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Obituaries

Trinidad "Trini" Arsiaga



Trinidad "Trini" Arsiaga, 83, of Big Spring passed away peacefully on Saturday, Dec. 31, 2016.

The viewing was Tuesday, Jan. 3, 2016, from 9:00 AM until 9:00 PM Tuesday. A vigil and rosary was at 7 p.m. Tuesday at Myers and Smith Chapel. Funeral mass was at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 4, 2016, at Holy Trinity Catholic Church with burial at Mount Olive Memorial Park.

Trini was a local business owner for more than 35 years. Trini's Body Shop was located on the corner of Runnels and 4th in Big Spring Texas.

Trinidad was born on June 12, 1933, in Stanton, Texas, to Thomas and Nicholasa Arsiaga.

He was preceded in death by his son, Arthur Arsiaga; and his beloved wife Elvira Nunez Arsiaga.

Survivors include his brothers and sisters, Juana Arsiaga Mendoza, Manuel Arsiaga, Diane Arsiaga, Beatrice Mendoza, Samuel Arsiaga, Margie Garcia, Rick Nunez, Christine Barrera, and Louise Garcia; 18 grandchildren; and 5 great-grandchildren.

Pallbearers will be Rick Nunez Jr. Jesse Hernandez, Alfonso Vera, Daniel Arsiaga, Phillip Mendoza Jr., and Santos Mendoza Jr.

Arrangements are by Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Pay your respects online at www.myersandsmith.com.

Paid obituary

Rosalia Barraza



Rosalia Barraza, 97, of Big Spring died Sunday, Jan. 1, 2017, in a local hospital.

Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 5, 2017, at the Nalley-Pickle and Welch Rosewood Chapel in Big Spring. Interment will follow at Trinity Memorial Park.

The family will receive friends from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Wednesday evening at the funeral home.

Rosalia was born Aug. 13, 1919, in La Union, N.M. and married Marcelo Barraza Nov. 2, 1936, in Ackerly, Texas, where they made their home. She was a homemaker and also helped on the farm. He preceded her in death Jan. 16, 1999.

Mrs. Barraza enjoyed all kinds of arts and crafts

and was known for her contagious smile.

Rosalia is survived by two sons, Joaquin Barraza and wife Mary of Ackerly, and Eduardo Barraza and wife Barbara of Tula Rosa, N.M.; four daughters, Celia Rehm of Jacksonville, Fla., Ofelia Estes and husband Kenneth of Bovina, Texas, and Elia Cowley of Big Spring; 19 grandchildren; 36 great-grandchildren; and 13 great-great-grandchildren.

In addition to her husband, she was preceded in death by one son, Daniel Barraza; one daughter, Delia Lopez; her parents, Marcelino and Josefa (Uribe) Acosta; two brothers; and four sisters.

The family would like to thank the staff of both Parkview Nursing and Rehab and Kindred at Home for their loving care of their mother.

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

Paid obituary

Milton Alfred "Al" Cate



Milton Alfred "Al" Cate passed peacefully Jan. 1, 2017, at age 94 in Granbury, Texas.

Visitation will be from 6 to 8 p.m., Wednesday, Jan. 4, 2017, at Wiley Funeral Home Chapel, Granbury, Texas, and 1:30 to 2:30 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 5, 2017, followed by the memorial service at 2:30 p.m., at Nalley-Pickle and Welch Funeral Home, Big Spring, Texas. Interment will be at Trinity Memorial

Park, Big Spring, Texas. He was born Dec. 5, 1922, in Desdemona, Texas, to John Matthew Cate and Letha Mae Rouse. He grew up in Big Spring where he met the love of his life, Nan Carpenter Cate, who he married July 14, 1945. He proudly served in the U.S. Naval Air Corps as an aviator in World War II, mostly flying the F4U Corsair.

After the war, he and Nan opened a rural mercantile store in Howard County in April 1951. In 1955, he became manager of a mercantile store south of Pecos in Reeves County with Nan as the bookkeeper. They eventually became owners of Verhalen Mercantile. They lived at Verhalen from 1955 until her death in 2010.

He and other community leaders organized to secure funding to create the Madera Valley Rural Water Supply Corporation. He was manager and operator from 1969 until retiring in 1992. Alfred was one of the founding directors of the Texas Association of Rural Water Corporations in 1969. He served as State President 1977 to 1979.

Alfred held many local and conference wide church positions in the United Methodist Church over the years including serving on the Archives Commission of the UMC New Mexico Annual Conference. He and Nan were avid genealogists.

Alfred was a Freemason for more than 65 years. He was a rock and fossil collector. He was an untrained but natural artist, creating detailed pencil and pen and ink drawings. He started oil painting before macular degeneration took its toll on his eyesight.

For all his accomplishments in a lifetime of service, he remained a quiet and respected man who didn't seek the limelight or recognition. He was a man whose life reflected a strong work ethic, a sincere concern for the well being of others and a devotion to his family. He did as Micah advised to act justly and love mercy, and to walk humbly with his God.

Alfred was preceded in death by his parents, his wife, Nan Carpenter Cate; son, Bruce Cate; brother, CA (Adrian) Cate; and sister, Anita Cate Squires.

Survivors include son, D. Michael Cate and wife Suzanne; daughter, Molly Cate Johnson and husband Vic; granddaughter, Hilary Cate and wife Lacey; granddaughter, Robin Cate Coolidge and husband Colin; grandson, Gabriel Cate and wife Allison; grandson, Kory Peterson and wife Ashley; granddaughter, Kelly Peterson Collins and husband Tyler; great-granddaughters, Soren Cate and Caya Cate; sister-in-law, Elaine Carpenter; and many nieces and nephews and their children and grandchildren.

Paid obituary

Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity:

• **KHUN MAUNG**, 31, of 1200 Century Dr. in Midland was arrested on a charge of unlawful restraint of a person less than 17 years old.

• **PATRICK MATHEW RIOS**, 24, of 2501 Carlton was arrested on warrants for theft of property (less than \$100), evading arrest or detention, and driving with an invalid license.

• **APRIL NICOLE TURNER**, 22, of 309 NW Ninth St. was arrested on warrants for insufficient safety seat system for a child, failure to appear, and expired registration.

• **JOHN ANTHONY MIER**, 28, of 1614 Cardinal St. was arrested on a warrant for criminal mischief (\$100 to \$750).

• **DAVID CORNELIUS WEST-BROOK JR.**, 22, of 1505 S. Johnson St. was arrested on charges of possession of a controlled substance (1 to 4 grams) and possession of marijuana (less than 2 oz.).

• **ANDRENA LEIGH MORENO**, 33, of 1002 N. Main St. Apt. #58 was arrested on an outstanding warrant.

• **BRYCE TAVIN GARZA**, 17, of 1505 S. Johnson St. was arrested on charges of unlawfully carrying a weapon, theft of firearm, and possession of drug paraphernalia.

• **MARCIA GIA SADDLER**, 31, of 3304 Oaktimber Dr. in Fort Worth was arrested on an outstanding warrant.

• **ROBERT LEE EVANS III**, 24, of 708 Willia St. was arrested on a warrant for manufacture

or delivery of a controlled substance (4 to 200 grams).

• **MICHAEL JOSEPH MC-NEW**, 26, of 7805 North Service Road was arrested on charges of resisting arrest, search, or transport; and assault causing bodily injury.

• **THEFT** was reported in the 900 block of Willia Street and the 3600 block of West Highway 80.

• **CRIMINAL MISCHIEF** was reported in the 1900 block of Wasson Road.

• **DISTURBANCE** was reported in the 3300 block of West Highway 80.

• **MINOR ACCIDENT** was reported in the 500 block of FM 700 and the 2600 block of South Gregg Street.

• **DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE** was reported in the 7800 block of North Service Road.

Lois Lanell Hammond



Lois Lanell Hammond, 79, of Tuscaloosa, Ala., formerly of Big Spring, died Dec. 23, 2016, at home.

Services were at 11 a.m., Dec. 30, 2016, at Calvary Baptist Church Chapel with Chaplains Don Sander and Chuck Weaver officiating.

Lois was born in Waurik, Okla. She graduated from Big Spring High School in 1955 and from X-ray school in Lubbock in 1957.

Survivors include her husband, Thomas Edmond Hammond of Tuscaloosa, Ala.; two daughters, Kelly Stazel of Montgomery, Ala., and Shelly Cole and husband Jason of Northport, Ala.; one son, Matt Hammond and wife Kristy of Northport, Ala.; a sister, Diana Bailey of Big Spring; a brother, Jerold Spivey and wife Judy of Big Spring; six grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Hack and Pat Spivey; and two brothers, George and Lonnie Funderberg.

The family wishes donations be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital at www.stjude.org

Arrangements are under the direction of Norwood-Wyatt Chapel Funeral Home in Fayetteville, Ala.

James Morton "Jim" Hatler III



James Morton "Jim" Hatler III, formerly of Big Spring died Saturday, Dec. 24, 2016.

He was born Oct. 28, 1934, in Sperry, Okla. to the Rev. James Morton Hatler Jr. and Ellen Irene Capps Hatler. He attended Howard County College and worked at Tidwell Chevrolet in Big Spring and served as vice president of First National Bank in Big Spring.

He is survived by one daughter, Tammie Hatler of San Leon; one son, Jay Hatler and wife Kelley of Austin, Ark.; five grandchildren; two brothers, Bill Hatler and wife Dale, and Paul Hatler; one sister, Karen Napier; and numerous nephews and nieces.

Burial will be at the Resthaven family plot in Houston, followed later by a celebration of life gathering of family members. For those who cannot attend, the family would appreciate contributions of condolences, events, humor, and special thoughts, to be read at the family memorial. Please e-mail to: jimhatlermemorial@outlook.com.

Joe James



Joe James, 54, of Artesia, formerly of Big Spring, died Saturday, Dec. 31, 2016, in Artesia.

Funeral Service will be at 1 p.m. Thursday at Myers and Smith Chapel with his nephew, the Rev. Channing James, officiating. Burial will be at Mount Olive Memorial Park.

He was born May 20, 1961, in Yuma, Ariz., to Katherine and Oscar James Sr. He worked at Burger King for 21 years in Big Spring

and Artesia. He lived most of his life in Big Spring, moving to Artesia in 2009. He was a member of Mt. Bethel Baptist Church.

He is survived by three brothers, Oscar James of Artesia, Johnny McVea of Big Spring, and LeLee McVea of Big Spring; two sisters, LaVerne McVea of Big Spring and Kay McVea of Big Spring; step-mother Linda McVea of Big Spring; and a number of cousins, nieces, and nephews.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by two brothers, Vincent McVea and Kenneth McVea.

Arrangements are by Myers and Smith Funeral Home. Pay your respects online at www.myersandsmith.com.

See Sheriff and Fire/EMS reports on Page 3

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Sheriff

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

Note – Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 94 inmates at the time of this report.

- **ROBERT LEE EVANS III**, 24, was booked by HCSO on a warrant for manufacture or delivery of a controlled substance (4 to 200 grams).
- **BRYCE TAVIN GARZA**, 17, was booked by BSPD on charges of unlawfully carrying a weapon, theft of firearm, and possession of drug paraphernalia.
- **KHUN MAUNG**, 31, was booked by BSPD on a charge of unlawful restraint of a person less than 17 years old.
- **MICHAEL JOSEPH MCNEW**, 26, was booked by HCSO on a charge of resisting arrest, search, or transport, and assault causing bodily injury; and on warrants for driving with an invalid license, expired registration, criminal mischief impairing, interrupting, or diverting public utilities, violation of promise to appear, and failure to appear.
- **GUSTAVO GALLARDO MENDOZA**, 51, was booked by DPS on a warrant for fraud.
- **JOHN ANTHONY MIER**, 28, was booked by BSPD on a warrant for criminal mischief (\$100 to \$750).
- **ANDRENA LEIGH MORENO**, 33, was booked by BSPD on a motion to revoke probation for interfering with an emergency call for assistance.
- **PATRICK MATHEW RIOS**, 24, was booked by BSPD on warrants for theft of property (less than \$100), evading arrest or detention, and driving with an invalid license.
- **MARCIA GIA SADDLER**, 31, was booked by BSPD on a warrant for failure to appear for possession of a controlled substance (4 to 200 grams).
- **APRIL NICOLE TURNER**, 22, was booked by BSPD on warrants for insufficient safety seat system for a child, violation of promise to appear, and expired registration.
- **DAVID CORNELIUS WESTBROOK JR.**, 22, was booked by BSPD on charges of possession of a controlled substance (1 to 4 grams) and possession of marijuana (less than 2 oz.).

Fire/EMS

Big Spring Fire Department/EMS reported the following activity:

- **MEDICAL CALL** was reported in the 500 block of West 17th Street.

INTEL

Continued from Page 1

The American intelligence community and Republicans and Democrats on Capitol Hill insist that Russia was behind the hacks, but Trump has repeatedly dismissed that allegation, challenging the intelligence experts who will help him make the weightiest possible decisions once he becomes president Jan. 20. Trump has insisted that the government doesn't really know who's behind the attacks. He has said he'll release more information this week.

In a series of tweets Tuesday and early Wednesday, Trump wrote without evidence that the timing of an upcoming intelligence briefing on suspected Russian interference in the 2016 election had been delayed. "Perhaps

more time needed to build a case.

"Very strange!" he wrote, using quote marks around the word "intelligence."

Trump's tweets, in line with repeated criticism of his nation's intelligence leaders, caused confusion among intelligence officials, who said there was no delay in the briefing schedule.

The fresh clash came as Trump took further steps to fill his Cabinet and key White House positions, with his attention shifting toward the challenges of governing.

Trump's plans for repealing President Barack Obama's signature health care law are expected to be the focus as Vice President-elect Mike Pence and secretary of state choice Rex Tillerson meet with top Republicans on Capitol Hill on Wednesday.

Pence issued a direct

DEAL

Continued from Page 1

"Of course Big Spring, from what I understand, is a great refinery and in a great location to the Permian Basin, but from our standpoint we haven't put any specific long-term plans out on any of the assets."

He added the acquisitions will increase the companies' footprint in the Permian Basin.

"From our stand point of a larger refinery company, currently Delek has two refineries and once we have the full combination with Alon that will give us four, one being in Big Spring there," Johnson said. "We also have one in Tyler, Texas, which uses Permian crude. We have one in El Dorado, Ark., which uses Permian crude as well. Of course Alon has one down in Krotz Springs, La., that has some Permian access, so Permian is a big piece of our all combined company and makes it a large piece of our crude slate and also a big a piece of our overall focus. With the assets, we will have through this combination we will have a good footprint in the Permian."

The combined companies will create "a Permian focus compa-

ny with refining, logistics, retail and marketing operations with a combined enterprise value of approximately \$2.8 billion," according to a press release from Alon USA.

In details of the agreement release by both companies, "based on a closing price of \$24.07 per share for Delek US common stock on Friday, Dec. 30, 2016, the implied price for Alon common stock is \$12.13 per share, or \$464 million in equity value for the remaining shares. The enterprise value of this transaction to acquire the remaining 53 percent of Alon shares of common stock not already owned by Delek US is approximately \$675 million including the proportionate assumption of \$152 million of net debt related to this transaction and \$59 million of market value for the non-controlling interest in Alon USA Partners, LP (NYSE: ALDW)."

Once the companies are merged, the combined business will be led by Delek US management team. Delek's headquarters are located in Tennessee. One director from Alon will be appointed to the Delek US board of directors, and one new director will be added to the board of Delek

Logistics Partners LP, according to the release.

Delek President and Chief Executive Officer Uzi Yemin said the company is excited to reach the agreement.

"We expect to be able to achieve meaningful synergies across the organization and the combination will create a refining system that will be one of the largest buyers of crude from the Permian Basin among the independent refiners," Yemin stated.

Johnson said closing is expected in the first half of 2017.

"The combined company will have a larger presence in the Permian Basin," the release stated. "Its refining system will have access to approximately 207,000 barrels per day of Permian sourced crude out of an approximately 300,000 barrel per day crude throughput system, which equates to 69 percent of the crude slate. "There will be a larger marketing presence with approximately 307 retail locations and wholesale marketing operations in the region that is integrated with the Big Spring, Texas refinery and extends Delek US' marketing beyond its current west Texas position," the release continued.

CHAMBER

Continued from Page 1

- Nominations must be in writing and should be based on a record of accomplishments rather than a single contribution or an achievement. But a nomination will not be ruled out if that person's one-time contribution is of sufficient importance.

- The committee will base its choice on information provided in the written nomination only and not on personal knowledge committee members may know

about the nominee. This is to prevent the "process from being a popularity contest," according to the Chamber of Commerce website.

To make a nomination, the nominators name, address, and phone number must be included for contact purposes of the committee. Nominees can not currently hold a political office.

The deadline to turn in the nomination form is Monday. Forms can be sent to Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce; 215 W. Third St. or P.O. Box 1391; Big

Spring, Texas 79721, or dropped off at the Chamber offices at 215 W. Third St.

For more information, contact the Chamber at 432-263-7641.

Some of the past year's recipients are Gale Pittman, Muffet Bomar. Tommy Corwin. Christy Brorman, Paschal Odom, Erma Dunne, Gloria McDonald, and Howard Stewart.

Contact Staff Writer Lyndel Moody at 263-7331, ext. 234, or email citydesk@bigspringherald.com.

MYERS & SMITH

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Trinidad (Trini) Arsiaga, 83, died Saturday. Funeral Mass will be at 10:30 AM Wednesday at Holy Trinity Catholic Church with burial at Mount Olive Memorial Park.

Franklin DeVaughn Morton, 67, died Friday in Lubbock. Graveside services will be at 11:00 AM Wednesday at the Texas State Veterans Cemetery in Abilene.

Joe James, 54, died Saturday. Funeral Service will be at 1:00 PM Thursday at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial at Mount Olive Memorial Park.

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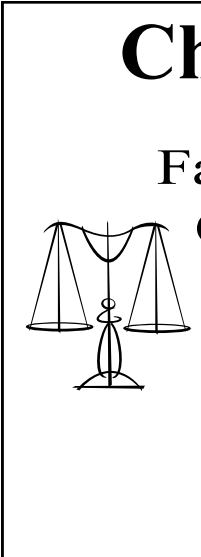


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Amon Carter Museum in Fort Worth gets \$20M endowment

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP) — The Amon Carter Museum of American Art in Fort Worth has been awarded a \$20 million endowment for exhibition and education initiatives.

The museum on Tuesday announced the endowment from the Arkansas-based Walton Family Foundation. The museum says the endowment is the largest in its history.

The gift honors the museum's longtime president of the board, Ruth Carter Stevenson, who died in 2013 at age 89. She was the daughter of the museum's founder.

Alice Walton, the daughter of Wal-Mart founder Sam Walton, is on the Walton Family Foundation board and formerly served on the board of the Amon Carter.

Karen Hixon, who is Stevenson's daughter and the museum's board president, said her mother and Alice Walton were great friends who shared a love of art.

George W. Bush to attend Trump inauguration

DALLAS (AP) — Former President George W. Bush and former first lady Laura Bush will attend President-elect Donald Trump's inauguration ceremony later this month.

Bush's office said in a statement Tuesday that they'll be attending the Jan. 20 inauguration. The statement said they're "pleased to be able to witness the peaceful transfer of power — a hallmark of American democracy — and swearing-in of President Trump and Vice President (Mike) Pence."

Neither George W. Bush nor Laura Bush voted for Trump, who was the Republican nominee.

Bush spokesman Freddy Ford has said they selected "none of the above" when voting for president.

The day after Election Day, Bush said in a statement that he'd called Trump to wish him and his family "our very best as they take on an awesome responsibility."

Dallas Morning News moving to former library building

DALLAS (AP) — The publisher of The Dallas Morning News has signed a 16-year lease to move the newspaper from its longtime home to the redeveloped former Old Dallas Central Library building.

A.H. Belo (BEE'-loh) on Tuesday announced details in The Dallas Morning News, which has been at 508 Young St. since 1949.

Belo's chief financial officer, Katy Murray, says the move should take place over several months in late spring and early summer. About 500 employees work at the current complex.

The move reduces space from about 325,000 square feet in two buildings near Union Station, to about 90,000 square feet.

Federal judge mulling fate of Texas fetal remains rules

By WILL WEISSERT
Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Abortion providers told a federal judge Tuesday that Texas' attempt to require burial or cremation of fetal remains was "government interference" without public health benefits, while state lawyers countered that clinics want to be allowed to continue disposing of such remains in landfills.

The question of what becomes of tissue left over from abortions and miscarriages is the latest legal battle over abortion in Texas, which saw the U.S. Supreme Court last summer strike down much of its larger abortion restrictions that had been among the nation's toughest.

At issue are state health department rules banning hospitals and abortion clinics from disposing of fetal tissue as biological medical waste, which usually means incineration, followed by disposal in sanitary landfills. Earlier legal challenges blocked similar measures in Louisiana and Indiana.

Texas' rules seek to require fetal remains to be buried or to be cremated then buried or scattered. Many abortions occur less than 10 weeks into pregnancy, when the amount of tissue can be smaller than a dime.

The new regulations would have taken effect last month, but Austin-based U.S. District Judge Sam Sparks put them on hold while he considers a lawsuit from national activists. Those groups say the rules are meant to shame women who seek abortions and make it harder for doctors to provide them. The health department has written that the rules will "protect the public by preventing the spread of disease while also preserving the dignity of the unborn in a manner consistent with Texas laws."

Sparks is expected to issue a larger decision on the rules' fate by Friday.

Amy Hagstrom Miller, who owns abortion clinics in five states including Texas, testified Tuesday that advocates have found just one Texas crematorium willing to work with abortion providers, and that anti-abortion activists could pressure it into rescinding the offer.

State attorneys questioned that assertion, saying there are "at least 157 licensed crematoriums" statewide. But Hagstrom Miller said her clinics have in the past had problems with contractors providing everything from roofing services to security being criticized anti-abortion activists — making many contractors in any field wary of working with abortion providers.

"I find the interference by the government in women's personal decision-making offensive," Miller said.

The new regulations were proposed at the be-

hest of Republican Gov. Greg Abbott in July, days after the U.S. Supreme Court struck down Texas' larger anti-abortion laws that would have left the state with 10 abortion clinics, down from more than 40 in 2012.

Critics say cremation and burial would cost more and force women to cover the additional expenses. Exactly how much more isn't clear, though some estimates have put the figure at an extra \$400 per fetus — perhaps doubling the existing costs of abortion.

The state argued Tuesday that those estimates assume individualized burial or cremation being required for each fetus when the rules would instead allow groups of remains to be collected and stored for eventual mass burial or cremation, thus lowering the cost to perhaps less than an additional \$.60 per patient. But Hagstrom Miller said the rules were vague enough that they could be enforced many ways.

The Texas Catholic Conference, meanwhile, has announced plans to allow free burial for fetal remains at Catholic cemeteries, to which Hagstrom Miller responded: "Not all of my patients are Catholic."

See JUDGE, Page 5

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Police investigating accidental poisoning that killed 4 children

By CLAUDIA LAUER

Associated Press

DALLAS — A criminal investigation is underway into an accidental poisoning involving a professional-grade pesticide that left four children dead and an Amarillo woman in critical condition, police said Tuesday.

Authorities are looking into why the family had the pesticide pellets, called Weevil-cide, which is only supposed to be sold to people with professional licenses or certification and is marketed for use in rodent control in commercial transport of commodities and animal feed.

The father told first responders through a Spanish language interpreter that he had spread the pellets under the family's mobile home after obtaining the product from a friend, Amarillo Fire Capt. Larry Davis said. Davis said the product is not available for sale to the general public.

Davis said the father does not have that certification as far as he knows. He did not know whether the friend who gave him the product had a certification.

Amarillo police spokesman Officer Jeb Hilton says the department's special crimes unit is investigating because of the child deaths. Once completed, the investigation will be turned over to the district attorney to determine whether charges will be filed. Hilton said other federal and state environmental regulation agencies may also investigate.

Fire officials said the children who died were three boys, ages 7, 9 and 11, and a 17-year-old girl. Officials have said all four children lived at the home in Amarillo, which is about 350 miles northwest of Dallas.

The children's mother, Martha Balderas, 45, was in critical condition Tuesday at University Medical Center in Lubbock, according to a hospital spokesman. Five other family members, including the father and four other children, were being treated at BSA Health System in Amarillo and were in stable condition, hospital and fire officials said.

Crews who responded to a 5 a.m. call to the home on Monday originally thought it was related to carbon monoxide poisoning. Authorities later determined that phosphine gas was likely released when the father took a garden hose at some point Sunday and tried to rinse away some of the pellets because family members had complained of the smell.

The water started the chemical reaction that released the phosphine gas. A visitor arrived early Monday, found everyone sick and called 911.

Phosphine gas can cause respiratory failure and in severe cases can cause a pulmonary edema, which fills the lungs full of fluid.

About 10 first responders from the police, fire and medical response departments were also taken to the hospital as a precautionary measure, Davis said. Two were kept overnight for observation because of headache and nausea but were in good condition Tuesday, he said.

Chip Orton, emergency management coordinator for the city of Amarillo and Potter and Randall counties, says his staff was working with a number of state and federal agencies to decontaminate the home. The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality has hired a private contractor to help.

Orton said phosphine gas typically casts off in about eight to 12 hours after it's been in contact with water, but emergency workers close to the home were wearing protective breathing equipment and hazmat suits as a precaution.

He said he does not know when the home will be safe for the family to return.

Suspect in trooper's slaying sent text: "I killed the cop"

By MARK SCOLEORO

Associated Press

The suspect in the slaying of a Pennsylvania state trooper sent a text afterward to his son's mother, apologizing to her and acknowledging, "I killed the cop," according to court records released Tuesday.

The arrest warrant, issued before suspect Jason Robison was shot and killed by police, said Trooper Landon Weaver came to Robison's home in Hesston on Friday to investigate a report that Robison had defied a protective order by contacting his son's mother.

The 23-year-old trooper told Robison that his text exchanges with her violated a protection-from-abuse order issued in April. Robison, 32, replied he did not want to go to jail, police said.

Sherry Robison, Robison's mother, told investigators that Jason Robison and Weaver had been in a mudroom beside the kitchen when Robison came into the kitchen, put a lighter on a counter and pulled a small black gun from his pants.

"She stated, 'Jason what are you doing?'" police wrote. Robison then stepped into the mudroom, and she heard a "pop" and saw Weaver fall face-down into the kitchen, bleeding, the document said. Sherry Robison yelled for her boyfriend, who was in the basement, and he called 911.

Police said about 15 minutes later, Jason Robison sent three texts to his child's mother: "I killed the cop," "Shot him twice in the head he is dead. I love you! I always will!" and "Good bye sweetheart. I'm Sorry."

Police tracked Robison to an unoccupied mobile home nearby the next morning. Police said they shot and killed him after he refused orders and made threats.

State police said Tuesday that Robison shot Weaver with a .32-caliber Beretta semi-automatic handgun. The gun owner did not realize it was missing, but the owner's son, Bradley McMullen, 28, confessed that he stole the handgun from his father and traded it to Robison for five opioid pills, police said. He was charged Monday with theft and receiving stolen property and jailed on \$25,000 bail.

Huntingdon County District Attorney David Smith said troopers from outside the area were leading separate investigations into the two shootings. He said an autopsy has been done on Weaver, but he declined to discuss the results or provide additional details, pending further investigation.

"I do not anticipate that this is going to stretch out for years or even months, for that matter," Smith said.

Several search warrants have been issued, but at Smith's request they were sealed for two months.

The protection-from-abuse application said



Trooper Landon Weaver

Robison had attacked and threatened the woman repeatedly over the years, including in April, when he said he would kill her. The woman said a passing postal worker happened to see the attack and helped her escape. She said Robison had previously "smashed" her home, breaking six windows, a stove and her bedroom door.

"He has told me that nobody will want me when he's done with me," the woman said in the protective order application. "Jason has threatened to knock all of my teeth out. When he's not threatening me, he's threatening to commit suicide."

Their son was 6 years old when the order was granted by a judge April 18.

Visitation for Weaver is Wednesday and the funeral is Thursday at the Blair County Convention Center in Altoona, with burial at Fairview Cemetery in Martinsburg. He joined the state police a year ago and was assigned to the Huntingdon station in June.

NOTICE OF RATE CHANGE REQUEST

On December 30, 2016, as required by order of the Public Utility Commission of Texas ("PUCT" or "Commission") in Docket No. 45414, Sharyland Utilities, L.P. ("Sharyland") and Sharyland Distribution & Transmission Services, L.L.C. ("SDTS") (collectively "Applicants"), regulated electric utility companies, filed an application with the PUCT titled Amended Application of Sharyland Utilities, L.P. and Sharyland Distribution & Transmission Services, L.L.C., Statement of Intent to Change Rates, and Request for Grant of a Certificate of Convenience and Necessity and Transfer of Certificate Rights ("Amended Application").

The Amended Application requests: (1) the setting of new wholesale and retail rates that Sharyland will charge its customers; (2) the establishment of rates that SDTS will charge its only customer, Sharyland; and (3) the grant of a certificate of convenience and necessity ("CCN") and transfer of CCN rights to SDTS. This proceeding is the first in which Sharyland's rates will be set on a system-wide basis.

The Amended Application is based on a twelve-month test year ending December 31, 2015. The Amended Application supports an increase in Sharyland's adjusted test-year retail base rate revenues of approximately \$1.4 million or 1.4 percent, exclusive of riders. Sharyland's system-wide cost-based retail base rate revenue requirement is \$101.2 million, plus an additional \$2.23 million that Sharyland is seeking to recover on an annual basis through certain riders. This includes a proposal to recover \$30 million for deferred costs associated with construction of the electric system in the McAllen division during its initial years of operation. As proposed, monthly delivery rates for an average residential customer consuming 1,333 kWh in the Stanton, Brady, and Celeste divisions will decrease by approximately \$3.14 per month, exclusive of riders, but in McAllen and Mission they will increase by approximately \$35.69 per month, exclusive of riders. The Amended Application also supports a total wholesale transmission cost of service of \$147.6 million, plus an additional \$3.7 million that Sharyland is seeking to recover on an annual basis through certain riders.

The Amended Application also supports a total revenue requirement for SDTS of approximately \$170 million. SDTS' proposed rates are lease payments that SDTS will charge only to Sharyland for leasing its transmission and distribution assets. In a new tariff for SDTS, separate rates will be provided for the leasing of transmission assets and for the leasing of distribution assets.

The Amended Application also requests that the PUCT grant a CCN to SDTS and transfer rights under Sharyland's CCNs to SDTS authorizing SDTS to own transmission and distribution assets and lease those assets to Sharyland for the provision of electric service, along with any other rights as necessary. No new facilities are being sought in the Amended Application.

The Amended Application potentially affects all customers and classes of customers in Sharyland's Stanton, Brady, Celeste, and McAllen divisions. The Amended Application also affects all customers taking service under Sharyland's Tariff for Wholesale Transmission Service. In addition, the result could be a change in Sharyland's transmission cost of service rates, which would impact all load serving entities in the Electric Reliability Council of Texas. The Applicants have proposed that the requested rates be made effective February 3, 2017.

A complete copy of the Amended Application is available for inspection at the following locations:

- Sharyland
1031 Andrews Highway, Suite 400
Midland, Texas 79701
- or-
- 1807 Ross Avenue, Suite 460
Dallas, Texas 75201
- Sutherland Asbill & Brennan LLP
600 Congress Avenue, Suite 2000
Austin, Texas 78701

Persons who wish to intervene in or comment upon these proceedings should notify the Public Utility Commission of Texas (Commission) as soon as possible, as an intervention deadline will be imposed. A request to intervene or for further information should be mailed to the Public Utility Commission of Texas, P.O. Box 13326, Austin, Texas 78711-3326. Further information may also be obtained by calling the Public Utility Commission at (512) 936-7120 or (888) 782-8477. Hearing- and speech impaired individuals with text telephones (TTY) may contact the commission through Relay Texas by dialing 7-1-1. The deadline for intervention in the proceeding is February 13, 2017.

JUDGE

Continued from Page 4

Tad Davis, who testified that he had performed thousands of abortions over 40-plus years in Austin, said the rule change "has no benefit for the patient or the state" and would be "another step in terms of making pa-

tients feel bad about everything."

"It would impose someone else's beliefs on them," Davis said. Davis said fetal tissue doesn't increase infection risk more than any other type of tissue. He said women sometimes flush fetal remains down the toilet after sudden miscarriages without any public health threat and "don't say they see it as undignified."



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Trump eyes Cabinet vacancies, policy questions

By STEVE PEOPLES

Associated Press

NEW YORK — President-elect Donald Trump pressed to fill senior posts in his administration on Tuesday even as new questions emerged about his priorities at home and abroad.

His inauguration less than three weeks away, Trump tapped as U.S. trade representative a former Reagan official who has condemned Republicans' commitment to free trade. The incoming president indicated that Robert Lighthizer, who is expected to take a hard line against China, would represent "the United States as we fight for good trade deals that put the American worker first."

The new administration's specific plans for crafting new trade deals, spokesman Sean Spicer said, "will come in time."

While several hundred high-level White House posts remain unfilled, just a handful of outstanding Cabinet-level vacancies remain, specifically in the departments of Agriculture and Veterans Affairs, as well as a director of national intelligence. Trump's private meetings Tuesday included one with Leo MacKay, a senior executive at a military contractor who previously served in the Department of Veterans Affairs under President George W. Bush.

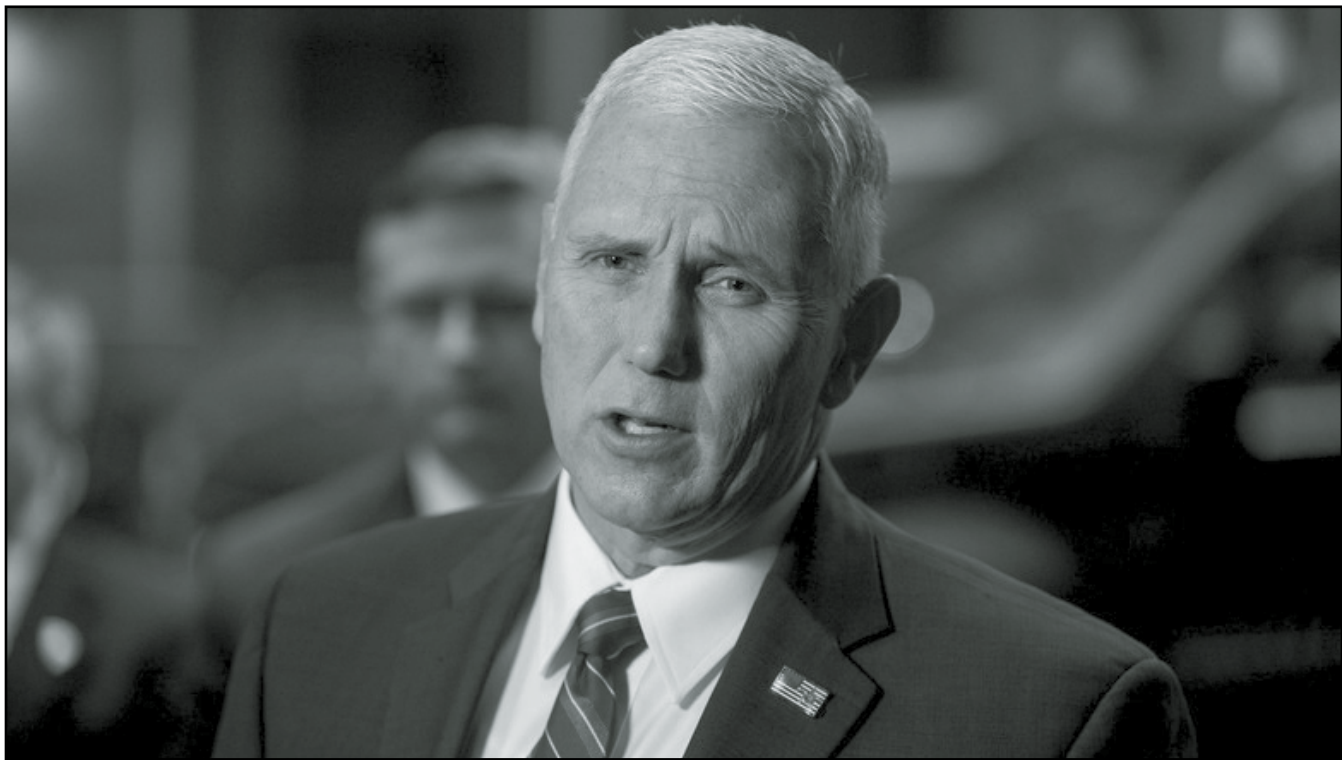
"The president-elect is up on the issues," said MacKay, a senior vice president at Lockheed Martin Corp., citing "first-class health care" for veterans as one of his priorities.

While tending to his Cabinet, the president-elect and his senior advisers also worked to craft a domestic and international agenda while huddled behind closed doors in his Manhattan skyscraper. Trump offered few details on his specific plans for governing in the months leading up to his stunning victory.

He signaled Tuesday that he would not bless all of the GOP's priorities on Capitol Hill, however, openly questioned the timing of the House Republican push to gut an independent ethics board just as the new Congress gathered in Washington.

"Do they really have to make the weakening of the Independent Ethics Watchdog, as unfair as it may be, their number one act and priority?" Trump tweeted. The House GOP later dropped the push.

The clash underscored Trump's ability to influence the GOP's priorities on Capitol Hill. Once



AP photo

Vice President-elect Mike Pence speaks to members of the media as he arrives at Trump Tower in New York, Tuesday, Jan. 3, 2017. (AP Photo/Andrew Harnik)

Trump is inaugurated on Jan. 20, the Republican Party will control the House, Senate and White House for the first time in nearly a decade.

Vice president-elect Mike Pence and Trump's pick for secretary of state, ExxonMobil CEO Rex Tillerson, were planning separate visits with lawmakers on Wednesday.

Ahead of those meetings Pence issued a direct challenge to Washington Republicans. "The president-elect has a very clear message to Capitol Hill. And that is, it's time to get to work," he said Tuesday. "And it's time to keep our word to the American people."

Pence said the administration's initial focus would be "repealing and replacing Obamacare" along with legislation to cut government regulation on businesses. Trump's team has yet to say whether millions of Americans covered under the health care law would lose health care insurance altogether once it is repealed.

At the same time, Trump faced questions about

his foreign policy, having issued a sharp statement about North Korea and China on Twitter the night before.

The president-elect charged that China "won't help with North Korea," a country working to develop an intercontinental ballistic missile. "It won't happen!" Trump tweeted, without expanding.

Senior aide Kellyanne Conway said Tuesday that Trump was putting North Korea "on notice," but he was "not making policy at the moment." She declared that as president, Trump "will stand between (North Korea) and missile capabilities."

The aggressive stance prompted a warning from Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Geng Shuang, who said China's efforts and commitment to the dismantling of North Korea's nuclear program are "consistent and clear."

"We hope all sides can refrain from speaking or doing anything that can aggravate the situation and work in concert to pull the issue back to dialogue and negotiation," Geng said.

Trump still not sold on Russian link to hacking

By JILL COLVIN

Associated Press

PALM BEACH, Fla. — President-elect Donald Trump says that "no computer is safe" when it comes to keeping information private, expressing new skepticism about the security of online communications this administration is likely to use for everything from day-to-day planning to international relations.

Trump rarely uses email or comput-

ers, despite his frequent tweeting.

"You know, if you have something really important, write it out and have it delivered by courier, the old-fashioned way," Trump told reporters during his annual New Year's Eve bash. "Because I'll tell you what: No computer is safe."

Trump has repeatedly cast aside allegations by U.S. intelligence agencies that Russia tried to influence the presidential election through hack-

ing. President Barack Obama ordered sanctions on Russian spy agencies last week, closed two Russian compounds and expelled 35 diplomats the U.S. said were really spies. The Russian government has denied the allegations.

Trump plans to meet with intelligence officials in coming days to learn more about the allegations. He said he wants U.S. officials "to be sure because it's a pretty serious charge."

He pointed to intelligence failures over the existence of weapons of mass destruction in Iraq before the U.S. invasion, and declared himself an expert in the area.

"I know a lot about hacking," he said, "and hacking is a very hard thing to prove, so it could be somebody else."

He added, cryptically, that he also knows "things that other people don't know. And so they cannot be sure of the situation."

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Steers, Lady Steers fall in non-district action

By **STEVE REAGAN**

Staff Writer

Big Spring High School's basketball teams both had rough outings Tuesday, as the Lady Steers were defeated by Tuscola Jim Ned and the Steers were downed by Andrews, 63-44.

In the girls' game, Big Spring stayed close to the top Class 3A team in the state for a half, but a disastrous start to

the third quarter proved fatal to the Lady Steers' chances as they dropped a 56-26 decision.

Big Spring trailed, 20-17, at the start of the third, but Jim Ned scored three three-pointers in quick succession on offense, then unleashed a full-court press on defense which forced a rash of turnover. The end result was that Jim Ned outscored the Lady Steers 24-2 in the quarter to put a lock on the game.

Kamri Kemper scored 9 points to lead Big Spring, which fell to 4-14 with the loss.

"Jim Ned came out in the second half and shot the ball extremely well," BSHS Coach Lacy Parker said. "And we started turning the ball over and wheels sort of came off from there."

Parker saw the game as a learning experience for her young team, which features

four juniors and seniors and eight freshmen and sophomores.

"We did a lot of good things," she said. "We just struggle on offense sometimes, and lot of that has to do with us missing Kayleigh Penny, our leading scorer, who's been injured ... We're just not quite comfortable on offense right now."

The Lady Steers open District 3-4 play Friday at home against Snyder. Game time is

6:15 p.m.

The BSHS boys also had a bad quarter which doomed their chances against Andrews — the Steers led, 12-11, after one quarter, but were outscored by the Mustangs, 21-7, in the second quarter and were never able to recover.

Jeremiah Cooley scored 10 points to lead Big Spring,

See **BSHS**, Page 13

Forsan stays perfect in district play

By **STEVE REAGAN**

Staff Writer

FORSAN — The Forsan High School basketball teams decided to emulate both the fabled tortoise and the hare to stay perfect in district play.

For the FHS Lady Buffaloes, slow and steady did the trick en route to a 49-31 win over Ozona, while Forsan's boys took the faster path to victory, running the Ozona Lions into the ground for a 64-24 win Tuesday night.

Girls game

After watching Ozona run up and down the court with them for a quarter, the Lady Buffaloes decided there was a better way to do things.

After a frenetic first quarter which ended with Forsan clinging to a one-point lead, the Lady Buffs switched to slower pace, ditching their full-court press and relying on a zone defense and their su-

perior height, which eventually proved successful.

"(Ozona) did a lot better job against the press than the scouting reports I had indicated," Forsan Coach Lloyd Vedder said. "They were doing a good job getting the ball out and down the floor. When that happened, we went to our old, reliable match-up zone and we locked it down. We gave up 16 points in the first quarter, but we only gave up 15 the rest of the game ... They showed they could run with us, so we said, 'OK, let's see if you can beat us in the half-court game.'"

It took a little while — about five minutes by the game clock — for the Lady Buffs' revised strategy to finally pay dividends, but a pair of Macey Evans three-pointers erased an Ozona two-point advantage and gave Forsan a lead it never relinquished heading into intermission.



Forsan boys' basketball coach Cory Richardson, center, talks to his team during a timeout of their game against Ozona Tuesday.

HERALD photo/Steve Reagan

In the second half, Forsan's zone squeezed the life out of Ozona's offense, limiting the Lady Lions to a volley of unsuccessful long-range jumpers, while the Lady Buffs' attack began finding its range.

Ozona's Julie Marshall canned a jumper early in the third quarter to cut the Forsan

lead to 26-24, but those were the last points the Lady Lions scored in the quarter. Forsan, meanwhile, countered with baskets by Evans, Chasidy Grantham and Emily Garcia — with free throws by Kendall Phillips and Rhian Cunningham tossed in for good measure — to push the Lady Buffaloes' lead

to 35-24 heading into the final quarter.

Evans led all scorers with 14 points, while Cunningham and Phillips added 13 and 10 points, respectively. Asia Lara scored 10 points to lead Ozona.

The win gives Forsan a 4-0 mark in district play.

"If you take away our

first quarters the past four or five ball games, we've just been going, we've been playing really well. But those first quarters are putting more gray hair on my head," Vedder said. "A mark of a good team, though, is they step up when they need to."

See **BUFFS**, Page 13

College football playoff championship

Kiffin: I could have coached in title game if I had wanted to



Lane Kiffin

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (AP) — Lane Kiffin says he could have remained at Alabama as offensive coordinator should the national championship game if he had wanted to.

Crimson Tide coach Nick Saban, meanwhile, got testy on Tuesday when asked several times about how the Kiffin-to-Steve Sarkisian move would change preparation.

"We're in the planning stages right now, so I don't know why y'all keep asking me what changes we're going to make," he said in response to the first question asked on a media teleconference. "Dabo's a good friend of mine. Maybe I'll just call him up and tell him what we're going to do."

Saban also dismissed Kiffin's talk of possibly helping the Tide in

some capacity from the press box on Monday. He made it clear that's not happening.

"It's really not even possible from a legal standpoint for him to do those things," he said. "That's not something that we're interested in pursuing."

Kiffin told ESPN's Mike & Mike show Tuesday that the deci-

See **KIFFIN**, Page 13

Tech upsets W. Va.

LUBBOCK, Texas (AP) — Anthony Livingston had been practicing taking 3-pointers from the corner before the game. That's what gave him the confidence to take the game-winner for Texas Tech.

"It was definitely a tough challenge for us," Livingston said of Tuesday night's 77-76 overtime upset of No. 7 West Virginia. "I shot that shot I think over a hundred times before the game, the same exact corner shot. So, I shot that shot with a lot of confidence."

His shot went through with 4.6 seconds left in overtime and Jevon Carter missed a desperation 3 for the Mountaineers, who had won eight straight.

West Virginia coach Bob Huggins was asked what's next for his team.

"We're getting home at 6 in the morning, what do you think we're going to do?"

See **TECH**, Page 13

'Bama-Clemson II: New characters for CFP sequel

GLENDAL, Ariz. (AP) — As with any sequel, Alabama-Clemson II will have some new characters and fresh plot lines. The top-ranked Crimson Tide and No. 3 Tigers will meet in Tampa, Florida, on Jan. 9 in the College Football Playoff national championship game. Last year they played a wild 45-40 game won by 'Bama. It gave Nick Saban a fourth national title with the Tide and fifth overall.

The rematch is a chance for Saban and Alabama to add to an already unprecedented run of four national championships in seven years. For Clemson coach Dabo Swinney, it is

another opportunity to beat his beloved alma mater and snap a title drought for the Tigers that stretches back more than three decades.

Deshaun Watson is back. The Clemson quarterback was so good last season against the Tide that Saban was comparing him to Cam Newton.

O.J. Howard returns for Alabama, the tight end who had a career game in last year's final. Both teams once again feature fearsome defensive lines, even though some of the stars have changed.

But there's plenty new this time around:

HURTS SO GOOD

Alabama's Jalen Hurts is a victory away from becoming the first true freshman quarterback to lead a team to a national championship since Jamelle Holieway did it with Oklahoma in 1985. Last season Jake Coker was the Tide's quarterback, a more conventional drop-back passer who threw for 335 yards on 16 completions, including five for 208 to Howard.

With Hurts, the Tide has become far more reliant the quarterback running game. Hurts is still a work in progress in the passing game. He went 7 for 14 for 57 yards in Alabama's 24-7 victory against Washing-

ton in the Peach Bowl on Saturday. He did run 19 times for 50 yards and on the season he is up to 891 yards and 12 touchdowns.

Hurts is a more talented player than Coker, but if Alabama needs to trade scores with Clemson again, can the 18-year-old make the plays in the passing game that Coker did last year? Then again, Hurts' mobility will come in handy against a Clemson pass rush that ranks right up there with Alabama's.

TOP TARGET
Welcome to the national title

See **CFP**, Page 13

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9	1	7	5	6	8	3	2	4
2	5	6	3	9	4	1	7	8
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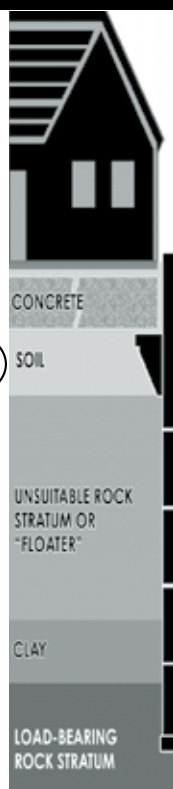
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Tomorrow's Horoscope



HOLIDAY
MATHIS

Mercury Retrograde Sign Change

Mercury backs into Sagittarius with a warning against egotism. Some don't realize that confidence is different from arrogance. Confident people are certain about who they are and what they can do. They also respect that others have different expertise, and they approach with humble curiosity. Arrogant people are dismissive of others in general.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Face and process your emotions in a controlled, safe environment -- home alone, writing in a diary or hitting the pillow or the punching bag. This will prevent your feelings from coming out in uncontrollable ways.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You feel nervous around cer-

tain people. Maybe it's not as cute as it is in the movies. Maybe your body is really trying to tell you something about the dynamics of the relationship. Maybe your body is saying, "Run!"

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). When there's no clear path, you either make one or turn around and go home. Much will depend on how important it is to you and yours that you reach the destination you had in mind.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Your worth isn't tied to another person, no matter who -- no matter how powerful -- that person might be. Seize the opportunity to assert your independence, if only to prove to yourself that you're whole on your own.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). The performer in you comes with a thicker skin than most -- part of the package deal. Because of this, you don't realize how delicate some people's feelings really are -- something to be extremely aware of today.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-

Sept. 22). Of course you want fun; who doesn't? But letting yourself have it whenever you want it is a recipe for weakness. Like a good parent, gently remind your inner child of the rewards for sticking to the job at hand until it's done.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). To have a vendetta in your heart can be a very motivating and positive force if used correctly. The "I'll show you" energy is powerful. Just note: No one ever "showed you" by making bad, self-destructive choices.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). It's not always the case, but today things will work when they're right and they won't work when they're not right. Therefore, don't spend a lot of energy on trying to make something work when it's just not clicking in. Move along.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You're in a mood to ignore what you need to do, but the fact that you need to do it doesn't go away. Remember why. Remind yourself of the end goal. Want harder,

and the motivation will come.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). The silliness and absurdities of life don't get past you. Making someone laugh will be your specialty today, and it will make you happy to know you spread gales of joy across the heart of another.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). True, there's much you have to fix and more you have to do, but don't focus there if you can help it. Focus instead on growing what's already going exceptionally well.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You've been known to lose track of what makes you happy. When something makes you smile and laugh, make a note. It will help remind you to make more of these moments happen. Plus, when you look back, you'll relive the joy.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Jan. 4). Your path of compassion will lead you to care for needy individuals who turn out to give you exactly what you didn't know you needed and so much more. A reunion is in store.

April begins a kind of treasure hunt. It's something else that makes your heart happy in March, but the extra money doesn't hurt, either. Scorpio and Cancer adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 4, 20, 18, 3 and 22.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTION: "This Scorpio used to make New Year's resolutions ever year, and guess what? I'm over it. Achieve success; don't achieve it. Who cares, when everything is so pointless? In the end, we all die, and it will only take a few generations before even the most successful person is forgotten."

Um... happy New Year to you, too? I will offer that success is not a collection of achievements but a path you follow to win at life at least for a moment or two. Sure, life is like Vegas: If you're lucky you might get ahead and make a nice run of it, too, but the house always wins in the end. Even so, if you can get death to chase you instead of the other way around, it will be a game well-played. So maybe the point is not to win, but

to get so in love with the game that it's all you can focus on -- and to get to playing so well that you leave death back there eating your dust. This is what I wish for you, dear Scorpio. But it's not something you can achieve by obsessing about the pointlessness of things. Of course, you're right that everything is pointless. This is all the more reason for you to get in there and give some of the things a point.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: The world would be a much different place for the visually impaired were it not for the efforts of Capricorn Louis Braille, whose revolutionary form of communication changed millions of lives and continues to do so today. Braille was a determined Capricorn with his Mercury in the determined sign as well and natal Venus in altruistic, philanthropic and future-thinking Aquarius.

To write to Holiday Mathis, visit www.creators.com/author/holiday-mathis and click "Contact." COPYRIGHT 2017 CREATORS.COM

Annie's Mailbox ®

Daughter Takes Precedence

Dear Annie: What is wrong with me? I truly don't know what to do. I have a boyfriend of five years, and for five years, I have watched him

pursue his daughter daily.

He texts her several times daily. He knows where she is every minute, whom she is with and what her plans are. He would drive 45 minutes to walk her dogs for her because she is

working. He knows all her friends and stays in touch with them, too. He seeks them out if he goes back to where they used to live.

She was living with him when he and I met, but a year later, she got a place of her own. However, several times since, she has moved in and out of his place. He always wants to save a place for her in church, and when she overslept and didn't make it one time, he spent the entire service craning his neck looking for

her. Their goodbyes resemble those said by people who may never see each other again.

Annie, this man and I are in our 70s. His daughter, who has never married, is 50. He and his ex-wife have been divorced for five years. He and his daughter are very secretive about their conversations, and I have no place in their life as a third wheel.

He still works a full-time job in a very demanding position, but if he doesn't see her at least once a

week, he has withdrawals. I am so mad about it that I refuse to marry him. I have talked to him about this till I am blue in the face, and he knows why I won't marry him, as she will always come first. He just says, "She's my daughter."

I really don't love him anymore, as I don't see any future knowing he will drop everything to rush to her side for any reason. But walking out again is stressing me out, too. Any advice? -- Third Wheel

Dear Third Wheel: Your boyfriend is exhibiting signs of extreme codependency with his daughter. That kind of toxicity can't be contained to just one area of his life. It spills into all others, including his relationship with you. Therapy might help him change. But he doesn't seem to want to.

You deserve much better, and I think you know it. You would be happier on your own than witnessing this man obsessively try to control his daughter for the rest of his life. You are not a third wheel; you are a valuable and important human being. Anyone

who makes you feel lesser doesn't deserve your time.

Dear Annie: This is a response to the letter from "Sudden Loss for Words in TN," who asked about the best response to a suicide. My family has been through that situation.

The worst thing for the family are insensitive questions, spoken or implied. For example, "Why?" "Didn't you know?" "Why didn't you do something?" You never know the depth of someone's inner pain and struggle, because it's not obvious.

The best thing is to remember something good about the person: "I remember when he and I..." "I remember when he..." That person had a life, even though it ended so unexpectedly. But the important thing is that he lived, not how he died. -- Been There

Send your questions for Annie Lane to dearannie@creators.com. To find out more about Annie Lane and read features by other Creators Syndicate columnists and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate website at www.creators.com. COPYRIGHT 2017 CREATORS.COM

Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

The bidding tells the tale

East dealer.
North-South vulnerable.

NORTH

♠ A
♥ J 4
♦ A Q 10 9 5
♣ A Q 9 6 3

WEST

♠ J 8 6 4
♥ K 7
♦ J 8 6 3
♣ K 10 5

EAST

♠ K 7 5
♥ A Q 10 8 6 2
♦ 7 4 2
♣ 7

SOUTH

♠ Q 10 9 3 2
♥ 9 5 3
♦ K
♣ J 8 4 2

The bidding:
East 1♥
Pass
Pass

South
Pass
3♣
5♣

West
1NT
Pass

North
2NT
4♣

Opening lead — king of hearts.

The light opening bid has much to be said in its favor, but there are times when it boomerangs and produces endless grief.

Consider this deal from a team-of-four match where, at the first table, South wound up in five clubs after East opened the bidding with one heart. North's two-notrump bid was the unusual notrump, promising at least five diamonds and five clubs.

West led the king and another heart to East's ace, and East continued with the queen of hearts, ruffed in dummy as West discarded a spade. Declarer thus learned that East had started with a six-card suit, and this knowledge had a great bearing on how to play the trumps to try to avoid a trump loser.

Since there was no way to make five clubs if East had the guarded king of trumps, declarer had to assume West had that card. South therefore led a diamond to his king and returned the jack of clubs rather than the two, which would be the more normal play. West covered the jack with the king, taken by the ace.

The only question now remaining was whether East had started with a singleton club, and declarer quite reasonably decided that East, who had thus far shown up with only six high-card points, probably would not have valued the bidding on such skimpy values without that feature. So South ruffed a diamond, led a club and finessed the nine to bring in his game.

At the second table, where the declarer at the same contract did not have the benefit of a one-heart opening bid by East, he played the clubs more normally and wound up down one.

Tomorrow: Delicate trump management.

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sudoku

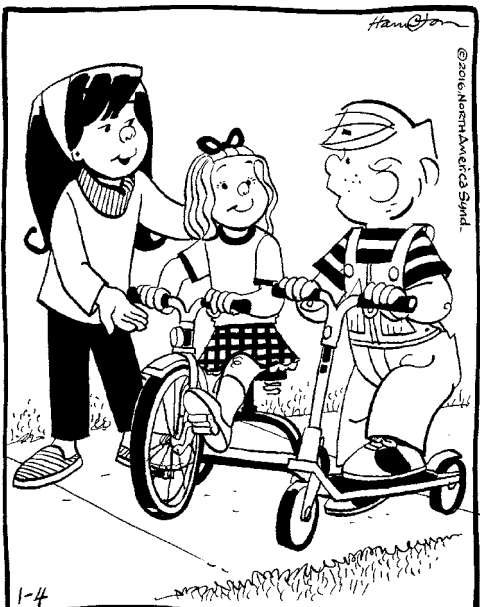
Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9 with no repeats. That means no number is repeated in any row, column or box.

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

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	KMID (3) Midland	UNI (4) Spanish	KPEJ (5) Odessa	KOSA (7) Odessa	KTLE (8) Telemundo	KWES (9) Midland	KMLM (12) Odessa	KPBT (13) Odessa	KWWT (14) Odessa	KWES2 (15) Midland	WTBS (33) Atlanta	TNT (34) Atlanta	ESPN (35) Sports	ESPN2 (36) Sports	FSN (38) Sports	USA (55) New York	A&E (58) New York	DISC (60) Discovery
5 :PM	Local 2 ABC	Hotel Notic.	The List Mod Fam	News CBS	Tele Noticias	News News	With Schol-ars	Scully Business	Mama's Mama's	American American	Broke Girl Broke Girl	Bones	SportsCenter	Around Pardon	Cowboy Cowboys	NCIS (DVS)	The First 48	Alaskan Bush
6 :PM	Jeopardy! Wheel	Rosa de Guadalupe	Big Bang Big Bang	News ET	Caso Cer-rado	News News	Mani House	PBS News-Hour	M*A*S*H M*A*S*H	Fam. Guy Fam. Guy	Broke Girl Broke Girl	Bones	NBA Count-down	College Basketball: Georgia Tech at Duke.	Stars In. Stars Pre.	NCIS (DVS)	Duck D.	Alaskan Bush
7 :PM	Gold Speech	Despertar Contigo	Lethal Weapon	Undercover Boss	Silvana Sin Lana	Blindspot	Upd Dollars	Nature (DVS)	Griffith Griffith	Big Bang Big Bang	Broke Girl Broke Girl	Movie: Edge of Tomorrow (DVS)	NBA Basket-ball: Bulls at Cavaliers	NHL Hockey: Montreal Canadiens at Dallas Stars.	College Basketball	NCIS (DVS)	Duck D.	Alaskan Bush
8 :PM	Match Game	Vino el Amor	(01) Star (DVS)	Criminal Minds	La Doña (SS)	Law & Order: SVU	Light of the Southwest	NOVA (DVS)	MacGyver	Frequency	Big Bang Big Bang	Movie: Gangster Squad, Nick Nolte (DVS)	NBA Basket-ball: Trail Blazers at Warriors	College Basketball	Postgame	NCIS (DVS)	Si-ral	Alaskan Bush
9 :PM	Local 2	Impacto	Mod Fam	News	Tele	News	HaYesod	Secrets of the Dead	Heroes Heroes	Seinfeld Seinfeld	Big Bang Conan	Movie: Alfred Hitch-cock Hr.	NBA Basket-ball: Hawks at Bulls	College Basketball	Cowboys C'boys	Mod Fam	Duck D.	Alaskan Bush
10 :PM	Jimmy Kim-mel Live	Noticiero Contacto	Two Men Cleveland	Late Show- Colbert	Titulares La Doña (SS)	Tonight Show Seth Meyers	M:25 Chevalme McDonald	Newsline T. Smiley (Off Air)	C. Burnett Perry Mason	King Rules	Conan	Hawaii Five-0	SportsCenter	Basket Jalen	World Poker Tour	Mod Fam	Duck D.	Alaskan Bush
11 :PM	Nightline	Deportivo	How I Met	James Corden	El Chema (SS)	News	Zola Lev.	Alfred Hitch-cock Hr.	Tw. Zone	Raising Cheaters	Seinfeld	Movie: Col-lege Road	SportsCenter	NFL Live	NHL Hockey: Canadiens at Stars	NCIS: Los Angeles	Duck D.	Alaskan Bush
12 :AM	Paid	A Que No Me Dejas	Law Order: CI	ET	Paid	(:08) Today	Light of the Southwest	Mannix	Alfred Hitch-cock Hr.	Tw. Zone	Raising Cheaters	Movie: Col-lege Road	SportsCenter	NFL Live	NHL Hockey: Canadiens at Stars	NCIS: Los Angeles	Duck D.	Alaskan Bush
1 :AM	Paid	A Que No Me Dejas	Law Order: CI	ET	Paid	(:08) Today	Light of the Southwest	Mannix	Alfred Hitch-cock Hr.	Tw. Zone	Raising Cheaters	Movie: Col-lege Road	SportsCenter	NFL Live	NHL Hockey: Canadiens at Stars	NCIS: Los Angeles	Duck D.	Alaskan Bush

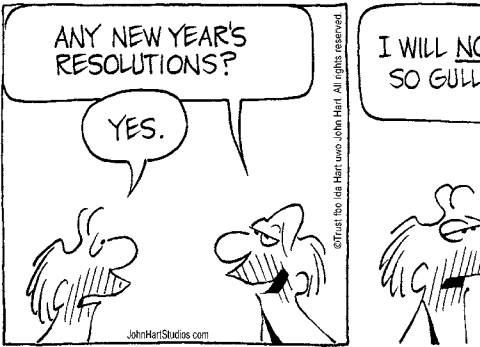
DENNIS THE MENACE



"MEET ELSIE, MY SECOND COUSIN."

"WHAT HAPPENED TO THE FIRST ONE?"

BC



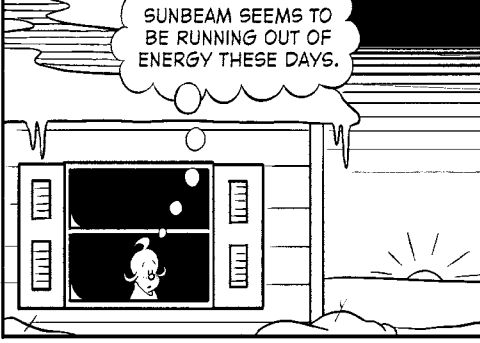
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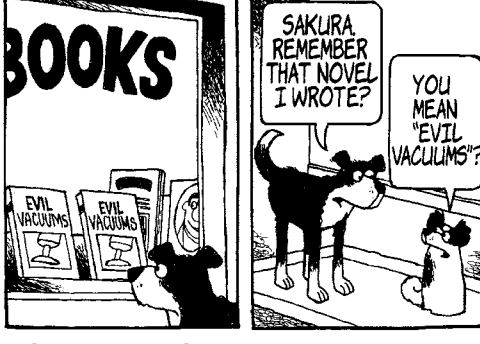
AGNES



HI AND LOIS



THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BEETLE BAILEY



THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane

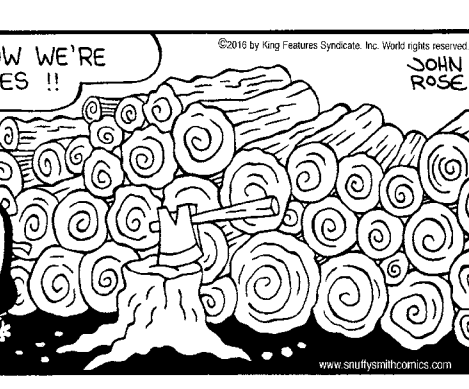
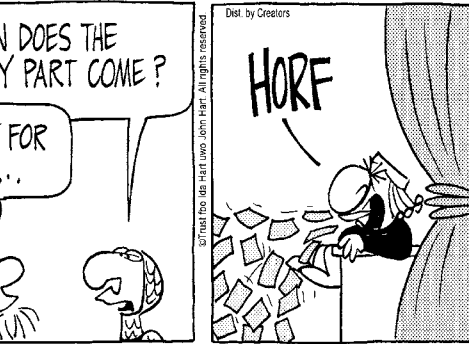


"Mommy, you need to work on your 'fee-fi-fo-fumming.' I didn't really believe that."

1-4



1-4-17



HAGAR



BLONDIE



This Date In History

Today is Wednesday, Jan. 4, the fourth day of 2017. There are 361 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On Jan. 4, 1967, "The Doors," the self-titled debut album of the rock group featuring the song "Light My Fire," was released by Elektra Records.

On this date:

In 1717, France, Britain and Holland formed a Triple Alliance against Spain.

In 1896, Utah was admitted as the 45th state.

In 1904, the Supreme Court, in Gonzalez v. Williams, ruled that Puerto Ricans were not aliens and could enter the United States freely; however, the court stopped short of declaring them U.S. citizens. (Puerto Ricans received U.S. citizenship in March 1917.)

In 1935, President Franklin D. Roosevelt, in his State of the Union address, called for legislation to provide assistance for the jobless, elderly, impoverished children and the handicapped.

In 1943, Soviet dictator Josef Stalin made the cover of TIME as the magazine's 1942 "Man of the Year."

In 1951, during the Korean War, North Korean and

Communist Chinese forces recaptured the city of Seoul (sohl).

In 1960, author and philosopher Albert Camus (al-BEHR' kah-MOO') died in an automobile accident in Villeblevin, France, at age 46.

In 1965, President Lyndon B. Johnson delivered his State of the Union address in which he outlined the goals of his "Great Society."

In 1974, President Richard Nixon refused to hand over tape recordings and documents subpoenaed by the Senate Watergate Committee.

In 1987, 16 people were killed when an Amtrak train bound from Washington, D.C., to Boston collided with Conrail locomotives that had crossed into its path from a side track in Chase, Maryland.

In 1990, Charles Stuart, who claimed that he'd been wounded and his pregnant wife fatally shot by a robber, leapt to his death off a Massachusetts bridge after he himself came under suspicion.

In 1995, the 104th Congress convened, the first entirely under Republican control since the Eisenhower era.

Ten years ago: Nancy Pelosi was elected the first female speaker of the House as Democrats took control of Congress. Harriet Miers resigned as White House counsel. Vincent Sardi Jr., owner of

Sardi's restaurant, the legendary Broadway watering hole, died in Berlin, Vermont, at age 91.

Five years ago: Defying Republican lawmakers, President Barack Obama barreled past the Senate by using a recess appointment to name Richard Cordray the first director of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.

One year ago: Workers returned to their offices at the San Bernardino, California campus where 14 people were killed the previous month in a terror attack carried out by a county restaurant inspector Sayed Farook and his wife. The Justice Department sued Volkswagen over emissions-cheating software found in nearly 600,000 vehicles sold in the United States.

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Answer to previous puzzle

SWOON	SLEW	PEWS
PIANO	YEAH	ACHE
ANTES	RARE	THEE
MDS	TRIPLE	CROWN
AREA	ZOO	
BASIL	DWELLON	
FAMILY	CREST	BOB
INNS	AYE	OAHU
EGO	WORLD	SUMMIT
STEEPLY	ATEAT	
MAP	IRON	
GENEROSTIP	BSA	
ODOR	SPCA	ISALL
AGOG	ETAL	APRIL
TYKE	SONY	NASTY

1/4/17

Newsday Crossword

OUT OF SEASON by Mark McClain
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS
- Undomesticated
 - Popped, as a question
 - Capital of 64 Across
 - Parisian gal pal
 - Fishing line holders
 - Poetic tributes
 - Inhale in shock
 - Traditional result of 27 Across
 - Trade fair, for short
 - Govt. collection agency
 - Empty completely
 - Blueprint detail
 - Woodwind musician
 - Traditional spring rains
 - Delivery truck assignment
 - Coffee shop dessert
 - Leafy veggie
 - Quarterback Manning
 - Strep or Kidman
 - Spy outfit, for short
 - High rating
 - Skinny battery
 - Ballpark helper
 - NCAA tourney nickname
 - Surrounded by
 - To boot
 - Maytag alternative
 - Despotic Amin
 - Range feature

- Many wedding VIPs
 - Chile neighbor
 - Z _ "zebra"
 - Lacking illumination
 - Green land of poetry
 - Prefix meaning "straight"
 - Sources of sugar
 - Colorings
- DOWN
- Hourly pay
 - Giant-screen film format
 - Talk like Daffy Duck
 - Bank account addition
 - Battling factions
 - Look high and low
 - Pianist's targets
 - North Pole aide
 - Internet service letters
 - Rather safe, as investments
 - Notions
 - Be deserving of
 - Professional org.
 - Skunk's defense
 - Urgent request
 - Toddler's scrape
 - Swarm members
 - Neighborhood
 - Sport played on ponies
 - Totally spoil
 - Dr. Phil's mentor
 - Be sore
 - Is situated
 - Corn harvest
 - Train components
 - Interpersonal finesse
 - Bath bubbles
 - Widely known
 - Was nosy
 - Not very much
 - Got there
 - Elite rosters
 - Entertain
 - Highly agitated
 - Open, but just
 - Run in neutral
 - Quite
 - Buffalo's lake
 - Buffalo wearers
 - Abrade
 - Suffix for nectar

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
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55							56			57	58	59
61							62	63			64	
65							66				67	
68							69				70	

CFP

Continued from Page 7

game, Mike Williams. Clemson's top wide-receiver is 6-foot-3, 225 pounds and a few months away from becoming an NFL millionaire. He missed just about all of last season while recovering from a neck injury and returned this year to become Watson's favorite target. Alabama has NFL-caliber talent everywhere, of course, but Williams is a match-up nightmare even for good corners such as Marlon Humphrey and Anthony Averett. Williams had six catches for 96 yards against Ohio State in a 31-0 victory Saturday night. He has 90 receptions for 1,267 yards and 10 touchdowns on the season. The Tigers will also add Deon Cain to its receiving corps this time around. As a freshman last year, he was suspended for the championship game. He has been a big-play guy for Watson with nine touchdowns and a 19.4-yard average on 32 catches.

MEN IN THE MIDDLE
The newest defensive line terror for Clemson is also the biggest. Freshman Dexter Lawrence checks in at 6-5 and 340 pounds and he has played like an All-American this season. He did not record a tackle against Ohio State but the Buckeyes seemed to shy away from even running in the middle of Clemson's defense because of Lawrence and second-team All-America Carlos Watkins. At least partially responsible for moving Lawrence will be 319-pound center Bradley Bozeman, who stepped in for first-round pick Ryan Kelly this season to lead Alabama's offensive line.

The Tide has not lost much at center with Bozeman, but Clemson's line and Lawrence in particular, will be his toughest test.
BO-DOZER
That huge tailback wearing a single-digit jersey number for Alabama probably reminds you of Derrick Henry. The Heisman Trophy winner who ran for 158 yards and three touchdowns on 36 carries against Clemson last season is gone, but Bo Scarbrough, listed at 6-foot-2 and a questionable 228 pounds, does a pretty good Henry impersonation. The Tide unleashed Scarbrough on Washington for 19 carries and 180 yards. Technically, he is Alabama's third option in the backfield. Damien Harris leads the team with 1,013 yards rushing and a 7.2 average per carry and freshman Josh Jacobs has 551 yards and 6.6 average. None of them carried the ball last season against Clemson.

TECH

Continued from Page 7

Huggins said. "We're going to sleep." Nathan Adrian hit a 3-pointer in the final seconds of regulation for the Mountaineers (12-2, 1-1 Big 12) to tie the game at 67 and force overtime. Zach Smith had 15 points to lead the Red Raiders (12-2,

KIFFIN

Continued from Page 7

sion to leave was mutual, even though the Tide's offense could have performed better in the 24-7 semifinal win over Washington. "I know this was a decision that I came up with, and it was very difficult to do," said Kiffin, who's taking over as Florida Atlantic's head coach. "This was not something that Nick Saban forced me to do by any means. "If I wanted to coach this game, I would have coached this game, and I

just thought that it wasn't the best thing for the players." Kiffin and Saban announced Monday that incoming offensive coordinator Sarkisian, who has worked as an analyst this season, would run the offense and call plays against Clemson. Both described it as a mutual decision. Alabama had just 57 passing yards against the Huskies. Backup tailback Bo Scarbrough accounted for 180 yards, or 55 percent of the Tide's total offense. Saban said he didn't think leading up to the Peach Bowl that letting

Kiffin juggle two jobs would be a problem. Defensive coordinator Kirby Smart did it last season before leaving for Georgia and offensive coordinator Jim McElwain finished the 2011 season after taking the Colorado State head job. "I try to make the decisions based on what's best for helping our players be successful," Saban said. "At the time there was no anticipation or thought that there would be any kind of problem relative to managing to jobs at once. When we sort of saw, and agreed, that that was a little bit of a tough team, then we decided to

move in a different direction." It's unclear how well Alabama players know Sarkisian. He was involved in coaches meetings and planning, but Saban said analysts aren't "really allowed to be involved with the team." Scarbrough was asked what kind of interaction he has had with Sarkisian. "On the sideline, he always tells me to keep my helmet on and stay ready because you never know when your number is called," the tailback said. Kiffin, meanwhile, praised his relationship with Saban on the radio show.

No. 6 Kentucky routs Aggies, 100-58

LEXINGTON, Ky. (AP) — Kentucky coach John Calipari had plenty of praise for a Wildcats performance that was consistent and thorough on both ends. The sixth-ranked Wildcats still have a way to go, but their effort against Texas A&M on Tuesday night offered encouragement for the coach and his

young roster. Malik Monk scored 26 points, fellow freshman De'Aaron Fox had 15 and Kentucky rode an early 15-0 run to cruise past Texas A&M 100-58. Playing at home for the first time in nearly a month, the Wildcats (12-2, 2-0 Southeastern Conference) quickly answered the Aggies' game-opening

3-pointer with that surge over 2:39 to take control. Kentucky continued pouring it on for its most lopsided victory in a recently tight series with overtime deciding four of the last five. The Wildcats shot 52 percent and broke the century mark for the second time in four games and fifth time this season.

That's the best season total under Calipari. They also forced the Aggies into a season-high 25 turnovers — the second-most Kentucky has created this season — and turned them into 35 points. In fact, the only statistic Kentucky didn't completely dominate was rebounds (30-28).

BUFFS

Continued from Page 7

The Lady Buffs return to action Friday when they travel to Mertzon to play Irion County. Game time is 6:30 p.m.

Boys game
Ozona came into Tuesday's game struggling on

offense, and Forsan made sure that trend continued. A relatively close first quarter ended with the Buffaloes holding a 12-8 lead, but a Kobe Richardson-fueled offensive surge in the second half quickly and decisively turned matters in Forsan's favor. Richardson, who led all scorers with 25 points, scored his team's first 14 points of the second quar-

ter — including canning four three-pointers — to give Forsan a 26-12 lead with 2:47 left before intermission. Josh Evans then took over some of the offensive load, scoring the Buffs' next six points to give them a 32-14 advantage at halftime. Forsan found success on both the perimeter and interior — 21 of Richardson's 25 points came from

beyond the three-point line, while Evans punished Ozona inside to the tune of 12 points. The Buffaloes, who improved to 2-0 in district play, return to action Friday against Irion County in Mertzon. Game time is 8 p.m.

Contact Staff Writer Steve Reagan at 432-263-7331, ext. 235.

BSHS

Continued from page 7

which fell to 1-16 with the loss. "(Andrews) started pressing in the second

quarter, and we got into too much of a rush and weren't as patient as we usually are," BSHS Coach Nick Tyerman said. "Part of that was that we used a freshman point guard who we just brought up from the junior varsity

... Another thing was the free throw disparity — Andrews had 27 free throws while we only had five. That makes it tough, especially when you're trying to come back from the disadvantage we had." The Steers return to ac-

tion Friday when they travel to Fort Stockton. Game time is 6:30 p.m.

Contact Staff Writer Steve Reagan at 432-263-7331, ext. 235, or email reporter@bigspringherald.com

1-1), who finished 7 of 13 from 3-point range and shot 25 of 49 overall. Esa Ahmad had 13 points to lead the Mountaineers, who shot 28 of 59 from the field but was 7 of 21 from 3-point range. "This is kind of back to what we did a year ago," Huggins said. "We're not going to win with 14 turnovers." **BIG PICTURE**
Texas Tech: With a solid win over a ranked opponent, Texas Tech showed not only

the Big 12, but the nation that it can play against any team. The Red Raiders are now among the top names of the conference, but the path only gets rockier following its win over West Virginia. Tech will be on transitioning from road game to home within its next four games, which features a back-to-back matchup with Kansas and Kansas State. West Virginia: For the Mountaineers, their second loss will move the down in

the rankings after cracking the top 10 in the nation. However, West Virginia will finally host its first Big 12 game at home on Saturday and will not travel until a Jan. 14 matchup with Texas in Austin. **HAPPY BIRTHDAY SHAD-DY**
Millinghaus celebrated his 23rd birthday. He scored six points and grabbed two rebounds. **PARTY IN THE USA**

Texas Tech had not defeated the Mountaineers since 2013, and that was on a neutral site. This was Texas Tech's first win over the Mountaineers at United Supermarket Arena. **UP NEXT**
Texas Tech hits the road to face No. 3 Kansas, the 12-time defending Big 12 Conference champions, in Lawrence. West Virginia returns to Morgantown to tip off its home conference schedule against TCU on Saturday.

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Obama, Pence to Capitol as health care overhaul fight begins

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama is traveling to the Capitol to give congressional Democrats advice on how to combat the Republican drive to dismantle his health care overhaul. Vice President-elect Mike Pence is meeting with GOP lawmakers to discuss the best way to send Obama's cherished law to its graveyard and replace it with — well, something.

The separate strategy sessions were coming on the second day of the new, GOP-led Congress. In 16 days, Republican Donald Trump replaces Obama at the White House, putting the party's longtime goal of annulling much of the 2010 health care overhaul within reach.

Plenty of questions remain, including the repeal bill's details, costs and when it would take effect. Republicans also face divisions over the next step — replacement legislation — that will likely take months or years to resolve.

While they can hardly prevent the GOP repeal effort from proceeding, the president and House and Senate Democrats were meeting Wednesday to discuss how to best defend a law that's extended health insurance coverage to 20 million Americans and which Obama considers one of the proudest pillars of his legacy.

"The more the people understand what's included in the Affordable Care Act and how they benefit from it, the more popular the program is, and the harder it is for Republicans to have political support for tearing it down," White House spokesman Josh Earnest told reporters Tuesday, using the law's formal name.

Turkey identifies club gunman; Erdogan speaks to nation

ISTANBUL (AP) — Turkey has identified the gunman in the Istanbul nightclub massacre, the foreign minister said Wednesday as the president vowed that the country won't surrender to terrorists or become divided.

The gunman, who killed 39 people during New Year's celebrations at the Reina club, is still at large. But Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu said authorities had identified the man, without providing details.

"The identity of the person who carried out the attack on the Reina nightclub has been established," Cavusoglu told Anadolu in a live televised interview.

Turkish police, meanwhile, detained at least five suspected Islamic State group militants believed to be linked to the attack, the state-run news agency reported. The operation was launched in the Aegean port city of Izmir and was ongoing, Anadolu Agency said.

IS has claimed responsibility for the attack, which also wounded nearly 70 people. Of those killed 27 were foreigners, many from the Middle East. Islamic State said a "soldier of the caliphate" had carried out the mass shooting to avenge Turkish military operations against IS in northern Syria.

Verdict expected in manslaughter trial of Israeli soldier

TEL AVIV, Israel (AP) — An Israeli military court on Wednesday was set to deliver its verdict in the case of a soldier on trial for manslaughter in the deadly shooting of an incapacitated Palestinian attacker, capping a nine-month saga that has deeply divided the country.

Defense officials have criticized Sgt. Elor Azaria's conduct, while large segments of the Israeli public, along with members of the nationalist ruling coalition, have rallied behind him.

Azaria was caught on video fatally shooting a wounded Palestinian attacker who had stabbed a soldier in the West Bank city of Hebron in March. The Palestinian was lying motionless on the ground when Azaria shot him in the head.

Hundreds of the soldier's supporters gathered outside the military court in Tel Aviv ahead of the verdict. The crowd, holding large Israeli flags and banners that said "the nation is with you" periodically scuffled with police.

In delivering her verdict, Col. Maya Heller systematically rejected all of Azaria's defense arguments. Heller still had not delivered the court's decision more than two hours into the proceedings.

At Mosul front, Iraqis fleeing and returning cross paths

MOSUL, Iraq (AP) — The two teenage sisters hid at home for most of the 2 ½ years of rule by the Islamic State group. This week, as fighting engulfed their neighborhood in the northern city of Mosul, Rusul and Doha Ghanem and their family made a run for it.

It took them three days, and they slept in empty houses. Finally, they reached the safety of government-held territory. "We just cannot believe we got out alive," said the 18-year-old Rusul, though her relief was temporarily dampened as troops lined her father and brother up with other men for security checks.

Rusul and her family were among hundreds of dazed men, women and children who fled fighting in their neighborhood of Karama this week after it became a front line in the battle against the Islamic State group, hauling their belongings down a main street in bags and suitcases and on push carts.

On the same street, moving in the opposite direction, were residents who had returned to their homes in the neighboring Quds district, retaken by government forces only a few days ago. At a nearby market, they treated themselves to fresh vegetables, fruit, bread and milk for the first time in weeks.

The avenue exemplifies the multiple directions of a chaotic urban battle that has moved from district to district in eastern Mo-

sul, tearing apart lives and families. The war has juxtaposed heavy destruction and fighting meters away from people trying to rebuild their lives, many of them reduced to destitution and begging for food or money.

What's up next in the federal trial of Dylann Roof?

CHARLESTON, S.C. (AP) — Jurors return to court Wednesday to begin considering whether Dylann Roof will receive the death penalty or life in prison for the 2015 massacre at a historic black church in South Carolina that left nine Bible study participants dead.

Last month, the same jury took less than two hours to find Roof guilty of all 33 federal counts against him, including hate crimes and obstruction of religion. After a three-week break over the holidays, jurors are now tasked with the ultimate fate of the 22-year-old who confessed his role in the shootings to FBI agents hours after his arrest.

Police end NAACP sit-in against attorney general nominee

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (AP) — The national president of the NAACP and five others were arrested after staging a sit-in Tuesday at the Alabama office of Sen. Jeff Sessions, the nominee for U.S. attorney general, the civil rights group said.

The organization held the demonstration to protest Sessions' nomination by President-elect Donald Trump, criticizing Sessions' record and views on civil rights, immigration, criminal justice reform, and voting rights enforcement.

"We have an attorney general nominee who does not acknowledge the reality of voter suppression while mouthing faith in the myth of voter fraud," NAACP President Cornell William Brooks said by phone earlier in Tuesday's protest. Brooks called Sessions a poor choice to lead the U.S. Justice Department.

The sit-in at Sessions' office in Mobile, Alabama — the city the Republican senator calls home — began around 11 a.m. Tuesday. Demon-

strators refused a request by the manager of the building — which includes several other tenants in addition to Sessions — to leave when the building closed for the day at 6 p.m. Police could be seen on video footage coming and handcuffing the six protesters and escorted them to a police van.

"We all are aware of the laws of trespass. We are engaging in a voluntary act of civil disobedience," Brooks told the officers who arrived at the scene.

Suspected rebels storm Philippine jail, 158 inmates escape

KIDAPAWAN, Philippines (AP) — More than 100 suspected Muslim rebels stormed a jail in the southern Philippines before dawn Wednesday, allowing 158 inmates to escape in what officials said was the biggest jailbreak in the country.

Six of the inmates were killed in firefights with pursuing police and army troops, while eight others have been caught and were being returned to the facility, said Senior Inspector Xavier Solda, spokesman for the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology.

Solda said the heavily armed gunmen emerged from a forest and attacked the North Cotabato District Jail in Kidapawan under the cover of darkness. Kidapawan city in Cotabato Province is about 930 kilometers (580 miles) southeast of the capital Manila.

"To my knowledge, this is the biggest jailbreak in the history" of the bureau, Solda said in a telephone interview.

Acting Provincial Jail Warden Supt. Peter John Bongnat Jr. said one of the about 20 prison guards on duty was killed and an inmate was wounded in an initial gunbattle.

Official: Charles Manson alive amid report he's hospitalized

BAKERSFIELD, Calif. (AP) — Amid reports that Charles Manson has been taken from his California prison cell to a hospital, a state corrections official would confirm only that the 82-year-old killer and cult leader was still alive.

Both TMZ and the Los Angeles Times reported Tuesday that Manson had been hospitalized. TMZ said he had been taken to a medical center in Bakersfield, about 60 miles south of Corcoran State Prison where Manson was being held.

Late Tuesday night, three vans from the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation were parked outside Bakersfield's Mercy Hospital Downtown, where state prisoners have been treated before.

But CDCR spokeswoman Terry Thornton said only that Manson is still alive and still assigned to the prison in Corcoran. She declined to say whether he was at the hospital in Bakersfield, citing safety privacy laws prohibit her from discussing an inmate's medical situation.

Manson was convicted of orchestrating the 1969 murders of pregnant actress Sharon Tate and six others.

Cruise company Carnival gets personal with concierge tech

LAS VEGAS (AP) — What if your room on a cruise ship were to unlock automatically as you approach, or if the wait staff could bring your favorite cocktail before you even ask?

Carnival Corp., the operator of such cruise lines as Princess, Holland America and Carnival, wants to make that happen so it can get cozier with its guests and make cruises even more personalized.

Carnival is using the CES gadget show in Las Vegas on Wednesday to unveil new concierge technology designed to help crew members anticipate and respond to passengers' needs. It will rely on sensors and wearable trackers, and is scheduled to debut on the Regal Princess cruise ship in November.

The leisure-cruise industry is playing catch-up with travel peers like hotels and airlines, which now let you unlock rooms with a smartwatch or fly with a boarding pass on your phone.

Personalization is important as cruise ships get bigger and come across as impersonal, said Mike Driscoll, editor-in-chief of Cruise Week, an industry publication.



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