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# BIG SPRING HERALD

SUNDAY, JUNE 3, 2018

VOLUME 113, NUMBER 208 COPYRIGHT 2018

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## 'Smart Tag' program to track BSISD bus riders next school year



By **ROGER CLINE**  
 Staff Writer

Transporting hundreds of kids to and from school every day is a huge logistical task, and one with the safety of all those kids at stake.

Big Spring Independent School District will implement the "Smart Tag" initiative during the 2018-2019 to make that job run a little more smoothly.

"Basically it's a student tracking application that we'll put on each bus," said BSISD Director of Auxiliary Services John Sparks. "We will be able to see each bus as it moves around town. A student gets on the bus in the morning, and they swipe an RFID card. They swipe their card, they're on the bus. They get off the bus at the school and swipe their card, they're off the bus. In the afternoons when we pick them up, they swipe their card, and they're on the bus. As soon as that child swipes that card, if the parent has the app on their

phone, it'll beep that phone to tell them their child will be at the bus stop in, say, 10 minutes. Of course, when they get off the bus, they'll swipe it again."

Sparks said the system will enable bus drivers and the school district to be able to tell with a degree of confidence where bus riding students are at any moment.

"It's an updated safety thing for the school district," he said. "It's going to hold our drivers accountable as far as their pre- and post-trip inspections that they've got to do every day. With the GPS on it, speeding, whatever they're doing, we'll know. But the main thing is, it's just child safety. Tracking, so we'll know where every student is on a bus at all times."

Sparks said the system has several features that attempt to "kid-proof" it from student shenanigans.

"If the child does not swipe, See **SMART TAG**, Page 3A

A Big Spring ISD school bus waits patiently at the Bus Barn. Starting in the fall of next school year, buses will be outfitted with a tracking system to keep track of riders boarding and disembarking from the buses each day.

Courtesy photo

## Painting with Pops



Courtesy photos  
 Students of the Big Spring Sunset Painting Studio display their artwork. The studio will host the Father's Day related "Painting With Pops" on June 9.

By **AMBER MANSFIELD**  
 Staff Writer

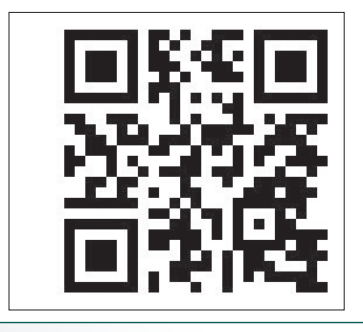
Ready to paint your heart away? Well then go see the The Big Spring Sunset Painting Studio, for your chance to paint, have fun, and make memories.

Coming up to help celebrate fathers and all father figures with The Big

See **PAINTING**, Page 3A

Find us online at:  
[www.bigspringherald.com](http://www.bigspringherald.com)

0 54414 79721 6



## Kids College gearing up at HC

By **TYLER SCHELLIE**  
 Staff Writer

This summer Howard College is once again offering the Kids College program.

Children who are currently in or entering first through fourth grade this fall will be able to experience a series of courses such as Cooking, Magic, Science for kids, art and yoga.

The students will participate in a variety of fun courses taught by Howard College faculty and staff. Kids College will be offered Monday through



Thursday, in half-day morning sessions July 23rd-26th, 8am-noon. 2018 will be the first year that howard college introduces its new program, College 2.0/STEM, for students from fifth to eighth grade. The STEM program teaches students about science, technology, engineering, and math. This program will be half-day afternoon sessions and will also be held July 23rd-26th, 1pm-5pm.

Deadline to submit all registration and payments is Monday, July 9th, 2018.

## Students graduate from Texas school where shooting killed 10



AP photo  
 Students attend the Santa Fe High School graduation ceremony Friday, June 1, 2018, in Santa Fe, Texas. More than 300 seniors at the Southeast Texas high school have received their diplomas with memories of a deadly mass shooting fresh in their minds. A gunman fatally shot eight students and two teachers on campus just two weeks ago.

SANTA FE, Texas (AP) — More than 300 seniors at a Texas high school have received their diplomas with the memory of a deadly mass shooting on campus still fresh in their minds.

The Santa Fe High School seniors gathered at twilight in the 83-degree heat and 76 percent humidity on the artificial-turf football field to become the school's first to graduate since May 18, when two substitute teachers and eight fellow students were killed in a mass shooting. A 17-year-old student identified as the shooter is being held on capital murder charges.

The 328 graduating seniors, wearing white stoles in tribute to those slain, and their well-wishers watched a montage tribute to the slain students and teachers on the sta-

dium's video display board. Speeches by school principal Rachel Blundell, valedictorian Corrigan Garcia and salutatorian Bailee Dobson referred to "the events of May 18."

But Blundell reassured the seniors that surviving such an experience equips them with the strength and

See **GRADUATION**, Page 3A

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## Obituaries

### John David Poe



John David Poe, 72, of Stanton passed away Tuesday, May 29, 2018, in Ruidoso, New Mexico. Visitation will be from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., Sunday, June 3, 2018, at Gilbreath Funeral Home in Stanton. Funeral services will be at 10 a.m. Monday, June 4, 2018, at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Stanton. Burial will follow in St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery. Pallbearers for the service will be Rusty O'Donnell, Ryan O'Donnell, Ricky O'Donnell, Hagan O'Donnell, Logan Dunn, Brad Grable, and Ulen North. Honorary pallbearers will be John Boyd, Don Rogers, Alvin Bolton, Byron Hedges, Bud Gillespie, and Teddy Stewart.

David was born July 18, 1945, to John David Poe, Sr. and Eleanor Houston Poe in Stanton, Texas. He was a member of St. Joseph Catholic Church in Stanton and regularly attended St. Ann's Catholic Church in Midland. His passion was ranching as

well as raising and racing his race horses. He was associated with several different Jockey Clubs including the one in Ruidoso, New Mexico. He loved Country Swing Music and could wear the polish off of the dance floor. David was soft hearted and would never pass up the opportunity to help a stranger in need. His humor and laugh would fill any room he was in, and will be missed by everyone that knew him.

David is survived by his sons Rusty O'Donnell and wife Cynthia of Stanton, and Ricky O'Donnell of Stanton; sister Suzanna Poe of Stanton; five grandchildren; 14 great grandchildren; numerous aunts, uncles, cousins and great friends. He was preceded in death by his parents, John David Poe, Sr. and Eleanor Houston Poe, grandparents, John and Ann Bettie Maude Poe and Alonso R. and Anna Mae Houston, wife Yvonne Poe, and son Robert O'Donnell.

Arrangements are under the direction of Gilbreath Funeral Home in Stanton. Online condolences may be made at [www.npwelch.com](http://www.npwelch.com).

*Paid Obituary*

### Joseph E. "Joe" Earnest



Joseph E. "Joe" Earnest, 81, of Big Spring, died Wednesday, May 30, 2018, in Midland. Graveside services will be 10 a.m. Monday, June 4, 2018, at the Peace Chapel at Trinity Memorial Park with Chaplain Brad Daniels officiating.

The family will receive friends from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m., Sunday at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home.

He was born June 5, 1936, in Big Spring to Joseph "Red" Earnest and Modena "Dena" Earnest. He married Raenita Lou Dunlap April 9, 1955, in Big Spring.

Joe was a lifelong resident of Big Spring. He had worked in the oil field for a number of years and had worked at Cosden Refinery for 25 years. He was a member of the Cosden 25 Year Club.

Survivors include his wife, Raenita Earnest of Kingsville; three children, Darla Lynch and husband, Don of Kingsville, Danita Earnest of Odessa and Dale Earnest and wife, Raelyn of Hideaway; six grandchildren, David Barton and wife, Leanna, Kaci Allen and husband, Larry, Keven Earnest and wife, Ashley, Daniel Earnest, Tyler Earnest and Jared Earnest; and four great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents; one brother, Richard "Dickie" Earnest; and one sister, Barbara Zumwalt.

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

*Paid Obituary*

## Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity:

- **LAUANNA NADINE MEAIRS**, 54, was arrested on a warrant of another agency.
- **ROSA DEJESUS GUSMAN**, 35, of 1209 Young St., was arrested on a warrant with another agency.
- **TRACI MARGRITA HERRERA**, 27, of 1601 Avion St., was arrested on charge driving while license suspended invalid.

- **ROMAN MARTINEZ CINNEROS**, 40, of 705 Lorilla St., was arrested on a warrant with another agency.
- **JOHN LUIZ VALBUENA**, 40, of 705 S Aylesford, was arrested on a charge of public intoxication.
- **DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE** was reported in the 2911 W Hwy 80.
- **STOLEN VEHICLE** was reported in the 600 block of NW 8th

- St.
- **CRIMINAL MISCHIEF** was reported in the 3300 block of E FM 700.
- **BURGLARY OF HABITATION** was reported in the 100 block of Lockhart St.
- **ACCIDENT MAJOR** was reported in the 100 b lock of Gregg.
- **THEFT** was reported in the 1600 block of Osage Rd.
- **DISTURBANCE** was reported in the 600 block of Caylor Dr.

## 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 pron bono attorney may be assigned to handle some cases that include: bankruptcy, consumer issues/contract, child supper and custody, divorce, employment, foreclosure, housing, landlord/tenant, probate and guardianship, real estate, social security/SSI, Veterans benefits/issues, wills and estate planning. The Clinic dates are on May 24, Aug. 23, Nov. 1 from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the Northside Community Center on 110 N.E 8th St. Applicants must be financially eligible to obtain services.

Please bring a copy of your DD215 and/or Veterans ID card.

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

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

• The 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.

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

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

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

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

• Seniors and mature adults are invited to a dance on the first, third and fifth Friday of each

month at the Dora Roberts Community Center.

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

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

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

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

• Big Spring Centennial Lion's Club has changed its meeting time.

The club now meets at 7 p.m. the second Tuesday and the fourth Thursday of each month. Meetings are still held at the Big Spring TA Truck Stop. Visitors are welcome.

• The Christensen-Tucker Post-2013 Veterans of Foreign Wars meets the first Tuesday of every month at 7 pm at 500 Driver Road. For more information, contact David Leonard, Post Commander, at 432-816-6004. All combat veterans of foreign wars are invited to come.

• The Big Spring Symphony Board of Directors meets every first Tuesday at 5:30 p.m. at the symphony office, 808 Scurry Street.

• Order of the Eastern Star Big Spring Chapter 67 meets the third Tuesday of each month at 219 Main St. Dinner begins at 6:30 p.m. Lodge meeting begins at 7:30 p.m.

Everyone is welcome. For more information, contact 432-271-2138.

• Staked Plains Masonic Lodge No. 598 meets the second Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. (dinner is at 6 p.m.) at 219 1/2 Main St. All Masons are welcome.

• Membership to the Big Spring Native American Association is open to the public.

People interested in Native American culture are encouraged to find out more about the organization by calling Richard "Indio" Lesser at 432-935-0125,

## Support Groups

• 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.

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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  
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# SMART TAG

Continued from Page 1A

he cannot get on the bus. If the child passes the iPad without swiping, it'll beep," he said. "If there's a child left on the bus, it will also show that. That doesn't happen very often but it does happen. But we know...if the child doesn't get off, then that child is still on the bus."

Only bus riders will be issued a rider card with the RFID chip, Sparks

said.

"They'll have to come out to the bus barn at the beginning of the school year, just like they do now," he said. "When the school year starts, we'll have their rider card with us that first day. Those who have already signed up will swipe their cards that first day."

The program will cost about \$20,000 a year to implement, and will track the movement of about 1,000 bus riders, Sparks said.

"We put it on a four-year plan. It's an

\$80,000 program," he said. "It's comparable to others across the nation. In the big scheme of things, \$20,000 can save some lives."

Sparks said a trial run of the program has already been conducted at the end of the 2017-2018 school year.

"We did a trial run on one bus this last semester," he said. "The parents really like it. The students like it too; it holds them accountable. We did about 85 or 90 students, and only two students lost their card, which is pretty amazing. Of course if they

lose their card they'll have to buy a new one for \$5, and if they don't have their card, they can't get on. If they don't have their card for three days in a row - we'll give them that leeway, that's what we're talking about, the bus driver can punch them in - they'll have to buy a new card before they can get back on the bus."

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

# 'Sherlock' star Cumberbatch praised for tackling mugger



LONDON (AP) — The food-delivery firm Deliveroo has thanked Benedict Cumberbatch after the "Sherlock" star reportedly fought off muggers who were attacking a cyclist working for the company.

Uber driver Manuel Dias told the Sun newspaper that he was driving Cumberbatch and his wife Sophie Hunter along London's Marylebone High Street when they saw a cyclist being hit with a bottle.

He said Cumberbatch jumped out of the car and

grabbed one of the attackers. Dias said "I had hold of one lad and Benedict another. He seemed to know exactly what he was doing. He was very brave."

Cumberbatch's spokeswoman declined to comment.

The newspaper didn't say when the incident occurred. Police said a cycle delivery driver was assaulted in the street in November.

On Saturday, Deliveroo thanked Cumberbatch "for his heroic actions."

AP photo

In this Monday, April 16, 2018 file photo, Benedict Cumberbatch waves to fans during Marvel's Avengers: Infinity War red carpet fan event in Singapore. Food-delivery firm Deliveroo has thanked Benedict Cumberbatch after the "Sherlock" star reportedly fought off muggers who were attacking a cyclist working for the company.

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Emma Gusman Granada, 74, died Sunday. Funeral was at 11 a.m. today at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial at Coahoma Cemetery.

# PAINTING

Continued from Page 1A

Spring Sunset Painting Studio, is their "Painting with Pops," June 9. The class features step-by-step instruction to help you create a fun acrylic painting on a 16x20 stretched canvas. Guest are encouraged to bring your favorite beverages and snacks to our studio!

The class will feature today's greatest music hits in an interactive social environment where no two paintings are the same. There will be breaks in 30 minute intervals, to refill and socialize.

"Painting with Pops," will be from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Participants should plan to arrive 30 minutes early to sign in. Tickets to the event are \$25, and each person must be paid to enter. Sign ups

will be in advance online only; participants will receive an auto-receipt by email. There is no need to print it out, you will be on the roster.

The class is for ages 12 and up only. During the event all art materials and tools will be supplied to guests. Also provided will be art instruction, ice, cups, paper plates, napkins, plastic utensils. Complimentary, cold bottled water in every class. Guest are allowed to bring your favorite beverages and snacks.

The Big Spring Sunset Painting Studio has "Paint & Sip" classes, which is where you can paint an amateur piece of art on canvas while enjoying your own BYOB wine, beer, mixed drinks and snacks in a creative social setting. This is 100 percent amateur painting, and can be a great time for girl's night out, birthday party, or even team-building events.

"I love attending paint and canvas," said local Brittany Simer. "I'm extremely happy that we have something like this in Big Spring now. I have done a few paint and canvas before, and I really love that you are creating memories with friends, family, or whoever, that will last a life time through your art work."

For more information email, bigspringpaintand-sip@gmail.com, or call (469) 544-3261.

# GRADUATION

Continued from Page 1A

courage to cope with the challenges that will come later in life.

"Great leaders and great nations have emerged out of the ashes of some of the greatest tragedies," she said.

Garcia told his classmates that the shared experience only brought them closer and gave them the strength that unity brings. "We've made it through the worst of it," he said in his valedictory speech. But he said that another foe confronted the graduates, the emotions of trauma and loss that could be overwhelming.

"Moving on will be tough. Nothing will ever be the same for any of us. But we all have a choice to make," he said.

"It's been a bit of a wild ride," Dobson said in her speech. "This year has been one of the most bizarre and life-changing years that we've had so far. First we had (Hurricane) Harvey, then we had snow, and most recently we had the tragic events of May 18th that happened in our very school." But she said her classmates had remained strong "through all the challenges that life has thrown at us."

The ceremony came a day after President Donald Trump met privately with families of the victims and others near Houston.

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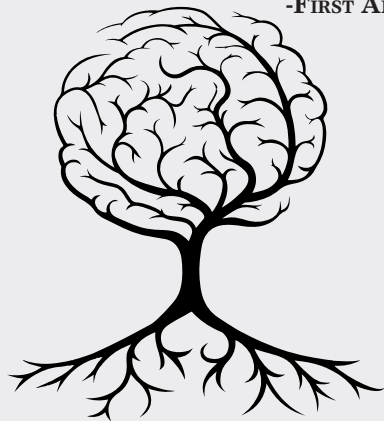
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# Opinion

*“Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.”*

—FIRST AMENDMENT



Opinions expressed on this page are those of the writers and not those of the Big Spring Herald unless otherwise indicated.

## LETTERS POLICY

The Herald welcomes letters to the editor.

- Sign your letter.
- Provide a daytime telephone number, as well as a street address for verification purposes.
- We reserve the right to edit for style and clarity.
- We reserve the right to limit publication to one letter per 30-day period per author.
- Form letters, letters that are unsigned or do not include a telephone number or address will not be considered.
- Letters should be e-mailed to editor@bigspringherald.com or mailed to Editor, Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721.

## CONTACT US

The Herald is always interested in our readers' opinions. In order that we might better serve your needs, we offer several ways in which you may contact us:

- In person at 710 Scurry St.
- By telephone at 263-7331
- By e-mail at newsdesk@bigspringherald.com.
- By mail at P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721

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Texas 72nd District  
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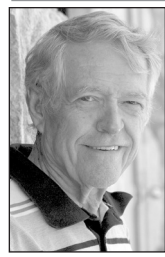
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## Be careful putting on garden gloves

Terry Taylor of Alpine has some serious complications from a black widow spider bite he got last August while working in his back yard. He is still struggling with it.

“Looking back on it I have to speculate on some of it because I just don’t remember. I was working in the yard early in the morning. I had to go in the house so I took my work gloves off and laid them on the ground. I was in the house just about 5 minutes. When I came back I put on my right glove first and felt some stinging. I thought some fire ants had gotten into the glove and they were hurting me. So I mashed my left hand against my right hand, which still had the glove on it, with the intention of crushing those fire ants, killing them. I didn’t think a whole lot about it except my right hand started heating up. It felt like fire. Then my left arm started heating up and so did my legs. I went into the house and knew I was in trouble. Every muscle in my legs and arms was blue and was shivering. So I pressed my

emergency device I was wearing. EMT’s came and took me to the hospital. That was on the 18th of August and I have no recollection of anything until in September. I was totally out of it. My doctor told me I died.”



TUMBLEWEED SMITH

The spider bit Terry between his forefinger and middle finger, right in the “v” between them. He wonders if he got more poison by putting pressure on the bite area when he tried to crush what he thought were fire ants. He was in the Alpine hospital five weeks and doesn’t recall anything that happened during most of that time. Some people say he became delirious.

“One nurse told me I really put up a fight and offered to show me the bruises I gave her. I had been having flashbacks to Vietnam for years and the only thing I can guess is that I didn’t want those Viet Cong to get hold of me. The doctor told me I really raised cane and hurt people, including my daughter. Then I came out of it after almost 4 weeks without knowing what

was happening. The first thing I remember is this woman talking to me in Spanish. She worked with me a few days, kept talking to me. All that supposedly happened comes to me from somebody else because I don’t remember anything. That’s part of my life I don’t know anything about. They gave me anti-venom to help with the recovery. That was as rough as the spider bite itself. It took 60 days to get rid of the anti-venom.”

Terry walks with 2 walking sticks now. “A rehabilitation group in Alpine, the Agave Girls, helped me about 3 months, teaching me to walk again.”

Terry is a retired entomologist and knows about black widow spiders. “Sometimes they have a red hourglass on them, sometimes they don’t.” Terry provided insects of all kinds to museums and universities all over the world. I asked him if he thought that spider bite was retribution for all the bugs and creepy crawly things he handled for decades. He chuckled and said “well, I put enough of them in alcohol, preserving them.” His daughter Lisa has the spider in a plastic bag.



## The Idle American:

### To Love, Honor and Write...

For the bulk of their professional lives, he went his way, and she went hers. Their careers, both awash in words, began with the single-syllabled “I do’s” exchanged at their Kilgore wedding almost 55 years ago.

Linda Pirtle, a career educator, taught English and spent her final years in administration. Caleb, an award-winning journalism graduate of the University of Texas, has likewise been consumed by the “word business.”

Now, they are “writing off” into the sunset at full gallop, as authors, teachers and editors, as well as tending their literary Website. It connects readers with today’s growing population of authors throughout the world....

\*\*\*\*\*

They enjoy their work greatly, so discussions about retirement are rare. So far, sunsets have turned out to be mirages. They plan to pursue their literary passions as long as they have clear minds, ongoing creativity and the ability to find home keys.

Mastery of those home keys has been central in their work. Both would have been “big-eyed” had they known back then of the possibility that together, they would author 100 books, maybe more.

The Pirtles already are “knocking on the door,” and Guinness may have a spot for “most books authored by a couple.”...

\*\*\*\*\*

For about a dozen years, they’ve lived in Lindale, TX, their creative juices flowing like sap in the pine trees that dominate the landscape.

“Grandmotherly things” occupied Linda for a few years, and still do. The couple makes numerous trips to see grandson Jackson, 8, and granddaughter Avery, 6—children of son Josh and daughter-in-law Taylor—in the Metroplex.

Last year, she started writing mysteries, responding to the intrigue of reviewing others’ work for years....

\*\*\*\*\*

Both retreat to their computers routinely after daily jump-starts provided by stout coffee and the gentle warbling of songbirds in foliage around their home.

If communication is needed when they are in writing mode, they send emails to each other.

She published her first novel, The Mah Jongg

Murders, last year. It was set in the mythical East Texas gated community of Leisure Lake. She recently released her second novel about the games people play. Her Deadly Dominoes, and hubby’s Back Side of a Dark Moon, both won Best of Texas book awards this year....

\*\*\*\*\*

The soft-spoken Caleb says little about his many honors. He won the William Randolph Hearst Award for feature writing at UT, and received numerous Associated Press and Texas Headliners awards while writing for the Fort Worth Star-Telegram.

The first communications director for the Texas Tourist Development Agency, Pirtle later spent a decade as travel editor of Southern Living magazine. Then, he spent 25 years as editorial and production director for a Dallas custom publishing company.

Pirtle isn’t sure how many books he has authored, but admits to “more than 75.” (That’s more than one a year, on average since birth.)...

\*\*\*\*\*

He has traveled many miles, writing about those whose paths he crossed—from the homeless to celebrities, from country music stars to death row inmates, and from farmers who struck it rich overnight when oil erupted. Stories about that first well are mind-boggling. It started with farmers digging for earthworms needed for a fishing junket. Soon, some of them owned enough “black gold” to build their own lakes!

His latest is The Man Who Talks to Strangers, a “memoir, of sorts.” It “oozes excellence,” as only his books can. It’s a great piece of work. Pirtle books are available on Amazon and at calebandlindapirtle.com.

No matter their literary greatness, however, they are even better parents. Their son, Josh, was unsurpassed as a student athlete, twice named Academic All-American. I handed him a diploma a few years back at Howard Payne University. Now a CPA and Senior Vice President of Asset Management for Crescent Properties, he’s as great with numbers as his folks are with words....

\*\*\*\*\*

Dr. Newbury is a former educator who “commits speeches” round about. Comments/inquiries to: newbury@speakerdoc.com. Phone: 817-447-3872. Web site: www.speakerdoc.com Twitter: @donnewbury. Facebook: don newbury.

## DAILY PRAYER

Lord, set our hearts on fire with love for you.  
Amen.



## 2 killed in crash of small plane in Midland

MIDLAND, Texas (AP) — A racehorse trainer from Ruidoso Downs in New Mexico and his son were killed when the single-engine airplane they were flying crashed shortly after takeoff in Midland.

In a statement Friday, Ruidoso Downs identified the dead as trainer John M. Cooper and his 16-year-old son, Gavyn Cooper.

The Federal Aviation Administration says the Cirrus SR22 aircraft had just taken off from Midland International Airport about 7:20 p.m. Thursday and was banking left when it crashed and burned.

No cause for the crash was immediately determined, and the National Transportation Safety Board is investigating.

## Police save woman from bridge over Houston Ship Channel

LA PORTE, Texas (AP) — Police have saved a woman perched on the guardrail of a Texas highway bridge across the Houston Ship Channel amid concerns she might jump.

La Porte (uh-PORT) police posted patrol car video online showing the May 25 rescue by officers responding to a 911 call about a woman on the cable-stayed Fred Hartman Bridge.

Video released Thursday shows an officer walking toward the woman as she dangles her feet over the edge and at times appears to look at the water, about 175 feet below.

Two other officers approach from behind and they pull the woman from the chest-high railing. She was transported to a mental health facility for evaluation.

La Porte police didn't immediately provide additional details on her Friday.

The Fred Hartman Bridge links Houston and Baytown.

## Texas-based meatpacker recalls 9 tons of smoked sausage

YOKUM, Texas (AP) — A Texas meatpacker is recalling several tons of smoked sausage over possible contamination by soft plastic, marking the company's second recall in a month.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture announced the latest recall by Eddy Packing Co. on Thursday. It includes 9 tons (8.16 metric tons) of smoked sausage that were produce for Texas businesses.

On May 4, the company recalled nearly 25 tons (22.68 metric tons) of smoked sausage nationwide due to possible plastic contamination.

The latest recall involves 10-pound (4.54-kilogram) cases of Carl's Pork and Beef Smoked Sausage on a Stick. The items have a lot code 8073, case code PS9319, a sell-by date of March 14, 2019. The USDA marker is "EST 4800."

Eddy Packing received a customer complaint about soft, green plastic material in a product. Officials they've received no reports of anyone getting sick.

The smoked sausage should be discarded or returned to the place of purchase.

## Texas man dies in motorcycle-deer collision in Kansas

MERIDEN, Kan. (AP) — The Kansas Highway patrol says a Texas man died when his motorcycle hit a deer in northeast Kansas.

The patrol says 41-year-old Robert Allen Nelson, of Dallas, died early Friday on Kansas 4 just north of Meriden.

He was alone riding a 1981 Honda motorcycle northbound when the deer entered the roadway and collided with the motorcycle. The patrol says Nelson struck the deer and was thrown from his motorcycle.

The patrol says Nelson was not wearing a helmet or protective gear.

## Police: Texas student fatally shoots self at school

MCKINNEY, Texas (AP) — Authorities in Texas say a high school was locked down after a student died from a self-inflicted gunshot.

The McKinney Independent School District said Friday that McKinney North High School was placed in lockdown after reports of a gunshot. Police and school officials responded and learned the student was dead. They didn't release any information about the student, including the student's name, age and sex.

The district, located north of Dallas, said no other students were harmed and police secured the location.

Officials say students who drove to school could leave campus and others will be taken to another campus where they can be picked up.

The shooting in McKinney comes two weeks after a gunman fatally shot eight students and two teachers at Santa Fe High School near Houston. A 17-year-old student identified as the shooter is being held on capital murder charges.

## Texas ex-congressman deemed flight risk, must remain in jail

HOUSTON (AP) — A former Texas congressman convicted in a \$1.25 million fraud scheme must remain in federal custody as he awaits sentencing after a federal judge deemed him a flight risk.

Attorneys for former U.S. Rep. Steve Stockman had asked that their 61-year-old client be released on restricted bond. They argued that he isn't receiving necessary medical attention at his current detention center near Houston.

But Chief U.S. District Judge Lee H. Rosenthal denied the request Thursday, noting Stockman has traveled the world extensively and has government contacts in several African countries.

The Houston Chronicle reports that the former Republican lawmaker is set for sentencing Aug. 17.

# East Texas artist recreates village for her school reunion



In this May 25, 2018 photo, artist Oreta Wright looks over her re-creation of Kildare, Texas. Much of her village is from memory, but it is accurate and accompanied by a map with names. She has made over 40 structures for the village.

By NEIL ABELES

Texarkana Gazette

KILDARE, Texas (AP) — When alumni of the former Kildare School return for reunion this month they will be in for a miracle.

The Texarkana Gazette reports like Brigadoon, Kildare — the village that has vanished — will return.

In miniature, of course. But everything will be as it was around 1945.

Local artist Oreta Wright has seen to it. She's recreated the village with more than 40 structures.

What she couldn't carve accurately with models, she has drawn and painted from memory in a highly-readable, 30-pages-plus, three-ring binder of art and text.

"I know people say I'm obsessed with Kildare, now that it's gone and nothing remains. But history is authentic, and you can't change it. You can just learn from it," Wright said.

It's important to note that Wright lives precisely at the spot where her alma mater, the Kildare School, once stood. She was a senior in the last graduating class of 1958. After consolidation with Linden, the handsome building, built in 1937, became a middle school for a couple of years. Then it burned.

When the property was auctioned, Oreta and her late husband Jim "Corky" Wright bought it.

By this time, Linden-Kildare's new campus had opened 4 miles up the road at Farm to Market 125, halfway between Kildare and Linden.

Linden is bigger than Kildare now, but it has not always been so. Kildare was central then because the railroad stopped there. Goods for Linden came first to Kildare and then were hauled to the county seat by horse and buggy.

"Kildare was prosperous. Everyone could have a job," Wright likes to remember. And here's why.

"Well, you had the oil fields to start with. The Kildare Junction refinery had houses for their workers and families. Then, you had iron ore to be pond-washed and shipped out. Cotton and melons to be shipped out as well. Cross ties. Farming and logging. A doctor and hotel," she said.

"People would have big families, six to seven kids, so there were

four general stores. Pruitt, Wiggins (2) and Nelson. A cotton gin and sawmill. The fire tower employed several people. It was all here. One didn't have to go anywhere."

What caused Kildare's demise?

"First, the oil field fizzled," Wright said. "Then, the sawmill burned, and famers stopped planting cotton, so the gin left. Iron ore dwindled. No longer big farming. And townspeople started going somewhere for jobs."

And that was it. The train stopped no longer. It had been Atlanta, Bivins, Kildare and Marshall. Now people go to Texarkana or Marshall to board.

And the school, which had been highly rated academically, became so small.

"There were nine in my graduation class. I always got to say I was in the top 10," Wright smiles to say. "I think it was five gradu-

ating the year before. No way you could pay teachers for that few."

"But we had had everything in our school. Band, music, typing, home economics, sports. Everything except foreign language. A very strong reputation. I was proud to have graduated there."

When the consolidation vote passed, the community was content. Linden-Kildare didn't sound so bad and the two had always been close.

Now, for Wright the artist, nothing of Kildare remains, so when she goes walking around she doesn't find anything familiar. It's distressing.

She doesn't even know when the C.M. Nelson General Merchandise store, one of Kildare's three brick buildings, crumbled and went away. She wishes she

See TOWN, Page 6A

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# Yellowstone park boss says retirement isn't tied to politics



AP photo

This August 17, 2017 file photo shows Yellowstone Superintendent Dan Wenk speaking at an event marking a conservation agreement for a former mining site just north of the park in Jardine, Mont. Wenk on Friday, June 1, 2018, announced he plans to retire next March.

By MATTHEW BROWN

Associated Press

BILLINGS, Mont. (AP) — Yellowstone National Park's superintendent said Friday that he plans to retire next year from a job he called "the best in the National Park Service" and dismissed speculation that the Trump administration pushed him out for political reasons.

Superintendent Dan Wenk told The Associated Press that he decided last fall he would retire in early 2019 after more than four decades with the National Park Service.

His seven-year tenure leading on the nation's

premier national parks was marked by an explosion in park visitation, tension with neighboring states over wild bison slaughters and wolf hunting, and a sexual harassment scandal involving Yellowstone's maintenance division that echoed allegations at other national parks.

Wenk, 66, said had not planned to announce his decision to leave so far in advance but went public following recent news reports that said he faced possible transfer to a job in Washington, D.C.

Wenk confirmed that a transfer had been proposed — a possibility that had stoked concerns among conservation groups that Interior Depart-

ment Secretary Ryan Zinke was reassigning senior staff from the park service and other branches of the agency for punitive purposes.

But Wenk said he always understood that as a member of the U.S. government's senior executive service, he could be moved to another job, adding, "I'm not aware of any politics in that decision."

"Coming to Yellowstone National Park was the pinnacle of my career," Wenk said. "I personally believe it's the best job in the National Park Service, so taking any other job wouldn't feel good."

In a letter to his superiors informing them of his March 30 retirement plan, Wenk said he intended to stay on a while longer to see through several projects that have been in the works for years. Those include relocating park bison that have not been exposed to disease to Montana's Fort Peck Indian Reservation, working on a long-term visitor use management plan and negotiating several concessions contracts.

Yellowstone straddles the borders of Montana, Wyoming and Idaho and was established in the 1872 as the first national park. It attracts tourists from around the world, putting an increasing strain on its natural resources as more than 4 million people visited in each of the past three years.

The superintendent oversees more than 3,400 square miles (8,900 square kilometers) of land, a staff of 800 and an annual budget of more than \$60 million.

Montana Gov. Steve Bullock said in a statement that Wenk had been "a thoughtful partner to the state of Montana and the gateway communities surrounding Yellowstone National Park."

Wenk began his career with the park service as a landscape architect in 1975. He was superintendent of Mount Rushmore National Monument for 16 years, beginning in 1985.

In 2001, he was appointed director of the Denver Service Center, which is the park service's central office with responsibility for planning, design and construction.

Wenk served as deputy director of operations for the National Park Service from 2007 through 2011, and acting director of the agency for nine months in 2009.

# Judge: Fired officer must stand trial for killing

By TERRY SPENCER

Associated Press

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (AP) — A judge ruled Friday that a Florida police officer must stand trial for the fatal shooting of a stranded black motorist, saying his retelling of what happened on the darkened highway off-ramp was "unreliable and not credible."

Circuit Judge Samantha Schosberg Feuer rejected fired Palm Beach Gardens officer Nouman Raja's attempt to use Florida's "stand your ground" law, saying his statements to investigators after the 2015 shooting of Corey Jones are not supported by an audiotape of the shooting and other physical evidence, such as the location of the bullet casings.

She said the evidence shows Raja, who was working in plain clothes and driving an unmarked van, was not truthful when he told investigators about five hours after the shooting that he identified himself as a police officer when he approached Jones' broken-down SUV or when he said he pulled his gun only after Jones, who had a concealed weapons permit, pulled his own handgun.

Instead, Feuer agreed with prosecutors that Raja never identified himself and approached Jones aggressively with his gun drawn, making Jones believe he was about to be attacked by a stranger.

"It was then, and only then, that Jones pulled out his gun in response," Feuer wrote. She also believes Raja opened fire as Jones ran away, with the two of the three bullets that

struck Jones hitting him in the back. She found Raja's use of force "was not reasonable."

The Palm Beach County State Attorney's office declined comment Friday on Feuer's ruling.

Raja's lead attorney, Richard Lubin, said he plans to file an appeal next week, which will likely delay the trial's scheduled July start. Without going into specifics, he said he disagreed with Feuer's conclusions and how she applied the law.

At a two-day hearing last month, Lubin argued that Raja should be protected under "stand your ground" because he feared for his life when Jones pulled his gun. The law says anyone, not just police officers, can use deadly force if they believe it necessary to prevent death or great bodily harm. However, it does not allow an altercation's instigator to use deadly force.

Jones, a housing inspector and part-time drummer, was returning from a late-night performance by his reggae band when his SUV stalled and he pulled over on an Interstate 95 off-ramp.

Raja, who was part of a team trying to catch car burglars, spotted the vehicle and drove the wrong way up the off-ramp just before 3:15 a.m.

Raja exited his van and approached Jones, who was on the phone with a tow truck dispatch center, which recorded the call — something Raja didn't know when he made his statement to investigators. At the time, he had been a police officer for seven years, transferring to Palm Beach

fine roof tops for the buildings."

She made Isaac Lemons' red barn first, then the yellow depot — and liked them.

"They were cute," she said, which is enough reason to continue.

That was all she needed, and pretty soon Kildare, like Brigadoon, began to take shape out of the mist.

It'll be on display for the June 9 reunion. After that, Wright's not sure. She wishes the display could be saved. But if not, it's into plastic boxes and storage. That will include her historical paintings and stories written by locals that are a part of the ring-and-binder notebook.

If put away, Kildare then may be lost forever because few people are old enough to remember nowadays.

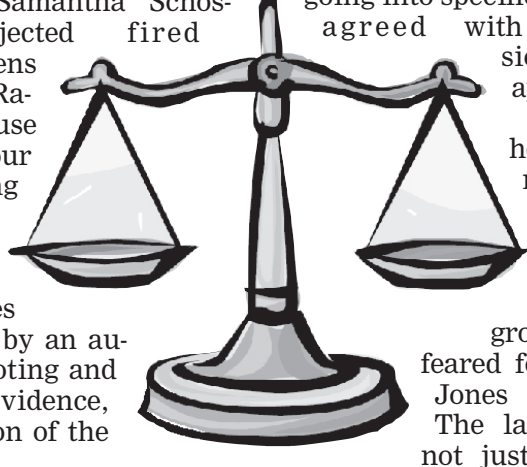
"Three of the nine in my graduating class have passed on," Wright said. "We'll see who shows up this time."

Gardens six months earlier.

Raja was not wearing his tactical vest with police markings as ordered and he is never heard on the dispatch

recording identifying himself as a police officer. Raja, who says he

See OFFICER, Page 7A



## TOWN

Continued from Page 5C

did. She does know the lumber in the depot went to Rudolph Price, who put it in a barn.

Living at the site of the former school, with its concrete steps and foundation just outside her front door, Wright still can't be sure of where she lives. The house has a Bivins address, but Google Maps says it's Kildare Junction and the mail she gets is addressed to Kildare.

"Hard to get anything delivered," she said with a smile.

But as the artist, she knows. Some spare wood around her home looked like a Kildare business. Just reshape, paint and label.

"I only had to buy three pieces of wall baseboard, which when cut made



## Vacation Bible School

Monday, June 4th - Friday, June 8th  
9:00 - Noon

Registration starts at 8:30 each morning

All children who have completed  
Kindergarten - 6th grade are welcome  
If your child needs a ride, please give us  
a call... (432-267-6344)



1701 E. FM 700 Big Spring



# Populists take power in Italy, with euro-skeptic agenda



AP photo

Newly appointed Italian Premier Giuseppe Conte reviews the honor guard prior to the start of the First Council of Minister at Chigi Palace Premier's office, in Rome, Friday, June 1, 2018.

By FRANCES D'EMILIO

Associated Press

ROME (AP) — Populists took power in Italy for the first time Friday with the swearing-in of a new government fusing in a coalition a political movement that delights in pillorying the establishment and a party whose anti-migrant, euro-skeptic politics have seen it soar in popularity.

At an oath-taking ceremony in the presidential palace atop Quirinal Hill, the new premier, political novice Giuseppe Conte, and his 18 Cabinet ministers pledged their loyalty to the Italian republic and to the nation's post-war constitution in front of President Sergio Mattarella.

Only five days earlier, the leader of the anti-establishment 5-Star Movement, Luigi Di Maio, was inciting followers to press for Mattarella's impeachment. The president had invoked his constitutional powers to reject the populists' initial choice for economy minister because he is an advocate of a backup plan to exit from euro-currency membership.

Mattarella's act scuttled Conte's first try to assemble a coalition uniting the forces of Di Maio's 5-Stars and his populist rival Matteo Salvini, leader of the right-wing League, which is based in the affluent north.

The president approved Conte and a rejiggered Cabinet list Thursday after Paolo Savona was moved from the economy slot to that of the ministry of European affairs. On Friday, a beaming Di Maio stood before Mattarella and recited the loyalty oath — he'll

serve as minister of labor and economic development.

The initial failure of Conte to form a government had alarmed financial markets, which feared a quick return to the polls that risked being tantamount to a plebiscite on Italy's keeping the euro currency.

But the markets were reassured by the formation of a new government, which came three months after elections resulted in a political stalemate with no single party or alliance winning control of Parliament.

On Friday, the 5-Stars' clinched their quest for national power, after five years in Parliament as the largest opposition party. Co-founded by comic Beppe Grillo, who rails against an entrenched political "caste," the Movement bills itself as a web-based democratic force, not a traditional political party.

Grillo tweeted euphorically: "If you can dream it, yo can do it."

Conte was a professor of law at the University of Florence, who had offered ahead of the March election to serve as a 5-Star minister. He became a compromise choice for premier when rivals Di Maio and Salvini refused to let the other hold the top post.

Emphasizing their "anti-establishment" claim, 5-Star ministers, who hold seven of the Cabinet posts, took a single taxi van to the Quirinal Palace.

In a Facebook post, Di Maio gushed: "There are a lot of us, and we're ready to launch a government of change to improve the quality of life for all Ital-

ians."

Next week the government faces mandatory confidence votes in each chamber of Parliament, where the coalition members hold narrow, but viable majorities.

Salvini said he would set straight to work on a campaign pledge to expel many of several hundred thousand asylum-seekers who were rescued at sea from human traffickers over the last few years but are ineligible for asylum.

Public resentment over what was perceived as fellow EU nations' failure to help ease the financial and logistical burden on Italy in caring for the flood of migrants helped boost the League's popularity.

"The immigration question is still burning," Salvini said.

The last-minute compromise appointment of Giovanni Tria as economy minister was aimed at calming

EU leaders' jitters. He is close to the center-right forces loyal to Silvio Berlusconi, the former premier and billionaire media mogul.

Another Cabinet pick seen as reassuring to those concerned the populists could set Italy drifting from its strong ties with the EU is Foreign Minister Enzo Moavero Milanesi. A former minister, he teaches European Union law at LUISS, a Rome university championed by a powerful Italian industrialists lobby.

Conte himself acknowledged that the populists are a whole new breed that is leaving some wondering what they will be like.

"We're not Martians, and we'll prove it," said the premier, who in a play on his law professor profession promises to be the "defense lawyer" of the Italian people in an "Italians first" government.

Still, the "rest of Europe is looking at Italy with apprehension," wrote Massimo Franco, a political commentator for the newspaper Corriere della Sera. "It fears that it is a laboratory for what can happen in other countries" and hopes that Italy's populist "experiment doesn't turn out to be a disaster."

If the populists make reality of central campaign promises that could swell Italy's already staggering high debt, the EU and financial markets might grow uneasy again.

Salvini wants to undo or at least drastically revamp pension reform that raised retirement ages. Di Maio wants to give the jobless and low-income citizens a minimum monthly income of 780 euros (about \$930), an electoral pledge that helped secure the Movement's triumph in the unemployment-plagued south.

Some promises have already been broken. Di Maio had vowed never to join in a governing coalition, a form of "establishment" politics that the 5-Star Movement abhors.

And Salvini and Di Maio have railed for years about the recent succession of premiers who didn't run for election in Parliament. Their pick for premier, Conte, is now the latest.

The new government delighted leaders of an increasingly bolder far-right in European politics.

## OFFICER

Continued from Page 6A

identified himself, was wearing jeans, a T-shirt, sneakers and a baseball cap.

In the tow dispatch recording, Jones is heard saying "Huh?" just before Raja yells "You good?" Jones says he is. Raja twice replies, "Really?" with Jones replying "yeah" each time.

Suddenly, Raja shouts for Jones to put his hands up, using an expletive. Jones replies "Hold on!" and Raja repeats his demand. Feuer believes it was about this time that Jones pulled his gun, which his family says he had bought just days before to protect his musical equipment valued at \$10,000.

Raja then fires three shots in less than two seconds. Ten seconds pass before three more shots are heard a second apart, apparently Raja firing at Jones as he ran down an embankment. Raja told investigators Jones kept pointing his gun at him with his right hand. Feuer pointed out in her ruling that Jones was left handed.

Prosecutors say Raja saw Jones throw down his gun but kept firing, which is why he is charged with attempted murder. Investigators have been unable to determine when the fatal shot was fired, but it was one of the shots that struck Jones in the back.

Raja then used his personal cell-phone to call 911 with the operator picking up 33 seconds after the last shot was fired. Raja is recorded yelling orders to drop the gun; prosecutors say he was trying to mislead investigators into believing he hadn't seen the gun thrown. Jones' body was found 200 feet (60 meters) from the SUV and 125 feet (38 meters) from his gun, which was unfired.

Palm Beach Gardens quickly fired Raja, who was still in his employee probation period. He was charged eight months later.

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## Trump orders 'immediate steps' to boost coal, nuclear plants



AP photo

President Trump attends a Change of Command ceremony at the U.S. Coast Guard Headquarters, Friday, June 1, 2018, in Washington. Adm. Paul F. Zukunft will be relieved by Adm. Karl L. Schultz as the Commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard.

By MATTHEW DALY

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump on Friday directed Energy Secretary Rick Perry to prepare "immediate steps" to bolster struggling coal-fired and nuclear power plants to keep them open.

Trump believes that keeping America's energy grid secure "protects our national security, public safety and economy from intentional attacks and natural disasters," White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders said in a statement.

Impending retirements of "fuel-secure" power plants that rely on coal and nuclear power are harming the nation's power grid and reducing its resilience, Sanders said.

The directive comes as the Trump administration considers a plan to order operators of the nation's power grid to buy electricity from coal and nuclear plants to keep them open.

The plan would direct grid operators to buy power from coal and nuclear plants for two years to ensure grid reliability, "promote the national defense and maximize domestic energy supplies."

The Energy Department action, if ordered, would represent an unprecedented intervention into U.S. energy markets.

A draft memo urges federal action to "stop the further premature retirements of fuel-secure generation" from coal and nuclear plants that have struggled to compete with natural gas and renewable energy sources such as wind and solar power. The Associated Press obtained a copy of the memo.

The plan would exempt power plants from obeying a host of environmental laws and spend billions to keep coal-fired plants open.

A diverse group of energy industry groups — including oil, natural gas, solar and wind power — condemned the proposal, saying it would raise energy prices and distort markets.

"Unprecedented government intervention in the energy markets to support high-cost generation will hurt customers by taking more money out of their pockets rather than letting people keep more of what they earn," said Todd Snitchler of the American Petroleum Institute, the top lobbying group for the oil and gas industry.

"Orderly power plant retirements do not constitute an emergency for our electric grid," said Amy Farrell, vice president of the American Wind Energy Association. Farrell called the draft plan "a misapplication of emergency powers" and said, "There's certainly no credible justification to force American taxpayers to bailout uneconomic power plants."

But Robert Murray, chairman and CEO of Murray Energy Corp., the nation's largest privately owned coal company, hailed the White House announcement.

Murray has been seeking emergency action to boost his industry since

last year and has met with Trump to argue that federal help was needed to avert thousands of layoffs and maintain the reliability of the electric grid up and down the East Coast.

"We support all efforts to ensure the security of our nation's electric power supply, which is critical to the reliability of our electric power grids, to low-cost electricity and to our national defense," Murray said Friday in a statement.

The draft plan calls for the Energy Department to exercise emergency authority under a pair of federal laws typically reserved for wars or natural disasters. The plan calls

for Perry to use the Federal Power Act and the Defense Production Act to temporarily delay retirements of coal and nuclear plants.

"This prudent stop-gap measure" will allow coal and nuclear plants to remain open as the department takes further steps to secure the grid, the memo said.

Among those arguing for federal action is Jeff Miller, a well-connected GOP fundraiser who has served as an adviser to Perry and other Republicans and ran Perry's unsuccessful presidential campaign in 2016.

Miller, who also is close to House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., is lobbying for FirstEnergy Solutions, a bankrupt power company that relies on coal and nuclear energy to produce electricity. Ohio-based FirstEnergy is the largest customer for Murray's Ohio-based coal company and has joined with Murray to seek federal help.

Michael Panfil, director of federal energy policy for the Environmental Defense Fund, called Trump's directive "an unprecedented, illegal government handout" to the coal and nuclear industries and vowed to fight the order in court.

"Americans should not have to pay for dirty, uneconomic coal plants that pollute our environment and make people sick - especially when there are cleaner, more affordable energy options available," Panfil said.

The independent Federal Energy Regulatory Commission rejected a similar request by Perry in January, saying in a unanimous decision that there's no evidence that past or planned retirements of coal-fired power plants pose a threat to grid reliability.

The draft memo was first reported by Bloomberg News.

### New Locations:

**CrownQuest Operating, LLC**  
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(432) 684-6381

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y Specialist  
(281) 589-5200

See OIL, Page 9A

# Weekly Oil Report

## Howard County

#4HA WR Lacebark Elm Unit, drill horizontal, El: NA  
Spraberry (Trend Area) Field, API #42-227-38748  
6.50 miles southwest of Knott  
A-522, Section 1, Block 34, T-1-N, T&P RR Co. survey  
Total Depth: 8800 feet  
Latitude 032.185781, Longitude -101.411634. Datum: NAD 83  
259' FNL, 165' FEL of 80-acre lease  
259' FNL, 1040' FEL of the survey  
Rule 37 Exception

#1SH Garon "27-22", drill horizontal, API #42-227-39630  
Spraberry (Trend Area) Field, El: NA  
3.30 miles southwest of Vealmoor

A-347, Section 27, Block 33, T-3-N, T&P RR Co. survey  
Total Depth: 9000 feet  
Latitude 032.499597, Longitude -101.615332. Datum: NAD 27  
875' FSL, 329' FWL of 584.64-acre lease  
875' FSL, 329' FWL of the survey

#6HB Guitar Galusha, drill horizontal, El: NA  
Spraberry (Trend Area) Field, API #42-227-39040  
8.10 miles northwest of Big Spring  
A-571, Section 22, Block A, Bauer & Cockrell survey  
Total Depth: 8600 feet  
Latitude 032.184727, Longitude -101.363639. Datum: NAD 83  
2014' FEL, 2090' FNL of 960-acre lease  
626' FWL, 2090' FNL of the survey

#3AA Guitar Galusha, drill horizontal, El: NA  
Spraberry (Trend Area) Field, API #42-227-39041  
8.10 miles northwest of Big Spring  
A-563, Section 14, Block A, Bauer & Cockrell survey  
Total Depth: 8400 feet  
Latitude 032.171837, Longitude -101.361215. Datum: NAD 83  
381' FWL, 687' FNL of 960-acre lease  
381' FWL, 687' FNL of the survey

#2AH Silver City Unit, drill horizontal, API #42-227-39409  
Spraberry (Trend Area) Field, El: NA  
19.60 miles northwest of Big Spring

A-1234, Section 30, Block 33, T&P RR Co. survey  
Total Depth: 8900 feet  
Latitude 032.291629, Longitude -101.395499. Datum: NAD 83  
220' FSL, 1505' FWL of 479.5-acre lease  
220' FSL, 1102' FWL of the survey

#3AH Silver City Unit, drill horizontal, API #42-227-39410  
Spraberry (Trend Area) Field, El: NA  
19.60 miles northwest of Big Spring

Total Depth: 8900 feet  
Latitude 032.291600, Longitude -101.395491. Datum: NAD 83  
190' FSL, 1101' FWL of 479.5-acre lease  
190' FSL, 1101' FWL of the survey

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**Houston Grand Opera raises nearly \$10M amid Harvey recovery**



AP photo

This Aug. 28, 2017, file photo, shows damage from Hurricane Harvey in the lobby of the Wortham Theater in Houston. The Houston Grand Opera has raised nearly \$10 million to offset losses blamed on Hurricane Harvey-related flooding last year that swamped its performance venue. The Houston Chronicle reported the Wortham Theater Center should reopen this fall and feature a Sept. 26 concert with Plácido Domingo and Ana María Martínez.

HOUSTON (AP) — The Houston Grand Opera has raised nearly \$10 million to offset losses blamed on Hurricane Harvey-related flooding last year that swamped its performance venue.

The Houston Chronicle reports the Wortham Theater Center should reopen this fall and feature a Sept. 26 concert with Plácido Domingo and Ana María Martínez.

The opera relocated to the George R. Brown Convention Center following Harvey with performances in a makeshift theater. Opera officials on Wednesday, during the group's annual meeting, reported a 10 percent drop in attendance but overall anticipate more funding.

The Houston Grand Opera company projects losses of \$15 million over three years.

HGO's regular annual operating support is expected to reach \$17.2 million this summer. That's \$1.2 million more compared to a year earlier, due to 86 new patrons and trustees.

**Texas loses long battle to hide execution drug supplier**

By PAUL J. WEBER

Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — The Texas Supreme Court has cleared the way for the disclosure of an execution drug supplier that the nation's busiest death penalty state has fought for years to keep under wraps.

The decision Friday is expected to only identify the supplier Texas used in two 2014 executions. Gov. Greg Abbott signed a measure into law the next year allowing the state to keep future supplier records secret.

Republicans hold all seats on the Texas Supreme Court and issued no comment while keeping in place a lower ruling to reveal the supplier identity.

**Police save woman from bridge over Houston Ship Channel**

LA PORTE, Texas (AP) — Police have saved a woman perched on the guardrail of a Texas highway bridge across the Houston Ship Channel amid concerns she might jump.

La Porte (luh-PORT) police posted patrol car video online showing the May 25 rescue by officers responding to a 911 call about a woman on the cable-stayed Fred Hartman Bridge.

Video released Thursday shows an officer walking toward the woman as she dangles her feet over the edge and at times appears to look at the water, about 175 feet below.

Two other officers approach from behind and the pull the woman from the chest-high railing. She was transported to a mental health facility for evaluation.

La Porte police didn't immediately provide additional details on her Friday. The Fred Hartman Bridge links Houston and Baytown.

**OIL**

Continued from 8A

<p><b>Callon Petroleum Operating Co.</b> P.O. Box 1287 Natchez, MS 39121-0000 Ryan Emery, Regulatory Specialist (281) 589-5200</p>	<p><b>#4AH Silver City Unit, drill horizontal, API #42-227-39411</b> Spraberry (Trend Area) Field, EI: NA 19.60 miles northwest of Big Spring</p> <p>A-1234, Section 30, Block 33, T-3-N, T&amp;P RR Co. survey Total Depth: 8900 feet Latitude 032.291658, Longitude -101.395507. Datum: NAD 83 190' FSL, 1103' FWL of 479.5-acre lease 250' FSL, 1103' FWL of the survey</p>
<p><b>Callon Petroleum Operating Co.</b> P.O. Box 1287 Natchez, MS 39121-0000 Ryan Emery, Regulatory Specialist (281) 589-5200</p>	<p><b>#8AH Panther "A1", drill horizontal, API #42-227-39448</b> Spraberry (Trend Area) Field, EI: NA 5.20 miles northeast of Big Spring</p> <p>A-1666, Section 22, Block 32, T-1-N, T&amp;P RR Co. survey Total Depth: 8000 feet Latitude 032.192340, Longitude -101.271869. Datum: NAD 83 305' FNL, 231' FWL of 322.65-acre lease 305' FNL, 231' FWL of the survey Rule 37 Exception</p>
<p><b>Diamondback E&amp;P, LLC</b> 500 W. Texas Ave., Suite 1200 Midland, TX 79701-4203 Ashley Brown, Regulatory Specialist (432) 245-6033</p>	<p><b>#1LS Bullfrog "47" North Unit, drill horizontal, EI: NA</b> Spraberry (Trend Area) Field, API #42-227-38709 3.09 miles northwest of Knott</p> <p>A-511, Section 47, Block 34, T-3-N, T&amp;P RR Co. survey Total Depth: 8700 feet Latitude 032.264823, Longitude -101.403056. Datum: NAD 27 581' FEL, 2428' FSL of 240-acre lease 581' FEL, 2428' FSL of the survey</p>
<p><b>Diamondback E&amp;P, LLC</b> 500 W. Texas Ave., Suite 1200 Midland, TX 79701-4203 Ashley Brown, Regulatory Specialist (432) 245-6033</p>	<p><b>#1WB Bullfrog "47" North Unit, drill horizontal, EI: NA</b> Spraberry (Trend Area) Field, API #42-227-38847 3.09 miles northwest of Knott</p> <p>A-511, Section 47, Block 34, T-3-N, T&amp;P RR Co. survey Total Depth: 8700 feet Latitude 032.264807, Longitude -101.403124. Datum: NAD 27 641' FEL, 2428' FSL of 240-acre lease 641' FEL, 2428' FSL of the survey</p>
<p><b>SM Energy Company</b> 6301 Holiday Hill Road Midland, TX 79707-0000 Jill Hamilton, Regulatory Tech (432) 848-4885</p>	<p><b>#1352WA Fletch, drill horizontal, API #42-227-39063</b> Spraberry (Trend Area) Field, EI: NA 3.80 miles southwest of Big Spring</p> <p>A-1560, Section 24, Block 33, T-1-S, T&amp;P RR Co. survey Total Depth: 9350 feet X=771955.866. Y=212225.810. Datum: NAD 27 520' FSL, 1037' FEL of 640-acre lease 520' FSL, 1037' FEL of the survey</p>
<p><b>Parsley Energy Operations, LLC</b> 303 Colorado, Suite 3000 Austin, TX 78701-0000 Johnnethan Washington, Reg. Tech (512) 600-8855</p>	<p><b>#4201H Wilkinson Ranch "34-1-A", drill horizontal, EI: NA</b> Spraberry (Trend Area) Field, API #42-227-39628 7.50 miles west of Big Spring</p> <p>A-392, Section 23, Block 34, T-1-N, T&amp;P RR Co. survey Total Depth: 8338 feet Latitude 032.232505, Longitude -101.600778. Datum: NAD 27 627' FSL, 1161' FWL of 641.32-acre lease 627' FSL, 1161' FWL of the survey</p>

See OIL, Page 10A

Attorney Maurie Levin sought the supplier name in 2014 on behalf of a death-row inmate. She called the decision a victory for transparency. A federal judge ruled Thursday that Alabama must reveal details of its lethal injection procedure.

**Coahoma Scholars 2018**



(Back row from left – McKinna Hector, Mason Moore, Nathan Ramirez, Aubrey Parum, Kaylee Wright  
Front row from left – Makayla Overton, Tyler McFall, Brynn Workman, Diana Gonzalez, Preslie Smithie)

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# Texas takes it: Dallas-area kids are tops at spelling bee

By **BEN NICKOLS**

Associated Press

OXON HILL, Md. (AP) — The end of the biggest Scripps National Spelling Bee in history came abruptly, and it wasn't the conclusion that many expected. Naysa Modi, a poised and charismatic four-time participant whose long spelling career seemed to be building toward triumph, sat next to a newcomer whom she had already beaten this year — at the county level.

But 12-year-old Naysa blinked immediately, mixing up the single and double "s" in the German-derived word "Bewusstseinslage" — a state of consciousness or a feeling devoid of sensory components — and 14-year-old Karthik Nemmani seized an opportunity that he wouldn't have had before this year.

"I didn't really think I'd be able to do it," the soft-spoken winner said. "I had confidence that I could do it, but I honestly didn't realistically think it could happen."

Karthik's victory Thursday night put the spotlight back onto the story of this bee week — the new wild-card program that Scripps launched to give a chance to spellers like him, who have to compete against some of the nation's best spellers at the local level. The field was expanded to 515 spellers to accommodate the wild cards — there had never been more than 300 competitors previously — and four of the 16 prime-time finalists got in through the new program, known as "RSVBee."

When only three spellers remained, all were from the Dallas area, which has long been a hotbed of spelling talent.

Karthik is from McKinney, Texas — his family moved there specifically so he could go to a school that takes part in the Scripps program. Naysa is from Frisco, less than 15 miles to the west. And third-place finisher Abhijay Kodali lives in Flower Mound, another 40 miles west.

Naysa knocked off Abhijay in the Dallas regional bee after topping Karthik in their county bee. The region is one of a few that sponsors two spellers for a trip to nationals. The wild cards had to pay their own way — a \$750 entry fee, plus the costs of travel to Washington and lodging.

"I don't care," said Karthik's father, Krishna Nemmani. "I know his caliber."

Like many top spellers, Karthik was a precocious preschooler — he arranged block letters to spell "horse" at age 3 and won his first spelling bee at 4½, his dad said.

His winning word was "koinonia," which means Christian fellowship or communion. He knew that one. He also knew the word Naysa missed. But he didn't pretend to be infallible, saying there were about eight or nine words in the prime-time finals he didn't know — a rare admission for a champion.

## OIL

Continued from 9A

**Parsley Energy Operations, LLC**  
303 Colorado, Suite 3000  
Austin, TX 78701-0000  
**Johnnethan Washington,**  
Reg. Tech  
(512) 600-8855

#4205H Wilkinson Ranch "34-1-C", drill horizontal, El: NA  
Spraberry (Trend Area) Field, API #42-227-39629  
7.50 miles west of Big Spring

A-392, Section 23, Block 34, T-1-N, T&P RR Co. survey  
Total Depth: 8338 feet  
Latitude 032.232585, Longitude -101.600803. Datum: NAD 27  
657' FSL, 1161' FWL of 641.32-acre lease  
657' FSL, 1161' FWL of the survey

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Houston, TX 77064-0000  
**Gayle Foord, Regulatory Analyst**  
(832) 333-2332

#7AH Newdige "06-43", drill horizontal, API #42-227-39631  
Spraberry (Trend Area) Field, El: NA  
14.90 miles northwest of Big Spring  
A-1067, Section 6, Block 32, T-2-N, T&P RR Co. survey  
Total Depth: 10,000 feet  
Latitude 032.455583, Longitude -101.533380. Datum: NAD 27  
372' FSL, 662' FEL of 1,702.38-acre lease  
372' FSL, 662' FEL of the survey  
Rule 37 Exception

**Surge Operating, LLC**  
7850 N. Sam Houston Pkwy West  
Suite 300  
Houston, TX 77064-0000  
**Gayle Foord, Regulatory Analyst**  
(832) 333-2332

#8AH Newdige "06-43", drill horizontal, API #42-227-39632  
Spraberry (Trend Area) Field, El: NA  
14.90 miles northwest of Big Spring  
A-1067, Section 6, Block 32, T-2-N, T&P RR Co. survey  
Total Depth: 10,000 feet  
Latitude 032.455517, Longitude -101.533358. Datum: NAD 27  
347' FSL, 661' FEL of 1,702.38-acre lease  
347' FSL, 661' FEL of the survey  
Rule 37 Excepti

"She's a really, really good speller. She deserved the trophy as much as I did," Karthik said of Naysa. "I got lucky."

Karthik is the 14th consecutive Indian-American champion, and 19 of the past 23 winners have had Indian heritage. He takes home more than \$42,000 in cash and prizes.

His win was also a triumph for the burgeoning industry of spelling coaches — high-schoolers who've aged out of competition but share their wisdom with younger competitors, for a steep fee. He thanked his coach, 16-year-old Grace Walters, who had her own star-crossed history of never quite getting to the Scripps stage.

Karthik also used study materials compiled by two well-regarded former Scripps spellers and fellow Texans, Shobha Dasari and her younger brother, Shourav, who finished fourth last year and won nearly every other bee he competed in. Six of the 16 top finishers, including Naysa, studied the Dasaris' hand-picked lists of more than 100,000 words.

"It definitely makes us feel great," 17-year-old Shobha said.

Naysa, who does taekwondo and performs stand-up comedy, will have to regroup after a bitter defeat and try again next year. She'll be in eighth grade, which is the final school year that spellers are eligible. She first competed in the bee as a cherubic 9-year-old.

After her defeat, she was swarmed by dozens of current and former spellers who wished her well, smiling throughout.

"She was just as graceful as she could be," bee program manager Corrie Loeffler said.



AP photo

**Karthik Nemmani, 14, from McKinney, Texas, holds the Scripps National Spelling Bee Championship Trophy after winning the Scripps National Spelling Bee in Oxon Hill, Md., Thursday, May 31, 2018.**

Her close friend, Jashun Paluru of West Lafayette, Indiana, finished fourth, spelling with flair and spending most of his time in between words chatting animatedly with Naysa.

Karthik, for his part, took no pleasure in vanquishing a familiar foe.

"I wouldn't say it was revenge," he said. "We weren't against each other. We were against the dictionary."



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# Coahoma's Franklin named 5-3A All District Pitcher of the Year



Courtesy photo

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Bulldogs gathered on the mound to celebrate their Bi-district birth early this year. The Bulldogs fought their way to an impressive 8-3 district record this season with the help of their five All-District players.

### Special to the Herald

Logan Franklin's performance on the mound this year as a starting pitcher for the Coahoma Bulldogs certainly made an impression with area coaches. The Coahoma standout was named the District 5-3A co-Pitcher of the Year along with Jim Ned's Cagan Evans.

Overall Franklin was among five Bulldog players to make the all-district team.

On the mound, Franklin led Coahoma with an earned run average of 2.22 and helped propel the Bulldogs to an 8-3 district record and an appearance at bi-district playoffs. The senior was also deadly on offense, batting .485 for the year with a whopping 29 runs batted in. During the season, he hammered out eight doubles.

Seniors Zach Holmes, Braden Pearson and sophomore Gaige Hill were also named to the first-team all-district roster for their standout performances on the diamond in 2018.

Holmes was selected as a first-team Infielder and played a key role for the Bulldogs at the plate. He batted a .437 average and had scored 32 runs for the season. Hill, who was named the first-team catcher, capped his season with a .324 batting average. Pearson was selected as first-team utility player. He bat-

ted .361 this season knocked in 25 runs and hit six doubles and a home run.

Rounding out the accolades for the Bulldogs was sophomore Zack Schneider who was selected to the second-team outfield. Schneider posted a .357 batting average, 25 runs, five doubles and a home run.

### 2018 5-3A All District

MVP, Payton Laughlin, Clyde, Jr.  
Offensive MVP, Cayman Freiman, Clyde, Sr.  
Defensive MVP, Ethan Hawk, Clyde, Jr.  
Pitcher of the Year, Logan Franklin, Sr., Coahoma and Cagan Evans, Jim Ned, Fr.  
Newcomer of the Year, Dylan Neuman, Clyde, Fr.; and Jayden Foss, Merkel, Fr.  
Catcher of the Year, Kendal Morgan, Clyde, Jr.

### 1st Team

Pitchers: John Thornmyer, Jim Ned, Sr.; Evan Cox, Stanton, Fr.; OJ Cano, Merkle, Sr.; Riley Rice, Clyde, Jr.; Joey Gutierrez, Colorado City, Soph.  
Infield, Zach Holmes, Coahoma, Sr.; Reese Bryant, Jim Ned, Jr.; Garrett Vanderveen, Stanton, Soph.; Rylan Holloway, Merkel, Jr.; Christian Deal, Clyde, Soph.  
1st Base, Chris Thormeyer, Jim Ned, Jr.; and Noe

Ureste, Stanton, Jr.

Outfield, Caden Martin, Jim Ned, Fr.; Reid Harris, Colorado City, Jr.; Mitchum Burleson, Clyde, Sr.; Isaiah Cortez, Clyde, Sr.; and Andrew Wheeler, Stanton, Sr.

Catcher, Gaige Hill, Coahoma, Soph, and Zack Owens, Merkel, Sr.

DH: Payton Burden, Clyde, Jr.  
Utility: Braden Pearson, Coahoma, Sr.; and David Ochoa, Stanton, Soph.

### 2nd Team

Pitchers: Jackson South, Clyde, Soph.; Erick Hernandez, Colorado City, Sr.; and Ethan Senne, Jim Ned, Jr.

Infield: Ty Doty, Jim Ned, Jr.; and Aaron Hernandez, Stanton, Sr.

1st Base: C.J. Ugalde, Merkel, Jr.  
Outfield: Zack Schneider, Coahoma, Soph.; Cooper Castro, Jim Ned, Jr.; Dylan Martin, Jim Ned, Soph; Marcus Gutierrez, Colorado City, Sr.; David Hadley, Merkel, Jr.

Catcher: Jacob Munoz, Colorado City, Jr.; Dylan Bryant, Jim Ned, Jr., and Tomas Zarate, Stanton, Sr.

Utility: Bradlee Leverich, Clyde, Sr.

# Local Little League announces All-Star Teams

By JORDAN PARR

Sports Editor

Local All-Star Tournament starts on June 16th. All nine through twelve year old games will be played at Midland Northern Little League, 3801 Bluebird Lane Midland, Tx. Thirteen year old All-Stars will play their games at the Roy Anderson Sports Complex in Big Spring. Juniors and Seniors games will be played at Steer Park. Come out and support our local Little League teams as they compete against other teams from the region.

### 9/10 year old All-Stars

Anderson, Talon  
Bryant, Brayden  
Chavira, Nick  
Franco, Nathan  
Garza, Zander  
Gomez, Richard  
Jasso, Urijah  
Lozano, Avren  
Lozano, Jacobi  
Melendez, Aiden  
Mireles, Isaiah  
Rodriguez, Ayden  
Shifflett, Peyton

Lozano, Andre  
Minter, Jeremy  
Phelps, Jayston  
Rivera, Sean  
Rodriguez, Brandon  
Rodriguez, Zachary  
Wilson, Jarrett  
Yanez, Adrian

### Manager

Jesse Cantu  
Assistants  
Eddie Garza and  
Adrian Yanez

### 12 year old All-Star

Aguilar, Eric  
Baily, Billy  
Chavez, Lucas  
Darden, Brannon  
Diaz, Isaiah  
Galan, Ian  
Harris, Reece  
Kilgora, Kevin  
Martinez, Christian  
Mier, Devin  
Raines, Austen  
Thurman, Christopher

### Manager

Cody Bryant

### Assistants

Richard Gomez and  
George Quintana

### 11 year old All-Stars

Canales, Joe  
Cantu, Alex  
Garcia, Andrew  
Garza, Kage  
Gonzales, Trystan



Wood, Samuel  
Manager  
Jason Martinez  
Assistants  
Paul Diaz and Bryan  
Kilgora

### 13 year old All-

### Stars

Atkins, Rowdy  
Bryans, Cade  
Ceasar, Jaren  
El Hakour, Adam  
Garcia, Nicholas  
Gonzales, Nikolas  
Hernandez, Markus

Layman, Weston  
Martinez, Phillip  
Ortiz, Arturo  
Park, Nolan  
Primrose, Jayson  
Solis, Adrian

### Manager

Todd Bryans  
Assistants  
Yogi Ceasar and  
Mathew Carrillo

### Juniors All-Stars

Bishop, Preston  
Cantu, Justin  
Carbajal, Randy  
Carrillo, Jonathon  
DeHoyos, Pablito  
Escovedo, Diego  
Ford, Jamarion  
Martinez, Bryan  
Munoz, Johnny  
Paredes, Carlos  
Perez, Roman  
Saverance, Logan

### Manager

Shanan Saverance  
Assistants  
Lloyd Mashburn and  
Sandra Munoz

### Seniors All-Stars

Barnes, Taylo  
Cantu, Jose  
Cerda, Shawn  
Ford, Javarious  
Garcia, Dylan  
Guzman, Dillon  
Martinez, Damien  
Murillo, Isaac  
Prieto, Mark  
Schneider, Jonathon  
Schneider, Zack  
Solis, Isaiah  
Sotelo, Samuel  
Wood, Joshua

### Manager

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Assistants  
John Sotelo and Mike  
Solis

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- No photo copies, faxes or emails of this ballot will be accepted.
- Ballots must be received by 5pm, June 14.

Enter the Big Spring Herald Reader's Choice poll by filling out this questionnaire. Mail your completed entry form by **June 14 by 5:00 pm**, or drop it off at our office at 710 Scurry St. in Big Spring. The winners of each category will be revealed to the public in our upcoming special section "Big Spring Herald Reader's Choice Awards" to be published on June 29, 2018 in the Herald. Thank You for your participation, but please hurry! The deadline is coming soon!

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# Coffee Talk

By **AMBER MANSFIELD**

Staff Writer

Some would believe that coffee is more than just a drink: It's a culture, an economy, an art, a science, and a passion. It would show to be true with all the coffee joints and places that are constantly popping up around the nation and growing. The community of Big Spring is no different having several different areas around town that you can purchase coffee, and that's not counting every convenient store or restaurants. Whether you're new to the brew or an espresso expert, there's always more to learn about this beloved beverage.

What is Coffee exactly, besides a delicious beverage? Everyone recognizes a roasted coffee bean, but you might not recognize an actual coffee plant. Coffee plants have waxy leaves and grow cherries or coffee cherries, and according to National Coffee Association The plants are pruned short, or cut, to keep and help preserve their energy and which will aid in harvesting, but can grow to more than 30 feet high.

It takes nearly a year for a coffee cherry to mature after first flowering, and about five years of growth to reach full fruiting production. While coffee plants can live up to 100 years, they are generally the most productive between the ages of 7 and 20. The average coffee plant produces ten pounds of coffee cherry per year, or two pounds of green beans.

Although coffee was believed to have been first

introduced in Ethiopia in the early 13 century, for America coffee has also become a colorful component of history. For instance, coffee cultivation has been introduced in this country and its different states as early as 1720 in the Caribbean. Nowadays, the US is flourished with coffee shops and varieties of caffeinated beverages.

It seem like everywhere we turn, there is someone in line for that cup of morning coffee Well, it turns out that, that's not entirely untrue. A recent survey finds that more Americans are drinking a daily cup of coffee today than they have been for the past six years. According to Reuters, a study commissioned by the National Coffee Association surveyed 3,000 Americans about their coffee drinking habits. The survey found that 64 percent of Americans drink a cup of coffee every day, up from 62 percent in 2017, and the highest percentage since 2012. Don't worry thought about all that coffee drinking, there maybe a perk to drinking coffee.

Independent research by scientists worldwide continues to link coffee to significant (and surprising) healthful properties. Coffee has a naturally complex botanical profile, with at least 1,000 natural compounds in the bean (including caffeine) and another 300 created in the roasting process. Scientists have linked a number of them, including some strong antioxidants, with a host of physiological benefits.

Research has shown that moderate coffee consumption, or 3-5 cups daily, may be associated

with many positive effects, including: liver disease prevention, improved cognitive function in older adults, sharper memory, increased athletic endurance, reduced risk of type 2 diabetes, and increase longevity.

Due to the increasing scientific evidence, coffee has earned a new – and improved – reputation. The latest U.S. Dietary Guidelines recently made an unprecedented recommendation for coffee as part of a healthy lifestyle

Many of these potential benefits are associated with caffeine, a naturally occurring stimulant found in coffee beans. The amount of caffeine in a cup of coffee can vary, depending on factors ranging from the type of bean to how it's brewed.

Sometimes coffee really is the only thing that can get people up and feeling like they can achieve their dreams and goals. It provides them the energy they need to become focused and energized. It's their midday pick-me-up that perks them up and keeps them energetic the whole day. Here in Big Spring alone, there is Mighty Wash Coffee, Starbucks, and even local business coffee owners. Everyone loves there coffee, and it can be drunk anytime, during the cold months, and has even metamorphosed into cold, cold, iced, or frozen coffee.

"We stay pretty much busy all day," said Andi a Starbucks employee. "It's funny some people are concerned with the name of the size of the cup, like they have to get it right for us, but we are here just to serve and make good coffee. People love coffee so much, and you can really tell working as a barista." Some locals who was at Starbucks agreed with Andi.

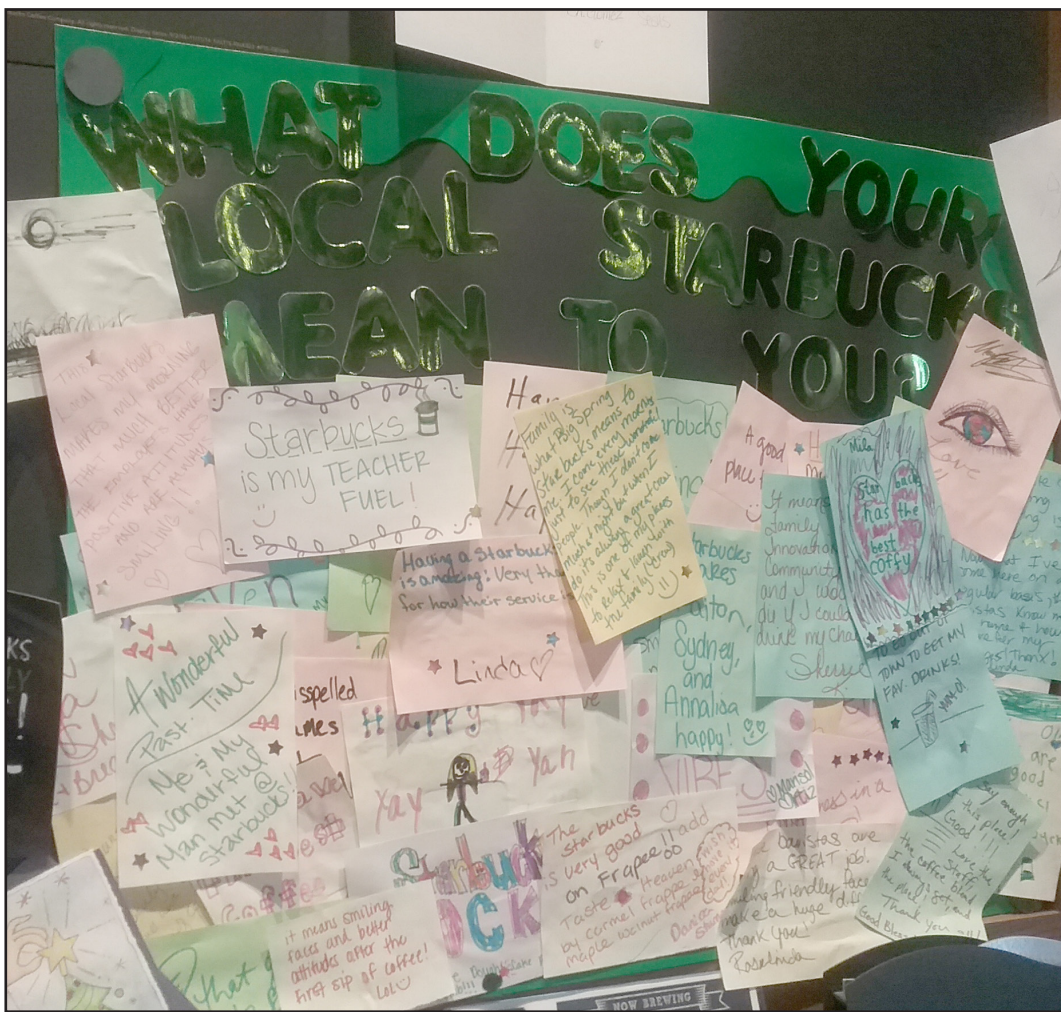
"Well! coffee is a tasty drink at the same time it is delicious too," said local Will Murphy. "A cup of coffee will definitely help you to boost your work. According to some people coffee is an art. It has so many health benefits too. I'm always in here."

Coffee has become a staple in the human world as something to enjoy alone with friends and for any occasion or no occasion at all, coffee is just good.



HERALD photo/Amber Mansfield

Here shows a Frozen beverage and in the photo below is the hangout spot, at Big Spring's Starbucks.



HERALD photo/Amber Mansfield

Here shows a bulletin board at Starbucks asking, "What does your local Starbucks mean to you?" It is overflowing with notes of appreciation and dedication to their love of coffee.



HERALD photo/Amber Mansfield

Here shows the latest coffee spot, on 3rd and Scurry, across from the courthouse.

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### NEW LISTINGS!!



# Las Vegas union: Tentative labor deal struck with Caesars

By REGINA CARCIA CANO

Associated Press

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Negotiators have reached a tentative labor agreement that would cover about a quarter of the 50,000 hotel and casino workers who are threatening to strike in Las Vegas.

The Culinary Workers Union Local 226 on Friday said the new five-year deal with Caesars Entertainment covers about 12,000 workers at nine casino resorts on the Las Vegas Strip. Tens of thousands of bartenders, housekeepers, bellmen and other unionized workers at 34 casino-hotels on the Strip and in downtown Las Vegas have sought new, five-year contracts for months.

The current contracts expired at midnight. Ninety-nine percent of about 25,000 workers voted last week to authorize a strike at any time starting Friday. No date has been set, but workers have started signing up for strike pay, financial assistance and picketing shifts.

Wages, workplace training and job security have been the main sticking points in negotiations.

Caesars' properties covered by the tentative agreement are Bally's, Flamingo, Harrah's, Paris, Planet Hollywood, The Cromwell, The Linq and Caesars Palace, including Nobu.

Here's a look at the negotiations and a possible strike:

## TO STRIKE OR NOT TO STRIKE

The Culinary Union and companies that would be affected if workers walk off the job have held bargaining sessions since February. Casino-hotels that could still see a strike, if the deal between workers and Caesars sticks, include Aria, Bellagio, Tropicana, Stratosphere and Golden Nugget.

Analysts with Deutsche Bank put the likelihood of a citywide strike "as low" and said they believe

negotiations could continue.

"Recall, in 2013, the Culinary Union remained in negotiations with some Strip operators for several months post the June 2013 contract expiration," analysts with the bank noted this week. "Business during this time was uninterrupted."

The last citywide strike was in 1984, costing the city and workers millions of dollars.

## ROOMS, KITCHENS AND LUGGAGE

Casino-hotels would lose unionized bartenders, housekeepers, cocktail and food servers, porters, bellmen, cooks and other kitchen workers in the event of a strike.

MGM Resorts International and Caesars Entertainment operate more than half the properties that have been negotiating contracts. Both companies have declined to provide details of their contingency plans.

The union and hospitality experts have said the companies would use replacement workers and try



AP photo

In this May 22, 2018, file photo, members of the Culinary Workers Union, Local 226, assemble for a presentation at a university arena before an evening vote on whether to authorize a strike in Las Vegas. The two largest resort operators in Las Vegas would lose more than \$10 million a day combined if housekeepers, cooks and others go on strike, a possibility starting Friday, the union representing thousands of casino workers said, Thursday, May 31, 2018.

to bring some in from properties outside Las Vegas. Properties that would not be affected include

See **LABOR**, Page, 3C

## Brigitte Nielsen expecting 5th child at 54 years old

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Fifty-four-year-old model, actress and reality star Brigitte Nielsen is pregnant with her fifth child.

The expectant Nielsen posted photos of herself lounging on Instagram and Twitter. She wrote the family is getting larger.

Nielsen is the mother of four sons, ranging in age from 34 to 23.

She married her fifth husband, Mattia Dessi, in 2006.

Nielsen didn't reveal a due date.

## Prince's estate sues Oklahoma man over posted music video

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — Prince's estate is suing an Oklahoma man for alleged copyright infringement.

The lawsuit filed Tuesday in federal court in Oklahoma City accuses Phil Shadid, of Yukon, of violating the estate's copyright by distributing videos from the band Vanity 6's self-titled 1982 album on a digital music distributor, TuneCore.

The lawsuit says Prince put together the band and wrote the music and lyrics for the album. It says TuneCore removed the videos at the estate's request, but that Shadid contested their removal and that TuneCore will repost them unless a court orders not to by a court.

The lawsuit seeks to permanently keep the videos off the site and unspecified damages, attorney fees and costs.

The Oklahoman reports that Shadid could not be reached for comment and court documents do not list an attorney for him.

Prince died in 2016 of an accidental drug overdose

## Comedian Artie Lange spared prison term for drug charge

NEWARK, N.J. (AP) — Artie Lange has been spared a prison term for possessing heroin.

A judge on Friday ordered the comedian who has struggled with drug addiction to serve four years of probation. The Hoboken resident also must complete an outpatient drug treatment program.

The charge stemmed from a May 2017 traffic stop on the Garden State Parkway. Lange pleaded guilty in December, when Essex County prosecutors agreed to drop a 2016 cocaine possession charge. Prosecutors wanted the 50-year-old comedian sent to an inpatient treatment program. But Lange told the judge he preferred outpatient treatment because he needs to work.

Lange is a cast member in the HBO series "Crashing." He also performed on the Fox sketch comedy series "Mad TV" and spent nearly a decade as a co-host on "The Howard Stern Show."

## Tom Cruise tweets as production starts on 'Top Gun' sequel

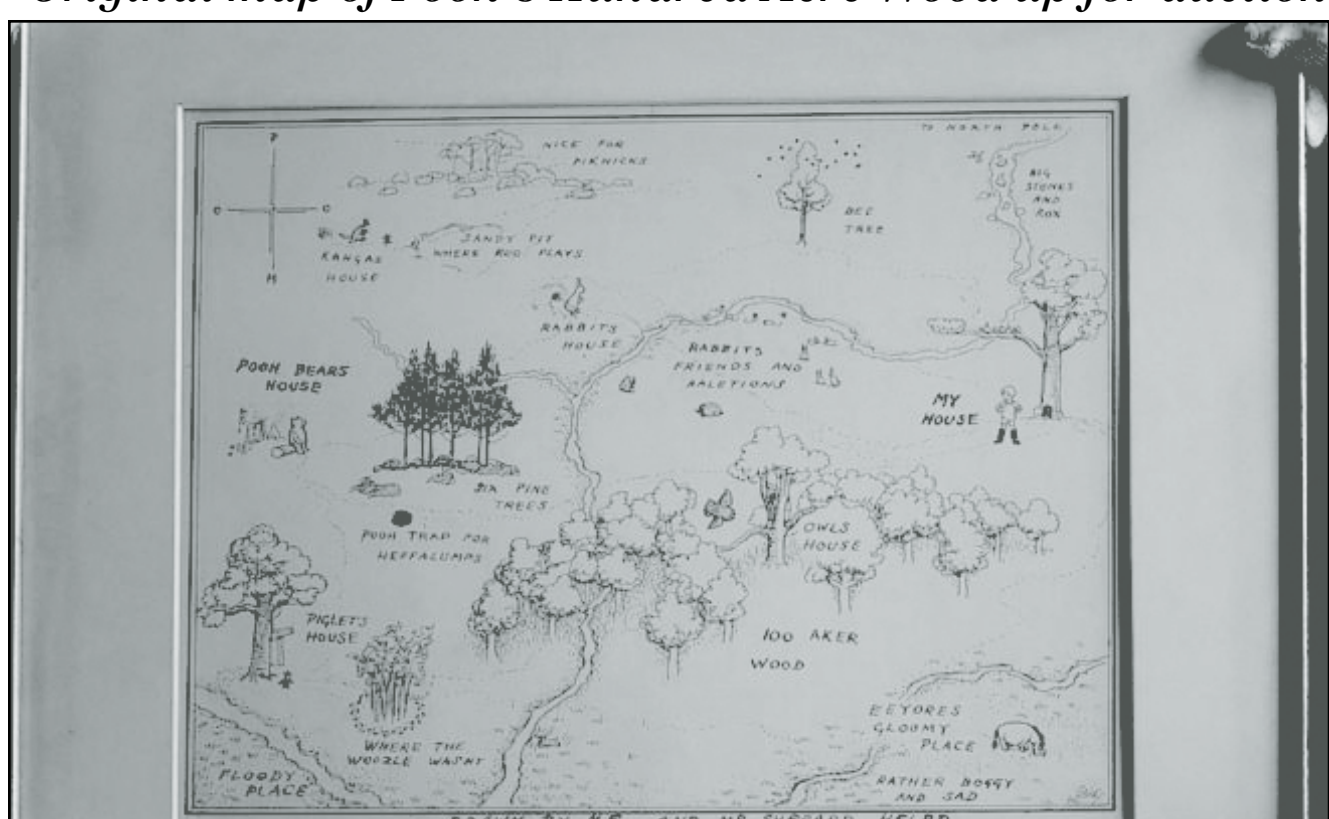
LOS ANGELES (AP) — Tom Cruise is back on the flight line for a sequel to the 1986 film "Top Gun."

The actor on Thursday tweeted a photo of himself as Navy pilot Pete "Maverick" Mitchell in a flight suit, looking at a fighter jet. The photo includes the phrase "feel the need." In the original movie, Cruise's character talks about how he feels the need for speed.

Cruise writes #Day 1 of production of "Top Gun: Maverick."

The movie is scheduled for release in July 2019.

## Original map of Pooh's Hundred Acre Wood up for auction



AP photo

The original map of Winnie the Pooh's Hundred Acre Wood by E.H. Shepard is displayed at Sotheby's auction rooms in London, Thursday, May 31, 2018. The map, unseen for half a century is estimated at 100,000-150,000 UK pounds (133,200-199,800 US dollars) and will be auctioned on July 10 with four other original Winnie the Pooh illustrations.

LONDON (AP) — The original version of a map that entranced generations of children is up for auction at Sotheby's.

The auctioneer said Thursday that E.H. Shepard's map of the Hundred Acre Wood, home to Winnie-the Pooh, could fetch 150,000 pounds (\$200,000) when it is sold in July.

Shepard's 1926 sketch features beloved characters including Pooh and Christopher Robin, and landmarks including "Bee Tree" and "Eeyore's


Gloomy Place."

It was last sold in 1970 for 1,700 pounds.

Shepard's illustrations helped cement the popularity of A.A. Milne's "bear of very little brain" and his woodland friends. In 2014, an ink drawing of the characters playing the game poohsticks sold for 314,500 pounds, a record for a book illustration.

The map and four other Shepard Winnie-the-Pooh illustrations will be sold July 10 at Sotheby's London.


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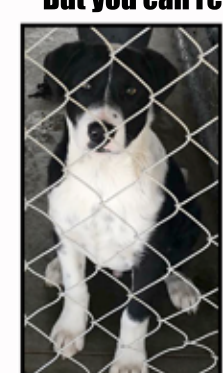
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## Trump: Why isn't Samantha Bee fired for 'horrible language'?



AP photo

Bee is under fire for referring to Ivanka Trump as a "feckless c---" on her TBS comedy show. White House press secretary Sarah Sanders on Thursday called Bee's language "vile and vicious."

By ANNE FLAHERTY

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump, who once bragged that his celebrity status gave him a pass to grab women's crotches, asked Friday why comedian Samantha Bee wasn't fired for using a vulgar, sexist term to describe his daughter.

Trump tweeted that it was a "total double standard" that TBS hadn't canceled Bee's show, "Full Frontal" after the comedian said Ivanka Trump was a "feckless c---" on immigration.

The president appeared to be referring to ABC's decision to cancel Roseanne Barr's show, a favorite among conservatives, after Barr jokingly compared a former White House aide in the Obama administration who is African-American to an ape.

"Why aren't they firing no talent Samantha Bee for the horrible language used on her low ratings show?" he tweeted early Friday. "A total double standard but that's O.K., we are Winning, and will be doing so for a long time to come!"

It's the latest salvo in the U.S. culture war that Trump seems to relish. Across social media platforms this week, Americans hotly debated whether Bee — whose feminist style comedy often criticizes sexism — was justified in using a misogynistic expletive to criticize Ivanka Trump.

Trump supporters noted that the term used by Bee would result in immediate pushback had it been aimed at a female Democratic official, such as Rep. Nancy Pelosi. (In a 2014 interview, before the #MeToo movement, actor Gary Oldman used the word in reference to Pelosi in a tirade on "political correctness" that drew little pushback.) Trump himself has repeatedly drawn fire for his sexist language and sexual boasting. A 2005 "Access Hollywood" video featured audio of Trump bragging about how he grabs women's genitals and gets away with it. On the tape, Trump talks about forcing himself on women, kissing them and groping them. Trump eventually apologized for his com-

## Roger's Reviews: Show Dogs



I have had a comedy of errors trying to see my movie to review this week. Early in the week, I called the movie theater to ask what movies they were going to get this week. The Cinemark employee told me that the theater was getting the movie "The Book Club," starring Jane Fonda, Diane Keaton, Candace Bergen, and Mary Steenburgen; and I made plans to see that. Not really my cup of tea, but some famous actresses, and fairly good word-of-mouth. Might be decent. Yay.



ROGER CLINE

So so Thursday rolled around, and I found out that the local theater wouldn't be getting "The Book Club" until Friday. In case you didn't know, the local theater often gets new movies on Thursday rather than Friday, for some reason I have yet to fathom. But not this one.

My other two options were the Melissa McCarthy vehicle "Life of the Party"; and the dogfest "Show Dogs." Yay.

I pick "Life of the Party," and show up at 7:30 to see it, only to have theater personnel inform me that the projector in that theater is currently on the fritz. "Okay, what about 'Show Dogs'?" I wonder." Nope. That movie had started 45 minutes earlier. But there's another showing of it at 9:20. Now I got to go away, go back in two hours, and watch a questionable movie which won't end until 11 p.m. Yay.

But I live to sacrifice for you, my Regular Roger's Reviews Readers, so I do it. I go away. I go back two hours later. I get a ticket for "Show Dogs." While I'm getting my ticket, the Cinemark Cinema 4 employee tells me that "Life of the Party"'s projector is now working, but that movie won't start until 10:15. That's a little too later for me to wait for a bad movie, so I opt to go ahead and see "Show Dogs," which turns out to have the voices of Ludacris, Jordyn Sparks, Alan

Cumming, Stanley Tucci, Russell Paul, Shaquille O'Neal, Gabriel Iglesias, and Andy Beckwith as dogs. Yay.

Basic plot (sic): Ludacris is police dog Max, who goes undercover with FBI Agent Frank (Will Arnett) at a hoity-toity dog show because some bad guys have stolen a baby panda and are planning to sell it at the show, for some reason.

Review: Nope.  
Two stars out of 10.

**Show Dogs**  
Director: Raja Gosnell  
Writers: Max Botkin, Marc Hyman  
Production companies: Riverstone Pictures, Alive Entertainment  
PG; 1 hr. 32 min.; Adventure/Comedy/Family; May 18, 2018

Roger saw this movie at Big Spring's own Cinemark Cinema 4, located inside the Spring Town Plaza, 1801 E. FM 700. For more information visit [www.cinemark.com](http://www.cinemark.com) and enter the ZIP code 79720.

ments. The Samantha Bee incident also underscored the unprecedented role Ivanka Trump plays at the White House. While the children of presidents are often shielded from public jokes by comedians because of their age and because they aren't White House employees, Ivanka Trump has taken an active policy role as an adult in her father's White House. A close presidential adviser, she has promoted the administration's tax overhaul and

led a U.S. delegation at the Winter Olympics in South Korea. Bee apologized to Ivanka Trump and her viewers on Thursday for using the obscenity. Her network, TBS, also said it was "our mistake, too," in allowing the language on Bee's show, "Full Frontal," on Wednesday. Her show is taped and not aired live.

Separately, Barr has apologized for her remarks.

## LABOR

Continued from 2C

Wynn Las Vegas, Encore, The Venetian and Palazzo.

The strike could come as fans head to the tourist destination for the Stanley Cup Final. The union for professional hockey players in the National Hockey League sent a letter to the Culinary Union on Wednesday expressing its support for the casino workers' "attempts to reach a fair and equitable agreement."

"It is hoped that an accommodation can promptly be reached that will enable you to continue to provide the high level of service and professionalism that you have long exhibited," National Hockey League Players' Association executive director Donald Fehr wrote.

### WAGES

The average hourly wage of Las Vegas Strip workers is \$23, including benefits such as premium-free health care, a pension and a 401(k) retirement savings plan, and \$20,000 down-payment assistance for first-time homebuyers.

The union says it has asked MGM for average annual wage increases of 4 percent for each of the next five years. It says the company has countered with an approximate 2.7 percent raise.

Caesars workers have asked for an increase of 4.2 percent effective Friday, and annual increases of about 4 percent thereafter. The union previously said the company had offered an approximate 2.8 percent increase for each of the five years.

"The companies are making millions and millions of dollars, they are growing and that's excellent," Geoconda Arguello-Kline, union secretary-treasurer and a former housekeeper, said earlier this week. "We want them to share with the workers their success."

Neither the union nor Caesars on Friday immediately provided details of their tentative agreement.

### OTHER DISPUTES

The union said it is asking for training on new skills and job opportunities as the companies adopt technology that can displace employees. It also wants contract language that would protect workers if properties are sold.

The labor organization, the largest in Nevada, also has proposed to MGM and Caesars an independent study paid jointly with the union to analyze the workload of housekeepers.

The union has argued that hotel rooms have changed significantly, with new furniture and other amenities, since 2002, when the last workload study was conducted.

"I wouldn't be here today had not everybody gone out on strike in 1984 for those health benefits because I came down with a terminal illness," said Deborah Jeffries, a cocktail server. "It was very important to me that I had that, and it was well worth the walk for two and half months."

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## Chamber of Commerce happenings



*Courtesy photos*

Above, Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce representatives oversee a ribbon cutting at the Big Spring Sunset Painting Studio; Below, the Chamber presents a "thank you" banner to The Life Center for their investment in the local community.



## Fiat Chrysler unveils plans to make more electrified cars



*AP photo*

Journalists watch a giant screen as Fiat Chrysler CEO Sergio Marchionne speaks during the 'Capital market day' at the FCA headquarters in Balocco, Italy, Friday, June 1, 2018. Fiat Chrysler CEO Sergio Marchionne is outlining his business plan for the automaker's next five years in his last big presentation to investors before retiring next year.

By COLLEEN BARRY

AP Business Writer

BALOCCHO, Italy (AP) — In his last major presentation as CEO of Fiat Chrysler, Sergio Marchionne announced a big investment push to make more electrified cars, while acknowledging that traditional engines will continue to dominate production.

Unveiling the company's plans through 2022, long after his planned retirement next year, Marchionne said Fiat Chrysler will invest 9 billion euros (\$10.5 billion) as it tries to fully up in the market for gas-electric hybrids and fully electric vehicles, without forsaking a core market that still wants internal combustion engines.

"Reducing our dependence on oil is one of the single, greatest challenges that our society faces," Marchionne told financial analysts as he presented the business plan that will be a final legacy to the company he created through the merger of Fiat

with failing Chrysler.

"At FCA, we believe there is no single solution, no magic formula, to solve this problem. We believe to achieve a quantum leap, the entire system — political, economic and industrial — needs to work together with the right measure of realism based on finding the appropriate balance between consumption levels, cost and efficiency."

"At the same time, conventional internal combustion engines will continue to be in the vast majority of our production," he said.

The daylong presentation focused on plans for the brands that drive revenues: Jeep SUVs, Ram trucks and premium brands Maserati and Alfa Romeo. CFO Richard Palmer said by 2022 those brands would represent 80 percent of revenues, compared with 65 percent today.

Palmer said Fiat expected to recover 65 percent of electrification costs through higher prices, while 15 percent of capital expenditures of 45 billion euros in the period would be invested in conventional engine technology.

Notably absent were the marquee brands: Fiat and Chrysler, which both represent the less-profitable passenger cars currently off consumers' radar, particularly in the United States, where Fiat Chrysler makes more most of its profits, but also in fast-growing China.

Marchionne said that didn't signal the demise of either brand, just that their contribution doesn't change the overall numbers. He said the Fiat 500 family and the Panda city car would contribute to electrification, with exports from European production sites to the United States, while Chrysler remained a North American brand, focused mostly

See **CHRYSLER**, Page 5C

## Public Records

**Howard County Justice of the Peace Outstanding IBC Warrants:**

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Jeremy Goodman, 3471 Green Meadow #24, San Angelo

Kay Grant, 4405 N. Garfield #1005, Midland  
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Isaiah Green, 4801 State St., Abilene  
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Dylan Hammons, 4401 E. 11th Place, Big Spring  
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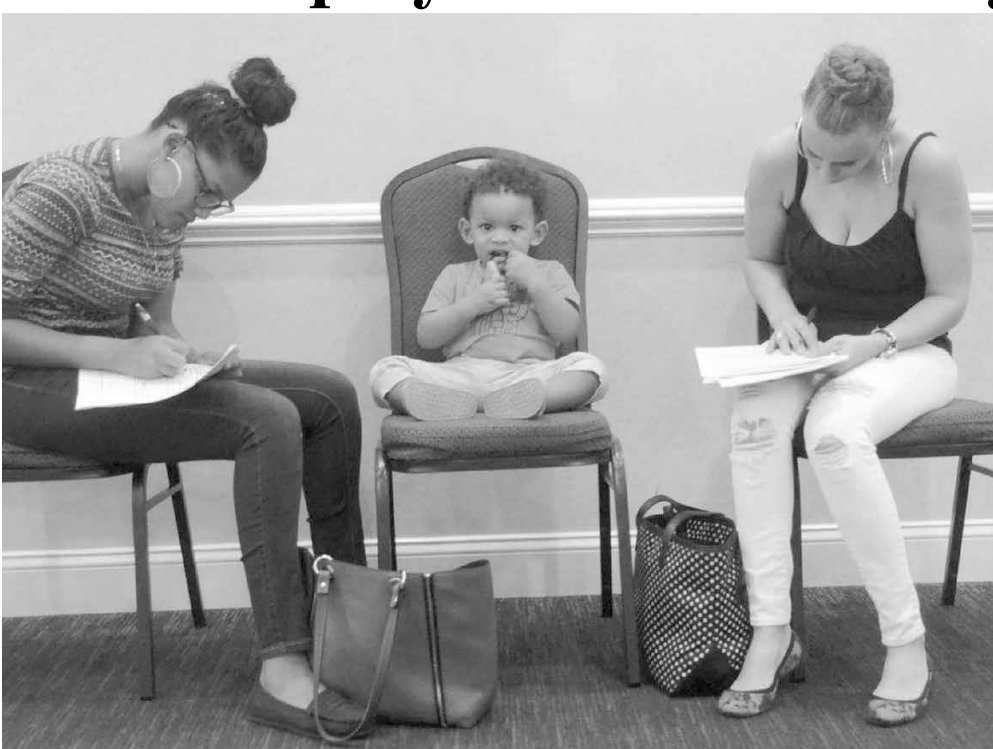
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See **RECORDS**, Page 5C



# US unemployment falls nearly to 1969 levels; hiring is solid



AP photo

In this May 15, 2018, file photo, Joan Herrera, center, sits and waits as his mother Andrea Batista Garcia, left, and Marlene Gonzales, fill out job applications while attending the Great Northeast 2018 Job Fair at Capriotti's in McAdoo, near Hazleton, Pa. The U.S. government issues the May jobs report on Friday, June 1.

**By CHRISTOPHER RUGABER**  
AP Economics Writer  
WASHINGTON (AP) — Another month of strong hiring drove the nation's unemployment rate down to 3.8 percent — tantalizingly close to the level last seen in 1969, when Detroit still dominated the auto industry and the Vietnam War was raging.

Employers added 233,000 jobs in May, up from 159,000 in April, the Labor Department reported Friday. And unemployment fell to an 18-year low. The report shows that the nearly 9-year-old economic expansion — the second-longest on record — remains on track and may even be gaining steam. Employers appear to be shrug-

ging off recent concerns about global trade disputes.

"The May jobs report revealed impressive strength and breadth in U.S. job creation that blew away most economists' expectations," said Scott Anderson, chief economist at Bank of the West.

With the unemployment rate so low, businesses have complained for months that they are struggling to find enough qualified workers. But Friday's jobs report suggests that they are taking chances with pockets of the unemployed and underemployed whom they had previously ignored.

Roughly an hour before the employment data was released, President Donald Trump appeared to hint on Twitter that a strong jobs report was coming. "Looking forward to seeing the employment numbers at 8:30 this morning," he tweeted.

The president is normally briefed on the monthly jobs report the day before it is released, and he and other administration officials are not supposed to comment on it beforehand.

Larry Kudlow, the president's top economic adviser, downplayed Trump's tweet.

"He didn't give any numbers," Kudlow said. "No one revealed the numbers to the public."

Investors welcomed the report. The Dow Jones industrial average rose 227 points, or 0.9 percent, in afternoon trading. Other indexes also moved higher.

The healthy jobs data makes it more

likely that the Federal Reserve will keep raising interest rates this year — two and possibly three more times, after doing so in March.

Unemployment dropped from 3.9 percent in April. When rounded to one decimal, as the Labor Department typically does, the official jobless rate is now the lowest since April 2000.

But the unrounded figure is 3.75 percent, the lowest since December 1969. Unemployment remained below 4 percent for nearly four straight years in the late 1960s, but it rose to 6.1 percent during a mild recession in 1970. It didn't fall below 4 percent again until the dot-com-fueled boom of the late 1990s.

Businesses desperate to hire are reaching deep into pools of the unemployed to find workers. Unemployment among high school graduates fell sharply to 3.9 percent, a 17-year low. For black Americans, it hit a record low of 5.9 percent.

And the number of part-time workers who would prefer full-time jobs is down 6 percent from a year ago. That means businesses are converting some part-timers to full-time work. Companies are also hiring the long-term unemployed — those who have been out of work for six months or longer. Their ranks have fallen by nearly one-third in the past year.

That's important because economists worry that people who are out

See **JOBS**, Page 11C

## CHRYSLER

Continued from Page 4C

on minivans.

The business plan is Marchionne's grand finale, 14 years to the day after he was named Fiat CEO. His tenure has included landmark deals, including the Fiat merger with bankrupt U.S. carmaker Chrysler and the spin-offs the industrial vehicle business and sports carmaker Ferrari.

The 65-year-old Italian-Canadian has said his successor as CEO will come from within the company, but won't be named before next year.

In a break from fashion tradition, Marchionne unzipped a knit cardigan to reveal a blue tie — the first, he said, he has worn in a decade. It was a gesture he had pledged if Fiat eliminated debt, which he said will happen by the end of the month. Marchionne is famous for unfailingly wearing navy blue cashmere sweaters without a tie.

Marchionne said debt is "a legacy that has dogged both Fiat and Chrysler for decades," and that eras-

ing it "a significant milestone."

All new models for the Jeep, Maserati and Alfa Romeo brands launched in the next five years will have some version of electrified powertrains, while eliminating diesels, executives said. Truck maker Ram will limit its alternative powertrains to a high-end premium truck, the TRX, which will compete with Ford's Raptor.

Jeep brand chief Mike Manley did not provide a future target for sales, which are currently around 1.9 million vehicles a year. But he said that now one in every 17 utility vehicles sold in the world is a Jeep and he expects that to be one in 12 by 2022 with the launch of 10 hybrids and four full electric vehicles.

Meanwhile, the premium brand Alfa Romeo plans to increase annual sales to 400,000 by 2022, having missed that same mark for this year. Marchionne acknowledged "we found it a lot more difficult to try to penetrate the premium market than we thought," adding that they underestimated the reaction of German competitors.

The head of the luxury line Maserati, Tim Kun-

siskis, said the brand aims to compete with Tesla with an all-electric supercar named "Alfieri" that will accelerate from 0-100 kilometers (0-60 miles) an hour in around two seconds. The brand forecasts sales will double from last year to 100,000 cars a year by 2022.

Maserati is entering an exclusive deal with Ferrari for all future powertrains, including hybrid, plug-in hybrid and full-battery electric, while it eliminates diesel engines.

"With an all-electric supercar, it may look like we are targeting Tesla. We are," Kuniskis said.

Marchionne said the drive toward more electrified vehicles across the range also provides a hedge against any future oil price hikes that might make consumers repent their shift toward bigger vehicles, which he said appears permanent.

"The obligation is on us to try to make sure fuel consumption associated with larger vehicles match market expectations," he said. To that end, FCA will have plug-in hybrids across the range by the end of the business plan.

## RECORDS

Continued from Page 4C

Michael Ray Watson, 1503 Tucson Rd., Big Spring  
Marie Minnie Wilson, 307 E 4th, For-san, Texas

### Marriage Licenses

Wiley Raymond Madewell, 58, and Robin Diane Minchew, 57, both of Rotan, Texas.

Joshua Alan New, 32, and Ginger Ann Fugate, 31, both of Big Spring.

Dale Robert Vela, 60, and Sylvia Diana Avasse, 54, both of Big Spring.

Ramiro Castellanos Jr., 23, and Izandra R. Melendez, both of Ohio.

### District Court Filings

Plaintiff: Stephanie Rios  
Respondent: Bear Bailey  
Type of Case: Injury  
Date: May 24, 2018

Plaintiff: RRIIG EP Holdings  
Respondent: Rover Operating LLC  
Type of Case: Real Property  
Date: May 24, 2018

Plaintiff: Bank of America  
Respondent: Tammy Alexander  
Type of Case: Contract-consumer  
Date: May 24, 2018

Plaintiff: James Cox  
Respondent: Surge Operating LLC  
Type of Case: Civil  
Date: May 25, 2018

Plaintiff: Shandi Scott  
Respondent: Daniel Scott  
Type of Case: Divorce  
Date: May 29, 2018

Plaintiff: Specialty Retailers, Inc.  
Respondent: Donald Husk, Carlos Iza-guirre  
Type of Case: Civil  
Date: May 30, 2018

### County Court Judgements

(The State of Texas is listed as the prosecutor in all county court judgements)

Defendant: Kevin Williams  
Offense: Criminal trespass  
Sentence: \$100 fine, \$267 court cost, 20 days in jail  
Date: May 3, 2018

Defendant: George Robinson  
Offense: Theft of property  
Sentence: \$100 fine  
Date: May 3, 2018

**Warranty Deeds**  
Grantor: Rachel D. Ortega  
Grantee: Rocky Alexander Ortega  
Property: Lot 2, block 8, Wrights Air-port, Big Spring  
Date: May 31, 2018

Grantor: Daivd Lynn Nix  
Grantee: Glenda S. Gremillion  
Property: 0.161 acres, more or less, being lot 5 in block three, Lincoln Addition to the city of Big Spring.

Date: May 31, 2018

### Warranty Deed with Vendor's Lien

Grantor: Chuck Rosenbaum  
Grantee: Michael Nairn  
Property: Lot three, block 24, Monticello Addition  
Date: May 31, 2018

Grantor: CDR Investments, INC.  
Grantee: Breezi Rose  
Property: Being all of lot one, in block three, Amened Piner Heights  
Date: May 31, 2018

Grantor: CDR Investments, INC  
Grantee: Gary Rawls and Laura Rawls  
Property: Being all of lot number five, in block number 16, Monticello  
Date: May 31, 2018

Grantor: Emileh Flitton  
Grantee: Jeremiah Clayton Peters  
Property: Being the N/80 of lots number 1-6, Inclusive, block number two  
Date: May 31, 2018

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Applications and job  
description may be picked  
up at the Natural Resource  
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electronically at  
[howard@swcd.texas.gov](mailto:howard@swcd.texas.gov) .  
All applications are due back  
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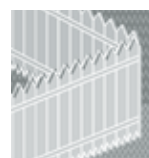
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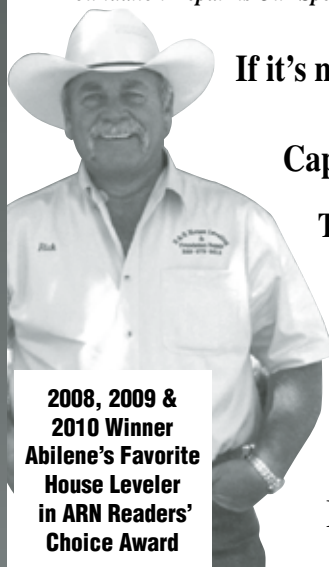
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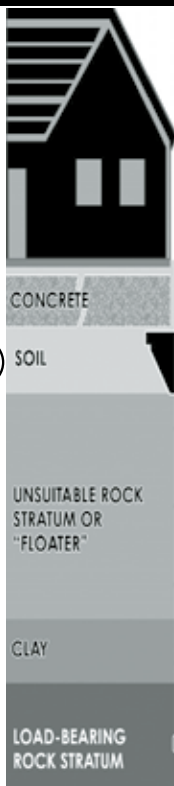
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**Legals**

quests for further information concerning any aspect of



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**Legals**

the application should be submitted in writing, within fifteen days of publication, to the Underground Injection Control Section, Oil and Gas Division, RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS, Drawer 12967, Capitol Station, Austin, Texas 78711 (Telephone 512-463-6792).

#9829 June 3, 2018

**Legals**

**NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR FLUID INJECTION WELL PERMIT**

Surge Operating, LLC, located at 7850 N. Sam Houston Parkway, Ste. 300, Houston, TX 77064, is applying to the Railroad Commission of Texas for a permit to inject fluid into a formation that is productive of oil or gas. The applicant proposes to inject fluid into the Pennsylvanian, Canyon,

**Legals**

Strawn, Atoka, Mississippian and Ellenburger formations, Middleton lease, Well Number 2D. The proposed injection well is located 9.7 miles NW of Fairview, Texas, in the Spraberry (Trend Area) Field, in Howard County, Texas. Fluid will be injected into strata in the subsurface depth interval from 8450' - 11,436'.

**LEGAL AUTHORITY:**

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Chapter 27 of the Texas Water Code, as amended, Title 3 of the Natural Resources Code, as amended, and the Statewide Rules of the Oil and Gas Division of The Railroad Commission of Texas.

Requests for a public hearing from persons who can show they are adversely affected or requests for a further information concerning any aspect of the

**Legals**

application, should be submitted, in writing with fifteen days of the publication, to the Environmental Services Division, Oil and Gas Division, Railroad Commission of Texas, P. O. Drawer 12967, Capitol Station, Austin, TX 78711. Telephone (512) 463-6792.

#9827 June 3, 2018

# Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker  
*Reducing the luck element*

Fast dealer.  
Both sides vulnerable.  
**NORTH**  
♠ K 5  
♥ K 9 8 5 2  
♦ A 9 6  
♣ A 9 3  
**WEST**  
♠ 10 6 4  
♥ 6 4  
♦ J 8 7 5 4 3 2  
♣ Q  
**EAST**  
♠ A Q 9 8 7 3 2  
♥ —  
♦ K Q 10  
♣ K J 5  
**SOUTH**  
♠ J  
♥ A Q J 10 7 3  
♦ —  
♣ 10 8 7 6 4 2

The bidding:  
East South West North  
1 ♠ 2 ♥ Pass 4 ♥  
4 ♠ 5 ♥

Opening lead — four of spades.  
In many hands that appear to depend on the success of a finesse — ordinarily a 50-50 proposition — declarer may be able to increase his chances by adopting a different method of play that avoids or at least delays the finesse. For example, he may establish a side suit or devise an endplay, and in so doing raise his chances of making the contract to better than 50 percent and possibly as high as 100 percent.  
The same general idea applies to cases where a favorable suit break is

involved. In today's deal, let's say East wins the spade lead with the queen and continues with the ace, which South ruffs. If South then draws two rounds of trump and plays the ace and another club, hoping for a 2-2 split, he goes down.  
But this would be the wrong way to play the hand. What he should do after ruffing the spade is lead a heart to the eight, ruff a diamond, cross to the king of hearts, cash the ace of diamonds and ruff dummy's last diamond.  
With all the spades and diamonds eliminated from dummy, South now leads a low club and plays low after West produces the queen. West is then forced to return a diamond or a spade, allowing South to discard a club from dummy while he ruffs in his hand and so make the contract. East cannot save his partner by overtaking the queen of clubs with the king, since he would have to return a spade or a club, either of which also hands declarer the contract.  
This method of play caters not only to the clubs being 2-2, but also to a 3-1 division with West holding a singleton honor. Similarly, if West should happen to follow low to the first club lead, the nine would then be played from dummy, endplaying East if he started with a singleton club honor.

Tomorrow: Famous Hand.  
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**BIG SPRING HERALD**



Annie's Mailbox

No Kids for Us, Thanks

**Dear Annie:** My husband and I have made the decision to refrain from having children. People are very nosy, always asking when we will have kids, as we have been married for six years and I am 32. When I tell them we have chosen not to have children, which I consider a decent response, I get negative feedback. Some say, "You know, you should give your husband at least one child." Others say, "Well, having children is the best part of life. You'll definitely be missing out."

How could I explain our choice in such a way as to elicit a simple "OK"? I am tired of validating my personal decisions every time I meet someone new. Thoughts? -- Child-Free and Tired of Judgment

**Dear Child-Free and Tired of Judgment:** I admire you and your husband for choosing the path that is right for you and sticking to it in the face of social pressure. That takes courage and a firm sense of self. It would have been wrong to set out to have children when you knew in your heart you didn't want to. You can try explaining that

the next time someone gives you grief. You can also say with a kind and confident smile, "I'm glad parenthood has brought you so much joy, but it's not for us."

In the end, there's no magic combination of words that will make people mind their own business. There will always be those who think they know what's best for everyone else and aren't afraid to say it. Just take comfort in knowing that their judgmental comments say far more about them than about you.

**Dear Annie:** I'd like to respond to the recent letters from "Planning Ahead" and

others about aging parents moving in with adult children or to a senior living community. My mother has been a widow for 12 years. She was very active and independent, but she fell and hit her head at home, which caused bleeding on the brain, and had to be hospitalized. After two weeks in the hospital, she went into intensive rehabilitation. She desperately wanted to go back home, so we hired a live-in caregiver. After the caregiver left, we researched some retirement centers. It was still too difficult for her to be independent. But after researching the assist-

ed living facilities, we felt they weren't going to be enough for her.

My sisters, my husband and I decided it would be in her best interest to move in with us, as I was in a position to care for her. Never in a million years had I ever considered being a caregiver to anyone, as I have always worked in the public sector. But what a blessing it has been. I've grown closer to my mother than I ever thought possible, and it is truly an honor to care for her. I will be forever grateful for this time I've had with her and believe it was the best scenario for our mother. -- A Happy

Caregiver  
**Dear Happy Caregiver:** I'm so glad your mom is doing better. You've spoken to a huge benefit of having an aging parent move in: You get to share more quality time than you most likely have since you were an adolescent. Thanks for writing.

"Ask Me Anything: A Year of Advice From Dear Annie" is out now! Annie Lane's debut book -- featuring favorite columns on love, friendship, family and etiquette -- is available as a paperback and e-book. Visit <http://www.creatorspublishing.com> for more information. Send your questions for Annie Lane to [dearannie@creators.com](mailto:dearannie@creators.com).  
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BY HOLIDAY MATHIS



Conjunction in Aquarius

There are some days in which, for one reason or another, even just muddling through the most mundane aspects of life takes great gumption. Those who know this firsthand will be especially kind as the alignment of Mars and the moon in Aquarius reminds us to extend a hand to those who seem to be having a rough time of it.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19). Love and belonging -- this will be both the problem and the solution today. It won't be obvious, but any problems that arise today will be born out of a basic need for love and belonging.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20). Though you're always looking for ways to improve, sometimes the best and most legitimate way to do so is not to seek the moral high ground but rather to relax and enjoy yourself.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 21). It's almost as if you need a certain amount of stress to feel good about life today. Anyway, you won't call it "stress"; you'll call it "challenge." And it will be the best part of your day.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22). The people you'll have the best time (and the most good fortune) around are not trying to be anything that doesn't come naturally. They enjoy living out the existence that best suits their nature and most brings them to life.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22). Happiness is knowing whom you're dealing with. Mistaken identity causes strife. Today this isn't about mistaking two people who look alike; rather, it's mistaking the

person in front of you for the person you want him or her to be.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You didn't set out to be fast at what you do. The natural result of repetition is that the mind finds a way to get to the desired result faster and better -- to concentrate the experience for maximum economy and elegance. Enjoy!

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Thank goodness you're not expected to rate, judge, critique or assess anyone in any way. All you'll be expected to do is to lean into the generous optimism that is your nature and offer a little support.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). When social norms clash with the actuality before you, the wise thing to do is let actuality win over your observational powers and stick with it. There is zero to be gained by raging against reality.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). To create peace isn't always a matter of effective negotiation. It may simply be an attitude and a mood. Instead of going for an agreement of specific terms, go for

a meaningful sense of unity. You'll achieve it.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Have you ever experienced a strong feeling of missing someone you haven't yet had the occasion to meet? Well, you'll get a whiff of that today!

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Any anger or frustration that comes up today will be because of a clock face. When you subtract the expectation of having things accomplished in a certain time frame, there will be no cause for negativity.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20). Though it may be difficult for you to buy into something your parents and grandparents believe and still embrace the particular challenges and characteristic mood of this age, you'll find a way to merge the two.

**TODAY'S BIRTHDAY** (JUNE 3). No one else can tell you what to do. You've a strong sense of your own destiny, though it's hiding under a few layers of fear. You'll peel those off, and by September, you'll be running toward a beautiful inevitability. Love will come

to you in many forms. Key celebrations will happen in July, September and January. Cancer and Scorpio adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 4, 20, 1, 28 and 14.

**FORECAST FOR THE WEEK AHEAD:** To live in a civilized society is to follow rules, both official and unofficial, explicit and implied. Life in society is ruled by layer upon layer of history and evolution that is so normal to us and so intrinsic to our existence and natural environment that we can no more see it than we can see the air around us. The air is there, whether we notice it or not. Likewise, we live and breathe societal norms that are forces acting upon us constantly and without our awareness or consent.

The Gemini sun rides closely to Mercu-

ry this week. It's a time when we are susceptible to trends and ideas without regard to their soundness, rightness or truth. For this reason, even though it's a lighthearted atmosphere, we would be unwise to let down our guard completely or shirk our sense of personal responsibility. Before you follow the lemming pack, give yourself a pinch. Wake yourself up. Ask yourself, "Is this wise? Are these cliffs? Where is the ocean? And am I really even a lemming?"

Of course, if you're reading this, you're not. Extra points for waking up the other scampering non-lemmings who are caught up in a frenzy of mammal traffic. You could save the whole brood!

**CELEBRITY PROFILES:** Journalist, author and television

personality Anderson Cooper could be the poster star for Gemini intellect, which is bright, wide-ranging and conveyed in an enormously appealing manner. Cooper's moon and Saturn are in Aries, showing the fiery, fearless spirit and drive that are necessary to ask the hard questions, go to the dangerous places and live life in the public eye.

Write Holiday Mathis at [HolidayMathis@gmail.com](mailto:HolidayMathis@gmail.com).  
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Answer to previous puzzle

MARKS	SORE	AFEW
ETAIL	ORAL	LEAK
CHINA	WIIS	LESS
COMEBY	HONESTLY	
ASIS	SAND	COSMO
	CULT	ALI LOU
APRON	PTA	SINS
DROP	INTHE	BUCKET
DOLE	BOD	PREYS
EVE	TAN	VICI
ROMPS	EVER	MASC
LOOKUP	ANANS	WER
PODS	SOLO	OHARE
ONES	DEEM	DARTS
PELE	AMTS	SWEAT

6/2/18

SUDOKU

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

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

ANSWER:

Newsday Crossword

SATURDAY STUMPER by Matthew Sewell

Edited by Stanley Newman

www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS**
- 1 *Deutsches Pronomen*
  - 4 He's tested in Genesis 22
  - 11 Furnace capacity measure
  - 14 Nashville HOF creator
  - 15 Filling-out
  - 17 Show favor (for)
  - 18 Fundamental purpose
  - 19 Whom vicars work for
  - 21 Gracious alternative
  - 22 Make a twist from
  - 23 Sound of the shaken
  - 25 Most Cook Islanders
  - 27 Exemplar
  - 28 \_\_\_-wearing (how Virgil described his people)
  - 31 Little bit
  - 32 Words from the staggered
  - 37 What macOS is based on
  - 38 Brand served with a spoon straw
  - 39 Go with your gut
  - 46 The Greeks believed its offerings' smoke formed the Milky Way
  - 47 Agcy. regulating exit signs
  - 48 Marks for identification
  - 49 Doctrine referenced in the Declaration
  - 52 Where caps and gowns are worn, for short
  - 54 Petunia, to Harry Potter
  - 55 Is brilliant
  - 58 Bring on the block
  - 60 Transfer, often
  - 62 Typical hedge-fund hire
- DOWN**
- 1 A water sign
  - 2 Attempt to tarnish
  - 3 Be shown up
  - 4 \_\_\_ kit (racing-inspired auto option)
  - 5 Racket
  - 6 Add to one's duties
  - 7 Corporeal stabilizers
  - 8 Gorilla
  - 9 "Soft Flowing Avon" composer (1769)
  - 10 Address shortened by dropping just one letter
  - 11 Customizable message-face app
  - 12 Horsemen painted by Picasso
  - 13 \_\_\_ *année* (*douze mois*)
  - 16 A million times mega-
  - 20 Marching order
  - 24 Drops decisively
  - 26 Graph add-on
  - 29 Chance for a stringer to shine?
  - 30 All-too-knowing
  - 33 "It's \_\_\_ from me" (*Idol* rejection)
  - 34 Device with a smiling-screen logo
  - 35 Prov. slightly larger than Delaware
  - 36 Storage space, often
  - 39 Harry Potter, to Albus
  - 40 Mint family member
  - 41 "Canvas" for digital art
  - 42 Frat letter
  - 43 Carrey biopic role
  - 44 Without honor
  - 45 What some clogs contain
  - 50 Out and about
  - 51 Sawgrass spot
  - 53 Generations chronicled in the two *Roots* miniseries
  - 56 Name on the Garbo role list
  - 57 Dress down
  - 59 Article's start, in journalese
  - 60 Big ape
  - 61 Org. that makes slide rules

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14			15							16		
17			18									
19			20				21					
22				23		24		25				26
27					28		29	30			31	
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60							61				62	
63											64	
65					66							67

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# Ex-chemical industry lawyer to lead Superfund task force



**In this May 16, 2018, file photo, Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt testifies before a Senate Appropriations subcommittee on the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies on budget in Capitol Hill in Washington.**

**By MICHAEL BIESECKER**

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A lawyer tapped to lead a task force at the Environmental Protection Agency overseeing cleanups at the nation's most polluted places worked until recently for a top chemical and plastics manufacturer with a troubled legacy of creating some of those toxic sites.

Steven D. Cook has been named as the new chair of the Superfund Task Force, which EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt created last year to revamp how the agency oversees cleanups at the more than 1,300 toxic sites.

Before beginning work in February as deputy assistant administrator for EPA's Office of Land and Emergency Management, Cook served more than

20 years as in-house corporate counsel for LyondellBasell Industries — one of the world's largest plastics, chemicals and refining companies.

EPA records show that LyondellBasell and its subsidiaries are listed as being potentially responsible for at least three dozen Superfund polluted sites.

An analysis by The Associated Press shows that nearly half the political appointees hired at EPA under President Donald Trump have industry ties. Of more than 60 EPA hires tracked by the AP over the last year, about one-third worked as registered lobbyists or lawyers for chemical manufacturers, fossil fuel producers or other EPA-regulated companies.

Trump promised as a presidential candidate to drain the swamp in Washington. An executive order signed two weeks after his inauguration bars former lobbyists and corporate lawyers from participating in any matter they worked on for private clients within two years of going to work for the government.

*AP photo*

Following a request by AP, EPA provided a copy of an April 20 memo Cook signed recusing himself from participating in regulatory matters involving LyondellBasell. However, as stated in the letter, Cook can participate in matters affecting his former employer as long as his actions would also impact at least five similarly situated companies.

"All EPA employees receive ethics briefings when they start and continually work with our ethics office regarding any potential conflicts they may encounter while employed here," said Lincoln Ferguson, an EPA spokesman. "Steven Cook is no different."

It was not immediately clear whether Cook would be allowed to participate in decisions involving Ly-

ondellBasell, anyway. AP reported in March that White House counsel Don McGahn has issued at least 37 ethics waivers to key administration officials, including three working at EPA, that allow them to help regulate the very industries from which they previously collected paychecks even after signing recusals. It was not clear whether Cook was granted a waiver, and Ferguson did not respond to AP's inquiries on the subject.

Lyondell Chemical Co., a Houston-based subsidiary of LyondellBasell, agreed to pay \$250 million in 2010 to settle environmental claims and provide cleanup funds for 15 properties across the country as part of bankruptcy proceedings.

Another subsidiary of the Dutch chemicals conglomerate, Equistar Chemicals, agreed in 2007 to spend more than \$125 million on pollution controls and cleanup costs to address a myriad of air, water and hazardous waste violations at seven petrochemical plants in Texas, Illinois, Iowa and Louisiana. Court filings made as part of the company's legal settlement with the Justice Department, and EPA listed Cook as the primary contact for Equistar.

LyondellBasell subsidiaries are identified as a responsible party on dozens of Superfund sites. The companies set aside funds for cleanups before emerging from bankruptcy.

"LyondellBasell resolved its Superfund obligations nearly a decade ago," said Pattie Shieh-Lance, a corporate spokeswoman in Houston. "The company does not currently have any such obligations."

Cook is taking over as chair of the Superfund Task Force following the resignation of Albert "Kell" Kelly, a longtime friend and business associate of Pruitt's. AP reported in August that federal banking regulators had banned Kelly, who previously the chairman of Oklahoma-based Spirit-Bank, from banking for life. Members of Congress had been pressing for details about what led to the banking sanctions against Kelly when he quit his EPA job.

## JOBS

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of work for long periods can see their skills erode.

Those trends suggest that companies, for all their complaints, are still able to hire without significantly boosting wages. Average hourly pay rose 2.7 percent in May from a year earlier, below the 3.5 percent to 4 percent pace that occurred the last time unemployment was this low.

The number of involuntary part-time workers is still higher than it was before the 2008-09 recession.

Martha Gimbel, director of economic research at Indeed, the job-listing site, said some of the fastest-growing search terms on the site this year are "full-time" and "9-to-5 jobs," evidence that many people want more work hours.

"That suggests there is still this pool of workers that employers can tap without raising wages," Gimbel said.

Debbie Thomas, owner of Thomas Hill Organics, a restaurant in Paso Robles, California, said that finding qualified people to hire is her biggest challenge.

She has raised pay by about a dollar an hour in the past year for cooks and dishwashers but is reluctant to go much higher.

"You don't want to price yourself out of the market," Thomas said.

The job gains in May were broad-based: Professional and business services, which include higher-paying fields such as accounting and engineering, added 31,000 jobs. Health care, a consistent job engine, gained nearly 32,000.

Manufacturing, which is benefiting from increased business investment in machinery and other equipment, added 18,000 jobs, and construction 25,000.

Some economists remain concerned that the Trump administration's aggressive actions on trade could hamper growth. The administration on Thursday imposed tariffs on steel and aluminum imports from key allies in Europe, Canada and Mexico. Earlier in the week, it threatened to hit China with tariffs on \$50 billion of its goods.

Still, consumer spending rose in April at its fastest pace in five months. And companies are also stepping up spending, buying more in-

dustrial machinery, computers and software — signs that they're optimistic enough to expand. A measure of business investment rose in the first quarter by the most in 3½ years.

Macroeconomic Advisers, a forecasting firm, said it now foresees the economy expanding at a robust 4.1 percent annual pace in the April-June quarter, which would be the fastest in nearly four years. The economy expanded just 2.2 percent in the first quarter.

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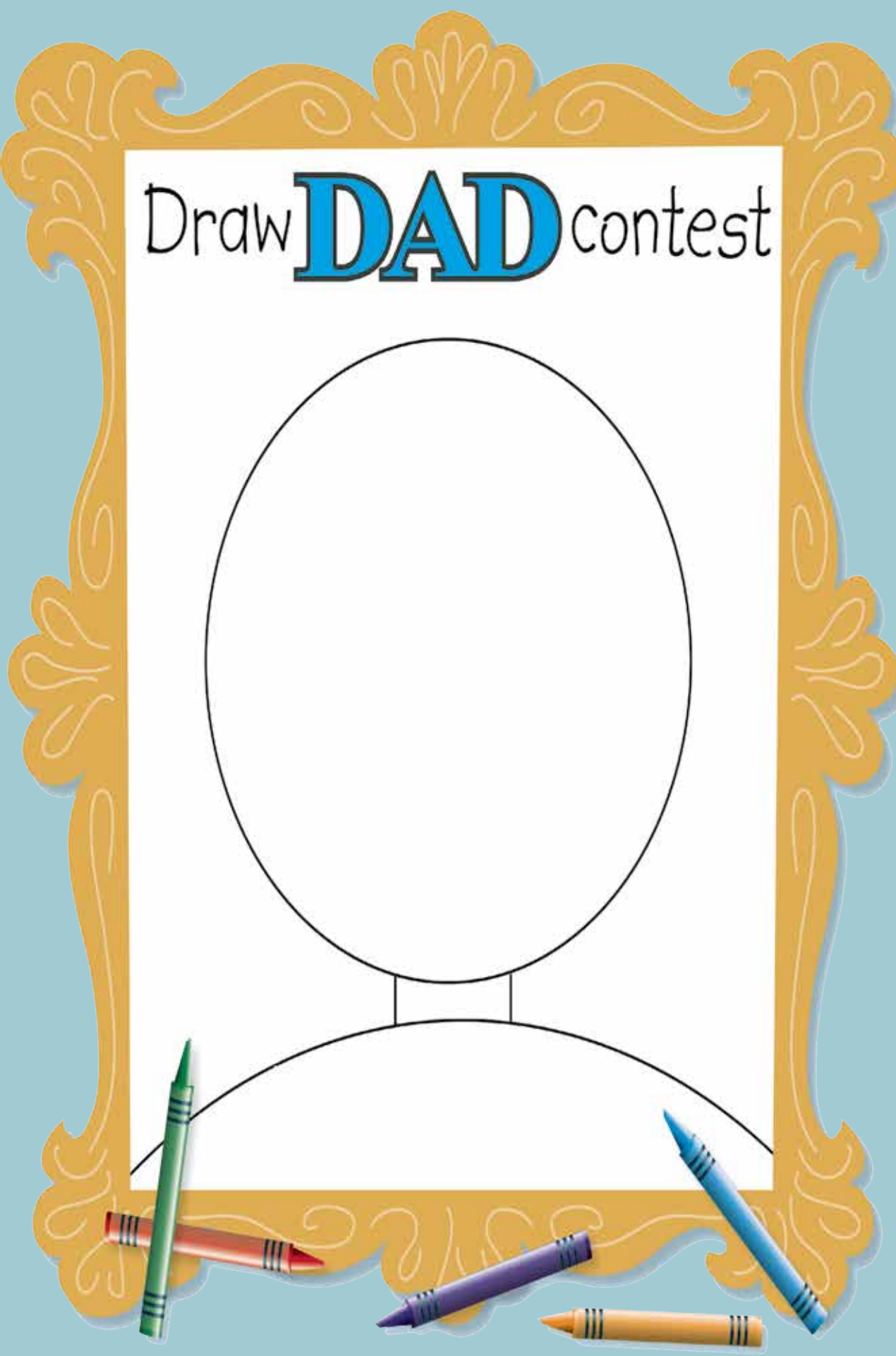
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