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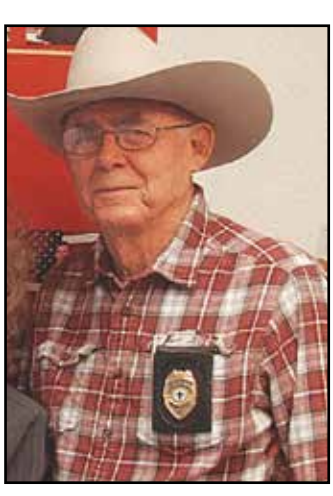
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2018



VOLUME 114, NUMBER 60 COPYRIGHT 2018 75 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 SUNDAY

Weekend blaze leaves residents devastated, relief fund set up for donations

By **MARISSA LOFTIN**
 Managing Editor



Joel Miller

Disaster struck the Sausman residence Friday as a fire ignited inside of their home, causing a total loss and devastation for three family members. According to Big Spring Fire Department Chief Craig Ferguson, the cause of the blaze that erupted inside the Grafa Street home is still under investigation.

Because of this, the Sausman family is in need of assistance and some Big Spring residents are making it possible for others to help.

Joel Miller of the Howard County Chaplain Corps. has set up a relief fund for the Sausman family, which includes David Sausman, his wife and their 14-year old daughter, in hopes that many will contribute in assisting the Sausman family after this huge loss they're currently facing.

"The banking account I have set up for them is at State National Bank and is listed under their names. If anyone would like to make a donation, they can just go to State National Bank and tell them it's for the David Sausman fund

See **FUND**, Page 3

Bids on agenda for City Council meeting

By **ROGER CLINE**
 Staff Writer

The Big Spring City Council will consider several bids at their meeting this evening.

Among the items up for bid is a contract for on-demand utility services. According to the agenda, the city received one bid on the item from Boler Equipment Service Inc. of Midland. Boler was a matter of some controversy at the

July 10 City Council meeting when they were recommended by city staff for a contract on utility maintenance and replacement in the city. At the July meeting, Robert "Wes" Baird of Big Spring's Baird Companies spoke at the meeting, claiming that his company had submitted the low bid and asking why the city staff chose to recommend Boler instead.

"I was wanting to know why my business wasn't considered for

this," he said. "I was asked to bid by the city for this, which I did, and I have contacted the city a couple of times, and I can't get any answers at all, but from what I understand mine was actually the low bid. I can't get any answers why I wasn't accepted."

Through the discussion, it was revealed that the city's bid procedure called for companies to

See **COUNCIL**, Page 3

The Big Push

By **AMBER MANSFIELD**
 Staff Writer



HERALD file photo

The photo above shows United Way of Big Spring and Howard County members during a fundraiser held at Pizza Inn back in October of this year. "We were worn out by the end of the night, but we made \$1,042. It was hard work, but we had a good return," Executive Director of the organization, Christian Fair (center) said. If you would like to make a donation to our local United Way, which would help them in these last few days of reaching their goal, please call 432-267-5201.

Ready for some fun, great music, food and more all while having the chance to give back to those who help others? Then you're in luck, because United Way of Big Spring and Howard County is doing just that as they present "The Big Push," which is scheduled for noon to 4 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 12. This event will take place at the United Way, Chamber of Commerce and EDC parking lot, located at 215 W. Third St.

Join United Way and other members of the community for an afternoon of fun, fellowship and fundraising! KBST will be on site with great music and lots of laughs. Also, don't forget to bring your appetite as the delicious Double L BBQ food truck will be in attendance, as well as Santa and several other familiar faces.

"We are all ready and are super excited about our first Big Push this Wednesday," said Christian Fair, Executive Director of United

See **PUSH**, Page 3

Truck weight resolution on county agenda

By **ROGER CLINE**
 Staff Writer

At their meeting Wednesday afternoon, Howard County Commissioners will decide whether or not to take a stand against increased weight limits for commercial trucks.

The item, discussion and possible action to enact a resolution against boosting weight limits for commercial trucks, and to write letters to state legislators requesting no change

to the current commercial truck weight limits, is on the agenda for the meeting, scheduled at 3:30 Wednesday in the third-floor courtroom of the Howard County Courthouse, 300 S. Main St.

In other business, the commissioners will hear a request from Howard County Volunteer Fire Chief Mitchell Hooper to enact a burn ban county-wide, and decide whether or not to enact the ban.

Commissioners will also:

- Consider seeking bids to replace air conditioning units in the District Court building.
- Hear a presentation of financial reports for the Juvenile Probation Department and the Community Supervision and Corrections Department.
- Consider approval of invoices, purchase requests, and budget amendments.
- Consider approval of the

See **COUNTY**, Page 3

Breakfast with Santa



Courtesy photo

The photo above shows employees of The Mayo Sauce Family Diner standing along side their banner that shows they received the 2018 Big Spring Herald Readers' Choice Award for Best Locally Owned Restaurant earlier this year. Pictured from left to right include Diane Gallaway, Misty Mayo, Shannon Orbison and Brandy Mayo.

By **ANNA GUTIERREZ**
 Staff Writer

The Mayo Sauce Family Diner, located at 206 S. Main, will be hosting a breakfast with Santa and Mrs. Claus on Saturday, December 15, 2018, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Although new in town by Big Spring standards, The Mayo Sauce has been open

for almost two years and this is the second time they will be hosting this event. In addition to meeting Santa and Mrs. Claus, kids will get to make an ice cream cone. Everyone is welcome to snap pictures with Santa and Mrs. Claus, but there will not be a professional photographer on site.

"There is no fee for meeting Santa or to make the ice

cream cones, but we hope everyone will stay and enjoy the buffet," said Brandy Mayo. A breakfast buffet with eggs made to order will be served at regular menu prices.

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

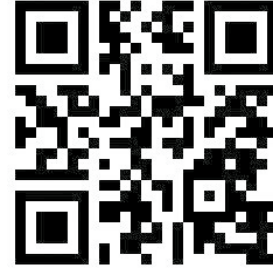
Big Spring Herald's Christmas Countdown



Ashley says "Only 14 Days 'til Christmas!"
 (Ashley Schwab, Classifieds Representative)

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Pizza Inn

Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity:

- **DAVID ERNEST WHEELER**, 60, of 1014 Sycamore St. was arrested on a charge of assault by threat.
- **MARCUS EMORY STURGILL**, 29, of 1216 E. 15th St. was arrested on a charge of assault/family or household member.
- **THEFT** was reported in the 200 block of West FM 700 and the

400 block of Westover Road.

- **MINOR ACCIDENT** was reported at the intersection of Douglas Street and Martin Luther King Boulevard, at the intersection of 15th and Lincoln streets, and at the intersection of 10th and Lancaster streets.
- **ASSAULT** was reported in the 1900 block of North Highway 87 and in the 1600 block of Martin Luther King Boulevard.
- **FOUND PROPERTY** was re-

ported in the 400 block of South Runnels Street.

- **BURGLARY OF A VEHICLE** was reported in the 3000 block of North Highway 87 and the 1500 block of East Fourth Street.
- **STOLEN VEHICLE** was reported in the 3600 block of West Highway 80.
- **DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE** was reported in the 1200 block of Derrick Road.

Fire/EMS

Big Spring Fire Department/EMS reported the following activity:

- **TRAFFIC ACCIDENT** was reported on Interstate 20 near Exit 179. One person was treated at the scene.
- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 1300 block of Lamar. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.
- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 100 block of N.W. Broadway. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

• **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 900 block of N.W. First St. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

• **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 400 block of E. 16th St. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

• **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 2500 block of Fairchild. One person was treated at the scene.

• **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 1900 block of N. Highway 87. One person was

transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

• **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 2200 block of Williams Rd. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

• **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 3700 block of Wasson Rd. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

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

Take Note

• The Big Spring Art Association will have its Christmas Party Saturday, Dec. 15th at 6 p.m. We will be at Ben and Sandee Lockhart's home located at 504 Tubb Loop Road. Anyone interested in art of any kind is welcome to come. Come see what we are all about.

• 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 or www.casawtx.org.

• 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.

• Maranatha Baptist Academy, 903 Johnson Big Spring, Texas 432-213-1046, Call today for educational needs. In School, High School graduation, Tutoring, homeschool. We are qualified to help you with your child's education, kindergarten through twelfth grade. Come by or give us a call. Open enrollment.

• Scenic Mountain Medical Center Auxiliary is looking for new members. If you have a heart for serving people, have at least four hours a week to spare, SMMC Auxiliary might be the fit for you.

Duties include working in the gift shop, delivering newspapers to inpatients, hospitality services, popcorn and more.

To find out more about opportunities available with the SMMC Auxiliary, contact Amy Miramontes at 268-4809 or April Arms at 268-4907.

• 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.

• The Howard County Democrats will meet the second and fourth Monday of each month at 5:30 pm. at the Howard County Democratic Headquarters, 1408 Scurry, behind Prosperity Bank.

• 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 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.



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Sheriff

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

Note - Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 77 inmates at the time of this report.

• **RAUL JOE AGUILAR**, 30, was booked by DPS on charges of driving while intoxicated and unlawfully carrying a weapon.

• **ADRIAN CRUZE ALANIZ**, 18, was booked by HCSO on a warrant for burglary of a building.

• **TODD ALLEN HARPER**, 55, was booked by BSPD on a charge of reckless damage or destruction.

• **JOE LUIS RODRIQUEZ**, 26, was booked by HCSO on a motion to revoke probation for theft of property (\$100 to \$750).

• **MARCUS EMORY STURGILL**, 29, was booked by HCSO on a charge of assault/family or household member.

• **DAVID ERNEST WHEELER**, 60, was booked by BSPD on a charge of assault by threat.

Support Groups

TUESDAY

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

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

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

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

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

WEDNESDAY

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

THURSDAY

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

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

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

• **Bring Everyone Into The Zone**, or **BEITZ** Support Group, is a veteran-based peer group. The purpose of the group is to provide peer-to-peer support to service members, veterans and families, especially those suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), traumatic brain injury (TBI), military sexual trauma (MST) and other traumatic events in their lives. BEITZ meets every Thursday at 6 p.m. t 501 Birdwell Lane. For more information, email francisco.garza@wtcmhmr.org, or call 432-268-3003.

• **GriefShare** is a Biblical support group that focuses on helping people who are dealing with a loved one's death. Each DVD session features nationally respected grief experts and real-life stories, followed by small group discussion about the topics presented (with workbook support). Meetings are weekly Sept. 13 Dec. 20, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Trinity Baptist Church in Big Spring. Call Vivian Gordon at 432-466-3583 for more information.

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The Big Spring Herald is a member of The Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce, Texas Press Association, West Texas Press Association, Texas Daily Newspaper Association, The Associated Press.

Published afternoons Mon. thru Fri. and Sunday mornings. All materials copyrighted.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, TX 79721. Periodicals postage paid at Big Spring, Texas.

USPS 1431-48 USPS 0055-940 ISSN 0746-6811

BY THE MONTH HOME DELIVERY: \$13.00 monthly; \$140.40 yearly (includes 10% discount). MAIL SUBSCRIPTIONS: \$16.00 monthly Howard; \$19.50 elsewhere.

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**THIS ISN'T
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10 Things to Know for Today

By The Associated Press

Your daily look at late-breaking news, upcoming events and the stories that will be talked about today:

1. WHERE TRUMP, TOP DEMOCRATS DIFFER AHEAD OF MEETING

The president wants a funding package for the next fiscal year to include billions for his proposed border wall with Mexico, an idea Democrats, fresh from capturing the House, have flatly rejected.

2. 'NO ROOM FOR RENEGOTIATION'

Top EU officials rule out any significant changes to the divorce agreement with Britain as Theresa May fights to save her Brexit deal by lobbying leaders in Europe's capitals.

3. HUAWEI EXEC STILL IN LIMBO

A Chinese technology executive jailed in Canada will have to wait at least one more day to see if she will be released on bail in a case that ratcheted U.S.-China tensions.

4. WHAT HAS GOP CONCERNED

Trump's legal troubles unnerve Republicans who believe the turmoil leaves the president increasingly vulnerable in 2020.

5. HEFTY BILL FOR FRENCH CONCESSIONS

Tax relief and other fiscal measures announced by Emmanuel Macron to try to calm nationwide protests will cost as much as \$11 billion.

6. BIOMETRIC TECHNOLOGY COMES TO RENT-A-CAR INDUSTRY

Hertz is teaming up with Clear, the maker of biometric screening kiosks found at many airports, in an effort to slash the time it takes to pick up a rental car.

7. MOONVES' FATE LOOMS AT CBS BOARD MEETING

A newly revamped board has until the end of January to decide whether the embattled former network boss receives a \$120 million severance package.

8. CENTURY-OLD BELL DISPUTE ENDS

Three church bells seized by U.S. troops as war trophies in 1901 are returned to the Philippines in a move long demanded by Filipino leaders.

9. WHEN 'TRUTH ISN'T TRUTH'

Rudy Giuliani's assertion as it relates to Trump and Robert Mueller's investigation tops Yale's list of the most notable quotes of 2018.

10. 'IT'S CHRISTMAS. KEEP IT REAL!'

A social media ad campaign by Christmas tree farmers fights back against the growing popularity of artificial trees.

Arrington on Farm Bill Conference Report

Special to the Herald

WASHINGTON - Yesterday the Farm Bill conference committee, on which Congressman Jodey Arrington (TX-19) serves, signed the conference report for the 2018 Farm Bill.

"After two years of work, hundreds of meetings in the district and in Washington, and months of negotiating on the Farm Bill conference committee, I joined my colleagues in signing the 2018 conference report," Arrington said.

"I am pleased to report that we significantly improved the agriculture safety net and made much needed investments in rural infrastructure, which will provide struggling producers with certainty, strengthen rural communities, and ensure America can provide a safe and affordable food supply to our families independent of foreign countries.

"While we were not able to implement the bold welfare-to-work reforms led by House Republicans, 18 of the 21 House-passed reforms to the Food Stamp program are reflected in the final report, which will strengthen the program's integrity, provide needed oversight, and reduce waste, fraud, and abuse.

"Nothing has been more important to our district than getting a strong and reliable Farm Bill passed, and I am proud to support a conference report that is a win for our hardworking farmers and families in rural America.

"By getting the Farm Bill done now, we provide immediate certainty to agriculture producers and also, avoid Nancy Pelosi and the Democrats rewriting the bill next Congress."



COUNCIL

Continued from Page 1

provide a cost for plumbing utility work on a per-foot basis, and gave no estimated quantities for how many feet would be replaced by the company during the project.

No information is given in the agenda for tonight's meeting regarding the cost or scope of the on-demand utility services contract. The agenda simply includes a letter from Jacob and Martin Engineering of Midland, the engineering firm on retainer by the city to vet such bids, saying Boler was the only bid received and recommending them for the job.

Other bids under consideration by the city include:

- A bid on a lease financing package. The recommended awardee is Key Government Finance Inc. and the total cost of the package is \$1,907,000 over five years.
- A bid on parking lot improvements. The recommended awardee is Cal Construction and Paving, and the base cost of the project is \$399,903.10.
- A bid on a state contract for cell phones.
- A bid on 40 new golf carts to Club Car of Evans, Ga. The total cost of the carts is \$170,907.78, which will be offset by trade-ins in the amount of \$82,500, leaving a net cost to the city of \$88,407.78.

In the bids segment of the meeting, the council will also consider a request for permission to seek bids for replacement lighting for the southwest baseball field at the Roy Anderson Sports Complex.

In other business, the council will:

- Present the December Star Employee recognition to Cpl. Michael Calley of the Big Spring Police Department.
- Recognize the Big Spring Fire Department for being named the 2018 EMS Provider of the Year at the Texas Emergency Medical Services Conference in Fort Worth.
- Recognize a donation of \$10,650 from local hotel owners for bullet resistant vests for the Big Spring Police Department and the Howard County Sheriff's Department.
- Recognize a donation from SM Energy in the amount of \$12,500 to the Big Spring Fire Department for rescue tools.
- Recognize a donation from Trans-Global Company for \$2,500 to the Big Spring Fire Department for the purchase of additional equipment for the pumper truck.
- Consider donating use of the Roy Anderson Sports Complex for a Woman's Softball Tournament.

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

PUSH

Continued from Page 1

Way of Big Spring and Howard County. "It's going to be a lot of fun, and hopefully it will bring in some funds and good times."

Fair went on into detail about some of the different on goings that will be taking place at the Big Push.

"KBST will be here doing a live remote broadcast, Double L BBQ will have their food truck here, and Santa will be here! There will be a couple of other surprise guests," said Fair. "We will have donation buckets available at the stop light on 3rd and Gregg, and we will even offer curb service so you won't even have to get out of your car!"

United Way strives to improve the quality of life within our community by supporting the health and human service organizations in Howard County.

"We are winding down our campaign, and this is a great chance for you to stop by and bring your donations. We are trying for one last push, or 'The Big Push for our 2019 Goal of \$300,000.' We are trending a little behind for our goal, but I know our community will pull together and make this the best year yet for United Way," said Fair. "The United Way of Big Spring and Howard County is a charitable cornerstone in our community with the ability to reach so many people. We provide financial support and advocacy for our health and

human service Partner Agencies in Howard County, while being a platform for encouraging philanthropy and economic development in the community. What is raised here, stays here to help those who need help."

United Way has a purpose to encourage, advocate and fundraise for partner agencies who in turn serve the needs of every facet of our community without discrimination.

"We address the critical challenges our community faces by encouraging philanthropy and supporting our partner agencies. That's why we need all the help we can get, and we CANNOT do it alone. We stand together, and we do that by helping each other," said Fair. "There are going to be so many different fun on goings to go along with the Holidays. People can come have fun and give back at the same time."

Do you want to donate but won't be able to make The Big Push on Dec. 12? No worries, United Way has got you covered. Just text bigspringunited to 40403. Help Untied Way help others. Live United.

For additional information, please contact the United Way of Big Spring and Howard County at 432-267-5201.

Contact Staff Writer Amber Mansfield at 432-263-7331 ext. 234, or by email at life@bigspringherald.com.

FUND

Continued from Page 1

and they will deposit it straight into their account," said Miller. "If donors don't want to do that, they can get a hold of me out at the law enforcement center with their donations, and I would be glad to deposit the donations for them."

Their 14-year old daughter is in need of school uniform clothes as she lost all of her clothing in the fire. She wears a size 3X blouse, a size 18 skirt and a size 9.5 or 10 in shoes. (The blouse has to have at least a one button-down collar, and the skirt must be below the knee.)

According to Miller, the Saus-

man family has no insurance and both David and his wife are unable to work due to significant health reasons. Currently, the family is staying in a hotel thanks to a donation from American Red Cross, but funds are getting scarce as they are seeking out how and where they will go from here.

"It's just right now, they literally have nothing. They are totally devastated because they had just paid all of their bills and so they didn't have much money left. They don't even have the money that they had," said Miller. "Right now, as far as I know, they are using what's left of the donation from the American Red Cross. They are going to the Salvation Army to see about getting some clothes from the Chalet, and pos-

sibly some food. Hopefully, they think they have got a place to stay out on the old base housing, but they will have to wait to get some money before they can do any of that."

If you would like to contribute to this fund, or would like additional information on how you can help the Sausman family, please contact or go to State National Bank located at 901 S. Main Street here in Big Spring. You can call the bank at 432-264-2100, or you can reach Joel Miller at 432-213-1221.

Contact Managing Editor Marissa Loftin at 432-263-7331 ext. 230, or by email at editor@bigspringherald.com.

COUNTY

Continued from Page 1

Howard County investment policy, the bi-weekly county payroll, and personnel considerations.

- Discuss and consider action on the upcoming Funtastic Fourth celebration.
- Consider roadway maintenance updates.
- Review the certification of candidates and the canvass of the recent general election.

If you would like to address the Howard County Commissioners, you should arrive a few minutes early to fill out a brief form alerting them of your intent to speak. Call County Judge Kathryn Wiseman, 432-264-2202, for more information.

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

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Socorro A. Correa, 96, died Friday. Vigil services will be at 7:00 PM Tuesday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral Mass will be at 10:00 AM Wednesday at Holy Trinity Catholic Church with burial at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

NORMAN HARRIS, M.D.
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No jail time for Baylor fraternity president accused of rape



AP photo
Former Baylor University fraternity president Jacob Anderson adjust his tie in the courtroom Monday Dec. 10, 2018 in Waco, Texas.

WACO, Texas (AP) — A Texas judge on Monday accepted a plea bargain allowing a former Baylor University fraternity president accused of rape to avoid serving jail time, prompting outrage from the former Baylor student who filed the complaint and her parents.

Judge Ralph Strother accepted the plea deal for Jacob Walter Anderson, who was indicted on sexual assault charges and pleaded no con-

test to a lesser charge of unlawful restraint. A no contest plea means a defendant does not admit guilt, but will offer no defense.

The deal from prosecutors allowed Anderson to receive deferred probation. The ex-Phi Delta Theta president agrees to seek counseling and pay a \$400 fine. Anderson will not be forced to register as a sex offender.

The woman who accused Anderson said she was devastated by the judge's decision and described the county's justice system as "severely broken." An online petition had been created to oppose the plea agreement, which the woman said more than 85,000 people have signed.

Baylor was engulfed in a sexual assault scandal tied to its football program in 2016, ultimately leading to the departure of several school leaders.

Texas firefighters save more than 100 snakes from house fire



AP photo
In this Dec. 8, 2018, photo provided by Scott J. Engle with Montgomery County Police Reporter shows fire department personnel carrying snakes from a house after it caught fire near Conroe, Texas.

CONROE, Texas (AP) — Firefighters in Texas have rescued more than 100 snakes from a home that caught fire over the weekend.

Authorities say a Christmas tree may have sparked the blaze Saturday near Conroe, about 40 miles (65 kilometers) north of Houston. The snakes included pythons and boa constrictors.

Authorities say that when firefighters ar-

rived, they discovered a second-floor bedroom full of snakes and lizards.

Firefighters from Caney Creek and other responders carefully brought the snakes outside to safety, though authorities say "a couple" lizards died in the fire.

Houston TV station KTRK reports that the homeowners weren't at the house at the time of the fire.

Texas school district's enrollment drops after mass shooting

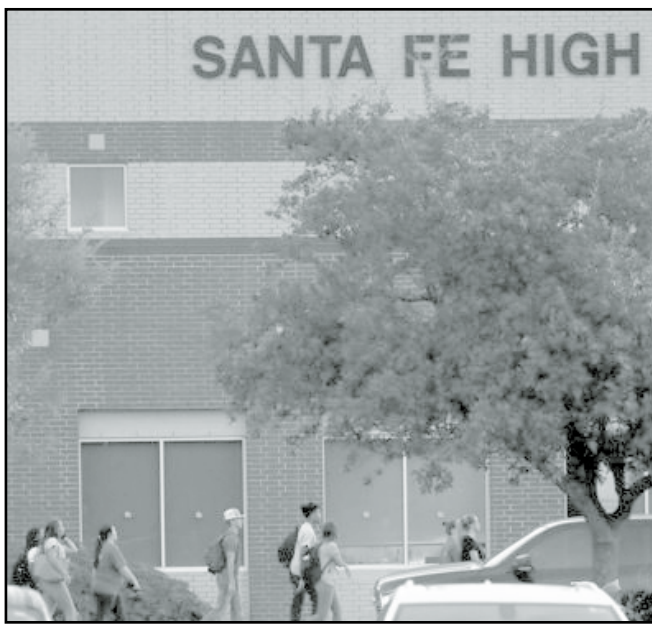
SANTA FE, Texas (AP) — A growing number of students are leaving the Houston-area school district where 10 people were killed in a mass shooting in May.

Enrollment at the Santa Fe public school district has dropped by more than 4 percent this year, according to attendance figures obtained by the Houston Chronicle.

About 200 fewer students are attending the rural suburban district's schools this year compared to the 2017-2018 school year. Half of the loss comes from Santa Fe High School, where authorities say a 17-year-old student fatally shot 10 people.

The district's enrollment decrease isn't an anomaly, as many other schools victimized by shootings have experienced similar exodus.

Frank DeAngelis, the former principal at Columbine High School in Colorado, estimated that nearly 20 percent of students didn't return to the school after two teenage shooters killed 13 people



AP photo
In this Aug. 20, 2018, file photo, Santa Fe High School students arrive for the first day of the new school year in Santa Fe, Texas.

in 1999.

"A lot of it was really the parents. They were concerned," DeAngelis said. "We did have students who were given the opportunity by our school district to go to other schools. A lot of kids were home-schooled because coming back to the building traumatized them."

But the Santa Fe district is also dealing with the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey. Roughly 23 percent of students at the high school had their homes flooded or lost access to basic necessities following the devastating storm last year, according to data from the Texas Education Agency.

District spokeswoman Patti Hanssard said some families in the community still haven't been able to return to their homes.

But only one of the six districts in Santa Fe's immediate area saw an enrollment decline.

Santa Fe officials have acknowledged that the

See **DROPS**, Page 5

Migrants in Tijuana trickling over and under wall

TIJUANA, Mexico (AP) — A steady trickle of Central American migrants have been finding ways to climb over, tunnel under or slip through the U.S. border wall to plant their feet on U.S. soil and ask for asylum.

In recent weeks, Honduran migrant Joel Mendez fed his 8-month-old son, Daniel, before handing him over to his partner, Yesenia Martinez, who had crawled through a hole in the rain-softened soil under the wall.

A group of young people hoisted themselves over the wall to San Ysidro, California, hoping that their ticket to a better life was finally within reach. One migrant offered a hand to help the others jumping down



Ap photo
Central American migrants planning to surrender to U.S. border patrol agents climb over the U.S. border wall from Playas de Tijuana, Mexico, late Monday, Dec. 3, 2018.

onto U.S. territory.

They all sought to skip the long official wait on the Mexico side for filing asylum claim with the U.S. by getting over the wall and handing themselves over to U.S. agents. Last week, U.S. Customs and Border Protection said the San Diego sector had experi-

enced a "slight uptick" in families entering the U.S. illegally with the goal of seeking asylum.

Thousands of migrants are living in crowded tent cities in Tijuana after undertaking a grueling journey from Central America to the U.S. border. A large number have decided to make new lives in Mexico,

See **WALL**, Page 5

House thought to be Houston home for Clark Gable demolished

HOUSTON (AP) — A three-story house in Houston built in 1927 by a World War I veteran and long-rumored to have been home to actor Clark Gable has been demolished.

The Houston Chronicle reports the Tuscan-style villa that neighbors dubbed the "Clark Gable house" was part of a three-residence compound recently torn down.

The buildings were featured in a November 1928 issue of Civics for Houston magazine titled "Old World Architecture Graces Houston Corner."

Some residents in the Montrose neighborhood voiced preservation concerns as the complex was sold this year for development.

The Chronicle reports Gable, as an aspiring actor during the 1920s, was said to have lived in the home while with a theater group in Houston.

Gable starred in numerous films, including the 1939 classic "Gone With The Wind."

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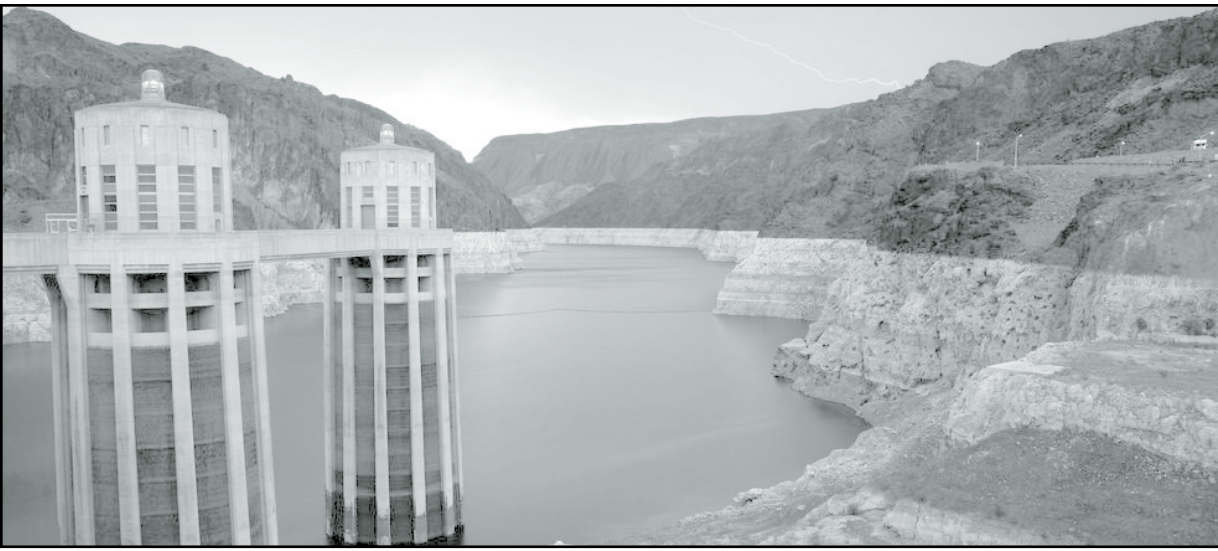
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US states to meet at deadline on Colorado River drought plan



AP photo

In this July 28, 2014, file photo, lightning strikes over Lake Mead near Hoover Dam that impounds Colorado River water at the Lake Mead National Recreation Area in Arizona.

By KEN RITTER

Associated Press
LAS VEGAS — With drought entering a second decade and reservoirs continuing to shrink, seven Southwestern U.S. states that depend on the overtaxed Colorado River for crop irrigation and drinking water had been expected to ink a crucial share-the-pain contingency plan by the end of 2018.

They're not going to make

it — at least not in time for upcoming meetings in Las Vegas involving representatives from Arizona, California, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, Wyoming and the U.S. government, officials say.

Arizona has been the hold-out, with farmers, cities, Indian tribes and lawmakers in the state set to be first to feel the pinch still negotiating how to deal with water cut-backs when a shortage is declared, probably in 2020.

"There will be cuts. We all know the clock is ticking. That's what a lot of the difficult negotiations have been around," said Kim Mitchell, Western Resource Advocates water policy adviser and a delegate to ongoing meetings involving the Arizona Department of Water Resources, Central Arizona Project, agricultural, industrial and business interests, the governor,

See STATES, Page 6

USOC fires official over his silence in Larry Nassar case



AP photo

In this Oct. 1, 2013, file photo, Alan Ashley, chief of sport performance with the U.S. Olympic Committee, speaks with reporters during a news conference in Park City, Utah.

By EDDIE PELLIS

AP National Writer

The U.S. Olympic Committee fired chief of sport performance Alan Ashley in the wake of an independent report released Monday that said neither he nor former CEO Scott Blackmun elevated concerns about the Larry Nassar sexual abuse allegations when they were first reported to them.

The 233-page independent report detailed an overall lack of response when the USOC leaders first heard about the Nassar allegations from the then-president of USA Gymnastics, Steve Penny.

Blackmun resigned in February because of health concerns.

The report says the USOC took no action between first hearing of the allegations in July 2015 and September 2016, when the Indianapolis Star published an account of Nassar's sex abuse. The report concludes that lack of action allowed Nassar to abuse dozens more girls over the 14 months of silence.

Nassar is serving decades in prison on charges of child pornography and for molesting young women and girls under the guise of medical treatment; many of his accusers testified in heart-wrenching detail at his sentencing hearing.

Though Ashley was the only one to get fired in the immediate aftermath of its release, the report paints a harsh picture of leadership of the entire U.S. Olympic movement, from the offices of the USOC to what it portrays as an essentially rogue, unchecked operation at the Karolyi Ranch in Texas — the training center run by Bela and Martha Karolyi where some of the abuse occurred.

The report concludes that one of Penny's key objectives was to keep the allegations under wraps, to avoid "sending shockwaves through the community," as he said in a conversation with an FBI agent.

Meanwhile, Penny is

See CASE, Page 6

Jury deciding sentence for man who rammed rally protesters



By DENISE LAVOIE

AP Legal Affairs Writer

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va. — Several people who were severely injured when a man drove his car into counterprotesters at a white nationalist rally last year described devastating physical and psychological effects to a jury tasked with making a sentencing recommendation Monday.

The man's lawyers argued he acted in self-defense and out of fear, and a psychologist testified that he has a long history of mental health issues. The jury began deliberating the sentence shortly after 3 p.m.

Jurors on Friday convicted James Alex Fields Jr. of first-degree murder and other charges for ramming his car into a crowd in Charlottesville during a "Unite the Right" rally on Aug. 12, 2017. Heather Heyer, a 32-year-old paralegal, was killed, and dozens were injured. Under the law, the jury

can recommend from 20 years to life in prison.

Heyer's mother, Susan Bro, told jurors that her daughter's death has been "an explosion in our family" and "we are forever scarred by the pain."

"Some days I can't do anything but cry and sit and stare as the grief overtakes me," she said.

"She was full of love, she was full of justice, and Mr. Fields tried to silence that with his car, but I refuse to allow that," Bro said. Jeanne "Star" Peterson said her

See JURY, Page 6

This undated file photo provided by the Albemarle-Charlottesville Regional Jail shows James Alex Fields Jr. Fields, convicted of first-degree murder for driving his car into counterprotesters at a white nationalist rally in Virginia faces 20 years to life in prison as jurors reconvene to consider his punishment.

AP photo

DROPS

Continued from Page 4

mass shooting may be the motivation behind many students leaving the district this year.

"We understand that families in our community are going through a very difficult healing and recovery process, and it will continue to take a very long time to work through these traumatic experiences and rebuild their lives," Hanssard said. "Parents must make the best decisions for their students, and we support them in doing so."

Santa Fe's enrollment decrease could have lingering effects on the district's budget after officials spent more than \$2 million overhauling security infrastructure in the wake of the shooting. Texas distributes public school funding on a per-student basis.

WALL

Continued from Page 4

applying for work permits and taking jobs at local factories while they wait as the U.S. government processes about 100 asylum requests a day at the San Ysidro crossing, the United States' busiest.

But by word of mouth, some have realized they can simply cross into U.S. territory, largely uninhibited by Mexican authorities. In twos or threes — occasionally by the dozen — they arrive at the border wall and manage to get over. Often within minutes,

border officers quickly arrive to escort them to detention centers and begin "credible fear" interviews.

Over two nights last week, Associated Press journalists saw more than a dozen migrants taking the risk. A woman wearing a blue-beaded rosary waited with her children to see where they could cross. A Salvadoran migrant hid as he dug a hole in the sand under the wall. In the dark of night, migrants could be seen walking up a hill inside U.S. territory toward agents waiting to detain them.

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STATES

Continued from Page 5

state lawmakers and cities including Tucson and Phoenix.

In Arizona, unlike other states, a final drought contingency plan must pass the state Legislature when it convenes in January.

Federal water managers wanted a deal to sign at the annual Colorado River Water Users Association conference beginning Wednesday in Las Vegas, and threatened earlier this year to impose unspecified measures from Washington if a voluntary drought contingency plan wasn't reached.

However, Bureau of Reclamation Commissioner Brenda Burman is signaling that the agency that controls the levers on the river is willing to wait. She is scheduled to talk to the conference on Thursday.

"Reclamation remains cautiously optimistic that the parties will find a path forward," the bureau said in a statement on Friday, "because finding a consensus deal recognizing the risks of continuing drought and the benefits of a drought contingency plan is in each state's best interest."

Colorado River water supports about 40 million people and millions of acres of farmland in the U.S. and Mexico.

After 19 years of drought and increasing demand, federal water managers project a 52 percent chance that the river's biggest reservoir, Lake Mead behind Hoover Dam, will fall low enough to trigger cutbacks under agreements governing the system.

The seven states saw this coming years ago, and used Colorado River Water Users Association meetings in December 2007 to sign a 20-year "guidelines" plan to share the burden of a shortage.

Contingency agreements would update that pact, running through 2026. They call for voluntarily using less to keep more water in the system's two main reservoirs, lakes Powell and Mead.

Lake Powell upstream from the Grand Canyon is currently at 43 percent capacity; Lake Mead, downstream, is at 38 percent.

Colorado, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming, the river's Upper Basin states, aim to keep the surface of Lake Powell above a target level to continue water deliveries to irrigation districts and cities and also keep hydroelectric turbines humming at Glen Canyon Dam.

The Lower Basin states of California, Arizona and Nevada aim to keep Lake Mead above a shortage declaration trigger point by using less water than they're legally entitled to.

If Lake Mead falls below that level, Arizona will face a 9 percent reduction in water supply, Nevada a 3 percent cut and California up to 8 percent. Mexico's share of river water would also be reduced.

Water officials in most states — from the Southern Nevada Water Authority in Las Vegas to the Colorado River Water Conservation District in Glenwood Springs, Colorado — have signed off on plans in recent weeks.

In Arizona, the board governing the Central Arizona Project irrigation system approved the Lower Basin plan on Thursday.

In California, the sprawling Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, which serves some 19 million people, is set to approve it Tuesday.

Board members there were reminded the agreements are only a short-term fix.

According to a board briefing, the Bureau of Reclamation, seven basin states and water contractors will begin negotiating again beginning no later than 2020.

"That process is expected to result in new rules for management and operation of the Colorado River after 2026," the board briefing said.

JURY

Continued from Page 5

life has been "a living nightmare" since she was hit by Fields' car. Her right leg was shattered, and she's had five surgeries to try to repair it. She also suffered a broken spine and still hasn't been able to return to work.

"I will be dealing with the aftermath of Fields' choices for the rest of my life," Peterson said.

Fields, 21, drove to Virginia from his home in Maumee, Ohio, to support the white nationalists. After the rally, as a large group of counterprotesters marched through Charlottesville singing and laughing, he stopped his car, backed up, then sped into the crowd, according to testimony from witnesses and video surveillance shown to jurors.

Wednesday Bowie, a counterprotester who got caught on the trunk of Fields' car when he backed up and was then slammed into a parked truck and thrown to the ground, told the jury that in addition to a broken pelvis and other physical injuries, she has been hospitalized three times for post-traumatic stress disorder over the past year.

She told the jury: "Please know that the world is not a safe place with Mr. Fields in it."

Testifying for the defense, University of Virginia School of Medicine professor and psychologist Daniel Murrie told the jury that while Fields was not legally insane at the time, he has a long history of mental health issues.

Fields had inexplicable volatile outbursts as a young child and was diagnosed with bipolar disorder at age 6, Murrie said. He was later diagnosed with schizoid personality disorder.

Murrie said Fields went off his psychiatric medication at age 18 and built an isolated "lifestyle centered around being alone."

The jury convicted Fields on Friday, rejecting his lawyers' arguments that he acted in self-

defense. Jurors also convicted Fields of nine other charges. He faces 20 years to life on each of five counts of aggravated malicious wounding, five years to 20 years on three counts of malicious wounding, and up to 10 years on one count of leaving the scene of an accident.

Prosecutors told the jury during his trial that Fields was angry after witnessing violent clashes between the two sides earlier in the day. The violence prompted police to shut down the rally before it even officially began. The trial also featured emotional testimony from survivors.

The Unite the Right rally had been organized in part to protest the planned removal of a statue of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee. Hundreds of Ku Klux Klan members, neo-Nazis and other white nationalists — emboldened by the election of President Donald Trump — streamed into the college town for one of the largest gatherings of white supremacists in a decade. Some dressed in battle gear.

Afterward, Trump inflamed tensions even further when he said "both sides" were to blame, a comment some saw as a refusal to condemn racism.

According to one of his former teachers, Fields was known in high school for being fascinated with Nazism and idolizing Adolf Hitler. Jurors were shown a text message he sent to his mother days before the rally that included an image of the notorious German dictator. When his mother pleaded with him to be careful, he replied: "we're not the one (sic) who need to be careful."

Fields' lawyers told the jury that he drove into the crowd on the day of the rally because he feared for his life and was "scared to death" by earlier violence he had witnessed. A video of Fields being interrogated after the crash showed him sobbing and hyperventilating after he was told a woman had died and others were seriously injured.

Fields is eligible for the death penalty if convicted of separate federal hate crime charges. No trial has been scheduled yet.

Stocks struggle higher as markets remain volatile; oil drops

By MARLEY JAY

AP Markets Writer

NEW YORK — U.S. stocks remained volatile Monday as the market took a dive in early trading only to erase those losses later and end slightly higher.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average lost as much as 507 points in early trading before ending with a gain of 34.

Energy companies fell as the price of crude oil dropped 3 percent, giving back its gains from last week. Banks fell as investors expected slower increases in interest rates.

Technology companies led the gainers. Qualcomm rose after the chipmaker said a Chinese court banned some Apple phones as part of a long-running dispute over patents.

Weak economic data in China and Japan and uncertainty over Britain's status in the European Union knocked down overseas indexes. The British pound dropped to its lowest level in more than 18 months after Prime Minister Theresa May postponed a vote on the country's departure from the European Union.

Tensions between the U.S. and China kept climbing following the detention of Huawei Chief Financial Officer Meng Wanzhou. She is suspected of trying to evade U.S. trade curbs on Iran, and she was detained while changing planes in Canada.

China summoned both the U.S. and Canadian ambassadors to meetings over the weekend and protested her arrest. Meng's arrest has jolted the stock market.

"It's a source of great anger for China that this could happen," said Kristina Hooper, chief global market strategist for Invesco. "China is looking for retaliation, and the most appropriate place for retaliation would be in trade negotiations with the U.S."

The S&P 500 index gained 4.64 points, or 0.2 percent, to 2,637.72. The Dow added 34.31 points, or 0.1 percent, to 24,423.26. Technology companies, which have fallen sharply since October, did better. The Nasdaq composite rose 51.27 points, or 0.7 percent, to 7,020.52.

The Russell 2000 index of smaller-company stocks dipped 4.99 points, or 0.3 percent, to 1,443.09.

U.S. indexes have been lurching up and down since October, mostly down. The S&P 500 plunged 4.6 percent last week for its biggest loss in more than eight months as investors felt the U.S. and China are still nowhere close to ending their trade dispute.

Volatility has been high not only week to week but also minute to minute. The S&P 500 zoomed from a gain of 0.2 percent to a loss of 1.8 percent Monday morning.

Technology companies ended higher. Microsoft climbed 2.6 percent to \$107.59 and Qualcomm added 2.2 percent to \$57.24. Broadcom jumped 4.7 percent to \$239.25.

Crude oil resumed a steep decline that began in early October. Benchmark U.S. crude fell 3.1 percent to \$51 per barrel in New York. Brent crude, the international standard, lost 2.8 percent to \$59.97 a barrel in London.

Prices steadied last week after OPEC and other major oil producers said they will reduce production by 1.2 million barrels a day starting from January. The cuts will last for six months.

Energy stocks took a dip. Exxon Mobil lost 1.4 percent to \$76.54 and Schlumberger shed 2.5 percent to \$41.97.

Bond prices ended slightly lower. The yield on the 10-year Treasury slipped early on, but later rose to 2.86 percent from 2.85 percent late Friday. The 10-year yield spiked to a seven-year high in early November and has fallen sharply since then.

CASE

Continued from Page 5

portrayed as repeatedly trying to get the FBI to investigate Nassar, but the report concludes "the investigation appears to have languished ... for over seven months" in the FBI's Detroit office. USAG took the allegations to the FBI's Los Angeles office, but not until the newspaper report came out did that office take action.

The report says Penny notified Blackmun and Ashley that Nassar had retired in September 2015, but that both leaders had deleted the email, which referenced Nassar by

name.

The report details the USOC's relationships with the sports organizations it oversees as too deferential and not involved enough in policymaking to ensure athlete safety.

"In this governance model, the USOC exerted its broad statutory authority and monetary influence over individual sports primarily for the purpose of encouraging success at the Olympic Games, effectively outsourcing any decisions regarding on-the-ground child-protective practices to the NGBs," the report states.

CASE

Continued from Page 5

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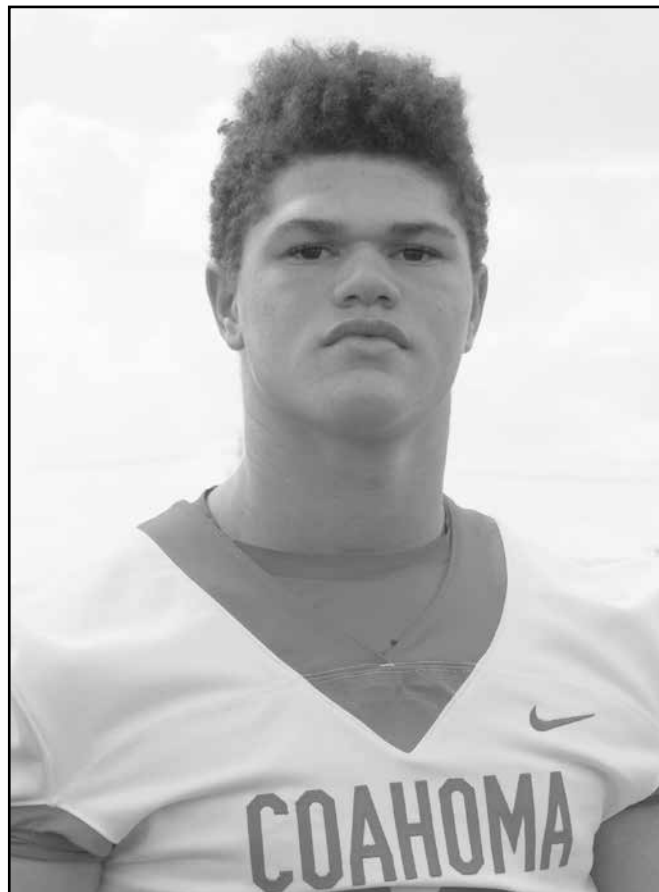
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2018 Coahoma Bulldogs' All-District Football Honors



Gage Clark-Burdell
1ST TEAM ALL-DISTRICT WR
1ST TEAM ALL-DISTRICT OLB

Zack Schneider
2ND TEAM ALL-DISTRICT QB
2ND TEAM ALL-DISTRICT S

Keagan Dobbs
1ST TEAM ALL-DISTRICT OL
1ST TEAM ALL-DISTRICT DE



Bubba Duenes
2ND TEAM ALL-DISTRICT WR

Jonathon Schneider
2ND TEAM ALL-DISTRICT OL

Alejandro Gonzales
2ND TEAM ALL-DISTRICT DL

Honorable mention Offense

- Braxton Chandler - Receiver**
- Chris Castillo - Lineman**
- Garrett Anderson - Lineman**
- Cutter Atkins - Lineman**
- Isaac Murillo - Running back**

Special to the Herald

Coahoma Bulldogs Gage Clark-Burdell and Keagan Dobbs both landed on the first team offense and the first team defense of the 2018 District 2-3A Division II All-District Football Team.

Clark-Burdell was named first team receiver and first team outside linebacker. He earned 469 yards from 27 passes received for the season.

Dobbs was named first team offensive lineman and first team defensive end. Dobbs led the Bulldogs in sacks with 13.

Making the second team offense were: Zack Schneider, quarterback; Bubba Duenes, receiver; and Jonathon Schneider, offensive line. The following Bulldogs made the second team defense list: Z. Schneider, secondary; and Alejandro Gonzales, defensive line.

Honorable mention Defense

- Gaige Hill- Linebacker**
- Avry Burgans - Linebacker**
- Brice Martin - Defensive Back**
- Joe Manning - Defensive Back**
- Brant Gartman - Defensive Back**

Praise for Jerry Jones? Cooper trade really did boost Dallas

By SCHUYLER DIXON

AP Pro Football Writer ARLINGTON, Texas—Jerry Jones is getting praised for a football move.

There might not be a better way to explain the impact of the oft-criticized owner and general manager's bold trade for Dallas, sending a 2019 first-round pick to Oakland for receiver Amari Cooper with the Cowboys facing in the NFC East race.

Cooper leads the NFL in yards receiving since joining the Cowboys, who have won five straight games to get to the brink of the division title and a home wild-card game.

With Cooper, Dak Prescott looks more like the 2016 NFL Offensive Rookie of the Year rather than a struggling quarterback. And Jones' name is coming



Dallas Cowboys wide receiver Amari Cooper (19) celebrates after a 75-yard touchdown catch against the Philadelphia Eagles during the second half of an NFL football game, in Arlington, Texas, Sunday, Dec. 9, 2018.

someone who saved Dallas' season.

The Cowboys (8-5) can wrap up the NFC East with a win at Indianapolis (7-6) on Sunday.

"I think a big part of doing things with the desire to excel is to show them," Jones said after Cooper scored three touchdowns, including the winner in overtime of a 29-23 victory against Philadelphia that gave the Cowboys a two-game division lead with three to go. Dallas has the tiebreaker by virtue of a season sweep of the defending Super Bowl champs.

"I think that's a major motivation factor — to show them. I think the way sports and football, it just gives you a chance when people say, 'I don't like that move, that's not smart.' I like this stuff."

up in broadcast booths, and as an off-the-wall choice for performer of the week in the NFL.

In other words, the primary object of ire for fans fed up with nearly a quarter-century without a trip to the Super Bowl, or even an NFC championship game, is being viewed as

like that move, that's not smart.' I like this stuff.

See **COWBOYS**, Page 13

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Legals

Application has been made with Texas Alcohol Beverage Commission for a mixed beverage Restaurant Permit with Food and Beverage Certificate by La Posada Food, LLC to be located at 206 NW 4th street, Big Spring, Howard, Texas. Officers of said limited liability company Michael A. Smith and Linda Brito-Smith, Owners.

#10021 Dec. 11 & 12, 2018

Tomorrow's Horoscope

Are You Missing Something?

There's a classic "Seinfeld" episode in which Kramer tries to get tips from Jerry about taking a shower. In a moment of insecurity, Kramer is bent on making sure he has not somehow missed a powerful, crucial point about bathing that everyone else is in on. The Aquarius moon suggests that there is no magic secret to uncover. Do it your way.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You'll be tempted to take on many things at once, but this will not move you ahead in the least -- and will in fact contribute to future anxiety. One thing at a time is the way to go. It will center you. Happiness depends on being grounded.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Trust is basically a prediction. To predict a person, you have to know a person. To know a person, you have to put aside your wish of who you want that person to be and pay close and careful attention to who the person really is.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). If you were your own best friend or parent or child, you would spend a good deal of time, attention and money on the things you thought would delight and develop

you. So just do that. It's the most loving thing.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Relationships without risk can be called a lot of things -- help-

ful, convenient, mutual, comforting, comfortable -- but they cannot be called passionate. Passion requires risk. No risk, no passion.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You may find that the original motivation for an action has died out and you are now either unmotivated or scraping by on residual fuel. It's time to find a new purpose. Whom are you doing it for?

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Be careful not to personalize impersonal things. An injury to your plans isn't really an injury to you unless you take it as such. You can always make another plan. You're quite brilliant at it, actually.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You pride yourself on

BY HOLIDAY MATHIS



having an open mind, though you also realize there comes a time in which you really must attach to one belief, idea or direction. It doesn't

have to be an attachment made with Super Glue, though. Think Velcro.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). It's not really about changing yourself at this point, as all improvements come from befriending the person you already are. Ask questions of yourself as you would any person you're trying to get to know.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Things are not as they seem, nor are they different from what they seem; rather, they are on a spectrum of representation lying somewhere between what looks about right and what couldn't possibly be.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Nothing is possible without empty space. Furthermore, you

are in just the heightened state of awareness to recognize the peace that's present wherever those moments of silence fall.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). It's just one of those conundrums. By virtue of trying to impress someone, you fail to. So work instead on appreciating yourself more and more until the outward validation loses its punch.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). If you don't try to love, your heart may ache from loneliness. And if you love, your heart will ache from usage. Lost love is automatic heartache. So there's no way to avoid an aching heart, but you can at least choose which kind.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Dec. 11). You've taken dominion over language at many points in your development, from when you first started speaking to when you were learning the lingo of a certain group. Now you'll use words to empower yourself. Truly, the right ones repeated often enough will magnetize your most cherished desires. Scorpio and Taurus adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 35, 21, 36, 8, and 16.

Write Holiday Mathis at HolidayMathis@gmail.com.
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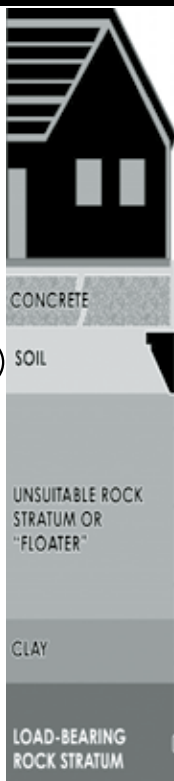
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Annie's Mailbox®

Immature Grandpa

Dear Annie: I love being a grandpa, but it seems all my fellow adults have a totally different impression of what a grandfather is supposed to be. My wife says I should be a role model and authority figure, which to me translates to being stern and official. Our daughter says essentially the same thing as her mother. Our grandchildren are 7 and 8 years old, and when I am with them, I can't help but act like someone their age. When I make jokes that involve potty humor, the kids love them. It

never gets old when I say something like "pull my finger" and the kids just break up laughing. This makes me feel so good -- and close to them. But my wife says I am acting so immaturely that it is ridiculous. My daughter and son-in-law say that my jokes have gotten the kids in trouble with their teachers. I am in my 70s but feel much younger. Any advice for this old kid? -- Gramps With a Kid's Mind

Dear Gramps: Staying youthful is great, but keep it clean. You seek attention and love from your grandchildren, and

your youthful enthusiasm with them is very special -- as long as your humor and fun show your maturity and age. You know better.

Dear Annie: I am writing to thank you for the poem you printed on Thanksgiving Day. I am a widow, and I am not looking forward to another holiday season alone, feeling a little sad and more than a little angst. I do have children and grandchildren, but like so many families, my family has been torn apart by drugs and the ravages of their aftermath. How-

ever, this is not what my letter is about. I look forward to your column each day and love the down-to-earth common sense and caring displayed in your answers to folks' problems. I was a bit down on Thanksgiving until I read that poem, "We Thank Thee." Tears flowed as I read those beautiful words, and as my spirits lifted and my heart filled with gratitude, I thanked you, Annie, for reminding me that love is all around me. I had just lost sight of it for a moment. I will keep this poem and read it often. You are appreciated more than you know. Keep up

the good work. -- Grateful
Dear Grateful: That Thanksgiving poem may have brought tears to your eyes, but your letter brought tears to mine! Thank you.

Dear Annie: "Get Out of My House" can take her own advice. She is deeply frustrated that she has to pay for groceries, cook and do all the clean-up while her husband's freeloading relatives stay at her house not to visit her and her husband but to spend time in their old hometown. Next time they indicate they are coming again, she should

tell them they can stay as long as they'd like but she'll be solo elsewhere. Once her mate carries such a load, he'll end these drop-bys on his own. -- On-the-Ground Relative

Dear On-the-Ground Relative: No better way to learn than through experience, so that would be quite the lesson for her husband indeed. Thanks for writing.

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Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

It's so easy to go wrong

South dealer.
Neither side vulnerable.

NORTH

♠ 8 6 5 4 3
♥ 7 4
♦ K Q 8
♣ K 5 3

EAST

♠ J 7
♥ 8 3 2
♦ J 10 6 4
♣ Q 9 8 2

SOUTH

♠ K 2
♥ A K Q J 9 5
♦ 7 3
♣ A 7 6

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
1 ♥	Pass	1 ♠	Pass
3 ♥	Pass	3 NT	Pass
4 ♥			

Opening lead — jack of clubs.

The outcome of most deals is determined more by proper technique and good planning than by unusual or spectacular plays. For this reason, how a player fares on the run-of-the-mill hands is much more important in the long run than how he does on difficult hands.

For example, take this deal where South failed to make four hearts. He won the club lead with the ace, drew trumps and then led a diamond to the queen.

When the queen held, declarer tried leading a spade to the king. But after West took the ace and played a second club, South could not avoid losing a club, a diamond and another spade, and so finished down one.

The trouble with South's line of play was that, barring a defensive lapse, it depended essentially on finding East with the ace of spades. No real attempt was made to capitalize on the possibility that West might have the ace of diamonds, in which case declarer could score two diamond tricks instead of just one.

To avail himself of that possibility, South should arrange his plays so that he can lead diamonds twice toward dummy while the king of clubs is still an entry. Accordingly, after winning the opening club lead with the ace, declarer should lead a diamond at trick two.

When dummy's queen holds, South re-enters his hand with a heart, draws the remaining trumps and leads a second diamond. West takes the ace but cannot stop declarer from later discarding his club loser on the diamond king.

If it turns out that East has the ace of diamonds, South will still make the contract if East also has the ace of spades. Declarer thus gets two chances to make 10 tricks instead of only one, and that's a very significant improvement in anyone's book.

Tomorrow: Extra chance.
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SUDOKU

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

Level: Intermediate

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!

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

ANSWER:



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BIG SPRING

HERALD

Seahawks on brink of playoffs after 21-7 win over Vikings

By **TIM BOOTH**

AP Sports Writer
SEATTLE — Bobby Wagner leaped over the line of scrimmage, swatted Dan Bailey's field goal attempt and sparked the Seattle Seahawks to two late touchdowns.

Whether or not what Wagner did was entirely legal, he frankly didn't care.

"I'm not stressing about that. I made the play. They called what they called," Wagner said. "There's times in games where things happen all the time. I'm not stressing on it. It was a big block and we'll definitely take it. It was amazing."

Wagner's block midway through the fourth quarter was the catalyst in a 21-7 win over the Minnesota Vi-

kings on Monday night that pushed Seattle to the brink of a playoff berth.

Chris Carson followed the blocked kick with a 2-yard TD run with 2:53 left, and Justin Coleman capped off the Seahawks' fourth straight victory with a 29-yard fumble return for a touchdown 18 seconds later.

What was an ugly and mostly forgettable first three quarters turned into a Seattle party in the fourth as the Seahawks (8-5) moved to the brink of wrapping up a wild-card spot in the NFC. One win in Seattle's final three games — including matchups with lowly San Francisco and Arizona — should be enough to put the Seahawks into the postseason.

"It's really about the defense. I loved the way they played, they played so hard and so spirited," Seattle coach

Pete Carroll said. "It was almost poetic after last week's game that Bobby would get to block the field goal and he pulled it off and did it. That was an incredible play."

Minnesota (6-6-1) twice had scoring chances in the fourth quarter when it was still a one-score game but was turned away each time. Minnesota's chances of winning the NFC North took a major hit with its second straight loss, but the Vikings still hold the No. 6 spot in the NFC.

"Part of it is being better on third downs. We haven't really done a good job there. Part of it is being better in the red zone," Vikings coach Mike Zimmer said. "We had the ball on the 2-yard line and didn't score."

But much of the conversation centered on Wagner's block of Bailey's

47-yard attempt with 5:38 left and whether it was entirely legal. Wagner's jump through a gap in Minnesota's offensive line was fine, but it appeared he used his teammates to gain leverage, which allowed him to come through and block the kick. A flag was initially thrown but was picked up by the officials.

Wagner said he attempted it four times in practice without a problem but acknowledged it could be tough to pull off the play during the fourth quarter of a tight game.

"When I did it in practice I was pretty fresh," Wagner said.

Zimmer said he asked for an explanation of what happened but wasn't given one. He was told he couldn't challenge.

COWBOYS

Continued from Page 7

As a matter of fact, I make my worst grades when I'm being praised."

There were plenty of second-guessers when Jones made the move at 3-5, with conventional wisdom saying the Cowboys had problems beyond a missing playmaker at receiver in the first season without franchise TD catch leader Dez Bryant, dumped in a cost-cutting move.

Prescott was on that list of issues, mired in a 25-game stretch of mediocrity and numbers sharply lower than those from his sensational rookie season, when Dallas set a franchise record with an 11-game winning streak and had an NFC-best 13 victories.

And while Prescott had two interceptions and a lost fumble to help the Eagles stay in a game the Cowboys were dominating, the display he put on with Cooper in the last half of the fourth quarter and overtime was remarkable.

Touchdown throws of 28 and 75 yards in the fourth quarter were followed by a 15-yarder on the first possession of overtime, with Cooper grabbing a pass tipped by Philadelphia's Rasul Douglas and cruising in from the 7.

"I knew he was good," Prescott said. "I knew he was going to get separation and get open and make great catches. But when you just see the run after catch and breaking tackles, and being that great of a player, I'm just thankful we got that trade."

Star running back Ezekiel Elliott is a beneficiary of Cooper's presence as well. The running lanes have been wider, and check-downs against defenses preoccupied with the former Alabama standout have been more frequent. Elliott had a career-high 12 catches against the Eagles.

"I didn't know we were going to get all that, honestly," said Elliott, who retook the NFL rushing lead with 1,262 yards.

"But when I finally saw him in person, when I saw him catch the ball, I saw him run around and run after the catch, that's when I really realized he's truly special."

The Cooper acquisition is bringing back good — and bad — memories for Jones.

The good? An off-season trade for now-Hall of Fame defensive end Charles Haley in 1992, before Dallas became the first team to win three Super Bowls in four years. And the free-agent signing of Deion Sanders in 1995, before the last of those titles.

The bad? A pair of trades for receivers during the current Super Bowl drought. Joey Galloway was particularly costly because Jones gave up two first-round picks for not much in return. Roy Williams was a midseason trade similar to Cooper a decade ago.

It took Williams 21 games to get what Cooper has in six — an NFL-best 696 yards since Week 9. Cooper has six touchdowns. The other Dallas receivers have seven combined.

"He is making big plays," Jones said. "He is altering the defense. There is no question

about it. He makes everybody better on both sides of the ball. But you got to make the big plays. You can see he is a difference-maker."

Jones has the pats on the back to prove it.
NOTES: Coach Jason Garrett said RG Zack Martin re-injured his left knee against the Eagles, just as he did in the teams' first meeting. Martin has been hobbled since spraining the medial collateral ligament in the knee in the pre-season. The Cowboys are hopeful he won't miss a game for the first time in his five-year career. ... Garrett said LB Sean Lee and WR/KR Tavon Austin should return to practice as limited participants this week. Lee has missed all five games on the winning streak with a hamstring injury. Austin hasn't played since Week 6 because of a strained groin.

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