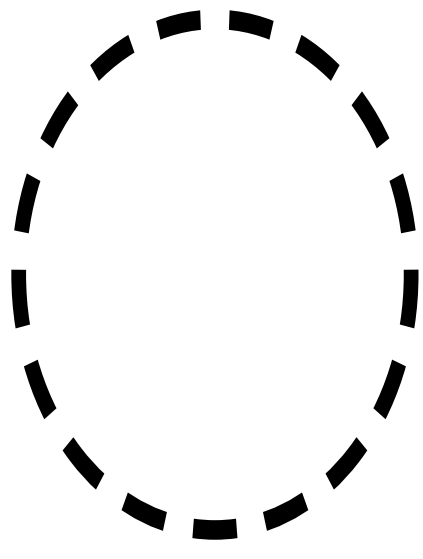
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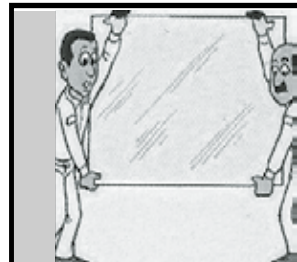
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2

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3

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4

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classifieds@
BigSpringHerald.com

5

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P.O. Box 1431



HERALD

Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

By the process of elimination

East dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.

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

WEST
♠ K 9 6 4 2
♥ 6 5 3
♦ 10 4 3
♣ 8 5

EAST
♠ A 8 7
♥ 10 7 2
♦ Q J 9 2
♣ K 6 2

SOUTH
♠ Q J 10
♥ A K 9 4
♦ A 8 5
♣ Q 9 3

The bidding:
East South West North
Pass 1 NT Pass 3 NT

Opening lead — four of spades.

There are times when it is better for a defender not to take a trick that he can win. The big challenge, of course, is to know when that's the right thing to do.

Consider this case where South is in three notrump and West leads the spade four, won by East with the ace as declarer follows with the ten. East returns the eight, on which declarer plays the queen, and the question is whether West should take the trick. West's choice is crucial, because if he wins the trick, declarer makes four notrump, while if he plays low, declarer goes down one.

How can West solve this problem

without seeing the East or South hands? He has to try to reason out for himself exactly what is going on.

Fortunately, it is not difficult to diagnose the spade situation correctly. This is mainly because there is a specific convention that governs precisely which spade East should return at trick two, depending on his holding in the suit.

For example, if East started with the A-J-8, he would return the jack, not the eight. Similarly, holding A-8-7, East would return the eight, not the seven. This is in accordance with the standard practice of returning the second-highest card from a three-card suit if the highest card has already been played.

And what would East do if he started with four cards in the suit led by partner? In that case, East would return his original fourth-best card rather than the second-highest. Therefore, if East's initial holding in the actual case were the A-J-8-7, he would return the seven.

By applying these principles, it becomes easy in the present case for West to deduce that declarer started with precisely the Q-J-10 and that East started with the A-8-7. (If East started with the doubleton A-8, declarer would not have played the ten on the first trick.) West therefore ducks the second spade, and when East later wins the king of clubs, his spade return sinks the contract.

Tomorrow: Improvisation.
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Tomorrow's Horoscope

BY HOLIDAY MATHIS



The Rebel Yell of Uranus

According to the classic Billy Idol tune, the rebel yell cries, "More, more, more!" Uranus, the sign of such yelling (and the accompanying insatiable appetite), brings a screeching halt to his retrograde and decides to fly in the other direction. This gives a good jostle to the groggy Aries energies that were somewhat introverted in past months.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). People may not immediately wrap their heads around what you're doing if it's something they've never seen before. Be willing to show them again. Space it out. Do this gently and over time. This is the price of being a trail-blazer.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). It's not an acting job: You really are just as enthusiastic over the success of others as you are of your own. Maybe it's because we're all in this together. One person's win is the sign of a rising tide that will carry all ships.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). While others seem perfectly satisfied with what's happening, you sense that there is something wrong with the system. You're correct. Something's amiss. Get to the bottom of it.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Small things do matter, but they don't make a definitive point. Details can mislead. A single event will only tell part of the story. More of the story will be revealed in a pattern of events. All of the story is impossible to know.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). The worthiest goals are basically anti-goals today. For instance, a goal not to do things that are going to embarrass you later, or not to spend time on things that won't matter in the long run, will be a worthy goal indeed.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Because you calculate risk differently for yourself than you do for others, and because you're protective by nature, you'll take certain shortcuts alone that you wouldn't lead others along.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You don't always have to feel passionate to be effective. Though you may not feel like working, going out or spending time with a certain person, you'll show up anyway, and good results will come.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Your willingness to submit yourself to a certain amount of social awkwardness in order to make a connection is admirable. And awkwardness will ensue! So will the connection.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Because you see things how they are and you do things the way they ought to be done, you'll be admired and promoted. Hard to say why these abilities are so rarely demonstrated these days, but this works in your favor.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). The problem is wrapped around an opportunity, and all you have to do is tear away at it a bit and you'll get to the good stuff. In fact, this little nuisance could be the start of a huge enterprise.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You'll have double the energy of yesterday, and it will show in all you do. If you walked a mile, you'll now walk two. If you made a friend, you'll make two more today.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). There are two sides to the story, and you'll benefit from hearing them both. Actually, there are many more than two sides, but if you listen to too many sides you'll begin to get tired of this story.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Jan. 2). Because your needs are met so beautifully and abundantly you'll be moved to help others. This only

grows the bounty coming your way this year. A study helps you pick up more work. Your fan base includes someone who wants to give you special care: You don't need it, but it's wonderful anyway. Aquarius and Taurus adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 13, 38, 32 14 and 18.

COSMICALLY CURIOUS ABOUT... EMPATHS: Once upon a "Star Trek" series, there was "Next Generation" character called Deanna Troi who was half-human, half-Betazoid, and who, through some gift of paranormal electronics, had the ability to sense emotions telepathically. Troi is credited for bringing the term "empath" to mainstream consciousness. The term has since evolved to various meanings and connotations, some of them vaguely otherworldly with an inference that empaths are part of a phenomenon of evolved spiritual beings meant to heal the planet with their gifts of augmented emotional IQ, compassion, observation and general sensitivity.

Science fiction casts empaths as characters who can feel the pain of the world, know the feelings of those at a great distance, or in some cases absorb the feelings of others parasitically to use for their own purposes.

Increasingly, highly sensitive people are identifying as empaths in a psychological and physiological terms. The human brain contains a specialized group of cells that enable people to mirror one another's emotions. Evidence shows that these mirror neurons are more active and hyper-responsive in the brains of empaths, a tendency that can be genetically passed on.

ARE YOU AN EMPATH? Find out in tomorrow's column. And send your metaphysical question to holiday-mathis@gmail.com.

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

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SUDOKU

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

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!

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

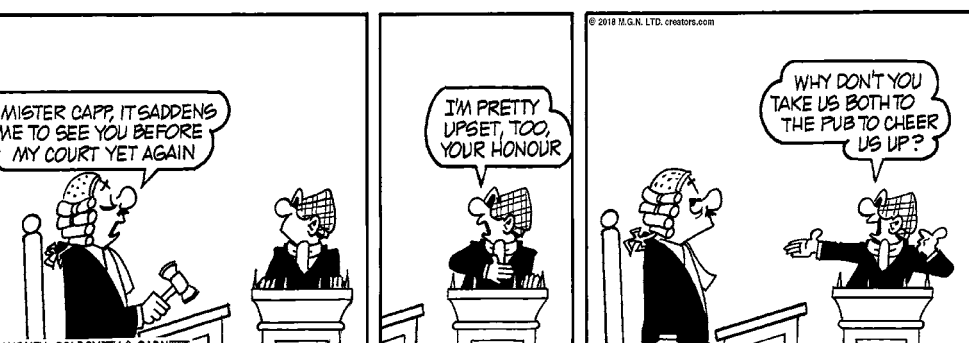
ANSWER:

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!

	KMID (3) Midland	UNI (4) Spanish	KPEJ (5) Odessa	KOSA (7) Odessa	KTLE (8) Telemundo	KWES (9) Midland	KMLM (12) Odessa	KPBT (13) Odessa	KWTT (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
6 AM	Local 2	P. Lucas	Maria Gail	CSN 7	Yolo	Movief	Movief	Focus	News	News	Fam. Guy	News	World Color	News	News	USA	A&E	DISC
6:30 AM	Local 2	P. Lucas	Maria Gail	CSN 7	Yolo	Movief	Movief	Focus	News	News	Fam. Guy	News	World Color	News	News	USA	A&E	DISC
7 AM	Local 2	P. Lucas	Maria Gail	CSN 7	Yolo	Movief	Movief	Focus	News	News	Fam. Guy	News	World Color	News	News	USA	A&E	DISC
7:30 AM	Local 2	P. Lucas	Maria Gail	CSN 7	Yolo	Movief	Movief	Focus	News	News	Fam. Guy	News	World Color	News	News	USA	A&E	DISC
8 AM	Local 2	P. Lucas	Maria Gail	CSN 7	Yolo	Movief	Movief	Focus	News	News	Fam. Guy	News	World Color	News	News	USA	A&E	DISC
8:30 AM	Local 2	P. Lucas	Maria Gail	CSN 7	Yolo	Movief	Movief	Focus	News	News	Fam. Guy	News	World Color	News	News	USA	A&E	DISC
9 AM	Local 2	P. Lucas	Maria Gail	CSN 7	Yolo	Movief	Movief	Focus	News	News	Fam. Guy	News	World Color	News	News	USA	A&E	DISC
9:30 AM	Local 2	P. Lucas	Maria Gail	CSN 7	Yolo	Movief	Movief	Focus	News	News	Fam. Guy	News	World Color	News	News	USA	A&E	DISC
10 AM	Local 2	P. Lucas	Maria Gail	CSN 7	Yolo	Movief	Movief	Focus	News	News	Fam. Guy	News	World Color	News	News	USA	A&E	DISC
10:30 AM	Local 2	P. Lucas	Maria Gail	CSN 7	Yolo	Movief	Movief	Focus	News	News	Fam. Guy	News	World Color	News	News	USA	A&E	DISC
11 AM	Local 2	P. Lucas	Maria Gail	CSN 7	Yolo	Movief	Movief	Focus	News	News	Fam. Guy	News	World Color	News	News	USA	A&E	DISC
11:30 AM	Local 2	P. Lucas	Maria Gail	CSN 7	Yolo	Movief	Movief	Focus	News	News	Fam. Guy	News	World Color	News	News	USA	A&E	DISC
12 PM	Local 2	P. Lucas	Maria Gail	CSN 7	Yolo	Movief	Movief	Focus	News	News	Fam. Guy	News	World Color	News	News	USA	A&E	DISC
12:30 PM	Local 2	P. Lucas	Maria Gail	CSN 7	Yolo	Movief	Movief	Focus	News	News	Fam. Guy	News	World Color	News	News	USA	A&E	DISC
1 PM	Local 2	P. Lucas	Maria Gail	CSN 7	Yolo	Movief	Movief	Focus	News	News	Fam. Guy	News	World Color	News	News	USA	A&E	DISC

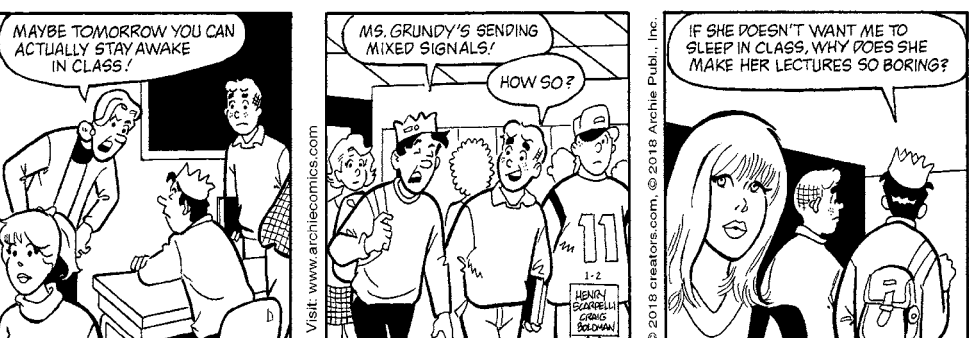
ANDY CAPP



AGNES



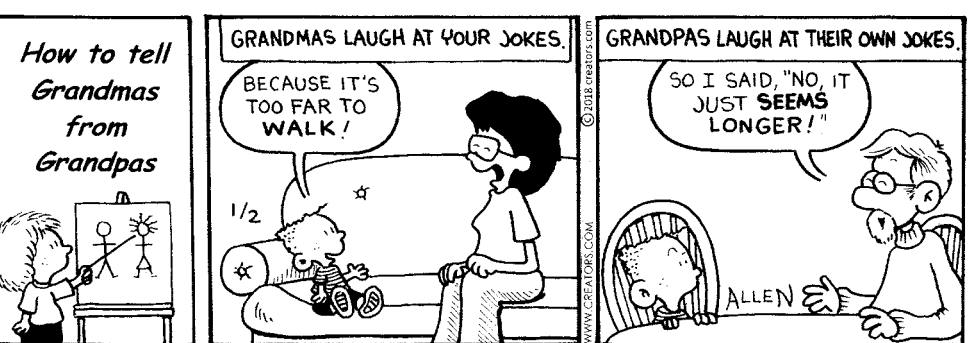
ARCHIE



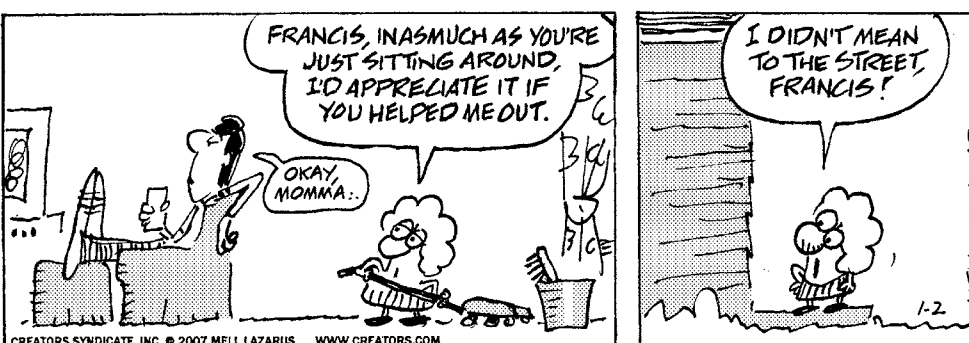
ONE BIG HAPPY



NEST HEAD



MOMMA



This Date In History

Today is Tuesday, Jan. 2, the second day of 2018. There are 363 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 2, 1893, the U.S. Postal Service issued its first-ever set of commemorative stamps to honor the upcoming World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago as well as the quadricentennial of Christopher Columbus's voyage.

On this date:

In 1788, Georgia became the fourth state to ratify the U.S. Constitution.

In 1792, the first classes began at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C.

In 1900, U.S. Secretary of State John Hay announced the "Open Door Policy" to facilitate trade with China.

In 1921, religious services were broadcast on radio for the first time as KDKA in Pittsburgh aired the regular Sunday service of the city's Calvary Episcopal Church.

In 1935, Bruno Hauptmann went on trial in Flemington, New Jersey, on charges of kidnapping and murdering the 20-month-old son of Charles and Anne Lindbergh. (Hauptmann was found guilty, and executed.)

In 1942, the Philippine capital of Manila was captured by Japanese forces during World War II.

In 1955, the president of Panama, Jose Antonio Remon Cantera, was assassinated at a racetrack.

In 1967, Republican Ronald Reagan took the oath of office as the new governor of California in a ceremony that took place in Sacramento shortly just after midnight.

In 1974, President Richard Nixon signed legislation requiring states to limit highway speeds to 55 miles an hour as a way of conserving gasoline in the face of an OPEC oil embargo. (The 55 mph limit was effectively phased out in 1987; federal speed limits were abolished in 1995.) "Singing cowboy" star Tex Ritter died in Nashville at age 68.

In 1983, the original Broadway production of the musical "Annie" closed after a run of 2,377 performances.

In 1991, Sharon Pratt was sworn in as mayor of Washington, D.C., becoming the first black woman to

head a city of Washington's size and prominence.

In 2006, a methane gas explosion at the Sago (SAY-goh) Mine in West Virginia claimed the lives of 12 miners, but one miner, Randal McCloy, Jr., was eventually rescued. The roof of a skating rink collapsed in the German town of Bad Reichenhall (bahd RYK'-ehn-hahl), killing 15 people.

Ten years ago: The Justice Department opened a full criminal investigation into the destruction of CIA videotapes of the interrogation of two al-Qaida suspects. (A special prosecutor later cleared the CIA's former top clandestine officer and others.) Oil prices soared to \$100 a barrel for the first time. Late-night talk shows returned to the air two months into a writers strike. (David Letterman and Craig Ferguson had reached agreements to allow writers to work on their shows; Jay Leno, Conan O'Brien and ABC's Jimmy Kimmel returned without theirs.)

Five years ago: The United Nations gave a grim new count of the human cost of Syria's civil war, saying the death toll had exceeded 60,000 in 21 months. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton left a New York hospital, three days after doctors discovered a blood clot in her head. No. 22 Louisville toppled No. 4 Florida, 33-23, in the Sugar Bowl.

One year ago: A suicide bomber driving a pickup loaded with explosives struck a bustling market in Baghdad, killing at least 36 people in an attack claimed by the Islamic State group hours after French President Francois Hollande (frahn-SWAH' oh-LAWND') arrived in the Iraqi capital. No. 9 Southern California rallied from a 14-point deficit in the fourth quarter for a spectacular 52-49 victory over No. 5 Penn State in the Rose Bowl.

Today's Birthdays: Country musician Harold Bradley is 92. Former House Speaker Dennis Hastert is 76. TV host Jack Hanna is

71. Actress Wendy Phillips is 66. Actress Cynthia Sikes is 64. Actress Gabrielle Carteris is 57. Movie director Todd Haynes is 57. Retired MLB All-Star pitcher David Cone is 55. Actress Tia Carrere is 51. Actor Cuba Gooding Jr. is 50. Model Christy Turlington is 49. Actor Taye Diggs is 47. Actress Renee Elise Goldsberry is 47. Rock musi-

cian Scott Underwood is 47. Rock singer Doug Robb (Hoobastank) is 43. Actor Pax Shepard is 43. Actress Paz Vega is 42. Country musician Chris Hartman is 40. Ballroom dancer Karina Smirnoff (TV: "Dancing with the Stars") is 40. Rock musician Jerry DePizzo Jr. (O.A.R.) is 39. Rhythm-and-blues singer Kelton Kessee (IMX) is 37. Pop singer-

musician Ryan Merchant (Capital Cities) is 37. Actress Kate Bosworth is 35. Actor Peter Gadiot is 33. Jazz singer-musician Trombone Shorty is 32. Singer-songwriter Mandy Harvey (TV: "America's Got Talent") is 30. Rhythm-and-blues singer-rapper Bryson Tiller is 25.

Thought for Today:

"It is good to have an end to journey towards; but it is the journey that matters, in the end."

Ursula K. Le Guin
American author.

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Newsday Crossword

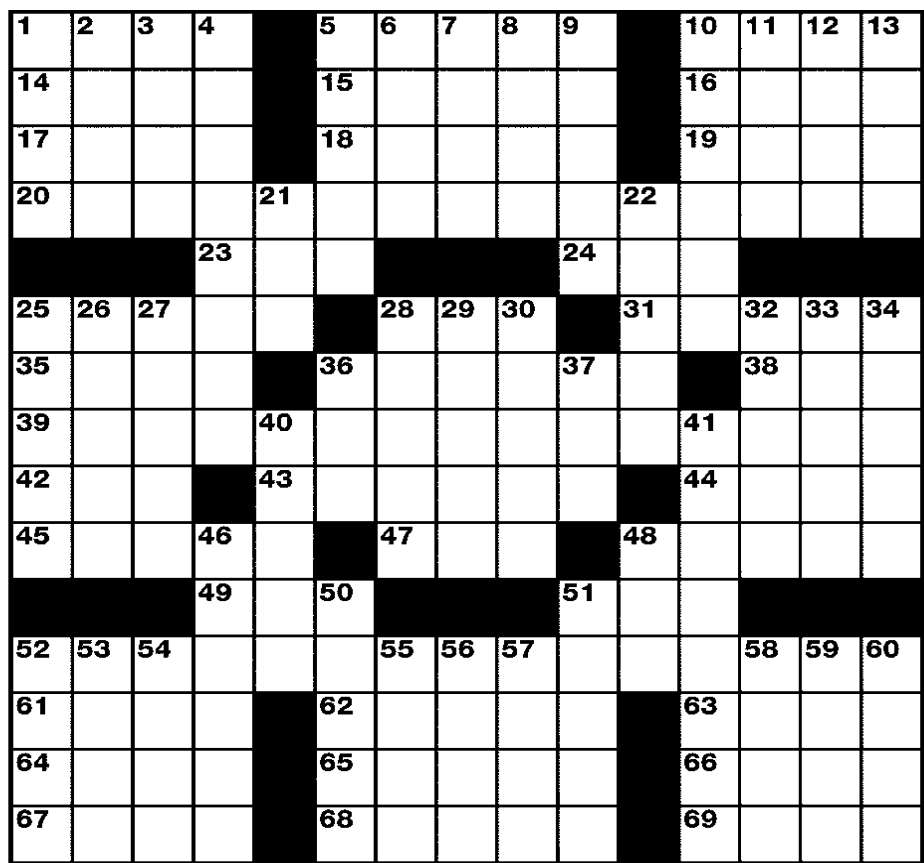
TAKE IT TO HEART by Billie Truitt
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

- 1 Gator's cousin
- 5 Bookkeeper's subtraction
- 10 Motion of the ocean
- 14 Boxcar rider
- 15 "Have ___ myself clear?"
- 16 Much-admired celebrity
- 17 "Once ___ a time . . ."
- 18 Airplane walkway
- 19 Snakelike fishes
- 20 Come to a compromise
- 23 Co. that once owned NBC
- 24 Pigpen
- 25 Insured patient's outlay
- 28 Pie ___ mode
- 31 Sofas and chairs
- 35 From the U.S.
- 36 Zigzag skiing event
- 38 "Quiet!"
- 39 Place to take bottles and cans
- 42 Expert putters' org.
- 43 Greet with a car horn
- 44 A Great Lake
- 45 Red-suited reindeer driver
- 47 Contact-lens locale
- 48 Dueling weapon
- 49 Sci-fi sky sighting
- 51 Second notes of scales
- 52 Totally evil
- 61 Triple-decker cookie
- 62 At the present time

DOWN

- 1 Close friend
- 2 Lasso
- 3 Woodwind instrument
- 4 In opposition (to)
- 5 Prince William's mom
- 6 Give off
- 7 Lavish party
- 8 Not doing anything
- 9 Abounds (with)
- 63 "Um, excuse me . . ."
- 64 Computer owner
- 65 An hr. after noon
- 66 Refine, as flour
- 67 Lots and lots
- 68 Sheriff's deputized group
- 69 Throw softly
- 10 One way to color a T-shirt
- 11 Chose from a lineup
- 12 Barbie or Ken
- 13 Otherwise
- 21 Covered with frost
- 22 "Who's there?" response
- 25 Complains unreasonably
- 26 Last Greek letter
- 27 Pie nut
- 28 Draw ___ in the sand
- 29 Tall and thin
- 30 Seaweed
- 32 Houston baseballer
- 33 That group's
- 34 Rip to tatters
- 36 ___-mo replay
- 37 Halloween mo.
- 40 Irritate by rubbing
- 41 Current events update program
- 46 Private instructors
- 48 Have a look at
- 50 At the pinnacle
- 51 Limerick, for example
- 52 Lopsided victory
- 53 Estimator's phrase
- 54 Adolescent
- 55 ___ avail (useless)
- 56 Poems of praise
- 57 Touches on the shoulder
- 58 Cleveland's state
- 59 Football officials, for short
- 60 CPR experts



Answer to previous puzzle

STAR SCHEMO STAB
LIME SCHER PERU
ODES ORATE ONTO
TENTATIVE SUDSY
ANTSU MUSE
ASTRAY QUEENS
SKEET COULD CPR
TUNA JOLIE SILO
OLD VALET CHEAT
LEGEND BOOSTS
ROTE NONE
RANTS TENNESSEE
SLEW POPIN IPOD
VASE SPAIN ZING
PSST ISLET ETSY

1/2/18

NFL

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"I'm not going to drag it out because it's not fair to people if I do decide," Ariens said.

CHICAGO: John Fox refused to address his future following a lackluster loss at Minnesota. He left the podium after a brief and terse postgame news conference.

Fox is 14-34 in three seasons with the Bears (5-11). In his latest — and maybe last — loss, Chicago didn't cross midfield until the fourth quarter and totaled only 30 yards rushing. The Bears were penalized 10 times for 116 yards and were 1 of 14 on third and fourth downs.

CINCINNATI: Is Marvin Lewis really walking away after 15 seasons and 125 wins?

"I don't know that," Lewis said after his Bengals stunned Baltimore 31-27. "We'll see. There are decisions to be made. First, it would be ownership."

Lewis is scheduled to meet with owner Mike Brown to discuss his future.

"Yes, I want to coach this team," Lewis said. Asked if he would return if Brown asks him back, Lewis replied: "It's more complicated than that."

DENVER: Vance Joseph's team lost eight times by double digits and endured an eight-game losing streak — the franchise's longest in 50 years — in a 5-11 season. Joseph will meet with general manager John Elway to discuss his future Monday.

"I want to be here," Joseph said following a 27-24 loss to Kansas City. "It's a football team that's close. We have to make some adjustments in some places, but our football team all year has not stopped working. That was fun to see, even tonight. It's been a hard year, but everyone kept fighting. I want to be here to fix it."

DETROIT: Jim Caldwell gave the Lions (9-7) consecutive winning seasons for the first time since 1995. It might not be enough to save his job. Caldwell is 36-28 in four years and has two playoff postseason appearances. "I'm not done yet," Caldwell said after a 35-11

win against Green Bay. HOUSTON: Bill O'Brien's first losing record (4-12) in four years hardly seems like a fireable offense, especially considering season-ending injuries to dynamic quarterback Deshaun Watson and star pass rushers J.J. Watt and Whitney Mercilus. But O'Brien is 31-33 with the Texans and reportedly doesn't get along with general manager Rick Smith, who announced after the finale that he's taking a leave of absence to help his wife, who is battling breast cancer. O'Brien has one year remaining on his contract and likely will get a chance to see what he can do in a full season with Watson.

INDIANAPOLIS: Pagnano was fired Sunday, two hours after the Colts beat Houston in the finale. Indianapolis missed the playoffs each of the last three years, the first time that's happened since a seven-year drought from 1988 to 1994. The next coach surely will want to know more about the health and future of quarterback Andrew Luck.

OAKLAND: Del Rio was fired Sunday following a 30-10 loss to the Los Angeles Chargers that capped a 6-10 season. Del Rio signed a four-year contract extension last February after Oakland ended a 13-year playoff drought with a 12-win season. The Raiders followed that successful campaign with a disappointing one. ESPN reported that the Raiders want to bring back former coach Jon Gruden.

NEW YORK GIANTS: McAdoo was the first coach fired in 2017, let go Dec. 4 after a 2-10 start. His 28 games were the fewest for a Giants coach since 1930. New general manager Dave Gettleman, who replaced Jerry Reese, already has started cleaning house. Gettleman and the next coach will have to decide what to do with Eli Manning.

"This is where I want to play," Manning said. "This is like my family, the New York Giants has been. Hopefully they feel the same way and we can make that work out."

NCAA

Continued from Page 6

before and hopefully we can get the same outcome, but we've got a lot of preparation to do before that."

The SEC title was Georgia's first since 2005. The Bulldogs have not won a national championship since 1980 and they have also not beaten Alabama since 2007, Saban's first season in Tuscaloosa. They have only played three times since then with the Crimson Tide winning each, including a classic SEC championship game at the old Georgia Dome in 2012.

The Bulldogs' failure to win championships, conference and national, was the main reason Georgia pushed out longtime coach Mark Richt and replaced him with former Alabama assistant and Georgia alum Kirby Smart in 2016.

The Bulldogs were hoping to replicate Saban's process and now they'll get to see how they measure up against the master.

"I'm proud of the job he's done," Saban said of Smart. "I'm sure it will be a great football game."

Smart's first season in Athens was a so-so 8-5 campaign, but the Bulldogs have taken off in year two, led by stellar group of seniors that includes 1,000-yard rushers Sony Michel and Chubb.

"It's crazy. This is what we all came back for," said Georgia linebacker Lorenzo Carter, who blocked a field goal in the second overtime of the Bulldogs' victory against Oklahoma. "We all have

been working hard and this is what we were working toward."

The Alabama-LSU BCS championship game in New Orleans in 2012 turned out to be one of the final blows for the failing postseason system. Plenty of fans outside SEC country won't be thrilled to see one-conference affair for the title again — and it might not be great for television ratings outside of the Deep South — but it won't kill the four-year-old playoff. Sankey said he did not want to speak for the other conference commissioners, but "there's recognition we have put in place a good process and a good system."

The irony of the SEC monopolizing this national championship game is that the league is not regarded as the clear-cut best in college football this season. Unlike in 2011, when the conference was in the middle of a run of seven straight national titles, the SEC seemed top heavy with Alabama and the rest.

"The messaging in the pre-season was down year, one-team league," Sankey said after attending the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, California.

The two playoff victories give the SEC a 4-5 record in this year's bowl games. As Sankey pointed out, that included a one-point loss by Kentucky after its best tailback was ejected, a three-point loss by Texas A&M with an interim coach and competitive losses by Auburn and LSU.

But the SEC won the games the counted the most. "Just a magnificent Rose Bowl and to finish it off with the Sugar Bowl victory, there is an incredible amount of satisfaction," Sankey said.



COLLEGE FOOTBALL PLAYOFF

TEXAS

Continued from Page 6

in a deep rebuild, a defeat in Ames currently qualifies as a bad loss for Big 12 teams. The Longhorns didn't play great, but they did just enough to avoid suffering a resume-deflating event. "Road wins are hard to come by in this league," Texas coach Shaka Smart said.

Iowa State: Both of Iowa State's Big 12 losses came at home against unranked opponents — in a league where half the teams are ranked. The rebuilding Cyclones could easily be 0-4 in the league when it returns home to host Baylor on Jan. 13.

THE END OF REGULATION The final two minutes of the

second half turned out to be more entertaining than the extra session.

Eric Davis Jr. drilled a corner 3 with 2:02 left to give Texas a 59-58 lead. Iowa State's Lindell Wigginton missed an open 3 on the other end, but he stuffed Kerwin Roach on the baseline to give the Cyclones the ball back.

Jackson nailed a 3 to put Iowa State ahead 61-59 with a minute to go. But Coleman's jumper tied it up, and Nick Weiler-Babb turned it over on an inbound pass. Davis missed a free throw, giving Iowa State the last shot. The Cyclones could only get a look from 15 feet for big man Solomon Young, and his shot wasn't close.

THE NUMBERS Davis finished with 15 points

after failing to score in the first half. ... Coleman had 12 points, nine assists and seven rebounds. ... Wigginton, a point guard, was just 2-of-14 shooting — though he did grab nine defensive rebounds. ... Iowa State had just eight turnovers. ... Jackson was 6 of 12 on 3s.

HE SAID IT "He got tired of me cursing him out in practice," Coleman joked about Osetkowski's success from beyond the arc. Osetkowski said his teammates and coaches have been imploring him to shoot more 3s.

UP NEXT Texas plays at Baylor on Saturday. Iowa State plays at Oklahoma State on Saturday.

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