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# BIG SPRING HERALD

TUESDAY, MAY 22, 2018



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## Aquatic Center to host a free swimming day

By AMBER MANSFIELD  
 Staff Writer

With school out and summer finally here, it's time to beat the heat as the Russ McEwen Family Aquatic Center opens its doors to help keep summer time fun and cool. One way to really break in summer the right way is by

coming to the Aquatic Center Splash Inn on June 2.

"This is a really fun day for the public of Big Spring," said Hailey Herrera, the tourism coordinator for Big Spring Visitors Center. "The Aquatic Center is really a staple for Big Spring and a way to have fun and beat the heat during summer time, and this is

the only Aquatic Center day that is free for the public, so be sure to come stop by the Splash Inn for some fun."

The Aquatic Center project began in 2010 and consists of a 9,376 square foot leisure pool and a 4,662 square foot bathhouse. The pool includes a zero depth entry, climbable play structure, equipped with

water guns and a giant bucket of water that keeps filling up until it dumps on the unsuspecting patron. Other featured water activities include a lazy river and two water slides. One slide is a black out tunnel for those seeking a little more thrill.

The bathhouse includes changing and bathing facilities

as well as office spaces, a concession area, and dedicated mechanical equipment spaces.

There are also on-site amenities that include sand play areas and equipment, shade structures,

See **CENTER**, Page 3

## Disabled American Veterans' Honorees



HERALD photo/Roger Cline

At their Monday evening meeting, Big Spring's O'Neal-Kunkle Chapter of Disabled American Veterans honored several local businesses and individuals for their support of the chapter, which provides assistance for local disabled veterans. Shown are Gerald King, Justin Forshee, Stanley Phillips, Bob Lindsey, Kevin Blonkvist and Matt Woodall. Honorees not present at the meeting included Bo Fryar, the Surles Family, Scott Davis, Joey Lloyd, Benny Matlock, Rick Cunningham, Dean Thomas, Pollard Chevrolet, South West Tool and Dr. Gale Kilgore.

## SMMC adds private room for nursing mothers



Courtesy photo

Pictured above is the new designated lactation room in SMMC's labor and delivery unit.

### Special to the Herald

BIG SPRING —Scenic Mountain Medical Center (SMMC) has added a designated lactation room to its labor and delivery unit. The room is open 24/7 and can be utilized by employees as well as visitors.

In addition, SMMC has made aesthetic updates to its labor and delivery unit to improve the patient experience.

The lactation room is located on the south end of the building, second floor (Labor and Delivery Unit) and can be accessed at any time, day or night. There is no charge to use the room, stop by the Nurse's Desk on the unit and a staff member will show you to the room.

"Breastfeeding is highly encouraged at SMMC. Research has proven the benefits for both mother and baby. We are excited to provide this lactation room, which offers a comfortable, safe atmosphere for moms who choose to breastfeed," explained Angela Grimsley, labor and delivery director of Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

"This is one more service that we can provide to our staff and visitors to help further the bond between mother and baby," Grimsley added. "It is the goal of SMMC staff to meet the community needs as holistically as possible while maintaining a safe culture of care." In addition to the new lactation room, SMMC's Labor and Delivery Unit improved the physical and emotional healing elements throughout the unit. Updated art work and soft colors are a few of the new features implemented.

"We get to celebrate as patients welcome new additions to their family and we are constantly thinking of how to enhance their overall experience," Grimsley said.

To see the lactation room or any of the other improvements taking place on the Labor and Delivery Unit, stop by Scenic Mountain, located at 1601 W. Eleventh Place or call 432-263-1211, to schedule a tour.

## Wildlife for Business



### Special to the Herald

On May 17th the Howard SWCD in conjunction with the Texas A&M Agrilife Extension and Natural Resources Conservation Service helped sponsor a Wildlife for Business symposium at the G. C. Broughton Jr. Ag Complex on the campus of Howard College. Attended by more than 50 interested individuals the program presented information on how wildlife impacts the business of agriculture and ways to utilize wildlife to diversify ranching operations.

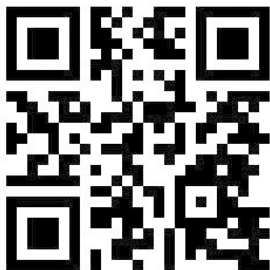
Topics on the agenda were:

Managed Land Deer Program and other Permits presented by Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Wildlife Biologist Seth Pearson

Managed Land Deer Program is designed to prevent the overuse of

See **WILDLIFE**, Page 3

Find us online at:  
 www.bigspringherald.com



**CORRECTION**  
 In last Wednesday's Herald story regarding the upcoming Song Swap at the Spring, the start date for ticket availability was omitted. Tickets for the event will be available at the Big Spring Visitor's Center, 113 E. Third St., starting June 4. Tickets are free, but required for entry into the event. There will be a limit of two tickets per person. Call the Visitor's Center at 432-263-8235 for more information.

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## Obituaries

### Roxie Marie Vaughan Hodnett



Roxie Marie Vaughan Hodnett, 78, of Big Spring died Monday, May 21, 2018.

Graveside services will be 10 a.m. Wednesday, May 23, 2018 at the Colorado City Cemetery in Colorado City. The family will receive friends from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Tuesday, May 22, 2018, at Nalley-Pickle and Welch Funeral Home.

Survivors include one daughter,

Idona Reid of Coahoma; three sons, Dale Hodnett and wife Sherril of Houston, Raymond Hodnett of Big Spring, and Larry Hodnett Jr. and wife Starla of Midland; 15 grandchildren; and 20 great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Raymond and Lorena Vaughan; one son, Michael Doss; one brother, Don Ray Vaughan; and a granddaughter, A'Lessha Hodnett.

Arrangements are under the direction of Nalley-Pickle and Welch Funeral Home and Crematory. Online condolences can be made at [www.npwelch.com](http://www.npwelch.com).

## Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity:

- **JOHN PATRICK KNIGHT**, 37, of 600 W. Interstate 20 Room 137 was arrested on outstanding warrants.

- **GEORGE MICHAEL COBB**, 35, of 800 Wildfire was arrested on warrants for expired registration and failure to maintain financial responsibility.

- **MICHAELS ANTHONY CARRILLO**, 25, of 1606 Runnels was arrested on warrants for bail jumping/failure to appear and possession of marijuana (2 to 4 ounces).

- **CYNTHIA MARIE MIER**, 38, of 1614 Cardinal St. was arrested on several outstanding warrants.

- **LARRY JOHNATHAN LEE**, 42, of 19 Davis Rd. was arrested

on several outstanding warrants.

- **ANGIE DAWN FEATHERSTON**, 42, of 3612 Calvin was arrested on outstanding warrants.

- **THEFT** was reported in the 1000 block of South Gregg Street, the 3600 block of West Highway 80, and the 4500 block of East County Road 34.

- **BURGLARY OF A HABITATION** was reported in the 800 block of Settles St.

## 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.

- **MICHAELS ANTHONY CARRILLO**, 25, was booked by BSPD on warrants for bail jumping/failure to appear and possession of marijuana (2 to 4 ounces).

- **GEORGE MICHAEL COBB**, 35, was booked by BSPD on warrants for expired registration

and failure to maintain financial responsibility.

- **ANGIE DAWN FEATHERSTON**, 42, was booked by HCSO on a motion to revoke probation for possession of marijuana (less than 2 oz.); and on a warrant for possession of drug paraphernalia.

- **JOHN PATRICK KNIGHT**, 37, was booked by BSPD on warrants for domestic-subsequent.

- **LARRY JOHNATHAN LEE**, 42, was booked by DPS on a warrant for driving with an invalid

license, violation of promise to appear and possession or delivery of drug paraphernalia.

- **MARTA PAIGE MATHEWS**, 45, was booked by Sterling County on warrants for bail jumping and failure to appear, theft of property (\$2,500 to \$30,000) and theft of property (\$750 to \$2,500).

- **CYNTHIA MARIE MIER**, 38, was booked by BSPD on several warrants for parent contributing to non-attendance.

## Take Note

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

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

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

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

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

- Big Spring's Centennial Lions Club is holding

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

- Food 2 Kids Big Spring needs you! It is time to start sacking food for Big Spring elementary students who do not receive adequate food over the weekends. Members of the community can be a part by volunteering to sack the food. It just takes a couple hours of your time and the work is very rewarding. To volunteer, just show up at the time and dates listed. For more information, call, 432-935-3998.

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

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

- Seniors and mature adults are invited to a dance on the first, third and fifth Friday of each month at the Dora Roberts Community Center.

Dances are from 7:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. with live bands. No alcohol or smoking permitted. There will be a pot luck as well so bring a dish if you want to eat.

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

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

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

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### Faye "Mama Faye" Stallings



Faye "Mama Faye" Stallings, 88, of Big Spring, died Monday, May 21, 2018.

Funeral services will be 10 a.m. Thursday, May 24, 2018, at the Nalley-Pickle and Welch Rosewood Chapel. Burial will follow at Trinity Memorial Park.

The family will receive friends from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Wednesday at the funeral home.

Survivors include her husband, Raymond Stallings; one son, Gary Stallings and wife Cynthia of Fredericksburg; one grandson; two great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild.

She was preceded in death by her parents; and one son, Jim Stallings.

Arrangements are under the direction of Nalley-Pickle and Welch Funeral Home and Crematory. Online condolences can be made at [www.npwelch.com](http://www.npwelch.com).

## Fire/EMS

Big Spring Fire Department/EMS reported the following activity:

- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 3200 block of Parkway. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 3200 block of Parkway. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 300 block of West Fourth Street. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 3200 block of South Highway 87. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 700 block of West Interstate 20. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 2700 block of Rebecca. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 1300 block of South Main Street. One person was treated at the scene.

- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported In the 1900 block of Wasson Road. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 2600 block of Central. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 200 block of Becker Road. 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.

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

### 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.

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**MEMBER 2018**

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# School shooting not likely to decide Texas runoff races

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — A key Texas runoff for a U.S. House seat will test whether the national Democratic Party's establishment can overcome an insurgent wing more openly hostile to President Donald Trump.

Others will set up November contests where Democrats hope to flip three Republican-held congressional districts, a once unthinkable total in such a conservative state. And the party will choose its nominee for governor, even if Republican Gov. Greg Abbott looks unbeatable.

But one issue not expected to resonate is gun control, even though balloting comes four days after a shooting killed 10 people at Santa Fe High School near Houston.

Abbott is convening roundtable discussions with major policymakers to discuss better fortifying schools but, like other top Republicans, hasn't mentioned gun control. Democrats say Texas conservatives don't dare cross the National Rifle Association by considering tighter firearm limits. Their party's candidates generally agree on gun control, meanwhile, so there isn't much debate during the runoff races.

"Nobody's going to change their mind based on the issue," said Mark Jones, a political science professor at Houston's Rice University who noted that more than half of the voters casting runoff ballots did so early, which means before Friday's shooting or on the same day.

Jones said it's possible some Democrats could be "driven to turn out by anger and frustration" post-Santa Fe and may back candidates further to the left. If that happens, it could impact a much-watched race pitting Lizzie Pannill Fletcher against fellow Democrat Laura Moser for the chance to face Republican Rep. John Culberson of Houston in November's general election.

Fletcher, a former Planned Parenthood board member, beat Moser during Texas' March 6 primary. But Moser still made the runoff in a seven-way race despite the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee criticizing her for writing jokingly in 2014 — when she lived in Washington — that she'd rather have teeth pulled than call small-town Texas home.

# The Bull Riding Hall of Fame Inducts 11 Legends of the Sport



Courtesy photo/Bill Robers  
Pictured above from left to right are Wyatt Nuce (Ted Nuce's son), Bobbi Cook representing Oscar, Ted Nuce, Cotton Rosser, Ty Murray, Glen Bird, Ferrell Butler, Wacey Cathey, Miles Hare, Pam Minick and Jerome Davis.

## Special to the Herald

The Bull Riding Hall of Fame inducts 11 legends into the Class of 2018.

The BRHOF Founder and President Bill Putnam introduced the Class of 2018 and Pam Minick and Donnie Gay returned this year as co-hosts and masters of ceremonies.

"The Bull Riders" category features a phenomenal lineup of inductees that includes seven of the greatest riders ever, Ronnie Rossen from Broadus, Montana, Glen Bird from Weatherford, Texas, Ty Murray from Stephenville, Texas, Jerome Davis from Archdale, North Carolina, Wacey Cathey from Big Spring, Texas, Bob Wegner from Ponca City, Oklahoma, and Ted Nuce from Stephenville, Texas.

This year's "The Bull Fighters" category Inductee is Miles Hare from Liberty, Texas.

In "The Legends" category, Cotton Rosser - Flying U Rodeo Co., from Marysville, California and legendary photographer, Ferrell Butler, from Ringgold, Oklahoma.

In "The Bulls" category, Oscar, which was owned by Rodeo Stock Contractors Inc., is the inductee.

The induction was held at the Cowtown Coliseum where The Bull Riding Hall of Fame is located.

The Bull Riding Hall of Fame recognizes and commemorates the legends of the sport of Bull Riding.

For more information about The Bull Riding Hall of Fame, go to BullRidingHOF.com

## WILDLIFE

Continued from Page 1

forage production and protect the present browse. The goal is to balance the pressure on the property so that not all the desirable browse is consumed. As an example, landowners may implement habitat management using methods such as brush management, enhance fawning cover and water development. Improvements for the deer will benefit other wildlife as well. There are two basic programs the landowner can work with the Texas Parks and Wildlife department. Harvest Option gives the owner a cap number of tags for hunting the deer. Conservation Option offers the opportunity to work with a TPWD biologist to receive customized recommendations and guidance on a Habitat Management Practices. More information may be obtained from the Texas Parks and Wildlife by visiting their website [www.lma.tpwd.state.tx.us](http://www.lma.tpwd.state.tx.us). Integrating Livestock and Wildlife by NRCS Rangeland Management Specialist Preston Irwin. To manage wildlife populations and create a symbiotic relationship between browsing wildlife and livestock one needs to ensure the forage demand does not exceed the supply. Is your land capable of producing the type and amount of plants needed to support the wildlife/livestock? Knowing the browse plants and their palatability to the wildlife and livestock is also a key consideration. The landowner needs to know the signs of livestock vs. wildlife browsing. Consideration must be given to the species involved as some species complement while others will compete. Mr. Irwin discussed the role of NRCS in providing Ecological Site Description technical assistance and demonstrated how NRCS collects data on the browse species they observe on properties. For more information contact your local NRCS office.

Aerial Hunting presented by Mackey McEntire of Concho Aviation

Owner Mackey McEntire presented a power point highlighting the various services that Concho Aviation provides to Texas landowners. He has helicopters equipped to sniff gas, use fire buckets, as well as aerial spraying. Aerial spraying with helicopters precisely apply chemicals to targeted areas. Concho Aviation also conducts aerial wildlife/livestock surveys. They have also helped gather livestock (cattle, horses, goats, etc.). They provide aerial hunts and the capture and transport of wild-

life.

Under Utilization of Wildlife Assets presented by Tara Renfro of the Sterling Cattle Company

Mrs. Renfro discussed the business factors in managing wildlife on property. The Sterling Ranches operate a variety of wildlife businesses. Tara strongly suggested that the leasee and leasor have a strong business relationship in their dealings. Know who you are working with and set up strong guidelines. Hunting is not always managing wildlife so other considerations must be taken into account. What wildlife is available, and does it compete with your livestock or does it complement your livestock? Determine season and requirements necessary to conduct hunting. Don't be afraid to ask for help or guidance from organizations such as Texas Parks and Wildlife. Do your research and consider such factors as long-term lease vs. short term lease and past successes on the land. Trust but verify by researching whether you are the leasee or leasor. Develop your requirements and consider all variables before you get the hunters on the property and check in on them during their stay. If they are not "Stewards of the Land" they should not be there.

Mrs. Renfro introduced John Hogan of Interstate Restoration Disaster Recovery who has leased Sterling Cattle Co. facilities in the past. He provided the view of the lease and commended Mrs. Renfro for the business practices she has set up for the Sterling leases. He spoke on the Marine Corp Hunts and "Wounded Warrior" style hunts that his company has organized. The strong business practices that Mrs. Renfro has established ensures the success of these and other hunts his company sponsors.

After the presentations were completed the participants of the Wildlife for Business symposium were treated to a steak lunch.

## CENTER

Continued from Page 1

irrigation, concrete deck areas, fencing barriers, turf and plantings, all of which helps to bring out the fun for those who visit.

The Splash inn will start at noon on June 2. We are letting in the first 600 people and then shutting the doors," said Herrera. "In the past, we have reached max capacity, so make sure you get there early."

Herrera also stated that around 2:45, they will shut down the pool to give the life guards a break and to get ready for the second wave of guests.

"After the life guards catch a break, we will reopen the doors around 3:15 and let the second wave of 600 people in for free at the Slash

Inn," said Herrera. "We break it up into two groups of 600 so the life guards can properly do their jobs."

The Russ McEwen Family Aquatic Center will officially be open starting June 3. The hours will be Tuesday through Friday, noon to 8 p.m., Saturday from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m., and on Sunday, 1 p.m. to 8 p.m., The Aquatic Center will be closed on Mondays.

For any questions about the Aquatic Center or about pavilion rentals call Terry Telchik at 433-264-2323. The Russ McEwen Family Aquatic Center will be open from June 3 to August 8.

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## Houston baggage handler pleads guilty to officer gun theft

HOUSTON (AP) — Federal prosecutors say a 22-year-old man working as a contract baggage handler at Houston's Bush Intercontinental Airport has pleaded guilty to stealing guns last year from the luggage of three Bellevue, Washington, police officers.

Mack Stewart faces up to 10 years in federal prison and a \$250,000 fine at his sentencing hearing set for Sept. 11. Stewart entered his guilty plea Monday before U.S. Magistrate Judge Christina Bryan. He remains free on bond pending sentencing.

U.S. Attorney Ryan Patrick says the three officers had returned home to Washington Oct. 4 on a United Airlines flight from Houston to Seattle when they discovered their service weapons missing. About a month later, Stewart was found with one of the guns when he was pulled over for a traffic stop.

## Houston man pleads to \$3.4 million fraud scheme

HOUSTON (AP) — Federal prosecutors say a 42-year-old Houston man has pleaded guilty to embezzling more than \$3.4 million from a Dallas-based design and construction company where he was construction manager for a downtown Houston luxury hotel project.

U.S. Attorney Ryan Patrick says Moses Said had worked for The Beck Group of Dallas in charge of Houston's Le Meridien Hotel project in 2016 and 2017 and approved and submitted invoices for payment for construction products that weren't provided and services that weren't performed.

He was charged with wire fraud and conspiracy to commit money laundering. Eight others have been charged in the scheme.

Said faces up to 20 years in prison at his sentencing set for Sept. 17 before U.S. District Judge Vanessa Gilmore.

## 3 hurt, 1 missing, 50 evacuated after Houston apartment fire

HOUSTON (AP) — Three people have been hurt and one person is reported missing in a fire at a Houston apartment building.

Authorities say about 50 residents were taken by buses to shelter in a nearby church after the blaze broke out Sunday night on the city's south side.

Fire Chief Samuel Pena says firefighters in the area heard and felt an explosion. He says the cause may have been a build-up of gas.

One of the injured people is hospitalized with burns. The two others hurt were treated at the scene.

## 7 arrested in fraud probe involving Travis County employees

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Authorities say seven people have been arrested, including some employed by the Travis County tax assessor's office, for participating in a fraudulent scheme that involved issuing Texas license plates.

State and county officials said Monday that the seven face charges that include engaging in organized crime, forgery and bribery.

Texas Department of Public Safety Sgt. Robbie Barrera says she wasn't certain just how many of the seven were employees of the county office.

The investigation began in March. Authorities have not specified the criminal activity involving the license plates.

Travis County Tax Assessor Collector Bruce Elfant said earlier that an internal audit resulted in investigators serving search warrants and arresting "multiple employees."

Elfant said he was "appalled and extremely disappointed that members of my staff have been implicated in fraudulent activities."

## Harvey-damaged courthouse in Houston to reopen in early June

HOUSTON (AP) — Some floors of the Hurricane Harvey-damaged main criminal courthouse in downtown Houston will reopen next month as part of the \$70 million repair project likely not finished until 2019.

Harris County officials say the Criminal Justice Center on June 4 will begin handling jail dockets, such as initial appearances by defendants.

Harris County Judge Ed Emmett says 14 courtrooms on the 17th-20th floors will reopen, with no trials at the building until more repairs are completed.

Harvey made landfall Aug. 25 in South Texas, leading to torrential rain that swamped parts of Houston and forced thousands of people from their homes and businesses.

Flooding in the courthouse basement and water damage in upper floors led to closing of the entire structure.

# Toxic cloud caused by Hawaii volcano lava emerges over ocean



People take pictures as lava enters the ocean, generating plumes of steam near Pahoehoe, Hawaii Sunday, May 20, 2018. Kilauea volcano that is oozing, spewing and exploding on Hawaii's Big Island has gotten more hazardous in recent days, with rivers of molten rock pouring into the ocean Sunday and flying lava causing the first major injury.

By **CALEB JONES and AUDREY McAVOY**

Associated Press

PAHOEA, Hawaii (AP) — White plumes of acid and extremely fine shards of glass billowed into the sky over Hawaii as molten rock from Kilauea volcano poured into the ocean, creating yet another hazard from an eruption that began more than two weeks ago: A toxic steam cloud.

Authorities on Sunday warned the public to stay away from the cloud that formed by a chemical reaction when lava touched seawater.

Further upslope, lava continued gushing out of large cracks in the ground in residential neighborhoods in a rural part of the Big Island. The molten rock made rivers that bisected forests and farms as it meandered toward the coast.

The rate of sulfur dioxide gas shooting from the ground fissures tripled, leading Hawaii County to repeat warnings about air quality. At the volcano's summit, two explosive eruptions unleashed clouds of ash. Winds carried much of it toward the southwest.

Joseph Kekedi, an orchid grower who lives and works about 3 miles (5 kilometers) from where lava dropped into the sea, said the flow luckily did not head toward him. At one point, it was about a mile (asterisk)1.6 kilometers) upslope from his property in the coastal community of Kapoho.

Residents can only stay informed and be ready to get out of the way, he said.

"Here's nature reminding us again who's boss," Kekedi said.

Scientists said the steam

clouds at the spots where lava entered the ocean were laced with hydrochloric acid and fine glass particles that can irritate skin and eyes and cause breathing problems.

The lava haze called "laze" from the plume spread as far as 15 miles (24 kilometers) west of where the lava met the ocean on the Big Island's southern coast. It was just offshore and running parallel to the coast, said U.S. Geological Survey scientist Wendy Stovall.

Scientists said the acid in the plume was about as corrosive as diluted battery acid. The glass was in the form of fine glass shards. Getting hit by it might feel like being sprinkled with glitter.

"If you're feeling stinging on your skin, go inside," Stovall said. Authorities warned that the plume could shift direction if the winds changed.

The Coast Guard said it was enforcing a safety zone extending 984 feet (300 meters) around the ocean entry point.

Coast Guard Lt. Cmdr. John Bannon said in a statement Sunday that "getting too close to the lava can result in serious injury or death."

Gov. David Ige told reporters in Hilo that the state was monitoring the volcano and keeping people safe.

"Like typical eruptions and lava flows, it's really allowing Madam Pele to run its course," he said, referring to the Hawaiian goddess of volcanoes and fire.

Ige said he was thankful that the current lava flows did not pose a threat to homes and

hoped it would stay that way.

On Saturday, the eruption claimed its first major injury when a man was struck in the leg by a flying piece of lava.

David Mace, a spokesman for the Federal Emergency Management Agency who was helping Hawaii County respond to the disaster, did not have further details about the man's injuries or his condition.

Kilauea has burned some 40 structures, including two dozen homes, since it began erupting in people's backyards in the Leilani Estates neighborhood on May 3. About 2,000 people have evacuated their homes, including 300 who were staying in shelters.

In recent days, the lava began to move more quickly and emerge from the ground in greater volume. Scientists said that's because the lava that first erupted was magma left over from a 1955 eruption that had been stored in the ground for the past six decades.

The molten rock that began emerging over the past few days was from magma that has recently moved down the volcano's eastern flank from one or two craters that sit further upslope — the Puu Oo crater and the summit crater.

The new lava is hotter, moves faster and has spread over a wider area.

Early Monday, a small eruption occurred at the Kilauea

See **CLOUD**, Page 5




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# Consumer Reports raises concerns over Tesla Model 3 braking



AP photo

In this March 31, 2016, file photo, Tesla Motors unveils the new lower-priced Model 3 sedan at the Tesla Motors design studio in Hawthorne, Calif. Long emergency stopping distances, difficult-to-use controls and a harsh ride stopped Tesla's Model 3 electric car from getting a recommended buy rating from Consumer Reports. The Model 3 is Tesla's first attempt to appeal to mass-market buyers. The car that starts at \$35,000 but can run as high as \$78,000 has been plagued by production delays.

DETROIT (AP) — Long emergency stopping distances, difficult-to-use controls and a harsh ride stopped Tesla's Model 3 electric car from getting a recommended buy rating from Consumer Reports.

While the magazine said the car has exhilarating acceleration and handling, testers were troubled by its 152-foot average stopping distance from 60 miles per hour in emergency braking tests. The magazine said the distance was worse than any modern car it has tested, and is about 7 feet longer than a Ford F-150, a full-size pickup truck that weighs about twice as much as a Model 3.

Tesla said in a statement that its own tests found 60-to-zero braking distances averaging 133 feet. It says stopping distances are affected by road surface, weather, tire temperature, brake conditioning and other factors. It also says it continually does software updates to improve factors such as stopping distance.

The Model 3 is Tesla's first attempt to appeal to mass-market buyers. The car that starts at \$35,000 but can run as high as \$78,000 has been plagued by production delays.

Consumer Reports said it tested the car at its track on pavement monitored for consistent surface friction, using industry standard test procedures. The car was tested with the same 18-inch Michelin tires that were used in Tesla's test, the magazine said.

On the first Consumer Reports test, the Model 3 stopped in about 130 feet, similar to Tesla's findings, according to the magazine. But testers could not repeat that distance even after letting the brakes cool overnight, it said.

Because of the inconsistency, the testers borrowed a second Model 3 and got results similar to longer distances in testing the first one.

The Tesla's stopping distance was 21 feet longer than the class average for luxury compact sedans, the magazine said.

Jake Fisher, director of auto testing for Consumer Reports, said the first test shows him that the Model 3 has the mechanical ability to stop in 130 feet and that a software change may bring consistently shorter stopping distances. If that happens, Consumer Reports would re-evaluate the car, he said.

Consumer Reports also said that Car and Driver magazine experienced inconsistent and sometimes long stopping distances when it tested a Model 3, including one stop from 70 mph that took 196 feet.

Although it doesn't happen often, Consumer Reports in the past has decided not to recommend vehicles based largely on long braking distances. Last year the magazine decided not to recommend the Hyundai Ioniq gas-electric hybrid car because of below-average braking. It took the car 144 feet to fully stop from 60 mph on dry pavement.

The magazine also said nearly all of the Model 3's controls are on a center touch screen direction with no gauges on the dashboard and few buttons inside the car. This forces drivers to take several steps to do simple tasks and can cause driver distraction, the magazine said.

The car also had a stiff ride and excessive wind noise at highway speeds, unlike competitors, Consumer Reports said.

Consumer Reports also said it got a record 350 miles of range per charge with a long-range version of the Model 3 when it's set on a high mode to recharge batteries with energy from braking.

The magazine said it took delivery of the Model 3 that it purchased on Feb. 8, and it was the latest model available at the time.

Consumer Reports recommends Tesla's Model S, ranking it No. 1 in the ultra-luxury car category. But its other model currently on sale, the Model X SUV, is not recommended due to low reliability.

# US and Philadelphia reject 'sanctuary city' compromise

By CLAUDIA LAUER

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Philadelphia officials and the Justice Department are rejecting a federal judge's idea for settling their dispute over how the city deals with immigrants in the country illegally.

Philadelphia sued the federal government last year after it made a move to withhold grant funding because as a "sanctuary city" Philadelphia will only turn over immigrants to Immigration and Customs Enforcement if they have a warrant signed by a judge. U.S. District Judge Michael Baylson made suggestions earlier this month in hopes of settling the lawsuit. But both the city and the federal government say the compromise is not workable and negotiations to settle may not be possible.

In his letter, Baylson suggested that ICE provide and that the city accept criminal documentation for detainees instead of requiring a warrant signed by a judge. He also suggested that ICE agents had adequate means to track when an individual was to be released and that the city should cooperate when given notice that ICE plans to transfer custody of those individuals.

The city said it cannot back down from requiring a warrant signed by a judge.

"Without providing a warrant signed by a judge, the City is not aware of any 'proof' ICE could provide that could resolve the problems inherent in responding to ICE detainees issued by immigration officers, namely, the risk that ICE identifies the wrong person or attributes one person's citizenship or immigration status to another, and the perception that the City is acting 'as an extension of ICE,'" the city's attorneys wrote.

They also argued the law authorizes but does not require local governments to give advanced notice when they are releasing an individual who is the subject of a detainer request.

Lawyers for the Justice Department said the current process is for ICE to provide criminal histories and documentation to an immigration judge after someone is detained.

"A change in ICE's procedures to make mandatory-detention determinations at the outset, before ICE takes custody of an individual, would require the allocation of substantially greater resources that, in the Government's view, are not practically possible or sustainable," federal attorneys wrote.

They later added that they have "significant doubts" that negotiations with the city will be productive, and said they cannot within a reasonable timeframe determine when individuals will be released.

Several sanctuary cities have opted to limit cooperation with government enforcement of immigration law. The Justice Department has threatened to cut off millions of dollars in federal grants to cities if they don't meet certain criteria for cooperating with immigration officials. Philadelphia has argued the move is unconstitutional and that it harms residents by withholding money earmarked to help buy kits to counteract opioid overdoses.

Attorney General Jeff Sessions has said that cities that don't help enforce immigration law are endangering public safety, especially when it comes to sharing information about immigrants who have been accused of crimes.

A federal appeals court last month sided with Chicago in a similar dispute.

## CLOUD

Continued from Page 4

summit, producing an ash plume that reached about 7,000 feet (2,134 meters).

Officials said wind carried the ash plume to the southwest, toward the communities of Wood Valley, Pahala, Naalehu and Waiohinu.

Scientists have said they do not know how long the eruption will last. The volcano has opened more than 20 vents, including four that have merged into one large crack. It has been gushing lava high into the sky and sending a river of molten rock toward the ocean at about 300 yards (274 meters) per hour.

Hawaii tourism officials have stressed that most of the Big Island remains unaffected by the eruption and is open for business.




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# Venezuela's opposition scrambles to regroup after Maduro win



AP photo

Venezuela's President Nicolas Maduro and his wife Cilia Flores wave to supporters at the presidential palace in Caracas, Venezuela, Sunday, May 20, 2018. Electoral officials declared the socialist leader the winner of Sunday's presidential election, while his leading challenger questioned the legitimacy of a vote marred by irregularities and called for a new ballot to prevent a brewing social crisis from exploding.

By JOSHUA GOODMAN and SCOTT SMITH

Associated Press  
CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — Venezuela's fractured opposition emerged even more powerless Monday, a day after an election it boycotted propelled socialist President Nicolas Maduro to an easy victory amid a crushing economic crisis.

The coalition's strategy to sit out the vote succeeded at exposing declining support for the government. Yet it also leaves Maduro's opponents even more dependent on international pressure seeking to force change in this South American oil-exporting nation where people struggle to find food and are migrating in mass.

Even before the government-controlled National Election Council declared Maduro the overwhelming winner, nations around the world had accused him of taking Venezuela down the path toward "dictatorship." The election registered the lowest turnout in decades — around 46 percent — as many voters stayed home while the opposition warned the election was rigged.

It's an outcome likely to further weaken Maduro's legitimacy in the eyes of many, though not necessarily his grip

on power.

There has been no sign of wavering support from the leadership of Venezuela's military, which long was the arbiter of Venezuela's political disputes. And Venezuelans busy trying to survive amid widespread food shortages and hyperinflation seem too demoralized to engage in protests like the ones that last year resulted in more than 140 deaths.

Opponents of the socialist revolution installed by the late President Hugo Chavez have few options, said Jennifer McCoy, a Georgia State University political scientist who led five electoral missions to Venezuela on behalf of the Carter Center until 2013.

"The opposition for some time has been waiting for something to save them," she said.

In one minor protest Monday, 30 opposition activists marched onto a major highway that a year ago was filled with tens of thousands of anti-government protesters. They unfurled a giant Venezuelan flag shouting, "This was a farce — not an election." Then they rolled up the flag and dispersed. It lasted 10 minutes.

"It's so hard to mobilize people who are desperately trying to survive or figure out how to leave the country," Mc-

Coy said.

She thinks it unlikely the U.S. will act on threats to slap an embargo on Venezuela's oil exports — its main source of cash. Resistance to the idea runs high among international oil companies as well as refineries built in U.S. Gulf states to process Venezuela's heavy crude, she noted. An embargo would also give Maduro a convenient excuse to blame his mounting problems on what he likes to call the "imperialist" U.S.

President Donald Trump did move Monday to strengthen the financial noose around Maduro, signing an executive order that makes it harder for Venezuela's government to sell off state assets, including money due from oil sales. Administration officials said top Venezuelan officials use such sales to enrich themselves, while millions struggle.

A senior U.S. administration official told The Associated Press that while oil sanctions are under active consideration, there is consensus that such a strong-armed tactic might not be needed given the impact of past sanctions, the damage already wrought by Maduro's own mismanagement and legal actions taken by many of Venezuela's unpaid creditors. The

official spoke on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to discuss the administration's next steps.

The financial stranglehold on Venezuela triggered by a collapse in oil production and previous U.S. sanctions barring the government from restructuring its debts will likely only worsen the misery. Venezuela's inflation has soared to 14,000 percent, while the minimum wage has nosedived to a value of about \$2 a month.

"This election doesn't solve Maduro's economic problems, and in some ways makes them far worse," said Yon Goicochea, an opposition activist who spent 15 months in jail until agreeing last year to run in mayoral elections, also boycotted by the opposition.

A growing roster of nations issued condemnations Monday for Venezuela's election, threatening to ramp up diplomatic and economic pressure.

A coalition of 14 countries from throughout the Americas, including Brazil, Mexico and Colombia, pledged to scale back diplomatic relations with Venezuela and urge international organizations not to give the Maduro government new credit.

Spanish Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy decried the vote as not respecting "minimal democratic standards" and vowed to consult with European counterparts on new measures in hopes of "easing the suffering of Venezuelans."

The people of Caracas, meanwhile, awoke Monday to return to their daily struggles, either at peace with the election's outcome or resigned to six more years under Maduro leadership.

Among those getting on with life was Concepción Fernandez, a 47-year-old merchant who stopped to reflect while waiting to catch a bus to work.

"I just might grab my suitcase and go," she said. "The Chavistas won't leave. There's nothing and nobody who can take them out."

# Social media under microscope in emotive Irish abortion vote

By JILL LAWLESS

Associated Press

DUBLIN (AP) — In homes and pubs, on leaflets and lampposts, debate is raging in Ireland over whether to lift the country's decades-old ban on abortion. Pro-repeal banners declare: "Her choice: vote yes." Anti-abortion placards warn against a "license to kill."

Online, the argument is just as charged — and more shadowy, as unregulated ads of uncertain origin battle to sway voters before Friday's referendum, which could give Irish women the right to end their pregnancies for the first time.

The highly charged campaign took a twist this month when Facebook and Google moved to restrict or remove ads relating to the abortion vote. It is the latest response to global concern about social media's role in influencing political campaigns, from the U.S. presidential race to Brexit.

"We shouldn't be naive in thinking Ireland would be immune from all these worldwide trends," said lawmaker James Lawless, technology spokesman for the opposition Fianna Fail party.

"Because of the complete lack of any regulation on social media campaigning in Ireland, somebody at the moment can throw any amount of money, from anywhere in the world, with any message — and there's nothing anybody can do about it."

The role of online ads in elections is under scrutiny following revelations that Russian groups bought ads on platforms such as Google and Facebook to try to influence the 2016 U.S. presidential race. Many of the ads were designed to sow confusion, anger and discord among Americans through messages on hot-button topics.

Few subjects are more emotive than abortion, especially in largely Roman Catholic Ireland. Despite the country's growing diversity and liberalism — voters legalized gay marriage in a 2015 referendum — the result is expected to be close. The campaign is being watched, and sometimes influenced, by anti-abortion groups in the U.S. and elsewhere.

Voters are being asked whether they want to keep or repeal the eighth amendment to Ireland's constitution, added in 1983, which commits authorities to defend equally the right to life of a mother and an unborn child. Abortion is legal only in rare cases when the woman's life is in danger, and several thousand Irish women travel each year to terminate pregnancies in neighboring Britain.

Prime Minister Leo Varadkar's center-right government backs lifting the ban and allowing abortion on request up to 12 weeks of pregnancy.

Ireland is no stranger to referendums — this is its fifth in five years — and the country's electoral laws regulate traditional forms of campaigning. Radio and television ads are banned completely, and foreign political donations are outlawed. But the 20-year-old electoral rules don't cover social-media advertising, and there is no limit on campaign spending.

"It's a complete Wild, Wild West," said Craig Dwyer of the Transparent Referendum Initiative, a volunteer group set up to collect information on the ads being used to target Irish Facebook users. "When we started collecting this information there was absolutely zero regulation."

The group has compiled and analyzed almost 900 Facebook ads connected to the referendum. Many were placed by registered lobby groups, and most came from inside Ireland. But several dozen were either untraceable or from overseas, including some that have been linked to U.S.-based anti-abortion organizations.

Several pages, with names like "Just the Facts About the 8th Amendment" and "Undecided on the 8th," claimed to give neutral information but had a clear anti-abortion agenda.

Such pages can be used to identify undecided voters, who can then be targeted with tailored ads — a practice that has been under scrutiny since revelations that political consultancy Cambridge Analytica harvested Facebook users' data to micro-target select groups during the U.S. presidential race.

Concern about the impact of online ads led Facebook to announce May 8 that it would no longer accept referendum-related advertisements from outside Ireland in order to "ensure a free, fair and transparent vote."

A day later, Google went even further, halting all referendum advertising as part of efforts to protect "election integrity."

# Danish minister says Muslims fasting for Ramadan pose danger

By JARITANNER

Associated Press  
HELSINKI (AP) — A Danish government minister has asserted that Muslims shouldn't work during Ramadan because the month-long fasting period poses safety hazards in some professions and makes the practice "dangerous for us all."

Integration Minister Inger Stoejberg, an immigration hardliner in Denmark's center-right government, questioned in a blog post published Monday how "commanding observance to a 1,400-year-old pillar of Islam" was compatible with modern labor markets.

In her post published by Danish tabloid BT, Stoejberg cited bus

drivers as an example of workers whose performance could be affected by foregoing food and drink during daylight hours of the holy month.

She urged all Muslims in the Nordic country to take leave from work during Ramadan "to avoid negative consequences for the rest of Danish society."

Finnish Muslim Union Chairwoman Pia Jardi called the minister's suggestion "a completely absurd idea."

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Courtesy photo/Shawn McVicars

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## Steer Baseball All-District Selections



Big Spring Pitcher and third baseman Deryk Renteria makes a play at third against Greenwood. Renteria was selected to the First Team All-District as a Pitcher for the Steers.



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. Wash was selected to the First Team All-District as a Utility Player for the Steers.



Tony Claxton (www.claxtonphotography.com)  
Big Spring second baseman Jason Miramontes tags the base runner out at second during the Steer's 2-1 win over Abilene Wylie on Tuesday, April 24, 2018. Miramontes was selected to the Second Team All-District at 2B.



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. Gonzales was selected to the Second Team All-District as a Utility Player.



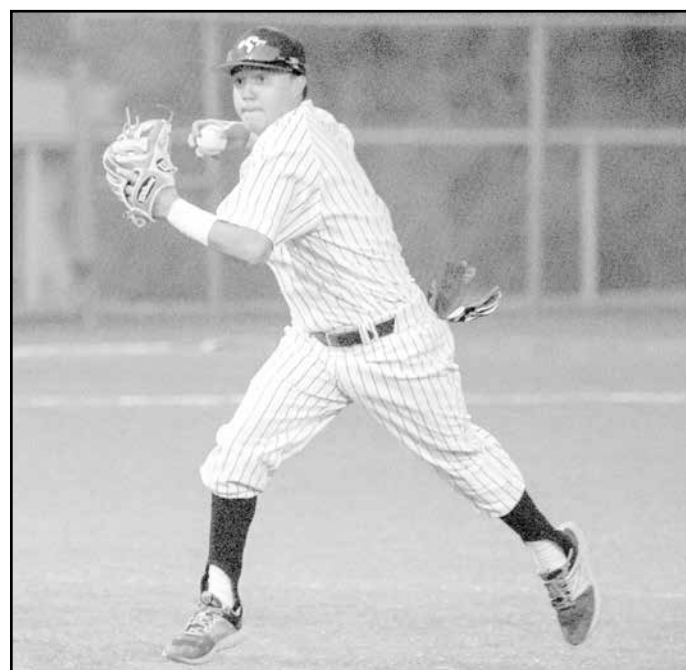
Tony Claxton (www.claxtonphotography.com)  
Big Spring catcher Brett Berringer making a stop behind the plate in a signature win against Abilene Wylie on April 24, 2018. Berringer was selected to the Second Team All-District at Catcher for the Steers.



Tony Claxton (www.claxtonphotography.com)  
Big Spring's first baseman Edward Aguilar stretches to catch a throw for an out during the Steer's 2-1 win over Abilene Wylie on Tuesday, April 24, 2018. Aguilar was selected to the Second Team All-District at 1B.



Tony Claxton (www.claxtonphotography.com)  
Big Spring Pitcher Chris Ibanez getting ready to deliver a pitch from the stretch earlier this season. Ibanez was selected to the Second Team All-District on the mound as a Pitcher for the Steers.



Tony Claxton (www.claxtonphotography.com)  
Big Spring shortstop Elijah Munoz throws to first base for an out during the Steer's 5-2 home loss to Sweetwater on Friday, April 6, 2018. Munoz was selected to the Second Team All-District at SS.



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Parkview Skilled Care and Rehab has an opening for a part time weekend laundry aide/housekeeper 8am-4pm. You can apply on-line at [www.parkviewnursing.net](http://www.parkviewnursing.net) or in person at 3200 Parkway.

Pollard Chevrolet has full time positions available for a Porter. Must have good driving record & pass background check. Please come by 1501 E. 4th St to apply.

**Help Wanted**

LF Manufacturing is hiring company drivers to deliver oversized fiberglass storage tanks. To apply, you must be CDL A-certified and have experience hauling oversized loads. You will be working out of our new manufacturing facility located just outside of Stanton, TX. Interested? Apply in person at 2599 Farm Road 3033 in Stanton, TX today! Benefits Great Pay Great Benefits 401K

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**Help Wanted**



The Colorado River Municipal Water District is accepting applications for the following position at Lake Thomas:

**Park Maintenance Technician** – Responsible for general maintenance of park and facilities. Entry to intermediate level position.

For additional information visit [www.crmwd.org](http://www.crmwd.org)



Earn up to \$3,000/month! Savage Services has immediate openings for Yard Team Members at our Big Spring, TX operation! Competitive pay and benefits!

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Savage offers competitive benefits that include: medical, dental, vision, life insurance, short and long term disability, a retirement plan, paid time off and opportunities for growth.

The Colorado River Municipal Water District is accepting applications for a **Water Resources Technician**.

Position is responsible for monitoring and managing the District's Groundwater Monitoring Program and monitoring water quantities throughout the District's water supply systems.

The ideal candidate will have progressive experience in data acquisition and project management. Prior hydrology experience preferred.

CRMWD is an equal opportunity employer. Benefits include health insurance, retirement plans, and sick, vacation and holiday leave.

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

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**Matt Scott** 432-755-7058 [matt.scott@expeditionroyalty.com](mailto:matt.scott@expeditionroyalty.com)

**Rayne Austin** 432-755-7058 [rayne.austin@expeditionroyalty.com](mailto:rayne.austin@expeditionroyalty.com)

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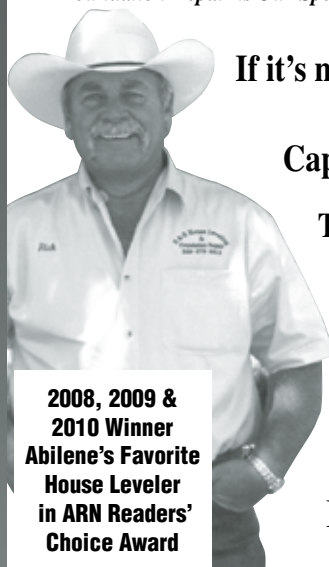


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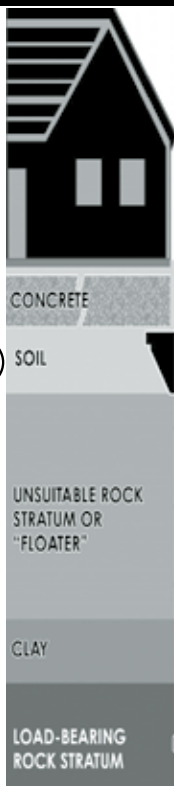
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Between the dates of April 19 to April 20th of this year, Sharp Image Energy, Inc. had approx. 11,000' of tubing stolen from two of its well locations located approx. 1 mile northeast of Vealmoor in the NE/4 of Section 19 in Borden County, TX. On land owned by Kyle Schmidt.

Sharp Image Energy, Inc is offering a \$3,500 reward for information leading to the recovery of the tubing and arrest and conviction of the perpetrators. If you are a forklift operator who was paid to load the tubing, please call us to collect the reward. If you have any information regarding this stolen tubing that belongs to Sharp Image Energy, Inc. please call us at 432-267-3126 in Big Spring.

Public Notice

us to collect the reward. If you have any information regarding this stolen tubing that belongs to Sharp Image Energy, Inc. please call us at 432-267-3126 in Big Spring.

#9809 May 20 - June 1, 2018

**CITATION BY PUBLICATION TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN THE ESTATE OF Samuel David Twining, Deceased, No. P-14785, County Court of Howard County, Texas**

To the Unknown Heirs of Samuel David Twining, Deceased. On May 3, 2018, Joshua Twining and Hillary Lawyer filed in County Court of Howard County, Texas, an Application for Heirship, Independent Administration, and

Public Notice

Letters of Administration in a proceeding styled "In the Estate of Samuel David Twining, Deceased" and given the file number P-14785 in the County Court of Howard County, Texas.

The Court will hear and act upon the aforementioned application anytime following 10:00 o'clock A. M. on the first Monday next after the expiration of ten days from the publication of this Citation. The hearing will be in the County Courtroom of the Courthouse of Howard County, Texas, which is Room 207, 300 Main Street, Big Spring, Texas 79720.

All persons interested in said estate are hereby cited to appear before said Honorable Court as said above men-

Public Notice

tioned time and place by filing a written answer contesting such application should they desire to do so.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND THE SEAL OF SAID COURT AT office in Big Spring, Texas this

2018.

DONNA WRIGHT, COUNTY CLERK HOWARD COUNTY, TEXAS

By:

Deputy

Attorney for Applicant Shonda K. Folsom P.O. Box 641, Big Spring, Texas 79721 (432) 466-6246 #9817, May 22, 2018

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Tomorrow's Horoscope

Mercury and Jupiter Opposition

Mercury and Jupiter are moving into an opposition that will cast an intense spotlight on certain individuals. Some stumble into the light, others claw their way in, and for some the fame is hard-won and long overdue. Regardless of how it comes, it will go fast. Whether a person enjoys this kind of attention or not, it's only temporary.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19).** No one can understand all that goes into being another person. We may know something of a person's challenges and responsibilities, but we can never know it all -- a fact that helps us respect one another today.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** There's something so beautiful about needing less out of a situation -- or, better yet, not needing anything from it. Objectivity allows you to see where the opportunities lie.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** You'll be in a position to guess "who done it." When questioned, innocent people can get just as rattled as guilty people. In this case, it will be better to acquit all than to accuse the wrong person.

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** With so many uncontrollable factors involved in finding your way, you'd do well not to worry about too much. Handle what's in

By HOLIDAY MATHIS SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).



You're right in step with all that's going on around you in the world. You spot the worthy trends, note the buzzwords and adopt the most useful aspects of the prevailing style.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** Glamorous jobs can be horrible and the jobs no one wants to do can be dreamy. So don't be quick to judge. You'll do what needs to be done in the classiest way you can think to do it.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).** The action is like a train today, rushing forward with great power. One switch can head things in an entirely different direction. One crossing can stop the action in its tracks.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** Many will try to tell you what you need, feed you a vision of a "new and improved" you, or supply a so-called better way of going about life. But you have to stop and ask yourself -- how do they know what's best for you?

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).** The things you find luxurious don't decorate the pages of popular magazines. These items are random and specific to you. The more you connect with them, the richer you'll feel today.

front of you with an excellent attitude and life will open favorably to you.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** If you're spending just about every waking moment trying to make this existence work out according to plan, you're not leaving much room for serendipity to swoop in and give you a twirl.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** Proverbially, there will come a day in which the last shall be first, assuming that the last even care about such things. The truly enlightened, probably wouldn't. Rank and order will have a bearing on today's proceedings.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** It's good to rattle the power structure once in a while in the name of justice. Without checks and balances, things get far off-balance indeed. In a related matter, be careful not to confuse acceptable with extraordinary.

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

Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker  
A crucial decision

North dealer. Neither side vulnerable.  
**NORTH**  
♠ Q 7  
♥ Q J 9 4  
♦ 10 3  
♣ A K J 9 5  
**WEST**  
♠ 10 9 8 4  
♥ 6 3 2  
♦ 8 6 5 2  
♣ 7 3  
**EAST**  
♠ 6 5 3 2  
♥ 10 7 5  
♦ Q 7 4  
♣ Q 6 2  
**SOUTH**  
♠ A K J  
♥ A K 8  
♦ A K J 9  
♣ 10 8 4

The bidding:  
North East South West  
1 ♣ Pass 1 ♦ Pass  
1 ♥ Pass 4 NT Pass  
5 ♦ Pass 5 NT Pass  
6 ♦ Pass 7 NT

Opening lead — ten of spades. Assume you're declarer at seven notrump and West leads the ten of spades. How would you play the hand?

You have 11 sure tricks — three spades, four hearts, two diamonds and two clubs — so you need two more. Finesses are available in both minor suits, and if you try one of them and it succeeds, you will pick up the two additional tricks you need.

The trouble is that if you misguess which finesse to take, it will be too

late to try the second one. Conversely, if the finesse you attempt is successful, you won't have to test your luck in the other suit, since you'll have 13 tricks without it.

Superficially, you appear to be confronted with a toss-up as to which finesse to take. But actually, much more is involved than just the mental flip of a coin. The key factor is that you have no intention whatever of finessing in both suits. You can therefore improve on your chances considerably by cashing the A-K in one of the minor suits, trying to drop the queen, before taking a finesse in the other suit.

Common sense dictates that the attempt to drop the queen be made in the suit in which the opponents hold the fewer cards — in the present case, clubs. Mathematically, if you cash the A-K of clubs with the Q-x-x-x missing, you will catch the singleton or doubleton queen about one time out of three.

In the actual deal, though, when you cash the top two clubs, the queen doesn't fall, leaving you no choice but to try the diamond finesse. Happily, this proves successful, and you make the contract.

This method of play eliminates straight guesswork, and at the same time makes you a strong favorite to bring in the grand slam. As always, two chances are better than one.

Tomorrow: Triumph of mind over matter.

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2012 GMC Sierra 1500 SLE 5.3 V8  
4X4 Under 80K Miles.  
\$24,995

SUDOKU

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

Level: Intermediate

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!

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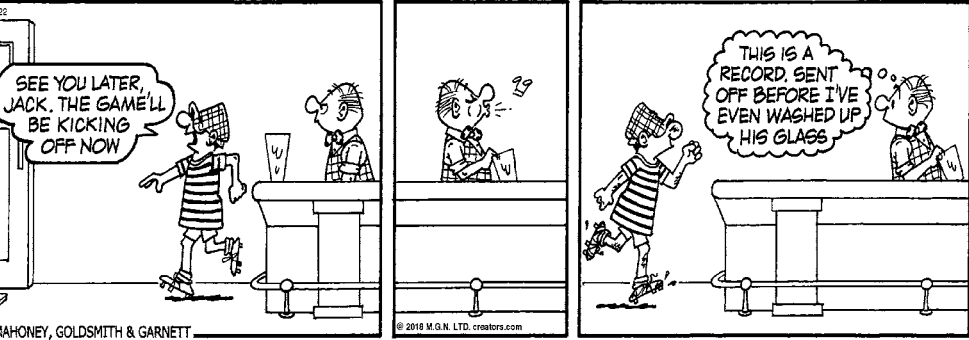
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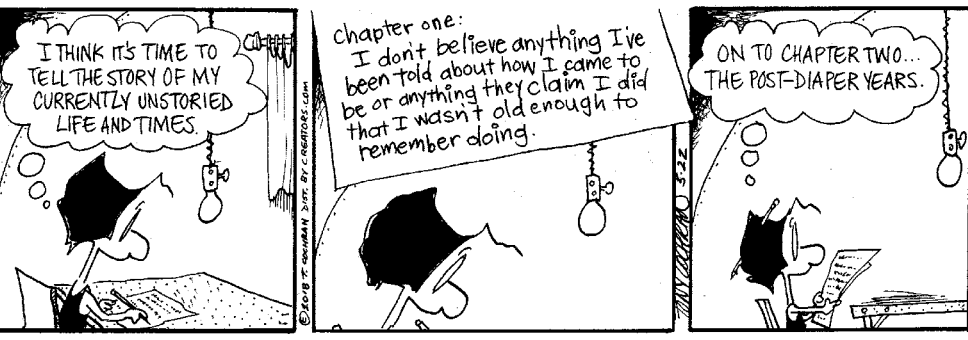


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6:30 PM	Jeopardy!	Rosa de Guadalupe	Big Bang	CBS 7	Caso Cerado	News	Our Mess	PBS News-Hour	M*A*S*H	Fam. Guy	Big Bang	MLB Baseball: Cleveland Indians at Chicago Cubs.	NBA Draft Special	Sooner	Mod Fam	The First 48	Deadliest Catch		
7:30 PM	Roseanne	El rico y Lazaro	Movie: Hancock, Jason Bateman	NCIS (DVS)	Mi familia perfecta	The Voice	News	Permian	Griffith	The Flash	Big Bang	NBA Pre-game	NFL Live	Bundesliga Soccer: Teams TBA.	WWE SmackDown!	The First 48	Deadliest Catch		
8:30 PM	Splitting	Papá a toda madre	Bull		Al otro lado	The Voice	Light of Southwest	The Great American Read	G. Pyle WKRP	The 100	Big Bang	NBA Basketball: Rockets at Warriors	Sports Shorts	World Poker	World Poker	Chrisley	(:01) The First 48	(:03) Last Outpost	
9:30 PM	For the People	Por amar sin ley	News TMZ	NCIS: New Orleans	El Señor de los		Light of Southwest		Heroes	Page Six	Big Bang		World/Poker	Postgame Poker	Mod Fam	(:04) The First 48	(:04) Deadliest Catch		
10:30 PM	Local 2 ABC	Impacto	Mom	CBS 7	Tele	News	Creation	Amanpour	Seinfeld	Conan		Inside the NBA	SportsCenter	World Poker	Mod Fam	(:03) The First 48	(:04) Last Outpost		
11:30 PM	Jimmy Kimmel Live	Contacto	Mod Fam	Late Show-Colbert	Titulares	Tonight Show	M:25 Beyond	Perry Mason	Rules			Animal Kingdom	SportsCenter	Around	Bundesliga Soccer	Chrisley	(12:03) The First 48	Deadliest Catch	
12:30 AM	Extra	Fuerza-Destino	How I Met	Access	El Señor de los	Daly	Think Red					Law & Order	SportsCenter	MLB Baseball: Indians at Cubs	Golf Life	(:01) Date-line	(:04) The First 48	(:04) Deadliest Catch	
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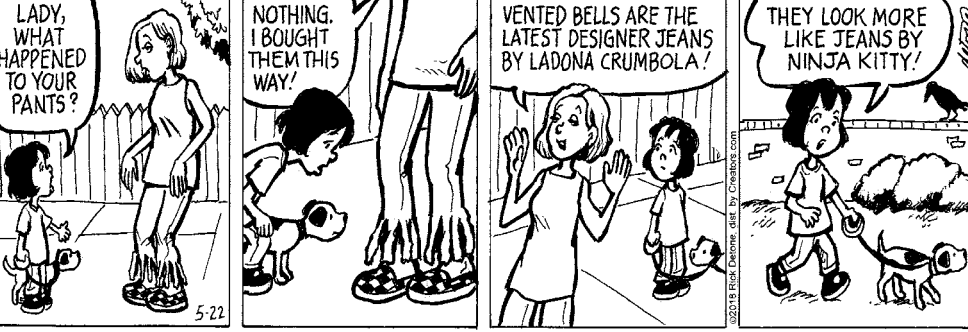
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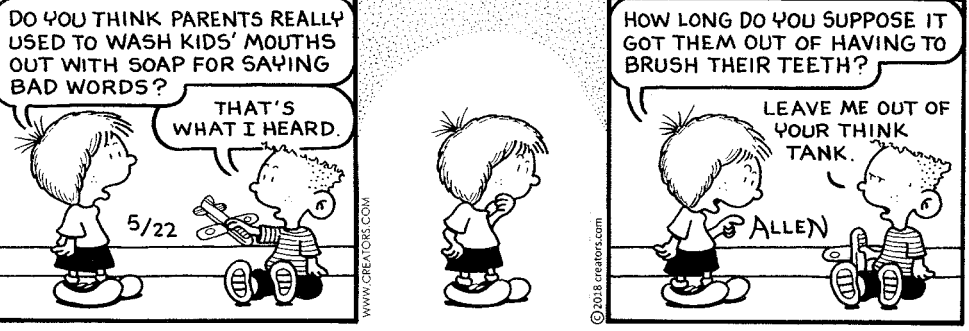
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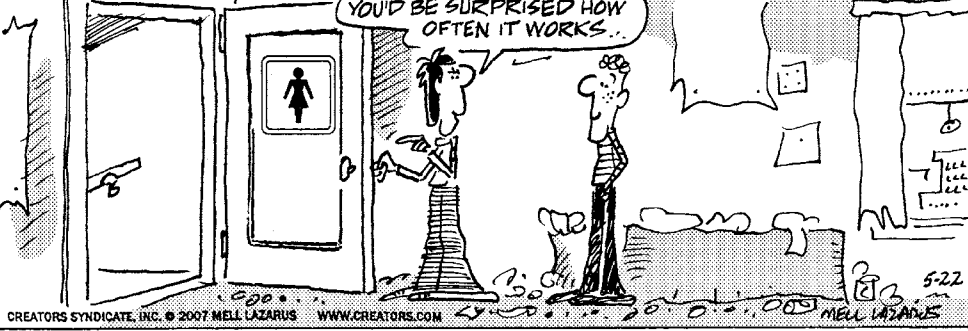
ONE BIG HAPPY



NEST HEAD



MOMMA



This Date In History

Today is Tuesday, May 22, the 142nd day of 2018. There are 223 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On May 22, 1968, the nuclear-powered submarine USS Scorpion, with 99 men aboard, sank in the Atlantic Ocean. (The remains of the sub were later found on the ocean floor 400 miles southwest of the Azores.)

On this date:

In 1761, the first American life insurance policy was issued in Philadelphia to a Rev. Francis Allison, whose premium was six pounds per year.

In 1868, a major train robbery took place near Marshfield, Indiana, as members of the Reno gang made off with \$96,000 in loot.

In 1913, the American Cancer Society was founded in New York under its original name, the American Society for the Control of Cancer.

In 1939, the foreign ministers of Germany and Italy, Joachim von Ribbentrop and Galeazzo Ciano, signed a "Pact of Steel" committing the two countries to a military alliance.

In 1947, the Truman Doctrine was enacted as Congress appropriated military and economic aid for Greece and Turkey.

In 1960, an earthquake of magnitude 9.5, the strongest ever measured, struck southern Chile, claiming some 1,655 lives.

In 1969, the lunar module Apollo 10, with Thomas P. Stafford and Eugene Cernan aboard, flew to within nine miles of the moon's surface in a dress rehearsal for the first lunar landing.

In 1972, President Richard Nixon began a visit to the Soviet Union, during which he and Kremlin leaders signed the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty. The island nation of Ceylon became the republic of Sri Lanka.

In 1981 "Yorkshire Ripper" Peter Sutcliffe was convicted in London of murdering 13 women and was sentenced to life in prison.

In 1992, after a reign lasting nearly 30 years, Johnny Carson hosted NBC's "Tonight Show" for the final time (Jay Leno took over as host three days later).

In 1998, a federal judge ruled that Secret Service agents could be compelled to testify before the grand jury in the Monica Lewinsky investiga-

tion. Voters in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland turned out to cast ballots giving resounding approval to a Northern Ireland peace accord.

In 2011, a tornado devastated Joplin, Missouri, with winds up to 250 mph, claiming at least 159 lives and destroying about 8,000 homes and businesses.

Ten years ago: A Texas appeals court said the state had no right to take more than 400 children from a polygamist group's ranch the previous month; the children were returned to their parents.

Britain's Conservative Party won a special election that was viewed as a rebuke to Prime Minister and Labour Party leader Gordon Brown.

Five years ago: Lois Lerner, an Internal Revenue Service supervisor whose agents had targeted conservative groups, swore to a House committee she did nothing wrong, then refused to answer further questions, citing her Fifth Amendment right not to incriminate herself. In a brutal daylight attack in London, two al-Qaida-inspired extremists with butcher knives hacked to death an off-duty British soldier, Lee Rigby, before police wounded them in a shootout. (The attackers were later sentenced to prison.)

One year ago: A suicide bomber set off an improvised explosive device that killed 22 people at the end of an Ariana Grande concert in Manchester, England. In a historic gesture, President Donald Trump solemnly placed a note in the ancient stones of Jerusalem's Western Wall. Ford Motor Co. announced it was replacing CEO Mark Fields. Actress Dina Merrill, 93, died at her home in East Hampton, New York.

Today's Birthdays: Singer Charles Aznavour is 94. Actor Michael Constantine is 91. Business magnate T. Boone Pickens is 90. Conductor Peter Nero is 84. Actor-director Richard Benjamin is 80. Actor Frank Converse is 80. Former CNN anchor Bernard Shaw is 78. Actress Barbara Parkins is 76. Retired MLB All-Star pitcher Tommy John is 75.

Songwriter Bernie Taupin is 68. Actor-producer Al Corley is 63. Sen. Lisa Murkowski, R-Alaska, is 61. Singer Morrissey is 59. Actress Ann Cusack is 57. Country musician Dana Williams (Diamond Rio) is 57. Rock musician Jesse Valenzuela is 56. Actor Mark Christopher Lawrence is 54. Former White House Press Secretary Jay Carney is 53. Rhythm-and-blues singer

Johnny Gill (New Edition) is 52. Rock musician Dan Roberts (Crash Test Dummies) is 51. Actress Brooke Smith is 51. Actor Michael Kelly is 49. Model Naomi Campbell is 48. Actress Anna Belknap is 46. Singer Donell Jones is 45. Actor Sean Gunn is 44. Actress A.J. Langer is 44. Actress Ginnifer Goodwin is 40. Rhythm-and-blues singer

Vivian Green is 39. Actress Maggie Q is 39. Olympic gold medal speed skater Apolo Anton Ohno is 36. Actress Molly Ephraim (TV: "Last Man Standing") is 32. Tennis player Novak Djokovic is 31. Actress Anna Barshnikova (TV: "Superior Donuts") is 26. Actress Camren (cq) Bicondova is 19.

Thought for Today:

"It is the people who can do nothing who find nothing to do, and the secret to happiness in this world is not only to be useful, but to be forever elevating one's uses."

Sarah Orne Jewett  
American author  
(1849-1909).

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**Newsday Crossword**

KEEPING IT CLOSE by Billie Truitt  
Edited by Stanley Newman  
www.stanxwords.com

**ACROSS**

1 Birds that hoot

5 Swiss mountains

9 Slyly spiteful

14 Banister

15 Egyptian river

16 Kentucky Derby entrant

17 \_\_\_ mater

18 Sightseeing trip

19 Not suitable

20 Trellis plants

23 Relinquish

24 Slice of history

25 That man

28 UFO occupant: Abbr.

29 Have high ambitions

33 Become weary

34 UFO occupant

35 Regions

36 Planes' airborne waiting states

41 Wear away

42 Consolidate

43 Part of a camera or eye

44 Type of sofa

46 Young fellow

49 Poodle or pointer

50 Make repairs to

51 Steeple

53 Stories you can't stop reading

58 Church singing group

60 Aroma

61 On cloud \_\_\_ (elated)

62 Taboos

63 "Absolutely, amigo!"

**DOWN**

11 More lowbrow

12 Baker's meas.

13 So far

21 Net-guarding hockey player

22 Intense anger

26 Teheran's country

27 Untidy place

30 Moral wrong

31 Wooden pin

32 Data to be entered

33 Willow or walnut

34 Calculates sums

35 Swear (to)

36 Had in your hands

37 Triple-decker cookie

38 Not here for many years

39 Hill-building insect

40 Even score

44 Drink slowly

45 Reveal, as another's secret

46 Easter flowers

47 Boxing venues

48 Sahara, for one

50 Gold medalist's place

52 Bamboo-eating bear

54 Solemn ceremony

55 "\_\_\_ it my way"

56 Scent detector

57 Wide smile

58 Successors to LPs

59 "In what way?"

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Answer to previous puzzle

USDA	OPRAH	SPAS
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PENETRATED	ANTI	
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GENE	CELLARS	
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DAVE	PENICILLIN	
AMEN	INANE	EVEN
LORD	NEWER	DADS

5/22/18



# All tied up: LeBron's 44 helps Cavs even series with Celtics



AP photo

Cleveland Cavaliers' LeBron James drives on Boston Celtics' Terry Rozier in the first half of Game 4 of the NBA basketball Eastern Conference finals, Monday, May 21, 2018, in Cleveland.

By TOM WITHERS

AP Sports Writer

CLEVELAND — LeBron James knows the path to the NBA Finals better than anyone in today's game. And unless the Boston Celtics do something soon, he'll get there again.

James bullied his way to 44 points, surpassed Kareem Abdul-Jabbar atop a postseason list and helped the Cleveland Cavaliers even the Eastern Conference finals at 2-2 on Monday night with a 111-102 victory over the Celtics, who are looking forward to getting home before their adoring fans.

Pushed by a raucous crowd that wasn't so confident a few days ago, the Cavs held off Boston's comeback in the fourth quarter and squared a tight series that is now a best-of-three.

Cleveland is trying to become the 20th team — out of 300 — to overcome a 2-0 deficit and James, who has already orchestrated two such rallies and is seeking his eighth straight finals, is a step closer to a third.

To do it again the Cavs will have to win in Boston, where the Celtics are 9-0 this postseason.

"We know it's going to be a hostile environment," James said. "We know their fans are going to be very energetic. But we have to just have our same mindset we had when we came home for these two games. If our minds are there, we put ourselves in a position to be victorious."

Game 5 is Wednesday night at TD Garden, and

Celtics coach Brad Stevens is trying to stay positive with a team that has given up a 2-0 lead and fell to 1-6 on the road in these playoffs.

"It's the best two out of three to go to the NBA Finals. Doesn't get better than that," he said. "Ultimately, anybody that didn't think this was going to be tough, I mean, everything is tough. In this deal, it's a blast to have to grit your teeth, get up off the mat and go after it again."

Kyle Korver added 14 points and Cleveland's sharp-shooting 37-year-old added three blocks and several hustle plays, outrunning three Celtics in one sequence and diving for a loose ball.

"I've loved Kyle ever since we made the trade to get him here" James said. "I don't remember Kyle falling too much like that. I've got to keep his body as fresh as possible. But listen, he's doing whatever it takes to try to help us win, with the blocks, with the strips. Obviously his shot making is very key for our team as well, but it's just the intangibles he's doing for us defensively."

Tristan Thompson had 13 points and 12 rebounds for the Cavs, who won despite 19 turnovers and two assists in the second half. Kevin Love had just nine points on 3-of-12 shooting and was in foul trouble, but he made a big 3-pointer and follow shot in the fourth quarter.

Jaylen Brown scored 25 and Boston had all five scorers in double figures, but the Celtics fell behind by 19 in the first half and didn't have enough to catch Cleveland.

And, of course, they didn't have James, who moved past Abdul-Jabbar (2,356) for the most field goals in playoff history. James also recorded his 25th career postseason game with at least 40 points — his sixth in this postseason.

The Celtics hung around in the second half and pulled within 100-93 on Marcus Smart's basket with 4:29 left. But Thompson got free for a dunk, and after a miss by Boston, James recovered after making his seventh turnover by making a steal and layup.

Moments later, James drilled a 3-pointer from the left wing to finally put away the young Celtics, who will now feel the immense pressure of trying to hold off the three-time champion.

"He's the best in the game at evaluating the court and figuring out what he wants and where he wants it," Stevens said. "The thing about it is that you just

have to battle. You just have to make it as hard as possible, because he's going to find a matchup that he ultimately wants."

Stevens considered changing his starting lineup, but decided to stick with the same first five — Brown, Jayson Tatum, Marcus Morris, Al Horford, and Terry Rozier — as the first three games.

Boston's starters held their own, but none of them was able to match James when it mattered most.

"You hope he misses, that's about it," Rozier said. "He's a big body and you've just got to keep him in front, and hope he misses."

**TIP-INS**

**Celtics:** Stevens was evasive about his starting lineup during his pregame news conference, not wanting to give the Cavs any advance notice. "We will start five people. I promise," he said, drawing laughs from media members. ... Injured stars Gordon Hayward and Kyrie Irving are not traveling with the team so they can continue their respective rehabs. Both have been sitting on the bench with their teammates in Boston.

**Cavaliers:** Won their seventh straight playoff game at home. ... Love threw one of his patented "touchdown" passes in the first quarter to James, who outmaneuvered Smart and Brown like a wide receiver to make the catch and score. ... Browns rookie quarterback Baker Mayfield, the No. 1 pick in last month's NFL draft, attended the game. ... Improved to 9-3 vs. Boston in the playoffs at Quicken Loans Arena.

**AMONGST GIANTS**

James seems to reach a milestone every game and he was honored to pass Abdul-Jabbar's mark.

"To know where I come from, small city 35 miles south of here, and to hear I'm in the same category or talked about and jumping these greats in the playoffs — it's pretty cool," he said. "You hear the scoring, the field goals made, and for a kid that really doesn't care much about scoring."

**OLD MAN KORVER**

Frozen water was Korver's postgame beverage. "I'm going to be hurting tomorrow," he said. "My back's a little sore, my elbow is a little sore, but this is fun basketball. It's the playoffs. We're at home. The crowd was rocking tonight. And it just kind of takes over you sometimes. So, yeah, whatever it takes."



AP photo

Cleveland Cavaliers' LeBron James (23) reacts after a play against the Boston Celtics in the first half of Game 4 of the NBA basketball Eastern Conference finals, Monday, May 21, 2018, in Cleveland.

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# Harden, James, Davis finalists for NBA MVP award



AP photo

Cleveland Cavaliers forward LeBron James recoils after colliding with Boston Celtics forward Jayson Tatum, out of picture, in front of Celtics guard Terry Rozier, left, during the first half in Game 2 of the NBA basketball Eastern Conference finals, Tuesday, May 15, 2018, in Boston.

## Associated Press

NEW YORK — Houston's James Harden, Cleveland's LeBron James and Anthony Davis of New Orleans are the finalists for the NBA's MVP award.

Harden, who led the league in scoring, has twice been a runner-up for the award, including last year when Russell Westbrook won. James has won the MVP award four times.

The three finalists for the individual awards were announced Wednesday. The winners will be announced on June 25 in Santa Monica, California during the NBA Awards show.

Davis was also a finalist for Defensive Player of the Year, along with Utah's Rudy Gobert and Philadelphia center Joel Embiid.

The other finalists:

## ROOKIE OF THE YEAR

Donovan Mitchell, Utah  
Ben Simmons, Philadelphia  
Jayson Tatum, Boston

## COACH OF THE YEAR

Dwane Casey, Toronto  
Quin Snyder, Utah  
Brad Stevens, Boston

## SIXTH MAN

Eric Gordon, Houston  
Fred VanVleet, Toronto  
Lou Williams, Clippers



AP photo

Houston Rockets guard James Harden reacts after he was injured during the first half of Game 1 of the NBA basketball Western Conference Finals against the Golden State Warriors, Monday, May 14, 2018, in Houston.

## MOST IMPROVED PLAYER

Clint Capela, Houston  
Spencer Dinwiddie, Brooklyn  
Victor Oladipo, Indiana

## NBA Calendar

May 31 — NBA Finals begin.  
June 11 — Early entry withdrawal deadline for NBA draft (5 p.m. EDT).  
June 17 — NBA Finals latest possible date.  
June 21 — NBA draft, New York (Brooklyn).  
June 25 — NBA awards, Los Angeles.  
July 6-17 — NBA Summer League, Las Vegas.  
Sept. 7 — Basketball Hall of Fame Class of 2018 enshrinement ceremony.

# NFL helmet maker helping curb soldiers' head injuries



AP photo

This image provided by VICIS Inc. shows the NFL's top-ranked helmet for safety, the Zero1. The Seattle-based company has been awarded a development contract by the US Army to research ways to improve combat helmets in the Army and Marine Corps.

By ARNIE STAPLETON

AP Pro Football Writer

The creator of the innovative football helmet that performed best in NFL testing the last two years is taking its concussion-reducing technology from the playing field to the battlefield.

VICIS, maker of the Zero1 football helmet, is partnering with the U.S. Army to research ways to reduce head injuries in the military through

a development grant announced Tuesday.

The Seattle-based company will replace foam pads in existing Army and Marine Corps combat helmets with liner technology developed for its Zero1 football helmet, said VICIS CEO and co-founder Dave Marver.

"This aligns with our mission and it allows us to protect those who have signed up to protect us," Marver told The Associated Press. "The technology remains in development, but it's very promising and we're hopeful it will make a big difference in the lives of our servicemen and women."

Today's combat helmets are designed primarily for ballistic protection and shielding from gunfire and shrapnel. But a 2013 Congressional Research Service report showed that four out of every five traumatic brain injuries in the military are caused by blunt impact in training and other non-deployed settings.

"The main thing is the current combat helmets are ... not optimized for blunt impact protection and that's what football helmets are designed to do, protect against blunt impact," Marver said. "And so what we're doing rather than working to replace the shell of the combat helmet, which is good at ballistic protection, we're actually replacing the inner padding, which is currently just foam."

Marver said medical staff at Joint

Base Lewis-McChord south of Seattle first reached out to him in 2016 after hearing about the work his company was doing with the Seattle Seahawks and asked if VICIS could adapt its technology to improve combat helmets.

"We founded the company to build a better football helmet, but fundamentally our strength as a company is developing these impact-mitigating structures," Marver said. "And the military initiative kind of came about organically because the Army reached out to us to see if we could take this football helmet technology and improve the combat helmet. So, most startup companies you have to stay focused and get your initial product out, but we felt so strongly about the need to better protect warfighters."

Marver assembled a team of engineers to work on the military project, and "I would say it's going to take a year or two before this would potentially reach warfighters and be deployed."

Introduced last year, the Zero1 is the first football helmet to account for rotational as well as linear impact. Scientific studies have indicated that rotational impact has more correlation with concussions.

Laboratory testing showed that the VICIS Zero 1 models of 2017 and 2018 rate best for player safety. Last month

the NFL for the first time banned a number of helmets that were deemed inferior to many of the 34 helmets the NFL and the players' union examined.

The Zero1 also ranked first in this year's Virginia Tech varsity football helmet ratings.

"VICIS has demonstrated great results in their football helmets, and we look forward to continuing those types of results with the unique blunt impact requirements of combat helmets," said project manager Benjamin Fasel, a mechanical engineer at the U.S. Army Natick Soldier Research, Development and Engineering Center.

In 2017, 75 players on 18 NFL teams used the helmet. About 200 players representing all 32 NFL teams are expected to use the lighter Zero1 this season, as are players from more than 80 colleges and 500 high schools, Marver said.

Several retired military advisers will provide input for VICIS's combat helmet initiative, including Army Gen. Peter Chiarelli, Navy Vice Admiral Kevin Cosgriff and Air Force Gen. Charles Wald, who was drafted by the Atlanta Falcons in 1970 but embarked on a 35-year military career instead of playing professional football.

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