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# H BIG SPRING HERALD

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2018



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## Two toy drives help put the cheer in Christmas for local kids



Courtesy photo

Toys pack the offices of the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber's seventh annual Toy Drive collected toys and money from local donor businesses and individuals, and split the proceeds between the Salvation Army and CASA.

By **ROGER CLINE**  
 Staff Writers

A pair of local toy drives – one veteran and one newcomer – helped brighten this year's holidays for a lot of local kids.

The drives were organized by The Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce, and by a joint effort of BAD Events Inc. and Big Spring Ford.

"Our seventh annual Toy Drive for the Big Spring

Area Chamber of Commerce went really well," said Chamber Director Debbye ValVerde. "A big thank you to SM Energy, who gave us a monetary donation for us to get a lot of the toys, but our community did

See **DRIVES**, Page 3

## Commissioners to accept JP Green's retirement

By **ROGER CLINE**  
 Staff Writer

Elected officials will lead off the Howard County Commissioners' last scheduled meeting of the year.

Commissioners will meet Wednesday, Dec. 26, at 3:30

p.m. in the third-floor courtroom of the Howard County Courthouse, 300 S. Main St.

Topping the agenda, commissioners plan to formally accept the resignation and retirement of Justice of the Peace for Precinct 1, Place 1, Bennie Green. Green's last day on the job will be Dec. 31, and Commissioners have already hired his replacement, Angela Griffin, who will take over at the beginning of 2019. Green served Howard County for 37, 18 in the JP role and the remainder as a sheriff's deputy.

Commissioners also plan to take action to ac-

cept bonds for elected and appointed officials.

In other business, the commissioners plan to:

- Consider a business associate agreement and a code of conduct agreement with West Texas Centers.

- Consider requisitions, purchase requests, invoices, budget amendments, and the monthly financial report.

- Consider approval of payroll, personnel considerations, the treasurer's monthly report, and the treasurer's monthly payroll report.

- Consider the County Clerk's monthly report.

- Consider road construction and maintenance issues.

- Consider a request to purchase emulsion for county roadways.

If you would like to address the commissioners during the meeting, plan to arrive a few minutes early to fill out a brief form alerting them to your intent to speak.

Contact County Judge Kathryn Wiseman at 432-264-2202 for more information.

Contact Staff Writer Roger Cline at 432-263-7331 ext. 235, or by email at [reporter@big-springherald.com](mailto:reporter@big-springherald.com).

## Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus



Courtesy photo

The photos above shows Dezy McCain (right) sitting next to Javier Franco (Santa Claus). The top photo was taken at Christmas time 17 years ago. The bottom photo shows the two now after a reunion that followed an 8-year search.

By **AMANDA DUFORAT**

Special to the Herald

A statement that struck a special cord in the heart of the world, many years ago, is refreshed each year by the Christmas spirit, and this year, that Christmas magic was sprinkled on a special Santa in Sweetwater, Texas and a mystery little girl.

"Christmas is a magical time of year where anything is possible and it's Santa that makes

it happen. He gives kids hope and cheer, even if they haven't had the best year," Dezy McCain said.

After 39 years of spreading Christmas cheer, Santa (Javier Franco) was on the receiving end of Christmas magic. After 8 years of searching for a little girl who first met Santa 17 years ago, the mystery girl in a semi-famous (at least in Sweetwater) photo has been identified.

"The encounter and the picture made an impression on me because this little girl had such a beautiful smile, and she

See **SANTA**, Page 3

## MMH to provide free heart screenings for teens

By **ANNA GUTIERREZ**  
 Staff Writer

Midland Memorial Hospital (MMH), in collaboration with Championship Hearts Foundation (CHF), will be providing free heart screenings for students between the ages of 14 and 18. Athletes, cheerleaders, marching band students, drill team members and those who participate in vigorous exercises are encouraged to come and get their hearts screened.

The screenings will take place at MMH from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. inside the Aqua Entrance off Illinois.

This heart screening tests for Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy (HCM), which is the leading cause of sudden car-

diac arrest in young people, including athletes, and affects roughly 1 in 500 people. HCM can cause thickening of heart muscles, which can lead to blockages and erratic heart-beat. Symptoms can include chest pain, dizziness, shortness of breath or fainting, but many times there are no symptoms present.

According to Danielle Johnson, public relations and interactive marketing with Midland Health, these health screenings have taken place in the past, but after the recent passing of a Lee High School student and basketball player, MMH reached out to CHF in an effort to bring awareness

See **HEART**, Page 3

Big Spring Herald's  
**Christmas Countdown**



**Amayah says "Merry Christmas!"**  
 (Amayah Marquez, Granddaughter of Sandra Green, Ad Designer)

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## Obituaries

## Arthur "Tudy" Islas



Arthur "Tudy" Islas, Jr. 51, of Big Spring, died Friday Dec. 21, 2018. The family will receive friends from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 26, 2018, at Myers & Smith Chapel. Services will be as 10 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 27, 2018, at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

Arthur was born June 24, 1967, in Big Spring and had lived here all his life. He married Amy Jones Islas on Aug. 16, 1996, in Big Spring. He worked for Titan Liner. He loved to go fishing and would tinker around.

To know Tudy was to love him. He was extremely hard working always making sure his family was taken care of. He was a very happy man never without a smile, always laughing and joking around. Tudy loved watching movies and espe-

cially loved music. He enjoyed fishing and camping with his grandson/best friend Isaiah. He was one of a kind, loved by many and he will be greatly missed.

Arthur is survived by his wife Amy Islas, two daughters: Ashley Rodriguez, and Meagan Islas, his parents: Arturo and Christina Islas, his brother: Benjamin Islas, a sister: Annie Islas -Cuellar, grandchildren: Isaiah Rodriguez, Joseph Rodriguez, Jayden Rodriguez, Madison Rodriguez, Emery Rodriguez, and Ember Lopez, niece: Jessica Gonzales, four nephews: Brandon Moran, Cubby Moran, Anthony Islas, and Christian Islas.

Pallbearers will be Ben Islas, Joe Viera, Brandon Moran, Juan Lerma, Isaiah Rodriguez, and Patrick Rodriguez.

Honorary Pallbearers will be Anthony Islas, Christian Islas and Frank Lopez.

Arrangements are by Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Pay your respects online at [www.myersandsmith.com](http://www.myersandsmith.com).

*Paid Obituary*

## Take Note

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

• 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 position, just a calling from God and a willingness to devote time to the program, which requires a 24- to 30-week training program and dedication of one day per week for emergency call-outs. Those interested should contact Senior Chaplain Joel Miller at 432-213-1221.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

and meeting at 12 p.m.

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

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

• Order of the Eastern Star Big Spring Chapter 67 meets the third Tuesday of each month at 219 Main St. Dinner begins at 6:30 p.m. Lodge meeting begins at 7:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome. For more information, contact 432-271-2138.

• 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.

• Scenic Mountain Medical Center Auxiliary Group is looking to expand. Positions are available for the Auxiliary group and the Teen Volunteer program. Must be 15 years of age to take part in the teen volunteer program. If you would like to volunteer please contact Heath White at 268-4850.

• The Big Spring State Hospital Volunteer Services Council is in need of volunteers to fill a variety of needs to assist the hospital's patients. Applications to become a volunteer can be picked up at The Chalet, 115 E. Second St., Tuesday through Saturday between 8 a.m. and 3 p.m. or at the Big Spring State Hospital Community Relations Department, 1901 N. Hwy 87, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Volunteers can assist with a variety of functions, including The Chalet Resale Shop, various fund-raisers and patient events. For more information, contact Dee Lindsey, Big Spring State Hospital Director of Community Relations, (432) 268-7535 or [danielle.lindsey@dshs.state.tx.us](mailto:danielle.lindsey@dshs.state.tx.us)

## Support Groups

## TUESDAY

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

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

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

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

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

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

## WEDNESDAY

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

## 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](mailto: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.

## FRIDAY

• Reformers Unanimous International is a faith-based addictions program helping people find freedom from addiction. Meetings begin at 7 p.m. Fridays at Trinity Baptist Church in Big Spring. Enter at the main entrance of the church.

• AA open discussion meeting from noon until 1 p.m. at 605 Settles. Open Big Book study meeting, 8 p.m. until 9 p.m.

## SATURDAY

• Alcoholics Anonymous open discussion meeting, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m. Open podium/speakers meeting 8 p.m. until 9 p.m. Open birthday night, no smoking meeting the last Saturday of each month at 8 p.m. Covered dish supper at 7 p.m.

## SUNDAY

• Alcoholics Anonymous closed meeting from 11 a.m. to noon at 615 Settles. Open meeting 7 p.m. to 8 p.m.

## MONDAY

• Alcoholics Anonymous, As Bill Sees it, 615 Settles, 8 p.m. to 9 p.m.

*Merry Christmas Howard County!*

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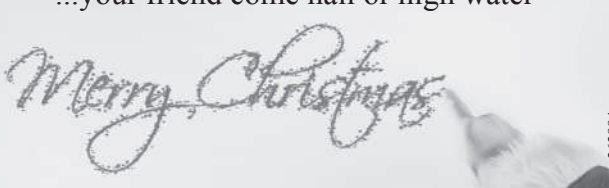
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# SANTA

Continued from Page 1

was so happy to see Santa. I remember her eyes - you could see the excitement in them - just kept looking at me," Franco (Santa) said. "I never knew her name, but the photographer liked the photo so much that he sent me a copy of the picture as well."

That photo - originally taken at JP Cowen during one of Santa's annual visits - became a special part of Santa's history. Over the years people asked Franco who the little girl in the photo, on his desk, was and he would tell them he didn't know her name. Through the years, he would begin asking people if they knew who the little girl was, but he never came across anyone who knew her name.

"When I joined Facebook, about 8 years ago, I decided to post the photo and ask if anyone knew her. As I had with people who saw the photo on my desk, I received lots of responses about her beautiful smile and how it was such a good picture, but still nobody knew who she was," Franco said.

For 8 Christmases, that picture made its way to Facebook and for a month or so, the search would continue, but as the holiday season came to an end, so did the search without any leads, until this year that is.

"This year, I posted the photo as I've done every year, but this year was different. I was contacted by Brooke Lynn Stone. She told me the little girl in the photo was her cousin, Dezy McCain," Franco said. "I couldn't believe it initially, after all this time, could the mystery have really been solved?"

After contacting Franco, Stone reached out to her cousin and informed her she was the focus of a search pertaining to a photo she took with Santa when she was a little girl. After speaking with her cousin, McCain decided to reach out on Facebook and inquire about this person searching for her.

"My first reaction was, who is this and why does he have my photo," McCain said. "Once I found out who he was, I was so excited... I had wondered over the years who Santa was, but it was so long ago I figured he wasn't Santa anymore."

She continued, "I don't remember taking the photo, but I had seen it several times over the years in the photo album. He was actually my first Santa, and my last; until today, when I met him again."

The long awaited reunion, which Franco thought would never come to fruition, finally materialized, thanks to one person stumbling across and recognizing that sweet smile that made an impact all those years ago.

The 17 year mystery was coming to a close, and the long awaited reunion was set. To make this sweet story even sweeter, McCain brought her daughter along to meet Santa.

"I was super excited, bouncing up and down, telling my mom 'I'm going to see Santa again,'" McCain said. "I almost cried after the pictures were taken and we were sitting there talking. It was one of the greatest experiences I have ever had. It brought me so much joy to see him so happy."

The magic of meeting Santa is a special one, no matter the age, when the heart of a child is present. The

same childlike astonishment that overtook McCain when she first met Santa, as a 3-year-old, flooded over her again and was reflected in her daughter, as she met this special Santa for the first time.

"My daughter was so happy to meet Santa. She kept talking about it. When she saw him, she ran up to him and gave him a hug. It was the cutest thing because normally she is very shy," she said. "For me, believing in Santa made Christmas that much more special."

She recalled, as a child, going to bed early Christmas Eve waiting for Santa to deliver gifts. Over the years, her belief in Santa never wavered. Through that one interaction with Santa, her belief was sparked and the Christmas spirit was instilled in her heart lasting well into her adult life.

"There were some years that were a little harder than others, for my mom and I, and in those years I would simply ask Santa for nothing more than to see my mom happy and every year Santa delivered," McCain said. "I still believe in Santa. It may not be in the same way, but Christmas wouldn't be the same without him."

With society changing and moving at such a fast pace, the magic of Christmas seems to be getting lost, according to Franco. For those reasons, it is even more important for children - and adults - to believe in something, even if it is Santa.

"I believe children need to believe in Santa Claus. It's a parent's choice if they tell their child Santa isn't real, but I believe Santa does exist. He exists when

you give someone a present with nothing expected in return; when you pay it forward, to a certain extent you are serving as the arms and feet of Santa," Franco said. "There is so much negative in life that the ability for a child to have a person to believe in, a person who cares and smiles at them, is important to the beliefs and dreams of a child."

While the special request McCain made to Santa 17 years ago has long been forgotten, the present she received is still impacting her life, and Santa's.

"I never lost my Christmas spirit because of Santa. He taught me that bringing good cheer and happiness is one of the best gifts anyone could ask for," she said.

That desire to bring happiness to others is evident in McCain's life, according to Franco.

"My mom taught me and my siblings to give; my dad taught us to serve and passed down his love for children. Dezy said something that made my heart smile and reminded me why I continue to be Santa, she said she is very happy she has been able to make people happy over the years and that this is her best Christmas," Franco said. "I can't say that I have changed lives, but I can tell you I have seen smiles and little eyes fascinated by this man in a red suit and a white beard. If I had one piece of advice for people it would be, be a Santa; make a child smile and watch your life change."

This special reunion is just one of the signs Christmas magic still exists, just ask the mystery little girl and watch the sparkle in her eyes come alive. Merry Christmas Santa, Merry Christmas everyone.



Courtesy photo  
**Volunteers load up the bed of a pickup truck with toys gathered as part of the BAD Events Inc./Big Spring Ford Toys for Joy Toy Drive. The last-minute drive filled the truck to overflowing and donated the toys to the Salvation Army's Angel Tree Program.**

# DRIVES

Continued from Page 1

step up and bring in toys.

ValVerde thanked all those who donated toys and money to make the drive a success.

"I want to name everybody - like Oncor, their whole staff brought in toys, there's different church organizations that brought in toys, kids, grandparents, I mean... And I want to thank H-E-B for helping by ordering our toys with the monetary donations. I know my Class of '79, several of my classmates brought in toys, so thank you to them. The Howard County Democrats brought in toys. There were just so many organizations and people that came in. I'd hate to start naming people and forget somebody. Thank you to everyone. It was a great success. CASA (Court-Appointed Special Advocates) and the Salvation Army benefited from these toys, and we know that there's one less child out there that's going to go giftless."

BAD Events' Barney Dodd said the "Toys For Joy" toy drive, co-organized along with Big Spring Ford, was a last-minute idea.

"Carly Canion, she's the general sales manager of Big Spring Ford, they sponsor a lot of stuff I do. She reached out to me and said, 'I really want to do a toy drive,'" said Dodd. "I said I would love to do a toy drive, but I didn't really have a location to do one. So we decided to partner up and do one. They had the location and I had the connections with the media and everything else to make it happen. So that's kind of how it happened. It was kind of last minute and we didn't mean to step on the Chamber's toy drive. It was just something we didn't think about. We just wanted to do something to give back to the community."

Although the businesses didn't have long to plan, the toy drive went off well, Dodd said.

"It went really well. We decided to have a motivator to get people to bring

in toys, and we decided that for every toy that was brought in, you'd get one registration to win that Troy Aikman jersey. It really worked out and a very nice lady won," he said. "The goal was to fill up the back of a truck, and we filled it up and then some. We took them all to the Salvation Army. We just wanted to supplement and make sure they had plenty."

Thanks to both toy drives and to CASA and the Salvation Army for making the holidays brighter for Howard County's kids this Christmas!

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

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Nease Crosby, 59, died Wednesday. A memorial service will be at 11 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 29, 2018, at Mount Olive Baptist Church in Lamesa.

Gary Phillips, 71, died Wednesday. Funeral service will be at 2 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 26, 2018, at First Baptist Church with burial at Trinity Memorial Park.

Josefina Hernandez died Friday, Dec. 21, 2018. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Arthur Islas, Jr. died Friday, Dec. 21, 2018. Visitation will be 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. Wednesday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Funeral service will be at 10 a.m. Thursday at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial at Mount Olive Memorial Park.

Roger Sparks, died Friday, Dec. 21, 2018. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

# HEART

Continued from Page 1

to HCM and the significance of preventative heart checks.

"We felt this was an opportune time to remind parents of the importance of heart screenings, as standard physical exams do not include cardiac screenings," said Johnson.

These screenings will be provided free of charge to those who attend the heart screening event in January, but the procedure would normally cost around \$700. Also according to Johnson, there was a previous heart screening event held on Wednesday, December 12 where roughly 176 students were screened. Of those, six teens were referred for further cardiology testing.

Spots for this event are filling fast! You can register until January 11, 2019, but the event is limited to 250 students. All students are required to have a consent form signed by parents, and as long as the students have these consent forms, parents do not have to be present during the exam.

Parents and students can register at www.champhearts.org. Please wear comfortable clothing (gym attire is suggested). For more information, you are free to call 888-884-6945 or 512-900-3243.

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

*Merry Christmas!*

From The Office Of  
**C.E. Mike Thomas**  
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## Body of girl who died at US border returns to Guatemala

By **SONNY FIGUEROA**

Associated Press

GUATEMALA CITY — The body of a 7-year-old girl who died while in custody of the U.S. Border Patrol arrived in her native Guatemala on Sunday and was being driven hours into the countryside to be handed over to family members for a last goodbye.

A white coffin containing Jakelin Caal was received in the afternoon at Guatemala City's international airport by representatives of the country's Foreign Ministry and then loaded into the back of a black hearse by workers in orange vests.

No family members were on hand. Domingo Caal, the girl's grandfather, told The Associated Press that the family didn't have money to travel from their poor hamlet to Guatemala's capital.

At Domingo Caal's home in the village of San Antonio Secortez, in the department of Alta Verapaz, relatives set up a small wooden altar flanked by vases overflowing with flowers, with photographs of Jakelin and the hand-lettered message, "We miss you." Behind the house, dozens of women prepared tamales and beans to feed mourners.

Relatives expected the body to arrive in the pre-dawn hours Monday in the hamlet of about 420 people who mostly live off growing of corn and beans. The village has no paved streets, running water or electricity, and residents say declining crop yields and a lack of work have pushed many in the community to emigrate in recent years.

Caal and her father, Nery Caal, were traveling with a group of 163 migrants who arrived at the New Mexico border earlier this month. After they were taken into custody Dec. 6, the father told a U.S. agent that the girl was sick and vomiting.

The father signed a paper stating that Jakelin was in good health, but it is not clear how much he understood what it said. The form was in English, and agents read it to him in Spanish.

A bus carrying the two left the Antelope Wells port of entry for the Lordsburg station, roughly 90 minutes away. By then, according to a Customs and Border Protection statement, Jakelin's temperature had reached 105.7 degrees Fahrenheit (40.9 degrees Celsius). Emergency medical technicians had to revive her.

She was then flown to a hospital in El Paso, Texas, where she died the next day.

Guatemalan Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Marta Larra said the ministry had sent a diplomatic note to the U.S. State Department asking for it to monitor the case and determine the cause of death.

Domingo Caal said his son has a Jan. 3 court date in the United States to determine his migratory status.

# Where do the investigations related to Trump stand?

By **The Associated Press**

Where the investigations related to President Donald Trump stand and what may lie ahead for him:

**WHAT'S THIS ALL ABOUT?**

Trump is facing criminal investigations in Washington and New York.

Special counsel Robert Mueller is looking into whether the Trump campaign coordinated with Russia and whether the president obstructed the investigation. Trump also plays a central role in a separate case in New York, where prosecutors have implicated him in a crime. They say Trump directed his personal lawyer Michael Cohen to make illegal hush money payments to two women as a way to quash potential sex scandals during the campaign.

**WHAT DO I NEED TO KNOW TODAY?**

President Donald Trump's pick for attorney general, William Barr, sent an unsolicited memo to the Justice Department this year criticizing parts of the Mueller probe as "fatally misconceived."

The 20-page memo, sent in June while Barr was in private practice and months before he was selected by Trump for the Justice Department job, may prompt questions about his ability to oversee the special counsel's investigation fairly.

The document argues that there could be disastrous consequences for the Justice Department and the presidency if Mueller were to conclude that acts a president is legally permitted to take — such as firing an FBI director — could



constitute obstruction of justice, just because someone concludes that there was corrupt intent.

**SO ... DID THE TRUMP CAMPAIGN COLLUDE WITH RUSSIA?**

There is no smoking gun when it comes to the question of Russia collusion. But the evidence so far shows a broad range of Trump associates had Russia-related contacts during the 2016 presidential campaign and transition period, and that several lied about the communication.

There is also evidence that some people in the president's orbit were discussing a possible email dump from WikiLeaks before it occurred. American intelligence agencies and Mueller have said Russia was the source of hacked material released by WikiLeaks during the campaign that was damaging to Clinton's presidential effort.

**OTHER QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER:**

**—WHAT ABOUT OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE?** That is another unresolved question that Mueller is pursuing. Investigators have examined key episodes such as Trump's firing of former FBI Director James Comey and his fury over the recusal from the investigation of former Attorney General Jeff Sessions.

**—WHAT DOES TRUMP HAVE TO SAY ABOUT ALL THIS?** Trump has repeatedly slammed the Mueller investigation as a "witch hunt" and insisted there was "NO COLLUSION" with Russia. He also says his now-former lawyer, Cohen, lied to get a lighter sentence in New York.

## Texas inmate faces April execution for 1998 dragging death

JASPER, Texas (AP) — A white man condemned for the 1998 dragging death of a black man in East Texas has been scheduled for execution next year.

John William King faces lethal injection April 24. District Judge Craig Mixson signed the execution order Friday.

The U.S. Supreme Court in October denied an appeal for King, who claimed he had ineffective law-



**John William King**

yers during his capital murder trial.

King was one of three white men convicted in the June 1998 death of James Byrd Jr. Byrd was chained to a pickup truck and dragged along a road near Jasper, about 125 miles (201.16 kilometers) northeast of Houston.

A second man convicted in Byrd's death has been executed. The third man is serving life in prison.

## BP sells 3 Texas wind turbine farms to Ares Management Corp

HOUSTON (AP) — Oil and gas producer BP has sold three of its Texas wind farms to funds managed by affiliates of Los Angeles-based private equity firm Ares Management Corp.

London-based BP says the deal includes its Silver Star,

Sherbino Mesa 2 and Trinity Hills turbine farms. Terms of the sale, announced Friday in Houston, weren't released.

Silver Star is about 100 miles (160 kilometers) southwest of Fort Worth. Sherbino Mesa 2 is located 40 miles (64 kilometers)

west of Fort Stockton. Trinity Hills operates 50 miles (80 kilometers) southwest of Wichita Falls.

BP says it wants to optimize and upgrade its other American turbine farms. It still will have interest in 11 wind farms in eight U.S. states.

## Jennie-O recalls more than 164,000 pounds of ground turkey

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — A Minnesota-based poultry producer is recalling more than 164,000 pounds of raw ground turkey products that may be contaminated with salmonella.

The Jennie-O Turkey Store products have markings saying to use or freeze by Nov. 12 or 13. The recall includes plain ground turkey and turkey with taco or Italian seasonings. The products were shipped to Arizona, California, Florida, Georgia, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, New Mexico, Nevada, Ohio, Oklahoma, Texas and Wisconsin.

Food safety officials are worried that some contaminated turkey may be in people's freezers. The recalled products have the tag P-579 marked on the lower left corner of the front of the package.

The USDA says the recall was part of an investigation into a November salmonella outbreak that involved 216 patients in 38 states.



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# Colorful cast of cooperators put the heat on El Chapo

By TOM HAYS and CLAUDIA TORRENS  
Associated Press

NEW YORK — One was a gambling addict who got plastic surgery to change his appearance even after his predecessor died from doing the same thing. Another claims to have begun his life of crime at age 4. A third was a kid from Chicago who made a fortune off of drug running.

The three — Tirso Martinez Sanchez, Jorge Cifuentes and Pedro Flores — now share the notoriety of being the most recent cooperators to testify against the infamous Mexican drug lord Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman at a lengthy U.S. trial that's heading into an extended holiday break.

Painting a vivid picture of the Colombian-Mexican cocaine bonanza of the 1990s and 2000s, the three admitted narcos described in federal court in Brooklyn the rewards, drawbacks and weirdness of working with the powerful boss of the Sinaloa cartel.

All did so in a coldly calculated betrayal of Guzman that could benefit them in their own drug cases but the defense says also destroys their credibility. Flores,



This photo combination shows three former associates of Mexican drug lord Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman who are now cooperating with the United States Attorney's Office in Guzman's prosecution. From left are Tirso Martinez Sanchez, Pedro Flores and Jorge Milton Cifuentes Villa.

AP photo

for one, bottom-lined how he flipped on a kingpin this way: "I was trying to set him up."

Here are some highlights of their testimony:

### EL FUTBOLISTA

Like other major drug-traffickers of his era, Martinez made more money than he knew what to do with.

He testified that he used some of it to buy soccer teams in Mexico, earning him the nickname "El Futbolista," which means "soccer player." On the downside was a gambling habit that led him to lose a bundle betting on cock

fight.

The 52-year-old witness also detailed some of the occupational hazards of living life as an outlaw. He said one of his former bosses shot himself in the head in a drunken ploy to avoid arrest, while another died on the operating table during a plastic surgery procedure to alter his appearance — an outcome that didn't stop Martinez from getting his own face redone.

Martinez testified that, starting in 2000, he oversaw a

See EL CHAPO, Page 6

# US active duty troops at Mexican border decline to 2,600

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. (AP) — The U.S. military says the number of active duty troops deployed at the border with Mexico is down to about 2,600.

U.S. Northern Command said Friday about 1,200 are in California, 700 in Arizona and 700 in Texas.

President Donald Trump sent the troops just before the midterm election, citing a caravan of Central American migrants headed toward the border. At

its peak, the operation included about 5,800 troops at the border or in staging areas.

The deployment was initially set to end on Dec. 15. But the Pentagon extended it to Jan. 31 at the request of the Department of Homeland Security.

Northern Command spokesman Bill Lewis said the cost of the deployment was still being compiled.

Northern Command headquarters are at Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado.

# Updated lawsuit teases new details against OxyContin maker

By The Associated Press

An updated complaint in Massachusetts' lawsuit against Purdue Pharma claims members of the family that owns the OxyContin maker are personally responsible for fueling abuse of the deadly painkiller.

The filing late Friday in Suffolk Superior Court expands on the lawsuit the state filed in June against the drugmaker, 16 current and former executives and members of the Sackler family, which owns the company.

The suit asserts that over the past decade the Sacklers controlled a deceptive sales campaign by Purdue aimed at getting more people on higher doses of opioids to boost profits.

Much of the specifics on the allegations against Purdue Pharma executives and Sackler family members are blacked out while the state works to release a less-redacted complaint.

The state claims that the Sacklers directed the company to hire hundreds more sales representatives to visit doctors "thousands more times," in a bid to get more doctors to prescribe its painkiller. The Sacklers also directed sales representatives to encourage doctors to prescribe more of the opioids

See LAWSUIT, Page 6

# School bus driver shortage creates headaches for districts

By GRANT SCHULTE

Associated Press

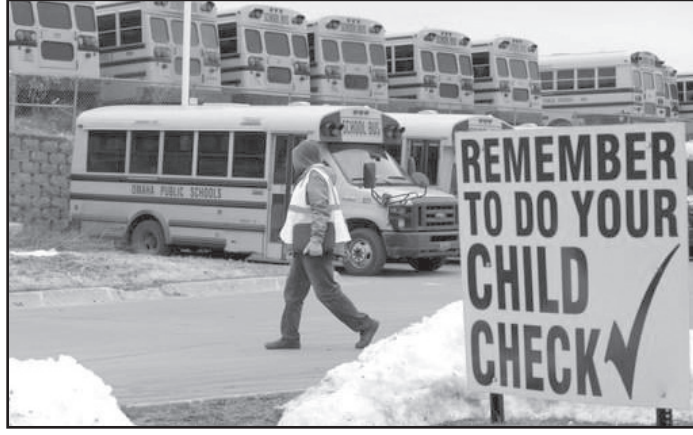
LINCOLN, Neb.

School districts throughout the U.S. are struggling to find school bus drivers, a challenge that has worsened with low unemployment and a strong economy.

The problem has become so severe that some districts are offering sign-up bonuses for new drivers, while others rely on mechanics, custodians and other school employees to fill the gap.

For parents and students, the shortage can mean longer waits for a ride to school and more crowded buses.

The shortage stems from a variety of factors, including limited work hours and high barriers to entry. Drivers generally need a commercial driver's



AP photo

In this Dec. 20, 2018 photo, a driver walks away from the school bus parking lot after his morning shift, in Omaha, Neb. School districts throughout the country are struggling to find school bus drivers, a challenge that has worsened with low unemployment and a strong economy that gives workers a greater choice of jobs.

license, which requires training, sometimes without pay, said Mike Martin, executive director of the National Association of Pupil Transportation.

"Unless you have something to fill in the gaps (between drives), you can't make the money you need to support your family," Martin said. "These days, most people are looking for some kind of regular, full-time hours."

In Iowa's Southeast Polk Community School District, transportation director Daniel Schultz said the persistent shortage has grown worse in the suburban

Des Moines district because there aren't as many

See BUS, Page 6

# Man finds a \$10,000 surprise inside designer bag on subway

NEW YORK (AP) — A Chanel purse left in a Manhattan subway station held a \$10,000 surprise for the man who found it.

Richard Taverna was at the West 66th Street and Broadway stop earlier this week when he spotted the purse by a platform wall.

He tells the West Side Rag online blog that inside, he saw only some paper with Russian writing on it.

On Thursday evening at home, he took a closer look and discovered 100 \$100 dollar bills.

The next morning, Taverna brought the purse to the local police precinct. But first, he laid out the bills on a table and snapped a photo.

Luckily, a woman had reported the missing money to police before going to Russia. It'll await her when she's back in January.



## EL CHAPO

Continued from Page 5

Guzman scheme to transport cocaine all the way from Mexico to the New York City area by train using cooking oil tankers with secret compartments. He estimated he made as much as \$20 million from the cocaine train operation before he decided to quit because of "too much pressure" from Guzman over losses from seizures.

"They wanted to kill me because I had lost the train route," he said. "I just didn't want to keep going."

## RUNS IN THE FAMILY

Cifuentes' testimony outlined extreme family dysfunction, describing how his father drafted him at just 4 years old to help move illegal cigarettes and booze through the port in Medellin, Colombia.

He testified that many of his eight siblings were in the drug trade and that they had "conflicts like any other family." He admitted on cross-examination that his brother had ordered the killing of his nephew, but he explained it was because the nephew wanted to kidnap his own grandmother.

Cifuentes, 55, eventually began shipping Colombian cocaine to the Sinaloa cartel using airplanes made of carbon to deflect radar detection. He described meeting Guzman at his ranch in 2003 where there was a celebration for the second anniversary of the the drug lord's escape from prison.

Getting there wasn't easy: A small plane took him to a landing strip that was so short and sharply inclined that he started praying and telling himself that if he survived he would buy Guzman a helicopter so he "would fly in a more civilized way."

At another meeting in 2009, Cifuentes said he shared a joint with Guzman, who asked how strong it was before he took a smoke. He wasn't impressed.

"This does nothing to me," he said.

## THE MAN

Pedro and Margarito Flores were known simply as "the twins" in Sinaloa cartel circle — identical twin brothers from the streets of Chicago who became so good at distributing cocaine to urban centers in the U.S. that Guzman sought them out.

Pedro Flores took the witness stand last week to testify about their wildly lucrative business partnership with Gurzan, still exhibiting a sense of awe about the defendant not shown by more-hardened cooperators. While others simply referred to Guzman as Chapo, Spanish for "shorty," Flores kept calling him "The Man."

Flores, 37, described how, after becoming a fugitive in Mexico, he and his brother continued running their U.S. network with enough success that he was summoned to a meeting with Guzman in mountains in Sinaloa. He and Guzman's cohorts were driving up a road to the compound when he was startled to see a naked man, apparently being tortured.

"He was tied to a tree with a chain," he said, adding that he never learned what happened to him.

In another odd twist, he recounted discussing concerns about the "cover loads" used to disguise drug shipments stashed in trucks — in this instance, 150 live sheep he had to pay \$10,000 to put out to pasture.

The stresses of the job and the dangers of a bloody civil war within the cartel convinced Flores to commit munity by contacting U.S. narcotics agents. He agreed to record telephone calls, played for the jury, in which an unsuspecting Guzman could be heard calling him his "amigo."

By associating with Guzman, he said, "I couldn't promise my family a tomorrow, you know?"

## Fiance accused of killing Colorado woman missing for month

By JAMES ANDERSON and MEAD GRUVER

Associated Press

DENVER — The fiance of a Colorado woman who has been missing since Thanksgiving Day was arrested Friday on allegations of killing the mother of his child, and police said she likely died at her house in a mountain town.

But authorities declined to say whether they had found the body of Kelsey Berreth, 29, what led to the arrest of Patrick Michael Frazee and what motive there might be for Berreth's disappearance and slaying.

Frazee, 32, was arrested at his home in the alpine town of Florissant on suspicion of murder and solicitation of murder, said Miles de Young, chief of police in neighboring Woodland Park, where Berreth lived.

"As you can tell from the arrest, sadly, we do not believe that Kelsey is still alive," De Young said.

Authorities also declined to elaborate on the solicitation of murder charge, how they believe Berreth was killed or other aspects of the investigation, which spans several states and involves the FBI.

Frazee was appointed a public defender, Adam Steigerwald, at a court hearing Friday, but the attorney didn't immediately return a phone message seeking comment. Jeremy Loew, a private lawyer who had represented him, previously said Frazee cooperated with investigators and provided DNA samples.

Police have said Frazee was the last person to see Berreth alive. The couple shared a baby daughter but didn't live



Woodland Park Police Chief Miles De Young speaks about the arrest of Patrick Frazee Friday, Dec. 21, 2018, in the murder of his fiance Kelsey Berreth who has been missing since Thanksgiving at the Woodland Park, Colo., City Hall. Frazee was arrested Friday morning at his home in Florissant, Colo.

AP photo

together. Her mother has said financial struggles delayed them from moving in together but that her daughter was excited to get married.

The disappearance of the young pilot mystified family and friends and led to a social media push for information on her whereabouts.

Berreth was last seen at a grocery store near her home. Surveillance video showed her walking in on Thanksgiving Day with what appears to be the

couple's daughter in a baby carrier. Frazee had told police that they met that afternoon so he could pick up the child.

De Young said the girl is in protective custody and will be turned over to Berreth's family.

Authorities searched Frazee's cattle ranch and Berreth's townhome but declined to say what they found.

See MISSING, Page 7

## BUS

Continued from Page 5

retired farmers, a group that commonly took the job for extra income. Now, the district relies on 51 drivers — mostly retirees and stay-at-home parents — to transport roughly 3,400 students to and from school each day.

Even with administrators and bus mechanics filling in, the shortage has also resulted in fewer routes, more children waiting at each stop, and crowded buses. The district needs to hire six to eight more drivers, Schultz said.

"We have to do double duty," Schultz said. "Right now, I'm driving and doing my regular job. The mechanics are driving and doing their regular jobs — so, instead of having eight hours a day, I only get them for four. It's like pulling a teacher out of the classroom

for half a day and still expecting the same job to get done."

Pay starts at \$19.10 an hour, followed by a \$2-an-hour raise after six months, Schultz said, but the district struggles to fill open jobs. Schultz said he's now considering a "monthly rodeo" where potential drivers could test-drive a bus in a school parking lot.

"We're just trying anything we can right now," he said.

In St. Paul, Minnesota, some students are arriving late to school because fill-in drivers aren't familiar with the normal routes. A school district in Ypsilanti, Michigan, had to cancel a day of school in February because there weren't enough substitute drivers to cover for sick drivers.

And in Hawaii last year, a driver shortage in Maui forced state officials suspend bus rides for some students and limit rides for some others. The district offered free

monthly bus passes on local public transportation.

In Lincoln, Nebraska, some positions remain unfilled even after the local school district offered \$1,000 signing bonuses for new hires and a guaranteed six-hour day for all drivers. Officials also recruited an Omaha-based contractor to provide extra drivers when needed to help transport roughly 4,000 students a day. The district faced a shortage of 32 drivers this year but has reduced it to eight, transportation director Ryan Robley said.

Kristi Meyers, a Lincoln Public Schools bus driver for six years, said she loves her job and knows every student by name, but wouldn't have been able to stay without the guaranteed hours and retirement benefits offered to senior drivers. Meyers drives routes throughout the day for elementary-age children and older youths who are in a job-skills training pro-

gram. In the summer, she drives a bus carrying farm workers to make ends meet.

"It's a good job, and these are great kids," she said.

But Meyers said the job is considered part-time work, which prevents drivers from collecting unemployment benefits if they get laid off or getting paid holidays.

Martin, of the National Association of Pupil Transportation, said many districts require split morning and afternoon shifts for their drivers, which some consider a hassle. Keeping an eye on noisy children while facing away from them can be difficult as well, he said.

"It really takes a special type of personality" to deal with the issues, Martin said. "Many people just don't have a burning desire to face those aspects of the job."

## LAWSUIT

Continued from Page 5

at the highest doses, according to the complaint.

In addition, the suit contends, the Sacklers "studied unlawful tactics to keep patients on opioids longer and then ordered staff to use them."

Stamford, Connecticut-based Purdue Pharma has denied the allegations.

In a statement Saturday, the company called Massachusetts' updated complaint "irresponsible and inaccurate," adding that "Purdue and the individual defendants will aggressively defend against these misleading allegations."

OxyContin has been the world's top-selling opioid painkiller, generating billions of dollars for Purdue Pharma. In February, the company announced it was eliminating half of its sales force and would no longer market the drug to doctors.

The company is now defending lawsuits from several states and local governments. Earlier this week, Connecticut Attorney General George Jepsen said the state will be suing Purdue Pharma and several of the company's

current and former officials on allegations their marketing of the painkiller helped drive the nation's opioid crisis.

The drugmaker has faced legal challenges over its painkillers before.

In 2007, it agreed to pay \$19.5 million to settle lawsuits with 26 states, including Massachusetts, and the District of Columbia that claimed Purdue aggressively marketed OxyContin to doctors while downplaying the risk of addiction. Purdue did not admit wrongdoing as part of that settlement.

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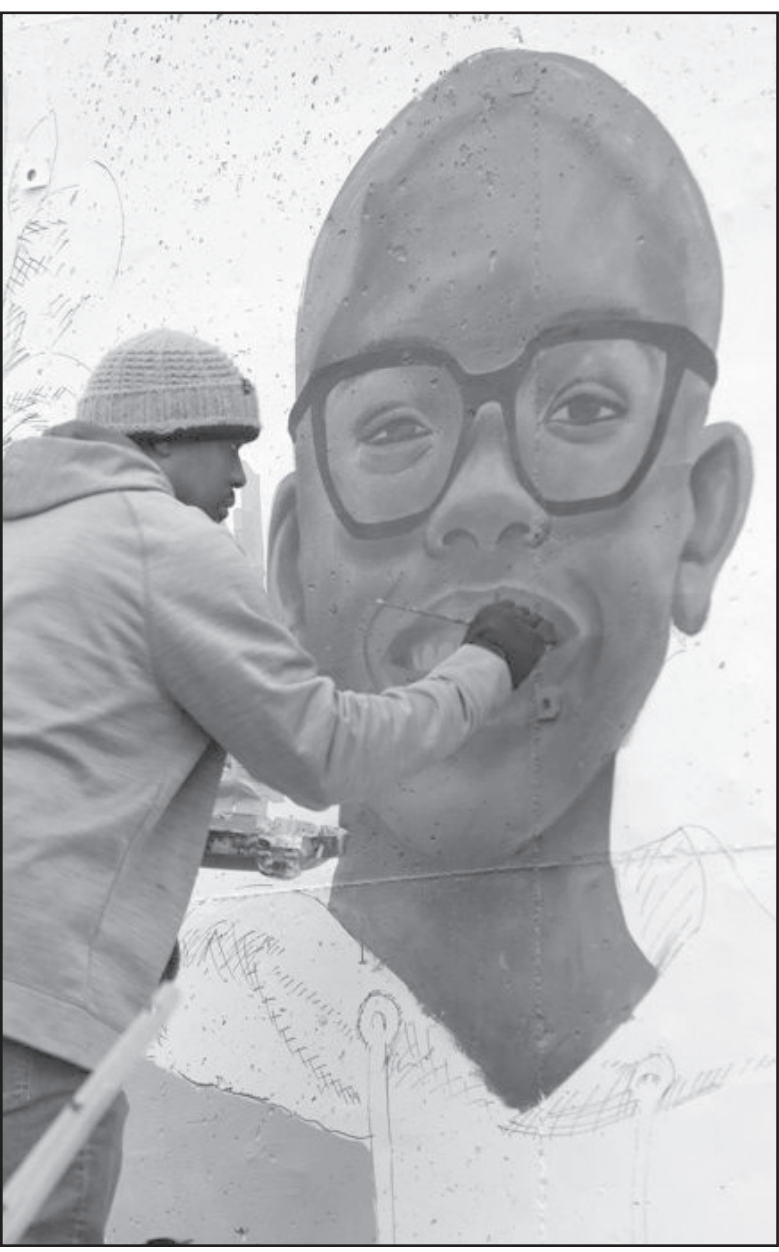
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# Murals near stadium highlight Atlanta's civil rights legacy



ect is a collaboration between arts advocacy group WonderRoot and the Super Bowl host committee. While the murals' installation was timed to coincide with the Feb. 3 sports extravaganza, they are meant to be lasting public works of art for Atlantans to enjoy long after the football fans have left.

The idea was to celebrate Atlanta's role in the civil rights struggle of the 1950s and 1960s and connect that rich legacy with more contemporary struggles for justice and equality, WonderRoot executive director Chris Appleton said.

"We definitely have works that, for good reason, make Atlanta proud of its role in the civil rights movement and the human rights movement, and we have murals that invite and challenge us in Atlanta to continue striving for that beloved community," Appleton said.

The term "beloved community" was made popular by the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., an Atlanta native, to describe a society centered on equal opportunity and justice and rooted in the philosophy of nonviolence.

Several dozen "community conversations" brought out unheard and untold stories about the struggle for justice that needed to be elevated, Appleton said. The artists sat in on those conversations and used them to inform their mural designs, which then went through two rounds of community feedback.

"I really believe the artists have done a great job of amplifying and complexifying narratives around justice issues in Atlanta and beyond," Appleton said. "The murals, as a collection, are celebratory in some cases, are aspirational in some cases and are rooted in truth-telling."

A nomination and selection committee invited artists from around the country to apply, and the panel chose 10 applicants. An 11th spot, dubbed "Atlanta's choice," was open only to Atlanta area artists and was voted on by the public. In total, they plan to install roughly 30 murals.

Muhammad Yungai, the muralist selected by public vote, drew inspiration from a community conversation held at Spelman College, where he learned about students who volunteered at a nearby community farm.

His mural, "Community Roots," is on a wall in Atlanta's Castleberry Hill neighborhood. It showcases actual students from four historically black colleges and universities in Atlanta — Spelman, Morehouse, Clark Atlanta and Morris Brown — and the produce

**In this Dec. 13, 2018, photo, Muhammad Yungai paints a mural on a building near the Mercedes-Benz Stadium in Atlanta. A series of about 30 murals on walls around the downtown Atlanta stadium that will host the Super Bowl aims to highlight Atlanta's civil rights legacy. The murals are part of an initiative called "Off The Wall: Atlanta's Civil Rights and Social Justice Journey."**

By KATE BRUMBACK

Associated Press

ATLANTA — As Atlanta prepares to host the Super Bowl, artists there are painting murals that highlight the city's civil rights and social justice legacy. The artwork adorning neighborhoods near the downtown stadium where the game will be played is part of an initiative called "Off The Wall: Atlanta's Civil Rights and Social Justice Journey." The proj-

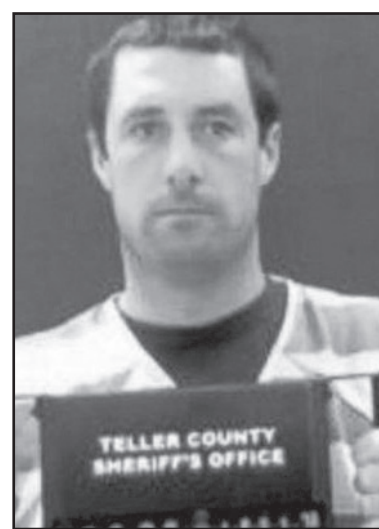
AP photo

# MISSING

Continued from Page 6

De Young did say evidence suggests "the crime" occurred at Berreth's home and that her cell-phone was found in Idaho. Investigators were working to recover the phone, which is an important clue.

Police said the only signs of Berreth after Thanksgiving were some text messages and that location data suggested the phone by Nov. 25 was



Patrick Frazee

near Gooding, Idaho, 800 miles (1,290 kilometers) from her house.

Her mother, Cheryl, lives in Laclede, Idaho, 580 miles (930 kilometers) north of Gooding, but police have not explained whether that has any significance in where the cell-phone was discovered.

Police started looking for Kelsey

Berreth on Dec. 2 at her mother's request.

Investigators who went to Berreth's house found cinnamon rolls in the kitchen and both of her cars outside. De Young said the company where Berreth worked as a flight instructor, Doss Aviation, had accounted for all their planes and that police had no reason to believe she used someone else's plane.

Cheryl Berreth told NBC News that her daughter's relationship with Frazee had been good and loving.

She said the couple had weathered some financial struggles. Frazee runs a cattle ranch, and prices for the industry have been poor, delaying their plans to find a house together, Cheryl Berreth said.

"They had plans that haven't worked out as they would have liked. But they've dealt with that and they've made things work regardless," she said.

The mother told CBS that her daughter was looking forward to being married but said the couple had not set a wedding date.

Kelsey Berreth was "a little reserved and sometimes soft-spoken" but often talked about Frazee, whom she was dating when she was a flight instructor at Springs Aviation in 2016, company owner Bobby Hosmer said.

Formal charges are pending and could take as long as 10 days to file, District Attorney Dan May said. The search and arrest affidavits will stay sealed during the investigation, he said.

Frazee was being held without bond. A judge set the next court hearing for Dec. 31.

See MURALS, Page 8

# Merry Christmas!



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# White House: Trump would accept less money for border wall



AP photo

The setting sun illuminates clouds behind the White House during a partial federal shutdown, Saturday, Dec. 22, 2018, in Washington. The partial federal shutdown was expected to drag into Christmas as President Donald Trump and congressional leaders remained stuck in a standoff over his border wall with Mexico.

By **DARLENE SUPERVILLE**

Associated Press  
WASHINGTON

Both sides in the long-running fight over funding President Donald Trump's U.S.-Mexico border wall appear to have moved toward each other, but a shutdown of one-fourth of the federal government entered Christmas without a clear resolution in sight.

In fact, a top White House official warned the shutdown could stretch into January.

Acting White House chief of staff Mick Mulvaney, who is also the budget director, said he was waiting to hear from Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer of New York about a counteroffer the White House presented to Schumer over the weekend.

Mulvaney would only say the offer was between Trump's \$5.7 billion request and \$1.3 billion Democrats have

offered.

"We moved off of the five and we hope they move up from their 1.3," Mulvaney said less than a day after a senior administration official insisted that Congress would have to cave into Trump's demand for the shutdown to end, highlighting Trump's unpredictable negotiating style.

Schumer's office said the parties remained "very far apart."

Sen. Dick Durbin, D-Ill., argued for increased use of technology along the border instead of "some medieval wall." Asked whether he's willing to offer more money as long as it is not spent on a wall, Durbin responded: "Absolutely."

A stalemate over the wall led parts of the government to shut down Saturday after funding for numerous departments and agencies expired. The closure affects hundreds of thousands of federal workers across the country and was expected to last at

least through Thursday, when the House and Senate meet again.

Monday and Tuesday, Christmas Eve and Christmas, respectively, are federal holidays, meaning the government would have been closed anyway. That means Wednesday is the first day the public could begin to feel the effects of lost government services, Mulvaney said.

He predicted the shutdown could go into January, when Democrats assume control of the House based on their midterm election gains.

"It's very possible that this shutdown will go beyond the 28th and into the new Congress," Mulvaney said.

Justin Goodman, a spokesman for Schumer, countered: "If Director Mulvaney says the Trump Shutdown will last into the New Year, believe him, because it's their shutdown." Trump recently

See **WALL**, Page 9

# 'Fix-it' man Shanahan working to streamline defense spending



AP photo

In this April 9, 2018, file photo, Deputy Secretary of Defense Patrick Shanahan, right, listen as President Donald Trump speaks during a cabinet meeting at the White House, in Washington.

By **LOLITA C. BALDOR**

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The sooner-than-expected departure of Defense Secretary Jim Mattis shifts the focus to President Donald Trump's appointment of an acting Pentagon chief and plans for a permanent replacement.

It also signals an acrimonious end to a tense relationship between Trump and Mattis that had eroded in recent months. A fracture developed last week over Trump's decision to withdraw U.S. troops from Syria and worsened after Mattis' public disagreement with Trump, aired in his resignation letter.

Deputy Defense Secretary Patrick Shanahan will take over as acting secretary on Jan. 1, Trump announced in a tweet Sunday. He had worked for more than three decades at Boeing Co. and was a senior vice president when he became Pentagon deputy in July 2017.

In the new year Trump wants to focus on streamlining purchases at the Pentagon, an issue on which Shanahan has already been working, a White House official said. The official asked not to be identified publicly discussing personnel matters.

U.S. officials said they didn't know if Shanahan would be Trump's nominee to replace Mattis. During a lunch with conservative lawmakers Saturday at the White House, Trump discussed his options. They were "not all military," said Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., who was among those attending.

Shanahan's biography on the Pentagon's website does not list military experience for the longtime Boeing executive. He earned a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Washington, then a master's degree in me-

chanical engineering as well as an MBA from the Sloan School of Management at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

In addition to work in Boeing's commercial airplanes programs, Shanahan was vice president and general manager of Boeing Missile Defense Systems and of Boeing Rotorcraft Systems. In a March 2016 report, the Puget Sound Business Journal called Shanahan a Boeing "fix-it" man who was central to getting the 787 Dreamliner on track after production problems in the program's early years.

An acting defense secretary is highly unusual. Historically when a secretary has resigned, he has stayed on until a successor is confirmed. For example, when Chuck Hagel was told to resign in November 2014, he stayed in office until Ash Carter was confirmed the following February.

Mattis, a retired Marine Corps general, had been expected to retain his position as Pentagon chief through February. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, not the president, notified Mattis of Trump's decision to put in place Shanahan, said a senior administration official who insisted on anonymity to discuss personnel issues.

The sudden change stripped Mattis of any chance to further frame

See **SPENDING**, Page 9

## MURALS

Continued from Page 7

they help grow. He wanted to shine a light on the four schools, which sit a stone's throw from Mercedes Benz Stadium, where the Super Bowl will be played, and on urban farming and community gardening.

The 44-year-old middle school art teacher and professional muralist said his work often focuses on education.

"I believe education is the biggest thing that we can do as a culture to ensure that everyone can achieve the life they want," Yungai said.

Shanequa Gay, 40, was inspired by a community conversation at Covenant House, which provides housing and support for homeless young people. Her mural, "Excuse me while I kiss the sky," adorns the walls of the Vine City transit station, across the street the stadium.

Gay said she wanted to

represent people who sleep under the trees and bushes. Dark outlines of leaves and flowers that she said are inspired by Georgia's abundant vegetation are layered over brightly colored profiles of young people she met at Covenant House.

"I went and took photographs of these young people making kissy faces to kind of humanize homelessness because we don't attribute kissing with being homeless — or joy or laughter or young people," she said.

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# Breaking up (with Facebook) is hard to do: Here's how

By **BARBARA ORTUTAY**

AP Technology Writer

NEW YORK — Every relationship has a breaking point. Even yours with Facebook.

There's a way out, though the social network will try to win you back with promises to do better. Maybe even flowers.

For some users, though, the past two years of privacy scandals, election manipulation by Russian trolls, executive apologies and even the political disagreements with friends and relatives have become too much. The latest: an alarming New York Times report detailing the massive trove of user data that the company has shared with such companies as Apple, Netflix and Amazon.

A growing number of people say they are deleting Facebook, or at least considering it.

While Facebook has tried to address some of these problems, it's not enough for some users. Hard as it might seem to quit, especially for those entwined with it for years, it can be done.

Mostly.

## GOODBYE FOREVER

Before deleting your account, rescue your posts and photos. Facebook lets you download the data you've shared with Facebook since you joined. This includes your posts and photos, as well as the "activity log" — the history of everything you've done on Facebook, such as likes and comments on posts, use of apps and searches. The download also includes your profile, messages, list of friends and ads you've clicked on.

This process should give you a good — perhaps scary — idea of what Facebook has on you.

What you won't get are photos other people shared with you, even if you've been tagged. You need to save those individually. And some stuff will remain, including what others have posted about you, your chats with others and your posts in Facebook groups (though your name will be grayed out). To delete all this, you'll need to sift through your "activity log," accessible through your profile page, and delete each item individually.

Once you've saved everything and gone through your activity log, sign in one last time. Go to <http://bit.ly/198wIoI> and click on the blue button. Facebook says the process could take a few days. Your delete request will be cancelled if you log back in during this time. Facebook says it may take up to 90 days for all the data associated with your account to be wiped, but you can't change your mind after the first few days are up.

If you used your Facebook account for third-party apps and sites, you'll need new usernames and passwords for each.

## TRIAL SEPARATION

If you're not quite ready for a divorce, deactivating your account is an option. To do this, go to your account settings.

Deactivating means other people won't be able to see your profile, but if you log back in, the whole thing is canceled and you are "active" again. Ditto if you log into an outside app or site using your Facebook account.

## FOMO (FEAR OF MISSING OUT)

Depending on whether you were a full-time Facebook addict or an occasional lurker, the psychological separation could

See **FACEBOOK**, Page 10

# SPENDING

Continued from Page 8

national security policy or smooth rattled relations with allies over the next two months. But U.S. officials said the reaction to Mattis' decision to leave — it sparked shock and dismay on Capitol Hill — annoyed Trump and likely led to pushing Mattis out.

"When President Obama ingloriously fired Jim Mattis, I gave him a second chance. Some thought I shouldn't, I thought I should," Trump tweeted Saturday, foreshadowing his displeasure and the Sunday announcement. He also fumed over the media coverage of his Syria withdrawal order, suggesting he should be popular for bringing troops home.

"With me, hit hard instead by the Fake News Media. Crazy!" Trump tweeted.

A White House official said Trump decided Mattis should leave the administration earlier than planned to avoid a drawn-out transition when someone on hand whom they consider a qualified deputy capable of running the Pentagon in an acting capacity. The official asked not to be identified publicly discussing personnel matters.

While Mattis' resignation followed Trump's announcement that he would soon pull all of the approximately 2,000 U.S.

doubts about keeping troops in Asia. Mattis was also unhappy with Trump's order to develop plans to pull out up to half of the 14,000 U.S. forces in Afghanistan.

Earlier Sunday, Trump's acting chief of staff said that Trump had known for "quite some time now" that he and Mattis "did not share some of the same philosophies ... have the same world view."

Mick Mulvaney told ABC's "This Week" that the president and his defense chief "just could never get on the same page" on Syria, adding that Trump had said since his presidential campaign that "he wanted to get out of Syria." Mulvaney said the president "is entitled to have a secretary of defense who is committed to that same end."

Asked whether Trump wanted a Pentagon leader willing to challenge him or someone in lock step with his views, Mulvaney said "a little bit of both."

"I've encouraged him to find people who have some overlap with him but don't see the world in lockstep with him," Mulvaney said.

Meanwhile, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., joined leading Republicans on foreign affairs in urging Trump to reconsider his decision to withdraw American forces from Syria and called it "a premature and costly mistake." They asked Trump to withhold a final decision for 90 days to allow time to study the impact of the decision, but Mulvaney told ABC that Trump wouldn't change his mind.

Just after tweeting the announcement about Shanahan, Trump said he had had "a long and productive call" with Turkey's president, Recep Tayyip Erdogan. Trump said they discussed IS, "our mutual involvement in Syria, & the slow & highly coordinated pullout of U.S. troops from the area. After many years they are coming home."

# WALL

Continued from Page 8

declared he'd be "proud" to shut down the government over border issues.

Democrats held firm Sunday in opposition to a wall, which Trump promised his political base he would build. Mulvaney said "the president's not going to not accept money for a border wall."

Trump tweeted Sunday, the shutdown's second day, that what's needed is "a good old fashioned WALL that works," not aerial drones or other measures that "are wonderful and lots of fun" but not the answer to address drugs, gangs, human trafficking and other criminal elements entering the country.

He put off plans to spend Christmas at his Florida estate and remained in Washington.

The routines of about 800,000 federal employees, meanwhile, were about to be disrupted.

More than half of those employees are deemed essential, such as U.S. Secret Service agents and Transportation Security Administration airport agents, must work without pay, though retroactive pay is expected. Another 380,000 were to be furloughed, meaning they will not report to work but would be paid later. Legislation ensuring that workers receive back pay was expected to clear Congress.

Trump had savored the prospect of a shutdown over the wall, saying he'd be "proud" to force one over an issue that was one of his biggest campaign promises. He had said he wouldn't blame Democrats for a shutdown but now blames them for not contributing to the 60 votes needed for such legislation to clear the closely divided Senate.

But Democrats aren't the only ones resisting Trump on the wall. Republican Sen. Bob Corker of Tennessee, who is leaving Congress in January and has criticized Trump on other issues in the past, called the border-wall fight a "made-up fight so the president can look like he's fighting."

"This is something that is unnecessary. It's a spectacle. And, candidly, it's juvenile. The whole thing is juvenile," Corker said, arguing for measures that he said would secure the border better than a wall.

Democrats said they were open to proposals that don't include a wall, which Schumer said is costly and ineffective. They have offered to keep spending at existing levels of \$1.3 billion for border fencing and other security.

Senators have approved a bipartisan deal to keep the government open into February and provide \$1.3 billion for border security projects, but not the wall. But as Trump faced criticism from conservatives for "caving" on a campaign promise, he pushed the House to approve a package temporarily financing the government but also setting aside \$5.7 billion for the border wall. That bill lacks the votes to pass the Senate.

The stalemate blocked money for nine of 15 Cabinet-level departments and dozens of agencies, including Homeland Security, Transportation, Interior, Agriculture, State and Justice.

The Pentagon and the departments of Veterans Affairs and Health and Human Services are among those that Congress has fully funded and will operate as usual.

Mulvaney appeared on "Fox News Sunday" and ABC's "This Week." Durbin spoke on NBC's "Meet the Press" and Corker was interviewed on "State of the Union" on CNN.

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# Netflix named The Associated Press' Entertainer of the Year

By MARK KENNEDY

AP Entertainment Writer

NEW YORK — After a year like this, Netflix shows no signs of chilling.

The dominant online video streamer started 2018 with almost 118 million subscribers, went on to win its first feature-film Oscar, briefly surpassed Disney as the most valuable U.S. media company, lured the likes of superstar show runners Shonda Rhimes, Kenya Barris and Ryan Murphy — not to mention Barack and Michelle Obama — and is expected to end the year with 146 million subscribers and a likely best picture Oscar nominee in "Roma."

In a sign of how influential the giant streamer has become, it also got what every celebrity gets — a gentle mocking on "Saturday Night Live." The sketch comedy show's season-ending episode this month aired a fake ad highlighting Netflix's enormous effort to produce as much content as possible.

"Our goal is the endless scroll. By the time you reach the bottom of our menu, there's new shows at the top," explained the voice over.

For a dominating 12 months, Netflix has been named The Associated Press Entertainer of the Year, voted by members of the news cooperative.

"There's been so much amazing entertainment this year, and we're proud of the part we've played and humbled by this recognition from the AP," Ted Sarandos, Netflix's chief content officer, said Thursday after being told of the honor.

"We are thrilled to be working with the best creators who have helped us to entertain the world with shows, films and specials from Hollywood, Mumbai, Madrid, Seoul, Berlin and everywhere in between."

Netflix topped other candidates including Donald Glover, Ariana Grande, Bradley Cooper and Michelle Obama, among others. Previous AP Entertainer of the Year winners have included Lin-Manuel Miranda, Adele, Taylor Swift, Jennifer Lawrence, Lady Gaga, Tina Fey and Betty White.

Though Netflix doesn't release ratings, 2018 was a year when it seemed to really flex its digital muscles, showing off its deep reservoir of titles, from original unscripted shows to those produced in other countries, to even becoming a home for shows canceled elsewhere.

The company that once concentrated on sending DVDs through the mail in little red envelopes scored its first feature-film Oscar in March, with a best documentary trophy going to "Icarus," Bryan Fogel's investigation into doping in sports. (Netflix won its first ever Oscar last

year with the short doc "The White Helmets.")

Netflix movies, specials and shows were all over popular culture this year, including "The Kissing Booth," "Nanette," "To All the Boys I've Loved Before," "The Kominsky Method," "The Haunting of Hill House," "GLOW," "Lost in Space," "The Great British Baking Show," "Salt, Fat, Acid, Heat" and "Queer Eye." "House of Cards" — Netflix's first original series — debuted just six years ago.

It has backed such Oscar bait as "Roma" and "The Ballad of Buster Scruggs" and TV fans await more episodes from "Stranger Things," "The Crown" "Orange Is The New Black" and "Ozark." The company has even seen the phrase "Netflix and chill" part of the mainstream vocabulary.

In May, Netflix's market capitalization — or the total value of its stock — shot higher than the capitalization for mighty Disney, previously the most valuable media company in the world. The Champagne-popping moment didn't last very long but it was a sign of how a maverick company could disrupt the order.

Netflix then knocked HBO off its longtime perch — 18 years — as the most nominated Emmy Award platform, eventually earning 112 nods. The streaming behemoth would go on to tie the premium cable network with 23 wins at the Emmy Awards. Netflix also dominated the television categories at the Screen Actors Guild Awards with 15 total nods, nearly double any other network.

Top filmmaking talent like Martin Scorsese, the Coen brothers and Michael Bay are working for Netflix, and the streaming giant convinced Charlie Brooker to bring his "Black Mirror" to its platform. It hired Channing Dungey from ABC Entertainment and Kira Goldberg from 21st Century Fox. It has promised to spend more than \$8 billion on content this year alone.

In 2019, Netflix will likely face stiffer challenges from the likes of Amazon, Hulu, Apple, WarnerMedia and Disney, as well as needing to handle its long-term debt. But Netflix is looking for more subscribers in India and South America and the company's market value is over \$100 billion.

"At Netflix, we're always working to give our members great choice and a better entertainment experience, and we're excited about what's in store for 2019," Sarandos said.

# 'Aquaman' outswims 'Poppins,' 'Bumblebee' with \$67.4M debut

By JAKE COYLE

AP Film Writer

NEW YORK — In a flood of new releases, "Aquaman" easily swam past "Mary Poppins Returns" and "Bumblebee" to lead the busy pre-Christmas weekend with an estimated \$67.4 million over the weekend, according to studio estimates Sunday.

Without a "Star Wars" film on the December schedule for the first time in four years, a crowded slate of films sought to capitalize on the lucrative holiday period in theaters.

The DC Comics superhero film "Aquaman," which cost Warner Bros. \$200 million to make, arrived already a juggernaut overseas, where it has grossed more than \$400 million in three weeks of release. Including advance previews, the Jason Momoa-led "Aquaman" reeled in \$72.1 million in U.S. and Canada theaters, bringing its global total to \$482.8 million.

"Aquaman," directed by James Wan, has proven to be a stabilizing "Justice League" spinoff for Warner Bros. following bumper DC releases outside of "Wonder Woman." The film garnered an A-minus CinemaScore from audiences.

For the studios, the weekend was as much about setting themselves up for Christmas to New Year's, when theaters are routinely packed through the week. With Christmas falling on a Tuesday, studio executives said the weekend was an unpredictable and distraction-filled one, competing with some of the busiest shopping days of the year.

"We really kick off starting Tuesday," said Warner Bros. distribution chief Jeff Goldstein, who said the "Aquaman" performance came in just above the studio's \$65 million forecast. "With kids not really returning to school until January 7, this aligns the stars for us in a really positive way."

Returns were more modest for Disney's "Mary Poppins" sequel and Paramount's "Transformers" spinoff, though each had reason to expect strong business through the holidays.

"Mary Poppins Returns," starring Emily Blunt and directed by Rob Marshall, debuted with \$22.2 million over the weekend and \$31 million since opening Wednesday. That was on the low side of expectations for the musical, which cost \$130 million to make.

"May Poppins Returns," which co-stars Lin-Manuel Miranda, will depend heavily on legs through the holiday season. On its side are good if not spectacular reviews (77 percent fresh on Rotten Tomatoes), an A-minus CinemaScore from moviegoers and four Golden Globe nominations.

"It's a great weekend to start yourself off on a launch pad into the holiday period," said Cathleen Taff, head of distribution for Disney. "We're looking forward to great word of mouth building over the next few weeks. And we're looking forward to a long

run."

"Poppins" still narrowly edged "Bumblebee," which opened with \$21 million. That, too, is a soft beginning for a film that cost about \$135 million to make after tax credits. It's also far off the pace of the "Transformers" films, the last of which ("Transformers: The Last Knight") debuted with \$44.7 million in summer 2017.

But "Bumblebee," a "Transformers" prequel directed by Travis Knight and starring Hailee Steinfeld, has something the Michael Bay films never had: good reviews. "Bumblebee" was the weekend's most acclaimed new wide release with a 94 percent fresh rating on Rotten Tomatoes. Audiences also gave it an A-minus CinemaScore.

"The pre-Christmas preoccupation for moviegoers affected everyone. All movies were impacted slightly by that," said Kyle Davies, head of distribution for Paramount. "It doesn't concern me. We played really well with great reactions. The game plan has always been that we're now starting that play period where people go multiple times over the next few weeks, and that's the whole point."

"To me, this weekend was a dress rehearsal for the big push that starts Christmas Day," added Davies.

Also in the mix is Sony's well-reviewed "Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse," which slid to fourth in its second week with \$16.7 million in ticket sales. The film also made one of the best debuts for an animated release in China where it was no. 1, grossing \$26.1 million over the weekend.

Clint Eastwood's "The Mule" added \$9.3 million in its sophomore frame, bringing its two-week total to \$35 million. Bradley Cooper, who co-stars in "The Mule," could also celebrate his "A Star Is Born" crossing \$200 million domestically.

Largely overlooked in the onslaught at theaters was STXfilms' "Second Act," starring Jennifer Lopez. The romantic comedy debuted with an estimated \$6.5 million in 2,607 locations, drawing an audience that was 70 percent female.

But the weekend's real flop was "Welcome to Marwen," the Robert Zemeckis-directed fantastical drama starring Steve Carell as an imaginative man whose scale model town helps him rehabilitate after a trauma. The film, which cost at least \$40 million to make, earned just \$2.3 million in 1,900 theaters. It's the second straight flop for Universal (which teamed with DreamWorks for "Marwen") following "Mortal Engines." That \$100 million film debuted last weekend with \$7.5 million film in ticket sales.

Yet the weekend managed to nearly equal the box office of the same weekend last year when "The Last Jedi" was in its second week of release and "Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle" opened. Ticket sales for the "Star Wars"-less weekend were down a mere 2.1 percent, according to Comscore.

## FACEBOOK

Continued from Page 9

prove harder or easier than the physical one. Facebook has become a one-stop shop for so many things. You can keep up with friends and family, find out about or create local events, buy and sell stuff, keep up with the news, raise money for a cause or join groups of like-minded people such as parents, porch gardeners and people with a rare disease.

There are other places to do many of these things. There's Eventbrite for events, Letgo for buying and

selling stuff, Peanut for moms to connect, Meetup to find and meet like-minded people, GoFundMe for raising money and Twitter, or, gasp, your local newspaper's website for the news. The difference is there's no single other place to do all these things, and your friends might not be there.

If you find your mind wandering back to Facebook as you go through your day, thinking how you might craft a post about a thought you've just had or an article you came across, it's OK. Let it go. It's all part of the breakup process.

And while you may not see updates about near-forgotten schoolmates or that random person you

met six years ago, the people who matter most will stick around. For them, there's email, the phone, and meeting in person for coffee.

### ABOUT THOSE OTHER APPS

If your boycott of Facebook has more to do with your view of the company than with tiring of the Facebook service, you might consider deleting Instagram, WhatsApp and Messenger as well — they are all owned by Facebook. Deleting your Facebook account won't affect your Instagram or WhatsApp account. If you want to keep using Messenger, you can create an account using your phone number instead of your Facebook profile.

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# Coahoma football legend Putt Choate inducted into Texas High School Football Hall of Fame



Courtesy photo

Putt with his wife Fifi Choate (center) and Father Carroll Choate (left), who was inducted into the West Texas Cowboys Hall of Fame here in Big Spring two years ago, at AT&T Stadium in Arlington this past Saturday where Putt was inducted into the Texas High School Football Hall of Fame.

By JORDAN PARR  
Sports Editor

ARLINGTON – Putt Choate was a two-way star for Coahoma who rushed for 3,310 career yards, earned all-district, all-state honors at fullback as senior and played in 1975 THSCA All-Star Game. Headed into college SMU

saw him as a pure linebacker, and he became a four-year starter for Mustangs with school-record 649 tackles, including 253 as a senior in 1978. Putt also forced 3 fumbles, recovered 7 and intercepted 5 passes during his college career and returned one 100 yards for a TD. Putt earned first-team all-SWC honors in 1977 and '78.



Courtesy photo

Putt with his wife Fifi Choate, daughter Chandler Choate, and son Gerrit Choate (who currently plays for SMU) on the Star at the 50 yard line of AT&T Stadium in Arlington this past weekend following Putt's induction into the Texas High School Football Hall of Fame.

Waived by Atlanta after breaking his leg in NFL camp, he spent 2 years out of football before signing with Denver in fledgling USFL. During his pro career Putt recorded 517 tackles and 3 interceptions in 3 All-Star seasons with the Denver Gold and San Antonio Gunslingers. Putt is one of only 3 players in USFL history to start all 54

regular-season games before league folded in 1986. Putt's son Gerrit is currently playing for SMU continuing their families legacy at the school. Congratulations to Putt and his family and to the entire Bulldog nation in Coahoma.

# TCU advances to title game of Diamond Head Classic



AP photo

TCU center Kevin Samuel (21) grabs a rebound away from Bucknell center Paul Newman (0) during the second half of an NCAA college basketball game at the Diamond Head Classic, Sunday, Dec. 23, 2018, in Honolulu.

Associated Press

HONOLULU (AP) — Kouat Noi had 15 points, Jaylen Fisher added 14, and TCU never trailed in its 82-57 win over Charlotte on Saturday night in the Diamond Head Classic.

TCU (9-1), which has won six in a row, went on to play Bucknell in the semifinals Sunday.

Desmond Bane scored 10 for the Horned Frogs and Alex Robinson had 11 assists, tying the tournament's single-game record. The senior, who had 84 assists in one season at Texas A&M, has 506 at TCU — becoming just the third player in program history with at least 500 career assists.

Noi hit back-to-back 3s to cap an 11-0 run and, after Charlotte's Jailan Haslem made a layup, threw down a fast-break dunk and then made another 3 to give TCU a 14-point lead with 2:36 left in the first half. The Horned Frogs took a 40-26 lead into the break and led by as many as 30 points in the second half.

Jon Davis led Charlotte (3-6) with 17

points and Jaylan McGill scored 13.

On Sunday, Desmond Bane scored 16 points to lead six TCU players in double figures and the Horned Frogs beat Bucknell 82-65 on Sunday night in the semifinals of the Diamond Head Classic.

TCU (10-1) will play Indiana State in the championship game on Tuesday night.

Jaylen Fisher and Kevin Samuel each added 14 points for the Horned Frogs, who won their seventh straight game. Kouat Noi chipped in with 13 points and seven rebounds and JD Miller had 12 points. Alex Robinson had his second straight game with 11 assists as he's reached double-digit helpers in five games this season.

There were six lead changes in the final 3:30 of the first half and TCU scored the last four points for a 44-41 lead.

Kimbal Mackenzie had 16 points for the Bison (5-6). Nate Sestina added 14 points with 11 rebounds and Nate Jones scored 12 points on four 3-pointers.

# NBA's Christmas lineup headlined by LeBron vs Warriors



AP photo

Los Angeles Lakers' LeBron James (23) reacts during the second half of an NBA basketball game against the Brooklyn Nets Tuesday, Dec. 18, 2018, in New York. The Nets won 115-110.

By TIM REYNOLDS

AP Basketball Writer

There's no NBA Finals rematch this year on Christmas. Not technically, anyway. It's LeBron James vs. the Golden State Warriors for the fourth consecutive year on Dec. 25, though James will be wearing a Los Angeles Lakers uniform this time.

It was a predictable matchup. It isn't, however, a break from tradition.

That's one of the biggest misnomers about the NBA and the schedule. An NBA Finals rematch is not common, not the norm, not a guarantee for the last two teams that were standing the previous season. The league has crowned a champion every year since 1947, and the tradition of Christmas Day games started later that same year. (They've been an annual fixture since, with the exception of 1998, when a lockout didn't allow that season to begin until February.)

But there have been only nine NBA Finals rematches on Dec. 25. The recent Golden State-Cleveland history may make it seem like more.

James has been in five Finals rematches on Christmas, all since 2011:

Miami vs. Dallas that year, Oklahoma City vs. Miami the following year, and Cleveland vs. Golden State in each of the last three years.

The other four rematches on the holiday: Orlando vs. Houston in 1995, Philadelphia vs. the Lakers in 2001, San Antonio vs. Detroit in 2005 and Boston vs. the Lakers in 2008.

So instead of a Cavs-Warriors rematch, getting Lakers vs. Warriors — for the first time in the LeBron L.A. era — makes perfect sense.

"Bron is Bron," Warriors forward Draymond Green said. "They're going to be tough, a tough matchup on Christmas Day, but we're looking forward to it."

Inevitably, so will James. Even with the Lakers having lost four of their last six games, they're off to a 19-14 start — their best since the 2011-12 season.

"We've got a long way to go to get to Golden State," James said in September.

He's about to get his first look at how the Lakers measure up with the champs.

See NBA, Page 18



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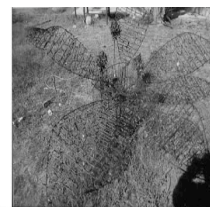
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**Tomorrow's Horoscope**

**Christmas Moon**

This Christmas, the Leo moon infuses traditions with heart that, like the Grinch's, triples in size. "Then the Grinch thought of something he hadn't before. What if Christmas, he thought, doesn't come from a store. What if Christmas, perhaps, means a little bit more." -- Dr. Seuss, "How the Grinch Stole Christmas!"

**ARIES (March 21-April 19).** There's fun in the role shift that happens today. It's like you suddenly got a permission slip to behave in a way you've always wanted to but never thought you could.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** It will be energizing to go shoulder to shoulder with loved ones, even if the task at hand technically qualifies as work. Touch is the highest form of communication. Also, when in doubt, go in for the hug.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** The cosmic gift won't come wrapped. You've an extra special sense for knowing the right thing to say and when to say it. You'll help

many with this talent, and more folks will come to you for wisdom in the days that follow.

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** The opportunity to connect fully, with all of your senses, to what's going on around you today will be ever-present, as though all you have to do is plug in, and outlets are everywhere.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** We are all more impressionable than we think, with personalities that can change with the company we keep. This is much to your advantage today as the cheer keeps ramping up and your heart keeps following it to new heights.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** As it turns out, you're a supernatural

**By HOLIDAY MATHIS**



being. There's more to you than your past, your present or your future. The day's events will strike a chord in you and you'll feel the truth of your everlasting soul.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** The complexities of the personalities around you will emerge like holly berries, red and dangerous, to be enjoyed and admired at a distance. If they are dangled before you, don't bite!

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** The attention you get will be your favorite kind -- specific to you, an acknowledgment of what you've worked very hard to achieve, well-deserved and the right portion size, too.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** Because you don't miss a beat when it comes to hooking into laughter, beauty and music, it will be easy to get completely engaged in the action. Life seems to be happening through you, not to you.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).** Words can't really adequately describe the big feelings, but try anyway. It means so much when you do, and you're certainly better at this than anyone around today.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** Because you're one of two people who want the same thing -- to get from point A to point B as smoothly and safely as possible -- there'll be comfort and companionship in today's unfolding.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).** You're upbeat and full of energy, making things happen and resonating a cheerful tone while positive influences are all around you. It's about as smooth a day as you've had in months.

Write Holiday Mathis at [HolidayMathis@gmail.com](mailto:HolidayMathis@gmail.com).  
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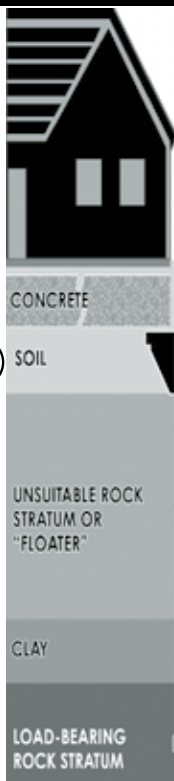
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# Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

## Pièce de résistance

North dealer.  
North-South vulnerable.

**NORTH**

♠ A 7 6 2  
♥ J 9 8 4  
♦ 8 4 3  
♣ A Q

**EAST**

♠ K 10 8  
♥ 6 2  
♦ Q J 10 5  
♣ K 9 6 3

**SOUTH**

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

The bidding:  
North East South West  
Pass Pass 1♥ Pass  
3♥ Pass 4♥

Opening lead — five of clubs.

Assume you're in four hearts and West leads a club. You can see at a glance that if either black-suit finesse were to succeed, you'd make the contract, so let's say you start out by taking the club finesse.

East wins dummy's queen with the king and shifts to the queen of diamonds. It doesn't particularly matter whether you win this diamond

or the next one with the ace; sooner or later, you'll have to try a spade finesse to make the contract. When you do, East turns up with the king, and you go down one.

If by any chance you played the hand this way, you could try to assuage yourself by blaming the bad luck you had in losing both finesses. You could argue that the odds were 3-1 that at least one of the finesses would succeed. But this argument could be shot down by your partner, who might say with some asperity that you had blown an ice-cold contract.

All you had to do, he might say, is go up with the ace of clubs at trick one, draw trumps, lead the queen of spades and finesse. True, you'd lose the queen to the king and East would cash the king of clubs before shifting to a diamond, but this would not stop you from making the contract.

You'd win the diamond with the ace, cash the jack of spades, cross to dummy with a trump and discard a diamond on the ace of spades. You could then concede your remaining diamond to the opponents, but you would have 10 tricks — six hearts, two spades, a club and a diamond — to show for your efforts.

Tomorrow: Preparation for the unexpected.

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### Annie's Mailbox®

#### Time Off During the Holidays

Dear Annie: I'm a bit unclear on etiquette when it comes to asking for time off from work. This became an especially sticky situation recently, when I was requesting time off for the holidays. It seems my co-workers got the vacation time, and I have trouble asserting my right to a more-or-less equal amount of time off. How do I confidently claim what I'm owed without causing conflict? -- Vying for Vacation

Dear Vying for Vacation: Having a job means having to work around the holidays sometimes. It's a fact of life. When it comes to deciding who in the department gets to take vacation during high-vacation-demand windows such as Christmas week, the factors are generally seniority and who worked that holiday last year and the year before. So if you worked Christmas Eve last year, for example, you might mention this to your boss. When you do end up having to work on holidays, keep your chin up and count your blessings. Being employed during the holidays is much better than being unemployed during the holidays.

Dear Annie: My significant other's family has invited me to go on a cruise with them over Christmas next year. I love traveling, and I really want to go. But I feel guilty ditching my family, especially my sister, on Christmas. I'd love for them to come with us on the trip, and my significant other's family would, as well. But my family simply couldn't afford it. I think I'm going to go on the cruise and celebrate Christmas with my family on another day. Does that make me a terrible person? -- Ditching in December

Dear Ditching in December: Whether because of work or financial hardship or because we're spending the holiday with a spouse or significant other, there will come a day when we won't get to spend Christmas with our parents and siblings. It's nearly inevitable. So no, missing one Christmas with your family doesn't make you a terrible person. Do something special to celebrate Christmas with your family on another day, as the holiday isn't so much about the date on a calendar as it is about reaching out to loved ones and remembering the reason for the season. Merry Christmas.

Dear Annie: Bravo for your answer about setting aside one's personal anguish to be at a friend's bedside when he or she is near death. Some years ago, I was one of a small group of women who helped care for an elderly widower in our church. While he was bedridden at home, some of his male friends would bathe him and change his bed linens often. We women would bring food and try to coax him to take a few bites. He was well-loved and well-cared-for. It was my turn to be there the night he took his last breath. I was quietly giving him a gentle back rub, not saying anything, and his little cat was curled up on his bed when he left us. I like to think that maybe he knew he could let go because he knew I could handle it. He had many friends whom he loved and who loved him, but I will always feel honored to have been the one with him at the end. -- Peaceful in New York

Dear Peaceful: Your letter touched my heart. Thank you for the kindness you give to the world.

Send your questions for Annie Lane to [dearannie@creators.com](mailto:dearannie@creators.com).

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Level: Intermediate

#### Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

#### Here's How It Works:

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

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

ANSWER:



Your Local  
NEWSPAPER

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	KMID (3)	UNI (4)	KPEJ (5)	KOSA (7)	KTLE (8)	KWES (9)	KMLM (12)	KPBT (13)	KWWT (14)	KWES2 (15)	WTBS (33)	TNT (34)	ESPN (35)	ESPN2 (36)	FSN (38)	USA (55)	A&E (58)	DISC (60)	
5:30	Midland	Spanish	Odessa	Odessa	Telemundo	Midland	Odessa	Odessa	Odessa	Midland	Atlanta	Atlanta	SportsCenter	30 for 30	Sports	New York	New York	Discovery	
5:30	Philadelphia 76ers at Boston Celtics	Noticiero	Mom	CBS 7	Noticias	News	Dollars	Christmas	Mama's	American	Movie: A Christmas Story (DVS)	Movie: A Christmas Story (DVS)	SportsCenter	30 for 30	MLB Baseball	Movie: A Madea Christmas		Expedition Unknown	
6:30		Rosa de Guadalupe	Big Bang	CBS 7	Pelicula: Penguins of Madagascar (SS)	News	Our Mess	PBS News-Hour	M*A*S*H	Fam. Guy		Movie: A Christmas Story (DVS)	SportsCenter	30 for 30	MLB Baseball			Expedition Unknown	
7:30	NBA Basketball: Lakers at Warriors	Jesús	Lethal Weapon	NCIS (DVS)	Grinch	News	We'll Meet Again	Griffith	iHeartRadio Jingle Ball 2018	Big Bang	Big Bang	Movie: Love Actually, Colin Firth (DVS)	NBA Basketball: Lakers at Warriors	30 for 30	College Basketball	MLB Baseball	WWE SmackDown!	Movie: The Shawshank Redemption, Bob Gunton	Expedition Unknown
8:30		Mi marido	The Gifted	God Friend-ed Me	Pelicula: Taken 2, Famke Janssen (SS)	Movie: How the Grinch Stole Christmas	Light of Southwest	Call the Midwife	G. Pyle	Whose?	Big Bang	Movie: Love Actually, Colin Firth (DVS)	NBA Basketball: Portland Trail Blazers at Utah Jazz	30 for 30	Rangers	MLB Baseball	Movie: Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone, Emma Watson (DVS)	(:04) Movie: The Scorpion King	Expedition Unknown
9:30	blackish	Amar a muerte	FOX 24 News at 9	FBI		Light of Southwest	Christmas With the C. Burnett	Heroes	Gold	Conan			NBA Basketball: Portland Trail Blazers at Utah Jazz	SportsCenter	Rangers	OU Re	Formula E		Expedition Unknown
10:30	Big 2	Impacto	TMZ	CBS 7	Tele	News	Creation	M:25	Amanpour-Co	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Movie: My Best Friend's Wedding	NBA Basketball: Portland Trail Blazers at Utah Jazz	SportsCenter	Rangers	OU Re	Formula E		Expedition Unknown
11:30	Jimmy Kimmel Live	Noticiero	Mom	Late Show-Colbert	Titulares	Tonight Show	M:25	Amanpour-Co	Perry Mason	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Movie: My Best Friend's Wedding	NBA Basketball: Portland Trail Blazers at Utah Jazz	SportsCenter	Rangers	OU Re	Formula E		Expedition Unknown
12:30	Nightline	Funny	James Corden	Milagros de Navidad	Seth Meyers	Way of On the	Theater	Twi. Zone	Rules	New Girl			NBA Basketball: Portland Trail Blazers at Utah Jazz	SportsCenter	Rangers	OU Re	Formula E		Expedition Unknown
1:30	Extra	Cachito de Cielo	Two Men	Milagros de Navidad	Daly	Think Red		Hitchcock	King	New Girl			NBA Basketball: Portland Trail Blazers at Utah Jazz	SportsCenter	Rangers	OU Re	Formula E		Expedition Unknown
2:30	Paid Prg.	Rosa de Guadalupe	Pawn	ET	Programa	News	Light of Southwest	Mannix	Top 30	New Girl	NCIS: New Orleans	NCIS: New Orleans	NBA Basketball: Lakers at Warriors	NBA Basketball: 76ers at Celtics	High School Football	Chrysler	Law & Order: SVU		Expedition Unknown

ANDY CAPP



AGNES



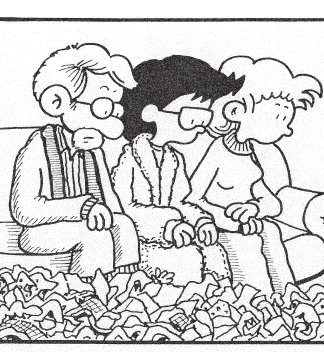
ARCHIE



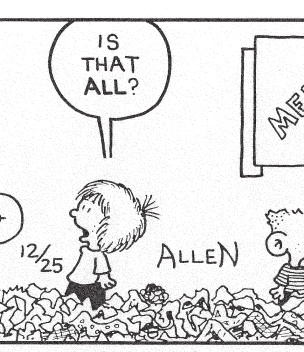
ONE BIG HAPPY



NEST HEAD



MOMMA



This Date In History

Today is Tuesday, Dec. 25, the 359th day of 2018. There are six days left in the year. This is Christmas Day.

Today's Highlight in History: On Dec. 25, 1991, Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev went on television to announce his resignation as the eighth and final leader of a communist superpower that had already gone out of existence.

On this date: In A.D. 336, the first known commemoration of Christmas on Dec. 25 took place in Rome. In 1066, William the Conqueror was crowned King of England. In 1776, Gen. George Washington and his troops crossed the Delaware River for a surprise attack against Hessian forces at Trenton, New Jersey, during the American Revolutionary War. In 1926, Hirohito became emperor of Japan, succeeding his father, Emperor Yoshihito. In 1931, New York's Metropolitan Opera broadcast an entire live opera over radio for the first time: "Hansel and Gretel" by Engelbert Humperdinck. In 1961, Pope John XXIII formally announced the upcoming convocation of the Second Vatican Council, which opened in Oct. 1962. In 1977, comedian Sir Charles Chaplin died in Switzerland at age 88. In 1989, ousted Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu (chow-SHES'-koo) and his wife, Elena, were executed following a popular uprising. Former baseball manager Billy Martin, 61, died in a traffic accident near Binghamton, New York. In 1990, the World Wide Web, the system providing quick access to websites over the Internet, was born in Geneva, Switzerland, as computer scientists Tim Berners-Lee and Robert Cailliau (KAH'-yoh) created the world's first hyper-linked webpage. In 1995, singer Dean Martin died at his Beverly Hills home at age 78. In 2006, James Brown, the "Godfather of Soul," died in Atlanta at age 73. In 2009, passengers aboard Northwest Airlines Flight 253 foiled an attempt to blow up the plane as it was landing in Detroit by seizing Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab (OO'-mahr fah-ROOK' ahb-DOOL'-moo-TAH'-lahb), who tried to set off explosives in his underwear. (Abdulmutallab later pleaded guilty and was sentenced to life in prison.)

Ten years ago: Pope Benedict XVI urged a world confronting a financial crisis, conflict, and increasing poverty not to lose hope at Christmas, but to join in "authentic solidarity" to prevent global ruin. President-elect Barack Obama spent a private Christmas with family and close friends in Hawaii. Singer, dancer and actress Eartha Kitt died in Weston, Conn. at age 81. Actress Ann Savage died in Los Angeles at age 87.

Five years ago: Pope Francis offered Christmas wishes for a better world, praying for protection for Christians under attack, battered women and trafficked children, peace in the Middle East and Africa, and dignity for refugees fleeing misery and conflict around the globe.

One year ago: In his traditional Christmas message, Pope Francis called for a two-state solution in the Middle East, and prayed that confrontation could be overcome on the Korean Peninsula. Harsh winter weather gripped much of the country on Christmas, with bitter cold in the Midwest and a blizzard moving into New England. Russian election officials formally barred opposition leader Alexei Navalny from running for president, prompting him to call for a boycott of the March, 2018 vote.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Dick Miller is 90. Author Anne Roiphe is 83. Actress Hanna Schygulla (SHEE'-goo-lah) is 75. Rhythm-and-blues singer John Edwards (The Spinners) is 74. Actor Gary Sandy is 73. Singer Jimmy Buffett is 72. Pro and College Football Hall-of-Famer Larry Csonka is 72. Country singer Barbara Mandrell is 70. Actress Sissy Spacek is 69. Former White House adviser Karl Rove is 68. Actress CCH Pounder is 66. Singer Annie Lennox is 64.

Thought for Today:

"He who has not Christmas in his heart will never find it under a tree."

Roy L. Smith  
American clergyman  
(1887-1963)

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Answer to previous puzzle

SILK	BMW	LOG
BIDEN	BERIE	ACE
ALONE	ARENA	TEA
GOLDEN	RINGS	EAR
HOST	EARN	S
PASTOR	FALL	
SCOWL	DEAR	ONS
THREE	FRENCH	HENS
ETA	OAKS	EATUP
	KNEW	PASSBY
CHOSE	SPED	
RIP	IN	APART
ARE	GALLS	ERODE
TEN	HIT	SUPER
ESS	LOTS	TEEN

Newsday Crossword

- ACROSS**
- 1 "In what way?"
  - 6 Stage show-offs
  - 10 Story line
  - 14 "It's so easy, \_\_\_ can do it!"
  - 15 Be adjacent to
  - 16 Coin in France and Italy
  - 17 Kingly or queenly
  - 18 "Have a \_\_\_ day!"
  - 19 Eagle's talon
  - 20 Made a mistake
  - 23 Whichever
  - 24 Skillet, for example
  - 25 Spain's capital
  - 29 Backyard tool building
  - 31 Writing implement
  - 34 Large body of water
  - 35 Graceful swimming bird
  - 36 Sandwich cookie
  - 37 World of government
  - 40 Ireland nickname
  - 41 Western defense grp.
  - 42 No later than
  - 43 MD's hospital coworkers
  - 44 Nine-digit IDs
  - 45 Shows to be true
  - 46 Female deer
  - 47 Tot's "little piggy"
  - 48 Clark Kent's newspaper
  - 56 Earth's natural satellite
  - 57 Barbershop sound
  - 58 Bring together
  - 59 Drinks delicately
  - 60 Approximately
  - 61 Pepsi and Coke

GLOBAL POSITIONING by Billie Truitt

Edited by Stanley Newman  
www.stanxwords.com

- DOWN**
- 1 Group of cattle
  - 2 Above
  - 3 "... it's off to work \_\_\_"
  - 4 Ginger cookie
  - 5 Stuff on a portrait artist's palette
  - 6 Good at home repairs
  - 7 Just slightly
  - 8 Greatly
  - 9 Becomes harder to climb
  - 10 Pie nut
  - 11 Pause in the action
  - 12 Word-of-mouth
  - 13 Pull from behind
  - 21 Bring to a halt
  - 22 Wicked
  - 25 Sulking one
  - 26 Squirrel's snack
  - 27 Sandwich shops
  - 28 Drought-ending weather
  - 29 Hits, as a housefly
  - 30 Angelic topper
  - 31 Before the boob-tube era
  - 32 Spooky
  - 33 Christmas songs
  - 35 Read electronically
  - 36 "This can't be!"
  - 38 Available fresh now, as fruit
  - 39 Fortunate random chance
  - 44 Ready-made lawn
  - 45 Bubble gum sound
  - 46 Thick, as fog
  - 47 Keyboard goofs
  - 48 Hard work
  - 49 Be optimistic
  - 50 Regarding, in a memo
  - 51 Grocery shopper's reference
  - 52 Author unknown: Abbr.
  - 53 Cleopatra's river
  - 54 And others, for short
  - 55 Experiment
  - 56 Flavor enhancer initials

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					



# NFC Individual Leaders

Week 16			
Quarterbacks			
Att	Com	Yds	TD
Int	Punters		
No Yds Lg			
Avg			
Ryan, ATL	564	4321	6
Goff, LA	535	3499	2
A. Rodgers, GBY	592	3692	2
Cousins, MIN	573	405	10
Manning, NYG	535	356	3
Brees, NOR	489	364	3
Stafford, DET	523	347	11
Prescott, DAL	482	329	8
Newton, CAR	471	320	13
Ru. Wilson, SEA	406	268	6
Rushers			
Att	Yds	Avg	
LG	TD		
E. Elliott, DAL	1304	1434	4.7
Gurley, LA	1251	4.9	3.6
Barkley, NYG	244	1198	4.9
McCaffrey, CAR	215	1080	5.0
A. Peterson, WAS	247	1042	4.2
C. Carson, SEA	228	1029	4.5
Kamara, NOR	194	883	4.6
Dav. Johnson, ARI	241	878	3.6
J. Howard, CHI	229	826	3.6
Breida, SNF	153	814	5.3
Receivers			
No	Yds	Avg	
LG	TD		
Ju. Jones, ATL	104	1539	14.8
M. Evans, TAM	80	1418	17.7
D. Adams, GBY	111	1386	12.5
Michael Thomas, NOR	11.5	72t	9
Thielen, MIN	110	1335	12.1
Kittle, SNF	122	15.5	85t
R. Woods, LA	84	1195	14.2
Ertz, PHL	114	10.2	34
Cooks, LA	114	15.2	57
Golladay, DET	70	1063	15.2
Aa. Jones, GBY	60	5	

Week 16			
Quarterbacks			
Att	Com	Yds	TD
Int	Punters		
No Yds Lg			
Avg			
Ridley, ATL	0	9	0
Michael Thomas, NOR	9	0	9
Kicking			
PAT	FG	L G	
Pts			
Lutz, NOR	28/30	54	134
M. Crosby, GBY	34/36	30/37	53
Gould, SNF	32/33	53	120
Rosas, NYG	30/31	57	118
Maher, DAL	28/29	29/35	62
115	Parkey, CHI		
41/43	22/29	50	
107	Prater, DET		
26/26	27/31	54	
107	Jak. Elliott, PHL		
30/32	25/30	56	
105	Janikowski, SEA		
45/48	20/25	56	
105	Zuerlein, LA		
29/30	25/29	56	
104	Scoring		
Touchdowns			
TD	Rush	Rec	
Ret	Pts		
Gurley, LA	17	4	0
132	Kamara, NOR		
18	14	4	
114	Barkley, NYG		
14	10	4	
86	D. Adams, GBY		
13	0	13	
80	McCaffrey, CAR		
13	7	6	
78	Dav. Johnson, ARI		
10	7	3	
60	Lockett, SEA		
0	9	0	
56	Thielen, MIN		
0	9	0	
56	E. Elliott, DAL		
6	3	0	
54	Aa. Jones, GBY		
8	1	0	

# AFC Individual Leaders

Week 16			
Quarterbacks			
Att	Com	Yds	TD
Int	Punters		
No Yds Lg			
Avg			
Roethlisberger, PIT	630	421	48
Mahomes, KC	33	15	
556	369	48	11
48	Luck, IND		
406	4308	36	
14	P. Rivers, LAC		
484	333	413	
31	Brady, NE		
351	4105	25	
11	Watson, HOU		
470	320	393	
26	D. Carr, OAK		
494	338	369	
19	Keenum, DEN		
501	311	339	
15	Mayfield, CLE		
444	287	334	
24	Darnold, NYJ		
386	223	269	
17	Rushers		
Att	Yds	Avg	
LG	TD		
Mixon, CIN	2	2.4	
1063	4.7	47	
Lindsay, DEN	182	991	5.4
65t	9		
N. Chubb, CLE	183	972	5.3

Week 16			
Quarterbacks			
Att	Com	Yds	TD
Int	Punters		
No Yds Lg			
Avg			
D. Henry, TEN	199	966	4.9
99t	12		
L. Miller, HOU	193	917	4.8
97t	4		
Conner, PIT	20	1	
909	4.5	30	
12	Michel, NE		
881	4.5	34t	
6	M. Gordon, LAC		
165	843	5.1	
34t	10		
Kareem Hunt, KC	181	824	4.6
45	7		
Mack, IND	17	0	
789	4.6	49	
8	Receivers		
No	Yds	Avg	
LG	TD		
D. Hopkins, HOU	103	1425	13.8
49t	11		
Smith-Schuster, PIT	106	1389	13.1
97t	6		
T. Hill, KC	8	2	
1378	16.8	7.5t	
11	A. Brown, PIT		
104	1297	12.5	
78t	15		
Kelce, KC	9	8	
1274	13.0	4.3	
10	T. Hilton, IND		
74	1209	16.3	



### Howard County Spring Football Sign Ups

Attention Predator Pride, We have decided to try and start a Spring football team for Howard County. We realize that basketball and baseball will be going on but that doesn't mean football has to stop. If you have a child between the ages of 5-7 wanting to get ready for the next fall, contact one of us to get signed up. Practice will start after the new year if we get enough participants.

**7U Tackle Tournament Series-\$140.00**  
 Cost Includes: \$70-uniforms \$70-League Fees  
 7U is for (6-7 year olds) must be 7 on or before August 1, 2018. 5 year olds can play if they turn 6 before new league year begins.

**Tournament Dates:**  
 February 2-3  
 February 16-17  
 March 23-24

Practices will be held Thursdays and Saturdays from 6-7:30 p.m.  
**Volunteer Coaches:**  
 Head Coach: Shane Rios  
 Defensive Coordinator: Emmet Hart  
 (We are still looking for a few assistant coaches that want to help with this culture changing experience as well)

For more information call: (432) 935-0206 or (208) 598-4973.

### BIG SPRING LITTLE LEAGUE

Baseball season is coming up fast. We will have a few different locations this year. Sign up dates are as follows:

- 1-10 @ Marcy Elementary 5:30 to 7
- 1-12 @ Spring Town Plaza (mall) 10-3
- 1-17 @ Moss Elementary 5:30 to 7
- 1-19 @ Spring Town Plaza 10-3
- 1-21 thru 1-25 @ Spring Town Plaza 5:30 to 7
- 1-24 @ Washington Elementary 5:30 to 7
- 1-26 @ Spring Town Plaza
- The Final registration day will be 1-31 @ Goliad 5:30 to 7

Registration will be online again this year at the link below. It will open on the 1-10. Fee this year will be \$100 per player. If you need to make payment any other way than credit card you must come to one of the locations to pay. If you are a new player we will need a copy of your birth certificate.

### Merry Christmas!

Stop By Our Gift Shop For All Your Christmas Gifts!

**Howard County Feed & Supply**  
 701 E. 2nd (432) 267-6411

Merry Christmas Big Spring!

**Mique Yarbar**  
 myarbar@clarsonrealestate.com  
 (432) 213-5259

**C. LARSON REAL ESTATE**  
 ONE TEAM... YOUR DREAM

Whether you are in the market to buy or sell, I am available and eager to assist you with your real estate needs.

### A BIG COMMITMENT TO BIG SPRING.

Expedition Royalty Co. is excited to expand our presence in Howard County by opening an office in Big Spring soon!

We are available 24/7, so call at your convenience for a free evaluation of your assets or to discuss current activity and area-specific value ranges.

You'll see we're not your typical Permian mineral company. We are forming strong partnerships and making prudent deals, because we are here to stay - just ask a neighbor!

**EXPEDITION ROYALTY CO.**

Matt Scott: 432-755-7065  
 matt.scott@expeditionroyalty.com

Rayne Austin: 432-755-7065  
 rayne.austin@expeditionroyalty.com

YOUR MINERAL ADVISOR IN THE PERMIAN



# NFL Team Rankings

## AMERICAN FOOTBALL CONFERENCE

	Offense			Defense		
	Total	Rush	Pass	Total	Rush	Pass
BAL	6	1	10	1	1	3
BUF	16	7	16	2	9	1
CIN	11	13	11	16	14	15
CLE	7	6	7	13	11	13
DEN	9	5	9	10	10	12
HOU	8	4	8	8	2	14
IND	4	12	3	7	4	8
JAX	13	10	13	3	8	2
KAN	1	9	2	15	13	16
LAC	5	8	5	5	5	5
MIA	15	11	15	14	15	9
NWE	3	3	4	9	6	10
NYJ	14	14	12	11	12	11
OAK	10	15	6	12	16	6
PIT	2	16	1	6	3	7
TEN	12	2	14	4	7	4

SEA	10	1	14	12	9	11
SNF	8	6	9	4	7	7
TAM	2	14	1	14	14	13
WAS	15	8	15	8	10	9

## NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE

	Offense			Defense		
	Total	Rush	Pass	Total	Rush	Pass
ARI	32	32	32	19	32	5
ATL	8	27	5	26	27	24
BAL	12	2	21	1	3	4
BUF	31	12	31	2	19	1
CAR	11	4	17T	17	10	21
CHI	21	14	20	4	2	8
CIN	25	22	23	32	29	30
CLE	14	10	15	29	24	27
DAL	23	6	24	6	5	9
DEN	19	9	19	24	21	26
DET	24	23	22	12	15	10
GBY	9	20	7	14	20	11
HOU	15	8	17T	18	4	29
IND	7	21	6	11	8	17
JAX	27	18	26	5	18	2
KAN	1	16	3	31	28	31
LA	2	3	4	16	22	13
LAC	10	15	12	8	9	7
MIA	30	19	30	30	30	19
MIN	17	30	10	3	11	3
NOR	6	11	11	13	1	28
NWE	5	7	9	21	13	23
NYG	20	25	13	22	23	18
NYJ	29	24	25	25	26	25
OAK	22	26	14	28	31	15
PHL	13	28	8	27	7	32
PIT	4	31	2	9	6	16
SEA	18	1	27	20	16	20
SNF	16	13	16	10	12	12
TAM	3	29	1	23	25	22
TEN	26	5	29	7	14	6
WAS	28	17	28	15	17	14



## NATIONAL FOOTBALL CONFERENCE

	Offense			Defense		
	Total	Rush	Pass	Total	Rush	Pass
ARI	16	16	16	11	16	2
ATL	4	12	3	15	15	14
CAR	6	3	10	10	5	12
CHI	12	7	11	2	2	3
DAL	13	4	13	3	3	4
DET	14	10	12	5	8	5
GBY	5	9	4	7	11	6
LA	1	2	2	9	12	8
MIN	9	15	6	1	6	1
NOR	3	5	7	6	1	15
NYG	11	11	8	13	13	10
PHL	7	13	5	16	4	16

## NBA

Continued from Page 11

### CHRISTMAS LINEUP

Tuesday's slate starts with Milwaukee at New York, followed by Oklahoma City at Houston, Philadelphia at Boston, the Lakers at the Warriors and then Portland at Utah. It's Milwaukee's first Christmas game since 1977, which will end what was by far the league's longest Dec. 25 drought. Utah hasn't played on Christmas since 1997.

A look at each of the five games:

### BUCKS AT KNICKS

Congratulations to the schedule-makers, because there's no way they could have known this Christmas game would be wrapped in animus. Giannis Antetokounmpo was peeved at New York forward Mario Hezonja — who dunked on him, stared at him and then stepped over him when the teams last met on Dec. 1.

### THUNDER AT ROCKETS

A rematch of a game from Christmas 2017, which the Thunder won 112-107. Oklahoma City is 6-2 on Christmas since the team moved there; when the franchise was in Seattle, it was 0-11 on the holiday. Rockets star Chris Paul will miss Christmas for the third straight year — with the Clippers, he had a left hamstring strain and missed their game with the Lakers in 2016, sat out last year's Houston-OKC game with a groin strain and this year, it's another left hamstring issue that will keep him out.

### 76ERS AT CELTICS

These are heated, historic rivals, but they've met on Christmas only once before — in 1961, when the 76ers were the Syracuse Nationals. Boston, which famously avoided home Christmas games forever (the Celtics played their first 30 such games away from Boston), will be at home on the holiday for the second consecutive season.

### LAKERS AT WARRIORS

It's the 20th consecutive Christmas appearance for the Lakers, and with LeBron James there now don't expect that streak to end anytime soon. Warriors star Kevin Durant apparently loves playing on the holiday; he's averaging 31.1 points in his eight previous Christmas games.

### TRAIL BLAZERS AT JAZZ

Portland is 14-3 all-time on Christmas, and could tie Miami (10-2) for the best winning percentage on the holiday if it tops the Jazz. Meanwhile, for Utah, it's a chance for Jazz star guard Donovan Mitchell to get his first — but almost certainly not his last — look at playing on Christmas.

### CHRISTMAS HISTORY

The NBA's five-game Christmas lineup is back for an 11th consecutive year, and that may seem like a lot of matchups but has exceeded plenty of times in the past. There were seven games on the holiday in 1949, 1971 and 1977, as well as six in 1970 and 1976.

And there were some years where everybody played on Christmas.

In 1952, the league had 10 teams so that meant five Christmas games. In 1956, the league's eight teams got together for two Christmas doubleheaders — two games at Madison Square Garden, two others at the War Memorial in Rochester, New York. And in 1959, eight teams meant four games on the holiday again.

With Milwaukee playing, the league's longest Christmas drought will belong to the Atlanta Hawks, who haven't appeared on the holiday since 1989. After the Hawks, the longest droughts will be held by Charlotte (no appearances in 29 seasons), Memphis (no appearances in 24 seasons), Toronto (2001), Sacramento (2003), Indiana (2004) and Detroit (2005).

Everyone else has played at least one Christmas game since 2009.

### YEAR OF THE 3

Houston set the NBA record for 3-pointers made in a game with 26, doing that against Washington last week.

It cemented that, without question, 2018 in the NBA was the year of the 3-pointer.

So far this season, 11 franchises — Atlanta, Boston, Charlotte, Golden State, Houston, Milwaukee, Minnesota, New Orleans, New York, Sacramento and Utah — have set or tied team records for 3-pointers made in a regular-season game. That doesn't even take into account Brooklyn, Chicago, Denver, Detroit, Oklahoma City and Philadelphia also doing it in 2018, albeit last season.

Maybe the craze hasn't caught on in Canada.

The longest-standing team record for 3s in a game is held by the Toronto Raptors, who made 21 on March 13, 2005. Orlando's mark of 23 has stuck since Jan. 13, 2009 and Phoenix's record of 22 came on Nov. 14, 2010.

Meanwhile, Zaza Pachulia's quest for a 3 continues.

Pachulia has the NBA record for most 3s attempted in a career without a make — the Detroit backup center is now 0 for 29 in the regular season, 0 for 31 when including playoffs. He's 0 for 3 in 2018, though all those tries in this calendar year were desperation heaves from midcourt or deeper. And in fairness, only six of his career 3-point tries have been shots inside of 30 feet.

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