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BIG SPRING HERALD

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 11, 2018



VOLUME 113, NUMBER 163 COPYRIGHT 2018 75 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 SUNDAY

DePauw voices concern on hiring PSC



HERALD photo/Roger Cline

Local veterans look on as Big Spring Mayor Larry McLellan, right, reads a proclamation at Tuesday night's City Council meeting declaring the 15th of every month "Thank a Veteran Day" in Big Spring.

By **ROGER CLINE**
 Staff Writer

Discussion at the Big Spring City Council meeting Tuesday evening got a little heated when one council member raised concerns over hiring an engineering firm for the planned new "Big Sandy" city landfill. The objections from Councilman Jim DePauw came on a vote to approve the engineering firm Parkhill, Smith, and Cooper to perform the design, bid, and construction phases of the landfill process. Big Spring has worked with PSC since the early '90s on groundwater monitoring and reporting projects, as well as on the permitting, designing, and construction on the current landfill's East Cell. If the new landfill's budget exceeds all of the \$10 million allocated for it, PSC's share for the engineering work could top out at more than \$1.2 million. The council ultimately voted 5-2 to hire Parkhill, Smith, and Cooper, with DePauw

and Councilman Raul Benavides dissenting. "I'd like to see us do something else, because I just don't think it's a prudent idea to award a \$1,252,110 contract without talking to any other engineering firms," DePauw said during the meeting. City Public Works Director Johnny Womack explained that he is forbidden by state law from actually going out for bids on professional service contracts such as engineering. While Big Spring policy does not require it - instead allowing city staff to select and recommend a firm or company in many cases - a "request for qualifications" process exists where the city could call for firms to provide reports on their qualifications to perform the needed work. The city would then select one firm on a scoring system based on qualifications and not cost, and then negotiate a contract with that company. If an agreement with the selected

See **COUNCIL**, Page 3

Big Spring Symphony Orchestra to present 'Music of the Beatles' concert Saturday

By **ROGER CLINE**
 Staff Writer

Are you ready to come together this weekend and listen to a little Beatles music? The Big Spring Symphony Orchestra is presenting its annual Spring Concert Saturday at 7:30 p.m. at the Big Spring Municipal Auditorium, 310 E. Third St.; and this year's performance will feature "The Music of the Beatles." "We're having our spring pops concert, and we're featuring a rock band from Canada," said BSSO Music Director and Conductor Dr. Keith Graumann. "It's called 'Jeans 'n Classics' and the repertory is the Beatles 'Abbey Road' album. This is a huge song list, so it sounds like a long



HERALD file photo

In this file photo from 2017, Dr. Keith Graumann directs the Big Spring Symphony Orchestra and the audience in The Star Spangled Banner before a Big Spring Symphony Concert featuring "Little Joe" Hernandez y La Familia. The Orchestra will pair with the Canadian rock band Jeans 'n Classics Saturday for its annual Spring Concert, featuring music of The Beatles.

See **CONCERT**, Page 3

2 million words equals giant duck for Coahoma fifth grader



Courtesy photo

Fifth grader, Eleanor Correa, sits on a giant, inflatable derby duck which was the prize she won for reading 2 million words this school year. She was awarded at an assembly held April 9, 2018.

Special to the Herald

Coahoma Elementary School (CES) fifth grader Eleanor Correa was recognized Monday for reaching a new reading goal with a giant, inflatable, yellow, derby

duck. This school year alone, Correa has read more than 2 million words. In fact she's read 2,535,236 words so far, according to CES Librarian Kandi Burris.

"She loves to read," Burris said. "We've had more students reading this year than in the five years I've been here." Correa's favorite books are the "Harry Potter" series. She also remembers the first book she read as a first grader "Bad Kitty Takes a Bath." For the past two years, Burris has given out small plastic ducks as prizes to motivate students to read. "Ducks! Who'd have known they could be so fun," Burris said. "At the beginning of the 2016-2017 school year, our district librarian, Marla Bales, and I were tossing around some ideas on how to motivate elementary students to read. "She said she'd seen another school district use 2-inch rubber ducks for motivation," Burris continued. "We've incorporated it with our Accelerated Reading program so that all Pre-K through 5th grade

See **DUCK**, Page 3

Bufs handle Lions in five innings



Courtesy photo

The Forsan Buffalo varsity baseball team won their home conference game against the Roby Lions with a final score of 15-5 in just five innings on Tuesday, April 10, 2018. Shown above, Forsan's Kolby Watson slides safely into third base. See the full story and stats on Page 7.

Trump says 'missiles coming' against Syria, 'new and smart'

By **ROBERT BURNS, JOSH LEDERMAN and CATHERINE LUCEY**
 Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Defying Russian warnings against U.S. military strikes in Syria, President Donald Trump said Wednesday that missiles "will be coming" in response to Syria's suspected chemical attack that killed at least 40 people. "Russia vows to shoot down any and all missiles fired at Syria," Trump tweeted. "Get ready Russia, because they will be coming, nice and new and 'smart!' You shouldn't be partners with a

Gas Killing Animal who kills his people and enjoys it!" Trump did not detail what a strike would look like, or whether these would be U.S. missiles. U.S. officials have been consulting with global allies on a possible joint military response to Syria's alleged poison gas attack. Trump canceled a foreign trip in order to manage a crisis that is testing his vow to stand up to Syrian President Bashar Assad. Syria's Foreign Ministry said Wednesday that his threats are "reckless" and endanger international peace and security.



Trump

Find us online at: www.bigspringherald.com



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 & Welch Rosewood Chapel. Interment will follow at Trinity Memorial Park.

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

She was born Oct. 17, 1927, in Crafton, Texas, to Burgess and Valeria Sparks Blanton. She married Carmey Dickenson April 12, 1947, in Crafton, Texas, and he preceded her in death Aug. 1, 1991.

Pat enjoyed volunteering her time to different organizations including the Senior Circle, RSVP, the Chalet and the Pink Ladies at Scenic Mountain Medical Center. She was a member of First United

Methodist Church.

Survivors include one daughter, Sandra Waggoner and husband, Steve, of Denton; one son, Calvin Dickenson and wife, Georgia, of San Antonio; two granddaughters, Stefanie Moss and husband, Jeff, of Frisco, and Gillian Dickenson of San Antonio; three great-grandchildren, Preston Moss, Ethan Moss and Owen Moss; one sister, Cheryl Paul of Forth Worth; and numerous nieces and nephews.

She was also preceded in death by her parents; two sisters, Paul Ann Parker and Helen Ruth La Croix; and one brother, James Blanton.

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

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

Paid Obituary

Leola "Nanny" Ione Massingill Green



Leola "Nanny" Ione Massingill Green passed away peacefully in her home April 10, 2018.

The family will receive friends from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., Thursday, April 12, 2018, at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home and Crematory.

Funeral services will be held at 3:30 p.m., Friday, April 13, 2018, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel. Interment will follow at Trinity Memorial Park.

She was born Oct. 24, 1923, in Polar, Texas, to Bert Massingill and Leona Ford Massingill, as the eldest of 5 children. Nanny moved from Kent County, Texas, to Vealmoor, Texas, where she lived most of her life. She worked at Consolidated Air, in Ft. Worth, Texas, during WWII. She was one of the greatest of her generation. She married Willis Green, in North

Carolina, in 1942 and returned to Vealmoor, where she managed the Family Country Store (Massingill Grocery) and the town Post Office for many years.

She was a lifetime member of Trinity Baptist Church.

Nanny is survived by her children Gary Green of Lipan, Texas, Carolyn Ratliff and husband Randy of Powderly, Texas, and Leslie Green and wife Kathy of Lubbock, Texas; siblings Oteka Hunt of Odessa, Texas, Jamie Mills of Lafayette, Louisiana, and James "Bunny" Massingill of Big Spring, Texas; nine grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren, and numerous nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by both parents, one brother Billy Massingill and one daughter Vicki Bavousette.

Pallbearers are Wes Hunt, Mark Massingill, Scott Richardson, Jeff Ratliff, Zachary Green, Jeremy Green, Chris Green, and Keith Crane.

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

Paid Obituary

Gene Henderson,



Gene Henderson, 85, of Big Spring, died Friday, April 6, 2018, at Scenic Mountain Medical Center. The family will receive friends from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. Thursday, April 12, 2018, at Holder-Wells Funeral Home in Moss Point, Mississippi. Funeral service will be at 11 a.m. Friday, April 13, 2018, at Holder-Wells Chapel. Burial will be in Jackson County Memorial Park.

Gene was born March 1, 1933, in Big Spring, Texas, to Reta Belle Cranfill Henderson and James Arthur Henderson. Gene retired as Captain of Pasca-

goula Police Department after serving for 25 years.

He is survived by one son, Michael Henderson and wife Kim of Pascagoula, Mississippi; three daughters, Regina Tonn and husband Jack of Big Spring; Laurie Grady and husband Walter of Lucedale, Mississippi, and Sherrilyn Welch of Big Spring; two sisters, Barbara Poole and husband David of Lucedale, Mississippi, and Patsy Nolan and husband Lynn of Spring City, Tennessee; 14 grandchildren and 20 great grandchildren.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by one daughter Carol Henderson.

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

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. 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 I.D and/or Veterans ID card. App. are required.

For more info. or to make an appointment, please contact Pete Fierro at 432-332-1207, ext. 4511.

• 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 more info, please contact Suzanne Markwell at 214-256-1674.

Josefina "Pina" Hernandez,

Josefina "Pina" Hernandez, 75, of Plainview, formerly of Big Spring, died Sunday, April 8, 2018, in Plainview. Vigil service will be at 7 p.m. Thursday, April 12, 2018, at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral Mass will be at 10 a.m. Friday at Holy Trinity Catholic Church. Burial will be at Mount Olive Memorial Park.

Robert James (Jim) Sanders

Robert James (Jim) Sanders, 72, of Big Spring, passed away Monday, April 9, 2018. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Dora Cantu Bermea

Dora Cantu Bermea, 74, of Big Spring, died Tuesday, April 10, 2018, in Lubbock. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity:

• **PATRICK RIOS**, 28, of 1501 S Scurry St., was arrested on warrants of theft of service, assault causes bodily injury family member.

• **STEPHANIE ANE SHULTS**, 28, of 2905 Sherman Rd., was arrested on a warrant of another agency.

• **MONTE RAVON ANDERSON JR.**, 44, of 1104 Blackmon Ave., was arrested on possession of marijuana less than two ounces, evading arrest detention, interference with duties of public servant, duty on striking unattended vehicle, and resist arrest search or transport.

• **ERIC ACUOSTA ARGUIJO**, 26, of 128 W St., was arrested on warrants of no driver's license when unlicensed, and on bail jumping/failure to appear/fine MC.

• **LUCINDA RAMIREZ FLORES**, 22, of 1619 Harding, was arrested on warrants of driving while license suspended/invalid previous conviction, organized retail theft in between \$100 to \$750, failed to yield right of way at stop intersection, failure to appear, and on three warrants with other agencies.

• **EMMIT JOE THOMPSON**, 65, of 2701 E 24th St., was arrested on charges of assault by contact, public intoxication.

• **BURGLARY OF HABITATION** was reported in the 1100 block of E 14th St..

• **BURGLARY OF A VEHICLE** was reported in the 600 block of W I 20.

• **DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE** was reported in the 100 block of Carey St.

• **THEFT** was reported in the 700 block of W I 20.

Support Groups

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

• GriefShare is a Biblical support group that focuses on helping people who are dealing with a loved one's death. Each DVD session features nationally respected grief experts and real-life stories, followed by small group discussion about the topics presented (with workbook support). Weekly Feb. 8 through May 10, 6 to 8 p.m. at Trinity Baptist Church in Big Spring. Call Vivian Gordon at 432-466-3583 for more information.

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

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

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

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The Big Spring Herald is a member of The Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce, Texas Press Association, West Texas Press Association, Texas Daily Newspaper Association, The Associated Press.
Published afternoons Mon. thru Fri. and Sunday mornings. All materials copyrighted.
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, TX 79721. Periodicals postage paid at Big Spring, Texas.
USPS 1431-48 USPS 0055-940 ISSN 0746-6811
BY THE MONTH HOME DELIVERY: \$13.00 monthly; \$140.40 yearly (includes 10% discount). MAIL SUBSCRIPTIONS: \$16.00 monthly Howard; \$19.50 elsewhere.

TPA

MEMBER
2018

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DUCK

Continued from Page 1

Students at Coahoma Elementary are able to earn ducks by a reading count or points system.

The reward system is catered toward each grade level and when students make the goal, they are rewarded weekly. For fourth and fifth graders such as Correa, students accumulate 10 points by reading and taking a test over the book.

"I print points reports on each student, grades 1-5, each Friday and give out the ducks the following Monday and Tuesday when the students come to library," Burris said.

Even teachers are encouraged to participate. "Teachers earn five points for each 10 picture books read and five points for each novel read," Burris said.

A bonus to the reading pro-

gram this year was the introduction of the House system by Coahoma ISD. Every student and staff member at Coahoma ISD is sorted into one of the four houses - Paratus, Fortis, Sursum, and Sperabo. Students can earn points for their house through attendance, grades, good behavior, and community service.

"A huge plus this year is that for each duck earned, the student/staff member earns 5 points for their 'House,'" Burris said. "It's a race to the finish!"

Last school year, Burris said she had only one student reach 1 million words. This year, she's had several. With six weeks left in the school year, it is unlikely the 3 million word mark will be reached but with Correa's devotion to devouring the written word, Burris may need to start scouring the stores for a really big duck.

CONCERT

Continued from Page 1

concert. The album went to number one in both the UK and the US, and it ended up being one of the greatest albums of all time, of any band; and right now it is the Beatles greatest selling album of all time."

Graumann said that Jeans 'n Classics has performed with the orchestra before.

"This will be their fourth appearance with us, over the years," he said. "They're an 11-piece rock band. They did (the music of) Queen the last time, several years ago. We did Queen with them and the Big Spring High School Choir."

The band's manager, Peter Brennan, also arranged all the music for the concert, Graumann said.

"His arrangements are some of the best I've ever seen for rock band and orchestra," he said.

Some of the songs which will be featured in the concert include "Nowhere Man," "Tax Man," "Penny Lane," "Band on the Run," "Daytripper," "A Day in the Life," "Come Together," "Here Comes the Sun," "She Came In Through the Bathroom Window," "The End,"

and "Her Majesty."

"If the audience wants it, we may have a tune we'll play after that, which is not on the album, but it's one of their all-time best-known pieces," Graumann said. "Just in case they want another one."

Graumann predicts the concert will be very popular.

"This will be one of our most popular Spring Concerts, because we've never done the Beatles before," he said. "So we're excited to be playing Beatles tunes. Well, we've done some Beatles tunes, but we've never done a whole concert of Beatles tunes."

Tickets for the concert are \$20 for adults and \$15 for seniors; while students in elementary, junior high, or high school, or in college, receive free admission to the show. Tickets can be purchased in advance at the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce office at 215 W. Third St.; the Big Spring Visitor's Center at 113 E. Third St.; H-E-B at 2000 S. Gregg St.; the Heritage Museum of Big Spring at 510 S. Scurry St.; and the Karat Patch jewelry store at 1003 FM 700.

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

COUNCIL

Continued from Page 1

company could not be reached, the city could abandon negotiations with that company and proceed to discussions with the second-highest score in the RFQ process.

"We can go out for an RFQ," said Womack. "It's a four- to six-month process, and even once you go out for an RFQ process, you would select a firm, and then at that time you would negotiate a price. I'm not allowed to go out and get prices from engineers."

Mayor Larry McLellan argued that PSC's record across West Texas shows that they are clearly qualified for the job.

"I don't mind going out for the RFQ, but I think if you look at West Texas, you're going to see the footprints of Parkhill, Smith, and Cooper all over West Texas," McLellan said. "If you look at some of the cities that they've served - I mean, we're not just talking about smaller cities, a lot of smaller cities, but Amarillo, Big Spring, Denton, El Paso, Irving, Lubbock, Midland/Odessa - I mean, there's a reason all these other cities are using this company. I think it's a very good company as far as what they do for landfills."

DePauw pointed out some issues that have arisen during Big Spring's relationship with PSC.

"I don't think our record with Parkhill, Smith, and Cooper has been exactly exemplary," he said. "I will hold up the sanitation sewer across the Interstate as something that has damaged the city of Big Spring for the next 40 years...the delay and loss of two hotels."

DePauw also brought up a seal coat project with Wagner and Sons as the contractor. Although PSC intervened with Wagner and Sons to provide liquidated damages to the city for mishandling of the project, the city ended up paying restriping costs.

"If the work was warrantied, and the contractor came back to reseal it, then I think the stripes should have been on there too," he said. "In light of all that, I'm pretty sure there's other engineering firms in the world, and I at least think we ought to at least have a conversation with at least one or two other engineering firms, so it doesn't look like we're corrupt, because that's what's going to go out there into the public. They're going to say, 'You guys are corrupt. You just automatically pick Parkhill, Smtih, and Cooper for everything without interviewing other firms.'"

Womack pointed out that the city does use several other engineering firms for projects quite often.

After the meeting, DePauw explained his position.

"My objection is that you shouldn't just be in bed with one organization all the time and just give them all your work," he said. "That you need to seek out others, so that it doesn't have the appearance of impropriety. That's my goal: To not let ev-

ery engineering firm be complacent to the extent where they don't appreciate our business and don't treat us properly as far as getting the work done in a timely manner and being an advocate for the city of Big Spring."

City manager Todd Darden said there's no corruption involved.

"We follow state law to the T. That's our job," he said. "There's no one on my staff nor myself willing to go to jail for it, I promise you. The firms that we do business with I think feel the same way. Parkhill is a very reputable firm. We've been working with them in the landfill industry for several years now, and they have an impeccable record with us in that area. I feel if the RFQ was to be done in this process, maybe it should have been done in the planning process when we started it. We've negotiated a fee that is below state standard, as far as what engineers typically get in a percentage basis, so they're not out of line."

Darden said that DePauw's comments might prompt the city to begin performing more RFQs early in the process in the future, in an attempt to provide more transparency in the selection process for professional services.

"My assessment of what the council wanted us to do as staff is maybe look at our policy in how we obtain professional services in the future, in a more transparent way so that the council has more involvement so that the citizens see that they have more involvement in that decision-making process," he said. "Right now, our policy is that the staff follow state law, along with all those requirements for professional services, which we do. But to take it a step further, to look at RFQs on an every-case basis rather than when we think it's necessary or needed. Under certain state and federal contracts, we're required to do an RFQ, we're required to do a scoring for the best-qualified professional that we're seeking in the discipline we're seeking it in. I feel like the council would like to extend that to maybe all of our professional services, and maybe not all of them. You know, that would also include the YMCA, with the pool contract. That would include the doctor that we have for Emergency Medical Services, that oversees that program. And a few other ones that are small. It could be on pharmaceuticals. It could be on the physician that performs our physicals."

DePauw said he thinks the discussion held by city council members at the meeting was healthy.

"It was a good process. It didn't go my way, but we had a good discussion. We got it all out on the table," he said. "I think most of the citizens will mostly agree with me, that they would like to see things competitively bid. I've been on the council for three years now, and whenever we have a single-bidder item, I usually vote 'no' unless there is a good reason there's only one bidder. So I think that's something we always need to strive to do, to get our citizens the best bang for their buck, and I'm not convinced we've done that here tonight."

In other business, the council:

- Held a public hearing on, and voted to, abandon Johnson Street between Third and Fourth streets to close it for the proposed downtown city park.

- Held a public hearing on, and voted to, add microbreweries, microdistilleries, and wineries to the city's zoning ordinances.

- Issued a proclamation recognizing the 15th of every month as "Thank a Veteran Day" in Big Spring.

- Awarded bids on two utility vehicles for \$22,729.20, and for two zero-turn mowers for \$18,133.44 to South Plains Implement. South Plains was the low bidder in each case.

- Awarded a bid on the city's early warning system to Sentry Siren of Canon City, Colo., for \$85,913.82.

- Heard and approved a presentation of the city's comprehensive annual financial report.

- Approved \$25,000 for the demolition of dilapidated structures within the city.

- Accepted a petition from Cesar Alor to annex 17.58 acres into the city. Alor owns an office building on the land, and wants to connect to city services. Acceptance of the petition does not actually annex the land, which will need to be voted on at a future meeting.

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

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Robert James (Jim) Sanders, 72, died Monday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Dora Cantu Bermea, 74, died Tuesday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.



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Girls jump, drop from balcony to escape dance studio fire



AP photo

In this Monday, April 9, 2018 photo, girls flee a second-story dance studio onto a balcony as a roaring fire engulfs their building in Edgewater, N.J. About 15 girls were treated for minor injuries, Mayor Michel Joseph McPartland said.

EDGEWATER, N.J. (AP) — More than a dozen girls fled a second-story dance studio onto a balcony as a roaring fire engulfed their building, some dropping or jumping to the pavement as bystanders tried to rescue them with ladders.

The rescue efforts were captured in a video that shows the screaming children either falling into the arms of their rescuers or hitting the ground before being pulled away from the flames Monday night.

About 15 girls were treated for minor injuries, Mayor Michel Joseph McPartland said.

Ilker Kesiktas, who shot the video, said Tuesday that he grabbed a fire extinguisher when he saw flames climb the side of the row of businesses, including a restaurant he and his friends frequent, in Edgewater, a town on the Hudson River just north of New York City. His video was purchased by news outlets, including The Associated Press.

But the flames were already too high and quickly approaching the dance studio where the girls were having class. Kesiktas and a friend joined several other people in rescuing the girls, setting up ladders and, when the flames got too high, encouraging them to jump from a second-story balcony to safety.

"I was the one who called the fire department. It was... I don't want to think about it. I had trouble sleeping last night. It was crazy," Kesiktas said. "We got a fire extinguisher, and we just started blowing it, but it was just doing nothing."

Business owner Tony Nehmi told NJ.com he and a police officer helped some of the girls down before the ladders fell during the fire.

McPartland told NBC New York it was "one of the bravest things I've ever seen."

The cause of the fire at the building, which also houses a hookah lounge and auto body shop, was under investigation.

Free-range parenting laws letting kids roam could catch on



AP photo

In this April 6, 2018, photo, Amy Coulter, center, and her husband Mark, left, play with their children at the Place Heritage Park in Salt Lake City. After Utah passed the country's first law legalizing so-called free-range parenting, groups from New York to Texas are pushing for similar steps to bolster the idea that supporters say is an antidote for anxiety-plagued parents and overscheduled children. Amy Coulter, a stay-at-home Utah mother, said she doesn't call herself a free-range parent. But she does avoid intervening with teachers on her older children's grades and encourages her children to use their own money to buy things at the grocery store.

By LINDSAY WHITEHURST

Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY — After Utah passed the country's first law legalizing so-called free-range parenting, groups in states from New York to Texas are pushing for similar steps to bolster the idea that supporters say is an antidote for anxiety-plagued parents and overscheduled kids.

Free-range parenting is the concept that giving kids the freedom to do things alone — like explore a playground or ride a bike to school — makes them healthier, happier and more resilient.

It surfaced nearly a decade ago, when Lenore Skenazy touched off a firestorm with a column about letting her then-9-year-old son ride the New York City subway alone. Since then, she's become a vocal advocate for free-

range parenting.

Critics say letting kids strike out on their own can expose them to serious dangers, from criminals to cars. Parents have been investigated by child-welfare authorities in several high-profile cases, including a Maryland couple who allowed their 10- and 6-year-old children to walk home alone from a park in 2015.

See LAWS, Page 5

Facebook sends privacy alerts to affected users

By MATT O'BRIEN

AP Technology Writer

Facebook has begun alerting some users that their data was swept up in the Cambridge Analytica privacy scandal.

Anthony Bagnetto was one of many people who woke up Tuesday morning to a notification on his Facebook feed informing him that "one of" his friends used Facebook to log into a now-banned personality quiz app called "This Is Your Digital Life." The notice says the app misused the information, including public profile, page likes, birthday and current city, by sharing it with the political data-mining firm Cambridge Analytica.

"Anybody can be taken by this," said Bagnetto, 38, a triathlon coach who lives in Bloomfield, New Jersey, and said he didn't blame whichever of his friends took the quiz for exposing his data.

"It shouldn't take the pressure off Facebook because people cannot be expected to be that aware of what they're signing up for," Bagnetto said.

As many as 87 million users who might have had their data shared were supposed to get the detailed message on their news feeds starting Monday. Facebook says more than 70 million of the

affected users are in the U.S., though there are over a million each in the Philippines, Indonesia and the U.K.

The notifications began appearing hours before Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg was scheduled to address the privacy scandal in a congressional hearing Tuesday.

Darrell West said he wasn't too surprised to receive the notification, since he has about 5,000 Facebook friends and it would have taken just one of them to take the personality quiz.

But it still bothered West, who directs the Center for Technology Innovation at the Brookings Institution in Washington. Cambridge Analytica, a consulting firm affiliated with Donald Trump's successful presidential campaign, obtained users' data through an app that was purportedly a research tool.

"It disturbs me that some of my information may have helped Donald Trump become president, even if I was only one of 87 million," West said. "I do think it mattered, just because it was information that was so detailed. It was providing a gold mine for the candidates who use it. It allowed them to target their advertising very effectively and really hone their message."

Cambridge Analytica whistle-

blower Christopher Wylie previously estimated that more than 50 million people were compromised by the personality quiz that collected data from users and their friends. In an interview aired Sunday on NBC's "Meet the Press," Wylie said the true number could be even larger than 87 million.

That Facebook app was created in 2014 by an academic researcher named Aleksander Kogan, who paid about 270,000 people to take it. The app vacuumed up not just the data of the people who took it, but also — thanks to Facebook's loose restrictions — data from their friends, including details that they hadn't intended to share publicly.

Facebook later limited the data apps can access, but it was too late in this case.

Zuckerberg has said Facebook came up with the 87 million figure by calculating the maximum number of friends that users could have had while Kogan's app was collecting data. The company doesn't have logs going back that far, he said, so it can't know exactly how many people may have been affected.

Facebook users who didn't get the notice can check the platform's help page to confirm that

See FACEBOOK, Page 5

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Police: All 6 on small plane killed in crash on golf course

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. (AP) — All six people aboard a small plane were killed when it crashed on a golf course in a Phoenix suburb shortly after taking off from a nearby airport, police said Tuesday.

The identities of those killed in the Monday night crash in Scottsdale have yet to be released. Nobody on the ground was hurt, said Officer Kevin Watts, a Scottsdale Police Department spokesman.

Watts said the plane had just taken off from the Scottsdale Airport, but no information was immediately available on its planned destination.

The plane went down on the TPC Scottsdale Champions Golf Course. That course is the sister to the Stadium Course where the Waste Management Phoenix Open is held each February.

Investigators were at the site Tuesday morning, examining the burned wreckage next to a tree on a dirt area, with seven vehicles parked on nearby turf and others nearby.

The National Transportation Safety Board is investigating the cause of the crash and no information is immediately available



AP photo

A small plane crashed and burst into flames on a suburban Phoenix golf course. The Piper PA-24 Comanche went down in Scottsdale on Monday night. There is no immediate word on what happened to anyone on board.

on its circumstances, spokesman Eric Weiss said from Washington.

The NTSB will issue a preliminary report on circumstances of the crash within two weeks, Weiss said.

US awards \$18.5 billion in recovery grants for Puerto Rico

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) — The U.S. government announced Tuesday that it will award \$18.5 billion worth of disaster recovery grants to Puerto Rico to help repair homes, businesses and its crumbling power grid as the U.S. territory struggles to recover from Hurricane Maria.

It is the largest single amount for such assistance ever awarded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, said Deputy Secretary Pamela Patenaude during a visit to the U.S. territory.

"Our goal is to get people back into their homes, get people back to work and to build a stronger Puerto Rico for future generations," she said.

The money will be issued through the agency's Community Development Block Grant program.

Patenaude said that Puerto Rico planning officials will develop a disaster recovery plan in upcoming weeks.

The announcement comes as 54,000 power customers remain in the dark more than six months after the Category 4 storm hit. Officials have said they expect power to be fully restored across the island by May, just days before the Atlantic hurricane season starts.

HUD already had allocated \$1.5 billion to Puerto Rico in February for post-hurricane recovery efforts.

Maria hit on Sept. 20 and caused more than an estimated \$100 billion in damage. It destroyed around 70,000 homes and damaged another 300,000.

HUD also said it plans to award the neighboring U.S. Virgin Islands \$1.6 billion in disaster recovery funds to help it recuperate from hurricanes Irma and Maria.

Both storms left the U.S. Virgin Islands reeling. Hurricane Irma passed near St. John and St. Thomas on Sept. 6 as a Category 5 system, killing three people and causing widespread and significant destruction to homes and businesses. Maria passed to the south of St. Croix two weeks later, resulting in major flooding and wind damage to homes there.

LAWS

Continued from Page 4

But lawmakers and policy groups in several states say the protective pendulum has swung too far, and it's time to send a message that parents who raise their children in a healthy environment can grant them more freedom.

Utah's new law specifies that it isn't neglectful to let well-cared-for children travel to school, explore a playground or stay in the car alone if they're mature enough to handle it.

Free-range parenting differs from the concept of latchkey kids, or those who take care of themselves after school, in that it generally emphasizes getting kids outside in the neighborhood as a way to develop independence, Boston-based clinical psychologist Bobbi Wegner said.

Fears about letting kids make their own way date at least in part to cases like Etan Patz, who was among the first missing children pictured on milk cartons after disappearing while he walked to his New York City bus stop alone in 1979.

Meanwhile, as education has become more essential in the workforce, parents are increasingly eager to give their kids a leg up with lessons in everything from coding to cello.

"We sign our kids up for all these activities — tutoring, different things — to create this perfect resume from a very young age, but it's really at a detriment to the kid's mental health," Wegner said.

While giving kids independence with parent oversight helps, it's hard for adults to escape pressure to hover, she said.

"Parents need permission to do this," Wegner said. A self-avowed free-range parent, she said a police officer once knocked on her door and threatened to call child services after seeing her then-3-and-a-half-year-old son standing at the end of the driveway talking to neighborhood kids. She'd like to see Massachusetts follow Utah's lead.

In New York, Democratic state Assemblyman Phil Steck said he's gearing up to introduce a similar proposal.

"When I was a child, you let your dogs and your children out after breakfast and ... they had to be home for dinner," he said. "I felt I gained a lot more from just playing on the street than my children did from being in organized sports activities."

It's an idea that cuts across the ideological spectrum. Brandon Logan with the conservative Texas Public Policy Foundation is working with lawmakers for a bill next year.

"We expect adults to be independent, and we expect parents to raise their children to be independent, and you can't do that whenever children are being micromanaged," Logan said.

A conservative group is also pushing for a bill in Idaho, and an Arkansas lawmaker whose effort failed plans to bring it back again.

They're all taking a close look at Utah's law, which sailed through the Legislature and was signed by the governor of the majority-Mormon state known for big families and wide-open spaces. It doesn't specify how old kids should be to do things alone, which lawmakers say

Texas Border Patrol agent charged in deaths of woman, child

DALLAS (AP) — Texas authorities say a supervisor for the U.S. Border Patrol killed a woman and her 1-year-old child before calling 911 claiming to have discovered the bodies near a city park.

Twenty-eight-year-old Ronald Anthony Burgos Aviles was being held without bond Tuesday in the Webb County jail on two counts of capital murder.

Laredo police spokesman Joe Baeza says Burgos Aviles was identified as a person of interest within an hour of the 911 call Monday, but Baeza declined to elaborate.

Baeza said Tuesday that 27-year-old Grizelda Hernandez and her son, Dominick Alexander Hernandez, likely were killed Monday near the park. He says Burgos Aviles and the woman were in a romantic relationship.

Online jail records do not indicate an attorney for Burgos Aviles to answer the allegations.

will allow authorities to weigh each case separately.

Discretion like that is important, said Stephen Hinshaw, a University of California, Berkeley psychology professor. Not every child is ready to ride their bike alongside busy roads, and participating in things like music lessons can teach them important skills.

"Parents have to be smart about what is helping foster self-reliance and what is putting kids in a dangerous spot," he said.

Amy Coulter, a stay-at-home Utah mom of four girls and a boy, said she doesn't call herself a free-range parent. But she does avoid intervening with teachers on her older kids' grades and encourages her kids use their own money to buy things at the grocery store.

"I want them to know that they're capable," she said of her children, who range in age from 5 to 14.

In her Lehi neighborhood, kids often roam the block "snack-hopping" at different homes.

Recent Utah transplant Krista Whipple said she's liked the concept of free-range parenting for years, but it was tough to practice it in her old Los Angeles neighborhood when most kids stayed behind fences.

"I didn't want to raise my kids all cooped up, but it always made me think twice," said Whipple, a program manager at a St. George youth homeless shelter who has two boys and a girl who are 6, 4 and 3.

"Kids are not in constant danger, and it's OK to let them outside, and it's OK ... to let them get lost," she said. "They'll find their way home."

FACEBOOK

Continued from Page 4

they weren't affected.

The notification also has a link to other apps that users have shared information with when they log into Facebook. Bagnetto said he found

that information useful. He was comfortable with some of the fitness apps on the list, but deleted others, including games he hasn't been playing and an app for finding Wi-Fi connections.

"There was a handful that I absolutely didn't know what they were for," he said. "I just deleted them because I'm clearly not using them."

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Day after Bolton takes over, homeland security aide is out



WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump's homeland security adviser Thomas Bossert resigned Tuesday in the latest White House shakeup.

White House Press Secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders said in a statement that Trump was "grateful for Tom's commitment to the safety and security of our great country."

Bossert was the point person in the White House on protecting the nation from terror and cyber threats. He also helped spearhead the administration's response to last year's hurricanes in Texas, Florida and Puerto Rico.

His exit comes a day after new national security adviser John Bolton began his tenure. Bolton, a seasoned bureaucratic operator, had been expected to put his stamp on the National Security Council staff.

Bossert is the latest in a wave of both voluntary and forced departures from the West Wing in recent months that have sent morale in the White House to new lows.

Trump's administration has set new records for turnover in his 15 months in office at all levels, with Bossert marking at least the 13th official who held the rank of assistant to the president at the start of the administration to depart.

AP photo

In this Dec. 19, 2017, file photo, White House Homeland Security Adviser Tom Bossert speaks during a briefing at the White House, in Washington. White House Press Secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders said in a statement Tuesday, April 10, 2018, that Bossert would be leaving his post.

Trump slump? International arrivals data may be wrong



AP photo

In this Jan. 20, 2018, file photo, visitors to the Statue of Liberty stand in line to board a ferry that will cruise the bay around the statue and Ellis Island in New York.

By **BETH J. HARPAZ**

AP Travel Editor

That "Trump slump" we've been hearing about in travel may not be as bad it seems.

The U.S. Department of Commerce says government statistics showing a decrease in international arrivals may be wrong. The department is suspending publication of the data pending revision.

The most recent government statistics, published in March, showed a nearly 4 percent drop in international arrivals to the United States

during the first eight months of 2017, compared with the same period in 2016.

Travel experts applauded the government's intention to re-analyze the data. But many remain concerned about a Trump slump.

Tourism Economics President Adam Sacks says his data shows international arrivals to the U.S. increased 2 percent in 2017, but the United States is still "underperforming" compared with international travel globally, which increased 7 percent.

In US-China tariff fight, German autos are unlikely victims

By **TOM KRISHER**

AP Auto Writer

DETROIT — At the edge of the Blue Ridge Mountains sits a sprawling factory that has become an unlikely victim in the escalating trade fight between the U.S. and China.

The plant near Spartanburg, South Carolina, is owned by German automaker BMW, and it exports more vehicles to China than any other auto factory in America.

The 6 million-square-foot plant makes luxury sport utility vehicles, which are coveted by affluent Chinese buyers for their German prestige and reliability that's better than Chinese domestic brands. One in every four SUVs that comes off its assembly lines is shipped to China.

Now those 87,000 vehicles could be subject to extra tariffs that could add tens of thousands of Chinese yuan to their already lofty prices.

The trade dispute between the U.S. and China intensified last week, when the Trump administration released its list of imports from China worth \$50 billion on which it would impose 25-percent tariffs as punishment for China's alleged theft of U.S. intellectual property. China retaliated with its own threatened tariffs on \$50 billion worth of U.S. products, including autos.

In a move aimed at defusing the conflict, China President Xi Jinping on Tuesday indicated his country would make concessions, promising to cut auto import taxes and improve intellectual property protection but offering no specifics. China has promised similar changes in the past but has not followed through.

If both sides make good on tariff threats, German luxury automakers, rather than American companies, will be hit the hardest. American and Japanese automakers produce most of what they sell in China at factories located there.

In addition to BMW's South Carolina factory, a Mercedes plant in Tuscaloosa County, Alabama, ships as many as 75,000 pricey GLS and GLE SUVs to China.

Because the German vehicles — with leather seats, heated steering wheels, sunroofs and other goodies — command high prices in China, the current 25 percent tariff on autos shipped in from the U.S. doesn't seem that outrageous.

However, if the tariff doubles to 50 percent of the manufacturing cost as China has threatened, the German vehicles could be priced out of the market, forcing the companies to make them in China or elsewhere.

A BMW X5 large SUV, for example, starts at \$57,200 in the U.S. The cost to manufacture a high-priced SUV is roughly 30 percent below the sticker price. At 25 percent, the tariff would be about \$10,000 (63,020 yuan) on an X5 entering China. It would double to \$20,000 (126,040 yuan) if the tariff doubles.

The U.S. isn't as restrictive about cars coming into the country. Currently, there is a 2.5 percent tariff on imported autos and 25 percent on imported pickup trucks. Trump is proposing to hit all auto imports with a 25 percent tariff. In addition, Trump last week threatened to add \$100 billion more in tariffs if China retaliates against the U.S. It's not clear yet what products that would cover.

Realizing what's at stake, BMW put out a state-

ment supporting free trade and warning that a conflict could hurt its factory, which exported 70 percent of the 371,000 SUVs it made last year to 123 countries. One third of the exports went to China.

"Free trade has made the success story of BMW Group in the U.S. possible," wrote Kenn Sparks, the company's chief U.S. spokesman. "In our opinion, a further escalation of the trade conflict between the U.S. and China would be harmful for all stakeholders."

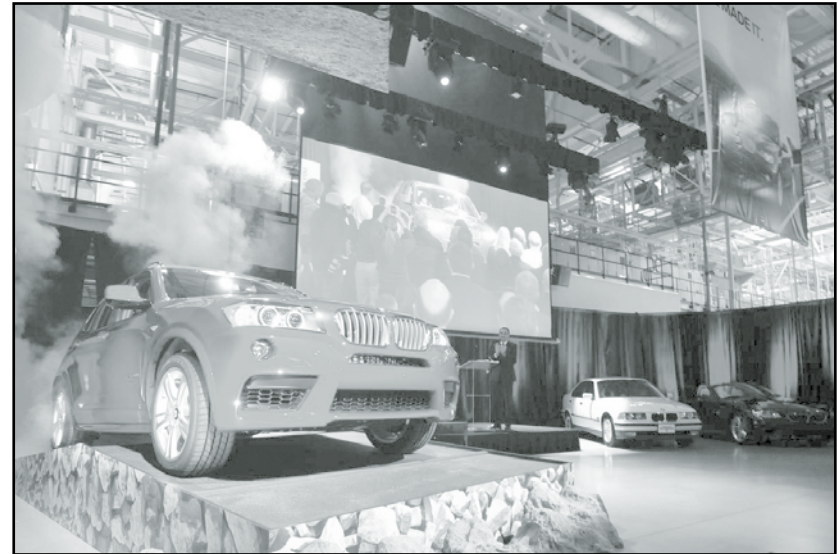
The plant started off making cars when it opened more than 23 years ago at a time when the SUV was starting to catch on in the U.S. BMW quickly spotted the trend and began building one SUV there. It shifted the whole plant to sport utilities by 2008 as Americans and then much of the world began falling for the high seating and roomy cargo area.

When it opened in 1994 with an initial investment of \$600 million, the plant had 2,000 workers, helping South Carolina diversify its employment from textiles to manufacturing. It now makes X3, X4, X5 and X6 SUVs there, growing into an economic powerhouse as BMW hired a total of 10,000 people and invested \$8 billion. The factory also supports 40 parts supply companies in the state. One study found that the plant spurred more than 30,000 jobs in the state.

But Kristen Dziczek, a vice president at industry think tank Center for Automotive Research in Ann Arbor, Michigan, says a trade war with China could force BMW, Mercedes and others to rethink where they make vehicles, and that could cost jobs in the heart of Trump country. Spartanburg County, where the BMW plant is located, voted 63 percent for Trump in 2016.

BMW wouldn't comment on jobs. Before the tariffs were floated, it had plans to start producing the X3 compact SUV at a Chinese factory. Even so, Sparks says the Spartanburg plant will make more X3s than it does now because of high demand in the U.S.

Other auto producers that could suffer because of the tariffs threatened by China include Tesla, which a Barclay's analyst said gets about 12 percent of its revenue by exporting about 14,300 electric cars and SUVs from California to China. Ford



AP photo

In this Jan. 12, 2012, file photo A BMW X3, is driven out onto a stage area in Spartanburg, S.C. If a trade spat between the U.S. and China escalates and both countries raise tariffs, American automakers won't suffer that much. But German luxury automakers BMW and Mercedes will. BMW exports about 87,000 luxury SUVs from a factory near Spartanburg, S.C.

also ships more than 50,000 vehicles, mostly from the luxury Lincoln brand, to China. But most of what it sells in China is made there in joint venture factories.

Ironically, the 25 percent tariff that the U.S. is contemplating against China could cost some U.S. automakers money.

General Motors exports about 37,000 Buick Envision SUVs from China to the U.S. They would be subject to a higher tariff, adding thousands to the vehicle's \$34,000 sticker price. Ford plans to export what could be thousands of its Focus compact cars from China to the U.S. starting in 2019.

At present, the U.S. is besting China in the auto export business. Companies shipped about 250,000 vehicles from the U.S. to China last year, and China sent about 25,000 to the U.S. But Dziczek says that is rapidly changing with more production headed to China.

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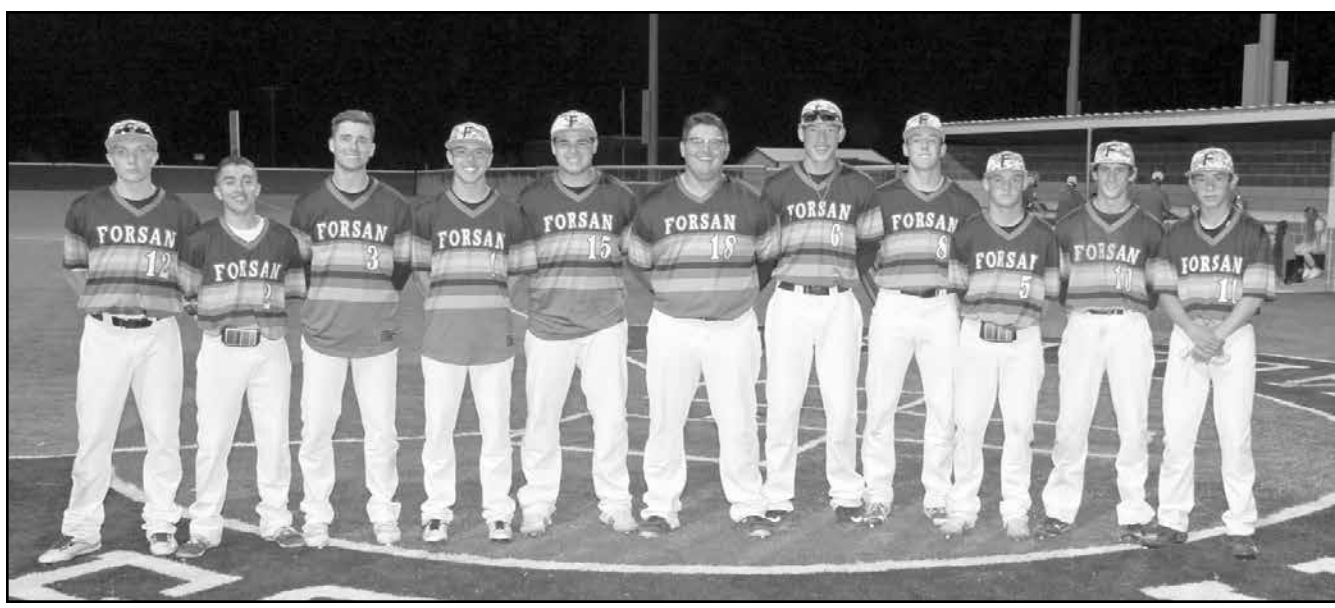
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Buffaloes run over Lions 15-5

By JORDAN PARR

Sports Editor

The Buffs came out swinging against Roby Tuesday night in a 15-5 victory. Forsan outhit Roby 12 to 7 in the game and tripled their run production in a lopsided victory over the Lions. Kolby Watson, Jordan Enriquez, Nate Vidal and Jonathon Gabehart each had two hits in the game. Watson and Enriquez had two RBIs each in the game while Vidal and Gabehart had three a piece to lead the Buffs in the big win. Kolby Watson got the start and the win for the Buffs. He pitched three innings gave up five runs on five hits and struck out two for the save.



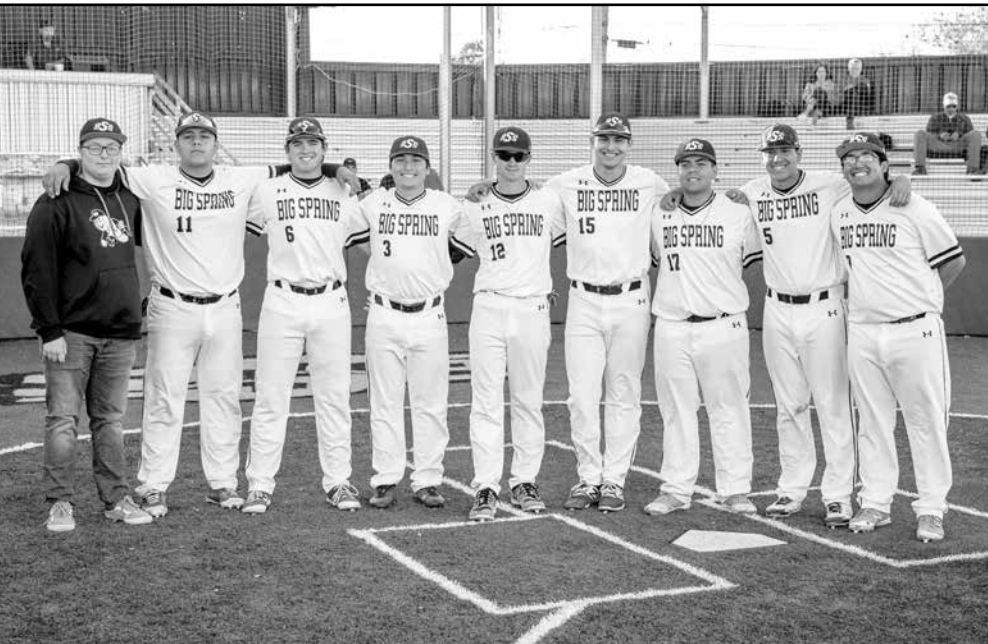
Forsan varsity baseball team after a 15-5 win against Roby on Tuesday night in Forsan

Roby got the scoring started with a one run top of the first before Forsan scored five of their own in the bottom of the inning to take a commanding lead early in the contest. Neither team scored in the second inning. In the top of the third the Lions struck again, this time putting up four runs in the top of the inning to

tie the game at five all. However, the Buffs had the answer scoring six runs in the bottom of the inning to retake the lead and extend it to six in an 11-5 game. In the top of the fourth Forsan held Roby scoreless and then continued to pour it on in the bottom of the inning where they scored three more runs and extended the lead to 9 runs 14-5. The Buffs held Roby scoreless again in the top of the fifth the scored another run to make it a 10 run rule winning inning for Forsan. With the win the Buffs improve their overall record to 4-9 and their district record to 3-3. Forsan will take on Hermleigh this Saturday to try to get above .500 in district play.

Courtesy photo

Steer baseball celebrates seniors



Tony Claxton (www.claxtonphotography.com)

The 2018 BSBS baseball seniors pose for a photograph after Senior Night activities before the Steer's game with Midland Christian on Tuesday, April 10, 2018. Pictured from left to right are: Jaren Walsh, Edward Aguilar, Luke Edwards, Noah Gonzales, Brayden Sizenbach, Tristan Myrick, Austin Hilario, Aaron Olague And



Tony Claxton (www.claxtonphotography.com)

Big Spring senior Edward Aguilar hits a home run during the Steer's game with Midland Christian on Tuesday, April 10, 2018.



Tony Claxton (www.claxtonphotography.com)

Big Spring's Cade Wash is hit in the shoulder by a pitch during the Steer's game with Midland Christian on Tuesday, April 10, 2018.



Tony Claxton (www.claxtonphotography.com)

Big Spring senior left fielder Noah Gonzales catches a pop fly during the Steer's game with Midland Christian on Tuesday, April 10, 2018.

Sherpa guide tries to reach top of the world for 22nd time

By BINAJ GURUBACHARYA

Associated Press

KATHMANDU, Nepal — Three men have climbed to the top of the world 21 times, all of them mountain guides who grew up in the shadow of Mount Everest. Two of these famed Sherpa guides have retired. But 48-year-old Kami Rita says he'll be summiting Everest for years to come. "My goal is to reach the summit of Everest at least 25 times," he told The Associated Press in Kathmandu, Nepal's capital, shortly before heading back to the mountain for what he hopes will mark a record-breaking climb. "I want to set a new record not just for myself but for my family, the Sherpa people and for my country, Nepal." For Rita, climbing is a family

tradition. His father was among the first professional guides after Nepal opened to foreign trekkers and mountaineers in 1950. His brother has scaled Everest 17 times. Most of his male relatives have reached the top least once. He decided to become a guide when he was a child. "Growing up in the village I envied the good clothes and things that people in in the village brought back after expeditions," he said. He first scaled the 8,850-meter (29,035-foot) Everest at 24, and has made the trip almost every year since then. He has also climbed many of the region's other high peaks, including K-2, Cho-Oyu, Manaslu and Lhotse. In the autumn, he guides clients to smaller peaks in Nepal.

As a veteran guide, he earns about \$10,000 for each Everest climb, an enormous income in a country where most people earn just \$700 or so per year. Life changed for many Sherpa families since 1950. Yak herders and traders who lived in the Himalayan foothills, the Sherpas' knowledge of the mountains and stamina built over years of walking high-altitude trails made them ideal guides. The other two summit record-holders are also Sherpas. Apa, a 58-year-old guide who uses only one name, retired in 2011 and moved to Utah. Phurba Tashi, 47, retired from high-altitude climbing in 2013 but still works at Everest's Base Camp, helping organize expeditions.



AP photo

In this March 26, 2018 photo, Nepalese veteran Sherpa guide, Kami Rita, 48, poses for a photograph at his rented apartment in Kathmandu, Nepal. Rita, who is one of just three people to scale Mount Everest 21 times, is about to attempt a record-breaking 22nd summit.

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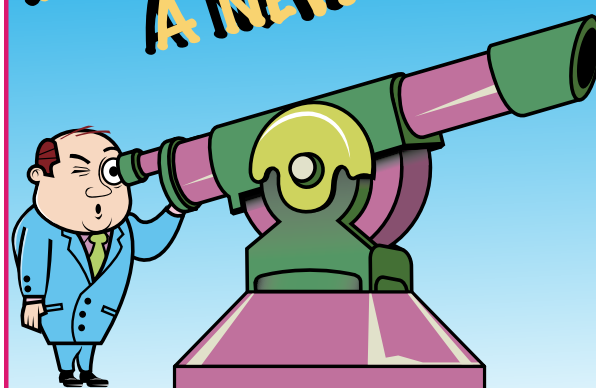
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Tomorrow's Horoscope

BY HOLIDAY MATHIS



Sun-Square-Pluto Situation

Social scientists prove time and again that most people don't know themselves as well as they think they do. We judge ourselves based on how we've behaved before, which can be an extremely poor indicator of what we are capable of and what we'd be like in different conditions, such as the ones emerging while the sun squares Pluto. ARIES (March 21-April 19). You want to be in the conversation, not the star of it. You want to be seen, not feared. You want to serve and be served, not acquiesced to. Aim to hold your own and you'll stay right where you want to be.

TAURUS (April 20-

May 20). It is natural to want to bask in the indirect glory of a friend's win, a partner's achievement or a child's accomplishment. But you are more likely to celebrate people for who they are, not for how successful they are.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). When people don't live up to our hopes, the fault is usually in our expectations. People are generally just being themselves and cannot help if that doesn't match up with others' incorrect notions.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You won't always make the right decision. And when you're the leader, it's even harder to recover from a poor decision. But you're doing your best. That's the important thing. Also important: Don't waver, and don't get defensive.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Your load is heavier because of a relationship. Is that fair? Maybe not. But you agreed to this arrangement, either verbally or implicitly. There may be a way to change the arrangement and

still keep your word.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You don't have to try to be unique. You're effortlessly original. You'll love what happens when you take the pressure off of yourself to be anything other than that which you can't help but be.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). It's mostly going just fine, but for the small part that isn't, you'll take responsibility. You know you can't control what others do, so you'll work on your part of it. That's more than enough to make a difference.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You'll hear stories of adversity overcome. The reason you identify with the heroes is that you are one, too, and more than capable of the same sort of victory.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). It's always a pleasure to watch another person grow, but when that person is older than you, it's even more touching: maybe because it's unexpected; because it gives you faith in the ever evolving nature of humanity.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Your tendency lately is to be stricter than you need to be, especially with yourself. In a sense, it keeps you on track, but over time this could inspire a rebellion. Consider easing up.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You'll observe a lot of waste around you, mostly because people are ignorant, misinformed or haphazard in their management of resources. They need you. Give it your best shot.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). They say that imitation is the sincerest form of flattery, and yet it's also the most difficult to swallow. It's weird to observe people trying to be like you. Hopefully you won't mind it too much when it happens today.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (April 11). You'll be spotlighted for something you do beautifully; then you'll be connected with others who have related talents. You'll co-create something you all will be proud of. The financial deal you make

in June will be great for your personal life, too, as long as you consider people for their character and heart above all else. Libra and Taurus adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 30, 27, 9, 16 and 40.

RETROGRADE ACTIVITIES: "Retrograde" doesn't have to be a scary word. In fact, when planets are apparently moving backward, it's a terrific opportunity to reflect and assimilate all that has happened in the recent past. Retrogrades teach us to honor history and to strongly consider what worked and what didn't before we make our next moves. Here are some ideas for taking advantage of Jupiter's retrograde status and the last week of the current Mercury retrograde.

--Scrapbook for Posterity. More than a stress-relieving craft, scrapbooking is an excellent way to process all that's gone on in relationships. Pictures of celebrations, events and travels with loved ones will spark feelings and insights beyond

what you processed in the moments those pictures were taken. For those who aren't into the crafty aspects of scrapbooking, there are plenty of easy digital options for creating beautiful photo books.

--Pen a Letter. Letter writing is a favored effort under these skies, and the Aries influences overhead give a certain boldness and flair to everything that goes on the page.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Aries is the sign of lucky beginnings, which is well-illustrated in the life of British singer Joss Stone. As a child this Aries saw clips of Aretha Franklin on a television advertisement and asked for the CD of Franklin's greatest hits for Christmas. Thus, the first CD she ever owned was more than a musical recording: It was a calling. Stone has Mercury and Venus in soulful Pisces.

Write Holiday Mathis at HolidayMathis@gmail.com

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Empty-Handed Guests

Dear Annie: I have a question of etiquette. Our adult sons (who are older than 40), their wives and our grandchildren often visit over the weekends for family sit-down dinners. We do this pretty much every weekend because they live close by and we enjoy the chance to keep up with our daughters-in-law and grandchildren.

Our boys and their wives help themselves to wine and beer, which is fine, and I enjoy a glass or two of wine, too. But

none of them ever brings a bottle of wine as a gesture. They all have the expectation that we will replenish the wine and beer each week. Did we do something wrong in bringing these young men up? -- Mystified and Sad

Dear Mystified and Sad: I'm sure you gave your children many etiquette lessons when they were younger; now it's time for some continuing education. There's no need to be shy about it. Tell them you'd really appreciate it if they brought wine, beer or another refreshment when they come over.

Let's hope they have already been bringing food or drinks when guests at others' homes and were just under the (inconsiderate and self-centered) impression that Mom and Dad would always pay for everything. Set 'em straight.

Dear Annie: I have not spoken to my son in almost 15 years. In all that time, I have not seen my granddaughter. When she became a teenager, I invited her to visit my wife and me, even offering to pay her way, but she never came down. She and I have been in touch over the years

through email. She did offer to tell me how life is treating her and all the things she is involved with and all the places she has visited. She is now graduating college, and I do not know whether I should give her a gift or not. A part of me says yes, and another part of me says no. I feel that once she became an adult, she could have come to visit us. We know deep down we will never see her or be involved in her life. What should I do? -- Long-Distance Grandparents

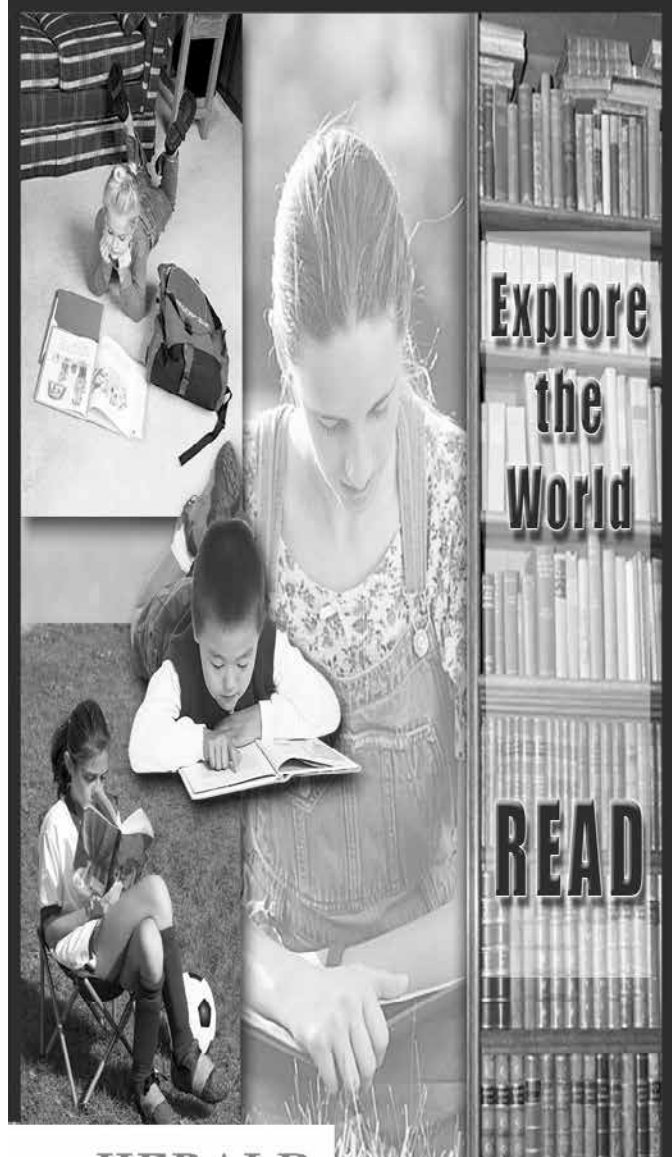
Dear Long-Distance Grandparents: There's no "should"

here. There's only what you feel comfortable doing and what you don't. If you want to give her a gift, go for it. If you don't, that's perfectly fine.

Keep in mind that her reasons for not visiting may be complicated. Maybe her dad asked her not to visit. Or maybe he has said that he's fine with it but she feels guilty having a relationship with you two when he doesn't. You say you know deep down that you'll never see her, but the fact that she's made

an effort to give you updates on her life over the years suggests she cares about having a relationship with you. She's only recently become an adult. I wouldn't give up hope just yet.

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

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

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!

Here's How It Works:

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

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

ANSWER:

Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

North dealer.
East-West vulnerable.

NORTH

- ♠ J
- ♥ 5 2
- ♦ K Q J 10 9 8
- ♣ A 9 8 6

WEST

- ♠ A 6 3
- ♥ J 9 7 4
- ♦ 5 2
- ♣ K Q J 10

EAST

- ♠ Q 9 8 5
- ♥ Q 8
- ♦ 7 6 4 3
- ♣ 7 3 2

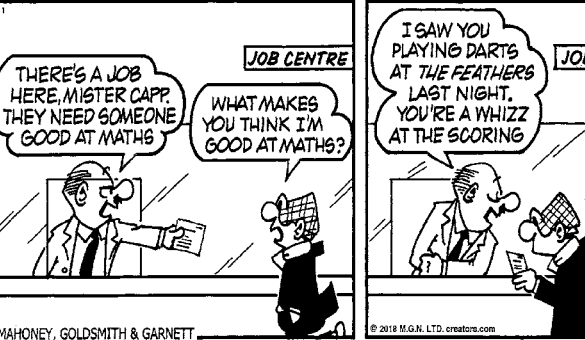
SOUTH

- ♠ K 10 7 4 2
- ♥ A K 10 6 3
- ♦ A
- ♣ 5 4

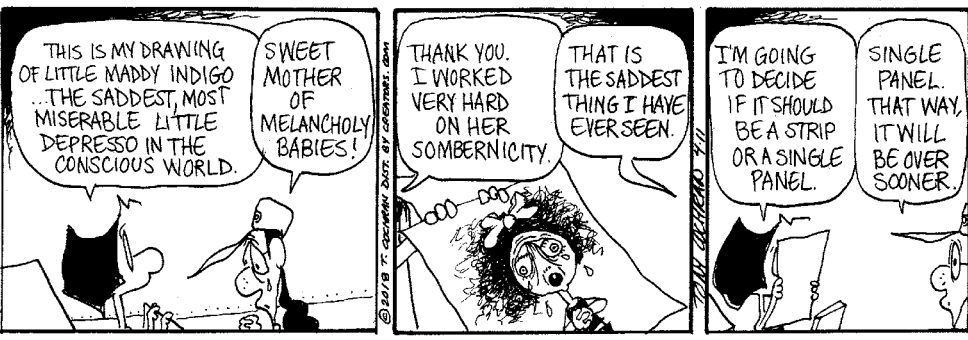
The bidding:
North East South West
1 ♦ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♦ Pass 2 ♥ Pass
3 ♣ Pass 3 NT
Opening lead — king of clubs.

Table with 20 columns representing different TV channels and their programming schedules for the week of April 11, 2018.

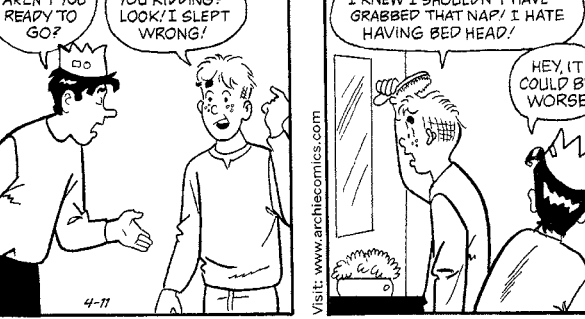
ANDY CAPP



AGNES



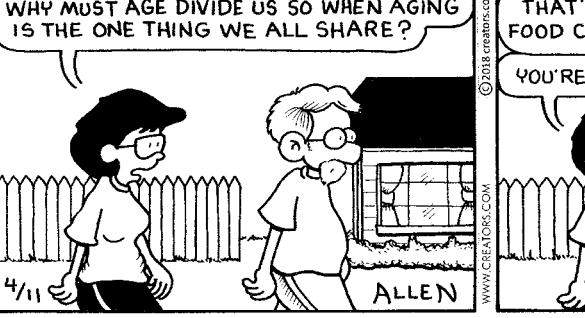
ARCHIE



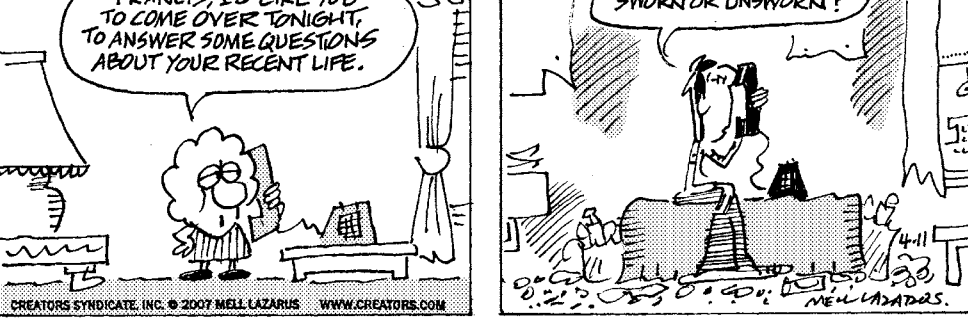
ONE BIG HAPPY



NEST HEAD



MOMMA



This Date In History

Today is Wednesday, April 11, the 101st day of 2018. There are 264 days left in the year. Today's Highlight in History: On April 11, 1968, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed into law the Civil Rights Act of 1968...

Party voted 55-23 to support the Northern Ireland peace accord and its leader, David Trimble, who had outmaneuvered rebels in his ranks. Ten years ago: Group of Seven financial officials meeting in Washington pledged to strengthen their regulation of banks...

Actor Peter Riegert is 71. Movie director Carl Franklin is 69. Actor Bill Irwin is 68. Country singer-songwriter Jim Lauderdale is 61. Songwriter-producer Daryl Simmons is 61. Rock musician Nigel Pulsford is 57. Actor Lucky Vanous is 57.

Country singer Steve Azar is 54. Singer Lisa Stansfield is 52. Montana Gov. Steve Bullock is 52. Rock musician Dylan Keefe (Marcy Playground) is 48. Actor Johnny Messner is 48. Actor Vicellous (vy-SAY-luhs) Shannon is 47. Rapper David Banner is 44. Actress Tricia Helfer is 44. Rock musician Chris Gaylor (The All-American Rejects) is 39. Actress Kelli Garner is 34. Singer Joss Stone is 31. Actress-dancer Kaitlyn Jenkins is 26.

Thought for Today: "If you want to conquer fear, don't sit at home and think about it. Go out and get busy." Dale Carnegie American writer-lecturer (1888-1955).

Newsday Crossword

- ACROSS 1 Sugar amts. 5 Checkers and 64 Across 10 Immediately, in a memo 14 Ramble around 15 Missouri's ___ Mountains 16 Tall rural building 17 Operatic solo 18 Comedian known for his insults 20 Break a sweat 22 Unexpected obstacle 23 Possess 24 Graceful long-necked bird 26 Serbian tennis great 30 Letters on tanning lotion 33 Major German river 34 Batman's hideout 35 Long fish 36 The Big ___ Theory 37 \$100 bill, familiarly 39 Golfer's warning 40 Angry feeling 41 "High" time of day 42 Stop for a moment 43 Fuel for freeways 44 Citizen Kane star 47 At no charge 48 Uttered, as opposed to written 49 Fold in some skirts 52 Pre-meal prayer 56 "Hit the Road Jack" singer

FAMOUS PEOPLES by Mark McClain Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

- 8 Goof up 9 Glide down slopes 10 Request to enter 11 River sediment 12 Actor Baldwin 13 Luxurious 19 Stunt driver's movie job 21 Walk back and forth 24 Venetian blind strip 25 "___ got to stop meeting..." 26 The head guy 27 Gone With the Wind surname 28 Middling poker pair 29 Money-saving, in brand names 30 Korean metropolis 31 As such 32 Gets away in a hurry 37 Apple leftover 38 Wine's aroma 39 Decreases, as revenue 41 Up, on a map 42 Stew veggies 45 At least that much 46 Takes forcibly 47 Gem surface 49 Make ready, informally 50 Swimming pool exercises 51 Examines closely 52 Cookie Monster's color 53 Not being used 54 Turndowns 55 Mardi ___ 57 Division of the KC Chiefs 58 Old-school cheer

13x13 crossword grid with numbers 1-65 indicating starting positions for words.

Answer to previous puzzle: NESS SPAIN OMNI, CANT HENCE NEON, ARIA JINTOW ELSE, ANDRUNNING SEEP, SEEME SUGGEST, PULP YOU, BOAT PAST LABEL, ARROW MAR FRAME, TEETH BLUE DATE, HOG MENU, ALLEARS GRADE, LEIS ONATANGENT, LEVI WAGER AUTO, ARID TREAD ICED, HYDE HESSE NERO.

It's the last day of the NBA season, with much to decide

By **TIM REYNOLDS**

AP Basketball Writer

MIAMI — The end has arrived. Actually, for Atlanta, Phoenix, Dallas and Charlotte, the end came in their season finales Tuesday. There are nine teams that know Wednesday is the last day of their season. And 15 teams already have clinched playoff berths.

Then there are Minnesota and Denver.

Game 82 for both teams will have a Game 7-of-the-playoffs feel, which is a fitting way to transition from the regular season to the postseason. Nuggets at Timberwolves, winner to the playoffs, loser to the offseason. It's the first time since 1997 — and only the third time since the NBA went to this postseason format in 1983 — that two teams will play on the season's final day in such a situation.

"It's bigger than all of us," Wolves star Karl-Anthony Towns said.

Minnesota is trying to get into the playoffs for the first time since 2004 — the longest current drought in the NBA. Denver — winner of six straight to give itself this chance — is trying to get to the postseason for the first time since 2013.

So there's only one spot left in the 16-team tournament that will decide whose fingerprints get to put the smudge of a championship celebration on the Larry O'Brien Trophy in June.

Much like the race between Minnesota and Denver, the entire tournament bracket itself is going down to the wire. There will be eight first-round matchups, and every single one of those pairings will be decided on Wednesday. So, too, will 11 of the 16 seeds. Portland and Utah will play for the No. 3 seed in the West, in one of the few cut-and-dry matchups.

The only order of business that was cleared up Tuesday was the No. 2 overall seed, with Toronto now assured of finishing with the NBA's second-best record.

Here are 10 other things to note going into the last day of the regular season:

A FIRST FOR LEBRON

It's really, really, really hard to find something that LeBron James hasn't done in his career. But if he appears for Cleveland against New York on Wednesday night, it will mark the first time in James' 15 seasons that he plays in all 82 regular-season games. He will lead the NBA in minutes played, field goals made and total points this season — at 33 years old.

PHILLY RECORD

Philadelphia would be the No. 3 seed in the East if it beats Milwaukee, and a franchise that knew nothing but losing (OK, "process" losing) in recent years will set a record — for winning. If the 76ers prevail, it would be their 16th consecutive victory and that would top the record for longest winning streak to end any NBA season.

SCORING TITLE

Houston's James Harden has the scoring crown wrapped up. He'll be the first player to win back-to-back scoring titles since his former Oklahoma City teammate Kevin Durant won three straight from 2009-10 through 2011-12.

MORE POINTS

Once again, the NBA will see more points than ever (in terms of total, not average per game). There were 259,753 points in the regular season a year ago; that will be surpassed Wednesday night, and the league is on pace to reach somewhere around 261,000 by the time the final whistle blows.

TRIPLE-DOUBLE RUSS

Oklahoma City's Russell Westbrook needs 16 rebounds against Memphis to average exactly 10.0 per game this season. If he gets there, he'll average a triple-double for the second consecutive year. Westbrook has six games this season with at least 16 rebounds, including a season-high, 18-board effort at Miami on Monday night. Westbrook will also lead the NBA in assists per game.

STRUGGLING WARRIORS

Golden State lost 10 of its final 17 games this season. The Warriors' regular season ended Tuesday with a blowout loss at Utah. Klay Thompson isn't worried, and he knows the defending champions — who have dealt with many injuries, most recently Stephen Curry out with a knee issue — have plenty of doubters. "We're ready to prove people wrong," Thompson said.

TOP SHOOTER

The field-goal percentage race between Houston's Clint Capela and the Los Angeles Clippers' DeAndre Jordan might look closer than it really is. Capela is shooting 65.3 percent, Jordan 64.3 percent — but if Jordan is going to catch Capela, he'll have to shoot 15 for 15 on Wednesday (assuming Capela doesn't take any shots). Jordan was trying to be the first player to lead the league in shooting for six straight seasons, but it seems like he'll merely have to settle for tying Wilt Chamberlain and Shaquille O'Neal with five straight crowns.

TOP REBOUNDER

Here's another category where Jordan will finish second. Detroit's Andre Drummond will lead the league's rebounding race for the second time in three years.

es last in the Northwest will be only three games behind the team that wins the division crown. There's never been a last-place team within less than 11 games of the winner in this current format, which has been in play for 14 years.



AP photo
Cleveland Cavaliers forward LeBron James, left, drives against New York Knicks guard Trey Burke, right, during the third quarter of an NBA basketball game, Monday, April 9, 2018, in New York.

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Sounds systems

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Microwaves

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SHERPA

Continued from Page 7

It is not an easy life. "There are many risks in climbing, which is always unpredictable and dangerous. But I have had to keep doing this because I don't know anything else," Rita said. Some of the hardest moments for him came when he lost friends in mountaineering accidents.

He was at Base Camp when an avalanche struck in 2014, killing 16 Sherpa guides, including five from his team. The next year, an earthquake triggered another avalanche that ripped through Base Camp, killing 19 people. He escaped only because his team's tents were set up that year on the far side of Base Camp.

Sherpa guides now have better insurance coverage, and the Nepal government has begun issuing certificates for successful climbs to guides too.

"Now we have proof to show our clients of the climbs we have achieved, which helps us," he said.

In many ways, he says, climbing has become safer in the three decades he's been working in the mountains, with better

equipment and complex weather forecasting to warn of the mountain's deadly storms.

"The dangers are still there: the crevasses are deep and the slopes are unpredictable. But we are not climbing blind like we used to. We are better informed about weather and other condition on the mountain," he said. "Even our clients are more aware and they train themselves for at least a year before attempting Everest."

Still, he wants the number of Everest climbers to be limited. The mountain has only a brief window of weather good enough for summit attempts, normally in mid-May, a situation that now regularly results in mountaineering traffic jams. "On those days there are hundreds of climbers hanging onto ropes to reach the top," he said.

Mountaineering has been Rita's professional life. But it still weighs heavily on his family.

His wife, Lakpa Jangmu, dreads when he leaves for expeditions.

"I keep telling him we could look for other jobs, start a small business," she said. "But he does not listen to me at all."

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The MVP votes are due, let the annual debate begin



Harden had 28 points, nine rebounds and nine assists, and the Rockets fought off a late rally for the 100-91 win.

AP photo

The argument happens most every year. Who is the NBA MVP?

LeBron James has been the best player for most of his 15 years in the league, and he's won the award only four times. Russell Westbrook won it last year, buoyed by averaging a triple-double, yet seems to not even be in the conversation this season with very similar numbers. James Harden was a popular pick last season, saw his assist and rebound numbers dip this season, yet is generally considered the runaway favorite.

Part of the issue is this: There's no clarity on how the MVP is defined.

No one knows the criteria. The award ballot sent to MVP voters simply says "The winner of this award receives the Maurice Podoloff Trophy, named after the first Commissioner of the NBA."

Is it the player most valuable to his team?

Is it the player most valuable to the game?

Is it the best player?

Those are only some of the many gray areas.

Los Angeles Clippers coach Doc Rivers has said many times over the years that James would win annually, if not for voters getting tired of selecting him (though Rivers is also on record this year saying Harden will be MVP). Michael Jordan might have dealt with the same voter-fatigue issue. And it's still baffling that Oscar Robertson, who had some of the most statistically ridiculous seasons in NBA history, won it only once.

Debate will probably always surround the MVP race, a notable exception being two years ago when Stephen Curry was the first unanimous winner.

This year's answer will come June 25, when the NBA announces the winner. It'll likely be Harden. There will be reasonable points made in support of that. There will be reasonable points made for

James as well.

Here now, the picks for certain awards by AP Basketball Writers Brian Mahoney and Tim Reynolds, as well as a look at what we think will happen in the playoffs:

MVP

Mahoney: James Harden, Houston. Mastered a new position last season. Masterfully shared it this one. His stats, team's record, make a worthy winner.

Reynolds: LeBron James, Cleveland. Made this same pick last year, making it again this year, because the Cavs would be horrid without him.

MOST IMPROVED PLAYER

Mahoney: Clint Capela, Rockets. Blocks shots, rebounds, and the NBA's leading shooter doesn't miss much when he gets the ball.

Reynolds: Victor Oladipo, Indiana. He was absolutely fantastic in his first Indiana season, leading

the Pacers to the No. 5 seed in the East.

COACH OF THE YEAR

Mahoney: Brad Stevens, Celtics. Won it in November with response to losing Gordon Hayward. Re-won it in March with response to losing Kyrie Irving.

Reynolds: Many great candidates — like Dwane Casey, Gregg Popovich, Brad Stevens, Brett Brown and Terry Stotts. But Utah's Quin Snyder is the pick.

ROOKIE OF THE YEAR

Mahoney: Donovan Mitchell, Utah. Hard to believe he was barely a lottery pick last year after watching him carry Utah like an All-Star.

Reynolds: Utah's Donovan Mitchell gets the call, not in an anti-Ben Simmons vote, but because he led the Jazz like a savvy, seasoned pro.

EASTERN CONFERENCE CHAMPION

Mahoney: Cleveland still has the best player and too much firepower around him to lose four times to an East team.

Reynolds: LeBron James is as good as ever, and is always an incredibly tough out. Toronto can defeat Cleveland, but the Cavs rate a tiny edge.

WESTERN CONFERENCE CHAMPION

PION

Mahoney: Golden State, but less sure of that than at any time during the Warriors' run. Houston is that good.

Reynolds: Until proven otherwise, and this assumes that Stephen Curry comes back healthy from his knee issue, the pick is Golden State — again.

NBA CHAMPIONS

Mahoney: Warriors in 5.

Reynolds: Warriors in 5.

BOLD OFFSEASON PREDICTIONS

Mahoney: Kyrie Irving, Chris Paul, Paul George, Carmelo Anthony and Jimmy Butler were all traded last summer. Is there anything that would surprise you?

Reynolds: LeBron James leaves Cleveland, Spurs trade Kawhi Leonard, Wizards break up Bradley Beal and John Wall, and Rihanna DMs Joel Embiid.



AP photo

Boston Celtics guard Isaiah Thomas (4) fouls Cleveland Cavaliers forward LeBron James (23) during the second half in game one of the Eastern conference finals of the NBA Playoffs at TD Garden.

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