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BIG SPRING HERALD

MONDAY, MARCH 4, 2019



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Big Spring Prospector's Club Gem and Mineral Show is golden



HERALD photos/Roger Cline
 This weekend, the Big Spring Prospector's Club's Gem and Mineral Show turned 50. "We have had a really good turnout, especially considering the weather," said event organizer Lola Lamb Sunday. Left, Roger Seims of RS Designs of Sherman, Texas, uses a special tool to crack open a geode, revealing the sparkly interior, as a crowd watches. Below left, customers browse rocks and fossils displayed by a dealer at the show. Below, Big Spring's Betty Roberts crafts beads from glass using wire and flame.



Burn ban extension on county commissioners' agenda Wednesday

By **ROGER CLINE**
 Staff Writer

At their meeting Wednesday afternoon, Howard County Commissioners will consider whether to extend the burn ban the county enacted in December, which is set to expire this month.

The meeting Wednesday will be at 3:30 p.m. in the third-floor courtroom at the Howard County Courthouse, 300 S. Main St.

At the commissioners' Dec. 12 meeting, Howard County Volunteer Fire Department Chief Mitchell Hooper requested the ban because of the natural winter dormancy of grass in the area combined with human carelessness causing a possible wildfire risk.

"We had one (fire) the last wind storm we had, it was probably 100 yards from a barbed-wire fence that went into some heavy brush and canyon and stuff," Hooper said at the December meeting. "Nobody was out there, it was some oil company that just lit them off, and they didn't stay out there."

At the time, the commissioners approved Hooper's request, enacting a burn ban for 90 days. That ban is set to expire March 12, and there is an item on the agenda for Wednesday's meeting - listed with Hooper's name - for commissioners to consider whether or not to extend the ban.

In other business, the commissioners will hear the annual Texas Library State Report and consider an issue related to the Howard County Jail.

Commissioner Craig Bailey of Precinct 2 has asked for discussion of matters related to proposed tax abatement guidelines and criteria for taxing entities within the county; and for discussion of the upcoming Fantastic Fourth Independence Day celebration.

See **COUNTY**, Page 3

Pints for Polio tickets on sale now



HERALD file photo
 Lubbock-based band Spur 327 performs at 2018's Pints for Polio event. Tickets for this year's Pints for Polio, slated March 23, are on sale now.

By **ROGER CLINE**
 Staff Writer

If you've got your eye on those tall, frosty mugs of beer or pert, tasty glasses of wine at the upcoming Greater Big Spring Rotary Club's annual Pints for Polio event,

you can go ahead and get your tickets. The event, benefitting the GBSRC's local works as well as the nationwide End Polio Now campaign, is scheduled March 23, and tickets are on sale.

Tickets are available at the Train Car, at the CVB, or the Chamber

See **PINTS**, Page 3

Find us online at:
 www.bigspringherald.com



Chamber of Commerce Health Fair gearing up for April



HERALD file photo
 Crowds of area residents stroll through the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum, examining the booths at 2018's Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce Health Fair. This year's Health Fair is slated for April 13.

By **AMANDA DUFORAT**
 Managing Editor

Local businesses and organizations are catching the health wave and gearing up for the 2019 Chamber of Commerce Health Fair, which is set for April 13 at the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum.

"We are excited about this year's health fair. There are going to be some of the fa-

miliar faces - Dora Roberts Rehabilitation Center, Scenic Mountain Medical Center - and we are hoping to welcome some new faces to the expo, as well," Debbye ValVerde, Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce Executive Director, said.

Star Chrysler Jeep Dodge Ram has once again signed on as the Bike Rodeo sponsor and has ensured the abil-

ity for the community youth to refresh their knowledge about proper bike etiquette. The Big Spring Police Department has also stepped up and will be providing the signage for the course.

"The bike rodeo is one of the fun events that we added several years ago and we are thankful that we are able to continue. This year, through



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Obituaries

Katie Jones Cathey



Katie Jones Cathey, 87, of Big Spring, died Saturday, March 2, 2019, at her residence. Funeral services will be 2 p.m. Wednesday, March 6, 2019, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel. Interment

will follow at Trinity Memorial Park. The family will receive friends from

6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Tuesday at the funeral Home.

Survivors include one son, Jack R. Cathey, Jr. and wife, Lynda; and two daughters, Linda L. Riley and husband, Chuck, and Kim Rath and husband, John.

Arrangements are under the direction of Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home and Crematory. Online condolences can be made at www.npwelch.com

Take Note

• AARP Tax-Aide will offer free income tax preparation each Monday through April 1 at the Big Spring Senior Center at the Dora Roberts Community Center, 100 Whipkey Drive. Hours are 8 a.m. to noon. The service is available to all taxpayers with moderate to low income.

Taxpayers need to bring a photo ID for the taxpayer and/or spouse, Social Security cards for everyone on the tax return (Tax-Aide will not do a return without seeing the Social Security cards), last year's tax returns, and W-2s and all other proof of income received in 2018.

Free electronic filing will be available for faster refunds.

For more information contact Ray Alexander at 432-212-3533.

• The Big Spring Art Association meets the third Saturday of the month, in the basement of the Howard County Library. Come join us, we would love to have you.

• 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.

• Victim Services is a non-profit independent community-based program serving victims of all violent crime, including, but not limited to, assault, sexual assault and domestic violence. Victim Services advocates are available 24 hours of day, 365 days a year to provide crisis intervention or accompaniment to the hospital and law enforcement agencies as needed. If you can commit to 30-hour training, an interview process and a background check, we need you. For more information, call Linda Calvio at 432-263-3312.

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

• 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, 432-935-0713.

If you want additional information about getting your child on this program please contact your child's school. The next sacking event will be March 4 and 5 at the old Lakeview High School, 1107 NW 7th St., at 5:30 p.m.

• Each week Kindred offers free health checks from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. at the Yellow Rose Cafe at Scenic Mountain Medical Center, 1601 W. 11th Place.

• 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.

Take Note (continued)

• 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.

• 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

Support Groups

MONDAY

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

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.

• Celebrate Recovery meets at First United Methodist Church Youth Hall, 400 Scurry, from 6-8 p.m. Hurts, habits and hang-ups. Leave message for Joyce Webb at 325-212-8600.

THURSDAY

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

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

• Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder support group meeting is at 6:30 p.m.

at the VA Medical Center Veteran's Healing Center.

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

• GriefShare is a Biblical support group that focuses on helping people who are dealing with a loved one's death. Each DVD session features nationally respected grief experts and real-life stories, followed by small group discussion about the topics presented (with workbook support). Meetings are weekly, every Thursday, 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.

HEALTH FAIR

Continued from Page 1

the support of our Police Department and Star Dodge we are able to make it even better so more kids can benefit from the teaching in the course," ValVerde said.

Booth applications are still being accepted. Cost for a booth this year is \$100 for those registered by March 15 and \$120 for registration up to March 29. In order to prepare the layout, no booths will be accepted after March 29. Corporate sponsors are also still being accepted; cost is \$500 and all corporate sponsors will be included in advertising pieces, including t-shirts and local media outlets.

"This is the one time of year the community can find out about all the health care options available right here in Big Spring, without having to search the phone book, without searching on the internet and without leaving town," ValVerde said. "There are so many healthcare choices right here and most people don't realize it. We encourage the community to come out and visit with our local health care businesses."

This year, the health fair will take place from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in order to allow the community more time to get out and take part in all that is

taking place on April 13. In addition to the health fair, Master the Mountain will be at 9 a.m. in the State Park and the annual Trash Off will be running simultaneously with the drop off location being located in the parking lot at the health fair.

Admission to the health fair is free and door prizes will be offered throughout the event. To reserve a booth or to find out more information about becoming a vendor, call ValVerde at the Chamber office at 432-263-7641 or ask any of the Health Fair committee members.

HERALD

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**MEMBER
2019**

TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

COUNTY

Continued from Page 1

Commissioners will also:

- Consider approval of invoices, purchase requests and budget amend-

- ments;
- Consider approval of payroll, personnel considerations and the monthly payroll report;
- Consider releasing a bidder from a contract for inverted prime roadway material;

- Consider roadway maintenance updates.
- If you would like to address the commissioners during the meeting, you should arrive a few minutes early in order to fill out a brief form alerting them to your intent to speak.

For more information contact County Judge Kathryn Wiseman at 432-264-2202.

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

Searches resume after tornado kills 23 in Alabama



AP photo

This photo shows debris in Lee County, Ala., after what appeared to be a tornado struck in the area Sunday, March 3, 2019. Severe storms destroyed mobile homes, snapped trees and left a trail of destruction amid weather warnings extending into Georgia, Florida and South Carolina, authorities said.

By KIM CHANDLER and JEFF MARTIN

Associated Press

BEAUREGARD, Ala. (AP) — Rescuers began tearing through the rubble of mobile homes and houses Monday in search of survivors of a powerful tornado that rampaged through southeast Alabama and killed at least 23 people, including children.

The trail of destruction was at least half a mile wide and overwhelmed rural Lee County's coroners' office, forcing it to call in help from the state.

"It looks like someone almost just took a giant knife and scraped the ground," Lee County Sheriff Jay Jones said of the devastation during a Monday morning news conference.

Jones said children were among the dead, but he didn't know exactly how many. And he said the number of deaths may rise as the search continues.

"I have not seen this level of destruction ever in my time in Lee County," said Jones, who has been sheriff since 1998.

Drones flying overhead equipped with heat-seeking devices had scanned the area for survivors, but the dangerous conditions halted the search late Sunday, Jones said.

The Sunday tornado, which had winds that appeared to be around 160 mph (257 kph) or greater, was part of a powerful storm system that also slashed its way across parts of Georgia, South Carolina and Florida.

Levi Baker, who lives near the hard-hit area in Alabama, took a chain saw to help clear a path for ambulances and other first-responder vehicles. He said he saw bodies of dead people and dead animals.

He said some houses were demolished and trees were uprooted or snapped in half. One house was swept off its foundation and was sitting in the middle of the road.

"It was just destruction," Baker said. "There were mobile homes gone. Frames on the other side of the road."

Jones said the twister traveled straight down a county road in the rural community of Beauregard reducing homes to slabs.

Scott Fillmer was at home when the storm hit in Lee County.

"I looked out the window and it was nothing but black, but you could hear that freight train noise," Fillmer said.

The National Weather Service confirmed late Sunday a tornado with at least an F3 rating caused the destruction in Alabama. Although the statement did not give exact wind estimates, F3 storms typically are gauged at wind speeds of between 158-206 mph (254-331 kph).

In a tweet late Sunday, President Donald Trump said: "To the great people of Alabama and surrounding areas: Please be careful and safe. Tornadoes and storms were truly violent and more could be coming. To the families and friends of the victims,

PINTS

Continued from Page 1

of Commerce, or from any Rotarian," said event coordinator Barney Dodd of the GBSRC. "If you have any questions, you can give me a call at 432-755-9529. Entertainment is the Marfa Lake Social Club. They're a band out of Midland."

Dodd said the event marks a great opportunity for local businesses and individuals to give back through sponsorships and tickets.

"Anybody that wants to be part of this, it's a great cause. Half of the money stays here for projects in the community, and half goes to End Polio Now, which is part of the Rotary International Foundation," he said. "It's great exposure for your company, but it's also a lot of fun. It comes with tickets...you get to attend the event, but it's also just a great cause. We have individuals that do it. My company does it. Of course, it's tax deductible, and we can get you the paperwork you need for that. Anybody that wants to be a sponsor can contact me."

This year's Pints for Polio will be based at the Courtyard event venue, 119 S. Main St. in Downtown Big Spring; but instead of being confined indoors, this year the action will spread out into the street, Dodd said.

"We kind of outgrew it last year. We were pretty tight," Dodd said. "This year we're going to have the Courtyard as well as Main Street out in front of the Courtyard. We'll have live music and a tent outside."

Dodd said that, while the entertainment will be outside, the Courtyard will still be the location for both the live and silent auctions.

"We'll have lots of Cowboys memorabilia," he said. "We have a helmet signed by Hall of Famer Randy White with all of his stats written in his handwriting on there. I have a football signed by Jerry Jones and Jimmy Johnson, which is very rare after their breakup. But the football has both their signatures on it. We're excited about that. We'll have both those items, as well as some jerseys and some items donated by local businesses."

Dodd said half the money raised will go to help fund projects locally, while the other half will go to End Polio Now.

"That money that goes to End Polio Now is matched two-to-one by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, he said. "So for every one dollar that we send in, three dollars goes to End Polio Now."

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

and to the injured, God bless you all!" Rita Smith, spokeswoman for the Lee County Emergency Management Agency, said about 150 first responders had quickly jumped in to help search the debris after the storm struck in Beauregard. At least one trained canine could be seen with search crews as numerous ambulances and emergency vehicles, lights flashing, converged on the area.

On a country road in Beauregard on Monday, a giant pieces of metal from a farm building were suspended 20 feet (6 meters) in the air, attached to the lower halves of pine trees, making loud creaking sounds as the wind blew them into the pine branches. The top halves of most of those trees were snapped off. For an entire mile down the road, the scene was the same — pine trees cracked in half. One mile down the road, a mobile home crushed by two trees marked the end of the mile-long path of destruction.

At the R&D Grocery on Monday morning in Beauregard, residents were constantly asking each other if they were okay.

"I'm still thanking God I'm among the living," said John Jones, who has lived in Beauregard for most of his life.

School Superintendent Mack McCoy said some buses were damaged in the storm and winds tore through the roof of Smiths Station Elementary School.

No deaths had been reported Sunday evening from storm-damaged

Alabama counties other than Lee County, said Gregory Robinson, spokesman for the Alabama Emergency Management Agency. But he said crews were still surveying damage in several counties in the southwestern part of the state.

Numerous tornado warnings were posted across parts of Alabama, Georgia, Florida and South Carolina on Sunday afternoon as the storm system raced across the region. Weather officials said they confirmed other tornadoes around the region by radar alone and would send teams out Monday to assess those and other storms.

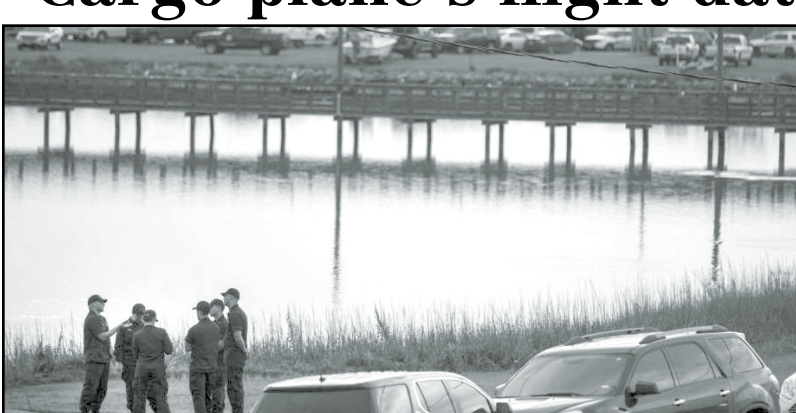
In rural Talbotton, Georgia, about 80 miles (130 kilometers) south of Atlanta, a handful of people were injured by either powerful straight-line winds or a tornado that destroyed several mobile homes and damaged other buildings, said Leigh Ann Erenheim, director of the Talbot County Emergency Management Agency.

"The last check I had was between six and eight injuries," Erenheim said in a phone interview. "From what I understand it was minor injuries, though one fellow did say his leg might be broken."

She said searches of damaged homes and structures had turned up no serious injuries or deaths there.

Henry Wilson of the Peach County Emergency Management Agency near Macon in central Georgia said a barn had been destroyed and trees and power poles had been snapped, leaving many in the area without power.

Cargo plane's flight data recorder found at Texas crash site



AP photo

Local and federal officials gather at a staging area during the investigation of a plane crash in Trinity Bay in Anahuac, Texas, Saturday, Feb. 23, 2019.

ANAHUAC, Texas (AP) — Authorities say they've recovered the flight data recorder from the cargo plane that crashed into a bay east of Houston a week ago.

The National Transportation Safety Board said in a tweet Sunday that the flight data recorder had been recovered and was being transported to its labs in Washington, D.C., for evaluation.

The Boeing 767 cargo plane slammed nose-first into the shallow waters of Trinity Bay on Feb. 23. The NTSB said Friday that the cockpit voice recorder from the plane had been recovered.

Emergency workers have recovered the bodies of two of the three people who

were aboard Flight 3591, which was carrying packages for Amazon from Miami to Houston. The bay's deep mud has made the recovery effort more difficult.

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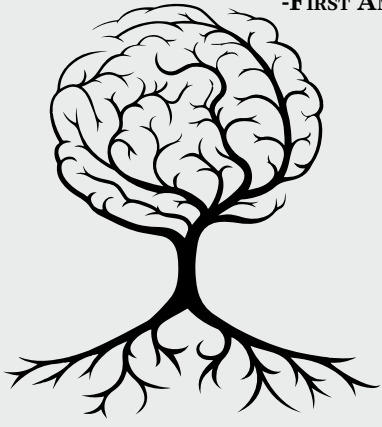
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Opinion

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT



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

LETTERS POLICY

The Herald welcomes letters to the editor.

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

CONTACT US

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

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

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Cindy's Bookshelf

Author's Note: This week, instead of a book review, I have written a short story called Who We're Not. It is flash fiction, which means that it is around five-hundred words. I am dedicating the first Monday of every month to flash fiction because I want to share my love of writing as well as my love of stories. Who We're Not is about a young girl in a cave, alone. She's on a mission, but for what? I hope you enjoy this short story, and as always, thank you.



CINDY PINCH

Pebbles cascaded into the inky black pool, causing ripples to fan out across the otherwise smooth surface. Sarah leaned forward to get a better look, her white sneakers slipping against the damp stone. Careful not to lose her balance, she continued her descent toward the water's edge. Her backpack was tight against her and she could feel sweat building up. All around her was darkness. The only light came from a small keychain in her right hand. Every movement she made was echoed back to her.

Icy waves wrapped around her

ankles as Sarah splashed into the water. She leapt back in fright causing her to step out of her left shoe, which had become lodged in the thick mud lining the bottom of the pool. Sarah reached out a tentative hand and pulled her shoe from the mud. Dirty and wet, she breathed heavily as she sat down on the damp stone along the water's edge. Sarah knelt over the water's edge. Her keychain flashed twice before the battery died.

Plunged into total darkness, Sarah took a deep breath and closed her eyes. She reached into the pocket of her pink windbreaker and pulled out a small, heart-shaped locket. Tiny white crystals lined the edges. Inside, invisible in the darkness, was a picture of Sarah and her mother. Hot tears flowed down her cheeks as she held the locket out over the water. She was shivering in the cold of the cave. Her fingers clasped the chain tightly as she brought it to her lips. Tears slid down her face as she let the chain slide through her fingers. It landed in the water with a soft plip. Sarah held her

breath and waited.

Outside the cave, a semi-truck drove by with a hiss. A deer ran through the underbrush, its legs thumping the ground in rapid rhythm. Wind rustled the leaves, shaking them urgently. Inside the cave, Sarah's heart beat hard in her chest. The water, however, was silent.

Sarah waited until her muscles grew stiff and her body began to shake from the cold. A weak glow under the water caught her attention. She watched as the glow brightened. The water at her feet began to ebb and flow like the tide, building into a crescendo. With a great splash and a roar, a large creature with a wrinkled face and stubby arms appeared in front of her. It looked down at her with dark, ancient eyes.

"You have awoken me. What is your wish child?" The voice resonated inside the cave and Sarah felt the vibrations in her entire body.

Unable to speak, she bowed and swung her backpack onto her forearm, and unzipped the top. Reaching in, she began to dig. Her fingers found purchase with the desired object and she used both hands to pull it out. The backpack floated away into the darkness. Holding her arms out, she held a photo album up like an offering.

"Erase them." She whispered.



My heart is in Anchorage

This coming Saturday, I'll probably be right here in New Mexico. Well, most of me will. But my heart and my wishes and part of my soul will be many miles from here, up in Anchorage, Alaska.

Anchorage. First Saturday in March. Dog trucks with freight sleds lashed to the top of the dog boxes.

For 46 years now, this has meant only one thing to me: the start of the Iditarod Dogsled Race. A thousand miles. Anchorage to Nome. There will be screaming dogs, lunging into their harnesses at the start line. One team released every two minutes to prevent what would certainly be a world-record dog fight. Six or eight men and women holding the dogs and the sled. Two minutes. Go!

And in a flash the team and the musher are gone, silently, rounding a corner and being lovingly consumed by the birch forest.

In 1973, for the first race, I was lucky enough to be one of those mushers. I didn't finish, sorry to say. Crushed an ankle about 300 miles in. But I know what it's like for those men and women out on the trail with those dogs, and the

snow and cold, and sometimes the wind. And getting that evening fire going, and melting snow for dog water, and heating up a frozen piroshki for your own dinner.

And then sinking into sleep, wondering what tomorrow will bring.

That part, you see, hasn't changed in 46 years. In fact, that part hasn't changed since the gold rush of around 1910 when the trail was first established.

So I may still be here in mesa country on Saturday, but I'll also be there, with the men and women and dogs, hearing the roaring of the crowds and then the hush of a thousand-plus miles of silent, frozen country.

Packed trails and healthy dogs, mushers. That's the wish from Seven-Dog Slim. It's a very long way to Nome.

* * *

"I know it's fixin' to be spring," said Dud.

"Things budding out on your trees and stuff, Dud?" added Steve.

"Nope. Potato chip bags. Found two of them the other day."

We looked ... inquisitive? And

it was enough to get Dud back into action.

"Two of them. One was stuck on that big ol' rosebush we have, and the other one was up in the elm tree, just out of reach. That's usually the first sign, you know."

"Okay," said Doc, "I'll bite. How, Dudley, are potato chip bags harbingers of spring?"

"The wind, of course," Dud said. "First comes the potato chip bags on gentle zephyrs. Next week we'll probably get old garbage bags on the back wall and in the trees. That's kinda Phase Two, you see. I got this worked out pretty good now. I'm thinking of putting it in the book."

"You mean the Duchess and the Truck Driver?"

"Its actual title is Murder in the Soggy Bottoms, Doc."

"Still sounds like wet diapers to me," said Steve.

"So Dud, when does buds swelling on the fruit trees come in? Phase Three?"

"Sometimes you get a few buds during Phase three, but we have to wait until later, usually. Phase Three I have as toys. You know, you find a dolly or little plastic truck and start hunting an unhappy kid to return it."

"Is there a Phase Four wind, Dud?"

He smiled. "Yep. Cinder blocks."

DAILY PRAYER

You, Lord, know all our ups and downs and You still love us. Thank You for Your love.

Amen

Taking a look at the poorest school district in Texas

By JULIE CHANG

Austin American-Statesman

QUINLAN, Texas (AP) — When Superintendent Graham Sweeney arrived at the Boles Independent School District 33 years ago, school buildings were crumbling. Teachers taught two grade levels at a time. One hundred fifty-six students were enrolled.

The Austin American-Statesman reports the Boles district, 50 miles northeast of Dallas, collected the least local property tax revenue per student of any district in the state. Boles still ranks last by that measure, but education there has improved dramatically, thanks to the state's school finance system, that, for all of its flaws, has lifted up the poorest school districts in the state.

"When I first came here as a superintendent, we didn't have a maintenance director or anything, so I ordered — and it was a big deal — \$7.77 of nuts and bolts ... and put it in my closet and about \$20 worth of tools. I helped mow at the time. Buying a mower for \$600 was a big deal," Sweeney said. "We were just scraping by. There were times we were in the red, and we wondered how we could keep going."

Poor districts like Boles sued the state and won in 1989, creating a system aimed at equalizing the wide disparity in local property tax revenue by shifting tax revenue from property-rich districts to help property-poor districts. The process is called recapture, but it is often colloquially referred to as Robin Hood.

The Legislature also created pots of money in the late 1990s to help property-poor districts pay for constructing facilities.

Infused with more funding from other school districts and the state, Boles transformed in subsequent years. Test scores skyrocketed. Innovative programs like robotics and agricultural mechanics started at the district. Now, anywhere from 50 to 75 students are on the waiting list to enroll in the district.

With state lawmakers this year focused on reducing the reliance on local property taxes to fund the state's public schools, they are re-examining the recapture system, which places an increasing burden on districts like Austin, the highest payer of recapture in the state.

The Austin ISD sends more than a half billion dollars of its property tax revenue to the state, which then uses it to prop up districts like Boles, 9 square miles of mostly farmland.

Yet even with about 90 percent of its funding coming from the state, the Boles school district, like many of its peers across the state, still operates modestly, relying on used equipment and supplies. Like Boles, the majority of the districts that rely most on state aid are sparsely populated and rural.

Some state officials have suggested eliminating the recapture system as part of a school finance system overhaul this legislative session, but that is unlikely, as the system is seen as equalizing funding for districts. Lawmakers instead could decrease property-wealthy districts' recapture payments by increasing state funding.

"A lot of the people ... who have been driving this whole 'reduce or eliminate recapture' discussion have had to face reality in a hard way," said Josh Sanderson with the Equity Center, which represents property-poor school districts and supports a recapture system.

"What we have been preaching to them is as long as you have a system of funding schools based largely on property taxes, you have to have some method to go in and capture the resources where they are and distribute to where the students are. That's what recapture is."

Before becoming a public school district in 1937, the schools were privately run to solely serve the children of Boles Orphans' Home located in Quinlan, founded by William and Mary Boles who were orphaned as children.

The facility, just a few steps from the district, now serves single mothers and at-risk children. About 150 students who live at the facility attend district schools. The elementary school is still housed in 60-year-old buildings the home had built.

With the help of state funding and a push to build enrollment through marketing and word of mouth over the years, Boles has become a district of choice, Sweeney said.

Small class sizes and a variety of education and extracurricular offerings, from a football team and band to college-credit courses and American Sign Language classes, have drawn families from as far away as Dallas. More than 70 percent of the district's 543 students, the highest enrollment in the district's history, are transfer students.

"With Boles, I just heard wonderful things — high test scores, smaller class sizes, never heard of any bullying. Everyone there is family," said Kerri Gibbs, the mom of a first-grade transfer student. Gibbs put her son on the wait list when he was 2 years old.

The district boasts a culinary program run by a former restaurant executive chef, who also prepares meals like chicken and dumplings and char-grilled smoked sausage for students every day.

Students also can take agricultural mechanics classes in which they build dirt levelers, meat smokers and farming equipment to bring to competitions. Community members often ask for pieces in exchange for donations. Recently, the district received \$1,500 for a customized trailer

Possibly the district's proudest offering is its robotics classes, which students can start participating in at the middle school level.

On a recent afternoon, high school students showed how they won third place at a state competition in December by programming their robot

to navigate an obstacle course while picking up different objects.

Their teacher Cheryl Hobbs said people are surprised to see that a district of Boles' size has a robotics team, and that

Boles ISD Hornets logo

we're successful."

The next morning, a middle school group contemplated how to wire a controller to an underwater robot. Other students were refining another robot for an upcoming statewide competition.

"Many of our kids will probably never move out of Hunt County, and so any experiences we can give them will hopefully open up the rest of the world to them," said Michael Sanderson, one of the two middle school robotics teachers.

Although his district has benefited from the recapture system, Sweeney says the state needs to look at reducing recapture payments for property-wealthy districts.

"I used to preach that yes, we should all share the wealth. But I'm not sure that we should be extracting the funds from other communities," Sweeney said. He suggests the state redirect tax revenue collected from businesses, not school districts, to help fund property-poor districts like his.

The state's school funding formulas dictate how much money a district should receive per student based on a variety of factors, such as geographic location and how many students from poor families or students studying English as a second language are enrolled in the district. If a district generates local property tax revenue less than the dictated amount, the state makes up the difference. And if a district generates money above that per-student amount, then it must send the excess to the state.

The funding formulas, however, are based on multipliers that are outdated and no longer reflect the actual costs of educating Texas students.

In addition, some districts already struggling with high recapture payments that have lost students to publicly funded charter schools are allowed to keep less local revenue and thus must pay higher recapture payments. Because charter schools don't generate any property revenue and are reliant on state funding, their critics argue that recapture payments actually go to pay for charter schools, and not property-poor districts.

And, as property values and recapture payments have ballooned, the state has dropped its share of public education funding to 38 percent, down 10 percentage points over the last five years.

All those factors combined explain why many Texas school districts, property-wealthy and property-poor alike, are underfunded.

Longtime Boles school board member Linda Pitts, who now serves as board president, said she believes Boles is as successful as it can be with the money the state has provided. But, she also notes that it doesn't have the same amenities that other districts do.

"These big districts that have these big budgets — they've got access to these funds within their own district because they have industry, and we don't. To be able to have more funds allows us to provide more opportunity for our kids to dream big," Pitts said.

Boles also has reached the statutory cap of the maintenance and operation tax rate — \$1.17 per \$100 of property valuation — the revenue of which pays for the district's day-to-day operations. Combined with interest and sinking tax rate, revenue of which is used to pay off construction debt, Boles' overall tax rate is \$1.54, 35 cents higher than in the Austin district.

Based on how the state's school finance system works, construction of schools is usually paid for by borrowing against local property tax revenue and some state funding, so property-poor districts

typically have older buildings. Boles Elementary School, for example, was built in the 1950s.

"It's the property-poor districts that always have the highest (interest and sinking) tax rates. The state has two programs to help poverty-poor districts when it comes to facilities funding. Those programs were created in the very late '90s and they've never been adjusted," said Sanderson with the Equity Center.

Since it is so small and surrounded by the much larger Quinlan school district, the district has entertained discussions of consolidating with another district, but Pitts said its community doesn't want it.

"We are family here," Pitts said

Sweeney has been constantly trying to find ways to grow enrollment — and with it, more state funding — by purchasing billboards, passing out brochures at community events and even getting a state law passed that lets districts open campuses outside of their boundaries.

Sweeney in the past has considered opening campuses in Houston and Greenville that would be controlled by the Boles district. Although those plans have fallen through, Sweeney is still open to the idea.

In the meantime, he tries to save money wherever he can.

Bathroom stalls, bleachers, furniture and computers were hand-me-downs from a local university and the much wealthier Highland Park school district in Dallas. In the last few years, Boles officials have bought old band uniforms from the Mesquite district, which has the same black and green spirit colors as Boles, and sewed on their own patches.

Amassing enough money to build awnings and parking lots in recent years excites district employees, Pitts said.

After several years of saving, the district will finally start construction on a \$30,000 to \$40,000 track soon. When they can't make it to a neighboring school district for practice, students run on a rock driveway or in a grass field.

The field "is uneven and you risk turning ankles. We laugh because we say that we're best track team in Texas without a track," said high school track coach Lamont Hearn, who has sent two students over the last five years to state competitions.

If given more money, teachers and principals said they would love to see more reliable internet in their buildings, smart boards in their classrooms, an extra classroom for robotics and more Chromebooks for their students.

Students like Mateo Dierra, 17, would love to see more class offerings, including in business, trigonometry and calculus.

"That's most of the problem — we want this class, this class or this class, but who's going to teach it?" Dierra said.

The high school has chosen to offer dual credit courses, which give students high school and college credit at the same time, in lieu of Advance Placement classes in part because of the cheaper price tag. The district does not have to put up as much money for the dual credit courses because the partnering college will supplement the teachers' salaries.

Sweeney said if he had more money, he'd pay his teachers more to attract and retain high-quality teachers. The district would welcome a \$5,000 pay raise a Senate bill would give all Texas classroom teachers, but it wouldn't necessarily make the district more competitive.

The starting salary of a Boles teacher is \$34,580, as much as \$16,000 less than districts only a few miles away.

Teachers across the state, including Boles, are barely making enough to pay for the rising cost of health insurance.

"One of the sore subjects for me is health care and our insurance. We pay so much for health care, and a lot of times we don't even use it because we go with the high deductible plan because it costs less. It's frustrating," said Boles teacher Angie Riley, who up until recently was paying \$1,000 a month in premiums because her son was on her plan.

After teaching for 23 years, Riley makes \$52,000 year. She and her husband, who works for another school district, are only able to make ends meet because they own a few side businesses, including selling fireworks and renting out bounce houses.

But Riley said she is willing to make those sacrifices to remain at Boles.

She left a few years ago to make \$10,000 more annually at a nearby school district, but returned to Boles because of the benefits of smaller class sizes, including less work, forming closer relationships with students and families, and less pressure from administrators to earn high marks on state standardized tests.

"It's not about the money," she said. "I'm a lot happier. I'm a lot less stressed. I feel like this is home."

Information from: Austin American-Statesman, <http://www.statesman.com>

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Lady Buffs powerlifting places at Regionals



Courtesy photo
Lady Buffs Powerlifting recently competed at at THSWPA Regionals. The girls, placed as follows: Brennan 8th with 725 lb, Jaidyn 9th with 555 lb, and Kendra 7th with 730 lb.

Bulldog JV ends 2nd in Stanton tournament

Special to the Herald

STANTON— The Coahoma JV baseball team walked away with second place at the Buffalo Diamond Classic in Stanton this weekend. The Bulldogs fell to Seminole 8-9 in the championship game on Saturday.

"It was a hard fought game," Coahoma coach Isaac Rodriguez said. "They were up on us 8-0 in the first inning, but we clawed back little by little and held them to one run for four innings."

The run to the championship game for the Bulldogs started on Friday against Seminole. Coahoma lost 8-5, but turned right around and beat the Stanton freshman team 15-0.

Then on Saturday, Coahoma faced Midland Trinity for the morning game and handily won 17-2. Kobe Cervantes was on the mound for the Bulldogs. He is now 3-0 as a pitcher for the season. Also, the Bulldogs pulled off a triple play in the game.

The JV team is now 7-1-2 for the season.



College coaches look for agile big men in recruiting

By JOHN MARSHALL

AP Basketball Writer

Coaches used to walk into a gym, see a big guy dominating the paint and want to recruit him right away. Get a talented big man who could play with his back to the basket and the program would be set offensively and defensively for the next few years.

Oh, how things have changed.

As the sport has shifted to a more up-tempo, free-flowing style, college coaches have sought big men who can dribble, shoot places other than at the rim and move defensively instead of anchoring in the paint.

Back to the basket ability has become a bonus.

"When you think about the NBA and college, 10 to 15 years ago there was always bigs that were plodders, they would use their fouls, they would be great screen setters," said Eric Musselman, coach at No. 12 Nevada. "With the spacing of today's game, you need bigs who can pass, dribble, can shoot and can move."

College basketball still has a handful of centers who play mostly on the low post, but the majority are athletic players who can shoot from the perimeter — or at least midrange — and handle the ball without it getting it snatched by smaller guards.

Basketball has become more of a position-less game, with every player on the floor able to play and guard multiple positions. The Golden State Warriors helped change the NBA with their freewheeling, everyone-can-shoot-it style and the college game has followed.

Spacing is key in today's offenses, so every player, including the big man, must have the agility to make it work. Even if they can't shoot 3-pointers, big men must at least be able to handle the ball on the perimeter and be athletic enough to get to the rim on ball screens.

"Even if you're not great shooters, I'd like for him to be able to play on the perimeter," Buffalo coach Nate Oats said. "If they don't have the perimeter skills, they better be athletic enough to, you know, to play with four other guys that space the floor out. If you can get some ball screens and getting to the rim, be really athletic, you can play with a guy like that."

Even if a team doesn't follow the latest trend of wanting to play faster, it still has to have the players to stop teams that do.

Today's big men need lateral movement and quickness to accommodate the switching required to stop the free-flowing offenses. Get a big man who doesn't move well and opponents will ball screen your team into oblivion because he can't rotate quick enough.

"If there are teams not playing fast offensively,



AP photo

Kentucky forward PJ Washington (25) shoots over Tennessee forward Yves Pons (35) during the first half of an NCAA college basketball game Saturday, March 2, in Knoxville, Tenn.

they certainly need a big to get back in transition defense because a majority of your opponents are going to play it's somewhat of a quicker pace than was maybe being played 10 or 15 years ago," Musselman said.

Nearly all of the nation's top teams have athletic big men who can move and shoot.

Dedric Lawson can play multiple positions and hit 3-pointers for No. 15 Kansas. No. 4 Kentucky's PJ Washington has expanded his game, becoming a perimeter threat while being active enough to guard nearly anyone. Top-ranked Gonzaga's big man, Brandon Clarke, isn't much of a 3-point shooter, but he's agile and active, can handle the ball without being pickpocketed every time and is a superb shot blocker.

Montell McRae and Nick Perkins, the two big men for No. 21 Buffalo, can both shoot the 3 and give the Bulls the spacing they need.

Those are the current success stories. Coaches are always looking for more like them for their next recruiting classes — and the players know. They see what's happening in college and the NBA and prepare for it.

Big kids who used just plop in the middle of the lane and shoot over smaller kids now prac-

tice their ball handling skills and shooting. High school and AAU coaches help the process as well, no longer restricting them to under-the-basket duty, allowing them to work on skills that used to be limited to guards and small forwards.

Big men come prepackaged, to a certain degree.

"When you watch AAU, there's hardly any bigs that want to play with his back to the basket anymore," Musselman said. "There's still room in the game for guys to play with their back to the basket, but they don't want it anymore because they're watching the NBA, where bigs have now become perimeter guys. Today's younger players are understanding the importance of ball handling and things like that."

And that's just what college coaches are looking for.

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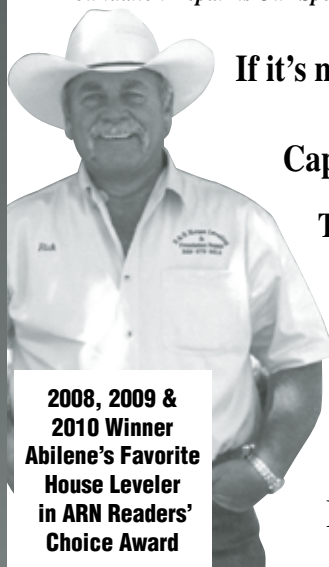
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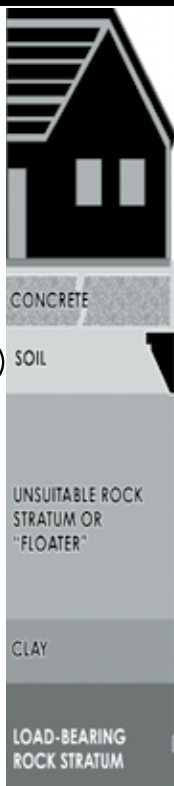
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Legals
NOTICE OF APPLICATION
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the SABALO OPERATING, LLC, [RRC Operator No. 741939] has made application for a spacing exception permit under the provisions of Railroad Commission Statewide Rule 37 (16 Tex. Admin. Code section 3.37). Applicant seeks exception to the lease line distance requirement because the Applicant is less than the required Rule 37 lease line distance to an unleased or non-pooled interest within the subject unit for the AMENDED NEW DRILL permit in Sec. 13, Bk. 32 T2N, T&P RR CO Survey, A-269, SPRABERRY (TREND

Legals
AREA) Field, HOWARD County, being 8.75 miles SE direction from VEALMOOR, Texas.

PURSUANT TO THE TERMS of Railroad Commission rules and regulations, this application may be granted **WITHOUT A HEARING** if no protest to the application is received within the deadline. An affected person is entitled to protest this application. Affected persons include owners of record and the operator or lessees of record of adjacent tracts and tracts nearer to the proposed well than the minimum lease line spacing distance. If a hearing is called, the applic-

Legals
hearing is called, the applicant has the burden to prove the need for an exception. A Protest should be prepared to establish standing as an affected person, and to appear at the hearing either in person or by qualified representative and protest the application with cross-examination or presentation of a direct case. The rules of evidence are applicable in the hearing. If you have any questions regarding the hearing procedure, please contact the Commission's Docket Services Department at (512)463-6848. If you have questions which are specific to the Application or the information set forth in this No-

Legals
tice, please contact the Commission's Drilling Permit Unit at rule 37 (512)463-6751.

IF YOU WISH TO REQUEST A HEARING ON THIS APPLICATION, AN INTENT TO APPEAR IN PROTEST MUST BE RECEIVED IN THE RAILROAD COMMISSION'S AUSTIN OFFICE AT THE ADDRESS, FAX NUMBER, OR E-MAIL ADDRESS SET OUT ABOVE BY Mar 13, 2019 at 5:00 p.m. IF NO PROTEST IS RECEIVED WITHIN SUCH TIME, YOU WILL LOSE YOUR RIGHT TO PROTEST AND THE REQUESTED PERMIT MAY BE

Legals
GRANTED ADMINISTRATIVELY.

THIS NOTICE OF APPLICATION REQUIRES PUBLICATION The location and identity of the well is as shown below: FIELD: SPRABERRY (TREND AREA) Lease/Unit Name: VINCE EVERETT 13-12 Lease/Unit Well No.: 1AH Lease/Unit Acres: 635.54 Nearest Lease Line (ft): 1.0 Lease Lines: 439.0 FSL, 160.0 FSL Survey Lines: 439.0 FSL, 2477.0 FEL Wellbore Profile(s): Horizontal Lateral: TH1 Penetration Point Location Lease Lines: 500.0 FNL 2287.0 FEL Terminus Location BH County: HOWARD Section: 12 Block:

Legals
HOWARD Section: 12 Block: 32 T2N Abstract: 1687 Survey: T&P RR CO/POOLE, MRS F S Lease Lines: 100.0 FNL 350.0 FWL Survey Lines: 100.0 FNL 2294.0 FEL Field Rules for ALL fields on the permit application are as follows: SPRABERRY (TREND AREA): Special Rules 330/0, 80.0 acres. This well is to be drilled to an approximate depth of 9000 feet. If you have questions regarding this application, please contact the Applicant's representative, Shelly Carrigan, at (361)888-7708, x6015.

#10102 Feb. 11, 18, 25 & March 4, 2019

Tomorrow's Horoscope

Kindness Moon

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You've witnessed displays of baffling skill that have made you want to pull off similar feats. These things always take about 10 times longer than you think they should but still may be worth the time it takes to master them.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You'll put in extra effort and ideas, whether or not they were asked for or will be appreciated, because giving anything less than all you're capable of just feels wrong to you.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Opportunities abound, but you have to decide what you're looking for first to recognize them. So take a breath and get focused on what

you honestly feel would make your life better.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You lead many lives within this one -- a family life, a work life, etc. -- overlapping, interconnecting experiences, each an essential part of who you are. Your fantasy life counts here, too; allow yourself to dream.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Loved ones are doing their best, though they may still unintentionally make things difficult for you, be it inopportune phone calls, bad scheduling or loose lips. Remain loyal. These are merely tests of your patience.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You're smart not to wait for inspiration. It rarely shows up uninvited. You can "send the invitation" by getting started on your project or im-

mersing yourself in the environment that scares you.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You may be able to create your desired outcome without paying the typical price. The people around you may only be paying it because they haven't stopped to consider other options.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You may be one of hundreds of thousands

By HOLIDAY MATHIS



of people who have seen the part of the world you're in now, but there are still discoveries to be made there. No one sees it the way you do.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Jump in and participate in life regardless of the number of people joining you. The best things you start will begin as solo missions. Friends will catch up when they see how much fun, money or satisfaction you're getting.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Don't let indecisiveness hold you back; there is no perfect option on the table, nor is there even one that's significantly better than the others. Choose and commit, and the world will open up from there.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You can either sort your head by going idea by idea, emotion by emotion, and writing it all out or use the body's intelligence to settle things. Exercise has a way of naturally putting

things in their place.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (March 4). Even though you'll take part in projects that would only be possible in the technological age, you'll still find magic, connection and healing in nature. You have a connection with the animal kingdom and could be an angel to a creature, and vice versa. A change in diet leads to incredible vitality and beauty. Pisces and Aries adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 7, 40, 1, 14 and 32.

Write Holiday Mathis at HolidayMathis@gmail.com.

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Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

Famous Hand

West dealer.
North-South vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ K 7 5
♥ J 9 2
♦ J 9 7 3 2
♣ Q 5

WEST
♠ A J 10 6 2
♥ 6 4
♦ 10
♣ K 8 6 3 2

EAST
♠ 8 4 3
♥ 8 7 3
♦ K Q 8
♣ J 10 9 4

SOUTH
♠ Q 9
♥ A K Q 10 5
♦ A 6 5 4
♣ A 7

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

Opening lead — ten of diamonds.

This deal occurred many years ago during a pair championship in Los Angeles. It features an unusual and imaginative play that was found by two different declarers.

At most tables, the contract was four hearts played by South, and the opening lead was uniformly the ten of diamonds. At practically all of the tables, declarer was defeated one trick after the ten was covered with the jack, queen and ace.

South drew three rounds of trump and returned a diamond toward dummy. East had the K-8 sitting over dummy's 9-7-3-2, so he won the seven with the eight and shifted to the

jack of clubs. There was now no escape for declarer, who wound up losing two diamonds, a spade and a club to go down one.

But at two tables, the contract was made by a pair of shrewd declarers. Dr. Edward Frischauer and Meyer Schleifer both diagnosed the opening lead as a singleton, and put this knowledge to work to bring home the contract.

They ducked the first diamond in dummy and, when East produced the eight, also played low from their own hand! This play saddled them with two diamond losers, just as at the other tables, but there was a big difference. The contract now could not be defeated.

West could do no better than shift to a trump. South drew trumps and then played the ace and another diamond. East won and returned a club, but declarer took the ace, cashed dummy's diamonds, discarding a club, and then conceded a trick to the ace of spades, making four.

Observe that it would not have helped the Easts at these two tables to overtake the ten of diamonds at trick one because South would then win the trick and lose only one diamond.

The diamond duck from both hands at trick one is clearly correct — provided declarer thinks of it. Either West's lead is a singleton, or it is from the 10-8 doubleton, in which case South loses only one diamond whatever he does.

Tomorrow: Step into my parlor ...
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SUDOKU

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!

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

Level: Beginner

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!

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

ANSWER:

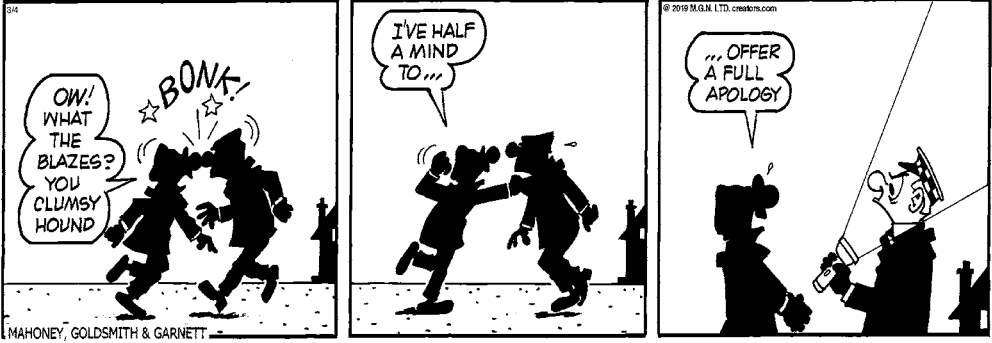
TEXTING AND DRIVING MAKES GOOD PEOPLE LOOK BAD.

STOPTEXTSTOPWRECKS.ORG

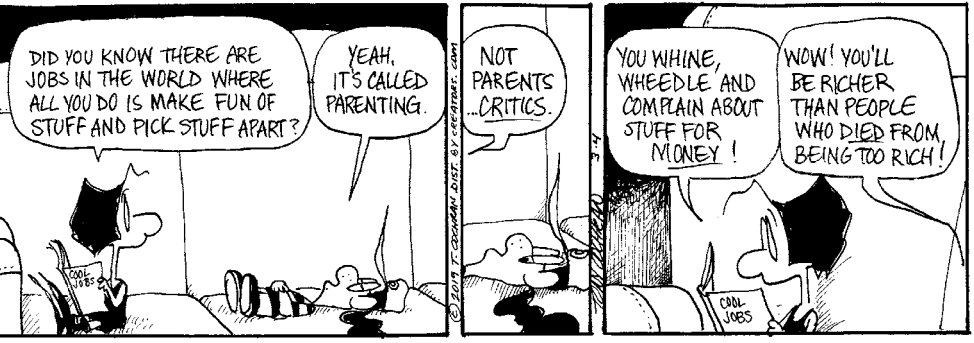
Ad Council NHTSA

Table of TV channel lineups for various stations like KMID, UNI, KPEJ, KOSA, etc.

ANDY CAPP



AGNES



ARCHIE



ONE BIG HAPPY



NEST HEAD



MOMMA



This Date In History

Today in History

Main body of text under 'This Date In History' describing historical events.

months of home confinement. Ten years ago: British Prime Minister Gordon Brown, addressing a joint meeting of the U.S. Congress, called on Americans to look beyond their own tumbling financial markets to see a world gripped by an "economic hurricane" that could be turned around with U.S. help. Playwright Horton Foote, who'd won an Oscar for his screen adaptation of "To Kill a Mockingbird," died in Hartford, Conn. at age 92. Five years ago: President Barack Obama submitted a \$3.9 trillion budget for fiscal 2015. U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry met in Ukraine with the new government's leaders in a show of support following Russia's military incursion into the Crimean Peninsula. One year ago: "The Shape of Water" won the Oscar for best picture and in three other categories; the top prize was announced by Warren Beatty and Faye Dunaway a year after they were caught up in the erroneous announcement that "La La Land" and not "Moonlight" had won for best picture. Russian President Vladimir Putin said Russia would "never" extradite any of the 13 Russians who'd been indicted by the United States for election-meddling; he also insisted to NBC News that they didn't act on behalf of his government. Former Russian spy Sergei Skripal and his daughter were found unconscious on a bench in the southwestern English city of Salisbury; both survived what British authorities said was a murder attempt using a nerve agent. Today's Birthdays: Former Congressional Budget Office director Alice Rivlin is 88. Actress Paula Prentiss is 81. Movie director Adrian Lyne is 78. Singer Shakin' Stevens is 71. Author James Ellroy is 71. Energy Secretary Rick

Perry is 69. Singer Chris Rea is 68. Actor/rock singer-musician Ronn Moss is 67. Actress Kay Lenz is 66. Musician Emilio Estefan is 66. Movie director Scott Hicks is 66. Actress Catherine O'Hara is 65. Actor Mykelti Williamson is 62. Actress Patricia Heaton is 61. Sen. Tina Smith, D-Minn., is 61. Actor Steven

Weber is 58. Rock musician Jason Newsted is 56. Actress Stacy Edwards is 54. Rapper Grand Puba is 53. Rock musician Patrick Hannan (The Sundays) is 53. Rock singer Evan Dando (Lemonheads) is 52. Actress Patsy Kensit is 51. Sen. James Lankford, R-Okla., is 51. Gay rights activist Chaz Bono is 50. Actress

Andrea Bendewald is 49. Actor Nick Stabile (stah-BEEL) is 49. Rock musician Fergal Lawler (The Cranberries) is 48. Country singer Jason Sellers is 48. Jazz musician Jason Marsalis is 42. Actress Jessica Heap is 36. Actor Scott Michael Foster is 34. TV personality Whitney Port is 34. Actress Audrey Esparza

is 33. Actress Margo Harshman is 33. Actor Josh Bowman is 31. Actress Andrea Bowen is 29. Actress Jenna Boyd is 26. Thought for Today: "I do not understand the world, but I watch its progress." — Katherine Anne Porter, American author (1894-1980).

Newsday Crossword

- ACROSS
1 Chatters
5 Drains of energy
9 Sleep in a tent
13 Muslims' Almighty
15 "Not guilty," for one
16 Turn __ a new leaf
17 Mrs. George W. Bush
18 Egg-shaped
19 Very hard to find
20 Would-be rock stars' imaginary instruments
22 Grain in sushi
23 Shade tree
24 Ointment ingredient from wool
26 Circle segment
29 Bench or couch
32 Ship's distress call
33 Canoe or kayak
35 Actor Baldwin
37 Goes off, as an alarm
41 Flights that have just landed
44 What radiators give off
45 Black-and-white cookie
46 __ so (nevertheless)
47 Nothing at all
49 Cotton-tipped stick
51 "I'd love to!"
52 Reached a high point, as a flood
56 HS senior's exam
58 500 sheets of paper
59 Selective Service classification panel
65 Prefix meaning "opposed to"

- DOWN
1 Glamorous party
2 Jai __ (fast-moving sport)
3 Fuzzy image
4 Private's superior, for short
5 Dalmatian marking
6 Thomas __ Edison
7 Gem in an oyster
8 Taco chip dips
9 Causing erosion
10 To no __ (useless)
11 Parisian's "thank you"
12 Dress smartly
14 Transports via truck
21 "In other words..."
25 "Me neither"
26 First-learned basics
27 Decisive defeat
28 Give a darn
30 Female choir voice
31 Rips (up)
34 Sends, as a radio message
36 Ship's personnel employer
39 Giddy delight

WINDY by Sandy Fein Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com
Crossword grid with numbers and empty cells.

Answer to previous puzzle
ATARI SPIT TEES
THROWSHADE KATE
OUTLOUNGE OSHA
MDS JAB HEY TAR
HIKE IRONORS
SCAMMER PAYOFF
TOPMAST SNORERS
AUG DOE
GRAFTED SUPREME
TRIAGE TRAINER
POSTDOC RANG
ARC AIL ONE ACH
IDOL SADBUTTRUE
NERO TREESTUMPS
TREX SEWS ABYSS

Harden scores 42 points, Rockets hold off Celtics 115-104

BOSTON (AP) — James Harden and the Houston Rockets are at their best when they are knocking down 3-pointers, getting points in the paint and racking up points to the foul line.

They did all three against the Boston Celtics and it added up to a mostly easy outing against a team that is continuing to struggle.

Harden had 42 points before fouling out late in the fourth quarter and Houston held on to beat Boston 115-104 on Sunday for its fifth straight victory.

Harden made six 3-pointers and scored 40 or more points for the 24th time this season. Houston entered the day in fifth place in the Western Conference standings, a game behind of fourth-place Oklahoma City.

Eric Gordon added 32 points and had eight 3-pointers.

"We're finally healthy, so yeah. It feels good," Harden said. "We winning, guys know their roles, we're executing defensively, we're helping each other out, we're talking. That's all it's about."

Boston has lost five of six since returning from the All-Star break. Kyrie Irving led the Celtics with 24 points, nine rebounds and six assists. Al Horford finished with 19 points.

Boston did a decent job trying to contain Harden, limiting him to 14-of-31 shooting from the field and nine free throw attempts.

But the Celtics were inefficient when they had the ball, shooting 48 percent (37 of 77) for the game and 29 percent (8 of 28) from beyond the arc.

The Celtics started the fourth quarter with a 17-6 run to cut what had been a 28-point deficit to 106-96 with 6:08 to play.

Terry Rozier got fouled on a 3-pointer at the five-minute mark, but missed all three free throws.

It was 109-100 when Nene's rebound gave Houston a second opportunity after a Gordon miss. It wound up in Harden's hands and he stepped back and swished his final 3 of the game to push the lead back up to 12.

But leading 112-104 Harden fouled out when he was called for an offensive foul with 1:44 left.

The Celtics came up empty on their next trip down the floor and they were forced to foul after failing to corral Austin Rivers' miss from deep.

Boston earned its first victory since the All-Star break on Friday night against Washington. But on Sunday the Celtics fell back into many of the



same bad habits that had caused them to lose four straight prior to that win over the Wizards.

Horford said he couldn't point to just one thing as the main culprit of their issues right now.

"We've had some good moments. But right now, unfortunately, we're going through a really bad stretch," Horford said. "This is when our group needs to make sure that we stay together."

Things don't get any easier for Boston, which plays its next four on the road. Its trip out West begins with a matchup against Golden State and ends with games against the Lakers and Clippers.

TIP-INS

Rockets: Harden and Gordon combined to score 74 points on 51 percent shooting. ... Iman Shumpert missed his second straight game with a sore right calf

Celtics: Shot 1 for 13 from 3-point line in the first half.

FAST START

Houston was the more aggressive team on both ends from the outset and led 65-43 at the half. Harden (23 points) and Gordon (20 points) matched the Celtics' output by themselves in the opening 24

minutes.

The Celtics were often careless in the half court on offense. They turned it over five times in the five minutes of the game, leading to 10 Rockets' points.

Boston's giveaways were exacerbated by its slowness getting back in transition.

Other times the Celtics failed to help out teammates when they were beaten off the dribble, allowing the Rockets — and particularly Harden — to get uncontested layups. Houston scored 16 of its first 31 points in the paint.

Boston hoped to get some defensive help with Aron Baynes returning to action after missing this last 11 games with a left foot contusion. But Harden repeatedly forced the Celtics to switch Baynes onto him on defense. Harden easily drove past the big man for layups on three occasions.

When Boston did have the ball, they often settled for jumpers or tried to attack Houston one-on-one.

With the Celtics trailing 53-36 late in the first half Marcus Morris airballed a desperation 3-pointer as the shot clock wound down, prompting a chorus of boos from the home crowd.

No. 11 Texas Tech wins 7th in row to stay atop Big 12

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP) — When Texas Tech guard Jarrett Culver wasn't getting much space to score early on, he got the ball to his teammates. He also had some big defensive plays for the 11th-ranked Red Raiders.

Culver had assists on three consecutive baskets before his second steal in that spurt led to the final field goal in an 11-0 run that got the Red Raiders started on a much-bigger spurt. They went on to win their seventh game in a row, staying in a tie for the Big 12 lead after beating TCU 81-66 on Saturday.

"I felt Culver let the game come to him," coach Chris Beard said. "He said, 'Hey, I'm going to have 10 assists tonight.' I reminded him that we need him to score from time to time."

Culver scored 15 points while also finishing with seven assists and five steals, both season highs. Davide Moretti also had 15 points for the Red Raiders (24-5, 12-4 Big 12), who had five players score in double figures.

Tariq Owens had 12 points and 13 rebounds for Tech, which took control with a 24-5 run in the first half and withstood TCU (18-11, 6-10) scoring the first 10 points after halftime. Deshawn Corprew also had 12 points, and Matt Mooney added 11.

"We were sharing the ball, we were pressing," Moretti said of what worked in the first half. "JC (Culver) made some high-level passes and we were hitting shots."

The Red Raiders surpassed their school record of 11 Big 12 wins set last season when they were the league runner-up and went to the NCAA Elite Eight for the first time in school history.

Texas Tech stayed tied with No. 16 Kansas State (22-7, 12-4) for the Big 12 lead after the Wildcats beat Baylor at home Saturday night. No. 15 Kansas (22-7, 11-5), the 14-time defending conference champ, won at Oklahoma State to stay within a game of the lead with two regular-season games left.

JD Miller had 18 points to lead TCU, while Alex Robinson had 17 and Kouat Noi 15.

Culver, the reigning Big 12 player of the week, had the three consecutive assists and two steals midway through the first half when the Red Raiders scored 11 in a row to start the 25-4 run that put them ahead by 23.

After assisting on a 3-pointer by Corprew, Culver passed across the court to Brandone Francis for a long jumper. Culver then had a steal and shared a couple of passes before Francis scored on a breakaway layup. Another steal by Culver led to another layup by Francis that made it 22-9.

"I think you guys saw that we play the game about as well as you can play it for spurts, then we just have some spurts that make no sense," Beard said.

TCU was within 43-35 when Robinson drove for a reverse layup to cap the 10-0 run to start the second half. The Red Raiders had three turnovers in a 75-second span during that stretch.

But when the Frogs closed the gap to seven points, the slimmest after the break, Tech scored eight quick points — Corprew had a 3-pointer and a layup before Mooney hit a 3.

"At least I was happy we came out in the second half ... did some things, got a little bit better movement, better defensively. But dug too big a hole," TCU coach Jamie Dixon said. "Cut it to seven, and then they came right back and hit a couple of shots. But open shots. That's on us."

BIG PICTURE

Texas Tech: The Red Raiders had a double-digit halftime lead for the eighth time in their last nine games, and the 43-25 lead at TCU was plenty. Tech had plenty of support from red-clad fans who were often louder than the TCU fans.

TCU: The fourth loss in five games certainly doesn't help TCU's chances of going to the NCAA Tournament for the second year in a row after



AP photo

Texas Tech guard Jarrett Culver (23) gets through the defense of TCU's Alex Robinson, center rear, and Desmond Bane, right rear, in the first half of an NCAA college basketball game in Fort Worth, Texas, Saturday.

ending a two-decade drought last season. ... The Horned Frogs will have a losing record in Big 12 play for the sixth time in seven years since joining the league. They were a program-best 9-9 last season.

"In our minds, we're playing for an NCAA Tournament (bid)," Dixon said. "I still believe in our team. ... We can play better and that's what we're going to do forward."

UP NEXT

Texas Tech plays its home finale Monday night against Texas, then finishes the regular season next Saturday at Iowa State.

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