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HERALD

BIG SPRING WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2018



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City council approves controversial bid



By ROGER CLINE
 Staff Writer

Things got contentious at Tuesday evening's Big Spring City Council meeting; and, once again, Boler Equipment Service Inc. of Midland was at the center of the controversy.

The company was recommended by city staff in July for a bid on utility maintenance and replacement contractor services. 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. After some discussion, the council voted to reject all bids at the time.

Tuesday evening, Boler was again the city's recommendation for a similar contract. According to a letter from engineering firm Jacob and Martin, retained by the city to conduct the bid process, Boler's bid was the only one received by the city. No information was

HERALD photo/Roger Cline
 Big Spring Police Dept. Cpl Michael Calley, center, was recognized as the City of Big Spring Star Employee for December at the Big Spring City Council meeting Tuesday evening. Calley earned the recognition by helping a motorist change a tire in extremely cold conditions. Shown with Calley are Big Spring Police Chief Chad Williams, left, and Mayor Larry McLellan.

See **COUNCIL**, Page 3

HCVFD honors its leaders



Courtesy photo
 The Howard County Volunteer Fire Department presented its Firefighter of the Year and Officer of the Year awards Saturday evening during the department's annual Christmas Banquet. Jimmy Kyle Olivares, left, was named Firefighter of the Year for 2018, while Kem Hooper, right, was named Officer of the Year. Presenting the awards was HCVFD Fire Chief Mitchell Hooper, center.

Forsan Junior High wins UIL Academic District Championship



Photo courtesy of Forsan Multimedia
 Forsan Junior High traveled to Eldorado on Thursday, December 6th to compete in the District 7-2A UIL Academic Competition. They competed against Miles, Ozona, Christoval, Eldorado and Winters, and brought home the District Championship with an impressive 989.3 points. Forsan had 18 students take home individual gold medals and 14 first place team medals. Forsan is proud of the hard work and dedication that the students and staff put into their events and how wonderfully they represented Forsan ISD. The competition results are listed below:

Big Spring Herald's Christmas Countdown

Kalan says "Only 13 Days 'til Christmas!"
 (Kalan, Son Of Amber Mansfield)

Editorial Writing

6th Grade
 4th place - Chance Leonardi

7th Grade
 6th place - Emma Peffer

8th Grade
 1st place - Hannah Hillger

See **RESULTS**, Page 3

Mr. and Mrs. Claus to make appearance at Festival of Lights

By AMBER MANSFIELD
 Staff Writer

Lighted pointsettias arranged around and reflecting from the waters of the historic Comanche Trail Lake, along with those lining the dam along U.S. 87 are a sight for sore eyes, and is just one of many highlights of the Comanche Trail Festival of Lights. Rumors of these beautiful lights made their way to the North Pole, and Santa wants to get a look for himself.

Once again, boys and girls will get their chance to meet with Santa and Mrs. Claus, who will be visiting at the 22nd annual Comanche Trail Festival of Lights Gift Shop for a couple of days before he heads back to the North Pole to finish his



Courtesy photo
 The photo above shows Santa and Mrs. Claus at the 2017 Comanche Trail Festival of Lights. Little visitors got the opportunity to come and visit the big guy in red, and tell him what they would like for Christmas. Santa will be back again this year at the Comanche Trail Amphitheater Belaski Pavilion on Dec. 14, 15, 16, and then again on Dec. 21, 22 and 23, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Admission is free.

Christmas duties.
 "Santa and Mrs. Claus will be here on Dec. 14, 15, 16, and then again on Dec. 21, 22, and 23, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.," said Vickie Stewart. "There is no charge for

See **CLAUS**, Page 3

Holiday Sip and Shop tomorrow

By ROGER CLINE
 Staff Writer

Got all your Christmas shopping done yet?

If you still haven't found the perfect gift for all the special people in your life, the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce and several local businesses are giving you an opportunity to take care of those little details...while

keeping your shopping dollars in the local economy.

The event is called the "Holiday Sip and Shop," and it's going to be taking place this Thursday, said Chamber Director Debbye ValVerde.

"This is something that we do annually so that people that have some last-minute

See **SHOP**, Page 3

Is HE thinking what YOU'RE thinking this Christmas?

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Obituaries

Annie "Tootsie" Moore



Funeral services for Annie "Tootsie" Moore, 86, formerly of Lamesa will be held Saturday, Dec. 15, 2018, at 1 p.m., at Branon Funeral Home Chapel with Jim Medley officiating. Interment will follow at Dawson County Cemetery. Arrangements are under the direction of Branon Funeral Home. Annie passed away Monday, Dec. 10, 2018, in Lubbock.

She was born April 10, 1932, to E.A. and Annie (Freeman) Caster in Godley, Texas. She married Dwight Earwin Moore on April 19,

1952 in Clovis, New Mexico. They were married 52 years. She worked for Jones McCall Pharmacy for many years. She loved planning events and playing games. She was known as a social butterfly.

Annie is survived by daughter, Sandie Osborne and husband, Don of Baird; two grandchildren, Mandi Davis and husband, David of Big Spring and Dusty Loftin of Big Spring; and great grandson, Bryce Davis.

She is preceded in death by her parents, her husband; son, Scotty Lee Moore in June 1999 and her fur baby, "Suzie." The family suggests memorials to American Cancer Society 3513 10th St., Lubbock, Texas, 79415. To send condolences online, please visit www.branonfuneralhome.com.

Paid Obituary

Shirley Scoggins



Shirley Scoggins, 84, of Stanton passed away Tuesday, Dec. 11, 2018, at her residence. Funeral services will be held 2 p.m., Friday, Dec. 14, 2018, at First United Methodist Church in Stanton with Pastor Charlie Stevens officiating. Interment will follow at Evergreen Cemetery.

The family will receive friends from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 13, 2018, at Gilbreath Funeral

Home.

Shirley is survived by a daughter, Barbara Beckman of Nevada, Missouri; a son, Leroy Scoggins of Stanton; a brother, Herschel Presley of Arlington; a sister, LaVerne McCarthy of Orlando, Florida; three grandsons; a granddaughter; six great-granddaughters; a great-grandson; and a great-great-grandson.

She is preceded in death by her husband; her parents; a brother, Bobby; and a son, Roger.

Arrangements under the direction of Gilbreath Funeral Home. Online condolences can be made at www.npwelch.com.

Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity:

- **TODD ALLEN HARPER**, 55, was arrested on a charge of reckless damage or destruction.
- **FRANKLIN LAMAR CURTIS**, 52, was arrested on a charge of public intoxication.
- **HENRY RAMIREZ**, 62, was arrested on a charge of criminal

trespass.

- **ADRIAN CRUZE ALANIZ**, 18, was arrested on a warrant of burglary of building.
- **WILLIAM DARREN KIRCHOFF**, 31, was arrested on a warrant of intoxication assault with vehicle.
- **CRIMINAL MISCHIEF** was reported in the 1600 block of Martin Luther King, and in the 3100

block of N Hwy 87, and off of Settles between 15th.

- **STOLEN VEHICLE** was reported in the 1400 block of Oriole St.
- **INTOXICATED SUBJECT** was reported in the 2000 block of s Nolan St.
- **BURGLARY OF A VEHICLE** was reported in the 900 block of N Lamesa Hwy.

Sheriff

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

Note - Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 74 inmates at the time of this report.

- **ADRIAN CRUZE ALANIZ**, 18, was arrested by HCSO on a warrant of burglary of building.
- **FRANKLIN LAMAR CUR-**

TIS, 52, was arrested by BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.

- **TODD ALLEN HARPER**, 55, was arrested by BSPD on a charge of reckless damage or destruction.
- **WILLIAM DARREN KIRCHOFF**, 31, was arrested by HCSO on a warrant of intoxication assault with vehicle.
- **TIMOTHY JOSEPH MA-**

JOR, 44, was arrested by HCSO on a warrant of criminal mischief in between \$1,500 to \$20,000.

- **HENRY RAMIREZ**, 62, was arrested by BSPD on a charge of criminal trespass.
- **JOE LUIS RODRIQUEZ**, 26, was arrested by HCSO on a warrant of theft of property in between \$100 and \$750.

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 in 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 posi-

tion, 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.

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.

Fire/EMS

Big Spring Fire Department/EMS reported the following activity:

- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 500 block of W 17th St. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.
- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 4200 block of W Hwy 80. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.
- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 800 block of W 8th St. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.
- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 1800 block of N Hwy 87. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.
- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 5000 block of W 17th St. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

Support Groups

WEDNESDAY

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

THURSDAY

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 Veteran'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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2018

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COUNCIL

Continued from Page 1

provided about how much the bid was – according to City Attorney Marianne Banks, bids on this type of contract remain proprietary information of the bidding company until the bid is accepted.

Congressman Jim DePauw asserted that another company – Baird Companies of Big Spring – tried to submit a bid significantly lower than Boler's, but was not allowed to do so because a change in the bidding process required a "bid bond" guaranteeing the bid, which Baird was unable to obtain before the bidding deadline. DePauw said Jacob and Martin refused to accept a bid check in lieu of a bid bond.

"When the other bidder called you, you said he couldn't submit a bid check," DePauw said, speaking to Jacob and Martin's Kirt Harle, who was at the meeting to answer questions. "He wasn't able to get his bid bond in time. He was up against the Thanksgiving holiday. Typically bid checks are allowed for 5 percent of the amount, and you said 'no.'"

Harle disagreed.

"I did not tell him that he could not provide a bid check," Harle said. "But he did not have a bid bond or a cashier's check for the amount, so I could not open that bid. In my 15 years of experience, I have never opened a bid that did not have a bid bond. A 5-percent bid bond is pretty typical for any public bidding contract. Every bid I've ever put together has a 5-percent bid bond."

The meeting included discussion over the amounts involved in the contract. DePauw asserted that Jacob and Martin had provided a \$1 million estimate for the contract, and that Boler's bid had come in at three times that amount.

"Let me address what you're calling 'the estimate,'" said Harle. "That was not my estimate. The million dollars that was in the contract was what was estimated that the city had budgeted to spend on these types of repairs – emergency repairs or valve replacements. It was simply a means to provide contractors an idea how much the city had budgeted to spend. That was not an estimate I had put together."

After a 30-minute discussion on the issue, the council voted 5 to 1 to approve the contract with Boler, but with a \$400,000 spending cap. DePauw cast the lone dissenting vote. Councilman Raul Marquez was absent from the meeting.

In other business, Cpl. Michael Calley of the Big Spring Police Department was named the city's Star Employee for December.

"We have a picture here of an officer changing a tire for a lady in 37 degrees, and that says a lot about our Police Department and what they do, and how much we respect what they do, and what they do for us," said Mayor Larry McLellan.

McLellan then read a proclamation presenting the award to Calley.

"On Oct. 16, 2018, a photograph was taken and posted on social media of a police officer changing a tire for a citizen," McLellan read. "You were the officer in the photograph. In reality, the average police officer from an average police department would sit in the warm comfort of their squad car until a friend, relative, or roadside assistance arrived to change out the flat tire for this stranded young woman. On this day, you chose to go above and beyond, changing this woman's tire in freezing temperatures complemented with wind gusts and rain. Cpl. Calley, you proved to be of immense assistance to a Big Spring citizen. You have distinguished yourself and brought credit to the Big Spring Police Department."

The council also recognized the Big Spring Fire Department for receiving the 2018 Texas EMS Provider of the Year award at the Texas Emergency Medical Services Conference in Fort Worth.

"On Nov. 20, 2018, members of the Big Spring Fire Department attended the annual Texas Emergency Medical Services Conference in Fort Worth, Texas," said McLellan. At the conference, the Texas Department of Health and Human Services presented the Big Spring Fire Department with the 2018 EMS Provider of the Year award. Again, I said 'Provider of the Year,' not just this month, the entire year."

Big Spring Fire Chief Craig Ferguson accepted the award at the conference.

"This really reaffirms the work that these gentlemen do every single day," said Ferguson. "They work their tails off every day for the citizens of Big Spring. I can't say how proud I am of the work they do. State recognition like this, to me, reaffirms the hard work that they put in and legitimizes everything they do all the time."

In other business, the council:

- Recognized the donation of \$10,650 from local hotel owners to the Big Spring Police Department and Howard County Sheriff's Department for new bullet-resistant vests, and accepted the city's portion of the donation..
- Recognized a donation from SM Energy in the amount of \$12,500 to the Big Spring Fire Department for rescue tools.
- Recognized a donation from TransGlobal Company for \$2,500 to the Big Spring Fire Department for the purchase of additional equipment for the pump-truck.
- Approved donating the 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.

RESULTS

Continued from Page 1

5th place - Blake Barclay

Ready Writing

6th Grade

4th place - Patty Yabes

7th Grade

1st place - Avery Williams

5th place - Hilary Thompson

8th Grade

4th place - David Tidwell

Spelling

6th Grade

1st place - Patty Yabes

2nd place - Amberlea Moore

3rd place - James Pascual

1st place team of Patty, Amberlea, James & Abigail Olson

7th Grade

1st place - Jaci Stone

2nd place - Jake Myers

3rd place - Avery Williams

1st place team of Jaci, Jake, Avery & Emma Buske

8th Grade

1st place - Joanna Gato

2nd place - Ashlee Moore

4th place - Trevor Cole

1st place team of Joanna, Ashlee, Trevor & Abby Sutton

Oral Reading

6th Grade

6th place - Makenna Rhoades

Science

7th Grade

6th place - Danielle Fierro

8th Grade

1st place - Nolan Ezell

2nd (tie) Charlie Huff

2nd (tie) Mason Sedberry

1st place team of Nolan, Charlie, Mason & David Tidwell

6th Grade Music Memory

3rd place - Manuel Preciado

5th place - Toryn Kendrick

2nd place team of Manuel, Toryn & Jaystin Phelps

Number Sense

7th Grade

4th place - Emma Peffer

8th Grade

3rd place - Blake Barclay

4th place - Katcher Dawson

6th place - Charlie Huff

1st place team

Social Studies

6th Grade

5th place - Mary Kate Gabe-hart

7th Grade

6th place - Maria Sanchez

2nd place team of Maria, Kyleigh Heckler, Krislynn

Matthies & Brooks Wright

8th Grade

3rd place - David Tidwell

6th place - Taelyn Fulgham

3rd place team of David, Taelyn, Trevor Cole & Rydeck Tanis

Dictionary Skills

7th Grade

2nd place - Jake Myers

3rd place team of Jake, Kyleigh Heckler, Emily Rice & Naveah Hernandez

8th Grade

1st place - Jackson Hopper

2nd place team of Jackson, Nolan Park & David Tidwell

Maps, Graphs & Charts

6th Grade

3rd place - Juliana Summers

8th Grade

1st place - Nolan Ezell

3rd place - David Tidwell

1st place team of Nolan, David, Taelyn Fulgham & Anson Kirkland

Music Memory

7th Grade

1st place - Krislynn Matthies

2nd place - Meagan Garza

1st place team of Krislynn, Meagan, Emily Rice and Brooks Wright

8th Grade

1st place - Blake Barclay

3rd place - Joanna Gato

4th place - Hannah Hillger

6th place - Trevor Cole

1st place team

6th Grade Impromptu Speaking

1st place - Juliana Summers

2nd place - Chance Leonardi

6th place - Kaedyn Lee

Art Smart

6th Grade

1st place - Kenzi Wooldridge

2nd place - Mary Kate Gabe-hart

3rd place - Juliana Summers

1st place team

7th Grade

1st place - Jaci Stone

2nd place - Avery Williams

3rd place - Lilly Hoff

5th place - Hilary Thompson

1st place team

8th Grade

1st place - Ashlee Moore

2nd place - Trevor Cole

3rd place - Joanna Gato

4th place - Kaeli Woodall

1st place team

Impromptu Speaking

7th Grade

1st place - Caylee Myers

5th place - Madry Bagwell

8th Grade

2nd place - Vince Moorman

Mathematics

6th Grade

2nd place - Julian Summers

3rd place team of Juliana, Tatum Neel, Ethan Buske & James Pascual

8th Grade

1st place - Blake Barclay

2nd place - Katcher Dawson

3rd place - Charlie Huff

1st place team of Blake, Katcher, Charlie & Ashlee Moore

Modern Oratory

6th Grade

2nd place - Aracellie Melen-dez

7th Grade

2nd place - Jake Myers

4th place - Morgan Miller

8th Grade

2nd place - Mason Sedberry

4th place - David Tidwell

Listening Skills

6th Grade

2nd place - Juliana Summers

2nd place team of Juliana, Ethan Buske, Kaedyn Lee & Hannah Miller

7th Grade

6th place - Emma Peffer

8th Grade

1st place - Anson Kirkland

3rd place - Charlie Huff

3rd place team of Anson, Charlie, Ayannia Anchondo & Bryson Kinsey

Calculator Application

6th Grade

4th place - Juliana Summers

7th Grade

4th place - Lybertee Rodriguez

6th place - Seth Richardson

2nd place team of Lybertee, Seth, Morgan Miller Lyssa Roman

8th Grade

2nd place - Blake Barclay

3rd place - Ashlee Moore

5th place - Charlie Huff

1st place team of Blake, Ashlee, Charlie & Mason Sedberry

Chess Puzzle

6th Grade

3rd place - Kaleb Walker

7th Grade

1st place - Brooks Wright

5th place - Kaleb Thomas

1st place team of Brooks, Kaleb, Logan Henry & Daniel Luna

CLAUS

Continued from Page 1

visiting with Santa. Just come on out and bring your little ones for their chance to tell Santa Claus what they would like for Christmas. Parents are more than welcome to take pictures."

Howard also stated that both Santa and the Gift Shop will be at the Comanche Trail Amphitheater Belaski Pavilion, giving parents the opportunity to do a little Christmas shopping when they visit the gift shop.

"This is a great chance to get some unique gifts. We will have dated ornaments, T-shirts and several other keepsake items," said Howard. "These are just all added benefits when visiting the Festival of Lights so that everyone walks away with a Merry Christmas."

The Comanche Trail Festival of Lights boasts over a million lights on display in the Comanche Trail Park in Big Spring that attracts visitors from, not only Texas, but across the United States as well. There have even been a few added changes this year for the Festival of Lights guests.

"The Comanche Trail Festival of Lights is thrilled to announce an exciting new change to the festival for upcoming years," said Howard. "The dates for the Comanche Trail Festival of Lights will now be the first Sunday of December through Christmas; this year's Lights will run until December 25. This change will give visitors six more days of celebrating the Christmas Holiday! We are so excited for the 22nd Annual Comanche Trail of Lights, and we know you are too."

Admission is free to all visitors, but donations are accepted and appreciated, and will help support the annual event.

"The Board of the Festival of Lights pays for the electricity for the festival, so donations go towards that. Also, we are in the process of changing all the light bulbs to LEDs," said Howard. "This is a special time of the year and we want to help bring Christmas to Big Spring so everyone can have a Merry Christmas."

SHOP

Continued from Page 1

shopping they need to get done, or, hey you guys out there – if you haven't found your significant other a gift, these places will be open until 8 p.m. on Dec. the 13th, and they'll be glad to help you, I'm sure. All of these are great customer service, and they offer some unique items right in our own backyard."

ValVerde said the following local establishments are taking part in the Sip and Shop:

- Blissful Boutique, 1801 E. FM 700.
- Blue-Eyed Buffalo, 223 S. Main St.
- Dazzling Décor, 1304 Scurry St.
- Famous/Elle, 215 S. Main St.
- Lula Blu Boutique, 2112 Scurry St.
- Queens of the Dude Ranch, 221 S. Main St.
- Soothe: A Bath Goods Boutique, 305 S. Main St.
- Splurge Boutique, 308 Scurry St.
- The Wardrobe Boutique, 115 S. Main St.

The shops will offer refreshments and great deals, so remember the Chamber motto and "Try local, buy local."

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

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL
24th & Johnson
267-8288

Socorro A. Correa, 96, died Friday. Funeral Mass was at 10 a.m. this morning at Holy Trinity Catholic Church with burial at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

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3 officers shot serving warrant on Texas man; suspect dead



AP photo
This undated file photo provided by the Harris County Sheriffs Office shows Daniel Trevino.

HOUSTON (AP) — Three officers have been shot while serving a family violence warrant at a Houston-area home. The suspect was found dead in the house hours later.

The Harris County Sheriff's Office tweeted that one deputy and two officers from the Texas Attorney General's Office were wounded Tuesday afternoon. Sheriff Ed Gonzalez says the injuries are not life-threatening and the officers were being treated at a Houston hospital.

Chief Deputy Edison Toquica (toh-KEE'-kuh) says tactical squad officers later found Daniel Trevino dead of a self-inflicted gunshot wound around 6:15 p.m. Tuesday.

Toquica had said agents from the AG's office and sheriff's investigators were serving a warrant, at the threshold of a door, when the suspect began shooting. Officers returned fire.

Toquica says the warrant for Trevino involved violation of a protective order.

Man who killed newlywed during robbery executed in Texas



By **JUAN A. LOZANO** and **MICHAEL GRACZYK**
Associated Press

HUNTSVILLE, Texas — A Texas inmate was executed Tuesday evening for fatally shooting a newlywed during a robbery

more than 25 years ago.

Alvin Braziel Jr., 43, received lethal injection at the state penitentiary in Huntsville for the 1993 slaying of 27-year-old Douglas White, who was attacked as he and his wife walked on a jogging trail.

Asked by the warden if he had a final statement, Braziel thanks supporters and apologized to the victim's wife, Lora White.

"I would like to apologize ... for her husband dying at my hands," Braziel said from the death chamber gurney. He also said he loved the White family and a person he named but who was not present, then told the warden he was finished.

See **TEXAS**, Page 5

Trump admin. asks Supreme Court to allow asylum ban

By **MARK SHERMAN**

Associated Press
WASHINGTON — The Trump administration is asking the Supreme Court to allow enforcement of a ban on asylum for any immigrants who illegally cross the U.S.-Mexico border.

Two federal courts have temporarily blocked the policy President Donald Trump announced in November in response to caravans of migrants that were approaching the border. Last week, the federal appeals court in San Francisco said the ban is inconsistent with federal law and an attempted end-run around Congress.

The administration said in court papers filed Tuesday that the nationwide order preventing the policy from taking effect "is deeply flawed" and should be lifted pending an appeal that could reach the high court.

Trump's proclamation is among measures that "are designed to channel asylum seekers to ports of entry, where their claims can be processed in an orderly manner; deter unlawful and dangerous border crossings; and reduce the backlog of meritless asylum claims," Solicitor General Noel Francisco wrote in his Supreme Court filing.

Lee Gelernt, an American Civil Liberties Union lawyer representing immigrant advocacy groups challenging the asylum policy, said, "The Trump administration is asking the Supreme Court to short-circuit the normal judicial process and reinstate a blatantly unlawful policy."

Justice Elena Kagan, who handles emergency appeals from California and other western states, called for a response from opponents of the asylum policy by midday Monday.

In the first court ruling on the is-

sue, U.S. District Judge Jon Tigar said on Nov. 19 that U.S. law allows immigrants to request asylum regardless of whether they entered the country legally.

The president "may not rewrite the immigration laws to impose a condition that Congress has expressly forbidden," the judge said in his order.

The ruling prompted Trump's criticism of Tigar as an "Obama judge" and led to an unusual public dispute between Trump and Chief Justice John Roberts, who rebuked the president with a statement defending the judiciary's independence.



AP photo
In this Oct. 4, 2018 photo, the U.S. Supreme Court is seen at sunset in Washington.

Insanity defense accepted in Texas campus stabbing attack



AP photo
This undated file photo provided by the Austin Police Department shows Kendrex White.

AUSTIN, Texas — A judge on Tuesday found a former University of Texas student not guilty by reason of insanity in a random stabbing attack last year that killed one student dead and wounded three others.

State District Judge Tamara Needles found 22-year-old Kendrex White not guilty by reason of insanity after prosecutors and defense attorneys agreed on the plea.

Doctors for both sides agreed that White suffers from schizoaffective disorder and could not discern right from wrong when he attacked the students in May 2017, killing Harrison Brown.

White's lawyers had filed paperwork with the court that waived White's right to a jury trial. White had been charged

with murder in Brown's death and three counts of aggravated assault relating to the injured students.

Brown's mother, Lori Brown, told reporters after the verdict that she hopes White never leaves the maximum-security mental hospital where he'll be confined.

"I have no sympathy or empathy for Harrison's murderer and I hope and pray he will never have an opportunity to harm another person," Brown said.

Needles on Tuesday gave victims, family members, doctors and law enforcement officials a chance to testify in court after her judgment.

Dr. Maureen Burrows said White hears voices, hallucinates and sometimes believes he is Jesus Christ.

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TEXAS

Continued from Page 4

As the sedative pentobarbital began taking effect, he took a couple of breaths, gasped, then snored loudly three times. The fourth snore was noticeably less pronounced, and then all movement stopped. Braziel was pronounced dead 7:19 p.m., nine minutes after the drug began.

Braziel became the 24th inmate put to death this year in the U.S. and the 13th executed in Texas, the nation's busiest capital punishment state. He will be the last Texas inmate executed this year.

The execution was delayed about an hour after the six-hour window defined by the warrant began at 6 p.m. The Texas Court of Criminal Appeals rejected a last-minute appeal from Braziel's attorneys.

A brother of Douglas White and two friends attended the execution but declined to speak afterward. Braziel selected no one to witness his death.

In 1993, as Douglas and Lora White walked along a community college jogging trail in the Dallas suburb of Mesquite, Braziel jumped out from behind some bushes with a pistol in his hand and demanded money.

The Whites, who had only been married 10 days, didn't have any money on them but told Braziel they could get him some and they started walking back to their truck. But Braziel became angry with the couple and ordered them to the ground.

"Doug ... was praying, asked God to forgive him and Lora their sins because they both knew that this was it," said Michael Bradshaw, the lead detective on the case for Mesquite police. "The last thing Doug said before Braziel fired the first round, he said, 'Please God, don't let him hurt Lora.'"

Braziel shot White once in the head and once in his heart.

Bradshaw said he believes Braziel would have also shot then-24-year-old Lora White but his gun malfunctioned. Braziel instead took her to bushy area near the trail and sexually assaulted her.

Douglas White's murder was featured on the television show "America's Most Wanted" and a \$20,000 reward was raised by the chiropractic college he had worked for as an electrician. Bradshaw said more than 40 potential suspects were interrogated and had their blood drawn for testing.

But White's murder remained unsolved for over seven years.

"I really didn't know that I would ever be able to solve it. But I really did not give up hope," said Bradshaw, 63, who retired from Mesquite police in 2012.

Braziel was eventually tied to the killing in 2001 after he was imprisoned for sexual assault in an unrelated case and his DNA matched evidence from Lora White's assault.

At his trial, Braziel said he wasn't near the college during the killing.

Braziel's attorneys didn't immediately reply to emails and calls seeking comment on Tuesday.

Last week, his lawyers asked the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals to stop his execution, arguing in part he should not receive lethal injection because he is intellectually disabled.

The Supreme Court held in 2002 that people convicted of murder who are intellectually disabled cannot be executed.

Braziel's attorneys later withdrew their request.

Courts had previously turned down Braziel's appeals that have focused on claims of mental illness and that he had suffered a childhood brain injury, saying Braziel refused to be examined by a mental health expert during his trial and that his family declined to help his defense attorneys obtain evidence of any mental health problems in Braziel's family.

His attorneys also filed a last-minute appeal Tuesday, arguing that an emotional outburst at the 2001 murder trial from Lora White was unfairly elicited by prosecutors when she was shown on the witness stand a photo of her husband's autopsied body.

Bradshaw said he still keeps in contact with Lora White and that she started a new life and is doing well.

"Lora wants it known that she's prayed for Alvin Braziel and his family," Bradshaw said.

Senate votes overwhelmingly to renew farm programs

By JULIET LINDERMAN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Senate voted overwhelmingly Tuesday for a sweeping agriculture bill that will fund key farm safety net programs for the next five years without making significant changes to the food stamp program.

The vote was 87-13. The House is expected to pass the measure soon and send it to President Donald Trump for his signature.

Majority Leader Mitch McConnell brought the bill up for a quick vote Tuesday, less than one day after the House and Senate reached an agreement on the final text.

The measure is the result of months of negotiations, and does not make any significant changes — despite pressure from President Donald Trump — to the food stamp program that serves nearly 40 million low-income Americans.

"This is what happens when the Congress works in a bipartisan, bicameral fashion," said Senate Agriculture Committee Chairman Pat Roberts, R-Kan., ahead of the vote. "It's a good bill that accomplishes what we set out to do: provide certainty and predictability for farmers and families in rural communities."

The legislation sets federal agricultural and food policy for five years



AP photo
Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., joined from left by Sen. John Barrasso, R-Wyo., and Sen. John Thune, R-S.D., speak following their weekly strategy session, at the Capitol in Washington, Tuesday, Dec. 11, 2018.

and provides more than \$400 billion in farm subsidies, conservation programs and food aid for the poor. It reauthorizes crop insurance and conservation programs and funds trade programs, bioenergy production and organic farming research. It also reduces the cost for struggling dairy producers to sign up for support programs and legalizes the cultivation of industrial hemp, an initiative championed by McConnell.

One thing the bill doesn't have:

tighter work requirements for food stamp recipients, a provision of the House bill that became a major sticking point during negotiations.

"We maintain a strong safety net for farmers and importantly, we maintain a strong safety net for our families," said Sen. Debbie Stabenow, D-Mich., the most senior Democrat on the agriculture committee. "We said no to harmful changes that would take food away from families,

See FARM, Page 6

Top border security official defends use of tear gas



AP photo
Customs and Border Protection Commissioner Kevin McAleenan testifies before a Senate Judiciary Committee hearing on 'Oversight of U.S. Customs and Border Protection' on Capitol Hill in Washington, Tuesday, Dec. 11, 2018.

By COLLEEN LONG

Associated Press

NEW YORK — The nation's top border security official told skeptical senators Tuesday that the use of tear gas on a group of migrants that included children was justified to manage a chaotic clash where a crowd was hurling rocks at agents and trying to illegally cross into the U.S.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection Commissioner Kevin McAleenan testified before the Senate Judiciary Committee, answering questions on the separation of fami-

lies, enforcement operations, illegal drugs and funding for the border wall — at the same time President Donald Trump was publicly arguing with Democratic leaders at the Oval Office on the topic.

Border security officials said somewhere between 500 and 1,000 migrants tried to cross the border illegally Nov. 25 near California's San Ysidro port, prompting an hours-long shutdown. Tear gas and pepper balls were deployed on the crowd and some children inhaled the gas.

Democratic Sen. Dianne Feinstein of California questioned whether children were intentionally hit with tear gas, and challenged its use.

"We did not target young children," McAleenan responded, saying agents used pepper balls and gas after rocks were hurled. "I think it's remarkable that agents were able to resolve the situation without any serious injuries or a breach of the border," he said.

Four Border Patrol agents were struck by rocks and one needed knee surgery, he said.

The chaos began after a peaceful protest by some of the thousands of migrants marooned in Mexico after traveling on foot from Honduras. There were 42 arrests on the U.S. side, but no one was criminally prosecuted, in part because there wasn't enough proper documentation.

McAleenan said there would be a review of the incident, as all force incidents are reviewed, but he said the agents were acting consistent with their training.

Agents are authorized to use deadly force when there is reasonable belief that there is an imminent danger of serious physical injury or death to the officer or another person.

They have discretion on how to deploy less-than-lethal force: It must

See GAS, Page 6



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Spacewalking astronauts check site of capsule leak

By **MARCIA DUNN**

AP Aerospace Writer

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — Spacewalking astronauts ripped through thick insulation on a capsule docked to the International Space Station on Tuesday, looking for clues to a mysterious drilled hole that leaked precious cabin air four months ago.

Russians Sergei Prokopyev and Oleg Kononenko spotted the tiny hole in the external hull of the Soyuz capsule, more than five hours into their grueling spacewalk.

"That is exactly the hole we've been looking for, guys," radioed Russian Mission Control outside Moscow.

The spacewalkers reported seeing no drill marks around the black dot, like on the inside.

Back in August, the station crew patched the hole in the Soyuz capsule, plugging it with epoxy and gauze. Russian space officials wanted the site surveyed from the outside, before the capsule's return to Earth next week with Prokopyev and two others. This part of the capsule will be jettisoned as usual before atmospheric re-entry, and so poses no risk for descent.

Prokopyev and Kononenko had to use a pair of telescoping booms to reach the Soyuz. It took nearly four hours for them to cross the approximately 100 feet (30 meters) to get there. Then the insulation proved harder to remove than expected, taking another one to two hours of effort.

To expose the external hull, they cut away a 10-inch (25-centimeter) swatch of thermal insulation and debris shield. Bits of shredded silver insulation floated away like confetti, as the two slashed at it with a knife and long cutters. The astronauts col-

lected samples of the black epoxy sealant protruding from the hole, just one-tenth of an inch (2 millimeters) across.

Their spacewalk lasted almost eight hours. "It is high time you went home," Mission Control urged.

"It was very difficult ... but we were able to get it done," one of the spacewalkers said.

NASA said the pieces of freed insulation posed no threat to the space station and would likely burn up in the atmosphere in a day or so.

The capsule leak caused a flap between the U.S. and Russian space agencies, following its discovery at the end of August. Russian space chief Dmitry Rogozin observed that the hole could have been drilled during manufacturing — or in orbit. The space station's commander at the time flatly denied any wrongdoing by himself or his crew.

Rogozin has since backpedaled his statement, blaming the news media for twisting his words.

A Russian investigation is ongoing, according to Rogozin, and samples collected during the spacewalk will be returned to Earth on the Soyuz. The spacewalk findings could lead to better repair techniques in the future, officials said.

The Soyuz is scheduled to depart the orbiting lab on Dec. 19, U.S. time, with Prokopyev, American Serena Aunon-Chancellor and German Alexander Gerst, the station's current skipper. It ferried them up in June.

Remaining aboard the 250-mile-high (400-kilometer-high) outpost for the next six months will be an American, Russian and Canadian who arrived last week.

This was the 213th spacewalk in 20 years at the space station.

Sting uses fake Amazon boxes, GPS to catch would-be thieves

By **DAVID PORTER**

Associated Press

The explosion in online shopping has led to porch pirates and stoop surfers swiping holiday packages from unsuspecting residents. The cops in one New Jersey city are trying to catch the thieves with some trickery of their own.

Police in Jersey City, across the Hudson River from New York, are teaming up with Amazon to install doorbell cameras and plant dummy boxes with GPS tracking devices at homes around the city.

They didn't have to wait long Tuesday for someone to take the bait.

"We had a box out on the street for three minutes before it was taken," said police Capt. James Crecco, who is overseeing the mission. "We thought it was a mistake at first."

The suspect was caught, Crecco added. Exact figures on porch thefts are hard to come by. A company commissioned by comparison-shopping service insurance-Quotes.com surveyed 1,000 people and extrapolated that 26 million Americans have had a holiday package stolen from their home. That would be nearly one in 12 Americans.

Amazon — which is providing equipment free for the Jersey City program — declined to provide figures on how many packages are reported stolen or missing, as did UPS and FedEx.

"We absolutely report them to local law enforcement when we hear of them, and we encourage our customers to do the same," UPS spokesman Glenn Zaccara said.

Jersey City Police Chief Michael Kelly told The Associated Press that locations for cameras and boxes were selected using the city's own crime statistics and mapping of theft locations provided by Amazon.

"Most of the package thefts we've made arrests on revolve around (closed-circuit TV) or private surveillance cameras that give us a still image," Kelly said. "With the bait packages, some will be under video surveillance, and some will have GPS."

No homeowner is immune. Crecco said his mother was a victim of a package theft. So was Mayor Steven Fulop, according to his spokeswoman.

Members of the police department who live in the city volunteered to have the cameras and boxes placed at their homes.

Kelly said the program has

undergone a legal review and has been approved by a municipal prosecutor. He said the city is hoping to expand the program with assistance from Amazon, the nation's largest online retailer.

Amazon declined to answer questions about the anti-theft program but said in a statement, "We appreciate the increased effort by local law enforcement to tackle package theft and remain committed to assisting however we can."

Similar programs have been tried in other cities including Albuquerque, New Mexico, and Hayward, California.

E-commerce sales have been growing faster than sales at brick-and-mortar retailers for several years. Online sales in the U.S. are forecast to increase 14.8 percent from last year, to \$124.1 billion, for November and December, according to Adobe Analytics, which tracks online spending.

The Postal Service expects to deliver about 900 million packages, and United Parcel Service forecasts it will handle about 800 million parcels between Thanksgiving and Christmas.

That is causing a spike in deliveries to houses and apartments. Sometimes the residents aren't home or aren't aware that a package has been dropped off.

The delivery companies provide services that could offer some protection against porch thefts. The boldest might be Amazon's Key service, in which homeowners pay to have a cloud-connected lock and camera installed at the front door, allowing an Amazon delivery person to unlock the door and slide the package inside.

Plenty of people went on social media to raise privacy and security objections after Amazon announced that service, but the company is betting that others will decide it's convenient.

Some other strategies for foiling snatch-and-run thieves require picking up packages at a company store, which defeats the purpose of at-home delivery.

To avoid parcels being left outside during extended absences, the post office has long allowed customers to set up hold-mail requests.

UPS and FedEx let customers sign up for alerts about deliveries and give them the chance to reschedule or change the drop-off address even for deliveries already on their way. They let customers leave detailed instructions for drivers about where around the house to leave a package.

GAS

Continued from Page 5

be both "objectively reasonable and necessary in order to carry out law enforcement duties," and used when other "empty hand" techniques are not sufficient to control disorderly or violent subjects.

On border security, McAleenan said his agency wants 1,100 miles of a "border wall system" with Mexico that would include natural barriers and steel fencing that agents can see

through.

He said barriers would be an important tool to help deter illegal crossings, but he also urged the senators to look at the entire immigration system — and asked for more agents and better technology.

Customs and Border Protection is the country's largest federal law enforcement agency, with more than 23,000 officers at border crossings and airports, and 20,000 border patrol agents who police between ports of entry.

FARM

Continued from Page 5

and instead increased program integrity and job training to be able to make sure things should be working as they should and every dollar is used as it should be."

The House bill would have raised the age of recipients subject to work requirements from 49 to 59 and required parents with children older than 6 years to work or participate in job training. The House measure also sought to limit circumstances under which families who qualify for other poverty programs can automatically be eligible for SNAP, and earmarked \$1 billion to expand work-training programs.

By contrast, the bipartisan Senate bill, which passed 86-11, offered modest adjustments to existing farm programs and made no changes to SNAP.

Throughout the negotiation process Trump made his support for work requirements clear, tweeting about the issue multiple times. But negotiators ultimately rejected the most controversial House measures related to SNAP, making no significant change

es to the program. The outcome is a victory for Democrats, who refused to support them.

The final bill also preserves states' ability to provide waivers, and does not change eligibility criteria. It does increase funding for employment and job training programs from \$90 million to roughly \$103.9 million per year.

The two chambers also clashed over portions of the bill's forestry and conservation sections. But the most contentious pieces of the House version, such as relaxing restrictions on pesticide use, didn't make it into the final text.

Negotiations were complicated in recent weeks when the White House asked Congress to make changes to the forestry section in response to deadly wildfires in California, giving more authority to the Agriculture and Interior departments to clear forests and other public lands. The final text doesn't significantly increase the agencies' authority.

Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue said Monday the bill "maintains a strong safety net for the farm economy, invests in critical agricultural research and will pro-

vide agriculture exports through robust trade programs," but voiced disappointment over the failed changes to the work requirement.

"While we would have liked to see more progress on work requirements for SNAP recipients and forest management reforms, the conference agreement does include several helpful provisions, and we will continue to build upon these through our authorities," he said.

The bill also maintains current limits on farm subsidies, but includes a House provision to expand the definition of family to include first cousins, nieces and nephews, making them eligible for payments under the program.

House Agriculture Committee Chairman Michael Conaway, R-Texas, a strong proponent of stricter work requirements, thanked Perdue and the administration for their support.

"America's farmers and ranchers are weathering the fifth year of severe recession, so passing a farm bill this week that strengthens the farm safety net is vitally important," Conaway said.

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Forbes' double-double fuels Spurs by Suns 111-86



By **RAUL DOMINGUEZ**

Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Bryn Forbes was happy to finally earn the first double-double of his basketball career, and even happier that it came in another San Antonio Spurs victory grounded in defense.

Forbes had a season-high 24 points and a career-best 11 rebounds as the Spurs beat the Phoenix Suns 111-86 on Tuesday night.

Since his days on the playground in elementary school until now, Forbes never had a double-double, and the odds of accomplishing it weren't great. Generously listed at 6 foot 3, his previous career-high in rebounds was five, but he surpassed that in the third quarter.

"That's important to me," Forbes said. "I've been playing my whole life and to accomplish something I've never accomplished is always pretty cool, but to get the win was bigger. We needed this win worse than I needed a double-double." The Spurs held the Suns to

AP photo

San Antonio Spurs guard Bryn Forbes (11) reacts after scoring against the Phoenix Suns during the first half of an NBA basketball game, Tuesday, Dec. 11, 2018, in San Antonio.

See **SPURS**, Page 13

Harden scores 29 to lead Rockets past Blazers 111-103



AP photo

Houston Rockets' James Harden (13) drives past Portland Trail Blazers' CJ McCollum (3) during the first half of an NBA basketball game Tuesday, Dec. 11, 2018, in Houston.

HOUSTON (AP) — The Houston Rockets' bench came to the rescue twice Tuesday night, and the second time made the difference.

James Harden had 29 points and seven Rockets scored in double-figures as Houston used a big second-half run and snapped a three-game losing streak with a 111-103 victory over the Portland Trail Blazers.

Chris Paul added a triple-double with 11 points, 11 rebounds and 10 assists. Clint Capela had 13 points and seven rebounds before fouling out with five minutes left, and Eric Gordon, who started in place of James Ennis, had 14 points for the Rockets, who shot 49 percent from the field.

"We did a good job of just competing, playing harder," Harden said. "That was really it - playing harder and got into them. We were a little more aggressive. Good things seem to happen when you play harder."

Houston's bench played a key role in a 24-6 first-half run that erased a 15-point deficit, and then led a charge in the second half. Gerald Green had 13 points, and Danuel House had 12 off the bench.

"They won the game for us," Houston coach Mike D'Antoni said of the bench. "They turned it around when we were down 15, and they came in, and Nene, Danuel House and Gerald put a lot of energy."

Damian Lillard had 34 points, CJ McCollum scored 22 points and Jusuf Nurkic added 15 points and 10 rebounds for Portland, which shot 44 percent after starting the game by making seven of its first nine shots.

"I thought Houston played pretty aggressive defense on us," Portland coach Terry Stotts said. "We took some possessions for granted and some turnovers led to their transition. Obviously, their bench came in and had an impact on the game. . . They just outplayed us in the second half."

Houston used a 25-5 run to end the third and start the fourth quarters, and opened a 100-83 lead on 3-pointer by Harden with 6:48 left. House and Green each had five points in the run.

"I think you could really tell the difference (in) the second half," Green said. "I thought that we didn't give up a lot of offensive rebounds that was really killing us in the first half. Our pace was really good tonight. I feel like we were playing faster. We were getting out in transition a lot more than we did in the last few games. I think it was something we can build on."

The Blazers responded with a 14-2 run and cut the lead to 102-97 when Nurkic made a pair of free throws with three minutes left.

After trading baskets, Houston pushed the lead to 107-99 on a free throw by Harden and two free throws by Paul. After Lillard missed a layup, Paul hit two more free throws to push the lead back to 10 with 1:38 left. Portland got no closer than eight the rest of the way.

"We dug ourselves into a hole, and with the style that they play, you're going to have a chance to get back into it, but it's a tough battle when you have to fight back into the game," Lillard said.

TIP-INS

Trail Blazers: Al-Farouq Aminu had 10 points and 15 rebounds. . Portland shot 17 of 21 from the free throw line. . The Blazers shot 10 of 25 from 3-point range.

Rockets: Houston's bench outscored Portland's 37-13. Nene had 10 points. . The Rockets shot 18 of 27 from the free-throw line. . Coach Mike D'Antoni said Brandon Knight (knee) could see playing time early next week. . Ennis left the game with a strained right hamstring.

CLEAN UP ON THE FLOOR

PJ Tucker dove for a loose ball during the second quarter, landing in front of Houston Astros third baseman Alex Bregman and Astros owner Jim

See **ROCKETS**, Page 13

'Little League for esports' hopes to organize youth gaming

By **JAKE SEINER**

AP Sports Writer

WHITE PLAINS, N.Y. (AP) — Christian Pineda plays a lot of video games, but he's best at "Minecraft." Hunched over a laptop in the front row of a half-full movie theater last month, the 13-year-old eagerly showed off why.

"I basically know the controls like the back of my hand," he said before turning his focus back to a tight match against a rival team from Boston. Christian claims to be shy at school, but here, he's a vocal leader on a New York team of nearly 20 esports competitors, some as young as 6 years old. With a spot in the league finals on the line, Christian tapped away at his keyboard and excitedly discussed tactics with teammates.

The group was strategizing over pickaxes and archers, not pitchers and catchers, but the focus on teamwork and communication could have come straight from the bench at a youth baseball game.

At Super League Gaming events like this, that's the goal.

"Like Little League for esports," said Super League CEO Ann Hand.

Super League is trying to bring structure to an industry devoid of it at the youth level. The organization was founded in 2015 and runs national leagues for three esports games: "Minecraft" for players in elementary and middle school, and "League of Legends" and "Clash Royale" for older players. Kids are often introduced to competitive video games via "Minecraft" before graduating to "League of Legends," giving them a place to train and play throughout their teenage years and beyond — the "League of Legends" competitions don't have an age limit. Super League Gaming has tens of thousands of players, although not all attend every live event, and its "Minecraft" championship has been turned into a reality TV show on Nickelodeon.

The hope is that Super League can close a major gap in the esports ecosystem for young gamers, particularly in the U.S. The industry is set to eclipse \$1 bil-



AP photo

New York Fury team competitors react during a Super League Gaming competition against a team from Boston at City Center in White Plains, N.Y., Super League was founded in 2015 and has teams in 16 cities for its three gaming titles.

lion soon, and there are more professional opportunities than ever. Pros in the NA LCS — the top North American "League of Legends" circuit — averaged over \$300,000 in salary this season, and many colleges now provide esports scholarships. Careers in esports coaching or game design are increasingly in demand, too.

But to pursue those jobs, players need to start early. Esports pros often peak in their early 20s, and elite talents in countries like South Korea are being identified before reaching middle school.

The relatively weak U.S. gamer pool is holding back North American franchises from competing on an international stage. Esports powerhouse Cloud9 became the first NA LCS club to make the semifinals at the League of Legends World Championship this year, and it only had one U.S. player in its starting lineup. The lackluster American feeder system was a talking point when NA LCS franchise owners met this summer.

"A lot of our amateur system has fallen away," said NA LCS Commissioner Chris Greeley. "I think we all agree that it is shallower right now than it could be and should be."

Riot Games, which publishes "League of Legends" and manages its professional circuits, is partnered with Super League and hopes the organization can boost the reputation of American gaming. Super League uses proprietary software to pair players with competition at the appropriate skill level, and its weekly

in-person events allow for stronger development than if players were left to practice alone. Super League also makes it easier for pro franchises to scout players and evaluate their talent and makeup.

"You can't really just look at the best players online and use that as your primary way to find the next great pro because the problem is that you don't know a lot about their behaviors," Hand said. "Will they be able to handle the pressure of being at the Staples Center or Madison Square Garden?"

Just like Little League, it's not strictly about churning out elite talent. Super League also creates an in-person sense of community around gaming, one that allows parents to watch and even coach. Some have concerns about their kids spending too much time on screens, but at least with Super League, gaming happens in a social, supervised space — better than playing solo in a basement or bedroom.

"It's one of the best decisions we've made," said Alon Rothschild, who drives his 11-year-old son, Frankie Capello, over an hour from Staten Island to compete with New York's "Minecraft" team.

The co-ed organization provides players with uniforms, tech support and access to its digital platform, which allows players to log into Super League competitions from anywhere. But it's the in-person events that

See **ESPORTS**, Page 13

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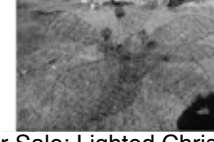
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Therapist Recommends Unfamiliar Treatment

Dear Annie: A therapist recommended that I try EMDR in order to process past traumas. It sounds intriguing and fancy, but I don't really understand what it involves. Could you explain what EMDR is and how it works? I'm uninformed and skeptical. -- Curious but Confused

Dear Curious but Confused: EMDR stands for eye movement desensitization and reprocessing. Francine Shapiro developed the form of psychotherapy in the late 1980s. It involves asking individuals to recall traumatic events while giving themselves some sensory input -- such as crossing their arms and tapping their shoulders or looking from side to side. It's often recommended for the treatment of post-traumatic stress disorder. According to the American Psychological Association, EMDR "is associated with a reduction in the vividness and emotion associated with

the trauma memories." There is some controversy regarding the treatment's efficacy over other methods of psychotherapy. Don't be shy about asking your therapist for more information. It is your right to understand modalities of treatment before trying them out, and it's your therapist's job to inform you.

Dear Annie: Years ago, Ann Landers had a column about hate. I'm sorry to say I lost the paper. It was about how when you hate other people, it's you hating yourself. I've always said that if you like yourself, then you can like other people. I always accept people the way they are. We do not think the same way or like the same things all the time. I hope you can find the column. -- C.L.L., Canfield, Ohio

Dear C.L.L.: I believe you're referring to "Rules for Being Human," a piece of unknown origin that Ann Landers printed several times. It contains some real gems, such as the passage you men-

tioned about hate, and it's my pleasure to reprint it.

Rules for Being Human.

You will receive a body. You may like it or hate it, but it will be yours for as long as you live. How you take care of it or fail to take care of it can make an enormous difference in the quality of your life. You will learn lessons. You are enrolled in a full-time school called Life. Each day, you will be presented with opportunities to learn what you need to know. The lessons presented are often different from those you THINK you need. There are no mistakes -- only lessons. A lesson is repeated until it is learned. A lesson will be presented to you in various forms until you have learned it. When you have learned it (as evidenced by a change in your attitude and behavior), then you can go on to the next lesson. Learning lessons does not end. There is no stage of life that does not contain some lessons. As long as you live, there will be

something more to learn. "There" is no better than "here." When your "there" has become a "here," you will obtain another "there" that will again look better than your "here." Don't be fooled by believing that the unattainable is better than what you have. Others are merely mirrors of you. You cannot love or hate something about another person unless it reflects something you love or hate about yourself. When tempted to criticize others, ask yourself why you feel so strongly. The answers are within you. The solutions to all of life's problems are within your grasp. All you need to do is ask, look, listen and trust. You will forget all this. Unless you consistently stay focused on the goals you have set for yourself, everything you've just read won't mean a thing.

Send your questions for Annie Lane to dearannie@creators.com.

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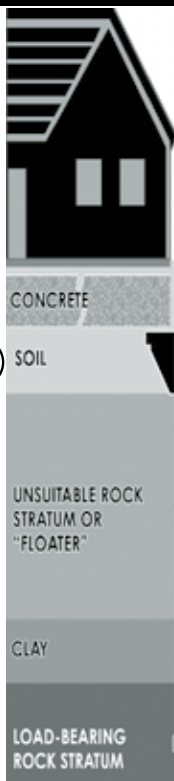
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Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

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Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH

♠ K Q 5
♥ A K 8 4
♦ K Q 7 2
♣ 6 3

WEST

♠ 10 8 7 6 4 2
♥ 9 2
♦ 6 5
♣ 9 5 4

EAST

♠ A 9 3
♥ J 10 7 3
♦ 9 4
♣ K Q 10 8

SOUTH

♠ J
♥ Q 6 5
♦ A J 10 8 3
♣ A J 7 2

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass
2♣	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♥	Pass	6♦	

Opening lead — six of spades.

Squeezes are thought of by most as the exclusive province of the expert, but in truth most squeezes are not very difficult to execute.

Take this case from a duplicate game. Most of the North-South pairs wound up in three notrump. At one table, however, North-South bid aggressively to reach six diamonds, a shaky contract at best. Even after West led a spade to East's ace, establishing dummy's K-Q, it appeared that the slam depended on a 3-3 heart split. But there was another possibility that did not require doing anything particularly fancy, and declarer

exploited it to the fullest.

After taking the ace of spades, East shifted to the king of clubs. South won, drew two rounds of trump ending in dummy and discarded the 7-2 of clubs on the K-Q of spades. Many players would have tested the hearts at this point, or might have cashed two more trumps before trying the hearts, but when the suit failed to divide, they would have gone down one.

But the actual South saw that no harm could come from cashing all his remaining trumps — including the last one — before playing the Q-K-A of hearts. The worst that could happen would be that he would lose the last trick if the hearts did not divide evenly. The advantage in doing this was that if either opponent — most likely East in this case — had four more hearts as well as the queen of clubs, he would not be able to discard successfully when the last diamond was cashed.

When this proved to be the case, the slam came rolling home. In practice, East discarded the queen of clubs on South's last diamond, hoping West had the jack, but he was a goner whatever he elected to do.

The deal illustrates perhaps the most fundamental principle of the majority of squeezes — that when you have all the tricks but one, you must cash your side winners, including all your trumps, for the squeeze to work.

Tomorrow: Close but no cigar.

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Tomorrow's Horoscope

Tips for the Mercury Transit

This Mercury transit brings the desire for fresh adventure, new alliances and electric experience. Now what's behind all this drive to change? The impetus matters to the outcome. The best way is to move toward the future in the spirit of curiosity and wonder, as opposed to moving forward in the manner of someone running from a bear.

BY HOLIDAY MATHIS



of a chance of working than the wacky ones, so try both. You might be surprised at what ridiculousness works, and if nothing else, you'll get a laugh out of it.

CAPRICORN

(Dec. 22-Jan. 19). A Zen proverb suggests, "If you want to climb a mountain, begin at the top." The rest of the zodiac is turning to you, mystical goat, with question marks for eyes. Can you decipher this one?

AQUARIUS

(Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Does it feel like you're behind the times? That's not a bad place to be. You'll find something new and novel about a thing that's been "over" for a while now and reignite a spark.

PISCES

(Feb. 19-March 20). Are you reaching too far? Probably not. Whether you reach for the moon, the sun or Jupiter, you'll get the same stretch. So reach for what makes you feel the most delight.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY

(Dec. 12). New people come into your family. And though there's loving support all around you, you still develop incredible self-reliance this year. You've so much drive burning inside you to make your life match up to the picture in your head that you can't help but do the things that will get you there. Those things make you strong. Virgo and Leo adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 8, 40, 39, 2 and 4.

Write Holiday Mathis at HolidayMathis@gmail.com.
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ARIES (March 21-April 19). You give love in many ways throughout the day. Most of the ways have to do with showing up and doing the regular things that the team counts on you to do. Then sometimes it's what you don't do or say that is the most loving.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You have a healthy respect for danger, but you're not about to let fear keep you from taking risks. What's on the table now is an opportunity to get into something totally new.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Studies prove that placebos can work even when the person taking them knows they are a placebo. Rituals can be a kind of placebo, too. So the important thing is not in the belief but in doing what works.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You're trying to think your way through a situation, and it's taking a lot of energy. It's tiring you out. So ask your heart. Actually direct the question to the beating thing in your chest. Here comes the right answer.

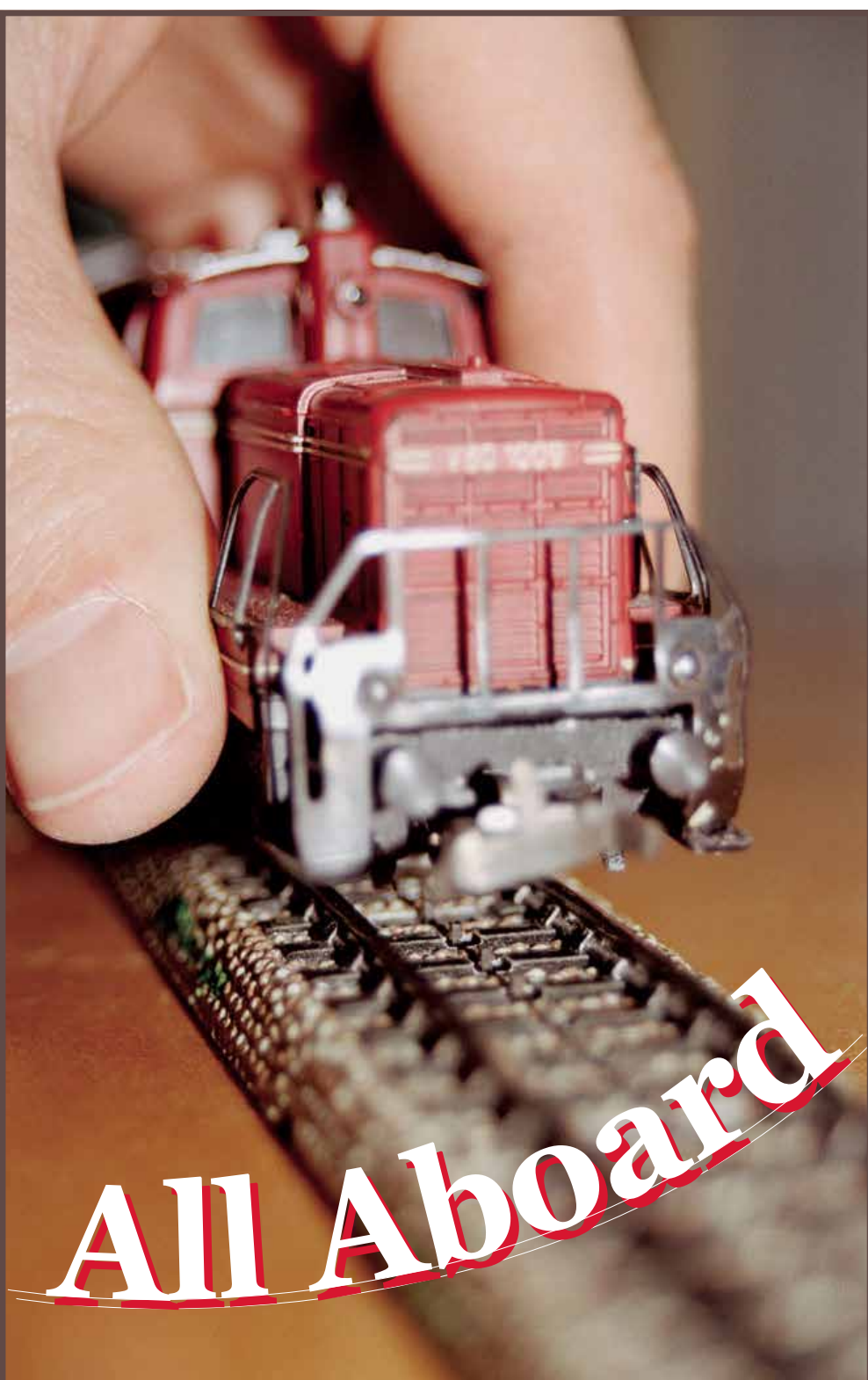
LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Funny cat videos are awesome, but it's time to get more strategic about social media. Who do you want to know better? Who do you want to align with? Controlling what you look at is to control who you're influenced by.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Even though you have plenty of time, the best moment to do a thing is when it comes to the front of mind, or when it arises in the process of action, or when you're talking about it. In other words, now.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Today you'll be given a choice. Good news: There's no correct preference that will prove you have taste or refinement or superiority in any way. So just choose what you like, what you can use or what you think will work.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Work is work. It doesn't matter what the job is; the time and energy you put in must be balanced with rest, fueled with nutrition and recharged with leisure.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). The reasonable ideas have no more



Get on the track to success with the classifieds. Many career opportunities are in store!

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SUDOKU

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

Level: Advanced

Here's How It Works:

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

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

ANSWER:

	KMID (3) Midland	UNI (4) Spanish	KPEJ (5) Odessa	KOSA (7) Odessa	KTLE (8) Telemundo	KWES (9) Midland	KMLM (12) Odessa	KPBT (13) Odessa	KWWT (14) Odessa	KWES2 (15) Midland	WTBS (33) Atlanta	TNT (34) Atlanta	ESPN (35) Sports	ESPN2 (36) Sports	FSN (38) Sports	USA (55) New York	A&E (58) New York	DISC (60) Discovery
5 :PM	Big 2 ABC	P. Luche Noticiero	Broke Girl Mom	CBS 7 CBS	Tele Noticias	News News	Behind M. Rantz	Mack Business	Mama's American	American American	Fam. Guy Fam. Guy	Jack the Giant Slayer (DVS)	SportsCenter	Around Pardon	Epic Epic	Movie: A Madea Christmas	Storage Storage	Expedition Unknown
6 :30	Jeopardy!	Rosa de Guadalupe	Big Bang ET	CBS 7 ET	Caso Cer-rado	News News	Shepherd's Heart	PBS News-Hour	M*A*S*H M*A*S*H	Fam. Guy Burgers	Burgers Burgers	NBA Countdown	Baseball Tonight	Cowboys Mavericks	Storage Storage	Storage Storage	Storage Storage	Storage Storage
7 :30	Gold House	Jesús	Empire (DVS)	Survivor	(05) La sultana (SS)	Ellen's Game	News	Nature (DVS)	Griffith Griffith	Riverdale	Big Bang Big Bang	Movie: Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice (DVS)	NBA Basketball: Thunder at Pelicans	SportsCenter Spec.	Mavs Pre. NBA Basketball: Atlanta Hawks at Dallas Mavericks.	Chrisley Storage	Storage Storage	Storage Storage
8 :30	Mod Fam Single	Mi marido	Star (DVS)	(01) SEAL Team	Falsa identidad (SS)	Little Big Shots	Light of Southwest	NOVA (DVS)	G. Pyle WKRP	All American	Big Bang Big Bang	NBA Basketball: Raptors at Warriors	SportsCenter	Mavs Mavericks	Real Country (DVS)	Storage Storage	Storage Storage	Storage Storage
9 :30	Million Little	Amar a muerte	FOX 24 News at 9	Criminal Minds	Señora Acero (SS)	Christmas With	Light of Southwest	Impossible Builds	Heroes Gold	Page Six Full	Big Bang Full	NBA Basketball: Raptors at Warriors	SportsCenter	Mavs Mavericks	Real Country (DVS)	Storage Storage	Storage Storage	Storage Storage
10 :30	Big 2 ABC	Impacto	TMZ	CBS 7	Tele	News	News	Amanpour-Co	C. Burnett	Gold Full	Big Bang Full	(:15) Movie: Godzilla, Elizabeth Olsen (DVS)	SportsCenter	Mavs Mavericks	Storage Storage	Storage Storage	Storage Storage	Storage Storage
11 :30	Jimmy Kimmel Live	Noticiero	Mom	Late Show-Colbert	Titulares	Tonight Show	Dr. C. Stanley	Nature (DVS)	(Off Air)	Hitchock King	Rules Rules	SportsCenter	Baseball Pardon	NBA Basketball: Hawks at Mavericks	Storage Storage	Storage Storage	Storage Storage	Storage Storage
12 :30	Extra	Cachito de Cielo	Two Men Simpsons	Access	Señora Acero (SS)	Daly	Programa	News	Light of Southwest	Mannix	Top 30 Paid Prg.	Bones	SportsCenter	NBA Basketball: Thunder at Pelicans	Dateline	Storage Storage	Storage Storage	Storage Storage
1 :30	Paid Prg.	Rosa de Guadalupe	Pawn	Pawn	Paid Prg.	Programa	Inside Ed.											

ANDY CAPP

NO, CAPP, I'M NOT OPEN TO BRIBERY

AND THAT IS A CRIMINAL OFFENCE

AND BESIDES, I DON'T TAKE IOUs

AGNES

I'M MAKING A LIST OF POSSIBLE CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR MY GRANDMA.

GOOD IDEA.

YES... SO FAR I HAVE A GO-KART, SPARKLY BALLERINA SHOES AND A MONKEY DRESSED LIKE ZORRO.

HUH?

SHE BABBLES A LOT OF DESIRES WHEN SHE'S ASLEEP.

SO DOES MY MOM, BUT I DON'T WRITE 'EM DOWN! SHE'D BE ARRESTED!

ARCHIE

YOU OVERSTUFFED THAT TRASH BAG!

TOLD YA! IT'LL NEVER FIT IN THE CAN!

ONE BIG HAPPY

LOOK, WILLIE! IT'S A CHRISTMAS CARD FOR YOU!

I SENT IT TO YOU...

BECAUSE I KNOW HOW YOU LIKE TO GET MAIL!

NEST HEAD

EVEN A STOPPED CLOCK IS RIGHT TWICE A DAY!

HOW DOES A BLANK SCREEN GIVE YOU THE RIGHT TIME?

PITHY APHORISMS SHOULDN'T REQUIRE FOOTNOTES.

MOMMA

MOMMA, IF I TELL YOU SOMETHING SECRET, WILL YOU GET SARCASTIC...?

NO, I WON'T GET SARCASTIC.

OKAY, THEN: I'VE BROKEN OFF WITH THAT BOY YOU LIKE SO MUCH.

WHIEW! THANKS FOR NOT GETTING ALL SARCASTIC..

YOU'RE WELCOME. "TODAY'S ENGAGEMENTS: ROSALIE FLAUM, SUSAN BILOS, RUTH ALSON..."

This Date In History

Today is Wednesday, Dec. 12, the 346th day of 2018. There are 19 days left in the year.

Today's Highlights in History:

On Dec. 12, 2000, George W. Bush became president-elect as a divided U.S. Supreme Court reversed a state court decision for recounts in Florida's contested election.

On this date:

In 1787, Pennsylvania became the second state to ratify the U.S. Constitution.

In 1906, President Theodore Roosevelt nominated Oscar Straus to be Secretary of Commerce and Labor; Straus became the first Jewish Cabinet member.

In 1913, authorities in Florence, Italy, announced that the "Mona Lisa," stolen from the Louvre Museum in Paris in 1911, had been recovered.

In 1917, during World War I, a train carrying some 1,000 French troops from the Italian front derailed while descending a steep hill in Modane (moh-DAN); at least half of the soldiers were killed in France's greatest rail disaster. Father Edward Flanagan founded Boys Town outside Omaha, Nebraska.

In 1937, Japanese aircraft sank the U.S. gunboat Panay on China's Yangtze River. (Japan apologized, and paid \$2.2 million in reparations.)

In 1946, a United Nations committee voted to accept a six-block tract of Manhattan real estate offered as a gift by John D. Rockefeller, Jr. to be the site of the U.N.'s headquarters.

In 1963, Kenya became independent of Britain.

In 1977, the dance movie "Saturday Night Fever," starring John Travolta, premiered in New York.

In 1985, 248 American soldiers and eight crew members were killed when an Arrow Air charter crashed after takeoff from Gander, Newfoundland.

In 1995, by three votes, the Senate killed a constitutional amendment giving Congress authority to outlaw flag burning and other forms of desecration against Old Glory.

In 1997, Ilich Ramirez Sanchez, the international terrorist known as "Carlos the Jackal," went on trial in Paris on charges of killing two French investigators and a Lebanese national. (Ramirez was convicted, and is serving a life prison sentence.)

In 2003, Paul Martin succeeded Jean Chretien (zhahn kreh-TYEN) as Canada's prime minister. Rolling Stones frontman

Mick Jagger was knighted by Britain. Keiko, the killer whale made famous by the "Free Willy" movies, died in the Norwegian fjord that he'd made his home.

Ten years ago: A bomb exploded inside the West Coast Bank in Woodburn, Ore., killing Woodburn Police Capt. Thomas Tennant and Oregon State Police Senior Trooper William Hakim. Actor Van Johnson died in Nyack, N.Y. at age 92.

Five years ago: The House voted to ease across-the-board federal spending cuts and head off future government shutdowns, acting after Speaker John Boehner unleashed a stinging attack on tea party-aligned conservative groups campaigning for the measure's defeat. Actor-writer-producer Tom O'Laughlin, 82, creator of "Billy Jack," died in Thousand Oaks, California.

One year ago: Democrat Doug Jones won Alabama's special Senate election over Republican Roy Moore, who had denied accusations of sexual misconduct with teenage girls that allegedly took place when he was in his 30s; it was the first Democratic Senate victory in Alabama in a quarter-century, and came despite an endorsement of Moore by President Donald Trump. San Francisco Mayor Ed Lee, the city's first Asian-American mayor, died at the age of 65 after collapsing while grocery shopping.

Today's Birthdays: Former TV host Bob Barker is 95. Basketball Hall of Famer Bob Pettit is 86. Singer Connie Francis is 81. Singer Dionne Warwick is 78. Rock singer-musician Dickey Betts is 75. Hall of Fame race car driver Emerson Fittipaldi is 72. Actor Wings Hauser is 71. Actor Bill Nighy (ny) is 69. Actor Duane Chase (Film: "The Sound of Music") is 68.

Newsday Crossword

- ACROSS**
- 1 Sound of surprise
 - 5 Shut down
 - 10 Agricultural establishment
 - 14 Botanical soother
 - 15 High-end watch brand
 - 16 Water, in Mexico
 - 17 Flabbergast
 - 18 Hidden motive
 - 19 Casual throw
 - 20 Traveling hobo-style
 - 23 Expert
 - 24 Schoolyard game
 - 25 Kitchen furniture
 - 28 Baseball great Ripken
 - 31 Russian money
 - 35 "It's ___ -brainer!"
 - 36 Planet beyond Saturn
 - 39 Hurricane centers
 - 40 Playing hooky
 - 43 Queen in Frozen
 - 44 Royal residence
 - 45 Before, in verse
 - 46 Actress Witherspoon
 - 48 ___ Alamos, NM
 - 49 Lawn covering
 - 51 ___-mo replay
 - 53 Crusty dessert
 - 54 Resorting to desperate measures, as a sitcom
 - 63 Two-tone cookie
- DOWN**
- 64 Dresses of India
 - 65 Actor Alda
 - 66 Frankenstein's assistant
 - 67 Important happening
 - 68 Rational
 - 69 Small salamander
 - 70 Cellphone messages
 - 71 Nature walk
 - 6 Time-consuming
 - 7 Gymnast Korbut
 - 8 ___-esteem (ego)
 - 9 Wield, as force
 - 10 Tires out
 - 11 Flabbergasted
 - 12 Hurry it up
 - 13 Sail pole
 - 21 Become frosty
 - 22 Musical gift
 - 25 Police zapper
 - 26 Lower-leg joint
 - 27 Capital of Idaho
 - 28 Venice waterway
 - 29 ___-Saxon
 - 30 George who created Star Wars
 - 32 "... land, two if ___"
 - 33 Rude looks
 - 34 Double-curves
 - 37 Tear (apart)
 - 38 Capital of Utah, initially
 - 41 World traveler's document
 - 42 Auspices
 - 47 Yale student
 - 50 Unoriginal idea
 - 52 First phase
 - 53 Nuisances
 - 54 Sign up
 - 55 Give a little push to
 - 56 Feline cry
 - 57 Donated
 - 58 Fearsome dinosaur, for short
 - 59 Clue
 - 60 Jai ___
 - 61 Ensign or admiral
 - 62 Place for a pants patch

ABOVE-GROUND POOL by Billie Truitt

Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
14				15					16				
17				18					19				
20				21					22				
			23						24				
25	26	27				28	29	30	31		32	33	34
35				36	37				38		39		
40			41						42				
43				44							45		
46				47		48			49	50			
				51		52			53				
54	55	56				57	58	59			60	61	62
63						64					65		
66						67					68		
69						70					71		

Thought for Today:

"To escape criticism — do nothing, say nothing, be nothing."

Elbert Hubbard, American author and publisher (1856-1915)

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Answer to previous puzzle

L	I	S	T	S	D	A	R	E	A	S	S	T		
I	S	L	E	T	O	L	E	S	I	N	T	O		
S	I	N	A	R	E	G	A	I	T	R	O	O	T	
A	T	M	A	C	H	I	N	E	M	U	L	E		
M	O	O	S	E	N	A	T	E	S					
H	A	H	A	R		R		M	A	R				
A	B	E	L		A	S	I	S	P	S	I	C	H	
T	E	A	M		L	E	D	T	O		H	A	L	O
S	T	R	A	P		S	E	A	R		A	L	A	S
M	O	B		R	M	S		L	E	N	T			
R	E	L	A	X	E	S		P	O	E				
E	M	I	T		A	C	C	E	N	T	M	A	R	K
A	C	M	E		R	O	A	D		H	I	T	O	N
L	E	E	R		D	O	N	E		E	R	A	S	E
M	E	S	S		S	P	E	D		R	E	D	I	E

12/12/18

Roddick returns for exhibition match to start New York Open

By **BRIAN MAHONEY**

AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Andy Roddick is trying to get his shoulder ready, hoping he can still bring the high heat on serve.

The former U.S. Open champion will be back in town and wants to have his game with him.

"Coming back to New York is certainly not a place where I want to not play well," Roddick said.

He will play fellow tennis Hall of Famer Jim Courier on Feb. 9 in an exhibition match to kick off the New York Open, event organizers announced Wednesday.

Wimbledon finalist and defending champion Kevin Anderson and top American John Isner headline the field in February for the second year of the ATP Tour event, which Roddick won three times when it was based in Memphis, Tennessee.

It has since moved to the Nasau Veterans Memorial Coliseum in Uniondale and Roddick says it remains a valuable tournament for players who want to prepare in the U.S. for the big events that soon follow in Indian Wells, California, and Miami.

He found that worked for him and it certainly did last year for Anderson, who used his victory on Long Island as the springboard for his first career finish inside the top 10 at No. 6. Isner, whom he beat in a marathon Wimbledon semifinal, finished 10th.

"You want to kind of find form early in the year. You can train as hard as you want, you can work as hard as you want, you can't

put confidence in a bottle," Roddick said. "Sometimes I'd play well in Australia and then I'd feel good in Memphis. It kind of does give you a little bit of rhythm to your year and especially a guy like me or Kevin, who might not like the clay as much as some of the other guys, those first three months through March are super important."

Americans Jack Sock and Sam Querrey, last year's runner-up, will also be in the field of the Feb. 9-17 event along with Alex de Minaur, the ATP Newcomer of the Year who will turn 20 the day of the final and is also playing doubles with fellow Australian Lleyton Hewitt. Mike and Bob Bryan headline the doubles field after Mike teamed with Sock to win Wimbledon and the U.S. Open last year while his twin brother was recovering from a hip injury.

Roddick rode his fierce serve — he had one timed at 155 mph in a 2004 Davis Cup match — to the 2003 U.S. Open title, the world's No. 1 ranking and nine straight finishes in the top 10. Only 30 when he retired in 2012, he said he could still play with guys on tour until a couple years ago but estimated he played fewer than 10 times this year.

But the opportunity to come back to New York, where he and Courier will also co-host a "Taste of New York Open" on opening night, renewed his enthusiasm to play.

"Tennis has been a part of my life since I was 6 years old so you don't want to just completely throw it away," Roddick said. "So I was pumped, I was excited."



AP photo

In this Sept. 2, 2012, file photo, Andy Roddick serves to Italy's Fabio Fognini in the third round of play at the U.S. Open tennis tournament, in New York. Roddick is trying to get his shoulder ready, hoping he can still bring the high heat on serve. The past U.S. Open champion will be back in town and wants to have his game with him.

Stars & Stripes Team USA launches all-American cup challenge

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Stars & Stripes Team USA has been accepted as a challenger for the 2021 America's Cup, promising to have an all-American squad in a competition where nationality has mattered little in recent decades.

Stars & Stripes Team USA was co-founded by professional sailors Taylor Canfield, one of the world's top match-racing skippers, and Mike Buckley.

The team is backed by the Long Beach Yacht Club, which hosts the prestigious Congressional Cup match-racing regatta. Canfield has won the Congressional Cup four times in the last five years.

Stars & Stripes Team USA becomes the second American challenger and fifth overall accepted by the Royal New Zealand Yacht Squadron for the 36th America's Cup.

ROCKETS

Continued from Page 7

Crane, who were seated courtside, and splashing their drinks on them. Bregman and Crane were given towels to help dry off.

UP NEXT

Trail Blazers: Travels to Memphis on Wednesday.

Rockets: Host the Lakers on Thursday.

ESPORTS

Continued from Page 7

pull kids in.

"You're actually sitting next to each other and you're talking," Frankie said. "When you're talking, you basically are getting the better experience with your friends. I love talking with my friends and doing this."

The league hasn't turned out any professional players, though it's taking steps to ramp up its gamer development. It has created a training program within its software for at-home use and is offering boot camps focused on helping players improve. Hand wants to begin hiring former professional gamers to coach at Super League events, too.

Super League is also eyeing expansion into games like "Fortnite." Although Super League's player base is believed to be the largest of its kind in the U.S., it still represents a sliver of the gaming world, leaving a lot of room for growth before Super League is as synonymous with esports as Little League is with baseball.

Getting there could be a boon in an already booming industry.

"A kid who does play Little League is an MLB fan for life," Hand said. "Cultivating that future fan through our youth leagues is really essential."

SPURS

Continued from Page 7

a season-low output for an opponent, two weeks after a four-game stretch in which three opponents beat them by 30-plus points.

San Antonio has won three straight halfway through a six-game homestand. The Spurs, who were allowing 113.3 points per game, have limited their opponents to 101 points during their winning streak.

"It was the third game in a row where everyone was involved and played the way that we wanted to play," San Antonio guard Patty Mills said. "The emotion is there. The feeling that everyone is contributing to a win like that is good for everyone involved."

The Spurs' LaMarcus Aldridge added 18 points in 25 minutes. He sat out the fourth quarter with San Antonio leading by as many as 25 points.

Phoenix, which was without leading scorer Devin Booker and Jamal Crawford, never led while dropping its 10th straight game and falling to 4-24. Suns coach Igor Kokoskov also opted to rest Trevor Ariza after losing in overtime to the Los Angeles Clippers on Monday night.

"Extremely tough, you couldn't even imagine," Kokoskov said of being without his veterans. "When you're coaching the game, you feel like you're coaching summer league because you have backups. We have a bunch of young guys, so it's extremely tough."

T.J. Warren led the Suns with

23 points and De'Anthony Melton added 17. Rookie DeAndre Ayton was the only other Phoenix player in double figures, scoring 12 points on 6-for-10 shooting.

DeMar DeRozan was held to a season-low five points, but the 6-foot-7 guard attempted just six shots as he set up his teammates. DeRozan had eight of his nine assists in the first half, setting up six 3-point shots by drawing the defense into the lane on his drives.

"That's what makes great players," Mills said. "I think that's also the way of making sure that everyone on the floor is involved. I guess in a sense it's the weapons that we have on the team. He can go for five points and nine assists and have other people step up on any given night and tonight it was Bryn."

Four of DeRozan's assists in the first half were to Forbes.

An undrafted free agent out of Michigan State, Forbes matched a career high with five 3-pointers.

"I've been off for a little bit the last couple of games, so it was

good to see them go back in," Forbes said. "But DeMar, Rudy, those guys, made the game easy. They found me wide open because people were doubling them."

San Antonio finished 13 for 21 on 3-pointers, falling one shy of matching

their season-high for 3s.

TIP-INS

Suns: Booker missed his fifth straight game with a strained left hamstring. Booker suffered the injury trying to save possession on a ball going out of bounds against the Lakers on Dec. 2. Phoenix has had eight different players lead the team in game scoring this season. Warren's season high is 29 points, which he set Nov. 8 against Boston.

Spurs: DeRozan's eight assists in the first half were the second-most he has had in any half in his career. DeRozan had 10 assists and 30 points in the second half against Portland on Feb. 1, 2014.

Forbes has scored in double figures in 21 games this season, the most by an undrafted player. Robert Covington, Wesley Matthews and Justin Holiday and Rodney McGruder all have 17 games in double figures.

UP NEXT

Suns: Host Dallas on Thursday night.

Spurs: Host Los Angeles Clippers on Thursday night.

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_____	Elrod's Furniture
_____	Mom & Pops Tattoos
_____	Higginbotham-Bartlett Co.
_____	Chaney's Jewelry
_____	Inkspot
_____	Big Spring Herald
_____	Faye's Flowers

NAME: _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY: _____

PHONE: _____

This entry form must be received by Monday, December 17 at 5 p.m. Drop off your form at the Big Spring Herald at 710 Scurry St. The winner will be the one who correctly matches the most Santas to his business/workshop. Gift certificates will be given away to use at the participating businesses. Winners will be announced in the Sunday, December 23rd Edition of the Big Spring Herald!

All decisions are final at the discretion of the Big Spring Herald

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