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# BIG SPRING HERALD

WEDNESDAY EDITION,  
 DECEMBER 18, 2019

**OPEN SATURDAYS**  
 Pediatric Clinic & Well Checks  
**10am - 1pm**  
**Dr. Steve Ahmed**  
 1700 W. FM 700 (432) 264-1900

VOLUME 115, NUMBER 69

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75 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 WEEKEND EDITION



## Upcoming Events

**Festival of Lights**  
 Open through Dec. 25  
 6 p.m. - 10 p.m. nightly

**Red Kettle Challenge** has begun. Those wanting to volunteer can sign up at [RegisterToRing.com](http://RegisterToRing.com)

Submit your holiday festivities photos to be featured in the Big Spring Herald. Email [editor@bigspringherald.com](mailto:editor@bigspringherald.com).

**Christmas Tree Forest Heritage Museum**

Today

**Big Spring Veterinary Ribbon Cutting/Open House**  
 11:45 a.m.

**Dec. 19**  
**Santa comes to Back in Motion**  
 4 p.m. - 6 p.m.

**Jan. 25**

**Silver Wings Ball**  
 Tickets now available

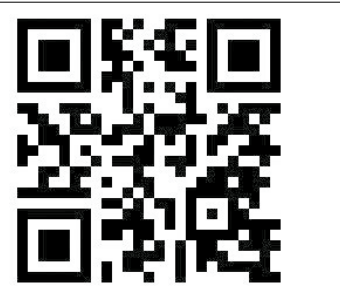
**Feb. 1**  
**Big Spring's Got Talent**

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



## BSEDC discusses selection process

By **CINDY PINCH**  
 Staff Writer

There was much deliberation between board members during the Big Spring Economic Development Corporation board meeting on Tuesday, Dec. 17. The board discussed its options in regards to accepting resumes for the position of Executive Director. One of the options was the formation of a two-person committee. The committee's responsibilities would include the acceptance of resumes and submitting them to the board. The current guidelines in effect would



HERALD photo/Cindy Pinch

**The Big Spring Economic Development Corporation Board met for the final meeting of 2019, on Tuesday evening. The next meeting will take place January 2020.**

cause the board to have a special meeting every time a resume was submitted. "My thought process was to have a

two-person committee formed." Jeff Ward said. "If we did a two-person committee, we wouldn't have to have a special meeting called for every resume we review."

Other options discussed were other alternatives to holding a special meeting for each resume and hiring a recruiting firm. The board agreed to table the matter until the January meeting. Until that time, the board will review resumes as they come in.

"I think there's a lot

See **BSEDC**, Page 3

## Greatest story ever told brought to life

### First Church of the Nazarene wraps up 33rd year

By **AMANDA DUFORAT**  
 Managing Editor

The greatest story ever told reached more than 1,800 visitors this weekend, as families drove through the Live Drive Through Nativity at First Church of the Nazarene. For some this was a first time adventure and for others it was a long, continued tradition.

"We had more this year than in the last few years; we were definitely pleased with the turnout," Richard Schneberger, Pastor at First Church of the Nazarene, said.

The Drive Through Nativity began in 1987 when the church was encouraged to do something very different for the community in presenting the story of Christmas, according to Pastor Schneberger.

"It began with only seven



HERALD photo/Amanda Duforat

**The First Church of the Nazarene wrapped up the 33rd year of the Live Drive Through Nativity this past weekend. More than 1,800 visitors went through.**

scenes and has grown over the years. There are live animals and a cast of over 100 people," he said. "Every scene is beautifully painted and decorated to authentically represent the ancient buildings and places

of years gone by."

Each year there are those memorable moments that can be told, after the weekend has concluded. This year was no different. While there were many who were touched

by the display and an impact was made in their holiday, there were even a few humorous stories that found their way to the memory book.

See **DRIVE**, Page 3

## Sip and Shop to wrap up your Christmas list

By **AMANDA DUFORAT**  
 Managing Editor

The final countdown to Christmas 2019 has arrived and the shopping days are under double digits, which means there's no better time to shop local. The Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce along with 13 local boutiques are joining together for the annual Sip and Shop, on Thursday. Participating locations will keep their doors open until 8 p.m. while offering refreshments, door prize opportunities, and special deals.

"Christmas is coming and this is your last chance to get some unique gifts, right here in Big Spring," Debbye ValVerde, Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce Executive Director, said. "Our local businesses have joined to-

gether, are keeping their doors open late and giving the community one last opportunity to get those final items marked off the Christmas list."

Whether you are looking for bath goods, unique home decor and a spruce up to your own wardrobe, there will be something for everyone on your shopping list available. Several of the local shops will be providing shopping discounts, including FamousElle, Crazy Kow and Queens of the Dude Ranch.

"Our local boutiques truly love opening their doors to the community at the holidays ... year round really," ValVerde said. "They all take pride in their selections and do their best to ensure our community can stay right here and get their shopping needs

met. We have our loyal businesses who take part in our shopping extravaganza events such as Dazzling Decor, Blissful, Lula Blu and The Karat Patch, and even a few newer faces such as The Chalet and The Crowned Bird."

ValVerde continued, "If you are

See **SHOP**, Page 3



**Debbye ValVerde**

**Big Spring Herald's Christmas Countdown**

**Piper says "Only 7 Days 'til Christmas!"**  
 (Piper Moore, Daughter of Vanna Gaston)

**Big Spring Soul A Rama**  
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Rayne Austin: 432-755-7065  
[rayne.austin@expeditionroyalty.com](mailto:rayne.austin@expeditionroyalty.com)

## Obituaries

### Melinda Cheryl Teel

Melinda Cheryl Teel, 53, of Big Spring, passed away Thursday, Dec. 12, 2019. Memorial services will be 11 a.m., Friday, Dec. 20, 2019 at Hillcrest

Baptist Church.

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

### Richard Brenton Tobias

Richard Brenton Tobias, 62, passed away Monday, Dec. 16, 2019. Funeral services will be 2 p.m., Friday, Dec. 20, 2019, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel. Interment will follow at Trinity

Memorial Park.

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

### Jimmye Shanks Burks



Jimmye Shanks Burks, 84, of Big Spring, passed away Monday, Dec. 16, 2019, in a local hospital. Funeral services will be 10 a.m. Friday, Dec. 20, 2019 at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel. Interment will follow at Trinity Memorial Park.

The family will receive friends from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Thursday at the funeral home.

Survivors include one daughter, Elaine Shapleigh of Payson, Arizona; one son, Randy Burks and wife, Laurie of Big Spring; two grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents; two sisters, Norene Guill and Eva Mae Shanks; and six brothers, Clim Shanks, Doyle Shanks, Grover Shanks Jr., Howard Shanks, John Shanks and Autov Shanks.

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

### Beatrice "TICHE" Ybarra



Beatrice "TICHE" Ybarra, 80, of Big Spring, passed away Monday, Dec. 16, 2019, at Covenant Medical Center. Vigil service will be at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 18, 2019, at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral mass will be at 10 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 19, 2019, at Holy Trinity Catholic Church. Burial will be at Trinity Memorial Park.

Beatrice was born July 7, 1939, in Howard County. She is survived by her sons, Joe "Jody" Ybarra Jr., of Leander, Albert Ybarra of Big

Spring, Johnny Ybarra of Leander, Jimmy Ybarra of Big Spring, Jerry Ybarra of Leander, and Andy Ybarra (Trinie Catano) of Midland; one daughter, Amanda Ybarra of Lago Vista; one sister, Mary Ruiz (Johnny) of Coahoma; nine grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

In addition to her parents, Claudia Ramirez Munoz and Mariano Munoz, and her husband, Jose "Joe" Ybarra, she was preceded in death by one sister, Tomasa "Tommie" Regalado; and three brothers, Johnny Munoz, Samuel Munoz and Jose "Quate" Munoz.

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

### James Berry



James Berry, 56, of Midland, formerly of Big Spring, passed away Thursday, Dec. 12, 2019. No services will be held.

James was born May 2, 1963, in Childress, Texas. He is survived by his father, Eugene Berry of Big Spring; two sisters, Janice Watson of Rankin, and Juanita Emerson of Big Spring; and one brother, Jimmy Berry of Big Spring.

James was preceded in death by his mother, Lois Wynell (Gray) Berry.

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

### Jesus "Jesse" Ramirez



Jesus "Jesse" Ramirez, 62, of Big Spring, passed away Friday, Dec. 13, 2019. Vigil service will be at 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 19, 2019, at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral mass will be at 10 a.m. Friday at Holy Trinity Catholic Church. Burial will be at Mount Olive Memorial Park.

Jesse was born June 26, 1957, in San Angelo, Texas. He is survived by his partner, Emiel Vandersmissen of Big Spring; one sister, Marina Ramirez and spouse, Rose Carrillo of Midland; and a niece.

Jesus was preceded in death by his parents Jacinta Mendez Ramirez and Jesus Ramirez.

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

## Support Groups

### WEDNESDAY

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

- 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 325-212-860

### 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. at 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); there is no charge for attendance. 13-week seminars are held three times per year on Thursday evenings, 6 to 8 p.m., at Trinity Baptist Church in Big Spring. Visit the GriefShare Ministry of TBC Facebook page. You can also call Vivian Gordon at 432-466-3583 for information on seminar dates and how you can register to attend.

## Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity:

- **ISMAEL MICKIE JUAREZ JR.**, 59, of 409 S. Aylesford St., was arrested on a warrant for theft of property (\$750 to \$2,500).

- **VICTORIA MAE ALEXANDRIA HANNABASS**, 30, of 1800 block of S. Monticello, was arrested on a charge of public intoxication.

- **JASON PITTMAN**, 41, of 1306

Harding St., was arrested on an outstanding warrant from another agency.

- **THEFT** was reported in the 200 block of W. FM 700, and the 300 block of S. Owens St.

- **BURGLARY OF A BUILDING** was reported in the 3600 block of Howard County and the 4800 block of S. Hwy 87.

- **BURGLARY OF A VEHICLE** was reported in the 200 block of Goliad St.

- **STOLEN VEHICLE** was reported in the 2500 block of Monticello St., and the 100 block of Wooten Rd.

- **ASSAULT** was reported in the 2900 block of W. 13th St., and the 1600 block of Martin Luther King.

- **BURGLARY OF A HABITATION** was reported in the 6100 block of E. Midway Rd.

## Sheriff

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

Note - Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 82 inmates at the time of this report.

- **VICTORIA HANNABASS**, 31, was arrested by BSPD on a charge of public intoxication.

- **ISMAEL MICKIE JUAREZ JR.**, 59, was arrested by BSPD on a warrant for theft of property (\$750 to \$2,500).

- **JASON ALLEN PITTMAN**, 41, was arrested by BSPD on a warrant for parking (standing or stopping) on a railroad track.

- **ISRAEL SAIZ**, 22, was arrested by HCSO on warrants for

evading arrest or detention and possession of a controlled substance penalty group 3 (less than 28 grams).

- **DUSTIN COLBERT SOWELL**, 40, was arrested by HCSO on a warrant for criminal trespass.

## Fire/EMS

Big Spring Fire Department/EMS reported the following activity:

- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 4200 block of Hamilton. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

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

- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 500 block of State. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

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

ter.

- **TRAFFIC ACCIDENT** was reported at Wasson Rd. and FM 700. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported on E. I-20 mile marker 183. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 1200 block of Hilltop. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 200 block of W. FM 700. No transport was required.

- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 1600 block of Sycamore.

No transport was required.

- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 1800 block of N. Hwy 87. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

- **GRASS FIRE** was reported in the 1700 block of FM 700. Fire was contained.

- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 1700 block of S. Nolan St. No transport was required.

- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 3200 block of Hwy 87. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

## Take Note

- The Potton House will be open, beginning Sunday, Dec. 8, and then on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays through the month of December. Hours will be from 1 to 4 p.m. Admission is free, but donations are greatly appreciated.

ated. Come see a little bit of Big Spring's history at the historic Potton House.

- VFW Post 2013 meets the first Tuesday of every month at 7 p.m. New members are being sought.

The Post is located at 500 Driver Rd. Qualified veterans, those who have served in a foreign war, who are interested in joining the VFW are encouraged to attend a meeting to find out more information.

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**MEMBER**  
**2019**

**TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION**

**DRIVE**

Continued from Page 1

“There were several great stories from this year’s Nativity. I’ll never forget the incident from Friday evening,” he said. “As we were just getting started with our first visitors for the year, a few of our sheep in the “shepherd’s scene” broke out of the gate. We could see some of the characters chasing the sheep as they wove in between cars. My wife and I were working the exit and before we knew it a couple of sheep came running past us down Lancaster St. and “Jesus” was hot on their tail.”

He continued, “Soon some shepherds, a “Mary” and a Roman Soldier came trotting past. They chased the sheep for some time and eventually caught them on Main Street, right in front of the Church of Christ. We figured they must not like our music.”

While the display is focused around bringing the Gospel to life, the incident brought an added adventure to the weekend.

“I did discover at least one thing that night... “Jesus” is fast; It provided quite a bit of comic relief for our crew, as we witnessed a living example of “Jesus” pursuing lost sheep,” he said.

After the comedic relief kicked off the three-day

weekend of spreading the Gospel, the impact started to be felt, as families drove through.

“The highlight for us throughout the weekend was visiting and praying with people after they came through. We were able to pray over many needs in our community and some from our team even had the opportunity to pray with one who wanted to receive Christ as her Lord on Saturday night,” he said. “It was a great event.”

*Amanda Duforat is the Managing Editor at the Big Spring Herald. To contact her email [editor@bigspringherald.com](mailto:editor@bigspringherald.com) or call 432-263-7331.*

**Weather**



**Today:** Sunny, with a high near 54. Southwest wind around 5 mph.

**Tonight:** Mostly clear, with a low around 27. South wind around 5 mph.

**Thursday:** Sunny, with a high near 54. South wind 5 to 10 mph increasing to 10 to 15 mph in the afternoon.

**Thursday Night:** Mostly clear, with a low around 34. South wind 5 to 10 mph.

**Friday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 57. Southwest wind around 5 mph becoming north in the afternoon.

**Friday Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 33.

**Saturday:** Sunny, with a high near 61.

**Saturday Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 33.

**Sunday:** Partly sunny, with a high near 67.

**Sunday Night:** Mostly cloudy, with a low around 37.

**Monday:** Mostly cloudy, with a high near 69.

*(Weather courtesy National Weather Service via [forecast.weather.gov](http://forecast.weather.gov))*

**BSEDC**

Continued from Page 1

you can’t tell about a person that’s written on a piece of paper.” Executive Director Terry Wegman said about the hiring process. “We would coordinate it to make it more beneficial.”

The board approved the authorization of entering into a loan agreement with BBVA Compass. The loan agreement would be for up to \$6 million and would fund the Reliever Route Access Roads.

“We can borrow \$6 million, but we don’t want to if we don’t have to.” Wegman said.

Due to the holidays, negotiations with the bank will be on hold until after the first of the year. In addition, the board discussed routine agenda items such as the approval of the Nov. minutes and financials; and the director’s report. The next BSEDC meeting will be in January 2020.

*Cindy Pinch is a staff writer at the Big Spring Herald. To contact her, email [reporter@bigspringherald.com](mailto:reporter@bigspringherald.com) or call 432-263-7331.*

**Take Note**

• DivorceCare is a biblical support group for those facing divorce or separation. Each DVD session features nationally respected experts, such as Christian Counselors and Pastors. Small group discussions and workbook exercises help participants apply the information to their own situations. We cover pertinent issues like: • Will I survive? • How to get out of debt. • How do you know when you are ready for a new relationship? • How to lessen the impact of divorce on your children. • Is reconciliation possible?

There is no charge for attendance. 13-week seminars are held two times per year on Tuesday evenings from 6 to 8 p.m. at Trinity Baptist Church in Big Spring. Visit the DivorceCare Ministry of TBC Facebook page for information. You can also call Donna Burcham at 267-6344 for information on seminar dates and how you can register to attend.

• Food2Kids will again be providing sack lunches to children in the Big Spring area who do not receive adequate food over the weekends. Members of the community can be a part by volunteering to sack the food. It takes just a couple of hours of your time, and the work is very rewarding.

The next sacking event of this 2019-2020 school year will be Monday, Jan. 6 and Tuesday Jan. 7, and they will continue throughout the year on the first Monday and Tuesday of the month. To volunteer, just show up at Lakeview High School located at 1107 N.W. 7<sup>th</sup> St., at 5:30 p.m. You can follow their Facebook page for additional information <https://www.facebook.com/food2kids/>.

• O’Neal-Kunkle, Chapter #47 of the Disabled American Vets (D.A.V.), meets the third Monday of every month at 6:30 p.m. at 2204 Runnels Street. For more information, please contact Norman Witcher at 432-413-6663.

• Senior and/or mature adults are invited to come to a dance every first and third Friday each month at the Dora Roberts Community Center, located at 100 Whipkey Drive. Come two-step the evening away, or just mingle with old friends and make new friends. Dances are from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. with live entertainment. No alcohol or smoking permitted. Cost is \$5 per person.

• Home Hospice is looking for volunteers (18+) and junior volunteers (9-16 years old). Applications can be picked up at the Home Hospice office, located at 111 E. Seventh Street, Suite A between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Adult volunteers will need to complete a training and must be able

to pass a background check. Volunteer duties will include home visits; junior volunteers will be helping with office work, community events and holiday activities. More information can be obtained by calling 264-7599 or 432-967-0901.

• Keep Big Spring Beautiful meets at noon the first Monday of every month. We meet at Howard College in the Cactus Room.

Our vision is that every Big Spring citizen will take individual responsibility for making Big Spring the most beautiful city in Texas. Visitors are always welcome. For more information call Tammy at 432-935-0057.

• The Big Spring Art Association meets the third Saturday of the month, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., 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 a 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 Calvino at 432-263-3312.

**MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL**

24th & Johnson  
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Beatrice “TICHE” Ybarra, 80, died Monday. Vigil service will be at 7 p.m. tonight at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral mass will be at 10 a.m. Thursday at Holy Trinity Catholic Church. Burial will be at Trinity Memorial Park.

Jesus “Jesse” Ramirez, 62, died Friday. Vigil service will be at 7 p.m. Thursday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral mass will be at 10 a.m. Friday at Holy Trinity Catholic Church. Burial will be at Mount Olive Memorial Park with Naval Honors.

Jo Ann Dunnam Afriach, 54, died Wednesday, Dec. 11, 2019. The family will receive friends from 3 p.m. until 4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 21, 2019 at Myers & Smith Chapel. Memorial service will begin at 4 p.m.

James Berry, 56, of Midland, formerly of Big Spring, passed away Thursday, Dec. 12, 2019. No services will be held.

Joyce Coffman, 63, died Tuesday. Services are pending. A fund has been established at the funeral home to help the family with expenses.

a candy cane discount opportunity. For those who are looking to try a local eatery amongst all the shopping, it will be a prime opportunity to try Local’s while visiting Soothe. If you are going to buy local, might as well try Local’s.”

Local,” ValVerde said.

To find out how to support the local Chamber of Commerce or more information about those taking part in the Sip and Shop on Thursday, call the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce for more details, at 432-263-7641.

*Amanda Duforat is the Managing Editor at the Big Spring Herald. To contact her, email [editor@bigspringherald.com](mailto:editor@bigspringherald.com) or call 432-263-7331.*

A complete list of participating vendors can be seen on the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce Facebook page and several of the boutiques have also added special events on their Facebook pages.

“As always, remember Try Local, Buy

**SHOP**

Continued from Page 1

looking for last minute holiday attire, The Wardrobe will be having specials, along with Splurge who will be offering



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# First Church of the Nazarene Live Drive Through Nativity



HERALD photos/Amanda Duforat

The First Church of the Nazarene held the 33rd annual Live Drive Through Nativity this past weekend. The displays represent different parts of the Gospel, and are a way for the story to be brought to life. There are those who make the drive through a yearly tradition and each year, new families start a tradition. The church members along with the community come together for three nights to share the story of Jesus's birth.

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# US deports murder parolee to Germany; he says he's innocent

By DAVID RISING

Associated Press

BERLIN (AP) — A German diplomat's son who served more than 33 years in prison for a double murder in Virginia that he has steadfastly maintained he didn't commit arrived in his homeland Tuesday after being released on parole.

Jens Soering, his brown hair now graying, was met by a crush of supporters and reporters after he landed in Frankfurt following his deportation, saying "I would never have managed it without these people who supported me for years."

"After 33 years, 6 months and 25 days, to finally, finally be back in Germany, it's so great," he said. "I am so happy. This is really the best day of my life."

Soering, 53, was convicted of murdering his then-girlfriend Elizabeth Haysom's parents in 1985 and was serving a life sentence in Virginia when he was granted parole last month. Haysom, who was serving a 90-year sentence as an accessory, was also granted parole at the same time.

The slayings of Nancy and Derek Haysom on the outskirts of Lynchburg, Virginia, attracted national attention in the U.S. both for their brutal ferocity — the victims had their throats slashed and were collectively stabbed nearly 50 times — and due to the suspects.

Soering, a self-described nerd, was the teenage son of West Germany's vice consul at the consulate in Detroit and Haysom, the daughter of a retired Canadian steel executive, was portrayed at the time as a worldly femme fatale.

The two met at University of Virginia students. They fled before they had emerged as the main suspects and were eventually arrested in London.

Haysom did not fight her extradition but Soering did, and he was only sent back to the United States after a four-year legal battle. His 1990 trial was a sensation, one of the first to be televised live. Haysom testified against him, telling the court she manipulated Soering into committing the killings because her parents wanted to end their daughter's relationship with Soering.

Soering to this day maintains that Haysom carried out the killings herself and only told him after the slayings. Haysom, a Canadian citizen, was also ordered deported after her release on parole.

Soering initially confessed to the murders, but later said he had only done so because he thought his father's status as a diplomat would provide him immunity in the United States, and that he would serve a short juvenile sentence in Germany while sparing Haysom the possibility of the electric chair.

Soering's parole was rejected 14 times before finally being granted last month and he also petitioned for a pardon many times.

In his pardon applications, Soering and his lawyers said DNA evidence unavailable at the time of his conviction pointed to his innocence. The DNA analyses showed that some of the Type O blood found at the scene did not belong to Soering. Nor could it have belonged to Haysom, who has Type B blood.

Soering has suggested in many interviews that Haysom must have enlisted the help of others in the killings.

Over the years, Soering garnered many supporters advocating for his release, including from law enforcement officials who have re-examined the evidence using new forensic techniques, crime author John Grisham and movie star Martin Sheen.

"I have a lot of wonderful friends in America, a lot of them police officers, and that's the only reason I'm here — because so many police officers came forward and investigated this case and found out the truth and they let me go," Soering said after his arrival in Germany.

Peter Beyer, a member of Chancellor Angela Merkel's party and the government's coordinator for trans-Atlantic relations, was among those who met Soering at the airport.

Soering's mother died while he was in prison and he has said he is now estranged from his father.

He did not say where he planned to live in Germany and took no questions at the airport. He asked reporters to respect his privacy for the next few weeks while he tries to settle back into society.

# No school, no trains, no Eiffel Tower: France on strike

By NADINE ACHOULLESAGE and ANGELA CHARLTON

PARIS (AP) — Teachers, doctors, Eiffel Tower employees and workers across the French labor force walked off the job Tuesday to resist a higher retirement age and to preserve a welfare system they fear their business-friendly president wants to dismantle.

Lighting red flares and marching beneath a blanket of multi-colored union flags, thousands of angry workers snaked through French cities from Brittany on the Atlantic to the Pyrenees in the south to oppose President Emmanuel Macron's overhaul of the French pension system.

Commuters and tourists faced a 13th straight day of traffic headaches as train drivers kept up their protest of changes to a system that allows them and other workers under special pension regimes to retire as early as their 50s.

"Monument Closed" read a sign on the glass wall circling the base of the Eiffel Tower, which was shut for the second time since the strike, one of the most protracted French strikes in years, started Dec. 5.

"It's very frustrating for us, unfortunately," South African tourist Victor Hellberg said, gazing up at the 19th century landmark. "We had decided to be here for one day and that's life I suppose."

Victor Garcia, visiting from Barcelona, said he's used to protests in the Spanish city, but admitted not climbing the tower's steps "is kind of a bummer."

Parents faced shuttered schools and students had key exams canceled as teachers joined in the strike.

Hospitals requisitioned workers to ensure key services Tuesday, as nurses, doctors and pharmacists went on strike to save a once-vaunted public hospital system that's struggling after years of cost cuts.

Police in Paris barricaded the presidential Elysee Palace hours ahead of a new protest on Tuesday afternoon, bracing for potential violence by yellow vest activists or other radical demonstrators angry over economic injustice.

Across the French capital, union leaders demanded that Macron drop the retirement reform.

"They should open their eyes," Philippe Martinez, the head of hard-left union CGT, said at the head of the Paris march.

Nationwide, the number of striking workers Tuesday was up from a similar cross-sector walkout last week., adding pressure to Macron. The president was already on the back foot after the key architect of his pension overhaul resigned Monday over alleged conflicts of interest.

So far, his government is sticking to plans to raise the retirement age to 64, though it made concessions last week by delaying the roll-out of the change and opened the door for new negotiations.

Government spokeswoman Sibeth Ndiaye said on BFM television: "The reform remains... We will not withdraw it."

Several European countries have raised the retirement age or cut pensions in recent years to keep up with lengthening life expectancy and slowing economic growth. Macron argues that France needs to do the same.

Unions fear people will have to work longer for lower pensions, and polls suggest at least half of French people still support the strike.

Frustration is building, however. Only two of the 16 lines on the Paris subway ran normally Tuesday, and only a quarter of the high-speed trains that crisscross the country. International lines were also affected.

Unions at the SNCF rail authority want to keep the strike going through the Christmas holidays, and the government is scrambling for solutions.

While patience was running short among Metro riders squeezing into the few subways still functioning around Paris, the strike troubles weren't enough to scare away some visitors to the City of Light.

Spanish tourist Lydia Marcos, finding the Eiffel Tower unexpectedly closed, shrugged it off and said, "It's like an excuse to come here another year."

# UK opens inquiry into Google's takeover of data company

LONDON (AP) — Britain's competition watchdog said Tuesday it launched a formal inquiry into Google's takeover of cloud data analytics company Looker Data Sciences, as it intensifies scrutiny of technology deals.

The Competition and Markets Authority said it had notified the two companies on Monday that it was opening an initial inquiry and would decide on Feb. 13 whether to escalate it to a more in-depth investigation.

The authority said this month it was looking into whether the \$2.6 billion acquisition would result in less competition in the U.K. market.

Google said in a statement that "the acquisition of Looker has received regulatory approval in the U.S. and Austria and we continue to make progress with regulators in the U.K."

The U.S. tech giant said in June it was buying Looker, which helps customers visualize data, as it seeks to compete with rivals includ-

ing Amazon in the lucrative cloud service business.

The inquiry comes a week after the authority stepped up pressure on a separate tech deal, by threatening Amazon with an in-depth investigation of its plan to buy a stake in food delivery platform Deliveroo unless it came up with proposals to address competition concerns.

Google has also come under regulatory pres-

sure on various fronts in the U.S., where authorities at both the state and federal level have opened investigations into tech giants.

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# Scientists seeking cause of freshwater mussel die-off

By **TRAVIS LOLLER**

Associated Press

KYLES FORD, Tenn. (AP) — On a recent late fall afternoon at Kyles Ford, the white branches of sycamore trees overhung the banks of the Clinch River, leaves slowly turning yellow. Green walnuts covered the ground. The shallow water ran fast and cold over the rocky bottom, but it was littered with the white shells of dead mussels.

Freshwater mussels range from about the size of a large button to the size of a billfold, but the work they do for ecosystems is enormous.

They can filter around 8-10 gallons of river water each day, cleaning it of algae, silt and even heavy metals and making the whole river a better environment for fish, amphibians, plants and bugs. Mussels also benefit the people who use their rivers as a source of drinking water.

That's why scientists are working quickly to discover the cause of a massive mussel die-off on the Clinch and understand whether it is related to similar die-offs on at least five U.S. rivers and another in Spain.

The Clinch River, winding 300 miles through Appalachia, is home to 133 species of fish and is one of the most important rivers for freshwater mussels in the world, with 46 different species — more than in all of Europe.

"I always try to get people to call this area a temperate Amazon, because the biodiversity here really is off the charts," biologist Jordan Richard, with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, said recently as he stood in waders, surveying the mussel population at Kyles Ford, a rural community of around 525 near the Virginia border.

Richard slogged through thigh-deep water in search of pheasantshell mussels, until recently one of the most abundant species on the river. He spots them easily although to the untrained eye, they aren't so obvious. Mussels bury themselves in the riverbed, digging in

with their single foot and leaving only a crescent of their shells visible.

In 2016, Richard noticed the pheasantshells were dying in large numbers — the population dropping from 94,000 in 2016 to less than 14,000 this year on a 200-meter (219-yard) stretch. He estimates hundreds of thousands, possibly millions, have died in the larger river.

Richard found reports of similar die-offs over the years in rivers around the world, but he didn't find many answers.

Over the past century, mussel populations everywhere have declined steeply due to pollution, habitat loss and climate change, yet the current decline looks to be something different.

Richard and a team of scientists suspect an infectious disease. By comparing healthy pheasantshell mussels with dying ones, the team is narrowing down a list of suspected pathogens.

"All living things are chock-full of microorganisms, and we don't have any sort of map for what is healthy inside a mussel," Richard said. University of Wisconsin epidemiologist Tony Goldberg is helping with the investigation. He specializes in wildlife diseases of unknown cause — and recently he's been busy.

"Along with invasive species, we're seeing invasive pathogens," Goldberg said. "Often it's the coup de grace for a species that is holding on by a thread."

Disease is a big part of the global extinction crisis, he said. For example, white nose syndrome was first discovered in a single New York cave in 2007 and has since killed millions of bats, and chytrid fungus is responsible for the demise of tree frogs and about 200 other amphibian species worldwide.

But Goldberg is hopeful the freshwater mussel team, which includes scientists from the U.S. Geological Survey and a nonprofit conservation group, will be able to find the cause of the mussel die-offs and a way to stop them.

"I see it as a race against time, not an impos-

sible task," Goldberg said. "We're all motivated by the sinking realization that if we lose these mussels, the rivers we all love are never going to be the same."

The Clinch, which is relatively pristine on its upper reaches, has seen 10 mussel species go extinct — it used to have 56. Another 20 species there are endangered, including mussels with evocative names such as fluted kidneyshell, snuffbox, birdwing pearlymussel, and shiny pigtoe.

Preliminary results indicate that whatever is killing the pheasantshell mussels on the Clinch is not the culprit in other die-offs under investigation in Wisconsin, Michigan, the Pacific Northwest and Spain.

"There's not some mussel Ebola sweeping across the world to take out every mussel everywhere," Goldberg said.

That also means there's no single cure for what's killing them.

In Spain, biologist Rafael Araujo is working with Goldberg to figure out what is killing the last of the endangered Spengler's freshwater mussels in the Imperial Canal on the Ebro River.

"We know that the problem is environmental (dams, water pollution, excess fertilizers, pesticides, exotic species, lack of water, etc.), but we also think that there could be a pathogen (bacteria and/or virus) that is making things worse," Araujo wrote in an email.

In Oregon and Washington, Emilie Blevins is studying the die-off of western pearlshell mussels in her role as a biologist with the Xeres Society for Invertebrate Conservation.

Blevins likens mussel beds to coral reefs in terms of their diversity and contributions to other aquatic life. But she acknowledges, "They just don't get the spotlight of some other big, beautiful species."

A big part of all of our work is ... spotlighting how important they are because if we don't value them, they're not going to be around."

## Rally for US stocks prods into fifth day; oil keeps rising

By **STAN CHOE**

AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — U.S. stocks nudged higher again on Tuesday, and the modest gains put the S&P 500 on pace to rise for a fifth straight day. After flitting between small gains and losses in the first hour of trading, U.S. indexes added a bit more to the records they set a day earlier. Stocks have been vaulting higher in the last week on optimism about an interim U.S.-China trade deal announced on Friday.

A Federal Reserve meeting last week also spurred buying after investors saw signals from Chairman Jerome Powell that interest rates will stay low for a while.

Gains for Amazon, Target and other companies that depend on spending by consumers helped to push the S&P 500 modestly higher but drops for UnitedHealth, CVS Health and other health care stocks kept the market in check.

Treasury yields gave back some of their gains from a day earlier, while the price of crude oil continued its recent march higher.

**KEEPING SCORE:** The S&P 500 was up 0.1 percent as of 10:50 a.m. Eastern time. If it stays up for the day, it would be the fifth straight gain for the index.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 36 points, or 0.1 percent, to 28,271, and the Nasdaq composite was virtually flat. The Russell 2000 index of smaller stocks was up 0.1 percent.

**BUBBLING UP:** Energy stocks in the S&P 500 rose 0.7 percent for the biggest gain among the 11 sectors that make up the index.

Crude oil has been touching its highest price in three months, and Noble Energy rose 3.3 percent for one of the biggest gains among stocks in the S&P 500. Apache climbed 1.6 percent, and Halliburton rose 1.4 percent.

Benchmark U.S. crude rose 49 cents to \$60.70 per barrel. The last time it was over \$61 was in September. Brent crude, the international standard, gained 43 cents to \$65.76 per barrel.

**GROUNDING:** Boeing fell 0.9 percent after it said it would suspend production of its grounded 737 Max airplane next month.

**YIELDS:** The yield on the 10-year Treasury crept back down to 1.87 percent from 1.89 percent late Monday. The two-year yield slipped to

1.62 percent from 1.65 percent, and the 30-year yield fell to 2.30 percent from 2.31 percent.

**ECONOMIC SIGNALS:** Industrial production and manufacturing were stronger last month than economists expected, but they still are weaker than a year ago. Industrial production rebounded to 1.1 percent growth in November from October, better than the 0.8 percent that the market was expecting. But it remains 0.8 percent below year-ago levels.

Housing data were also stronger than expected. Homebuilders broke ground on 3.2 percent more homes in November than October, well above the 1.2 percent growth that economists had projected. Housing has been on the upswing for months following three interest-rate cuts by the Federal Reserve earlier in the year.

**MARKETS OVERSEAS:** European markets were weaker. The French CAC 40 fell 0.3 percent, and the German DAX lost 0.7 percent. The FTSE 100 in London slipped 0.1 percent.

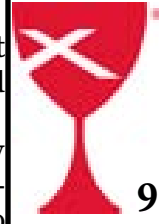
Worries about a potentially messy exit by the United Kingdom from the European Union sent the value of the British pound skidding.

Asian stocks were stronger. The Nikkei 225 in Tokyo rose 0.5 percent, South Korea's Kospi jumped 1.3 percent, and the Hang Seng in Hong Kong gained 1.2 percent.

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# Coahoma losing streak stretches to three games following home loss to Monahans

By SHAWN MORAN  
Herald Sportswriter

On Tuesday night, the Coahoma Bulldogs had trouble finding the bottom of the basket and suffered a blowout 62-29 loss at the hands of the Monahans Loboos.

"It's going to take more and more and more reps," Bulldogs head coach Joe Mireles said. "We'll be alright."

Coahoma could not buy a basket in the first quarter of their second home game of the season. The team combined to convert on only one shot and two free throws to open up the game and trailed 10-4 heading into the second quarter.

In the second, the Loboos took control of the game and would not let up. Every shot seemed to be falling and every pass seemed to find the open man for Monahans. Meanwhile, every positive play for the Bulldogs was quickly followed by a turnover or a missed defensive assignment that allowed the Loboos to stretch their lead even farther. At halftime, Monahans had stretched the lead to 24 points and were in the drivers seat holding a 35-11 lead at halftime.

"I told them at halftime that we can't do half passes and we can't do single handed passes," Mireles said. "We have three guys with varsity experience. Everyone else on our team is just coming up and they haven't seen the speed and are getting used to that."

The Bulldogs were able to find some offense at the beginning of the second half but were unable to slow down the Loboos dribble-and-drive attack. Loboos guard Brandon Sanchez drove the lane a handful of times and was able to



**Bulldogs forward Zack Schneider waits underneath the basket to see if his shot attempt would fall during the big home loss on Tuesday night.**

HERALD Photo/Shawn Moran

knock-down a few easy, unguarded layups as he led his team with 17 points.

As they begin to find their rhythm and get into the flow of the season, the Bulldogs turned the ball over a staggering 31 times. Coahoma had success rebounding the ball in the second half but could not dig themselves out of the hole they had built and were trailing 55-23 heading into the fourth quarter.

Both teams seemed to play out the motions of the final quarter with the game out-of-reach. Bulldogs starting forward Zack Schneider picked up a handful of his team-leading 13 points in the final frame and showed his ability to consistently get to the free throw line.

Lacking a true ball-handling point guard to run the offense, Mireles and his squad must get back to practice and figure out what kind of offensive and defensive philosophies will work best for them.

"We're still searching the defense that's best fits these guys," Mireles

said. "Right now we're running different kinds of defenses, different lineups, and we still have to find the one that is going to fit us."

The Bulldogs have shown spurts of how productive their offense can be this season but have yet to be able to put it together for a full four quarters.

UP NEXT: The Friday game at Post has been cancelled and Mireles is currently searching for a new school to play against.

Shawn Moran is the sportswriter at the Big Spring Herald. To contact him, email sports@bigspringherald.com or call 432-263-7331.

# Bulldogettes fall to Lady Badgers in District opener



Courtesy Photo

**Caitlyn Corley, No. 11, sends a shot to the net through two Merkel defenders during the Coahoma/Merkel district game held on Tuesday night.**

## Special to the Herald

MERKEL — The Coahoma Bulldogettes fell to No. 13 Merkel Lady Badgers 65-34 in their district opener on Tuesday. It was the Bulldogettes first district game of the season and they will be looking to get back on track the next time they take the court. Still off to an impressive start to the season, one loss is nothing for the team or fans to be concerned about.

Julia Cox led the Bulldogettes on points with 10. Caitlyn Corley had 8 points for the night.

Next: Coahoma (0-1, 12-3) hosts Clyde for a district match up on Friday. Game time is 6:30 p.m. at the CES competition gym. The JV game will begin at 5 p.m.

COAHOMA 34, MERKEL 65

Coahoma: 9, 5, 9 11 -- 34  
Merkel: 15, 19, 8, 23 -- 65

Coahoma — Julia Cox 10, Caitlyn Corley 8, Macee Grant 1, Madison Rodgers 5, Abbie Lopez 6, MaKynlee Overton 4.

Merkel — Callie Freeman 2, Avery Holloway 12, Kaydi Pursley 16, McKayla Bermea 1, RJ Doan 2, Sydnee Gilbreath 9, Alyssa O'Malley 14, Alyanna White 9.

Free Throws — Coahoma 16 -24, Merkel 16-28; 3-point shots — Merkel 5 (O'Malley 4, Pursley); Fouls — Coahoma 21, Merkel 18.

# Mad-Bum says 2nd act with D-Backs can be as memorable as 1st

By DAVID BRANDT  
AP Sports Writer

The first act of Madison Bumgarner's baseball career consisted of 11 hugely successful seasons that included three World Series titles with the San Francisco Giants.

The 30-year-old left-handed pitcher believes his second act in Arizona can be just as memorable.

The Diamondbacks finalized their \$85 million, five-year contract with the 2014 World Series MVP on Tuesday, announcing the deal and introducing their newest ace at Chase Field.

"First and foremost, winning is what the whole decision was based on," Bumgarner said. "Being with a team, that in my mind, plays my brand of baseball. Plays the way I like to play."

Bumgarner's deal pays \$6 million next year, \$19 million in 2021, \$23 million in both 2022 and 2023, and \$14 million in 2024. Arizona will defer \$5 million annually from 2021 to 2023, money paid in \$5 million installments each Nov. 1 from 2025-27. He gets a hotel suite on the road, the right to block trades to five teams and four premium seats at all games.

Bumgarner said Arizona was his "No. 1 place" when he talked with his agent about potential new destinations and said he "definitely left some money on the table" to come to the Diamondbacks. The North Carolina native said he's always enjoyed Arizona during spring training when he was with the Giants, and would usually rent a place in the Phoenix area where he could bring his family.

Now he's looking forward to it being his second home.

The move was announced two days after the sides reached an agreement pending a successful physical. It's a marquee addition for GM Mike Hazen, who adds the lefty to a rotation that also could include Robbie Ray, Zac Gallen, Mike Leake, Merrill Kelly or Alex Young.

Hazen said the team didn't start the offseason targeting Bumgarner, but once talks started it became an obvious fit.

"His presence, his leadership, certainly his track record," Hazen said. "All the things we've watched from across the field with the success he's had with the San Francisco Giants, we felt this was a big add for us."

It is an intriguing decision for the D-backs, who don't neatly fit into the category of a small-market or large-market team. They've occasionally made splashes in free agency — like when they signed Zack Greinke to a \$206.5 million, six-year deal ahead of the 2016 season — but usually are content to have a payroll in the middle of the MLB pack.

Arizona finished 85-77 last season after trading Greinke to Houston in July. Now the D-backs are trying to build a roster that can catch the Los Angeles Dodgers, who won 106 games last season to earn their seventh straight NL West title.

If the D-backs can reach the postseason, Bumgarner's presence could prove invaluable. He's best known for his postseason performance — he is 4-0 with a memorable Game 7 save and an 0.25 ERA in World Series play, and has pitched two shutouts in NL wild-card games.

Bumgarner matched his career high with the 34 starts this year, moving past two frustrating, inju-

ry-shortened seasons. He won 119 games and has a 3.13 career ERA with the Giants and said he loved his time in the Bay Area, thanking the fans for their support for more than a decade.

During his tenure, the Giants won the World Series in 2010, '12 and '14. While Arizona forfeits its second-highest draft pick, currently No. 34, San Francisco gains an extra pick, roughly No. 70, as compensation.

"We thank Madison for all that he has given to the Giants and the Bay Area community and we are deeply grateful for the success, excitement and memories he created over a remarkable 11-year period in a Giants uniform," the team said in a statement.

The four-time All-Star missed nearly three months in 2017 after an April dirt bike accident during an off day in Colorado. Then Bumgarner broke the pinkie on his pitching hand when he was hit by a line drive in his final 2018 spring training start, undergoing surgery to insert pins into the finger. He returned in June that year and wound up 6-7 with a 3.26 ERA in 21 starts and 129 2/3 innings.

Bumgarner's signing comes with a substantial amount of risk. His home-road splits were drastic last season: the left-hander had a 2.93 ERA at home in San Francisco but a 5.29 ERA on the road.

"We feel like we're getting a top of the rotation starting pitcher," Hazen said. "We've parsed through a lot of the numbers. It is what it is. I get it. But what we saw this year, we thought we saw a really good starting pitcher. We feel like he's pitched at a level that we as an organization can benefit from."

# Forsan varsity girls pick up win in McCamey; boys lose in OT

By SHAWN MORAN  
Herald Sportswriter

After a two hour-plus trip to McCamey High School on Tuesday night, the Buffaloes came away with one big win from the varsity girls team and one hard-fought, overtime loss from the boys varsity team. Two players scored in double digits for the Buffs and one player even recorded a double-double. But the McCamey offense was just as good and left with a 67-63 win over Forsan.

The girls were able to get back on track of their season and ended a losing streak by coming out with a huge 52-22 win over McCamey. Three players scored in double-digits for the Lady Buffs and the defense was able to stifle the opposing offense for the entire game. With a lot of season ahead for both teams, it was an important step for them to take against an opponent from out-of-town.

UP NEXT: Both teams will be back in action on Thursday and Friday





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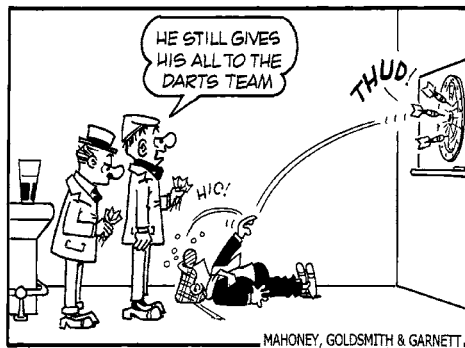
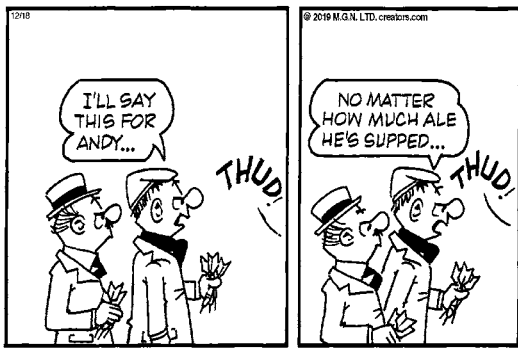
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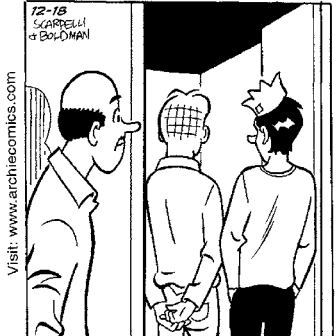
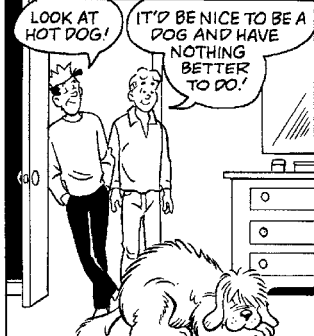
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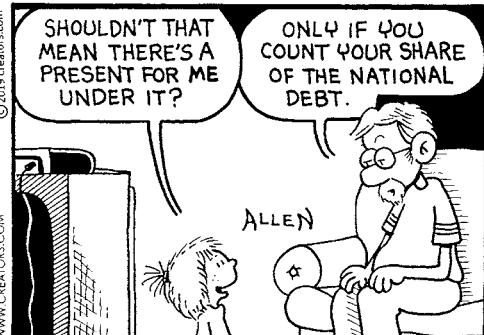
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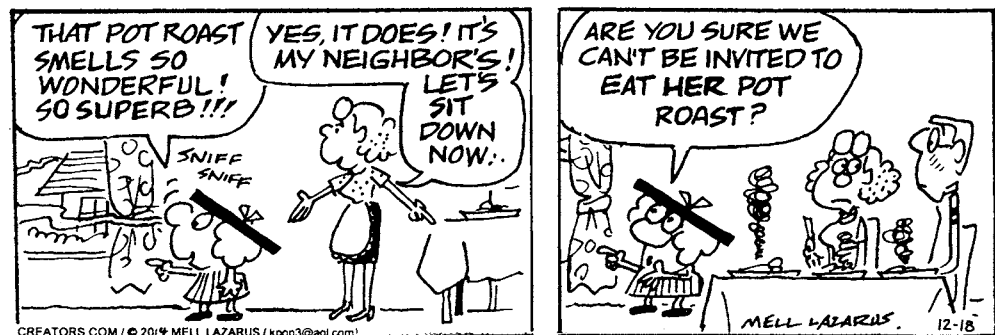
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This Date In History

Today in History Today is Wednesday, Dec. 18, the 352nd day of 2019. There are 13 days left in the year. Today's Highlight in History: On Dec. 18, 2000, the Electoral College cast its ballots, with President-elect George W. Bush receiving the expected 271; Al Gore, however, received 266, one fewer than expected, because of a District of Columbia Democrat who'd left her ballot blank to protest the district's lack of representation in Congress.

could not indefinitely hold prisoners without access to lawyers or American courts. Ten years ago: The infamous iron sign bearing the Nazis' cynical slogan "Arbeit Macht Frei" (Work Sets You Free) that spanned the main entrance to the former Auschwitz death camp in Poland was stolen. (The sign was later recovered; six suspects in the theft were later jailed.) Jon and Kate Gosselin officially divorced after 10 years of marriage, eight children and a year of tabloid headlines. Five years ago: Sternly warning the West it could not defang the metaphorical Russian bear, President Vladimir Putin promised to shore up the plummeting ruble and revive the economy within two years. Mandy Rice-Davies, 70, a key figure in the "Profumo Scandal" that rocked Cold War Britain, died in London. Actress Virna Lisi, 78, died in Rome. "The Colbert (kohl-BEHR) Report" came to an end after nine years on Comedy Central (host Stephen Colbert went on to become the host of CBS' "Late Show.") One year ago: President Donald Trump's charitable foundation reached a deal with New York's attorney general for the foundation to go out of business, even as Trump continued to fight allegations that he misused the foundation's assets. (In November 2019, a New York state judge ordered Trump to pay \$2 million to an array of charities as a fine for misusing his foundation to further his political and business interests.) The Trump administration banned bump stocks, the firearm attachments that allowed semi-automatic weapons to fire like machine guns, and gave gun owners until late March to turn in or destroy the devices. The president authorized the Defense Department to create a new Space Command, an effort to better organize and advance the military's operations in space. Arizona's governor appointed U.S. Rep. Martha McSally to replace Sen. Jon Kyl in the seat that had belonged to the late John McCain, sending the GOP congresswoman back to Washington just a month after she lost a tight race for the state's other U.S. Senate seat.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Cicely Tyson is 95. Former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark is 92. Actor Roger Mosley is 81. Rock singer-musician Keith Richards is 76. Writer-director Alan Rudolph is 76. Movie producer-director Steven Spielberg is 73. Blues artist Rod Piazza is 72. Movie director Gillian Armstrong is 69. Movie reviewer Leonard Maltin is 69. Rock musician Elliot

Easton is 66. Actor Ray Liotta is 65. Comedian Ron White is 63. R&B singer Angie Stone is 58. Actor Brad Pitt is 56. Professional wrestler-turned-actor "Stone Cold" Steve Austin is 55. Actor Shawn Christian is 54. Actress Rachel Griffiths is 51. Singer Alejandro Sanz is 51. Actor Casper Van Dien is 51. Country/rap singer Cowboy Troy is 49. Rapper DMX is 49. International Tennis Hall

of Famer Arantxa Sanchez Vicario is 48. DJ Lethal (Limp Bizkit) is 47. Pop singer Sia is 44. Country singer Randy Houser is 43. Actor Josh Dallas is 41. Actress Katie Holmes is 41. Actor Ravi Patel is 41. Singer Christina Aguilera is 39. Christian rock musician Dave Luetkenhoelter (Kutless) is 37. Actress Ashley Benson is 30. NHL defenseman Victor Hedman is 29. Actress-singer

Bridgit Mendler is 27. Atlanta Braves outfielder Ronald Acuña Jr. is 22. Electro-pop singer Billie Eilish is 18. Actress Isabella Cramp is 15. Thought for Today: "Whoever wants to be a judge of human nature should study people's excuses." — Christian Friedrich Hebbel, German poet and dramatist (1813-1863).

Newsday Crossword

- ACROSS 1 Lose sleep (over) 5 Relaxing resorts 9 Exxon sister brand 14 Green citrus fruit 15 VIP's auto 16 Got up 17 Shakespeare's river 18 Each, informally 19 Ferris wheels and carousels 20 Sleep 23 Hard to climb 24 "The result \_\_\_!" 25 Sleep 32 Prescriptions, for short 36 Pastor's nickname 37 Brother-in-law's daughter 38 "Right away," in a memo 39 Small rounded hill 42 Western alliance acronym 43 Throat ailment, briefly 45 Colorful pond fish 46 Smile broadly 47 Sleep 51 Matador's bull 52 Cause to chuckle 57 Sleep 62 Where Port-au-Prince is capital 63 Scarlett O'Hara's home 64 CBS crime series 65 Big name in aluminum

- 66 List-shortening abbr. 67 Jazz singer Fitzgerald 68 Crystal ball readers 69 Notre \_\_\_ University 70 Depend (on) DOWN 1 Cloth national symbols 2 Girder fastener 3 Be overly dramatic 4 Uptight 5 Shut forcefully 6 Accessory for Frosty 7 Pop singer Tori 8 Actress Loren 9 Resident of the Red Planet 10 Getting one's bearings 11 Main part of a letter 12 "Got it!" 13 French article 21 Decide (to) 22 UCLA rival 26 Biblical boat 27 Barbie's boyfriend 28 Bring to mind 29 At one's fingertips 30 Start of a play 31 Lowly worker 32 Noun gender: Abbr. 33 "¿Cómo \_\_\_ usted?" 34 Pub game projectile 35 One watching a game 40 Needing a refill 41 Designer Claiborne 44 Excessive fears 48 Comics canine's comment 49 Paid, as a bill 50 Tool with teeth 53 Seven Dwarfs' occupation 54 First cousin's father 55 Special ability 56 Pundit piece 57 Strong wind 58 Japanese cuisine staple 59 Pro \_\_\_ (proportionally) 60 Disneyland shuttle 61 New Haven school 62 Is owner of

SLEEPY TIME by Carolyn Stewart Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

Crossword grid with numbers 1-70 and black squares. Includes answer key for previous puzzle: SEAM GRID NASAL, ECHO AUDI AFIRE, LOOT SEED MATES, FLYING SAUCERS, FIR PAD, NAY XIII TREATS, ODES LONG OWLET, MENTAL TELEPATHY, ALTAR APEX NOEL, DEARME TECH SEE, YES AUG, TIME TRAVELING, SNAFU REBA ARIA, PAPAL UNIT SONS, ABATE TOTE SNAP.

# Hayden Fry, Texan who turned around Iowa, dies at 90

By **RALPH D. RUSSO**

AP College Football Writer

Hayden Fry, the Texan who revived Iowa football and became a Hawkeye State institution over two decades as a Big Ten coach, has died. He was 90.

Fry's family announced through the University of Iowa that the former coach died Tuesday with his family at his side after a long battle with cancer. He had been living in the Dallas area with his wife, Shirley.

"We are proud to know that our father's life had a positive influence on so many people, the players, the coaches, and the fans who played for, worked with, and supported his long and successful coaching career," the family said in a statement. "His legend will live forever with the people he touched and inspired, and the programs he led to greater heights."

Fry, a native of Eastland, Texas, had never been to Iowa before taking over the Hawkeyes in 1979, hired by then-athletic director Bump Elliott, the former Michigan star who died earlier this month.

The Hawkeyes had slogged through 17 consecutive years without a winning season when Fry arrived. He changed everything.

He had the uniforms redesigned to make them look more like the black-and-gold ones worn by the Pittsburgh Steelers, the NFL's dominant team at the time. The familiar Tigerhawk logo was unveiled during Fry's tenure. He had the visitors' locker room painted pink, a tradition that still stands. Roaming the sidelines in his familiar dark sunglasses and white pants, Fry coached the Hawkeyes for 20 seasons, winning 238 games and three Big Ten championships.

"Though Hayden was born in Texas and moved there more recently to be closer to our family, his love for the University of Iowa, his players and coaches, the people of Iowa, and the state of Iowa, is well known," the family said. "Hayden often shared, 'I'll Always Be a Hawkeye.'"

Fry's greatest season at Iowa was 1985, when the Hawkeyes were No. 1 in the AP rankings for five weeks and had Heisman Trophy runner-up Chuck Long at quarterback. Iowa finished 10-2 as Big Ten champions and ranked 10th in the country. He coached three Rose Bowls with Iowa, though he never won one.

"He had a special way of

making you feel good all the time even in the tough games and in the tough moments," Long said.

Fry started his coaching career at Odessa (Texas) High School in the 1950s, not long after playing quarterback at Baylor. His first college head coaching job was at SMU in 1962, and he was instrumental in desegregating the team and the Southwest Conference as both coach and athletic director. In 1965, Jerry LeVias became the first black football player to sign a scholarship with a team in the Southwest Conference.

"Coach Fry caught a lot of hell for doing what he did," LeVias said in a statement released by Iowa. "After he left SMU, he went to North Texas, and he couldn't get a break in Texas – sometimes coaching and having to go to good bowl games. All of a sudden, Iowa calls. When one door closes, the Good Lord has plans. It was like in the Good Lord's plans for him to come to Iowa."

Fry went 49-66-1 in 11 seasons with the Mustangs and then did a six-year stint at North Texas, where he went 40-23-3.

At Iowa, Fry not only produced winning teams, but also a long line of successful head coaches who worked and played for him.

Bill Snyder (Kansas State), Barry Alvarez (Wisconsin), Bob Stoops (Oklahoma), Bret Bielema (Wisconsin and Arkansas) and Ferentz were among the 13 Fry assistants and players who became college head coaches.

"His Hall of Fame career is well known, but personally, he will always be the man who took a chance on me at the start of my coaching career," Ferentz said. "I was proud to coach with him and honored to succeed him when he retired."

Stoops on Twitter called Fry: "A man that we all loved and revered."

Fry retired as Iowa's winningest coach in 1998, a mark since surpassed by Ferentz. He was first diagnosed with prostate cancer before his final season at Iowa and he did his best to keep the news from his players and coaches while he received treatment.

"My doctor at the hospital said, 'Coach, you may be the luckiest guy in the world. You're almost 70 years old and you're in real good physical condition other than the cancer.' He said I could live another five years. That was 16 years ago, and I'm still

here," Fry told the Cedar Rapids (Iowa) Gazette in 2015, when he was living in Nevada.

Fry is survived by his wife, four sons, a daughter, a stepson and a stepdaughter. Plans for a memorial service are pending, the family said.

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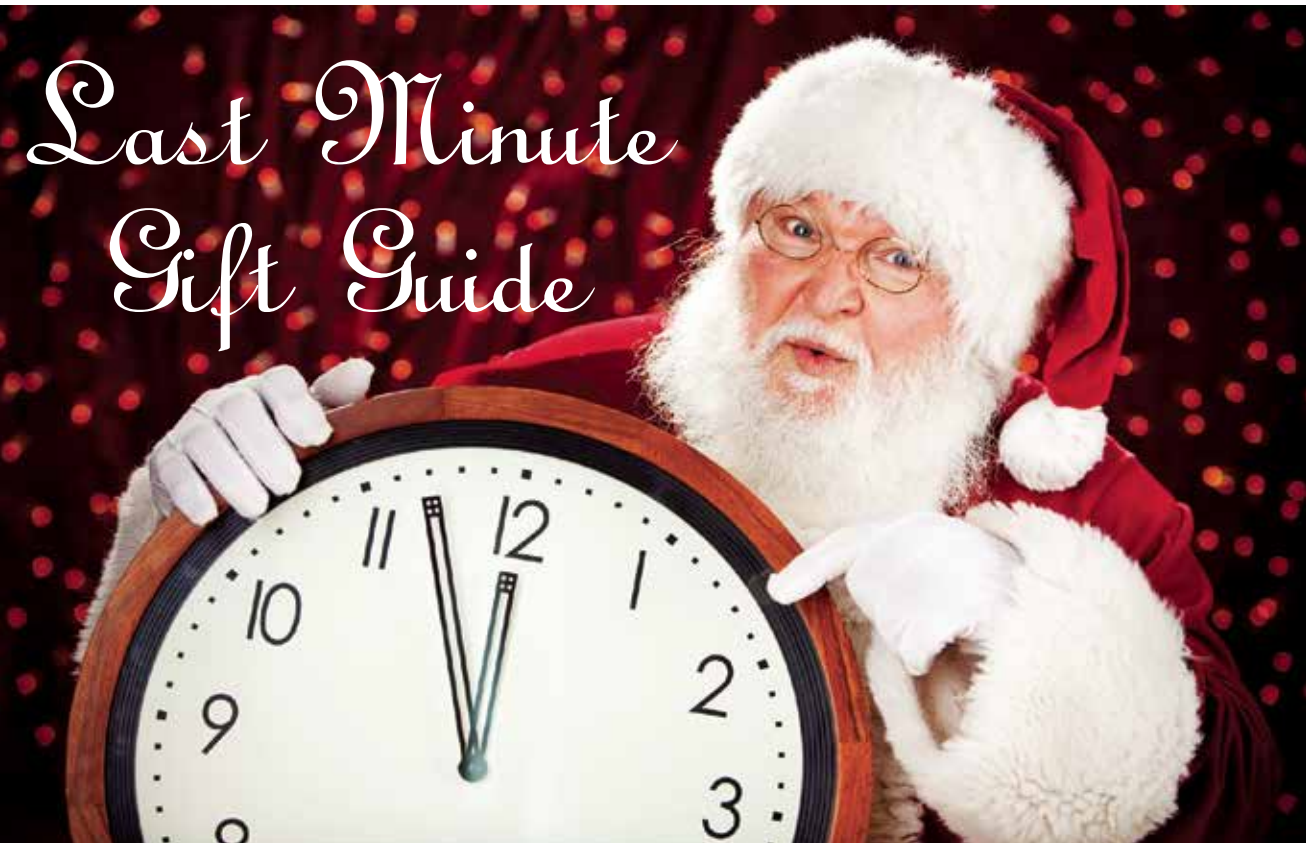
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