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BIG SPRING HERALD

TUESDAY, APRIL 10, 2018



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Truck wreck, fire, leaves one dead on 350

By **ROGER CLINE**
 Staff Writer

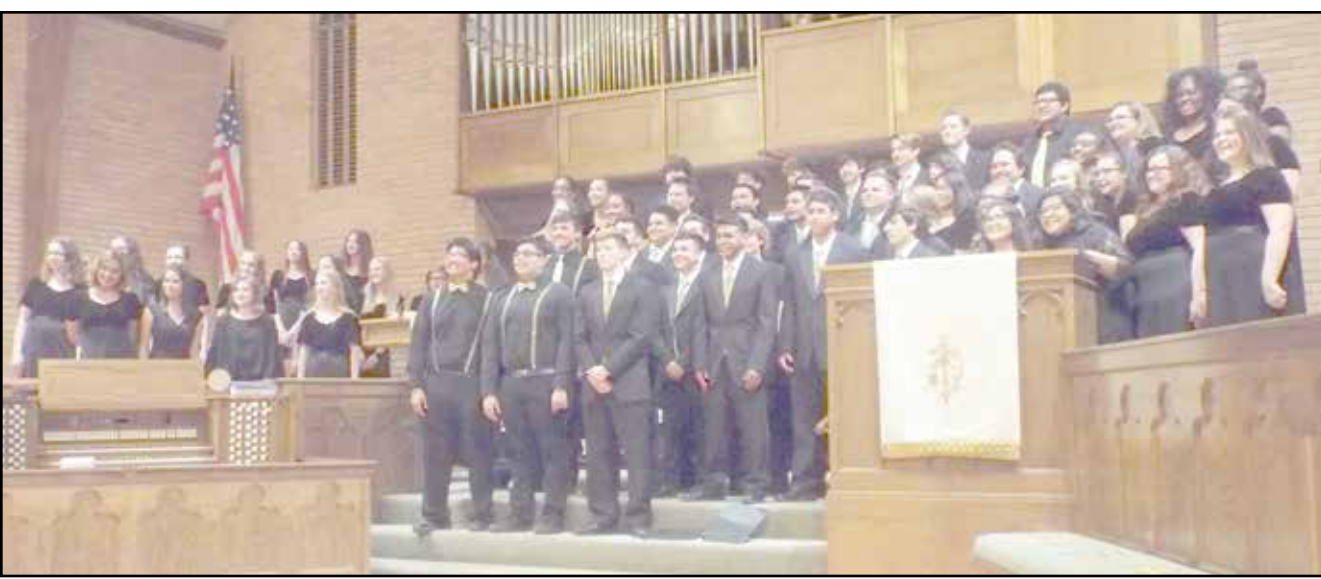
Two tractor-trailer trucks collided Monday near the intersection of Highway 350 and Old Colorado City Highway northeast of Big Spring, causing a fire, explosions, and one fatality. Emergency services, including Texas Department of Public Safety officers, and firefighters and emergency medical services personnel from the Howard County Volunteer Fire Department and Big Spring Fire Department, responded to the wreck, which occurred around 9 a.m. Monday.



A tank truck burns and explodes following a wreck with another truck at the intersection of Highway 350 and Old Colorado City Highway Monday morning. The collision and resulting fire left one man dead. The accident is still under investigation.

See **WRECK**, Page 3

Singing Steers



Big Spring High School Choir members – including the Big Spring Women's Choir, the Big Spring Men's Choir, the Big Spring High School Meistersingers, and the Rhapsody *a cappella* show choir – pose for a group photo following their concert Monday night at First Presbyterian Church. The Women's Choir, Men's Choir, and Meistersingers each recently won perfect sweepstakes awards at the Concert and Sight Reading Contest held at Wylie High School in Abilene.



Big Spring High School's Rhapsody *a cappella* show choir sings at the choir concert Monday evening at First Presbyterian Church. The show choir sang "You Will Be Found" from "Dear Evan Hansen," an arrangement of the Marvin Gaye/Tammy Terrell hit "Ain't No Mountain High Enough," and the John Lennon classic "Imagine."

Home Hospice introduces first Brunch and Fashion Show

By **AMBER MANSFIELD**
 Staff Writer

All the time you hear about people conquering courageous acts of amazing things and being praised and remembered for it. Sometimes it's climbing a mountain or diving with sharks to running a marathon. But what about surviving cancer?

Fighting an internal battle every day, all the while trying to remain positive, may be

an unorthodox way of conquering courageous acts, but definitely the most commendable. Home Hospice knows just how courageous cancer survivors are and wants to celebrate them, which is why Home Hospice is introducing to Big Spring the very first Brunch and Fashion Show to honor Relay for Life survivors. This shindig is slated for Saturday, April 21 at the First United

See **SHOW**, Page 3

It's E-waste time!

By **AMBER MANSFIELD**
 Staff Writer

Electronic waste or e-waste is one of the rapidly growing problems of the world. E-waste comprises of a multitude of components, some containing toxic substances that can have a negative impact on human health and the environment if not handled properly. That's why Keep Big Spring Beautiful and Keep America Beautiful is hosting the Great American Clean Up Electronic Recycling, or e-waste, on Saturday, April 14 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in hopes of making Big Spring and the environment a much cleaner and safer place.

E-waste could be an environmental problem, from toxic chemicals and heavy metals leaking into soils in landfills. Often, these hazards arise due to the improper recycling and disposal processes used. It can have serious repercussions for those in proximity to places where e-waste is recycled or burnt. "Electronic waste is extremely hazardous, not only to the community, but for the public as well," said Eric Escamilla, President of Keep Big Spring Beautiful. "That's why it's important to properly dispose of your electronics, and this is one way to

See **E-WASTE**, Page 3

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Obituaries

Patsy "Pat" Dickenson



Patsy "Pat" Dickenson, 90, of Big Spring, died Sunday, April 8, 2018, in a Denton nursing home. Funeral services will be 10 a.m. Thursday, April 12, 2018, at the Nalley-Pickle and Welch Rosewood Chapel. Burial will follow at Trinity Memorial Park.

The family will receive friends from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. Wednesday at the funeral home.

Survivors include one daughter,

Sandra Waggoner and husband Steve of Denton; one son, Calvin Dickenson and wife Georgia of San Antonio; two granddaughters; three great-grandchildren; one sister; and numerous nieces and nephews.

She was also preceded in death by her parents; two sisters; and one brother.

The family suggests memorial to First United Methodist Church, 400 Scurry St., Big Spring, Texas, 79720.

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

Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity:

- **JOHN LEE HORDGE**, 38, of 6237 Lone Prairie Way in Katy, Texas, was arrested on charges of possession of marijuana (less than 2 oz.) and possession of a controlled substance (1 to 4

grams).

- **LAQUANA RENA GRAY**, 20, of 1002 N. Main St. Apt. #66 was arrested on a warrant for possession of marijuana (less than 2 oz.).

- **STOLEN VEHICLE** was reported in the 100 block of Ash Street and the 1400 block of East

18th Street.

- **BURGLARY OF A VEHICLE** was reported in the 2400 block of South Gregg Street.

- **MINOR ACCIDENT** was reported in the 300 block of South Main Street.

- **DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE** was reported at 1 Courtney Place.

Take Note

- A Public Forum will held at the Big Spring Comanche Trail Amphitheater

May 1, 2018. There will be a discussion of revamping the amphitheater, with hopes that upgrades will be made to the theatre while still maintaining the historical aspect of the theatre. If interested in being a cooperate sponsor to offer feed back be at the amphitheater at 6 p.m. May 1st.

- The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is hosting an Indexing Discovery Day open to both members and the community on April 29 at 11:10 a.m. to noon and 3:10 p.m. to 4 p.m. at their Abilene church building, located at 3325 N. 12th St free of charge and open to the public. Walk-ins are welcome. Both novice and expert family history researchers are invited to attend.

- Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas, handles legal issues affecting Veterans, Retirees, and their family members. They will have clinics that provides volunteer attorneys that will provide free legal advice (up to 25 minutes depending on the issue). A pron bono attorney may be assigned to handle some cases that include: bankruptcy, consumer issues/contract, child supper and custody, divorce, employment, foreclosure, housing, landlord/tenant, probate and guardianship, real estate, social security/SSI, Veterans benefits/issues, wills and estate planning. The Clinic dates are on May 24, Aug. 23, Nov. 1 from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the Northside Community Center on 110 N.E 8th St. Applicants must be financially eligible to obtain services. Please bring a copy of your DD215 and/or Veterans ID card. Appointments are required. For more information or to make an appointment, please contact Pete Fierro at 432-332-1207, ext. 4511.

- The Howard County Democrats meet the second and fourth Mondays of each month, at 5:30 p.m. in the Howard College Library.

- The Howard County Fair Board thanks all those who are working on a square for the 2018 quilt. There are still a few squares left to be done; anyone able to help by stitching a square may pick one up at the Heritage Museum during regular hours Tuesday through Saturday. For questions or for more information, please contact Suzanne Markwell at 214-256-1674.

- Scholarship packets for Coahoma High School seniors are now available at the counselor's office. Thousands of dollars worth scholarships opportunities are available to Coahoma High School students. The deadline to turn in applications for some of the scholarships is fast approaching. If students or parents have any questions or need help filling out any forms, please contact Chandra Brooks at 395-5000 or come by the high school office. Extra scholarship packets are available at front of office. Please see Brooks at the high school office for a packet.

- 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.

grams).

- 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 has changed its meeting time. The club now meets at 7 p.m. the second Tuesday and the fourth Thursday of each month. Meetings are still held at the Big Spring TA Truck Stop. 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 1/2 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.



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Sheriff

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

Note - Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 80 inmates at the time of this report.

- **CLARENCE ERIC FRANKS**, 61, was booked by BSPD on a charge of unlawful restraint.

- **LAQUANA RENA GRAY**, 20, was booked by HCSO on a motion to revoke probation for possession of marijuana (less than 2 oz.).

- **AARON JAMAL HALL**, 33, was booked by HCSO on warrants for failure to appear for credit or debit card abuse; and for bail jumping/failure to appear.

- **JOHN LEE HORDGE**, 38, was booked by BSPD on charges of possession of marijuana (less than 2 oz.) and possession of a controlled substance (1 to 4 grams).

- **PATRICK RIOS**, 28, was booked by BSPD on warrants for assault causing bodily injury/family member, and theft of service (\$100 to \$750).

- **ERICK ROEL**, 31, was booked by DPS on a warrant for driving while intoxicated.

Fire/EMS

Big Spring Fire Department/EMS reported the following activity:

- **TRAFFIC ACCIDENT** was reported at the intersection of Highway 350 and Old Colorado City Highway.

- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 1400 block of North Highway 87. One person was treated on the scene.

- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 300 block of North Veterans Boulevard. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported at 1 Courtney Place. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 3200 block of FM 700. One person was treated on the scene.

- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 3600 block of West Highway 80. One person was treated on the scene.

- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 1000 block of North Main Street. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 1000 block of East 16th Street. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

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 at 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.

THURSDAY

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



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**MEMBER
2018**

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SHOW

Continued from Page 1

Methodist Church inside the Garrett Hall from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 a.m.

"We are honoring all of the survivors of Howard County and Glasscock County," said Beverly Grant from Home Hospice, and coordinator of the fashion show. "We want to let our survivors know that we appreciate them, and we thought a fashion show would be a great and fun way to do that."

According to Grant, during the fashion show there will be different survivors who will get to showcase different clothing from all of the boutiques around town. Grant also stated that Merle Norman has wigs and scarfs available for free for any survivors who are dealing with hair loss from treatment.

"We pick a survivor and send them to a boutique or clothing store here in town and the store personnel will help them pick out what they will get to wear during the fashion show," said Grant. "We have about five survivor volunteers and need about ten more to be a part of the show and come have some brunch."

During the brunch, Home Hospice will serve drinks and finger foods for the public to enjoy along with the show.

The whole event will last for about two hours long, but there are limited tickets for sale.

"We only have 150 tickets to sell to the public. They are \$10 a ticket, which will buy you brunch and a seat for the Fashion Show," said Grant. "All of the proceeds made from this event will go back to Howard and Glasscock County's Relay for Life." If you want to purchase tickets for this event, please call Debbye ValVerde at the Chamber of Commerce at 432-263-7641. You can also get tickets from Home Hospice, or if you're a survivor or know a survivor who would want to be a part of the Fashion Show, please call Home Hospice at 432-264-7599.

"Here at Home Hospice and Relay For Life, we think that you become a survivor from the very first moment you are diagnosed with cancer," said Grant. "This show is for them and to honor them for their courageous acts, for being mentors to others, and to show how much we appreciate them. Come show your appreciation and support too by attending the Brunch and Fashion Show."

Trump cancels overseas trip to address Syria threat

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump on Tuesday canceled plans to travel to South America later this week, choosing to stay in the United States to manage the U.S. response to Syria's apparent chemical weapons attack on civilians.

White House spokeswoman Sarah Huckabee Sanders said Tuesday that Trump will not attend the 8th Summit of the Americas in Lima, Peru or travel to Bogota, Colombia as planned, remaining in the United States to "oversee the American response to Syria and to monitor developments around the world."

The decision marks the first time an American president has not attended the summit. Vice President Mike Pence will travel in Trump's place.

Trump on Monday promised a decision on Syria within hours, declaring that Russia or any other nation found to share responsibility for Saturday's apparent chemical weapons attack on civilians will "pay a price."

The White House sharply rejected any suggestion that Trump's own words about pulling U.S. troops out of Syria had opened the door for the attack, which killed more than 40 people, including children.

Trump, asked whether Russian President Vladimir Putin bore any responsibility, responded, "He may, yeah, he may. And if he does it's going to be very tough, very tough." He added, "Everybody's gonna pay a price. He will. Everybody will."

Amid the tough talk from the White House, the U.S. military appeared to be in position to carry out any attack order. A Navy destroyer, the USS Donald Cook, was underway in the eastern Mediterranean after completing a port call in Cyprus. The guided missile destroyer is armed with Tomahawk cruise missiles, the weapon of choice in a U.S. attack one year ago on an airfield in Syria following an alleged sarin gas attack on civilians.

The Russian military, which has a presence in Syria as a key Assad ally, said its officers had visited the weekend site in a suburb of Damascus, the Syrian capital, and found no evidence to back up reports of poison gas being used. Russia's U.N. ambassador, Vassily Nebenzia, accused Washington of deliberately stoking international tensions by threatening Rus-

sia in a tone "beyond the threshold of what is acceptable, even during the Cold War."

Trump said there was little question that Syria was responsible for the apparent weekend attack, although the government of President Bashar Assad denied it. "To me there's not much of a doubt, but the generals will figure it out," Trump said.

He promised a decision on a possible military response within 24 to 48 hours, "probably by the end of today."

Emphatic in his condemnation of the apparent gas attack, Trump noted graphic pictures of the dead and sickened, calling the assault "heinous," "atrocious," "horrible" and "barbaric."

Fielding questions at the White House, Trump press secretary Sarah Sanders said it would be "outrageous" to say that Trump's recent announcement that he intends to remove all U.S. forces from Syria in the coming months had emboldened Assad. "I think that it is outrageous to say that the president of the United States green-lit something as atrocious as the actions that have taken place over the last several days," she said.

Defense Secretary Jim Mattis, in separate remarks at the Pentagon, also suggested Moscow bore some blame. He criticized Russia for what he suggested was its failure to ensure the elimination of Syria's chemical weapons arsenal under terms of a 2013 agreement.

Trump was to meet late in the day with senior national security aides, and no action was "off the table," the president said. Monday was the first day on the job for his new national security adviser, John Bolton, who has previously advocated military action against Syria.

Trump said, "If it's Russia, if it's



AP photo
President Donald Trump, right, sitting next to Vice President Mike Pence, left, speaks in the Cabinet Room of the White House in Washington, Monday, April 9, 2018, at the start of a meeting with military leaders.

Syria, if it's Iran, if it's all of them together, we'll figure it out."

The United States, meanwhile, urged the U.N. Security Council to adopt a resolution that would condemn the continuing use of chemical weapons in Syria "in the strongest terms" and establish a new body to determine responsibility for chemical attacks. The draft resolution, obtained by The Associated Press, was circulated ahead of an emergency Security Council meeting.

An American official said the U.S. was discussing with allies whether they would participate in a retaliatory strike. If Trump decides to proceed quickly, the most likely partner would be France rather than Britain, because of concerns about obtaining permission from Parliament, said the official, who wasn't authorized to discuss the planning publicly and requested anonymity.

As U.S. officials consider whether and how to respond, they are looking at what type of chemical agent might have been used. When Trump ordered airstrikes last year after a chemical weapons attack, it was a response to the use of sarin gas, which is banned by the Chemical Weapons Convention that Syria has signed. An attack with chlorine, which can be used as a weapon but is not outright banned by the treaty, could raise precedent issues, as there have been numerous recent allegations of chlorine attacks in Syria that have drawn no response from the Trump administration.

E-WASTE

Continued from Page 1

help accomplish that."

Electronic waste, or e-waste, is the term used to describe old, end-of-life electronic appliances such as computers, laptops, TVs, DVD players, mobile phones, mp3 players, etc., all of which contain toxic chemicals that aren't good for the environment or a person. A computer for example contains highly toxic chemicals like lead, cadmium, mercury, beryllium, BFR, polyvinyl chloride and phosphor compounds.

Most people know that lead can effect various systems in the body, such as the central and peripheral nervous systems, that mercury will drive a person mad before it kills them, and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH) affects the lungs, skin and the bladder.

According to the The National Center for Biotechnology Information, who show advanced science and health by providing access to biomedical and genomic information, epidemiological studies in the past on occupational exposure to PAH provide sufficient evidence of the role of PAH in the induction of skin and lung cancers.

"We have people who work in the landfill who are exposed to these toxins when people, who may not know any better, just throw their old electronics away," said Escamilla, as he stressed the importance of properly disposing e-waste.

Some of the computer and electronic appliances you can recycle include: central processing units,

computers, laptops, power supplies, external and hard drives, chargers, cords and cabling, mice, other misc. computer accessories, keyboards, webcams, television, CRT monitors, flat screen monitors, printers, copiers, fax machines, networking and data center equipment, gaming equipment, cell phones, microwaves, and much more. NO paint, light bulbs, mattresses, gasoline, oils, or freon items.

"Take your discarded electronics and e-waste to 310 Nolan St, on April 14 to recycle what you want," said Escamilla. "We really hope that the public does their part in recycling and making Big Spring a safer and cleaner city."

For more information or questions, please call Commodity Recycling Solutions at 817-300-6958.

WRECK

Continued from Page 1

"All I can really tell you is that we responded to the scene and found one truck on fire," said Big Spring Fire Department Chief Craig Ferguson. "There was one fatality at the scene."

Ferguson said the accident is still under investigation.

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

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Investigators schedule update on Austin bombings



By **JIM VERTINO**

Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas — Federal and local law enforcement officials have scheduled a late afternoon news conference to provide updates in the investigation into a series of package bombs that killed two people and seriously injured four others in Austin last month.

Law enforcement officials have said suspect Mark Conditt blew himself up as po-

lice closed in to arrest him on March 21.

Authorities have not revealed a motive for the bombings. Investigators say Conditt left a 25-minute cellphone recording in which he allegedly confessed to the crimes but have not yet released that recording to the public.

No one else has been arrested or charged.

The bombs killed 39-year-old father Anthony Stephan House and 17-year-old musician Draylen Mason.

AP photo

In this March 21, 2018, file photo (left), officials in Round Rock, Texas, investigate the scene where Mark Anthony Conditt, a suspect in a series of bombing attacks in Austin blew himself up.

SEC accuses 2 Texas companies with running Ponzi scheme

(AP) — Federal regulators accuse two Texas companies and their leaders of defrauding elderly investors in a Ponzi scheme.

The Securities and Exchange Commission said Monday that it accused Clifton E. Stanley, 66, of Galveston, Texas; The Lifepay Group; Michael E. Watts, 62, of Sugar Land, Texas; and SMDRE LLC with violating securities-registration and antifraud laws.

John Cossum, a Houston attorney for Watts, said his client denies the allegations. Stanley's lawyer did not immediately return a call for comment.

The SEC says from 2010 to 2017 Stanley

lured at least 30 elderly victims in Texas and Louisiana to invest about \$2.4 million in Lifepay by touting them as safe investments with returns up to 36 percent a year. The commission says he paid early investors with money from later ones.

The SEC also said in a civil complaint filed in federal district court in Houston that starting in 2015 Stanley and Watts convinced elderly people to invest about \$1.4 million in SMDRE, an oil and gas company they controlled.

The SEC asked the court to force the men to give up any ill-gotten gains and pay civil penalties.

Border Patrol: Wall in New Mexico to be 'serious structure'

By **SUSAN**

MONTOYA BRYAN
Associated Press

A new wall being constructed along a 20-mile (32-kilometer) stretch of the U.S.-Mexico border in southern New Mexico as part of President Donald Trump's fight against drug trafficking and illegal immigration is being advertised as a "very serious structure" made of concrete and rebar.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection officials gathered Monday to mark the groundbreaking of the \$73 million project at Santa Teresa near New Mexico's state line with Texas. They say the new wall will be harder to get over, un-

der and through.

The work to rip out the old vehicle barriers and replace them with the bollard-style wall is expected to take a little more than a year, but opponents are suing in an effort to stop the work.

OUT WITH THE OLD

Gone will be the old post and rail barriers that are meant to stop vehicles but have been of little use against people trying to cross on foot. Aside from being easy to breach, U.S. Border Patrol officials say the existing barriers and mesh fencing are expensive and time consuming to repair.

In their place will be pillars of concrete and rebar that will provide

a view through to the other side but will make it difficult for vehicles and people to pass.

The wall will stand at least 18 feet tall (5.4 meters) and could go as high as 30 feet (9.1 meters) depending on the undulating terrain. It will have a 5-foot (1.5 meter) plate at the top to discourage climbing.

The concrete posts will extend several feet into the ground and there will be another couple feet of concrete below that to prevent people from digging under it. The design is similar to the existing border wall that separates Sunland Park, New Mexico, and Anapra, Mexico.

"It's going to deter

all but the most determined illegal entrants from entering the United States here," said Chief Patrol Agent Aaron Hull, who oversees the area.

PRIME CORRIDOR

Only about one-third of the Southwest border has some kind of barrier to illegal entry, and border authorities have identified the El Paso Sector — the sprawling desert territory that spans a portion of West Texas and all of New Mexico — as an active route for smuggling.

The priority within the sector is west of Santa Teresa, which Hull described as a prime corridor for

See **WALL**, Page 5

16 states fight Texas lawsuit targeting health overhaul



AP photo
In this Jan. 24, 2018 file photo California Attorney General Xavier Becerra responds to a question during a news conference in Sacramento, Calif. Becerra and 15 other state attorneys general filed a motion to intervene in a Texas lawsuit to invalidate former President Barack Obama's health care overhaul, Monday, April 9, 2018.

By **KATHLEEN**
RONAYNE

Associated Press
SACRAMENTO, Calif. — Sixteen Democratic attorneys general pushed back Monday against a Texas lawsuit aimed at striking down former President Barack Obama's health care overhaul.

California Attorney General Xavier Becerra led 15 other attorneys general in filing a motion to intervene in the Texas case and defend the law, suggesting the Trump administration wouldn't

take such action.

"We're taking this action to protect the health and financial security of millions of people in our country, as well as billions of dollars of federal funds that go to our states to make sure that we can afford the health care that our families need," Becerra said at a news conference.

The motion sets up a battle between Democratic- and Republican-led states, 19 of which joined the Texas case that was filed in

See **STATES**, Page 5

Selena drink cups gobbled up by fans

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas (AP) — The latest version of drink cups bearing the likeness of slain Tejano music queen Selena didn't last long this weekend at Stripes convenience stores in Texas and Louisiana.

Fans quickly exhausted supplies of the plastic cups within hours after they went on sale Saturday.

And just as quickly, some of the containers that sold for \$3 were offered on online sales sites for at least 10 times that amount.

A spokeswoman for the store chain, Piper Scott,

tells the Corpus Christi Caller-Times it's the third time Stripes has participated in the promotion. Some of the proceeds go to the Selena Foundation, which supports youth education.

A former friend and business associate of Selena Quintanilla-Perez was convicted of her 1995 fatal shooting in Corpus Christi and is serving life in prison.



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Arizona sends 225 troops to Mexico border, more heading soon

By **BOB CHRISTIE**

Associated Press
PHOENIX — Arizona Gov. Doug Ducey said Monday that 225 members of the state's National Guard were being sent to the U.S.-Mexico border to support President Donald Trump's call for troops to fight drug trafficking and illegal immigration.

More of the state's Guard members will be deployed on Tuesday, said Ducey, a Republican.

The Arizona troops were being sent after Texas announced Friday it would send 250 National Guard members and helicopters took the first of them to the border.

Trump said last week he wants to send 2,000 to 4,000 National Guard members to the border. The Arizona deployments were beginning Monday but Capt. Aaron Thatcher said it was unlikely all 225 would be at the border by

the end of Monday. Ducey told a group of soldiers preparing to deploy from a Phoenix military base that their "mission is about providing manpower and resources to support federal, state, county, tribal and local law enforcement agencies in stopping the flow of criminals, narcotics, weapons and ammunition that is being trafficked into our state."

He told reporters later that the deployments are needed to stop a surge of border crossing since March and accused the U.S. government of previously ignoring the border "for nearly a decade."

Texas officials showed images over the weekend of guard members arriving at the border but the state's National Guard did not respond to queries Monday about how many of the 250 troops it said

See **BORDER**, Page 6



Arizona Gov. Doug Ducey, right, shakes hands with Arizona National Guard soldiers prior to deployment to the Mexico border at the Papago Park Military Reservation Monday, April 9, 2018, in Phoenix.

AP photo

Salmonella in chicken salad kills 1, sickens 265 in 8 states

By **DAVID PITT**

Associated Press
DES MOINES, Iowa — Chicken salad made by an Iowa food processing company and distributed by Fareway Stores in the Midwest sickened 265 people in eight states and caused one death in Iowa from salmonella contamination, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said.

The outbreak which sickened people from Jan. 8 through March 20, appears to have ended, the CDC said in an update posted on Friday. Ill people ranged in age from less than 1 year to 89 years. Sixty-seven percent were female.

The contaminated food left some people with serious

illnesses, said Seattle food safety attorney Bill Marler. He and Iowa attorney Steve Wandro represent 48 people filing lawsuits against Triple T Specialty Meats of Ackley, Iowa, which made the chicken salad and Fareway Stores, a Boone, Iowa-based grocery chain that distributed the food under its store brand name.

Out of the 265 illnesses, 94 people were hospitalized, a high number for such an outbreak Marler said.

"There's a woman in Nebraska who was in ICU for a week and a gentleman in Iowa who has lost his large intestine. He's now facing another sur-

gery in a month or two to try to reconnect that. So there are obviously some pretty significantly sick people," Marler said.

Wandro said several of those sickened are in their 70s or 80s with weakened immune systems who have had to go to skilled care facilities for several weeks to recover.

Triple T Specialty Meats spokesman Dave Dutton said the company isn't

See **SICK**, Page 6

California bill would create health care price controls

By **JONATHAN J. COOPER**

Associated Press
SACRAMENTO, Calif. — California's government would set prices for hospital stays, doctor visits and other health care services under legislation introduced Monday, vastly making the industry in a bid to lower health care costs.

The proposal, which drew swift opposition from the health care industry, comes amid a fierce debate in California as activists on the left push aggressively for a system that

would provide government-funded insurance for everyone in the state.

Across the country, rising health care costs have put the industry, lawmaker and employers and consumers at odds.

The proposal in California would affect private health plans, including those offered by employers and purchased by individuals. A nine-member commission appointed by the governor and legislative

See **BILL**, Page 6

STATES

Continued from Page 4

February. It argues the Affordable Care Act is no longer valid because of a provision in the Republican-backed tax overhaul that removed the fines for not having health insurance.

It also points to a prior effort to dismantle the Affordable Care Act's individual mandate that went all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court. The high court upheld the mandate, ruling it was constitutional under the taxing power of Congress.

Last year's Republican-led tax overhaul law removed the financial penalty for not purchasing health insurance, starting in 2019. The Texas lawsuit argues

that by removing the financial penalty, the individual mandate can no longer be considered a tax and is therefore unconstitutional.

"Once the heart of the ACA — the individual mandate — is declared unconstitutional, the remainder of the ACA must also fall," Texas wrote in the suit.

A fact sheet distributed by Becerra's office didn't specifically address the individual mandate argument, only saying that the U.S. Supreme Court has upheld it and "no significant alteration of the law has occurred since."

His office did not immediately provide a copy of the full motion to intervene.

He and the other Democrats argue that striking down the Af-

fordable Care Act would cause "immediate and irreparable harm" to residents of their states.

Joining Becerra are attorneys general from Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Illinois, Kentucky, Massachusetts, North Carolina, New Jersey, New York, Oregon, Rhode Island, Virginia, Vermont, Washington, and the District of Columbia.

Joining Texas are attorneys general from Wisconsin, Alabama, Arkansas, Arizona, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Kansas, Louisiana, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah and West Virginia. Mississippi and Maine, which have Democratic attorneys general, also joined through their Republican governors.

WALL

Continued from Page 4

running drugs and the busiest area for apprehensions of those suspected of entering the country illegally.

Agents in the El Paso sector arrested more than 25,000 immigrants suspected of crossing illegally and seized more than 34,000 pounds of marijuana and 140 pounds of cocaine during the last fiscal year.

While total border arrests dropped early in Trump's first year in office, the number climbed to 50,308 in March — up 37 percent from February and more than triple the same period last year.

Hull says agents will be able to better address the rising number of illegal crossings with the help of a more effective physical deterrent and technology.

LEGAL BATTLE

Environmentalists have sued over the project, saying the federal government overstepped its authority in waiving various laws as a way to speed construction.

A federal judge recently sided with the Trump administration in a similar case involving the replacement and construction of border wall prototypes in California.

Even though legal challenges to the wall have repeatedly failed, environmentalists on Monday appealed that ruling and said Trump was trying to fulfill what they described as a "hateful political promise."

California Attorney General Xavier Becerra also is appealing parts of the court order.

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BILL

Continued from Page 5

leaders would set prices for everything from a physical exam to an allergy test to heart bypass surgery. No other state has such a requirement.

"If we do not act now, I'm concerned that health care prices will become unsustainable," Assemblyman Ash Kalra, a freshman Democrat from San Jose who wrote the legislation, said in a news conference in Sacramento.

The measure faces an uphill battle in the Legislature, where lawmakers are generally cautious about making drastic changes to the health care system and are already juggling a wide range of ambitious proposals.

The proposal is backed by influential unions including the Service Employees International Union, Unite Here and the Teamsters. The unions are frustrated that health care costs are gobbling an increasing share of employee compensation.

"Every dollar that we spend on rising health care prices is a dollar that comes out of a worker's pocket," said Sara Flocks, policy coordinator for the California Labor Federation, a union coalition. "This is something that is eating up our wages and it is increasing income inequality. This is a fundamental question of fairness."

Health care providers say price controls would encourage doctors to move out of state or retire, making it harder for people to see a physician when they're sick, and force hospitals to lay off staff or, in some cases, close their doors.

The California Medical Association, which represents physicians, called the proposal "radical" and warned that it would reduce choices for consumers.

"No state in America has ever attempted such an unproven policy of inflexible, government-managed price caps across every health care service," Dr. Theodore Mazer, the CMA president, said in a statement.

Under Kalra's bill, prices would be tied to Medicare's rate for a particular service or procedure, with that price as a floor. There would be a process for doctors or hospitals to argue that their unique circumstances warrant payments higher than the state's standard rate.

Paying hospitals 125 percent of Medicare's rate would cut \$18 billion in revenue and force them to trim nurses and other support staff, said Dietmar Grellman, senior vice president of the California Hospital Association. Private insurers make up for the low payments from government-funded health care, which doesn't cover the full cost of care, he said.

"That's why their bill is such an empty promise," Grellman said. "They take money out of the system with rate regulation, but then they don't address the huge gaping hole that's created by Medicare and Medicaid."

In recent decades health care spending has risen faster than inflation and wages while employers and health plans have shifted more of the costs onto consumers through higher premiums, deductibles and copays. Americans spend more per capita on health care than other developed countries.

Meanwhile, a wave of consolidation by hospitals, physician groups and insurance companies has given industry players more power to demand higher rates.



Arizona Gov. Doug Ducey speaks to Arizona National Guard soldiers prior to deployment to the Mexico border at the Papago Park Military Reservation Monday, April 9, 2018, in Phoenix.

BORDER

Continued from Page 5

would be at the border soon had arrived.

New Mexico's Republican governor has said her state would take part in the operation but no announcement has been made on deployment. California Gov. Jerry Brown, a Democrat, has not said if the state's Guard members will participate.

Ducey denied that his decision to send guard members to the border was politically motivated.

"I don't think this is a partisan issue or an identity issue," Ducey said. "You show me somebody who is for drug cartels or human trafficking or this ammunition that's coming over a wide-open and unprotected border here."

Trump has said he wants to use the military at the border until progress is made on his proposed border wall, which has mostly stalled in Congress.

Defense Secretary James Mattis last Friday approved paying for up to 4,000 National Guard personnel from the Pentagon budget through the end of September.

A Defense Department memo said the National Guard members will not perform law enforcement functions or "interact with migrants or other persons detained" without Mattis's approval.

It said "arming will be limited to circumstances that might require self-defense" but did not further define that.

The head of the U.S. Border Patrol sector

that includes part of West Texas and all of New Mexico said Monday he met with leaders of the New Mexico National Guard to begin discussions about what will be required and their capabilities.

El Paso Sector Chief Patrol Agent Aaron Hull says those troops are nowhere near deploying yet.

The New Mexico Guard members could help with air support, surveillance and infrastructure repairs, Hull said.

Hull says the troops could help with air support, surveillance and repairs of infrastructure along the border.

Brown's spokesman, Evan Westrup, said Monday that California is still reviewing Trump's request for use of the state's National Guard members.

California National Guard spokesman Lt. Col. Tom Keegan said last week that any request will be "promptly reviewed to determine how best we can assist our federal partners."

After plunging at the start of Trump's presidency, the numbers of migrants apprehended at the southwest border have started to rise in line with historical trends.

The Border Patrol said it caught around 50,000 people in March, more than three times the number in March 2017.

That's erased a decline for which Trump repeatedly took credit.

Border apprehensions still remain well below the numbers when former Presidents George W. Bush and Barack Obama deployed the Guard to the border.

SICK

Continued from Page 5

commenting.

"We're still receiving information and we want to make sure we have all that information before we make any public comments," said Dutton, lawyer from Waterloo, Iowa.

Asked if the company has determined the source of the salmonella contamination he said, "that's the job of testing companies and we haven't seen all the reports as yet."

Salmonella infection usually occurs when a person eats food contaminated with the feces of animals or humans carrying the bacteria.

Fareway did not immediately respond to a request for comment but says on its website that it did not produce the chicken salad and said "we believe that this incident is not the result of anything done by Fareway."

Lawsuits already on file in federal court in Des Moines allege product liability violations for distributing defective food and negligence for failure to ensure the food distributed was safe to eat. They seek money to compensate the victims for "general, special, incidental and consequential damages incurred" and attorney fees.

The illnesses hit Iowa hardest with 240 sickened and one dead, the CDC said. Illinois reported 10 cases, Nebraska had five, Minnesota had four and South Dakota had three illnesses. Indiana, Mississippi and Wisconsin each reported one case linked to the chicken salad.

Iowa Department of Public Health spokeswoman Polly Carver-Kimm said a woman in eastern Iowa died from the same strain of salmonella identified in the chicken salad outbreak but she stopped short of attributing it to the chicken salad since the woman wasn't interviewed about what she ate before she died.

CDC spokeswoman Brittany Behm confirmed Monday the Iowa woman died of the outbreak strain which meets the agency's criteria for inclusion in the outbreak statistics.

On Feb. 9, Fareway stopped selling chicken salad in all of its stores after the Iowa Department of Inspections and Appeals contacted the company about illnesses. Iowa public health officials issued a consumer advisory on Feb. 13 warning that chicken salad sold at Fareway may be contaminated with Salmonella. Eight days later Triple T Specialty Meats recalled more than 20,000 pounds of chicken salad after samples from two Fareway grocery stores in Iowa tested positive for the same strain of Salmonella that was sickening people.

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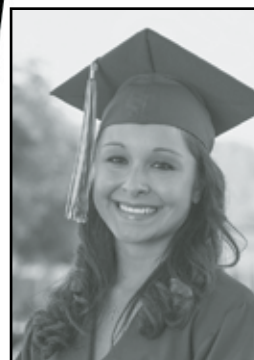
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Hawks dominate in sweep of Western Texas College



Tony Claxton (www.claxtonphotography.com)

Howard College shortstop Jenna Shay fields a sharp-hit ground ball during the Lady Hawk's 8-5 win over Western Texas College in the first game of a double header played on Friday, April 6, 2018.

By JORDAN PARR

Sports Editor

The Howard College softball team swept yet another series this past Friday and Monday. Howard played the second of their double headers on Monday instead of Saturday due to weather.

The Hawks out hit the Westerners 54 to 25, more than doubling Western Texas Colleges production at the plate. The Hawks' dominance was even greater in terms of runs scored, where Howard College outscored the Westerners by more than four times, 43 to 10.

It was another series that highlighted the way the Hawks can completely put a team out of a series when they are clicking offensively. This latest series sweep has Howard College six games into a win streak following a 14 game win streak that ended the last time the Hawks lost in the season. If they can continue to play at this level

there is no limit to what they may accomplish this year.

In the first game of the series last Friday Howard College beat Western Texas 8-3. The Hawks out hit the Westerners 14 to 9. Maddoline Seumalo, Paige Hallam, Marissa Salinas, Lani Graff and Alex Velazquez each had multiple hits in the game for Howard College. Hallam led the team in hits with three hits in four plate appearances. Velazquez batted in three runs off two hits in the game. Kylie Shay got the start on the mound for the Hawks. K. Shay pitched seven innings gave up three runs on nine hits and struck out three in the win.

Howard College scored first in the bottom of the second where they scored two runs to take an early lead that they would not lose. The Hawks put the game away for good in the third inning when Velazquez hit a two run shot to put Howard College up 4-2.

See HAWKS Page 13

Verlander dominates over 7 innings, Astros beat Twins 2-0

By BRIAN HALL

Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — Facing Joe Mauer with runners at the corners and no outs, Justin Verlander reached back for a fastball that broke in to strike out the lefty-hitting Mauer.

Verlander said he yanked the four-seam fastball and was fortunate Mauer swung over it.

"Sometimes you get lucky," Verlander said.

Verlander didn't need much luck against Mauer and the Minnesota Twins. He struck out nine over seven dominant innings, Carlos Correa had two hits and the Houston Astros won 2-0 on Monday night.

The right-hander followed his strikeout of Mauer in the sixth by striking out Miguel Sano and getting Eddie Rosario to pop out, freezing up Minnesota's rally on a chilly night with a first-pitch temperature of 35 degrees.

Verlander gave up three hits and walked one while helping the reigning World Series champions match their best 11-game start by going 9-2.

The right-hander improved to 11-1 in 14 games, including the playoffs, since being traded to Houston last season. He's 7-0 with a 1.20 ERA in eight regular season starts since the trade.

"He dials it up like the best in the game," Astros manager A.J. Hinch said. "I don't know too many guys that are better in those situations. There's a lot of great pitchers around the league but when he can feel it and he smells that he needs to turn his game up, he really reaches deep and does some incredible things."

Ken Giles earned his first save of the season for Houston by getting Byron Buxton to ground out with a runner on third in the ninth. Buxton hit a long foul ball during the at-bat that just went wide of the left field foul pole.

"Not overly concerned about it, just trying to get these guys to understand — they're probably tired of hearing about it — but we just haven't really settled into consistent at-bats and consistent play and conducive conditions, so you've just got to keep grinding," Twins manager Paul Molitor said. "You've got to hold your own the best you can until you start getting a better feel for playing day in and day out, which we haven't done."

Minnesota reliever Taylor Rogers (1-1) allowed a leadoff double to Correa in the sixth after coming in for starter Lance Lynn. Correa scored from third on rookie J.D. Davis' liner to left field off reliever Trevor Hildenberger.

Davis entered the night 1 for 14 and drove in his first RBI of the season. Marwin Gonzalez added an RBI double in the eighth.

"It's mental," Davis said. "It's going through some growing pains. I'm just glad in a tight situation

I came through for the team and got on the board for Justin."

Verlander allowed a one-out double in the first to Mauer and then retired eight in a row before walking Mauer to lead off the fourth. Mauer is hitting .329 in 79 at-bats his career against Verlander, the former Detroit Tigers' ace who is 13-2 in his last 20 starts against the Twins.

Minnesota loaded the bases in the eighth, but Eddie Rosario grounded into an inning-ending double play on the first pitch from reliever Chris Devenski.

LYNN'S NEW HOME

Lynn pitched five scoreless innings in his first start at Target Field but departed early because of a rising pitch count. After walking six batters in his first outing of the year, Lynn walked four on Monday. He struck out nine batters and left after 105 pitches.

"It feels miserable," Lynn said. "I feel like I've gotten off to the worst start I've ever got off to in the big leagues. It needs to change real quick."

DECISIONS, DECISIONS

Sunday's postponement allowed Minnesota to push back a decision on a fifth starter until Friday. Molitor said a decision on who will fill the spot hasn't been made.

The assumption has been that Phil Hughes would be activated off the disabled list to start, but Molitor said there is also a plan "B and C, at least." Molitor said Hughes will throw another side session on Tuesday and the team is keeping him on track for consideration on Friday.

TRAINER'S ROOM

Astros: OF Josh Reddick was held out with an illness. ... Yuli Gurriel (left hand surgery) was expected to play first and third base in a rehab game at Double-A Corpus Christi on Monday, and he's set to be the designated hitter there Wednesday.

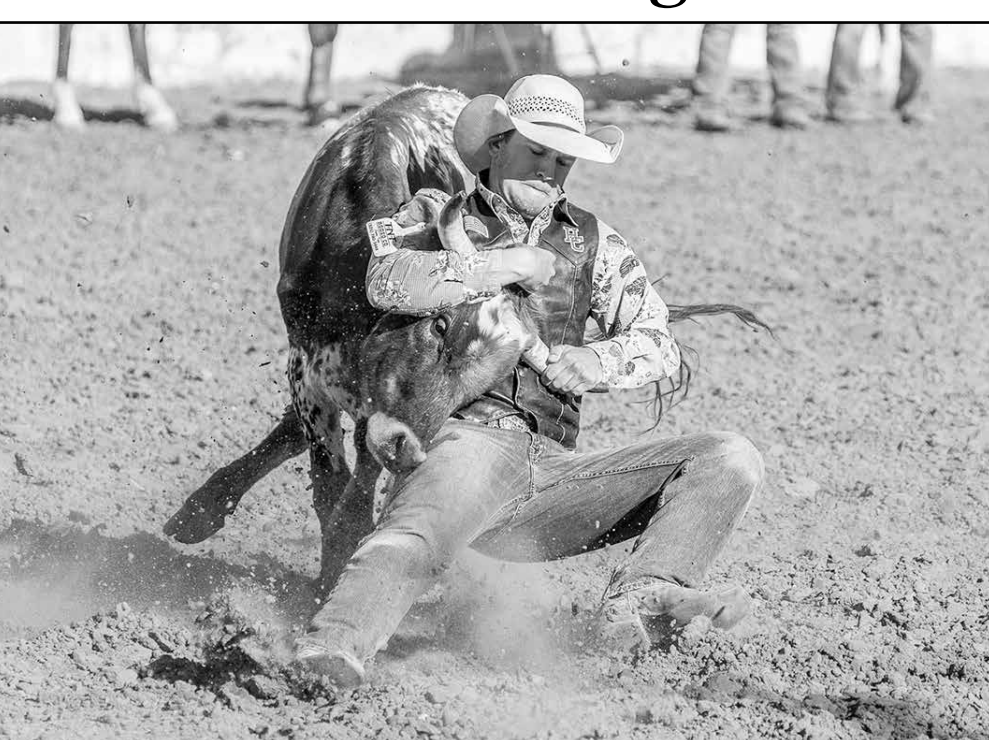
Twins: RHP Ervin Santana (finger surgery) will be back in Minnesota on Tuesday to meet with team doctors. Molitor said he's heard Santana wants to see if he can get approval to do more in his rehab.

UP NEXT

Astros: LHP Dallas Keuchel (0-1, 3.27 ERA) will make his third start of the season in Tuesday's evening contest. Keuchel gave up two runs — one earned — in five innings his last start against Baltimore.

Twins: RHP Jake Odorizzi (0-0, 2.51) will make his first start at Target Field as a member of the Twins. Odorizzi, who made three starts at the park with Tampa Bay, gave up three runs in 4 1/3 innings at Pittsburgh last week.

Mark your calendars for the Howard College Rodeo



Tony Claxton (www.claxtonphotography.com)

Howard College steer wrestler Burley White takes his steer down during the Saturday night short round at the Howard College Rodeo held on April 8, 2017.

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Friday, April 13th: 6:00 pm Performance

Saturday, April 14th: 9:00 am Slack Only

Saturday, April 14th: 6:00 pm Final Performance



AP photo

Houston Astros starting pitcher Justin Verlander throws to the Minnesota Twins in the first inning of a baseball game Monday, April 9, 2018, in Minneapolis.

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Applications are required and available at our website www.crmwd.org, the District's office, 400 E. 24th Street, Big Spring, Texas 79720, or by calling (432) 267-6341.

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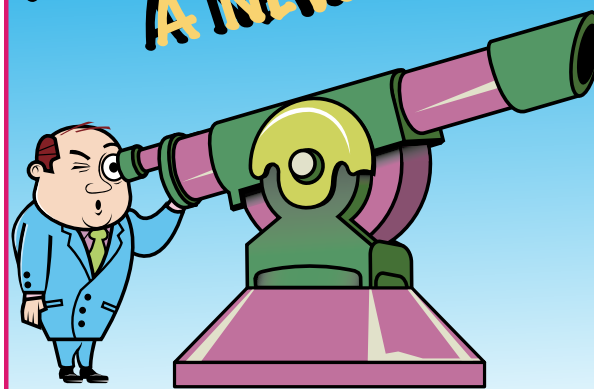
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Midland, TX 79720

CITATION BY PUBLICATION - SAPCR;
FC 102.010

THE STATE OF TEXAS:
CAUSE NO. 49231

TO: Katherine Marie McManus and All Whom it May Concern, Respondents;
GREETING:

NOTICE TO RESPONDENT: "You have been sued. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney does not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 AM on the Monday next following the expiration of 20 days after the date you were served this citation and petition, a default judgment may be taken against you."

The petition of Texas Department of Family And Protective Services, Petitioner was filed in the 118th District Court of Howard County, Texas on the 1st day of July, 2013 against Katherine Marie McManus Respondent in the above entitled cause and entitled In The Interest of a Child.

The suit requests protection of a child or termination of parent-child relationship as is more fully shown by Petition on file in this suit.

The date and place of birth of the child/children who is/are the subject of the suit is/are: T.L.S. - 08-09-2005

"The court has authority in this suit to render an order in the child's (children's) interest that will be binding on you, including the termination of the Parent-child Relationship, the determination of paternity, and the appointment of a conservator with authority to consent to the child's (children's) adoption."

ISSUED and given under my hand and seal of said Court at Big Spring, Texas on this the 6th day of April, 2018

Clerk of the Court:
COLLEEN BARTON
District Clerk of Howard County, Texas

By: Laura Martin
Deputy

#9775 April 10, 2018

Colleen Barton, District Clerk
312 Scurry
Big Spring, Tx 79720

Amanda Flewellen
Attorney at Law
3401 N A Street
Midland, TX 79705

CITATION BY PUBLICATION - SAPCR;
FC 102.010

THE STATE OF TEXAS:
CAUSE NO. 49431

TO: Katherine Marie McManus and All Whom it May Concern, Respondents;
GREETING:

NOTICE TO RESPONDENT: "You have been sued. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney does not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 AM on the Monday next following the expiration of 20 days after the date you were served this citation and petition, a default judgment may be taken against you."

The petition of Texas Department Of Family And Protective Services, Petitioner was filed in the 118th District Court of Howard County, Texas on the 29th day of October, 2013 against Brenda Valdivia Respondent in the above entitled cause and entitled In Re: A Child

The suit requests protection of a child or termination of parent-child relationship as is more fully shown by Petition on file in this suit.

ISSUED and given under my hand and seal of said Court at Big Spring, Texas on this the 6th day of April, 2018.

Clerk of the Court:
COLLEEN BARTON
District Clerk of Howard County, Texas

By: Laura Martin
Deputy

#9776 April 10, 2018

Legals

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Amanda Flewellen
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3401 N A Street
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3401 N A Street
Midland, TX 79705

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Big Spring, Tx 79720

Amanda Flewellen
Attorney at Law
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Midland, TX 79705

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Deputy

#9776 April 10, 2018

Legals

on file in this suit.

The date and place of birth of the child/children who is/are the subject of the suit is/are: P.L. - 09-02-2000., B.R. - 12-01-2003., G.L. - 05-03-2008

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GREETING:

NOTICE TO RESPONDENT: "You have been sued. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney does not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 AM on the Monday next following the expiration of 20 days after the date you were served this citation and petition, a default judgment may be taken against you."

The petition of Texas Department Of Family And Protective Services, Petitioner was filed in the 118th District Court of Howard County, Texas on the 29th day of October, 2013 against Brenda Valdivia Respondent in the above entitled cause and entitled In Re: A Child

The suit requests protection of a child or termination of parent-child relationship as is more fully shown by Petition on file in this suit.

ISSUED and given under my hand and seal of said Court at Big Spring, Texas on this the 6th day of April, 2018.

Clerk of the Court:
COLLEEN BARTON
District Clerk of Howard County, Texas

By: Laura Martin
Deputy

#9776 April 10, 2018

Tomorrow's Horoscope

BY HOLIDAY MATHIS



Solar Square to Pluto Gets to the Source

Past generations said that you are what you eat, and the subsequent generations took it further by suggesting that you are also what you eat eats. The solar square to Pluto suggests that the solutions to problems will be found by looking much deeper than the apparent source, into the history and, wherever possible, back to the very origins.

ARIES (March 21-April 19).

One thing leads to another. If you want to change the "another" your best bet is to start with the "one thing." And if you don't know the source off the top of your head, this is a fine time to retrace your steps.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20).

Working together with another for a common goal will produce a bond, but it's not as strong as the connection you make when you team up with people who share your values and principles.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21).

Avoid casting a wide net in hopes of dragging back in something or someone that can help you. Be strategic instead. What's your ideal scenario? Work

backward from that idea.

CANCER (June 22-July 22).

You'll have the courage to speak your mind. That's a non-issue. But is it right to do so? You'll be wondering how far you should go with the truth. If being honest is going to wound someone, is it really necessary?

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).

Cats will turn anything into a toy: a feather, some fluff, the sock... Play is a mood, and when it hits as strongly as it will today, the whole world becomes a toy store.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).

You'll do well to think in terms of relationships instead of transactions. Transactions happen when people carry out their roles. But no one is

a role. Everyone is a person, playing a role. Relationships transcend roles.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).

Not only is it very rare to succeed on the first try but also today it would be unlucky to do so. It's far luckier to make lots of mistakes all along so that you may experience the entire learning curve and duplicate the success later.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).

Meaning is subjective. So there's no need to go searching for it, or expect to stumble upon it. It's something that each person must create, determine and assign.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).

You don't have to ask people what they value, because you

can tell by what they talk about and how. Also, there's no reason to try to hide your idiosyncrasies, as they will only help you learn more about people.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).

There are two futures, the one you make and the one you don't. Today you'll spend energy on both, combining through to make sure you're ultimately claiming the right one.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).

It's not what you say but how you say it that will matter. Choosing the right words does help, and it's much easier to do this when you have the intention of helping the other person.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).

How can it be true that happiness is always in the present moment?

You'll time travel through your memory and your projections of the future, and there's happiness to be mined in both places.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (April 10).

You'll enjoy a life of moderation for the next six weeks. Then the intensity turns up in one area of your life. You'll specialize your focus and be celebrated (and compensated) for the remarkable skill you hone through the rest of this solar return. Conversation sparks an adventure in August. October brings a commitment. Taurus and Leo adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 1, 13, 33, 40 and 18.

Write Holiday Mathis at holidaymathis@gmail.com. COPYRIGHT 2018 CREATORS.COM

Annie's Mailbox

Divorce Blocks Out Grandma

Dear Annie: I am hoping that you can help me solve this problem. My son recently divorced the mother of his two children. My former daughter-in-law has decided to unfriend me on Facebook and talk negatively about me to others. I would like to still be able to show my friends pictures of my grandchildren from her Facebook page. I am very sorry that their marriage did not endure. I have not treated her negatively. Do you have any suggestions that would help me reconnect with her? -- Blocked Out

Dear Blocked Out:

The divorce was recent, and the wounds are fresh. When she speaks negatively about you, that's probably her pain talking. Rather than call, text or email, take a gentler, less invasive approach: Write a letter. Tell her exactly what you told me -- that you're sorry the marriage ended but you still care about her and the grandkids. Once she has had some time to heal, she may be better able to see the benefits of having you in her children's lives.

Dear Annie: I agree that "Distressed in Utah"

should set boundaries for family members regarding what she will do in retirement. I can speak to the importance of this as someone who has guarded my free time in retirement. Many family members and friends assume that the newly retired person will have nothing to do and will be bored and lonely. And 50 years ago, that might have been true. But today, most of us retirees have hobbies and activities that keep us occupied, and we feel confident enough to treat ourselves to the luxury of sleeping in if we want to, after years of having that luxury only rarely.

I love my family members, and I love my grandchildren, but I am determined to maintain those boundaries and protect my ability to finally live a life I choose. I want to be a grandmother, not a baby sitter or a surrogate parent.

I assume this woman's children think she will be bored and lonely, and they probably like the idea of having the grandchildren with someone they can trust without question. But that doesn't mean Grandma should give up her long-anticipated freedom. And if Grandma's husband, who wants her to be a

full-time servant to his elderly father, believes that his father's having care is so important, perhaps he should quit his job instead and take care of his own father. I'm guessing her husband would be more than happy to pay for a housekeeper or order Meals on Wheels if faced with that option. After being retired for a while, if "Distressed" feels she'd like to spend a day a week with her grandchildren, she certainly could offer that

option to her kids -- but it's hers to decide and to offer, not theirs to expect or demand. -- Love Being Retired

Dear Love Being Retired: Beautifully said. Bravo for boundaries!

Dear Annie: In response to "Just Saying," who holds the door for female customers and then stews if they queue ahead of him: When you don't want to be passed, simply enter first but hold the door ajar behind you for the

next customer to take. It's still a nice gesture, for which women today are unlikely to fault you. -- Adaptable

Dear Adaptable:

This is the sort of solution I like: practical and polite. I wish I'd thought of it. Thanks for writing.

Send your questions for Annie Lane to dearannie@creators.com. To find out more about Annie Lane and read features by other Creators Syndicate columnists and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate website at www.creators.com. COPYRIGHT 2018 CREATORS.COM

SUDOKU

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!

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

	KMID (3) Midland	UNI (4) Spanish	KPEJ (5) Odessa	KOSA (7) Odessa	KTLE (8) Telemundo	KWES (9) Midland	KMLM (12) Odessa	KPBT (13) Odessa	KWWT (14) Odessa	KWES2 (15) Midland	WTBS (33) Atlanta	TNT (34) Atlanta	ESPN (35) Sports	ESPN2 (36) Sports	FSN (38) Sports	USA (55) New York	A&E (58) New York	DISC (60) Discovery	
5:30	Local 2	P. Luche	Broke Girl	CBS 7	Tele	News	Shofar	Focus	Hawaii Five-0	American	Fam. Guy	Movie: London Has Fallen (DVS)	SportsCenter	Around Pardon	Horned Octagon	Mod Fam	The First 48	Deadliest Catch	
6:30	Jeopardy!	Rosa de Guadalupe	Big Bang	CBS 7	Caso Cerado	News	Our Mess	PBS News-Hour	M*A*S*H	Fam. Guy	Big Bang	MLB Baseball: New York Yankees at Boston Red Sox.	NFL Live	UFC	Mod Fam	The First 48	Deadliest Catch	Deadliest Catch	
7:30	Roseanne	El rico y Lázaro	Lethal Weapon	NCIS (DVS)	Mi familia perfecta	The Voice	News	Secrets of the Dead	Griffith	The Flash	Big Bang	NBA Basketball: Celtics at Wizards	Rookie	Pregame	Mod Fam	The First 48: Killer Break	Deadliest Catch	Deadliest Catch	
8:30	blackish	Papá a toda madre	LA-Vegas	Elton John: I'm Still Standing	Al otro lado	(:01) Rise (DVS)	Light of Southwest	Amer. Experience	G. Pyle WKRP	Black Lightning	Big Bang	SportsCenter Spec.	World Poker	Power of	Law & Order: SVU	(:03) The First 48: Killer Break	Deadliest Catch	Deadliest Catch	
9:30	For the People	Por amar sin ley	News	TMZ	Enemigo intimo (SS)	Chicago Med	Light of Southwest	Frontline	Heroes	Page Six	Big Bang	NBA Basketball: Rockets at Lakers	Inside the NBA	Jalen	Unresolved-BIG	Marcia Clark Investigates	The First 48	(:06) Deadliest Catch	
10:30	Jimmy Kimmel Live	Impacto	Mom	CBS 7	Tele	News	Creation	Amanpour	C. Burnett	Seinfeld	Conan	SportsCenter	Postgame	Power of	Law & Order: SVU	(:03) The First 48: Killer Break	Deadliest Catch	Deadliest Catch	
11:30	Nightline	Extra	How I Met James Corden	Enemigo intimo (SS)	Daily	Light Red	Programa News	Light of Southwest	Hitchock	Cops	Brooklyn	NBA Basketball: Celtics at Wizards	SportsCenter	UEFA	Law & Order: SVU	Marcia Clark Investigates	The First 48	Deadliest Catch	
12:30	Paid Prg.	Paid Prg.	Simplemente Maria	Simpsons	(:37) CBS	De:siónes	(:37) The												

ANDY CAPP

Panel 1: I WOULDN'T WORRY, FLO. I'VE JUST SEEN HIM. WHERE WAS HE?

Panel 2: LOOKED LIKE HE WAS HEADED TOWARD CANAL STREET.

Panel 3: SO I'D LAY OUT SOME DRY CLOTHES FOR HIM.

AGNES

Panel 1: SEE? IF EVERYONE STARTED THE DAY WITH A LITTLE SAD, THEY'D BE MUCH HAPPIER.

Panel 2: SADNESS WILL MAKE THEM HAPPIER?

Panel 3: THEIR USUALLY LAUGHLESS LIVES WILL BECOME HAVENS OF MIRTH BY COMPARISON.

ARCHIE

Panel 1: DILTON, I THOUGHT YOU LIKED ZOEY! WELL, SHE'S GOT ALL THE RIGHT BITS AND BYTES.

Panel 2: I'M JUST NOT SURE WE'RE COMPATIBLE! WHAT GIVES YOU THAT IDEA?

Panel 3: MY WEBSITE IS A "DOT.COM," AND HERS IS A "DOT.NET!"

ONE BIG HAPPY

Panel 1: NONE OF YOUR STUFF IS FUNNY. GOOD ART B. RUTHIE.

Panel 2: WHY DON'T YOU DRAW SOMETHING THAT'S FUNNY TO LOOK AT?

Panel 3: CHECK THEM OUT!

MOMMA

Panel 1: THOMAS, I NEED SOME MONEY FOR OUR NEW DRAPES. GEE, HON, WE'RE KIND OF LOW..

Panel 2: TINA, YOU MARRIED THOMAS, NOT CITIBANK!

Panel 3: OH, BY THE WAY THOMAS, I WON'T BE HOME TOMORROW. I'M MEETING CITIBANK FOR LUNCH.

NEST HEAD

Panel 1: WHAT DOES "SPITTING IMAGE" MEAN? IT'S A DESCRIPTION OF SOMEONE WHO LOOKS ALMOST EXACTLY LIKE ANOTHER, LIKE WITH A FAMILY RESEMBLANCE.

Panel 2: WHAT'S SPIT GOT TO DO WITH IT? SOMETIMES IT'S NEEDED FOR A DNA TEST.

ANDY CAPP

Panel 4: I WOULDN'T WORRY, FLO. I'VE JUST SEEN HIM. WHERE WAS HE?

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This Date In History

Today is Tuesday, April 10, the 100th day of 2018. There are 265 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On April 10, 1968, "In the Heat of the Night" won best picture of 1967 at the 40th Academy Awards; one of its stars, Rod Steiger, was named best actor while Katharine Hepburn was honored as best actress for "Guess Who's Coming to Dinner."

On this date:

In 1790, President George Washington signed the first United States Patent Act.

In 1866, the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals was incorporated.

In 1912, the British liner RMS Titanic set sail from Southampton, England, on its ill-fated maiden voyage.

In 1925, the F. Scott Fitzgerald novel "The Great Gatsby" was first published by Scribner's of New York.

In 1932, German President Paul Von Hindenburg was re-elected in a runoff, with Adolf Hitler coming in second.

In 1947, Brooklyn Dodgers President Branch Rickey purchased the contract of Jackie Robinson from the Montreal Royals.

In 1953, the 3-D horror movie "House of Wax," produced by Warner Bros. and starring Vincent Price, premiered in New York.

In 1971, a table tennis team from the United States arrived in China at the invitation of the communist government for a goodwill visit that came to be known as "ping-pong diplomacy."

In 1978, Arkady Shevchenko, a high-ranking Soviet citizen employed by the United Nations, sought political asylum in the United States.

In 1981, imprisoned IRA hunger striker Bobby Sands was declared the winner of a by-election to the British Parliament.

In 1998, the Northern Ireland peace talks concluded as negotiators reached a landmark settlement to end 30 years of bitter rivalries and bloody attacks.

In 2010, Polish President Lech Kaczynski (lekh kah-CHIN'-skee), 60, was killed in a plane crash in western Russia that also claimed the lives of his wife and top Polish political, military

and church officials.

Ten years ago: The U.S. Board on Geographic Names officially renamed Squaw Peak in Phoenix Piestewa (py-ES'-tuh-wah) Peak, in honor of Army Spc. Lori Piestewa, who was killed in Iraq in 2003 and posthumously promoted from the rank of Private First Class.

Five years ago: President Barack Obama proposed a \$3.8 trillion budget that would raise taxes on smokers and wealthy Americans and trim Social Security benefits for millions. The financially beleaguered U.S. Postal Service backpedaled on its plan to end Saturday mail delivery. Robert Edwards, 87, a Nobel Prize winner from Britain whose pioneering in vitro fertilization research led to the first test tube baby, died near Cambridge, England.

One year ago: Justice Neil Gorsuch took his place as the newest addition on the bench of the Supreme Court, restoring a narrow conservative majority. Alabama Gov. Robert Bentley (R) resigned rather than face impeachment and pleaded guilty to two misdemeanor campaign violations that arose during an investigation of his alleged affair with a top aide. The New York Daily News and ProPublica won the Pulitzer Prize for public service for uncovering how police abused eviction rules to oust hundreds of people, mostly poor minorities, from their homes; Colson Whitehead's novel "The Underground Railroad" won the Pulitzer Prize for fiction.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Max von Sydow is 89. Actress Liz Sheridan is 89. Football Hall of Famer John Madden is 82. Reggae artist Bunny Wailer is 71. Actor Steven Seagal is 66. Folk-pop singer Terre Roche (The Roches) is 65. Actor Peter MacNicol is 64. Actress Olivia Brown is 61. Rock musician Steven Gustafson (10,000 Maniacs) is 61. Singer-producer Kenneth "Babyface" Edmonds is 60. Rock singer-musician Brian Setzer is 59. Rock singer

Katrina Leskanich (les-KAH'-nich) is 58. Actor Jeb Adams is 57. Olympic gold medal speedskater Cathy Turner is 56. Rock musician Tim "Herb" Alexander is 53. Actor-comedian Orlando Jones is 50. Rock musician Mike Mushok (Staind) is 49. Singer Kenny Lattimore is 48. Rapper Q-Tip (AKA Kamaal) is 48. Missouri Gov. Eric Greitens is 44.

Actor David Harbour is 43. Blues singer Shemekia Copeland is 39. Actress Laura Bell Bundy is 37. Actor Harry Hadden-Paton is 37. Actress Chyler Leigh is 36. Pop musician Andrew Dost (fun.) is 35. Actor Ryan Merriman is 35. Singer Mandy Moore is 34. Actor Barkhad Abdi (BAHRK'-hahd AHB'-dee) is 33. Actress Shay Mitchell is 31. Actor

Haley Joel Osment is 30. Actress Molly Bernard (TV: "Younger") is 30. Country singer Maren Morris is 28. Actor Alex Pettyfer is 28. Actress-singer AJ (AKA Amanda) Michalka (mish-AL'-kah) is 27. Actress Daisy Ridley is 26. Singer-actress Sofia Carson is 25. Actress Audrey Whitby is 22. Actress Ruby Jerins is 20.

Thought for Today:

"What is more unwise than to mistake uncertainty for certainty, falsehood for truth?"

Cicero, Roman orator statesman and philosopher (106-43 B.C.)

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Newsday Crossword

FINISHING OFF by Billie Truitt
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 Loch __ monster
5 Madrid's country
10 Prefix meaning "all"
14 Is unable to
15 Therefore
16 Gas in a diner sign
17 Opera solo
18 Being pulled from behind
19 Besides that
20 Off __ (beginning well)
22 Ooze
23 Message from a teacher
24 Hint at
26 Solid part of orange juice
29 Last word of the "Happy Birthday" song
30 Ferry or canoe
34 In the __ (long ago)
36 Clothing tag
40 Robin Hood's missile
42 Scratch up
43 Portrait holder
44 Molars, for example
45 Clear-sky color
47 Palm tree fruit
48 Refuse to share
50 Diner handout
52 Listening closely
56 Exam mark
60 Hawaiian garlands
61 Off __ (straying from the subject)
65 Strauss of jeans
66 Bet
67 Sedan or convertible

DOWN

7 Prefix for freeze
8 Computer screen images
9 Fellow just hired
10 Off __ (not vigilant)
11 Brawl
12 Scent detectors
13 Without any skill
21 Baseball arbiter
25 Country club game
27 Ram's offspring
28 Biblical song
30 Winged mammal
31 Miner's find
32 "Roses __ red..."
33 Off __ (away from others)
35 Factual
37 Ram's remark
38 CPR expert
39 Director Spike
41 Horse-stopping shout
46 Phrase shouted before fencing
49 Increase in size
51 Big coffee dispenser
52 Islam's Almighty
53 Skeptical
54 Extremely angry
55 Catch in a trap
57 A second time
58 Lowest poker card
59 Walk inside
62 Eras
63 Earl Grey and oolong
64 Heading of a chore list

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
14				15							16		
17				18							19		
20				21							22		
	23						24		25				
				26		27	28		29				
30	31	32	33		34			35		36	37	38	39
40				41		42				43			
44					45			46		47			
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52	53	54			55			56		57	58	59	
60					61		62	63					64
65					66					67			
68					69					70			
71					72					73			

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Answer to previous puzzle

ASPS	STRUM	THIN
REEL	WRIST	REDO
ALSO	OASES	ALOE
BLOWDRYER	EVILS	
PADS	EXEC	
MAJORS	TAILORS	
AWAKE	SPORT	PEP
RACE	WAITS	STAR
IRK	BRIEFS	SEAM
ADHERED	SPARSE	
ALAN	APES	
PRMAN	BULLDOZER	
ROMP	MANIA	NOTE
ODES	PITAS	ANTE
MERE	SLOSH	LIEK

4/10/18



Tony Claxton (www.claxtonphotography.com)

Howard College right fielder Addison Lewis catches a deep fly ball during the Lady Hawk's 8-5 win over Western Texas College in the first game of a double header played on Friday, April 6, 2018.



Tony Claxton (www.claxtonphotography.com)

Howard College's Alexis Velazquez bends her bat on the ball during the Lady Hawk's 8-5 win over Western Texas College in the first game of a double header played on Friday, April 6, 2018.



Tony Claxton (www.claxtonphotography.com)

Howard College left fielder Madoline Seumalo sprints in to field a shallow hit during the Lady Hawk's 8-5 win over Western Texas College in the first game of a double header played on Friday, April 6, 2018.

HAWKS

Continued from Page 7

The Hawks added three more runs in the fifth to put the game on ice.

In the second game of Fridays double-header Howard College continued right were they left off the game before beating the Westerners 10-1 and outpitching Western Texas nine to six in the game.

Maddison Seumalo, Kaitlyn Johnson and Addison Lewis each had two hits in the game. Lewis led the Hawks' offense with two hits in two at bats and four RBIs. Meaghan Grah got the start on the mound for Howard College. Grah pitched five innings allowed one run off six hits and struck out one in the win.

The Hawks scored two runs in the first and four in the second to put the game out of reach early. Howard Colleges defense held the Westerners scoreless until the fifth inning were they gave up only one run and answered with four of their own in the bottom of the inning to close out the decisive win.

In the third game of the series on Monday Howard College won 12-2 in another lopsided victory. The Hawks outit the Westerners 15 to 5 in the game and played great defensively as well. Seumalo, Loyola, Mitchiner and Lewis all had multiple hits in the game. Seumalo, Mitchiner and Loyola each had three hits with Mitchiner leading the way on offense with four RBIs as well.

Kylie Shay got the start for the Hawks. Shay pitched five innings gave up two runs off four hits and struck out two in the win.

Howard College got the scoring started early with two runs in the top of the first to take an early two run lead. The Hawks added two more in the third to make it a 4-1 game and then put the game away in the top of the fifth with a three run top of the inning to make it a 7-1 lead.

Howard College left no doubt in the fifth inning

where they scored five more runs to make it a ten run victory for win number three in the series.

In the last game of the series the Hawks again put up gaudy offensive numbers. Howard College outit the Westerners 16 to 5 in the game and left no doubt with a dominating 13-4 victory to finish out the series sweep. Seumalo, Loyola, Hallam, Graft, Velazquez and Lewis all had multiple hits in the blow out win. Loyola and Hallam each collected three hits in the game with Graft adding four RBIs and Velazquez driving in three runs as well to

round out the Hawks' offensive leaders.

Trailing 2-1 in the top of the third inning Howard College put their sticks to work. The Hawks scored six runs in the top of the third and four more in the top of the fourth to take the lead and make it an 11-4 ballgame.

Howard College scored two more runs in the fifth to close out the series with a four game sweep of Western Texas College.

The Hawks will travel to Odessa this Friday to take on Odessa College and try to extend their current win streak to seven.

Huge Selection!

TAX REFUND SALE

2005 Chevy 2500 DuraMax
"One Owner." \$14,950

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"One Owner." \$10,950

2009 Ford Flex SEL
"Sharp." \$10,950

263-8787 87 AUTO SALES 267-8787

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Board Certified in Urology
Fellow American College of Surgeons

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- Office Treatment of Enlarged Prostate Profile (instead of Surgery)
- Urinary Bladder Control Problem with Medication (Simple Outpatient Procedure Available)
- Kidney Stones with Laser & Shockwave Technology Available Locally 24/7
- Sexual Dysfunction
- Low Testosterone Syndrome
- Vasectomies

(432) 714-4600
1501 W. 11th Place Suite 103
Big Spring, Tx 79720

MATTRESS BLOWOUT SALE!

Plush or Euro Top	
TWIN SET	\$397
FULL SET	\$447
QUEEN SET	\$497
KING SET	\$697
Pillowtop or Extra Firm	
TWIN SET	\$447
FULL SET	\$497
QUEEN SET	\$547
KING SET	\$747
Extra Plush Pillowtop	
TWIN SET	\$497
FULL SET	\$647
QUEEN SET	\$697
KING SET	\$897

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HIGH DENSITY LUXURY MODELS AVAILABLE AT AFFORDABLE PRICES!

Plush	
TWIN SET	\$177
FULL SET	\$247
QUEEN SET	\$277
Memory Foam	
QUEEN SET Starting at	\$447
Memory Foam Cool Gel Infusion	
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NBA looks for playoffs not marred by more player-ref strife

By **TIM REYNOLDS**

AP Basketball Writer

MIAMI — By rule, any substitute checking into an NBA game must first report his intentions to the scorer's table. Denver's Jamal Murray was on his way there during a game last month, then got derailed when an errant pass came flying his way.

That's when referee Jason Phillips intervened.

Phillips could have easily been a stickler for rules and told Murray — who never made it to the table — that he had to wait until the next stoppage of play. But Phillips knew Murray was on his way to checking in long before the play was dead and allowed him to enter the game.

"Thank you," Nuggets coach Michael Malone said, and Phillips nodded.

There were moments of civility like this between referees, players and coaches this season. They just were overshadowed way too often. Now everyone is watching to see how things unfold in the playoffs.

The league wants to avoid more headline-grabbing confrontation with the playoffs starting Saturday and stakes and emotion becoming even higher, so officials met with all 30 teams, the last of those on Monday.

"We all make mistakes," Toronto coach Dwane Casey said. "It's a game. We're all a part of it. We're all in the NBA. The officials are part of the NBA. So we have to understand that we're all under the same corporation."

There have been instances where they have looked more like combatants.

Referee Courtney Kirkland was taken off the floor for a week for getting too aggressive with Golden State's Shaun Livingston. Warriors star Kevin Durant — who'd been ejected once in his first nine seasons — got kicked out of five games. Even LeBron James got tossed for the first time in his 15-



AP photo

In this April 6, 2018, file photo, New Orleans Pelicans forward Anthony Davis (23) argues a foul call against him by referee Sean Corbin (33) during the second half of an NBA basketball game against the Phoenix Suns, in Phoenix. This was a season that saw superstars get ejected, a referee held out of games for a week after getting too aggressive with a player and the NBA going door-to-door to remind teams to play nice. The referee-player relationship is as thorny as ever, and that's not a good thing going into the postseason.

year career.

It all led the NBA to announce in late January its plan to improve how players and referees get along. Former referee Monty McCutchen, now an NBA vice president overseeing referee development and training, and NBA senior vice president Michelle Johnson met with clubs to listen to their perspective.

McCutchen's biggest hope is finding a way to make communication better, on all sides. He stressed to teams that he wasn't meeting with them solely to defend and protect officials.

"Our league needs strong officials," McCutchen said. "What we're trying to shoot for is this idea that you can

have strength without arrogance and you can show humility without having to give into weakness. And that sort of Goldilocks moment, where the porridge is just right, is the balance in which we can start to disagree about the play without being demeaning or condescending or arrogant to one another."

That hasn't been the case at times this season.

It's rare that a call will truly decide a game, and the NBA is sticking to its pledge of transparency by continuing to release reports about calls made in the final two minutes of close games. The Last 2 Minute Reports have been widely panned by players and coach-

es, especially when those reports show that a big call didn't go their way in a close loss.

For the 400-plus games that have met the criteria for such a report being publicly issued this season, the NBA has said 97.4 percent of the calls made — in other words, 39 out of every 40 — are correct. When factoring in no-calls, what the NBA defines as "event accuracy" drops to 93.9 percent.

But there have also been some difficult moments.

Livingston and Kirkland butted heads in a game at Miami, earning the Warriors guard a one-game suspension and Kirkland's discipline after the league determined they were both in the wrong in their argument over a non-call. Through Sunday, there were 79 ejections this season — up considerably from the 61 last season. The NBA said 902 technicals were called last season; that figure has also been topped this season, albeit only by about 30.

Draymond Green, who isn't shy about getting technicals, has complained. So has Chris Paul, the president of the National Basketball Players Association.

"To be honest, we need to kind of just go out there and play, and not worry about anything but that," Toronto guard Kyle Lowry said. "We can't worry about what happened, even legitimately. We have to just go play and not say anything and just do our jobs. I think that'll be a focus for the rest of the season for our team."

But Lowry knows, starting Saturday, everything gets magnified.

"You can't get distracted or obsess on the officials or things that happen during the game that you can't necessarily control," Miami coach Erik Spoelstra said. "You can't cross the line consistently and expect to develop the right mental toughness that you need to win."

Spurs, Pelicans, Thunder all in; 1 spot left in West race



AP photo

Minnesota Timberwolves' Karl-Anthony Towns dunks against Memphis Grizzlies' Ivan Rabb in the first half of an NBA basketball game Monday April 9, 2018, in Minneapolis.

By **TIM REYNOLDS**

AP Basketball Writer

A look at the NBA playoff picture, with two days remaining in the regular season and now only one berth left to be decided:

WEST UPDATE

The playoffs start Wednesday.

Officially, that's not true. But the Denver at Minnesota game on Wednesday night may as well be considered a play-in game: Winner moves on, loser goes home.

Monday started with four spots available out West, and ended with only one still unclaimed. New Orleans, San Antonio and Oklahoma City all won to clinch their playoff berths — the Spurs doing so for the 21st consecutive year, tying Portland for the second-longest run in NBA history and moving one shy of tying Philadelphia's league record (which started when the 76ers were the Syracuse Nationals).

The funny part about Monday's triple-clinchings is that

nothing changed in the standings. The order of the top eight remains the same, going into the next-to-last day of the regular season.

It won't stay that way. Get ready for craziness.

Portland and Utah can still get to No. 3. The Blazers, Jazz, Pelicans, Thunder and Spurs are in the mix for No. 4. The Spurs could also fall as far as No. 8. The Thunder, who are in seventh, cannot finish seventh. There's at least a dozen more scenarios.

Wednesday night will be great fun.

EAST UPDATE

Cleveland won the Central Division and locked Indiana into the No. 5 seed with a win at New York.

Milwaukee is now up to No. 6 in the East, flip-flopping spots with now-No. 7 Miami. The Bucks beat Orlando, while the Heat could get nothing going and got routed in the fourth quarter on the way to losing to the Thunder.

The Bucks wrap up No. 6 with a win at Philadelphia on Wednesday night. But the 76ers will go into the final day with a chance at the No. 3 spot, regardless of whether they win in Atlanta on Tuesday.

T U E S D A Y ' S GAMES

— Charlotte at Indiana: No playoff impact, Pacers will be the No. 5 seed.

— Philadelphia at Atlanta: Philadelphia can be No. 3 seed by winning last two, and

stretching its winning streak to 16.

— Boston at Washington: A potential first-round matchup if Wizards finish seventh. Washington can also be No. 6 or No. 8.

— Golden State at Utah: Jazz could get to No. 3 seed with a 2-0 finish. Warriors could be first NBA team with 30 road wins in three straight seasons.

— Phoenix at Dallas: No playoff impact, Suns have clinched NBA's worst record.

— Houston at L.A. Lakers: No playoff impact, Lakers aiming for winning home record.

CURRENT BRACKET

First-round matchups if the season ended Monday ...

East: 1-Toronto vs. 8-Washington, 2-Boston vs. 7-Miami, 3-Philadelphia vs. 6-Milwaukee, 4-Cleveland vs. 5-Indiana.

West: 1-Houston vs. 8-Minnesota, 2-Golden State vs. 7-Oklahoma City, 3-Portland

vs. 6-San Antonio, 4-Utah vs. 5-New Orleans.

NOTE OF THE DAY

Neither Denver nor Minnesota has ever missed the playoffs in a 46-win season. One will this year.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"We know we can beat anybody when we're playing our best." — Oklahoma City's Russell Westbrook, after the Thunder clinched their spot.

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